

Researching Black Patriots and Loyalists During the Revolutionary Era

Danielle Rose, 10 Million Names Volunteer Manager

February 7, 2026

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors[®]

A NATIONAL CENTER FOR FAMILY HISTORY, HERITAGE & CULTURE

Meet today's presenter



Danielle Rose

10 Million Names Volunteer Manager



OVERVIEW

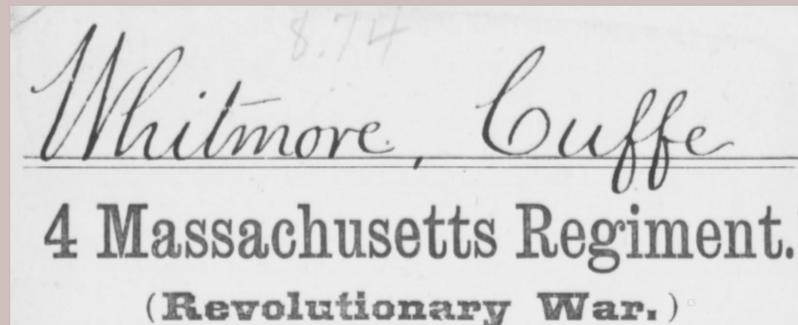
- **Presentation (50 mins.)**
 - Black Patriots history and resources
 - Black Loyalists history and resources
- **Q&A (10-15 mins.)**



Voice of
Danielle Rose
10 Million Names Volunteer Manager

Common Names

- Traditional West African names
- Names derived from classical literature
- Geographic names
- Surnames referencing emancipation



[eI

Locate other sources to
confirm race

Black Patriots

Black Soldiers in the Continental Army

- June 1775: Congress forms the Continental Army
- November 1775: General George Washington prohibits enlistment of free and enslaved Black men
- January 1776: Free Black men allowed to reenlist if they previously served
- 1777: Washington issues new orders that any free man is eligible to enlist, regardless of race
- 1778: States began to enlist both free and enslaved Black men

Motivations for Enlisting

- Consistent pay and promise of bounty land
- Better social standing as a member of the military community
- Promises of freedom in exchange for service
- Hopes of racial equality after the war

Experiences in the Army

- Served in integrated units
- Roles: Infantrymen, musicians, support personnel, personal servants
- More likely to enlist for longer terms



Published Studies

THE
COLORED PATRIOTS
OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION,
WITH SKETCHES OF SEVERAL
DISTINGUISHED COLORED PERSONS:
TO WHICH IS ADDED A BRIEF SURVEY OF THE
Condition and Prospects of Colored Americans.

By WM. C. NELL.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
HARRIET BEECHER STOWE.

BOSTON:
PUBLISHED BY ROBERT F. WALLCUT.
1855.

Brave Colored Artillerist. Page 23.



Peter Salem, the Colored American, at Bunker Hill. Page 21.



AFRICAN AMERICAN
AND
AMERICAN INDIAN PATRIOTS
IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

NATIONAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Search Database



Provided in association with the Daughters of the American Revolution

Daughters of the American Revolution: Patriots of Color, 1712-1888

Exact Search Soundex



First Name

Last Name

Years

Record Type

Location Exact Location

Enslaver First Name

Enslaver Last Name

Family Members (Father/Mother/Spouse)

Saved Searches

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Page

Browse

See other databases in this category

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Switch to Advanced Search

AmericanAncestors.org/search/databasesearch/3843/daughters-of-the-american-revolution-patriots-of-color-1712-1888

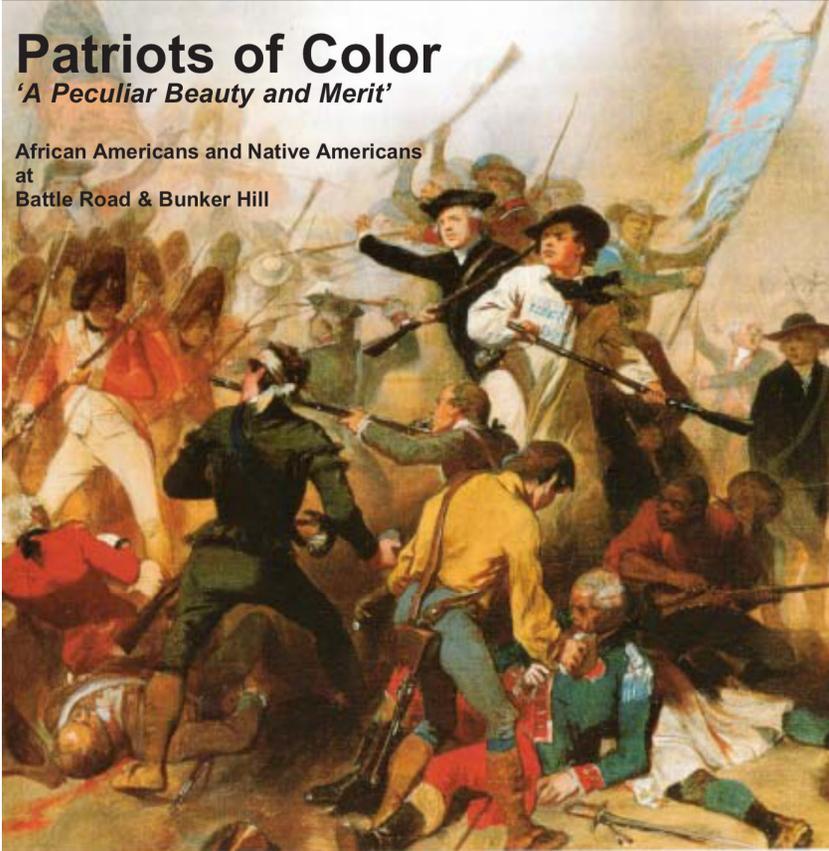
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Boston National Historical Park
Minute Man National Historical Park



