

# Researching American Revolutionary War Patriots

*Class 1: Getting to Know Your  
Revolutionary War Veteran Ancestor*

Jonathan Hill, Researcher



**American Ancestors<sup>®</sup>**  
*by* NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

# Meet today's presenter



Jonathan Hill  
Researcher



# OVERVIEW

- **Presentation (60 mins.)**
  - Determine if they fought
  - Published Accounts
  - Case Studies
- **Q&A (30 mins.)**





*Voice of*  
Jonathan Hill  
Researcher



# Statistics

- About 231,000 soldiers served in the Continental Army
- About 145,000 soldiers served in the Colonial Militia
- Over 22,000 British soldiers were dispatched to North America for use in the British War Effort
- About 25,000 Loyalists Soldiers served in the conflict
- Roughly 12,000 French soldiers and sailors fought alongside the colonial army
- Nearly 30,000 Hessian soldiers fought alongside the British Army

# Colonial Militia

- Militias were the main colonial military organization for defense
- Militias were only part-time and non-standardized





# How were colonial militias organized?

- Each town would primarily raise a militia consisting of local men
- In Massachusetts every town was expected to maintain at least one company (approx. 60 men) commanded by a captain
- Many local militia laws required nearly all men between the ages of 16 and 60 to serve, keep arms, and train

# What did training look like for the men of the militia

- Training was required by law 6 days each year: two days in April, one day each in May and June, and two days in October
- Regimental training days, called a “muster” were only held once every few years



# Minutemen vs. Militia

- Serving in your town's militia company was required by law
- Minuteman companies were raised by volunteer
- Militia companies trained 6 days each year, minuteman companies trained two days each week
- Minutemen were also paid for training days, on average 1 shilling for each half day

# Continental Army

- Founded on June 14, 1775 by the Second Continental Congress
- Forces were better trained and organized than the local militias





# Colonial Navy

- 13 October 1775 - Continental Congress authorized the creation of the Continental Navy
- By 1776 - colonies had 27 warships
- Relied heavily on commissioning Privateering vessels
- A Privateer Commission was issued to vessels, called privateers or cruisers, whose primary objective was to disrupt enemy shipping

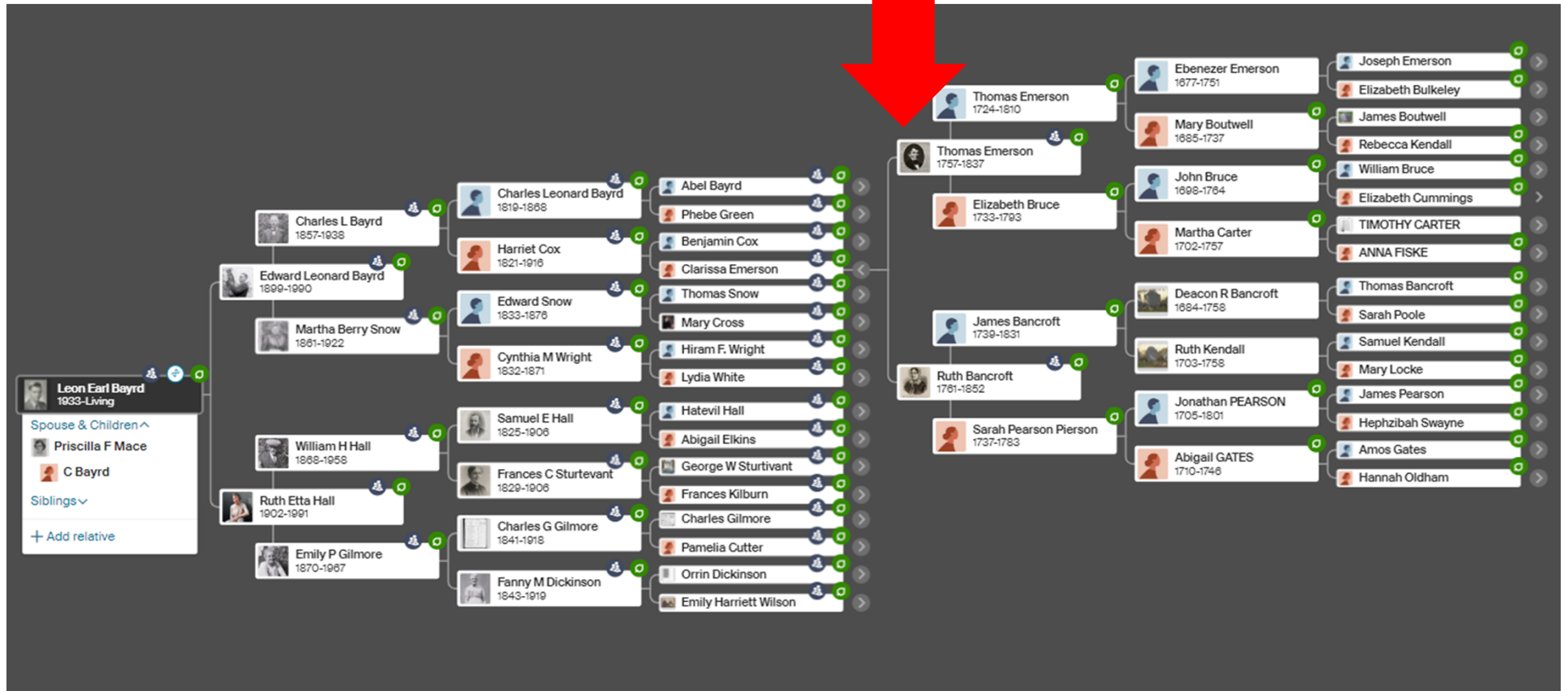
# Determine if Your Ancestor Fought



# Too young or too old to serve?

- Age range of typical soldier, 18-35
- Average birth year 1735-1760
- Extremes early 1700s & late 1760s





Search your Family Tree



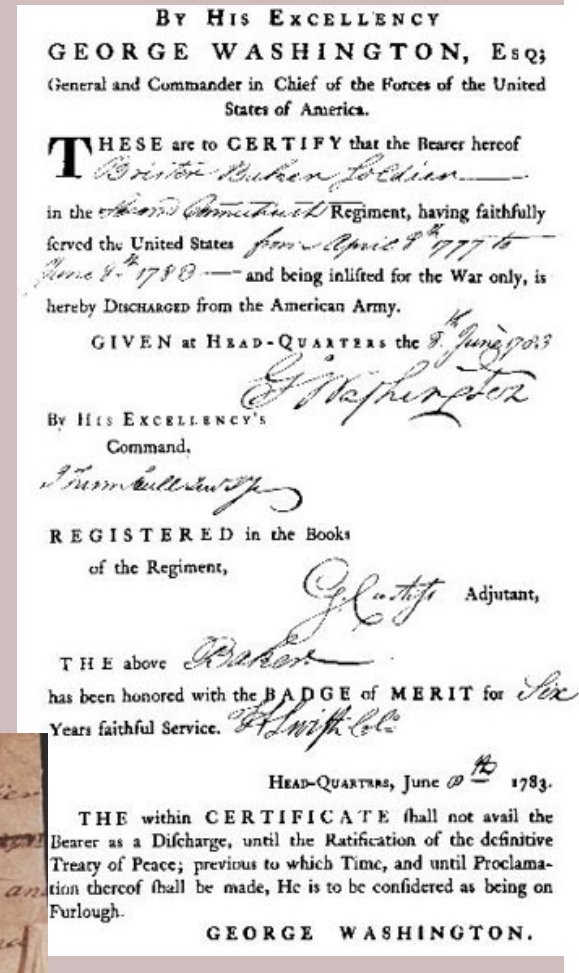
# Oral Family Traditions

- Does your family have legends or stories of service of the Revolution?
- An excellent starting point to begin your search



