



Revolutionary War Research: Tracing Patriot and Loyalist Ancestors

*Class 3: Using Revolutionary War
Pension Records*

David Allen Lambert, Chief Genealogist

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



1



Meet today's presenter



David Allen Lambert
Chief Genealogist

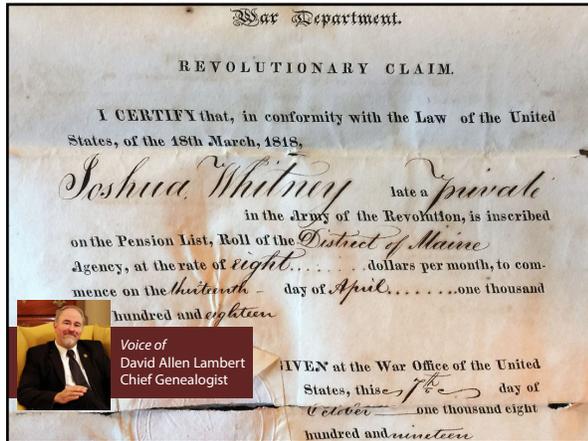
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OVERVIEW

- **Presentation (60 mins.)**
 - Pension timeline
 - Accessing pension files
 - Final payment vouchers
- **Q&A (30 mins.)**

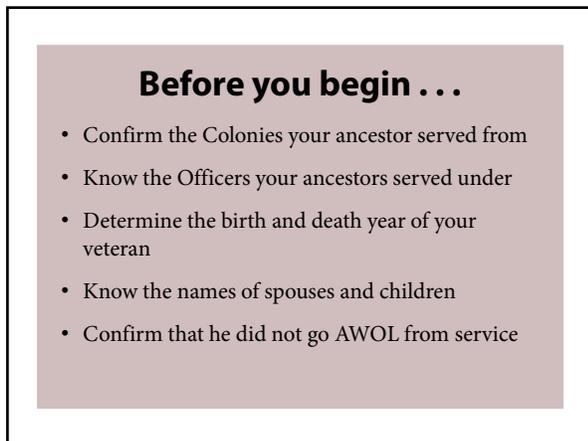
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4



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6

Does this pension apply to your ancestor?

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



DANIEL WALDO, AGED 100.
 WAS THE FIRST VETERAN OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.
 HE WAS THE FIRST TO BE ADMITTED TO THE OFFICE OF THE
 SECRETARY OF WAR IN 1783. HE WAS THE FIRST TO BE
 ADMITTED TO THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR IN 1783.

7

Pension Timeline

8

Federal Pensions

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

9

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

10

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



11

U.S., The Pension Roll of 1835

Search Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s)
Judah

Last Name
Waters

Exact Exact

Birth Day Month Year Location

Death Day Month Year

Lived In City, County, State, Court

Any Event Day Month Year City, County, State, Court

Keyword
* e.g. "John" or "1812"

Pension Enrollment Date Day Month Year

Search Clear search

Browse this collection

To browse this image set, select from the options below.

Title
Choose...

State

Related data collections

[U.S., Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1800](#)

This data collection contains an estimated 80,000 application files from officers and enlisted men who served in the Revolutionary War in all branches of the American military: army, navy, and marines. The files that make up these records consist of 8 1/2" x 14" cards or 12" x 18" envelopes that can contain documents relating to an application for a pension or bounty-land warrant by a Revolutionary War veteran, his widow, or his heirs. The files can contain a wide variety of records submitted to support an application. Information of genealogical interest includes the application itself, which can provide

Source Information

Ancestry.com, U.S., The Pension Roll of 1835 (database on-line), Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014.

Original data:
United States Senate. The Pension Roll of 1835 4 vols. 1968 Reprint, with index. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1992.

Ancestry.com

12

Judah Waters

in the U.S., The Pension Roll of 1835

Name: Judah Waters
Rank: Private
Age: 75
Birth Year: abt 1756
Pension Enrollment Date: 4 Mar 1831
Residence Place: Otisago, New York, USA
Service Description: Massachusetts con.

Save Cancel

Write a comment

Make a Connection
Find others who are researching Judah Waters in Public Member Trees

Source Information
Ancestry.com U.S., The Pension Roll of 1835 (database on-line). Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014.
Original data:
United States Senate. The Pension Roll of 1835 4 vols. 1968 Reprint, with index. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1991.
Description:
In 1834 and 1835, the Senate passed a series of resolutions requiring the Commissioner of Pensions to compile a list of the pensioners who were drawing military pensions. Find out if your ancestor was among them. [Learn more.](#)

