

# Researching American Revolutionary War Patriots

## *Class 5: Compiling Patriot Stories*

Elizabeth Peay, Genealogist for the Newbury Street Press

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors®  
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

# Meet today's presenter



Elizabeth Peay

Genealogist for the Newbury Street Press



# OVERVIEW

- **Presentation (60 mins.)**
  - Military
  - Personal
  - Adopt the regiment
- **Q&A (30 mins.)**

Stayed at Stebbens Tavern ~~until~~ ~~the~~ ~~next~~ ~~day~~ ~~night~~  
Thursday morning the 17<sup>th</sup> of July 1777.  
from Stebbens's at Sunrise & travelled about  
twelve miles Stopt about half a Mile to the East-  
ward of the Mountain & Cook's Provision. St out  
two O'Clock to go thro the mount but one  
tree which when we got a  
the Western side of the mount & made  
out to reach Gray's Tavern by Sun-set.



Voice of  
Elizabeth Peay  
Genealogist for the Newbury Street Press



# Road Map

## Individual Approach - Military

Research your  
Regiment  
Service Records  
Bounty Land  
Warrants  
Pensions

## Individual Approach - Personal

Family/Friends  
Vital Records  
Town/State Records

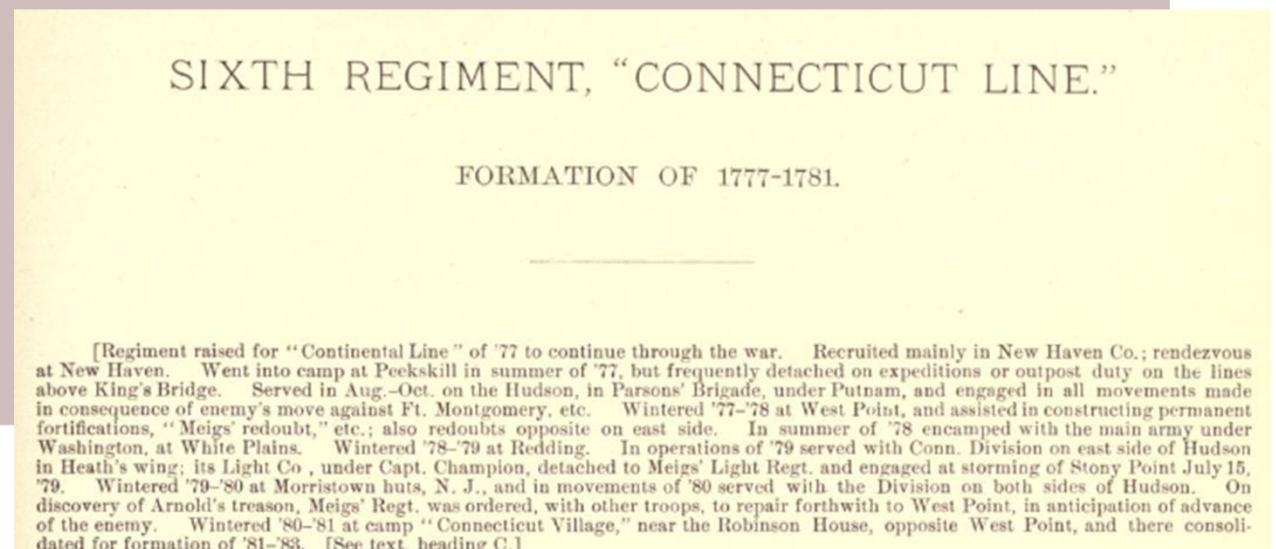
## Adopt a Regiment

Chain of Command  
Muster Rolls  
Crew Lists  
Organize

# Military Records

# Research the Regiment

- Once you determine the regiments and companies your ancestor served in, compile *any* information you can about the regiment
- Many books and websites detail the service of different regiments
- Specialized Regiments
- General Orders
- Public Records





# Examples of Specialized Regiments

- Corps of Invalids (1777–1783)
- Artillery Regiments
- Artificer Regiments



# Multiple Regiments

4th Connecticut Regiment	1775	Col. Benjamin Hinman	Raised on the first call for troops in April/May 1775. Recruited mainly in Litchfield County. Upon the surprise of Ft. Ticonderoga, 10 May Gov. Trumbull ordered this regiment to march as soon as possible to secure that post and Crown Point against recapture. A request to this effect was also made by the Continental Congress. The regiment reached Ticonderoga in June and Col. Hinman assumed command until the arrival of General Schuyler. It took part in the operations of the Northern Department until expiration of term of service Dec. 1775. Regiment suffered much from sickness and many men were mustered out in Oct./Nov. 1775.	pg. 59
5th Regiment	1775	Col. David Waterbury	Regiment raised on first call for troops by act of Legislature April-May, 1775. Recruited mainly in Fairfield County. Its record is identical with that of General Wooster's, or the 1st Regiment, up to the siege of St. John in October, it having marched first, to New York under Wooster and then to the Northern Department. Term of service expired December 1775; but on account of sickness, many men returned home in October/November 1775.	pg. 64
5th Connecticut Regiment	1775	Col. Samuel Holden Parsons	Raised on the first call for troops in April/May 1775. Recruited from New London, Hartford, and present Middlesex Counties. Two companies, including Captain Coit's, marched at once to Boston and Captain Mott's was ordered to the Northern Department. The other companies remained on duty at New London until June 17, when they were ordered by the Governor's Council to the Boston Camps. There the regiment took post at Roxbury in General Spencer's Brigade, and remained until expiration of term of service, 10 Dec. 1775. Adopted as Continental. Regiment re-organized under Col. Parsons for service in 1776.	pg. 72
7th Connecticut Regiment	1775	Col. Charles Webb	Raised by order of the Assembly at the July session 1775. Recruited in Fairfield, Litchfield, and New Haven Counties. Its companies were stationed at various points along the Sound until 14 Sept., when on requisition from Washington, the regiment was ordered to the Boston Camps. There it was assigned to Gen. Sullivan's Brigade on Winter Hill at the left of the besieging line, and remained until expiration of term of service in Dec. 1775. Adopted as Continental. Reorganized under Col. Webb for service in 1776.	pg. 79
8th Regiment CT Line	1775	Col. Jedidiah Huntington	Raised by order of the Assembly at the July session, 1775. Recruited mainly in New London, Hartford, and Windham Counties. The regiment was stationed on the Sound until 14 Sept., when on requisition from Washington, it was ordered to the Boston Camps and took post at Roxbury in General Spencer's Brigade. Remained until expiration of term of service in Dec. 1775. Adopted as Continental. Re-organized under Col. Huntington for service in Parson's Regiment of 1775, as re-organized for service in the Continental Army for the year 1776. After the siege of Boston, it marched under Washington to New York by way of New London and the Sound in vessels, and continued in that vicinity from April to the close of the year. Assisted in fortifying the city; ordered 24 Aug. to the lines around Brooklyn; engaged in Battle of Long Island, 27 Aug. and in retreat from Long Island on night of 29 Aug.; caught in the panic in retreat from New York, 15 Sept.; present with the army at White Plains, 28 Oct.; remained on the Hudson, in vicinity of Peekskill, under Gen. Heath, until term of service expired, 31 Dec. 1776	pg. 85
10th Continental	1776	Col. Samuel Holden Parsons	Huntington's regiment of 1775, as reorganized for service in the Continental army for the year 1776. After the siege of Boston, it marched under Washington to NY (by way of New London and the Sound in schooners), and remained in that vicinity from April to the close of the year. Assisted in fortifying the city; ordered 24 Aug. to Brooklyn front; engaged in the Battle of Long Island Aug. 27, in and Near Greenwood Cemetery; was surrounded by the enemy and lost heavily in prisoners; moved with the main army until after Battle of White Plains; disbanded under General Heath, near Peekskill, 31 Dec. 1776. Roll incomplete.	pg. 99
17th Continental	1776	Col. Jedidiah Huntington	Col. Webb's regiment of 1775, as reorganized for service in the Continental army for the year 1776. From Boston it marched under Washington to New York (by way of New London and vessels through the Sound) and served in that vicinity from April to the close of the year. Assisted in fortifying the city; ordered to the Brooklyn Front 27 Aug., but not engaged in the Battle of Long Island; closely engaged at the Battle of White Plains 28 Oct.; engaged at the Battles of Trenton 25 Dec. 1775, and in part at Princeton, 3 Jan. 1777, a portion of the regiment continuing in serve with other troops, at urgent request of Washington, about six weeks after expiration of their term. Rolls incomplete.	pg. 101
19th Continental	1776	Col. Charles Webb	This regiment, known generally as Durkee's in the campaign of 1776, was General Putnam's Regiment of 1775 as reorganized for service in the Continental Army for the year 1776. Benedict Arnold was its first appointed colonel, but as stated below, he never assumed command. The regiment marched from Boston to New York in April 1776, and was stationed until 15 September at Bergen Heights and Pualus Hook, now Jersey City. Later it was ordered to Fort Lee, opposite Fort Washington and then accompanied Washington on the retreat through New Jersey. Engaged at Battle of Trenton, 25 December 1776, and in part at Princeton, 3 January 1777, a portion of the regiment, at urgent request of Washington, continuing in service with other troops, about 5 weeks after expiration of their term. Rolls incomplete.	pg. 104
20th Continental	1776	Col. John Durkee/Benedict Arnold (Arnold never w/ the regiment)	Wyllys' regiment of 1775, previously General Spencer's, as reorganized for service in the continental army for the year 1776. after the evacuation of Boston by the British, it marched under Washington to NY by way of New London and the Sound, and remained in that vicinity from April to the close of the year. Assisted in fortifying the city; ordered to the Brooklyn front 24 Aug.; engaged in Battle of Long Island 27 Aug.; in retreat from NY 1 Sept.; present with the army at White Plains 28 Oct. ; remained under General Heath in vicinity of Peekskill until expiration of term of service, 31 Dec. 1776	pg. 106
22nd Continental	1776	Col. Samuel Wyllys		pg. 107



# Muster Rolls

- Just because a soldier is listed as part of a regiment or company, there is always more to the story
- Never Assume
- Transcribed rolls don't always include remarks

*Al* 1 R. I.  
*Benedict Aaron*  
*for* { Capt. Oliver Clarke's Co., 1st Rhode  
 Island Batt'n, commanded by Col.  
 Christopher Greene.\*  
 (Revolutionary War.)  
 Appears on  
**Company Muster Roll**  
 of the organization named above for the month  
 of *Dec 1777*, 1778.  
 Roll dated *Jan 4*, 1778.  
 Appointed \_\_\_\_\_, 17 \_\_\_\_  
 Commissioned \_\_\_\_\_, 17 \_\_\_\_  
 Enlisted \_\_\_\_\_, 17 \_\_\_\_  
 Term of enlistment *3 yrs*  
 Time since last muster or enlistment \_\_\_\_\_  
 Alterations since last muster \_\_\_\_\_  
 Casualties \_\_\_\_\_  
 Remarks: *See above*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*This company was designated at various times as Capt. Oliver  
 Clarke's and 3d Company.  
*Horvath*  
 (543) Copyright

*Al* 1 R. I.  
*Benedict Aaron*  
*for* { Capt. Oliver Clarke's Co., 1st Rhode  
 Island Batt'n, commanded by Col.  
 Christopher Greene.\*  
 (Revolutionary War.)  
 Appears on  
**Company Muster Roll**  
 of the organization named above for the month  
 of *Feb*, 1778.  
 Roll dated *March 2*, 1778.  
 Appointed \_\_\_\_\_, 17 \_\_\_\_  
 Commissioned \_\_\_\_\_, 17 \_\_\_\_  
 Enlisted \_\_\_\_\_, 17 \_\_\_\_  
 Term of enlistment *3 yrs*  
 Time since last muster or enlistment \_\_\_\_\_  
 Alterations since last muster \_\_\_\_\_  
 Casualties \_\_\_\_\_  
 Remarks: *See Command*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*This company was designated at various times as Capt. Oliver  
 Clarke's and 3d Company.  
*Horvath*



# BENJAMIN HUNGERFORD

**QUALIFICATION:** Died in Service

**MILITARY ABSTRACT:** 2nd Lieutenant, 4th Connecticut Continental Regiment, 1 May 1775; Placed on Sick List, 20 Aug. 1775; Died, 4 Sept. 1775.<sup>1</sup>

**BIRTH:** Bristol, Hartford County, Connecticut May 1741, son of Benjamin Hungerford and Jemima Hungerford. Jemima was a daughter of Green Hungerford and Jemima Richardson.<sup>2</sup> Benjamin and Jemima were first cousins.

