

# The Kentucky Pioneer

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Summer 2025



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# THE PRESIDENT'S PARCHMENT

Compatriots of the Kentucky Society,

As we emerge from this year's Independence Day celebrations, I want to take a moment to express my deep appreciation for all you do to preserve and promote the legacy of our patriot ancestors. July 4th is a sacred date on our national calendar—not merely a time for fireworks and family gatherings, but a moment to reflect on the extraordinary courage and vision that led a group of ordinary citizens to declare themselves free from tyranny and to stake their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor on the cause of liberty.



Throughout Kentucky, our chapters answered that call to remembrance with pride and purpose. I have seen a remarkable increase in engagement this year, with more events, more public outreach, and more visibility. Grave-markings, parades, school programs, color guard appearances, and community presentations are being held in every corner of our Commonwealth. This energy is a testament to your commitment and passion, and it gives me great confidence in the future of our Society.

But while we have much to be proud of, we also have a rare opportunity on the horizon. In less than one year, our nation will celebrate the Semiquincentennial—the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. July 4, 2026, will be a defining moment for the Sons of the American Revolution, and the Kentucky Society has an important role to play.

Over the next year, I encourage each chapter to think boldly and creatively about how we can educate, commemorate, and inspire. Let us use this time to grow our membership, partner with schools and civic organizations, and develop programming that captures the spirit of 1776. This is our chance not only to honor the past, but to shape how it is remembered by future generations.

Thank you for all that you do, and for the honor of serving alongside you. Let us continue forward—united in purpose and patriotic devotion—as we prepare for a celebration worthy of our forebears.

*Patrick*

**The Kentucky Pioneer**

**Tommy Druen, Editor**

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# Editor's Note



In recent years, we've seen a noticeable re-emergence of nationalism, both in the United States and abroad. It's not surprising that many are drawn to it—nationalism often presents itself with appealing language. It speaks of pride, strength, and unity. It waves the flag, sings the anthem, and claims to stand firm in defense of the nation. Yet while it may look and sound patriotic, nationalism is something else entirely.

Nationalism, at its core, is an exclusionary ideology. It tends to see the world in binary terms: us versus them, right versus wrong, strength versus weakness. It elevates the nation as an object of devotion, not to be questioned or challenged, but accepted wholesale—past, present, and future. It feeds off fear and fosters division, casting “the other”—whomever it be—as a threat to the supposed purity or greatness of the nation. In doing so, nationalism often discourages self-reflection, presenting disagreement as disloyalty. It promotes unity, yes—but one rooted in conformity rather than shared purpose. While it may rally crowds, it rarely builds lasting institutions or solves real problems.

Patriotism, on the other hand, is neither loud nor fragile. It is rooted in love of country—not blind loyalty, but informed affection. It doesn't need constant applause or affirmation. True patriotism is quieter, steadier, and far more enduring. It is a commitment to the principles that form the foundation of our republic—liberty, law, self-government—and a belief that these ideals are worth preserving and strengthening. Patriotism doesn't ignore our country's shortcomings, but it doesn't dwell in cynicism either. It acknowledges that we're a work in progress—and that the best way to honor our nation, and its founders, is by working to improve it.

Patriotism is not static; it is a dynamic relationship between citizen and country. It is action—not just allegiance—that defines a patriot. Patriots teach the next generation not just the stories of American greatness, but the responsibilities that come with citizenship. Patriots don't wish for a return to some mythical golden past, but instead seek to secure a future that reflects our highest ideals, guided by reason and shaped through community.

This mindset is especially relevant as we look ahead to the 250th commemoration of our nation's founding. Events will no doubt highlight our shared heritage and the enduring legacy of the American Revolution. But they also offer us a rare opportunity to ask what kind of country we want to be as we enter our next chapter. The question isn't merely how we celebrate the past—but how we prepare for the future.

To do so effectively, we must embrace patriotism, not nationalism. The former unites us around a shared vision of American progress; the latter narrows us into ideological corners. Patriotism calls us to serve and improve. Nationalism demands we defend, regardless of merit. One strengthens the republic; the other threatens its foundations.

The Sons of the American Revolution is dedicated to preserving the legacy of our founders. But preservation does not mean stagnation. It means tending to the roots of the tree so it can continue to grow. As we take part in this once-in-a-generation commemoration, let us do so with the spirit of patriotic stewardship—honoring not only where we came from, but also where we're going.

Let America's 250<sup>th</sup> not just be a moment of memory, but a call to civic renewal. May we lift high the banner of patriotism, and carry it forward with pride. Alongside that pride, though, let's include integrity, humility, and hope. That's the true expression of patriotism

*Tommy Druen*

# Member Profile

## Tim Brown



Tim Brown's lifelong passion for history, service, and leadership has made him a distinguished member of the Kentucky Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. From his Appalachian roots to his extensive contributions in Scouting and civic organizations, Brown's journey is one of commitment and influence.

Born in 1959, in West Liberty, Kentucky, Tim Brown grew up in the foothills of the Appalachians as the fifth of seven children. His parents, Berlyn and Elizabeth Brown, instilled strong values of family and faith in their children. His father, a World War II U.S. Army Captain and the first in their lineage to attend college, graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1940 and

worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture for 35 years. These influences shaped Tim's character, reinforcing his belief in hard work, education, and community service.

Following in his father's footsteps, Brown attended the University of Kentucky, where he earned a bachelor's degree in zoology in 1981. In 1985, he married Tamera "Tami" Cannon, and together they built a loving family that includes two children, Chelsea and Zac, and three grandchildren. Zac, like his father, continued the family's legacy in Scouting by earning the rank of Eagle Scout, a tradition now extending to Brown's grandsons, Rhett and Riggs, who are both Cub Scouts.

Although his initial career aspirations were in wildlife biology, after graduating, Brown found initial opportunities in manufacturing management, spending 21 years working for major companies such as Fruit of the Loom, Hanes, and Jockey International. He held key leadership roles, including Plant Manager and Operations Manager. However, when the U.S. garment industry started relocating to other countries, Brown transitioned to public service, a shift that proved to be both impactful and fulfilling.

In 2002, he joined the Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) as Field Operations Manager, overseeing vital areas such as timber harvesting compliance, wildfire prevention, and youth education. After 15 years in that role, he was promoted to Senior Environmental Scientist, where he now serves as the division's liaison to the Office of Legal Services, ensuring regulatory enforcement of Kentucky's environmental policies. His decades of experience in leadership and administration have been instrumental in shaping policy and improving environmental stewardship.

