



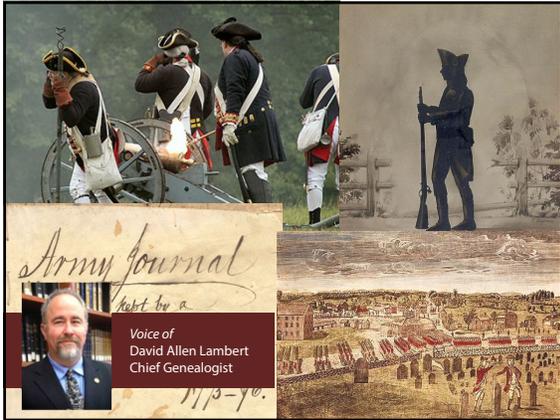
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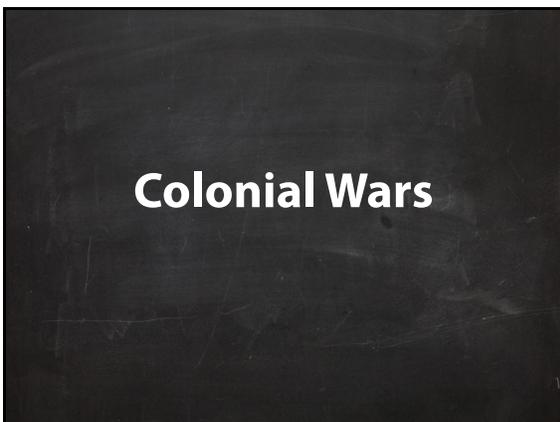


4

Why research a veteran?

- Allows you to access more biographical data than found in most primary sources
- Occupation, age, locations, and vital record substitutes can be found in service and probate records
- Answers the questions of why your ancestor may have moved or travelled to another location

5



6

Determining the Military Service of your Ancestor before the Revolution

- Age at enlistment
- Wars during his lifetime
- Documents & Artifacts
- Pensions
- Genealogies and local histories



A historical map titled "FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR" showing the conflict zones in North America. The map includes labels for "CANADA", "NEW ENGLAND", "MICHIGAN", "INDIAN TERRITORY", and "FLORIDA". It also shows "ALL OF THE WEST OF MICHIGAN" and "ALL OF THE WEST OF FLORIDA".

7

How old was your Veteran ?

- Drummer Boy
- Student Soldier
- Married with Children
- Seasoned Veteran
- Senior Soldier



A circular silhouette of a young boy in a military uniform, carrying a drum and marching.

8

What colonial wars occurred during his lifetime?

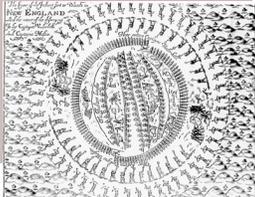


A photograph of a group of colonial soldiers in 18th-century attire, standing in a line in a grassy field. They are holding long rifles and some are aiming them.

9

Pequot War: 1636-1638

- Expansion into Connecticut
- New England settlers and Pequot Indians
- Major battle: Fort Mystic May 26, 1637



10

King Philip's War: 1675-1676

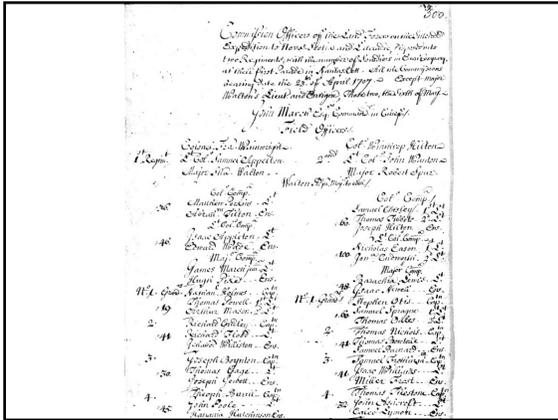
- First full-scale New England war in the 17th c.
- Metacomet (aka) King Philip and the Wampanoag Indians
- Plymouth Colony, Rhode Island, Western Mass., and beyond



