



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

**President:**  
George E. Meyers

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Daniel N. Klinck

### President's Remarks

As Flag Day approached, I contemplated the meaning it has for this country - only a piece of cloth and a staff - but fasten them together and add the stars and stripes and they become "Old Glory," the symbol of our great nation. At the recent Flag Day Luncheon held on June 11, 2011, **Dan Klinck**, Commander of the Louisville-Thruston Chapter SAR Color Guard gave a brief overview of three of this country's earliest American Flags, designed during the American Revolution with the motto, "Don't Tread On Me."



Only a few days earlier, **Jon E. Huffman** handed me one of those same flags, the third design of "Don't Tread On Me," at the D-Day Anniversary Honor Flight held on June 6, 2011, at Louisville International Airport. Over 400 persons were on hand, all holding American flags, gathered in the main concourse to welcome home 100 WW II veterans from their trip to Washington D.C. In addition to Jon and myself were Jon's son, **Jon D. Huffman**, along with **Rita and Bob Andres**, my sister and brother-in-law. Also representing Louisville-Thruston Chapter were Past President **Will Schrader**, President Elect **John H. Huffman**, and 3rd Vice President **Doug Collins**. KYSSAR President **Forrest Chilton** was in attendance with five compatriots from Gov. Isaac Shelby Chapter. Among the WW II vets returning from D.C. was compatriot **Hayden Fuller**, drummer in our own Dr. V. Edward Masters Color Guard.

Several of our members who responded to the "On-Line Survey" last year expressed an interest in having a casual meeting at what could be a local restaurant during a week night. A committee is currently working on finding a suitable location, and we hope to finalize the details by sometime next month. The plan is to have a relaxed meeting which will include a featured speaker and an optional menu for those who wish to eat. Anyone with suggestions or recommendations for a meeting site should contact President Elect **John H. Huffman** at: <neanderthal@insightbb.com> or you can reach him by phone at (502) 214-0292. We are planning this meeting for mid-October sometime between our regularly scheduled September Luncheon Meeting and the Christmas Dinner/Dance.

Finally, thanks to Regent **Laura Jones** and the John Marshall Chapter, DAR for sharing their Flag Day Meeting with us. Well done!

**George E. Meyers, President**  
**Louisville-Thruston Chapter, KYSSAR**

## Flag Day Meeting

Compatriots from Louisville-Thruston Chapter were graciously invited by the host, John Marshall Chapter, DAR to join in their Flag Day Luncheon Meeting at Audubon Country Club on Saturday, June 11, 2011. Regent **Laura Jones** presided over the meeting, which opened with a drum solo by **Hayden Fuller** followed by posting of the Colors by the Dr. V. Edward Masters Memorial Color Guard. Members were then asked to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, the American Creed and the Preamble to the Constitution. Color guard commander, **Dan Klinck** told about three early American Flags, all with the motto "Don't Tread On Me." L.T. President **George E. Meyers** greeted attendees and introduced NSSAR President General, **J. David Sympson**, who spoke briefly to those present.



Color guard drummer **Hayden Fuller** performed a drum solo to begin the meeting.

Several awards were presented by various members of DAR: The Elizabeth Nall Sherry CAR Scholarship was awarded to **Graham Hardaway**, who received a check for \$500; **Ann Franklin** was recognized with a 25 Year Membership Award; incoming Regent, **Sharlene Cooper** received the Flag Award; the Community Service Award was presented to **Karen Little**, for her work with Alley Cat Advocates; the Historic Preservation Group Award was presented to **Sallie Smith**, representing Blackacre Nature Preserve and Homestead located in Jefferson County; Kentucky; and the Historic Preservation Individual Award went to **Robert Cromartie** for his restoration work at "Ardmore," a federalist period home and farm located in Woodford County, Kentucky. Mr. Cromartie was also the featured speaker and gave a PowerPoint presentation showing the restoration efforts at "Ardmore," including many before and after photographs of the house and out-buildings.



Color guard commander **Dan Klinck** described three of our chapter's flags, all with the motto "Don't Tread On Me."



The Colors were posted by color guard members (L to R) **Dan Klinck**, **David Head** and **Will Schrader**.

### Flag Day Meeting (cont.)



NSSAR President General, **J. David Sympson**, flanked by **Laura Jones**, Regent of John Marshall Chapter, KYSDAR and **George Meyers**, President of Louisville-Thruston Chapter, KYSSAR, addressed members at the June 11th meeting.