**MARRIAGE:** Connecticut before 1772 to **KEZIA/KESIA WALKER**,<sup>3</sup> who was baptized Woodbury, Litchfield County, Connecticut 6 Nov. 1743, daughter of Peter Walker, and died Connecticut 6 June 1819, at the age of 75.<sup>4</sup>

**DEATH:** Woodbury 4 Sept. 1775, at the age of 34.<sup>5</sup>

**CHILDREN:** All born at Woodbury:<sup>6</sup>

- i. BENJAMIN HUNGERFORD, b. abt. 1773; d. Bristol 4 March 1814, at the age of 41; m. Bristol 18 Jan. 1798, ZADDIE/ZADDEE/ZADE NEWELL, b. Farmington, Hartford Co. 10 Dec. 1773, dau. of David Newell and Sarah Porter; d. Bristol 3 Nov. 1847.<sup>7</sup>
- ii. KEZIA HUNGERFORD, b. abt. 1774; d. aft. June 1783.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Francis Bernard Heitman, *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During the War of the Revolution, April 1775 to December 1783* (Washington, D.C.: Rare Book Shop Publishing Co., 1914), 309; Henry Phelps Johnston, *Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the I. War of the Revolution, II. War of 1812, III. Mexican War* (Hartford, Conn.: Connecticut Adjutant-General's Office, Connecticut General Assembly, 1889), 59.

<sup>2</sup> F. Phelps Leach, *Additions and Corrections for Thomas Hungerford of Hartford and New London, Conn. and his Descendants in America* (East Highgate, Vt.: F. Phelps Leach, 1932), 19, 20, 22, 39.

<sup>3</sup> Keziah Walker was a third cousin of Major Joseph Walker (1756–1810), an Original Member of the Connecticut Society of the Cincinnati and of Capt. Robert Walker (1745–1810), a Qualified Propositus of the Connecticut Society of the Cincinnati under the Rule of 1854.

<sup>4</sup> Leach, *Corrections for Thomas Hungerford*, 39; Woodbury, Connecticut, Church Record Abstracts, 1630–1920, Ancestry.com, Vol. 1, p. 97; Connecticut, Hale Collection of Cemetery Inscriptions and Newspaper Notices, 1629–1934, Ancestry.com, Vol. 6, p. 54. Although there are records of the marriage between Sheldon Clark and Kezia Hungerford, the burial site for Kezia suggests that she was also the wife of Benjamin Hungerford. She is buried next to Benjamin Clark Jr. (b. 1773) in Bridge St. Cemetery at Bristol, while her husband Sheldon Clark is buried at New Haven.

<sup>5</sup> Leach, *Corrections for Thomas Hungerford*, 39; Hale Collection, Vol. 58, p. 26.

<sup>6</sup> Leach, *Corrections for Thomas Hungerford*, 39.

<sup>7</sup> Bristol, Connecticut, Church Record Abstracts, 1630–1920, Ancestry.com, Vol. 2, p. 248; Hale Collection, Vol. 6, p. 54; Farmington, Connecticut, Church Record Abstracts, 1630–1920, Ancestry.com, Vol. 3, p. 23; Farmington Vital Records 1645–1850, Barbour Collection, Ancestry.com, Vol. LR17, p. 437; Grave of Zada Newell Lee at FindaGrave.com, memorial #42558788; Leach, *Corrections for Thomas Hungerford*, 39, 55. Although Benjamin Hungerford was too young to have served in the Revolutionary War, his gravestone asserts he was a "Captain," and there is a military service marker next to his grave.

<sup>8</sup> Leach, *Corrections for Thomas Hungerford*, 39, 55; Woodbury, Conn., Wills and Probate 1782, Ancestry.com, No. 2183, p. 1133–1137. After announcing the guardianship of Benjamin and

Benjamin Hungerford

1051

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:** Born in May 1741, Benjamin Hungerford was the sixth child born to Benjamin Hungerford and Jemima Hungerford. Of his ten siblings, only Benjamin Hungerford and his brother Stephen were active in the military during the Revolution. Stephen Hungerford briefly served as a Private in Captain Judson's Militia Light Horse Company in Major John Skinner's State Regiment. Sometime prior to the year 1772, Benjamin Hungerford married Kezia Walker. Together they had two children.<sup>9</sup>

Benjamin Hungerford was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant 1 May 1775, serving under Colonel Benjamin Hinman in the 1st Company of the 4th Connecticut Continental Regiment. As one of the earliest regiments raised following the Lexington Alarm, the 4th Regiment was quickly ordered by Governor Jonathan Trumbull to march north to Fort Ticonderoga. On 10 and 11 May 1775, Patriot troops led a successful surprise attack on Fort Ticonderoga and captured the fort from the British. The 4th Regiment was under orders to join the Patriot forces stationed there to help secure the post and serve as defense against recapture. After reaching their destination in June 1775, Colonel Benjamin Hinman took command of the fort until General Philip Schuyler could arrive.

The regiment continued to serve in the Northern Department until the expiration of its term of service in Dec. 1775. The 4th Regiment, like many other regiments stationed in the Northern Department, was plagued with sickness in the fall of 1775. Lieutenant Benjamin Hungerford fell ill and was placed on the sick list 20 Aug. 1775. He was immediately sent home and succumbed to his illness at his home 4 Sept. 1775.<sup>10</sup> Benjamin Hungerford was survived by his wife Kezia and his two young children Benjamin and Kezia. He was buried in South Cemetery, at Woodbury.

The inscription on his gravestone reads: "In memory of Lieu. Benjamin Hungerford, who died Sept. 4th 1775 in his 35th year. In him the Patriot and the hero join'd. The warrior's prowess with good sense combined. His country's wrongs provok'd his manly zeal, his love for virtue and the public weal. His noble breast undaunted courage fir'd. His men revered him and his friends admired. . . ." [remainder undecipherable].<sup>11</sup>



Grave of Benjamin Hungerford, South Cemetery, Woodbury, Conn. Image by Karen Kelly, FindaGrave.com, memorial #45368432.

<sup>9</sup> Kesia Hungerford in June 1783, there is no further mention of a Kesia Hungerford. It is unknown if she remarried or the date of her death.

<sup>10</sup> Johnston, *Record of Service of Connecticut Men*, 476.

<sup>11</sup> Johnston, *Record of Service of Connecticut Men*, 59; Heitman, *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army*, 309; Leach, *Corrections for Thomas Hungerford*, 39.

<sup>12</sup> Grave of Benjamin Hungerford, FindaGrave.com, memorial #45368432.

## Example Biography

# Utilizing Context

discharged shortly thereafter when the war ended.

Fifteen years after his enlistment in the French and Indian War, Orlando Mack was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant with the 8th Connecticut Continental Regiment 1 Jan. 1777 and was promoted to 1st Lieutenant 16 Feb. 1778.<sup>15</sup> Although both Heitman and Johnston assert that his promotion to 1st Lieutenant was 16 Feb. 1777, his 8th Regiment service file clearly shows that promotion did not occur until 16 Feb. 1778.<sup>16</sup>

After going into the field at Peekskill, New York in the spring of 1777, the regiment was ordered in Sept. 1777 to march to Pennsylvania to serve under Major General Alexander McDougall.<sup>17</sup> On 4 Oct. 1777, Lieutenant Mack was with the regiment when it fought at the Battle of Germantown. After enduring the harsh winter at Valley Forge, he and the regiment engaged at the Battle of Monmouth 28 June 1778.<sup>18</sup> Orlando Mack may have suffered at least some injury or illness during his service in the 8th Regiment. On his muster roll card for 4 Dec. 1777, he was marked "sick absent" and placed "on furlough" 3 Oct. 1778, remaining on furlough until his official discharge date of 15 Nov. 1778.<sup>19</sup>

Effective 15 Nov. 1778, Mack was one of the officers declared supernumerary and honorably discharged, likely due at least in part to his advanced age of 54 years as well as possibly being sick.<sup>20</sup> After the war, he moved to Harpersfield where he can be found in the 1800 Federal Census and where his estate was probated starting 28 April 1803.<sup>21</sup> Lieutenant Orlando Mack is a Qualified Propositus because he was declared supernumerary and was honorably discharged pursuant to an Act of Congress.



Tip

Make a Timeline

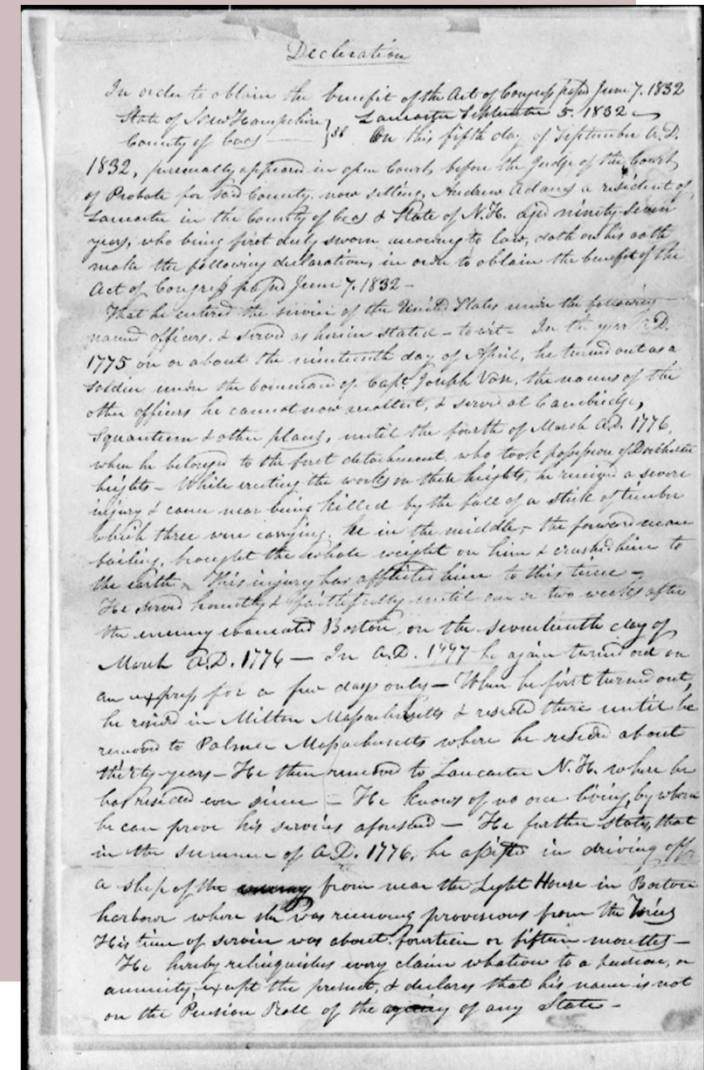


# Land Bounty Records

- Explains post-Revolution migrations
- Paperwork can provide details
- Rank
- Many applications have been lost or destroyed

# Pension Records

- Verify the declarations
- Identify any family members
  - Include name changes, marriages, grandchildren, ages
- Look into affidavits made by fellow soldiers
- Literacy
- Add information to your timeline



## 16

SERVICE		NUMBER
loonn.	Abbe, Nathaniel Little, Nancy Former widow	W. 26. 2/5
CONTENTS		
<div><div>&lt; &gt;</div><div>US, Revolutionary War Pe... ) Nathaniel</div><div></div></div>		



## Declaration

In order to obtain the benefit of the Acts of Congress of the Seventh of July 1838, and the 23<sup>d</sup> August 1842.