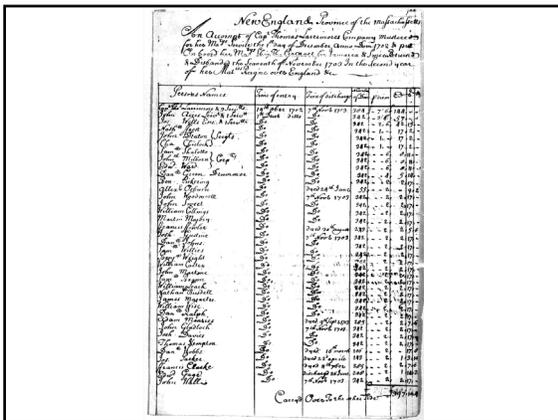
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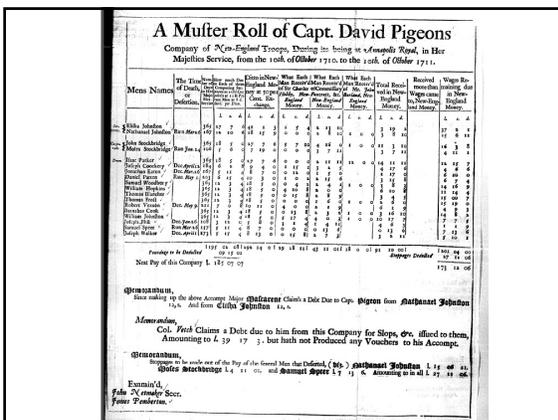
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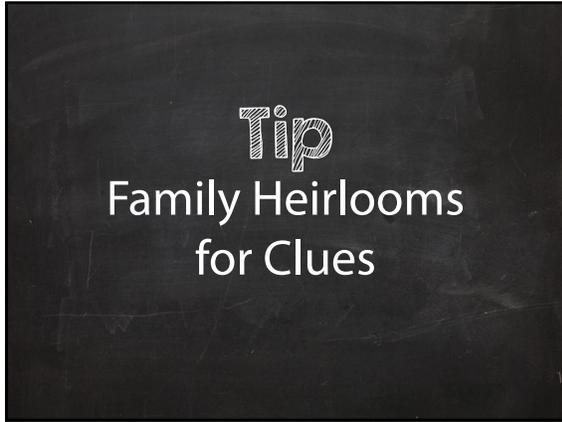


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34

Family Heirlooms for Clues

- What might be in the attic?
- Ask relatives
- Museums and archives
- Ebay or Auction catalogs

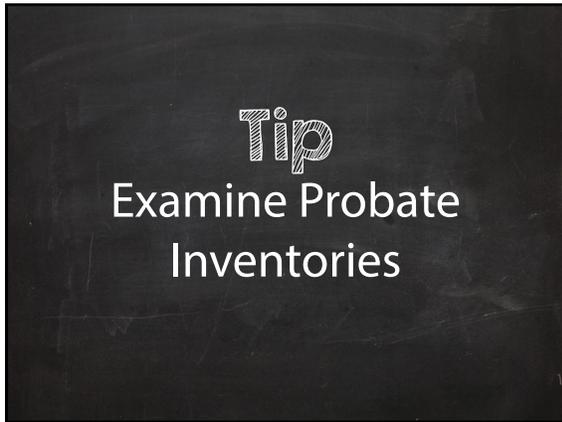
A photograph of an attic space with wooden beams and a window. Several cardboard boxes are stacked in the room, suggesting a place where family heirlooms might be stored.

35

Military Commissions

A photograph of an old, yellowed document, likely a military commission. The text is written in cursive and includes a large signature at the bottom right. The document is partially covered by a diamond-shaped seal on the left side.

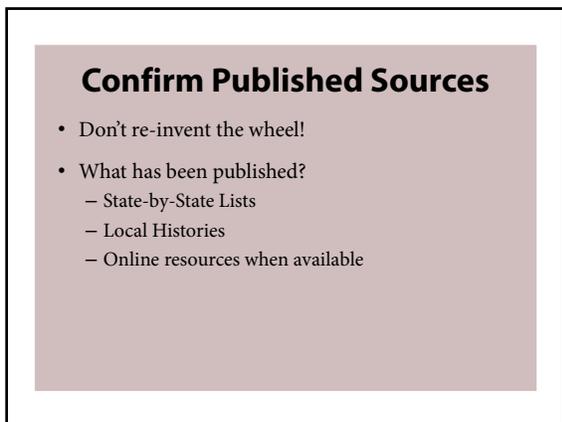
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37



