



# 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*



Greetings to the Compatriots of the Lafayette Chapter,

As many of you know, the SAR sponsors a patriotic essay contest which is open to all high school students throughout the country. Last year, the winner came from Kentucky. Noah Grebe of Louisville presented his essay to the National Congress where he was awarded a first place prize of \$5,000.

All essay participants begin with a chapter sponsor and, this past February, the Lafayette Chapter recognized its winners: 1st - Blake Poynter (Dr. Benjamin Rush), 2nd - Charles Cochran (Alexander Hamilton), and 3rd - Ford Cull (Henry Knox). Each of our winners received a certificate and cash prize. And I am pleased to report that Blake's essay was judged first place in the state and has advanced to the national competition as Kentucky's entry. You will get the opportunity to meet Blake later this year when he presents his essay at a future meeting.

As I have said many times, there is no more important mission of the SAR than to foster patriotism in our youth, and I very much appreciate the Lafayette Chapter's willingness to participate in the Knight Essay Contest.

*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  
CLANCYLX@AOL.COM

HISTORIAN - TIM WISNER  
TLWISNER@OUTLOOK.COM

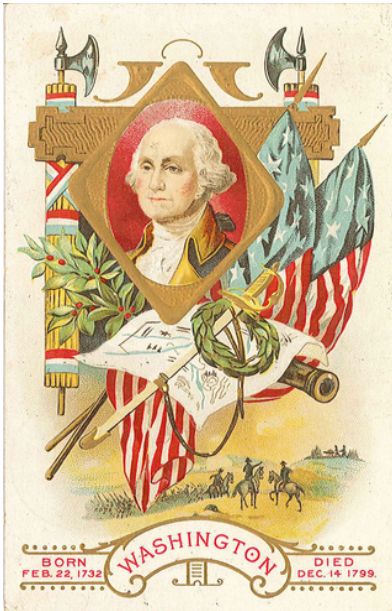
SURGEON - DR. JAMIE AKIN  
JAKIN94939@AOL.COM

CHAPLAIN - TED KUSTER  
TED.KUSTER@GMAIL.COM

\*\*\*\*\*

NEWSLETTER EDITOR - TOMMY DRUEN  
DRUEN2004@YAHOO.COM

## Celebrating General Washington



On February 25th, the Lafayette Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution joined together with the Kentucky Society of the Sons of the Revolution to celebrate the 290th birthday of George Washington, Commander in Chief of the Continental Army and first President of the United States.

A dinner was held at The Lexington Club. Following the meal, those in attendance heard a presentation from Edward Keeton entitled "The American Revolutionary War - A Slice of Time."

Mr. Keeton, an attorney from West Liberty, Kentucky, spoke about some of the most critical points of General Washington's career during the five years between 1775 and 1780. He proffered the notion that some of General Washington's best military decisions were that he gave his trust to officers below him and offered them the freedom to make their own decisions in the heat of battle.

There were approximately 60 people in attendance, with a good showing from the Lafayette Chapter. The camaraderie with our fellow descendants of those who stood up for the patriots' effort was well-appreciated.



*Left: The evening began with a cocktail hour of socialization for those in attendance.*



*Right: Lexington Mayor Linda Gorton was in attendance.*



*Above: Compatriot Mike Sullivan presented the flag, a replica of General Washington's Commander-in-Chief flag which was with him at all times.*



*Left: Lafayette Chapter President Dale Henley offered welcoming remarks and spoke of the close bond between Generals Washington and Lafayette.*



*Above: Ed Keeton, West Liberty attorney and president of the Big Sandy Chapter of the SAR, was the keynote speaker, providing information about General Washington's military accomplishments.*



*Above: Major General Charles Gorton (Ret.) led a toast in honor of General Washington.*

## Patrick Henry's Famous Oration



On March 20, 1775, delegates from across the Commonwealth assembled at St. John's Episcopal Church in Richmond for the Second Virginia Convention. Hanover County sent Patrick Henry, a young attorney who had a passion for liberty and a knack for rousing oratory. On the third day, with such luminaries such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and the convention president Peyton Randolph listening, Henry took to the floor with a proposal to organize a voluntary company of cavalry or infantry in every Virginia county. His words would captivate the delegates, as well soon the colonies. On this 247th anniversary, below is printed the entirety of the famous speech from Henry.



