



# The Kentuckian

Journal of the First Families of Kentucky

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Fall 2022

## Greetings from the Governor General

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

The Council thanks you for your continued support. Our membership success is increasing by your continued effort to grow First Families of Kentucky.



The Boat Club in Louisville was the perfect location for our Spring Luncheon. The attendance for the Spring Luncheon increased to over 90 members and guests. It was a "WOW" moment for us all. It was encouraging to have so many of our members attend.

The food was excellent and our guest speaker Brian Cushing, speaking on "Alexander Scott Bullitt", was entertaining to say the least. The revised bylaws were approved and are on the website.

The Fall Meeting of First Families of Kentucky will be held on Saturday, October 29, 2022, at the historic Berry Hill Mansion in Frankfort, KY. The mansion was built in 1900 by George Franklin Berry. It is a beautiful venue overlooking the State Capital Building. We do hope that you will join us. Sam Dunn, Executive Director of the Jack Jouett House Historic Site, will be speaking on "Jack Jouett in Kentucky: After the 40 mile ride that saved America." Details are included in this issue. There will be ample parking and an elevator if needed.

Please continue to help us grow our membership and remember, we each have a story to tell. Won't you please consider sharing your story with us in "The Kentuckian."

*Donna Beverly Hughes*  
Governor General

*"Heaven must be a Kentucky kind of place."*  
Daniel Boone

### Website

[www.firstfamiliesofkentucky.com](http://www.firstfamiliesofkentucky.com)

## Fall 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 Twenty-Ninth of October,  
Two Thousand & Twenty Two  
11:00 A.M. Social  
11:30 A.M. Business Meeting

Location:  
Berry Hill Mansion  
700 Louisville Road, Frankfort, KY

Speaker:  
Sam Dunn, Executive Director  
Jack Jouett House Historic Site  
"Jack Jouett in Kentucky—After the 40  
Miles That Saved America"

Meal:  
Bibb lettuce salad, Kentucky hot brown, fresh  
green beans, apple crisp, Bourbon chocolate  
pecan pie, drink, \$45.00

Reservation Deadline: Oct. 19, 2022  
Please note any dietary issues with your reservation or email Robert Hughes at  
[rhugh42@gmail.com](mailto:rhugh42@gmail.com)

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Pioneer Museum at Blue Licks Battlefield State Park

### “Early Kentuckians at Blue Licks”

These early Kentuckians have their names carved on the monument at the Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park in Robertson County—the men who fought in the Battle of Blue Licks on Aug. 19, 1782. Had you ever thought that each name, patriot side, on this monument represents an ancestor who would likely qualify for First Families of Kentucky?

When the monument to those who served at the Battle of Blue Licks was dedicated on Aug. 19, 1882, the special guests included Gov. L. P. Blackburn and numerous special guards. The history of the battle was told and descendants of the battle were recognized.



140 years after this dedication, the battle continues to be remembered on the third weekend of August. If you have not visited, you are encouraged to make a pilgrimage to this monument, walk the steps up the hill to where the patriots are buried, and trek the field where they fought.

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Deceased \*



## Spring 2022 Meeting at the Louisville Boat Club



Jean & Art Dietz



Checking in with the Governor General  
Donna Hughes



The Registrar General Sharon Withers  
greet's Leslie Miller



Paul & Nancy Walker



Judy Sieweke, Ann Pennington,  
Betty Rose



Stephanie Clayton, Diane Berry



Phyllis Stewart, Gordon & Carolyn  
Krist, Rogers Barde



Shannon & Steve Gahafer



Larry & Sharen Selby



Heather & Brendan Potter



Ashley Trautner, Dena & Rob Green



Jane Wagel, Aaron Wagel

## Spring 2022 Luncheon at the Louisville Boat Club



Mark & Patrice Compton



Reed & Dottie Butler



Susan Smith, Bill Swinford



Ann Swinford, Guthrie Zaring



George Meyers, Patti Hutt, Lynn Keesling



Kathy & Bob Moats



Claire Groover, Rebecca Turner



D.J. Tabb, Jean & Art Dietz



Denise Hall, Sharon Withers



Lynn Shea, Jason Jones, Laura Jones



Nancy Crawford, Susan Mullins,  
Vicki Whitaker



Sarah Hamilton, Carroll VanHook Weaver

*First Families of Kentucky*



## Spring 2022 Luncheon at the Louisville Boat Club



Denise Hall, Leslie Miller



Terri & Dennis Wells



Will Ward, Carol Swearingen



Melody Brown, Rick Hollis



Trish & John Aaron



Sandra Custer, John Aaron,  
Dick & Nancy Lutz



Kathy Hall, Karen Emberton,  
Joyce Collins, Trish Aaron



Bill Buckaway, Rick Hollis, David Sympton,  
Art Dietz, Lowry Watkins, Jr.



