

# G.A.R. SWORD

Lieutenant George Croghan Reid

Civil War

Marine Corps Veteran



Brigadier General George C. Read wearing his **MOLLUS** Companion medal

# George Croghan Reid

George Croghan Reid was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps in July 1864; served on the **Steam-sloop Monongahela** 1864-1866 and saw action in the battle of Mobile Bay: August 5, 1864 – August 23, 1864; and rose through the ranks to Colonel in March 1899. He was promoted to Brigadier General upon retirement, and was a veteran companion of the **Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS)**. His nephew, who was named after him, also was a Marine Officer and would receive the Medal of Honor and also achieved the rank of Brigadier General.

George Croghan Reid was promoted as a United States Marine 2nd Lieutenant 2 July, 1864; First Lieutenant 29 August, 1869; Captain 2 April 1884. Adjutant and Inspector with the rank of Major, 2 May 1894; Adjutant and Inspector with the rank of Colonel, 3 March; and brigadier general upon retirement, March 1899.

**Lt. George C. Reid served as Aide to General Zeilin, Commandant of the Marine Corps**

On Oct. 16, Ulysses S. Grant, Jr., had written to Secretary of the Navy George M. Robeson. "The President directs me to say that you may inform Genl. Zeland that he will be retired, to take effect at the end of this month" ALS, *ibid*. On Oct. 25, Brig. Gen. Jacob Zeilin, commandant, Marine Corps, wrote to USG. "After your generous kindness to me, in the past—I would not presume to impose any further request for favor upon you, were I not actuated by motives of deepest interest, in one, who for years, has been my firm friend, and faithful assistant. I refer to Lieut. George C. Reid, my Aide, whom of all men, next to my own son, I am most attached to, and whose future welfare I am most deeply interested in. On the last of the present month, I am to close my official life by retirement, and I can do so after forty five years service without regret, except that it more than likely will work to the disadvantage, and discomfort to Lieut. Reid, on account of his service to me as Aide, and devotion—and if I may ask a last favor of you Mr. President, it is, that you will give Lieut. Reid an appointment, either in the Staff of the Marine Corps, or Army, upon the first vacancy—a position which he is in every respect, qualified to fill properly. He has been over twelve years in the service, and my Aide, since my promotion to Brig. General." LS, *ibid*. No appointment followed.

PINCKNEY, THOMAS H.  
Second Lieutenant 1807. First Lieutenant, 23 January, 1800. Resigned 21 August, 1811.

POPE, P. C.  
Second Lieutenant, 25 November, 1861. First Lieutenant, 26 November, 1861. Captain, 14 April, 1870. Major, 2 February, 1891. Lieutenant-Colonel, 2 June, 1898. Colonel, 3 March, 1899. Brevet Captain, 8 September, 1903, for gallant and meritorious services at the night attack upon Fort Sumter, 8 September, 1863. In service.

PORTER, ANDREW.  
Captain, 25 June, 1776. Disbanded with the Navy of the Revolution.

PORTER, CHARLES K.  
Second Lieutenant, 1817. First Lieutenant, 3 March 1819. Resigned 12 August, 1819.

PORTER, CARLISLE P.  
Second Lieutenant, 26 December, 1866. First Lieutenant, 1 February, 1873. Captain, 18 August, 1880. Lieutenant-Colonel, 3 March, 1899. Retired 19 September, 1899.

PORTER, DAVID D.  
First Lieutenant, 8 April, 1899. Captain, 23 July, 1900. In service.

PORTER, JAMES.  
Second Lieutenant, 6 December, 1799. Resigned 30 June, 1801.

POWELL, WILLIAM G.  
First Lieutenant, 1 July, 1899. In service.

POWERS, DARIUS C.  
Second Lieutenant, 13 June, 1836. Dismissed 10 July, 1837.

POWNAL, THOMAS.  
First Lieutenant, 25 June, 1776. Disbanded with the Navy of the Revolution.

POWELL, S. W.  
Second Lieutenant, 25 November, 1801. First Lieutenant, 20 November, 1802. Resigned 12 February, 1805.

PRITCHETT, WILLIAM H.  
Second Lieutenant, 2 March, 1900. In service.

PRINCE, THOMAS C.  
Second Lieutenant, 1 July, 1884. First Lieutenant, 2 February, 1891. Assistant Quartermaster with the rank of Captain, 29 June, 1897. Assistant Quartermaster with the rank of Major, 3 March, 1899. In service.

