



The Kentuckian

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Greetings and Happy Spring from the Governor General

Since my last correspondence with you we met at the Lexington Country Club for lunch and a program presented by Kent Whitworth, Executive Director of the Kentucky Historical



Society. He talked about a number of activities and programs being held to celebrate "Kentucky 225". We were also honored and pleased to accept logs from The Boonesborough

Society that will be used to make a gavel for the organization. They were presented by Mr. and Mrs. Dean Whitaker. Thanks to our Corresponding Secretary, Donna Hughes, for contacting Dean and Vicki Whitaker and securing the logs for this purpose.

I would like to urge the membership to please send in articles regarding their Kentucky ancestry. These articles make up a good portion of our Newsletter and are most interesting to our readers. Submission of these articles can be sent to Frieda Wheatley at this email address jmurelwheatley@yahoo.com.

Our next Annual Banquet will be held in

First Families of Kentucky

Annual Banquet

Saturday the ninth of June
Two thousand and eighteen

Pendennis Club

218 West Muhammad Ali Boulevard
Louisville, Kentucky

Social hour at Five o'clock

Dinner at Six o'clock

\$75.00 per person

White tie preferred

Black tie acceptable

Speaker: Randell Jones

"Daniel Boone Before and After Ky:
a wife, a daughter, a granddaughter"

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firstfamiliesofkentucky.com

Louisville at the Pendennis Club on Saturday, June 9, 2018. More details regarding time and guest speaker will be forthcoming. You will not want to miss the June Banquet as we have engaged Randell Jones, a most interesting and knowledgeable authority on the Boone Family. Please enjoy your spring and I am looking forward to seeing you in June.

Kindest Regards,
Art

Randell Jones

The award-winning author and story teller, Randell Jones, is the author of "*In the Footsteps of Daniel Boone*," as well as other books of the pioneer era and the American Revolution. His works have received two Kentucky History Awards from the Kentucky Historical Society and in 2013, the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, conferred on him their national History Award Medal.



In May of 2019 we will celebrate the 250th anniversary of Daniel Boone's first expedition into Kentucky through the Cumberland Gap. This portal through the barrier mountains became America's first gateway to the West.

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.

Keep up to date by checking out our Members Only page.
Please keep addresses and e-mail current. For changes
contact Donna Hughes at
dcbh2@twc.com or 859-263-1514

Lexington Country Club Luncheon



Frieda Curtis-Wheatley



Governor General Art Dietz



Speaker Kent Whitworth



J. Murel Wheatley, Lynn Shea, Will Schrader



Ted Kuster, Ed & Kay Thomas, Gordon & Carolyn Krist



Reed Butler, Dorothy Butler



Georgia Clemons, Jack Early, June Farris



Chaplain Kay Thomas



Dean Whitaker displays log from fort



Lynn Shea



Steve Collins, Jane Bryant



Betty Tuttle, Alex Leseuer, Jr., Alex Sr., & Joan Leseuer



Lucy Jacobs, Marion Jacobs



Paul Walker, Nancy Walker



Kent Whitworth



Jessie Anne Wells, Julia Slayton



Nancy DeMarcus



Sarah Hamilton, & Carroll
VanHook-Weaver



Rogers Barde, & Margaret
Shropshire



Ann Pennington



Vicki Whitaker, Dean Whitaker, Donna Hughes
presenting donation to The Society of Boonesborough



First Families of Kentucky meet at the
Lexington Country Club October 14, 2017



Kent Whitworth, Kentucky Historical Society,
& Art Dietz



Art Dietz, Vicki Whitaker, Dean Whitaker
wearing KY 1792 hats



Foster Ockerman, Anissa Davis



Louise Lewis, Jane Wagel, Aaron Wagel, Ogden Lewis,
Jackie Lewis, Bob Wagel



Ann Franklin



D. J. Tabb, Giles Light



Roger Bain

The Midnight Ride of Capt. John "Jack" Jouett

Long neglected by history, and not having a poet like Longfellow to memorialize him, the American hero Jack Jouett's remarkable 40-mile ride to warn, and save, Thomas Jefferson, and the Virginia legislators from capture by the infamous British General Cornwallis' troops, is generally credited with changing the outcome of the Revolutionary War.