Registrar General Sharon Withers re-  
ports with Gov. General Donna Hughes



Governor General Hughes greets new members  
after their installation.



Reg. Gen. Sharon Withers, Ashley Trautner, Gov. Gen. Donna  
Hughes, Mark Compton, Diane Berry, Steve Gahafer.



## Program Activities during the Spring Meeting



Donna Hughes, Shirley Harmon, Laura Jones

On behalf of FFK, officers Laura Jones and Donna Hughes presented a donation to the Oxmoor Foundation. The foundation was represented by Shirley Harmon. Their foundation supports the preservation of Oxmoor Farm, home to five generations of the Bullitt family, and its educational programs.



The program was presented by Brian Cushing. He is Executive Director of the Shelby County Historical Society. His topic was Alexander Scott Bullitt. Bullitt served as the first lieutenant governor of Kentucky under Gov. Garrard.



Treasurer General Bob Hughes reports while the Governor General Donna Hughes looks on.



## Ancestor Profile: *The Women Who Defended A Fort*

With a review of the list of First Families' ancestors, the names of women are few and far between. We know there are limited records naming women in our early history, so this makes it a challenge to document. But here is one group of women that are well known—the women of Bryan's Station.

On Aug. 15, 1782, the Siege of Bryan's Station began. Bryan's Station was a fort at the top of a hill with about 40 homes inside its walls near Lexington. Close by was Elkhorn Creek with a spring the settlers used for water. During August 1782, Indians and British soldiers marched into Kentucky with the plan to capture the stations.

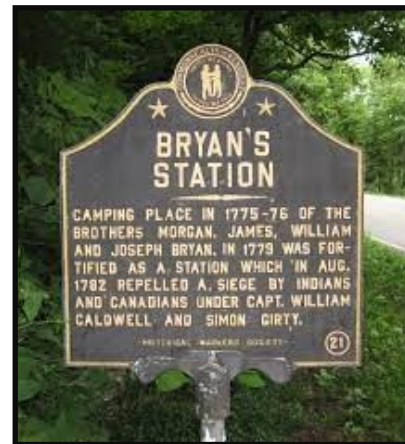
At the time of the siege, there were 12 families occupying the cabins. Under the leadership of one of the Craig family, the men present were in demand for their services as hunters, land locators, surveyors, and Indian scouts and spies. Some families had already been discouraged with the capture of Martin's Station and Ruddle's Station, so they had returned to their former homes.

The Indians snuck up and surrounded the fort, keeping themselves concealed. The settlers realized the Indians were there and decided to go about their business as usual. They were getting low on water and this was necessary not just for nourishment, but also if they were under attack and needed to put out fires. So, a plan was devised for women to continue to leave the fort to gather water from the spring. The settlers did not think the Indians would attack the women and expose themselves. Their unique, civilian service has few comparisons in history.

The women who brought water back into the fort while it was surrounded by Indians were as follows:

1. Jemima Suggett Johnson (1753-1814) m. Robert Johnson
2. Betsy Johnson
3. Sally Craig
4. Nancy Craig
5. Lucy Hawkins Craig m. Capt. Jeremiah Craig
6. Polly Hawkins
7. Elizabeth Johnson Craig m. Toliver Craig, Jr.
8. Polly Saunders
9. Lydia Saunders
10. Hannah Cave
11. Fanny Sanders Lea m. Wainwright Lea
12. Mary Herndon Ficklin (1745-1816) - m. Thomas Ficklin
13. Harriet Morgan Nelson m. Edward Nelson
14. Sally Johnson
15. Sara Page Craig (ante 1745-post 1826) m. Capt. John Craig

16. Betsy Craig
17. Mary 'Polly' Hawkins Craig (1716-1804) m. Tolliver Craig, Sr.
18. Frankey Craig
19. Sally Hawkins
20. Jane Craig Saunders (1745-Ca. 1786) m. John Sanders
21. Betsy Saunders
22. Elizabeth Craig Cave (Ca. 1752-post 1827) m. Richard Cave
23. Polly Cave
24. Sara Clement Hammond m. John Hammond
25. Mildred Davis Suggett m. John Suggett
26. Sarah Boone Brooks (1763-1848) - m. Thomas Brooks
27. Philadelphia Ficklin



### References

George W. Ranck, "Boonesborough"

James T. Morehead, "An Address in the Commemoration of the First Settlement of Kentucky"

Stratton O. Hammon, "Several Corrections to the List of Defenders of Bryan's Station"

[www.revolutionary-war-and-beyond.com/siege-of-bryans-station-begins.html](http://www.revolutionary-war-and-beyond.com/siege-of-bryans-station-begins.html)

*\*The similarities among the women's names and use of nicknames makes it difficult to cross reference and check this list of women who were at Bryan's Station in 1782. Some names were documented and added later. Several have been documented as patriots and ladies have joined DAR under them.*



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## Tanner's Station

