

2011 NOMINATION FORM

Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation Historic Preservation Awards Program

NOMINATIONS must be postmarked or received in the Kentucky Heritage Council office by Monday, April 11. Entries may also be submitted via email to kyheritage@ky.gov or by fax at 502-564-5820. For each entry, submit a completed nomination form, narrative description and supporting documentation to:

Kentucky Heritage Council / State Historic Preservation Office
300 Washington Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
ATTN: Ida Lee Willis Awards



1. Nominee

Name Lynda W. Closson
Title / Organization D.A.R.
Address 3970 Ky. Highway 300
City Stanford State Ky. Zip 40484
Phone 606-365-1776 Email Ky sunshine @ Hughes.net

2. Award (check one)

Memorial Award Preservation Project Award Service to Preservation Award

3. Description

Include a brief narrative description of the project(s) the nominee has accomplished. Relate this description to the criteria for the appropriate award.

4. Supporting Documentation

Attach or enclose any photographs, articles, publications or letters of support for the nominee that would assist in the determining the impact of his/her contribution. Before and after photographs should be included for a Preservation Project Award. When submitting by mail, materials may also be submitted on a CD/DVD attached to the nomination form. When submitting via email, please submit all files in one email in PDF format; do not send multiple files. For questions, contact Diane Comer at 502-564-7005, ext. 120, or diane.comer@ky.gov.

5. Submitter of Nomination

Name Byron Crawford
Title / Organization *columnist Kentucky Living *(Nomination is Personal Not for Organization)
Address 31 Plantation Drive
City Shelbyville State Ky. Zip 40065
Phone 502-633-1777 Email bcrawford.ky@aol.com

Narrative description of the project(s) that Lynda W. Closson has accomplished

Lynda W. Closson has been involved with Historic Preservation since attending the University of Kentucky. For the last 35 years she has been involved in preservation projects at Meadow Garden located in Augusta, Georgia, and more extensively and over the last 21 years, her restoration projects in Kentucky have been the Given's Home place on Knob Lick Pike built in 1852, Logan's Fort historic site, Daniel Boone Monument, Duncan Tavern Historic Center and the Moss House.

From 1992-96 Lynda was the project manager and general contractor for the restoration of the old Given's home located on Knob Lick Pike in Lincoln County, KY. This was a \$250,000 restoration. She worked with an architect and contracted all the work herself. The home was modernized while keeping to the historic accuracy of the home. This was an apprenticeship which prepared her for future restoration projects.

In 1994 she began research into the historical provenance and location of the Logan's Fort historic site on the outskirts of Stanford. Lynda's research of the Fort proved to be vast and full of documentation of this historic Fort. With documentation in hand she approached the late Lincoln County Judge Executive Jim Reed, to secure his approval to build the fort. Judge Reed told her, "You find it and we will build it!"

On August 3, 1996 Lynda made her first public presentation of her Logan's Fort research to the Kentucky Genealogical Society with 250 genealogists present from all over the United States. She was meticulous with primary documentation to support her research. She used computer CADD drawings to support her facts. Her presentation led to a front page story in the Lexington Herald-Leader on August 8th, 1996, and fueled widespread interest in the project.

In the same month she lobbied the Judge and Magistrates of the Lincoln County Fiscal Court to sponsor an ISTE A Application for funds for Logan's Fort. She worked in co-operation with Mary Kozak (working at the Bluegrass ADD) to write an application for ISTE A funds that would forever change the future of the Logan's Fort Project. Ms. Kozak wrote the application, but Closson provided all the historical documentation and a booklet entitled Logan's Fort 1775-1786. This booklet received rave reviews from the Department of Transportation. The application was selected for funding and the Lincoln County Fiscal Court and the Fort Project was awarded \$125,000 from the ISTE A for the acquisition of property.

In September 1996 she lobbied the Kentucky Archaeological Survey and several professional archaeologists to conduct a preliminary investigation (dig) of the area of the historic site of the Fort. The purpose of this study was to determine if the site contained intact subsurface remains dating to the early settlement of Kentucky. Permission was given by the Camenisch Family and Mayor Withrow of the City of Stanford, the property owners of the historic area. The investigation proved to have the potential to support a much larger archaeological dig as artifacts were recovered. Lynda then submitted an application for a Kentucky Heritage Council Federal Grant for \$15,340 to fund an archaeological dig sponsored by the local DAR Chapter (Logan-Whitley Chapter) and the University of Kentucky.

Lynda was successful in getting the local DAR chapter to sponsor the Logan's Fort Project to assist the local support group calling themselves the Fort Foundation, which was founded by Lynda Closson. While Lynda formed the Foundation and secured its legal credentials the DAR Chapter funded and sponsored the project for several years until the Foundation received its 501C3 status.

She wrote "A Call for Kentucky" and began regular monthly public meetings for the Fort Project. In January 1997, the Foundation had over 30 persons who had donated to the DAR Logan's Fort Project, and a Logan's Fort Web site had been created.

