



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.

We are now into May, and I hope everyone's Derby Day favorite came in strong.

Our chapter members have been busy since our March meeting. Members of our Color Guard have participated in Youth Education Programs, DAR State Meeting, National Color Guard Events, and Patriot Grave Marking Services in Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky. One of the Patriot Grave Marking Services was for the Reverend Benjamin Coleman and three other Patriots in Trimble County. Reverend Coleman, from Virginia provided Patriotic Service, and is an ancestor of President-Elect Steve Gahafer.

The Color Guard was also involved in a Patriot Marker Dedication/Unveiling in Richmond Kentucky. Compatriot John Buckler, a member of the Madison County Historical Society helped organize the event. Valentine and John Tudor, listed on the marker are Patriots of Lafayette Chapter Historian Kevin Tudor who was also in attendance.

JROTC/ROTC Award Committee Chair Billy Web has been busy this spring. He has presented High School JROTC and University ROTC Awards across Central Kentucky. Billy attends the award ceremonies and banquets in his Naval Dress Uniform.

Chapter Officers

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Revolutionary Art

The Death of Jane McCrea
by John Vanderlyn



Jane McCrea was an American woman who was killed by a Native American warrior serving alongside a British Army expedition under the command of John Burgoyne during the American Revolutionary War. Her death led to widespread outrage in the Thirteen Colonies and was used by Patriots as part of their anti-British propaganda campaign.

President's Point of View (cont.)

Immediate Past President Dale Henley has been continually active giving his Marquis de Lafayette - France Presentation. Most recently he spoke to the Richmond Rotary Club. Dale is lining up more speaker dates as he helps prepare Central Kentucky for the 200th Anniversary of Lafayette 1824-25 tour of the United States.

Our Chapter Secretary Tommy Druen was instrumental in the recent \$5 million dollar allocation in the 2024-25 Kentucky State Budget to the National Society's SAR Museum and Education Center. Tommy helped bring the legislature and the SAR together initially and kept the SAR updated on the progress. He also assisted in letting Kentucky Society Leadership informed on who needed to be contacted to help push the Bill through passage of House and Senate.

As always, we have many events on our chapter calendar. But one of the more noteworthy events is our Patriots Flags and Flowers on Sunday June 30th at Lexington Cemetery. This event started in July of 2020 when five members of the Lafayette Chapter along with five members of the local DAR placed American Flags on 10 Revolutionary War Patriot Graves in Lexington Cemetery. The number of Patriots has grown from 10 to 35 over the years. This year we will be adding a short ceremony before our annual walk of placing flags on Patriot Graves and Flowers on the graves of their wives.

Our next meeting is Monday June 10th at Sullivan University. I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.

Patrick



The Myth:

George Washington wore a white wig, as was fashionable at the time

The Facts:

Even though wigs were fashionable, George Washington kept his own hair. He kept his hair long and tied back in a queue, or ponytail.

Although he didn't wear a wig, George Washington did powder his hair, giving it the iconic white color seen in famous portraits. Powdering one's hair was another custom of the time.



Chapter Meeting



The Lafayette Chapter held its regular quarterly meeting on Monday, March 11th. The meeting took place at Sullivan University in Lexington.

Our special guest speaker for the evening was Cadet J.P. Miller, a student at Henry Clay High School in Lexington. Cadet Miller was the recipient of the the Lafayette Chapter's Outstanding JROTC Cadet Award this year.

Left: Cadet Miller is joined by his mother, who placed the medal upon him.

Above: Cadet Miller is presented his awards by Pennie Redmond, widow of our compatriot and friend, Skip Redmond

Cadet Miller read his excellent essay on how JROTC has equipped him to be a better citizen. The essay was well-received by all in attendance.

Following Cadet Miller's speech, Immediate Past President Dale Henley gave an informative talk about his trip to France last year where he held the honor of representing The American Friends of Lafayette and was able to visit and lay flowers at the Marquis de Lafayette's final resting place. Dale's presentation included photos he was able to take, including of Lafayette's home that still remains as it was when he last resided there.



Two compatriots officially received their SAR rosettes in a pinning ceremony.

The first was Doug Tattershall, who serves as the Chapter's Genealogist. Doug, a resident of Lexington, joined the SAR by virtue of descent from Sergeant Michael Isgrig. Sgt. Isgrig (1751-1831) served in Captain Michael McGuire's Company of Frederick County's (Maryland) Third Battalion.