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13

Name	Rank	Annual Allowance	When phd on the pension roll	Comments	Law under which they were insured, increased and reduced, and remarks.
Christina Walter	Private	30 00	-	N. Y. militia	Aug. 20, 1817 do 73
Andrew Wilson	do	80 00	160 00	Massachusetts mil	Oct. 20, 1832 do 73
John Ward	do	80 00	160 00	Connecticut con't	Nov. 20, 1832 do 73
Alabam Willis	Priv. & ser.	21 66	-	N. York militia	Feb. 16, 1833 do 73
David Walsh	Private	80 78	-	do	Feb. 27, 1833 do 73
John W. Waller	do	20 00	40 00	Rhode Island mil	do do 73
John Waller	do	60 00	-	do	Mar. 2, 1833 do 73
James Wallcut	do	20 00	-	R. Island con't	May 2, 1833 do 73
Asahel Williams	do	80 00	-	Connecticut mil	May 18, 1833 do 73
William Williams	do	22 21	-	do	do do 73
John Wistar	do	80 00	160 00	Massachusetts mil	May 20, 1833 do 73
Nathan Wolcott	Treasurer	80 00	-	do	June 1, 1833 do 71
James Wentcott	Private	43 34	-	Massachusetts con.	June 21, 1833 do 71
Samuel White	do	80 00	160 00	do	Aug. 19, 1833 do 68
Bernad Williams	do	80 00	200 00	N. York con't	June 21, 1833 do 80
John Wright	do	80 00	160 00	Massachusetts con.	Aug. 19, 1833 do 68
Judith Waters	do	73 23	183 23	do	Sept. 4, 1833 do 73
William Washell	do	61 23	123 22	Connecticut militia	Sept. 4, 1833 do 73
Thomas Wild	do	40 00	100 00	Massachusetts con.	do do 70
Berkeley Wilds	do	27 27	-	do	Oct. 6, 1833 do 73
Theophilus Whaley	Priv. & sea.	88 00	229 00	Connecticut con't	do do 86
Charles Widler	Private	43 42	100 00	N. York militia	do do 75
Robert Wood	do	30 00	90 00	do	Dec. 20, 1833 do 76
Shubdy Woodford	do	80 00	240 00	N. York militia	Apr. 1, 1834 do 77
James Young	do	60 00	-	New York militia	Dec. 26, 1833 do 73
Joseph Young	do	44 60	139 98	Connecticut con't	Feb. 4, 1834 do 73

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14

Statement showing the Names, Rank, &c. of Invalid Pensioners residing in Cheshire county, in the State of New Hampshire.

NAME.	Rank.	Annual Allowance.	When phd on the pension roll.	Comments	Law under which they were insured, increased and reduced, and remarks.
Caleb Ahlrich	Sergeant	50 00	1288 37	Col. Brad's reg't	Aug. 25, 1794 Mar. 4, 1795 April 20, 1796
do	do	90 00	1122 89	do	do do do
Theophilus R. Adams	Corporal	30 00	28 66	21st reg. U.S. inf.	Dec. 27, 1814 May 11, 1815 Jan. 4, 1820
do	do	40 00	44 54	do	do do do
do	do	72 00	133 00	do	do do do
Jared Bellow	Private	40 00	163 57	21st reg. U.S. inf.	Apr. 16, 1820 Jan. 20, 1824
Isaac Brown	do	50 00	1097 00	Brad's reg. inf.	Oct. 4, 1822 Sept. 6, 1823
Samuel Busee	do	75 00	141 00	Brad's com'ry inf.	Sept. 11, 1823 Aug. 20, 1824
Nehemiah Brown	do	40 00	118 04	Parker's com. inf.	May 9, 1823 Apr. 27, 1824
James Blodgett	do	60 00	146 11	Massachusetts inf.	July 25, 1823 Aug. 27, 1824
do	do	64 00	413 48	do	Feb. 25, 1829 Mar. 4, 1830
James Campbell	do	40 00	104 10	Cliff's N. H. reg't	do do do
do	do	60 00	412 00	do	do do do
do	do	75 80	786 26	do	do do do
Leonal Dean	do	30 00	392 01	Col. Nichol's reg't	Aug. 26, 1794 Sep. 4, 1794 Oct. 20, 1795
do	do	50 00	207 50	do	do do do
do	do	90 00	610 50	do	do do do
Windour Gibson	do	80 00	217 00	N. Hampshire reg't	Aug. 19, 1795 Mar. 4, 1799
Jonathan Holben	Lieutenant	80 00	193 10	Cliff's N. H. reg't	do do do
do	do	120 00	1125 60	do	do do do
do	do	150 00	737 76	do	do do do
Brejamin Howe	Private	72 00	603 80	11th reg't U.S. inf.	Feb. 5, 1822 Jan. 6, 1823

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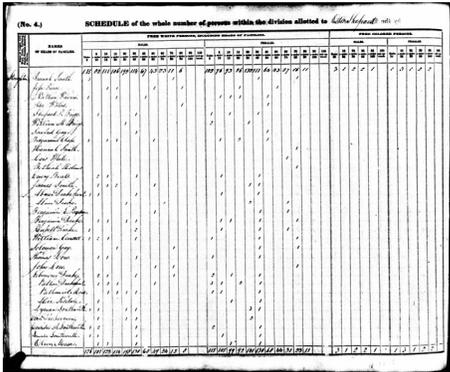
15

1840 U.S. Census

- Living Revolutionary War pensioners and widows
- First census to give exact age of a resident
- Lists who the veteran or widow is residing with

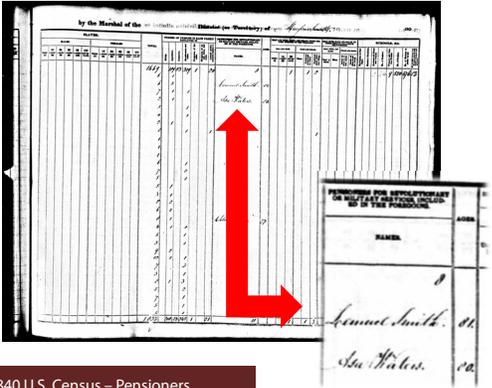


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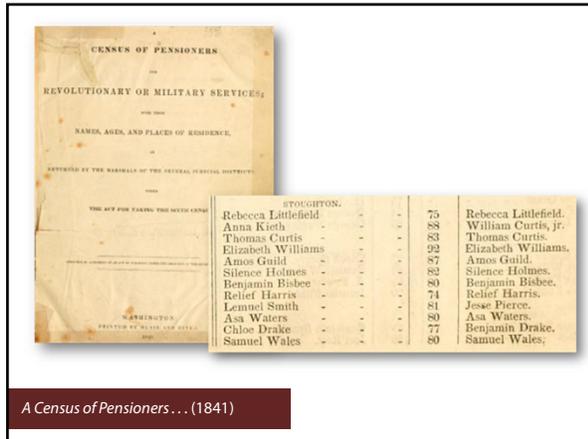
1840 U.S. Census

