### **COMMUNITY**

# The Rowan County Veterans Museum hosts special event



Fleming County Native, Dustyn Doyle, right, acts as British officer surrendering her majesty's cannon during a ceremony in Morehead, over the weekend.

David Clinger, center right, representing a Continental Of-

ficer accepts the cannon's surrender.

Veterans Museum hosted a special commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the beginning of the American Revolution: the Battle of Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts at Freedom Park on Saturday, April 19, at 10:00 am.

The Rowan County

In the spirit of the event, the museum recently purchased a 275-year-old British naval cannon that was built under the reign of King George II and used as well under King George III during the Revolutionary War.

The museum's historian, David Clinger, discovered the cannon on an online auction site located in Olympia, Washington, and purchased it.

According to Clinger and Dustyn Doyle, both of who are active with the museum and who are also officers with the Eastern Kentucky Humanities Commission, which assisted in the event, the cannon at Freedom Park in Morehead, began its story in 1752 during the reign of King George II of Great Britain. Needing weapons to arm his majesty's and Indian War, this 12lb naval cannon was cast in Canada in 1752 and then sent to England to be fitted on a British Ship of the Line. During the American Revolution, the cannon was used to raid along the Atlantic Coast and to help suppress the colonies and to blockade the ports of America. A typical British ship would consist of 74-98 cannons on multiple decks. After the conclusion of the Ameri- Judge-Executive Harry Clark can Revolution, the cannon was used in British service, possibly during the War of 1812, and up until the 1850s. As the "Age of Sail" passed and naval weapons became more advanced, the old iron cannons were removed from their ships and staked upside down to be used as a bawdry in the 1850s along the Thames River in London. For years they would serve as anchors along the piers so that ships could be moored to them

in the harbor. Many years later at the start of World War II the cannon was removed, along with many others, to be melted down for scrap and to be used in



Historian of the Rowan County Veterans Museum and co-founder of the Eastern Kentucky Humanities Commission, David Clinger





**Tourism Director Joy Brown** removal it was taken to Sussex, England where it was intended to be scrapped. During this time period, an American Naval Intelligence Officer would meet and fall in love with a nurse from the Royal Navy. During

his wartime exploits, the young naval officer would be involved in the planning and sinking of the German battleship Tirpitz in the fjords of Norway. At the end of World War II, the naval officer and his new bride decided to return to America and as a reminder of their service, decided to take three cannons back to decorate their home in Washington state. Discovering the cannons in a field where they had not been scrapped, the young officer decided to buy the cannons, however as he was not a British subject, he could not purchase them owing to the fact that they were still considered crown property. His wife, however, could as she was a British subject. Armed with three cannons and their wartime experiences behind them, the couple returned to the United States where the cannons guarded the entrance of their home for decades.

The young navy couple enjoyed many years together until his passing in 2024 at the age of 104. His wife, now 102, made the difficult decision to auction their prized can-



nons in the spring of 2025. Historian David Clinger of the Rowan County Veterans Museum discovered them online and gathered together citizens and organizations in Morehead, Kentucky to purchase and arrange shipment of the cannon from Wash-

ington state to Morehead, Kentcuky. After a 10 day journey and over 5000 miles, the cannon arrived at Freedom Park where it proudly stands as a monument to the sacrifices of our patriot ancestors during the American Revolutionary

#### **Public Notice**

Notice is hereby given that Jayla Purnell is filing an application with the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet to construct a bank stabilization located at 172 Lambert Hollow Rd., Clearfield, KY 40313. Any comments or objections concerning this application shall be directed to: Kentucky Division of Water Floodplain Management Section, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, KY 40601. Phone: (502)564-3410.

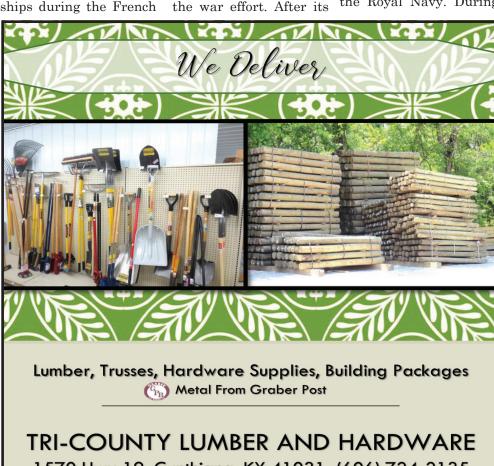
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