



Gen. George Rogers Clark
Founder of Louisville

The Long Rifleman

Louisville-Thruston Chapter



Kentucky Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

2012 - 2013 Officers

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Constitution Day Meeting

More than 160 members and guests attended the Constitution Day Luncheon Meeting held on September 8, 2012 at the Pendennis Club. The host this year was Louisville-Thruston Chapter, SAR, with President **John H. Huffman, Sr.** presiding. The event, sponsored jointly by SAR and DAR, is held annually during the month of September to commemorate the adoption of the U.S. Constitution in Philadelphia on September 17, 1787. Honorees seated at the head table representing DAR were Regent **Sharlene Cooper**, John Marshall Chapter; Regent **Keitt Wood**, Fincastle Chapter; Regent **Janet Upton**, Corn Island Chapter; and Vice-Regent **Jimmie Spratlin**, Peter Foree Chapter. Representing the Kentucky State Society, SAR, was President **Harry Geimeier**. After introductions and greetings by those at the head table, compatriot **J. David Sympson**, Past President General, NSSAR, related to attendees the history of how Constitution Day came into being and the important roles played by both SAR and DAR in making that happen.



Color Guard members Hayden Fuller & Renee Shields performed a drum duet to open the meeting.

Four new Louisville-Thruston members were on hand for their first meeting and were awarded lapel rosette pins. They were **Harold Dawson**, **James Kays**, **Charles Lewis** and **David McCaulley**. President Elect **Doug Collins** introduced the featured speaker, **William Carrell II**, who gave an extremely interesting and informative talk tracing our country's early history from the first settlers to the beginning of the Revolutionary War.

A special thanks to everyone who donated materials for the VA Hospital. Approximately 600 items were collected at the meeting, including toiletry articles and paperback books. President Elect **Doug Collins** is to be commended for a magnificent job in supervising this effort. We will have another collection station at the upcoming Sweet Adeline concert on Sunday, October 14th, sponsored by the Corn Island Chapter, DAR. Please help support our 'service to veterans' drive by bringing a contribution. For a complete list of suggested materials to donate, please contact your chapter officers.

Constitution Day (cont.)



The main dining room at the Pendennis Club was filled to capacity for the joint SAR/DAR Constitution Day Luncheon meeting held on September 8, 2012. Louisville-Thruston Chapter hosted this year's event.



KYSSAR President Harry Geimeier (left) and program speaker, Bill Carrell.



Members of Corn Island Chapter, DAR, were selling tickets for their upcoming Sweet Adeline concert on October 14th at the Clifton Center.



J. David Sympton, Past PG, NSSAR, spoke on the origins of Constitution Day.



(L to R) Regent Janet Upton, Vice-Regent Jimmie Spratlin, Regent Keitt Wood and Regent Sharlene Cooper.

Constitution Day (cont.)



A warm welcome to our newest members! President John H. Huffman, Sr. (center) awarded rosette lapel pins to compatriots (l to r) David McCaulley, James Kays, Harold Dawson and Charles Lewis.



Mitchell Clouse, KY State CAR President with his mom, Sharon.



(L to R) Tom Geimeier, Harry Geimeier, Doug Collins, David Sympon and Dick Bierman.



Hayden Fuller was presented the SAR War Service medal by President John H. Huffman, Sr. for his WW II service.



(Left) Bill Carrell was awarded a limited edition issue of the SAR Challenge Coin by President John H. Huffman Sr.



(Right) Past President George E. Meyers (at right) and compatriot Lowell Collard.

Constitution Day (cont.)



J. David Sympson

Observance of Constitution Day

Since the founding of the SAR and DAR, each has striven to promote patriotism, history and education throughout our great nation. One example is on September 17th when Constitution Day is observed. It was an SAR achievement that established September 17th as the day commemorating the signing of the United States Constitution. In 1911, the Iowa Society SAR President Elmer Wentworth prevailed upon the Iowa State Legislature to provide for the general observance of Constitution Day in that state; thereafter other states followed the observance. Compatriot David Pierson of the New Jersey Society, Chairman of the NSSAR Constitution Day Committee, urged each State Society to promote the observance of

Constitution Day. A nationwide pattern was established. The NSDAR joined their brothers in promoting the celebration of Constitution Day, and by 1919, over 5000 observances were held through their joint efforts.

