

# The Kentucky Pioneer

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Fall 2024



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# THE PRESIDENT'S PARCHMENT

Greetings Kentucky Society Compatriots! I hope you had a wonderful summer. I'm already excited for fall, my favorite season. Looking back, I'm deeply grateful to all who have supported the Sons of the American Revolution. In today's world, it's more important than ever to educate future generations about our country's founding principles.



Our summer was filled with Patriot Grave Markings, National Congress, parades, and picnics. Kentucky was well represented at Congress, and I was proud to support our Oration candidate, Ariel F., who placed in the top 6 nationally. Watching her progress was truly inspiring.

I hope you attended the Battle of Blue Licks events. Everything was well-coordinated, and we were honored to have President General Darryl Addington and National Color Guard Commander Scott Collins join us. Special thanks to John Doss, Scott Giltner, Patrick Wesolosky, and the Lafayette Chapter for their roles in hosting and coordinating. We honored the Patriots and made Kentucky shine!

The year isn't over yet! Our Board of Governors Zoom meeting is on September 25th, and our Kentucky Fall meeting is set for November 16th in Elizabethtown. We'll have officer training in the morning and a chili cook-off at lunch. Think your chili is the best in Kentucky? Prove it! More details to come.

Thanks to everyone who helps make Kentucky a standout state in the Sons of the American Revolution.

In Service

State President  
Kentucky Society

## The Kentucky Pioneer

Tommy Druen, Editor  
Steve McCain, Assistant Editor

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# Editor's Note



In recent decades, the political climate in our nation has produced a disturbing level of vitriol. This presidential election cycle, in particular, seems to have fostered an environment where the divisions are so stark that civility and reason often fall by the wayside. This contentious atmosphere is only exacerbated by the proliferation of social media, a double-edged sword that has, unfortunately, amplified our most coarse of instincts.

The perils of social media are evident in the manner in which it distorts and entrenches opinions. Platforms designed to connect us have instead often become echo chambers where half-truths and outright fabrications flourish. In such spaces, political discourse is reduced to a binary choice between "us" and "them." Individuals, driven by confirmation bias, cling to partisan narratives with a fervor that dismisses opposing viewpoints as not merely mistaken, but malevolent.

Yet, this hostility is not an insurmountable barrier. Our fellow Americans should not be regarded as enemies solely due to political disagreements. Despite our differing perspectives on how to achieve a thriving nation, I believe we all share a common aspiration for the prosperity and well-being of our country. Recognizing this shared goal can provide a foundation for constructive engagement rather than entrenched opposition.

History provides us with a poignant lesson in this regard. The founding patriots of our nation were not a monolithic group of ideologues. They were, in fact, a remarkably diverse assembly of individuals with varying and often conflicting visions for the future of America. The Federalists and Anti-Federalists, for instance, were deeply divided over the structure of government and the extent of federal power. These disagreements were not merely theoretical; they were fundamental to the shape of the nascent republic.

Yet, despite their profound differences, these early Americans managed to sit side-by-side in the Constitutional Convention. They engaged in rigorous debate, sought common ground, and ultimately crafted a framework that, while not perfect, was a testament to their commitment to compromise and unity. The result was a Constitution that, even amid contention, became the bedrock of a resilient and enduring democracy.

As inheritors of this legacy, it is incumbent upon us to uphold the principles of compromise, community, and cohesion that our forebears exemplified. The challenge before us is to navigate our current political landscape with the same spirit of reconciliation and mutual respect that characterized the founding era. We must recognize that our strength lies not in uniformity but in our ability to find common cause amid our differences.

In this endeavor, let us remember the words of Benjamin Franklin, who, during the Constitutional Convention, urged his fellow delegates to "all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately." His admonition serves as a reminder that our collective future depends on our willingness to engage with one another in good faith, to seek understanding rather than victory, and to work together for the betterment of our nation.

As the Sons of the American Revolution, let us lead by example. In our civic discourse and personal interactions, may we honor the legacy of our ancestors by embodying the virtues of compromise and unity. In doing so, we will not only honor their memory but also contribute to the ongoing success and vitality of our great nation.

*Tommy Druen*

# Member Profile

## Geoffrey Baggett



**Geoff Baggett**  
**Former Kentucky Society President**

Geoff Baggett's journey from laboratory medicine to historical fiction is a fascinating blend of faith, service, and a passion for the past. Born and raised in Brownsville, Tennessee, Baggett's early career path took a sharp turn after a life-changing call to ministry. His life has since been a testament to following one's calling, and he has found ways to incorporate his love for history, particularly the American Revolution, into his work with the Sons of the SAR and his writing career.

Baggett began his academic journey at Union University in Jackson, Tennessee, where he earned a degree in Laboratory Medicine. "I worked in the clinical lab at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital before feeling a call to ministry," Baggett recalls. This led him to pursue theological education, obtaining an MA from Luther Rice Seminary, a Master of Divinity from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and completing two years of doctoral studies at Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon. In 2002, he moved to Trigg County, Kentucky, to plant a new church.

For over three decades, Baggett served in ministry, starting as a youth pastor in several churches across the South. His longest pastoral tenure was at Crossroads Fellowship Church in Cadiz, Kentucky, where he served from 2002 until his retirement in 2019. While his pastoral career brought him to many places, one of his proudest achievements was his mission work with the Pano Quechua people in the Andes of Peru. "Between 2007 and 2013, I led a dozen mission trips, and we saw over sixty new congregations planted," Baggett said, beaming with pride. For Baggett, his faith has always been the guiding principle in his life.

