



The National Character

of the

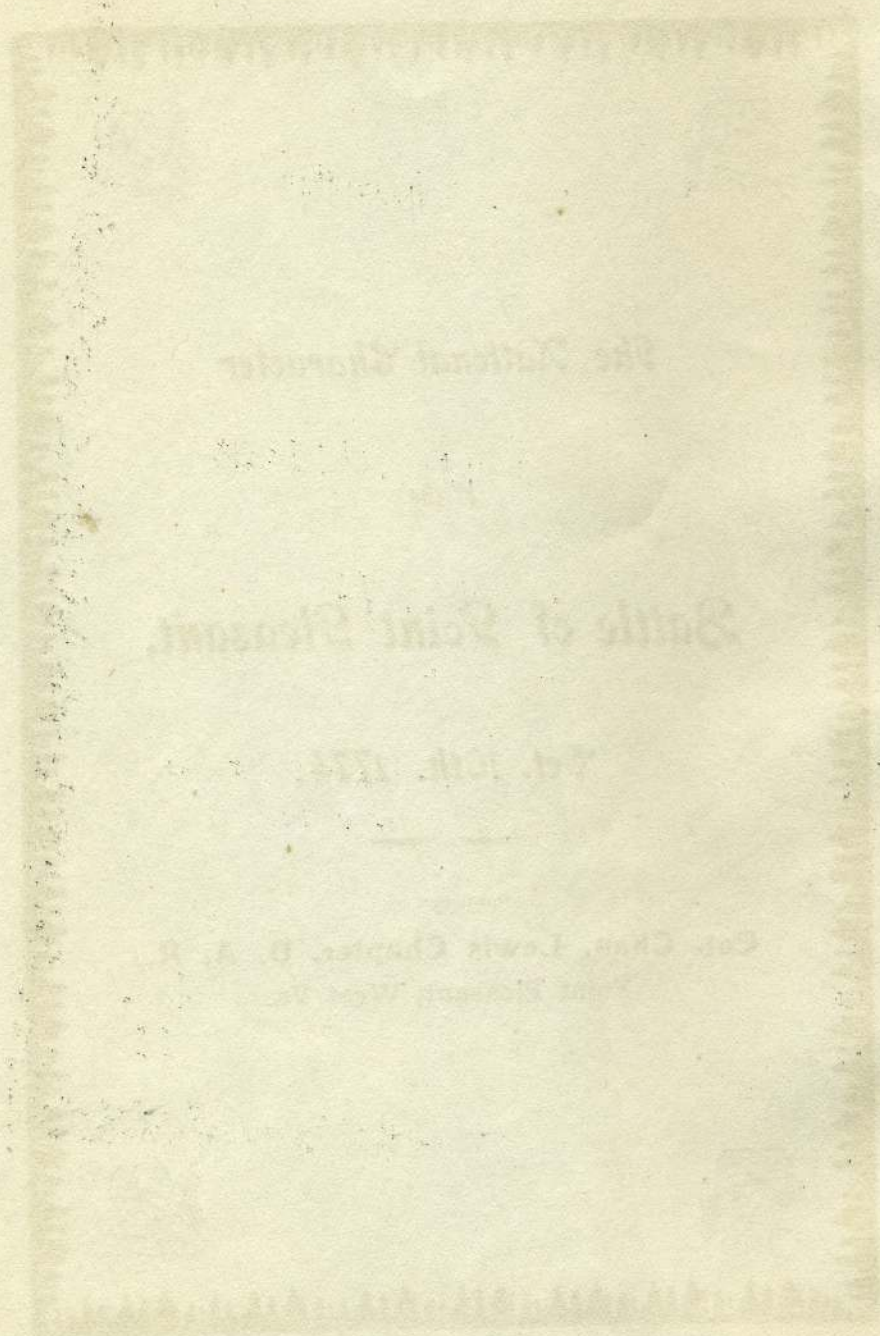
Battle of Point Pleasant,

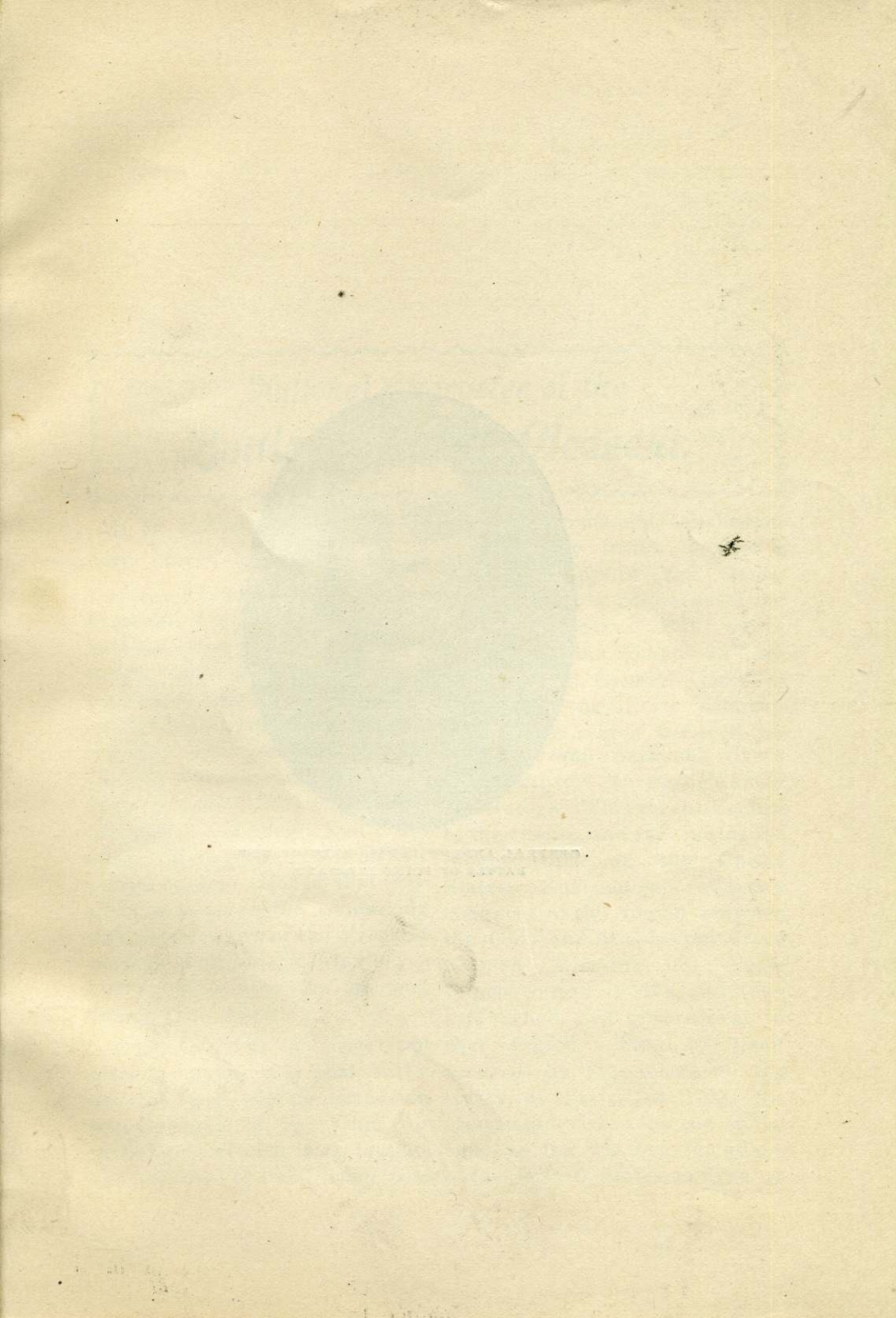
Oct. 10th. 1774.

Published by

Col. Chas. Lewis Chapter, D. A. R.,
Point Pleasant, West Va.









GENERAL ANDREW LEWIS, HERO OF THE
BATTLE OF POINT PLEASANT.

National Character of the Battle of Point Pleasant.

