

1

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



2

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



3

---

---

---

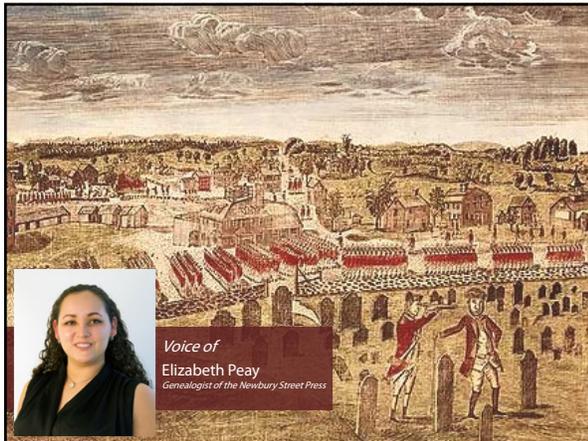
---

---

---

---

---



4

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



5

---

---

---

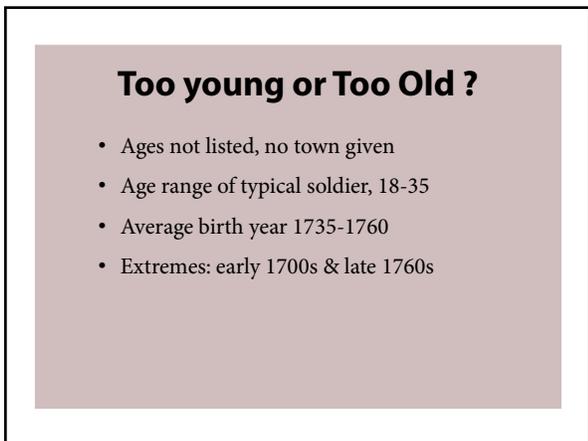
---

---

---

---

---



6

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Tip**  
Cite as you go!

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

7

**Vital Records**

- Birth, marriage, and death Records
- Often provide the names of the individual's parents and/or spouse
- Depending on the state, records may be held on the state, county, and/or town/city level
- These facts will be the building stones of your research

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

8

**Cemetery Clues and Pitfalls**

- Is there a gravestone for your vet?
- Cemetery and burial records
- Transcribed gravestones
- Is there a flag marker? Is it correct?
- Where to look:
  - findagrave.com
  - billiongraves.com
  - interment.net
  - locateagrave.org

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

9

### Mismarked Graves




Gravestone of Captain Simon Gross (Lebanon, Conn.)

10

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### SIMON GROSS

**QUALIFICATION:** Rule of 1854

**MILITARY ABSTRACT:** 2nd or 3rd Lieutenant, Continental Frigate *Boston*, 12 Oct. 1776; taken prisoner, 9 July 1777; exchanged, 24 Jan. 1778; Lieutenant, Continental Frigate *Confederacy*, by 30 Oct. 1778; taken prisoner, 14 April 1781; released, summer or fall 1781; Subsequent Service: Captain, Revenue-Marine cutter *Active*, Jan. 1791; resigned, July 1792, succeeded by Captain David Porter; 1st Lieutenant, United States Frigate *Constellation*, 30 Aug. 1797; resigned or discharged, May 1798.<sup>1</sup>

**BIRTH:** His birth and parentage are unclear.<sup>2</sup>

**MARRIAGE:** Conjectural: (1) possibly Baltimore, Md. 14 Aug. 1787 to **MARY LEWIS**, whose birth is unknown, died before 1798; (2) possibly Baltimore 22 Jan. 1798 to **ANN JOB ALLISON**, whose birth and death are unknown.<sup>3</sup> Given the uncertainty of his birth and parentage, these marriages are speculative.

**DEATH:** After 1803.<sup>4</sup>

11

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Family Relics in the Attic

- Letters
- Diaries
- Paintings
- Guns & Swords
- Discharge Papers
- Oral Traditions



By His Excellency  
**GEORGE WASHINGTON**, Esq  
General and Commander in Chief of the Forces of the United States of America.