But what about his connection to history? Baggett's interest in the American Revolution was sparked in an unexpected way for him, while researching his genealogy. "I broke through a brick wall that no one in my family had been able to, and I discovered my first Revolutionary War Patriot," he explained. This discovery in 2013 led Baggett to join the SAR, an organization where he has since become deeply involved. His roles have ranged from Chapter President and Genealogist to President and Chaplain of the Kentucky Society. At the national level, Baggett has served as a Trustee and Vice-Chairman of the Patriot Records Committee, where he oversees applications for the Patriot Grave Marking Medal.

Additionally, Baggett's interest in genealogy inspired him to begin writing historical fiction. "As I discovered the stories of my ancestors, I felt compelled to share them in a way that others could enjoy," Baggett explained. Writing in the historical fiction genre felt natural to him. "I balance historical accuracy with storytelling by creating what I call a 'skeleton of truth'—historical facts that I then build upon with creative fiction."

*continued on next page*

# Member Profile

Baggett is meticulous in his research, drawing on every document he can find to construct a historically accurate narrative. At the same time, he acknowledges the need to keep modern readers engaged. “I have a confessional section at the end of each book where I explain what’s fictionalized, but I aim to remain as accurate as possible with everyday realities and events of the time period,” he said.

As for the SAR, Baggett has goals that he would like to see achieved. “I’d like to see more focus on the local chapters, with each becoming the historical experts for their locales,” he said. Baggett hopes the SAR doesn’t become overly bureaucratic, fearing that “committees, handbooks, and regulations don’t appeal to the common man.” Instead, he envisions an organization that places greater emphasis on living history, encouraging members to immerse themselves in period-accurate dress, flintlocks, and cannons.

When asked why he feels compelled to teach others about the American Revolution, Baggett reflects on his own childhood. “I hated history as a child. It was just memorizing names and dates,” he recalls. But now, Baggett is passionate about bringing history to life. Whether through his living history presentations or his books, he loves to see people light up with excitement about the past. “Dressing ‘funny’ for classrooms and entertaining while I teach is one way I can make history come alive for others,” he said.



**Geoff Baggett teaching a group of students about the American Revolution**

And Baggett’s legacy will live on, even after he is gone. “My books will endure long after I’m gone,” he said. “They’ll always be there, helping others learn about history and appreciate it.” Through his work with the SAR, his writing, and his dedication to historical education, Baggett continues to share his passion for the American Revolution with generations to come.

## Who Was Luther Rice?

Luther Rice (1783-1836) was an American Baptist minister and missionary promoter. He helped found Columbian College (now George Washington University) and played a key role in organizing Baptist missionary efforts in America.

His father was Captain Amos Rice. In 1775, Amos served on the committee of correspondence before joining the military in 1776 at Lexington, Massachusetts. By 1777, he rose to the rank of captain in Col. Job Cushing's regiment.



# State Society News



## New Members!



### Big Sandy

Joseph Allen Anderson  
John Nelson Scott

### Captain William Prince

James Henry Hyde  
James Justin Hyde

### Colonel Benjamin Logan

James Michael Hughes

### Colonel James Harrod

Grayson Lee Dooley  
Larry Stafford

### Colonel John Hardin

Joshua Ray Bullock

### Governor Isaac Shelby

Craig Lamont Gray

### Lafayette

Thomas Crowl  
Jimmie Andrew Jackson  
Ridge Alexander Stokes

### Simon Kenton

Tyler Kiwanis Vincent Hill



## First Lady's Project

First Lady Mary Addington of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is spearheading a pivotal initiative—the Liberty Tree Campaign—to support the SAR Education Center and Museum. This project is designed to enhance historical education through interactive exhibits that will connect visitors with American history in a profound and engaging way.

The SAR Education Center and Museum will serve as a dynamic hub for learning, offering immersive experiences that highlight key moments and figures from America's past. By contributing to this campaign, you will help build a facility that encourages a personal connection to history, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of our nation's heritage.

Your donation will be instrumental in developing this center, equipping it with state-of-the-art exhibits and educational tools. Under Mary Addington's leadership, this campaign reflects a deep commitment to preserving and promoting the legacy of the American Revolution.

Join us in supporting the Liberty Tree Campaign and play a crucial role in creating a space where history comes alive. Your generous contribution will ensure the SAR Education Center and Museum becomes a lasting resource for education and inspiration.

# State Society News

## Kentucky Historical Society Offers America 250th Grants

The Kentucky Historical Society recently unveiled the America250KY grant program, aimed at assisting communities and historical organizations throughout the state in celebrating the upcoming 250th anniversary of American independence.

This initiative focuses on empowering Kentucky's museums and historic sites as they honor the milestone of 250 years since the Declaration of Independence. The

program offers grants of up to \$10,000 to a variety of eligible groups, including local historical societies, museums, public libraries, educational institutions, government agencies, and qualifying 501(c)(3) nonprofits. The funds are intended to not only enhance programming but also ensure the long-term sustainability of these institutions as they participate in the nationwide commemoration. Additionally, the America250KY grants are designed to foster community engagement and preserve Kentucky's rich history by providing resources that help strengthen these organizations and support their educational efforts.

