



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,

On Thursday, May 5th, the Lexington-Fayette County Urban Government will honor our Chapter's namesake by proclaiming May 16, 2022 as "Marquis de Lafayette Day" in Lexington. The proclamation will be delivered at a meeting of the LFCUG Council beginning at 6 PM at the Council's offices located at 200 East Main Street in Lexington. Please let me know if you are planning to attend.

There are also many opportunities for our Color Guard, and indeed, for all of us, to participate in several upcoming events at Frankfort, Georgetown and Lexington. These events are identified on the Chapter's webpage (Lexsar.org). You may contact Patrick Wesolosky (65moots@gmail.com) for additional information. There is also a Veterans Memorial Event over Memorial Day weekend at the Buffalo Springs cemetery in Stanford. More information about this event is available by contacting John Buckler (jbuck71300@gmail.com)

It is a busy time of year, but I encourage all of us to take advantage of the opportunities presented by these events to "showcase" the SAR in general, and our Chapter in particular.

Dale

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Kentucky SAR Spring Meeting

On March 12, the Kentucky SAR held its annual spring meeting on the campus of Highlands Latin School in Louisville. The school is a leading private institution in elementary, middle and secondary education. The state chapter was honored to gather on the campus for this meeting.

the meeting began with the somber moment of President Steve Mallory paying tribute to our compatriots who departed these earthly realms over the course of the past year.

The meeting took an upturn after that as much positive information was conveyed regarding the state of affairs for the Kentucky Chapter.

The meeting also saw the passing of the gavel as it was the last for President Mallory and the first for our new State President, Scott Giltner of the Isaac Shelby Chapter. President Mallory laid out his vision for our state chapter. While we will hear more specific details in the future, the highlights are that he wants to focus on: 1) Increasing membership participation, 2) Increasing chapter activity, 3) Promoting the Distinguished Chapter recognition, and 4) Program development and support.

The meeting also featured the presentation of awards to several members of our Lafayette Chapter. We thank these members for their service and commend them on the recognition!



President Steve Mallory presented Compatriots Tim Brown, Mike Sullivan and Patrick Wesolosky with awards. Tim received an Eagle Scout award, Mike the Distinguished Service medal and Patrick the Silver Roger Sherman medal.



President Steve Mallory presented Compatriots Dale Henley and Steve Gahafer with State Meritorious medals, as well as Dr. Emery Wilson with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service as the Kentucky SAR Surgeon.

Battle of Logan's Fort



Logan's Fort, also known as St. Asaph and near present day Stanford, was established in 1775 by John Floyd and Benjamin Logan, namesake of the community. Benjamin Logan would serve in a variety of roles during Kentucky's pioneer days, most notably as Kentucky's representative in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1781-1787. During this time he became a leading advocate for our statehood.

During the American Revolution, Benjamin Logan was the second highest ranking member of the Virginia Militia in Kentucky. He was involved in the defense of several pioneer settlements from British-backed Native Americans, including the thirteen day siege of Logan's Fort during May, 1777.

The following article by Lynda Williams Closson, founder and former president of the Logan's Fort Foundation, appeared in the Winter 2018 issue of *Hallowed Ground* magazine, published by the American Battlefield Trust.



Early settlers of Kentucky often referred to the year 1777 as the "Bloody Sevens." If the major defensive outposts on the frontier had not survived that year of attack from British-allied Indians — particularly those led by Chillicothe Shawnee war chief Blackfish — the early history of the state would have been greatly altered.

Logan's Fort was the first line of defense against any British threat coming from the south. It began when Benjamin Logan arrived in Kentucky with a survey party led by John Floyd on May 1, 1775, and erected "a little town," they named St. Asaph's. Logan built a cabin and planted a crop of corn, which he would later use as proof to make his claim to 400 acres and a preemption for 1,000 acres, despite returning to Virginia and not returning until March 1776 with his family.

Following the July 1776 capture and rescue of three girls from Boonesborough — an incident that contributed to the notoriety of frontiersman Daniel Boone, whose daughter, Jemima, was among those abducted — Logan began appealing to other area settlers to join him in building a fort. Logan's cabin was the first structure completed and occupied by February 1777.