In 1955, the Daughters of the American Revolution promoted the concept of devoting the entire week to include both Constitution Day and Citizenship Day. The United States Congress and Compatriot President Eisenhower approved the resolution for Constitution Week to begin on September 17th of each year.

In keeping with the NSDAR resolution and national government policy on September 15, 2012, an NSSAR initiative along with the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania will lead the nation in observing the 225th Anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution. The celebration will include a Massing of the Colors with SAR color guardsmen from the original 12 colonies that initially signed the constitution; missing colony Rhode Island. There will be a program in front of Independence Hall, one of our nation's most important historical monuments. A parade will ensue on the Green with SAR color guardsmen from throughout the United States joining the celebration and support of the original colonies color guard.

The footprints of both SAR and DAR are clearly across the patriotic history of our great nation.

J. David Sympson
President General, NSSAR 2010-2011

Naturalization Proceedings



Representatives from Louisville-Thruston are on hand each month to welcome new American citizens at the U.S. Naturalization Proceedings held in the Federal Bldg. in downtown Louisville. Dick Bierman (L) and Will Schrader are shown congratulating some of our nations' most recent members.



Naturalization Proceedings (cont.)



Compatriot Will Schrader at the August 10, 2012 Proceedings.



Compatriot Dick Bierman attended the ceremony on July 20, 2012.



President Elect Doug Collins was present on September 21, 2012.

Color Guard Activities



Color guardsmen from the Dr. V. Edward Masters Memorial Color Guard presented the Colors at Slugger Field on August 7, 2012 for the Louisville Bats baseball game. (L to R) Paul Whitty, Will Schrader, David Simpson, Henry Head, Cmdr. Daniel Klinck, and Christopher Woo. The Louisville-Thruston Chapter sponsored a family night get together for members and friends.

Color Guard (cont.)



The firing of black-powder muskets was a special treat for kids at the Robinswood Parade held on July 4, 2012 in the Indian Hills neighborhood.



Presentation of the Colors at the joint SAR/DAR Constitution Day Luncheon held on September 8, 2012.

Evolution of the American Flag

*The national flag of the United States is without a doubt this nation's most widely recognized symbol. But the flag that inspires us today, often called "The Stars and Stripes" or "Old Glory," has taken 235 years to evolve to its present form. The following essay by **President Elect Doug Collins** gives a brief history of the American flag and is a condensed version of the article posted on-line at our chapter's website. In addition to his numerous other contributions, Doug also serves as web master.*



Douglas T. Collins

The American flag defines freedom, to those who fight for it, to those who die for it, even to those who choose to burn it. We recently celebrated the 235th anniversary of the 1777 Flag Resolution, also known as the First Flag Act of 1777, but what do we really know about the history of that most prominent red, white and blue symbol that defines us?

The "Continental Colors," the flag in use at the time of the Declaration of Independence, has historically been referred to as the first national flag. Another year would pass before the Second Continental Congress would officially adopt the flag described with "stars, white in a blue field."

Records show that Philadelphia seamstress Margaret Manny sewed the first "Contintntal Colors" for the *Alfred*, and in December of 1775, the flag was raised for the first time on any colonial fighting vessel. On New Year's Day in 1776, George Washington ordered the "Continental Colors" to be raised on Prospect Hill in Somerville, Massachusetts in celebration of the birth of the Continental Army. Although many flags protesting British rule were in existence at the time, including those with images of snakes, pine trees and the word "liberty," Washington elected to use the "Continental Colors." Once hoisted on a tall flagpole, the flag could be seen as far as Boston, three miles away. Washington referred to the flag as the "Union Flag in Compliment to the United Colonies."

The American Flag (cont.)

On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress passed a Flag resolution, known as the Flag Act of 1777. This Act specified the flag to be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the “union” be thirteen stars, “white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation” and America’s new found independence.

Popular flag designs at the time were varied, and most were individually crafted. Many examples of 13-star arrangements can be found on other flags of the era, such as the Brandywine Flag, the Cowpens Flag, and the Guilford Courthouse flag, among others.