# Family Relics in the Attic

- Letters
- Diaries
- Paintings
- Guns & Swords
- Discharge Papers



I do Heartly Certify that Moses Jackson a Soldier  
from Hanover County hath cleared his tower of duty  
under Meager Welch in Colo Edmonds Bridgement and  
general Stephens Brigade given under my Hand  
This 5th day of October 1781

# Cemetery Clues

- Local Cemeteries can be a great place to find clues that might indicate Revolutionary War Service
- Ask yourself the following questions:
  - Is there a gravestone for your ancestor?
  - Is there a flag marker?
  - Is there an S.A.R. marker on the right grave?





# Researching Your Veteran Ancestors

# Published & Online Resources



- Compiled Genealogies
- Town Histories
- Journal articles
- Online databases
- Citation or Source?
- Gravestones online

MOSES CUTTER a descendant of Ephraim and brother of Joseph, was b. in Shrewsbury, Mass., March 26, 1760 ; m. Rachel, dau. of Lieut. William Turner. He d. at Bradford, April 10, 1816. His wid. d. at Jaffrey, May 21, 1849, a. 80. Mr. Cutter came to Jaffrey previous to 1787, settled on lot 7, range 4, now (1873) uninhabited. He was a soldier in service during the Revolution, and served for a time as one of Washington's Life Guards. He afterwards held the office of captain in the 12<sup>th</sup> Regt. N. H. Militia. Well versed in the manual of arms, he took high rank as a military officer. He re. to Bradford about 1808.

*History of the Town of Jaffrey, New Hampshire*  
by Daniel Bateman Cutter





# Moses Cutter

**BIRTH** 26 Mar 1760  
Shrewsbury, Worcester County, Massachusetts, USA

**DEATH** 12 Apr 1820 (aged 60)  
Jaffrey, Cheshire County, New Hampshire, USA

**BURIAL** [Bradford Center Cemetery](#)  
Bradford Center, Merrimack County, New Hampshire, USA

**MEMORIAL ID** 59063411 · [View Source](#)

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SUGGEST EDITS



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# SAR Markers

- First SAR grave marker was placed in 1923
- Since then, the Sons of the American Revolution have been placing markers on the graves of known veterans of the American Revolution



S.A.R. Flag Marker



# WPA Records

- Works Progress Administration (WPA) employed millions of jobseekers to carry out public works projects, including the construction of public buildings and roads
- The Graves Registration Project - One of the many projects carried out in some places to record historical grave markers
- Many of these records are available on [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org)

County Berkshire Work Sheet No. CW-39

City or Town DALTON Cemetery EAST MAIN ST

NAME CHAMBERLIN JOHN

(Last) (First) (Middle)

---

(A) FIELD CHECK

1. Grave No. \_\_\_\_\_ Lot No. 177 Block No. 15

2. Marker; Flat \_\_\_\_\_ Upright X None \_\_\_\_\_

3. Information on marker: (Copy exactly) IN MEMORY OF CAPT JOHN C. CHAMBERLIN  
WHO DIED JAN 24 1817 AGED 25 YEARS  
DISEASED WITH MEASLES

Paul Debut (Field Foreman)

(B) CEMETERY RECORD DATA

4. Grave No. \_\_\_\_\_ Lot No. 177 Block No. 15

5. Date of Burial \_\_\_\_\_ Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

6. Book No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_

Paul Debut (Clerk)

WPA veteran's graves registration, Berkshire County  
Massachusetts 1774-1941



IN MEMORY OF  
CAPT. JOHN CHAMBERLIN  
WHO DIED  
JAN 24<sup>TH</sup> 1817  
AGED 85 YEARS.

Marble Stone  
Good Condition

Reverse of the form

# How to find Graves Registration Project records

- Search the FamilySearch Catalog for the town or county where your Revolutionary War Veteran was buried

**Search by:**  
Place | [Surnames](#) | [Titles](#) | [Author](#) | [Subjects](#) | [Keywords](#)

Place  
United States, New Hampshire, Hillsborough, Bedford

**Search for:**  
[Call Number](#) | [Film/Fiche/Image Group Number \(DGS\)](#)

**Availability**  
☒ Any  
☐ Online  
☐ FamilySearch center

[Search](#) [Reset](#)



## Search Results for FamilySearch Catalog

 [PRINT](#)  [Catalog Print List \(0\)](#)

### Notes

[Place Information](#)

Part of [United States, New Hampshire, Hillsborough](#)

- ▶ [United States, New Hampshire, Hillsborough, Bedford - Archives and libraries - Inventories, registers, catalogs \( 1 \)](#)

[Print List](#)

### ▼ [United States, New Hampshire, Hillsborough, Bedford - Cemeteries \( 2 \)](#)

---

[Cemetery inscriptions of Bedford, New Hampshire](#)

[Add](#)

---

[\[Goffstown and Bedford, New Hampshire cemeteries\] : \[1723-1930\]](#)

[Add](#)

- ▶ [United States, New Hampshire, Hillsborough, Bedford - Directories \( 1 \)](#)
- ▶ [United States, New Hampshire, Hillsborough, Bedford - Genealogy \( 4 \)](#)
- ▶ [United States, New Hampshire, Hillsborough, Bedford - History \( 9 \)](#)
- ▶ [United States, New Hampshire, Hillsborough, Bedford - History - Revolution, 1775-1783 \( 1 \)](#)
- ▶ [United States, New Hampshire, Hillsborough, Bedford - Land and property \( 1 \)](#)
- ▶ [United States, New Hampshire, Hillsborough, Bedford - Maps \( 4 \)](#)
- ▶ [United States, New Hampshire, Hillsborough, Bedford - Politics and government \( 1 \)](#)
- ▶ [United States, New Hampshire, Hillsborough, Bedford - Public records \( 1 \)](#)
- ▶ [United States, New Hampshire, Hillsborough, Bedford - Town records \( 1 \)](#)
- ▶ [United States, New Hampshire, Hillsborough, Bedford - Vital records \( 3 \)](#)

FamilySearch.org

# Example of a WPA Collection


## Cemetery inscriptions of Bedford, New Hampshire

Statement of Responsibility:	copied by W.P.A
Format:	Manuscript/Manuscript on Film
Language:	English
Publication:	Salt Lake City, Utah : Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1951
Physical:	on 1 microfilm reel ; 35 mm.

### Notes

Microfilm of typescript in the New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, New Hampshire. 145 leaves.

Includes index.

[View this catalog record in WorldCat for other possible copy locations](#) 

# QUESTIONS?

A large audience of people is seated in a lecture hall, viewed from behind. They are all facing towards the front of the room where a presentation screen is visible. The room has a high ceiling with recessed lighting and patterned wall panels. The overall image has a reddish-brown tint.