Patriots of Color

'A Peculiar Beauty and Merit'

African Americans and Native Americans
at
Battle Road & Bunker Hill

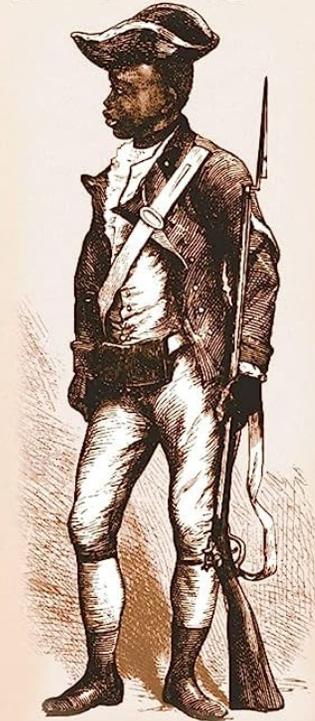


Report Prepared by
George Quintal Jr.
Revolutionary War Consultant

“STRONG and BRAVE FELLOVVS”

*New Hampshire's
Black Soldiers and
Sailors of the
American
Revolution,
1775-1784*

Glenn A. Knoblock



Muster Rolls

Muster Rolls

- Provide information on when and where a soldier served, rank, captain's name, place of enlistment
- Possible variations for a Black soldier
 - Racial descriptions in some cases
 - Some men only identified by first name
 - Black/Blackman as a surname

United States Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783

Images of muster rolls, payrolls, strength returns, and other personnel, pay, and supply records of the American Army during the Revolutionary War. The collection is arranged by type of service, military unit, and jacket or folder number. To more easily find your ancestor in this collection, you'll need to know the state and military unit. To identify state and military unit of interest click on the "Learn more" link and see coverage table. The military unit may also be identified by searching the collection "United States, Revolutionary War Compiled Service Records, 1775-1783" Index provided by Fold3.com and FamilySearch. This collection is from Record Group 93, War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, and is National Archives Microfilm publication M246.

 HOW TO USE THIS COLLECTION

BROWSE ALL 93,048 IMAGES

First Names

Last Names

Place

Year

 SEARCH

MORE OPTIONS

familysearch.org/search/collection/2068326

Massachusetts, U.S., Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolutionary War

Search Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s) Last Name

Exact, sounds like, similar & initials Exact, sounds like & similar

Quick Fill Suggestions
[/Brevard/ Family Tree](#)

No suggestions found

Any Event Year Location

Keyword
e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers"

Search

Browse this collection

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

Volume and Year Range

First Letter of Last Name

Section

More help

- [How to search Ancestry](#)
- [Finding records](#)
- [Search tips](#)
- [Refining your search to improve results](#)
- [Handwriting help](#)

Source Information

Ancestry.com. *Massachusetts, U.S., Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolutionary War* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004.
Original data: Massachusetts. Secretary of the Commonwealth. *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War. Vol. 1-17*. Boston, MA, USA: Wright & Potter Printing, 1896-1908.

[Ancestry.com/search/collections/7726/](https://ancestry.com/search/collections/7726/)

JOTHAM, LUTHER, Bridgewater. Private, Capt. Josiah Hayden's co. of Minute-men, Col. Bailey's regt., which marched on the alarm of April 19, 1775; service, 4 days; *also*, Capt. Josiah Hayden's co., Gen. John Thomas's regt.; company return dated Oct. 6, 1775; *also*, muster roll for Sept. and Oct., 1775, dated Camp at Roxbury; enlisted Aug. 1, 1775; **reported a negro**; *also*, Capt. Elisha Mitchell's co., Col. Simeon Cary's regt.; service from time of enlistment to time of marching, 5 days; roll dated April 2, 1776; *also*, Capt. James Allen's co., Col. Simeon Cary's regt.; pay abstract for rations, dated Camp near New York, Aug. 9, 1776; mileage (251 miles) allowed said Jotham; *also*, Capt. Nathan Snow's co., Col. Hawes's regt.; enlisted Sept. 24, 1777; service, 1 mo. 9 days, at Rhode Island on a secret expedition; roll sworn to at Plymouth.