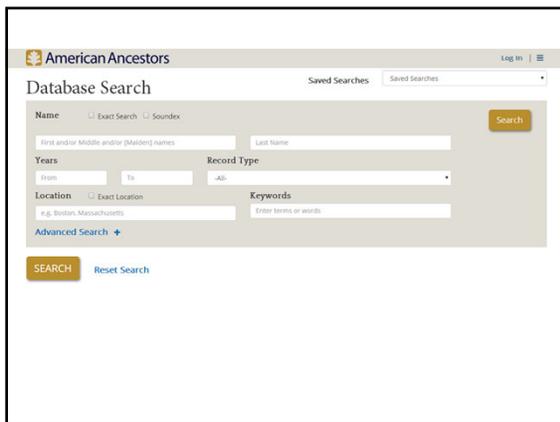
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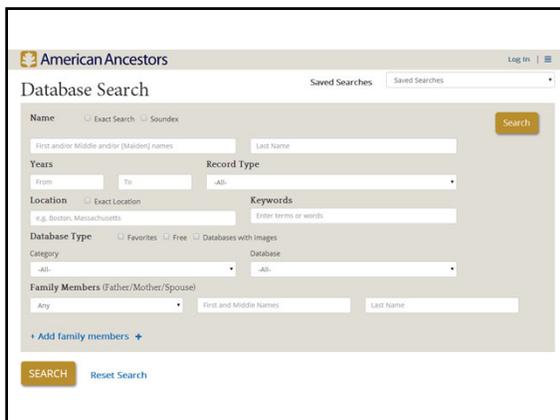
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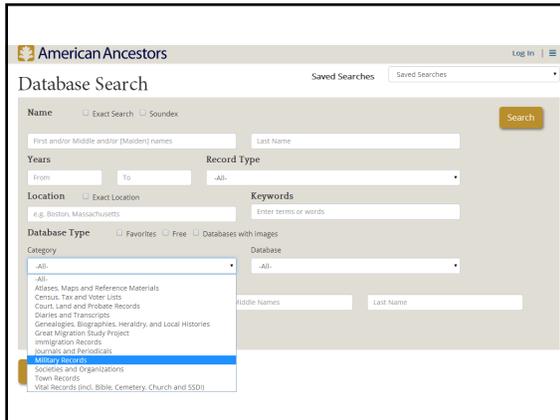
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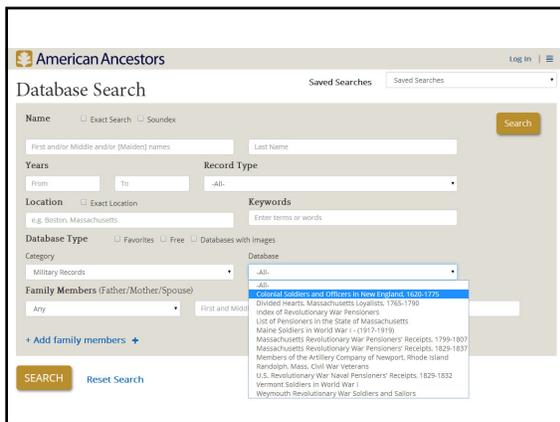
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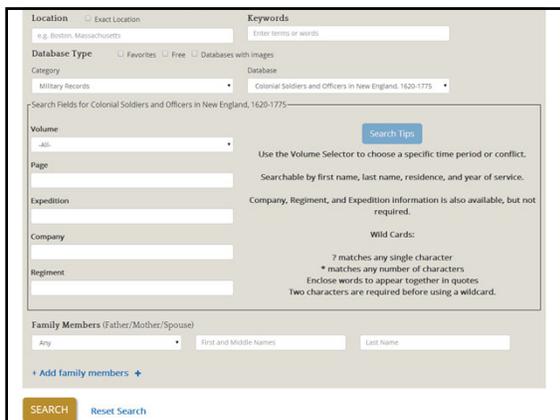
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45

Massachusetts 1620-1775

- *Officers & Soldiers in the Seventeenth-Century Conflicts*
- *Officers & Soldiers, 1702-1722, Queen Anne's to Dummer's War*
- *Soldiers in the French and Indian Wars 1744-1755*
- *Officers in the French and Indian Wars 1748-1763*
- *Officers and Soldiers in the French and Indian Wars, 1755-1756*
- *Society of Colonial Wars in Massachusetts Membership Applications, 1560-1970 NEW!*