The second compatriot to be pinned was Dr. Michael Rankin. Mike is a resident of Danville and a physician. He joined the SAR by virtue of descent from Major John Boyle, one of Kentucky's earliest settlers, arriving at Whitley's Station in 1779 and receiving a land grant for his patriotic service. His son, also named John, would later serve as a Congressman and become the namesake of Boyle County, where Dr. Rankin resides.



The next regular quarterly meeting of the Lafayette Chapter will take place on Monday, June 10th at Sullivan University in Lexington.

Upper Left: Pinning of Doug Tattershall

Lower Left: Pinning of Dr. Mike Rankin

Right: President Elect Steve Gahafer gives the chapter a report



JROTC Awards



The Lafayette Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) awards the ROTC Medal to foster the principle of the "citizen-soldier," exemplified by the Minutemen of Revolutionary War days. This award is presented to JROTC cadets who are selected for having a high degree of merit with respect to leadership qualities, military bearing, and general excellence. The recipients are selected by the Commanding Officer of the JROTC unit, who is given full latitude in making the selection.

Over the course of this spring semester, the Lafayette Chapter has offered the ROTC Medal to a number of students participating in ROTC in high schools in Fayette and surrounding counties.

To the left is Compatriot Billy Webb making the final presentation of 2024 to Cadet Michael Page at Henry Clay High School.



New Member



President Patrick Wesolosky (far left) administers the oath to Tracy Lucas, our newest compatriot, as his wife Melissa looks on.



Compatriot Lucas joined by members of his family.

On April 16th, Colonel Tracy Lucas was pinned as the newest member of the Lafayette Chapter. Col. Lucas commands the Camp Nelson Honor Guard, which participates in funerals at the National Cemetery. For his work in this and other endeavors, Col. Lucas also received the Military Service Medal, Wounded Warrior Coin, Flag Retirement Certificate and Law Enforcement Medal for service as a Sheriff's Deputy in Jessamine County.

Happenings



President Wesolosky, President Elect Gahafer and Vice-President Wisner traveled to Hopkinsville on April 13th to participate in the Patriots Day Service sponsored by the Colonel Benjamin Trigg Chapter.



Members of the Lafayette Chapter were on hand to assist with the Kentucky Daughters of the American Revolution's state meeting.

Pictured left to right are Chaplain Nick Blevins, Leonard Brooks, President Wesolosky and President Elect Gahafer.



The Forgotten War!



The Signing of the Treaty of Mortefontaine, 30th September 1800 by Victor Jean-Adam

Few remember the undeclared naval war the United States fought with France from May 1798 until February 1801 known as The Quasi War.

In 1794, John Jay signed a treaty settling American differences with Great Britain. France, then at war with the British, viewed this as a hostile action and began seizing American ships without compensation. An undeclared war was then fought until the Treaty of Mortefontaine was signed on September 30, 1800.

Happenings

On March 13, several compatriots from the Lafayette Chapter joined with DAR friends gathered to help assemble care packages for American Soldiers stationed in Syria and Afghanistan. The project was in conjunction with Military Missions, Inc.

It was a great night of fellowship while assisting our men and women in uniform.



Kentucky Society Spring Meeting

The Kentucky Society's spring meeting took place on March 9th at the Old Boone County Courthouse in Burlington, Kentucky.

The Lafayette Chapter was well represented in both attendance and awards.



State Society President, and Lafayette Chapter member, Tim Brown presiding over his final meeting.



Left: Chapter President Patrick Wesolosky with Compatriot Leonard Beverly, who received the Youth Color Guard Medal



Left: President Wesolosky receives the Patriot Award from State President Tim Brown



Above: Lafayette Chapter winner Lofton Spaw accepts his award as State Essay Winner, with Immediate Past President Dale Henley and State Youth Awards Chairman Pat Berry

Right: President Wesolosky and President Elect Gahafer receive their Lafayette Medal Oak Leaf Clusters from newly elected State President Steve McClain



Revolutionary Kentuckians

Thomas Posey's journey from his early days in Virginia to his pioneering efforts in Kentucky and beyond is a testament to his resilience, determination, and unwavering commitment to the ideals of the American Revolution.