By investing in local heritage, the grants will enable museums and historical organizations to create meaningful programs and exhibits that celebrate America's journey and Kentucky's role in that history. This effort is part of a broader initiative to engage citizens, educate the public, and ensure that the 250th anniversary is remembered and celebrated for generations to come.



**For more information, visit  
the Kentucky Historical  
Society's website:  
[history.ky.gov](http://history.ky.gov)**

# State Society News

## Night Before Blue Licks

On August 16th, the Kentucky Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, as well as guests from several other states, gathered at Blue Licks Battlefield State Park to commemorate the historic Battle of Blue Licks, one of the final engagements of the American Revolution. The weekend was filled with educational programs, music, and tributes to honor the sacrifices of those who fought for our country's independence.

The commemoration kicked off on Friday evening with a social event that offered attendees a chance to connect and relax after their travels. Guests were treated to a delicious dinner that set the tone for a warm and inviting evening. Following the meal, guest speaker Steve Caudill took the floor and delivered a fascinating presentation on the life and legacy of Daniel Boone. Caudill's insights into Boone's role in shaping early Kentucky history captivated the audience, bringing a revered figure of the American frontier to life.

After the presentation, guests participated in a lively game of Revolutionary Bingo, where historical facts and trivia added a fun twist to the traditional game. The night continued with a touch of Kentucky culture, as bluegrass picking took place on the back deck. The familiar tunes echoed through the park, creating an unforgettable atmosphere. As a special tribute, Kentucky Society President Steve McCain presented President General Darryl Addington with a handcrafted barrel head in his honor, symbolizing the strong bond between the state society and national leadership.



**President General Darryl Addington receiving the commemorative barrel head from Kentucky Society President Steve McCain.**



**President-Elect Patrick Wesolosky presenting Steve Caudill a certificate in honor of his presentation regarding Daniel Boone.**



# State Society News

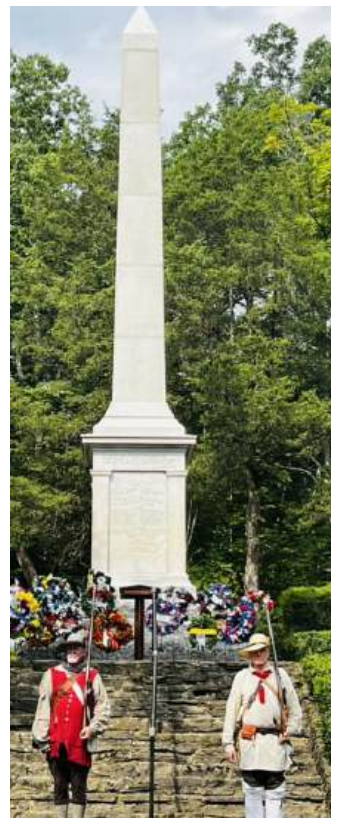
## Battle of Blue Licks Commemoration

For the 242nd anniversary of the Battle of Blue Licks, the day's events began with powerful fife and drum demonstrations that immediately set the tone for the historic commemoration. As the music filled the air, it transported attendees back to the Revolutionary War era, evoking the sounds that would have accompanied soldiers into battle. The hauntingly beautiful melodies of the fife and drum created an immersive experience, allowing spectators to reflect on the lives of those who fought and sacrificed in the conflict. These musical demonstrations were not only stirring but also educational, providing an authentic glimpse into the past. Throughout the morning, musicians took time to educate the crowd on various period songs, explaining their origins and historical significance, thereby deepening the historical context for all in attendance. This interactive and informative experience left the audience with a greater appreciation for the role that music played in the lives of Revolutionary War soldiers.

The highlight of the weekend was undoubtedly the memorial service, a solemn and moving tribute to the heroes of Blue Licks. Over 80 wreaths were laid to honor the fallen Patriots, with representatives from various SAR chapters and national officers participating in the ceremony. The sight of so many wreaths, each a symbol of remembrance and respect, created an emotional and poignant atmosphere. As these tributes were placed, the significance of the moment resonated deeply with all present. One of the most visually and emotionally striking elements of the service was the participation of the rifle squad, comprised of over 35 compatriots. Their synchronized rifle volleys echoed across the battlefield, creating a solemn and powerful reminder of the bravery and determination of the Patriots who fought in the battle. The sharp crack of each volley served as a tribute to the sacrifices made at Blue Licks, leaving a lasting impression on all who witnessed it.

President General Darryl Addington delivered a keynote address that further underscored the importance of the occasion. His speech eloquently captured the significance of the Battle of Blue Licks within the broader narrative of the American Revolution. Addington emphasized not only the bravery of those who fought at Blue Licks but also the enduring legacy they left behind, one that continues to shape our understanding of American history. His words were a stirring reminder of the values that have guided the United States since its inception, and they resonated deeply with the audience. Addington's address reminded everyone present of the importance of honoring the past while looking toward the future.

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# State Society News

## Battle of Blue Licks Commemoration

The ceremony included a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem, performed by a military band. Their performance was both stirring and fitting for the occasion, providing a moment of reflection for the crowd. As the anthem played, attendees rose to their feet, many with hands over their hearts, in reverence for the sacrifices made by the Revolutionary soldiers. The music swelled with emotion, perfectly encapsulating the spirit of the weekend and the solemnity of the commemoration.