**T**HESSE are in CERTIFY that the Bearer hereof is the *Private* *John* *Johnson* in the *1st* *Regiment* *of* *Artillery* having faithfully served the United States *from* *the* *1st* *of* *1777* to *the* *1st* *of* *1781* and being entitled for the War only to *be* *honourably* *discharged* *from* *the* *American* *Army*.

GIVEN at HEAD-QUARTERS the *1st* *of* *1781*

*G. Washington*

By His Excellency's  
Command.

12

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Artifacts**

- Mementos left by your ancestor can add more than you might think
- Weapons, badges, original commissions, clothing, personal effects
- Photos and Images

*Board of Civil War Civil War, Courtesy of the Stanley Whitman House, Springfield, MA*

*Fisher City Commission to Colonel*

*Thomas no 25 his book 1774*

13

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Step #2**  
**Research**

14

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Where to Start?**

- Eric Grundset's state-by-state source guide compilations
- Connecticut, Maine & Mass., New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Virginia, etc.

*New York in the American Revolution*

*A Source Guide for Genealogists and Historians*

15

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

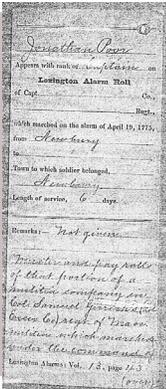
---

---

16

### Useful Resources

- Muster rolls
- Pension files
- Journals and diaries
- Quartermaster rolls
- 1840 Census
- Published genealogies
- Maps
- Correspondence from officers
- *TIP: Adopt the regiment!*
- Town histories



This is a snippet of a historical document, likely a muster roll or pension file, with handwritten entries and printed text.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

17




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

18

**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. Huntingdon 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.

19

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**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. Huntingdon 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.*

20

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Muster Roll Index Microfilm**

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

21

---

---

---

---

---

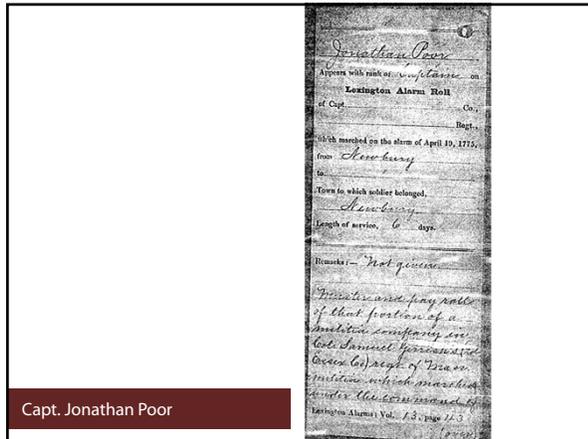
---

---

---

---

---



Capt. Jonathan Poor

22

---

---

---

---

---

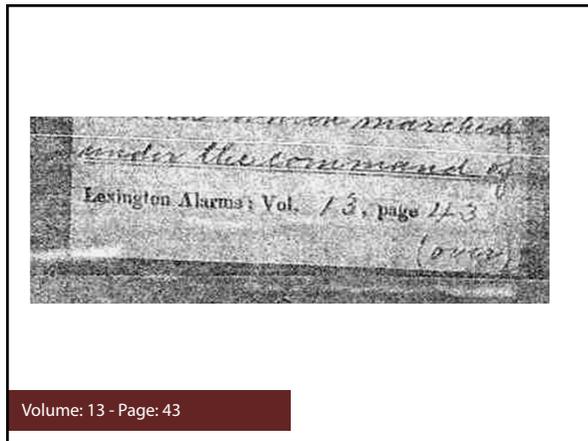
---

---

---

---

---



Volume: 13 - Page: 43

23

---

---

---

---

---

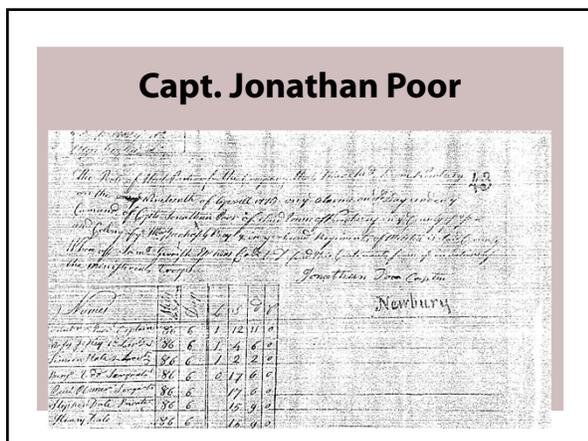
---

---

---

---

---



Capt. Jonathan Poor

24

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



### Muster Rolls

- Just because a soldier is listed as part of a regiment or company, there is always more to the story
- Never Assume
- Transcribed rolls don't always include remarks