State of Connecticut.

County of Windham } S. Windham

On this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January A.D. one thousand eight hundred & forty three, personally appeared before the Court of Probate in & for the District of Windham Mrs. Nancy Little a resident of said Windham in the County of Windham aforesaid, aged seventy seven years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provision made by the acts of Congress passed July 7<sup>th</sup> 1838, and the 23<sup>d</sup> of August A.D. 1842, granting pensions to widows of persons who served during the Revolutionary War. That she is the widow of Nathaniel Abbe who was a Soldier in the Army during the Revolutionary War. That he enlisted into Captain Potters Company and afterwards joined the Army and served in Col<sup>l</sup> Butlers Regiment, she believes he served three years for he enlisted in the year seventeen hundred and eighty and must have left the Army in the

the year seventeen hundred and eighty three, as she was married soon after he left the Army which was in the year seventeen hundred & eighty four. She further declares that she has no documents in her possession respecting his (her said late Husband) service. That she has often heard him tell of his hardships when in the Army, of his privation & fatigue, but cannot now recollect of his naming particular battles he was in. The hardships she has undergone herself, and old age have much impaired her memory as well as her bodily strength. She further declares that she does not know of any officers now living, who were in the Army with him, and the Soldiers, she presumes, are most of them deceased.

She further declares that prior to her marriage to S. Nathaniel Abbe her name was Nancy Moon. She further declares that she was married to Nathaniel Abbe on the twentieth day of September seventeen hundred & eighty four by Herckiah Bisphill Esq<sup>r</sup> a Justice of the Peace, and that her husband aforesaid Nathaniel Abbe died November eleventh seventeen hundred & ninety eight, that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but that the marriage took place previous to the first of January seventeen hundred & ninety four, viz at the time above stated. She further declares that after

the death of her husband aforesaid she was married to Philemon Little on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of June seventeen hundred and ninety nine that he died on the thirteenth day of January eighteen hundred & forty, and that she is still a widow.

Witness

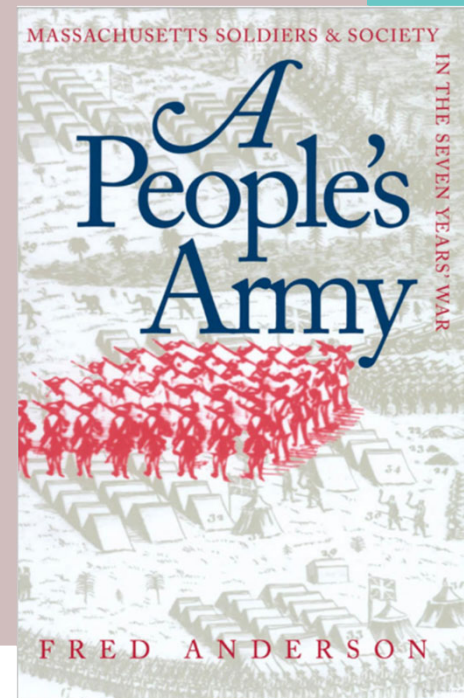
Soerates Balcomb

her  
Nancy X Little

## Widow Pension Application of Nancy Little (Fold3)

# Prior and Future Service

- French and Indian War
- Militia/Trainband Service
- War of 1812
- United States Army or Navy



*Rolls  
of  
Connecticut Men  
in the  
FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR  
1755-1762*



*Connecticut Historical Society*



This Assembly do establish William Stanton to be Captain of the fifth company or trainband in the town of Stonington.  
This Assembly do establish John Williams the 4th to be Lieutenant of the fifth company or trainband in the town of Stonington.

This Assembly do establish John Belcher to be Ensign of the fifth company or trainband in the town of Stonington.

This Assembly do establish William Starr to be Ensign of the first company or trainband in the third regiment in this Colony.

This Assembly do establish John Avery junr to be Lieutenant of the first company or trainband in the town of Preston.

This Assembly do establish Ebenezer Brewster to be Ensign of the first company or trainband in the town of Preston.

This Assembly do establish Isaac Johnson to be Captain of the third company or trainband in the town of Norwich.

This Assembly do establish Asa Kingsbury to be Lieutenant of the third company or trainband in the town of Norwich.

[377] This Assembly do establish Eli Hide to be Ensign of the third company or trainband in the town of Norwich.

This Assembly do establish Andrew Lathrop to be Captain of the troop of horse in the third regiment in this Colony.

This Assembly do establish Benjamin Throop junr to be Lieutenant of the troop of horse in the third regiment in this Colony.

This Assembly do establish Josiah Manning to be Cornet of the troop of horse in the third regiment in this Colony.

This Assembly do establish Ebenezer Lathrop junr to be Quarter-Master of the troop of horse in the third regiment in this Colony.

This Assembly do establish Nathaniel Wheeler to be Captain of the second company or trainband in the town of Stratford.

This Assembly do establish William Thomson to be Lieutenant of the second company or trainband in the town of Stratford.

This Assembly do establish Nehemiah Curtiss to be Ensign of the second company or trainband in the town of Stratford.

This Assembly do establish Elijah Abel to be Captain of the first company or trainband in the town of Fairfield.

This Assembly do establish Peter Hendrick to be Lieutenant

## ASA KINGSBURY

*QUALIFICATION:* Died in Service

*MILITARY ABSTRACT:* Prior Service: Ensign of the Trainband of West Farms, Connecticut, May 1772;<sup>1</sup> Lieutenant of the Trainband, Oct. 1774; Qualifying Service: Lieutenant, Lexington Alarm, April 1775; Captain, 8th Connecticut State Regiment, 6 July 1775; Died in Service, 5 Sept. 1775.<sup>2</sup>

- Public Records
- Involvement before the war often resulted in higher rank
- Even if prior service does not fall under the revolution, it will still be relevant to your research



# QUESTIONS?

A large audience of people is seated in a lecture hall, viewed from behind. They are facing a presentation screen at the front of the room. The room has a curved ceiling and patterned walls. The word "QUESTIONS?" is overlaid in large white letters on the image.

# Road Map

## Individual Approach - Military

Research your  
Regiment  
Service Records  
Bounty Land  
Warrants  
Pensions

## Individual Approach - Personal

Vital Records  
Alternative Records  
Family/Friends

## Adopt a Regiment

Chain of Command  
Muster Rolls  
Crew Lists  
Organize

# Researching the Individual

- Remember that your ancestor was more than just a soldier
- Their service would have affected their lives after the war
- Compare the military records to the vital records to ensure you have the right person



## THOMAS PHELPS

### QUALIFICATION: Three Campaigns

**MILITARY ABSTRACT:** Prior Service: Sergeant, 2nd Connecticut Continental Regiment, 4 May 1775 – 8 Nov. 1775;<sup>1</sup> Qualifying Service: Ensign, 22nd Connecticut Continental Regiment, 9 Nov. 1775<sup>2</sup> – 31 Dec. 1776;<sup>3</sup> Lieutenant, Captain Jeduthan Baldwin's Artillery Artificer Regiment, 24 July 1777;<sup>4</sup> Resigned, 1 May 1779.<sup>5</sup>

**BIRTH:** Hartford, Hartford County, Connecticut 17 July 1741, son of Thomas Phelps and Margaret Watson. Margaret Watson was a daughter of John Watson and Sarah Steele.<sup>6</sup> Through his mother, Lieutenant Thomas Phelps was a first cousin of Captain James Watson (1750–1806), an Original Member of the Connecticut Society of the Cincinnati, and a first cousin of Captain Titus Watson (1743–1820), a Qualified Propositus of the Connecticut Society of the Cincinnati under the Rule of 1854.

**MARRIAGE:** Simsbury, Hartford County to **DOROTHY LAMB WOODBRIDGE**, who was born at Simsbury 13 Nov. 1745, daughter of Haynes Woodbridge and Elizabeth Griswold,<sup>7</sup> and died Simsbury 1792, at the age of 46.<sup>8</sup> Dorothy

<sup>1</sup> Henry Phelps Johnston, *Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the I. War of the Revolution, II. War of 1812, III. Mexican War* (Hartford, Conn.: Connecticut Adjutant-General's Office, Connecticut General Assembly, 1889), 45, 49; Francis Bernard Heitman, *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During the War of the Revolution, April 1775 to December 1783* (Washington, D.C.: Rare Book Shop Publishing Co., 1914), 439.

<sup>2</sup> "22nd Regiment" Revolutionary War Rolls compiled 1894–1913, documenting the period 1775–1783, Folder 98, Fold3.com, 4; "Phelps, Thomas: 22nd Cont." Compiled Service Records of Soldiers Who Served in the American Army During the Revolutionary War, compiled 1894–ca. 1912, documenting the period 1775–1784 (NARA: M881), Roll 0056, Record Group 93, Fold3.com, 2 shows that he was serving as an Ensign in that regiment as of 9 Nov. 1775 while serving at Roxbury, Massachusetts at the Siege of Boston.

<sup>3</sup> Johnston, *Record of Service of Connecticut Men*, 107; Heitman, *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army*, 439.

<sup>4</sup> Johnston, *Record of Service of Connecticut Men*, 289, 290; Heitman, *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army*, 439.

<sup>5</sup> Johnston, *Record of Service of Connecticut Men*, 290; Heitman, *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army*, 439.

<sup>6</sup> Hartford Vital Records, 1635–1855, Barbour Collection, Ancestry.com, Vol. FFS, pp. 29, 62, 82.

<sup>7</sup> Simsbury Vital Records, 1670–1855, Barbour Collection, AmericanAncestors.org, Vol. TM3, pp. 153, 197; Albert C. Bates, *Simsbury, Connecticut: Births Marriages and Deaths Transcribed from the Town Records* (Hartford: Connecticut Historical Society, 1898), 60, 94; Oliver Seymour Phelps and Andrew T. Servin, *The Phelps Family of America and their English Ancestors, with Copies of Wills, Deeds, Letters, and other Interesting Papers, Coats of Arms and Valuable Records* (Pittsfield, Mass.: Eagle Publishing Company, 1899), Vol. II, pp. 318, 1354.

<sup>8</sup> Connecticut Headstone Inscriptions, *Connecticut, Hale Collection of Cemetery Inscriptions and Newspaper Notices, 1629–1934*, Ancestry.com, Vol. 44, p. 47; Grave of Dorothy Lamb

Lamb Woodbridge was the sister of Lieutenant Theophilus Woodbridge (1754–1815), a Qualified Propositus of the Connecticut Society of the Cincinnati under the Rule of 1854. She was also a first cousin of Major Theodore Woodbridge (1748–1810), an Original Member of the Connecticut Society, and a second cousin of Major John Palsgrave Wyllys (1754–1790) and Colonel Samuel Wyllys (1738–1823), each an Original Member of the Connecticut Society of the Cincinnati.