The weekend's events not only honored Kentucky's rich Revolutionary War history but also reinforced the mission of the Sons of the American Revolution: to preserve and celebrate the founding principles of our nation. From educational programs to heartfelt tributes, the Blue Licks commemoration served as a reminder of the enduring importance of our shared history and the need to pass it down to future generations.

As the weekend came to a close, attendees left with a renewed sense of purpose, looking forward to next year's gathering to once again honor the legacy of those who secured our freedom.



**Group picture of SAR and DAR members in attendance at the Battle of Blue Licks Commemoration**

# State Society News

## Honor Flight

On August 24th, members of several chapters joined together at Blue Grass Airport to welcome home the latest Honor Flight Kentucky. The flight took veterans from the Korean and Vietnam conflicts to Washington D.C. to pay tribute to their service.

Pictured here is the State Color Guard along with Chapel Tinius, Miss Kentucky 2024, who has made her community service project Operation Gratitude: For the Fallen, For the Fighting, For the Veterans.



## VFW National Convention

The National VFW Convention, held from July 27 to August 1, 2024, at the Louisville International Convention Center, was a resounding success, drawing veterans and supporters from across the country. This year's convention provided an invaluable platform for veterans' advocacy, networking, and honoring the service of our nation's heroes. Among the many notable participants, the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) made a prominent and engaging appearance with their dedicated booth.



Manned by enthusiastic Kentucky compatriots, the SAR booth offered attendees an opportunity to learn about the Society's mission, historical preservation efforts, and various community initiatives. The presence of Kentucky SAR members added a local touch to the event, facilitating meaningful interactions and fostering a deeper connection with the history and values upheld by the SAR. Their involvement underscored the Society's commitment to honoring American heritage and engaging with veterans in a meaningful way. The convention highlighted the strong partnership between the SAR and veterans' organizations, reinforcing our shared dedication to preserving and celebrating our nation's history.

# Information

## First Continental Congress Stamp

The U.S. Postal Service recently dedicated a new stamp honoring the First Continental Congress, marking an important chapter in America's fight for independence. The artwork captures the 1774 gathering of colonial delegates, emphasizing the pivotal role this event played in shaping the country's early governance. Held in Philadelphia, the Congress unified the colonies in response to British policies and laid the groundwork for future action. The stamp's design evokes the era's



historical significance, drawing inspiration from traditional imagery of the time. The dedication ceremony took place at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, reflecting the deep connection between the site and America's founding. The USPS aims to recognize significant moments in history through this release, celebrating the enduring legacy of the First Continental Congress as a foundational step in the nation's journey toward liberty and self-governance. This stamp is part of the ongoing series of historical commemorations by the Postal Service.

## INSIDE *The* ARMORY



The Brown Bess was a flintlock musket that served as the British Army's primary firearm during the 18th and early 19th centuries, including in the American Revolution. Widely used by both British soldiers and colonial militias, it was renowned for its simplicity, durability, and ease of production. In the American Revolution, the Brown Bess played a significant role in pivotal battles, such as Bunker Hill and Saratoga. Its

smoothbore barrel allowed for rapid reloading, a crucial factor in the line infantry tactics of the era, though it sacrificed accuracy over longer distances.

Despite its limitations in precision, the musket's ability to be mass-produced and maintained contributed to its widespread use among revolutionary forces. Colonial militias, who had access to fewer resources, often relied on captured or imported Brown Bess muskets. Its use in organized volleys, where precision was secondary to the overwhelming force of concentrated fire, made it a powerful tool in both defensive and offensive strategies. This weapon became symbolic of the era's warfare and the growing tensions between Britain and its colonies.

# Service to Veterans News



## Service to Veterans Committee

KYSSAR Compatriots,

Veteran's Day is right around the corner and I encourage everyone to find a local celebration to participate in or at least take your child or grandchild along and see what the local VSOs and/or municipal leaders have put together. Look for the veterans wearing the VFW, DAV, American Legion or AMVETs hats and introduce yourselves as SAR members. Ask how your chapter can help in the next event and I'm sure that they will be happy to have you.

*Richard L. Quire*

*Major, U.S. Army (Ret)  
Committee Chairman*

Keep in mind that there are just three months left in the calendar year and so it is a good time to update your chapter's USS Stark Memorial tracker. If you recall, this tracker helps our society report to NSSAR what we have done across the Commonwealth over the past year to help our veterans and the facilities that serve them. At the last national congress, our society was recognized for supporting our veterans in 2023 and there is no reason why we cannot repeat that again this year. If you need assistance with that report, let me know and I'd be glad to get you started!

Pro Patria!

*Richard*



## Everyone for Veterans: Serving Those Who Served

Everyone for Veterans, a nonprofit organization founded in 2008, offers a crucial service to low-income veterans by providing free dental care. While veterans often receive general healthcare, dental care can be a gap, leaving many unable to afford necessary treatments. Everyone for Veterans steps in to fill this void, linking volunteer dental professionals with veterans in need across the country.

The organization partners with dental practices that offer everything from cleanings to complex procedures, ensuring veterans can maintain their oral health without financial strain. For many, untreated dental issues can lead to broader health problems, making this service not just about smiles, but about overall well-being.

This initiative reflects a deep commitment to honoring veterans by addressing an often-overlooked aspect of their healthcare. As Americans, we owe our veterans more than gratitude—through Everyone for Veterans, we can ensure that those who have served our country receive the care they deserve. To learn more or support this important mission, visit their website and see how you can make a difference.

