



# THE SHELBY SENTINEL



## Officers:

PRESIDENT: LEE MUNCY  
VICE PRESIDENT: PAUL SIMS  
SECRETARY: SCOTT GILTNER  
TREASURER: REED MARTIN  
REGISTRAR: JON CANINE  
HISTORIAN: CRAIG GRAY  
CHAPLAIN: KENT HATHAWAY

## President's Message:

### Compatriots,

*When asked if I would be interested in becoming the Governor Isaac Shelby (GIS) chapter president for the 2026-2027 term - I was reminded of the Groucho Marx :I refuse to join any club that would have me as a member". Often phrased as "I dont want to belong to any club that would accept me as a member;". The quote originated from a 1949 letter to the Friar's Club or the Hollywood Tennis Club (or both), highlighting his signature cynical wit. I would never ascribe to myself to the high level of Groucho, but sometimes as I grow older I have become more select in the things I participate in. I do know that from the start of my association of the Govenor Isaac Shelby chapter that I am so very proud and happy to be a memberof this chapter, to work and participate in our shared dream for the reasons the Sons of the American Revolution exists.*

*We are in the midst of Semiquincentennial or the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States of America and our chapter is so very busy with all the presentations, education outreach, veterans programs, color guard duties and all the rest.*

*This year more than most- the activities all of usin our chapter participate in will directly affects our fellow citizens locally, on the state level and even nationally to help fulfill our goals to help our nation keep the promis of our forefathers and our always fragile constitutional republic alive and growing.*

*I ask as we help to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> that you - our fellow members, help where you can to make the entire year be successful for our chapter and take this time of the anniversary to help with the activities and the need to express the appreciation of what their claimed forefathers did. Like...Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their organization (so to speak... to corrupt an old phrase...) as our VP Paul Sims recently reminded me.*

*WE will all learn new things, make new friends, educate others and have some fun as the year continues.*

*Thank you for allowing me to not only be a member of our "club", but being the active chapter that we are.*

*Join and Best Regards,*

*Lee*

# Up Coming Events!!!

2026

## May:

- **9<sup>th</sup> Wild about 6 Shelbyville**  
Location: Shelbyville Historical Museum, 627 Main St. Shelbyville, KY  
Time: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
- **9<sup>th</sup> DAR Liberty Tree Dedication 250<sup>th</sup> event**  
Location: Pearman Foresttt Center, 635 Leafdale Rd. Hodgenville, KY  
Time: 10:30 - (muster 9:30)
- **9<sup>th</sup> Liberty Tree Dedication 250<sup>th</sup> event**  
Location: Horse Cave City Park, 114 Maple Ave, Horse Cave: KY  
Time: 1:30 (muster 12:30)
- **12<sup>th</sup> Color Guard for Countdown to USA 250<sup>th</sup> Speaker Series 250 event**  
Location: Wakefield-Searce Galleries, 525 Washington St, Shelbyville, KY  
Time: 6:30 (muster 6:00)
- **16<sup>th</sup> Matthias Shultz Grave Marking 250 event**  
Location: Shultztown Cemetery, Prentiss Rd. Shultztown, KY  
Time: 2:00 (muster 1:00)
- **17<sup>th</sup> LIberty Tree Dedication 250 event**  
Location: Lions Club Pavillion - Freeman Park, Blue Heron Way, Elizabethtown, KY  
Time: 2:00 (muster 1:00)
- **21<sup>st</sup> GISSAR Meeting**  
Location: Middletown United Methodist Church, 11902 Old Shelbyville Rd,  
Middletown, KY  
Time: 7:00pm

- **23<sup>rd</sup> George Rogers Clark Memorial Service (National SAR event)**  
*Location: 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Spirit of Vincennes Rendezous*  
*401 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Vincennes, IN*  
*Time: 11:00 (muster 10:00)*
- **24<sup>th</sup> Carland and Slone Patriot & 1812 GM**  
*Location: Veterans Park, 10717 Taylorsville Rd., Jeffersontown, KY*  
*Time: 2:00 (muster 5:30)*
- **25<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Service**  
*Location: Veterans Park, 10707 Taylorsville Rd. Jeffersontown, KY*  
*Time: 4:00 pm (muster at 3:30 PM)*

## **June**

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Honor Flight**  
*Location Louisville Airport*  
*Time: 9:30 (muster 8:45)*
- **6<sup>th</sup> Kentucky History Day**  
*Location: Old State Capital, 300 W. Broadway, Frankfort, KY*  
*Time: 10:00 to 5:00 (setup 8:00)*  
*(Musket Firing Demo. 11:30 - 12:30)*  
*(fife & Drum demo. 2:00 - 2:30)*
- **6<sup>th</sup> Fort Jefferson Patriot GM 250 event**  
*Location: Fort Jefferson Hill Park, Pennebaker Ave, Wickliffe, KY*  
*Time: 2:00 (muster 1:00) ( All Times are Central Zone)*

