

Researching Colonial and Revolutionary War Soldiers

Come Home to New England 2025

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Colonial Wars

Determine your veteran ancestors of the 17th and 18th centuries

- 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.
- Cherokee Uprising: 1760-1761.
- War of the Regulators: 1771.

Consider family heirlooms for clues

- What might be in the attic?
- Ask relatives.
- Museum and Archives.
- Ebay or Auction catalogs.

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

1. How to search for "Military Records" on Americanancestors.org
 - a. Colonial Soldiers and Officers in New England, 1620-1775 (38,238 names)

<https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databasearch/494/colonial-soldiers-and-officers-in-new-england-1620-1775> .

 - Officers & Soldiers in the Seventeenth-Century Conflicts
 - Officers & Soldiers, 1702-1722, Queen Anne's to Dummer's War
 - Soldiers in the French and Indian Wars, 1744-1755
 - Officers in the French and Indian Wars, 1748-1763
 - Officers & Soldiers 1723-1743
 - Officers and Soldiers in the French and Indian Wars, 1755-1756
 - b. Newport, RI: Members of the Artillery Company of Newport (1,022 names)

<https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databasearch/2800/newport-ri-members-of-the-artillery-company-of-newport-1741-1854>

Published Sources

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

Hereditary Societies and the Colonial Wars

- Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company (1638)

<https://www.ahac.us.com/>
- Colonial Dames of America (1890)

<https://cda1890.org/>
- General Society of Colonial Wars (1893)

<https://gscw.org/>

 - General Society of Colonial Wars Membership Applications 1893-1949

<https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databasearch/2826/general-society-of-colonial-wars-membership-applications-1893-1949>

- National Society of Colonial Daughters of the 17th Century (1896)
<https://www.colonialdaughters17th.org/>
- Order of Founders and Patriots of America (1896)
<https://ofpa.org/>
- National Society Daughters and Patriots of America (1898)
<https://www.nationalsocietydfpa.com/>
- National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century (1915)
<https://colonialdames17c.org/>
- National Society Women Descendants of A. & H. A. C. (1927)
<https://www.facebook.com/WDAHAC/>
- National Society Daughters of Colonial Wars (1932)
<https://www.nsdcw.org/>

American Revolutionary War

Does his age fit the Muster Roll?

- Family relics in the attic.
- Forgotten images of your veteran.
- Oral family traditions.
- Cemetery clues and pitfalls.

American Revolutionary War Resources

- Muster Rolls.
- Quartermaster Rolls.
- Pension Files and Final Payment Vouchers.
- Journals and diaries.
- 1840 U.S. Census.
- Correspondence from officers.
- Maps.
- Published Genealogies and town histories.

From Published to Primary Sources

- Published accounts to Muster Rolls.
- Loyalist research overview.
- U.S. Federal Pension files.
- Going beyond Pension abstracts and dissecting pension files.

- Final Pension Vouchers.
- 1840 Census of Pensioners.

Consider Adopting the Regiment or Crew

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.

Overview of the best approaches for adopting a regiment or company

- Determine your limits and set goals.
- Utilize social media to attract assistance and find other descendants.
- What is your final product of your research on this “adoption”?

Applying to various Hereditary Societies for the Revolutionary War

- National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (1890)
<https://www.dar.org/>
- National Society Sons of the American Revolution (1889)
<https://www.sar.org/>
- National Society Children of the American Revolution (1895)
<https://www.nscar.org/>
- General Society of the Sons of the Revolution (1876)
<https://sr1776.org/>
- The Society of the Cincinnati (1783)
<https://www.societyofthecincinnati.org/>
- The Order of Founders and Patriots (1896)
<https://ofpa.org/>
- Daughters of the Cincinnati (1894)
<https://daughters1894.org/>

Websites

- Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Genealogical Research System (GRS) -
<https://www.dar.org/grs>
- Reports of the Subcommittee on Revolutionary Taxes, National Society SAR Genealogy Committee, 2013 - A state-by-state breakdown on which county and local taxes count for patriotic service <https://www.sar.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Revolutionary-War-Tax-Law-Records-multiple-States.pdf>
- Revolutionary War Pensions on Fold3 (\$) <https://www.fold3.com/publication/467/us-revolutionary-war-pensions-1800-1900>

- Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Patriot Research System (PRS) – <https://www.sar.org/patriot-research-system/>
- Volunteer to transcribe the pension of your Revolutionary War ancestor and others via the National Archives “Citizen Archivist” online: <https://www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist/missions/revolutionary-war-pension-files>

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King Philip’s War

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