

# Gov. Isaac Shelby Chapter, Kentucky SAR

## Catalog of Presentations



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### **History of the American Flag**

(Ages 5 and up)

(10 minutes)

The development of the American flag as we know it today is presented. Examples of early American National Flags are used in the presentation to help understand the meaning of the various designs of our past flags and how those early designs evolved into the National Flag we have today. This presentation can be adapted to various age groups.

### **Battle Flags of the American Revolution**

(Ages 5 and up)

(15 minutes)

Numerous examples of military/battle flags used in the American Revolution are presented. These flags are used to introduce the audience to important battles in the American Revolution and the men who fought them. This presentation can be adapted to various age groups and is frequently combined with the presentation on the History of the American Flag.

### **Flag Etiquette and Flag Folding**

(Ages 6 and up)

(10-30 minutes)

Proper etiquette and treatment of the United State Flag, as described by United States Code Title 36 Chapter 10, is provided. This program focusses on the everyday handling and display of the flag by civilians. Also covered is the flag folding ceremony and meaning of each fold as practiced by the United States Air Force. Instruction on the proper folding of the American Flag is included along with the opportunity for each student to practice folding the flag themselves. Lastly, the method and standard practices for retiring the American Flag are provided with the opportunity for the group to develop a flag retirement ceremony of their own. This presentation can be adapted to various age groups.

### **Parts of the Flag**

(Ages 10 and up)

(15 minutes)

The various terms and components that make up a flag are described in this presentation. This presentation is primarily intended for youth groups such as American Heritage Girls, Trail Life USA, and Boy Scouts to assist them in earning badges.

### **The Star Spangled Banner, Its History and Meaning**

(Ages 8 and up)

(45-70 minutes)

Learn the true story behind the writing of the poem that became our National Anthem. The presentation incorporates video, maps and an example of the flag described in the poem. The presentation sets the context under which the poem was written by describing the events leading up to the writing by Francis Scott Key and why he was inspired to write the poem. The text of the poem is discussed and related to Key's perspective of the battle so as to provide a greater understanding of the meaning of each line. The verbiage of the poem is also reviewed so that the meaning of various words no longer in common usage can be understood for insight into the message conveyed in our National Anthem. This presentation can be varied for various age groups and available time.

**The Pledge of Allegiance, Its History and Meaning** (Ages 5 and up) (15-30 minutes)

The Pledge of Allegiance has had various forms since its initial proposal in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The development of the pledge along with the reasons and meanings for these changes is presented. Common errors in the recitation of the pledge are covered in the presentation.

**Spanish and French Exploration in North America** (Ages 8 and up) (20-30 minutes)

The British colonies in North America were situated between the colonies of two other European powers, Spain and France. Spain and France were early entrants into the colonization of North America and as such their policies and approach to colonization would influence the British colonies that followed later. Each of these European powers took a different approach to their possessions and the native peoples in North America. These variations are described and explained as to how they influenced the relationships of the various colonists with their respective mother countries.

**Causes of the American Revolution** (Ages 8 and up) (20-30 minutes)

This presentation begins with the colonization methodology employed in North America by the principal European powers and how these various policies affected the English Colonists. The development of the philosophical differences between the American colonists and Great Britain is covered as well as how the Americans came to understand the rights of the individual with regards to government. Key events during the colonial period and how they influenced the colonists to seek their independence are provided. The presentation covers the period of time from the first North American colonies to the beginning of the American Revolution. This presentation can be adapted to various age groups and available time.

**Military Music of the American Revolution** (Ages 5 and up) (15-25 minutes)

The fife and drum were the principal musical instruments used by the American and European armies during the American Revolution. The role of the fife and drum in military life of this period is explained along with a discussion on the musicians who played these instruments. This presentation includes a demonstration on how to play the fife with period correct tunes played for the audience. A replica of a period correct drum is also used as part of a hands on demonstration for the students. This presentation can be adapted for various age groups and musical knowledge.

**Militia Camp Life in the Revolutionary War** (Ages 5 and up) (15 minutes)

The conditions within a militia camp were as varied as the men themselves. However, there were common characteristics. In most instances the members of the militia were responsible for providing most of their weaponry and personal items required for daily life. Replicas of the various items carried by a member of the militia are covered in this presentation with an explanation as to their purpose. Some of these items would be of necessity while others would

be for entertainment. Also covered are the responsibilities of the militia members in maintaining a camp.

### **Weaponry of the American Revolution**

(Ages 8 and up)

(15-30 minutes)

Various personal weapons were employed by those who fought in the American Revolution. The primary weapon was the flintlock firearm. A brief history of the development of the American long rifle and how this important tool influenced the American style of fighting is provided. A comparison between the American long rifle, American Fowler, and British Brown Bess and how their usage influenced battle tactics is covered. This presentation includes a demonstration on how to load and fire a flintlock firearm and the advantages and disadvantages of a long rifle versus a musket in battle. This presentation can be adapted for various age groups and available time.

### **Battle Tactics – Old World versus New World**

(ages 10 and up)

(20 Minutes)

The European method of warfare followed a standard practice and methodology based on the European concept of how wars should be conducted. The early European immigrants to North America quickly learned that those tactics were not successful in conflicts with the American Indians who practiced a very different type of warfare. As a result, the American colonists developed their own battle tactics that incorporated many of the aspects learned from the Natives. This presentation compares and contrasts the various tactics employed by the British Army, the Continental Army, and the Colonial Militia during the American Revolution and how these tactics contributed to American Independence.