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

28

### Tip

## Consider Adopting the Regiment or Crew

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

29

### What Makes This Different

- Adopting the Regiment allows a researcher to learn more about the regiment itself and possibly more about your ancestor.
- Your ancestor is just a small piece of the puzzle, and widening your lens will allow you to understand more.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

30







37

---

---

---

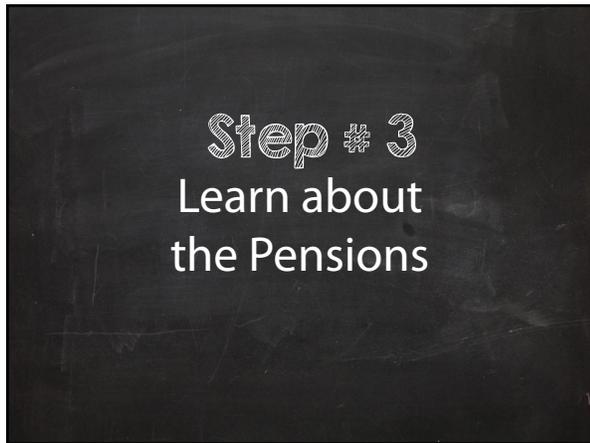
---

---

---

---

---



38

---

---

---

---

---

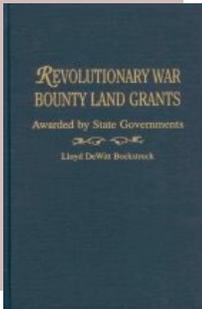
---

---

---

### Land Bounty Records

- Explains post-Revolution migrations
- Paperwork can provide details
- Rank
- Many applications have been lost or destroyed
- Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck (1996) *Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants Awarded by State Governments*



39

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Pension Timeline**

- **1776:** Half pay for officers and men disabled in the service and 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.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

40

**Pension Timeline**

- **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.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

41

**Pension Timeline**

- **1853:** All widows restrictions were eliminated.
- **1869:** Daniel F. Bakeman last pensioner dies.
- **1878:** Widows authorized pensions for life if the veteran only served 2 weeks.
- **1906:** Esther (Sumner) Damon the last widow to collect a pension dies in Vermont.

