



2





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

5

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

7

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

8

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

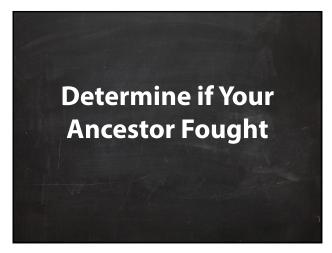
- Founded on June 14, 1775 by the Second Continental Congress
- Forces were better trained and organized than the local militias



10

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

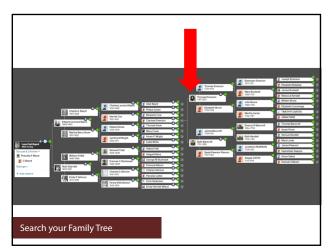


Too young or too old to serve?

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



13



14

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 I Letters Letters Diaries Diaries Paintings Guns & Swords Discharge Papers Hills and an indication of the food for the control of the co

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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?





Published & Online Resources



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

19

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 Revolutio., and served for a time as one of Washington's Life Guards. He afterwards held the office of captain in the 12th 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

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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

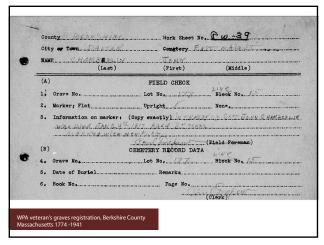
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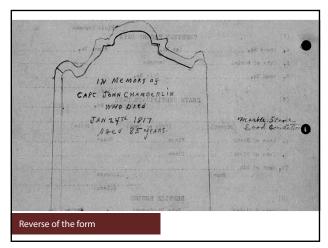


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WPA Records

- 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

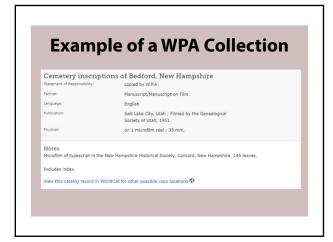




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How to find Graves Registration Project records • Search the FamilySearch Catalog for the town or county where your Revolutionary War Veteran was buried Search by: Picca | Surrames | Triles | Author | Subjects | Kaywords Picca | Surrames | Triles | Author | Subjects | Kaywords Picca | Surrames | Triles | Author | Subjects | Kaywords Picca | Cal Number | Film/Fichel/Image Group Number (DOS) Availability Availability TamilyGearch center Search Picca | Reset





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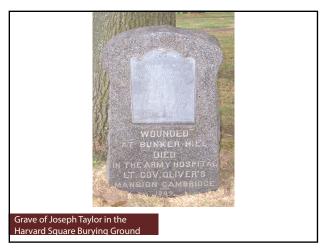


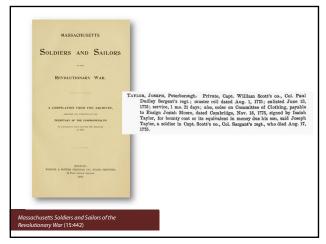
Muster Rolls

- 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

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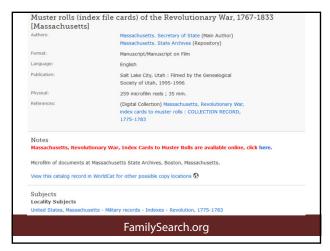


35

Seek the Primary Source of the Published Accounts

Taylor, Joseph, Peterborough. Private Capt. William Scott's co of militia, Col. Paul Dudley Sergent'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.

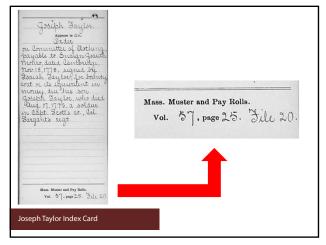
Published Source: Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolutionary War (15:442).





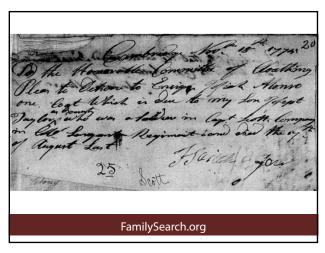
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Citing the Published Source

Taylor, Joseph Peterborough. Private, Col. Paul Sergent 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.

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Published Histories

COLONEL PAUL DUDLEY SARGENT'S REGIMENT. Col. Sargent was of Amherst, Capt. Scott of Peterborough. Roll dated October 6, 1775.

