



# The Kentuckian

Journal of the First Families of Kentucky

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Spring 2021



## Greetings from the Governor General

Fellow Members of First Families of Kentucky,  
Ladies and Gentleman:

Due to duration of the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 during the past year, we have been unable to host our Annual



Banquet and Annual Luncheon. We are pleased that we will be able to have our annual meeting this year at a luncheon at the Audubon Country Club in Louisville. Denise Bennet will present a program entitled "The Woman's

Hour," in which she portrays Carrie Chapman Catt who served as the president of the National American Woman's Suffrage Association and was instrumental in the passage of the nineteenth amendment to the Constitution in 1920. We will also hold our annual membership meeting as part of the program for this event, during which we will elect officers and vote on amendments to our by-laws. Also, plans and arrangements are underway, circumstances permitting of course, to have our Fall Luncheon in September. We hope you will plan to attend both.

While we regret that we have been unable to gather as we have been accustomed, our organization has continued to operate and to grow. We have had several virtual meetings

## First Families of Kentucky

### Annual Luncheon

Saturday the twenty-ninth of May  
Two Thousand and Twenty One

Audubon Country Club  
3265 Robin Road  
Louisville, Kentucky 40213

at Eleven a.m.

\$40.00 per person

Speaker: Denise Bennet  
"The Woman's Hour"

Portrays Carrie Chapman Catt

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Founded 30 April 2005

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

**First Families of Kentucky**  
**Executive Board Slate for 2021-2023**

Governor General Donna B. Hughes

Deputy Governor General Betsy R. Kuster

Recording Secretary Ann Haley Morris

Corresponding Secretary Carolyn Krist

Treasurer General Robert W. Hughes

Registrar General Sharon Withers

Historian Lynn T. Shea

Chaplain General Foster Ockerman

**Notice of By-law changes**

Please check your Members Only on the First Families of Kentucky website for changes in the by-laws and be prepared to vote May 29th at the luncheon.

of the Council and we have continued to receive applications and to admit new members. Our officers general have continued to do the the work of our organization and to provide for it's continued future growth. First Families of Kentucky remains a good, strong society of dedicated members and officers, and we continue to make worthwhile contributions to enhance the quality of life in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Although we have been unable to operate in the manner to which we have been accustomed, it has been a great honor and pleasure to serve as the Governor General of First Families of Kentucky, and to have had the support of and the opportunity to work with an outstanding Council of officers. As we elect officers at our next meeting, we congratulate each and pledge our continued support of First Families and of the new administration and all of their endeavors.

The editor of our newsletter, Frieda Curtis Wheatley, and our webmaster, J. Murel Wheatley, are retiring from these posts and relinquishing these responsibilities as the new administration of officers

Spindletop Hall Luncheon -2019



Governor General Stephen L. Collins



Speaker Lauren Clontz



Memorial by Ted Kuster & Betsy Kuster



Jack Early, Ron Bryant



Steve Collins presenting Rosette to Kathryn Bux



Presentation of donation to McDowell House



Nancy Walker, Paul Walker



Robert Bux, Kathryn Bux



Bill Swinford, Frances Barr, Ann Swinford



Patricia Aaron, John Aaron



New Members: Richard Moody, Sr., John Buckler, Kathryn Bux, Pamela Marcum



Kathryn Moats, Bob Moats, Susan McDowell, Sallie Smith



Karen Emberton, Joyce Collins



Nancy DeMarcus, Ann Pennington, Dena Green



Donna Hughes, Robert Hughes



Frieda Wheatley, J. Murel Wheatley



Betty Meisner, Myrna Parsley, John Parsley



Susan McDowell, Laura Jones, Lorna Atwater,  
John Buckler

## REV. JOHN TANNER, JR

John Tanner, Jr. was born ca. 1740 in Virginia to John and Dianah Tanner. John was reared in Virginia prior to this family moving to Edgecombe County, North Carolina during the 1750's.

John bought his first tract of land in 1765 and in 1767 he petitioned the court to build a mill in this same county. This was the first occupation of John Jr. and this mill erection predates any of the references to him preaching.

The first reference to John Tanner being involved with preaching the gospel was when he was jailed in 1770 in Chesterfield County, Virginia along with six other men. In 1773 he was again arrested for preaching and assembling people together without having a license in this same county. On July 31, 1925, the Middle District Baptist Association erected a monument to the imprisoned preachers in Chesterfield County.

The first church that John Tanner, Jr. established was a Baptist church in Rocky Swamp, Halifax County, North Carolina in 1773.

In 1777, John became a pastor of a church of Separate Baptist located near the mouth of Swift's Creek in Edgecombe County. Also in 1777, in the town of Windsor, John was shot by a man named Dawson for baptizing Dawson's wife. He almost died from the injuries and carried several pieces of the buckshot in his leg for the rest of his life. This was the last reference to John Tanner and his ministry in North Carolina.

The first time John Tanner was mentioned in Virginia (Kentucky) was when he was involved in three land patents in 1780 for land in Fayette and Lincoln counties. Two of these patents were later surveyed by Daniel Boone. When John and his wife first came to Kentucky they had four or five children with them. Soon after arriving here they had a son named John Tanner who was born ca. 1780 in Fayette or Lincoln County.