Luther Jotham entry

Massachusetts, Revolutionary War, Index Cards to Muster Rolls, 1775-1783

Index cards to muster rolls of soldiers who served in Massachusetts regiments during the Revolutionary War, 1775-1783. These records were acquired from the Massachusetts State Archives in Boston.

 HOW TO USE THIS COLLECTION

BROWSE ALL 641,406 IMAGES

First Names

Luther

Last Names

Jotham

Place

City, County, State, Province,

Year

Birth or Death Year

 SEARCH

MORE OPTIONS

familysearch.org/search/collection/2548057

↓

Luther Jotham #

Appears with rank of *Private* on

Muster Roll

of Capt. *Josiah Hayden's* Co.,
of the *Massachusetts* Regt.,
Col. *John Thomas*,
for *Sept. and Oct., 1775*
dated
In camp at Roxbury.

When appointed or enlisted,
August 1, 1775

Term of enlistment, *5*

Remarks: — # *A negro*

* *Year not given.*

5 Not given.

Mass. Muster and Pay Rolls.
Vol. 69, page 2.

Mass. Muster and Pay Rolls.
Vol. 69, page 2.

Luther Jotham index card

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

Add to Print List

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](#)

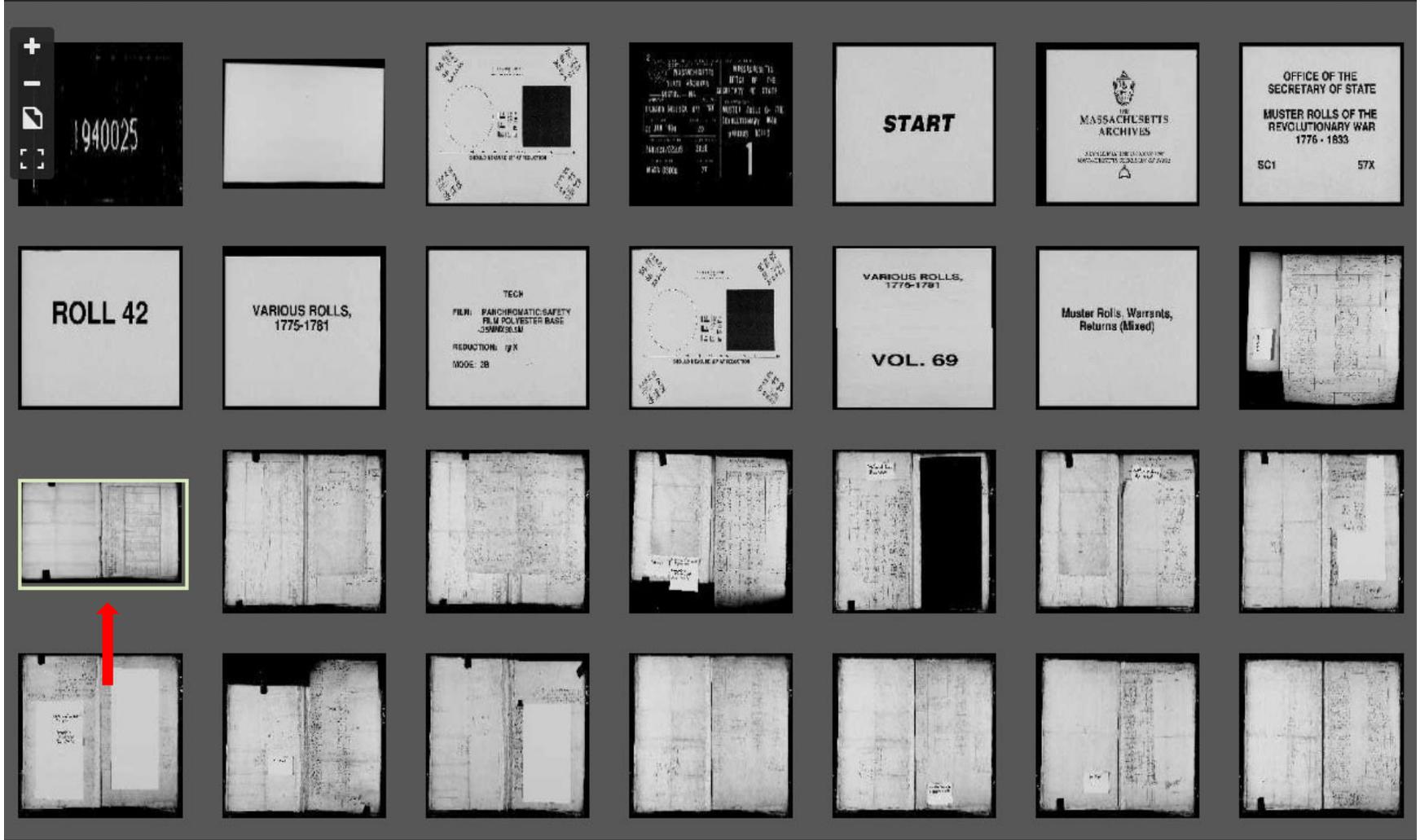
[United States, Rhode Island - Military records - Revolution, 1775-1783](#)

