



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

Patrick Wesolosky, Chapter President



Greetings Lafayette Chapter Compatriots.

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Independence Day. I also hope everyone also took some time to reflect on the importance of this week. Looking back, on July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress ended its debate and approved the resolution that we were Free and Independent States. This action being so important that John Adams thought that July 2 would be what July 4 has become today. Adams wrote the following: *"The Second Day of July 1776, will be the most memorable Epoch, in the History of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more."* [sic]

The most important thing to remember that our Ancestors helped make Independence a reality. And we should be immensely proud of their actions.

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Revolutionary Art

The Battle of Stony Point

by J.H. Brightly



This wood engraving by J.H. Brightly shows General Anthony Wayne and his men attacking a British fortification during The Battle of Stony Point.

Brightly was a prominent wood engraver who was active in Philadelphia and New York City.

This engraving was created circa 1857 and is in possession of the Library of Congress.

President's Point of View (cont.)

Over the last week the Lafayette Chapter hosted/participated in three Independence Day events. Last Sunday we had an Independence Day Service at Lexington Cemetery. This included reading part of the Declaration of Independence. Directly following the service, the chapter hosted our Fifth Annual Patriots Flags and Flowers Walk in Lexington Cemetery. Yesterday Chapter Color Guard members walked in Lexington's 4th of July Parade. All three of the events were attended by numerous members of the local DAR Chapters.

Looking forward, Tim Brown and I will be headed to Lancaster Pennsylvania for SAR National Congress. Tim will be sworn-in at Congress as Kentucky Trustee for 2024-2025.

In August, our chapter will be hosting a Patriot Grave Marking Service and Monument dedication at Bethel Presbyterian Church on Aug 18, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

Immediate Past President Dale Henley is currently working on the Lafayette Celebration and Youth Award Contest for next spring.

President-Elect Steve Gahafer will be forming a Nominating Committee for the 2024-2025 Lafayette Chapter Officers. If you are interested in any of the officer positions, please reach out to President Elect Gahafer.

Lastly, Vice President Tim Wisner is working on a new Lafayette Chapter website. The initial site is up and running, and the address is lexsar.org. We will be expanding on it soon. I cannot mention the new website without thanking Compatriot Mike Sullivan for his service over the last nine years as webmaster. Huzzah Mike!!!

Patrick



The Myth:

The turkey was almost considered as our national symbol.

The Facts:

While turkeys clearly had one fan among the Founders, Benjamin Franklin, it appears that the birds weren't close to challenging the eagle as the nation's proud patriotic symbol. The real debate over the Great Seal started in 1776 and it lasted six years. Franklin's idea was a design that featured a Biblical scene featuring Moses and Pharaoh. Jefferson wanted a scene depicting the children of Israel and two Anglo-Saxon mythical figures, and John Adams wanted another mythical figure: Hercules. Eventually, the eagle won out as the national symbol.



Chapter Meeting



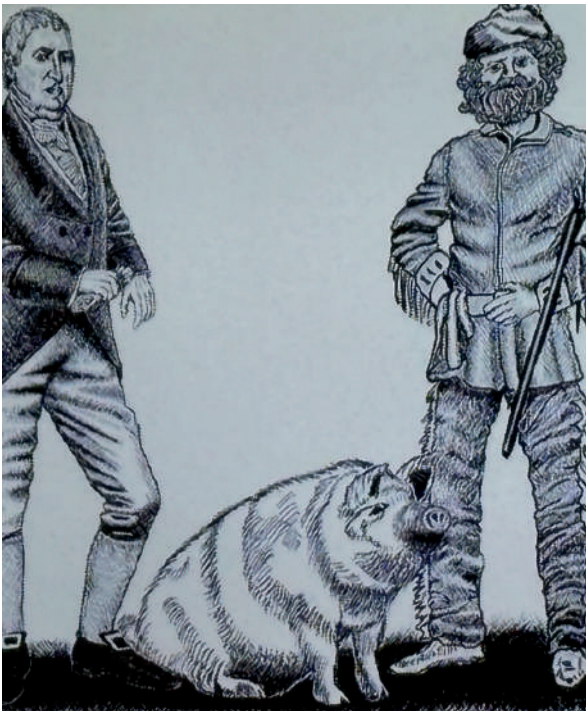
The Lafayette Chapter held its regular quarterly meeting on Monday, June 10th. The meeting took place at Sullivan University in Lexington.