The original log fort sat on a slight elevation about 50 yards west of the small spring at St. Asaph's. It was 90 x 150 feet in size, with gates at each end that were lowered and raised by leather tongs. The main gate faced east. On the south side, two blockhouses were built on each end with three cabins between. There was one blockhouse on the northwest corner, adjoined by four cabins, while the northeast corner was occupied by a conventional cabin. According to a sketch done by a Captain Briggs, the cabins were occupied by families, while six single men occupied the blockhouses. The fort had two notable comforts: a spring accessible by tunnel even during a siege and a gristmill built on the south side along St. Asaph's branch, providing bread for inhabitants.

Due to signs of Indians in the area and attacks on Fort Harrod and Fort Boonesborough in early spring of 1777, Benjamin Logan made preparations for an attack:

(cont.)

“Capt. Ben Logan made great preparation against the Indians. He dug a deep ditch from the fort to the spring, and covered it all over so that water could be got in a pinch. He told the women and children immediately to hustle themselves and bring into the fort last year’s pumpkins, fill their vessels all full of water. He said there was but little doubt but that the Indians would come to our fort.”

Indians were spotted by scouts near Logan’s Fort on May 18, 1777. Twelve days later, the hammer fell.

“Early on Friday morning the 30th of May, though confident that Indians were about, Mrs. Ann Logan, Mrs. Whitley and a Negro woman ventured out of the fort to milk the cows, guarded by William Hudson, Burr Harrison, John Kennedy and James Craig. They were fired upon by their stealthy foe, and Hudson, shot through the head and killed instantly, while Harrison was shot down and Kennedy, though wounded with four balls, reached the fort as did also Craig, and the women uninjured. The Indians were 57 in number, who kept up a constant fire on the fort until evening, screened behind trees and banks, while the 12 uninjured men in the garrison made such a defense as deterred the enemy from too near an approach to the stockade.”

To arm the defenders, some of the women began melting their pewter plates and fashioning them into bullets.



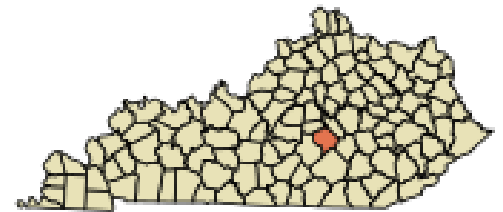
A portrait of Benjamin Logan which is displayed in the collection of the Cincinnati Museum Center.

As firing ceased in the evening, eagle-eyed Whitley noticed Burr Harrison, who had been left beyond the fort and assumed dead in the initial sortie, move. After further communication confirmed Harrison to be alive, Logan ventured out to bring him to safety, using a bag of wool to shield himself on the approach and running back with Harrison in his arms.

According to the Draper Manuscripts, “The Indians, now renewed the attack and continued it until sometime in the night, during which they killed all the cattle and hogs they could find. They hovered around the fort, though (they) kept quiet till Sunday morning [June 1], when they departed.”

Low on munitions, Logan departed for the Holston Settlement on June 6, returning three weeks later. Colonel John Bowman and his 100 militiamen arrived at Logan’s Fort on July 28, 1777, under orders from the Virginia governor to escort settlers back across the mountains if he felt they could not be adequately defended. Had Logan’s Fort (or the other strongholds at Fort Harrod or Fort Boonsborough) fallen — either in May or during a second attack in late August — it is likely Bowman would have exercised that option, extracting Kentucky’s population back to the east. Instead, Kentucky became the 15th state to join the Union in 1792.

Although small, the fort’s important historical significance continued well beyond the 1777 battle. Additional militia, under the command of Major George Rogers Clark, were stationed there in March 1778 in preparation for an offensive campaign into the Illinois Country, and the fort became a major center for provisions. In a 12-week span that summer and autumn, the fort’s quartermaster sergeant recorded incoming supplies, either bought or acquired by hunting, amounting to 84 bushels of corn, 724 pounds of pork, 2,779 pounds of tame beef and 2,820 pounds of buffalo beef. Logan’s Fort played host to the court martial of Daniel Boone, who was accused of treason following the September 1778 siege at Boonesborough. Boone was ultimately acquitted of the charge, which had been brought by Richard Calloway and supported by Benjamin Logan.