*MR. PRESIDENT: No man thinks more highly than I do of the patriotism, as well as abilities, of the very worthy gentlemen who have just addressed the House. But different men often see the same subject in different lights; and, therefore, I hope it will not be thought disrespectful to those gentlemen if, entertaining as I do, opinions of a character very opposite to theirs, I shall speak forth my sentiments freely, and without reserve. This is no time for ceremony. The question before the House is one of awful moment to this country. For my own part, I consider it as nothing less than a question of freedom or slavery; and in proportion to the magnitude of the subject ought to be the freedom of the debate. It is only in this way that we can hope to arrive at truth, and fulfil the great responsibility which we hold to God and our country. Should I keep back my opinions at such a time, through fear of giving offence, I should consider myself as guilty of treason towards my country, and of an act of disloyalty toward the majesty of heaven, which I revere above all earthly kings.*

*Mr. President, it is natural to man to indulge in the illusions of hope. We are apt to shut our eyes against a painful truth, and listen to the song of that siren till she transforms us into beasts. Is this the part of wise men, engaged in a great and arduous struggle for liberty? Are we disposed to be of the number of those who, having eyes, see not, and, having ears, hear not, the things which so nearly concern their temporal salvation? For my part, whatever anguish of spirit it may cost, I am willing to know the whole truth; to know the worst, and to provide for it.*

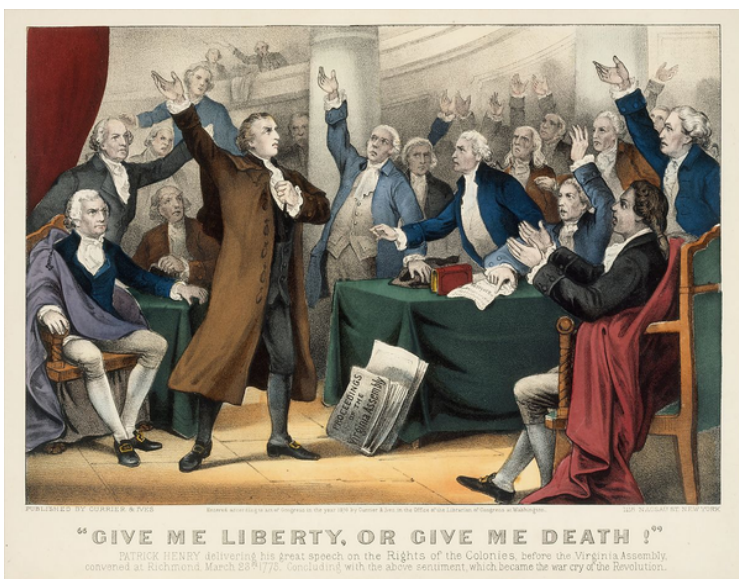
**"GIVE ME LIBERTY OR GIVE ME DEATH!"**

*I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided; and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging of the future but by the past. And judging by the past, I wish to know what there has been in the conduct of the British ministry for the last ten years, to justify those hopes with which gentlemen have been pleased to solace themselves, and the House? Is it that insidious smile with which our petition has been lately received? Trust it not, sir; it will prove a snare to your feet. Suffer not yourselves to be betrayed with a kiss. Ask yourselves how this gracious reception of our petition comports with these war-like preparations which cover our waters and darken our land. Are fleets and armies necessary to a work of love and reconciliation? Have we shown ourselves so unwilling to be reconciled, that force must be called in to win back our love? Let us not deceive ourselves, sir. These are the implements of war and subjugation; the last arguments to which kings resort. I ask, gentlemen, sir, what means this martial array, if its purpose be not to force us to submission? Can gentlemen assign any other possible motive for it? Has Great Britain any enemy, in this quarter of the world, to call for all this accumulation of navies and armies? No, sir, she has none. They are meant for us; they can be meant for no other.*

