

# Lafayette Chapter News

Established April 1960

Lafayette Chapter, Kentucky Society Sons of the American Revolution



## What's Inside

Events	2
Coleman	2
John Burch	3
Chilton Visits	3
Scout Essay	4
Editorial	5
About Us	6

## Officers

President:  
John Burch

Vice President:  
Del White

Secretary:  
Don Adams

Treasurer:  
Stephen Skinner

Registrar:  
Al Coleman

Historian:  
James Evans

Chaplain:  
Ted Kuster

## Eagle Scout Honored

The Arthur M. and Berdina King Eagle Scout competition is a competitive scholarship program for scouts who have reached the level of Eagle Scout. The process starts at the local chapter level where participants submit an essay along with their scouting achievements. The essay only counts for 20 of the possible 100 points in the competition. Other points are awarded for merit badges, community, church and BSA services rendered.

The chapter winner advances to the state then national level. We

were honored to have James B. Nichols, the Lafayette Chapter winner read his essay titled "Joseph Righton - An American Patriot" at our April 18 meeting.

Nichols essay highlighted the service of Joseph Righton, a 16 year old who fought in the Revolutionary war, was captured, held on a prison ship, then fought again after winning his release in a prisoner exchange. Nichols is a descendant of Righton making him a candidate for SAR membership on his 18th birthday.

Lafayette Chapter president, John Burch presented Nichols with a check for \$100 for his first place win at the chapter level. Rev. Forrest B. Chilton, president of the Kentucky Society SAR presented a certificate and a \$200 check to Nichols for his second place win at the state level. Nichols also received a medal and patch from the Lafayette chapter presented by Michael Krause, our chapter's Eagle Scout Chairman.

Nichols is a junior at a Lexington High School. ☆



James B. Nichols, John Burch and Forrest B. Chilton  
Photo by Les Durbin

## Membership

Please, welcome new members Ron Kincer approved 4/21/2011, Robert Raney Damron and Robert Paul Damron approved 5/20/2011.

The Lafayette Chapter, at 87 members, remains Kentucky's second largest chapter. ☆

## Upcoming Events

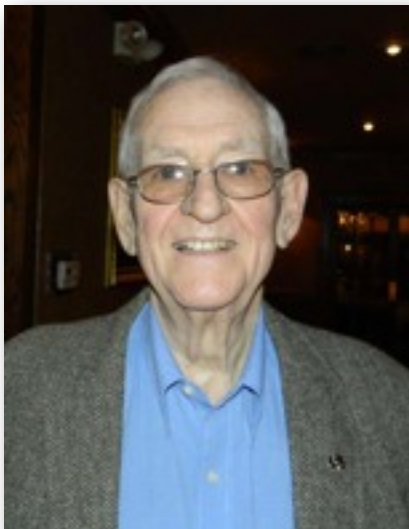
**August 15: Board of Managers Meeting / 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.** Location: Turf Room, Crowne Plaza Hotel ( Campbell House ) 1375 S. Broadway, Lexington. This is a dinner meeting however no reservations are required. You may order from the lounge or dining room menu. The room is free if our total food order is greater than \$175.00. Consideration of a Constitution Change making term of office one year has been pre-filed.

**August 27: Blue Licks Battlefield Luncheon & Ceremony 12 p.m.** Location: Lodge. The Kentucky color guard along with others will post the colors at the monument during a ceremony.

**September 10: LSAR Quarterly Meeting / Constitution Day 9 a.m.** Location: Oak Room, Crowne Plaza Hotel ( Campbell House ) 1375 S. Broadway, Lexington. All members and guests are welcome. Reservations required.

Check our website regularly! Regional and statewide events, last-minute updates and special activities will be posted at <http://www.lafayettekyssar.org/events.htm> .

## Coleman Tells Story of J. Virgil Proctor



Ret. Colonel Alfred E. Coleman

Although a major reason for SAR's existence is to honor those who served in the Revolutionary War, a second, but not subordinate focus, is to honor and support all service veterans, both past and present.