Film/Digital Notes

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	Image Group Number (DGS)	Format
Vol. 1, Rhode Island service 1767-1780 Vol. 2, Rhode Island service 1776-1779 (complete v. 2 is on 1903495)	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1901884	8092008	
Vol. 2, Rhode Island service, cont. 1776-1783 (1st part of v. 2 also on 1901884)	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1903495	8092028	
Vol. 3, Rhode Island service 1776-1781	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1906125	8092029	
Vol. 4, Town rolls 1780-1782	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1906126	8092030	

familysearch.org/search/catalog/729681

Vol. 57, Coat rolls, 8 months' service, 1775, book 2 1775-1776	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1940069	8073412	
Vol. 58, Baldwin's regiments, 1775, 1777, file no. 1 1775-1778 Vol. 59 (book 1), Baldwin's regiment, 1775, 1777, file no. 2 1775-1777	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1940070	8092212	
Vol. 59 (book 2), Baldwin's regiment, 1775, 1777, file no. 2 1775-1777 Vol. 60, Marshall's 10th and Brook's 7th regiments 1777-1783 Vol. 61, Mass. muster and payrolls, Drake Collection 1775-1792	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1940071	8092213	
Vol. 62, Mass. muster and payrolls, Drake Collection 1775-1797 Vol. 63, Miscellaneous rolls 1777-1783 Vol. 64, Warrants and receipts 1775-1783	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1940072	8092214	
Vol. 65, Various papers 1775-1783 Vol. 66, Miscellaneous rolls: muster rolls, U.S. Army pensioners 1776-1787 Vol. 67, Muster rolls, officer returns, payrolls 1777-1783 Vol. 68, Muster rolls, returns of companies and of the county militia 1776-1790	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1940024	8092207	
Vol. 69, Muster rolls, warrants, returns, lists of officers' clothing receipts 1775-1782 Vol. 70, Revolutionary rolls, returns of regiments for provisions 1763-1783 Vol. 71, Muster rolls, returns of companies, warrants, returns of clothing 1775-1782	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1940025	8092208	
Vol. 72, Accounts and testimonies, victualling returns of provisions, supplies 1776-1777 Vol. 73, Requests for payments, returns of provisions 1775-1791 Vol. 74, Weekly returns, returns of clothing, various registers 1777-1783	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1940026	8092209	
Vol. 75, Muster rolls, misc. papers 1776-1808 Vol. 76, Medfield militia & warrants 1776-1781 Vol. 77, Col. Loammi Baldwin's book 1776 App. A, Vose's 1st regiment 1781-1783 App. B, Phinney's militia regiment at Ticonderoga 1776-1783	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1940196	8092215	



Corporals		Enlisted	Casualties	Drum & Pipe	
	Job Bryant	April 19 1775			Sylvanus Packard
	John French	Do.			Joshua King
	Richard Field	Do.			
	Enoch Thayer	Do.			
Privates		Enlisted	Casualties		Privates
	Thomas Craft	May 4 1775	Dish. Aug 4		Jonathan Packard 2 ^d
	Luther Jotham Negro	Aug 4			Ebenezer Drake
	Anthony Dike	April 19	Armed		John Thomson
	Cuff Mitchell Negro	May 4			Moses Hayden
	Samuel Drake	July 15			Michael Gurney
	Jacob Keith	Aug 4	Sick in camp		Luther Ripley
	Joshua Ripley	April 19	Dish. Aug 19		Oliver Lowell Negro



Private Luther Jotham on muster roll

Pension Records

Key Pension Legislation

- 1776: Officers and men disabled during service received half pay
- 1780: Widows and orphans of officers received half pay for 7 years
- 1818: Pensions for veterans who served at least 9 months and in financial need
- 1832: Pensions granted to those with service less than 6 months and removed financial need requirement
- 1838: Widows authorized to receive pensions for 5 years if they married the veteran before 1794
- 1853: Removed restrictions on the date of marriage for widows

What can we learn from pension records?

- Basic vital information
- Place of residence
- Names of family and friends
- Military details (place of enlistment, company and regiment, names of fellow soldiers)
- Discharge papers
- Documents regarding any issues during application process
- Anecdotes of war experiences



Revolutionary War Pensions

Records: 10,391,154 · Complete: 99%

People, Records, Places, Dates, Service Number...



