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Gen. George Rogers Clark
Founder of Louisville

The Long Rifleman

Louisville-Thruston Chapter

Kentucky Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

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President's Message

Compatriots,

As many of you may agree, as we get older, the days seem to get longer and the months grow shorter. Lately, though, we've had some new members joining our chapter who probably haven't experienced this phenomenon yet. Since August, we have had four new members with birth years of 1988, 1959, 1994, and 1987. From my 1951, they look like a crop of youngsters. It's gratifying to see some young blood coming into our chapter, and I'm looking forward to getting them involved in what we do.

Earlier this month, several of our members attended the Yorktown Victory Celebration at Yorktown, Virginia commemorating the surrender of British forces under General Cornwallis on October 19, 1781. This year's observance is especially meaningful as we celebrate America's 250th Anniversary. Closer to home, on October 17, 2026, the Big Sandy Chapter of KYSSAR dedicated their third 250th Anniversary Bench. In fact, the Kentucky Society as a whole leads all national societies with 13 Anniversary Bench dedications so far, with 11 more planned in the near future, including our own Louisville Thruston Chapter. We are working with the city of Hurstbourne to place a bench in the same area where we assisted in a flag pole dedication this summer just outside the Soldier's Retreat Cemetery (officially known as the Anderson Family Cemetery).

If you haven't looked at the chapter's new website yet, please check it out. Webmaster **Howard Roberson** has done a wonderful job, and you will find many SAR activities listed on the events page. An email was sent to all members on October 9th with information about the site and instructions on how to log on.

November is almost here which means the chapter's annual Christmas party is fast approaching. Please make plans to set aside Saturday evening, December 12th for this event. This year, the meeting will be at Wildwood Country Club, 5000 Bardstown Rd., Louisville, KY 40291. An announcement with more details will be emailed soon.

In Patriotism,

Patrick "Pat" McMurchie
President

Prisoners of Yorktown

October 19, 2026 marked the 245th anniversary of the decisive allied victory by the Continental Army and French forces against the British Army at Yorktown, Virginia. Much has been written about the Trap, when the French fleet blocked the British escape route by sea; the Siege, when allied forces dug parallel trench lines closer to British positions; Redoubts 9 & 10, when American and French troops captured key British fortifications in a bayonet assault; and the Surrender, when General Cornwallis surrendered his army on October 19, 1781. The British loss led directly to peace negotiations and the official signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783.

What is not as well known is the plight of almost 8,000 British, German, and American Loyalist troops under General Cornwallis who were taken prisoner after the surrender.

Siege of Yorktown* (*1781),* 1836, Painting by Auguste Couder, Palace of Versailles, Galerie des Batailles. *Public Domain

British, German, and Loyalist prisoners of war after the siege of Yorktown

By Ian MacDougall, *American Battlefield Trust*, July 15, 2026

For the young Johann Conrad Dohla, a private soldier and German auxiliary in the Bayreuth Regiment, October 19, 1781 marked an end to several weeks of misery. He and almost 8,000 other British, German, and American Loyalist troops under General Charles Cornwallis had withstood more than half a month of bombardment and attack from an army of over 18,000 French and American troops surrounding them at the small tobacco hub of Yorktown on the York River. In a diary kept throughout the war, Dohla wrote of seeing his enemies face to face as they marched to surrender their arms in a meadow now known as Surrender Field:

"We, now captives, looked with wonder and astonishment at all these troops, which formed a line three men deep and trending for more than an English mile, because such a force had besieged us and could have eaten us up, and by comparison we appeared to be no more than a guard mount."

Other soldiers found it difficult to contain their frustrations, as mentioned by Captain Samuel Graham of the 76th Highlanders in his memoirs written after the war: "A corporal next to me shed tears, and, embracing his firelock, threw it down, saying, "May you never get so good a master." The surrender ceremony in which these defeated men laid down their arms in piles marked the beginning of almost two years in captivity, and for some, the end of their enlistment with the British Army.