**DEATH:** Simsbury 28 Feb. 1789, at the age of 47. Both Thomas and Dorothy Phelps were buried in Hop Meadow Cemetery at Simsbury.<sup>9</sup>

**CHILDREN:** all born at Simsbury:<sup>10</sup>

- i. WILLIAM "BILLY" HAYNES PHELPS, b. 24 Aug. 1767; d. unknown.
- ii. GEORGE AUGUSTUS PHELPS, b. 12 Nov. 1769; d. 15 July 1788, at the age of 18; bur. Hop Meadow Cemetery.<sup>11</sup>
- iii. THOMAS WOODBRIDGE PHELPS, b. 6 May 1772; d. Lenox, Madison Co., N.Y. 5 Sept. 1838, at the age of 66; bur. Lenox Rural Cemetery, Lenox;<sup>12</sup> m. (1) LIBERTY EVEREST, b. abt. 1775, d. Canton, Hartford Co. 13 June 1796, at the age of 21, bur. Dyer Cemetery, Canton;<sup>13</sup> (2) LUCINA PINNEY, b. abt. 1774, d. Lenox 15 May 1819, at the age of 46, bur. Lenox Rural Cemetery;<sup>14</sup> (3) SARAH \_\_\_\_\_, b. 1769, d. Ansonia, New Haven Co., Conn. 1860, at the age of abt. 91, bur. Pine Grove Cemetery, Ansonia. Thomas was a saddler and a harness-maker.<sup>15</sup>
- iv. ANSON GREENE PHELPS, b. 24 March 1781; d. New York City, N.Y. 30 Nov. 1853, at the age of 72;<sup>16</sup> m. Hartford 26 Oct. 1806, OLIVIA EGLESTON, b. Conn. 30 March 1784, dau. of Elihu Egleston and Elizabeth Olcott, d. New York City 24 April 1859, at the age of 75. His middle name was chosen in honor of Nathanael Greene, whom his father greatly admired. Anson was a founder of Ansonia, Conn., and a successful manufacturer and merchant of Hartford and New York. Both Anson and Olivia were buried first in New York Marble Cemetery, Manhattan, and were later moved to the family mausoleum at Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, N.Y.<sup>17</sup>

Woodbridge Phelps, FindaGrave.com, memorial #60405990.

<sup>9</sup> Connecticut Headstone Inscriptions, Vol. 44, p. 47; Grave of Thomas Phelps, FindaGrave.com, memorial #57496260; Phelps and Servin, *The Phelps Family of America*, 1354.

<sup>10</sup> *Simsbury Vital Records*, Vol. TM4, p. 207; Bates, *Simsbury, Connecticut: Births Marriages and Deaths*, 208; Phelps and Servin, *The Phelps Family of America*, 1354.

<sup>11</sup> Connecticut Headstone Inscriptions, Vol. 44, p. 47; Grave of George Augustus Phelps, FindaGrave.com, memorial #60406943.

<sup>12</sup> Grave of Col. Thomas Woodbridge Phelps, FindaGrave.com, memorial #24426597; Phelps and Servin, *The Phelps Family of America*, 1408, 1409.

<sup>13</sup> Connecticut Headstone Inscriptions Vol. 08, p. 161; Grave of Liberty Everest Phelps, FindaGrave.com, memorial #83080128; Phelps and Servin, *The Phelps Family of America*, 1408.

<sup>14</sup> Grave of Lucina Pinney Phelps, FindaGrave.com, memorial #24426598; Phelps and Servin, *The Phelps Family of America*, 1408.

<sup>15</sup> Grave of Sarah Phelps, FindaGrave.com, memorial #151494115.

<sup>16</sup> Grave of Anson Greene Phelps, FindaGrave.com, memorial #180317406; Phelps and Servin, *The Phelps Family of America*, 1409–1410.

<sup>17</sup> *Newspaper Extractions from the Northeast, 1704–1930*, Connecticut American Mercury Marriage 1784–1822, Ancestry.com, 96; Grave of Liberty Everest Phelps, FindaGrave.com,

## Compiling Personal Information

# Vital Records

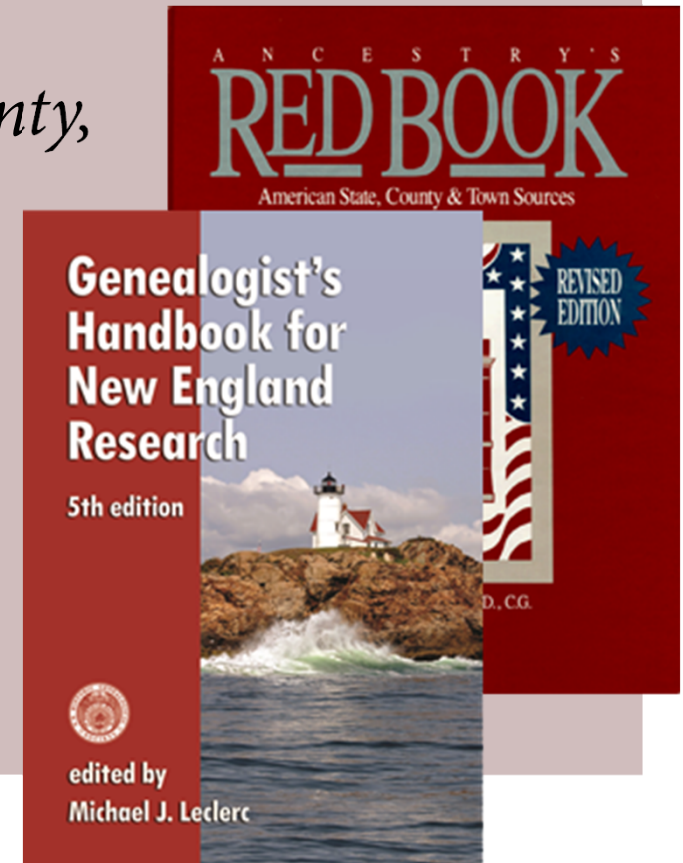
# Vital Records

- Birth, marriage, and death Records
- Often provide the names of the individual's parents and/or spouse
- Depending on the state, records may be held on the state, county, and/or town/city level
- These facts will be the building stones of your research



# Vital Records: Resources

- *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research*, 5th ed. (NEHGS, 2012)
- *Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*, 3rd ed. (Ancestry Publishing, 2004)
- *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy*, 3rd ed. (Ancestry Publishing, 2006)

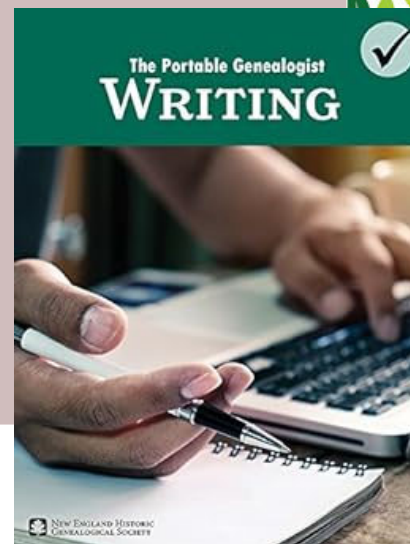
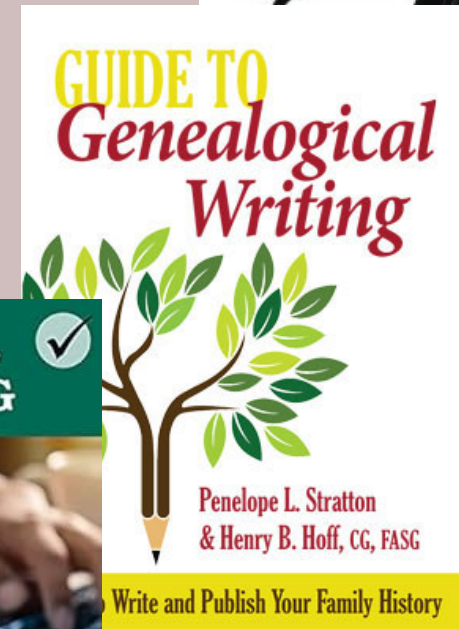
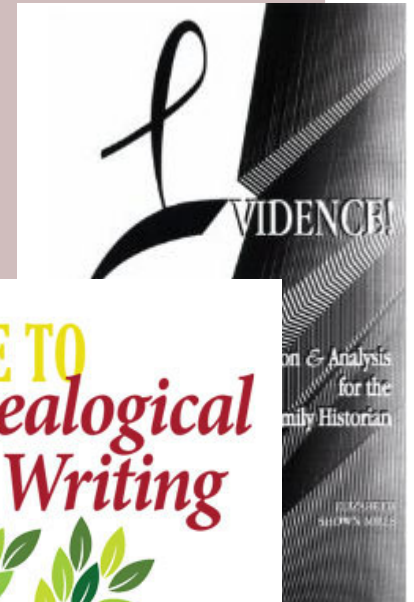


Tip

Cite as you write!

# Citations and Footnotes

- *Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian* (Genealogical Pub. Co., 1997)
- *Guide to Genealogical Writing*, 3rd ed. (American Ancestors, 2014)
- *The Portable Genealogist: Writing* (American Ancestors, 2017)

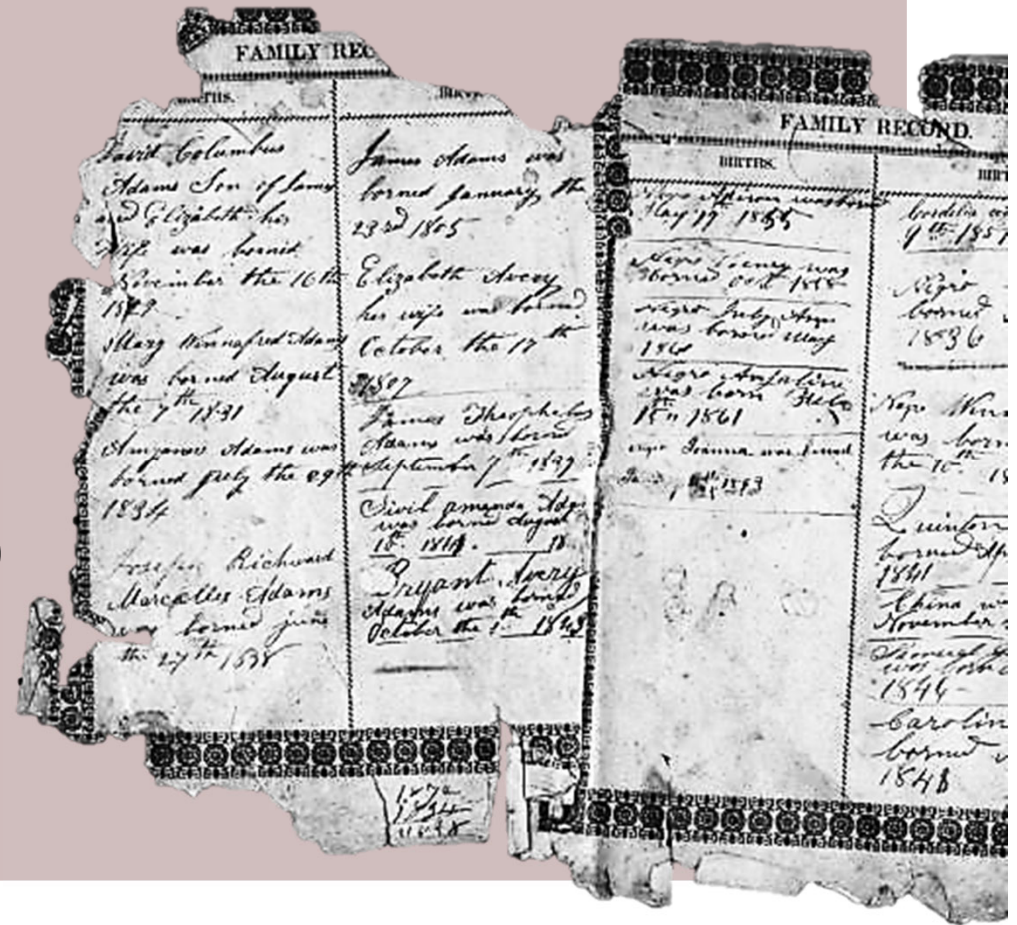




# Alternative Vital Records

# Bible Records

- Rare, but helpful
- Maintained by local historical societies, archives, or genealogical society (American Ancestors)