17



1840 U.S. Census – Pensioners

18

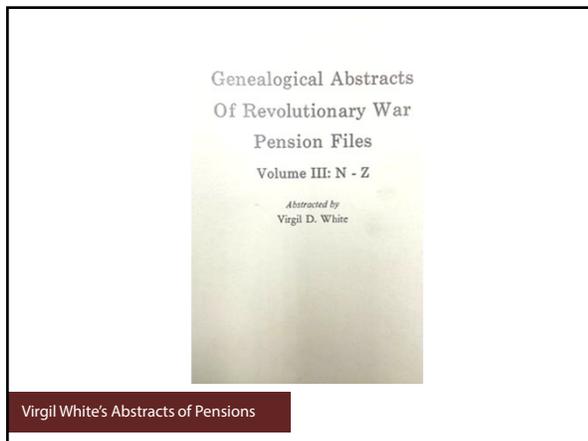


A Census of Pensioners ... (1841)

19



20



Virgil White's Abstracts of Pensions

21

Analyzing the Pension papers

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



34



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United States Revolutionary War pension payment ledgers : COLLECTION RECORD, 1818-1872

Authors: [United States. Department of the Treasury \(Main Author\)](#)

Format: Manuscript/Manuscript on Digital Images

Language: English

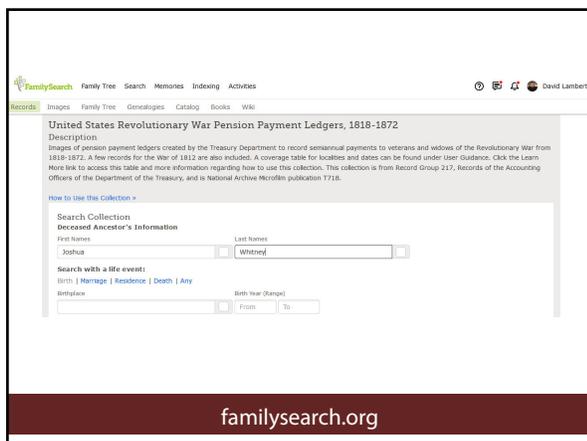
Publication: Salt Lake City, Utah : Digitized by FamilySearch International, 2012

References: (Film Collection) Ledgers of payments, 1818-1872, to U.S. pensioners, under Acts of 1818 through 1858, from records of the office of the Third Auditor of the Treasury / United States. Department of the Treasury

Notes
United States Revolutionary War Pension Payment Ledgers are available online, click [here](#).

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35



FamilySearch Family Tree Search Memories Indexing Activities David Lambert

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United States Revolutionary War Pension Payment Ledgers, 1818-1872

Description
 Images of pension payment ledgers created by the Treasury Department to record semiannual payments to veterans and widows of the Revolutionary War from 1818-1872. A few records for the War of 1812 are also included. A coverage table for localities and dates can be found under 'User Guidance'. Click the 'Learn More' link to access this table and more information regarding how to use this collection. This collection is from Record Group 217, Records of the Accounting Officers of the Department of the Treasury, and is National Archive Microfilm publication T718.

How to use this Collection

Search Collection

Deceased Ancestor's Information

First Name Last Name

Justus Witness

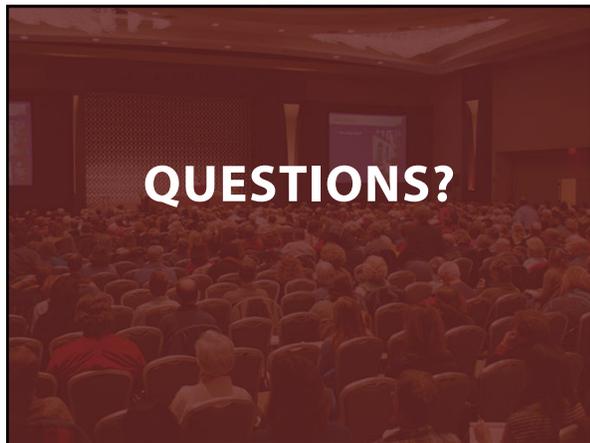
Search with a life event:

(Birth | Marriage | Residence | Death | Any)