Brown's deep-seated interest in genealogy and the American Revolution led him to join the SAR in 2016

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# Member Profile

alongside his older brother. Their patriot ancestor, Samuel Auxier, served in the Virginia Militia and fought in the Illinois Campaign with George Rogers Clark. The Auxier family's contributions to early American history, including their participation in the Battle of Point Pleasant, strengthened Brown's sense of historical connection.

Brown quickly became an active member of the Lafayette Chapter, serving in leadership roles such as Vice President and President. His contributions extended to revising the Chapter's constitution and playing a pivotal role in the Eagle Scout Committee. His dedication to Scouting and SAR youth programs culminated in his seven-year tenure as KY SAR Eagle Scout Committee Chair, during which Kentucky produced multiple national winners. His leadership within the state society continued as he progressed through various officer roles, including President and National Trustee.



Currently, Brown has been elected as the Central District's nominee for Vice President General for the 2025-2026 year. In this capacity, he aims to strengthen collaboration between state societies and enhance SAR programming on a regional level. Nationally, he contributes as a member of the Eagle Scout Committee, the Council of State Presidents Committee, the American 250th Committee, and serves as Vice Chair of the Merchandise Committee.

Brown's involvement in Scouting spans over five decades. Since joining as a Cub Scout in 1967, he has remained deeply engaged at local, regional, and national levels. He currently serves as a National Vice Chair of the Scouting Alumni National Committee, as well as a member of the National Committee of the National Eagle Scout Association (NESA) and the National Scouting Museum Committee. He sees strong parallels between the missions of Scouting America (formerly BSA) and the SAR, emphasizing shared values such as patriotism, citizenship, youth education, and community service.

As the SAR moves forward, Brown envisions a future where the organization continues to preserve and promote American history while attracting and retaining engaged members. He advocates for streamlining the SAR's application process and implementing best practices to support local chapters, recognizing that, much like politics, all SAR is local.

With his unwavering dedication to heritage, leadership, and service, Tim Brown exemplifies the values of the SAR, ensuring that future generations remain connected to their history and inspired to uphold its legacy.

# State Society News



## New Members!



### **Big Sandy**

Mark Sutherd Carroll  
James Robert Leslie  
Gary Douglas Lewis  
Ricky Lee Waltz

### **Capt. John Metcalfe**

Clarence Robert Martin

### **Col. John Hardin**

Bobby Dean Morrison

### **Col. James Harrod**

Dexter Lee Alexander  
John Dexter Alexander

### **Governor Isaac Shelby**

Nathan Gregory Bellows

### **Lafayette**

Rhett Walker Cooley  
Riggs Carter Cooley

### **Louisville Thruston**

Donald Fitzpatrick  
Brian Eugene Guinn  
Kenneth Richard Holzknicht  
Douglas James King  
William Brandon Reed  
William Kenneth Reed  
William Walter Reed  
Aaron Dale Stonecipher

## New Medal Approved

The National Society has introduced the General Casimir Pulaski Founders Medal to recognize Compatriots who help establish new SAR chapters. Named for Revolutionary War hero Pulaski—founder of the U.S. Cavalry—the medal honors leadership and commitment to expanding the Society.

Each qualifying Compatriot listed as a signer of a new chapter's charter may receive the medal once. The award encourages growth by forming new chapters that extend SAR programs into more communities.

State Societies determine eligibility based on charter records, and all standard chartering requirements must be met. Once approved, recipients will receive a medal set (full-size and miniature) and a certificate.

Chapters founded after January 1, 2025, and those seeking retroactive recognition, may apply using the official process through National Headquarters. This new award highlights the value of chapter founders and their role in advancing the SAR mission.



# State Society News

## Liberty Tree Project



## LIBERTY TREE PROJECT

To commemorate 250 years of American history and to honor Kentucky's contributions, the Kentucky Historical Society has joined forces with the Kentucky Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (KSDAR) to plant a tulip poplar, Kentucky's official state tree in each of Kentucky's 120 counties.

The Kentucky Division of Forestry donated 120 tulip poplar trees specifically for the Liberty Tree planting ceremonies taking place across all counties in Kentucky.

The Liberty Tree Project serves not only as a historical lesson but also as a lesson in the conservation of Kentucky's native plants. For more information, visit [history.ky.gov/america250ky](http://history.ky.gov/america250ky).



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT CABINET



# State Society News

## Battle of Blue Licks 2025

### **The Battle of Blue Licks Memorial Commemoration**

August 15–17, 2025 | Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park  
10299 Maysville Road | Carlisle, Kentucky

Each year, SAR compatriots join with historians, reenactors, musicians, and descendants of frontier families to commemorate the Battle of Blue Licks—one of the final and most tragic engagements of the American Revolution. This year’s memorial weekend promises not only a moving tribute to those who gave their lives but also a full slate of educational, entertaining, and engaging activities that bring Kentucky’s Revolutionary War heritage to life.

### **Friday, August 15 – Fellowship, Frontier Skills, and Boone Family Legacy**

The weekend begins Friday afternoon with demonstrations of flint knapping on the museum lawn at 3:00 p.m. At 4:30 p.m., the Kentucky SAR will present a stirring fife and drum performance at the Hunter Shelter. SAR compatriots will then gather for a social at 5:00 p.m., followed by a group dinner at 6:00 p.m. Meanwhile, public programming continues with a tomahawk-throwing presentation at 5:30 p.m. and a living history portrayal of Rebecca and Daniel Boone at 6:30 p.m. in the Pavilion Room.

At 7:00 p.m., Boone descendant Robert Crum will present a talk on Daniel Boone’s role in the Revolutionary War, followed by a spirited round of Revolutionary War-themed bingo and trivia at 7:30 p.m. Weather permitting, the evening will close with music performed by SAR compatriots on the lodge patio at 8:30 p.m., before moving to the campfire ring at 9:00 p.m. for a dramatic storytelling session about the infamous Harpe Brothers—America’s first known serial killers—who were connected to the aftermath of the Blue Licks conflict.

### **Saturday, August 16 – Ceremony, Reenactment, and Education**

Saturday morning begins with 18th-century instrumental demonstrations near the monument at 9:30 a.m., setting the tone for the day’s central event: the Sons of the American Revolution’s Battle of Blue Licks Memorial Ceremony, which begins at 10:00 a.m. This solemn tribute honors the Kentuckians who fell on August 19, 1782, many of them veterans of earlier campaigns and defenders of the frontier.

At 11:30 a.m., the SAR will host a lunch for members, while the Pioneer Museum steps will feature a public reading of the Declaration of Independence.



# State Society News

## Battle of Blue Licks 2025

Later that afternoon, the Kentucky Society will hold its State Meeting at 1:00 p.m. in the lodge, offering updates and planning for upcoming activities. Concurrently, visitors may enjoy a full schedule of educational sessions and demonstrations hosted by the park, including children's colonial crafts, genealogy presentations, and land deed archives.

