

November 2021



# Lafayette Chapter News

Chartered March 25, 1960

Lafayette Chapter

## Kentucky Society

### Sons of the American Revolution

#### Officers

**President:**

Dale Henley

**Immediate Past president:**

Timothy C. Brown

**President-Elect:**

Patrick Wesolosky

**Vice President:**

Steve Gahafer

**Secretary:**

Don Adams

**Treasurer:**

Greg Landon

**Registrar:**

Mike Sullivan (acting)

**Historian:**

Joe Clancy

**Surgeon:**

Emery Wilson, MD

**Chaplain:**

Ted Kuster

**Eagle Scout Award Chair:**

Dr. Michael Krause

**ROTC/Jr. ROTC Chair:**

Mike Sullivan

**Color Guard Commander:**

Mike Sullivan

**Newsletter Editor:**

Joe Clancy

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#### *President's Point of View*



To: Compatriots of the Lafayette Chapter

Subject: Highlights from 2021

Greetings to all,

The Lafayette Chapter is on solid ground with nearly 150 dues paying members.

On March 27, 2021, the Chapter held a very special Rosette Pinning Ceremony at the historic Bethel Presbyterian Church where Compatriots Nick Blevins, Stephen Brown, Mike Flynn and Kevin Tudor were formally recognized as members of the SAR. At the Chapter's meeting on September 13th, Compatriots Aaron Lawson, Tim Wisner and Kevin Cockrell received their Rosettes, and we anticipate that Scott Lewis and William Druen will receive their Rosettes at the December 13, 2021 Chapter dinner. We welcome all of these new members.

After a year of "virtual meetings", the Chapter was able to have two "in person" meetings, which were well attended, and both meetings had special guests. At the June 14th meeting, Noah Grebe of Louisville eloquently delivered his national, first place winning essay in the Knight Essay Contest entitled "The Enemy of Smallpox in the American Revolution", and historian David Kirkpatrick spoke on George Washington's "Army of Sons" at the September 13th meeting. Another well-known historian from the University of Kentucky's History Department is scheduled to speak at the December 13th meeting.

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The Chapter has been actively engaged in patriotic recognitions with a Flag Day program on June 14th, financially supporting the "Never Forget Memory Garden" at the Veterans Park in Lexington (formal dedication is Veterans Day, November 11th), participating in the upcoming Wreaths Across America program scheduled for December at the Camp Nelson National Cemetery and support to our veterans who reside at the Thomason-Hood Veterans Center in Wilmore, Kentucky through donations of items related to personal care.

I think that most of you are aware that several chapter members especially Patrick Wesolosky and Steve Gahafer have made a personal commitment to locating, cleaning and repairing patriot and veteran graves in central Kentucky. Their efforts have been recognized by other patriotic societies and were recently highlighted in an interview which aired on Channel 18 TV in Lexington in October. In addition to this most worthy efforts, these individuals along with Mike Sullivan, Don Adams and others have admirably represented the Chapter in many Color Guard ceremonies around Kentucky including Dedication of the Patriots Memorial in Elizabethtown, the Battle of Blue Licks, and the Gold Star Families Memorial in Frankfort, to name just a few.

As you can see, the Chapter is busy. All of these things are discussed in more detail in the wonderful Newsletters published by Joe Clancy and available on the Chapter's website ([lex.sar.org](http://lex.sar.org)). And of course, all of this is made possible through the dedicated commitment of Greg Landon, who manages our money; Emery Wilson, who keeps us healthy and laughing; Mike Sullivan who works tirelessly on membership applications; Don Adams whose record keeping is phenomenal; Patrick Wesolosky and Steve Gahafer who are the "spear tip" of patriotic programs; Tim Brown whose work with the Boy Scouts is inspiring; and Ted Kuster who keeps us in the good graces of our Heavenly Father.

I thank everyone for this past year, and I invite all of us to consider becoming even more involved. Opportunities await you.

Kindest regards,

Dale Henley, President  
Lafayette Chapter  
God Bless America



## Lafayette Chapter Dinner Meeting, 9/13/2021

### Embassy Suites, Lexington



President Dale Henley called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. The Invocation was made by Chaplain Ted Kuster, and the Pledge of Allegiance and Pledge to the SAR was led by Past President Tim Brown.

Lafayette members and guests enjoyed camaraderie and a good meal before the business part of the meeting began.



Secretary Don Adams, Surgeon Emery Wilson, Treasurer Greg Landon (not pictured) presented reports.

# Awards



Vice President Steve Gahafer presented a Certificate of Commendation for Exemplary Patriotism in Display of Flag of United States of America to President Dale and Linda Henley.



Vice President Steve Gahafer presented a Certificate of Commendation for Exemplary Patriotism in Display of Flag of the United States of America to President-Elect Patrick and Marika Wesolosky.

