

Basics of Early New England Research

Class 4: Researching Colonial and Revolutionary War Soldiers

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Colonial Conflicts

Step #1 - Determine if he fought

- Determining the Military Service of your ancestor before the Revolution.
- How old was your Veteran?
- What colonial wars occurred during his lifetime?

17th Century Conflicts

1. Pequot War: 1636-1638
2. King Philip's War: 1675-1676
3. King William's War: 1689-1697

18th Century Conflicts

1. Queen Anne's War: 1702-1713.
2. War of Jenkins Ear: 1739-1742.
3. King George's War: 1740-1748.
4. French and Indian War: 1754-1763.
5. Cherokee Uprising: 1760-1761.
6. War of the Regulators: 1771.

Consider family heirlooms for clues

1. What might be in the attic?
2. Ask relatives.
3. Museum and Archives.
4. eBay or Auction catalogs.

Step #2 - Confirm published sources

1. Don't re-invent the wheel.
2. What has been published
3. State by state lists.
4. Local histories.
5. Internet resources when available.



American Ancestors
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Databases on AmericanAncestors.org

- Officers & Soldiers in the Seventeenth-Century Conflicts
- Officers & Soldiers, 1702-1722, Queen Anne's to Dummer's War
- Soldiers in the French and Indian Wars 1744-1755
- Officers in the French and Indian Wars 1748-1763
- Officers and Soldiers in the French and Indian Wars, 1755-1756
- **NEW!** - Society of Colonial Wars in Massachusetts Membership Applications, 1560-1970

Published Sources

1. Compilations of Colonial Soldiers.
2. Published histories of battles and wars.
3. Hereditary Society publications.

Step #3 - Apply to hereditary societies.

1638: Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company
1927: National Society Women Descendants of A. & H. A. C.
1893: General Society of Colonial Wars
1932: National Society Daughters of Colonial Wars
1896: National Soc. of Colonial Daughters of the 17th Century
1896: Order of Founders and Patriots of America
1898: National Society Daughters and Patriots of America
1987: Continental Society Sons of Indian Wars
1988: Continental Society Daughters of Indian Wars

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PEQUOT WAR

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KING PHILIP'S WAR

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Society of Colonial Wars, *A Record of the Ceremony and Oration on the Occasion of the Unveiling of the Monument Commemorating the Great Swamp Fight December 19, 1675 in the Narragansett Country Rhode Island* (Boston, MA: Merrymount Press, 1906).

QUEEN ANNE'S WAR

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FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

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Burrage, Henry S., *Maine at Louisburg in 1745* (Augusta, ME: Burleigh & Flynt, 1910).

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American Revolutionary War

The rich collections of records for soldiers of the Revolutionary War have aided scholars for generations. It is the purpose of this lecture to introduce and review these resources in researching the life of the veteran during the war and in their post-war life.

Basic Steps of Military Research

1. Determine if your ancestor fought.
 - a. Does his age “fit”?
 - b. What do family heirlooms / tradition say?
2. Research Analysis.
 - a. Documents and artifacts.
 - b. Genealogies and published histories.
 - c. Online resources.
3. Seek or Apply to Hereditary Societies.

Examining previous services in the Colonial Wars

1. Determine if your ancestor fought.
2. What Colonial Wars occurred during his lifetime?
 - a. King George’s War: 1740-1748.
 - b. French and Indian War.
3. Look at family heirlooms for clues.
4. Examine Probate records.
5. Published Resources.
6. Hereditary Societies.

American Revolutionary War

1. Determine if your ancestor fought.
2. Family relics in the attic.
3. Oral family traditions.
4. Cemetery clues and Pitfalls.

American Revolutionary War Resources

- Muster Rolls
- Quartermaster Rolls
- Pension Files and Final Payment Voucher
- Journals and diaries
- 1840 U.S. Census
- Correspondence from officers
- Maps
- Published Genealogies and town histories

From Published to Primary Sources

1. Published accounts to Muster Rolls.
2. Going beyond abstracts and dissecting Pension files.

Consider Adopting the Regiment or Crew

Consider using the steps you have learned and examine the pensions and stories of those men who served with your ancestor. The details in the diaries, letters, and pensions of his fellow veterans may add more detail to the story you know from researching his records.

Applying to various Hereditary Societies for the Revolutionary War

- National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
- National Society Sons of the American Revolution
- National Society Children of the American Revolution
- General Society of the Sons of the Revolution
- Society of the Cincinnati
- Daughters of the Cincinnati

Websites

American Ancestors – www.americanancestors.org

Revolutionary War Muster Rolls and Pension Files Online : www.fold3.com

DAR Library : <http://www.dar.org/library/> DAR “Ancestor Search”:
http://services.dar.org/public/dar_research/search/?Tab_ID=1

SAR Library: <http://www.sar.org>

SAR “Patriot Search”: <http://preview.sar.org/genealogy/patriot-search>

Revolutionary War Maps at the Library of Congress:
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/armhtml/armhome.html>

Valley Forge Muster Roll Project : <http://valleyforgemusterroll.org/>

1840 Pension Index from Census : <http://www.us-roots.org/colonialamerica/census/1840/>

Various websites for Revolutionary War History: <http://www.americanrevolution.org>

Revolutionary War Records on Microfilm from the Family History Library:
<https://familysearch.org/catalog/search>

Cyndi’s List of Revolutionary War Sources: <http://www.cyndislist.com/us/american-revolution/>