# Published Accounts to Muster Rolls



# Muster Rolls

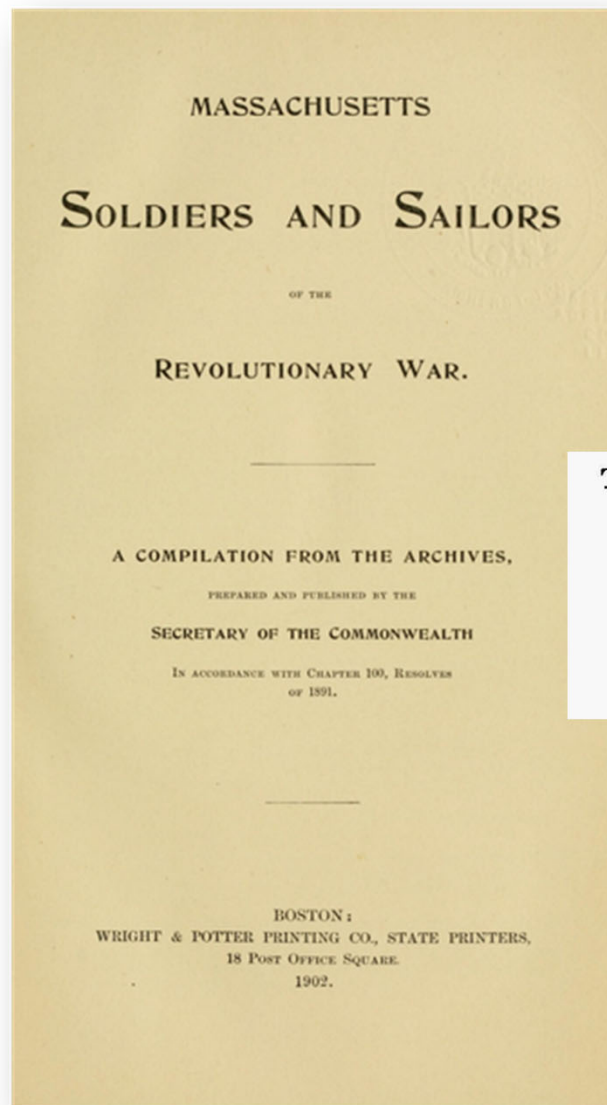
- During the American Revolution, muster rolls were prepared by the commanding officer of each company of a regiment for the express purpose of paying the officers and soldiers
- These records give great insight into the dates a soldier served and the experiences they might have had
- Available on [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org)

# **Case Study: Joseph Taylor Massachusetts**



Grave of Joseph Taylor in the  
Harvard Square Burying Ground





TAYLOR, JOSEPH, Peterborough. Private, Capt. William Scott's co., Col. Paul Dudley Sergeant's regt.; muster roll dated Aug. 1, 1775; enlisted June 13, 1775; service, 1 mo. 21 days; *also*, order on Committee of Clothing, payable to Ensign Josiah Monro, dated Cambridge, Nov. 18, 1775, signed by Isaiah Taylor, for bounty coat or its equivalent in money due his son, said Joseph Taylor, a soldier in Capt. Scott's co., Col. Sargant's regt., who died Aug. 17, 1775.

*Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the  
Revolutionary War (15:442)*



# Seek the Primary Source of the Published Accounts

**Taylor, Joseph**, Peterborough. Private Capt. William Scott's co of militia, Col. Paul Dudley Sergeant's regt; **muster roll dated Aug. 1, 1775**; enlisted June 13, 1775; service, 1 mo. 21 days; also **order on Committee of Clothing**, payable to Ensign Josiah Monro, dated Cambridge, **Nov. 18, 1775**, signed by Isaiah Taylor, for bounty coat or its equivalent in money due his son, said Joseph Taylor, a soldier in Capt. Scott's co. Col. Sargent's regt, who died Aug. 17, 1775.

**Published Source:** *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolutionary War* (15:442).

## Muster rolls (index file cards) of the Revolutionary War, 1767-1833 [Massachusetts]

Authors:	<a href="#">Massachusetts. Secretary of State</a> (Main Author) <a href="#">Massachusetts. State Archives</a> (Repository)
Format:	Manuscript/Manuscript on Film
Language:	English
Publication:	Salt Lake City, Utah : Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1995-1996
Physical:	259 microfilm reels ; 35 mm.
References:	(Digital Collection) <a href="#">Massachusetts, Revolutionary War, index cards to muster rolls : COLLECTION RECORD, 1775-1783</a>

### Notes

**Massachusetts, Revolutionary War, Index Cards to Muster Rolls are available online, click [here](#).**

Microfilm of documents at Massachusetts State Archives, Boston, Massachusetts.

[View this catalog record in WorldCat for other possible copy locations](#) 

### Subjects

#### Locality Subjects

[United States, Massachusetts - Military records - Indexes - Revolution, 1775-1783](#)

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# Massachusetts, Revolutionary War, Index Cards to Muster Rolls, 1775-1783

Index cards to muster rolls of soldiers who served in Massachusetts regiments during the Revolutionary War, 1775-1783. These records were acquired from the Massachusetts State Archives in Boston.

 [HOW TO USE THIS COLLECTION](#)

First Names

Joseph

Last Names

Taylor

Place

City, County, State, Province,

Year

Birth or Death Year

 SEARCH

[MORE OPTIONS](#)

## FamilySearch.org

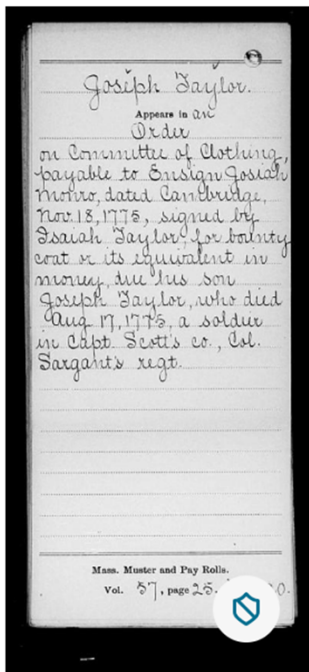
# Joseph Taylor

Military • Massachusetts, Revolutionary War, Index Cards to Muster Rolls, 1775-1783

SAVE

EDIT

SHARE



Name **Joseph Taylor**

Death Date **1775**

Event Type **Military Service**

Event Date **18 Nov 1775**

Event Place **Massachusetts, United States**

Event Place (Original) **Massachusetts**

This information is available because a volunteer indexed it for you.

SAY THANK YOU

## Family Tree

ATTACH TO FAMILY TREE

## Similar Records

No similar records were found.

# FamilySearch.org



Joseph Taylor.

Appears in an  
Order

on Committee of Clothing,  
payable to Ensign Josiah  
Monro, dated Cambridge,  
Nov. 18, 1775, signed by  
Isaiah Taylor, for bounty  
coat or its equivalent in  
money, due his son  
Joseph Taylor, who died  
Aug. 17, 1775, a soldier  
in Capt. Scott's co., Col.  
Sargant's regt.

Mass. Muster and Pay Rolls.  
Vol. 57, page 25. File 20.

Mass. Muster and Pay Rolls.  
Vol. 57, page 25. File 20.



