



Honoring Ohio's First Veterans:

Students Document Revolutionary War Veterans' Graves

By Paul LaRue

Objective: Students use research and documentation to map Revolutionary War Veterans buried in Ohio.

Grade Levels: 4th, 8th -12th **Content Area:** Social Studies / ELA

Connections to (Ohio) Model Curriculum (Social Studies):

Grade Four, Strand History Content Statements: 2 & 4

Grade Eight, Strand History Content Statements: 1, 5 & 6

High School American History: 1, 2, 3 & 4

High School American Government: 16 & 17

Skills:

- Analyze primary sources
- Interpret historical data and apply critical thinking
- Utilize mapping technology

Vocabulary: primary sources, [Fort Laurens](#), patriots, Revolutionary War Veterans, immigrants, America 250

Teacher Tips: This lesson could be used for a Veterans Day or Memorial Day lesson, or to celebrate America's 250.

The readings and discussions could be completed within one to two class periods. Researching the graves and planning a possible community celebration would extend over a longer timeframe.

This resource is free and provided by the America 250-Ohio Education Committee. Educators should review this lesson to determine the suitability of this or any particular resource for use in their district and / or classroom.

Steps in Strategy:

1.) Before introducing the lesson content to your students, connect with local partners and organizations for future resources and research, such as:

- Genealogical Societies
- Public Libraries
- Historical Societies
- Sons & Daughters of the American Revolution
- Veterans Organizations

Also, determine if you would like students to engage in the readings in advance as pre-work, or during class.

2.) Have students complete the warm-up activity. This can be done individually, in small groups, or as a whole group.

3.) Discuss the essential question with students. You may provide an opportunity for them to record a short, written response. You can create an anchor chart where students can post their answers on sticky notes. They may place one note before the lesson to capture initial thoughts and another after to reflect on how their thinking has evolved.

4.) Assign readings 1, 2, & 3. This could be completed ahead of time as pre-work, or in class.

5.) If desired, have students complete the optional evaluation for assessment after completing readings 1, 2, & 3.

6.) Have students examine photo 1 and watch the [short video clip](#) (3:08) with time for discussion.

7.) Select a local cemetery, or cemeteries. With the help of local resources and partners, have your students research for Revolutionary War veterans'

graves. Use this [interactive map by Ohio History](#) to add or verify names from your students' research.

8.) At the conclusion of the research, organize a small celebration event. Invite your local history partners, veteran organizations, school administrators and local media to join your students in a presentation of their findings. You may also have students engage in the additional research topic and the exploration of additional resources (below).

9.) Revisit the essential question and support students in reflecting on the connection between researching veterans' graves and the celebration of America's 250th birthday.

Optional Evaluation: Student Questions and Answers

1.) What is Ohio's one Revolutionary War fortification? Answer (A): Fort Laurens

2.) Approximately how many Revolutionary War Veterans are buried in Ohio? A: 7,000

3.) Who established the city of Chillicothe? A: Nathaniel Massie

4.) What two chunks of land were set aside in Ohio for Revolutionary War Veterans? A: Virginia Military District and United States Military District

5.) What breed of hogs did John Klever family popularize? Answer: Poland China

Additional research topic for a student, or the class: Select one (or more) of the Revolutionary War veterans your students found. Write a short biography and share their story with your community.

Essential or Compelling Question:

What is the significance of America's 250th Birthday?

Warm up Activity



What do you see in this photograph?

What is the story?

Reading #1: Preserving Ohio's 250 Heritage

Our nation will be soon celebrating its 250th birthday. There will be parades, picnics and fireworks. There will also be a renewed interest in our nation's early history. [Fort Laurens](#) is Ohio's only Revolutionary War fort. Ohio is the final resting place of approximately 7,000 veterans of the American Revolution. These veterans' graves can be found in nearly every county in the state. Some of these graves are well marked, others have been lost to time.

The [Revolutionary War Veterans Grave Project](#) is an effort to map the locations of these patriots. A variety of primary sources will assist you as

you become a history detective. There are several primary sources listed under additional resources to assist you with your research. One such source is the Works Progress Administration (WPA) cemetery maps. These maps list veterans buried in a cemetery. Some of these maps are online, such as with the [website of the Hamilton County Recorder](#). Other county WPA cemetery maps must be accessed in person, generally at the Recorder's Office.

Reading #2: A Veterans Story

One of the approximately 7,000 Revolutionary War veterans buried in Ohio is John Klever. Klever was born in Germany in 1755 and immigrated to the American colonies. He served as a Private in Captain John Stone's 6th Company, Pennsylvania militia during the Revolutionary War. Following the war, he was a farmer and raised a family. He moved to Bloomingburg, Ohio. He was 110 years old when he passed in 1865. John Klever is buried in the Bloomingburg Cemetery. Klever's family continued to farm in the area and helped popularize the Poland China breed of hogs.