By midafternoon, the battlefield becomes the center of attention. At 2:45 p.m., guests are invited to gather at the reenactment field for an 18th-century concert. At 3:50, the National Anthem will be sung, followed by a full-scale reenactment of the Battle of Blue Licks at 4:00 p.m. The SAR will present a flag demonstration afterward at 5:30 p.m., and the day will end with additional park programming, including tomahawk throwing and a special book talk at 7:30 p.m. by Ted Franklin Belue on "Finding Daniel Boone."



Author Ted Franklin Belue

### Sunday, August 17 – Graveside Honors

At 10:00 a.m., the SAR will lead a grave-marking ceremony honoring five Revolutionary War patriots at Lexington Cemetery—a fitting capstone to a weekend centered on remembrance.

### Join Us

The Blue Licks Memorial Weekend is more than a historical event—it is an opportunity to reflect on our state's Revolutionary War legacy, to educate the next generation, and to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood within our Society. SAR members are encouraged to attend, bring family and guests, and participate fully in this powerful weekend of history, honor, and heritage.

For full details, schedule updates, and park logistics, please visit: [www.kyssar.org/BlueLicksMemorialWeekend](http://www.kyssar.org/BlueLicksMemorialWeekend)

## Accommodations

Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park  
10299 Maysville Rd.  
Carlisle, KY 40311  
Phone: (859) 289-5507

French Quarter Inn  
25 E McDonald Pkwy  
Maysville, KY 41056  
Phone: (606) 564-8000

Quality Inn  
1428a US-68  
Maysville, KY 41056  
Phone: (606) 759-5696

Hampton Inn Maysville  
503 Market Place Drive  
Maysville, KY 41056  
Phone: (606) 759-0600

Super 8 by Wyndham  
550 Tucker Dr  
Maysville, KY 41056  
Phone: (606) 375-4751

# State Society News

## Breaking the Sound Barrier

### *Kentucky's Color Guard Finds Ways to be More Inclusive*

Kevin Kreutzer's journey in the Sons of the American Revolution reflects a steadfast dedication not only to honoring his patriot ancestors but also to demonstrating that challenges can be conquered. A valued member of the Colonel James Harrod Chapter, Kevin—born deaf—has used his SAR membership as a way to honor his lineage while forging his own path within the organization. His commitment to history deepens as he continuously rises above barriers, and his patriotism shines through his service as both a chapter Chaplain and a recent addition to the Kentucky Society's Color Guard.

Kevin's journey began early, growing up in a family with deep ties to the Deaf community. Born in Kansas and now residing in Danville, Kentucky, many members of his family, including his grandfather, cousins, and his wife, are also Deaf. But it was his father, a Marine, and his involvement in the Boy Scouts that first instilled in him a sense of patriotism. His Scoutmaster, a fellow member of the Deaf community, modeled resilience and love of country that left a lasting impression. These values fueled his commitment to his heritage, eventually leading him to the SAR.



**Compatriot Kevin Kreutzer**

patriot who eventually moved to Harrodsburg, Kentucky, and contributed to the state's early political development. This connection solidified his sense of belonging, and after completing the SAR's application process, he was warmly welcomed into the Lafayette Chapter, later joining the newly established Colonel James Harrod Chapter closer to his home.

His passion for history, ignited when he was twelve, grew steadily as he pursued genealogy and began discovering connections to Revolutionary War ancestors. Kevin majored in history at Gallaudet University, where he developed his research skills, spending hours at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., tracing his family's lineage and exploring Revolutionary War battlefields. "I've been interested in American history for as long as I can remember," he reflected. "Being a member of the SAR is an extension of that and is easy given how proud I am to be an American."

When he moved to Kentucky, he learned of the National Society's headquarters in Louisville. Through his genealogical work, he discovered he was a descendant of Lieutenant Samuel Taylor, a Virginia

*continued on next page*

# State Society News

## Breaking the Sound Barrier

Joining the Colonel James Harrod Chapter brought Kevin closer not only to his ancestral roots but also to a community eager to embrace his dedication. When fellow member Richard Quire approached him about serving as the chapter's inaugural Chaplain, Kevin felt honored. "It's rare for someone from the Deaf community to be asked to serve in such a capacity in a predominantly hearing organization," said Kevin. He has made the role his own, signing historic prayers at SAR events that are then interpreted aloud, allowing all chapter members to join in the solemnity of these moments.

Kevin's fellow chapter members value his unique contributions to SAR gatherings. "It's incredibly meaningful to see Kevin lead us in prayer," shared Richard. "His approach adds a depth of respect for our ancestors and our faith. And as he is the first to serve in this capacity for our chapter, he's set a strong legacy for those who will follow." Kevin's prayers, with their quiet strength, remind members of the power of patriotism and faith combined—a combination he embodies with dedication and humility.

Patrick and Kevin worked together to develop a set of visual cues, allowing Kevin to participate seamlessly. Patrick explained, "It was clear from day one that Kevin's dedication outweighed any logistical challenge. We adjusted to ensure he could participate fully because nobody who wants to honor the men and women who founded our nation should ever be left out." Using subtle hand motions and sword movements, Patrick and Kevin created a system that allows Kevin to follow each command in unison with his compatriots. It is an inspiring sight, embodying the SAR's commitment to honoring every member's unique contributions.



**Compatriot Kreutzer at Color Guard training**

Kevin's fellow Color Guard members welcomed him without reservation, supporting his participation wholeheartedly. "I felt accepted from the very beginning," he said. "They respect me as a brother, and the fact that I'm Deaf hasn't made a difference." supporting his participation wholeheartedly. "I felt accepted from the very beginning," he said. "They respect me as a brother, and the fact that I'm Deaf hasn't made a difference." His experience has reinforced his belief that mutual respect transcends communication barriers, a sentiment underscored by one of his favorite quotations from Helen Keller: "Blindness separates people from things; deafness separates people from people." But within the SAR, Kevin says, this barrier seems almost nonexistent. "In the Color Guard, we're united by our mission, and we have found a way to communicate. It's the bond we share that speaks louder than words."

# State Society News

## Breaking the Sound Barrier



**State President Patrick Wesolosky leading Color Guard training**

For Patrick, leading the Color Guard alongside Kevin is an honor. “It’s easy to make adjustments when someone has such dedication to our purpose,” he said. “Kevin’s presence is a testament to the SAR’s inclusive spirit, and his commitment to patriotism and unity is something we all admire.” Patrick’s words reflect the SAR’s foundational belief in celebrating each member’s heritage and contribution, making the organization a home for patriots from all walks of life.

especially if they love this country and its history,” he said. “I don’t see my deafness as a barrier—it’s just a part of who I am.” His advice to others in the Deaf community is to embrace the SAR and not let perceived limitations hold them back. As he puts it simply, “Come on, it’s fun!”