***\* For More Dates, Check the Chapter Website\****



# Announcements!!!!



AS WE APPROACH THE 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF OUR NATION'S INDEPENDENCE, WE HAVE A REMARKABLE OPPORTUNITY TO HONOR OUR HISTORY AND SHARE IT WITH OUR COMMUNITIES IN A MEANINGFUL WAY. THIS MILESTONE YEAR WILL BRING MANY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS , AND WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THEM A SUCCESS.

WE ARE ASKING ALL MEMBERS TO STEP FORWARD AND LEND A HAND - WHETHER THROUGH PARTICIPATING IN THE COLOR GUARD , ASSISTING WITH PLANNING OR SUPPORTING BEHIND THE SCENES. IT WILL TAKE ALL HANDS ON DECK TO ENSURE WE PRESENT THE BEST POSSIBLE REPRESENTATION OF OUR CHAPTER AND OUR SHARED HERITAGE.

PLEASE CONSIDER HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE YOUR TIME AND TALENTS. TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE THIS ANNIVERSARY YEAR TRULY MEMORABLE.

AS SUMMER IS COMING UP, I WANT TO REMIND EVERYONE TO PLEASE STAY HYDRATED. SO PLEASE DRINK PLENTY OF WATER.

THE ANNUAL GOVERNOR ISAAC SHELBY CHAPTER BATTLE OF BLUE LICKS MEMORIAL CEREMONY IS IN AUGUST. PLEASE CONSIDER IN VOLUNTEERING IN MANY OF THE ROLES THAT ARE NEEDED TO HELP MAKE THIS A MOST WONDERFUL EVENT.

# LIFE IN THE CONTINENTAL ARMY

By JOHN DOSS

LIFE IN THE CONTINENTAL ARMY DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR WAS DEFINED BY HARDSHIP, ENDURANCE, AND A DEEP COMMITMENT TO THE CAUSE OF INDEPENDENCE. UNLIKE THE WELL SUPPLIED BRITISH FORCES, AMERICAN SOLDIERS OFTEN FACED SEVERE SHORTAGES OF FOOD, CLOTHING, AND EQUIPMENT. MANY ENLISTED MEN ARRIVED WITH LITTLE MORE THAN THE CLOTHES ON THEIR BACKS AND WHATEVER PERSONAL FIREARMS THEY COULD BRING FROM HOME.

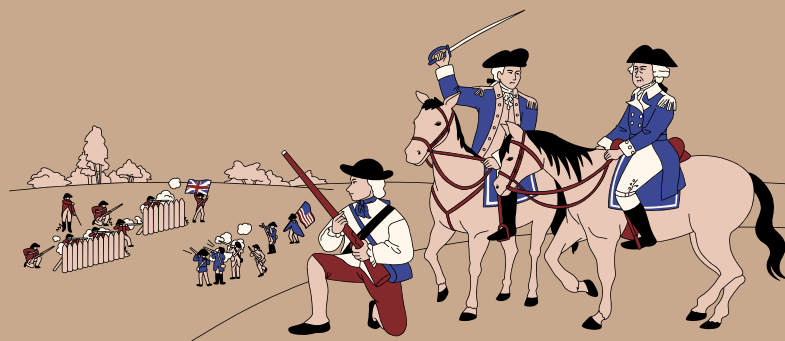
ONE OF THE GREATEST CHALLENGES WAS SIMPLY STAYING FED. RATIONS, WHEN AVAILABLE, TYPICALLY INCLUDED SALTED MEAT, HARDTACK AND OCCASIONALLY SMALL PORTIONS OF FLOUR OR CORNMEAL. FRESH FOOD WAS SCARCE, ESPECIALLY DURING WINTER CAMPAIGNS. SOLDIERS OFTEN SUPPLEMENTED THEIR DIET BY FORAGING, OR HUNTING, OR RELYING ON WHAT LOCAL COMMUNITIES COULD PROVIDE.

CONDITIONS IN CAMP COULD BE HARSH AND UNSANITARY. AT PLACES LIKE VALLEY FORGE, SOLDIERS ENDURED FREEZING TEMPERATURES, INADEQUATE SHELTER, AND THE CONSTANT THREAT OF DISEASE. ILLNESSES SUCH AS DYSENTERY, TYPHUS, AND SMALLPOX SPREAD QUICKLY, SOMETIMES CLAIMING MORE LIVES THAN BATTLEFIELD COMBAT.

