

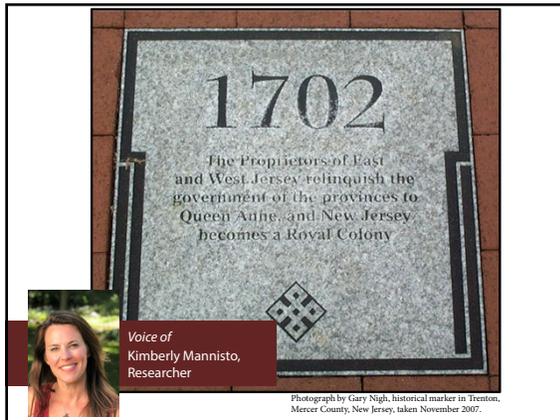
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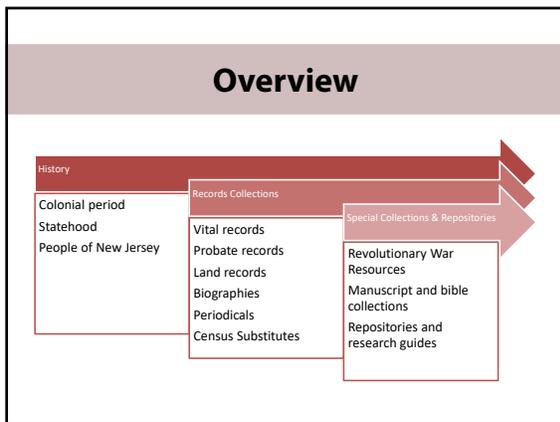
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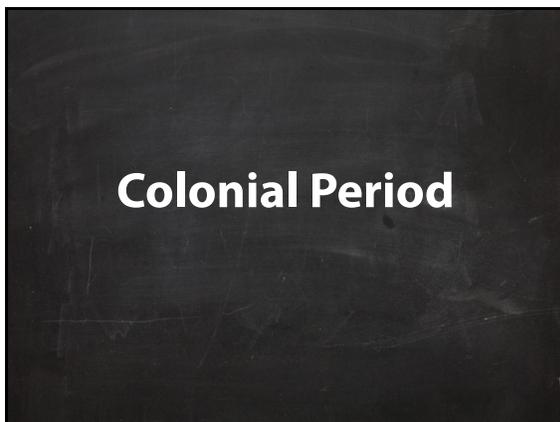
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5



6

Colonial New Jersey

- Enter the Colonial period (1702)
- New York and New Jersey continued to share one royal governor until the governorship split in 1738:
 - Proprietors maintained control of their land
- Early in the 18th century, the province began to expand and by 1740, the population of New Jersey tripled

7

- French and Indian War (1754-1763):
 - 1755 the “Jersey Blues” militia was established
 - In 1758, the *Treaty of Easton* was signed, and the first Native American reservation known as “Brotherton” was established.
- *Military Officers Recorded in the Office of the Secretary of State, Trenton, New Jersey: Colonial Wars, 1668-1774*
- Military commissions can be found in the *Index to Powers of Attorney, Surveyors’ Reports etc., Referring to Deeds*



"Jersey Blues" militiamen uniform, njmilitiamuseum.org.

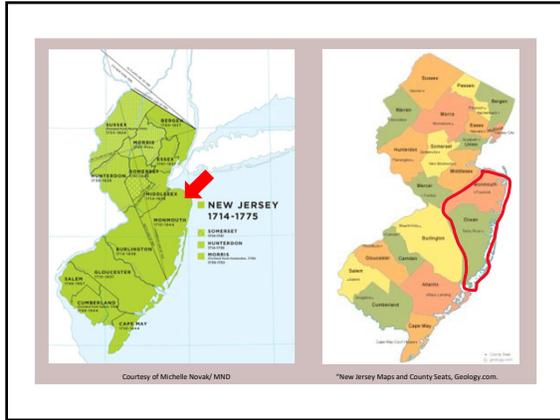
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Boundary Changes

- *The Story of New Jersey’s Civil Boundaries, 1606-1968, by John F. Snyder:*
 - The author relies on maps to tell the how the province progressed over time
 - Notes county histories including spelling and name changes