For Kevin, his SAR journey is not only about heritage but about actively contributing to his community. “I would encourage anyone to join and participate,

His patriotism and sense of purpose have also found expression beyond the SAR. Last year, he participated in *Jesus - A Deaf Missions Film*, a feature film in American Sign Language about the life of Jesus Christ. The experience allowed him to bring faith to life in a new way, joining an all-Deaf cast in a project that reached audiences around the world. “It was a privilege,” he shared. “Much like my role in the SAR, it gave me a chance to serve with others and honor something greater than myself.”

Kevin Kreutzer’s journey within the SAR and the Kentucky Color Guard’s Rifle Detail reflects the true spirit of American patriotism: a commitment that transcends individual challenges and embodies resilience, heritage, and service. For him, standing shoulder-to-shoulder with his compatriots is a fulfillment of his lifelong passion of honoring his country and the legacy of the men and women who made freedom possible. Patrick Wesolosky, reflecting on Kevin’s impact, shared, “For me, having visual cues for such moments as presenting arms and cease fire was easy. Kevin’s story reminds us that patriotism isn’t confined to any one experience. It’s a collective commitment to our country, built by people with different backgrounds and abilities but a shared sense of purpose.”

As Kevin stands proudly among his fellow Color Guard members, his life serves as an inspiration to patriots everywhere that, in the SAR, there’s room for everyone to honor America’s past and to preserve its future.

*This article was published in the Spring 2025 edition of the SAR Magazine and is reprinted here with permission.*

# State Society News

## Lafayette Celebration

In the season of remembrance leading to America's 250th anniversary, Lexington, Kentucky looked back not to 1776, but to a moment fifty years later—when the young republic welcomed home one of its most cherished heroes. With elegance, reverence, and patriotic flair, the Lafayette Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution hosted a series of events this May to mark the 200th anniversary of General Marquis de Lafayette's triumphant return to the Bluegrass in 1825.



Dale Henley leads the Pledge of Allegiance aside the Color Guard

The commemorations, nearly two years in the making, were among the most ambitious ever undertaken by the Lafayette Chapter. At the heart of the effort was a desire not only to honor the past, but to rekindle the ideals that Lafayette so deeply embodied: liberty, loyalty, and international friendship. From historical education to public ceremony, each event reflected the Chapter's enduring commitment to making history resonate in the present day.

General Lafayette, who became a beloved figure in both American and French history, toured the United States from 1824 to 1825 at the invitation of President James Monroe. It was a final farewell from the American people to the French general who had served with distinction in the Continental Army and formed a legendary bond with George Washington.

Lafayette's time in Kentucky lasted from May 11–21, 1825, with his most celebrated stop in Lexington. There, on May 15, he was hosted overnight by Major John Keene, just south of the city. Over the next two days, he addressed civic gatherings at Transylvania University and the Lexington Female Academy, reviewed troops in a military parade, and was feted with great enthusiasm by the people of the Commonwealth.

In 2025, precisely two centuries later, the Lafayette Chapter endeavored to recreate that spirit of admiration and gratitude. The commemorations began with an educational outreach component: a student essay contest on General Lafayette's life and legacy. The contest encouraged younger generations to consider the relevance of Lafayette's values in today's political and civic climate.



Unveiling of the marker at Gratz Park

# State Society News

## Lafayette Celebration

“Our goal was to make Lafayette more than just a name in a textbook,” said Steve Gahafer, president of the Lafayette Chapter. “We wanted students and citizens alike to understand what he stood for and how that still matters in the twenty-first century.”

The Chapter then turned to the streets of Lexington itself. With funding from the Lexington-Fayette County Urban Government, a permanent historical marker was installed and unveiled on May 16 at Gratz Park, a location closely tied to the city’s 19th-century civic life. The marker now stands as a lasting tribute to the General’s visit and a reminder of Lexington’s unique connection to America’s Revolutionary legacy.

A proclamation from Mayor Linda Gorton and the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council declared May 16, 2025, as “General Lafayette Day” in Lexington, echoing the honors paid to the French hero two centuries prior. It was a civic affirmation of the General’s enduring place in the heart of the community.

But it was the formal bicentennial dinner, held the evening of May 16, that served as the emotional and ceremonial centerpiece of the celebration. Originally planned for a modest 150 attendees, interest quickly grew, and the final headcount surpassed 300 guests. Held with great pageantry and attention to historical detail, the evening brought together local leaders, descendants of Revolutionary-era Kentuckians, dignitaries, and history enthusiasts from across the region.

The Lafayette Chapter Color Guard opened the evening with a formal procession and was inspected by a reenactor portraying General Lafayette. His appearance stirred the crowd with a theatrical yet reverent nod to the past.



**L-R: Lafayette Chapter President Steve Gahafer, Madame Renault-Sablionière, her niece and State President Patrick Wesolosky**

The national anthems of both the United States and France were sung, setting a tone of international friendship that would carry through the evening. A representative from the French Consulate delivered remarks acknowledging the special relationship between the two nations, born of shared sacrifice and strengthened through centuries of common ideals.

Several descendants of individuals who had hosted or met Lafayette during his 1825 visit were also present and offered reflections on their ancestors' experiences. Their presence gave a personal and familial dimension to the historical celebration, connecting two centuries of Kentuckians through shared memory and pride.

One of the most anticipated speakers of the evening was Sabine Renault-Sablionière, the seventh great-granddaughter of General Lafayette. An

# State Society News

## Lafayette Celebration

accomplished author and researcher, Renault-Sablionière offered heartfelt remarks not only about her famous forebear, but also about his remarkable wife, Adrienne de Noailles Lafayette. Her tribute served as a reminder that behind the legend stood a partnership forged in courage, sacrifice, and mutual devotion.

“Madame Renault-Sablionière brought Lafayette to life in a way few others could,” said Gahafer. “Her presence was not only symbolic—it made the evening unforgettable.”

As tokens of appreciation, the evening’s presenters—including Renault-Sablionière, French Consulate representatives, and local dignitaries—received commemorative gifts from the Lafayette Chapter, Mayor Gorton, and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

On display during the dinner were several rare historical items, including a miniature portrait of himself that General Lafayette presented to Mrs. Henry Clay, a Masonic Apron worn by LaFayette given to Mrs. Henry Clay, a Masonic Apron given by LaFayette to Henry Clay in Washington, DC shortly before he returned to France and a program from the centennial celebration in 1925. These tangible links to the past added texture and authenticity to the occasion, drawing attendees deeper into the fabric of history.