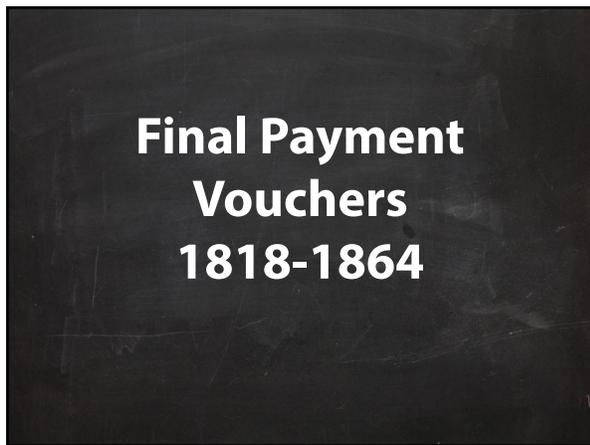
Birthplace Birth Year (Range) From To

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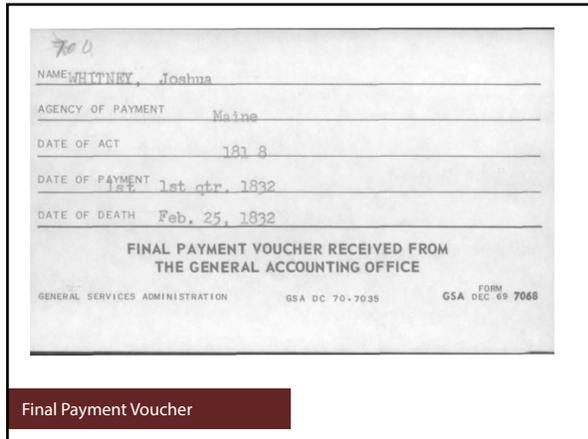
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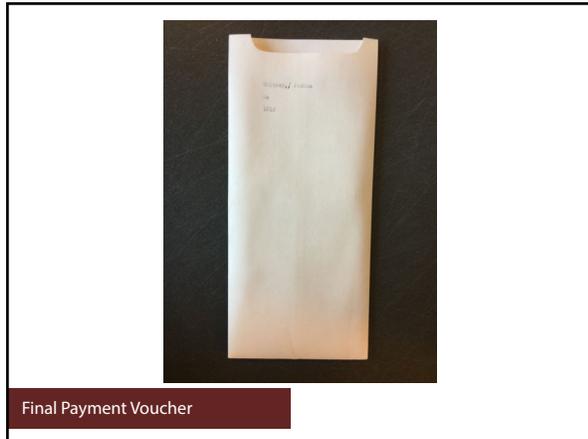


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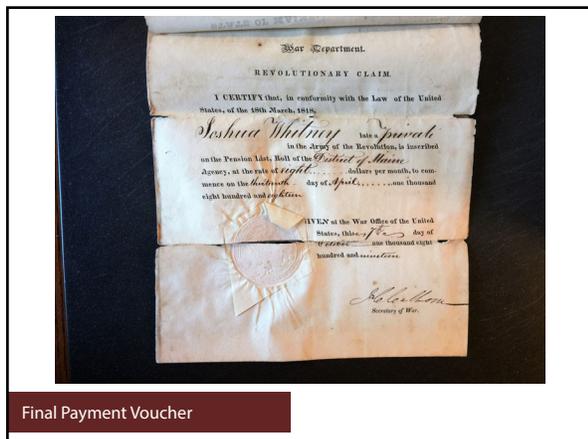
Final Payment Voucher

43



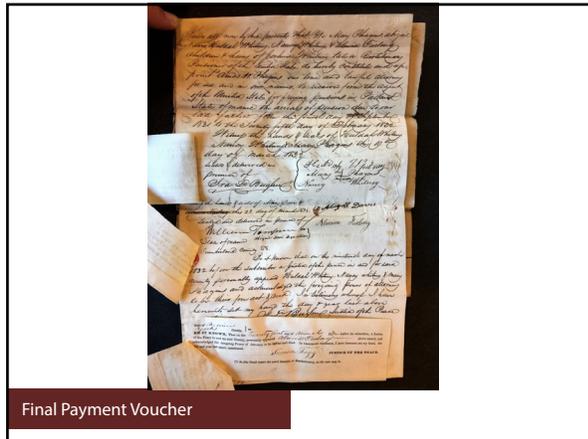
Final Payment Voucher

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Final Payment Voucher

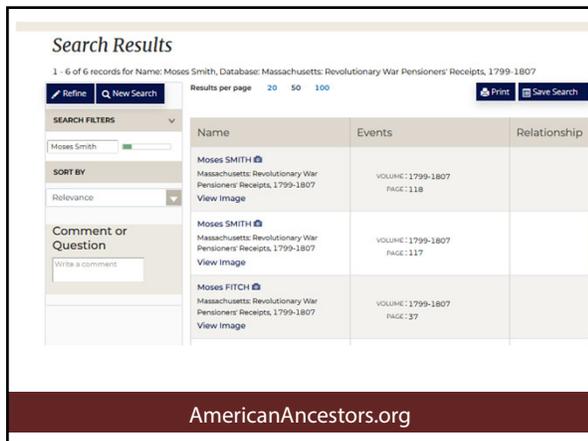
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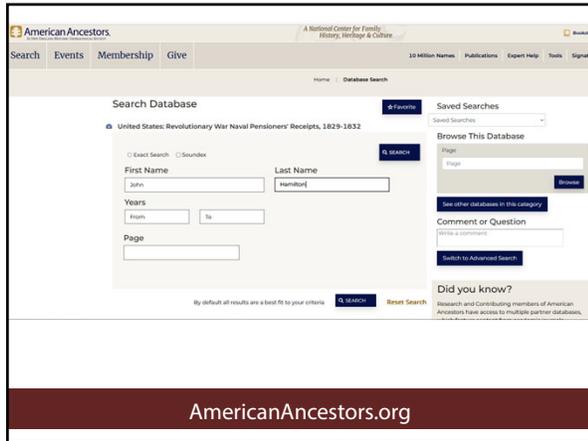
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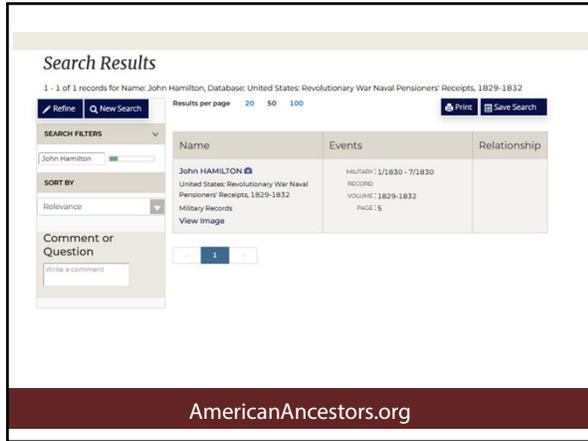
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48