**Graham Hardaway** was awarded the Elizabeth Nall Sherry Scholarship by **Anne Moore**.



**Ann Franklin** (L) was honored for 25 years of membership by Regent **Laura Jones**.



**Cora Potter** (L) presented **Karen Little** with the Community Service Award.



**Robert Cromartie** spoke about his restoration of "Ardmore" in Woodford County, KY for which he was awarded the Individual Historic Preservation Award.



(L to R) Louisville-Thruston President **George Meyers**, NSSAR President General **J. David Sympson** and his wife **Evelyn Sympson**.

**Flag Day Meeting (cont.)**



On the agenda was the installation of 2011-2012 officers for John Marshall Chapter with KYSDAR State Regent, **Jessianne Wells** extending the oath of office. Incoming officers are: Regent, **Sharlene Cooper**; 1st Vice Regent, **Cynthia Buttorff**; 2nd Vice Regent, **Laura Jones**; Chaplain, **Sallie Smith**; Asst. Chaplain, **Mary Jane Stewart**; Recording Secretary, **Joyce Collins**; Corresponding Secretary, **Bonnie Allison**; Asst. Corresponding Secretary, **Martha Garcia**; Treasurer, **Rebekah Malone**; Asst. Treasurer, **Hilary Burns**; Registrar, **Janet Upton**; Asst. Registrar, **Winnie Miller**; Historian, **Carol Anderson**; Librarian, **Beverly Hicklin**.



The incoming Regent for John Marshall Chapter is **Sharlene Cooper** shown here with NSSAR President General and Louisville-Thruston member, **J. David Sympson**.



The meeting was brought to a close with the benediction by Louisville-Thruston Chaplain **Rev. Paul Smith** shown here with Chaplain **Sallie Smith** of John Marshall Chapter.

**Louisville Thurston Chapter's next regularly scheduled meeting will be the Constitution Day Luncheon to be held on Saturday, September 10, 2011, at the Pendennis Club in downtown Louisville. See you there!**

## D-Day Anniversary Honor Flight

On Monday, June 6, 2011, the D-Day Anniversary Honor Flight took place at the Louisville International Airport, the first Honor Flight event of the current 2011 season. With flags unfurled and banners held high, more than 400 people gathered in the main concourse to welcome home over 100 WW II veterans who made the trip to Washington D.C. Among the well wishers were many compatriots from KYSSAR standing alongside representatives from DAR, VFW, Patriot Guard and many family and friends. Louisville-Thruston's own color guard drummer, **Hayden Fuller** was one of the WW II vets returning from the trip.

For those of you who may not be familiar with the program, Honor Flight is a national, non-profit organization created as a way to honor American veterans for their sacrifices and achievements by flying them at no cost to Washington D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials. Top priority is given to senior veterans—World War II survivors along with those veterans of all wars who may be terminally ill. Sadly, we are losing over 1200 WW II veterans each day.



Photos taken at the D-Day Anniversary Honor Flight at Louisville International Airport on June 6, 2011



## Honor Flight (cont.)



WW II vet **Hayden Fuller** was on the trip to D.C.



Louisville-Thruston compatriots in attendance were (L to R) **Doug Collins, Will Schrader, George E. Meyers** and **Jon E. Huffman**. Missing is compatriot **John H. Huffman**, who took the photograph.



Among those welcoming the vets was **Col. (U.S.A.F. Ret.) Leo K. Thorsness**, awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions in Vietnam.

The local Bluegrass Chapter of Honor Flight, which serves veterans of the bluegrass region, is based in Louisville, Kentucky and sponsors several flights to Washington D.C. each year. Everyone is encouraged to join us for future Honor Flight events. It's an emotional and rewarding experience for both veterans and those assembled to greet them. Dates and times will be posted in the Upcoming Events section of our web site.

**If you know of a WW II veteran who may be interested in participating in the Honor Flight program, you can contact them at: Honor Flight Bluegrass Chapter, PO Box 43986, Middletown, KY, 40253. General information including flight schedules and application forms is available on their web site: <http://www.honorflightbluegrass.org/default.html>**

## Color Guard Activities



Color guard members participated in the Cox's Station DAR event in Bloomfield, KY on May 14, 2011. (L to R) **Christopher Woo, Will Schrader, David Head, Dan Klinck** and **Hayden Fuller**.