While the first American flag is deemed “the Betsy Ross flag,” her actual involvement is highly debated. Many historians and vexillologists (one who studies flags) agree that Betsy Ross probably did not design or sew the first American flag. However, for more than a century Americans have accepted this story as historical fact.

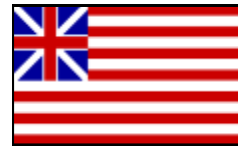
Although the Betsy Ross legend is controversial, the design is not. It is among the earliest 13-star flag designs. If Betsy Ross did not make this flag, then who did? There were over a dozen flag makers and upholsters who worked in Philadelphia during the time this flag was crafted. There is, however, no direct evidence to suggest any one person was responsible for this American flag.

As for the design, a majority of historians point to Francis Hopkinson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Among Hopkinson’s many feats of achievement were: politician, artist, writer, inventor and musician. Many historians believe he designed the American flag before contributing to the early design of the Great Seal.

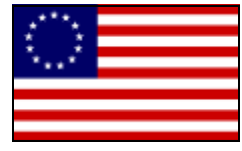
The Flag Act of 1794 was signed into law by President George Washington on January 13, 1794. With the addition of two new states, two stars were added to the blue “union” as well as two additional stripes. This is the only official flag of the United States not to have thirteen stripes. The flag known as “The Star-Spangled Banner” was a 15-star, 15 stripe flag.

The “Star-Spangled Banner” flag was sewn by flag maker Mary Pickersgill during the War of 1812. The massive garrison flag measured 30 feet by 42 feet and weighed approximately 50 pounds. Commissioned by Lt. Colonel George Armistead to fly over Fort McHenry, it was raised on September 14, 1814 to signal America’s victory over the British at the Battle of Baltimore. Inspired by this sight, American lawyer Francis Scott Key wrote the poem, “Defence of Fort McHenry,” known today as “The Star-Spangled Banner.” The original flag itself was donated to the Smithsonian Institution in 1907, by two members of the Armistead family, where it is currently on display in a protective two-story display chamber.

The Flag Act of 1818 was enacted by congress on April 4, 1818. It provided for a revised rule of having thirteen stripes to represent the original thirteen colonies while each state to be represented by a star in the blue “union.” Additionally, it provided the subsequent changes in the number of stars be made effective on July 4, Independence Day, the year



Continental Colors



Betsy Ross Flag



Hopkinson’s 13 Star Flag



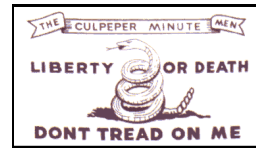
Brandywine Flag



Cowpens Flag



Guilford Courthouse Flag



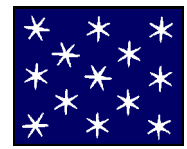
Culpepper Minuteman Flag



Gadsden Flag



Star-Spangled Banner



Washington’s HQ Flag



George Rogers Clark



Current 50-Star Flag

American Flag (cont.)

immediately after a new state was admitted to the Union.

Since 1777, the design of the flag has been officially modified 26 times. The 48-star flag was in effect for 47 years until the 49-star version became official on July 4, 1959. The 50-star flag was ordered by President Eisenhower on August 21, 1959 and as of July 4, 2007 became the longest version in use.

Never before has one symbol provided so much hope, joy, pride, spirit and patriotism like that of the Stars and Stripes.

From the inspiration provided to Francis Scott Key aboard the British Navy Ship *HMS Minton* resulting in our National Anthem; to the iconic image photographed by Joe Rosenthal on February 23, 1945 of the raising of the Flag atop Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima....from the Flag planted on the moon by Apollo 11 astronauts, to the raising of the Flag at Ground Zero by firefighters captured in a photograph by Thomas E. Franklin on September 11, 2001....from the spotlight illuminated Red, White and Blue flown beneath a helicopter at Thunder Over Louisville, to the 45,000 square foot Flag covering a football field at NFL games during the singing of the National Anthem.....from the miniature replicas waved by children at an Independence Day parade, to the flag-draped caskets of those who have died serving our country....nothing says "America" like that magnificent red, white and blue piece of cloth we fondly call "Old Glory."

