



Before you begin . . .

- Confirm the Colonies your ancestor served from
- Know the Officers your ancestors served under
- Determine the birth and death year of your veteran
- Know the names of spouses and children
- Confirm that he did not go AWOL from service

Does this pension apply to your ancestor?

- Does the name or alias match?
- Do the residences after the war fit?
- When did your soldier and his widow
 die?
- Understand when pensions were able to be collected relating to a given war





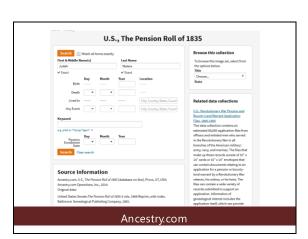
Federal Pensions

- 1776: Half payfor officers and men disabled in the service and were incapable of earning a living.
- 1780: Half payfor 7 yrs. to widows and orphans of officers.
- **1806**: Pensions allowed to veterans of State troops and militia for the first time.
- **1818**: Pensions for life based on a period of 9 mos. or until the end of the war.

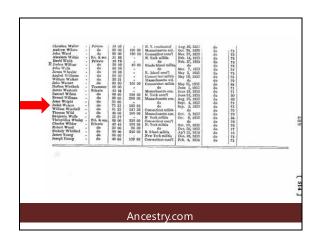
- **1820**: Certified inventories of pensioner's estate and income were required.
- **1832**: Pensions granted to those with service less than 6 mos.
- **1838**: Widows were authorized pensions for 5 yrs. if they had married the veteran before 1794.
- **1848**: Widows were authorized pensions for lifeif they had married the veteran before **1800**.

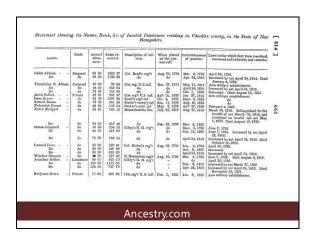
- 1853: All widows restrictions were eliminated.
- **1878**: Widows authorized pensions for life if the veteran only served 2 weeks.



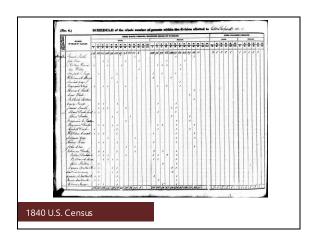


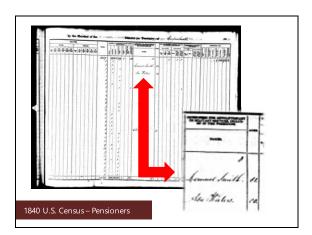


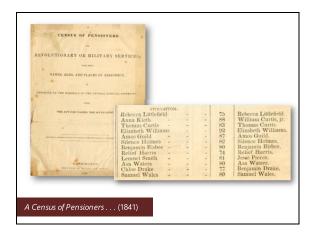




1840 U.S. Census • Living Revolutionary War pensioners and widows • First census to give exact age of a resident • Lists who the veteran or widow is residing with

