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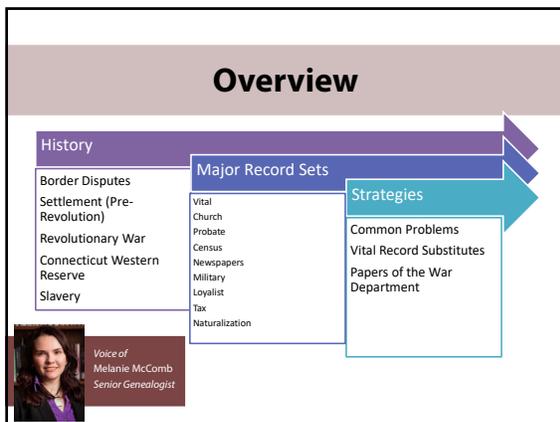
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**New Counties**

- Windham (1726) from Hartford and New London
- Litchfield (1751) from Fairfield, New Haven, and Hartford.
- Middlesex (1785) from Hartford and New London.
- Tolland (1785) from Windham

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**Border Disputes**

- 1713 – Connecticut sold land on the northern border line to Massachusetts for 683 pounds. The border towns continued to petition Connecticut for annexation.
- 1731 – border disputes between New York and Connecticut resolved
- 1749 – Connecticut Assembly decided the towns of Suffield, Enfield, Somers, and Woodstock fell within the charter's limits and were returned to Connecticut
  - Middlesex Gore (in Woodstock) was not annexed to Connecticut and remained part of Massachusetts
- 1786 – Connecticut resolves border dispute Pennsylvania (ceding northern third of the state)

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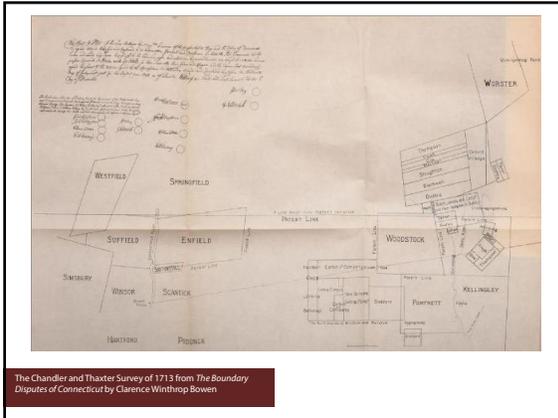
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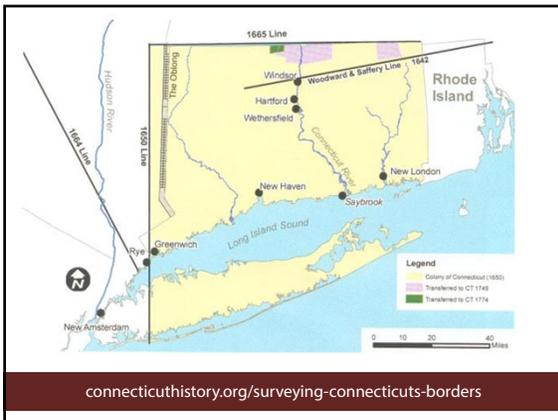
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**Settlement (Pre-Revolution)**

- Starting in 1759, New England Planters left for Nova Scotia
- 1763 - French and Indian Wars hamper efforts for interior settlement until conflict ends
- 1775-1783 - Loyalists leave for Canada, UK & Caribbean

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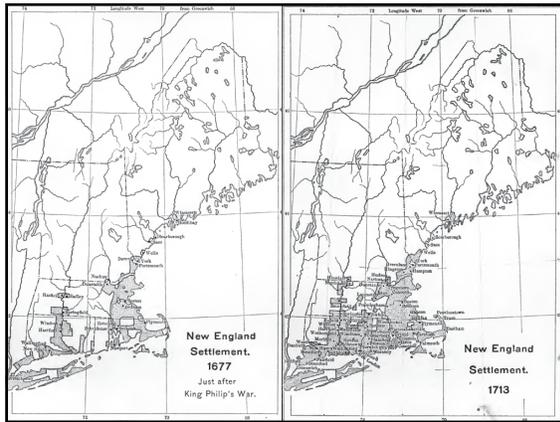
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**Revolutionary War**

