



The Kentuckian

Journal of the First Families of Kentucky

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Spring 2022

Greetings from the Governor General

On behalf of the council of First Families of Kentucky, greetings to all of our members.

The Council wants to thank you for continued support to First Families of Kentucky. Our growth in membership is a positive factor for us.



The Fall Luncheon was attended by 70 plus members ready to meet in person once again. Boone Tavern, nestled in the hills of Kentucky and on the sight of Berea College, opened its arms to welcome First Families of Kentucky members. Boone Tavern has always been a favorite place to visit, but two of our members hold special memories; Honorary Governor General William Buckaway, Jr. and his bride honeymooned at Boone Tavern and member Lucille Wells graduated from Berea College.

Wonderful memories, excellent food and guest speaker, *Vice President for Alumni, Communications and Philanthropy*, Dr. Chad Berry inspired members on "The Lessons John G. Fee and Berea College can Teach Us." After adjournment, the members were invited to gather around the piano where Woodford Ragland played "My Old Kentucky Home" and all were invited to sing along. Woodford is the son of member Becky and Sean Ragland and the grandson of Deputy Governor General Betsy and Ted Kuster. Aunt Kay Thomas was also in attendance. Another special moment for us all as we united our voices.

Our spring Meeting will be June 4, 2022 at The Louisville Boat Club. We do hope you will join us. Details are included in this issue.

We challenge each of you to help us grow our membership even more. Remember, everyone has a story to tell so won't you share with us your families' story in *The Kentuckian*.

Donna Beverly Hughes
Governor General

Website

www.firstfamiliesofkentucky.com

Annual Business Meeting

First Families of Kentucky
Governor General Donna Hughes
and the General Officers
Request the Pleasure of Your Company
at the Society's Luncheon
Saturday, the Fourth of June,
Two Thousand & Twenty Two
11:00 A.M.

Louisville Boat Club
4200 River Road
Louisville, Kentucky

Speaker: Brian Cushing
"Alexander Scott Bullitt—
Settler, Public Servant, Kentuckian"

Entree Selections:
Grilled Salmon with Lemon Dill Butter
Sauce OR Roasted Thyme and Orange
Glazed Pork Tenderloin
\$45.00

Reservation Deadline: May 25, 2022
Please note any dietary issues with your
reservation or email Robert Hughes at
rhugh42@gmail.com

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Notice of Revised By-Laws

Please check FIRST FAMILIES OF KENTUCKY's "Members Only" website for the revised By-Laws. Both the current and revised editions are available to view. Be prepared to vote on June 4th at the Annual Business Meeting.

www.firstfamiliesofkentucky.com

Contact any officer for password.

Remembering Dr. Jack Jones Early



Organizers of First Families of Kentucky
Dr. Jack Early and Ron Bryant

Dr. Jack Early of Louisville, Kentucky, age 96, passed away on January 22, 2022. Jack was one of the founding members of FFK in 2005. Our Governor General 2007-2009 paved the way for the future of FFK along with the first Governor General, Ron Bryant.

Jack's administration set the goals of developing a website, publishing a directory for members, securing medals and appropriate ties with the FFK logo made for our organization. All of the above were accomplished as well as increasing our membership.

Jack's career in education began in 1948 at Hindman High School and Hindman Settlement School, Hindman, Kentucky. An honorarium was made in Dr. Early's memory to the Summer Dyslexia Program at Hindman Settlement School. Jack valued education and service. He was an active member in many organizations, as well as a devoted husband, father, grandfather, a great grandfather, and our loyal friend.

Dr. Early, you will be missed.

Governor General Donna Hughes

2021-2023 Officers First Families of Kentucky

Founded 30 April 2005

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William Buckaway, Jr.
Lynn Shea
William Schrader III
Arthur H. Dietz, Jr.
Stephen L. Collins

Deceased *

Fall 2021 Meeting at the Historic Boone Tavern Hotel & Restaurant



Terry Buck & Bill Buckaway



Martina & Foster Ockerman, Anissa Penn Davis



Dena Green, Taylor Watts, Teresa Watts



Jennifer & Terry Griffin



Larry & Sharon Selby



Betty Overly, Kay Thomas, Sannie Overly



Charlotte & Frank Allison



Dennis & Terri Wells



Elaine & Larry Standiford



Lucille & Roger Wells



John & Trish Aaron, Joyce Collins



Lynn & Gary Tanner

Fall 2021 Luncheon in Berea



Vicki Whitaker, Robin West, Sarah Hamilton



Nancy DeMarcus & Ann Pennington



Susan Mullins & Nancy Crawford



Reed & Dottie Butler



Melinda Rawlings & Judi Rawlings



Jean & Art Dietz, Lynn Shea



Gordon & Carolyn Krist



Sean, Woodford, & Becky Ragland



Betsy & Ted Kuster



Ann Haley & Betty Willmott



Chaplain General Foster Ockerman, Jr.
& Treasurer General Robert Hughes



Attendees enjoyed a lovely luncheon

Fall 2021 Luncheon—Program



Governor General
Donna Hughes



Registrar General
Sharon Withers reports



The program on John Fee & Berea College was presented by Dr. Chad Berry. Below, officers make a presentation to our speaker.



