

BLUE LICKS MONUMENT DEDICATION

REPORTED BY

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A crowd estimated at about 10,000 persons attended the dedicatory exercises at Blue Licks [Lower Blue Licks] Sunday when the monument on the Blue Licks Battlefield was unveiled. The forty-foot obelisk was unveiled on the one hundred and forty-sixth anniversary of the battle in which 182 gallant Kentuckians in command of Colonel John Todd were led into a trap by Indians under British officers. Colonel Todd and most of his band of hardy pioneers were killed in the battle. The Battle of Blue Licks has been called by historians the decisive battle of the western frontier.

Federal Judge A. M. J. Cochran, of Maysville, presided at the ceremonies. Judge Cochran is a direct descendant of Andrew McConnell, one of the band who lost their lives in the battle. The ceremony was opened with a prayer by Father E. B. Rhorer, of Mayslick. Judge Innes B. Ross, of Carlisle, member of the commission appointed by former Governor Fields, was the first speaker. Mr. Ross stated that one year ago the first effort was made to erect the monument when more than five thousand people gathered at Blue Licks. "Since then," Mr. Ross said, "a tract of thirty-two acres of the battlefield has been purchased and taken over as a state park." Mr. Ross urged members of the audience to contribute funds for the purchase of additional land and for the improvement of the park.

Professor George E. Brooks, of William and Mary College, delivered an address on "The Battle of Blue Licks from Virginia's Standpoint." Professor Brooks was the official representative of the Governor of Virginia, and praised the band of pioneers who were at that time citizens of Virginia, Kentucky being then a part of the Old Dominion. Mr. Harry V. McChesney, vice president of the Kentucky Historical Society, followed with an address on "The Battle of Blue Licks from Kentucky's Standpoint." Mr. McChesney was followed by Henry Cleveland Wood, of Harrodsburg, who recited a poem,

"Battle of Blue Licks." Mr. Ross F. Lockridge, Bloomington, Indiana, was the next speaker, his subject being "Sequel to the Battle of Blue Licks." Mrs. James S. Darnell, secretary of the Kentucky State Park Commission, delivered an address on State parks. Professor J. Howard Payne, Maysville, was the next speaker. Judge Samuel M. Wilson, Lexington, chairman of the monument commission, presented the monument to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and Mrs. Darnell formally accepted it in behalf of the State Park Commission.

Several young men and women who are lineal descendants of the participants of the battle unveiled the monument. A volley was fired over the graves of the heroes by a squad of soldiers from the Carlisle National Guard unit, who arrived home Sunday afternoon from fifteen days' field training at Camp Knox. A bugler from the company sounded taps. Clear skies prevailed throughout the day and, despite the sweltering heat, the immense crowd listened with rapt attention while the speakers recounted the heroic feats of the men who were being honored. More than fifty special deputy sheriffs and the local company of soldiers preserved order and patrolled the road throughout the day. No traffic accidents were reported.

Visitors from twenty-three states and more than half of the counties in Kentucky were present for the celebration. [The Filson Club was represented by Mr. R. C. Ballard Thruston.] Governor Flem D. Sampson and former Governor William J. Fields, both of whom were on the program, were unable to be present at the celebration.

Following is a description of the engraving on the obelisk dedicated at the Blue Licks last Sunday. Judge Wilson requests *The Carlisle Mercury* to state that space has been left for additional names of participants in the battle. These will be engraved on the monument, when duly authenticated to Judge Wilson, whose office is in the Security Trust Building, Lexington.

Front or east side of monument, in space immediately above the panel and pilasters:

"'So valiantly did our small party fight that, to the memory of those who unfortunately fell in the battle, enough of honour cannot be paid.'—Daniel Boone." On the panel or face of the monument, below the above inscription: "*Colonel-Commandant*

John Todd (killed). *Lieutenant-Colonels*—Daniel Boone, Stephen Trigg (killed). *Majors*—Edward Bulger (died of wounds), Levi Todd, Silas Harlan (killed), Hugh McGary. *Captains*—John Allison, John Bulger (killed), Samuel Johnson, Gabriel Madison, Clough Overton (killed), John Beasley (captured), John Gordon (killed), Joseph Kincaid (killed), William McBride (killed), Robert Patterson. *Lieutenants*—John Kennedy (killed), Barnett Rogers (killed), James McGuire (killed), Thomas Hinson (killed), William Givins (killed). *Ensign*—John McMurry (captured). *Commissary*—Joseph Lindsay (killed)."

At bottom of the above panel, below the names of officers, this: "Dedicated August 19, 1928." On the base, next below the panel bearing names of officers and line of dedication, is inscribed the following: "This monument, the gift of a grateful commonwealth, commemorates the heroic pioneers, who, in defence of Kentucky, here fought and fell, in the Battle of the Blue Licks, August 19, 1782."

North or far side of monument, in space immediately above the panel and pilasters: "'The men who fought the Battle of the Blue Licks were as well qualified from experience to face the Indians as any body of men that were ever collected.'—Robert Patterson."

