

Tracing Your American Revolutionary War Ancestors

David Allen Lambert, Chief Genealogist

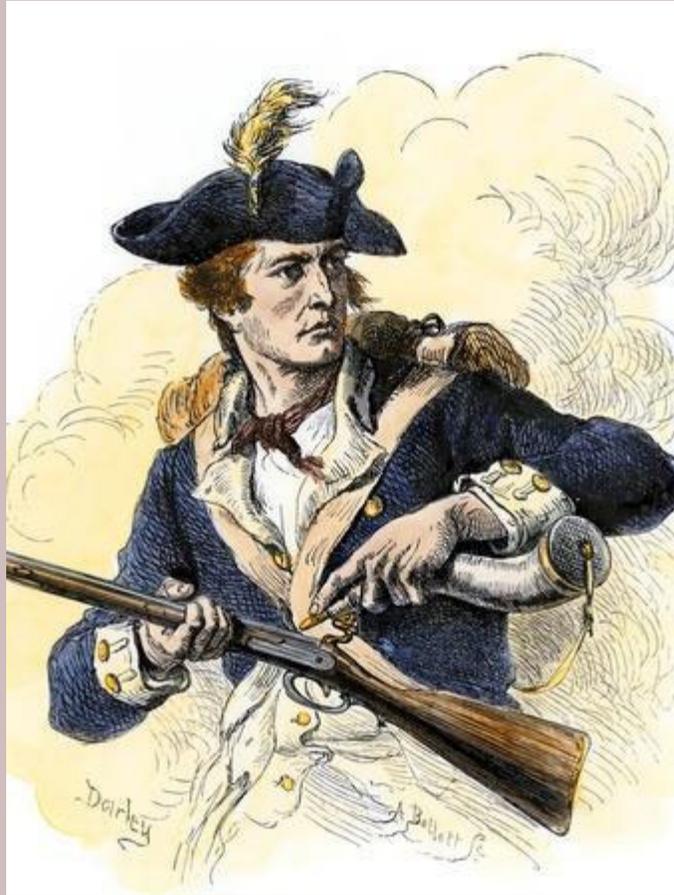
THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors.[®]
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Basic Steps of Military Research

Why research a veteran?



How old was your veteran? 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

Patriotic Service

Acts of Patriotic Service

- These acts cannot be self-serving
- Service could only be rendered to the Patriots
- This can be one act or a series of actions demonstrating loyalty to the American cause

Examples of Patriotic Service

- Signing oaths of allegiance to the new government
- Rendering aid to wounded (nurses and doctors)
- Furnishing supplies
- Lending money or munitions
- Ministers giving patriotic sermons
- Paying supply taxes
- Defenders of forts and stations
- Members of Continental Congress, State Conventions and Assemblies
- Membership in committees during the war (ex. Committees of Correspondence, Inspection, and Safety)
- Boston Tea Party participants

Patriotic Sermons

- Religion provided a moral sanction for opposing British rule
- Ministers of the Church of England are not eligible – they swore an oath to support the King

Sermon from Rev. Samuel Langdon

Rev. Samuel Langdon – president of Harvard College preached in Watertown, CT, May 31, 1775 (one month after the Battles of Lexington and Concord):

"We have lived to see the time when British liberty is just ready to expire—when the constitution of government which has so long been the glory and strength of the English nation is deeply undermined and ready to tumble into ruins—when America is threatened with cruel oppression and the arm of power is stretched out against New England, especially this colony, to compel us to submit to the arbitrary acts of legislators who are not our representatives, and who will not bear the least part of the burdens which, without mercy, they are laying upon us" (Thornton, John Wingate. *The Pulpit of the American Revolution: or the Political Sermons of the Period of 1776* Boston: Gould and Lincoln, 1860, pg. 235).

Oaths of Allegiance

- 18th century oaths were seen as "sworn promises"
- Most colonies required an oath of allegiance by free males over the minimum age (varied from over 16 to 21 years)
- Prisoners of war and enslaved persons were exempt from taking an oath of allegiance.
- Women were not required to take an oath of allegiance unless required in other circumstances (ex. in New York to file a lawsuit)
- Some colonies allowed Quakers to affirm allegiance (Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont)

Oath of Allegiance Example

- *“I, -----, do swear (or affirm) that I renounce and refuse all allegiance to George the Third, King of Great Britain, his heirs and successors, and that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a free and independent state, and that I will not at any time do or cause to be done any matter or thing that will be prejudicial or injurious to the freedom and independence thereof, as declared by Congress; and also that I will discover and make known to some one justice of the peace of the said state all treasons and traitorous conspiracies which I now know or hereafter shall know to be formed against this or any of the United States of America.”*
 - Oaths of Allegiance During the American Revolution 8 May 2021, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)

Three Elements of Oath of Allegiance

- Renouncing allegiance to the King of England
- Promise of allegiance to the state as an independent state
- Commitment to reveal treasons and conspiracies against any of the states

Oaths of Allegiance – Minimum Age Requirements

- Connecticut – Office holders and freemen (over 21)
- Delaware – White males over 21
- Georgia – All men over 16
- Maryland – Free males over 18
- North Carolina – Free males over 16
- Pennsylvania – White males over 18
- Rhode Island – Men above 21
- South Carolina – Free males over 16
- Vermont – Freemen (over 21)
- Virginia – Free born males over 16 (except indentured servants)

Oaths of Allegiance – Massachusetts and Rhode Island

- Massachusetts and Rhode Island oaths did not include an allegiance to a state.
- They required a man to pledge supporting the war against Great Britain.

Oaths of Allegiance - Georgia

- Men were allowed to affirm allegiance
- Officers in high state positions were required to swear an oath of allegiance

Oaths of Allegiance - Maryland

- Also allowed affirmation by Dunkers and Menonists
- Separate lists were kept of those who swore and those who affirmed allegiance
- 1781 – Permitted Quakers, Dunkers and and Menonists to preach without affirming allegiance assuming they had not manifested a disposition against the state of Maryland
- 1783 – Allowed Methodists to preach without affirming allegiance

Oaths of Allegiance – North Carolina

- Also allowed affirmation by Dunkers, Menonists, and Moravians
- Men who took an oath of allegiance were allowed to purchase land at 50 shillings/acre
 - 640 acres per single man
 - 640 acres per married man plus 100 acres each for his wife and each child

Supply Taxes

- Congress has no authority to levy taxes. Money and supplies were requested from the states.
- Taxes went towards raising supplies, paying troops, building ships, providing clothing, raising bounty money, providing relief for families of soldiers in service.
- The laws that were passed to levy taxes **must state in the statute that they were addressing a request of the Continental Congress and/or to support the war or achieve independence.**
- Each state has different tax assessments that were levied. Consult the DAR and SAR guides on which taxes count for patriotic service.

Types of Civil Service

- State Officials – Provisional or new state governments
- County and Town Officials
 - Examples: Selectman, Judge, Sheriff, Justice of the Peace, Town Clerk

Town Record Minutes

- Record the business of the town, including elected officials
- Town records date back to when the town was first incorporated

19 Mar 1782

Ebenez^r Russell Esq^f chose Moderator

Voted that a Guard.. of Twenty Men be.. Raised for the Defence of this Town.. and that an Officer be appointed in each Society, and to Rais their proportionable part of the Men by Inlistment, and chose L^t Jacob Bunnel, L^t Edw: Mulford & Ensⁿ Allen Smith for the purpose.. and to Command the Guard, each one his proportionable part of the time, and to take their Instructions from Col: Edw: Russell: and that they Receive the same pay & Rations as the soldiers in the Continental Army.. and to be allowed one shilling p^f Day for billiting themselves

8 Apr 1782

THEMSELVES

8 Apr 1782

it being Represented to the Meeting that two Men, was this Towns Proportion to be procured for the Continental Army.. Voted a Com^{tee} be appointed to hire the Two Men on the Towns cost, for one Year, and chose Farrington Harrison & William Whedon granted a Tax of one penny on the pound.. and chose Pennock Howd, Ephraim Baldwin and James Smith Collectors Collectors

Chose John Baldwin Ju^r Collector of the 2^d Tax.. in the room of Timothy Bradly who refused, and s^d Baldwin also refused & paid his Fine; .. Meeting then chose Obediah Tyler in his room

11 Nov 1782

Chose Papillion Barker Collector of the 2^d TownTax, in the room of Obediah Tyler who Refused & paid his Fine

18 Nov 1782

mad Choice of Ebenez^r Palmer to Collect the 2^d Town Tax... in the Room of Papillon Barker who refuses

[] Dec 1782

Ebenez^r Russell Esq^f chosen Moderator

Edw: Russell Clerk

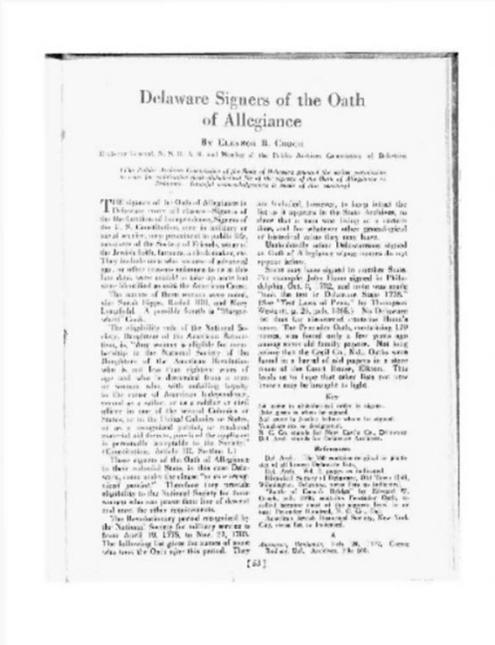
made choice of Ephraim Parrish, C^t Sam^l Russell, Will^m Munro, Sam^l Ford, Jonathan Russell, C^t Timothy Hoadley & Jesse Street Select-men

Chose Deaⁿ Elnathan Beach Town Treasurer

Ephraim Parrish, Sam^l Hoadly, Roger Tyler Ju^r & Stephen Williams Constables, and also Ruben Rose Constable & to Collect the State Tax

Chose Willford Johnson, Tim^y Bradly, Farrinton Harrison, Ephraim Foot, Sam^l Frisbie, John Barker, Will^m Munro, James Hoadly, Isaac Palmer, Jos^h Bartholomew, Pennock Howd, Jonathan Townner Ju^r Sam^l Page, Rufus Linsley, Asahel Palmer, Israel Linsley, Jonaⁿ Hoadley, Dan^l Foot Harrison, Edw: Mulford, Ebenez^r Russell Ju^r] Jacob Barker, Jared Harrison, Tim^y Harrison Ju^r Joseph Willford, Jacob Bunnel, Peter Tyler, Charles Ford, Josiah Fowler Ju^r, and Jacob Frisbie Surveyours of Highways