Joseph Taylor Index Card


Family Tree
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Memories
Indexing

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[BACK TO SEARCH RESULTS](#)
PRINT

### Muster/payrolls, and various papers (1763-1808) of the Revolutionary War [Massachusetts and Rhode Island]

Authors: [Massachusetts. Secretary of State](#) (Main Author)

Format: Manuscript/Manuscript on Film

Language: English

Publication: Salt Lake City, Utah : Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1993

Physical: 44 microfilm reels ; 35 mm.

#### Notes

Microreproduction of documents at Massachusetts State Archives, Boston, Massachusetts.

[View this catalog record in WorldCat for other possible copy locations](#)

#### Subjects

##### Locality Subjects

[United States, Massachusetts - Military records - Revolution, 1775-1783](#)

[United States, Rhode Island - Military records - Revolution, 1775-1783](#)

Vol. 57, Coat rolls, 8 months' service, 1775, book 2 1775-1776

Family  
History  
Library

United States &  
Canada 2nd Floor Film

1940069 8073412



# FamilySearch.org

Cambridge Nov<sup>r</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 1775 20  
To the Honorable Committee of Cloathing  
Please to Order to Ensign Joseph Monroe  
one Coat which is due to my son Joseph  
Taylor <sup>as bounty</sup> who was a soldier in Capt Scott's Company  
in Col<sup>l</sup> Loring's Regiment and died the 5<sup>th</sup>  
of August Last  
25  
Scott  
H. L. Loring

FamilySearch.org



# Citing the Published Source

**Taylor, Joseph** **Peterborough. Private, Col. Paul Sargent Regt.**  
***Order on the Committee of Clothing.*** Muster/payrolls, and various papers  
(1763-1808) of the Revolutionary War [FHL US/CAN Film # 1906243]

**Online:** <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSNH-D9VZ-T?i=459&cat=729681> (Jan. 3, 2024)

**Repository:** Massachusetts State Archives, Boston, Mass.

# Published Histories

## COLONEL PAUL DUDLEY SARGENT'S REGIMENT.

### *Captain William Scott's Company.*

Col. Sargent was of Amherst, Capt. Scott of Peterborough. Roll dated October 6, 1775.

#### Peterborough Men.

Capt. William Scott,	Sergeant Josiah Monroe,
Serg. Randall M <sup>c</sup> Allister, <sup>1</sup>	Serg. John Swan, <sup>2</sup>
Serg. John Taggart, sick, absent,	Corp. Andrew Bailey,
Corp. Charles White,	John Blair,
Richardson Emery,	Jeremiah Fairfield,
John Graham,	William Graham,
Jacob Gregg,	John Halfpenny,
Solomon Leonard,	James Mitchell,
Robert M <sup>c</sup> Clurg,	George M <sup>c</sup> Clurg,
James M <sup>c</sup> Keen,	James Moore,
John Morrison, deserted,	John Matthew,
Timothy Mixer,	William Mitchell,
James Richey,	William Scott,
Thomas Scott,	John Scott,
James Stinson,	Samuel Treadwell,
Joseph Taylor, killed,	James Taggart,
David White,	Michael Woodcock,
James Hockley,	Alexander Stuart, Deserted.

(<sup>1</sup>) At home wounded.

(<sup>2</sup>) On duty at Quebec.

John Swan, Saratoga, Sept. 28 ; returned Oct. 25, 1777. March, on alarm of Capt. Alexander Robbe's Co., from June 29 to July 3, 1777, five days.

Thomas Steele, on alarm, in Capt. Alexander Robbe's Co., from June 29 to July 3, 1777, five days. Alarm at Walpole.

Capt. David Steele, alarm at Walpole.

Thomas Sanderson, alarm at Walpole, five days.

Amos Spofford, enlisted by Maj. Scott, Aug. 9, 1780.

Samuel Speer, three years ; town claims.

John Stroud ; town claims.

James Taggart, alarm at Lexington, April 19, 1775. In army at Cambridge, 1775. Served from Dec. 5, 1776, to March 15, 1777. On town claims ; three years. Of the twenty-two men furnished April, 1777.

S. Treadwell, in army at Cambridge, 1775. Served in army, 1776, one year's men.

Joseph Taylor, in army at Cambridge, 1775. Died in Cambridge, 1775.

Considerable interest has been aroused among Cambridge antiquarians over the grave stone, dated in 1775, that was found in a lot on Channing street. Mr. A. S. McLachlan, a well-known builder, who is erecting a house there for a Mr. Howe, came upon the bones and the stone, and laid them carefully aside. They were then given over to Medical Examiner Swan, who has left the matter with Mayor Champlin.

The name of **Joseph Taylor**, which was inscribed upon the stone, was found among the records of those wounded at **Bunker Hill**. The latest interesting feature is the finding of the name among records at Peterborough, N. H., from which place the stone says he came. Mr. McLachlan has received news of this fact from Peterborough, so that the inscription on the stone is corroborated by history.

*The Cambridge Tribune*, Volume XXII, Number 15, 10 June 1899



# **Case Study**

## **Samuel Gilmore**

### **Virginia**

[Library Catalog](#)[Record Copy](#)[Ancestor](#)[Member](#)[Descendants](#)

## Ancestor Search

Search for Revolutionary Era Ancestors

\* You must enter a value in at least one of the marked fields.

Ancestor Last Name



Ancestor First Name



State of Service



Ancestor Number



State of Birth



Year:

State of Death



Year:

Spouse Last/Maiden Name

Spouse First Name

# DAR Ancestor Search

## GILMORE, SAMUEL

Ancestor #: A045261



Service: VIRGINIA Rank(s): PRIVATE

Birth: 3-25-1760 BUCKS CO PENNSYLVANIA

Death: 1-1-1848 BACK CREEK HIGHLAND CO VIRGINIA

Pension Number: \*S

### RESIDENCE

1) **County:** ROCKINGHAM CO - **State:** VIRGINIA








### SPOUSE

Number	Name
--------	------

1)	ELEANOR BAILEY
----	----------------

# DAR Ancestor Search page

## ASSOCIATED APPLICATIONS AND SUPPLEMENTALS

Nat'l Num	Add Vol.	Docs	Child	[Spouse #] Spouse	
83458			ALEXANDER	[1] SARAH SLAVEN	<a href="#">PURCHASE</a>
91267		 	ALEXANDER	[1] SARAH SLAVEN	<a href="#">PURCHASE</a>
341607			ALEXANDER	[1] SARAH SLAVEN	<a href="#">PURCHASE</a>
327369	373		ALEXANDER	[1] SARAH SLAVEN	<a href="#">PURCHASE</a>
389638			ALEXANDER	[1] SARAH SLAVEN	<a href="#">PURCHASE</a>
408845			ALEXANDER	[1] SARAH SLAVEN	<a href="#">PURCHASE</a>

# Associated DAR Applications available for purchase



# Revolutionary Keywords for Newspapers

- When did your veteran die?
- What town or county did they reside in?
- Did they live in a time and place where newspapers were published?
- Don't be afraid to search without a name

**GENEALOGYBANK**   [Search](#)   [Browse](#) ▾   [Collections](#) ▾   [Clippings](#)   [Help](#) ▾   [My Folder](#) ▾

---

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

☐ Exact Name Search

DATE RANGE OR DATE

1848

TO

1848

☐ Use a specific date

KEYWORDS

"The Revolution" "Highland"

Exclude these keywords...

