



The Royal Society of St. George

Incorporated by Royal Charter Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

September 16, 2009

To Whom it May Concern:

As a charitable and educational organization dedicated to maintaining interest in our English history and traditions, celebrating the achievements of our past English leaders, upholding the shared cultural heritage of all English-speaking countries, and encouraging high standards of decency, courtesy and good manners, the Texas Branch Royal Society of St. George is most pleased to support the Grave marking ceremony scheduled for June 26-27, 2010 in North Royalton, Ohio to commemorate the military service of John Shepherd.

The story of John Shepherd, who was born in 1729, is a remarkable one. John Shepherd served under Major General Edward Braddock, the Commander-in-Chief of all British forces on the Continent during the French and Indian Wars. He was one of the few men to survive the tragic defeat of General Braddock's force at the Battle of Monongahela against the French and their Indian allies on July 9, 1755. Among the survivors was the only remaining member of Braddock's staff, the young Virginia Colonel, George Washington. Shepherd was later to endure the harsh winter at Valley Forge together with General Washington and serve valiantly in other military campaigns.

John Shepherd was the last survivor of Braddock's defeat in 1755 and died in North Royalton in 1847 at the exceptional age of 117 years. Astonishingly, the mortal remains of this hero went un-commemorated all these years. Presently, the Texas Branch Royal Society of St. George is actively involved in support of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission "Adopt-a-Grave" program in the State of Texas. It is therefore especially compelling and with a sense of profound gratitude that I endorse the commemoration of John Shepherd, a true English hero and role-model for our young generation.

St. George for England!

Dr. Robert J. Devine, U.E.
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