The festivities closed with a delightful culinary tribute: a cake carefully crafted to resemble the one served during Lafayette’s original 1825 dinner. Guests had the opportunity to taste history for themselves, ending the evening with a sweet and meaningful flourish.

“This wasn’t just about nostalgia,” said Dale Henley, who helped lead the planning efforts and served as master of ceremonies for the evening. “It was about honoring Lafayette’s faith in our young nation and reminding ourselves that his vision for liberty and democracy still challenges us today.”

The bicentennial of Lafayette’s visit to Lexington was more than a local celebration—it was a masterclass in public history, a convergence of past and present, and a shining example of how historical remembrance, when done with care and heart, can inspire a new generation of patriots.

As the final echoes of speeches faded and the cake was shared among new friends, it was clear that Lafayette’s spirit had once again walked among the citizens of Lexington. Not as a ghost of glories past, but as a living reminder of the ideals that shaped our republic—and still call to us today.



The cake recreated from 1825

# Information

## Kentucky History Awards



On June 21<sup>st</sup>, the Kentucky Historical Society hosted the annual Kentucky History Awards.

Among this year's recipients were the Harrodsburg 250<sup>th</sup> Commission, earning the Public Programming Education Award.

For the past year, the City of Harrodsburg has been commemorating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding. Many of the events have featured or been sponsored by the Colonel James Harrod Chapter of the SAR.

Pictured at left are members of the Commission accepting the award, including Compatriot Chris Canine on the far right.

## INSIDE *The* ARMORY



Among the diverse array of weapons used during the American Revolution, the tomahawk held a unique place for its practicality, lethality, and symbolic value. Originally a Native American tool and weapon, the tomahawk was quickly adopted by colonial militias, frontier fighters, and even Continental soldiers due to its versatility in both combat and daily survival.

Typically weighing around one to two pounds with a metal or forged iron head, the tomahawk could be used for close-quarters fighting, thrown with deadly accuracy, or employed as a utilitarian tool for chopping, hammering, and camp work. Light, portable, and easy to maintain, it proved ideal for guerrilla-style warfare and wilderness engagements.

Many soldiers carried tomahawks alongside their muskets or rifles, especially in backwoods campaigns. Though less formal than bayonets or sabers, the tomahawk became a defining implement of the American frontier soldier—combining the practicality of a tool with the effectiveness of a weapon.

# Service to Veterans News

## Service to Veterans Committee



**Jim Stinnett**  
**Master Sergeant**  
**U.S. Army (Ret)**  
**Committee Chairman**

Service to veterans is a cornerstone of the Sons of the American Revolution, echoing the core values of honor, sacrifice, and patriotism. Every act of remembrance and gratitude strengthens the nation's fabric, ensuring that the lessons of history are neither forgotten nor taken for granted. This reminds me of a recent event, when asked if I would participate, the answer was an immediate yes. I, along with two other SAR Army Veterans had the opportunity to Present the Colors at Thomson Hood Veterans Center. Partnering with The Trabue Chapter of the NSDAR, we spent the afternoon honoring those in attendance.

We all need a reminder every now and then of our needed participation with the local VSO's. Many veterans express profound gratitude for the recognition and support, often noting that visible appreciation from organizations like the SAR helps to combat feelings of invisibility that can come with age, injury, or the passage of time. The simple act of remembering—whether through a handshake, a moment of silence, or a marked grave—resonates powerfully. As an organization, SAR members should seek out opportunities, large and small, to demonstrate our gratitude for the service of our veterans.

In closing, just a mid-year reminder of the USS Stark Memorial Award. I ask that Chapters don't wait until the last minute to start gathering this information, please start using the tracker now. If you need additional information, please contact me at [stinnettkypatriot@gmail.com](mailto:stinnettkypatriot@gmail.com).



# Service to Veterans News

## Service to Veterans Committee

### U.S. Army 250<sup>th</sup> Commemoration



Two hundred and fifty years. The mere mention evokes awe. A span of time that embodied both history and the living present. As many gathered to celebrate the 250th birthday of the Army, we didn't merely mark the passage of time. Instead, we saluted an institution whose enduring values and unwavering commitment have shaped the destiny of a nation, and the world, which has inspired generations. This milestone is not just an anniversary, it is a moment for reflection, gratitude, and proud commemoration.

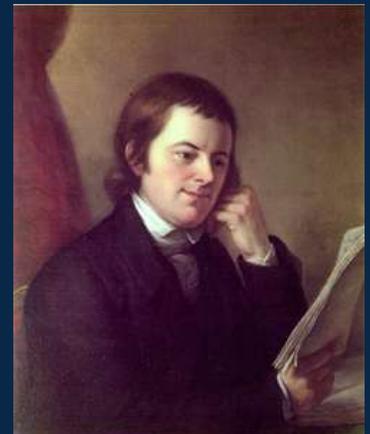
At the heart of this celebration are the millions of men and women who have donned the uniform. From the minutemen of the Revolution and the Buffalo Soldiers of the western frontier to the Tuskegee Airmen, the Women's Army Corps, and today's dedicated all-volunteer force, Army personnel have demonstrated courage in the face of adversity and compassion in the face of suffering.

We remember the fallen—those who gave their last full measure of devotion. Memorials in fields near and far, in cities and small towns, bear silent witness to the cost of freedom. Their sacrifice reminds us that the Army's story is written not only in history books but in the hearts of families and communities across the nation. We also pledge our continued unwavering support of those currently in the service of our country.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

**In its 250 years of existence, the United States Army has only been without a leader for one day!**

On June 14, 1775, the Second Continental Congress approved the raising of ten companies in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, thus creating the Continental Army. However, the assembly adjourned before any structure was given. The next day, June 15<sup>th</sup>, Thomas Johnson, an attorney and delegate from Maryland, moved that George Washington be named the General to command all continental forces. Washington was elected unanimously!



# National Society News

## SAR Merchandise

With summer comes short sleeved Hawaiian style shirts, like this one emblazoned with the official SAR logo! Be the hit at the neighborhood barbecue this year. Visit [store.sar.org](http://store.sar.org) to get yours!



What better way to protect your head from the sun's rays than with a stylish khaki SAR hat? Visit [store.sar.org](http://store.sar.org) to get yours!



### KEYHOLES TO HISTORY



SONS OF THE AMERICAN  
REVOLUTION

## Keyholes to History

Discover the untold stories of America's founding with Keyholes to History, the official podcast of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Each episode opens a window into the people, places, and pivotal moments that shaped the American Revolution and the early Republic. Hosted by historians and SAR members, the podcast blends expert insight with compelling storytelling to bring history to life. Whether you're a scholar, student, or patriot at heart, Keyholes to History offers a thoughtful, engaging journey into the nation's past. You can find Keyholes to History on the SAR website.