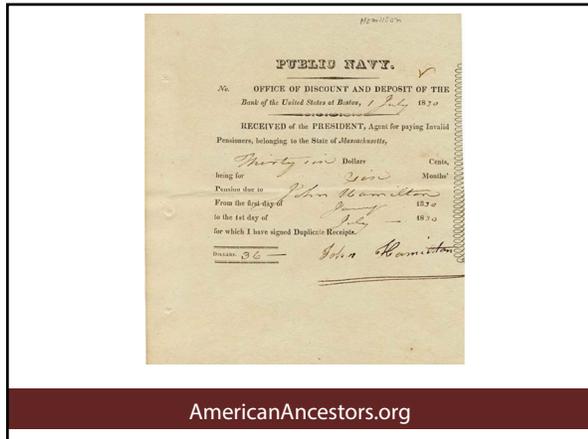
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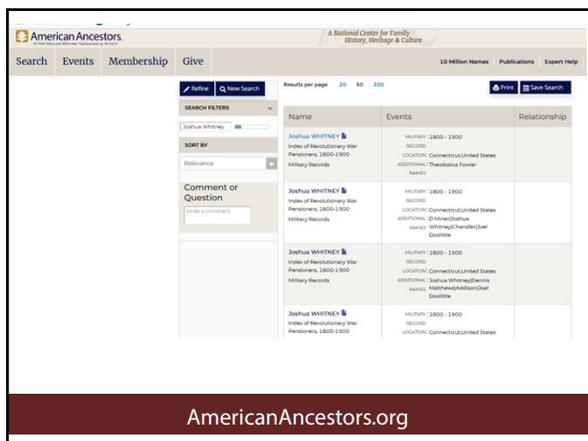
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55



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56



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57

Are you ready to join us?

We invite you to help transcribe these records to unlock the details and stories found within these rich records.

- New to the Citizen Archivist program? Learn how to register and get started. Be sure to review our tutorial [Get Started Transcribing](#).
- Already have an account? [Login here](#).
- Looking for something fun? Print out a [Revolutionary War Bingo Card](#) and fill it in as you transcribe these fascinating pension records. If you manage to get a bingo, you can share a picture of it on [History Hub!](#)
- Questions? Check out our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) below.

The core files have been organized by location. Choose a state from the list below and get started transcribing!

Connecticut	Delaware	Georgia	Kentucky
Maine	Maryland	Massachusetts	New Hampshire
New Jersey	New York	North Carolina	Ohio
Pennsylvania	Rhode Island	South Carolina	Tennessee
Vermont	Virginia		

<https://www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist/missions/revolutionary-war-pension-files>

61

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62

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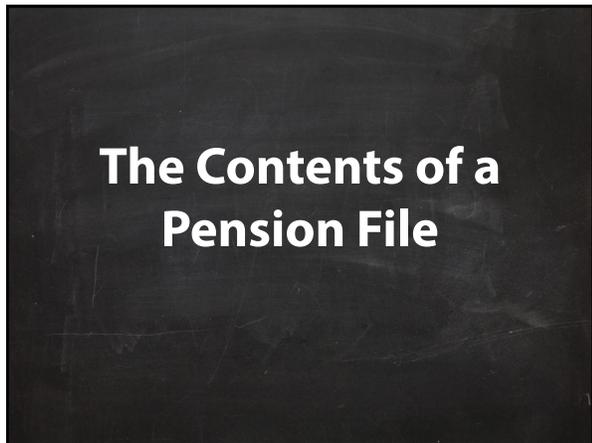
Sort by: Date (Newest First) View: Feed Table

@DavidAllanLambert updated a transcription on File Unit: Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application File S, 3546, Joshua Wilcox, Mass. October 14, 2023 at 9:43PM (3 months ago)

- in the Revolutionary war, against the Common enemy, as stated
- in his declaration, and that he is in reduced circumstances and
- stands in need of the assistance of his Country for support.
- And I now transcribe the proceedings & testimony had before me
- to the Secretary of the department of war pursuant to the

<https://www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist/missions/revolutionary-war-pension-files>

63



70

Types of Pensions

Survivor Pensions (Veteran)

- Indicated by an "S" on the envelope
- Could be a disability or invalid pension OR a service pension

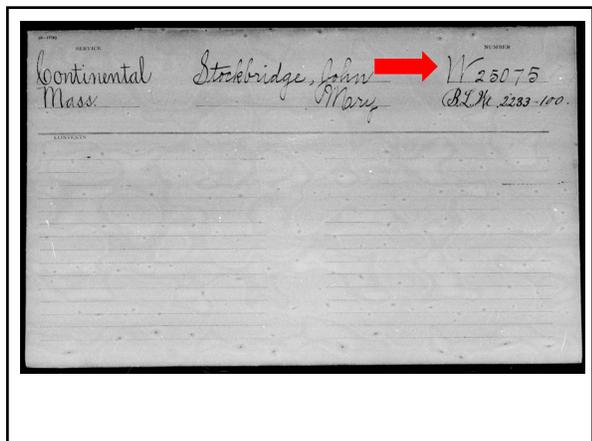
Widow Pensions (Spouse of Veteran)

- Indicated by a "W" on the envelope

Rejected Pensions

- Indicated by a "R" on the envelope

71



72

Survivor Pension Information Collected

- Name
- Age
- Date of birth (sometimes birthplace)
- Residence
- Letters from survivor including court testimony that detail what unit they served in, what battles, etc.
- Affidavits from those that served with survivor

73

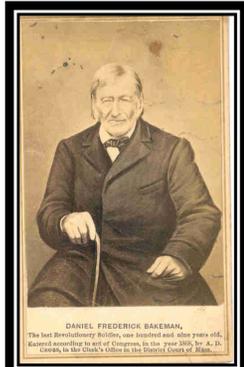
Widow's Pension Information Collected

- Name (including maiden name)
- Age
- Residence
- Date and place of marriage
- Date and place of spouse's death
- Letter from widow and surviving family, including court testimony
- Affidavits from those that served with the deceased soldier

74

The Last Pensioners of the Revolutionary War

75



DANIEL FREDERICK BAKEMAN,
The last Revolutionary War soldier, one reached and when years old,
Entered according to act of Congress, in the year 1869, by A. D.
GIBBS, in the Clerk's Office in the District Court of Mass.