STATE

Virginia ▾

CITY

All Cities ▾

NEWSPAPER

All Newspapers ▾

COLLECTIONS

All Collections ▾

GenealogyBank.com

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

☐ Exact Name Search

KEYWORDS

☐ Add keywords to exclude

DATE RANGE OR DATE

☐ Use a specific date

23 Newspaper Archives	0 Obituaries	5,761,105 U.S. Federal Census	0 Social Security Death Index	3 Government Publications	0 Historical Books
-----------------------------	-----------------	-------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	---------------------------------	-----------------------

"The Revolution" x
"Highland" x
1848-1848 x
Save/Alert v

Virginia x

Results 1 - 15 of 23

SORT BY Relevance v

Did you find these results helpful?
★ Mostly
★ Some
☆ Not Really

1. Newspaper Article

Date: March 22, 1848

Location: Staunton, Virginia

Newspaper: Staunton spectator, and general advertiser

GILMER, aged eighty-seven years and  
a soldier of the Revolution, died at his  
n the county of Highland, Va., on the  
f January, 1848. Mr. Gilmer was born  
e of Pennsylvania, Lancaster county.

GenealogyBank.com

## OBITUARY.

### Another Revolutionary Soldier Gone !

SAMUEL GILMER, aged eighty-seven years and ten months, a soldier of the Revolution, died at his residence in the county of Highland, Va., on the 25th day of January, 1848. Mr. Gilmer was born in the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster county. At the age of about fourteen, his father removed to the State of Virginia, Augusta county, bringing his son with him. In the time of the Revolutionary war with England, he enlisted as a soldier in the army; perhaps he was then about sixteen or eighteen years old. He was in an engagement with the enemy of his country; fought under the command of Col. Bluford at Waxaw Settlement, Hanging Rock, State of South Carolina, against the British, who were commanded by Col. Tarleton. In this engagement he was wounded and mangled in a terrible manner, receiving numerous wounds, one in particular, on the right hand, the fore-finger of which he never straightened afterwards, and must have been taken notice of by every one who since then has shaken hands with him. He was left lying on the ground for dead. After so far recovering from his wounds as to be able to travel, he returned home; not, however, being entirely well. He has been heard to say in after life, that the ratification of peace, before his wounds were healed, prevented his returning again to the army. At the age of thirty-nine he married, and raised a small family of two children,—one son and one daughter,—and lived some part of his life—

Staunton Virginia spectator, and general advertiser Mar 22, 1848



live, and on one of which he died. He was a very industrious man, strictly honest, of unimpeachable character; emphatically a good citizen. He lost his eye-sight about eight years previous to his death, which affliction he bore with becoming fortitude. After this event, he was necessarily confined, chiefly to the house, and he continued able, commonly, to walk about in the house, enjoying what may be termed good health till near his exit.—A few days before his death he was taken unwell, and never recovered. Thus he died in a good old age, in the midst of connections and friends, whom he has left to mourn their loss, and has gone to that “bourne from whence no traveller e’er returns,” and where all the living must sooner or later arrive.—*Rock’m. Register.*

Staunton Virginia spectator, and general advertiser Mar 22, 1848

# QUESTIONS?

A large audience of people is seated in a lecture hall, facing a stage. The audience is seen from behind, filling the foreground and middle ground. The stage is at the far end of the room, featuring a large presentation screen displaying a slide with the title "The Big Day". The room has a high ceiling with recessed lighting and patterned wall panels. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent reddish-brown filter.

# **Case Study**

## **Thomas Emerson**

### **Militia and Navy**



Not only, however, have Mr. Emerson's ancestors been courageous soldiers of the Lord, but many have also been brave patriots in their country's service. His great-grandfather, Thomas Emerson, stood bravely in the ranks as one of Reading's volunteers in the first battle of the Revolutionary War, at Merriam's Corner, between Concord and Lexington; he later served with distinction in the war, and knew the horrors of Dartmoor Prison. Capt. Thomas Emerson and Capt. James F. Emerson are also familiar names in our later military annals.

## Proceedings of the 250th Anniversary of the Ancient Town of Redding



EMERSON, THOMAS, Reading. Private, Capt. John Walton's co., Col. David Green's regt., which marched on the alarm of April 19, 1775; service, 1 day; *also*, list of men belonging to the training band under Capt. John Walton, dated Reading, May 13, 1775.

EMERSON, THOMAS, Reading. Mariner, brigantine "Cutter" (privateer), commanded by Capt. Samuel Crowell; descriptive list of officers and crew dated Salem, Aug. 15, 1780; age, 22 yrs.; stature, 5 ft. 6 in.; complexion, light; residence, Reading.

## Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War; Volume 05

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+ Create ?

Discover your military ancestors  
Search over 670 million records

People, Records, Places, Dates, or Service Number...

United States Australia Canada New Zealand United Kingdom

US Revolutionary War (Un...)  
War of 1812 (United States)  
Indian and Mexican Ame...  
US Civil War  
US Civil War (Union)  
US Civil War (Confederacy)  
Spanish-American War  
World War I (United States)  
World War II (United Stat...  
Korean War

TOTAL RECORDS  
677,308,468

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WORLD WAR 2

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Filter People, Records, Places, Dates, or Service Number... Clear All

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Add a Date Add a Place

PLACE Countries US States

- ☐ New York, USA 49M+
- ☐ Pennsylvania, USA 38M+
- ☐ Illinois, USA 26M+
- ☐ Ohio, USA 24M+
- ☐ Texas, USA 22M+

SEE ALL

CONFLICT/WAR

- ☐ World War II 160M+
- ☐ World War I 84M+
- ☐ Other Service 38M+
- ☐ US Civil War 34M+
- ☐ Civil War (Union) 25M+

SEE ALL

TITLE COLLECTION

- ☐ Non Military 280M+
- ☐ World War II - (United States) 190M+

Browse all records

PUBLICATIONS - 950

Filter Publications

- AUS, Australian Imperial Force Nominal Roll WWI 10K+
- AUS, Australian Imperial Force - Embarkation Nominal Roll WWI 5K+
- AUS, Index To Boer War Records, 1899-1902 2K+
- AUS, Military Book Collection, 1863-1954 14K+
- AUS, Tasmania, Returned Soldiers Settlement Land Records, 1917-1955 41K+
- AUS, Treasury Registers of Loans and Pensions of Military and Government Personnel,... 49K+
- AUS, WWI Service Records, 1914-1920 370K+
- AUS, WWII, Military Phone Directory, 1942 1K+

Remote Desktop Connection

Tutorials

Click Browse

The screenshot shows the Fold3 website interface. At the top, there's a red header with the Fold3 logo and navigation links like 'Search & Browse' and 'Featured'. Below the header is a search bar with the text 'People, Records, Places, Dates, or Service Number...'. To the right of the search bar are buttons for 'Filter', 'Clear All', and a toggle for 'Search' and 'Browse'. Below the search bar, there's a sidebar with filters for 'PLACE', 'CONFLICT/WAR', and 'TITLE COLLECTION'. The 'PLACE' filter shows a list of US states with their respective record counts. The 'CONFLICT/WAR' filter shows a list of wars and conflicts. The 'TITLE COLLECTION' filter shows a list of collections. The main results area shows a single publication titled 'US, Revolutionary War Service and Imprisonment Cards, 1775-1778' with a count of 1K+ records. The publication is highlighted with a red box. Below the publication title, it says 'Displaying results containing "Imprisonment".' and there's a 'Clear Filter' link. In the bottom right corner, there's a 'Tutorials' button.