The army that surrendered to General George Washington and the Comte de Rochambeau was mentally and physically exhausted from a year of campaigning. In addition to the constant shelling of their defensive works during the Siege, much of Cornwallis's army had suffered from smallpox and malaria, which had plagued his army throughout the summer of 1781. There were also varying degrees of fatigue from the previous campaigns that year. Men such as those in Hessian Regiment Von Bose and the Scottish 71st Regiment, Fraser's Highlanders, had been engaged in the war since 1776 and served as experienced veteran regiments in Cornwallis's army, having recently fought throughout the Southern Campaigns in the Carolinas. Other newer units such as the 80th Regiment, Royal Edinburgh Volunteers and 76th Regiment, MacDonald's Highlanders had seen only limited combat in skirmishes around New York but had served with distinction in the 1781 Virginia Campaign under Brigadier General Benedict Arnold and Major General William Phillips. Attached to this force were eighty followers of the army, including women and children, a constant in both armies of the American War for Independence. Women followers had the vital role of washing, nursing, mending clothing, and various contracted work for the army. As a result, they were regulated and rationed by the army and would face the same privations and difficulties as the soldiers on campaign. Both green and veteran troops, along with the families following the army would now find themselves in the same situation as their predecessors in General Burgoyne's "Army of the Convention" captured after the Battle of Saratoga in October 1777 and marched to prisoner of war camps in Virginia.

After laying down their arms, the prisoners departed Yorktown on October 21 marching north under terms of capitulation signed by both sides. Under these terms, the troops were to be kept within the confines of Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania and were to keep their possessions and belongings as they journeyed to their destined prisoner of war camps. Leaving behind roughly 2,000 wounded and sick soldiers to be cared for by British surgeons, the prisoners departed under guard of Virginia militia companies. On their way north, they passed through Williamsburg, traveling toward Fredericksburg where they arrived on October 30. They crossed the chilled waters of the Rappahannock River at waist-high depth and arrived in Falmouth on November 1. Just north of town the prisoners split in two groups. Some 3,000 troops marched toward the city of Winchester, while roughly 2,900 others continued north toward Fort Frederick in Washington County, Maryland.

As the Winchester bound prisoners continued through the Virginia piedmont, many began to notice the geographic and cultural differences from the tidewater they had become accustomed to in the previous year. Private Dohla remarked at his first witnessing of the Blue Ridge Mountains while traveling along the road that would become today's Route US-17 in Fauquier County, Virginia on November 3: "We made a long march. At evening we noticed the so-called Blue Mountains, of an astonishingly great height and covered with heavy forests. Here, in the middle of a forest and undergrowth, we made our night quarters." At the head of the column, Captain Graham of the 76th described the lawlessness of the march:

"Our guards were all from the upper parts of the state, called backwoodsmen, between whom the inhabitants of the lower parts there existed no cordiality; and at night when we halted, they not only allowed, but even encouraged our men to pull down and make fires of the fence-rails, as we had been accustomed to do when we had arms in our hands; and when a proprietor complained they only laughed at him. They did not scruple also to let us make free with a turnip field."

Because prisoners were provided with little food (often flour, salted beef, and pork), the local communities along their route frequently fed prisoners, sometimes involuntarily. As the troops crossed over Ashby Gap and into then Frederick County (now Clarke), they again waded in freezing cold temperatures across Shenandoah River to Winchester. Upon arriving at their camp a few miles outside the town, the POW's found a dire situation regarding the state of their quarters. Captain Graham, being the senior officer, found that the small wooden huts built for the soldiers were unfinished and without roofing. With snow and freezing rain expected as

winter weather rapidly approached, he quickly petitioned the commissary of prisoners for redress, which was largely ignored for the time being. In the meantime, the prisoners attempted to make these conditions more suitable for a temporary home, and quickly set about building up their huts, as described by Dohla: "We closed the roofs and filled all the holes in the walls with wood and clay to protect ourselves from the cold ...We also collected bulrushes in the forest and cut grass which served as mattress filler."