# Town/State Records

- What positions did your ancestor hold
  - Representative
  - Judge
  - Surveyor
- Declarations to the General Assembly

Upon the Petition of James Church of Hartford bearing Date the 19<sup>th</sup> Day of May 1786, against his Creditors, Shewing to this Assembly that by means of many great and Heavy Losses and misfortunes in the Course of Trade the last War\* he is greatly reduced and embarrassed in his Circumstances and become unable to pay all his Just Debts that he is advanced in Years and of a weakly infirm Constitution of Body and desirous that equal Justice might take Place amongst his Creditors as far as is in his Power, and is willing to resign up into the Hands of Trustees upon Oath all his Estate both real and personal to be disposed of for the Benefit of his Creditors except his own and his Wife\* wearing Apparel and their Household Furniture, and praying that thereupon he may be exonerated and discharged from all his Debts contracted before the Date of his Petition, and it appearing to this Assembly that the Facts stated in said Petition are Just and true, and more than four fifths of his Creditors in number and value having requested the same by a Writing under their Hands and exhibited to this Assembly,

*Whereupon it is Enacted and Resolved by this Assembly* that upon said James Church\*, delivering upon Oath and assigning unto Mess<sup>rs</sup> Richard Alsop Daniel Pitkin and William Adams who are hereby appointed Trustees to receive the same all his Property both real and Personal except his own and his Wifes wearing Apparel and their Household Furniture for the Use and Benefit of his Creditors, and obtaining from said Trustees a Certificate of his having so done said James Church his Person and Property shall be by force of this Act exonerated and discharged from all Attachments Executions and Suits in Law or Equity for and on Account of any Debt or Debts Contracted before the Date of his said Petition, and said Trustees are hereby directed and Impowered to warn a Meeting of said Creditors to be held at the House of M<sup>r</sup> David Ball in said Hartford on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July next, by advertising the same in the several News Papers in this State three Weeks successively twenty Days before the Time of said Meeting, and said Creditors, or a Major part of them present at said Meeting may displace any or all of said Trustees and appoint others in their stead,

Public Records of Connecticut, Vol. XI, p. 320



# Census Records (*Federal and State*)

- U.S. Federal Census available 1790–1940
- Before 1850, U.S. Federal Census did not name each member of household
- Online resources:
  - *AmericanAncestors.org*
  - *familysearch.org*
  - *fold3.com*
  - *ancestry.com*

Page No. *64*      Note A.—The Census Year begins June 1, 1870, and ends May 31, 1880.      Received August 6, 80.  
 Supervisor's Dist. No. *68*      Note B.—All persons will be included in the Enumeration who were living on the 1st day of June, 1880. No others will. Children BORN SINCE  
 Enumeration Dist. No. *247*      June 1, 1880, will be OMITTED. Members of Families who have DIED SINCE June 1, 1880, will be INCLUDED.  
 Note C.—Questions Nos. 10, 14, 22 and 23 are not to be asked in respect to persons under 10 years of age.

SCHEDULE I.—Inhabitants in *Livingston* *10th* *18th*, in the County of *Sanford*, State of *Mass.*      211  
 enumerated by me on the *10th* day of *June*, 1880.      *John R. Bissell*      Enumerator.

Inhabitant	Name	Sex	Age	Color	Profession, Trade, or Occupation	Married	Single	Education	Reading	Writing	Place of Birth of the person	Place of Birth of the father	Place of Birth of the mother
1	<i>Wright, John A.</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Blacksmith</i>	<i>✓</i>		<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>
2	<i>Wright, John A.</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Wife</i>		<i>✓</i>				<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>
3	<i>Wright, John A.</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Blacksmith</i>	<i>✓</i>		<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>
4	<i>Wright, John A.</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Wife</i>		<i>✓</i>				<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>
5	<i>Wright, John A.</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Blacksmith</i>	<i>✓</i>		<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>
6	<i>Wright, John A.</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Wife</i>		<i>✓</i>				<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>
7	<i>Wright, John A.</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Blacksmith</i>	<i>✓</i>		<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>
8	<i>Wright, John A.</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Wife</i>		<i>✓</i>				<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>
9	<i>Wright, John A.</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Blacksmith</i>	<i>✓</i>		<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>
10	<i>Wright, John A.</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Wife</i>		<i>✓</i>				<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>
11	<i>Wright, John A.</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Blacksmith</i>	<i>✓</i>		<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>
12	<i>Wright, John A.</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Wife</i>		<i>✓</i>				<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>
13	<i>Wright, John A.</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Blacksmith</i>	<i>✓</i>		<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>
14	<i>Wright, John A.</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Wife</i>		<i>✓</i>				<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>
15	<i>Wright, John A.</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Blacksmith</i>	<i>✓</i>		<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>
16	<i>Wright, John A.</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Wife</i>		<i>✓</i>				<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>
17	<i>Wright, John A.</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Blacksmith</i>	<i>✓</i>		<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>
18	<i>Wright, John A.</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Wife</i>		<i>✓</i>				<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>
19	<i>Wright, John A.</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Blacksmith</i>	<i>✓</i>		<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>
20	<i>Wright, John A.</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Wife</i>		<i>✓</i>				<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>	<i>Mass.</i>

# Cemetery Records and Inscriptions

- Look for clear photos
- Be careful of inscriptions without any photo
- Online resources:
  - *findagrave.com*
  - *billiongraves.com*
  - *interment.net*
  - *locateagrave.org*
- Do not rely on military markers





# Mismarked Graves



Gravestone of Captain Simon Gross (Lebanon, Conn.)



# SIMON GROSS

*QUALIFICATION:* Rule of 1854

*MILITARY ABSTRACT:* 2nd or 3rd Lieutenant, Continental Frigate *Boston*, 12 Oct. 1776; taken prisoner, 9 July 1777; exchanged, 24 Jan. 1778; Lieutenant, Continental Frigate *Confederacy*, by 30 Oct. 1778; taken prisoner, 14 April 1781; released, summer or fall 1781; Subsequent Service: Captain, Revenue-Marine cutter *Active*, Jan. 1791; resigned, July 1792, succeeded by Captain David Porter; 1st Lieutenant, United States Frigate *Constellation*, 30 Aug. 1797; resigned or discharged, May 1798.<sup>1</sup>

*BIRTH:* His birth and parentage are unclear.<sup>2</sup>

*MARRIAGE:* Conjectural: (1) possibly Baltimore, Md. 14 Aug. 1787 to **MARY LEWIS**, whose birth is unknown, died before 1798; (2) possibly Baltimore 22 Jan. 1798 to **ANN JOB ALLISON**, whose birth and death are unknown.<sup>3</sup> Given the uncertainty of his birth and parentage, these marriages are speculative.

*DEATH:* After 1803.<sup>4</sup>

Tip

Include explanation of  
discrepancies found in  
documents

# Church Records

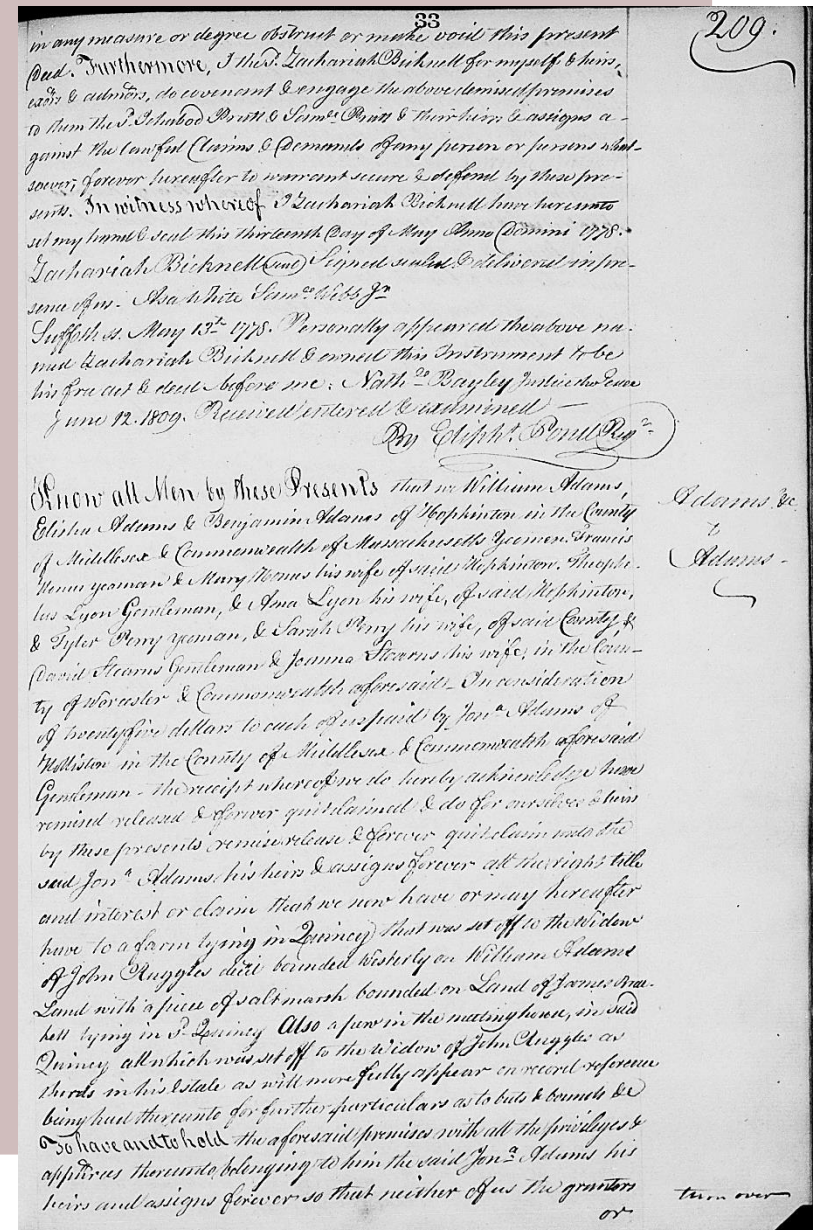
- Baptisms, marriages, confirmations, burials
- To find, identify your ancestor's religion and church
- Sources:
  - Church archives
  - American Ancestors Library
  - *AmericanAncestors.org*
  - *familysearch.org*