46

Tip
Locate the Primary source
of the Muster Rolls

47

Seeking the Primary Source

- Locate source book or online
- Consult in person or digital copy
- Inquire the size of the document



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Adopt your ancestor's regiment

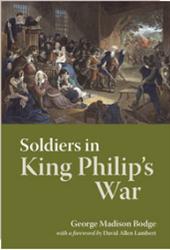
- Research each individual
- Look for additional MSS
- Who were the officers?
- Did they fight together again?


 A small image of a handwritten manuscript page with cursive text, likely a military record or muster roll.

50

**Published Resources:
Muster Rolls and Military Histories**

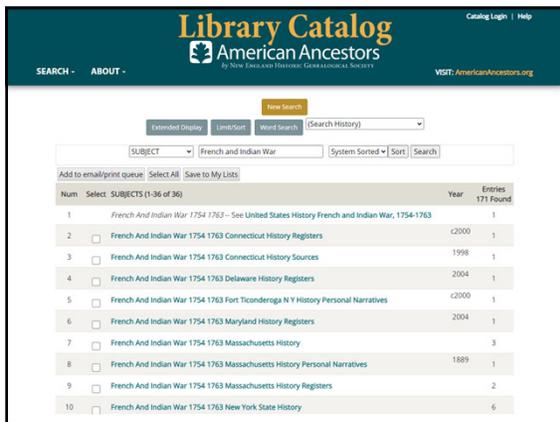
- Compilations of Colonial soldiers
- Published histories of battles and wars
- Hereditary Society publications


 A book cover titled "Soldiers in King Philip's War" by George Madison Dodge. The cover features an illustration of soldiers in a camp.

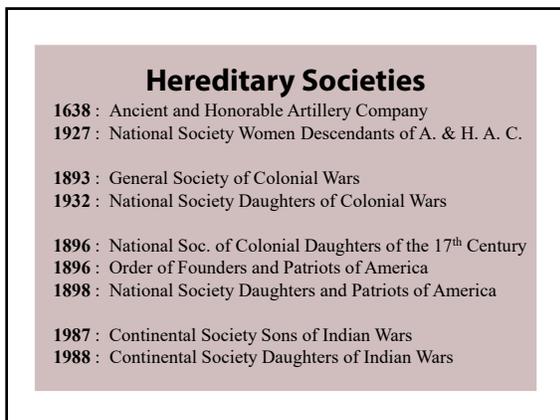
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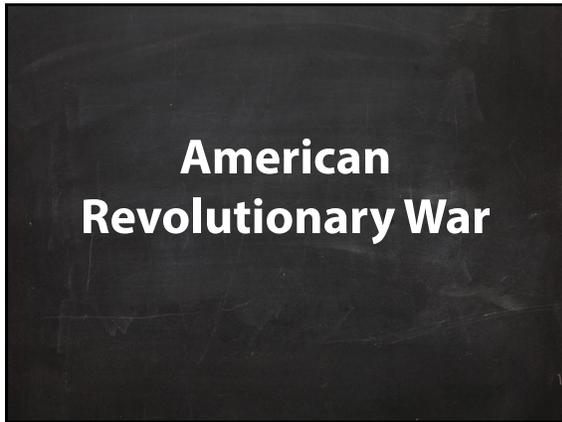
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53



54



55

Determine if he fought – Too Young or Too Old ?

- Ages not listed, no town given
- Age range of typical soldier, 18-35
- Average birth year 1735-1760
- Extremes early 1700s & late 1760s

56

Family Relics in the Attic

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



By His Excellency
GEORGE WASHINGTON, Esq;
General and Commander in Chief of the Forces of the United States of America.

THESE are to CERTIFY that the Bearer hereof
is the true and lawful Son of _____
in the United States, _____
and being killed for the War only, is
lawfully Discharged from the American Army.

GIVEN at HEAD-QUARTERS the _____
1785

By His Excellency's
Command,

Adjutant.

