



The Kentuckian

Journal of the First Families of Kentucky

Volume 3 No. 2

Fall 2009

Greetings from the Governor General

What an honor to be elected the Governor General of *The First Families of Kentucky*, a wonderful organization with our ancestors being the Founders of this great Commonwealth.

As Robert Morgan stated in his book *Boone*, "Heaven is a Kentucky of a place" and for those who forged their way through wilderness and over mountains, they realized that Kentucky was a "garden with no forbidden fruit."



Show your enthusiasm about our organization with those around you and our organization will grow. Thanks to our former Governors General, Dr. Ron Bryant and Dr. Jack Early, we have a firm foundation. I promise you I will do my best to build on their accomplishments to broaden our membership and carry our message to the community. With help from all of you, we shall succeed.

God keep you in His care,
Mary David Myles, Governor General

Visit our web site

www.firstfamiliesofkentucky.org and see or download *The Kentuckian* in color.

First Families of Kentucky

Luncheon

Saturday, the seventeenth of October

Two thousand and nine

Lexington Country Club

2550 Paris Pike

Lexington, Kentucky

Luncheon at twelve noon

\$25.00

Program by Byron Crawford

"Kentucky Footnotes"

(from his new book)

Table of Contents:

Governor General Message.....	1
Announcements.....	1
2009-2011 Officers.....	2
2009-2011 Executive Board Picture.....	2
Change in By-Laws.....	2
Pendennis Club Banquet.....	3, 4, 5
First Families Becomes Member of The National Gavel Society.....	6
Julius Christy.....	6
James Thompson.....	7
James Lemaster.....	8
Kentucky Statehouses.....	9

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Founded 30 April 2005

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The 2009-2011 officers of the First Families of Kentucky were inducted at the Pendennis Club on May 30, 2009. William Swinford, Chancellor General; Judith Rawlings, Secretary General; Ann Franklin, Registrar General; Shirley Settle, Chaplain General; Lynn Shea, Treasurer General; William Schrader, Historian General; and Mary David Myles, Governor General.

A Change in the By-Laws?

It has been brought to my attention that there is an interest in reviewing our by-laws and making some changes. A committee has been formed to review the by-laws and receive your suggestions. If you have a suggestion or if you approve the by-laws as written, please respond to the Governor General by October 17, 2009 or give them to me in writing at the Fall Meeting which will be held on October 17th at the Lexington Country Club.

Mary David Myles, Governor General
513 Plainview Ave.
Shelbyville, KY 40065

We extend our sympathy to the family of Cheryl Moore McClosky on her death June 11/12, 2009.

First Families of Kentucky Banquet



Leading the Honor Guard are David Sympson & William Swinford



The six flags that flew over Kentucky were displayed by David Sympson—American, William Swinford—Kentucky, J. Murel Wheatley—Spain, Francis Wortham—St. George, Earl Meyers—French, & Paul Smith—Kings Colors.



Ed and Mary David Myles



Jane & Ron Bryant



Henry & Charlene Head



Speaker Ron Elliott



Nancy & Jack J. Early



Hayden Fuller



Jamia & M.K. Jacobsen



Lynn Taylor Wesley, Ron, & Lynn Shea



Shirley & William Brinly



Ken & Barbara Bohn, and Jane & Bob Wagel



Evelyn Sympson & Jeanette Wortham



Dixon Barr, Susan Smith, Anne Swinford, Frances Barr, & Bette Buckaway



Doris J. Tabb & Giles Light



Janet Upton, Evelyn Sympson, & Shirley Settle



Anne & Bill Swinford



Alexander Probus & Ann Y. Franklin



Fay Charpentier Ford & Jerry Ford



Clarese & Hayden Fuller



Suzanne Allen & David Sympson



Shirley Settle & Laura Jones



Frieda & J. Murel Wheatley

First Families of Kentucky Becomes A Member Of The National Gavel Society

The National Gavel Club was organized April 13, 1962 in Washington, D. C. Later the name was changed to The National Gavel Society. The purpose is entirely for fellowship among those present and past titular heads of hereditary societies or orders in the United States of America.

