## COMMONWEALTHS

## **Russell Lunsford, Adventurer**

With the school year quickly approaching, students are likely finishing summer reading logs and preparing to get their minds back into the learning groove. To help accomplish both, pick

**AUTHOR** 

up Russell Lunsford's

historical adventure books for a fun family read-aloud or for an intermediate student

to romp through on his own.

Lunsford, originally from Louisville but now splitting time between Elizabethtown and a Columbia farm, makes learning about history fun with

history fun with his Benjamin Nathan Tuggle, Adventurer books (iUniverse, \$10.95). In the style of the *Magic Tree House* series, 12-year-old Tuggle discovers he has the ability to time travel, interact with historical figures, then return to present day with no time passing while he was away. His real-world knowledge often befuddles classmates and teachers alike who are unaware of his secret.

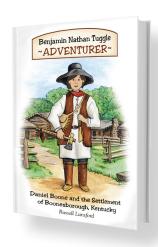
In Daniel Boone and the

Settlement of Boonesborough, Kentucky, Tuggle first learns of his ability when he discovers a tomahawk relic by a spring on his grandfather's farm in Irvine

and is transported all the way back to 1776. Tuggle, alongside Boone, explores the wild frontier complete with bears, Indians, and a rescue of Boone's daughter.

In General George
Washington and the American
Revolution, Tuggle visits
Mount Vernon with his
family. After retrieving an
artifact from a flowerbed,
Tuggle suddenly finds
himself face to face with
Lady Washington herself.
He eventually joins General
Washington and the
Continental Army at Valley
Forge, where he learns a
great deal about soldiering
and the fight for freedom.

Lunsford, a 27-year veteran of the United States Army and Army Reserves, served two tours in Kuwait and, upon retiring in 2005, was awarded the Legion of Merit for his dedication. He holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and



master's in guidance and counseling from Western Kentucky University. Aside from writing, Lunsford enjoys hunting, playing golf, and playing with his grandchildren. Visit www. russelllunford.com, where he can also be reached for school visits. Find his books at www.barnesandnoble.com.

-Penny Woods