9



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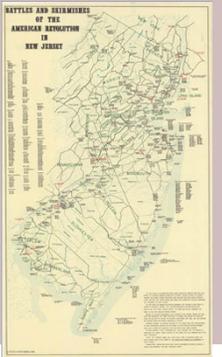
11

Colonial Period to Statehood

- Years before the Revolutionary War, anti-British feelings spread across the province
- 1774, Greenwich Tea Burning in Cumberland County
- In 1776, New Jersey declared they were an independent state
- In 1787, New Jersey became the 3rd state to ratify the U.S. Constitution
- In 1789, New Jersey was the first state to sign the Bill of Rights
- In 1790, Trenton was named the capital of New Jersey

12

- More battles were fought in New Jersey than any other colony
- Map of the “Battles and Skirmishes of American Revolution in New Jersey”- <https://rucore.libraries.rutgers.edu/rutgers-lib/32739/>



The map, titled "BATTLES AND SKIRMISHES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION IN NEW JERSEY", shows the state of New Jersey with numerous red dots and lines indicating the locations of various military engagements during the American Revolution. The map includes geographical features like rivers and coastlines, and is surrounded by a detailed legend and explanatory text.

13

The People

14

Populations in East and West Jersey

- East Jersey:
 - English- Sussex and Morris counties
 - Dutch- Bergen and Sommerset counties
 - Puritan settled towns in Essex County
 - Mixed population, including Quakers, in Middlesex and Monmouth counties
- West Jersey:
 - Dominated by Quakers who settled Salem, Gloucester, and Burlington counties

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Quakers of Colonial New Jersey

- Western New Jersey was populated by English Quakers and Eastern New Jersey was dominated by Scottish Quakers:
 - *Scottish Quakers and Early American, 1650-1700* by David Dobson

BAIRD, JOHN, born in Aberdeen ca.1655, indentured servant to East New Jersey 1683, settled in Monmouth County, married Mary Hall 1684, father of John, David, Andrew and Zebulon, died 4.1755. [NISA.EID, Liber A] [HOT][MNJ][Lan.188] ?

- Quakers rights became more restricted under Queen Anne as English law was enforced
- The Society of Friends: Research in Quaker Records by Rhonda R. McClure- <https://my.americanancestors.org/2244/2372>

16

New Jersey Denominations

- Early churches included the Dutch Reformed Congregation, Society of Friends and Lutheran congregations
- By 1775, Presbyterian, Society of Friends, Dutch Reformed, Baptist, and Episcopalian were the predominate denominations
- Consult Family Search for different denominational record collections : https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/New_Jersey_Church_Records

17

Enslaved Persons

- Estimates suggest that towards the end of the 17th century, the number of enslaved persons in New Jersey was a few hundred
- By 1715, the number was around 1,500 and by 1,728, there were over 2,500 enslaved persons
- Large concentrations of enslaved persons in the state were in the eastern portion of New Jersey, particularly Bergen County
- The western half of the state had half the number of enslaved persons due to Quaker abolitionists and manumission laws

18

What caused the expansion of Slavery in New Jersey?

- At the start of the 18th century slave codes became harsher:
 - 1704 *Act for Regulating Negro, Indian and Mallatto Slaves within this Province of New-Jersey* controlled all aspect of an enslaved person's life
 - 1713 *Act for Regulating of Slaves* tightened control further
- Codes and manumission fees made emancipation more difficult and expensive:
 - “United States Indenture and Manumission Records, 1780-1939” on FamilySearch or the “Freedom papers: 1776-1781” via WorldCat

19

Resistance and Runaways

- Conflicts between slave owners and enslaved people began to escalate prior to the Revolution
- The British offered freedom to enslaved persons and indentured servants if they joined with the British to stop the rebellion uprising:
 - Hundreds joined the British forces in New York and Virginia
 - Self-emancipation continued throughout the war

20

Freedmen's Records

- British General Guy Carleton issued certificates of freedom to many Black Loyalists
- *Carleton's Book of Negroes* includes the names and descriptions of these black loyalists who went to Nova Scotia-
<https://archives.novascotia.ca/africanns/book-of-negroes/>



Atlantic Loyalist Connectors, "The Importance of the Book of Negroes," 1 February 2017.