40 RECORDS OF THE WEST CHURCH OF BOSTON	
January 9 <sup>th</sup>	Sarah Kendall daughter of M <sup>r</sup> Bailey Cushing
16	Nathaniel Son of M <sup>r</sup> Joseph Fosdick
Feb <sup>y</sup> 20	Mary, daughter of M <sup>r</sup> Edward [&] M <sup>rs</sup> Mary Taylor in private.
	Mary Jackson Etat 7 yrs daughter of M <sup>r</sup> Bant Brimsdell decd, at the desire of M <sup>r</sup> & M <sup>rs</sup> Taylor, in private
27 <sup>th</sup>	Benjamin, Son of M <sup>r</sup> Matthew Bayley
	Eliza Ann, daughter of M <sup>r</sup> Joseph Mansfield in private
March 6.	Albart Swan Son of M <sup>r</sup> Amos Penniman
13.	Eben <sup>r</sup> , Son of M <sup>r</sup> Ebenezer Eaton, born March 5 <sup>th</sup> 1803. <u>Killed by y<sup>e</sup> natives on one of y<sup>e</sup> Seal islands July 1823</u>
20	Martin, Son of Ebenezer Gay
April 10.	William Gordon, Son of Cap <sup>t</sup> James Prince
24.	Sally, Daughter of M <sup>r</sup> Asa Page
<u>1803</u>	
[294]	
June 12.	George, son of M <sup>r</sup> Jonas Coolidge
July 24	John Son of M <sup>r</sup> John Andrew
August 7	George, Son of M <sup>r</sup> Thomas Dennie
21	Thomas Perkins, Son of M <sup>r</sup> Matthias Murch (By M <sup>r</sup> Porter)
Sept <sup>r</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup>	Frederick, Son of M <sup>r</sup> James Henderson.
	Thomas Austin Son of M <sup>r</sup> Ebenezer Adams
7	Lexia, daughter of M <sup>r</sup> Murdoc Mackay & Betsey his wife, lately arived from Scotland; the child being dangerously sick was baptised in private
Oct <sup>r</sup> 2 <sup>d</sup>	Daniel, Son of M <sup>r</sup> John Kuhn born Sept 25. 1803
16	Elizabeth, daughter of M <sup>r</sup> John C. Howard <u>since M<sup>rs</sup> [Cyrus A.] Bartol</u>
30	Samuel Rand, son of M <sup>r</sup> Andrew Floyd born Oct 15. 1803
Nov <sup>r</sup> 13	Thomas Dennie, posthumous son of W <sup>m</sup> Harris Esq <sup>r</sup> decd & Eliz <sup>a</sup> Harris
	Margaret, daughter of M <sup>r</sup> John Low
	Lydia, daughter of M <sup>r</sup> Zebulon Hall
	Sarah, daughter of M <sup>r</sup> Perez Gill
15	Robert, Son of M <sup>r</sup> — Clayton in private, being sick
Dec <sup>r</sup> 11	Sarah Bent, daughter of M <sup>r</sup> Bill Vose <u>after M<sup>rs</sup> William Henry Cunningham obiit Nov<sup>r</sup> [20] 1853</u>
	Nancy, daughter of M <sup>r</sup> George Cushing
18	Francis, son of M <sup>r</sup> Thomas Tilden.
<u>1804</u>	
Jan <sup>y</sup> 1	Oscar Son of M <sup>r</sup> Job Drew



# Deeds & Land Records

- May identify relationship between grantor (seller) and grantee (purchaser)
- Adds to the timeline
- Sources:
  - American Ancestors Library
  - [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org)
  - Family History Library



# Local Histories & Well-Documented Genealogies

- Be cautious and critical
- Helpful for pioneers
- Online resources:
  - *archive.org*
  - *books.google.com*
  - *books.familysearch.org*

## CHAPTER LI

### ILLUSTRIOUS SONS

JOHN ADAMS—JOHN QUINCY ADAMS—JOHN HANCOCK—PAUL REVERE—FISHER AMES—HORACE MANN—WILLIAM T. ADAMS—ELEAZAR SMITH—WILLIAM M. THAYER—ALBERT D. RICHARDSON—HANNAH ADAMS—MARY E. WILKINS FREEMAN—A LITERARY GROUP.

Shakespeare tells us that "Some men are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." In every community there are certain individuals who, through accident of birth, through their own efforts, or through some fortunate combination of circumstances, rise above their fellow-men in the professions, in literary pursuits, as great inventors or in the political arena. Norfolk County has a number of these "Illustrious Sons," who have helped to shape the nation's destiny and add lustre to its history. Norfolk is the only county in the United States that can claim the distinction of being the birthplace of two presidents of the United States—John Adams and his son, John Quincy Adams.

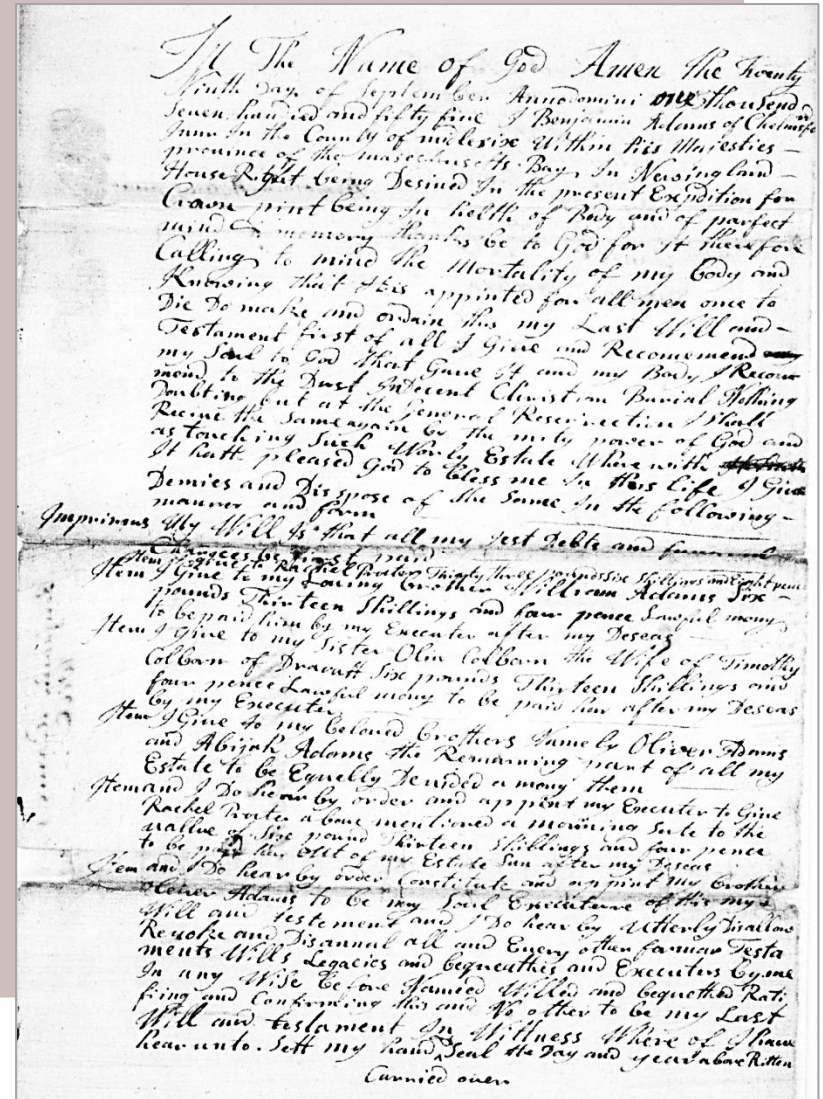
#### JOHN ADAMS

John Adams was born in that part of Braintree now Quincy on October 19, 1735, the eldest son of John and Susanna (Boylston) Adams. After suitable preparation he entered Harvard and graduated as a member of the class of 1755. His first intention was to study for the ministry, but not being in full sympathy with the orthodox views regarding election and reprobation, he decided upon the law as his profession. While preparing himself for the bar, he taught school at Worcester, and in 1758 was admitted to practice. In 1761 he heard James Otis deliver his famous address on "Writs of Assistance," of which he afterward said: "American independence was then and there born." Such an influence did this address have on Mr. Adams that when the tory government offered him the position of advocate-general in 1763, he declined the honor. In 1764 he married Abigail Smith, a granddaughter of Col. John Quincy, and about this time published his "Essay on Canon and Feudal Law."

The passage of the Stamp Act in March, 1765, brought Mr. Adams prominently into politics for the first time. He drew up the petition in the Town of Braintree and procured the signatures of a number of the leading citizens, instructing their representatives in relation to the stamps. On December 18, 1765, the Town of Boston employed him to appear with Gridley and Otis before the governor and council in support of his memorial. This introduced him to the people of Boston and in 1768 he opened a law office in that city. In the

# Probate Records

- Identify heirs: spouse, children, grandchildren, and siblings
- May include death information
- Sources:
  - American Ancestors Library
  - *AmericanAncestors.org*
  - *familysearch.org*
  - Family History Library





Tip

Take note of vital records for  
siblings and spouses

Sound. On 12 Aug. 1779, Elisha Hinman succeeded in getting *Trumbull* past the sand bar and out to sea after only two months of effort.<sup>33</sup> With his triumph of accomplishing what Saltonstall had failed to do for two years, it seemed sure that Hinman would become the next Captain of the *Trumbull*. Much to the surprise of Elisha Hinman and the Navy Board, the Marine Committee granted the commission to Captain James Nicholson on 6 Oct. 1779.<sup>34</sup> According to one source the reason was: "Rules of appointment to command in the Navy forbade the selection of Capt. [Elisha] Hinman for the *Trumbull* when Capt. [James] Nicholson was the first captain on the Navy List and considered a man of merit."<sup>35</sup>

On 6 June 1780 Captain Hinman was given command of the Connecticut Ship *Deane*.<sup>36</sup> On 25 Aug. 1780, the *Deane* and her crew of 210 men successfully captured a British Brigantine and brought the prize, loaded with brandy and cordials meant for British officers, into Boston.<sup>37</sup> Captain Hinman and the *Deane* captured another cargo-loaded prize 26 March 1781.<sup>38</sup> On 13 June 1781 Elisha Hinman was given command of the Connecticut Brigantine *Marquis de Lafayette* with a crew of 100 men.<sup>39</sup> While commanding the *Marquis de Lafayette*, Captain Hinman managed to overtake the British brig *Dispatch* and take it as a prize.<sup>40</sup>

While Elisha Hinman was out at sea, the traitor Benedict Arnold attacked New London and Groton. On 6 Sept. 1781, the British troops commanded by General Benedict Arnold advanced on Fort Griswold, burning much of Groton and New London on their way. Abigail Hinman, Elisha's wife, was one of the only residents who did not flee the city. By staying, Abigail came face to face with Benedict Arnold, who just years before had been a family friend. It is rumored Benedict Arnold asked for directions to the print shop and post office, but Abigail misled him. General Arnold promised to protect Elisha Hinman's property from destruction, which led Mrs. Hinman



Grave of Elisha Hinman, Cedar Grove Cemetery, New London, Conn.  
Image by Irma, FindAGrave.com, memorial #21359.

<sup>33</sup> Hinman, *A Catalogue of the Early Puritan Settlers*, 817.

<sup>34</sup> Morgan, *Captains to the Northward*, 167–168.

<sup>35</sup> Lincoln, *Naval Records of the American Revolution 1775–1788*, 119.

<sup>36</sup> Middlebrook, *History of Maritime Connecticut*, Vol. 2, p. 66; A *Catalogue of the Early Puritan Settlers*, 817.

<sup>37</sup> Middlebrook, *History of Maritime Connecticut*, Vol. 2, p. 66.

<sup>38</sup> Middlebrook, *History of Maritime Connecticut*, Vol. 2, p. 67.

<sup>39</sup> Middlebrook, *History of Maritime Connecticut*, Vol. 2, pp. 67, 150.

<sup>40</sup> Lincoln, *Naval Records of the American Revolution 1775–1788*, 263, 384; Middlebrook, *History of Maritime Connecticut*, Vol. 2, pp. 66, 67, 150.

to claim multiple buildings that were not theirs, to protect as much property as possible. To keep his promise, General Arnold stood guard in front of the Hinman's house throughout much of the attack.

As the attacks continued and the city burned, Abigail grew enraged. According to the Hinman genealogy, she marched to the closet, grabbed a musket, and took aim at the General's back. Her efforts were for naught, as the gun was not loaded. General Arnold heard the click of the pan but Abigail quickly withdrew the musket so he suspected nothing, seeing her quiet at the window. According to this family lore, Abigail Hinman came close to executing one of America's most infamous traitors.<sup>41</sup> The story was memorialized in a painting now in the collection of the Lyman Allyn Art Museum in New London, Connecticut.