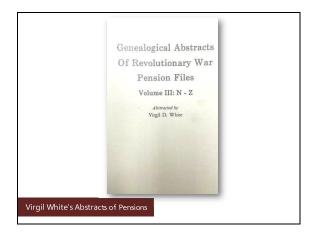


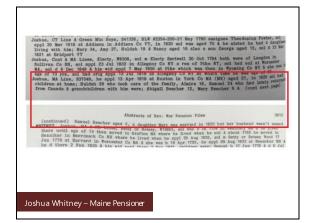


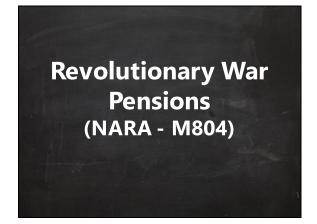




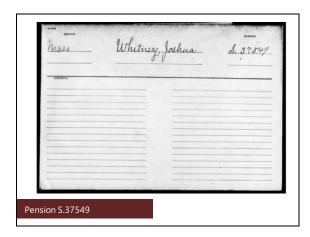


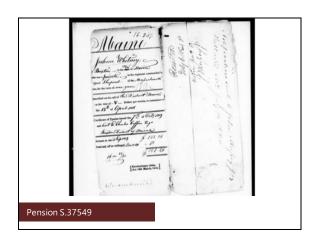


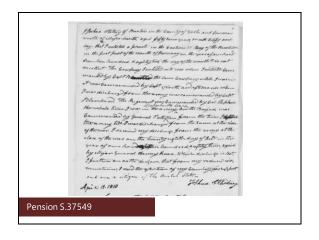


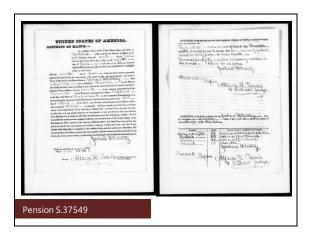


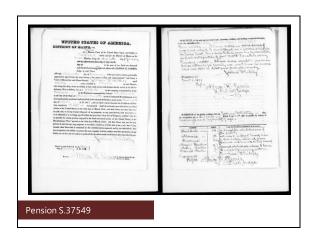


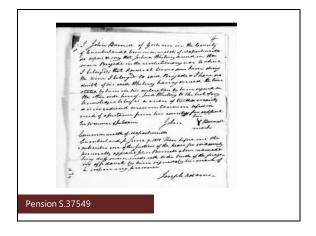




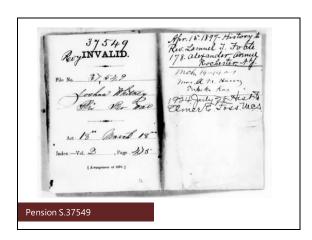


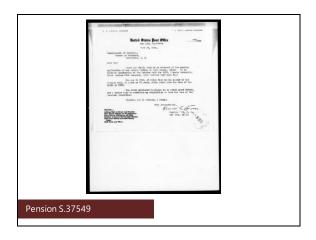






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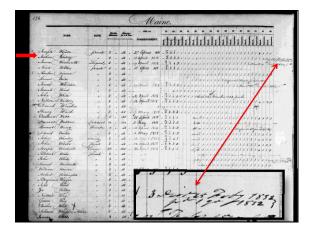
Analyzing the Pension papers Sort copies out in chronological order Make sure front and back is together Make another set of your copies and work with the original set only when needed.