The 27-year-old Captain Jack Jouett was an imposing figure. He stood 6'4" tall, weighed 220 pounds, and was described by contemporaries as broad shouldered, muscular and handsome. On the evening of June 3, 1781 he is widely reported to have been asleep on the lawn in front of the Cuckoo Tavern near the courthouse in Louisa County, Virginia. However, Thomas Jefferson's personal records say he was at his father's house near the tavern. At any rate, he was awakened by the sound of approaching cavalry and spotted the "white coats" of the British cavalry led by Cornwallis' "Hunting Leopard", Colonel Banastre Tarleton, also known as "The Butcher", where they had paused to rest their horses.

Jouett quickly and correctly suspected that the cavalry was on the march to Charlottesville to capture Virginia's government leaders. He also knew that the legislature was completely undefended, as very little fighting had taken place on Virginia soil from 1776 until 1780, and the Virginia troops under the Marquis de Lafayette were deployed elsewhere and too far away to help. He quickly mounted his horse, "Sally" at about 10 o'clock, and started the frantic and hazardous 40-mile ride to Charlottesville, a small town near Jefferson's home, Montecello. With Tarleton on the road, Jouett had to take backroad trails through a heavy tangle of scrub trees, matted undergrowth, overhanging vines and gullies, with only pale moonlight to guide him. His face was cruelly lashed by tree limbs, and the scars are said to

have remained the rest of his life.

After fording the Rivanna River near the town of Milton, at about 4:30 in the morning, he started up the mountain on which Monticello sits. He awoke Jefferson and several guests, Virginia legislators, and gave them the news. After a quick glass of Madeira wine, he left for the final two-mile ride to Charlottesville to warn the remaining legislators, who were staying at The Swan Tavern, owned by Jouett's father. They quickly decided to flee and reconvene in Staunton, 35-miles away. Jouett's warning allowed most of them to escape, and only seven of them were captured. The outcome of the Revolution would have been very different if Tarleton's 250-men had captured Thomas Jefferson and the Virginia legislators. Jouett is a true American hero whose story has slipped between the cracks of history.

Recognizing its debt to Jack Jouett, the legislature passed a resolution on June 15 to honor him. They resolved to give him a pair of pistols and a sword in gratitude. He received the brace of silver mounted pistols in 1783, but it took 20-years to get the promised jeweled sword.

In the Spring of 1782 he moved to what would become Mercer County, Kentucky, on a military land grant, and later moved to Woodford County.

There is an amusing family story, passed down through the family to today. On his way to Kentucky, Jouett heard a woman's screams coming from a house. He burst into the house and found a wife being abused by her husband. He attempted to help by knocking down the husband, but the wife did not appreciate his involvement and struck him over the head with a pot. The pot's bottom gave out, and the pot became stuck around Jouett's neck. He fled the scene and traveled 35-miles before he found a blacksmith to remove the pot.

While in Mercer County, Jack Jouett married his girlfriend from Virginia, Miss Sally Robards.

Together, they reared 12 children, one of whom was the very famous and talented portrait painter, Matthew Harris Jouett, born in 1788. Of his famous son, Jack Jouett commented, "I sent Matthew to college to make a gentleman of him, and he has turned out to be nothing but a damned sign painter". This respected artist painted portraits of the Marquis de Lafayette, Thomas Jefferson, and



many prominent early Kentucky residents. However, his famous father never allowed his son to paint his portrait—supposedly because of his terribly scarred face from that harrowing ride through the wilderness. The silhouette shown here, done by

Matthew Harris Jouett, is the only known likeness of him.

Jack Jouett's home, near Versailles, Woodford County, Kentucky, is on the Kentucky Register and is open to the public. It consists of a frontier stone cabin, where the family lived while building the Federal style brick house, that was finished in 1797. The stone cabin then became the kitchen. The lovely home features a formal parlor, a dining room and three bedrooms, and contains period furnishings. It was considered a mansion in that early period of Kentucky history.



The Jack Jouett House Historic Site
Craig's Creek Road, Versailles, Kentucky

Jack Jouett was very much involved in gaining statehood for Kentucky, and later imported fine horses and cattle from England, and is said to have established the livestock industry in Kentucky. He was a state legislator from Mercer County, and later from Woodford County. He died on March 1, 1822 at the home of a daughter in Bath County, Kentucky, and is buried on her family farm, "Peeled Oak".

