

Researching Colonial New England Ancestors

Class 4: Using Records of Colonial Conflicts

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Step #1 - Determine if he fought

- Determining the Military Service of your ancestor before the Revolution.
- How old was your Veteran?
- What colonial wars occurred during his lifetime?

17th Century Conflicts

- Pequot War: 1636-1638.
- King Philip's War: 1675-1676.
- King William's War: 1689-1697.

18th Century Conflicts

- Queen Anne's War: 1702-1713.
- War of Jenkins Ear: 1739-1742.
- King George's War: 1740-1748.
- French and Indian War: 1754-1763.

Consider family heirlooms for clues

- What might be in the attic?
- Ask relatives
- Museum and Archives
- Auction catalogs and eBay

Step #2 - Confirm published sources.

- Don't re-invent the wheel
- What has been published
- State-by-state lists
- Local histories
- Internet resources when available

Colonial Wars Databases on AmericanAncestors.org

- Colonial Soldiers and Officers in New England, 1620-1775 (38,238 names)
<https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databasesearch/494/colonial-soldiers-and-officers-in-new-england-1620-1775>
- Newport, RI: Members of the Artillery Company of Newport (1,022 names).
<https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databasesearch/2800/newport-ri-members-of-the-artillery-company-of-newport-1741-1854>
- General Society of Colonial Wars Applications, 1893-1949 (2,629 member applications)
<https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databasesearch/2826/general-society-of-colonial-wars-membership-applications-1893-1949>
- Massachusetts General Society of Colonial War, 1560-1970
<https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databasesearch/2755/massachusetts-society-of-colonial-wars-membership-applications-1560-1970>

Sample of New England Repositories

- Massachusetts State Archives - <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/archives/archives.htm>
 - *French and Indian War muster roll index cards, 1603-1779* - <https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/1471369?availability=Family%20History%20Library>
- Connecticut State Archives - <https://portal.ct.gov/csl/departments/state-archives>
- Maine Historical Society - <https://www.mainehistory.org/>
- Rhode Island State Archives - <https://catalog.sos.ri.gov/>

Published Sources

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

Step #3 - Apply to hereditary societies.

- Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company (1638) - <https://www.ahac.us.com>
- National Society Women Descendants of A. & H. A. C. (1927) - <http://www.wdahac.com/>
- General Society of Colonial Wars (1893) - <https://gscw.org/>
- National Society Daughters of Colonial Wars (1932) - <https://www.nsdcw.org/>
- National Soc. of Colonial Dames of the XVII Century (1896) - <https://colonialdames17c.org/>
- Order of Founders and Patriots of America (1896) - <https://ofpa.org/>
- National Society Daughters and Patriots of America (1898) - <https://www.nationalsocietydfpa.com/>

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