21

Indentured Servant

- Prior to the increase of slavery, New Jersey relied heavily on indentured servants
- Irish and Scots-Irish escaping religious persecution and poverty:
 - They voluntarily agreed to serve several years in return for passage to the colonies
- *The Complete Book of Emigrants in Bondage, 1614-1775*
- "United States Indenture and Manumission Records, 1780-1939"

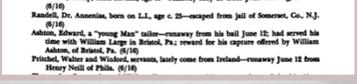


Digitized from <http://www.indentured.org>. Indenture contract, 1774 signed Eliza White to Barclay and Mitchell of Philadelphia.

22

Runaway Advertisements

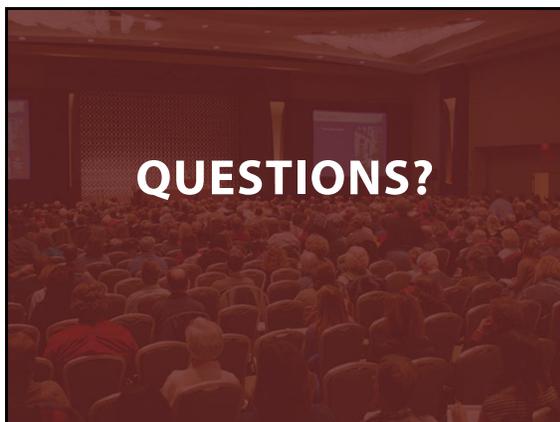
- Many Scots-Irish and Irish can be found in "Runaway" notices in colonial newspapers.
- Runaway notices were placed in newspapers New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Georgia-See genealogybank.com
- *Runaways of Colonial New Jersey Indentured Servants, Slaves, Deserters and Prisoners, 1720-1781* on Worldcat
- *Genealogical Data from The New-York Mercury, 1766* on Google Books



August 7, 1766
The Pennsylvania Gazette

John BIRDSONG.

23



24



25

Pros and Cons for New Jersey Research

- Primary records for New Jersey have not been shared with free or paid sites like Family Search or Ancestry:
 - Most records need to be ordered from the New Jersey State Archives for a fee
- Many indexes, abstracts, and transcriptions are available to locate records
- Colonial records can be scarce and record substitutes are important resources:
 - Records are mainly at the state level, but county-wide records became more common as time when on

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27

New Jersey Vital Records

- No authoritative source in charge of vital records:
 - Statewide compliance did not start until 1848
- Other records can provide clues when vital records are not available:
 - Primary record sets like land, court, and probate records as well as church records
 - Also search cemeteries, military records, newspapers, town histories, biographies, and genealogies

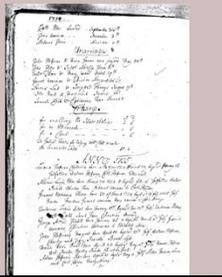
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Birth Records

- Some clerks kept records as early as 1675
- Available indexes include:
 - “1660-1931 New Jersey, Births ad Christenings” on Ancestry
 - “New Jersey, Church Records, 1675-1970” on Family Search
 - Both collections contained abstracted information from the state of New Jersey
- “New Jersey Vital Records, Historical Society of Pennsylvania” also has New Jersey vital records- access via Findmypast

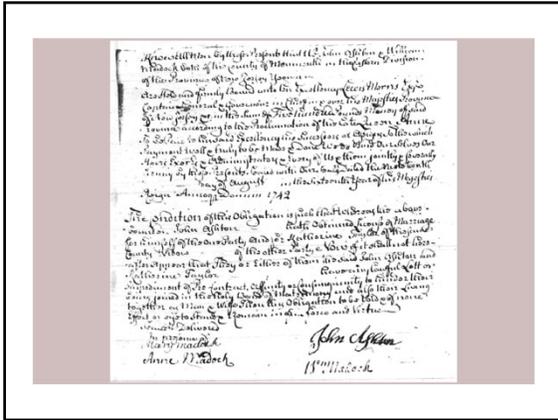
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- “New Jersey Church Records” on Family Search
- “Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Church and Town Records, 1708-1985” on Ancestry:
 - Abstracted, transcribed, and some original records
- Specific denominational records if available- consult Family Search



“Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Church and Town Records, 1708-1985.” Ancestry.com, citing Trinity Episcopal Church, Woolrich, New Jersey

30



34

Death Records

- Some death records were recorded as early as 1675
- Use record substitutes like cemetery, church, probate records, as well as deeds and military pension records
- Available indexes include:
 - “New Jersey Deaths and Burials, 1720-1988” on Family Search
 - “Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Church and Town Records, 1708-1985” on Ancestry
 - “New Jersey Vital Records, Historical Society of Pennsylvania” on Findmypast.com

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Other Vital Record Resources

- New Jersey Historical Society:
 - *New Jersey Biographical Card Index* contains birth, baptism, deaths, and burials gathered from multiple sources- available on Ancestry
- New Jersey State Archives:
 - *Index to Inquisitions on the Dead, 1700-1800*- Available to view at a Family Search library

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Newspaper

- *Extracts from American Newspaper Related to New Jersey:*
 - Published Series containing abstracts of Newspapers between 1703-1782
 - Include abstract of major events, runaway ads, estate sales, court cases, social events, business notices, Lists of Letters in the Post Office, Estate notices, Land to be sold, and more
 - Available on FamilySearch

37

Salem County, January 13, 1766

PURSUANT to an Order of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, for the County of Salem, Notice is hereby given to all the Creditors of Mary Lock, that on the Petition of the said Mary Lock, with the major Part in Value of her Creditors, to the Judges aforesaid, the 8th Day of February is appointed for the Creditors of the said Mary Lock to meet at the Court-House in Salem, to shew Cause, if any they have, why an Assignment of the said Debtor's Estate should not be made, and the Debtor discharged, agreeable to the late Act of Assembly, made and provided for that Purpose.

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Probate Records

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Estate Files

- One of the most helpful death record substitutes are the probate records:
 - Cover the years 1670-1900
 - Estate papers can define family relationships, shed light on an ancestor's life, and give an approximate date of death
 - Includes wills, inventories, administrations, and guardianship papers

40

Important Facts About Colonial Probate Records

- Wills and Administrations were probated by the Prerogative court:
 - Acting governors appointed officials to act on their behalf
 - New Jersey Probate records may be filed in New York if the death occurred between 1702 and 1738:
 - Check New York City and Albany
- Until 1784, probate records for East and West Jersey continued to be filed in Perth Amboy and Burlington
- After 1784, the Secretary of State handled probate matters

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How to Locate Estate Records

- First step is to locate estate records:
 - “New Jersey, U.S., Abstract of Wills, 1670-1817” on Ancestry (New Jersey Calendar of Wills) - <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2793/>
 - Abstracts of estate files up to 1817
 - Compiled alphabetically
 - Lists all persons recorded in the estate papers
 - Locate a PDF version to search by name!

42

Calendar of Wills

1743-4, Jan. 16. Ashton, John, of Upper Freehold; will of. Wife, Catherine 420, in satisfaction of her dower. Daughter, Elizabeth. Pre-teritury rights to non-in-law, Jeremiah Stillwell. Daughter, Rebecca. Land near Thomas Taylor in Upper Freehold, and near Middletown brook, to be sold; proceeds to Elizabeth and Rachel Stevens, children of deceased daughter Rachel. If said grand children die, then to children of testator's daughter, Elizabeth and Rebecca. Daughter, Hannah, land in Middletown, "that was my deceased sister Mary's." Executors—son-in-law, Jeremiah Stillwell, and cousin, Joseph Throckmorton. Witnesses—John Manners, James Ashton and Robert Lawrence. Proved June 1, 1744. Lib. D. p. 144.

43

Original Probate Records

- "New Jersey, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1739-1991" on Ancestry:
 - Some original copies from New Jersey county probate courts
- Probate files will need be ordered from the New Jersey State Archives
- For deaths after 1790, search the County Surrogate Index that are available on most individual county websites

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Probate Indexes

- "New Jersey Index of Wills, Inventories, Etc.":
 - multivolume series on Ancestry
 - Index of wills by county
- "New Jersey, Probate Records, 1678-1980" on FamilySearch:
 - Searchable by county, but tend to contain late 18th century records

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- New Jersey State Archive's *Probate Record Search Request: ca 1660-1952*