# Service to Veterans News

## 2024 Veterans Hall of Fame Class

The Kentucky Veterans Hall of Fame recently inducted its class for 2024. Those honored were are listed below. Those in italics were honored posthumously.



*Thomas Armstrong (Jefferson)*

*Fred Banta (Kenton)*

*Ray Biggerstaff (Letcher)*

Carl Bihl (Campbell)

Robert Bryant (Adair)

William Buckman (Union)

James Deneen (Hardin)

*Orestus Flowers (Cumberland)*

William Gatherwright (Mason)

Terry Hatton (Campbell)

Harold Hendricks (Boyle)

Gary Holbrook (Kenton)

Carl Kaelin (Grayson)

*Joe Kloeker (Kenton)*

Martha Lain (Jefferson)

Randy Marsh (Kenton)

*Charles Metcalf (Madison)*

Harris Miller, Jr. (Fayette)

Ronald Molgaard (Hardin)

Tommy Mullins (Davies)

Dennis Newberry, II (Davies)

Matt Ralph (Davies)

Raymond Rice (Hardin)

Bob Rogow (Madison)

*Bobby Thornberry (Anderson)*

Jack Wagner (Campbell)

## \$4M Grants Aid Veterans' Job Transition

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is offering \$4 million in grants to organizations that support recently separated service members and their spouses with employment-related services. These grants, through the new Veteran and Spouse Transitional Assistance Grant Program, will provide up to \$500,000 each, with organizations required to match the funds. The program prioritizes organizations offering multiple services or located in states with high veteran unemployment, extensive use of unemployment benefits, or economies impacted by public health emergencies.

Eligible organizations provide key services such as resume assistance, job placement, interview training, and employment education. The initiative, part of President Biden's Unity Agenda, builds on a 2023 Executive Order and is the first of its kind to include military spouses. It aims to enhance career stability and improve transition support.

Applications are accepted for a minimum of 30 days via [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). The program reinforces VA's commitment to supporting veterans' successful transition to civilian life, empowering them and their families to achieve their employment goals.



# National Society

## SAR Merchandise

New to the SAR online merchandise store! This High performance Dry Zone® UV Micro-Mesh polo is made of 4.5-oz, 100% polyester double knit pique fabric. The performance fabric is breathable, moisture wicking and features a UPF 30+ rating. Snag-resistant material provides added durability for long-lasting use. Get yours today! Visit [store.sar.org](http://store.sar.org).



Back by popular demand! Featuring the SAR Logo, this Columbia® Benton Springs Full-Zip Fleece jacket is made of 7.4-oz, 100% polyester fleece. The pill-resistant, lightweight MTR fleece provides maximum thermal retention while the adjustable drawcord bottom hem and elastic cuffs provide a snug, comfortable fit. Find it at [store.sar.org](http://store.sar.org).



Membership dues notices have been emailed out to the membership by Treasurer Doug Collins. If you have not seen the email, please be sure to check in your spam/junk folder.

# Across the Nation

## Princeton Battlefield Preserved



Princeton Battlefield State Park, a National Historic Landmark, will soon undergo revitalization and preservation, thanks to funding secured through the FY 2025 budget by the New Jersey Legislature.

This site, famous for the 1777 Battle of Princeton where General George Washington's Continental Army won a pivotal victory, now serves as both a state park and historical monument.

The New Jersey Legislature allocated \$1.3 million to the American Battlefield Trust, supporting the restoration of the battlefield to its 1777 appearance and enhancing visitor amenities. The funds will also help plan a new Visitor and

**Monument at the Princeton Battlefield State Park**

Education Center, featuring exhibits and educational programming for tourists and school groups.

A spokesperson emphasized the park's importance in preserving history, especially as the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution approaches. David Duncan, president of the American Battlefield Trust, expressed gratitude for the Legislature's support, noting that the funding will enhance the visitor experience and prepare the park for increased tourism during the anniversary celebrations.

## Saratoga May Get Name Change

In a significant development for historical preservation, efforts are underway to rename the Saratoga National Historical Park to simply "Saratoga National." This proposed change, backed by bipartisan support, aims to better capture the park's essential role in American history.

The Saratoga battlefield is renowned for its decisive 1777 victory, which was a turning point in the Revolutionary War. The new name is intended to more clearly reflect the park's historical importance and provide a more accurate representation of its revolutionary legacy.

The bill to rename the park is sponsored by Congresswoman Elise Stefanik (R) and Congressman Paul Tonko (D), demonstrating broad bipartisan commitment to preserving and honoring America's historic sites. This collaborative effort, supported by

historians and local advocates, seeks to enhance public understanding of the park's pivotal role in the founding of the United States. By adopting the name "Saratoga National," the park will more prominently honor the critical events and figures associated with the American Revolution, ensuring that future generations can fully appreciate its place in history.





# Across the Nation



**Central District**  
IN, KY, OH, WV



## *Annual Meeting*

**19 October 2024**

Lawrenceburg, IN

### Key Events

- Business Meeting
- Ladies Program
- Lunch
- Patriot Grave Marking (5 Patriots)
- Evening Dinner

Full Details & Reservation Information to follow. Keep up to date at the Central District Website: [WWW.CDSAR.ORG](http://WWW.CDSAR.ORG)

### **Dinner Guest Speaker** **Joshua Shepherd**



Joshua Shepherd, a sculptor, and freelance writer, has created over 20 public monuments. His articles, with a special focus on Revolutionary and frontier America, have appeared in publications including *MHQ: The Quarterly Journal of Military History*, *Military Heritage*, *Muzzle Blasts*, and *The Artilleryman*. He lives in rural Indiana with his wife and three children.