PROCHAZKA, JULIUS.  
Second Lieutenant, 1 July, 1891. Died 10 October, 1892, at Brooklyn, N. Y.

PURCELL, LEE B.  
Second Lieutenant, 2 October, 1899. First Lieutenant, 23 July, 1900. In service.

QUACKINBUSH, S. W.  
Second Lieutenant, 4 December, 1869. First Lieutenant, 8 September, 1877. Captain, 15 June, 1892. Died 13 June, 1896, at Brooklyn, N. Y.

QUEEN, HENRY W.  
Second Lieutenant, 14 March, 1842. First Lieutenant, 28 September, 1847. Died at sea, 4 April, 1858.

RANDOLPH, W. A.  
Second Lieutenant, 30 July, 1823. Dismissed 21 October, 1826.

RAGLAND, JAMES.  
Second Lieutenant, 2 February, 1809. Resigned 17 May, 1809.

RAMSAY, ALAN.  
Second Lieutenant, 1 March, 1857. First Lieutenant, 1861. Captain, 26 July, 1881. Died 15 February, 1884.

RAMSEY, FRED A.  
Second Lieutenant, 5 December, 1900. In service.

RANKIN, ROBERT.  
Second Lieutenant, 2 September, 1788. First Lieutenant, 2 March, 1799. Captain, 16 January, 1808. Resigned 1 January, 1809.

RASK, OLOP H.  
Second Lieutenant, 2 October, 1899. First Lieutenant, 23 July, 1900. In service.

RATHBORNE, J. H.  
Second Lieutenant, 25 October, 1858. Resigned 16 January, 1863.

READ, FRANKLIN.  
First Lieutenant, 25 June, 1776. Disbanded with the Navy of the Revolution.

READ, JACOB.  
Second Lieutenant, 3 March, 1847. First Lieutenant, 19 August, 1855. Resigned 28 February, 1861.

REBECK, JOHN M.  
Second Lieutenant, 14 June, 1862. Dismissed 26 June, 1863.

REDDICK, JOSIAH.  
Second Lieutenant, 5 September, 1798. First Lieutenant, 25 May, 1799. Resigned 30 June, 1802.

REDDLES, WILLIAM L.  
Second Lieutenant, 11 September, 1900. In service.

REID, GEORGE C.  
First Lieutenant, 8 April, 1899. Captain, 23 July, 1900. In service.

REID, GEORGE C.  
Second Lieutenant 2 July, 1864. First Lieutenant, 29 August, 1869. Captain, 2 April, 1884. Adjutant and Inspector with the rank of Major, 2 May, 1894. Adjutant and Inspector with the rank of Colonel, 3 March, 1899. In service.

REISINGER, HAROLD C.  
Second Lieutenant, 26 January, 1900. First Lieutenant, 23 July, 1900. In service.