Compatriot **Will Schrader** congratulates a new citizen, one of 64 who took the Oath of Allegiance at the Naturalization Proceedings on June 10, 2011.

### Color Guard Activities (cont.)



(Left and Above) Members of Louisville-Thruston's Dr. V. Edward Masters Memorial Color Guard marched at the Memorial Day ceremonies at Zachary Taylor National Cemetery - May 30, 2011.



The Louisville-Thruston Color Guard posted Colors at a performance of the Louisville Chorus on July 1, 2011 at the Bluegrass Christian Church. (L to R) Will Schrader, Daniel Klinck, Christopher Woo, Paul Whitty, Hayden Fuller, Jon E. Huffman and Sammie Lee.

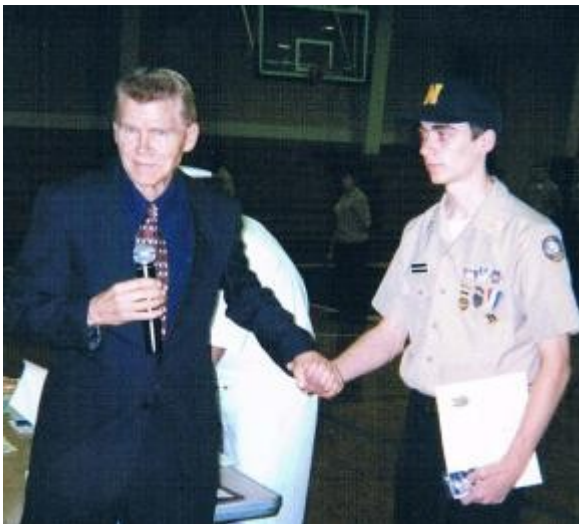
**Would you be interested in joining our color guard? The Dr. V. Edward Masters Memorial Color Guard participates in numerous events which celebrate and promote our country's history and honor our veterans. Join with us and start enjoying the camaraderie. We would welcome your help. Contact Dan Klinck at (502) 429-0382 or email him at: [dnklinck@att.net](mailto:dnklinck@att.net)**

### Color Guard Activities (cont.)



Americana was on display at the Independence Day Parade in the Robinswood section of Louisville on July 4, 2011. Fire trucks led the procession, a band played patriotic music, and the L. T. Color Guard fired muskets to close the proceedings.

### JROTC Awards



Clockwise from above left:  
**Lt. Col. M. C. Dobbs**, cadet **Benjamin Reece** and compatriot **Robert Shuck** at MCJROTC Awards Ceremony at J-Town High School on April 14, 2011.

Cadet **Dalton Glisson** and compatriot **Will Schrader** at MCJROTC Awards Ceremony at Fern Creek High School, May 18, 2011.

Louisville-Thruston President **George Meyers** congratulates cadet **Brenden Holthouser** at NJROTC Awards Ceremony at Valley High School on April 28, 2011.

## Rogers Clark Ballard Thruston

*Rogers Clark Ballard Thruston is a man to be remembered, yet it's probably a safe bet that his name will not be recognized by many of our members, despite the fact our chapter was named in his honor. As you will see from the following article, no one has done more to capture and preserve Kentucky history than R. C. Ballard Thruston.*

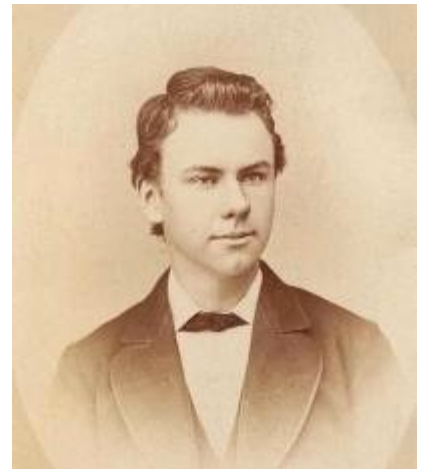


**William C, Schrader III**

*William C. Schrader III is a native of Louisville, Kentucky where he graduated from Flaget High School and Bellarmine College. He earned a Ph.D. in European History in 1972 from the Catholic University of America located in Washington D.C., after which he joined the faculty of Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, Tennessee. He taught at T. T. U. until his retirement in 2002 as Professor Emeritus of History. Will has been an active member of SAR for fourteen years and a member of the Louisville-Thruston Chapter KYSSAR for the last nine years since his transfer from the Tennessee Society. He has held the office of President of Louisville-Thruston Chapter and State President of KYSSAR..*

Rogers Clark Ballard Thruston was born on 6 November 1858 into one of the most influential families of Louisville, Kentucky. He was the fourth son of Andrew Jackson Ballard and Frances Ann Thruston. On his father's side, he was descended from the "old Indian fighter" Bland Ballard of Shelby County. On his mother's side, he was descended from Frances Eleanor Clark Thruston, sister of George Rogers Clark and William Clark. His family donated the land for George Rogers Clark Park, Ballard Square, and Churchill Park in Louisville.