Branford, Connecticut Town Meetings during the American Revolution



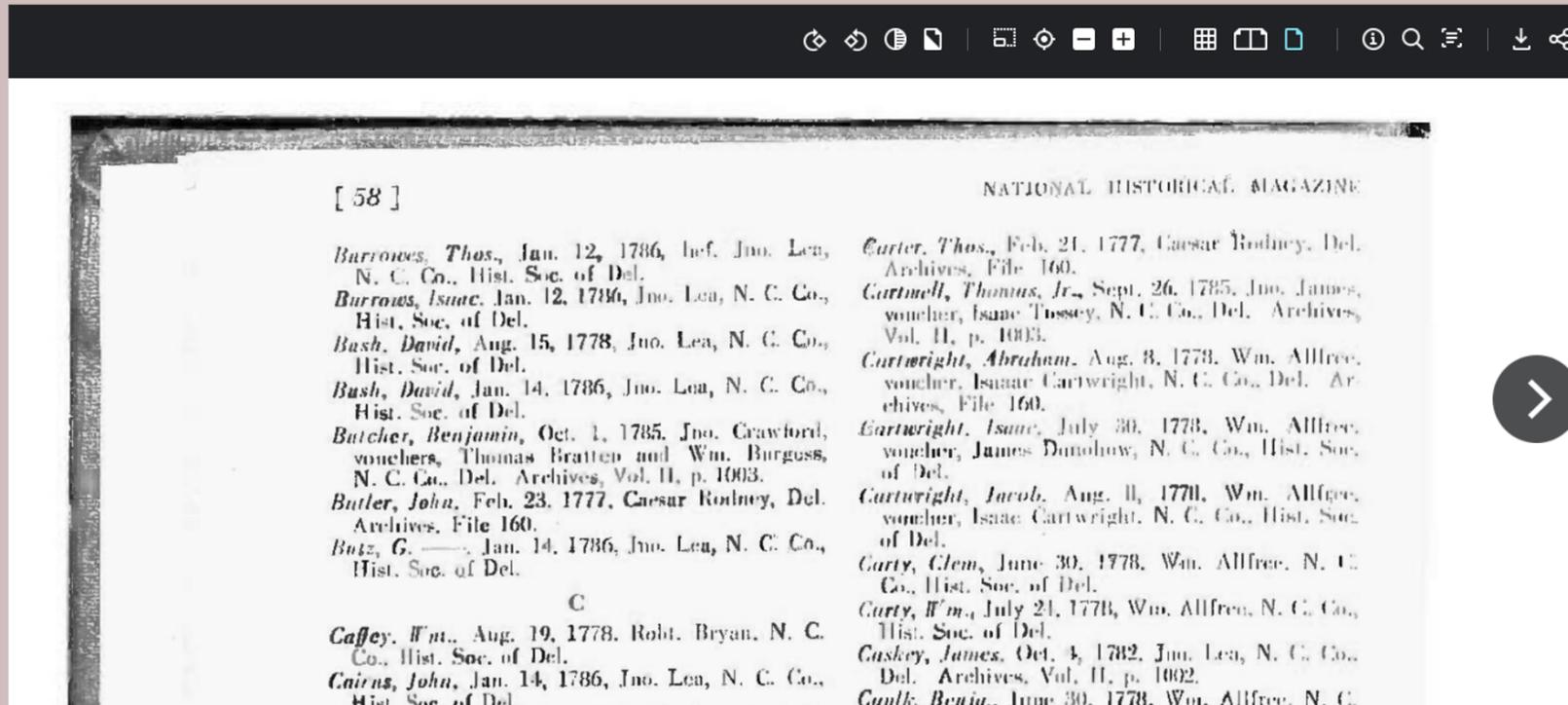
VIEW INSIDE



Delaware signers of the oath of allegiance

TITLE NO	2204300
CREATOR	Cooch, Eleanor Bedford Wilkins Daughters of the American Revolution
LANGUAGE	English eng en
SUBJECT	Delaware - Genealogy Delaware - History - Revolution, 1775-1783
PAGE COUNT	34
OWNING INSTITUTION	...

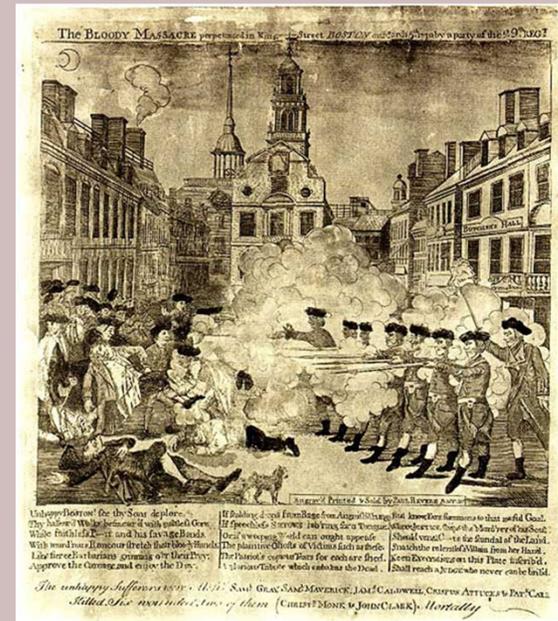
Delaware Signers of the Oath of Allegiance



Examining Previous Service in the Colonial Wars

Determining the Military Service of your Ancestor before the Revolution

- Age at enlistment
- Wars during his lifetime
- Documents & Artifacts
- Genealogies and local histories
- Pensions – may reference earlier service



What colonial wars occurred during his lifetime?



18th Century Conflicts

King George's War: 1740-1748

- Key battle: Fortress Louisburg on Cape Breton in modern day Nova Scotia, 1745
- 1748, return of fortress to French control



French and Indian War

- “Seven years war” over boundary disputes between English colonists and French
- Recapture of Fortress Louisbourg in 1759
- Many British soldiers would later fight against the crown in Revolution



A MUSTER-ROLL of the Company in His MAJ under the Command of <i>Thomas Sanders</i>															
Men's Names	Quality	Of what Town	Names of Fathers & Masters of Sons under Age and Servants	Time of Entrance in the Service		Until what Time in the Service		Whole Time of Service		Province Arms	The whole of Wages due to each Man				
				Months	Days	Months	Days	Weeks	Days		Weeks	£	s	d	
<i>Thos Sanders</i>	<i>Capt</i>	<i>at L5</i>	<i>6 months</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>January</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>29</i>			<i>36</i>	<i>5</i>			
<i>Jam. Lattenfon</i>	<i>Mate</i>	<i>at 4.7.6</i>	<i>48</i>		<i>23</i>		<i>11</i>	<i>29</i>			<i>31</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>5</i>		
<i>Robt. Rutherford</i>	<i>Sailor</i>	<i>at 50</i>	<i>48</i>		<i>23</i>		<i>11</i>	<i>29</i>			<i>18</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6</i>		
<i>Ruben Pitcher</i>			<i>Discharge</i>		<i>23</i>	<i>Novem</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>A</i>		<i>12</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>1</i>		
<i>Joseph Reow</i>				<i>Decem</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>January</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>		<i>3</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>7</i>		
<i>George M. Henry</i>				<i>June</i>	<i>23</i>		<i>11</i>	<i>29</i>			<i>18</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6</i>		
<i>Joseph Sanders</i>					<i>23</i>		<i>11</i>	<i>29</i>			<i>18</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6</i>		
<i>Jacob Newbury</i>					<i>23</i>		<i>11</i>	<i>29</i>			<i>18</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6</i>		
<i>Fredrick Knott</i>					<i>23</i>		<i>11</i>	<i>29</i>			<i>18</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6</i>		
<i>Romulus Negro</i>					<i>23</i>		<i>11</i>	<i>29</i>			<i>18</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6</i>		
<i>Thos. Sanders junr</i>					<i>23</i>		<i>11</i>	<i>29</i>			<i>18</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6</i>		
											<i>287</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>£ 211</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>7</i>
<p><i>Transport 1000 being 3 96 tons. (at 5/ per ton formerly) in from June 23 1749 11 29 174</i></p> <p><i>Suffold's: January 11. 1749/50 sworn to before me Jacob Wendell Just. Pa. and allowed by the committee of the Board</i></p> <p><i>Done January 11. 1750 Exampted J. Thos. Sanders</i></p>															

192

A MUSTER-ROLL of the *Field & Staff Officers* in His MAJESTY's Service under the Command of *Richard Gridley Colonel*, V. 12.

Men's Names	Quality	At what per Month	Of what Town	Days Travel	Names of Fathers and Masters of Sons under Age, and Servants	Time of Entrance in the Service		Until what Time in the Service			Whole Time of Arms	The half Pay due to each Man	The whole Pay due to each Man	Whole & half Wages due to each Man	What each Man received of the Commissary, &c	What each Man receiv'd of the Captain	Ballance due					
						Months	Days	Months	Days	Weeks								Days	£	s	d	£
<i>Richard Gridley</i>	<i>Colonel</i>	<i>12:16</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>18</i>		<i>February</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Novemb</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>6</i>		<i>130</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>10</i>			<i>130</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>10</i>		
<i>Nathan. Thwing</i>	<i>1st Col.</i>	<i>10:13/4</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>18</i>		<i>d</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Decemb</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>111</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>10</i>			<i>111</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>10</i>		
<i>Enath. Hoar</i>	<i>2nd Col.</i>	<i>10:13/4</i>	<i>Concord</i>	<i>17</i>		<i>d</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>110</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>		<i>108</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>3</i>		
<i>Samuel Thaxter</i>	<i>Major</i>	<i>10:1:4</i>	<i>Hingham</i>	<i>19</i>		<i>d</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>6</i>			<i>94</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>6</i>		
<i>Samuel Gridley</i>	<i>Company</i>	<i>15:8</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>18</i>		<i>d</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Decemb</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>9</i>			<i>59</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>9</i>		
<i>Isaac Hussey</i>	<i>Chaplain</i>	<i>16:8</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>18</i>		<i>June</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>found this man</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>3</i>			<i>20</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>3</i>		
<i>William Jopson</i>	<i>Surgeon</i>	<i>10:--</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>18</i>		<i>February</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Decem</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>5</i>		<i>106</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>106</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>5</i>		
<i>James Hersey</i>	<i>1st Mule</i>	<i>15:6:8</i>	<i>Hingham</i>	<i>19</i>		<i>d</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>6</i>		<i>55</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>2</i>			<i>55</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>2</i>		
<i>David Darling</i>	<i>Warrant</i>	<i>12:8</i>	<i>Newport</i>	<i>18</i>		<i>d</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>5</i>		<i>25</i>	<i>7</i>		<i>2</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>3</i>		
<i>Joseph Wright</i>	<i>Arms</i>	<i>14:--</i>	<i>Brockfield</i>	<i>14</i>		<i>d</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>found this man</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>10</i>			<i>41</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>10</i>		
<i>John Scoones</i>	<i>1st Assistant</i>	<i>12:--</i>	<i>Taunton</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>sent to Master Denny</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>8</i>		<i>4</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>9</i>		
<i>William Wickes</i>	<i>Quar. Maj.</i>	<i>11:18:1</i>	<i>Dedham</i>	<i>18</i>		<i>April</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>2</i>		
				<i>213</i>						<i>466</i>	<i>2</i>		<i>£ 800</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>2</i>		<i>6</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>703</i>	<i>17</i>	

192

Boston February 17 1757
Errors Excepted

Richard Gridley
Colonel
Approved by the
Commissary

American Revolutionary War

Does his age fit the Muster Roll?

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



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
Christopher Walker Soldier
in the *1st Connecticut* Regiment, having faithfully
served the United States *from April 8th 1777 to*
June 4th 1780 — and being inlisted for the War only, is
hereby DISCHARGED from the American Army.

GIVEN at HEAD-QUARTERS the *8 June 1783*
G. Washington

By HIS EXCELLENCY'S
Command,
A. M. Bull

I do Hearby Certify that Moses Jackson a Soldier
in the Deer County hath served his tower of duty
under Major Welch in Colo Edmonds Bridgement and
General Stephens Brigade given under my Hand
This 5th day of October 1781
J. Mansfield

Forgotten Images

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



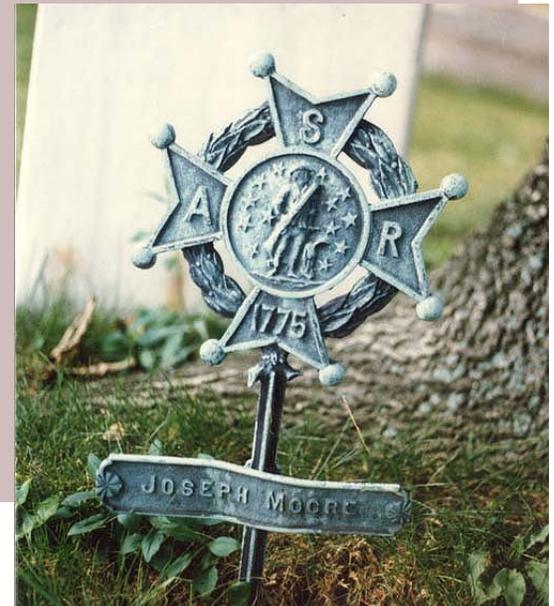
Oral Family Traditions

- 1775 to 2024
- Lost in translation
- Preserving stories
- Confirming stories with primary sources
- Hero or Deserter?
- Proving or disproving Grandma



Cemetery Clues and Pitfalls

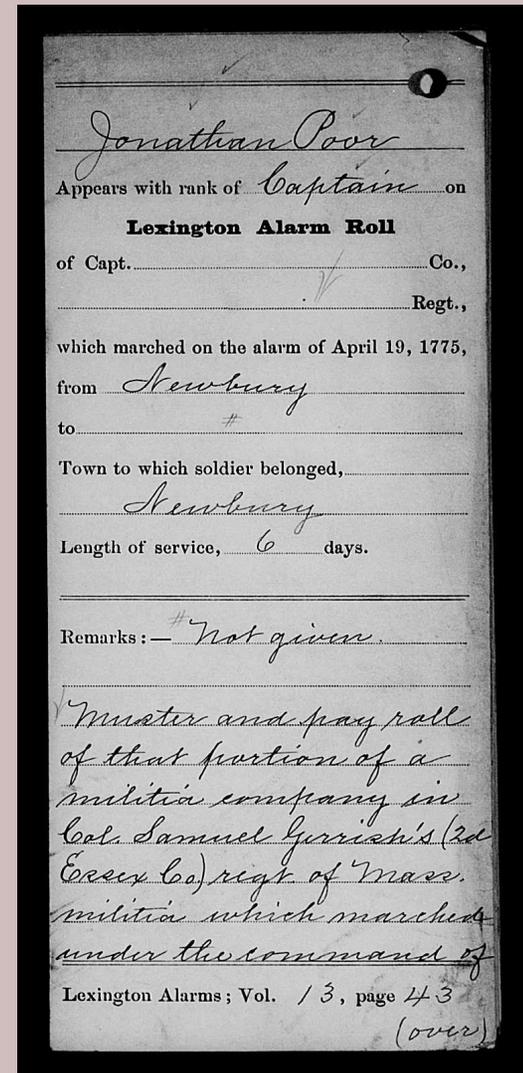
- Is there a gravestone for your vet?
- Cemetery and burial records
- Transcribed gravestones
- Where is his spouse buried?
- Is there a flag marker?
 - S.A.R. marker on the right grave?