DISCIPLINE AND TRAINING WERE ONGOING STRUGGLES IN THE EARLY YEARS OF THE WAR. MANY SOLDIERS WERE FARMERS OR TRADESMEN WITH LITTLE MILITARY EXPERIENCE. UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF GEORGE WASHINGTON, AND WITH HELP OF FOREIGN OFFICERS LIKE BARON VON STEUBEN, THE ARMY GRADUALLY BECAME A MORE ORGANIZED EFFECTIVE FIGHTING FORCE.

DESPITE THESE HARDSHIPS, THE SPIRIT OF THE CONTINENTAL SOLDIER REMAINED REMARKABLY RESILIENT. MOTIVATED BY IDEAS OF LIBERTY AND INDEPENDENCE, THEY ENDURED LONG MARCHES, HARSH WINTERS, AND UNCERTAIN FUTURES. THEIR PERSEVERANCE ULTIMATELY PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN SECURING AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE AND SHAPE THE NATION'S IDENTITY.

THIS GLIMPSE INTO DAILY LIFE REMINDS US THAT THE VICTORY OF THE REVOLUTION WAS NOT ONLY WON ON THE BATTLEFIELD, BUT ALSO THROUGH THE ENDURANCE AND SACRIFICE OF ORDINARY MEN WHO BELIEVED IN AN EXTRAORDINARY CAUSE.





# Music of the American Revolution



Music of the American Revolution

THE AMERICAN HERO: A SAPPHICK ODE

Article by Scott G. Giltner, Ph.D.

Throughout history music has been used to inspire people towards great accomplishments. At times, the music was in response to great blessings while at other times the music was a reaction to dire circumstances. The opening phase of the American Revolution was a critical time for the American colonists. Despite having driven the British back to Boston after the battle at Concord on 19 April, 1775 the colonists suffered a tactical defeat at the battle of Bunker Hill [properly referred to as Breeds Hill, but for consistency with the prevailing popular name, Bunker Hill will be used in the following text.] and the concurrent burning of Charlestown. Though defeated, the high level of casualties inflicted on the British in the battle was a clear indication the American colonists were up to the fight.

A Patriot by the name of Nathaniel Niles wrote the poem, “The American Hero: A Sapphick Ode” in response to the events at Bunker Hill and in Charlestown. Niles’ poem was written in 1775 as an ode to inspire the Patriots in their struggle against Britain. It has been purported that Niles wrote the poem at his home in Norwich, Connecticut the evening he received the news of the battle at Bunker Hill.<sup>1</sup> Interestingly, the British had their own song to commemorate the Battle on Bunker Hill. Fittingly named “The Battle of Bunker Hill” it was alleged to have been composed by an unknown British soldier shortly after the battle and was printed in both Britain and the American Colonies. While the British song extolls the virtue and martial skill of the British forces, it also acknowledges the resilience and steadfastness of the American Colonists in the battle. It is not known which of the two songs appeared first in print or if one song was written in response to the other.

Nathaniel Niles, a native of New England and graduate of Princeton, was a classic renaissance man. Amongst his many occupations, he was a doctor, lawyer, preacher, poet, inventor, abolitionist, and politician. At the time of the American Revolution, he was living in Connecticut although he resided at several other locations during his life.

“The American Hero” was written as a poem, printed as a broadside, and promptly set to music. Poems printed on broadsides were frequently meant to be sung as the name of a specific tune or a phrase, such as “to a new tune” or “to be sung”, often followed the title on the broadside. Notwithstanding, if no tune was indicated, or if the tune suggested was not known, it was understood that one might improvise a tune or choose a fitting, familiar tune obtained from oral or written tradition.<sup>2</sup> The poem subsequently appeared in five colonial newspapers between 2 Feb and 26 April 1776.<sup>3</sup>

There is some dispute over who wrote the music for Niles’ poem. Initially the tune was credited to Andrew Law, a fellow Connecticut resident.<sup>4</sup> More recently some historians have attributed the melody of Sylvanus Ripley.<sup>5</sup> The strongest, although speculative, evidence for Andrew Law as the writer of the tune is the hymnbook he published in 1781.<sup>6,7</sup> This is the earliest known printing of the music for the song but it has been accepted music was applied to the poem much earlier.

The tune applied to the lyrics was an original composition despite the controversy over who was the composer. “The American Hero: A Sapphic Ode” is unique among early American patriotic song as both the lyrics and tune are original but were created by two different individuals. At this

point in time patriotic American songs either applied original lyrics to an existing tune, or if the lyrics and tune were both original, they were created by the same individual.