- Connecticut was known as the "Provisions State" due to the arms and manufacturing that contributed to the war effort
- Its coastline harbored privateers who would raid British ships
- Not occupied by British armies, but did experience several British raids
  - Fort Griswold in New London in 1781 was led by patriot-turned-traitor Benedict Arnold
- Nathan Hale became the official state hero of Connecticut

Photo Credit: Library of Congress

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**Revolutionary War Statistics**

- In June 1775, out of the 37,363 soldiers who enlisted in the Continental Army, 3,700 came from Connecticut

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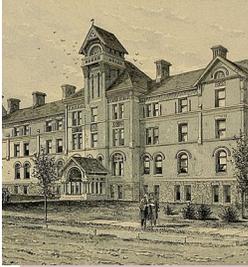
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**Post-Revolution**



- In 1788 Connecticut becomes a new state
- Westward migration begins into Ohio and other states; former soldiers claim bounty land

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**The Connecticut Western Reserve**

- Area in the Northwest Territory that was owned, sold, and distributed by the state of Connecticut after the American Revolution
- Western part was the fire lands
  - land reserved for people who lost property during the Revolution
- Eastern part sold to Connecticut Land Company in 1795 for \$1.2 million



Photo Credit: Ohio History Central

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**Slavery**

- 1779 - Prime and Prince are the first enslaved persons to petition the General Assembly to abolish all slavery
- 1784 - Connecticut passes law for gradual emancipation; enslaved persons that are 25 years old and born after March 1st are freed
- 1790 - The federal census revealed that about half the population was still enslaved; of the 3,763 enslaved in New England, 2,648 lived in Connecticut
- Not officially abolished until 1848

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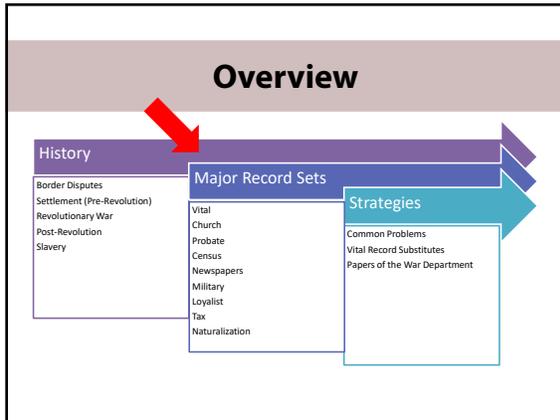
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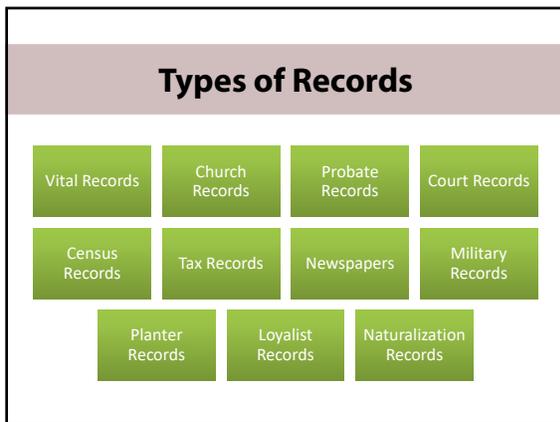
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**Vital Record Notes**

- Originally recorded at the town level
- 1897 – Statewide registration began
- 1915 – General compliance

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**Not Every Town is in Barbour Collection**

- Bound volumes were not prepared for the towns of Bolton, Coventry, Enfield, Mansfield, New Haven, Norwich, and Vernon.
  - Published compilations of vital records had previously been prepared for these towns