American Revolutionary War Resources

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!*



From Published to Primary Sources

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.

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.

Muster Roll Index Microfilm

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

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch website interface. At the top left is the FamilySearch logo. To its right are navigation links: Family Tree, Search (highlighted), Memories, and Indexing. Below these are secondary navigation links: Records, Family Tree, Genealogies, Catalog (highlighted), Books, and Wiki. A grey bar contains a blue link '◀ BACK TO SEARCH RESULTS' and a printer icon. The main content area features a title: 'Muster rolls (index file cards) of the Revolutionary War, 1767-1833 [Massachusetts]'. Below the title are several fields with labels and values:

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

Capt. Jonathan Poor

Jonathan Poor
Appears with rank of *Captain* on
Lexington Alarm Roll
of Capt. _____ Co.,
_____ Regt.,
which marched on the alarm of April 19, 1775,
from *Newbury*
to _____
Town to which soldier belonged,
Newbury
Length of service, *6* days.

Remarks: - *Not given.*

*Muster and pay roll
of that portion of a
militia company in
Col. Samuel Garrison's (2d
Essex Co) regt of Mass.
militia which marched
under the command of*

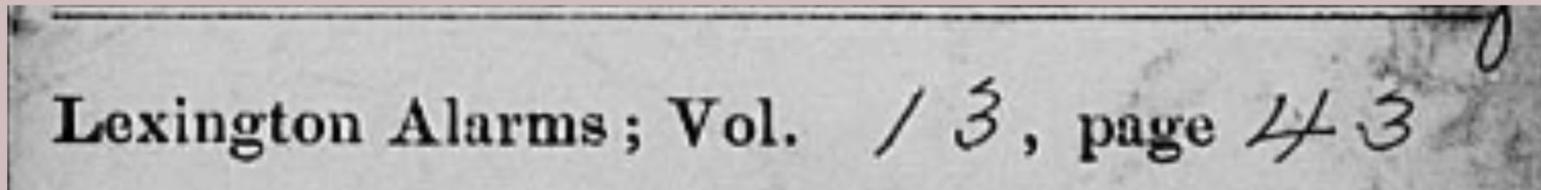
Lexington Alarms; Vol. 13, page 43
(over)

*Capt. Jonathan Poor
in response to the alarm
of April 19, 1775.*

*Part of company allowed
travel from home and
return. - 86 miles travel
allowed said Poor;
reported returned home.*

(New form per order)

Capt. Jonathan Poor



Lexington Alarms; Vol. 13, page 43⁰

Volume: 13 - Page: 43

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch website interface. At the top, the FamilySearch logo is on the left, and navigation links for Family Tree, Search, Memories, and Indexing are on the right. Below this, a secondary navigation bar includes Records, Family Tree, Genealogies, Catalog (highlighted), Books, and Wiki. A grey bar contains a 'BACK TO SEARCH RESULTS' link and a 'PRINT' button with a printer icon. The main content area features a title: 'Muster/payrolls, and various papers (1763-1808) of the Revolutionary War [Massachusetts and Rhode Island]'. Below the title, a list of details is provided: Authors (Massachusetts. Secretary of State (Main Author)), Format (Manuscript/Manuscript on Film), Language (English), Publication (Salt Lake City, Utah : Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1993), and Physical (44 microfilm reels ; 35 mm.). A 'Notes' section follows, stating the documents are microreproduced at the Massachusetts State Archives. A link is provided to view the record in WorldCat. Finally, a 'Subjects' section lists 'Locality Subjects' with two entries: 'United States, Massachusetts - Military records - Revolution, 1775-1783' and 'United States, Rhode Island - Military records - Revolution, 1775-1783'.

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Family Tree Search Memories Indexing

Records Family Tree Genealogies Catalog Books Wiki

◀ BACK TO SEARCH RESULTS PRINT

Muster/payrolls, and various papers (1763-1808) of the Revolutionary War [Massachusetts and Rhode Island]

Authors: [Massachusetts. Secretary of State \(Main Author\)](#)

Format: Manuscript/Manuscript on Film

Language: English

Publication: Salt Lake City, Utah : Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1993

Physical: 44 microfilm reels ; 35 mm.

Notes

Microreproduction of documents at Massachusetts State Archives, Boston, Massachusetts.

[View this catalog record in WorldCat for other possible copy locations](#)

Subjects

Locality Subjects

[United States, Massachusetts - Military records - Revolution, 1775-1783](#)

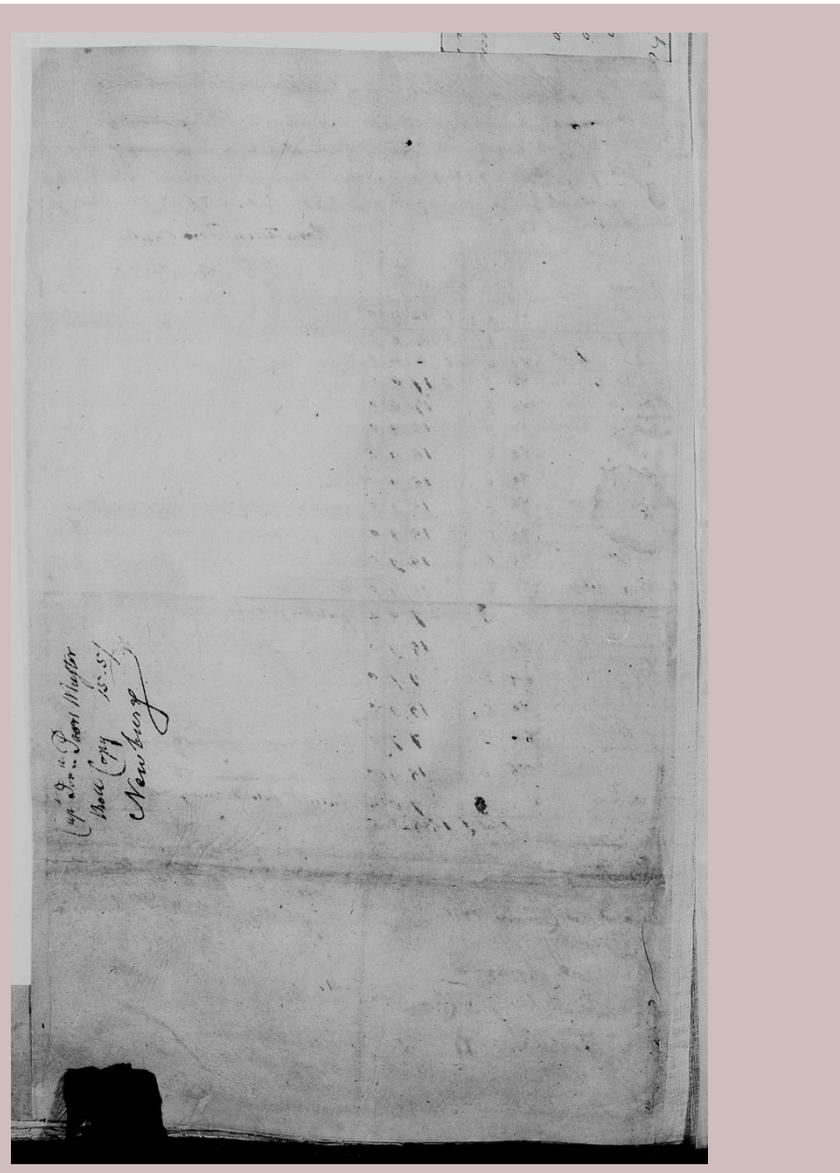
[United States, Rhode Island - Military records - Revolution, 1775-1783](#)

The Role of Wards Part of the Company that Marched from Newbury 43
 on the 19th of April 1776 on a Alarm on Day under
 Command of Capt Jonathan Poor of said Town of Newbury in County of Essex
 and Colony of Massachusetts Bay & in several Regiments of Militia in said County
 When off same Genl. Poor was Comd to Defend this County from Invasions of
 the British Troops
 Jonathan Poor Capt

Names	Ward	Days	L	S	D	
Jonathan Poor Captain	86	6	1	12	11	0
Wm Joffey Lt	86	6	1	4	6	0
Simon Hale 2d Lieut	86	6	1	2	2	0
George Deane Sergeant	86	6	0	17	6	0
Paul Plummer Sergeant	86	6		17	6	0
Stephen Dole Private	86	6		15	9	0
Henry Dole	86	6		16	9	0
David Dole	86	6		15	9	0
Samuel Gerrish	86	6		15	9	0
John Hale	86	6		15	9	0
Daniel Hale Jr	86	6		15	9	0
Anthony Joffey	86	6		15	9	0
John Hoys Lt	8		7	0	2	Enlisted into the army
William Plummer	86	6		15	9	0
Mark Plummer	64	3		9	7	0
Stephen Poor	86	6		15	9	0
John Christen	64	3		9	7	0
Benjamin Christen	86	6		15	9	0
John L. Reed	8		7	0	2	Enlisted into the army
Total £ 1575:0:0						

Examined and Compared with
 the Original
 Jno. James
 Es. Historiographer & Commissioner
 Michael Farley

In Council Feb 1st 1776 Read and
 that a Barr. be drawn on 7th Dec 1776
 in full off. Note
 John Lovell Secy