## Awards Continued...

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President Dale Henley awarded Ted Kuster the Liberty Medal by the National Society SAR. The Liberty Medal was also awarded to Gordon Krist (not pictured) by National Society SAR.



Vice President Steve Gahafer awarded Tim Wisner Certificate of Accommodation for Exemplary patriotism in Display of the Flag of United States of America.



### Guest Speaker David Kirkpatrick

Mr. Kirkpatrick is the author of “The War of 1812 in the West”, and is currently Assistant Director for the Mercer County Library in Harrodsburg. His prior career was an archivist for the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Kirkpatrick’s presentation was entitled, “An Army of Sons.” This topic explored George Washington’s development of his colonial officer corps.



David Kirkpatrick presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by President Dale Henley

*Photos by Joe Clancy*

## Gold Star Families Memorial Monument Ceremony September 26, 2021

The Gold Star Family Memorial was created by medal of Honor Recipient Hershel “Woody” Williams to remember families who made the ultimate sacrifice.



From L to R: Judy Sullivan (DAR), Medal of Honor Recipient Hershel “Woody” Williams, and Compatriot Mike Sullivan.

## Lafayette Chapter Inducts Three new Members

Three new members were pinned at the Chapter Dinner Meeting on 9/13/2021. In an effort to help everyone recognize our new compatriots and welcome them at our next meeting, a brief personal background and picture was presented by each. Please welcome our new compatriots at the next meeting!



**Aaron Lawson pinned by his wife Kristy.**

Aaron's patriot is William Lawson from Scotland. He said he is glad to be a part of the Lafayette Chapter and looking forward to working with the chapter.



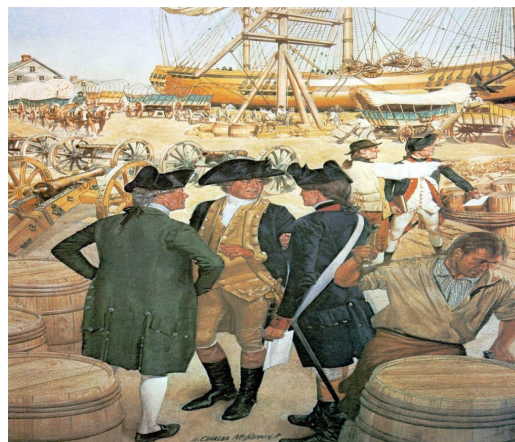




**Tim Wisner pinned by his wife Amelia Wisner.**

“I work in IT for a national financial company. I am married to Lexington DAR registrar Amelia Wisner so I have a connection to that group and Amelia encouraged me to join the SAR. Of course she was a huge help getting my application in order and she is very active in DAR. We both enjoy domestic and foreign travel including touring North America by motorcycle although that has been somewhat curtailed by recent events. I am the First Officer of the Lexington Chapter of the Southern Cruisers Riding Club, a group of motorcyclists who enjoy riding and doing some charity work. Amelia and I both enjoy shooting sports too.”

“I have always been a history buff and a proud American so the SAR is a good fit for me in many ways. I was welcomed into the color guard which was a great excuse to buy a Brown Bess musket and enjoy the color guard activities such as the Blue Licks anniversary event. Coming into the SAR under my direct patrilineal grandfather Lt. Thomas Wisner has stirred my interest in the local history of the era in the part of New York (Orange County) where the Wisner family was residing and taking active parts in the revolution - Henry Wisner was in the Continental Congress and voted for the Declaration of Independence. He went back to New York to start up his gunpowder mills before the clear copy was available to sign so he missed out and being a signer. Many other Wisner's were quite active too.”





**Kevin Cockrell is pinned by Past President Tim Brown.**

Montgomery County Attorney, Kevin Clay Cockrell, has served the citizens of Montgomery County and the Commonwealth of Kentucky for 30 years as a prosecuting attorney. In addition, he has been active in the leadership of his church, has served on the Board of Directors of various private and governmental organizations, and has offered his time to various civic and fraternal organizations. He is married to the former Dawn Maze, who is a retired principal of the Montgomery County School System. They have two children, William Clay (21) and Caroline (18)...both of whom attend Transylvania University.

Welcome

## Positively LEX Segment by Channel 18 News

Channel 18 News reporter Claire Crouch interviewed President-Elect Patrick Wesolosky and Vice President Steve Gahafer on October 21st at the Cove Haven Cemetery in Lexington. Patrick and Steve have been cleaning Revolutionary War patriots tombstones as well as other war veterans for the last 18 months.

Patrick and Steve explained the cleaning process and how it restores tombstones to their original glory. Many of these tombstones were previously unreadable. After a light scrubbing and spraying with D-2 cleaner, they looked new.

Steve and Patrick they have cleaned well over a hundred tombstones in central Kentucky. They both said that it was to honor veterans and to make sure they are never forgotten.

The Sons of the American Revolution honors all veterans, and this segment will be some great exposure for the Lafayette Chapter and the SAR.