OVERVIEW

BROWSE

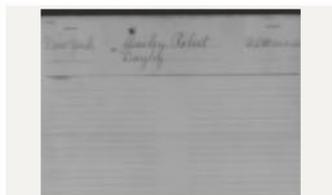
DESCRIPTION

The records in this collection include entire pension files for soldiers and sailors who served in the Revolutionary War. Unlike selected records, which were typically chosen subjectively for genealogical content, these records reveal more details about each veteran's history and service, as well as more information about his family, state of health, and life after the war.

[Continue reading >](#)

Example Records

Robert Dailey Pension Record



Sample



Courtney Babbidge Pension Record



Sample



Related Publications

[Virginia Half Pay Pension Application Files](#) >

[Final Payment Vouchers - Georgia](#) >

[Final Payment Vouchers - Delaware](#) >

[Miscellaneous Records Of The Navy Department](#) >

[Headstone Applications, 1925-1963](#) >

[Returns from Regular Army Coast Artillery Corps Companies, 1901-1916](#) >

[Navy Survivors' Certificates](#) >

[Civil War "Widows' Pensions"](#) >

[Navy Widows' Certificates](#) >

[War of 1812 Pension Application Files Index, 1812-1815](#) >

[See all Publications](#) >

Related Collections

[US Revolutionary War](#) >

[Black History](#) >

fold3.com/publication/467/revolutionary-war-pensions

6230.
 Maine

Luther Jotham,
 private,
 Massachusetts Line 20^{mo}
 in the army of the United States during the Revolutionary War.

Inscribed on the Roll of the District of Maine
 at the rate of — 8 — Dollars per month, to commence on
 the 7th of April 1810

Certificate of Pension issued the 28 of Jan^y 1819
 and det^d R. C. Vose

Arrears to 4th of Sep. 1810. 4^m — 28/30 — 39.46
 Semi-ann. all'co ending 4 March 1819 — 48.00
 \$ 87.46

{ Revolutionary claim, }
 { Act 19th March, 1818. }

Vassalboro,
 Continues

No. 7078.

Maine. — Augusta.
 Rhoda Watson — formerly
 widow of Luther Jotham
 Mass^s
 who served in the Revolutionary
 war, as a private.

Inscribed on the Roll at the rate
 of 96 dollars
 cents per annum, to commence on
 the ~~30 February 1853~~
 4. March 1861

Certificate of Pension issued
 & day of Jan. 1862
 and sent to
 Barrett E. Potter
 Augusta,
 Maine.

Recorded on Roll of Pensioners under
 February 3, 1853, Page 5 Vol. H.

Luther Jotham and Rhoda Watson

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

I Luther Jotham, aged sixty six years, born in Middleborough Massachusetts, a citizen of the U. States, now resident in Vapalborough in the District of Maine upon oath testify and declare that in July 1775 I enlisted as a private in the service of the U. States, in the war of the revolution against the common enemy upon the continental establishment, for what then remained (five months) of what was called the first eight months service, in the company commanded by Capt Josiah Hayden, and regiment commanded by Col. Bayley of the Massachusetts troops This period I served out, and then Jan'y. 1. 1776. I again enlisted as a private soldier in the war of the revolution upon the continental establishment for the term of one year, into the company commanded by Capt Mitchell and regiment commanded by Col. John Bayley of the Massachusetts troops. This period I served

Luther Jotham

Luther Jotham testimony

[eI

Double check service
details with other sources

The following is a Schedule of my whole Estate and income, necessary clothing and bedding
excepted, viz:

- One small hut and house of the value of twenty dollars →
- One cow, of the value of fifteen dollars →
- Three sheep and one lamb, of the value of six dollars →
- One swine of the value of four dollars →
- Old house hold stuff, bed and necessary bedding, not exceeding two dollars value
- One old life worth one dollar →
- One shovel, worth seventy five cents
- Old hoe, worth twenty five cents →

My income does not exceed five dollars a year; I am by occupation a labouring man
but from age and infirmity unable to do but little →

My family at home consists of myself, my daughter Mary Blume, aged three
years, and my son Orlando aged two years →

Except the within, and my necessary clothing and bedding I have
no property or income whatever →

Luther Jotham

Luther Jotham certified inventory

Wc. Ezekiel Talbot — — and Eliza Talbot residents of
Chim in the State of Maine, upon our oaths declare that the foregoing declaration was signed and
acknowledged by Rhoda Jotham in our presence, and that we believe, from the appearance and
statements of the applicant, that she is the identical person she represents herself to be.

We also depose that we well knew her and the said Luther Jotham during
the life time of the latter, and know that they lived together many years in the relation of husband and wife, were so
universally reputed, and no one ever disputed their marriage to our knowledge. Said Jotham was well
known and reputed as a revolutionary soldier, and he has frequently
been heard to talk about participating in the service in the
War of 1812, and we do not
know of any public or private record of said marriage, and
heard the marriage, this fact is doubtless questioned, and
and seems, when this is after death and has been
Jotham

We also know from personal recollection and from many facts and circumstances that the said
Jotham died at Chippewa on the 22^d
day of June, A. D. 1832, and that the aforesaid Eliza Jotham is now a widow.