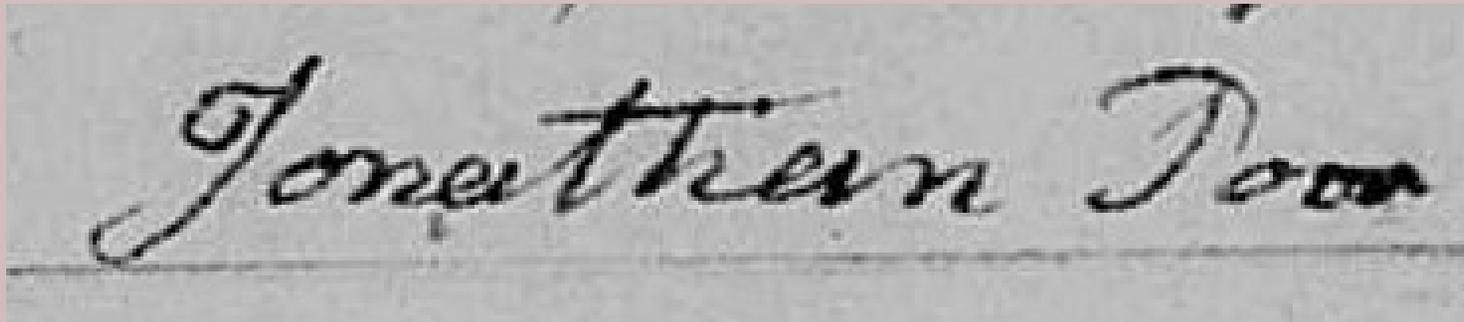


Capt. Jonathan Poor

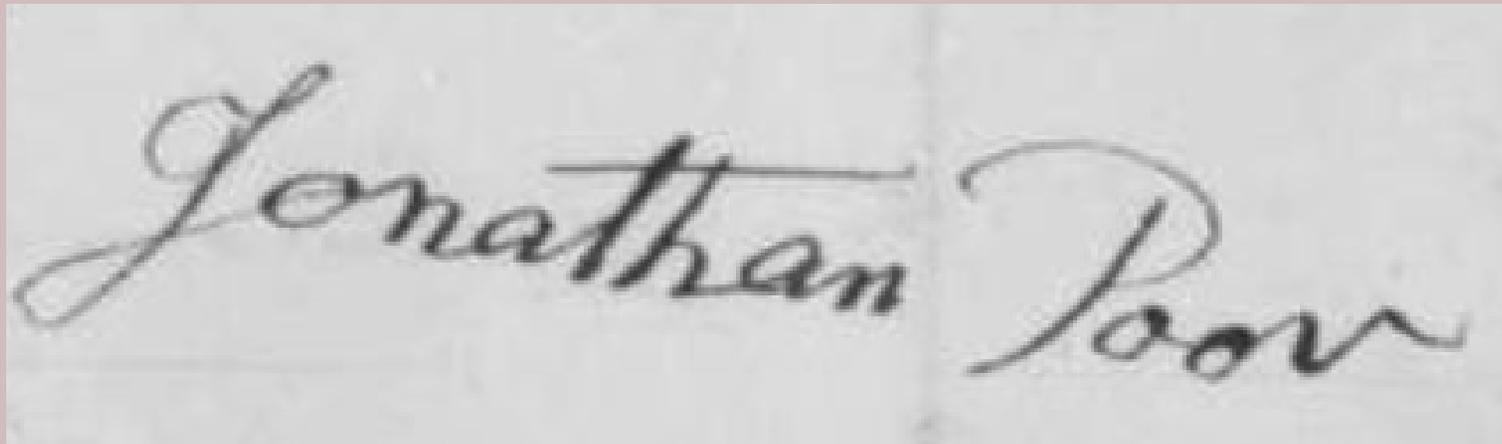
The Role of What Parts of the Company that Marched from Newbury 43
 on the ~~19th~~ Nineteenth of Aprill 1776. on y^e alarm on F^{ri} Day under y^e
 Command of Capt. Jonathan Poor of Said town of Newbury in y^e County of Essex
 and Colony of y^e Massachusetts Bay & in y^e Second Regiment of Militia in Said County
 When off Sam^l Gerrish Esq. was Col^l to Defend this Contenant from y^e invasions of
 the Ministers troops
 Jonathan Poor Captain

Names	Miles to y ^e place	Days	L	S	D	Y	Newbury
Jonathan Poor Captain	86	6	1	12	11	0	
Wesley Jeffrey 1 st Lieut ^{nt}	86	6	1	4	6	0	
Simon Hale 2 ^d Lieut ^{nt}	86	6	1	2	2	0	
Benj ^o Todd Sergeant	86	6	0	17	6	0	
Paul Blumer Sergeant	86	6		17	6	0	

Capt. Jonathan Poor



Jonathan Poor

A close-up photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The name "Jonathan Poor" is written in black ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The signature is positioned above a faint horizontal line.

Jonathan Poor

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, similar to the one above. The name "Jonathan Poor" is written in black ink on a light-colored paper. The signature is positioned above a faint horizontal line.

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]

Citing the Primary Source

1. **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.

Going beyond Abstracts and Dissecting Pension Files

Going Beyond Abstracts and Dissecting Pension Files

Genealogical Abstracts
Of Revolutionary War
Pension Files

Volume III: N - Z

Abstracted by
Virgil D. White

Virgil White Pension Abstracts

Joshua, CT Line & Green Mtn Boys, S41326, BLW #2354-200-31 May 1790 assignee Theodosius Fowler, sol appl 30 Mar 1818 at Addison in Addison Co VT, in 1820 sol was aged 70 & he stated he had 4 daughters living with him; Mary 34, Amy 27, Huldah 19 & Nancy aged 16 also a son George aged 13, sol d 23 Mar 1821 at Bridport VT

Joshua, Cont & MA Lines, Electy, W8308, sol m Electy Sartwell 30 Oct 1794 both were of Langdon in Sullivan Co NH, sol appl 23 Jul 1832 in Allegany Co NY a res of Pike NY, sol had enl at Worcester MA, sol d 8 Dec 1849 & his wid appl 7 May 1850 at Pike which was then in Wyoming Co NY & she was the age of 73 yrs, sol had orig appl 13 Jul 1818 in Allegany Co NY at which time he was age of 59

Joshua, MA Line, S37549, he appl 13 Apr 1818 at Buxton in York Co MA (ME) aged 57, in 1820 sol had children at home; Huldah 28 who took care of the family, Almira 16, Samuel 24 who had lately returned from Canada & grandchildren with him were; Abigail Beecher 12, Mary Beecher 9 & (cont next page)

Abstracts of Rev. War Pension Files

3815

(continued) Samuel Beecher aged 5, a daughter Mary was married in 1820 but her husband wasn't named **WHITNEY**, Joshua, MA & NH Lines, Betty or Betsey, W15863, sol was b in 1754 in Westbury MA & he lived there until age of 14 then moved to Grafton MA where he lived when he enl & about 1782 he moved to Henniker in Merrimack Co NH where he lived when he appl 29 Aug 1832, sol m Betty or Betsey Wood 17 Jun 1778 at Harvard in Worcester Co MA & she was b 19 Apr 1755, he appl 29 Aug 1832 at Henniker NH & he d there 2 Feb 1835 & his wid appl there 2 Nov 1837 children were: Samuel b 17 Jun 1779 & d 6 Jul

Joshua Whitney Abstract



Revolutionary War Pensions (i)

Search within:
 Revolutionary War > Revolutionary ... > **Massachusetts**

PUBLICATION <small>(21)</small>	STATE <small>(17)</small>	VETERAN SURNAME STARTS WITH <small>(25)</small>	VETERAN SURNAME <small>(281)</small>
Navy Casualty Reports, 1776-1941 Free	Massachusetts	N	Waddams
Numbered Record Books Free	New Hampshire	O	Wadden
Pennsylvania Archives Free	New Jersey	P	Wade
Revolutionary War Manuscript File Free	New York	Q	Wadham
Revolutionary War Milestone Documents Free	North Carolina	R	Wadleigh
Revolutionary War Pensions Free	Ohio	S	Wadlia
Revolutionary War Prize Cases - Captured Vessels Free	Pennsylvania	T	Wadline
Revolutionary War Rolls Free	Rhode Island	U	Wadsworth
Revolutionary War Service and Imprisonment Cards Free	South Carolina	V	Wagg
Revolutionary War Service Records Free	Vermont	W	Waight

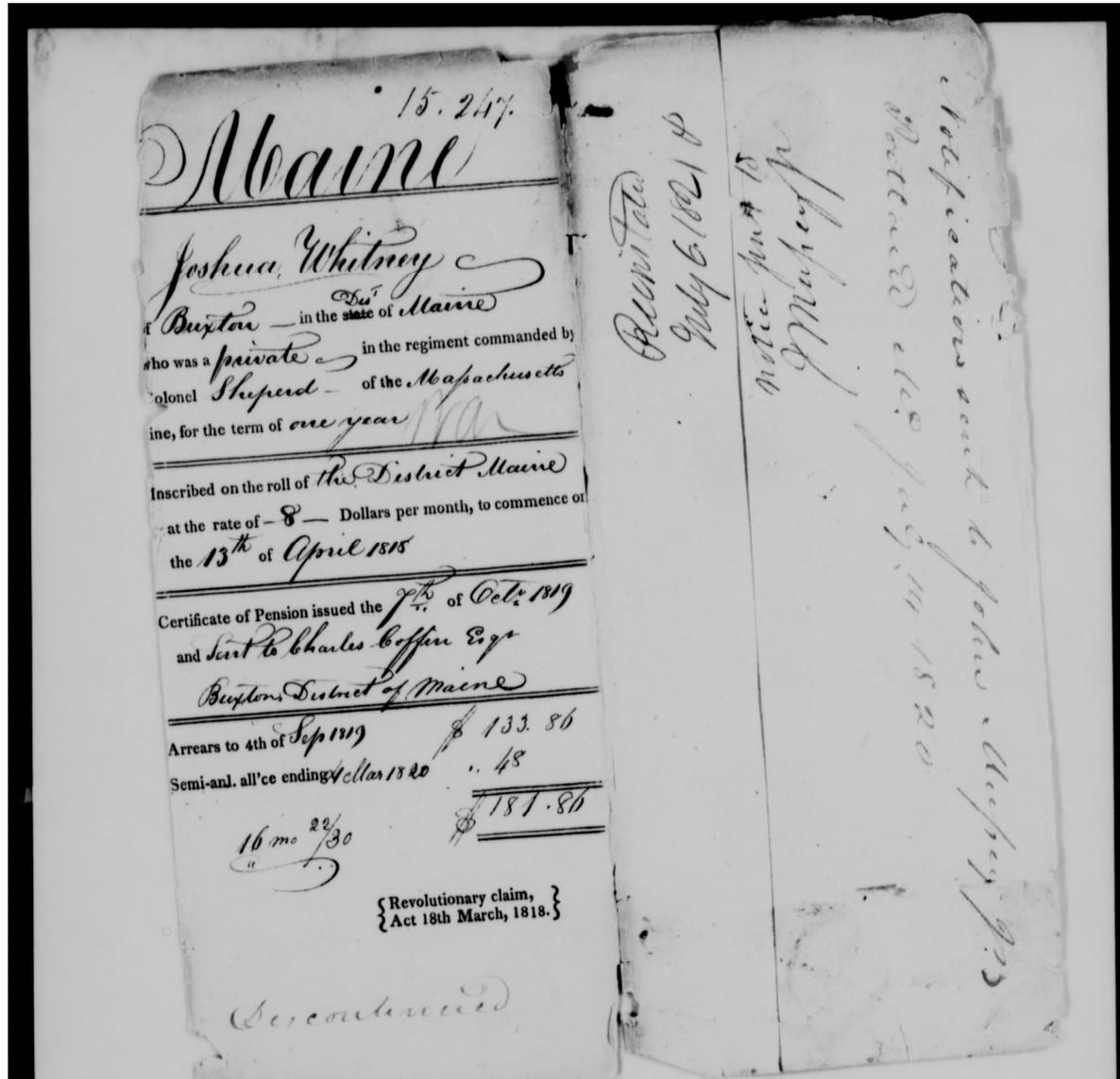
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VETERAN SURNAME (281)	VETERAN NAME (54)	PAGE (23)
Whitney	Joshua Whitney	 Page 1
Whiton	Joshua Whitney	 Page 2
Whittemore	Joshua Whitney	 Page 3
Whitten	Lemuel Whitney	 Page 4
Whittier	Leonard Whitney	 Page 5
Whitting	Micah Whitney	 Page 6
Whittlesey	Moses Whitney	 Page 7
Whitty	Nathan Whitney	 Page 8
Whitwell	Oliver Whitney	 Page 9
		 Page 10
		 Page 11
		 Page 12
		 Page 13
		 Page 14
		 Page 15

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Joshua Whitney Pension File

Joshua Whitney of Hunters in the County of York and Commonwealth
 of Massachusetts, aged fifty seven years, on oath testify and
 say, that I enlisted a private in the Continental Army of the Revolution
 in the first part of the month of January in the year of our Lord
 seventeen hundred & eighty two, the day of the month I do not
 recollect. The Company I enlisted into was when I enlisted com-
 manded by Capt. ~~Blanchard~~ the same Company while I was in
 it was commanded by Capt. North, and afterwards when
 I was discharged from the army was commanded by Capt.
 Blanchard. The Regiment was commanded by Col. Shepherd
 the whole time I was in ^{the} army, and the Brigade was
 commanded by General Patterson from the time I ~~joined~~
 the army till I was discharged from the same at the close
 of the war. I received my discharge from the army at the
 close of the war on the twenty eighth day of Oct. in the
 year of our Lord ~~eighteen~~ ^{seventeen} hundred & eighty three, signed
 by Major General Henry Knox. Which discharge is true.
 I further on oath declare, that from my reduced cir-
 cumstances, I need the assistance of my Country for support
 and am a citizen of the United States.

April 13. 1810
 Joshua Whitney.