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<https://www.lex18.com/community/positively-lex-18/positively-lex-18-friends-restore-graves-and-glory-of-kentucky-veterans>

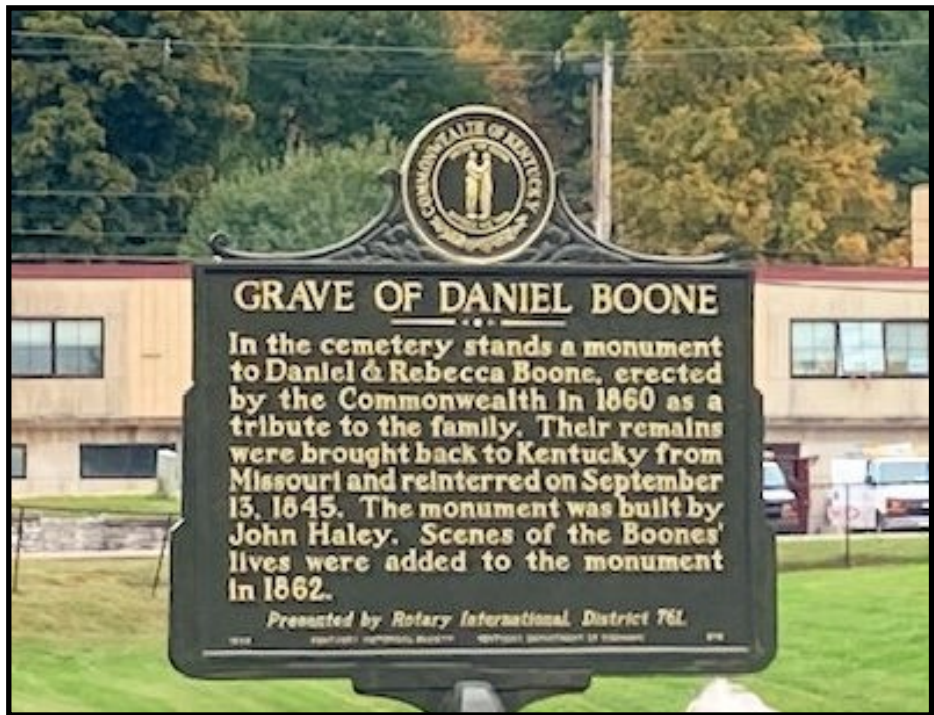
***Link to Channel 18 report.***

*Photos by Joe Clancy*

# Activities of the Lafayette Chapter

## The Rededication of the Daniel Boone Historical Marker at the Frankfort Cemetery.

On October 23, 2021 SAR Color Guardsmen honored Patriot and Pioneer Daniel Boone by standing vigil at his grave on his original birthdate.



*Photos by Patrick Wesolosky*



Participating in the Daniel Boone Rededication from the Lafayette Chapter were: Nick Blevins, Steve Gahafer, Tim Wisner, and Patrick Wesolosky.

The Colonel Daniel Boone Chapter's Color Guard was also represented.



**Compatriot Tim Wisner**



**Compatriot Nick Blevins**

*Photos by Patrick Wesolosky and Greg Landon*

## More Activities!



Compatriot Greg Landon (Lafayette Chapter Treasurer), with his donation of snacks to the Thomson-Hood Veterans Center in Wilmore ,KY.

Lafayette Chapter is now following the example of other Kentucky Society Chapters by supporting a local Veterans Hospital/ Center.

*Photo by Patrick Wesolosky*



# Flag Retirement Service, 10/22/2021

The Lafayette Chapter hosted a Flag Retirement Ceremony on October 22, 2021 at Fire Station No. 22 in Lexington. The chapter hosted for the Bryan Station KSDAR Chapter.

DAR



SAR



Compatriots: L-R Mike Sullivan, Steve Gahafer, Patrick Wesolosky, Nick Bevins, Tim Wisner.



LAFAYETTE COLOR GUARD

## **Calendar Of Events:** (Last edited November 1, 2021)

### **November:**

- **15<sup>th</sup> – Lafayette Chapter Board of Managers Meeting**

*Time: 5:30 PM; Location: Jobeth Bookstore Bistro Room, 161 Lexington Green Circle B, Lexington, Kentucky*

### **December:**

- **13<sup>th</sup> – Lafayette Chapter Dinner/Meeting**

*Time: 6:30 – 8:30 PM; Location: Embassy Suites, 1801 Newtown Pike, Lexington, Kentucky*

- **18<sup>th</sup> – Wreaths Across America**

*Time: 12:00 PM Noon (Muster at 10:00 AM); Location: Camp Nelson National Cemetery, US Hwy 27 South, Nicholasville, Kentucky*

*“Never Forget Memory Garden” at the Veterans Park in Lexington (formal dedication is Veterans Day, November 11th), participating in the upcoming Wreaths Across America program scheduled for December at Camp Nelson National Cemetery.*