And we upon our oaths further declare that we were residents of said Town of
in 1814, and that said company, to our personal knowledge, marched as above declared, and that the route marched by said
company was the usual travelled route between the above named places, and that the distance above stated is correct, and
that said travelled as above stated.

Ezekiel Talbot
Eliza Talbot

The foregoing declaration and affidavit were sworn to and subscribed before me on the day and year above written;
and I certify that I know the affiants to be credible persons; that the claimant is the person, she represents herself to be
and that I have no interest in this claim.

John L. Hodsdon Justice of the Peace, & Quorum
for each & every County
throughout the State

STATE OF MAINE.

PENOBSCOT, ss.
I, AUGUSTUS S. FRENCH, Clerk of all the Judicial Courts, in said County, certify that

John L. Hodsdon

Esquire, is and was at the date of his Certificate an acting Justice of the Peace, in and for said County, duly com-
missioned and qualified to act as such, and that the signature to the paper annexed, purporting to be his, is genuine,
and that he is duly authorized and empowered, by the laws of said State, to take acknowledgment of Deeds, Assign-
ments and Powers of Attorney.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my Hand, and affixed the Seal of the SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT for
said State this twenty fourth day of July
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty six.

A. S. French
Clerk.

Talbot testimony for the Jothams

[eI

Widen the pool with the FAN
method (Friends/Associates/
Neighbors)

Bounty Land

Bounty Land

- Congress offered land to officers and soldiers who served in the Continental Army
- Land in Northwest Territory issued by federal government and states after the war
- Many early applications and warrants destroyed by fire
- Replacement bounty land cards included in pension files

BOUNTY LAND WARRANT RECORD CARD*

NAME Freeman, Prince GRADE Private LINE Connecticut

WARRANT NUMBER 5807 ACREAGE 100 ISSUED May 6, 1791
to not shown

*The information concerning the issuance of warrants carded on this form is found in volumes 2 to 4 of "Land Warrants Issued Prior to 1800" which are registers of bounty land warrants issued to non-commissioned officers and privates under congressional resolutions of September 16, 1776, and subsequent dates. Other records relative to the applications for warrants appear to have been destroyed in the War Department fire of November 9, 1800. Information concerning warrants surrendered to the Federal Government is to be found in General Land Office records in The National Archives.

Prince Freeman, Bounty Land Warrant Record Card

U.S., War Bounty Land Warrants, 1789-1858

Search

Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s)

Last Name

Military

Year

Year

[Add Range](#)

Keyword

e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers" 

Warrant Number



Provided in
association with
National Archives and
Records
Administration

Browse this collection

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

War

Revolutionary War 

Record Set

Choose... 

Warrant Range

[Ancestry.com/search/collections/1165/](https://ancestry.com/search/collections/1165/)

Additional Resources



- Cemetery records
- Local histories
- Diaries and letters
- Orderly books
- Town records
- Court records
- Land deeds

Black Loyalists

Dunmore's Proclamation

“... And I do hereby further declare all indented servants, Negroes, or others (appertaining to Rebels) free, that are able and willing to bear arms, they joining his Majesty's troops, as soon as may be, for the more speedily reducing this Colony to a proper sense of their duty, to his Majesty's crown and dignity.”

- November 1775

By His Excellency the Right Honorable JOHN Earl of DUNMORE, His MAJESTY's Lieutenant and Governor General of the Colony and Dominion of VIRGINIA, and Vice Admiral of the same.

A P R O C L A M A T I O N .

AS I have ever entertained Hopes, that an Accommodation might have taken Place between GREAT-BRITAIN and this Colony, without being compelled by my Duty to this most disagreeable but now absolutely necessary Step, rendered so by a Body of armed Men unlawfully assembled, firing on His MAJESTY's Tenders, and the formation of an Army, and that Army now on their March to attack His MAJESTY's Troops and destroy the well disposed Subjects of this Colony. To defeat such treasonable Purposes, and that all such Traitors, and their Abettors, may be brought to Justice, and that the Peace, and good Order of this Colony may be again restored, which the ordinary Course of the Civil Law is unable to effect; I have thought fit to issue this my Proclamation, hereby declaring, that until the aforesaid good Purposes can be obtained, I do in Virtue of the Power and Authority to ME given, by His MAJESTY, determine to execute Martial Law, and cause the same to be executed throughout this Colony: and to the end that Peace and good Order may the sooner be restored, I do require every Person capable of bearing Arms, to resort to His MAJESTY's STANDARD, or be looked upon as Traitors to His MAJESTY's Crown and Government, and thereby become liable to the Penalty the Law inflicts upon such Offences; such as forfeiture of Life, confiscation of Lands, &c. &c. And I do hereby further declare all indented Servants, Negroes, or others, (appertaining to Rebels,) free that are able and willing to bear Arms, they joining His MAJESTY's Troops as soon as may be, for the more speedily reducing this Colony to a proper Sense of their Duty, to His MAJESTY's Crown and Dignity. I do further order, and require, all His MAJESTY's Leige Subjects, to retain their Quitrents, or any other Taxes due or that may become due, in their own Custody, till such Time as Peace may be again restored to this at present most unhappy Country, or demanded of them for their former salutary Purposes, by Officers properly authorized to receive the same.

