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The Siege of Bryan Station

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I was interested in reading the account of "The Siege of Bryan Station, Kentucky," which appeared in the February issue of the *Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine*. In referring to the Bryan Station spring and its historical importance, the following statement was made:

Some patriotic citizens of Lexington felt that . . . a fitting marker should be placed thereon showing what had occurred at this spot.

It is a matter of record that, over 100 years after the battle, the Lexington Chapter of the *Daughters of the American Revolution* became interested in erecting a memorial structure at the site of the spring in memory of the brave women who played a major role in the fort's survival. Thomas Wood, owner of the land, encouraged them in the move. Plans were drafted at the State College; and the memorial, built of Bowling Green stone, in an octagonal shape, was finally completed on August 15, 1896.

These "patriotic citizens," the members of the Lexington Chapter, the only chapter of DAR in existence in Lexington, Ky., at the time, held dedicatory services on August 18, 1896. Speakers were Miss Lucretia Hart Clay, regent of the chapter; Dr. Lyman Beecher Todd, son of the Lexington colonel who helped to defend the fort, and Col. R. L. Durrett of Louisville, founder of the Filson Club. The event had been widely heralded. Visitors to Lexington for the ceremony included officials of the DAR chapters in Covington, Newport, and Louisville. The Governor of Kentucky and many dignitaries from Frankfort joined the procession. Carriages left the courthouse at noon to transport visitors and participants in the program to the spring. The weather was good; and several hundred Lexingtonians, including many school children, attended the ceremonies. The program included musical accompaniment by a brass band and a children's choir.



Memorial at the famous spring, Bryan Station, Kentucky, erected and dedicated in August, 1896, by the Lexington Chapter, NSDAR.

Money, of course had been needed to defray the expenses of such an undertaking. But these "patriotic citizens" had already begun to accumulate a fund "to mark the historic sites in Kentucky where our forefathers struggled for existence." Ever since the chapter's inception in 1891, within a year after the organization of the National Society, these Lexington Chapter women had been having "benefits" and conducting "sales" of home-made articles of food and clothing.

But it was the idea of editing and managing one issue of a daily newspaper in the city, originating with the Lexington Chapter, which brought special success and fame. The *Press-Transcript* of Saturday January 19, 1895, announced that the edition of February 18 would be edited by the women of the Lexington Chapter, DAR, and predicted that "the edition will reflect great credit" upon those Lexington women.

Records from the 1895 Minute Book of the Lexington Chapter show that in this manner \$332.72 was added to the memorial fund. Thus it was that those "patriotic citizens" of the Lexington Chapter raised the money, purchased the monument, and dedicated it. This is said to be the first monument in the country dedicated by women to women for heroic action.

Therefore, the caption under the picture on page 132 of the *DAR Magazine* should have read "The Historic Spring at Bryan Station, Marked by The Lexington Chapter, Lexington, Kentucky."

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