Retired Army Colonel Alfred Coleman regaled those in attendance

on April 18 describing his efforts to have the service of J. Virgil Proctor recognized. When applying for acceptance in the SAR we are reminded that civilians who performed service to the cause are also patriots. J. Virgil Proctor is no exception.

Proctor, Coleman's father-in-law, served in the 509th Operations Group office of Scientific Research and Development. Among other things, this unit was involved in the Manhattan Project and Operation Timtam that delivered the product of their research to the battlefield. The extent of his service was realized when they uncovered several boxes of documents in his attic. Being a former commissioned officer, Coleman knew as

soon as he saw the boxes that they may be classified. It seems that when Proctor's job was eliminated he packed the contents of his office and took it home since there was no apparent person to whom he should pass them.

After discovering the documents Coleman's first step was to contact the NSA and tell them of his discovery. His wife Eleanor made the call. The operator taking the call implored them to hold and not hang up while he transferred the call.

The Colonel on the other end of the line said that NSA agents would be at their house within the hour to view the documents. Within the promised timeframe, a knock came at the door. Two agents viewed the documents from about 3:30 p.m. to midnight. They then gathered the documents and took them with them without a guarantee that they would ever see some or all of them again.

The documents were eventually returned and were used in proving the war time service for Proctor. Proctor's expertise was gained in analyzing blast patterns of the V2 rockets that were targeting England.

Through Coleman's efforts the service of all 331 members of the unit were recognized. Proctor was the only Kentuckian to receive the Medal of Freedom, established by president Harry S. Truman to honor those civilians who performed wartime service. Proctor was Born 20 Aug 1905, and resided in Lexington until his death April 1998. ★

## KYSSAR President Visits

The Reverend Forrest B. Chilton, the 2011 president of the Kentucky Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, visited our chapter during the April 18 meeting. President Chilton intends to visit all of Kentucky's 15 chapters during his tenure. He was accompanied by 2009 past president Preston T Higgins. They brought greetings from the state society and their home chapter, the Governor Isaac Shelby Chapter in Shelbyville. Reverend Chilton issued challenge coins to Lafayette president John Burch and vice-president Del White challenging them to attend upcoming events at Martin's Station and or Blue Licks Battlefield.



Rev. Forrest Chilton,  
President, KYSSAR

Chilton discussed his passion, "service to veterans," and challenged the Lafayette chapter to start a service to veterans committee to provide personal care items and books for veterans who are patients of the Veterans Administration Hospital system. He presented a challenge coin to Greg Hodge, for meeting the challenge for color guard. ☆

## From Point Pleasant to Blue Licks by John Burch



John Burch

The Virginia Assembly, on December 6, 1776, declared Richard Henderson's Transylvania Company illegal and officially carved Kentucky County from the old Fincastle lands. George Rogers Clark was authorized to procure powder from Fort Pitt for the defense of the pitifully few settlements within the newly-minted polity. A strong defense was surely needed.

General Henry Hamilton, Lieutenant Governor of Canada and the Western Lands, and Commandant of Detroit, had earned an additional title, that of "Hair Buyer", for his purchase from Britain's allies, of rebel scalps, without regard for the age or sex of said rebels. The Virginians of Kentucky were certainly rebels.

The militia commissions for Kentucky County arrived on March 5, 1777, militia muster day at the three remaining Kentucky forts, naming Major George Rogers Clark as the ranking officer in Kentucky, and appointing Daniel Boone, James Harrod, Benjamin Logan, and John

Todd captains. The following day, March 6, a Shawnee force under the command of Black Fish attacked Harrodsburg and against Boonesborough, on March 7.