*They are sent over to bind and rivet upon us those chains which the British ministry have been so long forging. And what have we to oppose to them? Shall we try argument? Sir, we have been trying that for the last ten years. Have we anything new to offer upon the subject? Nothing. We have held the subject up in every light of which it is capable; but it has been all in vain. Shall we resort to entreaty and humble supplication? What terms shall we find which have not been already exhausted? Let us not, I beseech you, sir, deceive ourselves. Sir, we have done everything that could be done, to avert the storm which is now coming on. We have petitioned; we have remonstrated; we have supplicated; we have prostrated ourselves before the throne, and have implored its interposition to arrest the tyrannical hands of the ministry and Parliament. Our petitions have been slighted; our remonstrances have produced additional violence and insult; our supplications have been disregarded; and we have been spurned, with contempt, from the foot of the throne. In vain, after these things, may we indulge the fond hope of peace and reconciliation. There is no longer any room for hope. If we wish to be free<sup>2</sup> if we mean to preserve inviolate those inestimable privileges for which we have been so long contending if we mean not basely to abandon the noble struggle in which we have been so long engaged, and which we have pledged ourselves never to abandon until the glorious object of our contest shall be obtained, we must fight! I repeat it, sir, we must fight! An appeal to arms and to the God of Hosts is all that is left us!*

*They tell us, sir, that we are weak; unable to cope with so formidable an adversary. But when shall we be stronger? Will it be the next week, or the next year? Will it be when we are totally disarmed, and when a British guard shall be stationed in every house? Shall we gather strength by irresolution and inaction? Shall we acquire the means of effectual resistance, by lying supinely on our backs, and hugging the delusive phantom of hope, until our enemies shall have bound us hand and foot? Sir, we are not weak if we make a proper use of those means which the God of nature hath placed in our power. Three millions of people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us. Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations; and who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave. Besides, sir, we have no election. If we were base enough to desire it, it is now too late to retire from the contest. There is no retreat but in submission and slavery! Our chains are forged! Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston! The war is inevitable and let it come! I repeat it, sir, let it come.*

*It is in vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!*



1876 lithograph of the famous speech published by Currier & Ives. This work is now part of the collection of The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

## KENTUCKY CONNECTION!

Patrick Henry and James Madison were some of the earliest land speculators in what is now Kentucky.

Though they never visited it, the two patriots owned a large tract along the Elkhorn Creek in Central Kentucky.

In 1779, Robert Johnson purchased from Henry and Madison a large farm in present day Scott County. Johnson was the father of future Vice-President Richard Mentor Johnson.

## Wreaths Across America

We are all aware of Wreaths Across America, the charity with which our chapter joins to help place wreaths on the graves of our fallen military personnel during the Christmas season.

As with our own home Christmas decorations, the initial adornment is sentimental and to which people look forward. After the holiday season though, it is often a dreaded and thankless job to remove them.

We thank compatriots Patrick Wesolosky, Steve Gahafer, Tim Wisner and Mike Sullivan for traveling to Camp Nelson National Cemetery in Jessamine County to help remove the wreaths in January. They were part of a team that removed over 16,000 wreaths in three hours!



Top: Patrick Wesolosky, Steve Gahafer and Mike Sullivan on a wintry day.



Bottom: Tim Wisner removing wreaths.

## Madison County Plaque Initiative



The Madison County Historical Society has undertaken a project to identify and honor veterans and supporters of the American Revolution buried in Madison County. To date, they have identified 143 people who fit that criteria.

The Society's intention is to commemorate these patriots with a bronze plaque for public display.