Daniel F. Bakeman (1759-1869)

76



**DEATH OF WIDOW OF
VETERAN OF 1776**

RUTLAND, Vt., Nov. 11.—Mrs. Esther Sumner Damon, said to be the last surviving widow of a soldier of the Revolutionary war, died at her home in Plymouth Union at the age of 93 years. She was married in 1835 when she was 21 years old, to Noah Damon, who was then 75 years of age. Damon served in the Revolutionary war, having enlisted in 1775.

Esther (Sumner) Damon (1814-1906)

77

**The Last Soldier and
Widow to Receive
Revolutionary War
Pensions**

Daniel Frederick Bakeman (1759 - 1869)
On February 14, 1861, the U.S. Congress passed a special act that granted Daniel Bakeman of Freedom, New York, a pension of \$500 per year. With this award, Bakeman became the last surviving Revolutionary War veteran to receive service-related benefits.

In his 1861 petition for a pension, Bakeman gave his age as 101; the age listed on his gravestone indicates a birthdate of October 18, 1759. Bakeman also stated that he served as a private in a Tryon County, New York, militia company under Capt. Van Arman in Col. Martin Willet's Regiment during the last four years of the war.

However, over the years Bakeman's status has been disputed by historians because of a lack of documentation. Various accounts identify his parents as Andrew Philip and Catharine (Miller) Hoffmann/Bakeman. The claim is based on a single reference to a baptism at the Schenectady Reformed Church in Schenectady, New York, on November 27, 1755. If this record pertained to the petitioner, he would have been 14 at the time of the baptism and his parents would have married the previous year, at the Schenectady Lutheran Church on August 26, 1752—nearly fifteen years after Daniel the petitioner was born. If this church record does refer to Daniel the petitioner and he was born in 1775, the year of his baptism, he would not be the country's last Revolutionary War soldier. That distinction would be...



Daniel Frederick Bakeman, ca. 1861. Wikimedia Commons library image bank, University of Michigan Library Digital Collection.

Bakeman married Susan Brewer in 1782, and the couple had eight children: Philip, Richard, Christopher, Betsey, Margaret, Mary, Susan, and Christian. A 1948 report published in 1948 concluded an account of Daniel Bakeman with the following comment: "The presence was always sought on all important political occasions. Always on 'Independence Day' as he called it, he arose very early and, shouldering his old musket, would make the rounds of the neighborhood firing a salute, exclaiming, 'March!'"

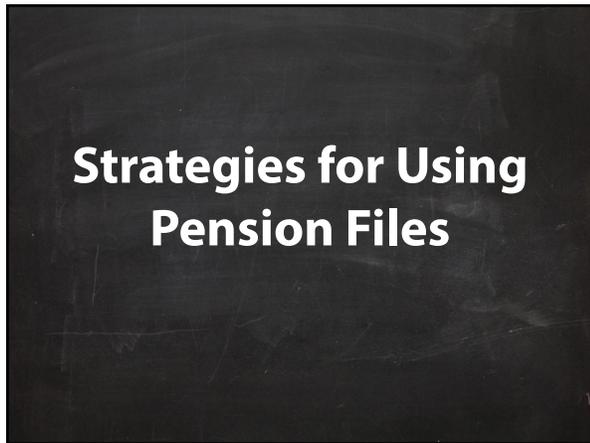
Susan Bakeman, who was born in Albany on January 2, 1758, died in Freedom on September 10, 1865.

American Ancestors Magazine (Fall 2024)

78



79

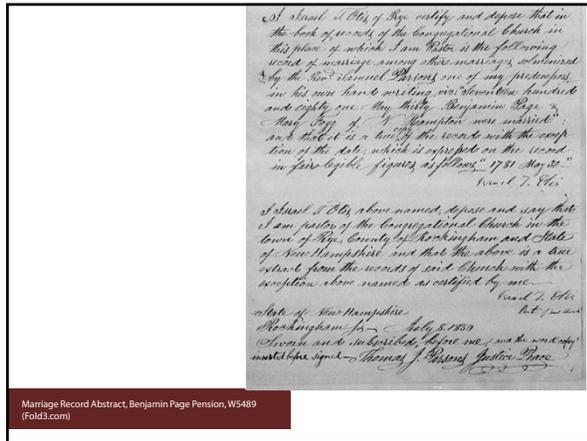


80

Looking for Marriage Records?

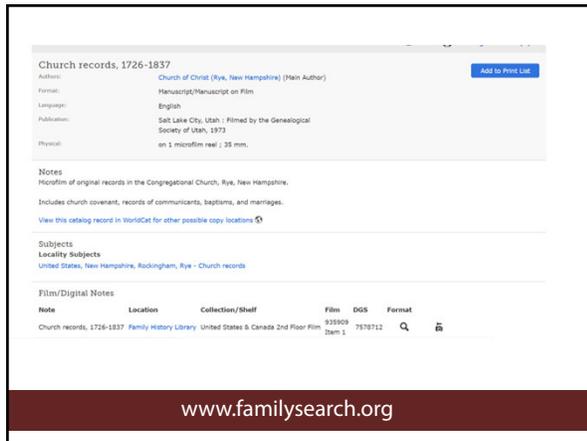
- Look for any widow's pensions that were filed.
- These records required some form of proof indicating that the widow was married to the veteran soldier.
- Often, you find letters from the town clerk's office indicating if marriage was filed, letters from the officiant attesting they performed the marriage, and even witnesses saying they observed the wedding.