# Revolutionary Kentuckians

## JOHN HARDIN

Colonel John Hardin, born in 1753 in Fauquier County, Virginia, was a significant figure in the American frontier's turbulent history, straddling both the Revolutionary War and the volatile conflicts with Native American tribes that followed. His early years shaped him into an adept hunter and woodsman, skills that would define his later military career. Hardin's legacy is characterized by his service in the Revolutionary War, his leadership on the frontier, and his tragic demise in the service of diplomacy.



Portrait of Col. John Hardin

Growing up on the Virginia frontier, Hardin developed a reputation for his marksmanship and resilience, which led him to join the Virginia militia during Lord Dunmore's War in 1774. This early conflict between Virginia settlers and Native Americans over territory west of the Appalachian Mountains exposed Hardin to the complexities of frontier life, as settlers encroached on Native lands. His experience in these early skirmishes was a precursor to the prominent role he would play in subsequent military engagements. His commitment to protecting American settlers along the frontier foreshadowed the intense role he would take in the Northwest Indian War years later.

During the American Revolution, Hardin served as a second lieutenant in the 8th Pennsylvania Regiment. He was selected to join Daniel Morgan's Provisional Rifle Corps, also known as "Morgan's Rifles," an elite unit renowned for their guerrilla-style tactics and expertise in sharpshooting. This group played a pivotal role in several key Revolutionary War battles, most notably the Battle of Saratoga in 1777, which is widely regarded as the turning point of the war. At Saratoga, Hardin and his fellow riflemen helped secure a decisive victory for the Continental Army.



After the war, Hardin sought to establish himself in Kentucky, a region that was both a land of opportunity and a powder keg of violence between Native American tribes and settlers. The Ohio Valley was rife with tensions as settlers pushed further into lands that had long been inhabited by Native peoples. Hardin, known for his military prowess and knowledge of the wilderness, emerged as a leader among the settlers.

*continued*

*Surrender of General Burgoyne by John Trumbull. Col. Daniel Morgan is shown right of center in white.*

# Revolutionary Kentuckians

## JOHN HARDIN *cont.*



**Memorial stone for Colonel John Hardin located in the Grove Hill Cemetery in Shelbyville, Kentucky.**

He participated in numerous expeditions and skirmishes aimed at protecting frontier settlements from Native American raids. However, his actions were not without controversy.

In 1786, Hardin led a group of Kentucky militiamen in an ill-fated raid on a Piankeshaw village, resulting in the deaths of several Native Americans who were under the protection of the United States government. This incident, part of a broader campaign of violence between settlers and Native tribes, earned Hardin the moniker "the Indian killer." The raid also exacerbated the already fragile relationships between Native American tribes and American settlers, and it raised questions about the United States' ability to protect its Native allies in the region

Despite the controversial nature of his frontier campaigns, Hardin's leadership was respected by many, and he was appointed to serve in various official capacities, including as a surveyor of Kentucky's lands. His deep knowledge of the region's terrain, coupled with his military experience, made him a valuable asset in navigating the complexities of frontier life. Hardin's understanding of the region, both its geographical and political challenges, placed him in a key role in managing the delicate balance of expanding American settlements while mitigating threats from Native tribes.

In 1792, as hostilities with Native tribes intensified, General James Wilkinson appointed Hardin to lead a significant diplomatic mission. His task was to negotiate peace with the Shawnee, a formidable tribe that had played a central role in resisting American expansion into the Ohio Valley. This mission was not only an acknowledgment of Hardin's leadership but also of his ability to navigate the perilous world of frontier diplomacy.

Hardin's diplomatic journey became a tragic end to his storied career. In the course of his mission, Hardin encountered a party of Shawnees who initially offered to escort him to their leaders. However, during the night, while Hardin and his servant, Freeman, slept, they were betrayed by their guides. Both men were killed by the Shawnee, marking the end to Hardin's story. He is buried in Grove Hill Cemetery in Shelbyville, Kentucky.

Hardin's life and death encapsulate the fraught and often violent realities of the American frontier, particularly in the context of the continuous struggle between Native American tribes and settlers over land and sovereignty. Several counties across the United States—including those in Kentucky, Illinois, and Ohio—bear his name, a lasting tribute to his role in shaping the early expansion of the United States.

# Chapter News

## BIG SANDY

At the August meeting of the Big Sandy Chapter, held at Jenny Wiley State Park, Chapter Historian **John David Preston** delivered an insightful presentation on the battles fought in Northern Kentucky. His discussion focused particularly on a significant 1780 battle near the Falls of the Ohio, which is now the site of modern-day Louisville.



## CAPTAIN VIRGIL MCCRACKEN

In June, the Captain Virgil McCracken Chapter took part in two flag retirement ceremonies, hosted by the local VFW and Elks Lodge. These ceremonies honored the respectful disposal of worn American flags.

Pictured, Chapter Vice President **Donald Swearingen** is seen presenting an SAR Flag Retirement Certificate to Randy Shankle of the VFW, recognizing their role in organizing the event.