Rogers Clark Ballard graduated from the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University in 1880. After a brief stint with the Monon railway, Rogers began a long practice as an engineer and geologist in eastern Kentucky. From 1882 to 1887 he was associated as Metallurgist and Assistant Geologist with the Kentucky Geological Survey under the direction of A. R. Crandell, a faculty member of what was then the Kentucky Agricultural and Mechanical College in Lexington, now the University of Kentucky. It was during these years that, at his mother's request, on 27 October 1884, Ballard adopted his mother's maiden name of Thruston as his own last name by act of the County Court of Fayette County. The first syllable of the name is pronounced the same as "through" or "threw." In 1887, his brother Charles Ballard organized the Interstate Investment Company, of which Rogers became an officer. He resigned from the Kentucky Geological Survey and spent the next twenty-two years working in eastern Kentucky for this company and various spin-offs, acquiring extensive mineral and timber rights in eastern Kentucky and western Virginia. Rogers worked primarily in Harlan County, Kentucky and Lee County, Virginia, locating, surveying, purchasing, platting, registering and



**Rogers Clark Ballard ca 1873**

litigating property rights. His scientific and technical training and this practical experience engendered in him a meticulous attention to detail and determination to establish hard facts which would later prove useful in his historical and genealogical work. He regularly spent the winter months in Lexington, but eight months a year in the field, tracing property lines and stepping out boundaries, often on steep, difficult slopes. Thirteen large folios of abstracts and plats were deposited with the Filson Club of Louisville documenting this careful work.

Thruston managed to establish working relationships with the xenophobic mountaineers of the area, as is testified by the thousands of photographs taken of life in the mountains during those years. He later recalled that he had purchased one of the earliest cameras known to the region, which he called a Kodak, although that was not a precise description, as he tended to use the word "Kodak" to refer to any camera and to the photographs they produced. Over the years, he produced literally thousands of photographs, not only of Appalachian life, but of Louisville, of his many trips abroad - to Panama, Mexico, Japan, China, Egypt - and to other parts of the United States. His extensive photographic collection of over 20,000 images dating from 1880 to 1942 is housed at the Filson Club in Louisville. Thomas D. Clark, dean of

## R. C. B. Thruston (cont.)

Kentucky historians, in an article in the *Filson Club History Quarterly* (Vol. 58, October 1984), speaks of Thruston's "wide-ranging personal knowledge of the Appalachians, the nature of their environment, the people who populated them, and a first-rate photographic record..."

While working in Appalachia, Rogers became acquainted with John Fox, Jr. (1862-1919), the author of *The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come* (1903) and *The Trail of the Lonesome Pine* (1908) among other works. He supplied Fox with many useful observations on Appalachian life. In a 1939 letter to Fox's biographer Herald E. Green, Thruston wrote, "regarding the mountaineers, their manners, habits, customs, etc., I think there are none of his books that did not have something in them that I had told him."

Rogers Clark Ballard Thruston decided to retire from his work in the mountains in 1909 at the age of forty-nine. In addition to his role as a director of the Ballard & Ballard Flour Mills, he was manager of the Big Stone Gap Iron Company and a director of the United States Trust Company. He was quite well off and could comfortably devote the remainder of his long life to a series of historical, patriotic and charitable activities.



**Rogers Clark Ballard Thruston ca 1900**

During World War I, Rogers was the first chairman of the Louisville Chapter of the American Red Cross, 1917-1918. He served as president of the Yale Alumni Association of Kentucky. In his professional capacity he was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Forestry Association. From 1922 to 1935, he was a member of the Louisville Free Public Library Board, serving a term as president. He was a director of the Speed Museum in Louisville and of Liberty Hall in Frankfort. He served twice as governor of the Society of Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, from 1909-1911 and again in 1922. He was a member of the Virginia Society of the Cincinnati.