81

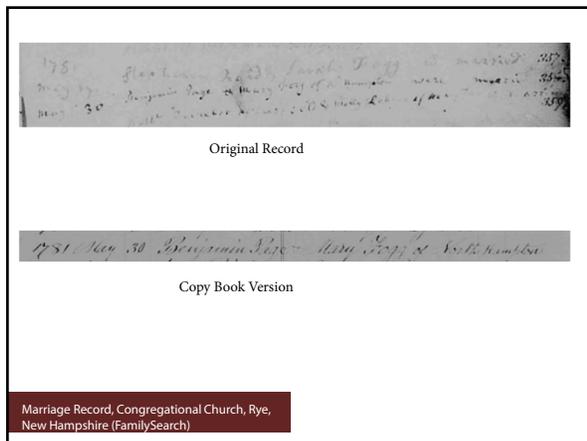


Marriage Record Abstract, Benjamin Page Pension, W5489 (Fold3.com)

82



83



84

Identifying Widows Who Married Multiple Times

- In some widow pensions, you may see references to additional marriages before or after the pensioner has died.
- Reviewing the contents of the pension files of each husband can be helpful for confirming her maiden name and noting the order of the marriages.

85

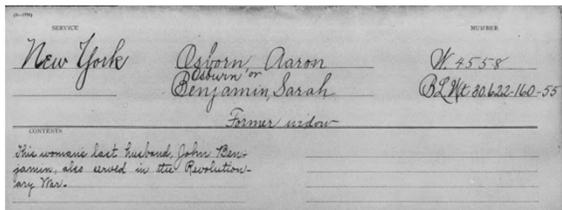
Sarah Osborn

- Accompanied her husband, Aaron Osborn to West Point and then travelled with the Continental Army
- She worked as a washerwoman and a cook



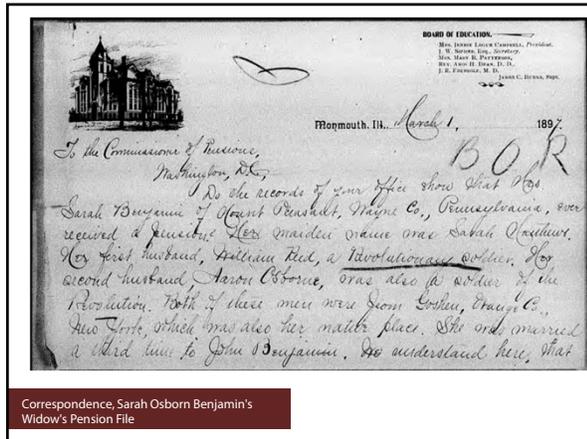
Photo courtesy of Wayne County Historical Society, Honesdale, PA

86

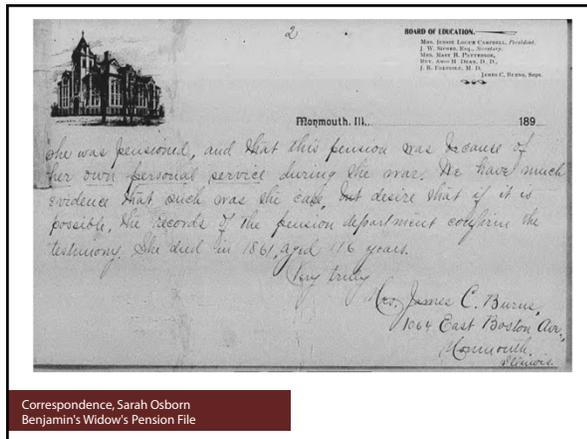


Sarah Osborn Benjamin's Widow's Pension File

87



88



89

Migration Patterns

- Review any correspondence written by the veteran soldier (or surviving widow).
- Often, they describe where the soldier was born, where they enlisted, what campaigns they served in.
- Note the return addresses on any letters that indicate the family moved to a different state.

90

Affidavits

- Review the pensions of others that served with your ancestor.
- You may find a letter from your ancestor providing an affidavit for someone else to receive their pension file.

91

Identifying New Cousins

- Review the letters towards the end of the pension file.
- A cousin may have requested a copy of the pension file before the records were digitized and added online.

92

Letter from Descendant of John Stockbridge

Boston, Massachusetts
4 Marlboro Ave.
Boston, Mass.
April 29 1925

The Commissioner of Pensions
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

My 1/2 great grandson of
John Stockbridge who entered the army at
the time of the Revolution, 7th Mass
Regiment, have the receipt of his pension
which I hope he received, as it possible have
a copy of the paper?

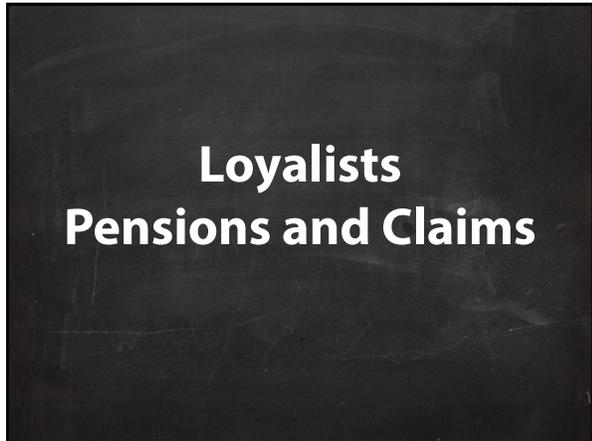
He was born in Roxbury Mass., 11 1787
and died in 1858 about 85 years old.

A receipt of my father, but his cousin
papers before she died, he must has been of
the army, do not know.

He was 1/2 Mass. in Col. Mifflin's Regiment,
he served one year in it from what the report
of the 1st and 2nd Lexington after the 19th
1775. I wish to know the father's and mother's
names if possible.

