



LAFAYETTE CHAPTER NEWS

Sons of the American Revolution

"It is the pride of my heart to have been one of the earliest adopted sons of America." - Marquis de Lafayette



President's Point of View

Dale Henley, Chapter President

Dear Compatriots of the Lafayette Chapter,

As we move into a new year, I want to remind all of us that political freedom is a precious gift. As members of the Sons of the American Revolution, we have committed ourselves to honoring the brave women and men who had the political courage to establish the greatest nation in the world's history. And just as important is our continuing duty to honor those who work hard everyday to protect our country and our freedoms not only for our benefit, but more importantly, for those who will follow us.

I close with my appreciation for your support of the Sons of the American Revolution. I encourage each of us to seek out the many opportunities for patriotic service available through our organization.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our next chapter meeting scheduled for March 2022 at the Embassy Suites in Lexington. Until then, I send my best wishes for a happy, prosperous and safe 2022.

Dale

Chapter Officers

President - Dale Henley
dalehenley8848@gmail.com

President-Elect - Patrick Wesolosky
65moots@gmail.com

Vice-President - Steve Gahafer
sagahafer@gmail.com

Secretary - Don Adams
ddavandy7@gmail.com

Treasurer - Greg Landon
gcla71@yahoo.com

Registrar - Joe Clancy
clancyx@aol.com

Historian - Tim Wisner
tlwisner@outlook.com

Surgeon - Dr. Jamie Akin
jakin94939@aol.com

Chaplain - Ted Kuster
ted.kuster@gmail.com



"Never Forget Garden" Dedication



Mayor Linda Gorton, Congressman Andy Barr, Brigadier General, Kentucky DAR State Regent Carol Rogow and Transylvania DAR Chapter Regent Mary Broach look on as Lexington Councilmember Susan Lamb shares remarks.

IF YOU GO

VETERANS PARK IS LOCATED AT:

650 SOUTHPOINT DRIVE
LEXINGTON, KY 40504



Brig. General Benjamin Adams offered comments regarding military sacrifice. General Adams serves as Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs.

"And they who for their country die shall fill an honored grave, for glory lights the soldier's tomb, and beauty weeps the brave." - Joseph Rodman Drake

This past November marked the centennial of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Tomb, located at Arlington National Cemetery, honors the deceased United States service members whose remains are not identifiable.

As a way to observe the centennial and further honor our unknown fallen heroes, the Society of the Honor Guard, a non-profit association that preserves the Tomb, has encouraged the creation of Never Forget Gardens in communities across the nation.

Through the efforts of the Transylvania DAR, one such garden has been established at Veterans Park in Lexington. The garden was dedicated on Veterans Day with veterans and local officials, including Congressman Andy Barr and Mayor Linda Gorton joining with members of the DAR.

"I'm continually humbled at the sacrifices our veterans have made for our country. One day is not enough to honor all of the weeks and months our servicemembers have spent away from their families defending the freedom we get to enjoy. We have the privilege to live in the greatest country in the world and in no small part that is due to our veterans . . ." said Congressman Barr.

Mirroring Arlington, the garden will feature white roses in the center.

The Lafayette Chapter is proud to be a financial contributor to the establishment of this garden.



The Veterans Park Elementary Intermediate Chorus sang "The Star-Spangled Banner," as well as "A Tribute to the Armed Forces" and "Fifty Nifty United States."

Patriot Grave Marking Service

Members of the Lafayette Chapter joined with compatriots of the Isaac Shelby Chapter to travel to Tompkinsville, Kentucky for the grave marking service of patriot soldier Abraham Hestand. Hestand served in Captain Joseph Bowman's company, which was comprised of Virginians, frontiersmen and French-Canadians. The company operated mainly in the territory which is currently part of Illinois.

Abraham Hestand settled southcentral Kentucky in present-day Monroe County, where many of his descendants still reside. He is buried at the Old Mulkey Church Cemetery, which is part of the Old Mulkey Meetinghouse State Historic Site.



Compatriots from the Lafayette Chapter included Steve Gahafer, Mike Sullivan and Patrick Wesolosky.



Pictured above is what remains of the Graves County Courthouse in downtown Mayfield.

SAR Aids Tornado Victims

On the evening of December 10th, much of Western Kentucky experienced a series of devastating tornadoes. Classified as an EF4, the strongest tornado stayed on the ground for nearly three hours and traveled through 11 counties. The loss of property was significant, yet paled in comparison to the loss of numerous lives. Historic communities such as Benton, Dawson Springs, Mayfield and Princeton suffered damage that will take years from which to rebuild.

