



The Kentuckian

Journal of the First Families of Kentucky

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Fall 2017



Greetings from the Governor General

I would first like to thank William C. Schrader for his direction and guidance in preparing me to be your next Governor General. I would also like to thank you, the members of the First Families of Kentucky, for your trust and support in electing me. Perhaps you would like to know more about me personally. I retired from the Jefferson County Public Schools as an administrator in 2014 and found out that retirement was not what I thought it would be. I went back to work for the Louisville Free Public



Library as its Education Manager and continue to serve in that capacity. My wife, Martha Jean Egner Dietz, and I have four sons and five grandchildren. We have both lived in Louisville most of our

lives, except for the years away at college. Throughout our lives we have been active in our community as well as our church.

I am a descendant of Joseph Hutchison of Loudon County, Virginia who bought property in the County of Bourbon and District of Kentucky on March 6, 1787. I became a charter member of the First Families of Kentucky in October of 2006. Joseph Hutchison and his wife, Hannah Hall, then migrated to Breckinridge County, Kentucky and remained

First Families of Kentucky

Luncheon

Saturday, the 14th of October
Two thousand and seventeen

Lexington Country Club
2550 Paris Pike
Lexington, Kentucky

Social hour eleven o' clock

Luncheon at twelve noon

\$30.00 per person

Speaker: Kent Whitworth
Kentucky Historical Society
Executive Director
"Kentucky 225"

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Founded 30 April 2005

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William A. Buckaway, Jr.
Lynn Turner Shea
William C. Schrader, III

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there until their deaths.

Please allow me the opportunity to introduce the newly
elected 2017-2019 Officers:

Deputy Governor General...Stephen L. Collins
Treasurer General...Robert Wallace Hughes
Recording Secretary General...Nancy Hubbard Lutz
Corresponding Secretary General...Donna C. Beverly Hughes
Registrar General...Sharon K. M. Withers
Historian General...Elizabeth Reynolds Kuster
Chancellor General...Charles William Swinford, Jr.
Chaplain General...Jane Kay Kuster Thomas

My special thanks to Frieda and James Murel Wheatley for the tremendous job they do in compiling, editing, and producing our newsletter. They have been doing this great and much needed service for the First Families of Kentucky since 2008. Hats off to them for a job well done!!

Please mark your calendars for our Fall Luncheon on October 14, 2017 at the Lexington Country Club. Our speaker will be Kent Whitworth, Kentucky Historical Society, and his topic will be "Kentucky 225". A more detailed and formal invitation will be sent prior to the luncheon. Please plan to attend to enjoy lunch, the presentation, and friendly conversation.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve you. Let's all strive to continue to build this organization and to honor our First Kentucky Ancestors.

Sincerely,
Governor General, Arthur Dietz, Jr.

We will meet at the Lexington Country Club at
11-11:30 for Registration and Social followed by a
Business Meeting at 11:30.

Our Menu will be:
Kentucky Hot Brown
Rolls/Muffins/Cornbread
Peppermint Ice Cream/Hot Fudge
Cake
Tea/Coffee/Fountain Soft Drinks

First Families of Kentucky Banquet



Betsy Kuster



Speaker Donna Jones



Stephen L. Collins, Lynn T. Shea



Betsy & Ted Kuster



Sharon & Dennis Withers



Donna & Bob Hughes



Jean & Art Dietz



Dietz family: Maggie, Teresa, Amy, Artie, Arthur, Jean, Art



Jack Early



Sharon Withers, Donna Hughes



Jeanette Wortham



Donna Jones, William Schrader III



Vicki and Tim Edwards at the piano



David Simpson



Ed & Kay Thomas



Kathy Hall



Jane & Robert Wagel



Jerry & Faye Ford



Sharlene Cooper



Bob Hughes, William C. Schrader III



William Schrader III, Art Dietz



John & Myrna Parsley, Jeff Benedict, Betty Miesner



Nancy Demarcus, Ann Pennington



Charles & Carol Grissett



First Families of Kentucky Banquet June 3, 2017



Deborah Campisano



Lynn & Gary Tanner



Emily Durrett



Terry Pyles accepts \$500.00 donation
for Farmington



A toast: Giles Light, D.J. Tabb, Lynn Shea, Pianist Tim Edwards

Kentucky

It's hard to believe our beloved Commonwealth turns 225 this year. While Kentuckians all over the world have strong ties to home, we must remember at one point we held strong ties to Virginia. While researching, one question that kept coming to mind was, "Why did Kentucky choose to strive for statehood rather than just staying part of Virginia?" The answer was quite simple—geography. Kentucky was so far away from the Virginia capital that notice of any new or changes to laws weren't known for long periods of time and any requests for help either fell on deaf ears or help arrived too late.