Location of present-day Lincoln County, site of Fort Logan. The reconstructed fort is located in Stanford at the end of Martin Luther King Street.

(cont.)

In April 1779, Clark returned to Logan's Fort, transporting British Colonel Henry Hamilton – the “scalp buyer” – back to Williamsburg for trial, having taken him prisoner in recapturing the fort at Vincennes, Illinois. In October, the Virginia Land Commission opened its first office at Logan's Fort, offering settlers their first opportunity to claim the land they had struggled to defend. Those homesteads that had been established and made to the land prior to October 14, 1779, were entitled to settlement rights. Settlers could travel to Logan's Fort and, with satisfactory proof, claim 400 acres of land and could be eligible for a preemption of 1,000 acres.

The location of Logan's Fort gave the settlement great significance throughout this era. The Cumberland Trace, which led to Nashville, Tenn., began at Logan's Fort. The Great Road (also known as the Wilderness Road), Hogan's Trace, which led to the Kentucky River and many other lesser known paths all merged on this little outpost in the wilderness. One could be safe in saying that all roads leading into Kentucky from the south, save Boone's old Trace, passed through Logan's Fort. Citing the convenience of its location, the Lincoln County (Virginia) Court was moved to Logan's Fort in March 1781, following two sessions held at Fort Harrod.

In its Revolutionary War and War of 1812 preservation study, the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program ranked the Battle of Logan's Fort as second in relative historical significance among Kentucky's Revolutionary War battlefields. It is exciting to know that, as we prepare to celebrate the 250th anniversary of America's fight for independence, the importance of this chapter in that struggle will receive increased focus and attention.

LOGAN'S FORT SIEGE OF 1777 5TH ANNUAL REENACTMENT



MAY 20-22, 2022
HISTORIC STANFORD, KY
AT THE END OF MARTIN LUTHER KING STREET

FRIDAY, MAY 20, PARK OPENS 6 PM

7 PM - Special Presentation
Richard Phelps will portray
Daniel Trabue who lived at
Logan's Fort for a time
Public Welcome - Bring a lawn chair



SATURDAY, MAY 21, PARK OPENS 10 AM

2:00 PM - Reenactment of the Siege
6:30 PM - Live Auction (Public Welcome)

SUNDAY, MAY 22

10:30 AM - Frontier Church Service
Public Welcome

THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND

Living History Demonstrations
Native American Encampment
Settler's Encampment
Sutler's Village
Food Vendors

The Logan's Fort Foundation sponsors an annual reenactment of the 1777 Siege.

At left is the information regarding this year's activities

If you go, the best information to use for your GPS is simply Martin Luther King Street in Stanford, Kentucky.

Other highlights of Stanford include:

Buffalo Springs Cemetery - Site of the first courthouse in Kentucky and resting place of multiple Revolutionary War soldiers.

William Whitley House State Historic Site - Home of Kentucky pioneer William Whitley and the first brick house west of the Appalachian Mountains.

Bluebird Cafe - An award-winning farm-to-table restaurant in downtown Stanford.

ADMISSION \$5, FREE TO CHILDREN 12 & UNDER
PROCEEDS WILL FUND FUTURE EVENTS AT THE FORT

March Chapter Meeting

On March 7, the Lafayette Chapter had its regularly scheduled meeting at the Embassy Suites in Lexington. The meeting was well-attended, and provided a great atmosphere for both business affairs and fellowship.

The meeting began with Chapter President Dale Henley introducing us to our newest member, despite him being two-dimensional. With the assistance of our compatriots who are graduates of Lafayette High School and Lafayette College, a portrait of our chapter namesake, General Lafayette was unveiled. It is the intention to have this portrait present at our meetings, as well as other chapter activities.



Chapter President Dale Henley introduces us to the unveiled portrait of General Lafayette.

The portrait is a copy of the famous work by Joseph-Désiré Court, which hangs in the Palace of Versailles.



Mr. Zac Distel with the SAR National Headquarters presents on artifacts related to Kentucky's involvement in the Revolution.