Our special guest speaker for the evening was Doris Settles. Mrs. Settles is a retired professor at the University of Kentucky and an active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Her presentation centered around Kentucky's involvement in the War of 1812, specifically Governor Shelby leading Kentuckians to Michigan to engage. She also told a humorous story of a pig that followed along and became the soldiers' mascot.

Following Mrs. Settles' presentation, a pinning ceremony was held for our newest chapter member, Compatriot William Roger Curd. Mr. Curd was presented for membership by virtue of his descent from 1st Lieutenant Joseph Curd, who served under Captain Thomas Patterson in the 6th Regiment of the Continental Line.

Compatriot Curd, 92 years old, is a resident of Lexington. He took the opportunity to speak of the pride he has for Lt. Curd and other members of his family, telling those in attendance the story of how they emigrated to Kentucky during our earliest days.



*Top: President Wesolosky and Doris Settles
Immediate Top: Governor Shelby, soldier and the Governor's pig.*



Compatriot William Roger Curd pinned by President Elect Gahafer and Vice-President Tim Wisner

Flags & Flowers Walk



On June 30th, the Lafayette Chapter partnered with members of the Colonel James Harrod Chapter, as well as members of the DAR, to sponsor the 5th Annual Patriots Flags and Flowers Walk at Lexington Cemetery. Those in attendance paid respects at the graves of 37 Revolutionary War patriots, pausing at each to hear a brief biography before placing a flag on the patriot's grave and a rose on their wife's grave.



Independence Day Parade



The Lafayette Chapter was proud to once again be in a featured spot at the Lexington Independence Day Parade.



Founders Day



On May 18th, members of the Lafayette Chapter participated in the Founders Day celebration at historic McConnell Springs Park in Lexington.

Pictured from left to right are President Patrick Wesolosky, Compatriot Jerry Brown, Immediate Past President of the Kentucky Society Tim Brown, and President Elect Steve Gahafer.



Memorial Day Ceremony



This past Memorial Day, members of the Lafayette Chapter participated in a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Frankfort Cemetery. The event was sponsored by our compatriots with the Daniel Boone Chapter, as well as the Daughters of the American Revolution.

It was a moving ceremony as those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation were remembered and honored.



Happenings



On June 6th, in advance of Flag Day, Chapter President Patrick Wesolosky was the featured guest speaker for meeting of the Bryan Station Daughters of the American Revolution.

President Wesolosky delivered an informative lecture regarding the transition of flags from the colonial period to independent nation status, and explained the significance of each.

Equipped with samples of each, he was able to go back as far as the 1600s.

The presentation was very well-received with President Wesolosky receiving a warm round of applause from the ladies in attendance as a way to demonstrate their appreciation for the informative presentation.



TRIVIA

Cast on the Liberty Bell are the words, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

These words are a quote from the Bible that can be found in the 25th chapter of Leviticus.

The bell was ordered by the Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania in 1751. Thomas Lester, of London, cast the bell, weighting about two thousand pounds and measuring twelve feet in diameter.

Homage to Lafayette

by Immediate Past President Dale Henley

It was July 5, 2023, while placing the AFL wreath on LaFayette's tomb in the Picpus cemetery, that I had a chance encounter with Sabine Sablonière, a direct descendant of LaFayette through his only son, George Washington de LaFayette. At that time, she spoke of a "LaFayette Tour" which she was organizing. It would be limited in numbers, and dedicated to matching many important moments of his life to the places and locations where they occurred.

But I also had a personal agenda which included "laying my eyes" on what I consider to be the most famous portrait of LaFayette, resplendent in the uniform of a Lt. General in the French army, painted by the French artist Joseph Désiré Court. I have this portrait, and while I knew that the original is displayed at Versailles, I wasn't certain that I could find it. But there it was, identifying him as a "Lieutenant General Commander in Chief of the Army of the Center in 1791; and General in Chief of the National Guard of France."



I had also known of the iconic emblem of Franco-American friendship memorialized in the sculpture of Washington and LaFayette by Fredric-Auguste Bartholdi (of Statue of Liberty fame) which was commissioned by George Pulitzer, editor of the New York Times, and gifted to the City of Paris in 1895, in appreciation for "France's generous support in the struggle of the People of the United States for Independence and Liberty." And yes, there it was in the Place Des États-Unis, not far from the Arc de Triomphe. In 1900, an American, Charles Rouss, purchased a replica of the statue which he donated to New York City where it stands in LaFayette Square.

But perhaps the biggest surprise was the opportunity to stay at the Parisian townhouse of LaFayette at 8 Rue d'Anjou which has been transformed into a luxury hotel and restaurant, the "Marquis" and "LaFayette's".