### FIRST LIEUTENANT GEORGE C. REID.

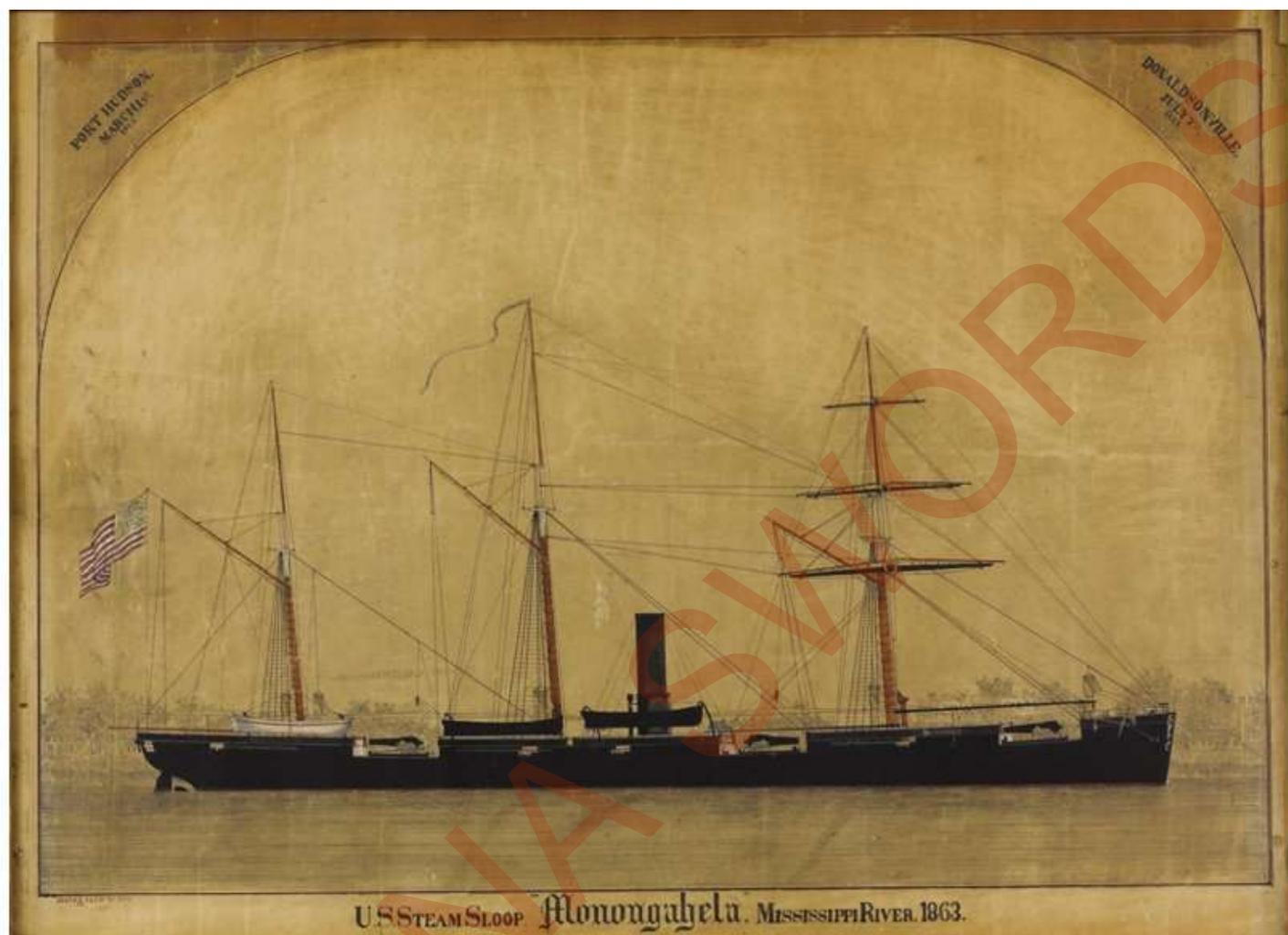
Born in Ohio. Appointed from Ohio; commissioned as Second Lieutenant July 2d, 1864; Headquarters.

**1864-6: Steam-sloop Monongahela, North Atlantic Squadron.**

1867: appointed Aid-de-camp to Commandant, 1867: headquarters, 1867-9.

Commissioned as First Lieutenant, 1869.

# Steam-sloop Monongahela



## U. S. Steam Sloop

### "Monongahela"

Named for the river that flows north from Fairmont, W. Va., into southwest Pennsylvania to join the Allegheny at Pittsburgh, forming the Ohio. Entirely navigable by means of locks, the Monongahela is an important freight artery.

The first *Monongahela*, a barkentine-rigged screw sloop of war, built by the Philadelphia Navy Yard was launched on 10 July 1862; sponsored by Miss Emily V. Hoover, daughter of Naval Constructor Hoover who superintended the ship's construction; and commissioned on 15 January 1863, Capt. James P. McKinstry in command.

Initially assigned to the North Atlantic Squadron, *Monongahela* sailed instead to reinforce Rear Adm. David G. Farragut's West Gulf Blockading Squadron off Mobile, Ala., remaining on duty off that port until ordered to attempt to run past Confederate batteries on the Mississippi at Port Hudson, La., on the night of 14 to 15 March 1863. As Army forces ashore conducted a mortar bombardment, the squadron got underway about 2200, heavier ships *Hartford*, *Richmond*, and *Monongahela* screening the smaller *Albatross*, *Genesee*, and *Kineo* from the forts, steam frigate *Mississippi* bringing up the rear. In the course of the ensuing furious engagement, only *Hartford* and *Albatross* succeeded in passing up river, *Richmond* losing her steam power early in the battle and drifting downstream out of range with *Genesee* lashed alongside. *Monongahela* grounded under the guns of a heavy battery, taking a murderous pounding and losing six men killed and 21 wounded, including the captain, until she worked loose with *Kineo*'s aid. While attempting to continue upriver, her overloaded engine broke down, and the sloop was forced to drift downstream with *Kineo*. Venerable *Mississippi*, grounding at high speed, was hit repeatedly and set afire, eventually blowing up and ending the engagement.