Doug Collins
President Elect
Louisville-Thruston Chapter

Upcoming Events and Announcements

Sunday, October 14, 2012 - Corn Island Chapter DAR: Fund-raiser and recognition for our troops and veterans. A concert by the Pride of Kentucky of the Sweet Adelines, an internationally renowned women's choral group singing barbershop harmony. Performance is from 2:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the Clifton Center, 2117 Payne Street, Louisville, KY. Tickets are \$10.00 each.

Note: Once again, there will be a collection station to collect supplies for veterans who are receiving treatment at Louisville's VA Medical Center. The VAMC depends upon the goodwill of benefactors and volunteers who want to give something back to our American heroes. You can help by donating toiletry items, soft-cover books, current magazines, etc.

Saturday, October 27, 2012 - KYSSAR Fall Meeting/Luncheon: James Harrod Conference Center, 400 West Lexington Street (located behind Fort Harrod), Harrodsburg, KY; Preregister by contacting Del White, KYSSAR Secretary at <secretary@kyssar.org> Registration at the door begins at 9:30 a.m. (EDT).; Board of Governors Meeting at 10:30 a.m. (EDT); General membership meeting begins at 11:00 a.m. (EDT).

Saturday, October 27, 2012 - Honor Flight Event: A charter flight carrying approximately 30 WW II veterans is scheduled to arrive at Louisville International Airport about 9:00 p.m. Come and enjoy all the fun and welcome home these heroes!

Saturday, November 3, 2012 - Board of Governor's Meeting: Louisville-Thruston Chapter board members will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Demolay Commandry Building, 1410 Gardner Lane (near the main post office).

Friday, December 14, 2012 - Christmas Party and Dance: The 2012 Christmas season kicks off with this annual event at the Louisville Boat Club, 4200 River Road, Louisville, KY. Black tie optional. Registration is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. The bar will open at that time as well. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. Live music will be provided, so plan on joining us for this festive holiday event. An formal announcement with more details will be forthcoming shortly.

In Memoriam

**National Society
Sons of the American
Revolution**

<http://www.sar.org>

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<http://louthrustonsar.org>**



Frazier, Owsley Brown, former vice chairman of Brown Forman Corporation and renowned Louisville philanthropist, died August 16, 2012 after a long illness. He was also the owner of Bittner’s, an interior and commercial design firm and the founder of the Frazier History Museum in downtown Louisville. Born May 7, 1935, and a native of Louisville, he attended Centre College and graduated from the University of Louisville with bachelor’s and J.D. degrees.

Over the years, he amassed an impressive public service record, raising more than \$500 million over a 40-year period, primarily for educational institutions in Kentucky. He was a former executive member of Greater Louisville, Inc.; a director and member of Kentucky Economic Development corporation and director of the Louisville Housing Development Corporation. He served on various boards including the Cathedral Heritage Foundation, Jewish Hospital Healthcare Services, Frazier Rehab Center and Liberty National Bank.

In recognition of his many contributions, he received honorary degrees from both the University of Louisville and Bellarmine University. He served on the board of trustees for both institutions. His recent donation of \$25 million to U. of L. was the largest single contribution in the university’s history.

He was a member of the Pendennis Club, Louisville Country Club, River Valley Club, and the Society of Colonial Wars. He had been a Louisville-Thruston member since 2008.



Join our Color Guard!

**Contact Dan Klinck
at 429-0382**



House, Thomas R., died Friday, September 28, 2012 at Baptist Hospital at age 75.

Tom graduated from St. Xavier High School and entered the U.S. Air Force near the end of the Korean War. After his military service, he attended Bellarmine College and graduated from the University of Dayton School of Engineering. After graduation, he was employed as a radar field engineer on the Air Force eastern Test Range having served on missile tracking stations on Grand Bahama Island and

Grand Turk Island. Upon his return to the states, he was employed in radar engineering at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida supporting Cape Canaveral. He returned to Louisville for employment at the Naval Ordnance Station where he held many engineering and management positions.

For many years he was active in several community organizations. He was a member of the Kentucky Society of Mayflower Descendants, Order of Founders and Patriots of America, Descendants of Washington’s Army at Valley Forge, and the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. He was a Louisville-Thruston member for 14 years.