# State Society Activity

## Maker's Mark Ceremony



Marion County's rolling hills, best known for their role in Kentucky's bourbon tradition, were the setting for a different kind of remembrance recently—one that honored a long-forgotten Revolutionary War hero. On the grounds of Maker's Mark Distillery, members of the Kentucky Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, in partnership with the Ray family and local students from Marion County High School, gathered to pay tribute to Captain Nicholas Ray, Sr.

Captain Ray served in the Maryland Line during the American Revolution. After the war, Ray and two of his brothers migrated west, eventually settling in what is now Marion County. He died in 1819 and was buried near the town of Raywick, named for the family that helped establish it.

His grave, located in the Ray Family Cemetery, had been lost to time until its rediscovery in 2015. In the years since, SAR members have played a vital role in bringing Captain Ray's legacy back into public memory. Working alongside Maker's Mark and the Marion County High School History Club, they helped restore the cemetery and the stone wall enclosing the twelve historic graves.

The recent ceremony brought more than 100 attendees—including descendants, community leaders, and SAR compatriots—who gathered to recognize Ray's patriotic service. Kentucky SAR members conducted a formal tribute, complete with remarks honoring Ray's military contribution and a presentation of colors.

Captain Nicholas Ray is one of many Revolutionary War veterans who helped settle Kentucky in the years after independence. Thanks to the ceremonies such as this, their sacrifices are not forgotten. This event was more than a memorial—it was a reaffirmation that honoring the past strengthens the civic spirit of the present.

*"It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died.  
Rather we should thank God such men lived."*

— General George S. Patton

# C.A.R. Report



The Kentucky Society Children of the American Revolution held their 90th annual State Conference in Danville on Mar. 14-15, 2025. It was a packed weekend with business meetings, election, luncheon with a volunteer firefighter with the Willisburg Volunteer Fire Dept. as our speaker, tour of the McDowell House Museum, banquet, and swim party.

State President Lucas Brothers, Bloomfield, conducted the business of the society with assistance from Senior State President Carrie Bowman, Louisville. Kentucky C.A.R. was pleased to welcome KYSSAR State President Patrick Wesolosky on Saturday morning as he brought greetings. The state project has raised over \$4,000 to place benches at the Mordecai Lincoln House in Springfield.

During the 2025 National Convention in Arlington, Virginia, Taylor Watts of Maysville, was elected to the position of National Organizing Secretary. Hillary Bowman of Louisville, a member of Jack Jouett Society, was installed as the 2025-2026 State President.

The 2025-2026 State Project will be raising funds to help with arts therapy for our nation's military veterans. Members are now preparing to attend the Mid-Southern Region Meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia, then the Kentucky State Workshop will be July 26<sup>th</sup> at Fort Boonesborough. K.S.C.A.R. has a goal to reach 250 members by the end of 2026 while celebrating America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. SAR members are encouraged to place their family members in C.A.R.



If SAR chapters would like to get involved in a C.A.R. society close to them, please contact Dena Green by emailing [kentuckyar@yahoo.com](mailto:kentuckyar@yahoo.com) or call 606-301-1832. There is always a need for more senior involvement with our C.A.R. societies, so if any SAR member would like to help with programs or activities with the C.A.R., please let Carrie Bowman or Dena Green know.



# Revolutionary Kentuckians

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Though history most often remembers the name in association with our sixteenth president, the roots of that legacy trace to an earlier Abraham Lincoln—a Revolutionary War captain, pioneer settler, and patriarch whose life helped shape the rugged frontier. As the grandfather and namesake of President Abraham Lincoln, Captain Abraham Lincoln’s life embodied the spirit of the Revolution, the perils of westward expansion, and the foundational values of the emerging American nation.

Born in 1744 in what was then Berks County, Pennsylvania, Abraham Lincoln hailed from English Quaker ancestry. He later moved with his family to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, settling in Augusta County. It was in this frontier region that he matured into manhood and responded to the growing call for colonial resistance against British imperial rule.



Portrait of Captain Abraham Lincoln

During the American Revolution, Lincoln served in the Virginia militia. Though the details of his military service are somewhat fragmentary—typical of frontier records—he held the rank of captain, a position of local prominence that indicated both leadership and trustworthiness. He commanded a company in the Rockingham County militia, a unit responsible for defending the region against both British forces and Native American raids. His service was emblematic of the dual conflicts faced by western settlers: the struggle for independence from British tyranny and the constant defense of homesteads against native resistance, fueled in part by British alliances with Indian tribes.

After the war, like many veterans, Captain Lincoln looked westward for new opportunities. The land-rich but cash-poor new government offered bounty lands in Kentucky to compensate its soldiers, and Lincoln joined the flood of settlers crossing the Appalachians into the wilds of the trans-Appalachian frontier.



1886 engraving of the murder of Captain Lincoln by J.H.E. Whitney

Around 1781, he relocated to Jefferson County in what was then Virginia but would soon become Kentucky. The family settled about twenty miles east of Louisville. The territory was still contested by Native Americans living across the Ohio River. For protection the settlers lived near frontier forts, to which they retreated when the alarm was given. Lincoln settled near Hughes' Station on Floyd's Fork and began clearing land, planting corn, and building a cabin

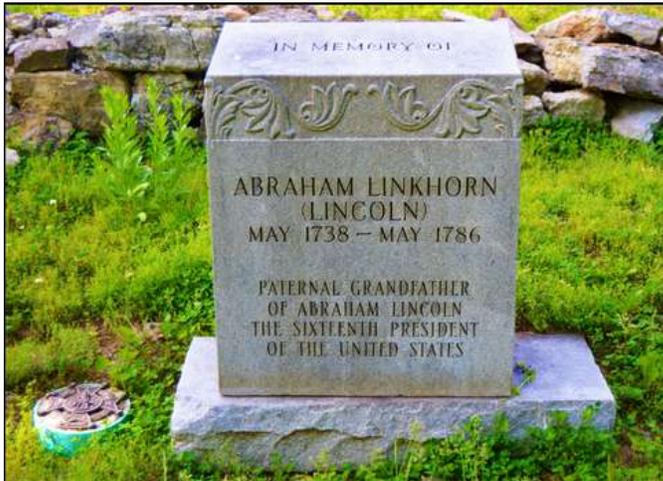
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# Revolutionary Kentuckians

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Captain Lincoln's final years were spent farming and raising a family in this challenging environment. He and his wife, Bathsheba Herring Lincoln, had five children, including Thomas Lincoln, the father of the future president.