## CAPTAIN CHARLES GATLIFF



The Captain Charles Gatliff Chapter recently awarded a Patriot Certificate to David Keck, owner of David's Steakhouse in Corbin, in recognition of his strong support for veterans' organizations and the SAR. Mr. Keck has also consistently displayed the American flag outside his establishment.

## CAPTAIN WILLIAM PRINCE

On Independence Day, the Captain William Prince Chapter took part in a public reading of the Declaration of Independence at Big Springs Park in Princeton. Pictured is Chapter Secretary **Edward Georgen** reading the final paragraphs of the document.



# Chapter News

## COLONEL BENJAMIN LOGAN

Members of the Colonel Benjamin Logan Chapter participated in an Independence Day Parade in the Covington Grove neighborhood of Bowling Green.



## COLONEL DANIEL BOONE



At their July 16th meeting, the Colonel Daniel Boone Chapter recognized several members of the Frankfort community with awards for their contributions and service. One notable honoree was Captain Michael Webb, who is pictured here with Chapter President **Richard Quire**. Captain Webb was celebrated for his many years of dedicated service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky through his work with the Kentucky State Police. His commitment to public safety and his exemplary career were highlighted during the ceremony.

## COLONEL JAMES HARROD



On July 16th, **Richard Quire**, Chairman of the KYSSAR Veterans Committee, presented Certificates of Patriotism to members of the Col. James Harrod Chapter in recognition of their service. Chapter President, Compatriot **Jim Stinnett**, was honored with the SAR War Service Medal, adorned with the Iraq and Global War on Terrorism Service Bars, acknowledging his distinguished military contributions. In addition, Stinnett has now been inducted into the SAR Southwest Asia Service Veterans Corps, further recognizing his commitment and service in defense of the nation.

## COLONEL STEPHEN TRIGG



The Colonel Stephen Trigg Chapter sponsored a public reading of the Declaration of Independence in Cadiz on July 4th. Members are seen here presenting the colors prior to the ceremony.

# Chapter News

## GEORGE MASON

**Mark Humphries**, Vice President of the George Mason Chapter, recently led an insightful tour of the historic Mefford Cabin, a rare surviving example of early 19th-century log architecture in Maysville. Built in 1810, the cabin highlights traditional craftsmanship and provides a fascinating window into the area's pioneer history.



## GOVERNOR ISAAC SHELBY



Members of the Governor Isaac Shelby Chapter visited the Anthony Wayne Veterans Memorial in Defiance, Ohio on August 24th. Pictured above are Chapter President **John Doss**, Shelly Doss of the Piankeshaw DAR Chapter, and **Scott Giltner**. The monument honors Anthony Wayne's role in the American Revolution and northwest territory settlement.

## LAFAYETTE



On August 18th, the Lafayette Chapter held a grave marking ceremony for five patriots who were founding members of Bethel Presbyterian Church in Fayette County. The ceremony featured participants from seven states, as well as President General **Darryl Addington**.

## LOUISVILLE THRUSTON

On September 8th, members of the Louisville Thruston Chapter took part in the Flowers of Remembrance ceremony at Zachary Taylor National Cemetery. This solemn event honored the 341 veterans buried in group graves, whose identities could not be determined or separated, recognizing their service and sacrifice.



# Chapter News

## SIMON KENTON

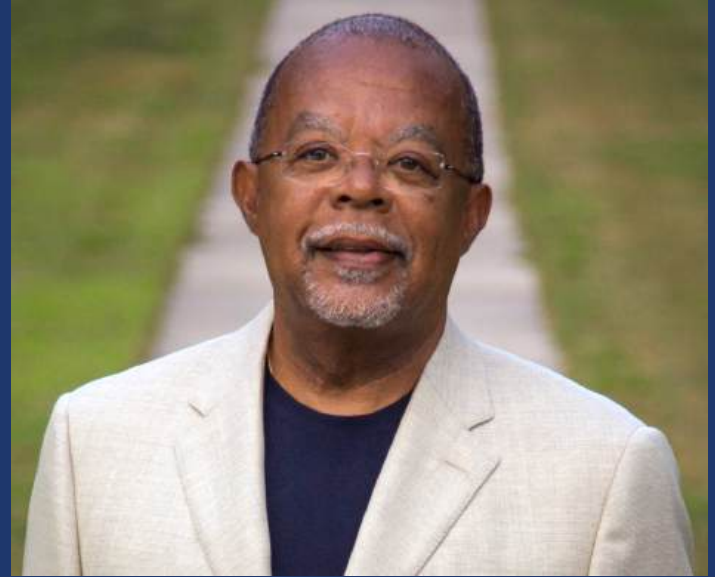


Only July 10th, the Simon Kenton Chapter held a pinning ceremony at their regular meeting for their newest member, Compatriot **Tyler Hill**. Compatriot Hill is pictured in the middle, as Chapter President **Pat Berry** explains the rights and duties of all members.



**Back by popular demand! the SAR online merchandise store is again carrying the Mini Public Service Medals!**

**Medals honor law enforcement, firefighters, emergency medical services and heroism.**



## AN EVENING WITH DR. HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR.

Dive deep into the past and build connections to the present during this very special evening with scholar and Emmy-Award-winning filmmaker Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Based on his groundbreaking PBS series, Finding Your Roots, Professor Gates will share insights from his influential series about genealogy, genetics and history's impact on our lives today. Program followed by a Q&A session.