Compatriot John Buckler, pictured on the far right, has been a driving force for this project. According to an article in the *Richmond Register*, Buckler said the committee wanted to rectify what they considered an unintentional slight and honor the veterans and supporters of the American Revolution this way. They have been working with local historians to gather the historical information as a first step.

## Filson Society Lecture

The Filson Historical Society, located in Louisville, will be sponsoring a virtual lecture that would be of interest to many of us.

On March 15, from 6:00-7:00 pm, best-selling author and New York Times reporter Tom Clavin will be speaking on *Blood and Treasure*, a book he co-wrote with Bob Drury. The book focuses on Daniel Boone, patriot and explorer, and his earliest days in the "First Frontier" of Kentucky. Their work casts aside the stereotypical image of Boone as the coonskin cap caricature and looks at the real Boone, and others like him, as the nation grew in it's earliest days.

The online lecture is free and sponsored by the Society on Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. You can learn more by visiting: [filsonhistorical.org](http://filsonhistorical.org).



## The Irish Connection

At no time during the year are the intertwined Irish and American people more celebrated than in March. Built around the tradition of St. Patrick's Day, for over 30 years each President has issued a proclamation establishing March as Irish-American Heritage Month.

The connections between our two countries long predate the official designation of the month, however. In fact, many of the patriots who took up arms in pursuit of liberty were immigrants or the descendants of those from Ireland!



Joseph Galloway, a member of the First Continental Congress from Pennsylvania, abandoned the cause and fought with General Howe on the side of the British regulars. In 1778, he and his daughter fled to London, where he became an unofficial spokesman for American Loyalists. That next year, he appeared before a committee of the House of Commons which was investigating the cause of the Revolution. When asked about the composition of the troops under General Washington, Galloway testified that they were "about one-half Irish." That was corroborated when Major General James Robertson, testifying in front of the same committee, said, "I remember General Harry Lee telling me that half of the rebel army were from Ireland."

*"America was lost by Irish emigrants I am assured from the best authority, the major part of the American Army was composed of Irish and that the Irish language was as commonly spoken in the American ranks as English, I am also informed it was their valour that determined the contest" - Lord Mountjoy to Parliament April 2, 1784*

While history has proven those statements to be exaggerated, there is no doubt that the Irish played an integral role with the Continental Army. Nearly 700 men of Irish descent were present at the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775. Another 637 were killed during the Siege of Savannah in 1779.

No one recognized the contributions of the Irish more than General George Washington himself. In the winter of 1780, his army was camped at Morristown, New Jersey. The weather had been brutal, supplies low and the conflicts discouraging. General Washington recognized that the need for a morale boost was crucial. With limited resources, he issued an order that the men be given a day off, the first in over a year, in order to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

Among those of Irish birth who took up the patriot cause after emigrating to the colonies were such historical notable men as Brigadier General William Maxwell, Stephen Moylan, who served as Secretary to General Washington and was the first to coin the term "United States of America," and Hercules Mulligan, tailor and spy who has gained recent renewed fame for his portrayal in *Hamilton*.

Kentucky connections with the Irish patriots abound as well. First Lieutenant Percival "Pierce" Butler was a native of Dublin. His family relocated to Pennsylvania where they ran a gunsmith shop. He and his two brothers were close allies of General Washington during the war. Afterwards, Percival settled in Kentucky where he served as our first Adjutant General, a position he held for 24 years.

A member of Ethan Allen's famous Green Mountain Boys, Captain Matthew Lyon originally hailed from County Wicklow. After the war, he moved to present-day Eddyville, Kentucky. There he operated a paper mill and distillery before serving four terms in the United States House of Representatives.

Hugh McGary was one of the first settlers in Kentucky, scouting land here as early as 1772. McGary, an Irish native as well, led the infamous charge at the Battle of Blue Licks.

With sentiment high at this time of year, we would be well served to remember all the Irish did to help form our nation. George Washington Parke Custis, adopted grandson of General Washington may have said it best: "Let the shamrock be entwined with the laurels of the Revolution, and truth and justice, guiding the pen of history, inscribe on the tablets of American remembrance 'Eternal Gratitude to Irishmen.'"