fold3  
by Ancestry

Search & Browse Featured

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Search Browse

Any Time OCR

Add a Date Add a Place

PLACE Countries US States

- ☐ New York, USA 49M+
- ☐ Pennsylvania, USA 38M+
- ☐ Illinois, USA 26M+
- ☐ Ohio, USA 24M+
- ☐ Texas, USA 22M+

SEE ALL

CONFLICT/WAR

- ☐ World War II 160M+
- ☐ World War I 84M+
- ☐ Other Service 38M+
- ☐ US Civil War 34M+
- ☐ Civil War (Union) 25M+

SEE ALL

TITLE COLLECTION

- ☐ Non Military 280M+
- ☐ World War II - (United States) 190M+

PUBLICATIONS - 1

Imprisonment x

US, Revolutionary War Service and Imprisonment Cards, 1775-1778 1K+ i

Displaying results containing "Imprisonment".

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Tutorials

Type Imprisonment into the keyword



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Search Browse

Any Time OCR

Add a Date Add a Place

PLACE Countries **US States**

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- ☐ Pennsylvania, USA 38M+
- ☐ Illinois, USA 26M+
- ☐ Ohio, USA 24M+
- ☐ Texas, USA 22M+

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CONFLICT/WAR

- ☐ World War II 160M+
- ☐ World War I 84M+
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- ☐ US Civil War 34M+
- ☐ Civil War (Union) 25M+

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TITLE COLLECTION

- ☐ Non Military 280M+
- ☐ World War II - (United States) 190M+

US, Revolutionary War Se...

PUBLICATIONS · 1

Imprisonment

FULL NAME · 1

Emerson

Emerson, Thomas

US, Revolutionary War Service and Imprisonment Cards, 1775-1778 1K+

Displaying results containing "Imprisonment". [Clear Filter](#)

Displaying results containing "Emerson". [Clear Filter](#)

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# Search for surname

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Filter ▾    People, Records, Places, Dates, or Service Number...    Clear All    Search ☐ Browse

US, Revolutionary War Se...    Emerson, Thomas    Any Time ▾    OCR ☐

**PLACE**    Countries    **US States**

- ☐ New York, USA    49M+
- ☐ Pennsylvania, USA    38M+
- ☐ Illinois, USA    26M+
- ☐ Ohio, USA    24M+
- ☐ Texas, USA    22M+

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**CONFLICT/WAR**

- ☐ World War II    160M+
- ☐ World War I    84M+
- ☐ Other Service    38M+
- ☐ US Civil War    34M+
- ☐ Civil War (Union)    25M+

[SEE ALL](#)

**TITLE COLLECTION**

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- ☐ World War II - (United States)    190M+

**FULL NAME · 1**

Emerson

Emerson, Thomas

Displaying results containing "Emerson".  
[Clear Filter](#)

**RECORDS · 2**

Emerson, Thomas    Page 1

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Click on card

Revolution  
NAVY AND PRIVATEER RECORDS.

Name: Emerson, Thomas

Rank:

Nationality: Reading

Vessel: U:S: SLOOP FRANKLIN  
Taken May 1, 1781.

Date of document:

Source: New England Gen. & Hist.  
Register (1865) Vol.19, p.211.

Information: Committed to Old Mill  
Prison, England, Oct. 2, 1781.



Office file No.

Page                      c. Ch                      v. *W*

## File Card

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<https://www.americanancestors.org/database-search-advanced-search>



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31 databases [Reset filters](#)

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**SORT BY** ▾




























- ☐ Most recent
- ☐ A to Z Sort

**DATABASE** ▾


- ☐ all databases
- ☐ only databases with images
- ☐ only my favorite databases
- ☐ only free databases

**LOCATION** ▾



- United States (27)
- England (2)
- Netherlands (1)

			New England Historical and Genealogical Register
			Vital Records from the New England Historical and Genealogical Register
			Narragansett Historical Register, The
			England: Brixham, Devon Parish Register, 1556-1646
			East Haven [CT] Register: Part 3, Deaths, 1647-1832
			New York, NY: Parish Register of All Saints' Church, 1824-1862
			Boston, MA: City Hospital Admissions, 1867-1870
			American Ancestors Journal
			Thomas and Nicholas Harris of Providence, RI

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## Search Database


**New England Historical and Genealogical Register**

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 ☐ Soundex

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Last Name

Years

Keywords

Article Title Only

Volume

Page

★ Favorite

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Saved Searches

Volume

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Comment or Question

Source: New England Gen. & Hist.  
Register (1865) Vol.19, p.211.

Browse by volume and page number

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69

Sloop Franklin's Prize, taken May 1, 1781, com. Oct. 2.—Thos. Low, John Orrock, *Marblehead*, Benj. Grant, Isaac Setchell, Sam'l Pearsons, *Ipswich*, David Bigby, *Middleton*, Sam'l Hutchings, *Malden*, Thomas Emerson, *Reading*.

1865.]

Prisoners in Old Mill Prison.

211

Schooner *Dennis*, taken at St. Martin's, Mch. 20, com. July, 1781.—John Marshall, *Plymouth*.

Sloop *Betsey*, taken at St. Eustatia, com. July, 1781.—John Richards, *Va.*

Ship *Success*, taken Feb., com. July, 1781.—Heman Snow, *C. Cod*, Fred. Blanchard, *N. C.*, Hardy Wilkes, *S. C.*, Edw. King, *Va.*

Ship *Confederacy*, taken April 14, 1781.—Part of crew com. Aug. 23, brought from New York. Joseph Bertram, *Conn.*, Briton Chapman, *R. I.*, Eleazer Darbey, *Boston*.

Ship *Chatham*, taken June 4, com. Aug. 23, 1781.—Sam'l Lambert, Sam'l Payne, *Cape Cod*, Sylvanus Patte, *Plymouth*, Sam'l Livingston, *Va.*, Jas. Billings, Nat. Miner, *New London*, Jas. Barney, *Penn.*

Taken at So. Carolina, 1781, com. Aug. 31.—Andrew Wells, Wm. Steele, Jas. Markham, Daniel Duff, Wm. M'Clany, *So. C.*

Ship *Essex*, taken June 10, com. Aug. 25, 1781.—Wm. Miller, Richd. Carvin, Jas. Rich, Tim. Odin, Jos. Gardner, *Boston*, Eliakim Swain, *Nantucket*, Jas. Lovett, Benj. Sprague, *Beverly*, Eph. Wilson, *Northboro'*, John Kneeland, *Braintree*, Rufus Gulliver, *Milton*, Richd. Batton, *Salem*, John Wallis, Aaron Tufts, *Medford*, died Sept. 18, 1781.

Ship *Protector*, taken May 15, 1781. Brought from N. Y., com. Aug.—J. Gowen, *Boston*, Alex. Hunter, *Nantucket*.

Ship *Beaver*, taken March 17, 1781, com. Sept.—John Manning, sa Riggs, *Cape Ann*.