"The scope and scale of destruction is almost beyond belief," said President Biden, who visited Mayfield later that week.

As the damage was still being surveyed, the message went out to Kentucky's SAR chapters on ways they could help. Compatriots were involved with the relief efforts both on the ground and from afar. Donations are still being accepted. There are many credible charities raising money to help our fellow Kentuckians. If you would like to contribute and are unsure how, please visit [TeamWKYReliefFund.ky.gov](https://www.teamwkyrelief.com) and use KY Sons of the American Revolution Tornado Relief as the name of the fundraising event. And please keep the people of Western Kentucky in your prayers during this trying time.

Meeting Notes

Our final chapter meeting of the year took place on the evening of December 13th at Embassy Suites in Lexington.

Those in attendance heard a wonderful presentation by Dr. Jane Calvert regarding John Dickinson, one of our nation's founding fathers from Pennsylvania. Dr. Calvert, who holds a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Kentucky. Outside of the classroom, her professional research has centered around Quaker political thought and Dickinson.

Often overlooked, Dr. Calvert laid out the many accomplishments of Dickinson, but also stressed the influence he had during the years leading up to the Revolution. Known as the "Penman of the Revolution," Dickinson was the author of the twelve *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania*, which were much of the driving force in uniting the colonists against the Townshend Acts.

Though not its originator, Dickinson was the first to popularize the phrase "By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall" as a lyric in "The Liberty Song," which found fame throughout the colonies. That phrase, of course, would morph into the motto of the Commonwealth of Kentucky: United We Stand, Divided We Fall.

Dickinson would go on to serve as a member of both the First and Second Continental Congresses, and president of both Pennsylvania and Delaware. Despite preferring diplomacy over violence, he was also one of the few members of the Continental Congress to serve as an active soldier in the war as well.

A Quaker, Dickinson advocated for the abolition of slavery, as well as rights to be extended to women and Native Americans. Dr. Calvert posed that is one of the reasons much of Dickinson's work has been largely forgotten through the years.

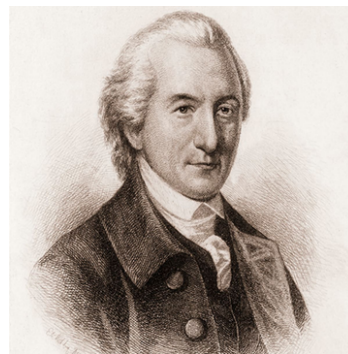
Dr. Calvert serves as the Director and Editor of The John Dickinson Writings Project, which is headquartered at the University of Kentucky. The Project recently released Volume One of The Complete Writings and Selected Correspondence of John Dickinson, which will soon be followed with further volumes.

Members are encouraged to learn more about The John Dickinson Writings Project by visiting <https://dickinsonproject.rch.uky.edu/volumes.php>.

"Honor, justice and humanity call upon us to hold and to transmit to our posterity, that liberty, which we received from our ancestors. It is not our duty to leave wealth to our children; but it is our duty to leave liberty to them."
- John Dickinson



Dr. Jane Calvert of the University of Kentucky speaks regarding the life of John Dickinson.

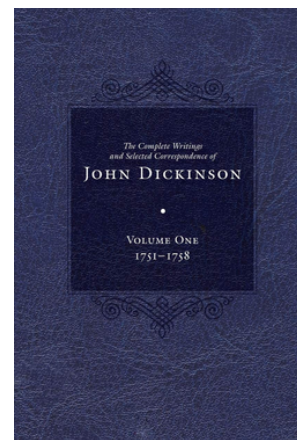


John Dickinson of Pennsylvania, the "Penman of the Revolution."



A copy of "The Liberty Song," penned by Dickinson. Dr. Calvert explained how this was essentially America's first top hit single, inspiring patriotic feelings across the colonies.

Volume One from the Project's work, which is available for purchase on Amazon.



Following Dr. Calvert's presentation, Chapter President Dale Henley moved along into the business portion of the meeting. He opened the meeting by honoring one of our longest serving and most dedicated compatriots, Don Adams. Don has served as our chapter secretary faithfully for multiple terms, taking diligent minutes to not only inform members of chapter business, but to preserve our records for posterity. Rightfully so, Don received a standing ovation from those in attendance, as well as being presented the Chapter Medal of Distinguished Service by Dale, on behalf of the chapter.



