



MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Meeting Date: MONDAY, May 13th, 2024

Social Hour: 5:30 PM | **Dinner:** 6:00 PM | **Presentation:** 7:00 PM



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

AN AMERICAN STORY: THE REDD FAMILY PAINTINGS

A Kentucky native, Mack Cox is a collector and an independent scholar of early Kentucky material culture. He received his BS and MS degrees in geology from Eastern Kentucky University and pursued an oil and gas career from which he retired in 2017. He and his wife, Sharon, began collecting early Kentucky material about 2005 with a focus on furniture and art. In 2011, their collection was covered in *The Magazine Antiques* and was described in 2013 as “one of the finest assemblages of antebellum Kentucky material.”

Mack currently serves on the Henry Clay Memorial Foundation, and on advisory boards for the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA) in North Carolina, Colonial Williamsburg Art Museums, and *The Magazine Antiques*. He is a regional representative for MESDA's Object Database and previously served on the collections committee for the National Society of Colonial Dames in Kentucky. He has lectured on Kentucky material, especially furniture, at numerous Kentucky locations as well as before the Decorative Arts Trust in Philadelphia, MESDA, Colonial Williamsburg, Historic Deerfield in Massachusetts, Winterthur in Delaware, and the Washington DC Decorative Arts forum.

The title of Mack Cox's lecture is: *An American Story: The Redd Family Paintings*.

It is the story of the marriages, mentorship, and geography that entwined the lives of two of Kentucky's most important artists, Matthew Harris Jouett (1788-1827) and Oliver Frazer (1808 to 1864), and their descendants, as well as the travels and adventures of the Redd family and their portraits as they moved from the first owners to the present, with the backdrop of war, financial crisis, and cultural revolution. Mack's talk will be a fascinating story. ■

Kent Masterson Brown

PRESIDENT





TREASURER'S REPORT | DARRYL TERRY



As I've said, growth is key to maintaining quality programs and the expectations of its members. To that end, I'm still looking for a few good men and women to help me form a Membership Recruitment Committee. Right now, we have a membership of 180 members and I need your help to increase that number. I can't get

there on my own. Please contact me at Dterry909@aol.com or my cell phone at 859-771-5092. As Uncle Sam's poster says, "WE WANT YOU". Please consider putting in some time and effort to help us maintain and build this fantastic organization. ■

SECRETARY'S REPORT | BILL SWINFORD, JR.



The KCWRT is at the midpoint of our calendar year. The summer break will begin after the conclusion of the May meeting. The next newsletter will come out in August of 2024 announcing the schedule for the remaining two meetings of the year.

Refer to the President's report on details for the Saturday, May 25th tour at Lexington Cemetery. I will be out of town, but we will need volunteers to collect money and direct traffic that morning. Contact Susie if you can volunteer.

At the April meeting I asked for nominations for election to the Board of Directors. We will conduct our election of

directors at the May meeting. To date, I have not received any nominations. I encourage the membership to consider this important post. The Board generally meets one (1) or two (2) times during the year, generally in the summer. Self-nominations are fine. Remember, you must have the approval of the nominee to submit their name.

And, finally, the KCWRT is a 501c(3) Corporation. Gifts to the KCWRT are tax deductible. Furthermore, from my observations of our membership, quite a number are in that mandatory withdrawal category with respect to 401Ks and IRAs. Please consider the KCWRT in your annual giving. ■

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT | SUSIE MORTON



Hello Members! What a lovely turnout we had for our April meeting! We were treated to a fabulous presentation by Mel Hankla. And May's meeting promises to be just as entertaining. Here's the scoop for the May 13th meeting:

1. RSVP before Wednesday, May 8th at 4 PM – And, by Wednesday, I don't mean Friday or over the weekend. I must turn in the meal count by Wednesday to give the chef time to order supplies for the meal on Monday.
2. When you RSVP, you must determine your method of payment at that time. All meals must be paid for before the event. You can pay online or call me, text me, email me with a credit card number or send me a check in the mail to: 382 Sheridan Drive, 40503. I would very much appreciate not having to try to contact you on the day of the meeting to try to get your payment information.

3. The menu for the meeting will be boneless fried chicken with a white sauce gravy, roasted potatoes and steamed broccoli. In honor of the Kentucky Derby, for dessert we're having Derby pie and chocolate cake. As a reminder, a vegetarian meal is always an option.

There will most likely be construction going on so please allow yourself a little extra time to get to the Embassy Suites. I think that's all I've got for now. Looking forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the meeting. Until then, be well. ■

RSVP for the May Meeting BEFORE Wednesday, May 8th!

GRANT'S 1864 ROUTE THROUGH KENTUCKY TO OVERALL COMMAND

In March 1864, the U.S. Senate approved President Lincoln's nomination of Ulysses S. Grant to the newly restored rank of Lieutenant General, based on his numerous successes in the Western Theater. Before the first combat in the East in his new role as General in Chief of the Armies, Grant spent some time in Kentucky.