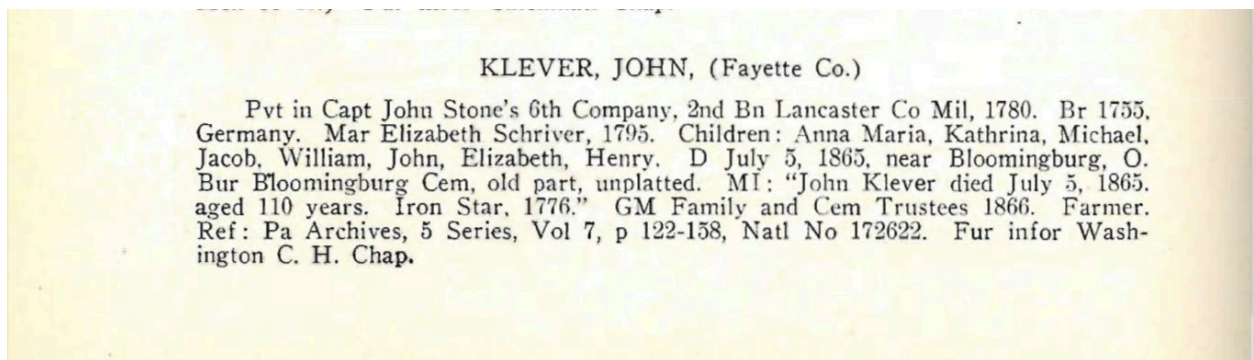


Image text: "Klever, John, (Fayette Co.). Pvt in Capt John Stone's 6th Company, 2nd Bn Lancaster Co Mil, 1780. Br 1755, Germany. Mar Elizabeth Schriver, 1795. Children: Anna Maria, Kathrina, Michael, Jacob, William, John, Elizabeth, Henry. D July 5, 1865, near Bloomingburg, O. Bur Bloomingburg Cem, old part, unplatted. MI: "John Klever died July 5, 1865. Aged 110 years. Iron Star, 1776." GM Family and Cem Trustees 1866. Farmer. Ref: Pa Archives, 5 Series, Vol 7, p 122-158, Natl No 172622. Fur [sic] infor Washington C.H. Chap."

Source: *The Official Roster of the Soldiers of the American Revolution Buried in the State of Ohio* (1929), Volume 1, page 216. The complete volume can be found under additional resources.

Reading #3. Finding Lost Patriot's Graves

["Finding Lost Patriot's Graves: Revolutionary War Veteran Graves Identification and Recognition Project"](#)

By Krista Horrocks, RWVG Project Manager and Marie Swartz, RWVG Digital Platform Administrator, Ohio History Connection-State History Preservation Office

Located on America250-Ohio.org. Published April 30, 2025.

Database / Interactive Map: Ohio Revolutionary War Veterans Grave Project (Ohio History Connection)

Find the [live results map and data base here](#).



Photo #1:

Accompanying video: Watch students honor veterans' graves in this [video clip](#) (3:08).

Additional Resources

- 1.) Civic Education: "[Civic Education's Lasting Value: Students Mark a Revolutionary War Veteran's Grave](#)" (America250-ohio.org)
- 2.) [1840 United States Census of Revolutionary War Veterans living in Ohio](#) (Note: Ohio starts on page 168.)
- 3.) [The Official Roster of the Soldiers of the American Revolution buried in the state of Ohio](#)
- 4.) [Ohio State Society Daughters of the American Revolution](#)
- 5.) [Ohio Society Sons of the American Revolution](#)
- 5.) [United States Department of Veterans Affairs: National Cemetery Administration](#)

Acknowledgements

America 250 - Ohio

Ohio Sons of the American Revolution

Ohio Daughters of the American Revolution

Ohio Department of Education & Workforce

Ohio History Connection

United States Department of Veterans Affairs, National
Cemetery Administration

Taylor Tomu, America 250 - Ohio

Krista Horrocks, State Historic Preservation Office

Linda Jean Limes Ellis, Genealogist

Richelle Taylor, United States Department of Veterans
Affairs, National Cemetery Administration

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This lesson plan was written by Paul LaRue, a retired career high school social studies teacher. LaRue has received numerous state and national teaching awards. His students researched, ordered and installed seventy headstones for veterans with unmarked graves or destroyed headstones.

Paul co-chairs the America 250 - Ohio Education Committee.