Thruston became a member of the Sons of the American Revolution in 1890, the year the first National Congress of the Society met in Louisville, on the record of his great grandfather, Charles Myan Thruston. He later filed supplemental applications on the records of Bland Ballard, Armistead Churchill, William Oldham and William Pope. He became president of the Kentucky Society, SAR in October 1911, resigning on 17 June 1913 after being sworn in as President General of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution at the Chicago meeting on 20 May 1913. Prior to becoming President General, Thruston served as Vice-President General in 1910 and 1911, and as a member of the Executive Committee in 1912. He would be re-elected as President General in 1914, serving until the National Congress in Portland, Oregon on July 20, 1915.

Throughout his life, Rogers Clark Ballard Thruston was a tireless researcher into his own family history and genealogy. He visited cemeteries and researched church records tirelessly, as well as hiring others to carry on this task when he was unable to do so in person. His voluminous correspondence on the Clark family remains a valuable resource today. The genealogical aspects of both the SAR and the Filson owe a great deal to his enthusiasm. He later presented a photostatic collection of 21,000 documents relating to the campaigns of George Rogers Clark to the Filson. He read a paper before the Filson on 1 June 1931 which was published in *The Filson Club History Quarterly* in 1934 (vol. 8, January 1934) concerning the relationship between John Filson's book and the accompanying map of early Kentucky. In this work he demonstrated his meticulous attention to detail in discussing editions, paper quality, types, watermarks, mistakes in translation to other languages, and the locations of original copies. He concluded that the book, published in Wilmington, Delaware, and the map, engraved in Philadelphia, were sold as a unit with some editions, but not all.

Thruston made an exhaustive study of the history of the American flag. He gave illustrated lectures on the flags used by

## R. C. B. Thruston (cont.)

the various colonies up to the adoption of the national banner and had a brochure on the subject entitled “The History of the Origin and Evolution of the United States Flag,” endorsed and published by the Congress of the United States.

He was likewise concerned with the preservation of the historical record. In a letter of 27 March 1916 to Mrs. W. H. Thompson, Vice-President General of the DAR, he describes a visit to the Kentucky State Archives in Frankfort. “I went and found the papers strewn over the floor that were being trampled upon, and when I asked if they were of any value, was told ‘No, they are of no value, you may have them if you want.’” In 1936, partly through Thruston’s efforts, the Department of Library Archives was created, but it was not until 1950 that the Kentucky Records Control Law was passed to collect and preserve public records appropriately. Thruston was also responsible for having over one hundred copies of early American newspapers included in the Filson collection, including twelve volumes of *The Kentucky Gazette* dating from 1787 to 1800.

One of the most significant acquisitions of Thruston was the collection of genealogical papers relating to the signers of the Declaration of Independence. In 1885, Frank Willing Leach of Philadelphia began this collection, researching the families of the signers. He sought unsuccessfully to sell his collection to the Library of Congress for \$10,000 in 1919, and then to the Society of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. At that time, the Descendants of the Signers and the SAR had a joint committee concerned with collecting and preserving materials related to the Declaration of Independence. The Secretary of the joint committee was John Calvert, who was also the Secretary of the signer’s organization. In this manner, the situation was brought to Thruston’s attention. Finding that neither the Society of the Descendants nor the SAR themselves had the funds to make the purchase, Thruston stepped up to the plate, writing to Calvert, “though I do not wish to make the purchase, I am willing to do so provided you will go and look over them and feel fully satisfied” that the materials are worth the price that Leach was asking, now reduced to \$2,000. As a result of Calvert’s assurances, on 17 October 1922 the Leach Collection was purchased. Over the next several years, Calvert had four copies made of the original documents, comprising over 6,000 typewritten pages each. In a letter to Frank Steele, Secretary General of SAR, dated 19 April 1938, Thruston describes the distribution of these copies. “Of the four copies that were made, one went to each organization [i.e., the Society of the Descendants and the SAR], one to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and one, together with the originals to the Filson Club here.” John Calvert, Thruston and subsequent librarians have added to the collection. Thruston’s own contributions fill eight volumes. The collection was termed “one of the richest assemblies of personal histories of American families available” by Thomas D. Clark.

In his will in 1946, Thruston gave \$50,000 to establish an endowment fund for the Filson, and \$25,000 for an acquisition fund for the library and archives. Rogers Clark Ballard Thruston was effectively a second founder of the Filson.