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Search Database ★ Favorite

Bolton and Vernon, CT: Vital Records, 1704-1852

Exact Search  Soundex SEARCH

First Name  Last Name

Years From  To  Record Type

Location  Keywords

Volume  Page

AmericanAncestors.org

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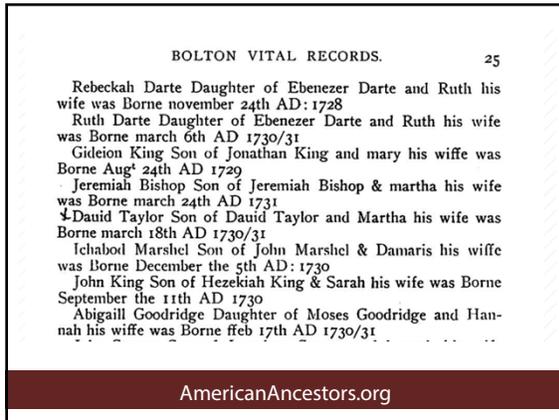
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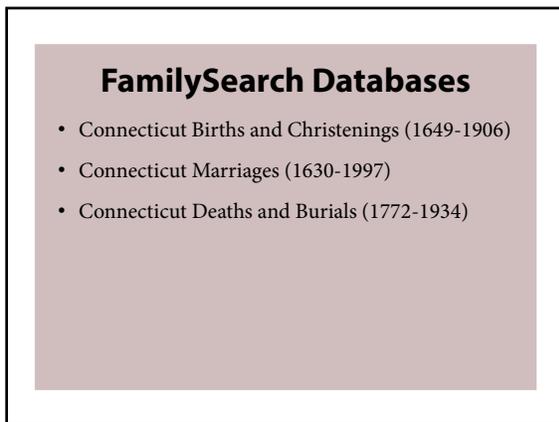
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**Congregational Library and Archives**

- Located in Boston, Massachusetts
- Repository for Congregational churches in the United States
- Digitizing New England church records
- Hidden Histories project includes 4 Connecticut churches:
  - Canterbury, Conn. Strict Congregational Church (1733-1815)
  - Lebanon, Conn. First Church and Society (1697-1796)
  - Litchfield, Conn. South Farms Church (1781)
  - Lyme, Conn. Second Church and Society (1767)

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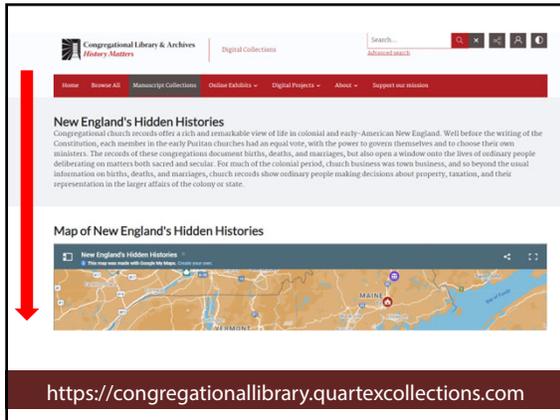
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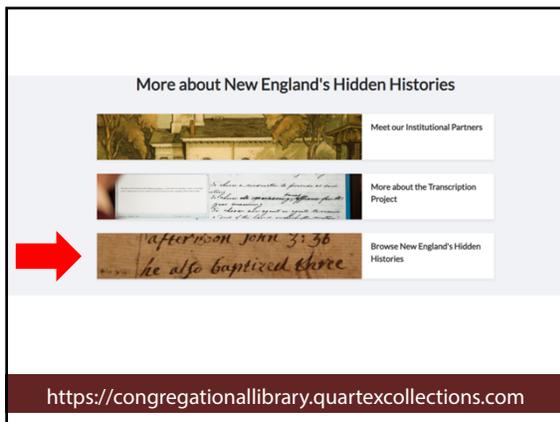
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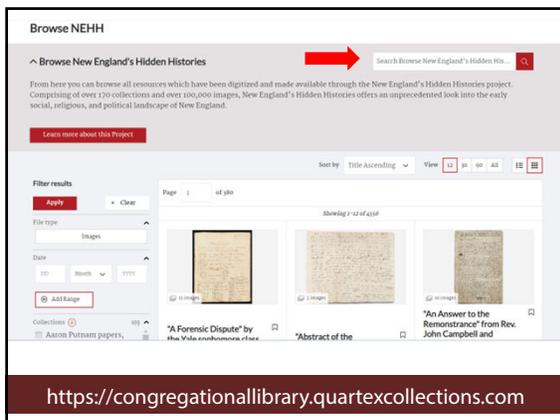
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**Census Records**