57

Oral Family Traditions

- 1775 to 2023
- Lost in translation
- Preserving stories
- Confirming stories with primary sources
- Hero or Deserter?
- Proving or disproving Grandma



58

Cemetery Clues and Pitfalls

- Is there a gravestone for your vet?
- Cemetery and burial records
- Transcribed gravestones
- Where is his spouse buried?
- Is there a flag marker?
 - S.A.R. marker on the right grave?



59

Forgotten Images

- Do you have an image of your soldier?
- Did your veteran live into the 1830s?



60

Useful Resources

- Muster rolls
- Pension files
- Quartermaster rolls
- Journals and diaries
- Published genealogies
- 1840 Census
- Correspondence from officers
- Maps
- Town histories
- *TIP: Adopt the regiment!*



61

**Going from
Published Accounts to
Muster Rolls**

62

Mass. Soldiers & Sailors

The following is his Revolutionary War sketch from *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolutionary War* (12:559).

Poor, Jonathan, Newbury, Captain of a company of militia, Col. Samuel Gerrish's (2d Essex Co.) Regt., which marched on the alarm of April 19, 1775; service, 6 days; also, Captain; return of militia officers who joined Col. Jedediah Huntington's Regt., dated Roxbury Camp, Dec. 22, 1775; ordered in Council Feb. 3, 1776, that said officers be commissioned; also, Captain; list of officers of companies under command of Col. Huntington which reinforced the army; commissioned Feb. 3, 1776; also, copy of a return of said Poor's co. [year not given]; copy of a receipt dated Newbury, march 18, 1777, signed by men belonging to said Poor's co., for wages for 6 weeks service, appears on reverse of return; also, Captain, 1st co., Col. Daniel Spafford's (7th Essex Co.) regt. of Mass. militia; list of officers to be commissioned in said regiment; ordered in Council June 26, 1777, that said officers be commissioned; reported commissioned June 26, 1777.

63

Looking for the Sources

- Poor, Jonathan**, *Newbury, Captain of a company of militia, Col. Samuel Gerrish's (2d Essex Co.) Regt., which marched on the alarm of April 19, 1775; service, 6 days*; also, Captain; return of militia officers who joined Col. Jedediah Huntington's Regt., dated Roxbury Camp, Dec. 22, 1775; ordered in Council Feb. 3, 1776, that said officers be commissioned; also, Captain; list of officers of companies under command of Col. Huntington which reinforced the army; commissioned Feb. 3, 1776; also, copy of a return of said Poor's co. [year not given]; copy of a receipt dated Newbury, March 18, 1777, signed by men belonging to said Poor's co., for wages for 6 weeks service, appears on reverse of return; also, Captain, 1st co., Col. Daniel Spafford's (7th Essex Co.) regt. of Mass. militia; list of officers to be commissioned in said regiment; ordered in Council June 26, 1777, that said officers be commissioned; reported commissioned June 26, 1777.

64

Muster Roll Index Microfilm

- Massachusetts Muster Rolls (index file cards) of the Revolutionary War, 1767-1833 259 Microfilms

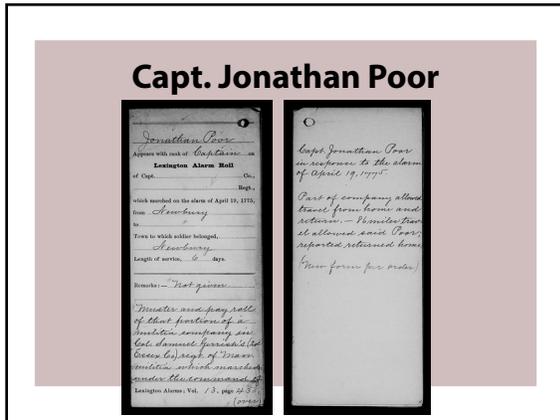
65

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch.org interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Family Tree', 'Search', 'Memories', and 'Indexing'. Below that, there are tabs for 'Records', 'Family Tree', 'Genealogies', 'Catalog', 'Books', and 'Wiki'. The main content area displays search results for 'Muster rolls (index file cards) of the Revolutionary War, 1767-1833 [Massachusetts]'. A 'BACK TO SEARCH RESULTS' link is visible. The details for the search results include:

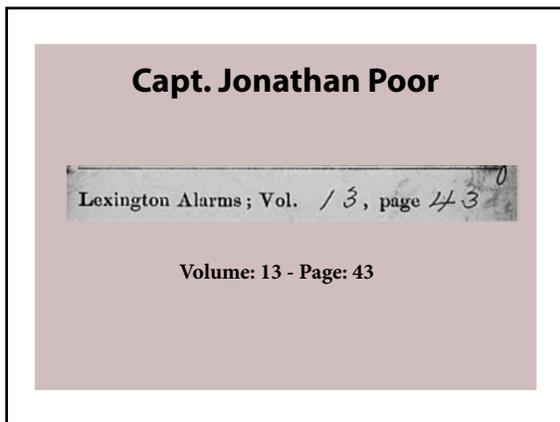
- Authors:** Massachusetts, Secretary of State (Main Author); Massachusetts, State Archives (Repository)
- Format:** Manuscript/Manuscript on Film
- Language:** English
- Publication:** Salt Lake City, Utah : Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1995-1996
- Physical:** 259 microfilm reels ; 35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

 The FamilySearch.org logo is at the bottom of the screenshot.

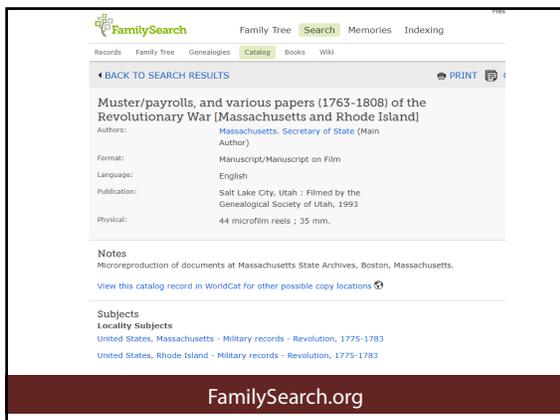
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67



68



69

Citing the Primary Source

- Jonathan Poor “Newbury. Captain of a company of militia, Col. Samuel Gerrish’s (2d Essex Co.) Regt., which marched on the alarm of April 19, 1775; service, 6 days”^[1]

73

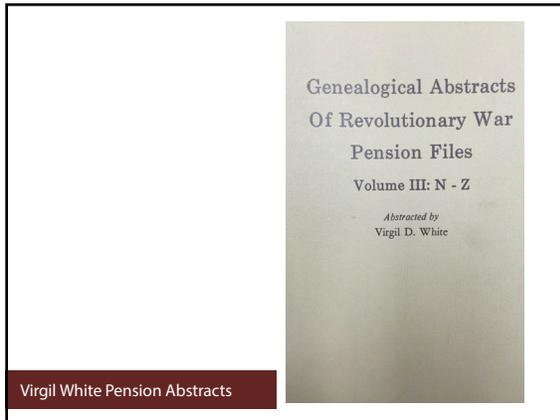
Citing the Primary Source

- Muster/payrolls, and various papers (1763-1808) of the Revolutionary War - Lexington Alarm rolls 1775, 13:43. [FHL US/CAN Film # 1906243] Online: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSJ7-HJMC?i=416&cat=729681> (May 3, 2019) Repository: Massachusetts State Archives.