With Sabine's pedigree, and as author of *Mémoires imaginaires d'Adrienne de La Fayette*, we were privileged to uncommon insights about her famous ancestor which only she could provide. And we were further educated by French historian Laurent Zecchini, author of *Lafayette, héraut de la liberté*, Fayard, 2019 (Lafayette, herald of liberty) who traveled with us, providing fascinating commentary on this remarkable man and the world in which he lived. To say that it was an opportunity of a lifetime is an understatement.



Happenings

As part of the celebration honoring the 250th year of Harrodsburg's existence, the state color guard participated in an SAR Memorial dedication and patriot grave marking ceremony at Old Fort Harrod State Park.

Pictured to the left are members honoring the patriots buried in Harrodsburg with a ceremonial firing in salute.



Pictured to the left are members of the Colonel James Harrod and Lafayette chapters participating in a flag retirement and replacement ceremony.



Pictured above are the flags that were on display for the patriot grave marking ceremony that took place at the Dutch Reformed Church in Harrodsburg.



Revolutionary Kentuckians

Born on April 9, 1753, in Albemarle County, Virginia, Major General Samuel Hopkins emerged as a significant figure in both the American Revolutionary War and the early development of Kentucky. His life's journey reflects a blend of military prowess, political acumen, and pioneering spirit, solidifying his legacy in our state's history.

Hopkins' early military career began with his commission as a lieutenant in the 10th Virginia Regiment in 1776. His steadfast dedication and remarkable leadership saw him quickly rise through the ranks. By 1778, he had become a captain, serving with distinction under General George Washington at Valley Forge, an experience that tested the mettle of the Continental Army during one of its darkest winters. Hopkins' valor did not wane; he participated in key battles, including the Battle of Monmouth and the Siege of Charleston, where his strategic insight and bravery were on full display.

After the Revolution, Hopkins relocated to Kentucky, then a burgeoning frontier teeming with opportunities and challenges. In 1797, he settled in the small Ohio River community known as Red Banks, which he would soon expand and charter under the name of Henderson. His transition from military to civic leader was seamless. Hopkins' military background equipped him to confront the hostilities between settlers and Native American tribes. His expeditions against the tribes were crucial in securing the region for settlers, although they were often fraught with the complexities and tragedies inherent in such conflicts.

Hopkins' impact on Kentucky extended beyond his military engagements. His political career was marked by multiple terms in the Kentucky House of Representatives as well as a term in the Kentucky State Senate. From 1813-1815, he represented Kentucky's 5th District in the U.S. House of Representatives. As a congressman, Hopkins was a fervent advocate for the War of 1812, viewing it as a continuation of the fight for American independence and security.

One of the most notable episodes of his military career during this period was his leadership in the Northwest Indian War. As a major general, Hopkins commanded expeditions against Native American forces, aiming to secure the western frontier for American expansion. His 1812 campaign, though ultimately unsuccessful in its immediate objectives, underscored the ongoing conflict and struggle for dominance in the region.

Beyond his public service, Hopkins was a devoted family man. He married Elizabeth Bugg in 1783, and together they had eight children. His family life, coupled with his extensive land holdings and involvement in the development of local infrastructure, positioned him as a foundational figure in early Kentucky society.



Samuel Hopkins



Samuel Hopkins gravesite in Henderson, Kentucky

General Hopkins' later years were spent in Henderson County, Kentucky, where he continued to influence the region's development until his death on September 16, 1819. His legacy is commemorated in various ways, most notably through the naming of both Hopkins County and Hopkinsville, Kentucky, a lasting tribute to his contributions. He is buried in the Spring Garden Cemetery in Henderson, Kentucky.

Major General Samuel Hopkins' life encapsulates the spirit of the American frontier and the revolutionary ideals of perseverance, leadership, and commitment to public service. His contributions to the military, politics, and community development in early Kentucky remain a testament to his enduring impact on American history. As we reflect on his legacy, we honor a man whose life was intricately woven into the fabric of a nascent nation, embodying the virtues that continue to inspire generations of Americans.

