



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact

Fahlgren Mortine

America250-Ohio@fahlgren.com

America 250-Ohio Launches Statewide Effort to Locate and Document Revolutionary War Veterans' Gravesites

This Memorial Day, Ohioans are invited to participate in this new crowdsourced project to honor the nation's first veterans

Columbus, OH (May 20, 2025)— [America 250-Ohio](#), the official state commission responsible for spearheading Ohio's celebrations and commemorations relating to America's semiquincentennial in 2026, announced today a major statewide effort to locate, verify and document the final resting places of Revolutionary War veterans buried in Ohio. With an estimated 7,000 such graves believed to exist statewide, the commission invites the public to help identify, photograph and record the sites in a publicly accessible database.

"We suspect that few Ohioans are aware of how many Revolutionary War veterans settled in the state after the war ended," said Todd Kleismit, executive director of America 250-Ohio. "Creating this database will help crystalize this connection and enhance our understanding of just how important Ohio was to the establishment of the United States."

Led by the Ohio History Connection and its State Historic Preservation Office with support from its partner firm Terracon Consultants, Inc., the project uses a new online portal and the mobile app Survey123. Historians, genealogists, local historical societies, students, scouting groups, and descendants are all encouraged to contribute.

The use of Survey123 forms created and monitored by Terracon allows the crowdsourcing of cemetery data including photos, GPS location, and other critical data. "The beauty of this approach is that it empowers anyone who owns a smartphone to contribute meaningful data to the project," said Joseph Snider, archaeological geophysicist at Terracon.

Ohio is the final resting place for a large number of graves of Revolutionary War veterans, despite not being one of the original 13 colonies. Much of the land that became Ohio was granted to veterans as payment for their military service, leading many to settle here or sell their land to westward-moving pioneers.

“These are the very first veterans of the United States of America,” said Krista Horrocks, historian and cemetery preservationist with the Ohio History Connection. “This project is about reclaiming those stories and ensuring the stories of these Ohioans who directly contributed to the founding of our country are remembered for generations to come.”

To date, the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) have gathered information to help identify roughly 6,800 veterans buried in Ohio. This important work is the basis by which the new database will be built and enhanced using the existing information. By creating a public map and archive with detailed GPS data, photographs and historical records, the project hopes to empower communities to protect and preserve these burial sites.

Horrocks notes that many graves have been lost to time, deterioration, or development — and stresses the urgency of documenting them now. “Gravestones won’t survive forever,” she said. “But if we can document their location and story today, that information will outlive all of us.”

A key goal is to establish a robust public record by July 2026, the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The public can visit ohiohistory.org/revwargraves to learn more, access the submission portal, and get involved.

###

About America 250-Ohio:

In 2026, the United States will celebrate its semiquincentennial, which is the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Each state has been encouraged to create a celebration and commemoration of this anniversary to reflect the unique character and contributions of each state to the nation over the past 250 years. Ohio is fully embracing this opportunity. The Ohio Commission for the Semiquincentennial (aka America 250-Ohio Commission or AM250-OH) was created by the Ohio legislature and launched on March 1, 2022. The charge of the AM250-OH Commission is “...to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United States and the impact of Ohioans on the nation’s past, present, and future.” — Ohio Revised Code (149.309). More information can be found at America250-Ohio.org.

About the Ohio History Connection:

The Ohio History Connection is a statewide history organization with the mission to spark discovery of Ohio's stories. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization chartered in 1885, the Ohio History Connection carries out history services for Ohio and its citizens. This includes housing the State Historic Preservation Office and the official state archives and managing more than 50 sites and museums across Ohio. The Greater Columbus Arts Council and the Columbus Foundation provide support for Ohio History Connection programs. For more information, go to ohiohistory.org.

About the State Historic Preservation Office:

The Ohio History Connection's State Historic Preservation Office is Ohio's official historic preservation agency. It identifies historic places in Ohio, nominates properties to the National Register of Historic Places, reviews federally assisted projects for effects on historic, architectural and archaeological resources in Ohio, consults on conservation of older buildings and sites and offers educational programs and publications.

About Terracon:

Terracon Consultants, Inc. is an employee-owned engineering consulting firm headquartered in Olathe, Kansas with 175 offices nationwide, including three offices in Ohio. America 250-Ohio and the State Historic Preservation Office teamed with the Cultural Resources Group in the Columbus Terracon office for the Revolutionary War Veterans Graves Project.