After the war, Captain Elisha Hinman returned to his merchant business and commanded the Revenue Cutter *Argus* at New London for some years.<sup>42</sup> He died at New London 29 Aug. 1807, at the age of 73. He was survived by all four of his children and his brave and resourceful wife Abigail.<sup>43</sup>

Captain Elisha Hinman was a first cousin of Ensign Titus Hinman (1733–1778), a Qualified Propositus of the Connecticut Society of the Cincinnati as Died in Service.



Daniel Huntington's painting of Abigail Hinman at the window.  
Lyman Allyn Art Museum, New London, Conn.<sup>44</sup>

<sup>41</sup> Hinman, *Descendants of Edward Hinman*, 820; Carol Sommer, "Abby, Get Your Gun," *The Day*, New London, Conn., 7 Nov. 2021.

<sup>42</sup> Hinman, *A Catalogue of the Early Puritan Settlers*, 818.

<sup>43</sup> *The Connecticut Courant* (Hartford, Conn.), 1 Sept. 1800, p. 3, Newspapers.com.

<sup>44</sup> *Abigail Dolbear Hinman*, by Daniel Huntington (1853–1856), Oil on Canvas, in the collection of the Lyman Allyn Art Museum, New London, Conn.

## Biography of Elisha Hinman



# Artifacts

- Mementos left by your ancestor can add more than you might think
- Weapons, badges, original commissions, clothing, personal effects

force was moved across to the Brooklyn lines, under the command of General Nathanael Greene. Those troops assisted in the construction of Fort Sterling at Brooklyn Heights and the fort on Cobble Hill. The 2nd Battalion went on to see action in the Battle of Long Island and the subsequent retreats. However, Colonel Gay himself was not present. The Colonel fell ill at camp and, after only two months and three days at his post as Colonel, Fisher Gay succumbed to dysentery on 22 Aug. 1776.<sup>15</sup> Colonel Gay's sword was preserved, its inscription reading "Freedom or Death." The sword is currently on display at the Stanley-Whitman House in Farmington, Connecticut. With his passing, Colonel Fisher Gay left behind his second wife Ruth and three surviving children.<sup>16</sup>



Sword of Col. Fisher Gay. Courtesy of the Stanley-Whitman House, Farmington, Conn.



Fisher Gay's commission to Colonel.  
Courtesy of the Stanley-Whitman House, Farmington, Conn.




Stitched Pocketbook  
and Powder Horn,  
Museum of the  
American Revolution

<sup>15</sup> Camp, *History of New Britain*, 420: "He died . . . of dysentery in camp near Brooklyn on August 22, 1776"; Dexter, *Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College*, Vol. II, p. 582. Apparently even General Washington was not aware of Gay's death as of 4 September 1776, when he wrote to Col. Gay: see [Founders.Archives.gov](http://Founders.Archives.gov).


<sup>16</sup> Johnston, *Record of Service of Connecticut Men*, 392, 395; Johnston, *Yale and Her Honor Roll*, 219–220; Arthur L. Bangee, Eddy N. Smith, *Farmington, Connecticut: the Village of Beautiful Homes*, (Farmington, Conn., 1906), 115; "Gay, Fisher: Gay's Regiment" *Compiled Service Records of Soldiers Who Served in the American Army During the Revolutionary War, compiled 1894–ca. 1912, documenting the period 1775–1784* (NARA: M881), Roll 0368, Record Group 93, Fold3.com, 1–35; Dexter, *Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College*, Vol. 2, pp. 581, 582. The date of his death varies from one source to another, but most sources have it as 22 Aug. 1776.





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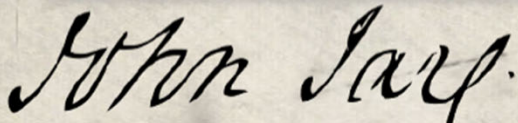

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#### PERIOD

- Colonial 1706–1775 (16,106)
- Revolutionary War 1775–1783 (48,453)
- Confederation Period 1783–1789 (17,807)
- Washington Presidency 1789–1797 (27,432)
- Adams Presidency 1797–1801 (13,569)
- Jefferson Presidency 1801–1809 (29,570)
- Madison Presidency 1809–1817 (15,471)
- post-Madison Presidency 1817–1836 (15,392)

# Letters & Correspondence - founders.archives.gov

# Newspapers

**D**ESERTED from Capt. William Richards's Company in Col. Huntington's Regiment, a Soldier, who calls himself Christopher Sherman, of North Kingston in the State of Rhode-Island ; he is 5 Feet 7 Inches high, has blue Eyes, short light Hair, light Complexion, a pretty well set Man ; he enlisted January the 9th 1777, and went towards New-London. Whoever will apprehend said Defeater, and secure him in any Goal in the United States, and notify the Subscriber, at Say-Brook, shall receive five Dollars Reward, and all necessary Charges.

**HENRY HILL**, Lieut.

*Connecticut Gazette, 11 April 1777*



# QUESTIONS?



# Road Map

## Individual Approach - Military

Research your  
Regiment  
Service Records  
Bounty Land Warrants  
Pensions

## Individual Approach - Personal

Family/Friends  
Vital Records

## Adopt a Regiment

Chain of Command  
Muster Rolls  
Crew Lists  
Organize  
Lineage Societies

When the Connecticut Society of the Cincinnati was formed in May 1783, Ebenezer joined as an Original Member, along with his older brother General Jedediah Huntington.<sup>66</sup> Not only were the brothers Original Members, but both were among the founding members of the Society, as Jedediah Huntington was the first to sign the Connecticut Society's copy of the Institution, and Ebenezer Huntington was the third. On 4 July 1783, Ebenezer Huntington was elected Treasurer of the Connecticut Society and his brother Jedediah was named President.

After his celebrated service in the Revolution, Ebenezer Huntington was named Adjutant General of the Connecticut Militia in 1792 by his cousin Governor Samuel Huntington and held that post until 1823.<sup>70</sup> He was also appointed Brigadier General in the United States Army 19 July 1798 and was honorably discharged two years later on 15 June 1800.<sup>71</sup>

On 13 Oct. 1789, Ebenezer Huntington was granted a land bounty warrant for 450 acres based on his Revolutionary War service as a Lieutenant Colonel.<sup>72</sup> On 6 May 1818, he applied for a pension based on his Revolutionary

<sup>66</sup> Heitman, *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army*, 310; Johnston, *Record of Service of Connecticut Men*, 330, 354; Johnston, *Yale and Her Honor Roll*, 310; Caulkins, *History of Norwich*, 419; Gilman, *A Historical Discourse*, 63–64.

<sup>67</sup> Dexter, *Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College*, Vol. III, p. 566. John Trumbull's painting is on display in the Capitol Rotunda in Washington, D.C.; "Surrender of Lord Cornwallis," Wikipedia.org.

<sup>68</sup> Johnston, *Record of Service of Connecticut Men*, 359; Heitman, *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army*, 310.

<sup>69</sup> Johnston, *Record of Service of Connecticut Men*, 359.

<sup>70</sup> Johnston, *Record of Service of Connecticut Men*, 368; Dexter, *Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College*, Vol. III, 566.

<sup>71</sup> Johnston, *Record of Service of Connecticut Men*, 373.

<sup>72</sup> Johnston, *Yale and Her Honor Roll*, 310; Dexter, *Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College*, Vol. III, p. 566; Caulkins, *History of Norwich*, 420.

<sup>73</sup> Heitman, *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army*, 310–311; Dexter, *Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College*, Vol. III, p. 566, says was in 1799.

<sup>74</sup> "Huntington, Ebenezer: S.36595" *Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service*, compiled ca. 1800–ca. 1912, documenting the period ca. 1775–ca. 1900 (NARA: M804), Roll 1376, Record Group 15, Fold3.com, 1. The Bounty Land Warrant file of Lt. Col. Ebenezer Huntington (BLWt 949-450) is part of his 128-page Revolutionary War Pension File.

War service and it was approved at the rate of \$20 per month.<sup>75</sup> At some later point, perhaps because Lieutenant Colonel Huntington had too many assets, it appears that his pension benefits were halted because in Aug. 1824 he applied for his pension benefits to be "restored."<sup>74</sup>

Outside of his military career, Ebenezer Huntington maintained an active life from his home in Norwich. He worked as a businessman and was heavily involved in public works. He was one of the driving forces supporting the development of the turnpike from Norwich to New London in 1791, as well as the establishment of the first insurance company at Norwich in 1794 and its first bank in 1796. He served as the bank president for many years.<sup>75</sup> He also served as a Representative in Congress for the first three months in 1810 and then a full term 1817–1819.<sup>76</sup>

Ebenezer Huntington married Sarah Isham 10 Dec. 1791. They had one child who was born 2 June 1793, but just months later, Sarah died 3 Dec. 1793.<sup>77</sup> Almost two years after the death of his first wife, he remarried 7 Oct. 1795. With his second wife Lucretia Mary McClellan, he had three sons and six daughters.<sup>78</sup> His wife Lucretia died 5 Nov. 1819 in her 47th year.<sup>79</sup> Ebenezer Huntington died 17 June 1834 at the age of 79,<sup>80</sup> and was survived by all of his ten children.

Lieutenant Colonel Ebenezer Huntington's father Colonel Jabez Huntington (1719–1786) is a Qualified Propositus of the Connecticut Society of the Cincinnati as Permanently Incapacitated. His half-brother General Jedediah Huntington (1743–1818) was an Original Member of the Connecticut Society and his half-brother Commissary Andrew Huntington (1745–1824) was a Qualified Propositus of the Connecticut Society under the Rule of 1854. His sister Elizabeth Huntington (1757–1834) married Colonel John Chester (1748–1809), an Original Member of the Connecticut Society. His aunt Lydia Huntington (1727–1798) was the mother of Captain Gurdon Bill (1757–1815), an Original Member of the Connecticut Society, and Lieutenant Ephraim Bill (1759–1780), a Qualified Propositus of the Connecticut Society as Died in Service.

<sup>75</sup> "Huntington, Ebenezer: S.36595" *Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant*, 1–2.

<sup>76</sup> "Huntington, Ebenezer: S.36595" *Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant*, 109–114.

<sup>77</sup> Dexter, *Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College*, Vol. III, p. 566.

<sup>78</sup> Dexter, *Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College*, Vol. III, pp. 566–567; Caulkins, *History of Norwich*, 420; Hollister, *The History of Connecticut*, Vol. III, p. 645.

<sup>79</sup> Dexter, *Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College*, Vol. III, p. 567.

<sup>80</sup> Dexter, *Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College*, Vol. III, p. 567.

<sup>81</sup> Johnston, *Yale and Her Honor Roll*, 311; Dexter, *Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College*, Vol. III, p. 567; Caulkins, *History of Norwich*, 420; Hollister, *The History of Connecticut*, Vol. II, p. 645.