Bethel Presbyterian Church Graves Discovered

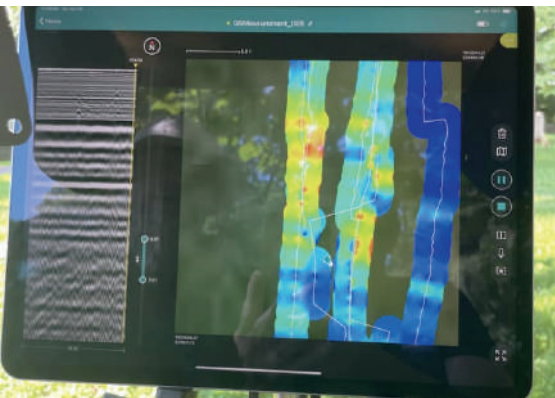


On June 22nd, several members of the Lafayette Chapter, along with the local DAR chapter, spent the day at Bethel Presbyterian Church in northwestern Fayette County.

Founded in 1788, it had long been suspected that there were more buried in the cemetery than known by the stones. Through the years, some stones were lost while others likely never had one.

Now, thanks to ground-penetrating sonar equipment, it is possible to determine how many graves there truly are.

What the equipment showed was frankly remarkable. The volunteers were able to document 140 unmarked graves, a small mass grave of six people, and a very large mass grave of at least 100 people. Additionally, they located the foundation for the second church building which was constructed in the early 19th century.



Brown Wins BSA Award

Congratulations to Tim Brown, Immediate Past President of the Kentucky Society of the SAR and a member of the Lafayette Chapter, for being honored as the 2024 National Alumnus of the Year!

Tim, a resident of Nicholasville, is known for his infectious enthusiasm for the future of Scouting. Tim has introduced numerous positive innovations to engage BSA alumni.

This honor is well-deserved and further demonstrates the dedication Tim has to his community. We are proud to count him among our ranks!



In Memoriam

Tracy Eugene Lucas *June 4, 1961 ~ May 21, 2024*

Tracy Eugene Lucas, 62, husband of Melissa A. Hendrix Lucas, of Nicholasville, died Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at his residence.

He was born in Lexington, KY to William Lucas and Beulah Lairson Lucas, of Nicholasville. Mr. Lucas is a United States Army Veteran. He was the Founder and a very active member of the Camp Nelson Honor Guard. He was also a member of the American Legion; Franklin Masonic Lodge #28; Sons of the American Legion; Sons of the American Revolution; and Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Along with his wife Tracy is survived by his son, William



Zachariah Thomas Lucas, of Lancaster; his special daughter-in-law, Katie Lucas; daughter, Tracy Alexis Marie Lucas (Hunter), of Nicholasville; four grandchildren, Paisley, McKenna, Bailey and Charlotte.; brother, Cecil Scott (Katia) Lucas, of Colorado Springs, CO; two sisters, Linda Sue (Brian) Smith, Nicholasville; and Wendy Kay (Chad) Stewart, of Beaver, WV; and several nieces and nephews.

Tracy was loved dearly by his family and many friends. His sense of humor brought joy and laughter to us all. He was dedicated to his family, friends, community and serving veterans.

Tracy was laid to rest with full military honors in Camp Nelson National Cemetery.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Camp Nelson Honor Guard, 215 Christopher Lane, Nicholasville, KY 40356 or Bluegrass Care Navigators, 643 Teton Trail, Frankfort, KY 40601.



Podcast



Inviting the Presidency

When George Washington was first elected in 1789, he became more than just the first president of the United States--he became the first president of any nation in the world. From the very origins of the US presidency at Constitutional Convention to Washington's

final warnings in his Farewell Address, this podcast breaks down how one man shaped the Presidency—and the many times that it could have all fallen apart.

Recommended Reading

In *The Times That Try Men's Soul*, Joyce Lee Malcolm masterfully traces the origins and experience of that division during the American Revolution—the growing political disagreements, the intransigence of colonial and government officials swelling into a flood of intolerance, intimidation and mob violence. In that tidal wave opportunities for reconciliation were lost. Those loyal to the royal government fled into exile and banishment, or stayed home to support British troops. Patriots risked everything in a fight they seemed destined to lose. Many people simply hoped against hope to get on with ordinary life in extraordinary times.

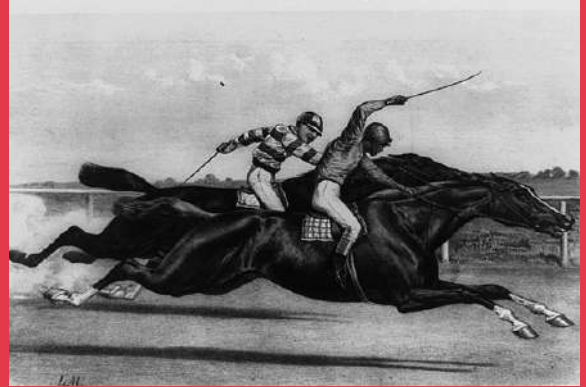


The Times That Try Men's Souls is a poignant and vivid narrative that provides a fresh and timely perspective on a foundational part of our nation's history.