Tragically, Captain Lincoln's life was cut short on the frontier. In May 1786, while working his fields with his sons Mordecai, Josiah, and Thomas, he was ambushed and killed by a Native American warrior. The attack unfolded swiftly: Abraham fell to a single musket shot. His eldest son Mordecai, recognizing the immediate danger, ran to the family cabin to retrieve a rifle, while young Josiah fled to summon help. As the attacker advanced on young Thomas, Mordecai took aim through a crack in the cabin wall and shot the warrior, saving his brother's life.



**Lincoln's final resting place in Long Run Cemetery**

This dramatic moment—witnessed and remembered vividly by young Thomas—would be recounted later by President Lincoln as one of the defining stories of his family's past. It conveyed the harsh realities of frontier life and the fragile balance between civilization and wilderness. It also reinforced a recurring Lincoln theme: the role of providence and human courage in moments of life-or-death consequence.

Captain Abraham Lincoln's grave is located in the Long Run Cemetery in Eastern Jefferson County. It is marked today by a stone monument, as well as a historical marker placed by The Filson Club. In 2010, the SAR held a patriot grave marking ceremony for Captain Lincoln.

It is worth noting that Abraham Lincoln's Revolutionary service and his subsequent death on the frontier were instrumental in forging the Lincoln family's place in early American society. As a veteran, he instilled a legacy of duty and sacrifice. As a pioneer, he exemplified the restless energy of the new republic. And as a casualty of the lingering violence that accompanied the westward movement, he became a symbol of the ongoing struggle to secure the frontier.

The influence of Captain Abraham Lincoln extended well beyond his own lifetime. His widow, Bathsheba, raised their children alone in the unforgiving Kentucky wilderness, instilling in them the resilience and practicality that would characterize future generations. Thomas Lincoln grew into a modest but principled man whose moral compass would shape the worldview of his son, the future president.

In remembering Captain Abraham Lincoln, we honor not only a Revolutionary War veteran but also a man whose life bridged the colonial and national periods. His service, sacrifice, and untimely death stand as reminders of the human cost of America's founding—and the enduring character of those who forged its frontier. Through his bloodline and his example, Captain Lincoln left an indelible mark on American history.

# Chapter News

## BIG SANDY



The America 250 Patriot Bench was delivered and installed on June 10<sup>th</sup> in the courtyard of the Pike County Courthouse, under the watchful eyes of Big Sandy SAR Chapter President **Edward Keeton**, Treasurer **Samuel Davidson Hatcher**, and Secretary **Roger Ratliff**. There will be a formal dedication ceremony on July 12<sup>th</sup>.

## BLUE LICKS



On June 21<sup>st</sup>, the Blue Licks and Lafayette chapters co-hosted a patriot grave marking ceremony for Private Francis Robinson in Harrison County. Pictured are members of the Robinson family along with **James Wolfe**, Vice-President of the Blue Licks Chapter.

## CAPTAIN CHARLES GATLIFF



This past April, Compatriots **Will Asher**, **David Etter** and **Charles Hayes** of the Captain Charles. Gatliff Chapter presented a Patriot Certificate to Congressman Hal Rogers, who has represented Kentucky's 5<sup>th</sup> District since 1981.

## CAPTAIN VIRGIL MCCRACKEN

Compatriots **Don Swearingen** and **Mike Byrd** of the Captain Virgil McCracken Chapter presented a program about the flags of the Revolutionary War at the Lone Oak Lions Club meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup>.



# Chapter News

## COLONEL BENJAMIN LOGAN



Compatriot **Joe Hendricks**, and his son, represented the Colonel Benjamin Logan Chapter at the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of Boonesborough.

## COLONEL DANIEL BOONE



On May 19<sup>th</sup>, the Colonel Daniel Boone sponsored a grave marking ceremony for Ensign William Stafford and his wife, Leah Westerfield Stafford.

The Staffords are buried at the Stafford Cemetery, located near the Eagle Station community in Carroll County.

## COLONEL JAMES HARROD

In advance of the Memorial Day weekend, members of the Colonel James Harrod Chapter placed 13 star American flags at the base of the SAR monument in Harrodsburg.



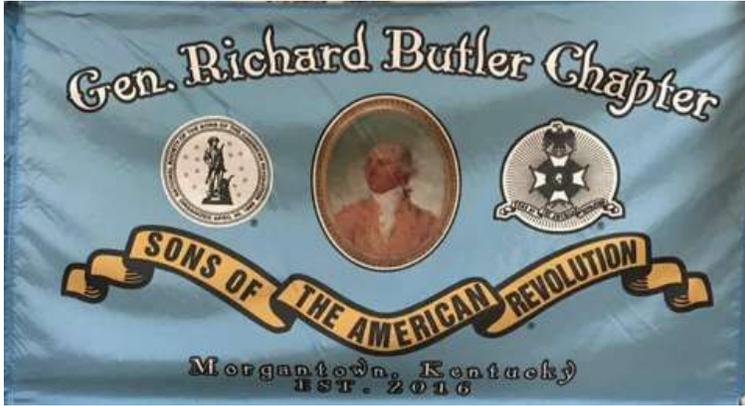
## COLONEL STEPHEN TRIGG



On April 20<sup>th</sup>, the Colonel Stephen Trigg Chapter sponsored the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Patriots Day Commemoration at the Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West. Pictured above is Chapter President **Geoff Baggett** speaking to the crowd that gathered.

# Chapter News

## GENERAL RICHARD BUTLER



The General Richard Butler Chapter held their monthly meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup> at the Kuntry Kitchen in Morgantown, Kentucky.

## GEORGE MASON



The annual Maysville DAR/SAR/C.A.R. Flag Day Picnic was held on June 10<sup>th</sup> at the Maysville-Mason County Recreation Park. Members of George Mason Chapter SAR worked with Limestone Chapter DAR to present a program on clothing and items used during the Revolutionary period.

## GOVERNOR ISAAC SHELBY

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, members of the Isaac Shelby and Louisville Thruston Chapters, along with DAR members, met at Tinseltown Cinema to watch a special screening of "The American Miracle - Our Nation is no Accident," a film based on Michael Medved's book of the same name.



## LAFAYETTE



On May 31<sup>st</sup>, the Lafayette Chapter had a ceremony dedicating the 250<sup>th</sup> Bench at McConnell Springs, the birthplace of Lexington. Pictured are Lexington Mayor Linda Gorton and Lafayette President **Steve Gahafer**.

# Chapter News

## LOUISVILLE THRUSTON



On June 14<sup>th</sup>, members of the Louisville Thruston Chapter assisted the Bowman Field Civil Air Patrol with a flag retirement ceremony at Resthaven Cemetery in Louisville.

## SIMON KENTON

During the month of June, the main branch of the Boone County Public Library hosted a special display presented by the Simon Kenton Chapter, featuring a collection of Revolutionary War and Colonial-era items. The display educated the public about the history and significance of the Revolutionary War, helping visitors connect with the past and gain a deeper appreciation for the founding of our nation.