At the Chicago National Congress of the SAR in 1913, it was resolved that the NSSAR and the appropriate state societies mark the hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the journey of George Washington from Philadelphia to Cambridge, Massachusetts to take up his duties as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army in 1775. President General Thruston spent a great deal of effort organizing and coordinating this effort and participating in it. A detailed description of the festivities is preserved in the 1914 Yearbook (pages 176 to 187). This historical re-enactment, called “Washington’s Journey,” left Philadelphia on 23 June 1915 and completed the journey immediately prior to the National Congress in Portland, Oregon. The participants wore colonial uniforms, with an eighteenth century coach providing transportation for the re-enactor of the General. They stopped in the same cities, and where possible in the same facilities, as the original journey, being greeted by enthusiastic crowds along the way. A brochure detailing the expedition was subsequently printed by the Society.



**Rogers Clark Ballard Thruston ca 1944**

## R. C. B. Thruston (cont.)

### National Society Sons of the American Revolution

<http://www.sar.org>

### "The Long Rifleman" Is Published Five Times Annually

Jon E. Huffman, Editor  
6605 Falls Creek Road  
Louisville, Kentucky  
40241

Phone: (502) 429-8906

Rogers Clark Ballard Thruston died in Louisville on 30 December 1946, at the age of 88. Ironically, he was buried from the L. D. Pearson Funeral Home, located in the Ferguson Mansion at 1310 South Third Street, the present headquarters of the Filson. He is buried in Cave Hill Cemetery.

When it was decided in 1960 that members of the SAR in Louisville should be organized in a chapter, rather than simply being members of the Kentucky Society as they had been for three-quarters of a century, the new chapter was named Rogers Clark Ballard Thruston Chapter. Twenty years later, during the administration of President William Gist, Jr., the name was changed to the Louisville Thruston Chapter.

**William C. Schrader III**  
**Past President**  
**Louisville Thruston Chapter**

## Membership News

Visit our Web Site at:  
<http://louthrustonsar.org>

Five new applications for membership in Louisville-Thruston Chapter were approved during the first six months of 2011 giving us a total of 323 active members. A warm welcome to **Paul Glenn Combest**, **Alvin Franklin Davis**, **Nicholas James Spaulding**, **Samuel Gavin Swope** and **Donald Carl Thom**. One memorial application was also approved posthumously for **Earl Vernon Collins**. In addition, a total of fourteen supplemental applications have been approved submitted by four of our members: **Christopher Chase Collins**, **Hunter Scott Collins**, **Gary Morris Tanner** and **William Walter Upton Jr.** Congratulations!

## Announcements and Upcoming Events

**Saturday, July 16, 2011 - KYSSAR State Meeting:** At the SAR Genealogy Library, 809 W. Main Street in downtown Louisville. The Board of Governors will meet at 10:30 a.m. followed by the regular business meeting at 11:00 a.m. The cost to attend will be \$3.00 in advance or \$5.00 at the door. Lunch will be on your own.

**Saturday, July 23, 2011 - DAR Log Cabin Marking Ceremony -** The John Marshall Chapter of DAR is sponsoring a ceremony at 1:00 p.m. to mark the Robert Black Log Cabin near Greensburg, Kentucky. The KYSSAR Color Guard will participate in the event. If you would like to join us and carry a flag, we would appreciate your help. Contact Charlie Scott at (502) 931-5091 or you can email him at <cscott@insightbb.com>

**Saturday, August 6, 2011 - Board of Governor's Meeting:** Louisville-Thruston Chapter board members are scheduled to meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Demolay Commandery Building, 1410 Gardner Lane (next to the main post office).

**Saturday, August 20, 2011 - Blue Licks Battlefield Ceremony and Luncheon:** Blue Licks Battlefield State Park near Mt. Olivet, Kentucky. Luncheon will be at the Lodge is at 12:00 noon followed by posting of the Colors, wreath presentation ceremony and the battle re-enactment. Come and join with the KYSSAR Color Guard for this event!

**Saturday, September 10, 2011 - Constitution Day Meeting Luncheon:** The Louisville-Thruston Chapter's next regularly scheduled meeting will be a joint meeting with DAR and will be held at the Pendennis Club (2nd floor), 218 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd. in downtown Louisville. Hosting this year's meeting is Fincastle Chapter of DAR.