Lynn T. Shea

References: The Jack Jouett House Historic Site; Wikipedia, Biography, Capt. John "Jack" Jouett (1754-1822); County of Louisa, VA: Historic Green Springs; Forgotten American History; Jack Jouett, Paul Revere of the South; Thomas Jefferson's Monticello/Research and Collections/Jack Jouett's Ride; American Revolution.org

Boonesborough

The First Families of Kentucky presented their fall donation of \$750.00 to The Society of Boonesborough at the 2017 Lexington luncheon.

"The Society of Boonesborough was founded in May 1975, by H. Thomas Tudor and James J. Shannon, Jr. The organizational meeting of the Society was held July 26, 1975 at Boonesborough, near the site of the original fort. The Society of Boonesborough was created as a tribute to the brave pioneers who struggled through the wilderness from Virginia and North Carolina and formed the first fortified settlement in what was at that time part of Virginia, but which later became Kentucky". In 1981 the Society erected the Pioneer Ancestor Monument in front of the reconstructed fort. It lists the names of the early Fort Boonesborough settlers.

Boonesborough is one of the most celebrated sites in Kentucky's pioneer history. It was established in the spring of 1775 on the Kentucky River in (now) Madison County, Kentucky.

Ballard

Bland Ballard I, was born ca. 1700. He married Mary Deering, the daughter of Robert. Bland Ballard I, died February 28, 1791, at the age of 91 years. In his Spotsylvania County will he names children Thomas, John, Benjamin, Ann Haydon, and Betsy Tennant.

Bland Ballard II, the third child and oldest son was not named in the will of his father because he had been killed in Kentucky on March 31, 1788 by Delaware Indians near Tyler's Station, located on the south side of Tick Creek, in Shelby County, Kentucky. Also killed by the Indians were Ballard's second wife, two sons, John and Benjamin and one daughter, Elizabeth. His daughter, Thersia, two-years of age, was tomahawked but lived. Her brother, Bland III, stitched up the wounds. Bland Ballard II, and son Bland III, moved to Kentucky in 1779/80 along with James Ballard and Proctor Ballard. All four of the men had served in the Revolutionary War. (James Ballard, born ca. 1766, states in his Rev. War Pension Record that his father, Bland Ballard II, landed at the Falls of the Ohio in May of 1780.)

Bland Ballard III, was born October 16, 1761 in Spotsylvania County, Virginia to Bland II, and his first wife. Bland III, was six foot tall and served in the Revolutionary War for three years. He also served in the War of 1812 where he was wounded and taken prisoner. Bland III, states that his brother, James was in Louisville (Ky.) as a soldier under command of General George Rogers Clark. At the time of the "Long Run Massacre", Bland was living at Lynn's Station on Beargrass Creek. Bland III, married 1. Elizabeth Williamson, 2. Diane Matthews, 3. Elizabeth Weaver Garrett on November 1, 1841 in Shelby County. Bland Ballard III, died September 5, 1853, age 92, at his home four-miles west of Shelbyville and is buried in the Frankfort, Kentucky Cemetery. He and his first wife had seven children.

Kentucky County

In 1780 the legislature of Virginia divided Kentucky County into three counties, Jefferson, Fayette, and Lincoln Counties.

The residents near the Falls of the Ohio had petitioned the legislature for a separate county stating they lived too far from the Courthouse located at Harrodsburg. Jefferson County, named for Thomas Jefferson, Governor of Virginia, contained more than 7,800 square miles. The Ohio River was 981 miles long with 665 miles bordering the (now) state of Kentucky. The rivers, streams, hills, and licks remained unchartered until John Filson's map of 1784. The settlers had moved from Corn Island to the mainland in 1778 and built a stockade and cabins.

Fayette County, named for Gen. Lafayette, contained 280 square miles. Pennsylvania frontiersmen had named their halting place Lexington in 1775. Permanent settlement of the area began in 1779. After the Revolutionary War, Lexington became the fastest growing settlement in Kentucky County. By 1780 the people of Fayette County were converting their corn, wheat, and rye into whiskey. In 1792 Lexington was described as a log cabin town.

Lincoln County, named for Gen. Benjamin Lincoln, was the largest of the three. The Indian and buffalo trails, along with the streams of Lincoln County, were the first paths into central Kentucky. Pioneers followed these paths through Cumberland Gap, one of the most accessible routes to land west of the Appalachian Mountains. Isaac Shelby, Kentucky's first governor, settled on Knob Creek in 1779. By 1800 more than 200,000 pioneers headed west along the Wilderness Road.

Please notify Chaplain General Jane K. Thomas
of any deaths in our membership.
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Boonesborough