In June of 1997 the local DAR Chapter on behalf of the Fort Foundation was awarded a Federal matching grant for an archaeological dig within the historical property area. The Heritage Council Federal Grant excavation project (dig) at the site of Logan's Fort began on August 29, 1997 and over 500 persons participated in this dig. Lynda worked with UK planning the dig schedule and coordinating all the volunteers and making out the payment scales for archaeologists. She secured all the matching funds for this grant. Following the dig she assisted Kim McBride in the historical reference work for the published Investigative Report on the dig.

Lynda guided the Foundation through its purchase of its first piece of the historic property. Using the TE funds that had been awarded to the Foundation she coordinated the appraisal and secured a fair market price for the property and finalized the property acquisition for the Foundation.

She personally challenged what could have been massive destruction of the historic property when a city storm water retention dam was projected to be built across the historic site. Her efforts to stop this dam were successful, thus saving the historic property. Because of her efforts, today the property is intact and the goals of the Fort Foundation are still in progress.

The National Park Service added the 1777 battle site at Logan's Fort to the American Battlefield Protection Program in 2000. This opened NPS/ABPP funding up to the Fort Project. In 2003 Lynda submitted a NPS American Battlefield Protection Program Grant request for funds to have a Management and Preservation Plan completed by professional consultants. This grant was funded for \$30,000 by the NPS/ABPP. The Plan was completed and delivered in the fall of 2006 to the Fort Foundation. In the spring of 2007 new leadership was elected and Lynda retired from the Foundation in 2008 to finish the work on another project that she started in 1997. Today the Logan's Fort Project continues because of the efforts that were started under the leadership of Lynda Closson and through her research and diligence.

The community of Stanford and Lincoln County will forever be in her debt for her tireless efforts to see the Logan's Fort Project to the building stage that it enjoys at this time. The creation of the Logan's Fort Historic Park Interpretive Center will be an enormous asset to the community, state and our nation. This historical site will have a significant impact on tourism and the local economy not to mention the history lessons that will be learned from her research and ground work for this project. Lynda gave much of her time and personal finances to this project from 1994 – 2008. She deserves to be recognized for her accomplishments to preserve the historic Logan's Fort site. Those involved with the Logan's Fort project today owe a debt of gratitude for her efforts to preserve this historic site and the ground work she provided from 1994 – 2008.

Lynda's most accomplished project has been the restoration of the Duncan Tavern Historic Center in Paris, KY owned by the Kentucky Society Daughters of the American Revolution. In 1997 Lynda was appointed Project Manager of the Duncan Tavern Historic Center preservation project. Lynda spearheaded the effort in securing a conservation assessment for Duncan Tavern. Upon the completion of this assessment she began writing applications for Department of Transportation TE Funds. Over the next 12 years Lynda would begin and complete a major restoration project of Duncan Tavern Historic Center and the fundraising campaign for this project. She wrote three applications for TE Funds totaling \$500,000 that were funded and she raised \$244,000 to cover items not contained in the funding. A total of \$744,000 was spent on this restoration project. This project was just recently completed.

Duncan Tavern Historic Center (DTHC) is a unique Kentucky Historic State Landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Sites. It is the state headquarters of the Kentucky Society Daughters of the American Revolution (KSDAR). It contains an in-house museum, the John Fox, Jr. Genealogical Library and meeting facilities.

Duncan Tavern Historic Center was built in 1788. It served as a hostelry, stage coach stop, Inn and Tavern for weary travelers. It overlooks Paris, KY town square. Lynda designed a Four Phase Plan for the restoration to prevent further deterioration of the oldest standing Tavern in Kentucky and enable the continuation of a 70 year in-house museum containing some of the finest period furniture and artifacts in the nation. It is one of the keystones to Kentucky's pioneer history and as such host many visitors. When Lynda began her grant writing this landmark's condition was perilous. Her restoration plan would be for the entire historic center which is an original building made of local limestone, double pile, five bay, and 28 rooms. The center is two buildings: a three story building and a two story building that are attached.

The scope of work for Phase I, II of the restoration and rehabilitation included work on structural problems with trusses, new roof, work on all chimneys, flashings and gutters from water damage, investigate and fix any possible structure failures; remove an exposed main gas line, and electric assessment and rewiring and structural and mechanical engineer evaluation. Rehabilitate exterior structural problems especially at the northeast corner of the Tavern, remove and replace all electrical wiring see that the existing load on electric power supply which far exceeded the existing supply was remedied.

In Phase III the scope of the work was repair plaster damages from failed flashing and roof systems and other damage to the ceilings and walls from water damage, core sampling to achieve the closest color of paint that would have been used during the building's early time period to adhere to historical accuracy in order to paint the entire interior. The building reopened to the public in 2004 in order to generate more operating income.