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Estate Matters

- Before 1785, estate matters like partitions of estates, petitions filed against the estate, and guardianship matters were handled by the Prerogative court:
 - “East Jersey Will, administrations, and guardianships, 1715-1785” and “West Jersey Will, administrations, and guardianships, 1715-1785” on Family Search
- After 1785, the jurisdictions fell under the Orphans’ Court:
 - Check county Surrogate’s offices for records

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New Jersey Supreme Court

- *Supreme Court Case Files, 1704-1844:*
 - Searchable database on the New Jersey State Archives
 - May contain vital information as well as personal details about your ancestor like their occupation or where they lived

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Who recorded Land Records

- East and West Jersey Proprietors recorded land transactions until the Land Act of 1785
- Land records can include deeds, surveys, warrants, mortgages, quit rent records:
 - Mortgages were recorded at the County Clerk level as early as 1766
 - There are some early deeds at the county level often referred to as “Ancient Deeds”
- After 1785, records were recorded at the county level and referred to as Secretary of State’s deeds

50

Understanding Proprietor Records

- “Using the records of the East and West Jersey Proprietors” by Joseph R. Klett:
 - History and description of the proprietor system
 - Timeline of important events
 - History of early settlements
 - List of key Terms and document types

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Locating Land Records

- *Early Land Records, ca. 1650-1900* on the New Jersey State Archives:
 - Records from 1664 to 1799
 - Includes Secretary of State Deeds, East Jersey and West Jersey Proprietors Survey Books, and West Jersey Proprietors Loose Surveys
 - Records are hit or miss because many land transactions were not recorded, or the records are missing

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Sample Land Records Search

Select	Name	Descriptions and Location	Date	Reference
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kenneth, John (Grantee)	173 - John Kenney FROM: SURVEY 246.2 acres, Monmouth County Three tracts: 131.5 acres, 50.7 acres, 64 acres. (See also: See 53, page 83) OTHERS NAMED: James Alexander (Surveyor General); John Lawrence (Deputy Surveyor); Jonathan Hobbs (Former owner of land); Lawrence Smyth (Deputy Surveyor General) LOCATIONS: East Jersey, Monmouth	24 May 1743	51-63 (Survey) Early 181-182 (PEAS-003) View PDF

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Conveyances Index

- *Colonial Conveyances: Provinces of East and West Jersey 1664-1794:*
 - 2 volumes
 - Indexes of deeds between 1664 and 1800



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- *Index To Powers of Attorney, Surveyor's Reports, Commissions, etc., Referring to Deeds at the New Jersey State Archives:*
 - Also known as "Index of Names to Various Records in Various New Jersey Counties" on Family Search
 - contains deeds, commissions, oaths of allegiance, marriages, pardons, cattle earmarks
- *Index to Deeds, Grantee and Grantor:*
 - An index offered by the New Jersey State Archives to locate Secretary of State deeds for East and West Jersey

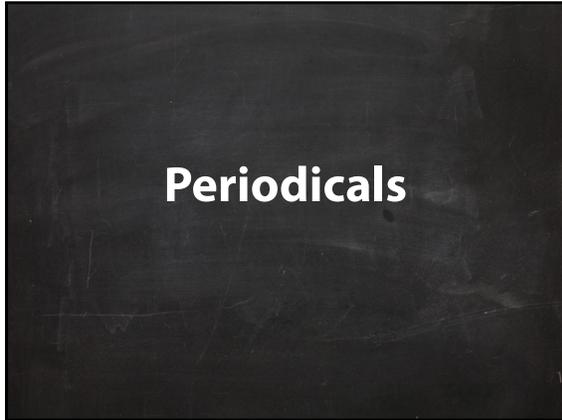
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East Jersey

- *East New Jersey Land Records by Richard S. Hutchinson:*
 - Records from 1702 to 1791
 - 10 volumes
 - Abstracts of deeds for Bergen, Essex, Somerset, Middlesex and Monmouth counties