- 1756 Census – First Census of the Colony
- 1762 Census was taken by selectmen of 68 towns.
- Other censuses were taken in 1774, 1776, 1779, and 1782.
- No state census records were recorded for Connecticut
- 1790 U.S. Census
  - First federal census of the United States
  - Head of household named
  - All other household members broken down by sex and age

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**Tip**

Use census alternatives  
like tax lists and church  
records.

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**Tax Records**

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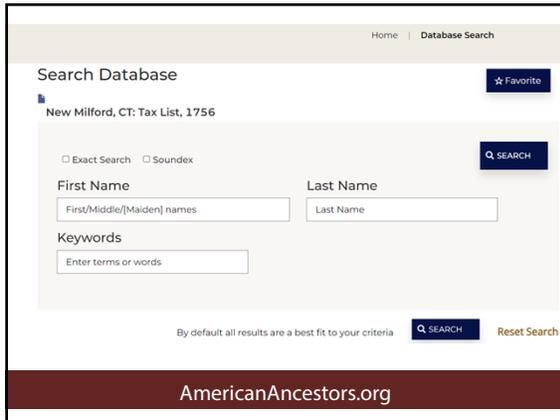
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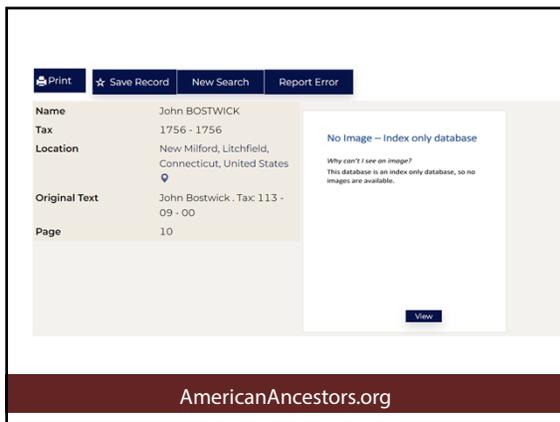
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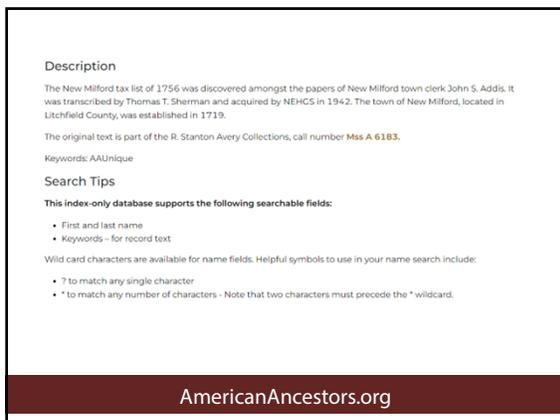
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**1798 Direct Tax**

- Congress enacted a \$2 million direct tax to help fund a military if we went to war with France.
- Each state was required to create their forms and assess the value of property, including enslaved persons, and collect their portion of the tax
- The tax had 3 parts:
  - Dwelling houses more than \$100 were taxed based upon value
  - Slaveowners were taxed 50 cents per enslaved person between the ages of 12 and 50 who were not precluded from working based on permanent illness or disability
  - All other real property (i.e. "land"), dwelling houses less than \$100
- Original records are kept at the Connecticut Historical Society

