



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.

As we enter September, I am delighted to reflect on the recent achievements of the Lafayette Chapter, which have once again demonstrated our commitment to preserving the legacy of our Revolutionary War ancestors. It is with great pride that I announce our Chapter's success in securing second place in the President's Cup competition at the National Congress this past July. This distinguished award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our members, whose efforts in conducting exceptional programs and activities have significantly contributed to fostering a better understanding of the principles and traditions that shaped our nation. Achieving this recognition on a national level underscores the impact of our collective work and the important role we play in our community.

One of the most significant events of the past few months was the grave-marking ceremony held at Bethel Presbyterian Church in Fayette County. This solemn occasion honored the patriots buried at Bethel Church and served as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by those who fought for our nation's independence. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to President General Addington for his presence and support during the ceremony. His participation added great distinction to the event.

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Revolutionary Art

Surrender of General Burgoyne
by John Trumbull



The scene of the surrender of the British General John Burgoyne at Saratoga, on October 17, 1777, was a turning point in the war that prevented the British from dividing New England from the rest of the colonies. The central figure is General Horatio Gates, who refused to take the sword offered by General Burgoyne, and, treating him as a gentleman, invites him into his tent. All of the figures in the scene are portraits of specific officers.

Trumbull planned this outdoor scene to contrast with the Declaration of Independence beside it.

President's Point of View (cont.)

Additionally, I want to recognize Chapter Chaplain Nick Blevins for his invaluable assistance at Bethel Church, which ensured the success of our tribute. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Amelia Wisner from the Lexington DAR and Allen Manning from the Clifty Creek SAR chapters. Their contributions were instrumental in making the ceremony a truly memorable and respectful occasion.

Looking ahead, I encourage all members to attend our upcoming Chapter meeting on September 9th at the Fraternal Order of Police's Bluegrass Lodge, located at 1097 Duval Street in Lexington. The meeting promises to be both educational and engaging, as we will have the privilege of hearing from our esteemed Past President, Dr. Emery Wilson. Dr. Wilson will be presenting on Revolutionary War Medicine, offering us a fascinating insight into the medical practices that shaped the experiences of our ancestors during the Revolutionary War. His knowledge and passion for history will undoubtedly provide us with a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by those who fought for our freedom.

As always, the success of our Chapter is built on the active participation of its members. Your presence at our meetings and events not only strengthens our bonds but also ensures that we continue to honor the legacy of our patriot ancestors in meaningful ways. I look forward to seeing you on September 9th as we gather to learn, reflect, and further the mission of the Sons of the American Revolution.

In patriotism and service,

Patrick



The Myth:

George Washington had wooden teeth.

The Facts:

George Washington was noted for having problems with his teeth for decades. His first one was pulled at the age of 24, and by his first inauguration, he was wearing a full set of dentures. Contrary the legend though, the teeth were not made out of wood.

Research performed on a set of Washington's dentures owned by the Mount Vernon Ladies Association in 2005 showed they were made of gold, ivory, lead, and human and animal teeth.



National Congress



The 134th Annual Congress of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution took place from July 10-16 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

The Lafayette Chapter was represented at the Congress with both President Patrick Wesolosky and National Trustee Tim Brown in attendance.

The highlight of the Congress was the announcement that the Lafayette Chapter placed second in competition for the President's Cup! The President's Cup recognizes a chapter showing the most complete program of activities in the SAR.

A group of Kentuckians in attendance at the National Congress

Additionally, the Lafayette Chapter received an Honorable Mention for best chapter newsletter, Chapter Secretary Tommy Druen was also awarded the Winston C Williams SAR Magazine Award for cooperation in supplying material, and Tim Brown was awarded the Silver Council of State Presidents Medal and Gold Henry Knox Medal.

On Friday, July 12th, there was a memorial services honoring compatriots lost over the course of the past year. Tribute was paid to several members of the Lafayette Chapter who are no longer with us.



Kentucky's recipients of the Gold Henry Knox Medal



President Wesolosky accepting the President's Cup award

**SAVE
THE DATE**

135th Annual Congress

July 12–July 18, 2025

Uncasville, Connecticut

Blue Licks Commemoration



On August 17th, several members of the Lafayette Chapter traveled to Robertson County for the 242nd anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Blue Licks.