## March Meeting

The next meeting of the Lafayette Chapter will be on Monday, March 7th at the Embassy Suites in Lexington. There will be a period of socialization beginning at 5:30 PM, with the meeting beginning promptly at 6:00 PM.

Our special guest for this evening will be Mr. Zac Distel. Zac is the Curator and Program Exhibit Director for the SAR National Headquarters in Louisville. In this role, he develops and coordinates programs and supporting exhibits with Outreach Education and the Genealogical Research Library that engage the SAR membership and public audiences. Additional responsibilities include object inquiries concerning SAR collections.

Zac Distel has worked in the public history and museum field for more than a decade where he has focused on interpreting material culture, collections management, and exhibition development. His past experience includes the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Toledo Museum of Art, and the Frazier History Museum which has developed a broad perspective and approach to collecting evidence of the past. Since joining the staff of the SAR in 2017 he has worked to advance the SAR Collection through the development of the Artifact Donor Program and incorporate artifacts in Outreach Education materials and programming.

A native of Tiffin, Ohio, Zac is a 2010 graduate of Walsh University, where he earned degrees in History and Museum Studies. He then enrolled at the University of Louisville where he earned a Master of Arts with a concentration in Critical and Curatorial Studies, a Master of Public Administration, and a Graduate Certificate in Public History in 2013.

Zac will be making a presentation entitled "SAR Artifact Showcase," in which he will highlight some of the latest and most significant artifacts in the SAR's collection. There will be an emphasis on some directly related to Kentucky and the western frontier.



*Top: Mr. Zac Distel, with SAR National Headquarters*

*Lower: Pipe tomahawk heads that will be featured in the presentation.*



Our chapter recently conducted an internal audit of our financial records. Chapter President Dale Henley and Treasurer Greg Landon examined the records dating back to December 31, 2019.

All financial information was visually verified, with no discrepancies. Our gratitude goes to both gentlemen for being willing to perform their roles and for being good stewards for the chapter.



If passed, the resolution would designate each month of the year as a celebration of the Declaration of Independence, federal and state constitutions and the Bill of Rights.

"This resolution simply highlights some of the most historic documents in our nation's history and encourages Kentuckians to take a moment to pause and reflect on what they mean," said Representative Reed. "We should never take them for granted and recognize they are as pertinent today as they were in the 18th century."

The resolution will now be considered by the full House of Representatives and the Senate prior to becoming law.

Legislation is moving forward to help promote significant historical documents in our nation's history. House Resolution 27, sponsored by Representative Brandon Reed of Hodgenville, passed the State Government Committee of the Kentucky House of Representatives unanimously.



*Rep. Brandon Reed (Hodgenville)*

## Battle of Moores Creek Bridge



*Compatriot Patrick Wesolosky participated on behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky in the procession and wreath ceremony in commemoration of the battle.*

The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge was a conflict of the American Revolution fought near the community of Currie, North Carolina, on February 27, 1776. The victory of the North Carolina Provincial Congress' militia force over British governor Josiah Martin's reinforcements at Moore's Creek marked the decisive turning point of the Revolution in North Carolina. American independence would be declared less than five months later.

When word arrived in January 1776 of a planned British Army expedition to the area, Martin ordered his militia to muster in anticipation of their arrival. Revolutionary militia and Continental units mobilized to prevent the junction, blockading several routes until the poorly armed loyalists were forced to confront them at Moore's Creek Bridge, about 18 miles north of Wilmington.

In a brief early-morning engagement, a charge across the bridge by sword-wielding loyalist Scotsmen shouting in Gaelic was met by a barrage of musket fire.

Two loyalist leaders were killed, another captured, and the whole force was scattered. In the following days, many loyalists were arrested, putting a damper on further recruiting efforts. North Carolina was not militarily threatened again until 1780, and memories of the battle and its aftermath negated efforts by Charles Cornwallis to recruit loyalists in the area in 1781.