The prisoners in Western Maryland's Fort Frederick did not fare better than those at Winchester, with hundreds of men cramped into tight conditions of a fort with a capacity far below its designated 2900 prisoners. Commissary General of Prisoners Abraham Skinner seeing the conditions of the fort, wrote to Washington on November 23, having moved the prisoners from the fort to the town of Frederick, Maryland:

"Upon examination I found that the situation of the barracks at Fort Frederick was insufficient for the reception of the prisoners - indeed they are almost totally destroyed and cannot be repaired unless at a great expense, neither can provisions be furnished for it so conveniently as at Frederick Town where I have got them into Convenient Barracks around which a Stockade is erecting that will effectually Secure them and lessen the duty of the Guard. We have also provisions at that Post of Beef and Flour for about Six Weeks."

Earlier in the war the town of Frederick had been chosen as a site to house Maryland's soldiers in a set of permanent barracks, but after its construction found more use housing prisoners of war, including Burgoyne's Convention Army. The barracks, along with a jail in the town would be the home for these troops until being shifted yet again to a new destination.

As they endured captivity, prisoners in both Winchester and Frederick found work amongst the community to help offset the meager rations they received in captivity. The Marquis de Chastellux, a French officer serving under General Rochambeau witnessed a more positive side of the conditions of prisoners, as he recorded his travels through Winchester in 1782:

"Stopping one day at a Smith's shop near Winchester, in the interior of Virginia, I found one of the workmen to be a Scotch Highlander in his Gaelic dress, and soon saw several more returning from harvest; these men had been soldiers, and were then prisoners, but they were all peaceable industrious labourers, and I could not find that any of them thought of returning to the barren hills of Caledonia. General Gates had several of them in his employ, and they were dispersed over the whole country, where they appeared completely naturalized and happy."

The truth is likely not entirely as Marquis' would claim of prisoners not resigned to their work, but rather entirely assimilated into the community, though it was at this time that many would desert for new lives in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Some, like George Abel of the Erbprinz Regiment would desert, marry, have children, and live out the rest of their lives in German speaking communities of the "German Settlement" of northern Loudoun County, Virginia. Others found opportunities for their future in German speaking Frederick, mere steps away from the barracks and jail that once contained them. For the rest of the prisoners, Frederick would simply be another temporary home among several before the end of the war.

At the end of December 1781, it was determined that all prisoners in Frederick and Winchester would be moved to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where they would be met by the prisoners of the Convention Army. Beginning in January 1782, prisoners marched in batches toward Lancaster, and upon arrival found the site of two distinct camps, as described by Captain Graham: "At Lancaster the soldiers were kept in a tolerable barrack, surrounded by a high stockade, and strictly guarded. At York, they were kept in huts newly constructed, also surrounded by a high stockade, and were strictly guarded. At a little distance from, but in sight of, our men's huts, upon a rising ground were situated a number of huts occupied by soldiers of General Burgoyne's army,

also prisoners of war, but without stockade or guard. Our men named their own camp 'Security,' and the other camp 'Indulgence,' The prisoners remained here throughout 1782, as peace negotiations began between Britain and the United States in Paris. Between late 1782 and Spring 1783, the POWs were marched in divisions back to British lines in New York, departing for their home countries later that year.

The Gunpowder Raid on Bermuda

How colonial allies in the Caribbean pulled off a heist to equip George Washington's Continental Army with gunpowder

By Matt Jancer
October 1, 2018, *Smithsonian magazine*

General George Washington observes the evacuation of Boston, Massachusetts, by the British forces under Sir General William Howe. Engraving by Frederick T. Stuart, c1867, Sarin Images/Granger