In the Phase IV, the final phase, all final work was completed repaired, glazed, sealed & painted all the windows; repaired damaged wooden elements of roof dormer units, window casements and frames, eaves and gable trim; replaced any deteriorating/splitting wood siding; restored and painted or refinished all doors, casements and frames of transoms; all wooden elements of the exterior were painted, replaced parged stucco on tavern transverse and gable ends; reconstructed HVAC ductwork opening in foundation walls to ensure structural stability and replaced one of the house furnaces; restored all shutters (sixteen sets); cleaned, prepared and tuck-point brick masonry joints on brick ell on the rear of the building and several areas of the stone masonry joints and repointed. A safe streetscape was created by repairing walkways and access steps. New handicap accessible steps with new hand rails were installed onto the patio. A single parking space section removed allowing the Kentucky Archaeological Survey to investigate a sink hole that was caused by an old cistern not properly filled. The sink was filled & the asphalt replaced. Garden stone walls were rebuilt. All affected work areas were landscaped with period plants and flora which enhanced the view. Finally, Lynda made sure that an outdated security system was replaced with a state of the art, sophisticated business/museum security system and she made sure that the entire historic center was climate controlled.

This project was enormous. During the 12 years of the Duncan Tavern Restoration project the building was completely restored and Closson who lives 1.5 hours from the building was on site weekly overseeing the work. She wrote the applications for funds and grants. She raised additional funds for items not covered by the TE funds and grants. Lynda's efforts as the project manager of the restoration of Duncan Tavern has given much value to the community and historic tourism will be better served providing visitors an authentic view of travelers in the 1800 century, who they were and how they lived. The community and public will benefit for years to come from Lynda's expertise and stewardship of this irreplaceable landmark. Surface transportation of the earliest years of KY exist in this fine structure and is enhanced by the educational values that Lynda has provided in her work with Duncan Tavern.

Another historic restoration project managed by Lynda was the restoration of the Daniel Boone Monument in the saddle of the Cumberland Gap located in the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. This project began in March 2003 and was completed in June 2004. This preservation project is unique.

The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution began commemorating the nation's Historic trails and roads during the early twentieth century. The focus of the National Program was the creation of a transcontinental federal highway following the routes of several historic trails, including the old National Road, Santa Fe Trail and Oregon Trail. Although the highway was never built--because of the outbreak of World War I-- the idea of commemorating the nation's historic trails and roads gained popularity within the organization, and many local chapters marked historic trails in their states between 1910 and 1920.

Mrs. Lindsey Patterson of the North Carolina DAR initiated local efforts to commemorate Daniel Boone's trail through the state of NC. After beginning the project in NC, Patterson approached representatives from TN, VA and KY at the national meeting of the DAR in April 1912 to secure their support for a multi-state project to mark the trail from NC to KY. This meeting led to the formation of the Interstate Boone's Trail Committee, which included representatives from all four states.

The committee planned to erect stone monuments along Boone's trail from the Yadkin River in NC (where Boone and his family lived) to Boonesboro, KY. Markers were placed along the trail between 1912 and 1915. The NC DAR placed thirteen monuments between the Yadkin River and TN. The Tennessee DAR placed nine markers from Trade, TN to Big Moccasin Gap, VA. The Virginia DAR planned eight between Big Moccasin Gap and Cumberland Gap. Finally, the Kentucky DAR placed a number of markers between Cumberland Gap and Boonesboro, KY.

The Interstate Boone's Trail Committee agreed to model the markers after those already in place in NC in order to maintain consistency along the path. So the bronze tablets, which were attached to natural or concrete bases along the trail, were fairly uniform in size and wording, however, they differed somewhat in lettering and design.

In addition to the trail markers in each state, the Committee decided to also build a monument

at Cumberland Gap to commemorate their cooperative effort. The four-sided Boone Trail Maker was dedicated on June 30, 1915. It consisted of a truncated stone pyramid with bronze plaques on each side to represent the four states involved in the project. DAR representatives from NC, TN, VA & KY attended the ceremonies.

The Boone's trail marker was placed on the National Register of Historic Places and added to the Cumberland Gap Historical District. It is historically significant because it represents the efforts of the DAR during the early twentieth century to commemorate historic trails and roads important to the westward development of the United States. Although the National Register ordinarily excludes properties that are primarily commemorative in nature, the Boone's trail marker remains eligible because of its age and importance within the larger historic trails movements in the DAR during the early 20th century. Along with the creation of battlefield parks, historic house museums and historical societies during this period, the DAR effort was a manifestation of an increased interest in commemorating the American past.

In 2002 a letter was sent to the DAR by a concerned citizen regarding the disturbing wearing away of the monument. The four State Regents of NC, TN, VA & KY met in Washington, D.C. in February of 2003 and it was determined that the State Regent of Kentucky would oversee the restoration of this monument due to her background in historic preservation and her innate skills and abilities in the preservation field. The Kentucky State Regent was Lynda Closson.