## TRIVIA

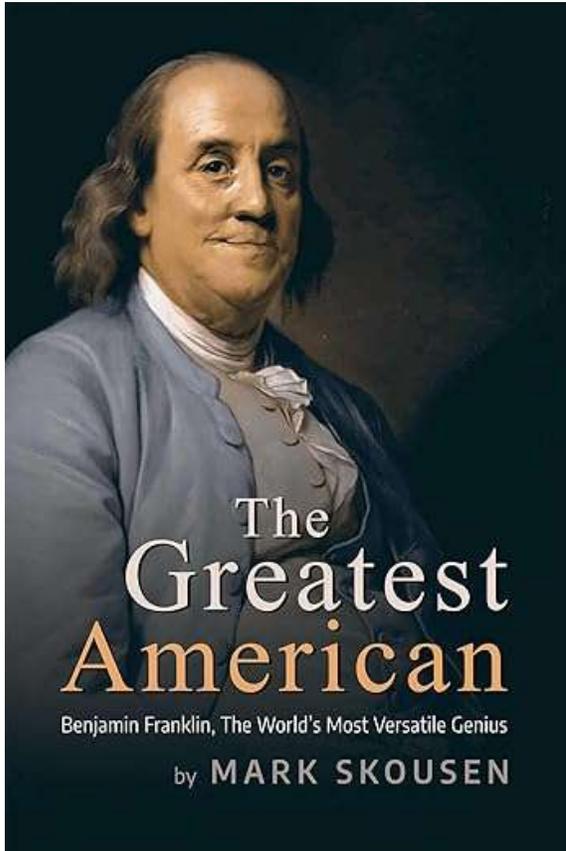
While most are taught the American Revolution ended with Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown, that's hardly the case. In fact, there were over 40 battles and skirmishes that happened after Yorktown.

The final one occurred over a year and a half later in Spanish territory.

On April 17, 1783, British partisans led by Captain James Colbert, alongside Chickasaw allies, launched a surprise attack on Fort Carlos III at Arkansas Post, a Spanish-held outpost on the lower Arkansas River. Colbert's force captured several settlers and attempted to overtake the fort. However, Spanish soldiers under Commandant Jacobo du Breuil, with assistance from Quapaw warriors, mounted a successful counterattack, defeating the invaders and freeing the captives.

The raid was a poorly timed, and embarrassing defeat for the British—occurring months after the preliminary peace treaty had been signed—and marked the end of Revolutionary War.

# Bookshelf



## THE GREATEST AMERICAN

*BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, THE WORLD'S MOST VERSATILE GENIUS*

by Mark Skousen (Republic Book Publishers), 320 pgs  
\$24.99 hardcover, \$19.99 ebook

Was Benjamin Franklin a genius or a charlatan? A loyal patriot or a shrewd opportunist? In *The Greatest American*, economist and Franklin descendant Dr. Mark Skousen paints a richly detailed and often surprising portrait of the man many consider the most remarkable of the Founding Fathers.

Skousen dives beyond the myth to uncover a Franklin who defied easy categorization. He was a pioneering free trader who believed prosperity came through commerce, and a financial realist who saw the strategic role of inflation in funding revolution. Once labeled a religious heretic, Franklin evolved into a theist during America's struggle for independence. Though he once tolerated slavery, he eventually became a passionate abolitionist. He despised political factions, never sought patents for his inventions, and believed strongly in private charity over government welfare.

Franklin's personal life was as complex as his public one—marked by unresolved tension with his estranged son William, deep friendships, and controversial relationships with women. Revered by George Washington and reviled by John Adams, Franklin managed to be both ahead of his time and deeply rooted in the challenges of his era.

*The Greatest American* reveals the multifaceted legacy of a man who shaped—and embodied—the American spirit.

### About the Author

Dr. Mark Andrew Skousen is a prominent American economist, investment analyst, and best-selling author. He earned his BA and MA in economics from Brigham Young University and a PhD from George Washington University. Skousen has served as an economic analyst for the CIA, a columnist for *Forbes* and *The Wall Street Journal*, and president of the Foundation for Economic Education. He currently holds the Doti-Spogli Chair in Free Enterprise at Chapman University and edits the influential *Forecasts & Strategies* newsletter. Author of more than 25 books, he's also the founder of FreedomFest, "the world's largest gathering of free minds."



# Blue Licks Anniversary

## Battle of Blue Licks Memorial Ceremony



The Gov. Isaac Shelby Chapter  
Kentucky Society

Sons of the American Revolution  
invites you to attend the Memorial Service for the  
***243<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Blue Licks***

**Saturday, 16 August, 2025 @ 10 a.m. EDT**  
**Blue Licks Battlefield State Park**  
**10299 Maysville Road, Carlisle, KY**  
*(Color Guard muster at 8:45 a.m.)*

Join us in this National Color Guard  
event by presenting a wreath, carrying  
your state flag or participating in the  
flintlock gun salute.

Contact Scott Giltner – [stgilt@earthlink.net](mailto:stgilt@earthlink.net) to register.

[https://gissar.org/pages/blue\\_licks.html](https://gissar.org/pages/blue_licks.html)



# Event Calendar

## **JULY 12**

250th Bench Dedication  
11:00 AM EDT  
Pike County Courthouse  
175 Main Street  
Pikeville, Kentucky

## **AUGUST 9**

250th Bench Dedication  
10:00 AM EDT  
Freeman Lake Park  
Freeman Lake Park Road  
Elizabethtown, Kentucky

## **AUGUST 15**

Night Before Blue Licks Dinner  
5:00 Social, 6:00 Dinner EDT  
Blue Licks Battlefield State Park  
10299 Maysville Road  
Carlisle, Kentucky

## **AUGUST 16**

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

## **AUGUST 16**

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

## **SEPTEMBER 10**

Tri-State Honor Flight  
9:00 PM EDT  
CVG Airport  
3087 Terminal Drive  
Hebron, Kentucky

## **SEPTEMBER 13**

Pomeroy Marker Dedication  
2:00 PM EDT  
Sharon Cemetery  
3200 Asbury Road  
Augusta, Kentucky

## **SEPTEMBER 20**

250<sup>th</sup> Bench Dedication  
10:00 AM EDT  
Freedom Park  
East Main Street  
Morehead, Kentucky

## **SEPTEMBER 20**

Fort Jefferson Memorial Service  
2:00 PM CDT  
Fort Jefferson Hill Park  
Hwy. 51/62  
Wickliffe, Kentucky



135th Annual Congress  
July 12-18, 2025  
Mohegan Sun Resort  
Uncasville, Connecticut



Mohegan Sun