



Gen. George Rogers Clark
Founder of Louisville

The Long Rifleman

Louisville-Thruston Chapter



Kentucky Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

2011-2012 Officers

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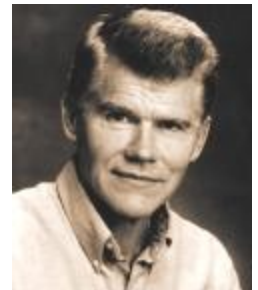
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Color Guard Cmdr.:
Daniel N. Klinck

President's Remarks

Thanks to all who attended the Christmas Dinner & Dance on December 9, 2011 at the Louisville Boat Club. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did although my sprained ankle and crutches slowed me down. Basketball injuries have a tendency to do that occasionally. A highlight of the evening for me was presenting rosette lapel pins to six new compatriots, including one from Ohio. Eleven other new members were unable to attend, but hopefully they will be present at a future meeting to receive their rosettes. I enjoyed talking with many of you and the time we spent together. Thanks to Joe, Jim, John, David, Rev. Paul and others who helped make the evening go smooth.



I'm proud to report to you a total membership of 332 compatriots in Louisville-Thruston Chapter and 840 compatriots state-wide in KYSSAR as of December 2011. Please re-up if you have not already done so, and help make the 2012 year the best year ever for our chapter. We need your continued support in the chapter's various endeavors for the community and state. Also, if you would be willing to hold office or serve on one of our standing committees, please let someone on our staff know. We welcome and need your help.

I encourage you to keep Past President **Henry Head** and President Elect **John H. Huffman** in your thoughts and prayers. Both compatriots have had health issues lately, and we wish them a speedy recovery.

Lastly, I invite everyone to Owl Creek Country Club for the Washington's Birthday Luncheon Meeting to be held on Saturday, February 18, 2012. In addition to the annual Youth Awards presentations, our featured speaker will be **Dr. Jack Early**, and the title of his talk will be "George Washington - the Man, the Leader, the General." An official meeting announcement will be forthcoming shortly.

Wishing you the best for a great year!

George E. Meyers, President

Christmas Dinner and Dance held December 9th

Conviviality and great fun prevailed on the evening of December 9, 2011 when members and guests gathered for the annual Christmas Dinner and Dance at the Louisville Boat Club. After posting of the Colors by Compatriots **Dan Klink** and **Will Schrader**, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by **President George E. Meyers** followed by the invocation by **Rev. Sonny Smith**. The meal was delicious as we have come to expect, and Page Entertainment provided the music. A highlight of the evening was the introduction of six new chapter members, each of whom received a rosette pin from President Meyers. As usual, **John H. Huffman** did a great job taking pictures. Thanks John!





Six new compatriots received rosette pins - a warm welcome to (L to R) **Jesse Turley III, John Stephens, George Kitchen Jr., George Kitchen Sr., Edward Bridgewater and David Thom.**



President George E. Meyers presented Past President Will Schrader with a Certificate of Appreciation for his excellent article about R. C. Ballard Thruston.

Color Guard

The Louisville Thruston Color Guard Wants You!

We cordially invite you to become a member of the Dr. V. Edward Masters Memorial Color Guard. Join with your fellow compatriots as they participate in various patriotic events throughout the year which celebrate our country's history and honor our veterans. We will provide the flags, muskets and accoutrements, and your only requirements are a uniform and some free time. There is no age limitation.



Compatriot **David Head** wearing the standard uniform of the Dr. V. Edward Masters Memorial Color Guard.

The traditional army color guard first began around the time of the American Revolution when musicians, usually a drum and fife corps, would accompany soldiers in the field by playing to keep up their spirits and to help them march in step. Along with the music, soldiers carried flags displaying the colors of their unit and country.

In Louisville Thruston, our uniforms are adapted from the style worn by the 1st Virginia Regiment, Continental Line. This pattern was approved by George Washington in 1782 and consists of a black tricorn hat; a dark blue 18th century military frock coat with red facings, collar, cuffs and shoulder straps; a sleeveless white vest; a standard 18th century white work shirt with a collar and ruffles at the neck; period white trousers; black plain toed shoes; and white gloves.