Two months later, on 27 May, Confederate defenders turned back a major assault on Port Hudson following constant bombardment by *Monongahela*, serving as temporary flagship of Admiral Farragut, and other ships of the squadron. On 7 July 1863, the ship, in company with *New London*, engaged southern field batteries behind the levee 12 miles below Donaldsville, La., *Monongahela*'s new commanding officer, Commander Read, being killed in this action. She then departed on 26 October 1863 for Brazos Santiago, Tex., to support General Banks' troops in the capture of that town and Brownsville, 2 to 4 November, in addition capturing several blockade runners, *Monongahela* continued her duty off Texas, covering the landing of 1,000 Army troops on Mustang Island, Arkansas Pass, Tex., 16 to 17 November and supporting a Union reconnaissance at Pass Cavallo on the gulf shore of Matagorda Peninsula 31 December 1863 to 1 January 1864. She returned to blockade off Mobile soon after, stopping numerous blockade runners throughout the spring and summer of 1864.

On 15 July, *Monongahela*'s boats conducted a reconnaissance of the Mobile Bay area to determine the Confederate mine or torpedo defenses; and then, on 3 August, Admiral Farragut took his stripped-for-action squadron of 18 ships, including four monitors, against those defenses. In the fierce fight and great victory that followed, *Monongahela* served well, bombarding Confederate forts and then valiantly ramming the heavy Confederate ram *Tennessee*. The sloop succeeded only in damaging herself in the full speed drive into the armored enemy ship, but combined heavy gunfire from the other Union ships forced the Confederate warship to surrender, ending the battle and closing the last major gulf port to the South.

*Monongahela* remained on duty with the West Gulf Squadron until the end of the Civil War, and then received assignment to the West Indies Squadron.

# Brigadier General, United States Marine Corps

On February 13, 1877 as George C. Reed, he married Ada Agnes Savage at the District of Columbia. He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution as a descendant of John Murdock, (1706-1778).

*The Washington Post* Tuesday, March 17, 1914

Brigadier General George C. Reid

The Rev. Edward L. Buckey will officiate at the funeral services to be held at 10 o'clock this morning for Brigadier General George C. Reid who died at his home, 2011 Columbia Road on Sunday morning from a stroke of apoplexy. The services will be held at St. Matthew's Church and interment will be made in Arlington National Cemetery. The funeral will be military and a battery of artillery, a squadron of cavalry and a battalion of marines will escort the body to the cemetery. The Marine Band will furnish the music. The honorary pallbearers will be: Major General George Barnett, Commandant of the Marine Corps; Major General George Frank Elliott, retired, former Commander of the Marine Corps; Colonel Charles Henry Laucheimer, Adjutant and Inspector, Marine Corps; Colonel Charles Laurle McCawley, Quartermaster, Marine Corps; Colonel George Richards, Paymaster, Marine Corps; Lieutenant Colonel Eli Kelley Cole, attached to the Marine Corps Headquarters; Colonel John Henry Russell, Marine Corps Officer in the Office Of Naval Intelligence; Major George Croghan Reid, United States Marine Corps and four retired Rear Admirals of the Navy: Royal Boyd Bradford, Eugene Henry Cozzens Leutze, Uriah Rose Harris and Albert Sewall Kenny.

## GEN. REID, SON OF LORAIN'S FIRST MAYOR, DEAD AT WASHINGTON

Brigadier General George Reid, son of Conrad Reid, first mayor of Lorain and holder of much property here, died of apoplexy Sunday morning in Washington, at the age of 72.

Gen. Reid lived here when a boy, residing at the home of his father, who was owner of the old Reid house, a hotel which occupied the site of the present Wagner block. He left Lorain when about 20 years old, soon entering the United States Marine service, in which he steadily

advanced until he reached the head of the service. He retired seven years ago, and about the same time made his last visit to Lorain. Besides the Washington home at which he expired, Gen. Reid was possessor of a summer home at Eastern Point, Gloucester, Mass.

Gen. Reid held an interest in considerable Broadway property. His father was formerly owner of 40 acres of land above Erie viaduct, now occupied by the lower B and O yards.

A wife and son, Conrad, professor of law at Georgetown university, survive. In and near Lorain there are several nieces of the deceased, among them being: Mrs. J. K. Lane, Mrs. George Buell, Miss Ada Reid, Miss Abby Reid, all of Lorain; Mrs. Edward Parsons, Avon; Miss Florence Reid, Cleveland. Captain George Reid, a nephew, is now at Vera Cruz.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a. m. Tuesday.