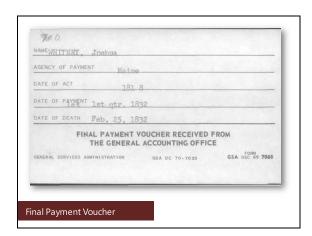




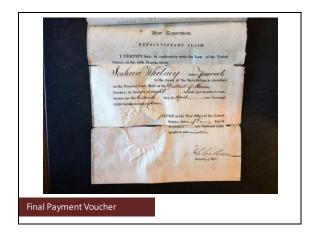








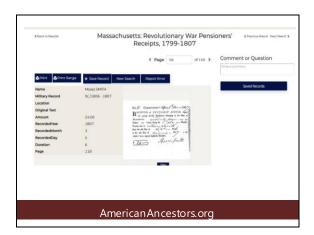












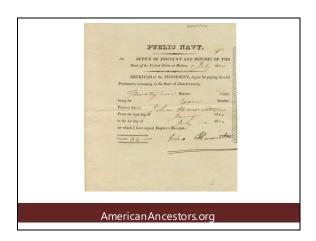












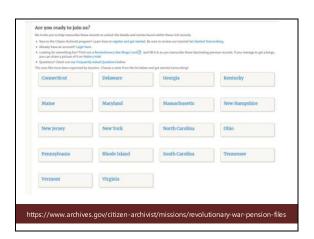


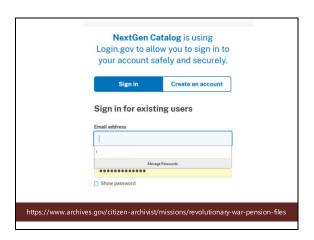


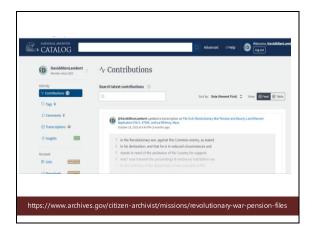




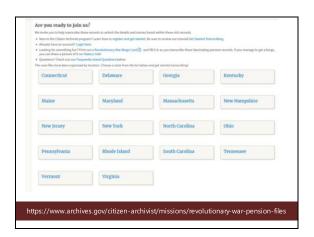




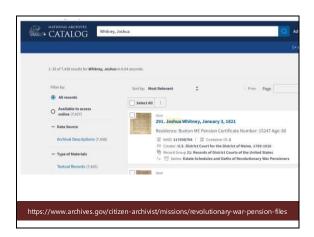


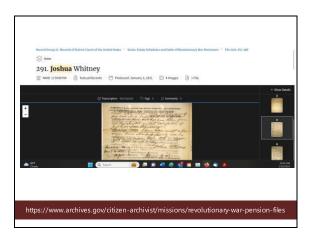


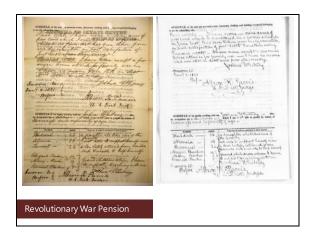






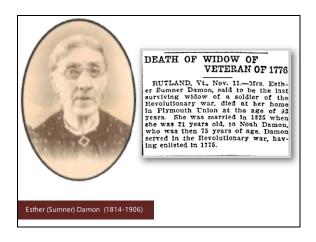
















Journal of Thomas Grafton

21. JOURNAL OF THOMAS GRATON (file of Thomas Graton, W14824), 34 p., Aug. 1, 1767-Sept. 29, 1790 (roll 1110, frames 302-325). Writing during and after the Revolutionary War, Graton began this autobiographical account with his birth and early years in Spencer and Leichester, Mass., then described his Revolutionary War service at such places as Ticonderogy. 1776; Bennington, Vt., 1777; Rhode Island, 1778. West Point, 1780, and Yorktown, 1781. The last portions of the Journal contain information on Graton's business affairs (as a hoop wright), and his visits to nearby towns, several pages of comments on the weather for the period 1785-87, a listing of his tools (saw, hammer, files, etc.), and two pages entitled "some short account of the cost of Building Mr. Prouty's house" enumerating costs of materials and labor.

Journals of Nahum Parker

30-34. JOURNALS OF NAHUM PARKER (file of Nahum Parker, \$11200).

(30) 16 p., Apr. 29-July 10, 1777 (roll 1874, frames 370-378).

(31) 32 p., June 24-Oct. 19, 1777 (roll 1874, frames 370-378).

(32) 22 p., Apr. 1-June 31 (sq.), 1778 (roll 1874, frames 370-378).

(34) 22 p., Apr. 1-June 31 (sq.), 1778 (roll 1874, frames 390-407).

(34) 29 p., July 3-Dec. 12, 1780 (roll 1874, frames 421-436).

Nahum Parker, a resident of Shrewbury, Mass, was only 17 when he first enlisted in Masuchusetts forces, and he eventually served about six different soft-return enlistent of a strength of the stre

Diary of Hester Moxham

55. DIARY OF HESTER MOXHAM (file of Samuel Millington, W17145), 14 p., May 1826-1an, 1837 (roll 1733, frames 590-597). Hester Moxham's diary was submitted to the Pension Office by Samuel Millington's heirs because it recorded the date of Millington's widow's death. The brief entries in the diary record Hester Moxham's everyday activities, such seems, shopping, and attending schoolhouse meetings, as well as the illnesses, amaritages, and other special events in the town of Johnsburgh, NY. In an affidavit that is also in the file, Hester Moxham stated that she kept a diary for nearly 30 years. The few pages in this pension file are only a small segment of that diary.

Poetry in Pensions

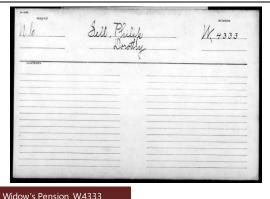
38. ORDERLY BOOK AND JOURNAL OF LEVI STEDMAN (file of Levi Stedman, W19108), 42 p., July 4, 1775-Apr. 15, 1776 (roll 2276, frames 957-979).

The first nine pages of this book contain copies of orders issued by General Washington at Cambridge, Mass., in July 1775, and a copy of an estimate by the Continental Congress of the population of North America. The journal of Stedman's military service begins with July 13, 1775. He describes skirmishes with the British at Dorchester, Roxbury, and Boston Neck; the departure of the British from Boston; and ordinary events in camp. Also included are two contemporary poems on patriotic and romantic topics.

Song Book of George Mason

27. SONG BOOK OF GEORGE MASON (file of George Mason, R7003), 62 p., 1776-1803 (roll 1645, frames 705-735).

There are a few accounts for such items as clothing in this small book, but most of it consists of 10 lengthy poems that apparently formed the lyrics for contemporary songs on patriotic and romantic topics. Included is "A New Song of Mountgomery Defat at Oubeck": a song about fighting tyrants; several songs about courtship and marriage; songs about girls named Polly, Peggy, and Nelly; and what may well be a British song about fighting foes in North America. Mason was a native of Maine, and he fought in Massachusetts forces during the Revolutionary War.



Widow's Pension W.4333