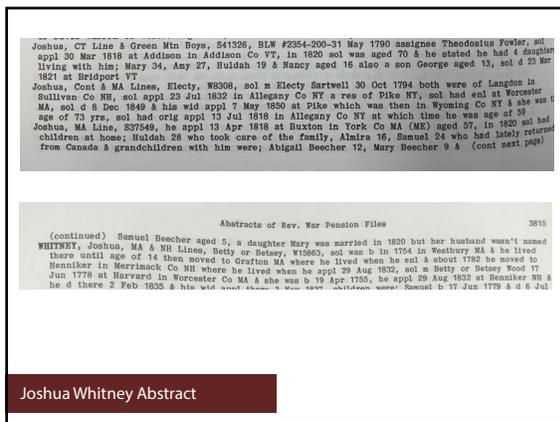
74

Going beyond Abstracts and Dissecting Pension Files

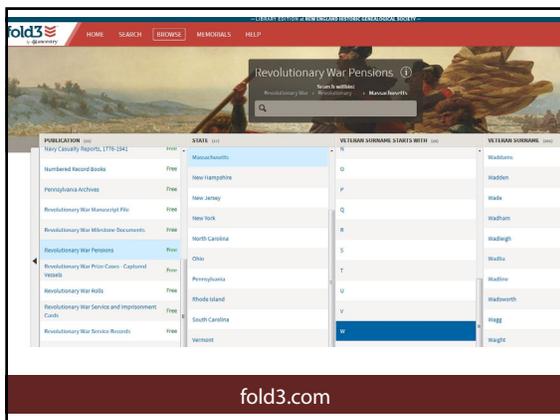
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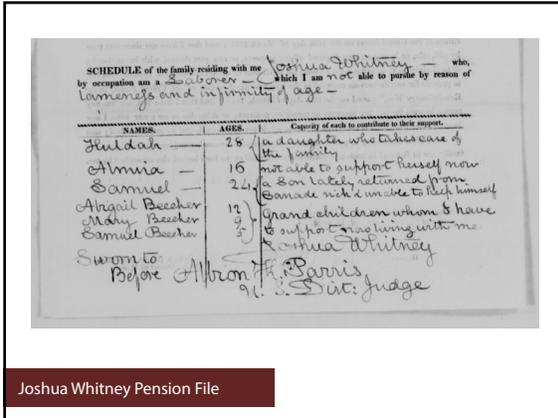
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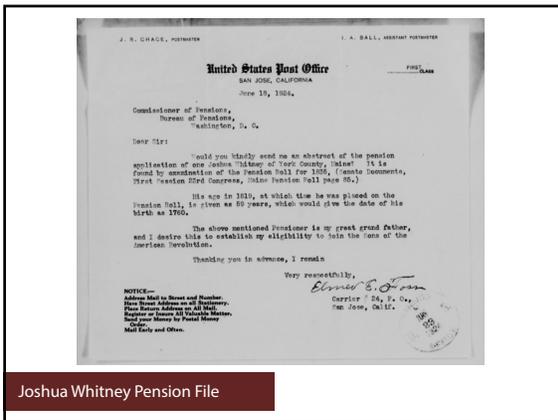


78



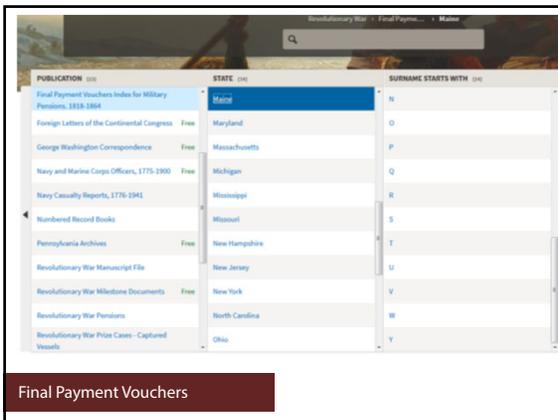
Joshua Whitney Pension File

88



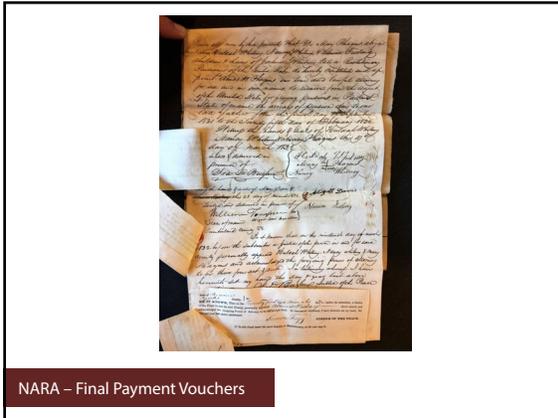
Joshua Whitney Pension File

89



Final Payment Vouchers

90



NARA – Final Payment Vouchers

94

1840 Census of Pensioners

Names of pensioners for revolutionary military services.		Ages.	Names of heads of families with whom pensioners reside June 1, 1841.
RUSSELL COUNTY.			
Thomas Green	-	77	Thomas Green.
John Sharp	-	80	John Sharp.
Henry Lee	-	75	Colman Lee.
Henry Jackson	-	72	Charles Jackson.
William Stewart	-	73	William Stewart.
John George	-	73	John George.
John Polk	-	80	John Polk.