On the panel or face of the monument, below the above inscription: "*Privates* who were killed—Charles Black, Israel Boone, Esau Corn, John Douglass, Charles Ferguson, John Folley, John Fry, Jervis Green, Francis Harper, William Harris, Francis McBride, Isaac McCracken, Henry Miller, John Nutt, Drury Polley, William Robertson, James Smith, John Stapleton, Val. Stern, William Stewart, John Willson, John Wilson, Samuel Brannon, James Brown (Surveyor), Hugh Cunningham, William Eads, Ezekiel Field, Daniel Foster, Daniel Gregg, Matthew Harper, Andrew McConnell, Gilbert Marshall, John Nelson, John O'Neal, John Price, Matthias Rose, William Smith, William Stephens, John Stevenson, Richard Tomlinson, Israel Wilson, Matthew Wylie, 'Little' James Graham, James Ledgerwood (captured and killed)."

On the base, next below the above panel, bearing the names of privates killed: "Ottawas and Chippewas."

West side of monument in space immediately above the panel and pilasters:

“‘No historian who will give a faithful account of the settlement and transactions of this country, will omit to speak of the battle and the place at which it was fought.’—Court of Appeals of Kentucky.” On the panel or face of the monument next below the above inscription: (1) (Sufficient blank space for engraving of, at least, ten additional names.) (2) This inscription next: “To the unknown heroes who took part in the Battle of the Blue Licks.” (3) Next below the above inscription, a scroll or wreath. (4) Then, next below the scroll or wreath, this inscription: “This ‘Last Battle of the Revolution’ was fought between 182 Kentuckians commanded by Colonel John Todd, on the American side, and about 240 Indians and Canadians, commanded by Captain William Caldwell, on the British side.” (5) On the base, next below the above panel bearing above inscriptions: “Shawnees and Delawares.”

South side of monument, in space above the panel and pilasters:

“‘They advanced in three divisions, in good order, and gave us a volley and stood to it very well for some time.’—William Caldwell.”

On the panel or face of the monument, next below the above inscription: “*Privates* who escaped—William Barbee, Squire Boone, Jr. (wounded), George Corn, Whitfield Craig, Thomas Gist, James Graham, Peter Harget, James M. January, Wainwright Lea, James McCullough, Andrew Morgan, John Morgan, John Pitman, Aaron Reynolds, Lewis Rose (captured), James Twyman, Joseph Scholl, Samuel Scott, Andrew Steele, Thomas Stevenson, James Swart, Samuel Boone, Benjamin Cooper, Jerry Craig, William Field, Edward Graham, Squire Grant, Benjamin Hayden, James Kincaid, James McBride, William May, James Ray, James Rose, Abraham Scholl, Peter Scholl, John Smith, Jacob Stevens, Jacob Stucker, Henry Wilson, Benjamin Netherland, Jesse Yocum (captured), James Elijah Woods (captured), James Morgan (captured but escaped).”

On the base next below the above panel bearing the names of privates who escaped: “Wyandots and Mingoos.” [See *Battle of the Blue Licks*, by Samuel M. Wilson, published in 1927.]

One hundred and forty-six years last Sunday, since the then barren and rocky ridge in the great loop of the Licking River echoed to the exultant shouts of victorious Indians. From the ridge to the river were strewn the mutilated bodies of Kentucky pioneers, who had paid the price of a rash valour, which was none the less admirable.

Last Sunday, standing about a shaft of rugged granite, thousands of Kentuckians watched direct descendants of participants in the Battle of the Blue Licks draw the cords which undraped the base of the monument. As the concealing curtains fell away, three volleys rang out, and from the stand a bugle sounded, blowing "taps," to be echoed faintly from the crest where Colonel Benjamin Logan's men gave burial to the bodies of their valiant comrades.

Kentucky has paid an old debt, a debt to her own blood and sinew, long due, long rankling in the breasts of true lovers of our history as an obligation unpaid. For the paying of this debt, Kentuckians should be especially grateful to three men, who have given of their time, their energies, and their means to make the memorial at Blue Licks a reality.

To William J. Curtis, who, as a representative of Nicholas and Robertson counties, was author of the act which provided funds for the monument; whose unselfish service in the cause of the project was unflagging, honor is due. To Judge Innes B. Ross, who worked indefatigably, who gave valuable time, who did anything and everything that his hands found to do in furtherance of the memorial, honor is due. To Judge Samuel M. Wilson, brilliant historian, lover of the distinguished records of Kentucky pioneers, whose work as chairman of the committee was invaluable, honor is due.

And to those other Kentuckians who aided in the payment of an old debt, the sweetly mournful notes of the bugle, echoed faintly from the wooded hillside where sleep the valiant dead, must have brought to their hearts the sense of satisfaction that comes of an obligation discharged.

And of the little handful of frontiersmen, who, on that Sunday morning one hundred and forty-six years ago, threw discretion to the winds and rushed headlong into the jaws of a trap to meet their doom, what more appropriate may be written of them, than was spoken upon the occasion of a Memorial Day

address by the late Robert G. Ingersoll: "These heroes are dead. They died for liberty—they died for us. They are at rest They sleep beneath the shadows of the clouds, careless alike of sunshine or storm, each in the windowless palace of rest. Earth may run red with other wars—they are at peace. In the midst of battle, in the roar of conflict, they found the serenity of death."