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New Jersey Periodicals

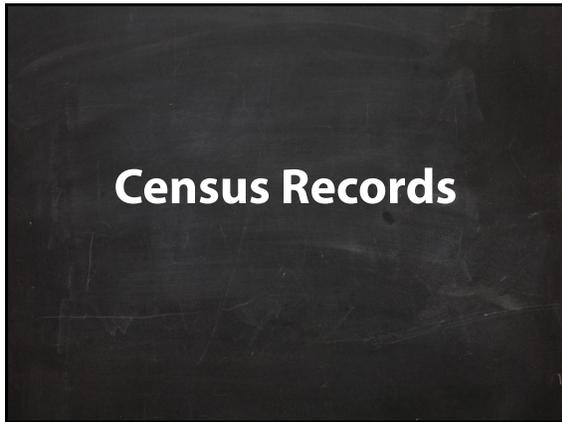
- *The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey:*
 - Cemetery transcriptions, vital information, church records, tax lists, family histories, and bible records
 - *The Genealogical Magazine on New Jersey index, the first thirty five years on Family Search*
- *New Jersey History:*
 - First 10 volumes from 1845 to 1866 were known by the title *Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society*
 - Abstracts and colonial records
 - Some volumes on Hathitrust.org and Archives.org

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New York and Pennsylvania

- *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record:*
 - Also known as *The Record*
- *The Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine:*
 - Previously known as *Publications of The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania*
 - Database available on American Ancestors-
<https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databaserecord/412/pennsylvania-genealogical-magazine>
- *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography:*
 - Available on FamilySearch-
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/97148?availability=Family%20History%20Library>

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64

Why use Census Substitutes

- The 1790 U.S. Federal Census for New Jersey did not survive and there are no statewide censuses from the colonial period
- Census substitute can include, but are not limited to land, probate, and tax records– including ratables

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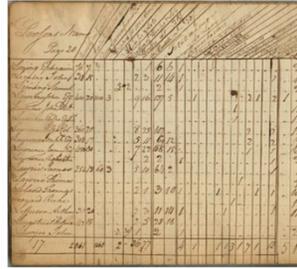
What Influenced Tax Rates

1773-1774	1778-1780	1784-1786
- No. of acres of improved land	No. of acres of improved land	No. of acres of improved land
- If a householder	- If a householder	- If a householder
- No. of horses and cattle	- No. of horned cattle	- No. of horned cattle
- Owner of a grist mill or merchant shop	- No. of horses	- No. of horses
- Owns a riding chair (carriage) or a vessel	- No. of hogs	- No. of hogs
- No. of enslaved persons	- Owns a riding chair (carriage)	- Owns a gristmill
- No. of single men and/or no. of single men who owned a horse	- No. of enslaved persons	- Has a house and small lot
	- No. of single men who work for hire and/or single men work for hire and own a horse	
	- No. of acres of unimproved land	

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Ratables

- *Revolutionary Census of New Jersey: An Index, Based on Ratables, of the Inhabitants of New Jersey during the Period of the American Revolution*
- *New Jersey Periodicals Register of New Jersey County tax ratables, abstracts and exempt lists, 1773 to about 1889*
- Also search at the county level
- "Using Ratables for New Jersey Genealogy" - <https://www.njstatelib.org/usinfo/ratables-for-new-jersey-genealogy/>



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Militia Tax List

- *New Jersey in 1793: An Abstract and Index to the 1793 Militia Census of the State of New Jersey* by James S. Norton:
 - A 1792 New Jersey Law required a "list of all and every free and able-bodied white male Citizen, between the ages of eighteen and forty-five" be recorded to determine who could be taxed for not serving in the militia or who was exempt.
 - On FamilySearch

68

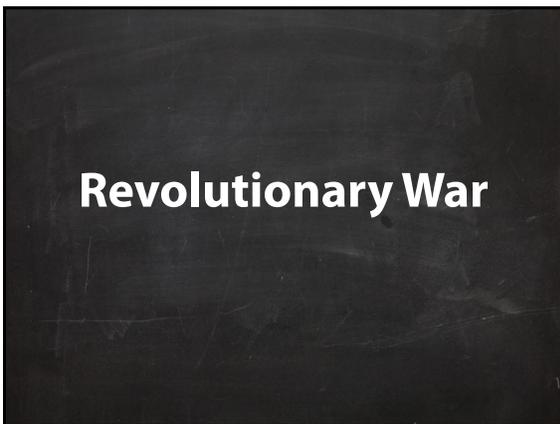
Tax Lists

- *New Jersey Tax Lists, 1772-1822* by Ronald Vern Jackson:
 - 4 volumes
 - List of taxpayers including name, town, county and date they were recorded
 - Excludes Hunterdon County, and most of Burlington, Bergen and Middlesex counties