- Revolutionary War pensioners and widows
- First census to give exact age
- Lists who veteran is residing with

95

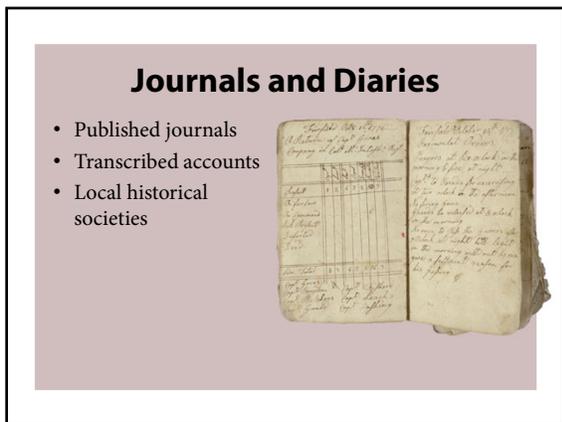
Daniel Frederick Bakeman

- Born: October 9, 1759
- Died: April 5, 1869
- Tryon Co., NY Militia, 1777-1781

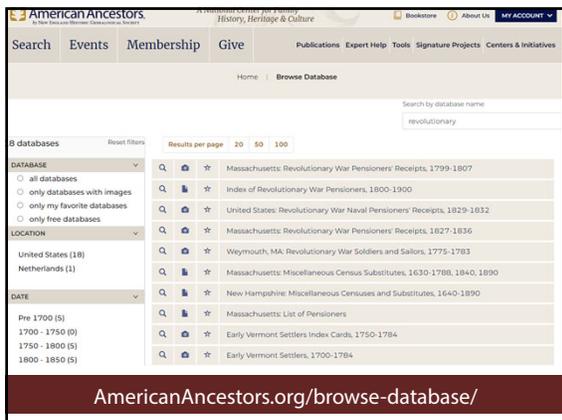
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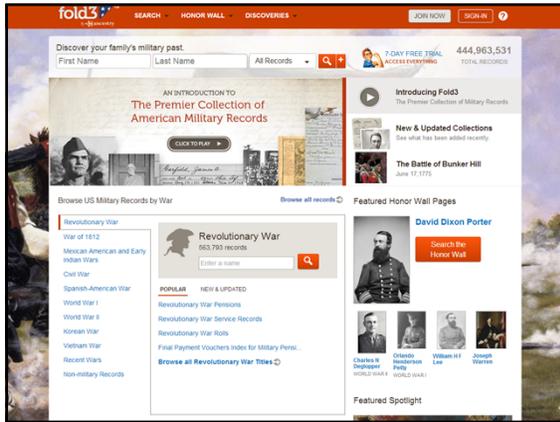
97



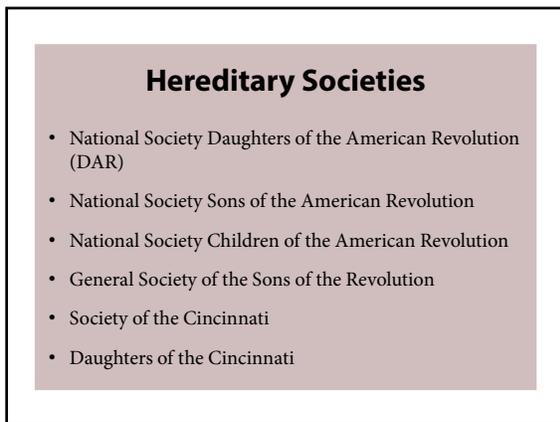
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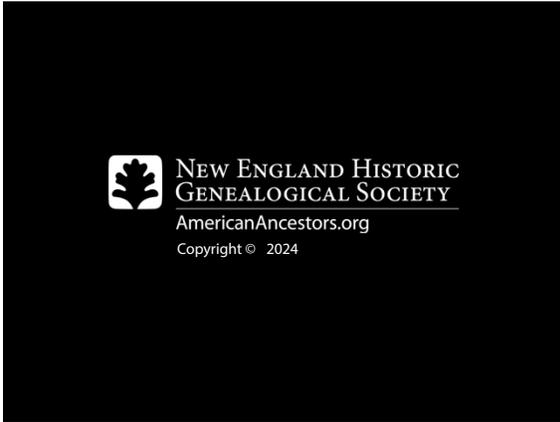
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101



102



103