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1798 Direct Tax, Jeremiah Fuller, Records of the U.S. Customs Service, RG 36, NARA—Northeast Region (Boston)

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Newspapers

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## Newspapers

- First Connecticut newspapers published during the 18th century:
  - Connecticut Gazette – 1755 (New Haven)
  - New London Summary – 1758
  - New London Gazette – 1763 (formerly Connecticut Gazette)
  - Connecticut Courant – 1764 (Hartford)
  - Connecticut Journal – 1767 (New Haven)
  - Norwich Packet - 1773

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The screenshot shows the 'External Databases From Home' page on AmericanAncestors.org. It features a navigation bar with 'Search', 'Events', 'Join', and 'Give'. Below the navigation, there are tabs for 'World', 'United States', 'UK and Ireland', and 'Canada'. The main content area contains text explaining that in addition to the hundreds of databases available on AmericanAncestors.org, there are databases published by other organizations which AmericanAncestors.org subscribes to and makes available for its Research and Contributing members to access from home. A red arrow points to the 'Early American Newspapers, Series I, 1690-1876' link in the next slide.

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The screenshot shows the 'U.S. Newspapers' page on AmericanAncestors.org. It lists several newspaper archives: 'NewspaperArchive', '19th Century U.S. Newspapers', 'Early American Newspapers, Series I, 1690-1876', and 'The New York Times'. A red arrow points to the 'Early American Newspapers, Series I, 1690-1876' link.

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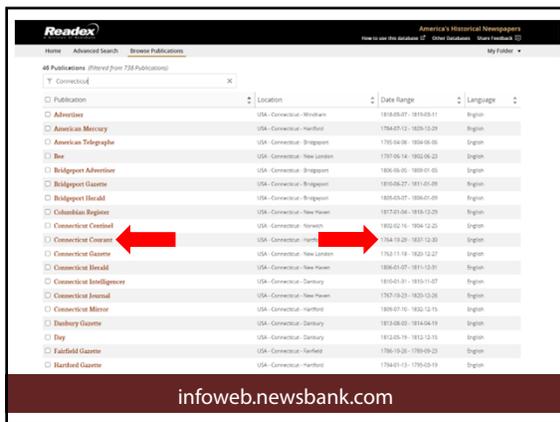
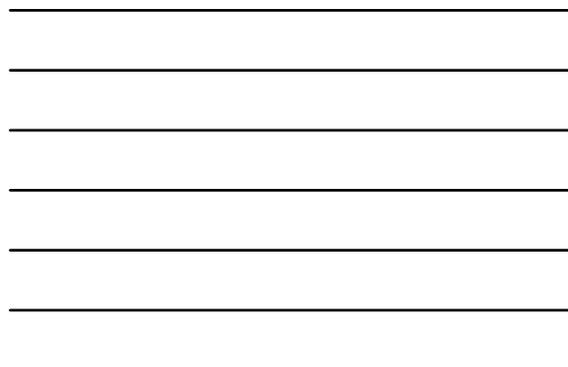
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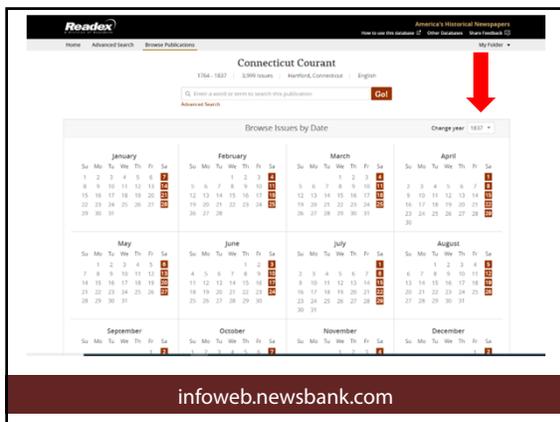
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### French and Indian War

- Colonial Soldiers and Officers in New England, 1620-1775 database on AmericanAncestors.org
- General Society of Colonial Wars Membership Applications, 1893-1949
- Published Muster Rolls on FamilySearch
- Connecticut Soldiers, French and Indian War, 1755-62 on Ancestry.com
- More records held at the Connecticut State Library