**BRIGADIER-GENERAL GEORGE CROGHAN REID.**  
**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS.**

# Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States

The **Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, (MOLLUS)**, or simply as the *Loyal Legion* is a United States patriotic order, organized April 15, 1865, by officers of the **Army, Navy, or Marine Corps** of the United States who "had aided in maintaining the honor, integrity, and supremacy of the national movement" during the American Civil War. It was formed by loyal union military officers in response to rumors from Washington of a conspiracy to destroy the Federal government by assassination of its leaders, in the immediate aftermath of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. They stated their purpose as the cherishing of the memories and associations of the war waged in defense of the unity and indivisibility of the Republic; the strengthening of the ties of fraternal fellowship and sympathy formed by companionship in arms; the relief of the widows and children of dead companions of the order; and the advancement of the general welfare of the soldiers and sailors of the United States. As the original officers died off, the veteran's organization became an all-male hereditary society. The modern organization is composed of male descendants of these officers (hereditary members), and others who share the ideals of the Order (associate members), who collectively are considered "Companions". A female auxiliary, Dames of the Loyal Legion of the United States (**DOLLUS**), was formed in 1899 and accepted as an affiliate in 1915.

## Origins

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Following the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln on April 14, 1865, rumors spread that the act had been part of a wider conspiracy to overthrow the legally constituted government of the United States by assassinating its chief men. Many people at first gave credence to these rumors, including three of the officers assigned to the honor guard for Lincoln's body as it was transported to Springfield, Illinois, for burial; these three men, Brevet Lt. Col. Samuel Brown Wylie Mitchell, Lt. Col. Thomas Ellwood Zell, and Captain Peter Dirck Keyser, are considered the founders of the Order. To demonstrate their loyalty, they decided to form a "Legion" modeled on the Revolutionary War Society of the Cincinnati. The Loyal Legion was organized largely during the same meetings that planned Lincoln's funeral (as well as during a mass meeting of Philadelphia war veterans on April 20), culminating in a meeting on May 31, 1865, in Independence Hall in Philadelphia, at which the name was chosen.

Originally, the Order was composed of three classes of members:

- **Officers who had fought in the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps of the United States in the suppression of the Rebellion**, or enlisted men who had so served and were subsequently commissioned in the regular forces of the United States, constituted the "Original Companions of the First Class." The eldest direct male lineal descendants of deceased Original Companions or deceased eligible officers could be admitted as "hereditary Companions of the First Class."
- "Companions of the Second Class" were the eldest direct male lineal descendants of living Original Companions or of living individuals who were eligible for membership in the First Class. (The use of the Rule of Primogeniture was abolished in 1905 for both the First and Second classes of membership, opening membership to all male lineal descendants, and later changes opened membership to male lineal descendants of siblings of eligible officers. As the former officers died off, and the Order became composed entirely of descendants, the Second Class of Companions was discontinued.)
- The Third Class comprised distinguished civilians who had rendered faithful and conspicuous service to the Union during the Civil War. By the law of the Order, no new elections to this class were made after 1890.

The Loyal Legion grew rapidly in the late 19th Century and had Companions in every Northern state, and also in many of the states that had once formed the Confederacy. The Commandery in Chief was established on October 21, 1885 with authority over the 14 state commanderies then in existence. Previously, the Pennsylvania Commandery functioned as the "first among equals" of the commanderies as it was both the oldest and largest.

## G.A.R. SWORD – CIVIL WAR MARINE CORPS OFFICER

A Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) sword is very common; however, an identified example is rare and even more scarce is one identified to a Civil War Marine Office. This sword belonged to Lieutenant George C. Reid. George Croghan Reid was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps in July 1864; served on the **Steam-sloop Monongahela** 1864-1866 and saw action in the battle of Mobile Bay: August 5, 1864 – August 23, 1864; and rose through the ranks to Colonel in March 1899. He was promoted to Brigadier General upon retirement, and was a veteran companion of the **Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS)**. His nephew, who was named after him, also was a Marine Officer and would receive the Medal of Honor and also achieved the rank of Brigadier General. The G.A.R. sword is in excellent condition with 100% bright black leather grip and wire, and a bright frosty blade. On the scabbard between the top mount and the throat is etched:

LT. GEORGE C. REID / MARINE