The superintendent of the Park advised Lynda, that they had applied for funding for the rehabilitation, but that even if approved, the funds would not be available before 2005. After hiking up to the Gap and seeing the monument for herself, she realized that waiting until 2005 for funding was not an option. The historic monument would not last. She immediately wrote a proposal to another grant program which she was familiar. Lynda wrote in her proposal, "The Challenge Cost Share, is an annual National Park Service project grant award program, specifically designed to benefit parks and partner organizations. The partner, such as DAR, would be responsible for funding at least half of the project and that the 50% cost share amount of \$13,500 would be approximately \$3,375 per each of the four states involved."

Her proposal contained two plans for consideration:

Plan A - Repair: Refacing the monument structure, removing existing surface joints, replacing missing face rock, repointing joints and replacing the missing North Carolina plaque. These repairs could not be expected to survive more than 10-15 years, since this would not correct the core structural problem of the monument. The cost would be approximately \$4,500.

Plan B - Rehabilitation - Construction of a permanent foundation using flexible mortar and pointing materials, rebuilding the stone base, using as much of the original materials as possible, and replacing the severely vandalized North Carolina DAR plaque. Such a rehabilitated monument could be expected to survive for more than 100 years. The cost would be approximately \$27,000. Lack of equipment and access to the site accounts in part for the high cost. However, this would be the best way to secure the monument for the future.

Upon receiving Lynda's proposal the project was funded for Plan B. Lynda secured the match from the four State DAR organizations and on June 15, 2004 the four states: Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia returned to rededicate the Monument after it had been restored as a joint effort by these states with the U.S. Park Service and under the guidance of the project manager, Lynda Closson.

The Boone's Trail Marker retains integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association due to the singular efforts of Lynda Closson.

In recent years Lynda has been invited to advise private owners as to what would be the best approach for preserving historic buildings on their property. One in particular was the Moss House. This served as the summer home and later permanent residence to Henry Clay's mother after she married Mr. Moss following the death of Henry Clay's father. She provided information to the owner as to how it could be restored and used as a private residence.

Lynda Closson has given of her time and personal finances to see that the Logan's Fort project; and the Daniel Boone Monument project and the Duncan Tavern Historic Center preservation project come to fruition. She logged many miles between her home to Stanford, KY, Paris, KY and to the Cumberland Gap, not forgetting that she had to hike to the top of the Cumberland Gap.

The entire community of Paris/Bourbon County is thrilled with the work she has accomplished for Duncan Tavern as it has only enhanced the beauty of their town and the tourist traffic to the community. Lynda also served as Chairman of the Duncan Tavern Committee Board for six years which concluded in July 2010. She served as the State Regent of the Kentucky Society Daughters of the American Revolution from 2001-2004. Her leadership skills are exceptional and she strives for 100% in all her endeavors. Her knowledge of historic preservation is vast and her work is that of a perfectionist. One final note: Lynda has worked on all these projects without any monetary compensation.

Today Lynda Continues to research Kentucky history, documenting and preserving the integrity of Kentucky's history with accuracy. Just recently she discovered in the Draper Manuscripts how Stanford, KY officially got its name. She was interviewed and featured in the Advocate Messenger in regards to this research on Stanford. She believes that preservation is not only preserving buildings and sacred grounds but the documents of history that tell the true story of our land.

Lynda has served the preservation field with her leadership and as a project manager she has shared her knowledge. Her contributions to other organizations are as follows:

Historical Confederation of Kentucky (5 years), 1991- 1996
 Member of Bluegrass Area Development District Tourism, Historic Preservation
 and Recreation Advisory Committee, 1995 - 1998
 Commonwealth Preservation Advocacy Board of Directors 1998 – 2001
 National Society Daughters of the American Revolution National Board of Management, 2001-2004
 State Regent, Kentucky Society Daughters of the American Revolution, 2001-2004
 State Vice Regent, Kentucky Society Daughters of the American Revolution, 1998-2001
 State Organizing Secretary, Kentucky Society Daughters of the American Revolution, 1995-1998
 Fourth District Director, Kentucky Society Daughters of the American Revolution, 1992-1995
 NSDAR National Chairman's Association, member since 1983 serving as Treasurer, Vice President and President
 Logan's Fort Foundation - C.E.O. and/or President 1996-2001, 2002-2005
 Preservation Kentucky Board of Directors 1999 - 2001
 Lincoln County Historical Society, 1990-present, served as 1st Vice President & 2nd Vice President
 Lincoln Co. Courthouse Volunteer Genealogist
 Lincoln County, KY Tourism Board (3 years)
 National Association of Parliamentarians (1984-present)
 Kentucky Historical Society, Life Member
 Kentucky Genealogical Society, served as Parliamentarian
 National Trust for Historic Preservation member since 1994
 Hindman Settlement School Board of Directors 2001-2004
 Kentucky Archeological Survey Advisory Committee three years
 College Education: Murray State University (one year) and the University of Kentucky (three years)
 majoring in parks and recreation.