The hereditary society or order shall have been in existence at least five years with a minimum of 50 members and nationwide in scope.

Ron D. Bryant, founder and now Honorary Governor General, admitted a member into the membership of the First Families of Kentucky in April 2004. We have 128 members representing 14 states.

Both Ron D. Bryant and Jack J. Early were extended invitations in The National Gavel Society. Dr. Jack J. Early was recognized as a new member at a luncheon on April 16, 2009 at the University Club in Washington, D. C.



Each Governor General of the First Families of Kentucky will be extended an invitation to become a member of The National Gavel Society. The Governor General must be recommended by a current member of The National Gavel Society in order to receive an invitation.

Dr. Jack Jones Early

Preserve your ancestor's Kentucky history by sending his/her story to the Kentuckian. Stories should be approximately 600 words or less. All stories will be edited for clarity and length. Please send old photos, maps, or illustrations along with your articles for the next newsletter to the Editor.

Julius Christy

Julius Christy, the son of Samuel Christy, is thought to have been born about 1730 near the mouth of York River in Gloucester County, Virginia. He was a twin. Because Julius' father passed away without leaving a Will, his older brother, Samuel, inherited all of their father's land, as well as his slaves, according to old English law. Shortly thereafter, however, Samuel's entire family, and all but one of his slaves died from smallpox. Julius, who had recently been apprenticed to a man named James Booker to learn the carpenter's trade, was away from home at the time and fortunately did not catch the fever. The one surviving black was subsequently inherited by Julius, and worked for him as a carpenter's assistant.

Sometime after this, Julius moved into that portion of Virginia where Orange and Culpeper Counties come together, and it was in Culpeper County that he married his wife, Agatha Barnett. Agatha, who was also a native of Virginia, was the daughter of John Barnett and Marran Gibbs. Agatha's ancestry, on her father's side, traces back to Bedfordshire, England through Richard Barnett and Anne Corderoy (also written Cordray), who immigrated into Virginia prior to 1650. They apparently settled in that portion of York County, Virginia that was later formed into Gloucester County, Virginia in 1651. On her mother's side, Agatha traces back to England through the immigrants, Gregory and Mary Gibbs, who originally settled in the 1660s in that portion of Lancaster County, Virginia that was formed into Middlesex County, Virginia in 1673. A few of the surnames associated with these families in England are: Goddard, Woolhouse, Muscote, Haselwood, Marmion, Baker, Seymour, Winchcombe, Kingsmill and Goring.

On August 15, 1754, Julius purchased 100-acres of land from a man named Charles Walker. This property, which was located along the Rapidan River, was situated in both Culpeper and Orange Counties. Julius later built a gristmill on this property, which he operated for nearly 20 years. The mill was subsequently destroyed by a spring flood, and even though Julius had the mill rebuilt, it was not long afterwards that he and Agatha sold the

property and moved with their children to western Virginia.

In ca. 1776/77, Julius and Agatha moved to that part of Botetourt County, Virginia that is now within the borders of Greenbriar County, West Virginia. They apparently stayed there for approximately nine years, during which time Julius served in the Revolutionary War. In the record of Land Entitlements for Greenbriar County dated 11 January 1780, Julius received title to 400-acres of land for having settled it prior to 1 January 1778. On 5 December 1780, Julius Christy was listed as being one of the Greenbriar residents who signed a petition to raise “twenty tunns of hemp off the tithable persons in this county for the purpose of making a market road from this place to Richmond.”

Several years later about 1785/86, Julius and his family moved further west into the (future) State of Kentucky, where they settled in Clark County. Julius died in 1808 in Clark County. His Will, which was written on 5 December 1805, was subsequently probated on 25 July 1808. Although Agatha also passed away in Kentucky, the date of her death has not been determined.