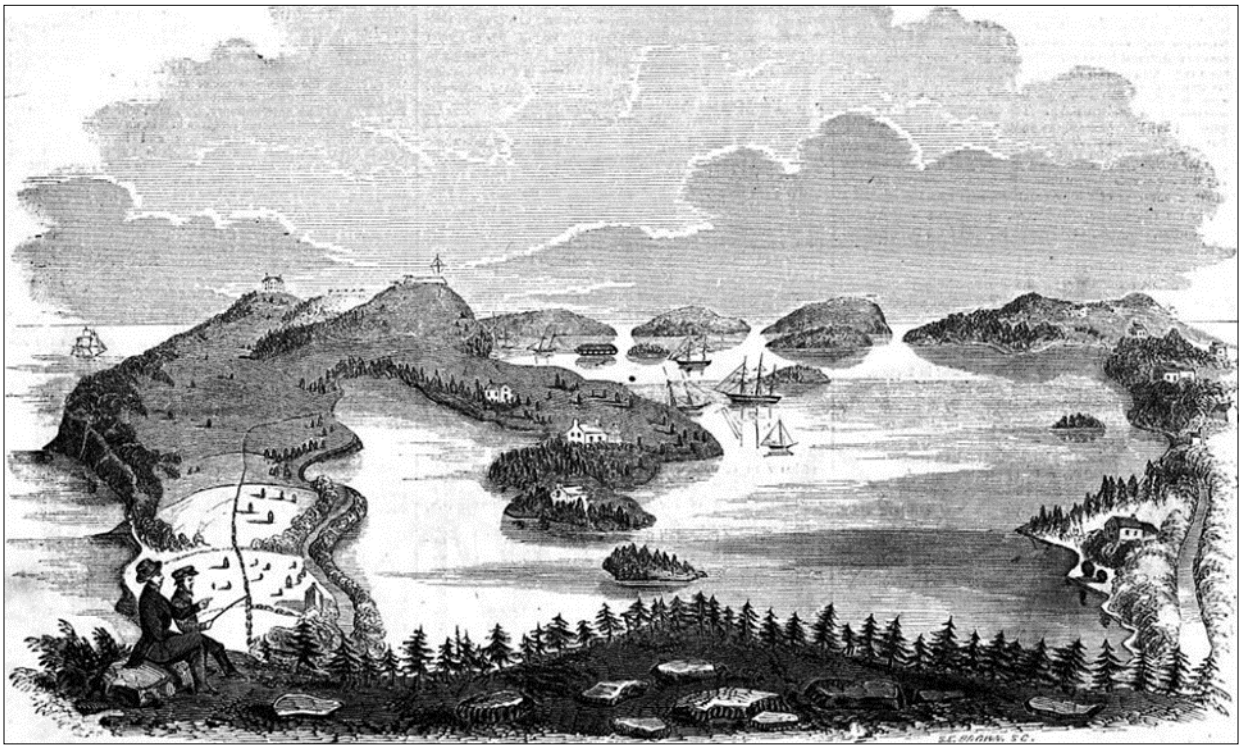
For most of 1775, revolutionary troops under the command of George Washington had the British Army trapped in Boston, but it was hard to say who was at the mercy of whom. By July, after three months of skirmishes against the Redcoats, Washington's soldiers had only enough gunpowder for nine bullets per man. The year prior, as tensions in the colonies worsened, George III banned the import of firearms and gunpowder from Europe, and had been confiscating them in a bid to disarm the rebellion. The only American gunpowder mill, the Frankford Powder-Mill in Pennsylvania, wasn't producing enough to fight a war. Knowing their guns were close to becoming useless, the Americans began equipping themselves with wooden pikes and spears for hand-to-hand combat. They needed gunpowder however they could get it.

It was a lucky problem for Henry Tucker, a Bermudan merchant eager to find new business. The Continental Congress had announced an embargo against loyal British colonies, set to come into effect in September, and in July 1775, Tucker traveled to Philadelphia, where Congress met, to find some way out of it. Bermuda relied significantly on American food imports, and he argued as much for his business as for his belly. He'd noted a clause in the embargo that said ships carrying munitions to American ports would be allowed an exemption to trade with American colonies, regardless of their affiliation with the British.

As the Second Continental Congress met, Tucker schemed with Benjamin Franklin to help both of their causes. Two of Tucker's sons, living in South Carolina and Virginia, had freely talked about an unguarded magazine where the gunpowder cache was held, just north of Bermuda's main town, St. George, and its existence was by now an open secret in the American colonies. Franklin, having heard about the gunpowder, told Tucker that Bermuda could bargain its way out of the embargo if he brought gunpowder for trade. Tucker didn't have gunpowder to offer, but he knew how to get it.