GIVEN under my Hand on board the Ship WILLIAM, off NORFOLK, the 7th Day of NOVEMBER, in the SIXTEENTH Year of His MAJESTY's Reign.

DUNMORE.

(GOD save the KING.)

Wartime Service

- Specialized occupations and guides
- Ethiopian Regiment (1775-1776)
- Black Pioneers
 - Formed from the remaining members of the Ethiopian Regiment
 - Support personnel
- Women also participated

Military Records



Loyalists in the Maritimes — Ward Chipman Muster Master's Office, 1777–1785

The records

About the database

Search screen

How to interpret the results

How to obtain copies

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Search: Database

Loyalists in the Maritimes — Ward Chipman Muster Master's Office, 1777–1785

On this page

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Search: Database



The coming of the Loyalists, 1783, Mikan 2837473

The Records

Ward Chipman, a prominent lawyer, judge and Loyalist, was born on July 30, 1754, in Marblehead, Massachusetts and died on February 9, 1824, in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

bac-lac.gc.ca/



Loyalists in the
Maritimes — Ward
Chipman Muster
Master's Office, 1777-
1785

The records

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Search: Database

Search: Loyalists in the Maritimes - Ward Chipman Muster Master's Office, 1777- 1785

Enter one or more search terms. You don't need to fill in all the boxes.

Wildcard character: * (e.g. John* for Johns, Johnsen, Johnson, Johnston, etc.)

Surname

Given Name(s)

Place

Group/Regiment

Black Pioneers

Search

Clear

bac-lac.gc.ca/

The records

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Search: Database

Search Results: Loyalists in the Maritimes - Ward Chipman Muster Master's Office, 1777-1785

Search term(s)

1732 result(s) found for "Black Pioneers".

Filter:

Showing 1 to 15 of 1,732 entries

Item Number ↑↓	Surname ↑↓	Given Name(s) ↑↓	Place ↑↓	Group/Regiment ↑↓
10266	YOUNGE	Petter		Black Pioneers
10304	YOUNGE	Petter		Black Pioneers
20015	YOUNGE	Petter		Black Pioneers
20044	YOUNGE	Peter		Black Pioneers
9499	YORK	Edward		Black Pioneers
12933	YORK	Edward		Black Pioneers
10199	WUTZFALL	Minas		Black Pioneers
19926	WRITE	John		Black Pioneers
9650	WRIGHT/WRITE	John		Black Pioneers
9769	WRIGHT/WRITE	John		Black Pioneers
9798	WRIGHT/WRITE	John		Black Pioneers
9824	WRIGHT/WRITE	John		Black Pioneers
9904	WRIGHT/WRITE	John		Black Pioneers
9926	WRIGHT/WRITE	John		Black Pioneers
9958	WRIGHT/WRITE	John		Black Pioneers

Loyalists in the Maritimes —
Ward Chipman Muster
Master's Office, 1777–1785

The records

About the database

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How to obtain copies

Other resources

Search: Database

Item: Scipio DAVIS



Given Name(s): Scipio
Surname: DAVIS
Group/Regiment: Black Pioneers
Type of Records: Muster roll
Year: 1777
Volume: 25
Page(s): 86
Record Title: Muster Roll of Captain Martin's Company of Blacks
Microfilm Reel Number: C-9818
Reference: MG 23 D1, Series 1
Item Number: 9443

[Suggest a Correction](#)

Relocation After the War

After the War

- General George Washington demanded that the British return all American property, including all enslaved people who fled to the British
- November 30, 1782: Provisional Peace Agreement signed
- Sir Guy Carleton chose to honor the promise made to Black Loyalists
- Thousands of Black Loyalists relocated to other British territories, including Nova Scotia, England, and Jamaica

Black Loyalists to Nova Scotia

- Brigadier General Samuel Birch appointed to conduct interviews with those preparing for relocation
- Certificates of freedom issued to those who could prove their service to the crown and status as a refugee (Birch certificates)
- Information from the interviews compiled and given to the Americans for compensation (known as the Book of Negroes)

196

Card MG 1 Vol. 948

NEW-YORK, 21st April 1783.

THIS is to certify to whomsoever it may concern, that the Bearer hereof
Cato Ramsay
a Negro, resorted to the British Lines, in consequence of the Proclamations of Sir William Howe, and Sir Henry Clinton, late Commanders in Chief in America; and that the said Negro has hereby his Excellency Sir Guy Carleton's Permission to go to Nova-Scotia, or wherever else *He* may think proper.