Julius and Agatha Barnett Christy had a daughter named Sarah. Sarah married E. William Davis and they had a daughter named Cynthia Ann. Cynthia married Seth W. Porter, MD and they had a son named Albert G. Porter, MD. Albert married Juletta Rachel Moore and they had a son named John Rush Porter, MD. John Rush married Lemintine Witt and they had a son, John Richard Porter, MD. John Richard married Ethel Johnson and they had a daughter, Susan Lear Porter Smith.

By: Susan Smith
Louisville, Ky.

James Thompson

James Thompson came into Kentucky County, Virginia in 1779 from the northern neck of Virginia, Fauquier and Loudon County area. He was familiar to the families of that area and his family married into them for the next three generations. He was appointed a deputy surveyor of Kentucky County by John May who was the county surveyor. When Kentucky County became the three counties of Lincoln, Jefferson and Fayette, he presented his

commission from The College of William and Mary, and being recommended by Col. William Preston, Surveyor General, he took the oath as head surveyor of Lincoln County, Virginia on November 1, 1780, entering into bond of 25,000 pounds with John and George May, his sureties. He actually became the surveyor on January 17, 1781, according to court records, and set up his land office at St. Asaph's or McAfee's. Collins' History of Kentucky states that the surveying job was very dangerous but was the best paying job in the territory. They were usually paid by part of the land that they surveyed from each warrant. He had 35 deputy surveyors working for him from 1780 until 1783, two of them being Daniel Boone and Green Clay. He was instrumental in surveying the early county lines surrounding Lincoln County and relocating the Virginia-Kentucky and Virginia-North Carolina state lines. I posted a list of the land warrants that James received and paid taxes on before 1797 on the Lincoln County genweb which totaled 38,863-acres awarded by Patrick Henry, Edmund Randolph, Benjamin Harrison and Isaac Shelby.

James Thompson was on the first list of inhabitants of Boonesborough Fort, a Justice on the court at Harrodstown when it was convened, a Justice of Madison County when it was formed from Lincoln and a Justice of Garrard when formed from Mercer, Madison and Lincoln Counties. He gave the land for the Sugar Creek meeting house when he was in Madison County near the Forks of Dix River, where he lived. He was also a State Representative from Garrard County in 1803 and a State Senator from 1804 through 1806. He was also awarded the Lincoln County surveyor job when Kentucky became a state in 1792.

He also served with the Kentucky County and Lincoln County militia, most of the time as the team horse wagon master. He is listed in the Illinois state archives as the wagon master for George Rogers Clark's Illinois troops under Col. Benjamin Logan; forty seven and a quarter days with Lieut. Samuel McAfee, July 6th until Aug. 20, 1780; payroll certified by John Bowman, for Kentucky County, commanded by George Rogers Clark; thirteen days with Capt. John Martin under Col. Benjamin Logan to remove salt and powder to Lincoln County from the Salt River at The Falls of Ohio, April and May, 1782; six

days with Capt. Samuel Kirkham Co. of Lincoln County as the wagon master under the command of Col. Benjamin Logan at Blue Licks, but arriving after the massacre, cleaned up the area and buried and removed the dead, August 19, 1782.

He married Ruthie Peyton, daughter of Capt. James Peyton and Susannah Threlkeld on April 10, 1784 in Nelson County. The children from this marriage were Andrew Peyton Thompson, who married Elizabeth (Betsy) Pepper from Mason County; Margaret, who married Enoch Burdett; Susannah, who married William Obannon; Mary, who died at one year; Mary (2), married Daniel Obannon; Elizabeth, married Granville Pollard; James Jr., died at ten months; Jemima, married Burdett Kemper, Minister at Forks church for over thirty years; Anne, married John Banks Pollard; and Thorton Kemper Thompson, married 1.Wilhemina Rout, 2.Lucretia Jeffries, 3.Susan Letcher, 4.Mary Berry and 5.Mary E. Thompson in Noxubee, Mississippi.

James Thompson is buried in The Forks of Dix Baptist Cemetery and I believe that his wife, Ruthie, is also buried there along with the Kempers and Burdetts.