Kentucky Settlement and Statehood 1750-1800 by George Chinn tells a story of Kentucky leaders meeting after the general court adjourned due to Kentucky being "on the verge of being invaded and the district had no authority to prevent it." Col. Benjamin Logan suggested Kentucky strike first, but no one had the authority to make the order. After much discussion, it was decided "Kentucky should be erected into a separate and independent State and become a member of the American Union, with its own independent local government" (Chinn, pg 434). Thus began Kentucky's first steps toward statehood.

May 1785 saw delegates assembled in Danville to consider the steps for a legal state constitution. Judge Samuel McDowell was elected president and Thomas Todd as clerk. One would think this very serious meeting would capture everyone's attention. Looking at the cover of the *Journal of the Convention*, doodles can be seen. My first thought was, "Who in the world would doodle on the journal?" According to librarians at the Kentucky Historical Society, those doodles were made by someone attending the convention.

Separation from Virginia was not easy. Claims and considerations in the documentation to

Congress relied on timely decisions from the federal government and that did not always occur. One example is the Virginia Act of Separation required five delegates from the seven counties - Bourbon, Fayette, Jefferson, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer and Nelson. Kentucky did that, but the Act also said statehood had to be granted by July 4, 1788. Temple Bodley suggested the "delays were intentionally caused by the northern states, who were loath to admit another southern state into the union to destroy their majority vote in Congress" (Chinn, pg 454). Congress finally voted for Kentucky statehood on February 4, 1791 with an admission date of June 1, 1792.

Two hundred and twenty-five years later, Kentucky's place in history is unmatched. From Duncan Hines to Belle Brezing to Garrett Morgan (this African-American patented the 3-way traffic signal). From Don Rosa to Helen Thomas to Rosemary Clooney to George Clooney to Brian Littrell to Husband Kimmel. Kentucky proudly claims these native sons and daughters.

If you are looking for ways to celebrate Kentucky's birthday, check out the "Kentucky at 225" booklet from the Kentucky Historical Society. Did you know there is a mobile app for the historical markers on the side of the road? I didn't. If you are in Frankfort, check out the People of Kentucky Exhibit being held at KHS until October 14.

Whether you choose to sing Kentucky songs like, "My Old Kentucky Home" or "Happy Birthday", 225 never looked so good!

Anissa Penn Davis



Batts/Batte

Dr. Jack J. Early and William A. Buckaway, Jr. Esq. share a common ancestor, Thomas Batts (Batte). Thomas Batte, in Virginia in 1667, entered Kentucky in September of 1671. Thomas was the son of John Batte and grandson of Robert Batte, fellow and Vicar-master of University College, Oxford, England.

Thomas Batte, Robert Fallows, and Thomas Wood received a commission from Major General Abraham Wood for "finding out the ebbing and flowing of the waters on the other side of the Blue Ridge Mountains," which included what is now called Kentucky.

Dr. Lewis Preston Summers, in his book *Annals of Southwest Virginia*, provides the diary that was kept by these explorers. On September 2, 1671, the party traveled about forty miles and "came to their quarters at sundown and found that they were North of the Western lands."

Again, on September 3, the party traveled over forty miles and were able to wade a river that emptied into the Roanoke River.

It was necessary to leave Thomas Wood because he was quite ill. In the meantime, General Abraham Wood had sent seven "Apomastack Indians" from Fort Henry to join them. For the next several days, Thomas Batte and Robert Fallows traveled between thirty and forty miles per day.

September 17 was an eventful day. The men found four trees "exceedingly fit for the purpose of marking." The first proclaimed the King in these words, "long live Charles, the Second, by grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, Ireland, and Virginia, and of all the Territories thereunto belonging: Defender of the faith, etc. The next was for the Governor, Sir William Berkley; the third was for Major General Abraham Wood; and the fourth was for Perceute, their Indian guide who said he would learn English.

