

Greetings from the Governor General

We were extremely pleased that nearly ninety members and guests registered for our Spring luncheon held on May 30th at Boone Tavern in Berea, KY. The Kentucky SAR Fife and Drum Corps represented by Scott Giltner and John Doss of the Governor Isaac Shelby SAR Chapter gave a delightful program on the music of the American Revolution. On behalf of Midway University, J. Timothy Culver, Vice President of Advancement, graciously accepted our \$1,000 contribution to benefit the construction of the University's new James A. and Martha Brown Library. Thanks to the efforts of Treasurer General Susan Mullins, we were able to accept credit cards at our merchandise display table.



To date, twenty-five individuals have been admitted as members of First Families of Kentucky (FFK) since our May 2025 meeting. The last member number issued is 521. Please be reminded that your Council has approved an America 250! Special for new FFK applicants. If three or more family members each submit a new member application tracing their lineage to the same pioneer ancestor, each will pay \$200 rather than the standard \$250 application fee. This special is effective July 4, 2026 through December 31, 2026. Please encourage your friends and family members to submit a membership proposal.

Any and all FFK members may propose individuals for membership. Our FFK membership proposal form can be found under "Proposal Submission" at the "Members Only" tab of www.firstfamiliesofkentucky.com. Just click on the link on the "Proposal Submission" webpage to open and download

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Fall Meeting

First Families of Kentucky
Governor General Sharon Williams
and the General Officers
Request the Pleasure of Your Company
at the Society's Luncheon
Saturday, September Nineteenth
Two Thousand & Twenty Six
11:00 A.M. Social
11:30 A.M. Business Meeting

Location:

Malones Events and Receptions
3373 Tate's Creek Road
Lexington, KY 40502

Program:

Gwen Thompson
Mary Todd Lincoln Home
"Mary Todd Lincoln:
Girl of the Bluegrass"

Buffet Menu:

Lexingtonion Salad and Rolls
Atlantic Salmon (GF) or
Bluegrass Chicken
Yukon Gold Whipped Potatoes (GF)
Lemon Parmesan Broccoli (GF)
Blueberry-Lemon Cheese Cake(GF)
(GF) = Gluten Free

Reservation Deadline:

September 7, 2026

Please note any dietary issues
with your reservation or
email Susan Mullins,
susan.mullins@twc.com

REMINDER: RESERVATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 7TH.

the fillable form. Instructions are on the webpage as well as on the form. Once the form is completed and manually signed by the first and second proposer, please email or mail the completed form and one-page proposed member bio to your Governor General. The email and snail mail addresses are on the form.

You are cordially invited to attend the upcoming Patriot Grave Marking Service for five Revolutionary War patriots buried in Winchester Cemetery on Sunday, August 16, 2026. The patriots include Abijah Brooks, William Clinkenbeard/Clinkingbeard, and Mary Mooney/Clinkenbeard/Clinkinbeard. Our First Families of Kentucky pioneer John Strode and his wife Mary Boyle/Boyles/Strode are also among those being honored by the KY SAR Lafayette Chapter, KY DAR Jemima Johnson, Captain John Waller, and Hart Chapters as well as by First Families of Kentucky. Your Governor General has been asked to give greetings during the ceremony. The service starts at 10:00 a.m. EDT at Winchester Cemetery, 625 W Lexington Ave., Winchester, KY. Guests are asked to bring a lawn chair as there is no seating in the cemetery. Following the service, the Jemima Johnson DAR Chapter will host a social gathering with finger foods and beverages at Holly Rood, the home of James Clark, the 13th Governor of Kentucky. The address is 28 Beckner St, Winchester, KY. If you wish to attend, please register at <https://forms.gle/VKTEitLsMLC9nnxn8>. Doing so will allow the host to arrange the amount of food required.

Please mark your calendars for our Spring Luncheon to be held on Saturday, June 5, 2027. The location is yet to be solidified. More information will be forthcoming as plans are set.

Thank you for your continued support. It continues to be my honor to serve as your Governor General.