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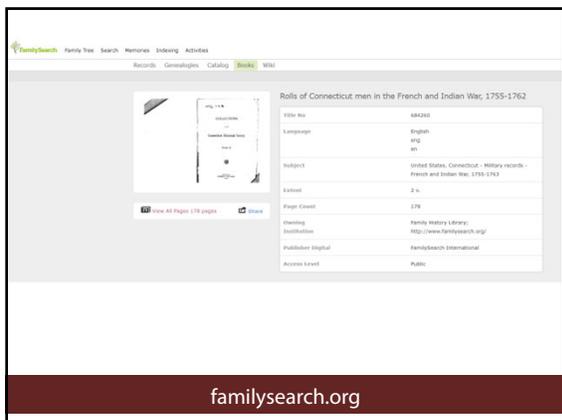
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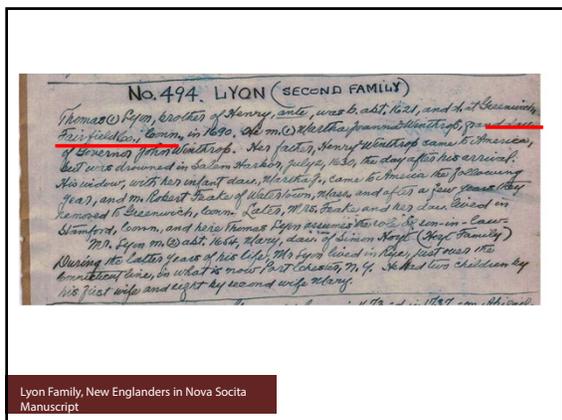
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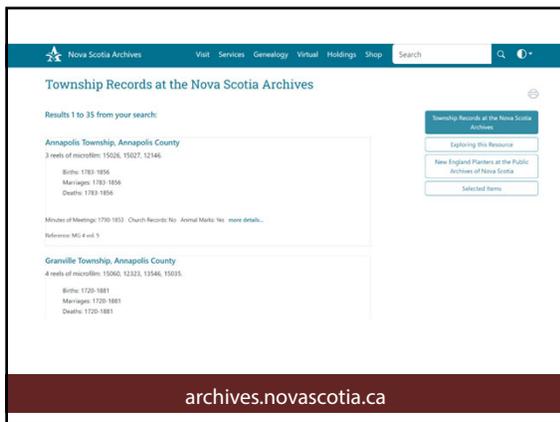
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## Loyalist Databases

- Connecticut State Library Index to Loyalist Court Records (1776-1784)
- United Empire Loyalist database

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### Connecticut State Archives – Archival Record Group-003

**Connecticut State Archives Archival Record Group (RG) #003, Records of the Judicial Department Papers by Subject Index to Loyalist Connecticut court records, 1776-84**

This index covers the years 1776-84 and references 667 individuals who were in some way charged as a Loyalist during the Revolutionary War. These original documents are from various County & Superior Courts primarily from Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, New Haven, and New London Counties; Middlesex and Tolland Counties were created in 1785 and there is only 1 record from Windham County in the index. **Please keep in mind that this index is not comprehensive and additional information may be found within the unseparated files and records of each court.**

This index includes the surname and given name of the individual, residence, year of hearing, specific notes about the case, the Connecticut court where the case was heard along with drawer/box number where the original documents are found. The bulk of the documents are either warrants for an arrest or a personal or Grand Jury complaint registered against an individual. Notes include such bits of information such as the person's rank, the reason for the charge, the verdict in the case, or a petition to reduce the sentence. Of particular interest are three "Negro" men who were accused of treason, and accusations against several men who lived out of state but owned land in Connecticut. Loyalism, not surprisingly, also seemed to run in families.

For more resources about Loyalists in Connecticut, please see our Loyalist Research Guide.