**7:30-9:30 PM**

**OCTOBER 8TH**

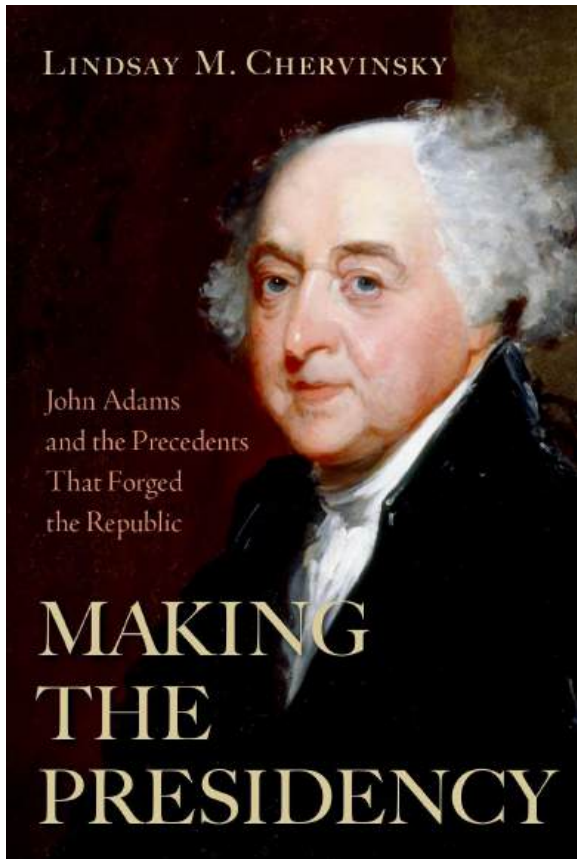
**NORTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

**CENTRE COLLEGE**

**DANVILLE, KENTUCKY**

**VISIT [NORTONCENTER.COM](http://NORTONCENTER.COM) FOR TICKETS**

# Bookshelf



## **MAKING THE PRESIDENCY**

*JOHN ADAMS AND THE PRECEDENTS THAT FORGED THE REPUBLIC*

by Lindsay M. Chervinsky (Oxford University Press), 440 pgs  
\$34.99 hardcover, \$23.99 ebook

In 1797, the United States faced significant challenges from both foreign and domestic enemies. George Washington, the nation's father, left his vice president, John Adams, with minimal guidance and lofty expectations. Adams encountered fierce partisan divisions, citizenship debates, fears of political violence, potential conflicts with France and Britain, and doubts about the presidency's viability without Washington.

*Making the Presidency* explores the critical period of the second US presidency, essential for the republic's survival. Through meticulous research and engaging prose, Lindsay Chervinsky highlights the unique challenges Adams faced and his influence on the office for future leaders. Despite being highly qualified as a legislator, theorist, diplomat, minister, and vice president, Adams had never held an executive position. Instead, he relied on his ideas about

executive power, the Constitution, politics, and global affairs to navigate his role. He defended the presidency from his often obstructionist cabinet, safeguarded the nation from foreign threats, and fostered trust in election integrity and peaceful power transfers, even at the cost of his political future.

This book offers a portrait of one of the most fascinating and influential periods in US history and is a must-read for anyone interested in the presidency's evolution and the creation of political norms central to the American republic.

### **About the Author**

Dr. Lindsay M. Chervinsky is a historian of the presidency, political culture, and the government. She produces history that speaks to fellow scholars as well as a larger public audience. Dr. Chervinsky believes history can be exhilarating and she works to share her passion with as many people as possible. Her research can be found in publications from op-eds to books, speaking on podcasts and other media, and teaching for every kind of audience.

Dr. Chervinsky is a Senior Fellow at the Center for Presidential History at Southern Methodist University.





# Event Calendar

## SEPTEMBER 21

Fort Jefferson Plaque Dedication  
10:00 AM CDT  
Fort Jefferson Hill Park  
CS-1016  
Wickliffe, Kentucky

## SEPTEMBER 21

Hubbell Grave Marking Ceremony  
2:00 PM EDT  
Highland Cemetery  
2167 Dixie Highway  
Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky

## SEPTEMBER 25

KYSSAR Board of Governors Meeting  
7:00 PM EDT  
Online

## SEPTEMBER 28

New Providence Grave Marking Ceremony  
11:30 AM EDT  
New Providence Cemetery  
490 Providence Road  
Harrodsburg, Kentucky

## OCTOBER 3-5

National Society Fall Leadership  
Various Times  
Galt House Hotel  
140 North Fourth Street  
Louisville, Kentucky

## OCTOBER 6

Breckinridge Grave Marking Ceremony  
11:00 AM EDT  
Lexington Cemetery  
833 West Main Street  
Lexington, Kentucky

## OCTOBER 12

Monument Dedication & Grave Marking  
1:00 PM CDT  
Butler County Courthouse  
110 North Main Street  
Morgantown, Kentucky

## OCTOBER 19

Lochry's Defeat Grave Marking  
10:00 AM EDT  
Riverview Cemetery  
3135 East Laughery Creek Road  
Aurora, Indiana

## OCTOBER 19

Central District Annual Meeting  
12:00 PM 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 2

Chichester Matthews Grave Marking  
2:00 PM EST  
Sand Run Baptist Church Cemetery  
1327 North Bend Road  
Hebron, Kentucky

## NOVEMBER 16

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



**SAVE THE DATE**

2025 National Congress  
July 12-18  
Mohegan Sun Resort  
Uncasville, Connecticut