Sincerely,

Sharon Veirs Williams
Governor General First Families of Kentucky

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Deputy Governor General – Dr. Jack Early*
Treasurer General – Lynn Shea
Recording Secretary General – Carole Cornell
Corresponding Secretary General –
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Chancellor General – William Buckaway, Jr.
Chaplain General – Dixon Barr*
Editor General – Don Perkins*
Deceased – *



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Founded 30 April 2005

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Deceased *

Spring Meeting at Historic Boone Tavern



Members receiving First Families of Kentucky pins (Left to right)

Lillian Hyde, Scott Giltner, Karen Adams, Doug Collins, Lenna Hoffman, Edward Keeton Jr, Linda Jennings
Thomas Geimeier, Luann Ferguson, (Deborah Frazier, not pictured, received pin after the meeting)



Doug Collins, David & Evelyn Sympton Amelia Wisner



Corresponding Secretary General
Joyce Miller



John Doss, Governor General Sharon Williams, Scott Giltner
John & Scott are members of the Governor Issac Shelby



Chaplin General Carole Cornell
J. Timothy Culver Vice President of Midway University

Scott Giltner played the flute and John Goss Played the drum with an assortment of music from the Revolution era.
In addition, to the instruments they played, they also told how the instruments were made at that time.

Thanks to Jill Wilson for taking pictures at the fall luncheon.

Spring Meeting at Historic Boone Tavern



Chris Young, Sandy Craddock, Vicki and Dean Whitaker, Nancy DeMarcus, and Clement Piotrowski



Left to Right
Travis Adkinson
Kandie Adkinson
Kim Adkinson
Anissa Davis

Left to Right
Steve Griffin
Stephanie Griffin
Stacey Davis
Lillian Hyde



Left to Right
Lisa Randle
Edward Keeton, Jr
Thomas Geimeier
Mary Geimeier

Spring Meeting at Historic Boone Tavern



Carol & Bob Rogow, Alex & Lenna Hoffman, Jill & Randolph Wilson, Jane Wagel



Patsy Eckers, Deborah Frazier, Tylor Frazier



Scott Giltner, John Doss



Glenn & Linda Jennings, Karen & Mark Adams, Rich Gann

Spring Meeting at Historic Boone Tavern



Roxanne Perucca, Lynne Keasling, Susan Buffin, Norma Brumback, Kathy & Bob Moats

MARY TODD LINCOLN HOUSE

The Mary Todd Lincoln House in Lexington, Kentucky cultivates public interest in the multilayered past by sharing the stories of a woman whose lived experience continues to resonate today. Located in the heart of downtown Lexington, Kentucky, the house is one of the oldest structures in the city and the childhood home of an extraordinary first lady.

Prior to its restoration in the 1970s, the property was only a shadow of the grand home where Mary Lincoln brought her husband, future president Abraham Lincoln, for a long visit in 1847. After extensive restoration, the museum opened in 1977 and holds the distinction of being the first historic site dedicated to a first lady.

Originally built in the early 1800s, the property became the Todd family home in 1832. Daughter Mary Todd, born on December 13, 1818, lived here until she moved to Springfield, Illinois to live with an older sister in 1839. There she met and married Abraham Lincoln.

Today, the home tells the remarkable story of Mary Todd Lincoln to thousands of visitors from around the world each year. Both self-guided and guided tours are offered and feature many family portraits and furnishings from both the Todd and Lincoln families. The museum also hosts a variety of programs throughout the year, including a hands-on family event on Presidents' Day, Girl Scout workshops, and walking tours. Want to learn more? Check out their website at www.mtlhouse.org!



Mary Todd House



Mary Todd



Family Parlor

Article and photos courtesy of the Mary Todd Lincoln House

Discovery and Settlement of Hardin County, Kentucky

By Mrs. T. D. Windstead, (1978, April). Ancestral News, Volume 3 (2), pages 37-42. Excerpted from pages 37 – 40 and reprinted by permission of Ancestral Trails Historical Society, Elizabethtown, KY.

Two hundred years ago on almost the same day the forefathers of our country were signing the Declaration of Independence in 1776, a small group of Virginians arrived at the mouth of Salt River and prepared to make a settlement by felling trees and marking boundaries. Samuel Pearman led the group of seven men who were: John Ross, Francis Shane, William Severns, Robert and Samuel Brinton, William Woodward and Robert Sweeney. They remained in the area for several months exploring up the river and down the Rolling Fork. The name of the river, which had been variously known as the Hughes River and Pleasant River, was changed to Salt River after the salt works was established near the junction of the river and the Rolling Fork. They did not explore beyond Muldraugh hills which then was a formidable barrier. The Indians, living north of the Ohio River, claimed this territory as their hunting ground and disputed the matter in several sharp encounters with the men. Because of the Indian fights and the approach of winter the explorers withdrew to the established forts in central Kentucky. The town of West Point was later located on the 1000 acre land grant of Samuel Pearman.