The original poem was reportedly inspired by the Battle of Bunker Hill however for some curious reason none of the lyrics provide a direct account of or reference to the battle. In fact, the only reference to associate the song with the battle is that some of the early printings of the poem included the subtitle “Made on the battle of Bunker Hill and the burning of Charlestown”. After the poem was put to music, the new song was more commonly referred to as “Bunker Hill: A Sapphick Ode”.

The lyrics consist of fifteen stanzas that can be separated into three sections. The first two stanzas address death and its inevitability. Simply stated these stanzas declare all mortals to be faced with death, the only question is under what circumstances will it occur and how will it be faced. The next five stanzas focus on God and the colonists’ relationship with Him. Individually these five stanzas call the colonists to submit, praise, thank, rejoice, and commit to God.

The remaining eight stanzas outline the characteristics defining the American hero and what they should anticipate in the upcoming war. These stanzas employ mythological references to war and the suffering to be expected. The last three stanzas encourage trust in God and offer inspiration to overcome challenges with a reminder that the final reward is worth the sacrifice. The concluding stanza declares one’s life to be a trifle to part with for one’s country and freedom.

The song became fairly popular and reportedly was sung frequently by soldiers in the Continental Army and the general populace.<sup>8,9</sup> Over time various lyrics were applied to the tune - even as late as 1831.<sup>10,11</sup> One historian has referred to “The American Hero: A Sapphick Ode” as “the war song of the Revolution”.<sup>12</sup>

### The American Hero: A Sapphick Ode<sup>13</sup>

Why should vain Mortals tremble at the Sight of  
Death and Destruction in the Field of Battle,  
Where Blood and Carnage clothe the Ground in Crimson,  
Sounding with Death-Groans?

Death will invade us by the Means appointed,  
And we must all bow to the King of Terrors;  
Nor am I anxious, if I am prepared,  
What Shape he comes in.

Infinite Goodness teaches us Submission;  
Bids us be quiet under all his Dealings:  
Never repining, but forever praising  
GOD our Creator.

Well may we praise Him, all his Ways are perfect;  
Though a Resplendence infinitely glowing  
Dazzles in Glory on the Sight of Mortals,  
Struck blind by Lustre!



Good is Jehovah in bestowing Sunshine,  
Nor less His Goodness in the Storm and Thunder:  
Mercies and Judgments both proceed from Kindness —  
Infinite Kindness!

O then exult, that GOD forever reigneth.  
Clouds, which around him hinder our Perception,  
Bind us the stronger to exalt his Name, and  
Shout louder Praises!

Then to the Wisdom of my Lord and Master,  
I will commit all that I have or wish for:  
Sweetly as Babes sleep will I give my Life up  
When call'd to yield it.

Now, Mars, I dare thee, clad in smoky Pillars,  
Bursting from Bomb-shells, roaring from the Cannon,  
Rattling in Grape Shot, like a Storm of Hailstones,  
Torturing Aether!

Up the bleak Heavens, let the spreading Flames rise,  
Breaking like Aetna through the smoky Columns.  
Low'ring like Egypt o'er the falling City,  
Wantonly burnt down.

While all their Hearts quick palpitate for Havock,  
Let slip your Blood Hounds, nam'd the British Lyons,  
Dauntless as Death-stares, nimble as the Whirlwind,  
Dreadful as Demons!

Let Oceans waft on all your floating Castles,  
Fraught with Destruction, horrible to Nature:  
Then with your Sails fill'd by a Storm of Vengeance,  
Bear down to Battle!

From the dire Caverns made by ghostly Miners,  
Let the Explosion, dreadful as Volcanoes,  
Heave the broad town, with all its Wealth and People,  
Quick to Destruction!

Still shall the Banner of the King of Heaven  
Never advance where I'm afraid to follow:  
While that precedes me, with an open Bosom,  
War, I defy thee!

Fame and dear Freedom lure me on to Battle,  
While a fell Despot, grimmer than a Death's-Head,  
Stings me with Serpents, fiercer than Medusa's,  
To the Encounter.

Life, for my Country and the Cause of Freedom,  
Is but a Trifle for a Worm to part with;  
And if preserved in so great a Contest,  
Life is redoubled.

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<sup>1</sup> Norwich Jubilee: A Report of the Celebration at Norwich, Connecticut on the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Settlement of the Town. J. Stedman, 1859, p. 84.

<sup>2</sup> Smith, C. S. 'Broadside and Their Music in Colonial America.' Colonial Society of Massachusetts, <https://www.colonialsociety.org/node/2012>. Accessed 17 Oct. 2025.