Yours very sincerely
Frank Carter Duffell
Frank Carter Duffell

93



94



95

Audit Office – (AO-3/276)

- Series consists of four volumes of pensions paid out to American Loyalists and others seeking refuge in Great Britain
- Each list contains the names of persons who will receive the pension or allowance, the period for the pension or allowance, and the amount
- The typical period was one year, however, there were exceptions
- Widows and children were included in the allowances
- Records are held at the National Archives in Kew, England; not currently digitized

96

Audit Office – (AO-12)

- This series consists of fifty-six volumes of claims for or against giving compensation
- Claims were judged on the circumstances of the claimant and included the arguments for or against the claim being awarded by the commissioners

97

Tip

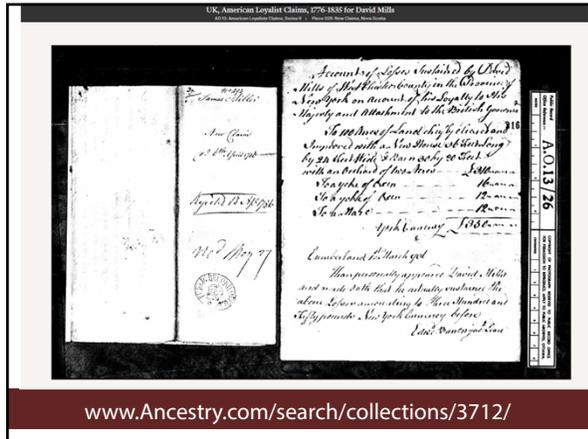
AO-12 is consolidated and easy to read, however, these volumes are abstracted; AO-13 contains the original documents.

98

Audit Office – (AO-13)

- Original papers for the actual claims in a collection of 141 boxes
- Contain the memorial by the claimant or their representative
- Includes various certificates and documents relating to the claim including wills, deeds, and valuations of seized property
- Claims were judged on the circumstances of the claimant and included the arguments for or against the claim being awarded by the commissioners

99

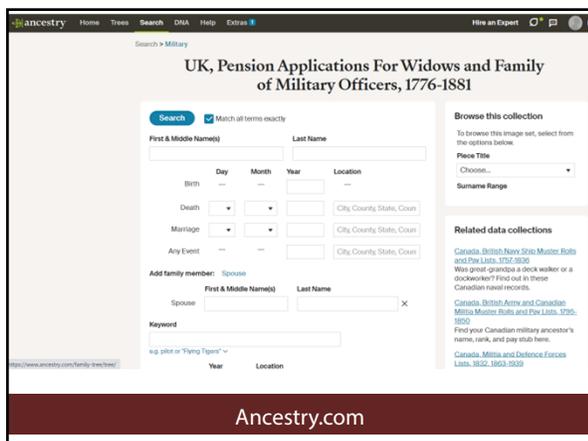


103

WO 42

- Officers' Birth Certificates, Wills, and Personal Papers.
 - These applications for pensions or benefits for widows and children contain vital records (birth, baptism, marriage, and death), probate records, and other personal papers of officers who died between 1776 and 1881
 - Original records at the National Archives in Kew, England. They are digitized on Ancestry.com.

104



105

Richard Jones
in the UK, Royal Hospital, Chelsea: Regimental Registers of Pensioners, 1713-1882

Detail Source

Name	Richard Jones
Birth Place	Virginia, United States
Rank	Sergeant
Regiment	4th Veteran Battalion
Age at Discharge	60
Discharge Date	6 Jan 1817
Document Type	Soldier's Service Documents

NS Write a comment

Make a Connection
Find others who are researching Richard Jones in Public Member Trees.

Ancestry.com

112

UK, Royal Hospital, Chelsea: Regimental Registers of Pensioners, 1713-1882 for Richard Jones
Soldier's Service Documents > 4th Veteran Battalion (1792-1856) > About to Leafman

10

4th Vet. Batt

THE MAJESTY'S 4th Royal Veteran Battalion, whereof
General LOWTHER LORD MUNCASTER is Colonel.

THESE are to certify, that *Richard Jones* *Sergeant*
in *the 4th* *Company* in the Regiment aforesaid
born *in the Parish of Virginia, Va.* or near the Town of *Virginia*
~~in the County of~~ *Virginia*, hath served in the said Regiment for the
Space of *four* ~~four~~ *Years and One Hundred* Days, as likewise in other Corps
according to the following Statement, *but in consequence of the Battalion being*
ordered to be disbanded, and being then out in the Service
and is desirous of residing in England until the Decision
of the Commissioners of the War is known.

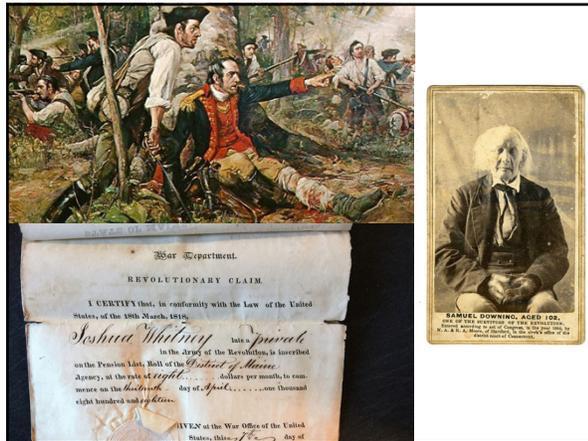
Royal Hospital Chelsea Pension Service
Documents, Richard Jones, Ancestry.com

113

Genealogical Details

- Name of the person or family affected for the purpose of the claim
- Residence(s) of the individual or family
- Financial estimates of their losses
- Actual documents to support the claim
- Details of the Loyalist's life in America before, during, and after the Revolutionary War

114



115



116



117



118



119



120