Secretary Don Adams being presented the Chapter Medal of Distinguished Service by President Dale Henley.

Next, two new members were inducted into the Lafayette Chapter: Compatriots Kent McClanahan and Tommy Druen. Kent comes by way of his patriot ancestor Benjamin Wager and Tommy by patriot ancestor Alexander Faulkner. Both new members were pinned with the member rosette by their wives and spoke briefly about the roles their ancestors played in the founding of our country.



New Member Kent McClanahan being pinned by his wife, Karen, as President Dale Henley looks on.

Former chapter president Tim Brown took the podium to highlight the anniversaries of many of our compatriots. The following are to be commended for their years or service to the Lafayette Chapter and their unwavering patriotism:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 60 Years
Joseph Jones | 55 Years
James Evans
John Walker |
| 50 Years
James Steed | 45 Years
Clay Dawson |
| 40 Years
John Lancaster, IV
Robert Lancaser | 35 Years
Thomas Kemp |
| 15 Years
Leslie Durbin
Michael Krause
James Strohmeier | 10 Years
Robert Damron
Robert Hughes
Austin Paul
William Thornbury, Jr. |
| 5 Years
Jerry Brown
Timothy Brown
Rhyan Conyers
Donald Crago
John Sloan, Jr. | |



New Member Tommy Druen being pinned by his wife, Erin.



The rosette is a small, tightly folded circle of ribbon of the Society's colors not exceeding 7/16" in diameter. The blue and buff represent the colors in the uniform worn by General George Washington. It may be worn by all members, at their discretion, on the left lapel of the jacket.



Compatriots honored for the longest service to the Lafayette Chapter were Joseph Jones and James Evans. Both men spoke briefly about what the SAR means to them and the positive changes they have been a part of within our own chapter.



The business portion of the meeting also included the election of officers for the 2022 calendar year. A slate of nominees was presented and was enthusiastically elected by acclamation.

The officers for 2022 will be:

- President: Dale Henley
- President-Elect: Patrick Wesolosky
- Vice-President: Steve Gahafer
- Secretary: Don Adams
- Treasurer: Greg Landon
- Registrar: Joe Clancy
- Historian: Tim Wisner
- Surgeon: Dr. Jamie Akin
- Chaplain: Ted Kuster

Compatriot Mike Sullivan informed the chapter about the upcoming dinner in honor of George Washington's birthday.

As has happened in years past, the Lafayette Chapter will unite with local chapters of The Society of the Cincinnati and Sons of the Revolution to honor our first president and Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. More details will be shared soon.

The meeting concluded with a benediction by Chaplain Ted Kuster and a time of fellowship.



Chapter Officers for 2022 L-R: Ted Kuster (Chaplain), Don Adams (Secretary), Tim Wisner (Historian), Steve Gahafer (Vice-President), Patrick Wesolosky (President-Elect), Dale Henley (President), Dr. Jamie Akin (Surgeon), Greg Landon (Treasurer). Not pictured, Joe Clancy (Registrar)



Above: Mike Sullivan speaks on the upcoming celebration of President Washington's Birthday.

Right: The Embassy Suites was well decorated for the Christmas season.

Wreaths Across America

As families come together to celebrate the holiday season, some tables are not full. Empty seats remain where those sacrificed their lives for our freedoms once sat. As a way to honor these fallen warriors at this time of the year, wreaths are placed at their places of interment.

In 1992, the Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine found themselves with a surplus of wreaths after the Christmas season. The founder, Morrill Worcester, began the annual tradition of donating these wreaths to veteran cemeteries.

In 2005, a photo of one such cemetery circulated broadly and the company was inundated with offers to purchase wreaths for similar projects. In 2007, the non-profit association Wreaths Across America was established.

Now in it's 14th year, Wreaths Across America coordinates the placement of over 2.4 million wreaths on the graves of America's veterans at over 2,500 locations. As each wreath is laid on the tombstone, the volunteer speaks the veteran's name aloud, offers gratitude for their service and sacrifice, and reflects on the veteran's life.

In what has become a touching annual tradition, the Lafayette Chapter provided both wreaths and volunteers for Camp Nelson National Cemetery in Jessamine County and Zachary Taylor National Cemetery in Jefferson County. This year, members of the Lafayette Chapter sponsored ____ wreaths for the ceremony.

