

WESTERN RESERVE SOCIETY

Oldest SAR Society—The Western Reserve Society Founded 1892, marked the grave of longest lived veteran of the American Revolution.

On September 17, 2023, the Western Reserve Society held a Grave Marking Ceremony to honor the service of six Revolutionary War Patriots buried at North Royalton Cemetery in North Royalton, Ohio. The soldiers included:

- ♦ **John Hall**, who served on the USS Deane for Massachusetts
- ♦ **Elias Keyes**, who served as a Private in Massachusetts
- ♦ **John Miner**, who served in the 7th Regiment, Connecticut Continental Line
- ♦ **Isaiah Searles**, who served as a Soldier in New York
- ♦ **John Shepard** (Shepherd), who served as a sergeant in Pennsylvania
- ♦ **Samuel Stewart**, who served as a Private in Massachusetts.

According to the Ohio Historical Marker at North Royalton Cemetery, John Shepherd is believed to be the longest lived veteran of the American Revolution. Born on March 16, 1728, he was 117 years, 9 months and 17 days old at his death on January 3, 1846. Shepard first served with Washington's Troops during the French and Indian War. "The Cleveland Leader" in an article published in 1913 stated that "John Shepherd was undoubtedly the last survivor of the troops who were present at Braddock's Defeat."

Then, in middle age, Shepherd joined the army during the American Revolution, serving in the 2nd Pennsylvania Battalion and the 3rd Pennsylvania Regiment. He fought at Brandywine, Germantown Flats, and Monmouth Courthouse. In volume 13 of Pennsylvania Archives it is recorded that John Shepherd was taken prisoner, in company with six comrades, while on a scouting expedition. They were confined in White Church, Philadelphia, for some time. They escaped through the efforts of a party of American troops who made an attack on the church at night. Shepherd also survived the brutal winter of 1777-78 at Valley Forge.

The Grave Marking event featured the Ohio Society Color Guard, led by Ohio Color Guard Commander Bob Hill, the Joint Veterans Honor Guard of Cuyahoga County, fife and drum, musket and rifle salutes, and bag pipes.

SAR dignitaries present included NSSAR Central District Vice President General Steve Hinson, NSSAR Veterans Administration Representative for Central Ohio Steven Conrad, OHSSAR President Donald Miller, and OHSSAR Registrar Troy Bailey.

Wreaths were placed on behalf of the Central District SAR; NSSAR Veterans Administration Representative for Central Ohio; Ohio Society SAR; Western Reserve Society, OHSSAR; Benjamin Franklin Chapter, OHSSAR; Northeastern Ohio Chapter, OHSSAR; Hocking Valley Chapter, OHSSAR; and the Martha Devotion Huntington Chapter, OSDAR. David Van Allen, a descendant of Patriot Samuel Stewart was also present.