Joshua Whitney Pension File

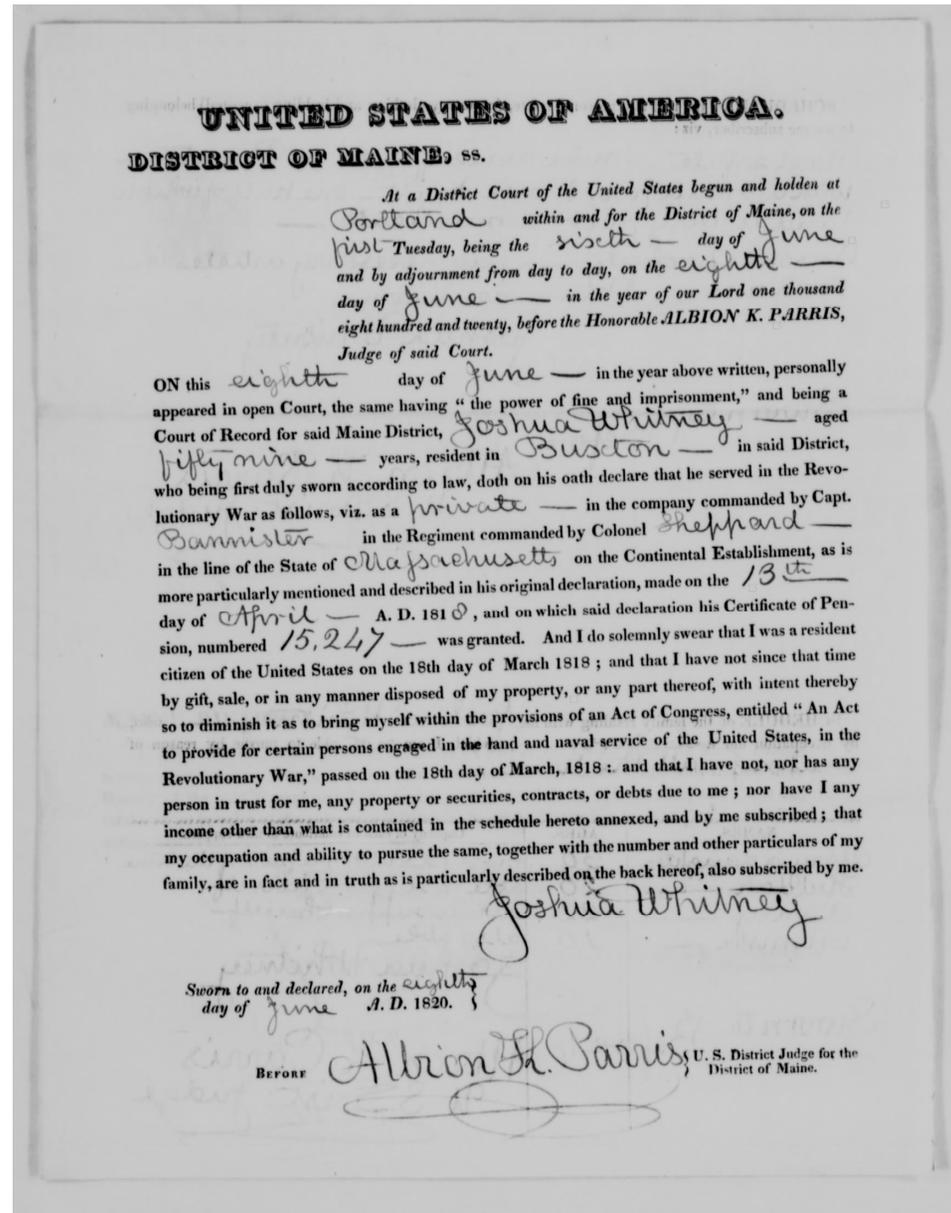
4

I John Burnell of Gotham in the County
of Cumberland & Commonwealth of Massachusetts
do depose & say that Joshua Whitney served in the
same Brigade in the revolutionary war to which
I belonged; that I several times saw him during
the time I belonged to said Brigade & I have no
doubt of his said Whitney having served the time
stated by him in his declaration by him signed on
the other side hereof - Said Whitney to the best of my
knowledge & belief is a man of truth & veracity
& in reduced circumstances in need of
need of assistance from his country for support
In presence of Joseph Adams
John Burnell
made

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Cumberland Co. June 9. 1818 Then before me the
subscriber one of the Justices of the Peace for said County
personally appeared John Burnell above named &
being duly sworn made oath to the truth of the forego-
ing affidavit by him signed by his oath of
a copy in my presence

Joseph Adams -

Joshua Whitney Pension File



Joshua Whitney Pension File

SCHEDULE of the real and personal estate, (necessary clothing and bedding excepted) belonging to me the subscriber, viz:

Real estate — nine acres of land in Busseton — with a small poor house on it — one half of which land is very poor — a mere heath —

Personal property — a few necessary articles in the house — I have no income

Joshua Whitney

Sworn to Before Albion H. Parris U. S. Dist. Judge

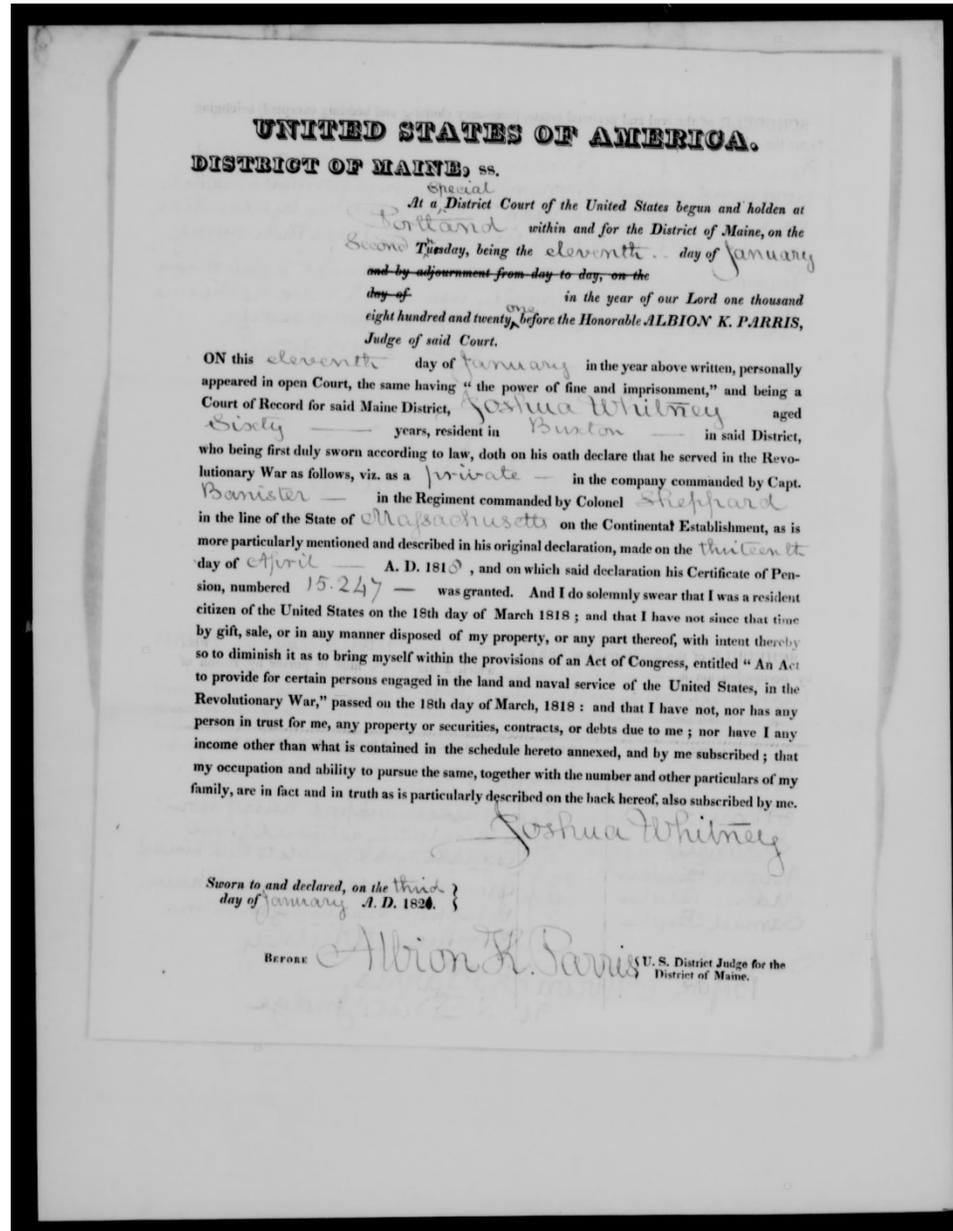
SCHEDULE of the family residing with me Joshua Whitney, who, by occupation am a ~~Saborer~~ ~~which I am not able to pursue by reason of weakness, all the time~~

NAMES.	AGES.	Capacity of each to contribute to their support.
Mary a daughter	30	married with me part of the time
Huldah —	26	able to support herself
Nancy —	22	able to support herself
Almira —	16	also able

Joshua Whitney

Sworn to Before Albion H. Parris U. S. Dist. Judge

Joshua Whitney Pension File



Joshua Whitney Pension File

SCHEDULE of the real and personal estate, (necessary clothing and bedding excepted) belonging to me the subscriber, viz:

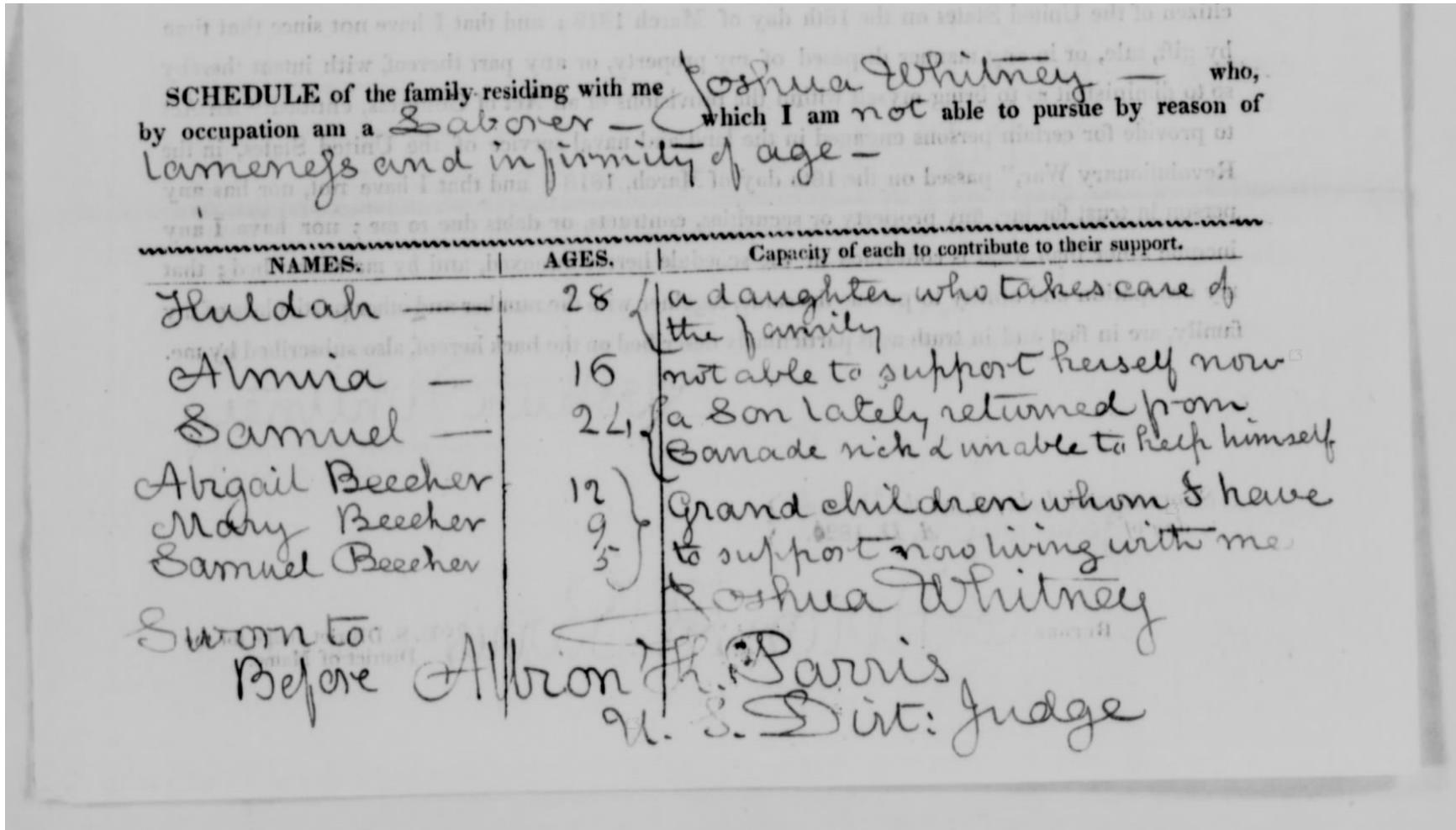
Real estate — I have none — nine acres of poor land which I mentioned in a former schedule in June last, has been taken from me by execution, in part satisfaction of just debts I was then owing