At the time of these attacks, the total population of Kentucky County numbered about 250. defending Boonesborough, were "22 guns" The May population of Harrodsburg was 81 Militiamen with four others not fit for service, 24 women, 70 children, 12 slaves, and seven children of slaves, a total of 198. Levi Todd reported only 102 men left at the three surviving stations: 65 at Harrodsburg, 22 at Boonesborough and fifteen at Saint Asaph. With some justification, it was called the "year of the Bloody Sevens". Yet less than a year later, on June 26, 1778, George Rogers Clark, with only 175 men, invaded the Illinois Country. After a long and brutal campaign, on February 25, 1779, Hair Buyer Hamilton handed his sword to Clark, who thereupon claimed the entire region between the Ohio River and the Great Lakes in the name of Virginia. On March 7, Clark sent Hamilton and 25 of his men to Williamsburg, where Governor Thomas Jefferson ordered Hamilton to be clapped in irons and jailed.

On April 1, 1779, General George Washington announced, at a dinner party, that he had just received a letter from Governor Jefferson announcing that a Virginia Colonel had conquered the Illinois country and that the Virginia Flag now flew in triumph over Kaskaskia, Cahokia, and Vincennes. ☆

## **Joseph Righton - An American Patriot** by James B. Nichols



**James B. Nichols, Eagle Scout**

*Photo by Les Durbin*

Patriotism has been an important characteristic of Americans throughout the history of the United States. Patriotic men and women have been the driving force behind numerous magnificent events in history, especially the American Revolution in the late 1700's. One of my ancestors, Joseph Righton (great grandfather times five), originally from Bermuda, exemplified the characteristics of patriotism during this grueling war.

While most people likely think of Benjamin Franklin or George Washington when reflecting on Patriots from the American Revolution, I often think of Joseph Righton instead. Although he never became famous for his patriotism and few Americans have probably even heard of him, Righton still served his country admirably and to his utmost ability. When Righton was only sixteen years of age, he joined a voluntary militia artillery company, under the command of Captain Richard Todd, in South Carolina. After joining the militia in 1778, Sergeant Righton

underwent an interesting chain of events. Righton's company was stationed at Fort Moultrie, on Sullivan's Island, near Charleston, South Carolina. He served there, taking part in the defense of Charleston, during which his company successfully repelled the British troops until 1780, when Charleston eventually fell. After the Siege of Charleston and because of his continual defiance against British authority, Righton was placed on the prison ship *Torbay*, which was off the coast of South Carolina. He was imprisoned for nearly two years and eventually was released during prisoner exchange in 1782. Rather than going back home after his release, Righton hastened back to the line of duty under the command of General Greene, at Ashley Hill.

This period of Joseph Righton's life truly portrays his outstanding character and patriotism. At the age of sixteen, most people in today's society would go to school, get their driver's license, play sports, go to church and do what their parents asked of them. It would be unheard of for a sixteen year old today in America to join any war effort.

At this same age however, Righton was fighting in an intense war, in which thousands of people died. It took an extremely brave soul to take up such a task at any age, but especially at the age of sixteen. Righton's willingness to immediately return to the front lines of battle after being released from two years of imprisonment further illustrates his bravery and patriotism.

Righton possessed this extensive bravery and patriotism due to his love for America and his deeply rooted values. After the war, Righton returned to Charleston and became a wealthy Cooper in the family business. His family home remains in Charleston to this day.

Joseph Righton did whatever was necessary to defend his country from its oppressors, which instilled into him the supernatural bravery of a patriot.

For many Americans, Righton is unknown. However, once his story is revealed, it undoubtedly becomes an inspiration to those who hear it. ☆

## Chapter Objectives: An Editorial

This is the fourth in a series of articles discussing the ten objects enumerated in the Lafayette Chapter Constitution. Current leadership intends to use that document as our roadmap during the next biennium and it will serve us well to discuss each object in detail.

The fourth object states, *“To acquire and preserve the records of individual services of the Patriots of that war, as well as documents, relics, and landmarks relating thereto.”*

Anyone who has prepared an application for membership in the Sons of the American Revolution has unwittingly contributed to this object. Documents pertaining to Revolutionary War service including, muster rolls, pension records, public service claims, bounty land documents, family bibles, and other personal papers, when preserved, will assist those who come after us. When you document attributions to the lineage you are attempting to prove, you pave the way for future generations membership into SAR. Membership in SAR is, in itself, not the desired end result but the means by which we can perpetuate the values that SAR holds dear.