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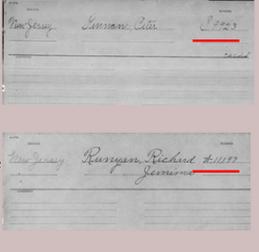
Revolutionary War Pensions

- First pension act was enacted on 26 August 1776:
 - Eligible service members included soldiers and sailors who were injured in service for the colonies
- Subsequent acts were enacted over years that broadened the scope of who was eligible
- Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications at the National Archives only contain federal records:
 - A fire destroyed all pension records that were filed before 8 November 1800.

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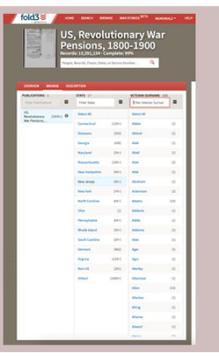
Pension File Reference Cards

- S: were "Survivors" whose application was approved
- W: Widows pensions
- R: Rejected pensions:
 - Does not mean that there were no approved pensions for your ancestor



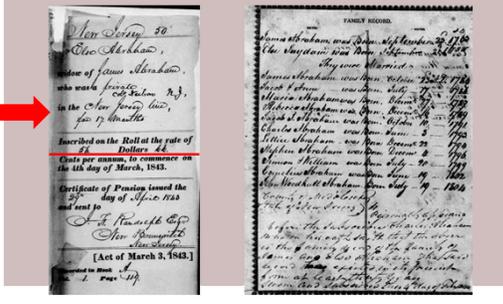
73

- New Jersey pension files are available on fold3":
 - Searchable database- "U.S. Revolutionary War Pensions, 1800-1900" - <https://www.fold3.com/publication/467/us-revolutionary-war-pensions-1800-1900/browse>
 - Files are listed alphabetically
 - Contain Pension File Jackets

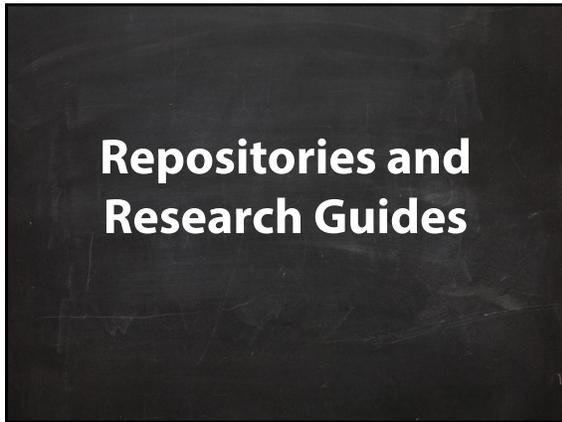


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Pension File Jacket



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New Jersey State Archives

- *Guide to Family History Sources in the New Jersey State Archives, 2nd edition*
By Bette Marie Barker, Karl Niederer, Daniel Jones, and Joseph Klett
- Explore the sites collection for many valuable collections that are not digitized!

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New Jersey State Archives

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Other Helpful Resource Guides

- *Handy New Jersey Genealogy handbook: All You Need to Find Genealogy Resources for New Jersey* by Gary L. Morris
- *New Jersey: Digging for Ancestors in the Garden State* by Dr. Stryker-Rodda
- *State Research Guide: New Jersey* by James M. Beidler available from *Family Tree Magazine*

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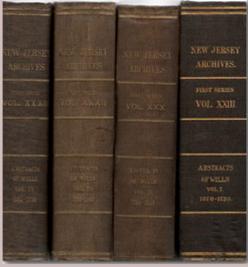
The New Jersey Historical Society



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New Jersey Historical Society

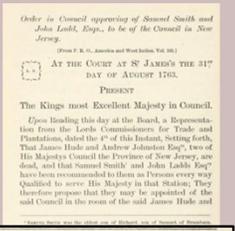
- *Archives of the State of New Jersey, First Series:*
 - 42 volumes
 - Also known as *Documents relating to the colonial, revolutionary and post-revolutionary history of the State of New Jersey*