Our guest presenter for the evening was 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 spoke to us about some of the more interesting artifacts in the SAR's collection, with special attention to those directly related to Kentucky and other areas of the western frontier. He brought several items for us to actually see, including several pipe tomahawk heads that were from Kentucky. Zac encouraged those who have not been to visit the SAR's national headquarters in Louisville to see the progress they have made.



Medals presented to Compatriots Clancy and Redmond.

Two awards were presented to compatriots during the meeting. The first went to Joe Clancy in recognition of his years of service as editor of our chapter newsletter. Next, William "Skip" Redmond received the Fire Safety Commendation Medal for decades as a volunteer firefighter in Montgomery and Fayette counties.

President-Elect Patrick Wesolosky reported the Lafayette Chapter had placed 4th in the state for the USS Stark Memorial Award. This award honors chapters who dedicate time in service of veterans. It was specifically noted that Compatriot Mike Flynn had volunteered the majority of our chapter's hours, for which he was commended.

Our chapter will be involved in several upcoming patriot grave marking services. In May, there will be one for George Bruner in Jessamine County, one for _____ in Harrison County in _____, and one for Larkin Sandidge, patriot ancestor of our chapter Vice-President Steve Gahafer in Lincoln County this September.

The evening ended with a benediction specifically wishing a speedy recovery to our friend and Chapter Chaplain, Ted Kuster.

Dr. Billy Forbess was inducted as the newest member of our chapter. He comes by way of his patriot ancestor, John Culver. His wife, Diana Forbess participated in the ceremonial pinning.



President Henley introduces us to our newest compatriot, Dr. Billy Forbess, prior to his ceremonial pinning by his wife, Diana.

Presentations



Members of the Lafayette Chapter recently made presentations to local high school students.

At left, Compatriots Patrick Wesolosky and Steve Gahafer presented Cadet Scott Hicks of Madison Southern High School with the Bronze JROTC Medal.

At right, Compatriot Steve Gahafer presented Cadet Tate Traugott of George Rogers Clark High School with the Bronze JROTC Medal.

Bethel Presbyterian Church

On Saturday, April 2nd, Compatriot Nick Blevins spoke to the Lexington Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on the history of Bethel Presbyterian Church and the Revolutionary War patriots buried in its graveyard.

Nick has been instrumental in repairs and preservation efforts for both the church and its tombstones over the course of the past four years.

The DAR honored Nick and presented him a certificate of gratitude for his diligent efforts.

Presenting the certificate to Nick are the DAR Chapter Registrar Amelia Wisner (wife of Lafayette Chapter Historian Tim Wisner) and Chapter Regent Clara Wilson (wife of former Lafayette Chapter President and Surgeon Emery Wilson).

Nick, along with Steve Gahafer and Patrick Wesolosky, had planned to lead a grave-cleaning demonstration after the presentation. However, that had to be postponed due to unseasonably cold temperatures.



Special Pinning Ceremony

On March 21st, the Lafayette Chapter held a special pinning ceremony to welcome our newest member, John A. Adams. John has joined by virtue of his patriot ancestor, Elijah Adams, who served in the New Jersey Militia.

John is a resident of Phoenix, Arizona, but was in Lexington visiting his family, which includes his sister Marika Wesolosky, spouse of Chapter President-Elect Patrick Wesolosky.

Compatriot Adams' expressed his appreciation to President Dale Henley and the chapter for the special ceremony.



Compatriot Adams being pinned by his sister, Marika Wesolosky.



Compatriot Adams, Marika and Patrick Wesolosky.

Kentucky DAR Meeting

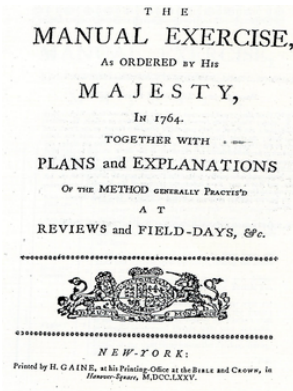


Members of the Lafayette Chapter Color Guard were requested to participate in the Kentucky DAR meeting this past March in Lexington.