Born in 1750 in Virginia, on a farm adjacent to George Washington's Mount Vernon, Posey's origins were shrouded in mystery, with speculation that he might have been the illegitimate son of Washington himself. Regardless of his parentage, Posey's early years were marked by a strong sense of duty and patriotism, leading him to enlist in the Virginia militia at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War.

During the war, Posey distinguished himself by demonstrating leadership and courage in key engagements. He was present and involved in such places as Valley Forge, the Battle of Monmouth, Stony Point and the Siege of Yorktown. His bravery and strategic acumen earned him the respect of his fellow soldiers and superiors alike, paving the way for his future endeavors in both the military and politics. When the war ended, he had risen to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

After the war, Posey returned to Virginia where he farmed. However, military service would call again when he served with his friend, General Anthony Wayne, in the Northwest Indian War. During this conflict he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General.

In 1802, Posey received 7,000 acres in reward for his military service, and he was given several options of land tracts in the western United States. He chose land near Henderson, Kentucky, and moved his family to the new estate. His prestige made him immediately popular in the area and he was elected to the Kentucky State Senate, beginning a term on November 10, 1804, and became the body's speaker.

Upon the death of Lieutenant Governor John Caldwell, Governor Christopher Greenup appointed Posey to fill the vacancy. Posey served as Kentucky's third Lieutenant Governor from 1805 to 1808. He initially was a candidate for governor in 1808, but withdrew to support Charles Scott.



Thomas Posey



Thomas Posey's gravesite and SAR marker at the Westwood Cemetery

In 1809, Posey returned to military service as Major General of the Kentucky Militia, tasked with recruiting 5,000 men in preparation for threatened hostilities with the British and French. Upon resigning that position in 1810, Posey moved to the Attakapas region of Louisiana, and was appointed by the governor to serve as a U.S. Senator from that state in 1812-1813 to fill the vacant seat of Jean Noel Destrehan after his resignation.

Failing to win re-election, President Madison appointed him as Governor of the Indiana Territory. Wishing to be closer to the doctors and better health facilities of Louisville, Posey established himself in Jeffersonville, Indiana and governed by courier to the small capital of Corydon, thus offending many in Indiana's territorial government.

In the last two years of his life, he served as an Indian agent in Illinois, negotiating treaties with the Wea, Kickapoo, and Pottawatomie.

After a bout of typhus fever, Thomas Posey departed this world on March 19, 1818 at the age of 67. He is buried at the Westwood Cemetery in Shawneetown, Illinois, which is directly across the Ohio River from Union County, Kentucky. Posey was twice married and had 8 children who lived into adulthood. Posey Township and Posey County, both located in Indiana, are named in his honor.

National Society News



Museum Receives State Investment

As a part of the executive branch budget recently passed by the Kentucky General Assembly, the Sons of the American Revolution received a \$5 million allocation towards its proposed Museum and Education Center, which will be located on Main Street in Louisville.

“The SAR Library has been one of the best kept secrets in Louisville,” said State Representative Jason Nemes (R-Middletown). “That will not be the case with the museum. It is an amazing project and one that I look forward to seeing become a reality.

Rep. Nemes spearheaded the quest for funding, having received a tour of the proposed facility last summer. He quickly helped arrange meetings with other legislators, including the chairs of the budget committees in the House and the Senate.

“This project really sold itself,” said Rep. Nemes. “All it took was for people to be educated about it and the support emerged quickly.”

The \$5 million infusion will allow the SAR Museum and Education Center to open its doors fully by 2026, the 250th Anniversary of our nation’s founding. The Kentucky General Assembly is to be commended for their support of this project!



Congress Delegation

Steve Vest, Secretary of the Kentucky Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, is requesting that anyone attending the 134th SAR Congress in Lancaster, Pennsylvania this July and is interested in serving as part of Kentucky’s delegation, to please contact him.

There are twenty delegate spots allocated to Kentucky, plus automatic ones for the National Trustee and Alternate National Trustee.

If you are interested in being a delegate, please contact Steve at steve@kentuckymonthly.com or (502) 320-9294 by May 15th.