Lynda is the recipient of the prestigious NSDAR Historic Preservation Award and Medal

To: The Ida Lee Willis Awards Committee
From: Byron Crawford
Subject: Service to Preservation Award nominee

Dear Willis Award Judges:

I am honored to place in nomination for the Service to Preservation Award Lynda W. Closson of Stanford, who has spent more than three decades working to preserve Kentucky's historical, architectural and archeological heritage.

In the fine tradition of Ida Lee Willis, Ms. Closson has often taken the initiative to champion projects that might not have been undertaken if not for her tireless perseverance.

Moreover, she has always been dedicated to ensuring that each project was meticulously researched and documented—even when it sometimes might have been more expedient to have chosen a path of least resistance.

I first became aware of Ms. Closson's impressive passion for preservation during her early research on the Logan's Fort site, when I was among the many journalists whom she contacted for help in raising awareness to the possibilities and to her vision of helping her community resurrect the fort around which it was built. When I received your nomination form earlier this year, hers was the first name that came to mind for the Service to Preservation Award.

In addition to a remarkable sacrifice of her time and hard work, she financed important elements of her research with her own funds, and continues to donate regularly to several preservation projects. For her untold hours and months of labor, painstaking research and selfless devotion to preservation over these past 30 years, the Commonwealth could not express its gratitude to Ms. Closson more properly than with its Ida Lee Willis Service to Preservation Award.

I am hopeful that you will conclude after examining the attached narrative of her work—which I pieced together from her records that I requested and from other sources—that she is most deserving of the Service to Preservation Award in 2011.

Thank you for your consideration.

Byron Crawford

Columnist, Kentucky Living Magazine

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Email stephenmcbride@insightbb.com

March 25, 2011

Awards Committee
Kentucky Heritage Council
300 Washington Street
Frankfort, KY 40601-1824

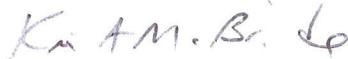
Dear Awards Committee,

We are once again writing to express our strong support for the nomination of Lynda Closson for a preservation award. We believe last year she was nominated for the Ada Lee Willis award, and is being nominated again for either this or another award. As a leader in the DAR for Kentucky and the nation, Lynda has used her role within this organization to make a strong stand for historic preservation. Her dedication to Kentucky history goes beyond traditional interpretations to encompass significant historic buildings (such as Duncan Tavern) and sites (such as Logan's Fort). Because of her leadership, these resources have received recognition, scholarly treatment, and preservation efforts. Both Duncan Tavern and Logan's Fort are very significant resources in the early history of Kentucky, and the projects Lynda has led have been high profile preservation projects which should help guide the way for future preservationists. At both sites Lynda worked very hard to see that archaeological resources were considered and investigated, a step often ignored by preservationists. Lynda has shown tremendous staying power and has donated countless hours of work and encouragement to these projects; we hope you will agree and will recognize her efforts with a preservation award.

Sincerely,



Dr. W. Stephen McBride



Dr. Kim A. McBride

H30

April 5, 2011

Memorandum

To: The Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation – Preservation Awards Program

From: Superintendent, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park

Subject: Nomination – The Ida Lee Willis Award

I highly recommend Mrs. Lynda Closson for consideration of the Ida Lee Willis Award. Mrs. Closson's proactive involvement in historic preservation, and education, coupled with her professional standards and leadership has resulted in significant contributions to the preservation of resources entrusted to the National Park Service. Moreover, her contributions have enhanced the public's understanding of and support for historic preservation on the state and national level.

In 1992 I had the good fortune to work with Lynda and the Daughters of the American Revolution to put the finishing touches on an important project within one of the historic districts at Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. The project involved the restoration of the Daniel Boone Monument in the saddle of the Cumberland Gap. The monument had been erected in the early twentieth century (1915) through a coordinated effort by representatives from Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, and Kentucky along Boone's trail from the Yadkin River in North Carolina to Boonesboro, Ky. The significance of the monument and its listing on the National Register is that it represents the efforts of the Daughters of the American Revolution during the early twentieth century to commemorate historic trails and roads important to the westward development of the United States.

Following the major effort to reroute two highways out of the historic district by the National Park Service and restore the Cumberland Gap and Wilderness Road to reflect the period of 1780-1810 we recognized that a key resource was in dire need of restoration. Under the leadership of Lynda, four State Regents of NC, TN, VA & KY met in Washington, D.C. in February 2003 and developed a plan to fund the restoration effort of the monument. Lynda was selected for this task due to her background in historic preservation and her outstanding skills in working with multiple organizations to accomplish complex projects and problem solving.

Through Lynda's efforts a Challenge Cost Share grant proposal was prepared and the Daughters of the American Revolution raised thousands of dollars to enable the restoration work to begin. At the conclusion of the project a major dedication ceremony was held for the public to highlight the importance of historic preservation projects and how they contribute

directly to the quality of life of citizens of the United States.