If an enduring monument is ever reared by the aid of the Federal Government at Point Pleasant, it will be because of the national character of the battle fought there in 1774. Looking backward over the past, this battle stands out conspicuously between two great distinctive periods of American history. It is the greatest event in the colonial period and stands just at its close. With it the revolutionary period begins. Hence that battle is, as it were, the connecting link between two of the greatest periods in all American history—closing, as it does, the one and opening the other.

Every student of American history knows how that battle secured peace with the barbarian nations north of the Ohio for three years after it was fought, and how this, of itself, made pos-

sible the permanent settlement of Kentucky which became a base of supplies for George Rogers Clark's conquest of the Illinois country. But more. Peace with the Indians at this time enabled General Gates to collect the American soldiery from all the region between the Kennebec and Savannah rivers and overthrow Burgoyne's army at Saratoga. This meant France to the rescue, and that meant the independence of the United States. But not all. Clark's conquest of the region between the Ohio and Mississippi rivers enabled Virginia to create Illinois county, in 1778, and thus established civil government in that region. This of itself secured, by the terms of the treaty of Paris, in 1783, the Mississippi river, instead of the Ohio, as the western boundary of the United States as fixed at

that time. What other battle of the olden time secured for this nation such grand results? No other in all the history of early America.

But what shall be said of the men who fought the battle of Point Pleasant? Were they national men, or did they become such?

The story of all time is made up of the biographies of men, and the life of an individual is but a leaf of history. The events of the past of which we know most, are those of which we have the fullest knowledge of the men who were actors in them. This is true of the Battle of Point Pleasant, and if we would know of its vast and far-reaching results and their influence upon the history and destiny of our country, we must learn of the men of the Virginian army who stood in battle array at the mouth of the Great Kanawha on that memorable 10th of October, 1774.

They represented the best element of European life, for only courageous and heroic men would cross an ocean to find civil and religious freedom on the confines of the great American wilderness inhabited by barbarous men. When war came, they marched away—a whole army of them—into that wilderness, leaving their flocks and herds without a fold, and their wives

and children in lonely cabin homes, surrounded by towering mountains which fretted the sky on every hand. But they went to fight a great battle and, in doing so, to win the Ohio Valley for civilization, that it might become a region in which should be established a great republic of states. This they did and then set about securing the results.

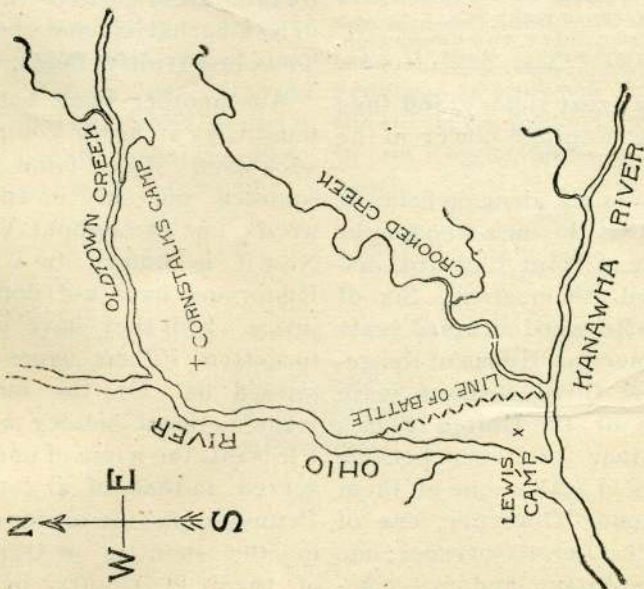
The war for independence was at hand, and the heroes of Point Pleasant went to meet the heroes of Bunker Hill, and together they became the heroes of Monmouth, Brandywine, King's Mountain,



WM. CLENDENNIN, AGED 17 YEARS, WHEN IN THE BATTLE OF POINT PLEASANT. PICTURE FROM PAINTING MADE WHILE IN THE VIRGINIA ASSEMBLY.