<sup>3</sup> 'The American Hero: A Sapphic Ode.' Connecticut Gazette and Universal Intelligencer, Vol. XIII, Numb. 638, 2 Feb 1776, p.4.

<sup>4</sup> Bowman, Kent A. The Muse of Fire: Liberty and War Songs as a Source of American History. North Texas State University, 1984, p. 62.

<sup>5</sup> Isaiah Thomas Broadside Ballads Project: Verses in Vogue with the Vulgar. American Antiquarian Society, <https://collections.americanantiquarian.org/thomasballads/items/show/176>. Accessed 20 Oct. 2025

<sup>6</sup> Law, Andrew. A Select Number of Plain Tunes Adapted to Congregational Worship. 1781, p. 8.

<sup>7</sup> Law, Andrew. A Select Number of Plain Tunes Adapted to Congregational Worship. 1781, pp. 17–18.

<sup>8</sup> Norwich Jubilee: A Report of the Celebration at Norwich, Connecticut on the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Settlement of the Town. J. Stedman, 1859, p. 84.

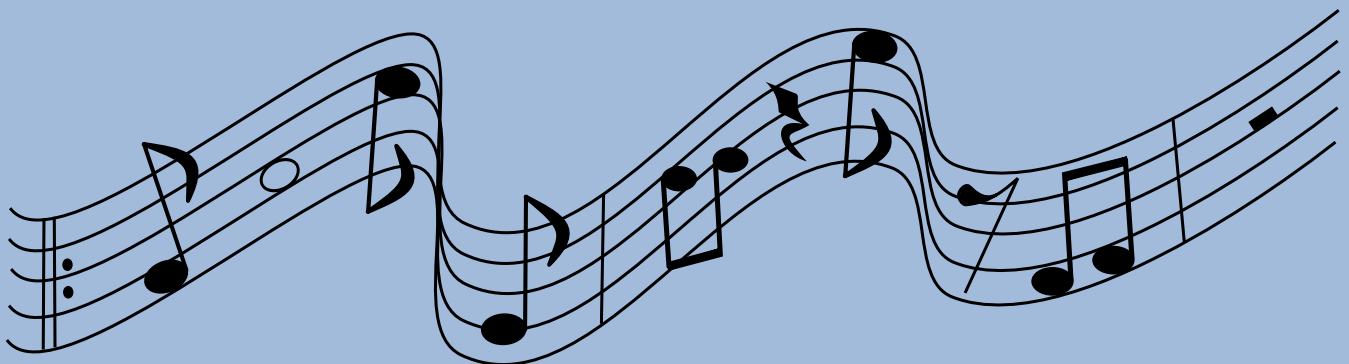
<sup>9</sup> Duyckinck, Evert A., and George L. Duyckinck Cyclopaedia of American Literature. Vol. 1, Charles Scribner, 1866, p. 441.

<sup>10</sup> Temperley, Nicholas. The Hymn Tune Index. University of Illinois, <https://hymntune.library.illinois.edu/search/tunes/>. Accessed 20 Oct. 2025.

<sup>11</sup> Leavitt, Joshua. The Christian Lyre. Vol. 1, 5th ed., 1830–31, p. 204.

<sup>12</sup> Baldwin, A. M. The Clergy of Connecticut in Revolutionary Days. Yale University Press, 1936, p. 18.

<sup>13</sup> Niles, Nathaniel. The American Hero: A Sapphick Ode. Library of Congress, <https://loc.getarchive.net/media/the-american-hero-a-sapphick-ode-by-nath-niles-a-m-norwich-connecticut-october>. Accessed 16 Oct. 2025.



# 2026 Kentucky Derby Pegasus Parade.



Photos by Gina Possanza  
from SAR Headquarters

# Thomas Stafford Patriot Grave Marking



Fifer Scott Giltner



Descendants of Thomas Stafford



Military Salute

PATRIOT GRAVE MARKING IN INDIANA  
FOR PATRIOTS. HENRY BAKER & JOHN KEITHLEY



ATTENDEND BY GIS COMPATRIOTS:  
MARTY WAGNER, SCOTT GILTNER, JOHN DOSS  
PATRICK WESOLOSKY

Compatriots Reed Martin & Scott Giltner Replace an SAR Patriot Grave Marker for the descendents of Thomas Stafford



Compatriot Reed Martin hard at work!!



Compatriot Scott Giltner congratulating C/Lt Col. Luke Molder for receiving the Bronze Good Citizenship medal and WAA Challenge Coin.



Above:  
Compatriot Scott Giltner Presents Certificates to Wounded Warriors In Fredonia, KY



# 2026 Coffmans Station School Day Program