President Patrick Wesolosky and Vice President Tim Wisner participate in the ceremony as part of the Color Guard



Compatriot Leonard Beverly finds himself front and center with President General Darryl Addington

Bethel Church Gravemarking



Chapter Chaplain Nick Blevins and President Patrick Wesolosky join with the National Society's President General Darryl Addington and representatives of other chapters in honoring the patriots of Bethel Church.

On August 18th, the Lafayette Chapter sponsored a gravemarking ceremony honoring ten patriots who were instrumental in the founding of Bethel Church in northwestern Fayette County. While some are unmarked, it is thought that all are buried at the church graveyard.



Members of the Lafayette Chapter and the local DAR pictured with the new memorial stone honoring the patriots of Bethel Church



Honor Flight

On August 25th, members of the Lafayette Chapter joined with numerous other patriotic Americans at Blue Grass Airport to welcome home Honor Flight veterans from their trip to Washington, D.C. to see the memorials honoring the sacrifices they and others made in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.



TRIVIA

The year 1777 has been referred to as "Year of the Hangman."

Some superstitious Americans thought the last three digits of 1777 represented gibbets for patriot leaders if they failed to succeed in the Revolution.

A gibbet is an upright post with a projecting arm for hanging the bodies of executed criminals as a warning.

The Hermione Returns to Service



The Hermione, a 32-gun Concorde-class frigate, represents a modern marvel of historical reconstruction. Completed in Rochefort, France in 2014, this vessel is a meticulous replica of the original Hermione that played a pivotal role in the American Revolutionary War. The historic frigate first entered service in 1779 and is renowned for its return to America in April 1780, carrying the crucial news that an expeditionary force led by General Rochambeau would soon reinforce the American cause.

Today's Hermione, the world's largest wooden frigate of the 18th century, is undergoing an extensive refurbishment at dry dock near Bayonne, France. This restoration is expected to be completed by the end of 2025, ensuring that this significant piece of maritime history will sail once more, embodying the spirit of Franco-American solidarity from the Revolutionary era.

For those interested in supporting the refurbishment and learning more about this extraordinary ship, additional information can be found at www.hermione.com. The ongoing project offers an opportunity to contribute to preserving and celebrating a vessel that symbolizes the enduring friendship and historical connections between France and the United States.



Revolutionary Cemetery Revitalized

In Nelson County, Kentucky, construction at the Jim Beam distillery site has led to a significant archaeological discovery. Workers uncovered several graves believed to date back to the Revolutionary War era. The site, which is being developed for a new warehouse, revealed a burial ground containing the remains of at least 14 individuals, including a soldier who might have served in the war. These graves are thought to be linked to the historical community that was present in the region during the 18th century.

The discovery was made by a team of archaeologists who were conducting a routine survey before construction began. Initial examinations suggest that the

graves belong to a family or a group of early settlers, possibly connected to the area's early military history. The presence of Revolutionary War-era remains is of particular interest as it sheds light on the lives of people from that period who were not previously well-documented.

The construction project has been temporarily halted to allow for further investigation and preservation of the site. The historical significance of the graves has prompted local historians and archaeologists to collaborate on preserving the findings and learning more about the people buried there. The artifacts and remains will be studied to provide insight into the lives and times of early Kentucky settlers.



Revolutionary Kentuckians

While the American Revolution is most often remembered for its battles on the eastern seaboard, the impact on the western frontier cannot be underestimated. In Kentucky, then an often lawless territory, the conflict took on a different character, defined by skirmishes with Native American tribes and the struggle for survival in an untamed wilderness. One of the most controversial figures in this tumultuous era was Hugh McGary, a man whose actions and temperament left a lasting mark on Kentucky's early history.

Hugh McGary was born around 1744, likely in Augusta County, Virginia, into a world defined by the expanding frontier. By the early 1770s, McGary had moved westward, settling in Kentucky, where he quickly became involved in the ongoing conflicts between European settlers and Native American tribes. The war in Kentucky was not just a struggle for independence from British rule but also a desperate battle for land and resources, with Native American tribes largely aligning with the British in hopes of curtailing the settlers' westward expansion.