Peterborough Men.

ated October 6, 1775
Peterbore
Capt. William Scott.
Serg. Randall M'Allister.
Serg. John Targart, sick, absent,
Corp. Charles White,
Kichardon Emery,
John Graham,
Solomon Leonard,
Robert M'Clurg,
James M'Keen,
John Morrison, deserted,
John Morrison, deserted,
James Richey,
Thomas Scott,
James Sichey,
James Si

srough Men.
Sergeant Josiah Monroe,
Serg. John Swan,*
Corp. Andrew Bailey,
John Blair,
Jeremiah Fairfield,
Jeremiah Fairfield,
John Halir,
Jenes Mitchell,
George M'Clurg,
James Moore,
John Matthew,
John South,
John South,
Samuel Treadwell,
James Taggart,
Michael Woodcock,
Alexander Saurt, Deserted.
(9 to dop at Qubec.

44

HISTORY OF PETERBOROUGH.

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

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, a

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,

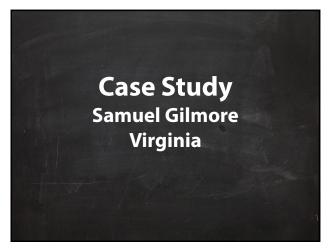
 ${\it History\,of\,the\,Town\,of\,Peterborough, Hillsborough\,County, New\,Hampshire\,by\,Albert\,Smith}$

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. McLachian, 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.

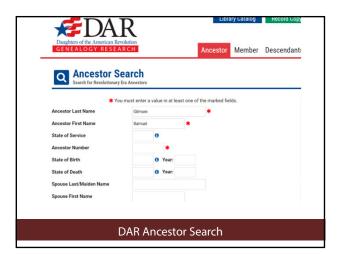
The name of Joseph Taylor, which was inscribed upon the stone, was found among the records of those wounded at Bunker Hill. The latest interesting feature is the finding of the name among records at Peterborough, N. H., from which place the stone says he came. Mr. McLachlan has received news of this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

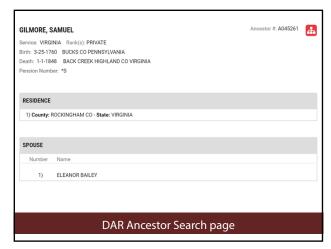
The Cambridge Tribune, Volume XXII, Number 15, 10 June 1899

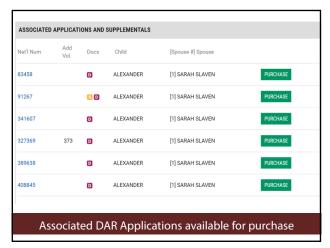
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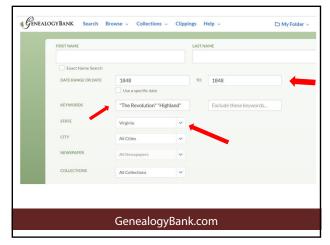




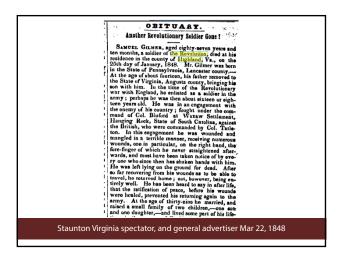
50

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







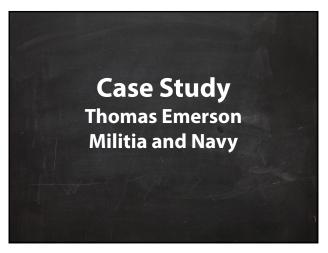
live, and on one of which he died. He was a very industrious man, strictly honest, of unimpeachable character; emphatically a good citizen. He lost his eye-sight about eight years previous to his death, which affliction he bore with becoming fortitude. After this event, he was necessarily confined, chiefly 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 grive.—Rock'm. Register.

Staunton Virginia spectator, and general advertiser Mar 22, 1848

55



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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

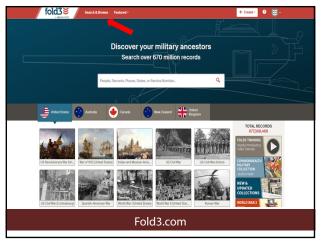
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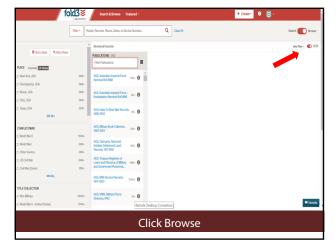
EMERSON, THOMAS, Reading. Private, Capt. John Walton's co., Col. David Green's regt., which marched on the alarm of April 19, 1775; service, 1 day; also, list of men belonging to the training band under Capt. John Walton, dated Reading, May 13, 1775.