---

---

---

---

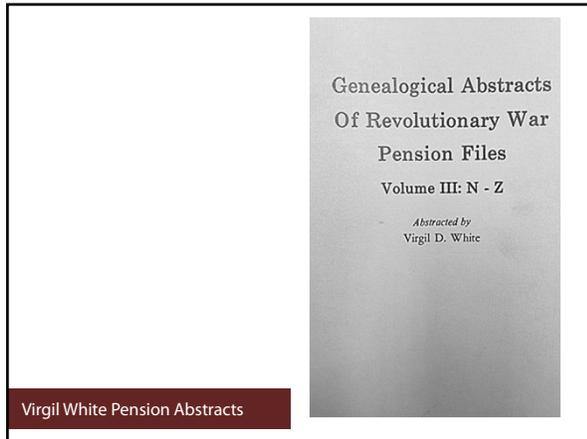
---

---

---

---

42



43

---

---

---

---

---

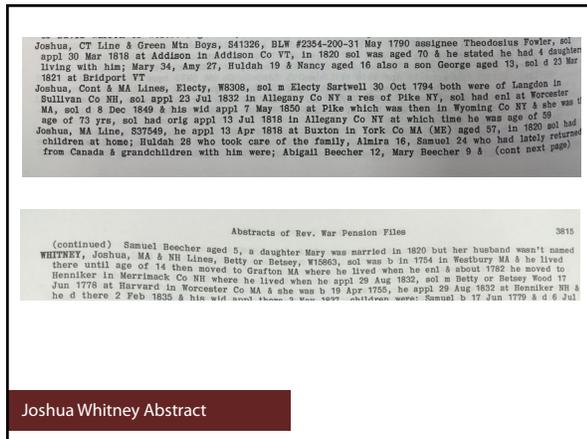
---

---

---

---

---



44

---

---

---

---

---

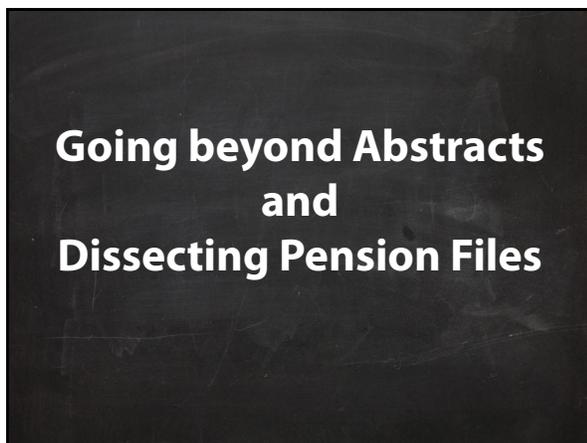
---

---

---

---

---



45

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---













61

---

---

---

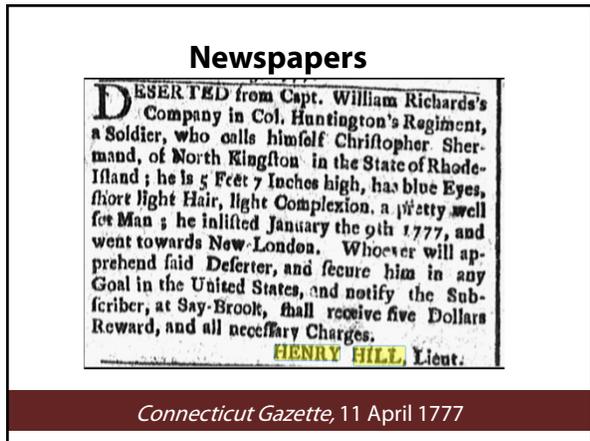
---

---

---

---

---



62

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



63

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Journals and Diaries

- Published journals
- Transcribed accounts
- Local historical societies
- Diary of Lt. Jabez Fitch (New York Public Library)



64

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



The screenshot shows the homepage of the American Ancestors Digital Library & Archives. It features a search bar, navigation tabs for 'BROWSE', 'HOW TO', and 'ABOUT', and a main banner image of a group of women. Below the banner is a section titled 'About Our Digital Library & Archives' with a brief description of the site's content and a 'Start here' link. The URL 'digital.AmericanAncestors.org' is displayed at the bottom.

65

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

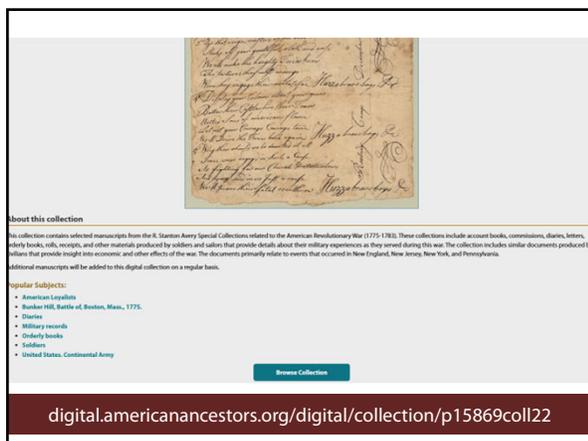
---

---

---

---

---



The screenshot shows a collection page on the American Ancestors website. It features a large image of a handwritten document. Below the image is a section titled 'About this collection' with a detailed description of the collection's contents, including a list of 'Popular Subjects' such as 'American Loyalists', 'Bunker Hill, Battle of Boston, Mass., 1775', 'Diaries', 'Military records', 'Orderly books', and 'Soldiers'. A 'Browse Collection' button is located at the bottom of the text area. The URL 'digital.americanancestors.org/digital/collection/p15869coll22' is displayed at the bottom.