To minimize the cost to new members, we will provide you with a tricorn hat and gloves and temporarily loan you a uniform until you can purchase your own. (The estimated cost to purchase a complete custom fitted uniform is \$380).

When color guard members present the National Colors at civic events, it adds a special patriotic and historical significance to the occasion. One of the popular parts of any chapter meeting is the posting of the Colors by the color guard. Carrying and firing muskets is also a popular activity with both the general public and our members. If you want to carry and fire a musket, you will be given plenty of instruction on the safe handling of the weapon.

Come join with us in these endeavors and experience the fellowship of preserving our American heritage and keeping history alive! Becoming a member will make no undue demands on your time; we only ask that you try and participate at events that are convenient for you. If you would like to know more about our activities and how you can become a member, please contact:



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Veteran's Day Parade—Downtown Louisville



The Louisville Thruston Color Guard was one of many groups that took part in the Massing of the Colors and Veterans Day Parade in downtown Louisville on November 11, 2011. Over 300 men and women marched in the procession with Major Gen. Carl Black as Master of Ceremonies. Those gathered to view the proceedings heard remarks from Gen. Black and Mayor Greg Fischer.



Veterans Day Parade (cont.)



David Tanner—Early Kentucky Pioneer

Compatriot **Gary M. Tanner** is a native of Louisville, Kentucky where he attended duPont Manual High School and the University of Louisville. After serving a stint in the U.S. Air Force, from 1967 to 1971, he joined the Phillip Morris Company where he worked until retirement in 1999. He first became interested in genealogy after his wife presented him with a copy of the Tanner Family History, and he's been hooked ever since. Gary is a member of First Families of Kentucky and has been an active member of Louisville Thruston Chapter KYSSAR since May 2010.

His original Patriot Ancestor was **Jennings Tanner**, who served in the Revolutionary War from the state of North Carolina. Additional research uncovered a second forefather with the same surname, **David Tanner**, and this discovery enabled Gary to file a Supplemental Application in June 2010. During a chance visit to Battle of Blue Licks State Park, he was surprised to learn that David Tanner had been one of the early settlers in that part of Kentucky and in 1784, operated a trade fort nearby known as **Tanner Station**. A replica of that fort had been erected in 2003 on the site of the original settlement and is the only existing reproduction of an early trade fort in the state of Kentucky. Clearly, this was an important piece of Kentucky history that wasn't being told, not to mention that it was Gary's own direct ancestor who built the fort.



Gary Tanner

In September 2010, he applied to the Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort to have a historical marker placed at the site in recognition of the contributions made by David Tanner and Tanner Station. With the help of Paul Tierney, park naturalist at Blue Licks State Park, funding was provided toward the cost of the marker by the Blue Licks Commemorative Commission and the Nicholas County Historical Society. On October 30, 2011, the dedication ceremony took place, and the marker was unveiled.

The following article was published in the Summer 2011 Issue of "Kentucky Ancestors." It is reproduced here but without the footnotes and references found in the original version.

David Tanner, Pioneer Extraordinaire

By Gary M. Tanner

David Tanner was born about 1742 in Virginia. He was the brother of John Tanner Jr., who was a Baptist preacher. The Tanner family moved from Chesterfield County, Virginia to Edgecombe County, North Carolina in 1760. Halifax County was formed from Edgecombe County in 1758. In 1769, his father, John Tanner Sr. gave him land on the north side of Fishing Creek. Fishing Creek, as the county lines changed, was located in Edgecombe, Halifax and Bute Counties. David married Mary Barnes in 1773 in Halifax County. In this same year David and his wife Mary sold their land to Absolom Benton. This land was part of a patent granted to James Spier in 1743 and to John Tanner in 1760. From 1775 to 1779, David Tanner lived in Bute County, North Carolina. In January 1775, David was commissioned a lieutenant in the militia for the Fishing Creek District.