The Times That Try Men's Souls is available at Joseph-Beth, Barnes and Noble or online at amazon.com.

Did you know?

Horse races in the United States are run counterclockwise because of a Kentuckian who was a veteran of the American Revolution?



The son of Scottish immigrants, William Whitley came to Kentucky in 1775. Whitley would serve as a private, as well as a scout in Bowman's Expedition.

After the war, he constructed the first brick house in Kentucky near present day Crab Orchard, in Lincoln County. As his plantation grew, he would add Sportsman's Hill, the first horse racing track west of the Appalachians.

The British had always had their horse races run clockwise. However, in protest of the anything related to the king, Whitley had the horses race counterclockwise, which soon became the American way.

Today, when we watch the Kentucky Derby, we have William Whitley to thank for setting a tradition, with the primary motivation being just to be different from the country from whom he helped gain our independence!

From the Archives



“President General Warren Alter and First Lady Nancy Alter were the guests of Kentucky DAR State Regent Leslie Miller at the Duncan Tavern Historic Center on Dec. 4, 2018, in Paris, Ky. The Duncan Tavern Historic Center is the headquarters of the Kentucky Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The property was owned by Revolutionary War Patriot Joseph Duncan, who served as an armorer at the Falls of the Ohio under Gen. George Rogers Clark. In 1940, the tavern was saved from demolition by Julia Spenser Arbery and the Kentucky Society DAR.

- SAR Magazine, Winter 2019

Calendar of Events

Full calendar at lexsar.org

July 11-16

NSSAR National Congress
Time: Varies
Lancaster Marriott Penn Square
25 South Queen Street
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

August 12

Chapter Board of Managers Meeting
Time: 6:00 PM EDT
Roosters
2640 Richmond Road
Lexington, Kentucky

August 16

Night Before Blue Licks
Time: 5:30 PM EDT
Blue Licks Battlefield State Park
10299 Maysville Road
Carlisle, Kentucky

August 17

Battle of Blue Licks Memorial Service
Time: 9:00 AM EDT
Blue Licks Battlefield State Park
10299 Maysville Road
Carlisle, Kentucky

August 17

Kentucky Society Lunch
Time: 11:30 AM EDT
Blue Licks Battlefield State Park
10299 Maysville Road
Carlisle, Kentucky

August 17

Kentucky Society Summer Meeting
Time: 1:00 PM EDT
Blue Licks Battlefield State Park
10299 Maysville Road
Carlisle, Kentucky

August 18

Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony
Time: 9:30 AM EDT
Bethel Presbyterian Church
4260 Bethel Road
Lexington, Kentucky

September 9

Lafayette Chapter Meeting
Time: 5:30 PM EDT
Sullivan University
2355 Harrodsburg Road
Lexington, Kentucky

September 21

Private Richard Hubbel Grave Marking
Time: 1:00 PM EDT
Highland Cemetery
2167 Dixie Highway
Fort Mitchell, Kentucky

October 3-5

National Society Leadership Meetings
Time: All Day
Galt House Hotel
140 North Fourth Street
Louisville, Kentucky

November 4

Chapter Board of Managers Meeting
Time: 6:00 PM EST
Roosters
2640 Richmond Road
Lexington, Kentucky

December 7

Lafayette Chapter Meeting
Time: 10:30 AM EST
Sullivan University
2355 Harrodsburg Road
Lexington, Kentucky

Happy SAR Anniversary!

July 1 - William C. Thornbury, Jr.

July 2 - John B. Hawkins

July 6 - William D. Newsome

July 14 - Andrew F. Seybert

July 16 - Charles C. Hay, III
Timothy L. Wisner

July 17 - William B. Gahafer

July 19 - Hugh A. Moran, IV

July 28 - George E. Nicholson, Jr.
John D. Nicholson

July 29 - David W. Hayes

July 31 - Henry B. Graves
Marvin H. Graves, Jr.

August 2 - Don D. Adams

August 5 - Sam P. Burchett

August 11 - Leonard B. Beverley

August 12 - Larry C. Deener

August 24 - Charles E. Darnell

August 25 - Thomas D. Johnson, Jr.
Russell F. Tucker

August 27 - Douglas P. Graves

August 28 - Emery A. Wilson

August 30 - William R. Thames