### **Currency in 18th Century America**

(Ages 8 and up)

(10 minutes)

Various European currencies were circulated throughout the American colonies. In addition the colonies began producing their own currency during the American Revolution. How this hodge-podge of currencies came about and how it affected the average colonist is discussed. Replicas of the various coins and notes used during this period are included in the presentation.

### **The Great Wagon Road & the 1st Major American Migration**

(Ages 8 and up) (30-45 minutes)

Beginning as a series of Indian trails running north and south, the Great Wagon Road became a major travel route during the colonial period of the English colonies. Due to the lack of affordable land in Pennsylvania, many Scots-Irish and German colonists made the trek southward along the Great Wagon Road into the sparsely populated colonies of Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. This migration lasted for many years and was the first major migration of settlers in the American colonies. The manner in which the colonists travelled this route and the dangers they encountered are covered along with the impact of this migration on American history.

### **The Revolutionary War in the South**

(Ages 10 and up)

(30-45 minutes)

Popular knowledge of the American Revolution typically consists of the early events/battles occurring in the New England Colonies. While these events are important in the American

Revolution, many significant events also occurred in the southern colonies. While the conflict in the northern colonies drew to a stalemate, Britain turned its attention to the southern colonies. The sequence of events that occurred in the south would eventually lead to the American victory and Independence. An overview of the war in the south is presented along with the sequence of events that led to the surrender of the British Army at Yorktown.

### **Kentucky's Role in the American Revolution**

(Ages 8 and up)

(45 minutes)

While most of the military action in the American Revolution occurred east of the Appalachian Mountains, significant events occurred in Kentucky that would influence the development of the United States. The land which now makes up large parts of Kentucky began to be settled by pioneers just as the American Revolution began. The entrance of these pioneers into this land was used by the British to recruit various tribes of Indians for attacks on the scattered settlements in Kentucky. The key engagements that occurred in Kentucky during the American Revolution are presented along with how these events influenced the settlers of Kentucky and the future of the United States.

### **George Rogers Clark, Conqueror of the Northwest**

(Ages 8 and up)

(15 minutes)

During the American Revolution, George Rogers Clark was a military leader from Virginia with a bold plan to secure the lands west of the Appalachian Mountains for the Americans. Clark's plan and how it was carried out by his small group of men would have far reaching effects in the development of the United States after the war. The events of Clark's expedition and how it influenced not only the outcome of the American Revolution, but growth of the United States are covered.

### **Frontier Fire Starting Technique**

(Ages 8 and up)

(15 minutes)

The ability to start a fire was a necessity in 18th century frontier life. Warmth, light and cooking were a few of the needs for a fire. Fire starting using flint and steel is demonstrated and explained along with all the various materials needed in the process. An actual fire can be created when conditions allow in a suitable outdoor setting.

### **Writing with Quill Pens and Ink**

(Ages 6 and up)

(15 minutes)

During the colonial and early period of American, quill pens and ink were the primary means of writing. All of the founding documents of the United States were originally written using this method. This presentation is a 'hands on' demonstration where the students can experience firsthand what writing with quill and ink entailed. Various methods of producing the quill pen and ink are also covered. Each student is given the opportunity to sign their own name or make a drawing using this writing method.

### **Processing of Flax into Linen in the 18th Century**

(Ages 6 and up)

(15 minutes)

Settlers who came to Kentucky in the 18th Century had to provide their own clothing, some of which was linen. The source of linen is the plant flax which has been grown for thousands of

years. The production of linen from flax is a year round process. Flax is sown in April in Kentucky and most casual observers would consider it just a "weed". Using methods that go back millennia, the settlers were able to turn that "weed" into fine linen fiber, spin, it, and weave it into the fabric they used for all sorts of 18th century clothing for men, women, and children. The unique characteristics of linen make it a desirable fabric to this day. Samples of flax at its various stages during processing into linen are provided along with live demonstrations of the tools and equipment employed in the processing.

### **The Bill of Rights and the Need for Its Existence**

(Ages 12 and up)

(30 minutes)

Several states required a Bill of Rights be included before giving their approval to the Constitution of the United States. The Bill of Rights as provided in the U.S. Constitution are unique in that they were established as safe guards to protect the rights of the individual against government intrusion. Each of the Rights is rooted in the experience of the American colonists under British rule. The history behind each of the Rights is presented and placed in the original context at the time of their writing in order that the student not only learns what each Right means, but also what it does not mean.

### **Colonial Blacksmithing**

(Ages 7 and up)

(30 minutes)

The local blacksmith was an integral part of the community by providing iron products necessary to a farm and home. This presentation begins with an explanation and demonstration of starting a fire in the forge. Basic blacksmith tools, such as hammers, tongs, hardy tools, anvil, and vise are demonstrated as well. The metal forming techniques of quenching and hardening steel are used in the presentation along with a demonstration on the proper use of hammer strikes and shaping basic metal items.

### **Colonial Surveying**

(Ages 7 and up)

(30-45 minutes)

As the American colonies grew and settlers claimed more land, the need for land surveyors increased. Many famous men in American history, including several presidents, at one point in their life were employed as surveyors. This presentation explains the type of work a land surveyor in colonial America would perform. Also covered is a discussion on the lifestyle of a colonial surveyor and the hardships they could encounter. Reproductions of various types of 18<sup>th</sup> century surveying equipment and tools are presented and their usage explained. An explanation of the terms and units of measurements used in colonial surveying are included. A demonstration of running a chain, with assistance from the audience, concludes the presentation.