66

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---





## Lineage Societies

- National Society Sons of the American Revolution
- National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
- Sons of the Revolution
- Society of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge
- The Society of the Cincinnati
- Order of the Founders and Patriots of America

73

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Complete List of Active Hereditary Societies**

Included in these pages are the known names, addresses, websites, founding dates, descriptions and membership guidelines for active hereditary societies of the United States of America. The listings are alphabetical, and the index links at the bottom of this text will direct you to the page you seek.

The information contained herein may occasionally become outdated. The HSC webmaster welcomes notification of new societies, as well as updated information regarding existing societies. If any information here is incorrect, or the officers of any society listed here wish certain elements to be altered or removed, please contact the HSC webmaster, and he will do so in a timely manner.

The criteria used in determining whether an organization is an hereditary society is composed of several factors. The nature, role, and requirements for membership, the structure of the organization and the scope of membership allowance are all elements HSC evaluates. Some lineage society recognize descent from a single, specific ancestor. Because of the growing number of such organizations, HSC has designated a separate page for singular ancestor societies, which can be accessed here. In exceptional cases, allowances are made for singular ancestor societies on the complete society listings if it is determined that the ancestor is of sufficient historical significance (ie. Chateaugay, Thomas Jefferson, Mayflower passengers, etc.)

Furthermore, HSC presents the information included on this website, simply as a consolidated list of recognized lineage societies. In no way does HSC validate the society or the genealogical standards or membership qualifications of any specific group, but simply presents the information as a source of data. We encourage anyone interested in membership to carefully evaluate the reputation and genealogical standards of each, respective lineage society before becoming a member or making payment or contributions.

Furthermore, those societies which list "membership is by invitation only" should not be contacted concerning membership. This is not only inappropriate, but will significantly hinder a potential member's future candidacy in a society. HSC strongly advises against contacting those societies, except in cases of peripheral research or through members of that society.

[hereditary.us/list\\_a.htm](http://hereditary.us/list_a.htm)

74

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**PRESERVATION, SERVICE, PATRIOTISM & SO MUCH MORE!**

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in 1890 to promote Historic Preservation, Education, and Patriotism across the United States. Since the Society's founding, more than one million women have found purpose and passion in DAR membership.

DISCOVER DAR'S NATIONWIDE IMPACT

DAR PROJECTS

SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL

DAR NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

[www.DAR.org](http://www.DAR.org)

75

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**To Sum Up:**

- Was your ancestor the correct age to have fought?
- Examine the pension file for your ancestor.
- Who wrote affidavits for your ancestor?
- Look up their pensions—your ancestor may have written an affidavit on their behalf.
- Don't forget about journals & diaries of those additional soldiers who fought with your ancestor.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

79

**QUESTIONS?**

**Schedule a consultation**  
*consultations@americanancestors.org*

**Hire Research Services**  
*research@americanancestors.org*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

80

**Consultations**

Book a one-on-one  
consultation with  
a genealogist and  
receive help with your  
family history research!

AmericanAncestors.org/  
Expert-Help/Consultations




SCAN ME

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

81



82

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



83

---

---

---

---

---

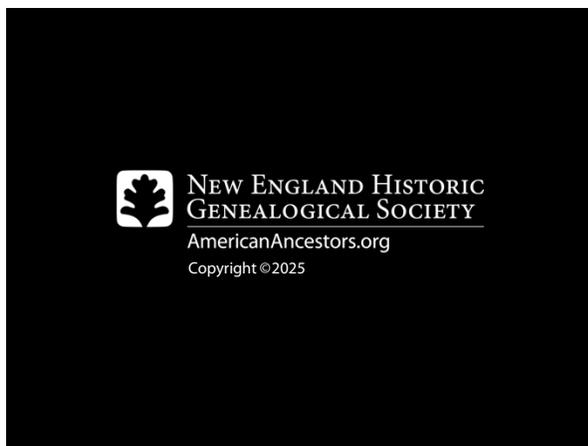
---

---

---

---

---



84

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---