*Above: Compatriot Patrick Wesolosky and his wife, Marika, pose with wreaths from the Lafayette Chapter and the Lexington Chapter of the DAR.*

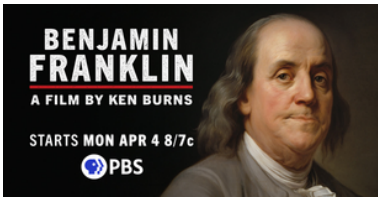
Today, the battlefield is managed by the U.S. National Park Service and open to the public. It was preserved as a National Military Park in 1926 and redesignated as a National Battlefield on September 8, 1980.

This past February 26, representatives of various patriot lineage associations, as well as local historical societies, gathered at Moores Creek Bridge Battlefield to commemorate the bravery and sacrifices of those brave men and women who fought and supplied those fighting. Patrick Wesolosky, Vice-President of the Lafayette Chapter, provided a wreath for the ceremony on behalf of our chapter, as well as participated in a solemn memorial procession.

*Right: The Moores Creek Bridge has been reconstructed so as to both honor the participants of the battle and to give visitors better historic reference.*







## Television Series

This April will mark the debut of the much anticipated documentary by Ken Burns on the life and times of Benjamin Franklin.

The two-part, four-hour documentary will explore America's first celebrity. It delves into what he accomplished in the scientific, publishing and civic aspects of his life. It will also illustrate the flaws of a man who has long been put upon a pedestal.

One of the most decorated filmmaker's in history, this promises to be another great documentary in Burns' portfolio. It will begin airing on KET Monday, April 4th at 8:00 PM EDT.

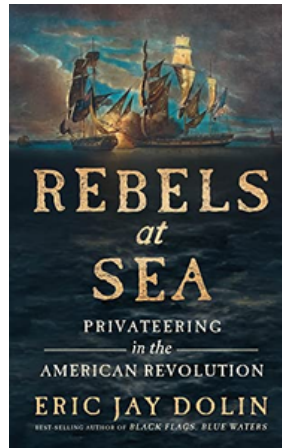
## Recommended Reading

Much space has been devoted to the founding of the U.S. Navy through the years. Names such as John Paul Jones and Benedict Arnold are taught to us at the elementary level.

However, like much with the American Revolution, much depended on the efforts, both military and financial, of those in private life.

*Rebels at Sea* is an in-depth look at the men who risked their lives and fortunes as privateers, as they sailed the Atlantic seizing British vessels.

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



## Did you know?

Kentucky's oldest continuously operating business has a connection to the American Revolution.

Valley View Ferry is located on Kentucky Route 169 where Fayette, Jessamine and Madison counties all come together.

The ferry began operation in 1780 by John Craig, a Virginian who was a veteran of the American Revolution. Craig obtained the land through a military warrant and, in 1785, was granted a perpetual and irrevocable franchise by the Virginia General Assembly to operate a ferry.

Valley View Ferry remained a private business for over 200 years, but was purchased by the three county governments in 1991. It currently operates free of charge due to funding from the Kentucky General Assembly.



## Calendar of Events

### 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

### March 12

Kentucky SAR Spring Meeting & Luncheon  
9:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
Highlands Latin School  
10901 Shelbyville Road  
Louisville, Kentucky

### May 5

City of Lexington Lafayette Day Proclamation  
6:00 PM  
Lexington-Fayette Urban Council Chambers  
200 East Main Street  
Lexington, Kentucky

### May 21

Founders' Day Festival  
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
McConnell Springs Park  
416 Rebmann Lane  
Lexington, Kentucky

### July 10-15

132nd Annual Conference  
Hyatt Regency Riverfront  
2 West Bay Street  
Savannah, Georgia

### August 20

Battle of Blue Licks Memorial Service  
10:00 AM - 3:30 PM  
Blue Licks Battlefield State Park  
10299 Maysville Road  
Carlisle, Kentucky