Ship *Lyon*, taken June 29, 1781, com. Aug. 31.—Capt. John Green, Wm. Miles, Virtue Sweet, John Stewart, Jos. Asbburn, Wm. Knox, John O'Hara, Sam'l Alexander, Jas. McKenny, *Phila.*, Henry Mellus, Benj. Jenkins, Thos. Norton, Jos. Shed, *Boston*, John Cooper, *Va.*, Collen McMellen, *Pa.*, Benj. Bancroft, *Sloughton*.

Taken at St. Eustatia, com. Aug. 1781.—Savil Tappen.

Ship *General Washington*, taken June 9, brought from N. Y., com. Sept., 1781.—Peter Pollard, *Boston*, John Hillman, *Martha's Vineyard*, John Pierce, *R. I.*

Sloop *General Washington*, taken May 29, brought from N. Y.—Jacob Stobo, *So. C.*

Cutter *Marquis Marbeck*, of Dunkirk, taken Sept. 9, com. Oct. 2, 1781.—Bennet Neigors, *Bedford*, Moses Burnham, *Ipswich*, Daniel Prior, *Nantucket*, Danl. Villes, *Newbury*, Eph. Clark, *Kittery*, Aaron Gooding, Patrick Miller, *Portsmouth*, Thos. Smith, *Spanish River*, David Brooks, *Stradford*, Thos. White, *Marshfield*, Jacob Harmon, *Phila.*, Timothy Kelly, Clement Church, *Boston*, Thos. Quinn, *Va.*

Sloop Franklin's Prize, taken May 1, 1781, com. Oct. 2.—Thos. Low, John Orrock, *Marblehead*, Benj. Grant, Isaac Setchell, Sam'l Pearsons, *Ipswich*, David Bigby, *Middleton*, Sam'l Hutchings, *Malden*, Thomas Emerson, *Reading*.

Taken in Carolina, June, 1780, com. Oct., 1781.—James Vassals, James Kennelby, *So. C.*

Ship *Lyon*, taken June 29, 1781, com. Oct.—Thos. Bubroe, *N. J.*, John Cunningham, Philip Carrol, *Boston*, William Cooper, *Boston*, Thomas Holland, *Newbury*.

*Alliance*, Cutter of Dunkirk, taken June 5, 1781.—Robert Carbett,

New England Historical and Genealogical  
Register (1865) Vol. 19, p. 211



Vessel: U:S: SLOOP FRANKLIN  
Taken May 1, 1781.

Sloop Franklin's Prize,

Find the source material

**L I S T of Americans confined in Mill-  
Prison, in England, since the Com-  
mencement of the present War.**

**Ship FRANKLIN's Prize, taken May 1, Crew com-  
mitted October 27, 1781.**

**Thomas Low, Marblehead.**

**Benjamin Grant, Isaac Stretch, Samuel Pearson.—  
Ipswich.**

**David Bigsby, Middleton.**

**Samuel Hutchins, Malden.**

**Thomas Emerson, Reading.**

**John Orrock, Marblehead.**

**Taken at Carolina, June, brought to England and  
committed October 2, 1781.**

**James Veffels, James Kenelly.—South-Carolina.**

The Pennsylvania Packet or the General Advertiser Saturday, Jun 22, 1782

# Compiled Service Records

# Compiled Service Records


- Compiled Service Records are cards that record information about a soldier extracted by clerks in the War Department from muster rolls, regimental returns, hospital rolls, and other records
- These are extracted from the original records and can give a great overview of a soldier's service during the American Revolution



# **Case Study**

## **Cato Freeman**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Connecticut Regiment**


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# US, Revolutionary War Service Records, 1775-1783

Records: 349,924 · Complete: 100%

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[BROWSE](#)
[DESCRIPTION](#)

PUBLICATIONS · 1	STATE · 15	REGIMENT · 108	REC
<a href="#">Filter Publications</a>	<input type="text" value="Filter State"/>	<input type="text" value="Filter Regiment"/>	<input type="text" value="Fi"/>
US, Revolutionary War Service Records, 1775-1783 430K+ 	<a href="#">Select All</a>	<a href="#">Select All</a>	<a href="#">Se</a>
	Connecticut 60K+	Second Regiment (1776), Militia 16	Inc
	<a href="#">Continental Troops</a> 53K+	Third (Ely's) Regiment, Militia 17	Re
	Delaware 6K+	Third (Putnam's) Regiment 382	
	Georgia 751	Third (Starr's) Regiment, Light Horse 42	
	Maryland 11K+	Third Regiment 4K+	
	Massachusetts 41K+	Fourth Regiment 4K+	
	New Hampshire 42K+	Fifth Regiment 5K+	

### Related Publications

- [US, Revolutionary War Service Records - Navy, 1775-1785](#)
- [US, Revolutionary War Service and Imprisonment Cards, 1775-1778](#)
- [US, Service Records of Volunteers, 1784-1811](#)
- [US, Pennsylvania Revolutionary War Battalions and Militia Index, 1775-1783](#)
- [US, Revolutionary War Manuscript File, 1775-1790's](#)
- [US, Revolutionary War Prize Cases - Captured Vessels, 1776-1787](#)
- [US, Numbered Record Books, 1775-1790](#)
- [US, Pennsylvania Veterans Card Files, 1775-1916](#)
- [US, Civil War Service Records \(CMSR\) - Union - Colored Troops 56th-138th Infantry, 1864-1866](#)
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# Fold3 Revolutionary Service Records




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# US, Revolutionary War Service Records, 1775-1783

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RECORD TYPE · 2		SURNAME STARTS WITH · 25		NAME · 182	
Filter Record Type		Filter Surname Starts With		Filter Name	
<a href="#">Select All</a>		<a href="#">Select All</a>		<a href="#">Select All</a>	
Individual	3K+	B	403	Freeman, Abraham	
Regiment	962	C	291	Freeman, Caesar	
		D	156	Freeman, Carter	
		E	89	Freeman, Castor	
		F	182	Freeman, Cato	
		G	186	Freeman, Cuff	
		H	340	Freeman, Edward	

### Related Publications

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# Fold3.com

*F* | **3** | **Conn.**  
(2d Formation, 1781.)

*Cato Freeman*  
{ 3d Co., 3d Connecticut Reg't, com-  
manded by Col. Samuel B. Webb.

(Revolutionary War.)

Appears on  
**Company Muster Roll**  
of the organization named above for the month  
of *Feb*, 1783.  
Roll dated *March 13*, 1783.

---

Appointed \_\_\_\_\_, 17 \_\_\_\_  
Commissioned \_\_\_\_\_, 17 \_\_\_\_  
Enlisted \_\_\_\_\_, 17 \_\_\_\_  
Term of enlistment *15 m 1 d*  
Time since last muster or enlistment *Jan 26. 83*  
Alterations since last muster \_\_\_\_\_  
Casualties *Overlough to the 29 March*  
Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

*F* | **3** | **Conn.**  
(2d Formation, 1781.)

*Cato Freeman*  
{ 3d Co., 3d Connecticut Reg't, com-  
manded by Col. Samuel B. Webb.

(Revolutionary War.)

Appears on  
**Company Muster Roll**  
of the organization named above for the month  
of *March*, 1783.  
Roll dated *April 28*, 1783.