My ancestry through this line is Harold William Rarden formerly of Gypsum, Ohio (Port Clinton) now of Fleming Co., Ky., to my mother, Ellen Thompson, daughter of Benjamin M. Thompson and Mary Martin, Woodford County, to Benjamin F. Thompson and Annie Davis, Mason Co., then Woodford, to Telephus Pepper Thompson and Elcinda Swope, Mason and Garrard Counties, to Andrew Peyton Thompson and Elizabeth Pepper, Mason and Garrard Counties, to James Thompson and Ruthie Peyton.

By: Harold W. Rarden
Flemingsburg, Ky.

James Lemaster/Lamaster

James Lemaster was born ca. 1763, probably in Charles County, Maryland. His Will is dated 1831 in Henry County, Kentucky. He married Mary Erwin, daughter of Will Erwin, on January 18, 1788 in Jefferson County, Virginia/Kentucky. This record is found at the Filson Club, Louisville, Kentucky.

James Lemaster is listed in the card index of

Revolutionary Soldiers in the National Archives. He served in the 8th and 12th Virginia Regiment – June 10, 1777 and December 1, 1779 as a Private in Fife and Drum, in Light Infantry at Valley Forge, Reg. C 541. A Bounty Warrant was issued to James for three years service in the Virginia Continental Line and signed by Capt. Swearingen on February 3, 1784. James Lemaster signed over the parcel of land to William Stark for debts due in Virginia. He is also listed in the DAR Patriot Index on page 40.

Abraham Lemaster, son of James and Mary, was born November 27, 1792, in Shelby County, Kentucky. He died December 20, 1842, in Henry County, Ky. He was a well-known farmer and trader. He married Letitia Tyler, daughter of Charles and Mary Tyler, on April 25, 1821 in Henry County. Letitia was born June 19, 1800 and died April 18, 1885. She is buried in the Masonic Cemetery at Campbellsburg, Kentucky. Abraham's grave has not been found.

Erwin Lemaster, son of Abraham and Letitia, was born July 27, 1822 in Henry County, Kentucky, and died January 27, 1852. He married Catherine Myles, daughter of John and Sarah Bird Myles. She is buried in the Pleasureville Cemetery, Henry Co., Ky. Catherine was divorced from Erwin Lemaster. The divorce was granted by the Kentucky Legislature, listed in *The Kentucky Acts*, February 29, 1848. By this decree she was given her maiden name back and her son John Lemaster would carry the name John Myles. Catherine later married Thomas Breckenridge.

John Lee Myles, son of Erwin and Catherine, was born at Cropper, Ky., in 1843 and died December 29, 1919 in Louisville, Kentucky. John married Fannie Dixon Robinson (Robertson), November 1, 1884 in Louisville, Ky. Fannie died October 12, 1906 (or 9). Both are buried in the Pleasureville Cemetery, in Henry County, Ky.

John Thomas Myles, son of John Lee and Fannie, was born August 17, 1895 at Cropper, Kentucky, and died June 20, 1978 in Shelbyville, Ky. He married Maggie Catherine Ebersbaker who was born January 14, 1900 in Henry Co., Kentucky, and died October 6, 1978 in Shelbyville. Both are buried in the Bagdad Cemetery at Bagdad, Kentucky. John Thomas served in World War I as a Fireman on the USS Mississippi.

Edmund Neal Myles, son of John Thomas and Maggie, was born August 16, 1923 in Louisville, Ky. He married Mary David Gray, daughter of David Clarence Gray, Jr. and Inez Ethel Bewley, born October 19, 1928 in Meade County, Ky. She carries a double name as she was named after her Gray grandparents. They were married on Friday, January 13, 1950 in Louisville, Ky. Edmund served as Waist Gunner on the B24 called "Plate's Date" in WW II. He flew 31 missions with two missions over the Channel on D Day, June 6, 1944.

They have two sons, Judge John David Myles, 53rd Circuit Family Court; and City Attorney for Lawrenceburg, Kentucky, Robert Warren Myles.