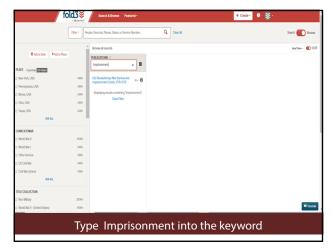
EMERSON, THOMAS, Reading. Mariner, brigantine "Cutter" (privateer), commanded by Capt. Samuel Crowell; descriptive list of officers and crew dated Salem, Aug. 15, 1780; age, 22 yrs.; stature, 5 ft. 6 in.; complexion, light; residence, Reading.

Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War; Volume 05

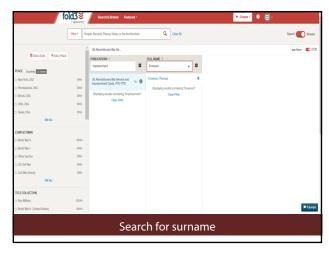
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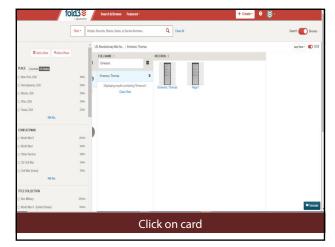


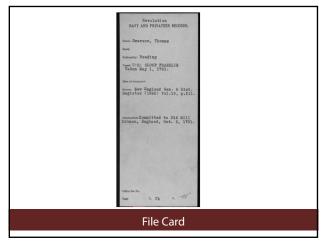


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Class 1: Researching American Revolutionary War Patriots

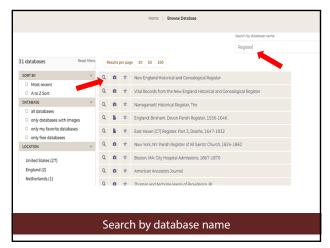


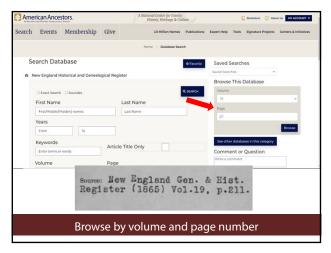


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1865.) Primate in 6th Mail Prime. 211

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John Marshalf, Papens.

Belley Benny, Index at St. Bertain, on. 149, 1181.

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Belley Benny, Index at St. Bertain, on. 149, 1181.

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

Sloop Franklin's Prize,

Find the source material

71

LIST of Americans confined in MilliPrifon, in England, fince the Commencement of the prefent War.

Ship FRANKLIN's Prize, taken May 1, Crew committed Oftober 27, 1781.

Thomas Low, Marblehead.
Benjamin Grant, Ifaac Stretch, Samuel Pearfon.—
Ip(wich.
David Bigfly, Middleton.
Samuel Hutchins, Malden.
Thomas Emerion, Reading.
John Orrock, Marblehead.

Taken at Carolina, June, brought to England and committed Oftober 2, 1781.
James Veffels, James Kenelly.—South-Carolina.

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

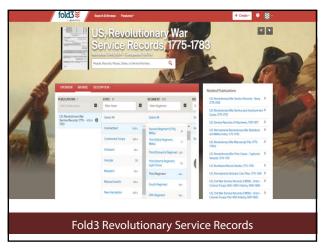


Compiled Service Records

- Compiled Service Records 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

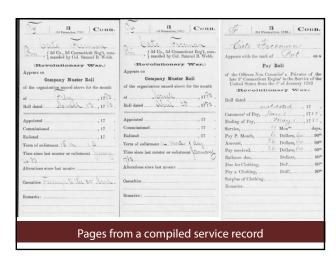
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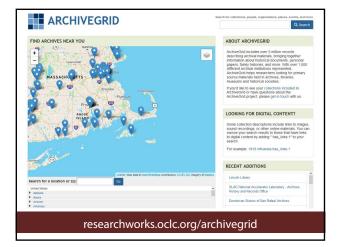
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Journals and Diaries Published journals Transcribed accounts Local historical societies The second of the seco







- 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







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

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