Since 1691, the colonial authorities in Bermuda had instituted a policy that required visiting ships to donate either money or gunpowder to the island every time they arrived, according to Dorcas Roberts, the director of preservation of the Bermuda National Trust, a historical preservation society. Over the years, that amounted to a great deal of gunpowder.

Tucker had written in a 1774 letter that the Americans were right to rebel against the Crown, and that British rule was equal to slavery. Elsewhere and at other opportunities, he was open about his contempt for the British government. On the whole, his fellow Bermudans sympathized with the Americans, but living on a 20 square mile speck 700 miles off North Carolina, they couldn't afford conflict with the British - the whole island could have been shut down by one British warship and an angry stare. Tucker would need a lot of good, loyal men to liberate the gunpowder from its storehouse.



Harbor of St. George, Bermuda from Sugar Loaf Hill, in the mid-19th century. ***Wikicommons***

On the night of August 14 in St. George's, Tucker's conspirators met at the gunpowder magazine, while Bermuda's Governor George James Bruere slept in his residence a half-mile away. Very much loyal to the Crown, Bruere was nonetheless family to the American-sympathizing, treasonous Tuckers: Tucker's son, the one still living in Bermuda and acting as co-conspirator with his father, was married to Bruere's daughter.

Historians today can trace what happened next thanks to a letter Bruere wrote to the secretary of state for the American colonies. "The powder magazine, in the dead of night of the 14th of August … was broke into on Top, just to let a man down, and the Doors most audaciously and daringly forced open, at great risk of their being blown up," he wrote. Several conspirators crawled onto the roof and into an air vent so they could drop down into the storehouse. Accounts differ on whether they subdued a single guard, but it's unlikely it was guarded at all.

The gunpowder awaited the men in quarter-barrels - kegs - that held 25 pounds of gunpowder each, says Rick Spurling, of Bermuda's St. George's Foundation, a historical preservation non-profit. The conspirators took 126 kegs, according to Captain James Wallace of the HMS *Rose*, who was engaged in the American theater, in a September 9 letter. That amounted to 3,150 pounds worth of gunpowder, enough to quadruple Washington's ammunition.

The conspirators' next challenge? Silently moving the kegs without waking the whole population of St. George. Again, accounts differ. Many assume the Bermudans rolled the kegs, but they were working in the early hours of dark morning, a half-mile away from a sleeping governor with soldiers, ships and jails at his disposal. Rolling barrels would have been loud, and if they were only quarter barrels, then a man could easily carry one. Spurling believes that Tucker's men walked the kegs straight up the hill behind town and down to Tobacco Bay, where an American ship, the *Lady Catherine*, weighed anchor.

The kegs were then ferried from shore to ship in pen-deck rowboats about 32 feet long. At dawn, as Bruere awoke, the *Lady Catherine* loaded the last of the gunpowder kegs, the magazine had been almost entirely cleared out. He saw the *Lady Catherine* and another American ship on the horizon, assumed correctly that his missing gunpowder was taking a vacation across the sea, and sent a customs ship to chase them down.

Bruere's post-raid letter identified the second ship as the *Charleston and Savannah* Packet, but the Americans wouldn't have needed two merchant ships to carry 126 kegs of powder - one would have sufficed, and it was just coincidence that the Packet was there that morning. Nonetheless, Bruere's customs ship couldn't catch the escaping gunpowder, and it turned around, defeated. Bruere was furious and humiliated.

If townspeople knew anything, they weren't telling him. He put out a reward for information, but had no takers. Even Bermuda's government was lackluster in its response. "There was an investigation and a committee of parliament, but it just didn't go anywhere," says Spurling. "I think they had to show outrage, but by and large most were secretly quite happy with the deal Tucker made.

No one was convicted, not even Tucker, says Dianna Chudleigh, the historian who authored the most recent guidebook on Tucker's house, now a museum. Making good on their word, the American colonies allowed trade with Bermuda to continue for years. Bruere considered the Bermudans treasonous for trading with the Americans, and from 1778 to his death in 1780 he commissioned Loyalist privateers to raid American trade ships between the colonies and Bermuda. Trade continued, though, for years after his death, until the ever-increasing number of privateers finally choked it to a halt in the later years of the war. Even Tucker gave up trading with the colonies, as unarmed merchants couldn't compete against government-sanctioned raiders.