According to William Chenault, who wrote "The Early History of Madison County (Kentucky)," David and his brother, John Tanner were in Fincastle County, Virginia (as it was known at the time) as early as April of 1775. They were probably in that area looking for a suitable place to settle with their families as were many other early visitors to what would later become Kentucky. David and his brother did not stay long for they were involved in activities in North Carolina at the time, as mentioned above. Between 13 March 1780 and 26 June 1780, David Tanner served with George Rogers Clark in Captain Charles Gatliff's company of Rangers and was ordered on duty by John Bowman in what was then Kentucky County, Virginia. From 1781 to 1786, David was involved in land entries in Lincoln County, which at that time was still in Virginia. David Tanner served a second time under George Rogers Clark between 23 October 1782 and 23 November 1782 in Captain William McCrackin's company on an expedition against the Shawnee Indians.

David Tanner must have traveled back to North Carolina after his second tour of duty as he was not mentioned anywhere in that part of Virginia until the summer of 1784 when he returned to Fayette County, Virginia and built the first settlement, called Tanner Station, in what is now Nicholas County, Kentucky. This settlement was located in the Lower Blue

David Tanner (cont.)



Front view of the reconstructed Tanner Station built in 2003.

Licks, a quarter of a mile from Blue Licks State Park where the Battle of Blue Licks occurred in 1782. A replica of the settlement was erected by Jesse Mains and others around 2003 on property of the Kentucky State Park. According to the Draper manuscripts, David erected this fortification over a spring to protect salt makers from Indian attacks. He also built cabins on the hillside above this enclosure so he could observe what was going on inside. David was one of the earliest entrepreneurs in the area as he leased his large kettles to settlers following the buffalo road from Boonesborough to Maysville. The settlers could make salt for themselves at a cost of half the salt produced or could purchase salt itself. David Tanner's wife was also

observed there at that time making soap from the ashes of the salt-making process. This establishes proof that this was the first known David Tanner family homestead in what would become Kentucky in 1792.

David Tanner had land surveyed in July 1784 on Otter Creek, in what was then Lincoln County, Virginia, but did not receive the grant until 1786. The 1000 acre tract was located between Otter Creek and Muddy Creek and was located five miles below Boonesborough. That area would become Madison County in 1786.

Sometime after March 1786, David left that part of Virginia and went to Natchez District, Province of Louisiana, probably by way of the Mississippi River, because in April 1786 he sold his boat there for \$136.00. He probably took a boat full of crops and other items to that area to sell as did many early pioneers during the time. David was mentioned as a planter and had six slaves with him that his father had given him at the time of David's marriage that he had brought from North Carolina. His father, knowing that David was about to emigrate from North Carolina to a foreign land, gave his wife one slave woman named Esther. David chose to sell some of his slaves to pay for his debts. In June 1786, James Buchanan, assignee of David Tanner, was involved in a court action against John Tanner in Virginia/Kentucky. David remained in the Natchez District area until August 1790 when he was mentioned in the inventory of the estate of William Hoy in Madison County, Virginia (Kentucky). In February 1791, David and his wife, Mary gave power of attorney to John Halley to sell his 1000 acre tract located in Madison County. After this date, David and his family must have returned to Natchez District because he was mentioned on the estate of Richard Carpenter in March 1791 and again in April 1791 involving Samuel Flowers. David returned to Kentucky and was involved in several deeds and land transactions between June 1791 and July 1795. In September 1797, Mary Tanner was a witness to a dispute between Abraham Horten and Reubin Denham in the Natchez District. That was the last time Mary Tanner was ever mentioned. In January 1799, David Tanner was involved with Green Clay over land conveyance in Madison County, Kentucky. That was the last time David Tanner was ever mentioned.

In trying to determine when David died, I found a reference to a suit brought by the heirs of John Tanner, David's brother, about 1810 in Kentucky. The heirs commissioned Henry Clay to represent them. In this reference the brother of John Tanner, not mentioned by name, sold land to Lawrence Owen. That brother claimed to have the power of attorney. The only brother that John Tanner had in Kentucky at the time was David Tanner. Clay brought suit against Lawrence Owen claiming that the brother of John Tanner did not have legal rights to sell that land. The two Tanner brothers were dead by the time the judgment was rendered. It is my belief that the illegal land transaction in question was the earlier reference to the June 1786 court action involving a suit against John Tanner by James Buchanan, assignee of David Tanner. This may have been the reason that David Tanner and his family left the Lincoln/Madison County area to live in the Natchez District for several years. James Buchanan probably represented David while he was in the Natchez District.