and Yorktown. Seven officers in the Battle of Point Pleasant rose to the rank of general in the revolutionary army; six captains in that battle commanded regiments on continental establishment in the war for independence; four officers in that battle led the attack on Gwynn's Island in Chesapeake Bay, in July, 1776, which resulted in the dislodgment of Lord Dunmore, the late governor, who was thus driven from the shores of Virginia never to return; one officer in that battle was the most prominent American officer in the battle of Brandywine where he was severely wounded; another officer in that battle led the ad-

vance at the storming of Stony Point, one of the most daring achievements of the revolution; still another officer in that battle, won lasting fame as the "Hero of King's Mountain." Hundreds of men in that battle were afterward on revolutionary fields and many of them witnessed the surrender of Cornwallis to the united armies of the United States and France, at the close of that struggle, at Yorktown. Indeed, it is a matter of history that these Point Pleasant men were on nearly every battlefield of the revolution. And one of them, when sixty-three years of age, led the Americans at the battle of the Thames, in 1813,



PLAT SHOWING FIELD OF BATTLE, CAMPS AND LINE OF BATTLE.



CHRISTIAN MILLER, WHO PARTICIPATED
IN THE BATTLE OF POINT PLEASANT AND
SERVED THROUGHOUT THE REVOLUTION.

secured a great victory, and thus broke the English power in the Northwest.

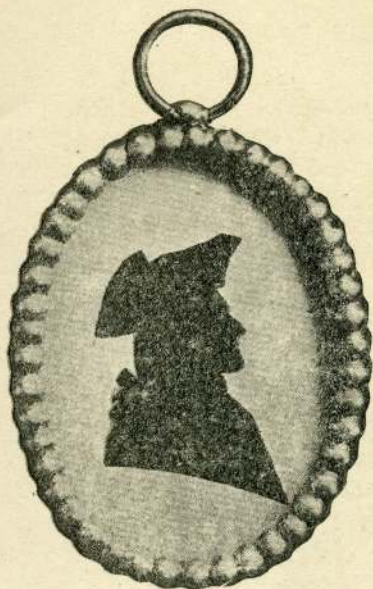
But it was not alone on fields of carnage that the men who fought the Battle of Point Pleasant, distinguished themselves. Six of them afterward occupied seats in the American House of Representatives; three of them were members of the United States Senate; four of them became governors of states; one of them a Lieutenant Governor; one of them a Territorial Governor; one of them military and civil commandant of Upper Louisiana; one

of them a surveyor-general of one of the thirteen original states; one, the father of a governor of Virginia; one, the father of a supreme judge of Kentucky; one of them the largest manufacturer and wealthiest man in eastern Ohio at the time of his business career; one of them president of the Bank of St.-Louis; one of them a framer of a constitution for Ohio; one of them receiver of public monies in a Western State; and a hundred of them state legislators and framers of state constitutions, while more than a thousand of them went forth to conquer again—not with a rifle but with axe—that they might fell the forests from which they had driven barbarism and change the lands into fruitful fields.

Was another such battle ever fought, by an army composed of such men? Their fame then resounded, not only in the backwoods, but throughout Virginia. Now it is known to a nation. Historians have not done them justice. Still they have not been forgotten. Their names are all around us. Of the men who made national history at Point Pleasant, the name of one is preserved in that of a county in Pennsylvania; the names of three in the counties of Ohio; four of them in county names in Indiana; four of them in the

names of counties in Illinois; four of them in county names in West Virginia; five of them in the names of counties in Tennessee; and ten of them in the names of counties in Kentucky. Towns named in memory of men who were in the battle of Point Pleasant are found in many states, prominent among them being Christiansburg and Martinsville, in Virginia; Lewisburg, West Virginia; Flemingsburg and Harrodsburg, Kentucky; Clarksville and Sevierville, Tennessee; and Shelbyville, Indiana.

The men whose names are connected with Dunmore's War deserved a tomb but many of them scarce found a grave. Is it not now time that a nation they helped to found and establish shall recognize their eminent services by erecting on the scene of their greatest victory an enduring monument which shall preserve a memory of their courage, heroism, virtue and patriotism? I



MAJOR JOHN HENDERSON, WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE BATTLE OF POINT PLEASANT AND SERVED THROUGHOUT THE REVOLUTION.

take it that a government so generous as ours will do this, if the subject is properly presented to its legislators.—Virgil A. Lewis.



