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## Revolutionary roots

### Genealogy is key to joining a lineage society like the DAR, SAR or CAR

By MELISSA KNIFIC  
Advocate Reporter

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John Evans pointed to a large piece of paper, flooded with names of his ancestors who arrived in Newark nearly 200 years ago.

The family tree took the 87-year-old Newark resident hours to create.

But the research behind the mapping project is a different story. Evans took on an interest in genealogy when he was in his teens.

Through the digging and probing, Evans learned his far-removed family members were fixtures of American history -- some fought in the Revolutionary War and others traveled on the Mayflower.

Evans will soon speak about the importance of genealogy at the inaugural Sons, Daughters and Children of the American Revolution Pal-wow. The event is set for July 16 at The Dawes Arboretum in Jacksontown.

Members agreed genealogy is key to joining one of the three groups.

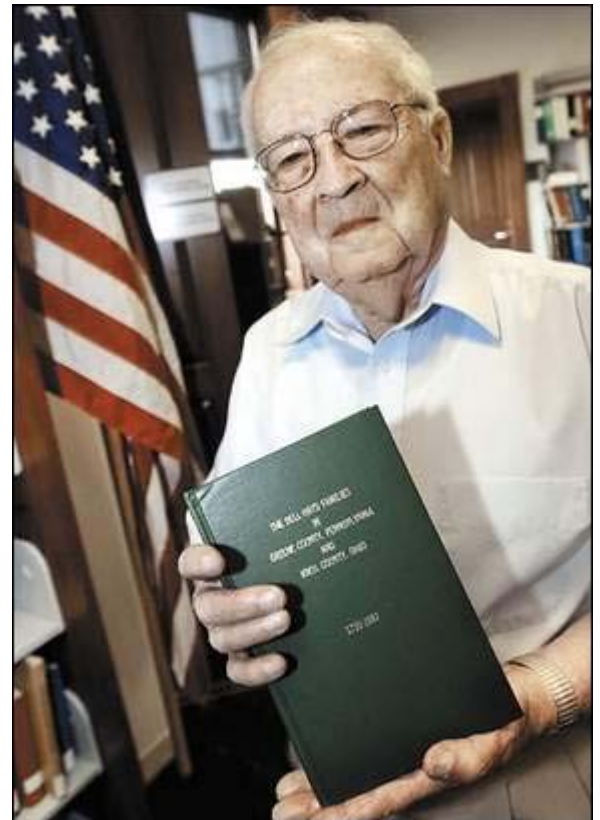
"It's hard to become a member," said Keith Kaufman, who will serve as master of ceremonies at the Pal-wow.

But Kaufman hopes this won't detract people from joining the organizations, noting the Pal-wow will offer resources and advice to help people through the process.

Today, he said there are 27,000 Sons of the American Revolution members, compared to Daughters of the American Revolution's 170,000 members. Children of the American Revolution has approximately 10,000 members.

By educating the public about the groups, Kaufman hopes people will develop an interest.

Kaufman, of New Lexington, became a member of SAR's Rufus Putnam Chapter, located in Zanesville, in



Kevin Graff, The Advocate

**John Evans is shown holding a copy of the book he published about his family history. Evans has been tracing genealogies since he was a teenager.**

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1999.

Rufus Putnam is the closest SAR chapter to Licking County. However, the DAR has two chapters in the county, located in Newark and Granville.

It's important for the community to recognize their heritage and remember what people went through to create the United States, Kaufman said.

"People need to love their country and protect it," he added.

Curiosity was what drew Evans to his research.

Growing up in Martinsburg, he seemed to have a family connection with much of the community.

"I got wondering how it all fit together," Evans said.

It was easier to trace relatives 60 years ago -- when he began his research -- because people didn't move as often as today, he said.

The hard work paid off for Evans, who has since discovered he has at least 15 family members who were involved in the Revolutionary War.

But it doesn't mean his task is complete.

"There's always something more to find," Evans said.

In order to become a member of the SAR, DAR or CAR, an individual must provide proper documentation.

Librarian Betty Rose, who works for the Licking County Genealogical Society, said birth, death and marriage records of family members must be collected as far back as possible to prove lineage.

"Don't use history books as a rule," she added, noting they're not always accurate.

Sometimes it can be tricky to find information before 1875 in Licking County due to the courthouse fire that year, which Rose said destroyed many records.

The Newark Public Library -- which is home to the Genealogical Society -- provides numerous resources, beginning with the county and branching out nationwide.

Rose pointed out the indexes to the Revolutionary War -- a series of reference guides categorized by the last names of people involved in the historic event.

"You start with yourself and then go backwards," she advised.

Rose, 83, is a DAR member herself. She was fortunate, however, because a cousin in Connecticut had already completed the legwork needed to prove her family's lineage.

A birth certificate and marriage license was all Rose was asked to provide to join DAR. Her great-great-great-grandfather furnished food for people in the Revolutionary War.

She suggested prestige was a reason for people joining the various groups, noting they had somebody in their family who "helped make America."

The Pal-wow will feature SAR, DAR and CAR members speaking about the groups. Some will be dressed in period attire.

A wreath-laying ceremony will be held at a cemetery located in The Dawes Arboretum to honor soldiers of the Revolutionary War.

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