

### ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY OCTOBER 27



**Livia Nye Simpson Poffenbarger, a newspaper editor whose efforts resulted in congressional recognition of the Battle of Point Pleasant as being the first battle of the Revolutionary War, died on October 27, 1937.**

**CSO: SS.8.20, SS.8.21, ELA.8.1**

**Investigate the Document: (Ms2016-025)**

1. Who was the leader of the Indian confederation that battled the Virginia Militia during the Battle of Point Pleasant?
2. Who was Lord Dunmore?
3. How many Virginia militiamen perished at the Battle of Point Pleasant?

**Think Critically:** The “Shot Heard Around the World” was fired on the morning of April 19, 1775 (six months after the Battle of Point Pleasant) marking the first military engagement between the Colonies and British regulars. This is often referred to as the beginning of the American Revolution, but Livia Nye Simpson Poffenbarger felt it was Point Pleasant’s rightful distinction. Construct an argument for or against the Battle of Point Pleasant being the first battle of the American Revolution.

In 1874, an anniversary was celebrated here, and all that could be found in the "reservation" of those who fell in the battle were taken up with the intention of burying them in the Court House yard, and there to erect a monument, but it met with great opposition by the aged sires present, at the meeting, and so placing them in a metallic case they were re-buried in the same spot, which has now been purchased and set apart in honor of those heroic men who fell here in that battle, Oct. 10, 1774.

The peace secured by the treaty made with the Indians at the close of that conflict enabled many of the participants in that battle to go on to Kentucky and Tennessee, and settle those territories unmolested by the Indians for three years; and the other colonists continued in the Continental service until relieved by death or until the close of the conflict that led up to our National Independence.

*Battle*

...of...

*Point Pleasant.*

*Oct. 10,*  
*1774.*

*First Battle of the*  
*Revolution.*

COMPLIMENTS

COL. CHAS. LEWIS CHAPTER  
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

1901:  
STATE GAZETTE, PRINT,  
POINT PLEASANT.

## THE BATTLE OF POINT PLEASANT.

October 10, 1774.

On the 10th day of October, 1774, the most desperate Indian battle on record was fought, at this place, between the confederate Indian tribes, under the celebrated chief, Cornstalk, and the Virginia Militia, under the command of General Andrew Lewis. Although apparently a mere war between the savages and the white men, it was of a graver and more serious character. It was, in fact, the opening battle of the Revolution, instigated by Lord Dunmore, the then Tory Governor of Virginia, for the purpose of curbing the spirit of liberty, and preventing the colonies from asserting their rights, in the conflict, which was then brewing between them and the mother country. However base the intentions of Lord Dunmore, it was thwarted by the brave, patriotic Virginians.

General Lewis' army was composed of Virginians, and a more nobly fought battle is not recorded in history than that of Point Pleasant, and it has long been a reproach to our state and country that no monument marks the spot where fell these brave patriots.

The people along the western frontier were unable to protect themselves from the Indians, and sent to the seat of government of the Virginia colony, for help. Gov. Dunmore ordered Gen'l Lewis to raise an army, and meet him at the mouth of the Kanawha, together to invade and destroy the Indian towns, near Chillicothe, and force them to a treaty of peace. Gen'l Lewis followed out the part assigned him, but Lord Dunmore failed to meet him.

History tells the rest—How Gen'l Lewis was attacked by the Indians a few days after his long journey through the wilderness, and held the point from sunrise to sunset, until the savage foe fell back, across the Ohio, and retreated to their towns near Chillicothe.

The whites lost 75 killed, among the number the gallant Col. Charles Lewis and Col. Fields, also 140 wounded. The loss of Indians was never exactly known. The dead were buried the morning after the battle.