

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
(June, 2024)



## *Countdown to USA 250! Kickoff Event*

**Shelbyville, KY** – Shelby County is getting ready now to help America celebrate a BIG day – its 250<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 4, 2026! As this will only happen once, the Shelby County Historical Society (SCHS) wants to encourage individuals, organizations and businesses to join us in honoring the land of the free and those who fought for those freedoms.



On **Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>** from **9am - 2pm**, the SCHS is hosting a kickoff event in 2 locations: the **Museum**, located at 627 Main St., and the **Town Square** in front of **Centenary United Methodist Church**, located at 429 Main Street. All activities will take place in conjunction with the **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Independence Day Parade** which begins at 10 am near the Shelby County Fairgrounds and will proceed down Main Street in Shelbyville. The parade is organized by Heroes 4 Humanity with assistance from the VFW Post 1179, whose museum will be open from 9am-12pm June 29.

Activities at the SCHS **Museum** include special exhibits just for the day from:

- **The Shelby County Historical Society** - the Collier Powder Horn, a powder horn dating to 1776 which was carried in the Revolutionary War; a circa 1798 ledger used by Simon Adams to record purchases in his store just a few years after Kentucky became a state in 1792; arrowhead collection featuring items from the Early Archaic, Late Archaic and Late Woodland time periods;
- **Toy Solider Collection** - this display depicts a metal toy soldier layout representing the Revolutionary War period on loan from Frank Shanly;
- **Boone Family Bible** - Boone is a name synonymous with Shelby County, due to Squire Boone, Jr's Painted Stone Station. This bible belonged to direct descendants of Squire's older brother, Samuel Boone. This and a few other items on loan from Executive Director Helen McKinney;
- **SAR Museum artifacts** - an exhibit of items on loan from the Sons of the American Revolution Museum in Louisville, KY, depicting early frontier life in Kentucky;
- **Kentucky Historical Society** - KHS will display the original 1792 KY State Constitution and Constitution Journal.

Activities at the **Town Square** (Centenary United Methodist Church):

- Visit various **stations** depicting frontier Kentucky life in the 18<sup>th</sup> century;

- **Spirit of '76 Passport** - Children can pick up a “passport” at either the Town Square or Museum to take from station to station. Spend a few minutes learning some unique history from the presenters. The passport represents the flag of 1776 and all you have to do is get **5 stars colored to receive your choice of a FREE gift** from the SCHS! Presenters will color a star on your card with a gold pen. Children can show or turn it in at the Welcome Station at the Town Square or Welcome Tent at the Museum to receive their gift.
- **18<sup>th</sup> Century Cannon** on display – presented by the Painted Stone Setters, Inc. of Shelbyville, an 18<sup>th</sup> century reenacting group. Learn about the Revolutionary War and what a cannon crew was required to do. Cannon crew members will be “recruiting” a mini-crew to go through the motions of firing the cannon. NOTE: *cannon will not be fired.*
- Beginning at 11:30, a **mini militia** (children) will be formed to answer the “call to bear arms” and fight for our freedom! They will learn tactical maneuvers (how to march), be issued their weapons (wooden guns while supply lasts/on loan from Locust Grove Historic Site) and announce the **reading of Declaration of Independence by Stanton Garr** following the conclusion of the parade (by Noon).

The SCHS formed a special committee, Countdown to USA 250!, last year to create events and programs leading up to America’s birthday. This year a student logo competition was held for 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders to create **a special logo** to use for upcoming 250<sup>th</sup>-related events. This logo was created by Esther Van Zee, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at East Middle School.



Come out for the parade and enjoy some fun, 18<sup>th</sup> century style! While at the Museum, pick up your FREE copy of the June issue of *Shelby Life* if you have not done so already.

If you are not a member of the SCHS and would like to become one or make a tax-deductible donation, we are offering a special promotion through September. For just a \$25 membership donation, you will receive your choice of two books: *Portraits of the Past, A Pictorial History of Shelby County Kentucky* or *A Living History Shelby County, Kentucky 2011* (each a \$50 value). Sign up today and help us keep history alive for another 250 years!

For more information contact our office: (502) 513-5555 or [director@shelbykyhistory.org](mailto:director@shelbykyhistory.org).