This project would not have been possible without the careful planning, critical analysis, and attention to detail that was evidenced by Lynda. I know that this is just one example of Mrs. Closson's commitment and outstanding service in the field of historic preservation. She continually seeks to improve her understanding of the resources we protect, and applies this information to decisions on public use, access, and education. I highly recommend her for this outstanding recognition.

Mark H. Woods
Superintendent



Review Committee
Ida Lee Willis Service to Preservation Award

Nomination of: Lynda Closson

Dear Members of the Committee:

I was asked to write a letter of commendation in support of the nomination of Lynda Closson of Stanford, KY, for the Ida Lee Willis Service to Preservation Award. I am very pleased to do so.

I have known Lynda since I arrived in Kentucky to take a position at the Kentucky Historical Society in 1994. One of my duties as KHS's manager of the Local History Program was to direct the Historical Confederation of Kentucky, a group that provided training and services to historical societies and museums across the state. Lynda was one of the members of HCK's board, and always one of our most enthusiastic supporters. Her interest in local history extended beyond the Lincoln County Historical Society and the Logan's Fort project that she represented while on our board. She actively worked to help HCK plan and develop programs and training that would help other organizations across the state do their work better.

Throughout the years, I have seen the dedication and hard work that she provides to her projects. The renovation and restoration of Duncan Tavern undoubtedly would not have been achieved without the leadership of Lynda to keep the project moving forward. In the same way, the Logan's Fort project would probably have not been undertaken without Lynda's enthusiastic support. In the early days, when it looked like the project was too big of an undertaking for the community of Stanford, Lynda wrote letters, met with state officials, and garnered support wherever she could find it to get the project underway. On a personal level, Lynda has also worked diligently over the years to maintain and preserve her own family's mid-19th century home in Lincoln County.

Lynda is a strong advocate and supporter of the importance of preservation and local history in the state. Through her leadership, many important preservation projects have been achieved. I would recommend Lynda highly for consideration for this award.

Sincerely,

Karla Nicholson

Karla Nicholson, Executive Director
Liberty Hall Historic Site

March 28, 2011

*Verbatim copy of e-mail
Text. — b.c.*

We are writing in support of Lynda Closson's nomination for the Ida Lee Willis Memorial Award. Mrs. Closson has always shown a great interest in supporting historic properties as evidenced with her work in many organizations, her community, and her efforts in conjunction with the preservation of the Logan's Fort historic property.

Mrs. Closson has served as President of the Logan's Fort Foundation and is one of its strongest supporters. She established the foundation with the established objectives of:

- (1) Acquisition of property at the original site of the Fort and any contingent acreage.
- (2) To reconstruct Logan's Fort.
- (3) To establish a visitor's center which will include a museum and research building, and any other facility necessary to the project.
- (4) To educate the general public about the history and activities surrounding Logan's Fort with emphasis on the significance of Logan's Fort to Kentucky and the westward movement in America.
- (5) To preserve, protect, interpret, and to promote the significance of the site as an important Revolutionary War engagement site and battlefield.

Mr. Edson became involved when Mrs. Closson received a letter dated July 14, 2000, from Daryl Day, Attorney, requesting an easement on Logan's Fort property at 252 Water St. for the city storm water retention dam at the end of Water Street. The Foundation discussed the issue extensively with numerous communications where upon she asked Charles to review the project and determine the affect it would have on the fort property. Charles Edson, was a Consulting Engineer and Vice President of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc., a national engineering firm and former Assistant Commissioner and Chief Engineer for the New Jersey Department of Transportation and previously served as a drainage engineer. He was also the National Chairman of the Transportation Research Board's Design and Construction Group for the National Academy of Sciences.

Charles agreed to personally review the project and also have an expert from Greenman-Pedersen provide an analysis. Charles contacted the engineering firm MSE, the engineer in charge of the dam design, to obtain the current designs and needed project information and received maps, plans, and reports from the engineer. No alternative plans were received, and the engineer reported that there were no significantly different alternative plans. Lynda then informed Charles that the Board of Logan's Fort would like Charles to review the storm drainage issues as related to the Historic Park construction site and to determine other possible

alternatives for the city of Stanford. At that time the information was reviewed, and Charles sought an

Page 2 of 2

Nomination of Lynda Closson

additional review by Greenman-Pedersen's hydrology expert. A report and roughly drawn effects map was made and forwarded to the Foundation for consideration. One of the issues noted in the report was that the Fort property would flood in heavy periods of rainfall. The MSE report also indicated that they did look at land use in the upland areas. It was not apparent that they used this information in the watershed analysis. When development occurs in the tributary area it would change the imperviousness of the land and the runoff would increase. This means that as development occurs, more water would be added to the runoff and hence the bigger the impact to the area surrounding the proposed dam. As the years go on, the effect would become greater and the water coming to the face of the dam would increase. Furthermore, the impact, as currently envisioned would be increased, including the impact on the historic area. Alternate suggestions were made to construct several smaller dams at upland points as a more effective control of water in the watershed or to improve the downstream drainage.. Out of respect for Mrs. Closson and her aggressive stance on this issue, both Charles and Greenman-Pedersen donated the cost of their work to the Foundation.