By: Edmund N. Myles
Shelbyville, Ky.

Kentucky Statehouses

On June 4, 1792 the streets of Lexington, the first Capitol of Kentucky, were lined with spectators from far and wide to witness the inauguration of the first governor of Kentucky, Isaac Shelby. Shelby, arriving in Lexington from his home in Lincoln County, alighted from his horse to the sound of drum beats, rifle and cannon fire, amid the loud cheers from the crowd. On June 6, Gov. Shelby appeared at the Senate Chamber ready to conduct business in the gloomy, two-story log statehouse, located at the corner of Main and Broadway Streets. On December 22, 1792 when the second session of the first Kentucky Legislature adjourned, it was known that Frankfort had been selected to be the permanent capitol site.

Lying in a picturesque valley in the curve of the Kentucky River, Frankfort was chosen the capitol of Kentucky by an Act of the General Assembly on December 8, 1792. The site for a capitol building was bounded by Market, Clinton, Madison, and Lewis Streets. Construction was begun on Kentucky's first permanent statehouse in 1793. As the capitol building was not completed in time, the second legislature met in a two-story double log house built by Gen. James Wilkinson located on the corner of Wapping and Wilkinson Streets on the banks of the Kentucky River in Frankfort. The new capitol building, a 100 foot square, three-story, rough limestone block building with a hipped roof

and a central cupola was occupied by the legislature November 3, 1794. But on November 25, 1813, fire destroyed the Statehouse.

The second Statehouse was began on the same site on January 31, 1814 and completed in 1816. The main stipulation for the new building was that it be fireproof. The new capitol building, 100 feet long and 65 feet wide, was a two story brick with a half story attic. A bell forged in Philadelphia was housed in the cupola.

Fire struck again on November 4, 1824. The fire was headlined a "Public Calamity" in *The Argus of Western America*. Around daylight on Thursday morning the doorkeepers, of the two branches of the legislature, entered the building and made fires in the fireplaces of the two Chambers. Shortly after sunrise smoke was seen arising from the cupola. At the cry of "fire" many people rushed to the scene only to see the cupola now ablaze. In a short time the entire roof was on fire and it was determined that the fire was too advanced to save the building. Most of the furniture and books in the two Legislative Halls were lost. In the space of two hours the Capitol was destroyed leaving only the bare walls and rubble. All of the papers of former sessions, 300 sets of Digest of the Statutes Laws, Decisions of the Court of Appeals, and Little's Reports, a total of approximately 3,000 volumes were consumed along with 1,000 stand of arms stored on the lower floor. There was diversity of opinion on how the fire started.

On January 12, 1827 the legislature approved a bill to build the third Capitol on the same site. Lexington architect Gideon Shryock's plans for a Greek Revival style building was chosen. The building completed in 1830 cost \$85,000. The 70 by 120 foot native "Kentucky Marble" building was considered to be the most elaborate capitol building in the country at the time. The crowning achievement of Shryock's design was the graceful double spiral stone stairway held together by a keystone in the upper landing. The building had become overcrowded by the late 1860s. Construction was started on an east wing in 1869 and completed in 1871. The cost was much more than expected and the west wing was never built.

On February 22, 1929 the east wing of the Statehouse, the State Executive building, was

damaged by fire, but the old landmark Statehouse building, rated one of the best specimens of classical Corinthian architecture, escaped damage. By February of 1930 the subject of arson was raised along with the whereabouts of the watchman. In July of 1930 a contract was awarded for the repair of the east wing.

The Old Statehouse was used from 1830 to 1910. A new Capitol building was constructed across the river in South Frankfort.

Editor Frieda Curtis-Wheatley

Sources: Capital On The Kentucky by C.E. Kramer; History of Ky. by E. Kinkead; Courier Journal 1926, 1929, 1930; Kentucky Encyclopedia.



The “new” Kentucky Capitol was dedicated in 1910

First Families of Kentucky

Editor Frieda Curtis-Wheatley

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