Personal estate — I have none, except a few mean house utensils for family use — I have no income and am still in debt and poor and needy

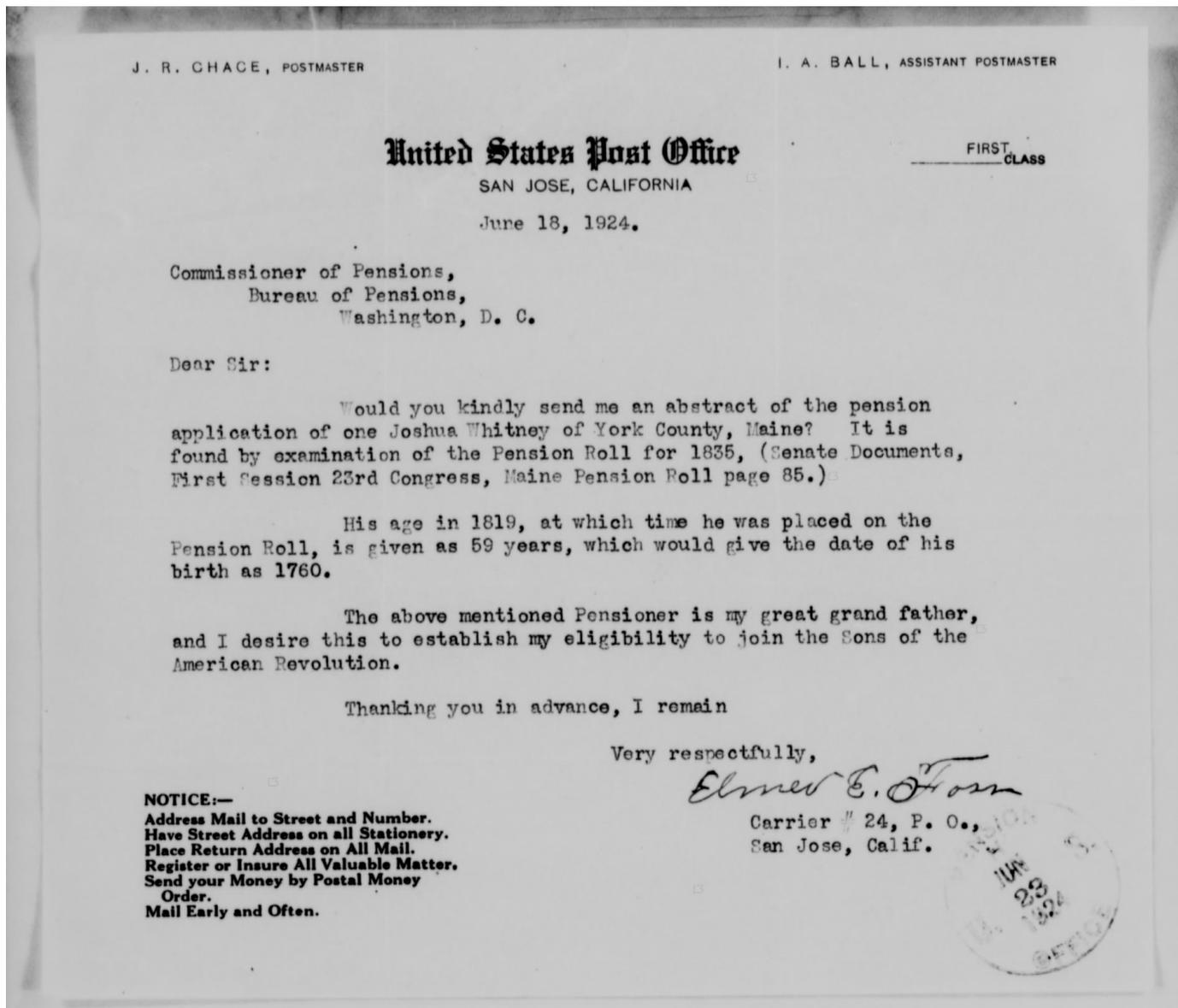
Sworn to
Jan 3. 1821
Before
Joshua Whitney
Albion H. Parris
U. S. Dist. Judge

SCHEDULE of the family residing with me Joshua Whitney — who, by occupation am a Laborer — which I am not able to pursue by reason of lameness and infirmity of age —

Joshua Whitney Pension File



Joshua Whitney Pension File



Joshua Whitney Pension File



PUBLICATION (23)	STATE (34)	SURNAME STARTS WITH (24)
Final Payment Vouchers Index for Military Pensions. 1818-1864	Maine	N
Foreign Letters of the Continental Congress Free	Maryland	O
George Washington Correspondence Free	Massachusetts	P
Navy and Marine Corps Officers, 1775-1900 Free	Michigan	Q
Navy Casualty Reports, 1776-1941	Mississippi	R
Numbered Record Books	Missouri	S
Pennsylvania Archives Free	New Hampshire	T
Revolutionary War Manuscript File	New Jersey	U
Revolutionary War Milestone Documents Free	New York	V
Revolutionary War Pensions	North Carolina	W
Revolutionary War Prize Cases - Captured Vessels	Ohio	Y

Final Payment Vouchers

700

NAME WHITNEY, Joshua

AGENCY OF PAYMENT Maine

DATE OF ACT 181 8

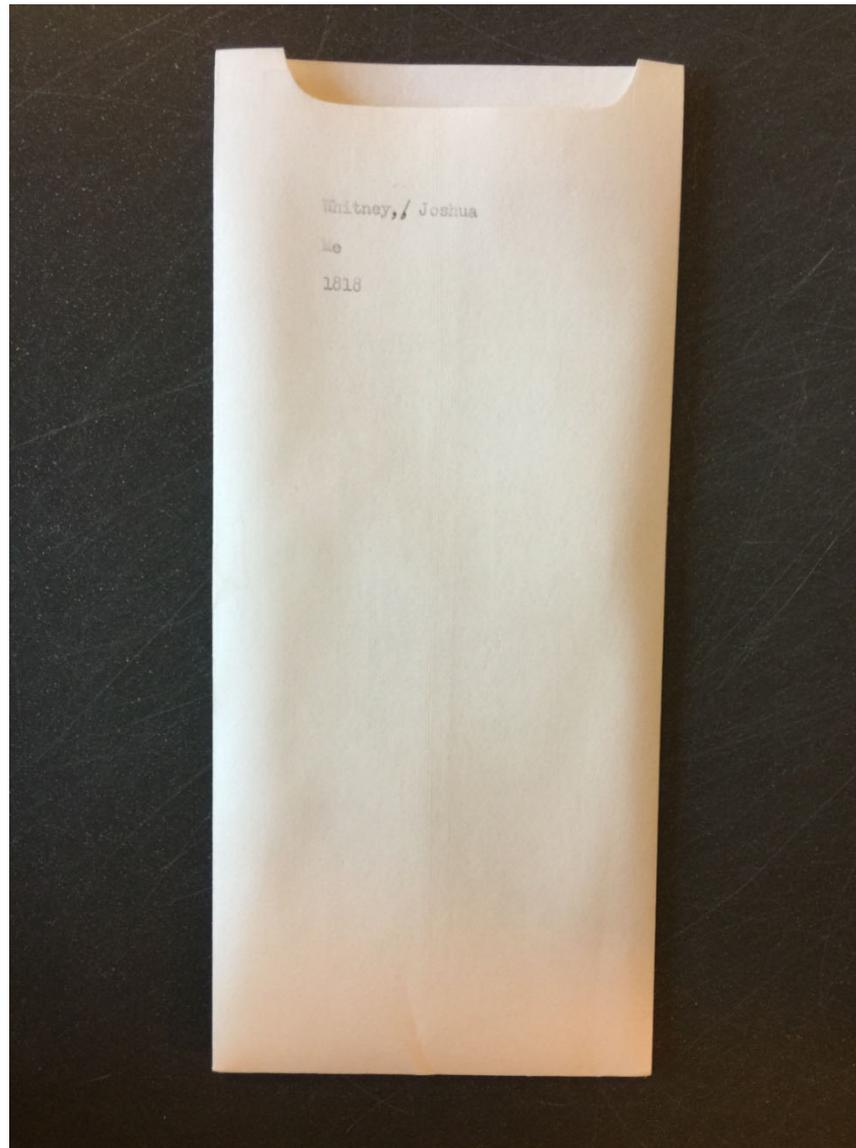
DATE OF PAYMENT 1st 1st qtr. 1832

DATE OF DEATH Feb. 25, 1832

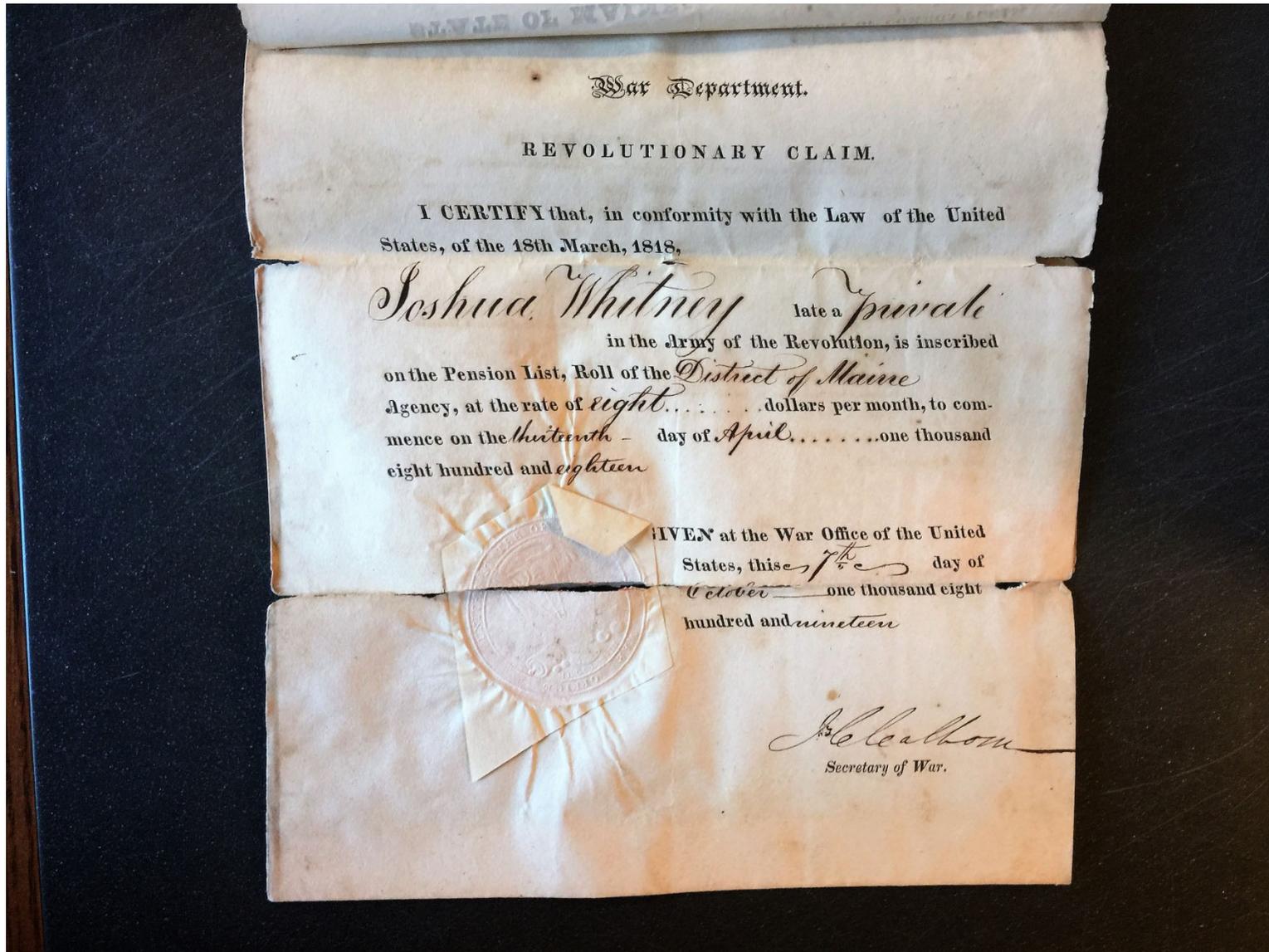
**FINAL PAYMENT VOUCHER RECEIVED FROM
THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE**