The efforts expended by Mrs. Closson to stop the building of the dam were rewarded as the community spent a smaller amount of monies to clear the water route from the property through the city, vis-a-vis, improving the drainage downstream from the Fort.

We think that Mrs. Closson would have placed herself on the ground in front of the bulldozers to stop this unnecessary dam from being built that would have destroyed this historic property!

We are both familiar with Lynda Closson's dedication to preserving historical properties in Kentucky through her work at the Logan's Fort property and through her many positions in the Daughters of the American Revolution where Mrs. Edson, a national officer, had the privilege of noting the many efforts and successes she made in numerous historical national chairmanships. She has also served as Kentucky's Project Manager for the historic restoration and preservation of Duncan Tavern in Paris Kentucky and has spent countless hours in this endeavor.

Lynda is a conscientious worker and dedicated to historic preservation causes. She is worthy of many awards for her work, and we earnestly support her nomination for the Ida Lee Willis Memorial Award.

Sincerely,

Charles T. Edson, P.E.

Charlotte B. Edson

Bradley Needham
Studio Kermer Architects
Louisville, Kentucky

*(Verbatim copy of
e-mail text related to
Nomination) - b.c.*

Greetings!

“I have worked with Ms. Lynda Closson beginning in the late 1990s on numerous historic rehabilitation and stabilization phases of the Duncan Tavern located in Paris, Kentucky.

In that time she has managed to not only obtain several Government Grants and manage the quality and workmanship of every little detail of each of these Grant Phases along with submitting reports accordingly. She has also been head cheerleader in other Historic Structures in Kentucky.

She has worked closely with the Kentucky Heritage Council and served on additional preservation committees concerning our historic past and its structures.

One of my passions is rehabilitating historic structures and if I had a choice to who to work with on them I would certainly select Lynda Closson.

I hope this convinces the Judges for the award that Lynda is the only choice.”

Respectfully Submitted,

Bradley H. Needham

*Verbatim copy of
e-mail text related
to Crosson nomination - b.C.*

Committee Members:

“I worked with Lynda in the early 1990s when she was a board member of the Historical Confederation of Kentucky and provided wonderful support for historic endeavors in those years. She has always been a strong advocate for preservation and her working with the DAR enabled us to reach even more constituents. She also has been very active in local preservation efforts involving interpretation of the settling of her county during the early years of Kentucky statehood. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any further assistance or information.”

Roger Stapleton
Kentucky Military Heritage Sites Program
The Kentucky Heritage Council

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From: JOHN M BRIGHT <bright_j@bellsouth.net>

To: bcrawfordky <bcrawfordky@aol.com>

Date: Wed, Mar 30, 2011 4:12 pm

[Reference_Letter_-_Lynda.docx](#)**Joanne Hale Bright**
507 Danville Avenue
Stanford, KY 40484

March 29, 2011

Dear Byron:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Lynda Closson for the Ida Lee Willis Award. I have known her for twenty years.

Lynda has always displayed a high degree of integrity, responsibility and determination. She is definitely a leader rather than a follower. She has proven her leadership ability by organizing the Logan's Fort Foundation, Inc. in 1996 in Lincoln County, KY to provide the people of the community, state and nation an opportunity to participate in the goals that she envision for the development of an historic park which would encompass the historic property. She, also, demonstrated her leadership ability when she lead the Kentucky Society Daughters of the American Revolution from 2001-2004.

Lynda has made many accomplishments to Historic Preservation but there are three that stand out to me:

First, her work with Logan's Fort began with our local DAR Chapter (Logan-Whitley Chapter), which she is a loyal member. When she concluded her research on this historic site she came to our Chapter and asked us to sponsor this project. She worked with the Kentucky Heritage Council and the University of Kentucky to secure a grant, which she wrote, for an archaeology dig and our Chapter co-sponsored it with UK in 1996/7. When she started the Logan's Fort Foundation she asked the Chapter to be the recipient of funds until they were a 501c3 organization. She was the shaker and the mover behind the Fort Project. She and another preservationist, who is no longer involved with the fort, wrote a grant for a Management and Preservation Plan which was delivered to the Foundation in the fall of 2006. However, the President of the Foundation at that time did not find this plan necessary to follow nor would the leadership that would be elected in 2007. Lynda tried to explain to the new leadership that it was absolutely imperative that they work with the Kentucky Heritage Council and follow this Management & Preservation Plan which was funded by a \$30,000 grant from the US Park Service. At the Annual Meeting of the Foundation membership not one member of the Foundation's new leadership would admit that they still retained a copy of this plan. Lynda would later resign as a Director for she was outraged that the new leadership had total disregard for the \$30,000 Management and Preservation Plan and the fact that they refused to work with the Kentucky Heritage Council.