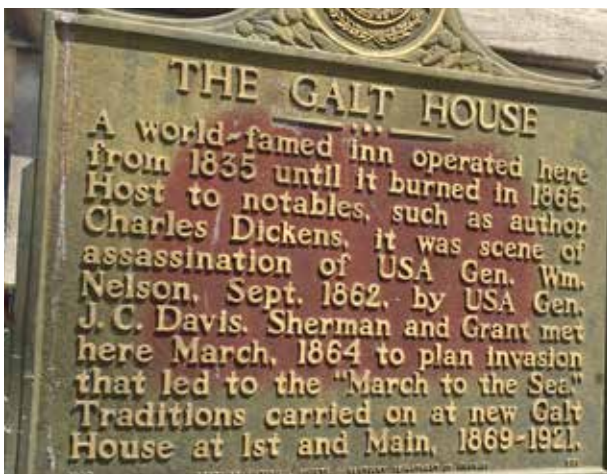
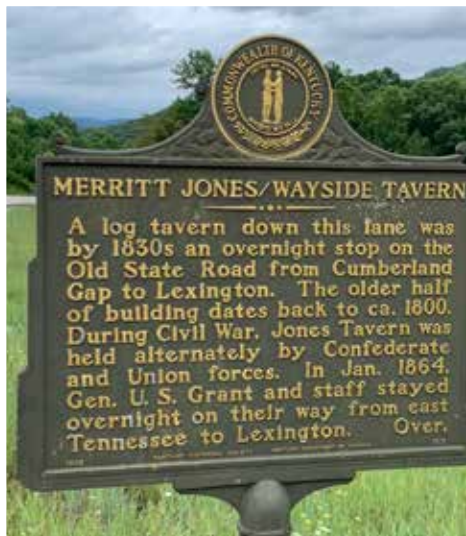
In January 1864, Grant traveled from Knoxville on horseback through Cumberland Gap and over the Wilderness Road to Lexington, arriving on January 11, and then traveled by train to Louisville. Back in 1848, Grant and his wife Julia honeymooned in Louisville, which was apparently the first trip she had ever taken from her home in Missouri.

The ride from Tennessee was not pleasant, as Grant wrote in his memoirs: "The road over Cumberland Gap, and back of it, was strewn with debris of broken wagons and dead animals. The road had been cut up to as great a depth of clay as could be by mules and wagons, so that the ride from Strawberry Plains to Lexington, over the holes and knobs in the road was a very cheerless one and very disagreeable."

Along his journeys, Grant stayed in Madison County at the Merritt Jones Tavern, whose owner was away in Confederate service at the time. Berea College maintains the land and ruins of the property, which unfortunately burned down years ago.



Photo credit: Madison County Historical Society Records, EKU Libraries



Around January 20, Julia's slave Jule freed herself in Louisville as they were passing through Louisville from Nashville on their way back to St. Louis, because they received word that their son Fred was ill with dysentery and typhoid fever. Grant met with several of his commanders in February at The Galt House (different location than the current one), and he and Sherman met here in March during his train journey from Nashville to Washington to accept his promotion.

Grant arrived in Washington City at The Willard Hotel on March 8 where he and son Fred (who had recovered from his illness) signed in unannounced and were moved into the Bridal Suite. That night, Grant met Lincoln and Stanton at a White House event, and accepted command in a formal ceremony the next day.

From there, he traveled on to Culpeper to meet Army of the Potomac Commander, George Gordon Meade. Grant and Meade would maintain their respective roles until the cessation of fighting at Appomattox thirteen months later.

After several weeks of planning and coordination and maneuvers, The Overland Campaign combat began on May 5th and saw two days of terrible and brutal fighting in the wooded area west of Fredericksburg known as The Wilderness, and some Federal units camped on portions of the Chancellorsville battlefield from the previous May.

After two days and over 17,000 Federal casualties, Grant issued orders on the morning of May 7th to march towards Spotsylvania Court House – heading south – heading towards Richmond.

Alfred Waud created this image of Grant at the intersection of the Brock and Orange Plank Roads at dusk on May 7, and eyewitness accounts tell of the men cheering “On To Richmond!”

Grant later described it this way: “Warren’s march carried him immediately behind the works where Hancock’s command lay on the Brock Road. With my staff and a small escort of cavalry I preceded the troops. Meade with his staff accompanied me. The greatest enthusiasm was manifested by Hancock’s men as we passed by. No doubt it was inspired by the fact that the movement was south. It indicated to them that they had passed through the “beginning of the end” in the battle just fought. The cheering was so lusty that the enemy must have taken it for a night attack. At all events it drew from him a furious fusillade of artillery and musketry, plainly heard but not felt by us.”



Grant told New York Times reporter that he could relate this message to President Lincoln: “Whatever happens, there will be no turning back.” ■



Preserved Confederate entrenchments at Saunders Field, Wilderness Battlefield (Author’s Image)

UPCOMING EVENT

Lexington Cemetery Tour

Come join us as our very own Kent Brown leads a tour of the Lexington Cemetery. We will gather by the Henry Clay monument to check in and begin the tour. Make sure your car is not parked along the main road into the Cemetery. Cars must be parked along the side roads only and they must be parked to allow other cars to use those side roads if necessary.

The tour will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will continue until around 1:30 p.m. Please bring water bottles for drinking. It is a walking tour, and we will proceed at a very, very easy pace.

The cost of the tour is \$20 per person. We would very much appreciate payment made before the day of the tour. You can pay online, send Susie a check or call her with a credit card number.

If you have questions about the tour, refer to Kent’s number listed in the Newsletter.

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