Hugh McGary

McGary's reputation as a frontiersman and soldier was established during this period. He participated in numerous raids, often displaying a ferocity that earned him both respect and fear. However, it was his actions at the Battle of Blue Licks in 1782 that cemented his controversial legacy. The Battle of Blue Licks was a disastrous defeat for the Kentucky militia, who, led by figures like Daniel Boone and McGary, were ambushed by a combined force of British Loyalists and Native American warriors.

McGary's role in the battle has been the subject of much debate. On the morning of the battle, the Kentucky militia, aware of the presence of enemy forces, was divided on whether to engage or wait for reinforcements. McGary, impatient and hot-tempered, allegedly accused his fellow officers of cowardice and, without orders, led a charge across the Licking River, urging the men to follow him. This impetuous action resulted in the militia walking into a trap, leading to heavy casualties, including the death of Daniel Boone's son, Israel.

The aftermath of the Battle of Blue Licks was devastating for the settlers, and McGary's rashness was widely blamed for the defeat. Yet, McGary's life did not end in disgrace. He continued to be an active and prominent figure in Kentucky's early history. However, his reputation remained marred by the events at Blue Licks, and his legacy is one of the more complex in Kentucky's history.



Memorial at the Blue Licks Battlefield in Robertson County

McGary's temperament, which had driven him to rash decisions on the battlefield, also led to difficulties in his personal life. He was involved in several disputes and was even charged with murder in 1793, though he was acquitted. McGary eventually moved to southern Indiana, where he continued to live a frontier lifestyle until his death around 1806.

Hugh McGary's life is a study in the complexities of frontier existence during the American Revolution. His actions, particularly at the Battle of Blue Licks, illustrate the thin line between heroism and recklessness that defined so many figures of this era. While his legacy is undeniably tarnished by the disaster at Blue Licks, McGary's continued influence in Kentucky's early political and social life reflects the multifaceted nature of his character and the turbulent times in which he lived. His story is a reminder of the harsh realities of the frontier and the often contradictory nature of those who sought to tame it.

Compatriot Beverley Honored

Our youngest compatriot, Leonard Beverley, recently visited the nation's Capitol, where he was welcomed into Congressman Andy Barr's office and given a tour of the chambers for the United States House of Representatives.

Compatriot Beverley, a second grader at Mt. Sterling Elementary School, raised money to purchase an American flag that was flown over the United States Capitol to be flown at his school.

Huzzah to Compatriot Beverley for his dedication to our nation and its principles!



Compatriots Honored

Recently, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War had their National Encampment in Lexington. Among their members that were honored were some of our compatriots as well.

Pictured at left are Mike Flynn, Compatriot John Buckler of the Lafayette Chapter, and Compatriot Bruce Fortin.

It is great to see our members involved with similar organizations, spreading the word about the SAR to likeminded folks as well!



Brown Named Aide-de-Camp

Compatriot Tim Brown, member of the Lafayette Chapter and current National Trustee representing the Kentucky Society, was named aide-de-camp for President General Darryl Addington and his wife Mary during the Battle of Blue Licks commemoration.

It was an honor to have President General Addington in Kentucky. We know Compatriot Brown represented both our chapter and our Commonwealth in a most excellent fashion!





Podcast

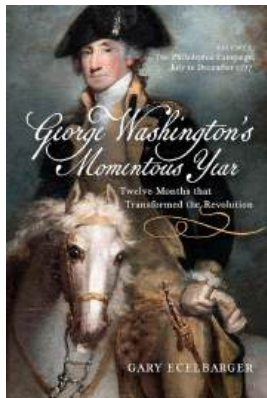
We The People

Discover an illuminating weekly podcast that dives deep into constitutional debates, hosted by Jeffrey Rosen, President and CEO of the National Constitution Center. This show brings you a dynamic exploration of the

most pressing constitutional issues shaping American life today. Each episode features a range of perspectives and compelling arguments from across the spectrum, offering listeners a comprehensive understanding of these critical topics. Whether you're a constitutional scholar or just curious about how these debates impact our nation, this podcast is a must-listen for anyone interested in the Constitution and its role in modern society.