New members welcomed were Gary Tanner, Teresa Huber, Jennifer Griffin, Charlotte Allison with Registrar General Sharon Withers



Dr. Chad Berry



Foster Ockerman, Jr.



At the end of the meeting, members and guests gathered in the hotel lobby to sing "My Old Kentucky Home" as accompanied by Woodford Ragland, Louisville.

First Families of Kentucky

Memories of Berea College by Lucille Wells

I very much enjoyed the First Families of Kentucky 2021 luncheon at Boone Tavern in Berea, KY. It brought back so many fond memories of when I was a student at Berea College.

This is my Berea Story: I was born in 1938 in a log cabin on Rakes' Branch which is about 3 miles from Bradfordsville, KY (Marion County). My ancestors came from Virginia and settled on this piece of land around 1815. When I was a child, my father told me that one day I would go to college if I studied hard and got good grades. As my junior year of high school rolled around, I realized that the money was not in place for college, and I began to doubt my ability to go even with mostly A's on my report card.

Luckily, I had a high school principal who was helping students who could not afford college, Dr. Charles Martin. He and his wife hired me as their babysitter and helped me get a job at the local swimming pool. They encouraged me to open a bank account and put every cent I could into that account.

Early in my last year of high school Dr. Martin told me about Berea College and handed me an application to complete. He took me to Berea to let me feel the atmosphere on campus. He took me to the admission office and introduced me as if I was someone very special. On the drive home, he asked me what I thought. I quickly replied that "I love it"!! Happy was the day that I received my acceptance to Berea College.

Log Cabin at
Rakes' Branch



In September 1956, I settled in at Berea College living in Kentucky Hall. At that time, 90% of the stu-

dents were from the Appalachian area. Berea students on campus were very friendly and caring. Several activities were held to orient new students. On Sunday evenings we had Chapel where we listened to the Choir and some excellent speakers. Mid-week we had another meeting in the afternoon which inspired us to be better people! I really liked the Berea School Song and I can still sing it today.



Senior Year at Berea College

I was very happy to learn that I had saved enough money to take me through the first two semesters. Berea did not charge tuition and the total cost for a semester at that time, which included room, food, and books was between \$180 and \$220! Whew.... I was set for the first full year!

Part of Berea's program was to have students work two hours a day. I was assigned to the upper-class dining hall which helped me get to know the upper-class students. The other dining hall was for the high school and college freshmen.

The second year we could choose the dorm we wanted and the job we wanted. Fairchild Hall was my choice, and my job was cleaning one wing of the floor that I lived on.

That summer, I considered going with a group to New Jersey to be a waitress where pay was good and tips were generous, but my mother wanted me to come home. It took me a few weeks to realize I could not earn enough at the swimming pool for a year of expenses, so I took a second job but even at that I didn't have enough money for a whole year.

All that next semester I kept wondering what I would do? I had almost decided to go home and
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Memories of Berea College Continued . . .

get a job and then hopefully go back to Berea, but my mother did not want my education to be interrupted. I was talking with another student about returning home and she told me that the Dean of Labor would help me, but I would need to drop down to a part time student and up my work to 4 hours a day. Again, Berea was there for me. I took a correspondence course one summer and still graduated in four years. Working taught us to give back and to be responsible and manage our time.



Fairchild Hall

As a junior I remained at Fairchild Hall and worked two hours a day. Between semesters, I married Roger Wells. Berea did not have openings for married students, so we lived in town. Roger worked for IBM and carpooled to work in Lexington. I graduated in 1960 with a degree in Elementary Education and became a schoolteacher in Lexington.

I know that I could not have gone to college if it had not been at Berea. I was very lucky that a college like Berea existed! I am so grateful for Dr. Martin who went out of his way to help me. I am proud to be an alumnus of Berea College and so pleased to see that it still thrives today.

Footnote: My husband's ancestor (James Wells) settled in Bourbon County, Kentucky and established the Wells Family as members of the First Families Kentucky.

Ancestor Profile: Jennings Tanner

The story of Jennings Tanner begins with the history of this branch of Tanners found in E. Russell Tanner's book entitled *The William Tanner Family*. In this book the author stated that William Tanner was born in 1748 in England or Virginia and died in 1820 in Daviess County, KY. William was the younger brother of Jennings Tanner, which indicates that Jennings was born before 1748. Family history says that he was born in England. These brothers also had a sister, name unknown. It was also stated that this Tanner family came from England to Virginia at some point and that later the father went back to England and never returned. The mother of these three children died when she drowned in a mill pond. The three children were then bound out to different people who moved to different locations.