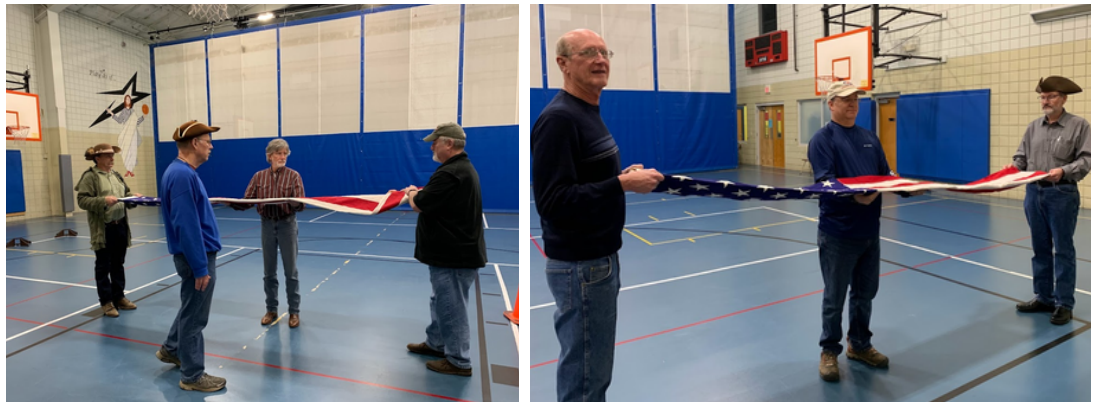
Compatriots Tim Wisner, Patrick Wesolosky, Mike Sullivan and Steve Gahafer represented our chapter in this role admirably.

State Color Guard Training

On Saturday March 19, Lafayette Chapter Compatriots Steve Gahafer, Patrick Wesolosky, and Tim Wisner attended their second State Color Guard Training Session of the year in Louisville. The training consisted of Flintlock Training based on the 1764 Manual of Arms, Flag Folding and Presentation, and Marching.



The 1764 Manual.



Compatriots Tim Wisner and Steve Gahafer during their flag-folding training.

Patriots Day Commemoration

On April 16, the Central District of the Kentucky Society SAR held its 6th Annual Patriots Day Commemoration at the Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West in Hopkinsville. The commemoration honors the patriots who lost their lives during April, 1775 in Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, as well as those patriots who are buried in Christian County.

Members of the Lafayette Chapter who were in attendance were: Steve Gahafer, Mike Sullivan, Patrick Wesolosky and Tim Wisner.

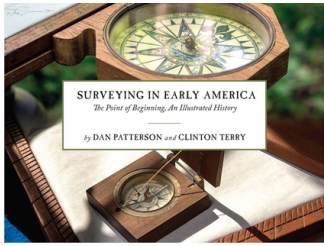


Above: Cannons that would be fired in honor of deceased patriots.



Far Left: Patrick Wesolosky, Kent Hataway, Jon Canine and Steve Gahafer. Compatriots Hataway and Canine are officers in the Isaac Shelby Chapter.

Near Left: Steve Gahafer, Tim Wisner and Isaac Shelby Chapter Vice-President Jay Doss.



Lecture

The Filson Historical Society will be hosting an upcoming lecture entitled *Surveying in Early America*.

Co-Authors Dan Patterson and Clinton Terry will offer an eye-opening presentation on the profession of surveying and how it was conducted during the earliest days of our nation. Many of Kentucky's earliest settlers were both veterans of the American Revolution and surveyors by trade.

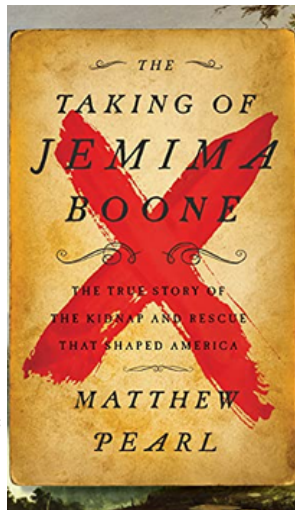
The presentation will be on June 9th at 6:00 pm at the Filson Historical Society in Louisville. Tickets are \$15. A Zoom option is available.

Recommended Reading

In the summer of 1776, Jemima Boone, the thirteen year old daughter of Daniel, and two friends were kidnapped by a Shawnee raiding party.

Recognizing Jemima, the Shawnees use her life as a bargaining chip in an effort to drive the pioneers out of Kentucky.