## Post-Military Biographical Notes

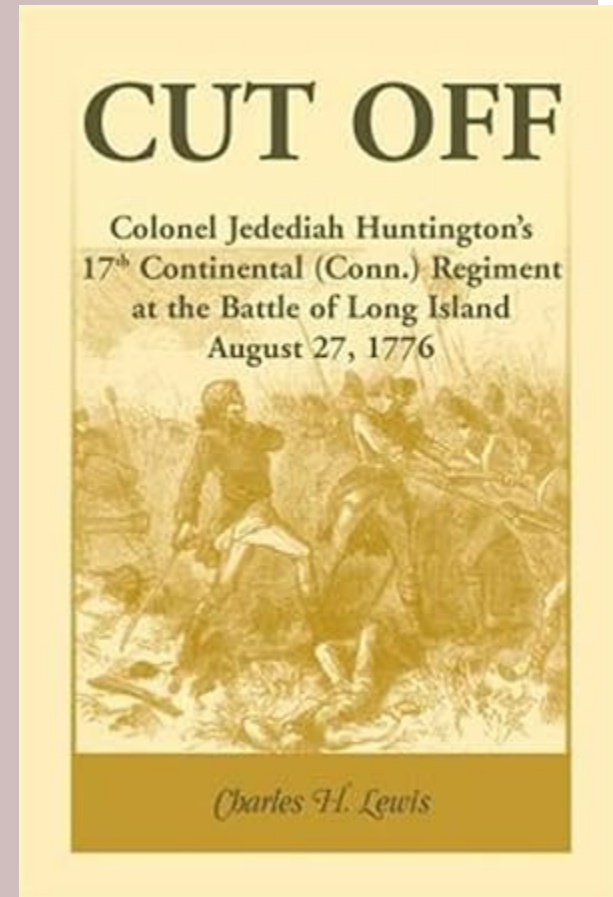


# Adopt the Regiment



# What Makes This Different

- Adopting the Regiment allows a researcher to learn more about the regiment itself and possibly more about your ancestor
- Your ancestor is just a small piece of the puzzle, and widening your lens will allow you to understand more



# Where to Begin

- Start with what you know
  - State, Regiment, Company, Ship, etc.



*Continental  
Army Uniforms,*  
by Charles M.  
Lefferts



*USS Confederacy, Navy Art Gallery*

# Research The Officers

- Written Records
  - Journals
  - Official Correspondence
- Biographies, Military Histories
- The bigger the name, the more written works that likely exist






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*Sibley's Harvard Graduates, 14:49.*

**Samuel Holden Parsons**  
(Harvard, 1756)

General Samuel Holden Parsons was born at Lyme, Connecticut, on May 14, 1737, a son of the Reverend Jonathan (Yale 1729) and Phebe (Griswold) Parsons. When he was ten, his father was installed over the First Presbyterian Church of Newburyport, and it was from that town that he was admitted to Harvard. At college his closest friends were his classmate Walter and John Adams (A.B. 1755). While an undergraduate he suffered from the stomach trouble which was to plague him all of his life, and obtained permission "to be out of Commons because he could not eat meat." In April, 1756, the Corporation voted:

That, if Walter and Parsons, Senior Sophisters, shou'd have leave to go (according to their present desire) as officers in the expedition to Crown Point, we consent that they may not withstanding such their absence have their degrees of Bachelor of Arts next Commencement, providing they have the consent, for their going upon the said expedition from their parents.<sup>1</sup>

Apparently the permission was not forthcoming, for Sam was a respondent at their first Commencement. For their second, he prepared the affirmative of "An malè Gubernans potestate regnandi jure privari possit?"

As this topic would suggest, Parsons' interest was the law, which he read with his uncle, Matthew Griswold of Lyme. On September 10, 1761, he married a neighbor, Mehetabel, daughter of Richard and Deborah (Ely) Mather. He had already been admitted to the New London Bar, and in October, 1762, the town of Lyme began to send him regularly to the Connecticut Assembly. Among his assignments were those to audit the colony accounts and to investigate the state of learning, government, and finances at Yale College. He had a certain interest in things intellectual, for he subscribed for the 1772 edition of Morton's *New England's Memorial*. In 1768 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace. He was most interested in his appointment to the legislative committee on the Susquehanna claims, for he had already visited Wilkes-Barre and purchased a settlement-right there. The election of a lieutenant governor and chief justice favorable to his plans was much to be desired, and in 1769, to the startled amazement of the other faction, he "proved himself a better Politician than all the Rest of the Colony and brought in his unkle Griswold to the disappointment of many and the Mortification of others."<sup>2</sup> As one

## Biography of Gen. Samuel Holden Parsons – AmericanAncestors.org

Commis <sup>n</sup>	Officer Name	Rank	Remarks
	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Col<sup>l</sup> Comp<sup>y</sup></u>		
March 15 <sup>th</sup> 78	Thomas Grosvenor	1 <sup>st</sup> Col <sup>l</sup> Capt	Sub. Inspector
Jan 4 <sup>th</sup> 77	Silas Goodell	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt	Sick in Quarters
April 25 <sup>th</sup> 78	Primitia Hofner	3 <sup>rd</sup> Lt	on Duty
	<u>5<sup>th</sup> Capt Comp<sup>y</sup></u>		
July 1 <sup>st</sup> 79	Elias Hillsell	5 <sup>th</sup> Capt	
May 1 <sup>st</sup> 80	Elijah Hanson	8 <sup>th</sup> Lt	
July 25 <sup>th</sup> 77	William Higgins	Ensign	on Duty
	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Capt Comp<sup>y</sup></u>		
Jan 4 <sup>th</sup> 77	John Barnard	2 <sup>nd</sup> Capt	Absent without leave 36 da
Jan 4 <sup>th</sup> 77	Ralph Pomroy	6 <sup>th</sup> Lt	command as Comp <sup>y</sup> Clothing
Septem. 1. 1700 Mustered the Field Staff & Commissioned Officers as specified in the above Roll			
David Smith B. Inspector			

3<sup>rd</sup> Conn. Continental Regiment (Fold3.com)



Commisn	Officer Name	Rank	Remarks
	1 <sup>st</sup> Col <sup>t</sup> Comp <sup>y</sup>		
March 13 <sup>th</sup> 78	Thomas Grosvenor	1 <sup>st</sup> Col <sup>t</sup> Capt	Sub. Inspector
Jan 4 <sup>th</sup> - 77	Silas Goodell	1 <sup>st</sup> Lt	Sick in Quarters
April 25 <sup>th</sup> 78	Prentice Hosmer	3 <sup>rd</sup> Lt	on Duty
	5 <sup>th</sup> Capt Comp <sup>y</sup>		
July 1 <sup>st</sup> 79	Elias Stilwell	5 <sup>th</sup> Capt	

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	Last Name	First Name	Rank	Commision	Muster Roll Date	Source	Residence	Birth	Death	Pension	Marriage	Spouse
2	Grosvenor	Thomas	Lt. Col./Capt.	15 March 1778	1 Sept. 1780	fold3.com	Pomfret	20 Sept. 1744	11 July 1825	Yes	25 June 1785	Ann Mumford
3	Goodell	Silas	1st Lt.	4 Jan. 1777	1 Sept. 1780	fold3.com	Pomfret	16 Aug. 1747	20 March 1825	Yes	24 June 1784	Sally/Sarah Marshall
4	Hosmer	Prentice	2nd Lt.	25 April 1778	1 Sept. 1780	fold3.com	W. Hartford	1752	7 Jan. 1787	No	10 May 1783	Elizabeth Steel
5	5th Company											
6	Stilwell	Elias	Capt.	1 July 1779	1 Sept. 1780	fold3.com						
7	Ransom	Elijah	1st Lt.	1 May 1780	1 Sept. 1780	fold3.com						
8	Higgins	William	Ens.	23 July 1777	1 Sept. 1780	fold3.com						

Septem. 1. 1780 Mustered the Field Staff & Commissioned Officers  
as specified in the above Roll  
David Smith B. Inspector



# Journals and Diaries

- Journals, Manuscripts, Letters, and Historical Society Collections
- Diary of Lt. Jabez Fitch (New York Public Library)







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## Revolutionary War diary, 1775?

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## Revolutionary War soldier's diary ; manuscript, 1778-1779



New York State Library - Manuscripts and Special Collections

Diary kept by an anonymous soldier from August 7, 1778 to July 29, 1779. Much of the recorded information relates to the author's participation in the Sullivan Indian Campaign, particularly the expedition from the Mohawk River to Tinaja Point. His entries tended to be brief notes about troop movements

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# What To Do With Your Research

- Write a biography
- Write a book on a regiment
- Start a social media group/Connect with your fellow enthusiasts
- Apply to a lineage society





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# Writing & Publishing Your Family History

By Penny Stratton

## Introduction

Why is it important to write your family history? Think about the legacy you will be leaving if you write and publish your own family research: not only a legacy for current and future family members, but an important resource for current and future genealogical researchers. If you've been researching your family for any significant length of time, probably no one knows your family story like you do. The ease and affordability of digital printing give you all the more reason to write and publish! This subject guide provides information, tips, and resources for the basic steps of writing and publishing your family history.

[AmericanAncestors.org/tools/writing-publishing-your-family-history](https://AmericanAncestors.org/tools/writing-publishing-your-family-history)

# Popular Lineage Societies for Patriot Ancestors





# Lineage Societies

- National Society Sons of the American Revolution
- National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
- Sons of the Revolution
- Society of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge
- The Society of the Cincinnati
- Order of the Founders and Patriots of America





Overview

Society Lists

Insignia

Advisory Council

Patronage

Honorary Members

Annual Reception

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Gavel

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## Complete List of Active Hereditary Societies

Included in these pages are the known names, addresses, websites, founding dates, descriptions and membership guidelines for active hereditary societies of the United States of America. The listings are alphabetical, and the index links at the bottom of this text will direct you to the page you seek.

The information contained herein may occasionally become outdated. The HSC webmaster welcomes notification of new societies, as well as updated information regarding existing societies. If any information here is incorrect, or the officers of any society listed here wish certain elements to be altered or removed, please contact the HSC webmaster, and he will do so in a timely manner.

The criteria used in determining whether an organization is an hereditary society is comprised of several factors. The nature of, and requirements for membership, the structure of the organization and the scope of membership allowance are all elements HSC evaluates. Some lineage society recognize descent from a single, specific ancestor. Because of the growing number of such organizations, HSC has designated a separate page for singular ancestor societies, which can be [accessed here](#). In exceptional cases, allowances are made for singular ancestor societies on the complete society listings if it is determined that the ancestor is of sufficient, historical significance (ie. Charlemagne, Thomas Jefferson, Mayflower passengers, etc.)

Furthermore, HSC presents the information included on this website, simply as a consolidated list of recognized lineage societies. In no way does HSC validate the integrity of the genealogical standards or membership qualifications of any specific group, but simply presents the information as a source of data. We encourage anyone interested in membership to carefully evaluate the reputation and genealogical standards of each, respective lineage society before becoming a member or making payment or contributions.

Furthermore, those societies which list "membership is by invitation only" should not be contacted concerning membership. This is not only inappropriate, but will significantly hinder a potential member's future candidacy in a society. HSC strongly advises against contacting those societies, except in cases of peripheral research or through members of that society.

# hereditary.us/list\_a.htm



AmericanAncestors.org/research-services  
research@nehgs.org

# Conclusion

- What you do with your research is up to you; Find a style or template that works for you!
- By establishing a timeline for your research, you can adequately organize your research and begin piecing together the puzzle of your ancestor's life
- Explore records *outside* of the military
  - Vital records establish the beginning and end of your ancestor's story, plus details throughout their life
  - Explore records not directly related to your ancestor
  - By searching throughout the regiment and personal connections, you may uncover more than you could have imagined



# QUESTIONS?

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# Researching American Revolutionary War Patriots 2024

**Thank you for registering for the online seminar, *Researching American Revolutionary War Patriots*!**

Nearly 250 years ago, America declared its independence from the British Empire, changing the course of history. For those of us with American ancestry from that period, we want to know if—and how—our ancestor served the cause. This five-week online course will delve into the many primary and published records that exist to document your ancestors' role in the American Revolution and their contributions to the cause for independence.

*This course includes five 90-minute classes and exclusive access to handouts and recordings of each presentation. These recordings and all course materials will be available for the foreseeable future.*

## Zoom Link for Live Sessions:

Click here to join the live broadcasts: <https://zoom.us/j/98918998971>

*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)



**THANK YOU!**  
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