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION GSA DC 70-7035 FORM
GSA DEC 69 7068

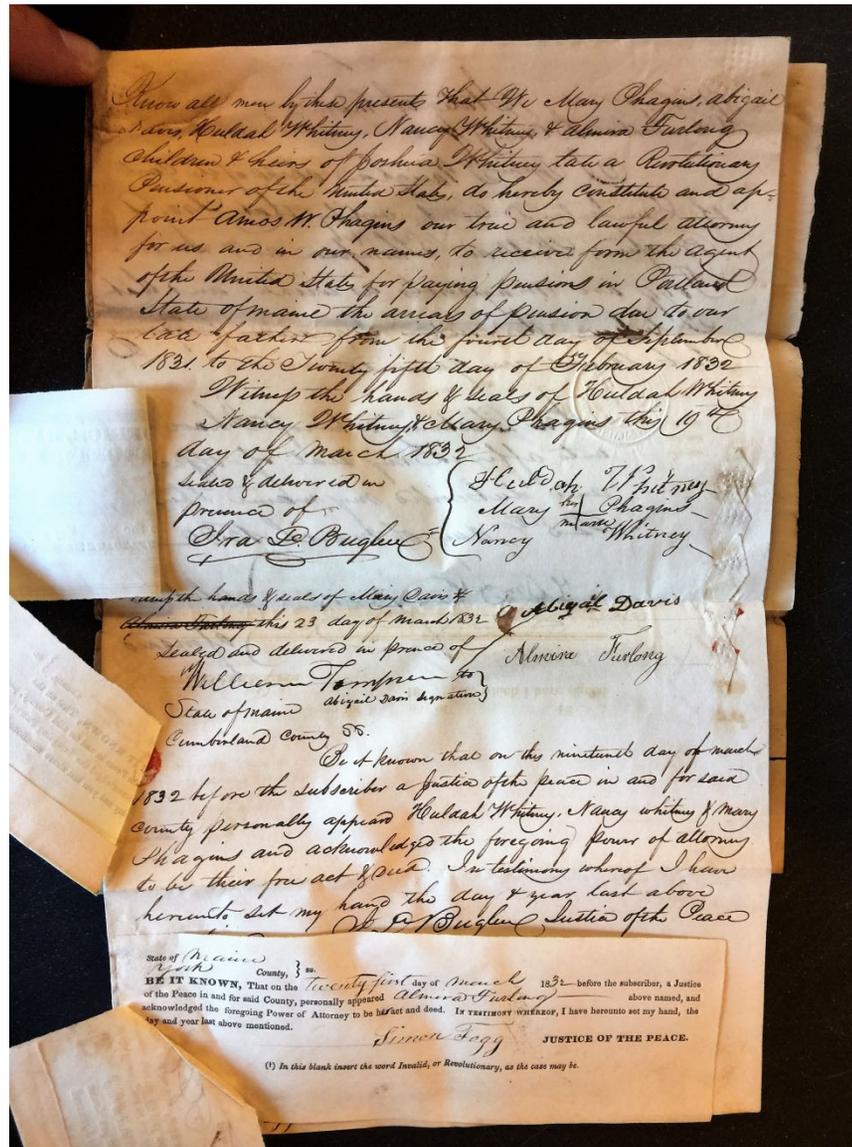
Index Card to Final Payments



NARA – Final Payment Vouchers



NARA – Final Payment Vouchers



NARA – Final Payment Vouchers

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New York in the Revolution as colony and state : a compilation of documents and records from the Office of the State comptroller

IDENTIFIER	116588_01
CREATOR	New York (State). Comptroller's Office
LANGUAGE	eng
SUBJECT	New York (State) -- History Revolution, 1775-1783
PAGE COUNT	594
OWNING INSTITUTION	Internet Archive
PUBLISHER DIGITAL	Albany, N. Y. : J. B. Lyon Co., Printers

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documents and records from the Office

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NEW YORK COLONY AND STATE

IN THE

REVOLUTION

THE LINE

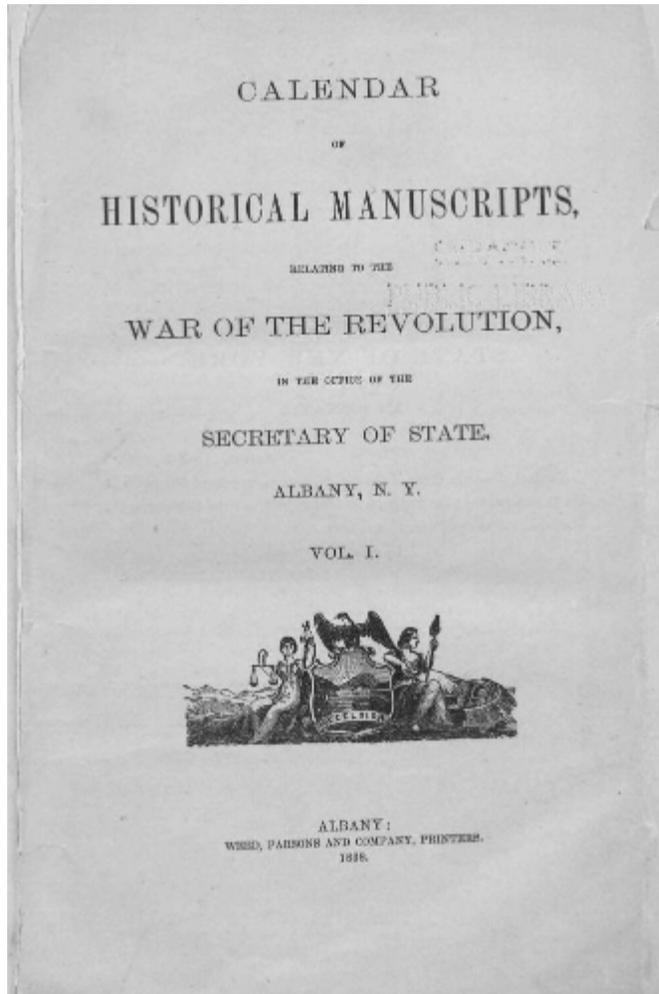
First Regiment

COLONEL GOOSE VAN SCHAICK	ADJUTANT JOHN H. WENDELL
LIEUT. COL. CORNELIUS VAN DYCK	QUARTER MASTER HENRY VAN WOERT
MAJOR JOHN GRAHAM	PAY MASTER ABRAHAM TEN EYCK
MAJOR BENJAMIN LEDYARD	PAY MASTER JEREMIAH VAN RENSSELAER
MAJOR JOSEPH McCracken	CHAPLAIN SOLOMON FRELIGH
ADJUTANT JOHN BRIDGGEN	SURGEON DANIEL BUDD
ADJUTANT JOHN L. HARDENBERGH	SURGEON WILLIAM MEAD
ADJUTANT PETER BENJAMIN TEARSE	SURGEON DANIEL MENEMA
ADJUTANT JACOB H. WENDELL	SURGEON CALEB SWEET

CAPT. AARON ABBSON	CAPT. JOHN C. TEN BROECK	LIEUT. WILLIAM A. FORBES
" LEONARD BLEEKER	" DAVID VAN NEEB	" JOHN FURMAN
" WILLIAM BROWN	" JAMES VAN RENSSELAER	" DANIEL GAUS
" JACOB CREESMAN	" NICHOLAS VAN RENSSELAER	" BENJAMIN GILBERT
" WILLIAM CODE	" ABRAHAM A. VAN WYCK	" ABRAHAM HARDENBERGH
" JOHN COFF	" RICHARD VARICK	" NATHANIEL HENRY
" ROBERT EDMONSTON	" JOHN WARDLE	" ERENEZER HILLS
" ANDREW FINCK, JR.	" JOHN H. WENDELL	" JOHN HOOGERIK
" S. GILBERT	" JOHN WILEY	" JOHN HOUSTON
" WILLIAM GOFORTH	" JOB WRIGHT	" SAMUEL LEWIS
" JOHN GRAHAM	" GUY YOUNG	" RANALD T. McDOUGALL
" JAMES GREGG	LIEUT. AARON ABBSON	" PETER MASSE
" JAMES GREGG	" JONAH DANLEY	" CHRISTOPHER MILLER
" BENJAMIN HICKS	" ABRAHAM B. BANCKER	" WILLIAM MOULTON
" CORNELIUS T. JANSEN	" JOHN BARNES	" CHRISTOPHER MULLER
" JOHN JOHNSON	" GERAUD BECKMAN	" EDWARD NICOLE
" DAVID LYON	" VICTOR BICKER	" DIGBY ODUM
" ROSSBY MCKEAN	" WILLIAM BLOODGOOD	" JAMES WILLIAM PAYNE
" MOSES MARTIN	" BENJAMIN BOGARDUS	" BENJAMIN PELTON
" DANIEL MILLS	" ABRAHAM E. BRASHER	" JONATHAN PIERCY
" CHARLES PARSONS	" JAMES CLARK	" MICHAEL RYAN
" JOHN QUACKENBOS	" JOB COOK	" WILHELM RYCKMAN
" BARENT STAATS SALISBURY	" HENRY DEFFENDORFF	" BARENT STAATS SALISBURY
" GEORGE SYTEL	" DANIEL DENNISTON	" WILLIAM SCUDDER
" GEORGE SYTVIS	" JOHN DENNEY	" ABEL SHERWOOD



1911 State Capitol Fire in Albany

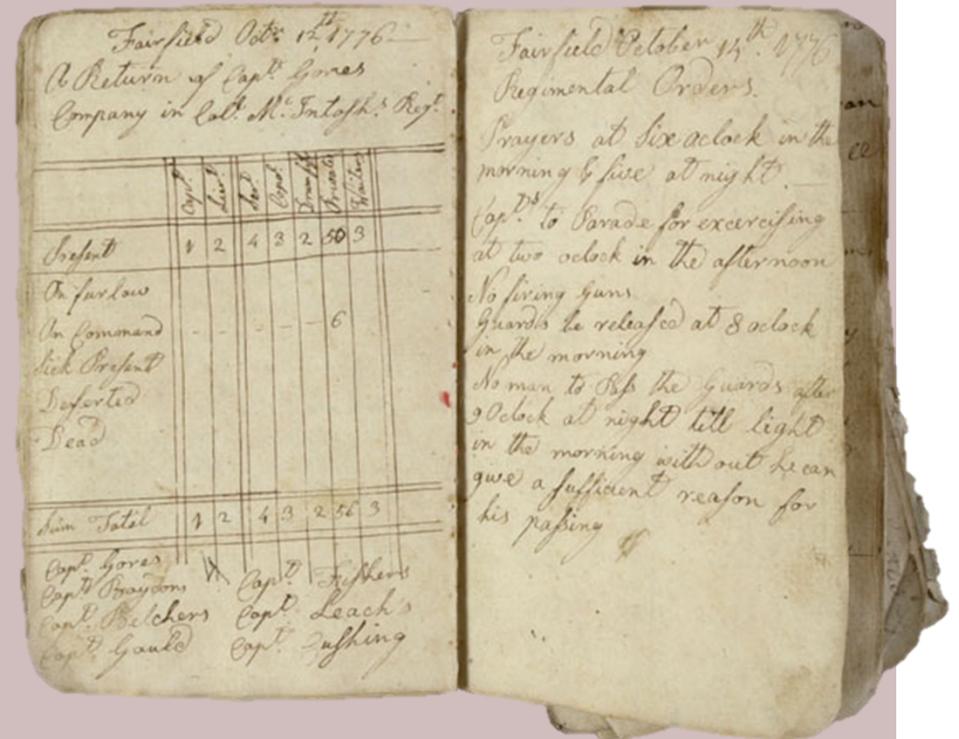


New York are published in *Calendar of Historical Manuscripts, Relating to the War of the Revolution*, (Albany: 1868)

A large collection of documents relating to officers and enlisted men from the Revolutionary War from New York are published in this two volume set.