The ceremony is another way to continually remember those who gave so much to ensure the freedoms won by our own ancestors continue to stand everlasting.



The iconic photo from 2005 that was the impetus for Wreaths Across America



Left: Volunteers place wreaths at the gravesites at Camp Nelson National Cemetery

Below: President-Elect Patrick Wesolosky as the Flintlock Squad Commander for the rifle salute at Zachary Taylor National Cemetery



10 BALSAM BOUQUETS = 10 SPECIAL QUALITIES
comprising each veterans' wreath that our veterans embody



Left: Decorated gravesite at Camp Nelson National Cemetery of Morris Bradley Gahafer, veteran of the United States Air Force and brother of Vice-President Steve Gahafer

Above: Chart demonstrating the symbolism of the wreaths placed on each grave



Without question, *Hamilton* has sparked a renewed interest in American history from the Revolutionary Era. In only its sixth year on Broadway, the musical is already the 7th highest-grossing of all time, and will likely move up more spots this year.

Now, the Tony, Grammy and Pulitzer winning show will be coming near us in Cincinnati.

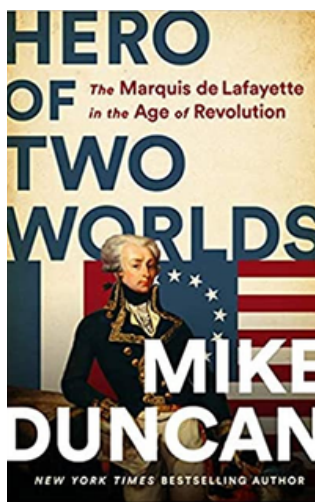
The Aronoff Center will host 32 performances from September 6 - October 2, 2022. Tickets are not yet released, but should be soon. For more information, visit cincinnatiarts.org

Among revolutionaries, few in history can match the work or legacy of the Marquis de Lafayette. He was man of consequence in both the American and French revolutions, leaving an immeasurable impact and legacy for the entire world.

The namesake for our own chapter, General Lafayette is the subject of a recently released biography that examines his truly remarkable and unpredictable life.

Mike Duncan, author and popular podcast host, has written a very readable, yet informative book.

The book is available at Joseph-Beth, Barnes & Noble, or online at Amazon.



Did you know?

Kentucky has 120 counties, which is the fourth most of any state in the nation.

The first three counties formed in 1780, twelve years before we became a state, were Fayette, Jefferson and Lincoln, all of which were named for men who served our nation either on the battlefields or the halls of the Continental Congresses.

Naming counties after men in those categories would continue as the Commonwealth divided into more counties. In fact, 58 of our 120 counties are named for men who either served in a military or legislative capacity during the Revolutionary War.

Adair	Grayson	Madison	Todd
Boone	Green	Marion	Trigg
Breckinridge	Greenup	Marshall	Warren
Butler	Hancock	Mason	Washington
Caldwell	Hardin	Mercer	Wayne
Calloway	Harlan	Monroe	Woodford
Campbell	Harrison	Montgomery	
Carroll	Henderson	Morgan	
Casey	Henry	Muhlenberg	
Christian	Hopkins	Nelson	
Clark	Jefferson	Nicholas	
Clay	Kenton	Oldham	
Estill	Knox	Pendleton	
Fayette	LaRue	Pulaski	
Floyd	Lincoln	Russell	
Franklin	Livingston	Scott	
Garrard	Logan	Shelby	

Calendar of Events

February 22

President George Washington's Birthday

March 4-5

Spring Leadership Meeting

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Brown Hotel

335 West Broadway

Louisville, Kentucky

March 7

Lafayette Chapter Dinner & Meeting

6:30 - 8:30 PM

Embassy Suites

1801 Newtown Pike

Lexington, Kentucky

March 12

Kentucky SAR Spring Meeting & Luncheon

9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Highlands Latin School

10901 Shelbyville Road

Louisville, Kentucky

March 19

Flag Folding & Color Guard Training

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

SAR Headquarters

809 West Main Street

Louisville, Kentucky

August 20

Battle of Blue Licks Memorial Service

Blue Licks Battlefield State Park

10299 Maysville Road

Carlisle, Kentucky

June 10-15

132nd Annual Conference

Hyatt Regency Riverfront

2 West Bay Street

Savannah, Georgia