If not for the work of writers such as C. C. Chamberlain, who made the *Vestry book of St Paul's Parish* accessible to the public, I would not have been able to prove my lineage beyond that of my patriot ancestor. Chamberlain's document is the only remaining resource proving land titles, births, deaths and christenings in that part of Virginia. It seems that the clerk of Hanover County, on account of the fact that several Civil War skirmishes happened in the immediate vicinity, took land and vital records to Richmond for safekeeping. Hindsight proved that to be a bad decision. The Hanover Courthouse remained untouched and stands today, but the Courthouse in Richmond was destroyed by fire during Lee's retreat from Richmond.

The publication *Revolutionary War Public Service Claims*, written by Janice L. Abercrombie and Richard Slatten have paved the way for many to claim a patriot ancestor. This is an example of two of the 23,000 volumes housed at the National Sons of the American Revolution Library in downtown Louisville. If you have not yet seen the new library I encourage you to do so at your earliest convenience. The Library has established summer hours for your convenience. The new hours are Tuesday through Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Your membership in SAR has contributed to this collection.

You may not be able to author a book but you can add to the collection by researching additional or supplemental patriot ancestors. Each of us has a primary patriot ancestor whose service we parlayed into membership into SAR. With additional research, I have proven two more patriot ancestors giving me supplemental status for both. You may notice the two stars displayed on the ribbon of my SAR medal at our next meeting. I am currently about to conclude an application on another and have simultaneously started the fourth.

The stars on my ribbon are only the outward display. The real value of my work is it may pave the way for others to claim membership from that branch of my lineage. I know members who have in excess of 20 supplementals.

I encourage you to use the SAR Library and I also encourage you to research any supplemental ancestors in your line. ☆

“Respect for our national symbol, the American Flag” and our ancestors who served and struggled during the fight for independence is a cornerstone of SAR.

### Some Regional DAR Contacts

Jessieann Houck Wells, Regent  
Kentucky State DAR

Patricia Kimbrell  
Capt. John McKinley Chapter

Sarah Hamilton  
Lexington Chapter

Nancy Thoma  
Transylvania Chapter

Millie McKelway  
Capt. John Waller

Jan Clark  
Bryan Station Chapter

Jacqueline West  
Trabu Chapter

Jennifer Spradlin  
Gen. Marquis Calmes Chapter

Cindy Codell  
Hart Chapter

Elizabeth (Betsy) Burch  
Boonesboro Chapter

Fredia Shoemaker  
Jemima Boone Chapter

Conchita Grall  
Jane McAfee Chapter

Kathy Hignight  
St. Asaph Chapter

For a complete list with contact information visit  
<http://www.kentuckydar.org/>

**National Society  
Sons of the  
American Revolution**

100 South Fourth St.  
Louisville, KY 40203  
(502)-589-1776

<http://www.sar.org>

Lafayette Chapter News  
is Published Quarterly

Del White, Editor  
875 Cornishville Rd  
Harrodsburg, KY 40330

TOLL FREE:  
(888)716-4396

E-MAIL:  
[dbwhite3@mac.com](mailto:dbwhite3@mac.com)

**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

<http://www.lafayettekyssar.org>

## About our Organization

The Sons of the American Revolution is the leading male lineage society that perpetuates the ideals of the war for independence.

As a historical, educational, and patriotic non-profit corporation, we seek to maintain and expand the meaning of patriotism, respect for our national symbols, the value of American citizenship, and the unifying force of "e pluribus unum" that was created from the people of many nations -- one nation and one people.

You must first be accepted into the National Society proving lineage to a patriot before joining state and local chapters. Please, contact us if you are interested in joining our organization. ★

*SAR Pledge: "We the descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution who, by their sacrifices, established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principals of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe."*

875 Cornishville Road  
Harrodsburg, KY 40330  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