Best-selling author Matthew Pearl provides insight not only with regards to the kidnapping, but the earliest days on the Kentucky frontier set against the backdrop of the American Revolution and how that affected the settlers and this new territory.



The Taking of Jemima Boone is available at Joseph-Beth, Barnes & Noble or on Amazon.

Did you know?

Woodford County is the home to one of our state's more unique gravesites, which belongs to a veteran of the American Revolution.

Marquis Calmes was born in 1755. He was abroad for his education in 1775, but returned home to Virginia quickly to be a part of the effort for independence.

After raising and equipping a company at his own expense, Calmes joined the 2nd Virginia Regiment, eventually working his way up to Lt. Colonel and commanding the regiment at the Battle of Brandywine.

Following the war, Calmes relocated to Woodford County, where he would select the name and layout the new town of Versailles.

Marquis Calmes died in 1834 and this unique stone mausoleum was built for him.



Sen. Max Wise and Rep. Jerry Miller, co-chairs of the newly formed Kentucky History Caucus.

Kentucky History Caucus

While much attention was given to the occasional partisan bickering of the 2022 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly, legislators found common ground on our rich history.

The Kentucky History Caucus of the Kentucky General Assembly was officially formed with the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 120.

The Caucus is a bicameral and nonpartisan in nature and will work closely with the Kentucky Historical Society. It's aims are to promote and develop initiatives to further the study and understanding of the history of the Commonwealth and its people.

Rep. Jerry Miller (R-Jefferson County) was the sponsor of the legislation. "By better understanding our history, we can hope to avoid mistakes of the past," said Rep. Miller. "The Kentucky History Caucus is about more than simply learning history, though. It is my hope that this caucus can work with the Kentucky Historical Society and other interested groups to find ways to use our rich history to help spur economic development through tourism as well."

Calendar of Events

May 4

Henry Clay High School JROTC Presentation
6:00 PM
Henry Clay High School Theater
2100 Fontaine Road
Lexington, Kentucky

May 5

EKU Army ROTC Medal Presentation
3:00 PM
Eastern Kentucky University - Weaver Gym
217 Park Drive
Richmond, Kentucky

May 5

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

May 13

Lafayette Trail Historical Marker Dedication
2:00 PM
Liberty Hall Historic Site
202 Wilkinson Street
Frankfort, Kentucky

May 15

Lafayette Trail Historical Marker Dedication
2:00 PM
Great Crossing Baptist Church
1061 Stamping Ground Road
Georgetown, Kentucky

May 20-22

Siege of Logan's Fort Reenactment
Varied Times
Logan's Fort
Martin Luther King Street
Stanford, Kentucky

May 21

Founder's Day Festival
10:00 AM
McConnell Springs Park
416 Rebman Lane
Lexington, Kentucky

May 21

Grave Marker Repair & Cleanup
9:00 AM
Eastern Cemetery
641 Baxter Avenue
Louisville, Kentucky

May 23

Lafayette Board of Managers Meeting
5:30 PM
Bistro at Joseph-Beth Booksellers
161 Lexington Green Circle
Lexington, Kentucky

May 28

George Rogers Clark Memorial Service
10:00 AM
Clark Historic Park
401 South 2nd Street
Vincennes, Indiana

May 30

Memorial Day Service
2:00 PM
Zachary Taylor National Cemetery
4701 Brownsboro Road
Louisville, Kentucky

June 11

Operation HERoes Honor Flight
7:30 PM
Bluegrass Airport
4000 Terminal Drive
Lexington, Kentucky

June 20

Lafayette Chapter Meeting
5:30 PM
Embassy Suites
1801 Newtown Pike
Lexington, Kentucky

June 25

Gathering of Descendants
9:00 AM
Boonesborough State Park
4375 Boonesborough Road
Richmond, Kentucky

July 10-15

132nd SAR National Congress
Varied Times
Hyatt Regency Hotel
2 West Bay Street
Savannah, Georgia

August 20

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

August 20

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

September 24

Larkin Sandidge Grave Marking
1:00 PM
McGirr-Sandidge Cemetery
2575 Old US Hwy 127 N. Loop
Moreland, Kentucky