As for Bermuda's gunpowder, it eventually made its way to Washington's men at Boston. The British, unable to hold their position, evacuated the city in March of 1776. The Bermudan gunpowder supply lasted through

the end of that campaign and into June, when it was used to defend Charleston from British invasion, according to Spurling. A port vital to the American war effort, losing Charleston could have choked the rebellion into submission. Outmanned five-to-one, American defenders fought off nine British warships. The British wouldn't try again for four years, all because a Bermudan governor left a storehouse unguarded, because who would ever dare try to heist so much gunpowder from a town in the middle of an ocean?

Chapter and Member News

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, November 3, 2026 - Chapter Board of Governors (BOG) Meeting: 7:00 pm., Zoom Meeting.

Saturday, November 7, 2026 - Veterans Day Parade and Celebration: 11:00 am; at the NULU district of east Market Street, downtown Louisville, KY; the Sons of the American Revolution will lead the celebration as the Grand Marshal; Everyone come out and show your support for our veterans.

Wednesday, November 11, 2026 - Veterans Day at the Kentucky Military History Museum; 10 am to 5:00 pm; 125 east Main Street, Frankfort, KY 40601; Visit the following website for more information: https://history.ky.gov/events/veterans-day-at-the-kentucky-military-history-museum

Saturday, December 12, 2026 - Louisville Thruston Chapter Christmas Gala: 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm; Wildwood Country Club, 5000 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY 40291; the announcement will be sent to members soon with more details.

Membership

We are pleased to announce the approval by National HQs of three new applications for membership in SAR and the Louisville Thruston Chapter - Compatriots **Samuel J. Allen** (#240771), **Steven D. Kerrick** (#240670), and **Daniel Sheffler** (#240770). Congratulations and a warm welcome to you all. We look forward to meeting you in person at a chapter event in the near future. Current chapter membership stands at 257 compatriots.

New Chapter Website

Check it out! The new Louisville Thruston Chapter website is up and running! **louthrustonsar.org** is now running on a modern, Responsive Web Design (RWD). This updated design automatically adjusts to any device - phone, tablet, or desktop - so the site will always display imagery in correct proportion no matter what device you're using.

How to Log in: To access the new site, go to the login page and enter your user name, then select "Forgot your password." You will receive an email with instructions for creating a new password. (You may reuse your previous password if you wish, but the new system requires: **at least 8 characters** and **at least one capital letter**.) If your email address has changed or if you do not receive a reset email, please contact the Webmaster - **Howard Roberson** at: webmaster@louthrustonsar.org

Navigating the New Website: The main menu items appear in blue across the top of the page. On mobile devices it is located in the three horizontal line (hamburger icon) in the upper right corner. By hovering your mouse over a menu item, additional pages or options may be revealed.

Help Page: After logging in, you will find a Help page that provides guidance on using the new website and its many features.

The Board of Governors needs your help!

The nominating committee is currently looking for Compatriots from our Chapter who would be interested in joining our Board for the upcoming 2027-29 term.

We currently have three positions we need to fill. If you would like to be considered, please reach out to our 1st Vice President, **Wally Craig** at his email: Wallace.craig@twc.com or phone him at (502) 554-5867 for more information.

"From the Archives"

The original *Long Rifleman* newsletter was first published in 1995 with Compatriot **Dan Klinck** as the editor**.** It was issued four times annually in hardcopy format, and copies were mailed out to members by regular post until it was discontinued in 2001. Following a ten-year hiatus when the chapter was without a newsletter, the current online version started in 2010, first as a quarterly publication and then increased to monthly in 2021.

Much of the material found in the older printed newsletters consist of articles written and contributed by chapter members. Some are interesting, well written, and worthy of sharing again with today's readers. Starting with Fletcher Elmore's article below, we plan to feature some of these articles periodically under the heading "From the Archives." We hope you enjoy them.