---

Appointed \_\_\_\_\_, 17 \_\_\_\_  
Commissioned \_\_\_\_\_, 17 \_\_\_\_  
Enlisted \_\_\_\_\_, 17 \_\_\_\_  
Term of enlistment *14 Months 1 day*  
Time since last muster or enlistment *January 1783*  
Alterations since last muster \_\_\_\_\_  
Casualties \_\_\_\_\_  
Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

*F* | **3** | **Conn.**  
(2d Formation, 1781.)

*Cato Freeman*  
Appears with the rank of *Put* on a  
**Pay Roll**  
of the Officers Non Commiss<sup>d</sup> & Privates of the  
late 3<sup>d</sup> Connecticut Regim<sup>t</sup> in the Service of the  
United States from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1783  
(Revolutionary War.)

Roll dated *not dated*, 17 \_\_\_\_  
Commenc<sup>t</sup> of Pay, *Jan 1*, 1783.  
Ending of Pay, *May 1*, 1783.  
Service, *4* Mon<sup>ths</sup> days.  
Pay P. Month, *6* Dollars, *60* 90<sup>th</sup>  
Amount, *26* Dollars, *60* 90<sup>th</sup>  
Pay received, *26* Dollars, *60* 90<sup>th</sup>  
Ballance due, \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars, \_\_\_\_\_ 90<sup>th</sup>  
Due for Clothing, \_\_\_\_\_ Doll<sup>s</sup>, \_\_\_\_\_ 90<sup>th</sup>  
Pay & Clothing, \_\_\_\_\_ Doll<sup>s</sup>, \_\_\_\_\_ 90<sup>th</sup>  
Surplus of Clothing, \_\_\_\_\_  
Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

# Pages from a compiled service record



Tip

Look for diaries of  
fellow soldiers

# Journals and Diaries

- Published journals
- Transcribed accounts
- Local historical societies



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Ella (Davis) Isaacs, second left, with the University of Cincinnati basketball players from the senior class of 1908. From the the Davis and Isaacs papers, P-936, Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center. [View](#)

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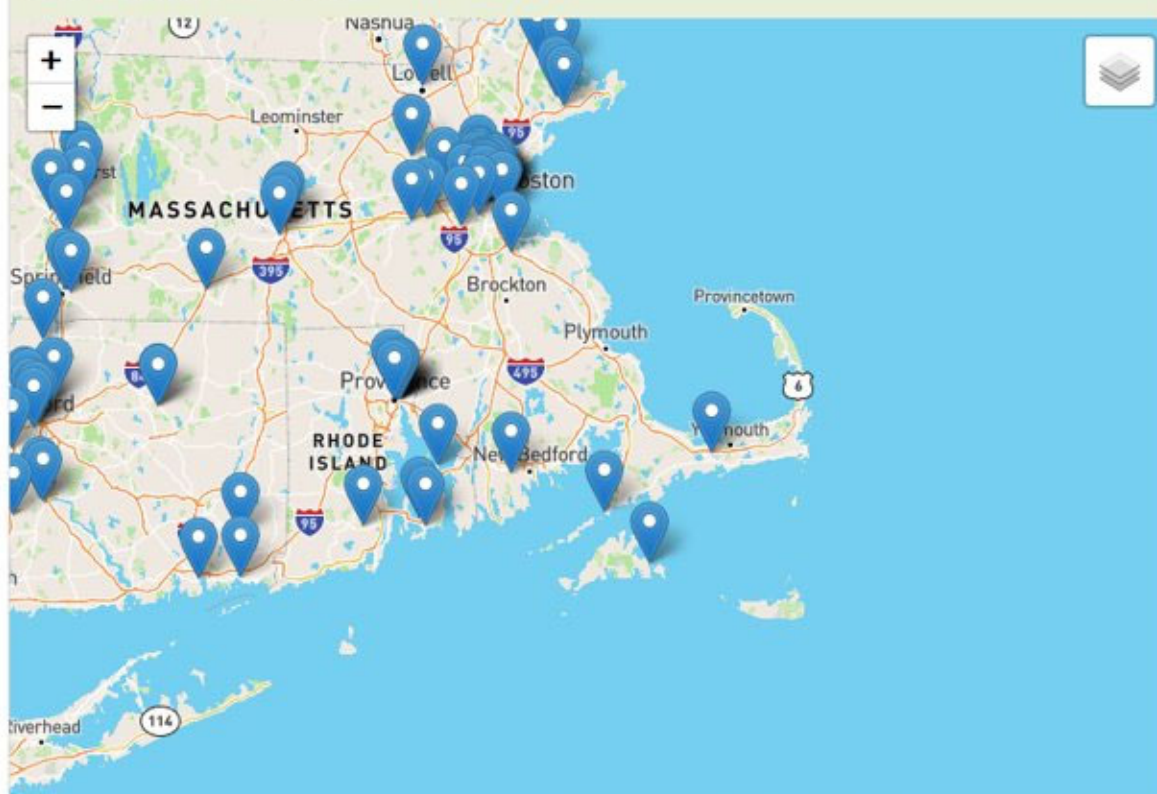
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For example: 1918 influenza has\_links:1

### RECENT ADDITIONS

Lincoln Library

SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory - Archives, History and Records Office

Dominican Sisters of San Rafael Archives

[researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid](https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid)



# Hereditary Societies

- National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)
- National Society Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)
- National Society Children of the American Revolution (CAR)
- General Society of the Sons of the Revolution (SR)
- Society of the Cincinnati
- Daughters of the Cincinnati



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## What We Do

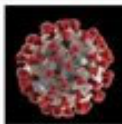
DAR is a women's service organization dedicated to promoting historic preservation, education, patriotism and honoring the patriots of the Revolutionary War.

[SEE MORE OF THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION](#)

DAR and Coronavirus (COVID-19) Message - The DAR Headquarters buildings, including the DAR Museum, DAR Library and DAR Constitution Hall, are closed to the public until further notice following the guidelines of the phased reopening plan of the Mayor of the District of Columbia. Building status updates will continue to be posted here on the DAR Website as they develop. [Learn More Here](#)

### DAR and Coronavirus

A Message from Headquarters



### Members sew 100K Masks

Masks donated to pandemic front-line workers in need



### Committed to Equality

DAR reaffirms its guiding principles



### Help Us Restore

"Concerts Under the Stars" in DAR Constitution Hall!



Dar.org





Sar.org



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# Applying to Revolutionary War Lineage Societies



[AmericanAncestors.org/video-library/](https://AmericanAncestors.org/video-library/)

## Some Suggested Books

- *Forgotten Patriots – African American and American Indian Patriots of the Revolutionary War: A Guide to Service, Sources, and Studies*
- *Pennsylvania in the American Revolution: A Source Guide for Genealogists and Historians*
- *Connecticut in the American Revolution: A Source Guide for Genealogists and Historians*
- *North Carolina in the American Revolution: A Source Guide for Genealogists and Historians*
- *America's Women in the Revolutionary Era 1760-1790: A History Through Bibliography*







# QUESTIONS?

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*If you are unable to attend the live sessions, you will be able to watch the recordings on this course page.*

[AmericanAncestors.org/researching-american-revolutionary-war-patriots-2024](https://AmericanAncestors.org/researching-american-revolutionary-war-patriots-2024)



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