Recommended Reading

In *George Washington's Momentous Year*, historian Gary Ecelbarger examines the events of 1777 that reshaped the American Revolution. The book tracks Washington's focus on British movements, his leadership through battles such as Brandywine and Paoli, the occupation of Philadelphia, and the retreat to Valley Forge. Despite these challenges, Washington led the Continental Army to a key victory at Saratoga, securing an alliance with France.



Ecelbarger highlights Washington's offensive strategy, showing him as a leader focused on countering British advances. The narrative also examines his relationships with figures like Alexander Hamilton, Marquis de Lafayette, and key volunteers. Using primary sources, the author offers a fresh perspective on Washington's military strategy and leadership during this pivotal year, providing insights into the campaign that solidified his role in the Revolution.

George Washington's Momentous Year is available at Joseph-Beth, Barnes and Noble or online at amazon.com.

Did you know?

One of Kentucky's oldest churches had Revolutionary roots?



Pisgah Presbyterian Church, founded in 1784 in Woodford County, Kentucky, is a key historical site. The church was established on land donated by Samuel Stevenson, born in 1744 in Augusta County, Virginia. Stevenson played a crucial role in the American Revolutionary War as a Private in Captain John Williams' Infantry. His service and support were pivotal during the struggle for independence.

Stevenson's donation of land for the church underscores his commitment to both the revolutionary cause and the local community. His contributions reflect the intertwining of military and religious support during the early years of American independence. The church's establishment on his land symbolizes the blend of patriotism and faith that characterized the era.

Samuel and his wife, Jane, are buried in the Pisgah Church Cemetery, marking their enduring connection to the church and its history. Their graves serve as a reminder of the sacrifices made by early American settlers and soldiers, preserving their legacy within the church's rich historical tapestry.

From the Archives



"Kentucky Society President Mike Sullivan, center, presented Patriot Grave-Marking Medals to Compatriots Geoff Baggett, left, and Steve Mallory."

- SAR Magazine, Winter 2019-2020

Compatriot Sullivan has been a member of the Lafayette Chapter since 2012.

Calendar of Events

Full calendar at lexsar.org

September 9

Lafayette Chapter Meeting
Time: 5:30 PM EDT
FOP Bluegrass Lodge
1097 Duval Street
Lexington, Kentucky

September 21

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

September 28

New Providence Grave Marking
Time: 1:00 PM EDT
New Providence Cemetery
490 Providence Road
Harrodsburg, Kentucky

October 3-5

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

October 6

Maj. General Breckinridge Grave Marking
Time: 8:00 AM EDT
Lexington Cemetery
833 West Main Street
Lexington, Kentucky

October 19

Central District Meeting
10:00 AM EDT
Lawrenceburg Event Center
91 Walnut Street
Lawrenceburg, Indiana

October 27

Yount Grave Marking
12:30 PM EDT
Buffalo Lick Baptist Church
2530 Elmburg Road
Shelbyville, Kentucky

November 4

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

November 16

Kentucky Society Fall Meeting
9:00 AM EST
Community Hall
200 Jim Owen Drive
Elizabethtown, Kentucky

December 7

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

December 14

Wreaths Across America
Time: 11:00 AM EST
Lexington Cemetery
933 West Main Street
Lexington, Kentucky



The Kentucky Society has sent out dues notices. You should have received an email from State Treasurer Doug Collins. If you have not seen one, please check your junk/spam mail as some have reported it being sent there.

Also of note, the Kentucky Society voted at its fall meeting to increase dues by \$5.00. There has not been an increase in quite some time and this should enable the SAR to have the finances to continue meeting its mission goals.

Please renew as soon as possible!

Happy SAR Anniversary!

September 3 - William T. Druen

September 18 - George G. Voorhees, III

October 9 - Thomas R. Kemp

September 4 - John M. Flynn
Reuben T. Walize, III

October 1 - Philip E. Bartok
Gregory C. Landon

October 15 - Paul E. Holbrook

September 6 - James E. Wilson

October 6 - Dale W. Henley
Austin P. Jacobs

October 16 - Stephen P. Brown, Sr.

September 7 - John T. Buckler

October 8 - Kelly K. Adams, Jr.
David K. Hacker

October 26 - Jonathan D. Mullins

September 9 - Jerry L. Brown
Timothy C. Brown

October 30 - James B. Strohmeier