The next explorer of whom we have any record was Squire Boone, brother of Daniel Boone. Squire was in Hardin County in 1778, 1779 and 1780. He said so himself in a deposition made in 1797 which is on file in the Hardin County Courthouse. At different times Boone was accompanied by John McKenney, Daniel Whitaker and Joseph Anderson. Upon their return to the forts on the Kentucky River they lost no time in spreading glowing accounts of the land they had explored beyond Muldraugh Hills.

John Severns, the next explorer, decided to stay when he came to the valley in the early spring of 1779. He entered land and built the first log cabin in Hardin County. Thomas McCarty built the second one in April. Col. Andrew Hynes and Elisha Freeman built cabins in May. It was said that Banam Shaw also built a cabin. There were no other settlements at that time between the Falls of the Ohio, which was the first name by which the city of Louisville was known, and Green River.

The settlement was called Severns Valley and the stream flowing through it, Severns Valley Creek in honor of John Severns.

In the latter part of 1779 Jacob Van Meter and Samuel Haycraft, with their families came down the Ohio River from Pennsylvania and took up land in the valley. Capt. Thomas Helm, a Virginian, brought his large family and slaves from the Falls of the Ohio to the valley soon afterwards. In the following year, Col. Andrew Hynes, Capt. Thomas Helm and Samuel Haycraft each built a fort or stockade for the better protection of the people of the settlement. All three forts were about one mile distant from the others and formed a rough triangle. Each was located near a large spring.

The winter of 1779-1780 is known in history as the bitter cold winter. Game froze in the forests and domestic animals huddling close to the cabins froze in their tracks. The weak hearted returned to their homes in the east when spring came. The undaunted ones stayed.

All of the forts were subjected to repeated attacks by the Indians who, not unnaturally, resented the encroachment on their hunting grounds. The description of them as savages was deserved before they were liberally furnished with whiskey and guns by the British Army at Detroit. Either the whiskey or the guns in the hands of the Indians would have been deadly in their effects on the early settlers; together they were disastrous. Many are the records of Indian depredations on the forts in Severns Valley. I could tell you many stories of captives taken away and brutally murdered, sometimes by burning at the stake. Women and children were often the victims. Some were held prisoners for years. The first Baptist preacher was killed or captured by Indians while hunting. The Severns Valley settlement was terrorized in this manner for some 12 or 13 years.

Most of the land in this fertile valley was taken up by John Severns, Andrew Hynes, Thomas Helm, Jospeh Stover, Osborn Spriggs, John Handley, Jacob Harris, Samuel Haycraft and Jacob Van Meter. Soon afterwards they were joined by the Miller, Bush, Shaw, Bell, Perceful, Bruner, Swank, Thomas, Vertrees and Brown families.

On June 17, 1781 near Hynes station, a Baptist Church was constituted with 18 members by Elder William Taylor and Joseph Barnett, preachers, with Elder John Gerrard, who was ordained first pastor. The church was called the Regular Baptist Church of Severns Valley. That church continues to this day under the name of the Severns Valley Baptist Church and it is the oldest church still in existence west of the Allegheny Mountains.

There were no public buildings and no churches. Services were held in the open air in the summer time. In the winter they were held in the homes which were built of round logs with dirt floors. Both winter and summer the men sat with their rifles by their sides during services, while others took turns standing sentinel.

Life was hard for the settlers for there were other handicaps besides the Indian threat. Until fields could be cleared and crops planted the only food was wild fruits and berries and game consisting of squirrel, rabbit, deer, bear and wild turkey. Their diet was varied with fish caught in the streams. The men wore leather leggings, shirts and jackets were made of buckskin. Hats were made of fur or buffalo wool. The women wore a coarse cloth made of buffalo wool. Underwear was made of dressed doe skin. The women wore sunbonnets. All wore moccasins in the winter. All went barefoot in the summer. Life in the wilderness was a great equalizer for there could be no distinction as to class. Everyone had the same food and clothing, everyone lived in the same kind of log house. In the first years of the new settlement it was a great triumph just to keep body and soul together. Afterwards this period of adversity shared and obstacles overcome was nostalgically remembered as "old forting days."