Journals and Diaries

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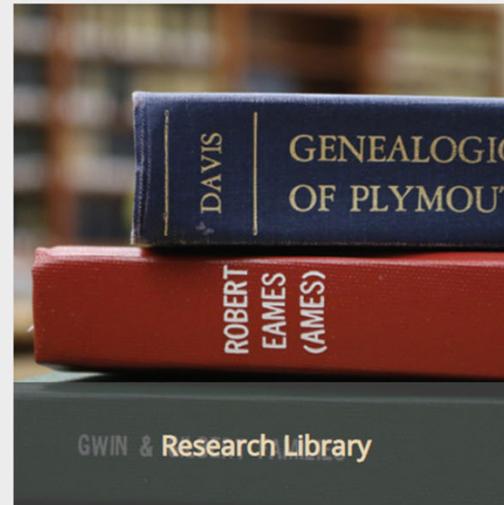
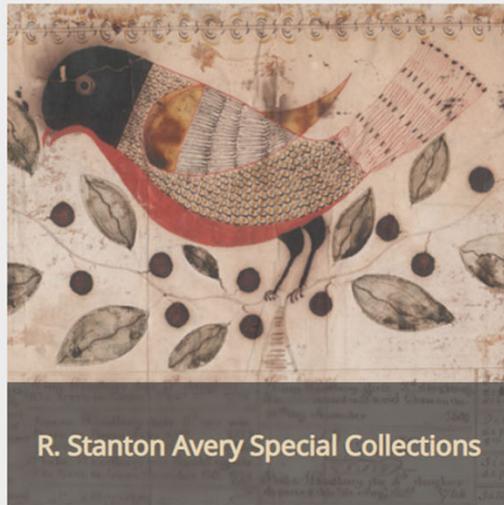
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Ella (Davis) Isaacs, second left, with the University of Cincinnati basketball players from the senior class of 1908. From the the Davis and Isaacs papers, P-936, Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center. [View](#)

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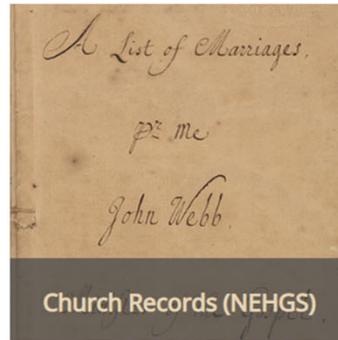
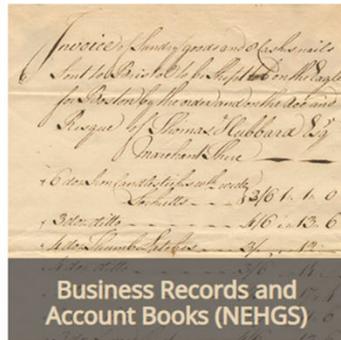
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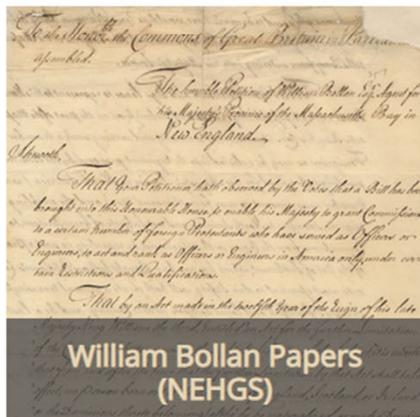
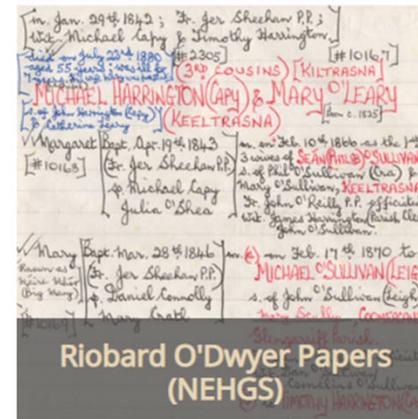
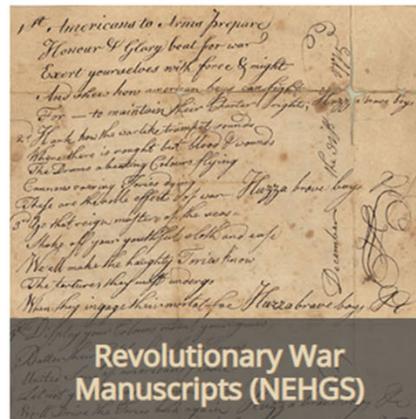
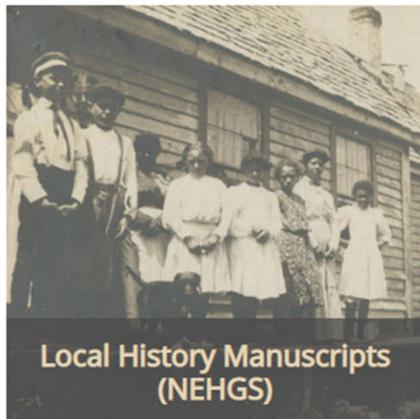
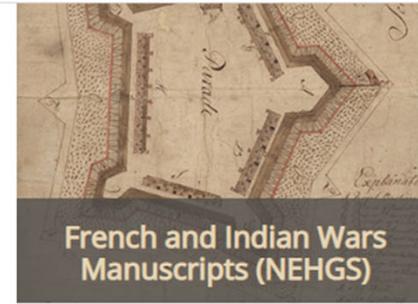
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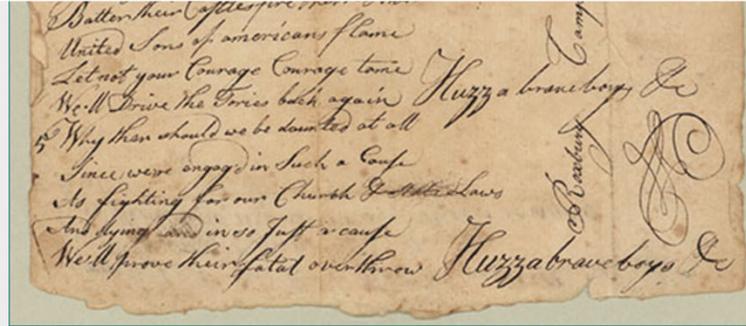
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- [American Ancestors Research Center](#)
- [R. Stanton Avery Special Collections](#)
- [Library Catalog](#)

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About this collection

This collection contains selected manuscripts from the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections related to the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783). These collections include account books, commissions, diaries, letters, orderly books, rolls, receipts, and other materials produced by soldiers and sailors that provide details about their military experiences as they served during this war. The collection includes similar documents produced by civilians that provide insight into economic and other effects of the war. The documents primarily relate to events that occurred in New England, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania.

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Records 1-11 of 11

< 1 >



A journal of a march from Cambridge [Mass.], on an expedition against Quebec, in Colo. Benedict Arnold[']s detachment, 1775 September 13-1776 June 6.

Mss C 2034

Journal of Joseph Ware documenting the attempted Invasion of Quebec, also listing Continental Army members killed, wounded, or taken prisoner.
Canadian Invasion, 1775-1776; Soldiers -- Massachusetts



A journal of the proceedings on board H. M. Ship Hind, Wm Young Esqr Commander from 11th of Augt 1779 to the 26th of Feby 1782, kept by Jas Cox

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Diary of Dr. Ezra Green

Diary of Dr. Ezra Green, Front Cover



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Diary of Dr. Ezra Green, Front Cover



Diary of Dr. Ezra Green, Front Cover Verso

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Title	Diary of Dr. Ezra Green
Creator	Green, Ezra, 1746-1847
Date	1777 November 1 - 1778 September 27
Physical Description	1 v. (38 p.); 18 cm
Description	Diary of a surgeon under Capt. John Paul Jones during the cruise of the Continental Ship of War Ranger.
Notes	Transcribed version by George Henry Preble published as "Diary of Dr. Ezra Green..." in NEHG Register 29 [1875]: 13-24.; Blank pages have not been scanned.
Languages	English
Access	Open access
Rights	This item is in the public domain. There are no known restrictions on the use of this image.
Subject (Names)	Green, Ezra, 1746-1847 -- Diaries Ranger (Ship)
Subject (Places)	United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783 -- Personal narratives
Genre	Diaries
Call Number	Mss A 1462
Preferred Citation	Diary of Dr. Ezra Green, Mss A 1462, R. Stanton Avery Special Collections, New England Historic Genealogical Society, online at DigitalCollections.AmericanAncestors.org .
Repository	R. Stanton Avery Special Collections, New England Historic Genealogical Society
Link to Library Catalog	http://library.nehgs.org/record=b1066904~S0
Digital Collection	Revolutionary War Manuscripts (NEHGS)

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Monday July 27th 1778
This Day Thomas Simpson Esq. came on
Board with orders to take command of
the Ranger, to the joy and satisfaction
of the whole Ships Company
Tuesday July 28th
This Day arrived from the ~~Simpson~~
of 60 Guns, with News of an Engagement
between the Fleet.
Wednesday July 29th
Last Night arrived a 74 This Day
arrived the Fleet, excepting 1 of 80
1 of 60 and 1 Frigate, which they
say parted from them in the Fog
they appear to have sustained no
very considerable Damage in
the late Fight.
Saturday Aug. 5th
Sent to the Hospital three of the

Diary of Dr. Ezra Green, Mss A 1462, American
Ancestors Digital Library and Archives

1840 Census of Pensioners

by the Marshal of the 6th Battalion, 1st Cavalry, Territory of Missouri, July 10, 1840.

166

CENSUS OF PENSIONERS.
KENTUCKY—Continued.

MARRIAGES		FEMALES		TOTAL	REVOLUTIONARY PENSIONERS	AGRICULTURAL PENSIONERS	INDUSTRIAL PENSIONERS	OTHER PENSIONERS	REMARKS
1	1	1	1	2					
2	2	7	3	23					
3	3	6	3	30					
4	4	3	1	11					
5	5	3	1	11					
6	6	1	2	14					
7	7	1	1	10					
8	8	3	1	8					
9	9	3	1	11					
10	10	1	1	4					
11	11	3	1	8					
12	12	3	1	11					
13	13	1	1	4					
14	14	2	1	5					
15	15	2	1	5					
16	16	1	1	4					
17	17	1	1	4					
18	18	1	1	4					
19	19	1	1	4					
20	20	1	1	4					
21	21	1	1	4					
22	22	1	1	4					
23	23	1	1	4					
24	24	1	1	4					
25	25	1	1	4					
26	26	1	1	4					
27	27	1	1	4					
28	28	1	1	4					
29	29	1	1	4					
30	30	1	1	4					
31	31	1	1	4					
32	32	1	1	4					
33	33	1	1	4					
34	34	1	1	4					
35	35	1	1	4					
36	36	1	1	4					
37	37	1	1	4					
38	38	1	1	4					
39	39	1	1	4					
40	40	1	1	4					
41	41	1	1	4					
42	42	1	1	4					
43	43	1	1	4					
44	44	1	1	4					
45	45	1	1	4					
46	46	1	1	4					
47	47	1	1	4					
48	48	1	1	4					
49	49	1	1	4					
50	50	1	1	4					
51	51	1	1	4					
52	52	1	1	4					
53	53	1	1	4					
54	54	1	1	4					
55	55	1	1	4					
56	56	1	1	4					
57	57	1	1	4					
58	58	1	1	4					
59	59	1	1	4					
60	60	1	1	4					

Names of pensioners for revolutionary or military services.	Ages.	Names of heads of families with whom pensioners resided June 1, 1840.
RUSSELL COUNTY.		
Thomas Graves	77	Thomas Graves.
Isaac Sharp	85	Isaac Sharp.
Henry Law	80	Coleman Law.
Matthew Robertson	78	Matthew Robertson.
William Perryman	81	William Perryman.
Jordan George	76	Jordan George.
John Polly	80	John Polly.

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

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563,793 records

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Consider using the steps you have learned and examine the pensions and stories of those men who served with your ancestor. The details in the diaries, letters, and pensions of his fellow veterans may add more detail to the story you know from researching his records.



QUESTIONS?



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