Podcast



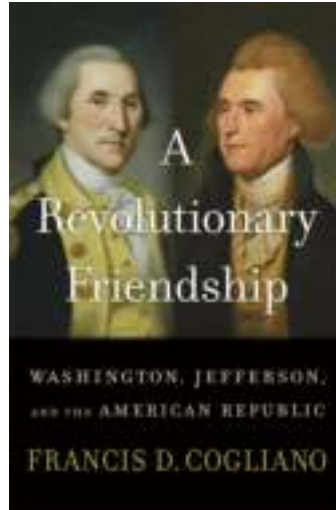
Peaceful Political Revolution in America

This Podcast dives into the most important and most censored story in America. We will uncover the myths behind our constitutional history and reveal some of the startling facts about our founding as a nation. Hang on tight! If you haven't honed up on your American history, if you think you understand our American political system, you may be in for a shock.

Recommended Reading

The first full account of the relationship between George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, countering the legend of their enmity while drawing vital historical lessons from the differences that arose between them.

Francis Cogliano argues, common convictions equally defined their relationship: a passion for American independence and republican government, as well as a commitment to westward expansion and the power of commerce. They also both evolved a skeptical view of slavery, eventually growing to question the institution, even as they took only limited steps to abolish it.



A Revolutionary Friendship brilliantly captures the dramatic, challenging, and poignant reality that there was no single founding ideal—only compromise between friends and sometime rivals.

A Revolutionary Friendship is available at Joseph-Beth, Barnes and Noble or online at amazon.com.

Did you know?

The City of Richmond, Kentucky was founded in 1798 by Colonel John Miller, who had come to the area from Richmond, Virginia.



Born in Albemarle County, Virginia in 1750, Miller served in the Continental Army. Present at the Siege of Yorktown, Miller was serving under General Washington and was on hand for Cornwallis's surrender.

In 1784, Colonel Miller and his family emigrated to Kentucky. According to tradition, Miller was attracted to present day Madison County by the good spring water and friendly Native Americans.

Miller would settle in "the cane," which is now where Main Street is in Richmond. Miller would serve as one of the earliest legislators after Kentucky became an independent state.

As more settlers arrived, the community was incorporated and named after Miller's birthplace in Virginia.

Colonel John Miller passed away on September 8, 1808 while visiting Sumner County, Tennessee. He is buried in the Richmond Cemetery, located on Main Street, not far from where his house once stood.

From the Archives

"On April 8, 2014, the KYSSAR met in the Senate Chamber of what is now the Old Capitol to pay tribute to the founding of the Society and celebrate 125 years of service. After a color guard procession led by Commander Daniel Klinck, the drum and fife corps performed a musical tribute of "Chester." Guests were welcomed by President Doug Collins..."

- SAR Magazine, Spring 2014



Calendar of Events

May 13

Chapter Board of Managers Meeting
Time: 6:00 PM EDT
Location TBD
Lexington, Kentucky

May 25

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

June 2

Smoot Patriot Grave Marking
Smoot Cemetery
4107 Dixie Highway
Shively, Kentucky

June 8

Fort Harrod Patriot Grave Memorial
Time: 9:30 AM EDT
Old Fort Harrod State Park
100 South College Street
Harrodsburg, Kentucky

June 8

Fort Harrod Patriot Grave Marking
Time: 9:30 AM EDT
Old Fort Harrod State Park
100 South College Street
Harrodsburg, Kentucky

June 10

Lafayette Chapter Meeting
6:00 PM EDT
Sullivan University
2355 Harrodsburg Road
Lexington, Kentucky

June 30

Patriot Flags & Flowers
Time: TBD
Lexington Cemetery
833 West Main Street
Lexington, Kentucky

July 4

Independence Day Parade
Time: TBD
TBD
Main Street
Lexington, Kentucky

July 11-16

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

August 13

Chapter Board of Managers Meeting
Time: 6:00 PM EDT
Location TBD
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

Happy SAR Anniversary!

May 6 - James O. Evans

May 7 - Aaron G. Lawson

May 13 - Christian L. Nicholson
Colin D. Nicholson

May 14 - Stephen P. Brown

May 19 - William A. Druen

May 20 - Robert P. Damron
Robert R. Damron

May 26 - LeRoy R. Graffius

June 5 - Michael J. Kennedy
Grant A. Kirk

June 8 - Jarrod J. Beck

June 10 - Glenn A. Hudson

June 12 - Charles O. Landon
James R. Landon
John G. Landon

June 16 - Gordon J. Krist

June 18 - Terry D. Rothgeb

June 20 - Joseph R. Jones

June 21 - Michael L. Clancy

June 22 - Joseph L. Clancy

June 24 - John D. Walker

June 25 - John W. Lancaster, IV

June 30 - Henry M. Chilton