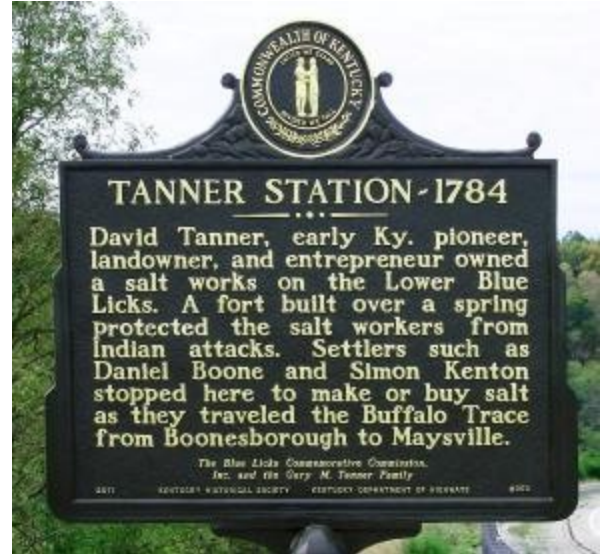
David Tanner (cont.)

Exactly when and where David and Mary Tanner died is still unknown.

Although David Tanner did not get the notoriety that Daniel Boone, Simon Kenton, James Harrod and others received in the early history of Kentucky, he achieved much during his life. He was an early explorer of what later became Kentucky, a planter/farmer by trade, a Revolutionary War soldier, an Indian fighter, the builder of Tanner Station, an early entrepreneur, and a Mississippi River trader. Much has been written about David's brother, the Baptist preacher, John Tanner, but little was known about David Tanner. I am a proud member of the Sons of the American Revolution through my great-great-great-grandfather, David Tanner.



Compatriot Gary Tanner seen here in the doorway of the two-story blockhouse of the reconstructed Tanner Station.



A new historical marker was unveiled at the site of Tanner Station in a dedication ceremony on October 3, 2011.

Recent Color Guard Activities



Dick Bierman is shown with U.S. Magistrate Dave Whalin at the Naturalization Ceremony on Dec. 2, 2011. Judge Whalin presides at many of the naturalization proceedings.



Compatriot Foster Burba, pictured here between his son, Michael and wife, Shirley, was one of over a hundred WW II veterans who made the Honor Flight trip to Washington D.C. on October 6, 2011.

Color Guard (cont.)

**National Society
Sons of the American
Revolution**

<http://www.sar.org>

**“The Long Rifleman”
Is Published
Five Times Annually**

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<http://louthrustonsar.org>**



Members of the Louisville Thruston Color Guard participated in a memorial ceremony held on November 6, 2011 to honor veterans from Fairdale, Kentucky who died in the Vietnam War.

Dr. Jack J. Early to Speak at February 18th Luncheon



Compatriots, plan now to attend our first chapter meeting of the new year and help us honor the birthday of our country’s first President. If you’ve never had the pleasure of hearing **Compatriot Jack J. Early**, then you won’t want to miss the upcoming George Washington’s Birthday meeting at Owl Creek Country Club scheduled for 11:30 a.m., Saturday, February 18, 2012. The subject of his talk will be **“George Washington - the Man, the General, the Leader.”** For those who have never heard Dr. Early speak, then you are in for a treat! A graduate of Union College, he earned his Master’s and Doctorate Degrees in Education from the University of Kentucky. He also received a Bachelor of Divinity Degree from the Lexington Theological Seminary.

A distinguished educator and administrator, Dr. Early has conducted motivational seminars throughout the U.S. and the world. His many honors include election to the University of Kentucky Hall of Distinguished Alumni and the Hall of Fame for the College of Education at U. of K.; the Hall of Fame at Union College; selected as Outstanding Young Man for the state of South Dakota; recognized by the American Indians with the Chief Iron Eyes Cody Medal of Peace; selected as Outstanding Kentuckian in 1990; and the recipient of honorary degrees from Dakota Wesleyan University, Iowa Wesleyan College, Union College and Cumberland College.

Also on the agenda for February 18th will be the Knight Essay Contest winner. A detailed meeting announcement including reservation form will be sent out shortly to all members. See you there!