[ctstatelibrary.org](http://ctstatelibrary.org)

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### Loyalists Index Updated October 2021

[Print](#) [Email](#) [CSV](#) [Copy](#)

Show  entries

Search:

Surname	Given Name	Residence	Year of hearing	Notes	Court	Box number
Surname	Given Name	Residence	Year of hearing	Notes	Court	Box number
Shaw	John		1777		New Haven County, Superior Court	Box 305
Roger	Anthony	Novwalk	1777	Transient person	New Haven County, Superior Court	Box 305
Phillips	Thomas	Babon	1778	Deacon	Windham County, County Court	Box 519
Lyon	Peter	Redding	1776		Fairfield County, Superior Court	Box 3
Mead	John	Greenwich	1777	petitions for release of sons	Fairfield County, Superior Court	Box 3
Bayly/Bailey	Oliver	New Haven	1777		Fairfield County, Superior Court	Box 3
Bell	Isaac	Stamford	1777	see Oliver Bayly/Bailey	Fairfield County, Superior Court	Box 3
Leske	John	Stamford	1777	see Oliver Bayly/Bailey	Fairfield County, Superior Court	Box 3
Bates	Abram	Stamford	1777	see also Oliver Bayly/Bailey	Fairfield County, Superior Court	Box 3
Burt	Joshua	Ridgefield	1779	complaint against by Mary Ann Postman	Fairfield County, County Court	Box 163 Expenses

Showing 16 of 667 entries.

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[Loyalists Index, CT State Library](#)

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**First Naturalization Act (1790)**

- Any free, white, adult alien, male or female, who had resided within the limits and jurisdictions of the U.S. for a period of 2 years was eligible for citizenship
- Applicant would apply to any court in any one of the states where they resided at least one year
- Citizenship was granted to those who showed they were of good moral character and took an oath of allegiance to the Constitution
- Children under 21 years automatically became citizens if they had a parent who successfully naturalized

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**Naturalization Act of 1795**

- Increased period of residence from 2 to 5 years
- Applicants were required to declare publicly their intention to become citizens of the United States and to renounce any allegiance to a foreign prince, monarch, state, or sovereignty 3 years before admission as citizens
- Immigrants who had any hereditary titles or of the nobility class were also required to renounce that status

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### Searching for Naturalization Records

- New England Petitions for Naturalization Index, 1791-1906
  - Index cards created for each immigrant that indicate when they naturalized, what court, what country they were from, where they live, and the reference information to find the naturalization records
- Search at the county level where the person resided in FamilySearch for any digitized naturalization records
- Contact county courthouses to check their naturalization indexes and court minutes that are not digitized

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The screenshot shows the FamilySearch search interface for the 'United States, New England Petitions for Naturalization Index, 1791-1906'. It includes a description of the index, search filters for 'Search Collection', 'Search with a life event', 'Search with a relationship', and 'Restrict records by'. The FamilySearch logo and URL 'familysearch.org' are visible at the bottom.

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The screenshot shows the Ancestry search interface for 'Connecticut, U.S., Federal Naturalization Records, 1790-1996'. It features a search bar, filters for 'Birth', 'Actual', 'Departure', and 'Any Event', and options to 'Add family member'. The Ancestry logo and URL 'ancestry.com' are visible at the bottom.