The first time Jennings Tanner was ever mentioned anywhere was on the tax list for the Franklin-Warren-Vance counties of North Carolina in 1771. More accurately this was probably Granville County which was formed in 1746 from Edgecombe County (1741).

On May 3, 1773, Geneus (Jennings) Tanner, David Tanner, and Jesse Carter were listed as witnesses to a deed between John and Diana Tanner and William Morgan in Edgecombe County, North Carolina.

Jennings married Eleanor Nance between 1775 and 1780 in North Carolina. She was the daughter of Richard Nance. Jennings younger brother, William, married Mary Nance, sister of Eleanor. These marriages probably took place in Granville

County, NC, as this was where the Tanner and Nance families were listed on tax lists for this county between 1785 and 1788.

Jennings and his brother, William, were listed on the Sheriff's account of insolvents in Warren County, North Carolina in 1779. This was the first time Jennings and William Tanner were ever mentioned together in any reference since they were separated after their mother's death.

Jennings Tanner served in the Revolutionary War from the state of North Carolina under Colonel Abraham Shepard in the 10th Regiment in (Thomas) Donoho's Company from June 14, 1781 to June 14, 1782 (certificate number 90193).

Jennings and Eleanor had the following known children:

- Agnes Tanner was born between 1777 and 1780 in North Carolina. Agnes married Israel Miles on June 10, 1795 in Madison County.
- Jonathan Tanner was born ca. 1784, either in Granville or Warren County, NC. At age 18, Jonathan married Sarah Bartleson (Batterson?) on November 1, 1802 (bond date) in Madison County, KY. Jonathan left his older wife at some point and married a younger woman named Mary Ryan on December 9, 1815 in Fayette County.
- Ellinor Tanner was born between 1789 and 1791 probably in North Carolina. She married David Coffil Tanner on January 24, 1807 in Madison County, KY. Henry Simpson was the bondsman. *(Continued on page 8)*

Ancestor Profile continued from page 7

Jinnis Tanner (misspelled) gave his consent for his daughter to marry. Her mother, Ellenor (Eleanor) was not mentioned at this time indicating that she may have died between June 10, 1795 and prior to this marriage. Ellinor may have been under-age as her sister Agnes was when she married and that was why her father gave his consent for this marriage. This David C. Tanner was the son of David Tanner, who was mentioned earlier in the May 1773 Edgecombe County, NC reference along with Geneus (Jennings) Tanner. The 1773 reference and this 1807 marriage record indicate that these two different Tanner families married into one another.

In 1786 Jinnings and William Tanner were on the census record for the Beaverdam District of Tyrrell County, NC. Finnings (Jennings) and William Tanner, and Richard Nance were also listed as tax payers in 1788 in the Beaverdam District of Granville County and were on the 1790 Census record for this county.

The first reference to Jennings Tanner and his family being in the western part of Virginia that later became Kentucky in 1792, was the birth of his son who was Henry Tanner—born ca. 1791 in Virginia and died in 1859 in Breckinridge County, KY. He married Sally (Sarah) Cook on June 1, 1811 in Fayette County, KY. Sarah was born ca. 1793 and her father was Mathew Cook. Henry and Sarah Tanner's birth years can be proven by the 1850 Breckinridge County census record. Henry was on the tax list for Madison County in 1815 and 1816 along

with his brother-in-law, David Tanner. Henry must have moved from Madison County after 1816 to Breckinridge County where he was listed on the 1817 tax list for that county. Henry and his family were also listed on the 1830 and 1840 Breckinridge County census records.

Jennings Tanner was listed on the Madison County, KY tax list of 1794. He was listed as Ginnins Tannrt.

Jennings was on tax lists for Madison County from 1794 through 1811, although his name was spelled differently. He was also listed on the census records for this county in 1795, 1800, and 1810. On the 1800 tax list he owned 100 acres on Silver Creek. After 1811 Jennings was not listed on any tax lists or census records anywhere.

Sometime between 1811 and 1817, Jennings Tanner and his son Henry and Henry's wife moved to Breckinridge County, KY. The next time these two Tanners were mentioned was on May 19, 1817 in Breckinridge County, KY when Henry came to court with Mrs. Elizabeth Jones and Mrs. Nancy Piles as witnesses concerning the death of his father, Jennings. Jennings Tanner died on March 17, 1817. There was no record of where he was buried.

Jennings Tanner was my 3rd great-grandfather on my maternal side.

By Gary M. Tanner

First Families Places Around the Bluegrass



Washington Baptist Cemetery with log church donated by Bracken Baptist Association. Marker says church organized in 1785 by William Wood.



Statue of Simon Kenton in Limestone Park, downtown Maysville, with Simon Kenton Bridge in background.

Mefford's Fort—Home of George & Malinda Mefford in Mason County with building preserved and moved to Washington. They arrived in 1785 and would raise 13 children in the cabin. Boards from their flatboat were used to build the cabin.



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