Second, Lynda was selected by Mrs. Larry Douglas, KSDAR State Regent, in 1996 to be the Project Manager of the Historic

Preservation Project of Duncan Tavern in Paris, KY. She would write all the grants, but one which was not funded, and would be on the job with this project for over 12 years. The newly restored Duncan Tavern is her greatest achievement in Historic Preservation.

Third, the restoration of the Daniel Boone Monument at Cumberland Gap is fantastic. While this may not be a very old historic site, it serves a purpose in its location in the saddle of the Cumberland Gap as it reminds all those who visit the top of the mountain that there were men and women traveling into Kentucky from Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee in the 1700's. It is a true trail marker for those of us who love to hike those infamous trails of Kentucky. I am extra proud of this accomplishment as it was another DAR sponsored project with the US Park Service.

She is also a most dependable team player. Her good judgment and mature outlook ensure a logical and practical approach to her endeavors. I have had the good fortune to have her serve under me when I was in a leadership role. I could not have done what I did without her. She is truly a remarkable young woman.

Lynda is most deserving of the highest award in Preservation. She has been an asset to Historic Preservation, and I am happy to give her my wholehearted endorsement.

Sincerely,

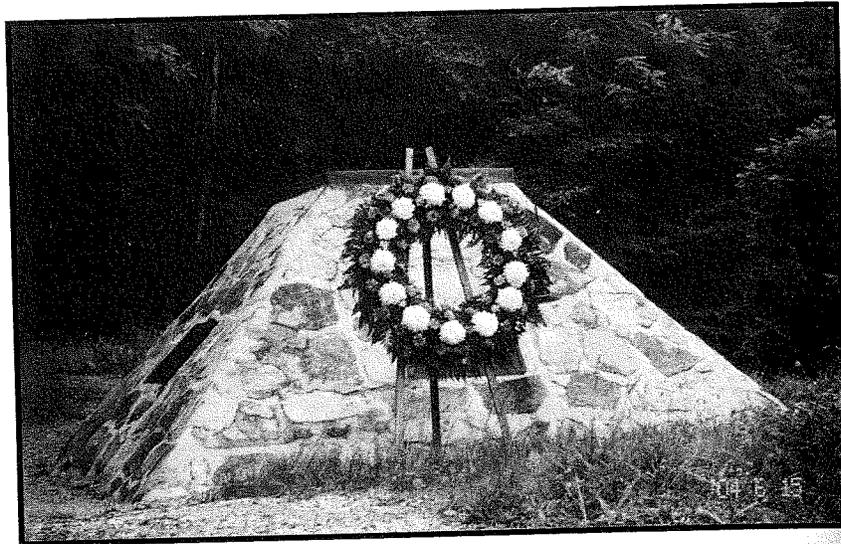
Joanne Hale Bright,
Logan-Whitley Chapter, DAR Vice Regent and Past Regent
Architect Review Board, member (6 years)
Stanford Main Street Renaissance Program Committee (10 years), and member of
the Design Committee
Stanford Garden Club, past President
Logan's Fort Foundation, Inc., past Director
Lincoln Historical Society, past member Board of Directors

Duncan Tavern before Phase IV of the Restoration

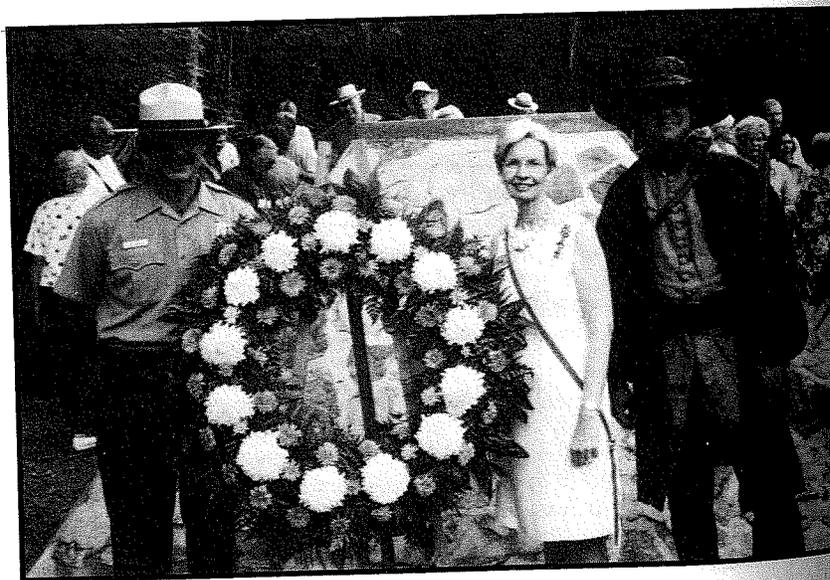


Duncan Tavern after the restoration





The Restored Daniel Boone Monument in the Saddle of the Cumberland Gap



Rededication of Daniel Boone Monument in the Saddle of the Gap
Mark Woods, U.S. Park Service; Lynda Closton, KY State Regent;
"Daniel Boone"