The Five Revolutionary War Officer-Sons of John and Ann (Rogers) Clark

By Fletcher L. Elmore, *The Long Rifleman*, Winter 1996.

In colonial times, when raising children to maturity was precarious at best because of illness and other causes, the family record of John and Ann (Rogers) Clark is remarkable. While residents of Albemarle and Caroline counties in Virginia from 1750 to 1785, they were able to raise 10 children (six sons and four daughters).

Five of the sons were to become officers in the American Revolution and the sixth, too young for the war, would become famous as co-leader of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. With the exception of one son, all the members of the Clark family were to make their way to Kentucky and play important roles in the early development of the new state's social, business and cultural character.

Jonathan Clark was the oldest of the six sons. He was born in Albemarle County, Virginia in 1750. During the Revolution, he served in Virginia's Continental Line as a major. During "Lighthorse Harry Lee's" raid on Paulus Hook, (Weehawken) New Jersey, Jonathan served with distinction. Later on, having been transferred to South Carolina, he was captured by the British near Charleston as that city fell to the enemy in 1780. When the Battle of Yorktown occurred, he was home in Virginia as a paroled officer. Later, Virginia was to promote him to the rank of brigadier general. Jonathan Clark was the last of the Clark family to migrate to Kentucky, coming to Jefferson County in 1802. General Clark established a home known as "Trough Spring" just to the east of Mulberry Hill, the home of his parents. Jonathan died in 1811.

Most prominent of all the Clark brothers was George Rogers Clark. Born in 1752, in Albemarle County, Virginia, he was an early surveyor in the Ohio Valley region for the Ohio Valley Company. There he gained early experience in the ways of the Indians of that area. During Dunmore's War of 1774, Clark served as a captain of Virginia militia.

At the outbreak of the American Revolution, the early settlers of the western district of Virginia came under British-inspired Indian attacks. Clark was selected to go to Virginia and consult with the new governor, Patrick Henry, on the problems facing the frontier settlers. The result was the providing of powder for use as

protection in the early forts and the creation of Kentucky County of Virginia. This allowed the formation of a county militia, with George Rogers Clark as its major.

In 1778, Clark organized and commanded the Illinois Regiment of Virginia militia troops. Following Clark's seizure of the British held forts of Kaskaskia, Cahokia and Vincennes, the British and their Indian allies were neutralized north of the Ohio River. George Rogers Clark was the founder of Louisville, which served as his base of operations until the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1783. Clark, who never married, died in 1818 at Locust Grove, the home of his sister, Lucy Croghan.

John Clark was the third son and was born in 1757 about the time the family moved to Caroline County, Virginia. With the beginning of the Revolution, young John became a lieutenant in the Virginia Continental Line at the age of 19. Later, while serving as a captain in the Brandywine and Germantown campaigns of 1777, John was captured and taken to New York and held on one of the infamous prison ships there. During his six-year captivity, he contracted consumption. Though released at the end of the war, he soon died from the ravages of this disease, while at his father's Caroline County, Virginia home in 1783. He would be the only one of his family not to migrate to Kentucky and was buried in Virginia.

The next Clark officer was Richard, born in 1760, who came west in 1779 and served under his older brother, George, in the Illinois Regiment as a lieutenant until the Revolution ended. Remaining in the army, he lost his life in 1784. While traveling alone on a mission to Vincennes from Louisville, he disappeared. His horse and saddle bags were reportedly found at or near one of the Blue River fords, but it is not known whether he drowned while crossing the river or was captured by Indians.

The fifth Clark son was Edmund, born in 1762. Like his brothers, he served Virginia as a lieutenant in the Continental Line. He also was captured by the British at Charleston with Jonathan in 1780 and served a short time as a prisoner of war. He was later promoted to captain by Virginia. Edmund never married and just as his family had done, he migrated to Kentucky about 1800. He settled on his military land grant several miles below the Falls of the Ohio. He died in 1815, and is buried with his brothers, Jonathan and George Rogers, in Louisville's Cave Hill Cemetery.

