

Around 50 people attended observance...

Houston Co. resident participates in Military Stone dedication ceremony for Revolutionary War soldier

By OTIS KELLY
Houston Co. Correspondent

Recently a Military Stone Dedication Ceremony was held near Lebanon, Va., to honor Edward Kelly, (1752-1834), who was a private in the Revolutionary War from July 1777 until June 1784.

Otis Kelly, of Houston County, who is a seventh generation descendant of Edward Kelly, played his guitar and sang at the service.

The service was filed for Public Television. The ceremony was held April 26.

About 50 people were in attendance, including members of the Tabitha Adams Russell Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution and members of the Gen. William Campbell Chapter of Sons of the American Revolution.

During the ceremony, the group marched onto the grounds led by a Yankee Doodle Drummer.

Muskets were fired over the Kelly grave in a demonstration of honor.

The service was concluded by Rev. Jimmy Huffman, who spoke

in praise of all men who serve their country.

Janice Busic, a sixth generation descendant, ordered the headstone from the Office of Veterans Affairs.

Edward Kelly served under Capt. Thomas Young's Company of the Western Battalion commanded by Col. Joseph Crockett in the Virginia State Service.

He also served under Captain Edwin Hull's Company in the 15th Virginia Regiment commanded by Lieutenant Col Innes.

Edward Kelly was also a Baptist Minister at several surrounding churches including Reeds Valley Church near his plantation, (1783 land grant) in Russell County in southwest Virginia.

Some descendants say he held a prayer service with George Washington and his troops at Valley Forge.

Local media outlets were on hand to document the ceremony for Kelly.

It is of record that the ministers, as well as members of area churches, worshiped with their rifles in their hands as they were often harassed by bands of Indians.



Houston County's Otis Kelly, right, speaks with another participant in a Military Stone Dedication ceremony held recently. The ceremony was for an ancestor of Kelly, Edward Kelly, who was a soldier in the Revolutionary War.