On October 1, Thomas Batte, Robert Fallows, and the party arrived at Fort Henry, Virginia, and God was praised for their preservation.

Jack Early

Hanks/Lee

The parentage of Abraham Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks, was resolved in 2015 through DNA evidence. Nancy Hanks was the daughter of Lucy Hanks and the granddaughter of Joseph and Ann "Nanny" Lee Hanks (the sister of Peter Lee, Abraham Lincoln's great uncle); and she was the great-granddaughter of William Lee (born 1704) of North Farnham Parish, Richmond County, Virginia. This pedigree is confirmed by Abraham Lincoln himself in autobiographical notes and by other documentary evidence. Nancy Hanks and her sister were the illegitimate daughters of Lucy Hanks (who later married Henry Sparrow) and an unidentified Virginia gentleman, according to Lincoln.

In 2011, an article in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* presented Y-DNA evidence for three lines of descent from William Lee through his sons William and Charles; and it eliminated the possibility of descent from Col. Richard Lee, the ancestor of Robert E. Lee. The DNA proof lays to rest the old story that connects the Union president and the Confederate general, and it confirms that Lincoln himself descended from another of the first families of Kentucky.

(This is an addendum to the article "Lee-Yates-Stewart," in The Kentuckian 2016 issue 2. Sources are the on-line journal's FamousKin.com and Colonial Roots.com)

Joseph R. Jones

Have you checked out the First Families of Kentucky merchandise on the **Members Only** page of our web-site?

Kent Whitworth



Kent Whitworth returned to his home state as executive director of the Kentucky Historical Society in 2004. He works closely with KHS Boards, staff colleagues, and other partners to make history relevant by making collections accessible, by helping Kentucky students develop critical skills, and by engaging Kentuckians around contemporary issues. Whitworth previously served as the director of the East Tennessee Historical Society where they raised \$19 million and more than doubled the size of the East Tennessee History Center. He earned a B.A. in History (1984) from Asbury University and a M.A. in History with an emphasis in Historic Preservation (1989) from Middle Tennessee State University. In 1990 he participated in the Seminar for Historical Administration, a three-week history leadership development program, and now he serves on the SHA faculty. He is a proud member of the 2007 Leadership Kentucky class. Whitworth has served on the American Association for State and Local History Council and serves on the Board of the Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation, which operates the Mary Todd Lincoln House, and is an Aviation Museum of Kentucky Board member. He also is a founding member of the "History Relevance Campaign" steering committee. The History Relevance Campaign is a national effort intended to demonstrate the value and impact of history.

Please check your information in the First Families of Kentucky Membership book. If any corrections contact Donna Hughes
at dcbh2@twc.com or 859-263-1514.

Farmington

Farmington receives a \$500.00 donation from
The First Families of Kentucky.

The house was built in 1816 for John and Lucy Gilmer (Fry) Speed on a five-hundred-acre hemp plantation. The 14-room, brick, Federal-style house contained a secret stairway to escape Indian attacks. Both John and Lucy had come across the *Wilderness Road* from Virginia at the age of ten with their families. John Speed, a 36-year-old widower with two daughters, married 20-year-old Lucy in 1808. Mr. Speed was a successful hemp planter. The plantation, called Farmington, also had livestock, apple orchards, a dairy, corn, wheat, and tobacco. John and Lucy Speed had eleven children from his two marriages, five sons and six daughters.

Farmington welcomed many guests. In 1819 Anton P. Heinrich composed much of *The Dawning of Music in Kentucky* while a house guest at Farmington. Abraham Lincoln also spent time at Farmington as the guest of the Speed family

In 1959, Farmington Historic Home opened for tours in Louisville, Kentucky. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

(information from The Encyclopedia of Louisville & other)

The First Families of Kentucky will present their fall donation to The Society of Boonesborough at the Lexington luncheon.

Please share 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. Copyright material must be accompanied by a signed release from publisher and author. Mail to the Editor at 600 Hatherleigh Lane, Louisville, KY 40222.



United We Stand Divided We Fall

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