The matriarch and patriarch of this great family, Ann and John Clark, lived on at their home, Mulberry Hill, in Jefferson County. Ann died Christmas Eve 1798, and John died six months later. They had bridged the gap from the colonial to the federal period of our country's development, and few families have made a larger contribution to the American cause.

In Memoriam

Bowen Givens McKinney, age 95, passed away at his home on October 29, 2025. Born on February 3, 1931, Bowen grew up on a farm in McKinney, Kentucky. His pioneer ancestors helped settle the wilderness that is now Kentucky. They established Montgomery Station, which was burnt down by the Shawnee. It was rebuilt as McKinney Fort which was later named McKinney Station. Several of his ancestors played a big role in the Revolutionary War and received sizable land grants for their service.

Bowen graduated from the University of Kentucky with a BS in Agriculture. He was a veteran, serving as a tank mechanic in the U.S. Army. He was a leader in Kentucky agriculture and was honored with many awards over the years. He enjoyed genealogy, gardening, travel, UK athletics, the YMCA and driving his tractor. He was proud of his membership in SAR. He passed away only nine days after his application was approved for membership in SAR and the Louisville Thruston Chapter.

Chapter Activities

250th Anniversary Bench Dedication - Louisville Thruston president, **Pat McMurchie** joined with members of George Mason and Lafayette Chapters to assist the Big Sandy Chapter in their 250th Anniversary Bench Dedication in West Liberty, Kentucky on October 17, 2026.

Pat McMurchie (center) assisted the Big Sandy Chapter with their 250th Anniversary Bench Dedication in West Liberty, KY

Louisville Genealogical Society - President **Pat McMurchie** and Treasurer **Mike King** gave a detailed presentation about colonial flags from the Revolutionary War. This popular educational program is available for schools, businesses and other organizations.

WaterStep -
The Louisville Thruston Chapter was represented at the annual WaterStep organization fundraiser. WaterStep is a Louisville based company that supplies major water filtration systems around the world to provide clean drinking water. They work with organizations like SAR for fundraising and educational programs.

Woody Williams Foundation -
The Louisville Thruston Chapter was invited to support the annual Woody Williams fundraising event here in Louisville. Woody Williams was the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from World War II and Iwo Jima. The foundation builds Gold Star Family Monuments throughout the United States. Our chapter has supported the Woody Williams Foundation for fundraising, dedication ceremonies and veterans events and will continue to do so in the future.

Medal of Honor recipient Jim McLoughlin spoke at the Woody Williams event.

Greenwood Cemetery -
Several members from Louisville Thruston volunteered along with their children and grandchildren to earn community service hours at Greenwood Cemetery by cutting grass, clearing out debris, and cleaning and straightening veteran's tombstones.

DAR Revolutionary War Patriot Marker Ceremony -
In celebration of the 250th Anniversary, the three local chapters of DAR in coordination with community leaders and the Louisville Thruston Chapter of SAR, sponsored the erection of a new marker placed near the flagpole at Historic Locust Grove. The Patriot Marker honors the men and women who helped achieve American independence.

Chapter president Pat McMurchie at the DAR Patriot Marker Dedication Ceremony.

BLOC Louisville Ministries -
This new organization is renovating buildings in West Louisville to provide services for the needy and homeless persons including women and children. Some Louisville Thruston members have volunteered to help with cutting grass and general cleanup.

Yorktown Anniversary Victory Celebration -

The annual Battle of Yorktown victory over Cornwallis was celebrated October 19, 2026 in Yorktown, VA. The parade and celebration included a memorial ceremony at Grace Church to honor Patriot Thomas Nelson, Jr. (1738-89) a hero in the Revolutionary War. The parade was followed by wreath presentations and speeches by the National Park Service and the French and Spanish ambassadors. Several chapters representing the Kentucky Society SAR carried flags and marched in the parade which passes through the town and ends at the Yorktown Victory Monument. The participating chapters that made the trip this year were Louisville Thruston, Governor Isaac Shelby, Lafayette, and Colonel James Harrod.

The Kentucky contingent at the Yorktown Victory celebration with SAR President General Allen Greenly.