In 1781, John acquired land from William Hoy in Lincoln County. This was the location where the original or first Tanner's Station was built. This Tanner's Station or Fort Tanner was mentioned in four different references. William Chenault wrote in an 1898 article entitled, "Brave Defenders of Fort Boonesborough", that Tanner's fort was located south of Boonesborough and was built in 1781. John Tanner was also listed at Boone's Fort. His name was etched in the monument that stands in front of Fort Boonesborough. Also in 1781, John owned a plantation near Tates and Jacks Creeks.

In 1782, Preacher John Tanner's first wife died near the Kentucky River. She may have died at Tanner's Station in Lincoln, County.

Between 1780 and 1785, not only did John Tanner acquire land holdings, participate in several court cases, and build Tanner's Station, more importantly he continued his ministry after arriving. In 1782 in Lincoln County, he was granted a license to solemnize the rites of matrimony. This was the first reference to John's involvement in his ministry since coming to this area. He also became the pastor of Tate's Creek church of Regular Baptists in 1783 in Lincoln County, participated in organizing the Elkhorn Association in 1785, and helped form the original Boone's Creek Baptist Church located in (Athens) Fayette County in 1785.

John married for a second time to a woman named Rachel prior to 1786. Between 1786 and 1789, John (and his wife Rachel) was involved in deeds and court cases with several people in Madison County.

In the late 1780's, John and fellow Baptist preacher, John Taylor bought 2,000 acres of land in northern Woodford County. The Indian captive John "The Falcon" Tanner, son of Rev. John Tanner, later recalled the time when his father moved the family from the Elkhorn area and traveled by horses and wagon to a place on the

Ohio River. It was there that his father bought three flat boats which had bullet holes and blood stains on them indicating that Indians had attacked or killed the previous owners. The Tanner family eventually came to an area where the elder John Tanner rebuilt two abandoned cabins and enclosed them with a strong picket. Unknowingly, what the Indian captive son of John was describing was where a second Tanner's Station was located. A historical marker commemorating Tanner's Station and the capture of young John Tanner is located in what is now Boone County. Tanner's Station was built on an ancient Indian village site that dated back to around the 12th century.

In 1791, Rachel, the second wife of John Tanner, died. She probably died at Tanner's Station in Woodford County where the Tanner family was living at the time. After her death John did not take long in marrying for the third time. In 1792, in Woodford County, he married Sally Rucker.

In 1795, John (and Sarah) Tanner and his family were living in Woodford County and settled in the area of the Clear Creek Church, which was located in the southern part of the county. He owned land near Grier's Creek where he operated a grist mill and a quarry from which he made millstones that he sold. John eventually sold his mill and quarry about 1799 or 1800 and moved to Caldwell County, Kentucky.

On August 30, 1810 in New Madrid District in the Louisiana Territory, John wrote his will. This will was filed at the courthouse in Jackson, Cape Girardeau County in the Louisiana Territory (Missouri).

On or about December 12, 1810, John and his eldest son Edward Tanner petitioned the Congress of the United States to open a canal to navigation between the St. Francis waterway and the Mississippi River.

John Tanner, of Cape Girardeau District,

Louisiana, had another will made dated June 26, 1812. This will was recorded in Caldwell County, Kentucky.

In 1812 a series of earthquakes occurred in New Madrid County, which was now part of the Missouri Territory. It was then that John moved his family from there to higher ground in Jackson, Cape Girardeau County and settled in the neighborhood of the Bethel Church where he preached on occasion. In June 1812 he died and was probably buried there on a hill overlooking the valley in the church cemetery. Unfortunately, he died never knowing that his son, John "The Falcon" Tanner, the Indian captive, was still alive. My sister and I are direct descendants of Rev. John Tanner through his captive son, John "The Falcon" Tanner and his Native American wife, Red Sky of the Morning.

Baptist preacher John Tanner, Jr. was a remarkable man. During his lifetime he owned and sold land in North Carolina and Kentucky, raised crops, and was involved in the milling and quarry businesses, all the while spreading the gospel through his ministry in many early churches spanning Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, and Missouri. He not only achieved all this, but he also was married three times and fathered sixteen or seventeen children. He was surely blessed with a full life and a full house.

Ann Stubodden and Angela Tourond of Canada

PLEASE KEEP YOUR ADDRESSES CURRENT.  
ANY CHANGES CONTACT DONNA HUGHES AT  
dcbh24@gmail.com

Continued

begins. We thank them for the outstanding work that they have done for many years and for their dedication to First Families.

We continue to pray for the health and safety of you and your families and all of those families who have been affected by this pandemic. We are grateful for the opportunities presented to again meet and hold meetings and we look forward to seeing all of you again soon.

Thank you for your continued interest and participation in First Families of Kentucky.

Stephen L. Collins  
Governor General



## Members Only

Beautiful cuff links for the men.

Check out our Members Only page  
on our website for details!

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