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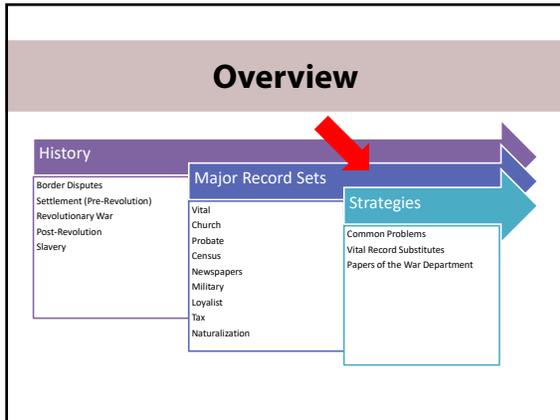
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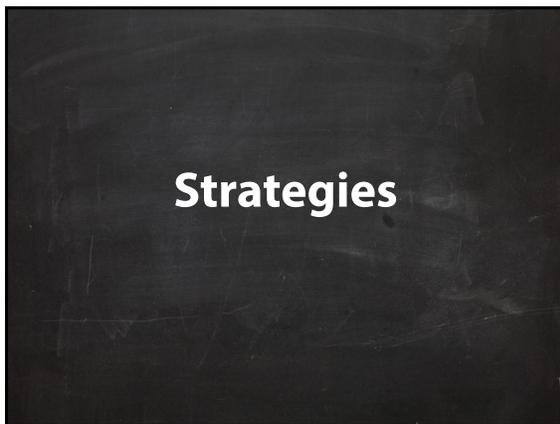
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A light brown rectangular box with a black border. At the top, the title "Common Problems" is centered in bold. Below the title is a bulleted list of three items.

**Common Problems**

- Vital Record Registration not mandatory until 1897
- First major census is 1790 and is by head of household only
- Military pension and bounty land warrant applications destroyed by fire at the War Dept in 1800

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**Vital Record Substitutes**

- Church Records
- Land Deeds
- Probate Records
- Court Records
- Tax Records

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**Census Substitutes**

- Church Records
- Tax Records

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**Papers of the War Department  
1784-1800**

- On November 8, 1800, there was a fire at the War Department
- Revolutionary War pension applications and bounty land application files were destroyed
- A project was started to rebuild the War Department Papers, led by Ted Crackel; the project team visited more than 200 repositories and about 42,000 documents collected and scanned

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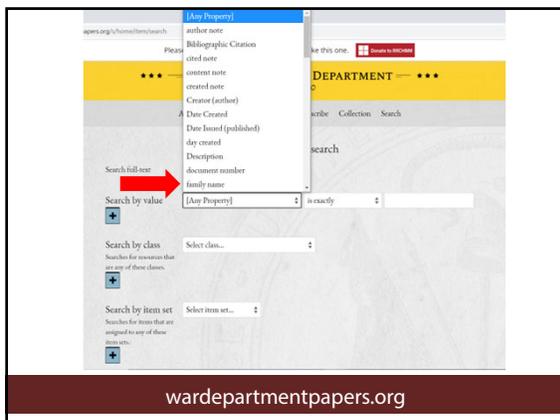
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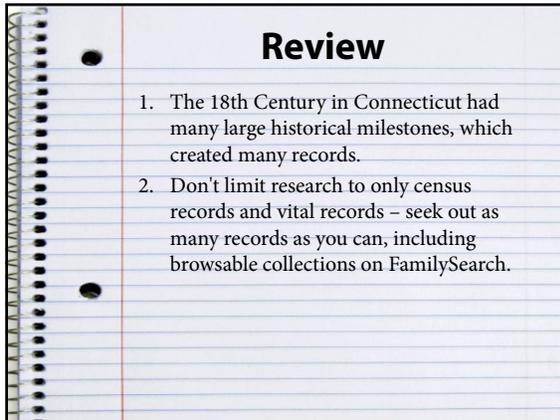
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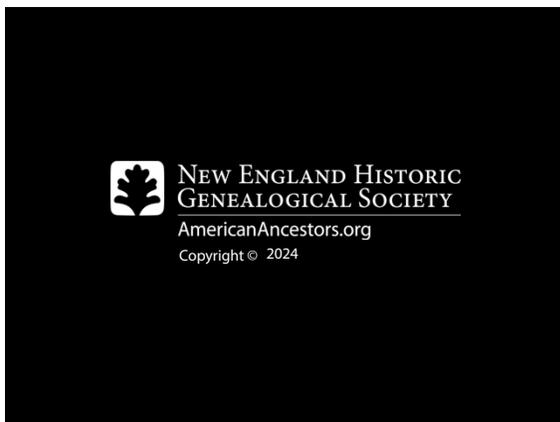
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