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– First 10 volumes include Administrations of governors from 1631 to 1776

– The series includes an index for the first 10 volumes



¹ SAMUEL SMITH was the eldest son of Richard, son of Samuel, of Bramham, Yorkshire, England, who came to Burlington, New Jersey, in 1694. Richard was a member of the Assembly for many years. In 1747 he was appointed a member of the Council, and died while attending one of the sessions of that body, at Perth Amboy, in November, 1751. The subject of this note was born "12th Mo., 13, 1730" (March 13, 1731, N. S.). Like his ancestors for several generations he was a member of the Society of Friends.—*The Burlington Smiths, a Family History*, by R. Morris Smith, Philadelphia, 1877, 10, 106-3, 209; *N. J. Archives*, VII., 6. He was

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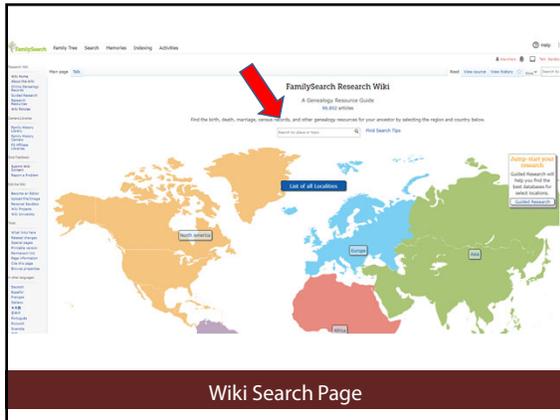
Find your far
Discover you

Bring to life your family's h
exploring the lives of those
before you.

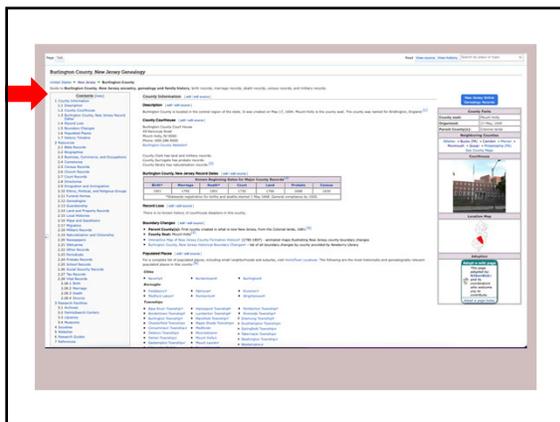
Get Started

Start discovering your
Family Search Wiki

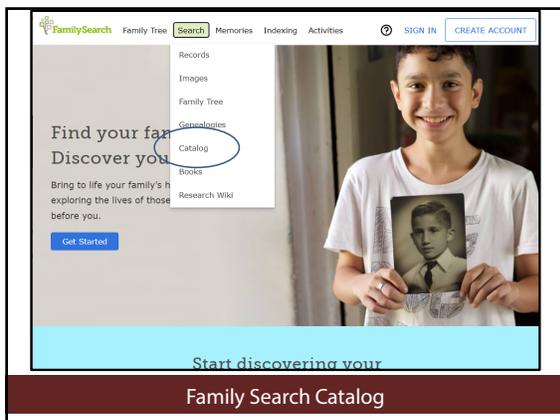
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<https://www.familysearch.org/search/>

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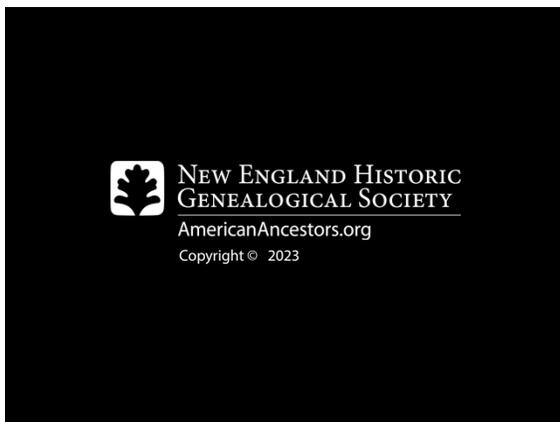
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