By Order of Brigadier General Birch,

Birch certificate for Cato Ramsay,
Nova Scotia Archives



Carleton Papers –
Book of Negroes, 1783

The records

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results

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Search: Database

Search: Carleton Papers – Book of Negroes, 1783

Enter one or more search terms. You don't need to fill in all the boxes.

Wildcard character: * (e.g. John* for Johns, Johnsen, Johnson, Johnston, etc.)

Keyword

Surname

Given Name(s)

Search

Clear

bac-lac.gc.ca/

Carleton Papers – Book of Negroes, 1783
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Item: Pompy COLT (469)

Given Name(s):	Pompy
Surname:	COLT
Age:	27
Gender:	Male
Race:	Black
Military Service:	No
Place of Origin:	Santee River, South Carolina
Former Legal Status:	Slave
Current Legal Status:	Free
How Freedom was Obtained:	Ran off
When Freedom was Obtained:	ca. 1780
Certificate of Freedom:	Yes
Issuer of Certificate:	MUSGRAVE, General
Name of Former Owner:	COLT, Mr.
Name of Owner:	Black Brigade
Destination:	Port Mouton
Name of Ship:	L'ABONDANCE (HMS)
Shipmaster:	PHILLIPS, Lieutenant
Date of Inspection:	1783-11-30
Fonds:	British Headquarters Papers (Carleton Papers or American Manuscripts). Book of Negroes
Document / Page Number:	10427 (156)
Reference:	MG23 B1
Microfilm:	M-369
Item Number:	469

bac-lac.gc.ca/

Carleton Papers – Book of Negroes, 1783
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Search: Database

Item: Stephen BLUCKE (211)

Given Name(s):	Stephen
Surname:	BLUCKE
Age:	31
Gender:	Male
Race:	Black
Military Service:	No
Place of Origin:	Barbados
Former Legal Status:	Free
Current Legal Status:	Free
How Freedom was Obtained:	Born free
Certificate of Freedom:	Yes
Issuer of Certificate:	BIRCH, General
Destination:	Port Roseway
Name of Ship:	L'ABONDANCE (HMS)
Shipmaster:	PHILLIPS, Lieutenant
Date of Inspection:	1783-07-31
Fonds:	British Headquarters Papers (Carleton Papers or American Manuscripts). Book of Negroes
Document / Page Number:	10427 (72)
Reference:	MG23 B1
Microfilm:	M-369
Item Number:	211

[Suggest a Correction](#)

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African Nova Scotians in the Age of Slavery and Abolition



From Guy Carleton, 1st Baron Dorchester: Papers, The National Archives, Kew (PRO 30/55/100) 10427

Search Book of Negroes, 1783

The "Book of Negroes" is the single most important document relating to the immigration of African Americans to Nova Scotia following the War of Independence. It includes the names and descriptions of 3000 black refugees registered on board the vessels in which they sailed from New York to Nova Scotia between 23 April and 30 November 1783.

The book also documents the cases of some fugitive slaves who were returned to their owners before they could escape to Nova Scotia. One of these was the "Negro woman named Betty," who had left her owner, Thomas Smith. Before she could sail to freedom, Smith claimed that he still owned her. Unfortunately, the British authorities agreed with Smith and sent Betty back to Thomas "to be disposed of by him at his pleasure."

The "Book of Negroes" exists in two original versions. These were created separately but at the same time by the British and the Americans as they registered the refugees. The British version, presented here, is in the Sir Guy Carlton papers at the Public Records Office (National Archives of Great Britain.) The American version, which forms the basis of Graham Hodge's *Black Loyalist Directory*, is at the National Archives at Washington. A microfilm copy of the American version is available at Nova Scotia Archives microfilm 23164 and 23165.

- African Nova Scotians in the Age of Slavery and Abolition
- Access to Language
- Slavery and Freedom, 1749-1782
- Black Loyalists, 1783-1792
- Book of Negroes
- The Decline and Disappearance of Slavery, 1793-1812
- Black Refugees, 1813-1834
- Halifax List
- Descendants and Settlements: A Community Album, ca. 1879-1955

archives.novascotia.ca/africanns/book-of-negroes/

Vessels Names and their Commanders	Where Boarded	Negroes Names	Age	Description	Claimants		Names of Persons in whose Possession they now are
					Names	Residence	
		Woney	34	Ordinary Fellow			✓
		Hoagor Kennedy	29	d ^o - Wench			✓
		Sam. Her son	1				✓
		Peter Harding	20	Stout Fellow			✓
		Kate Harding	10	Ord ^y Wench			✓
		Eben. Harding	2 $\frac{1}{2}$				✓
		John Jackson	30	Stout Fellow			✓
		Hannah Jackson	30	d ^o - Wench			✓
		Pompy Colt	27	Ordinary Fellow			✓
		Joby Eastington	33	Stout Fellow			✓
		Chloe Mann	34	Ord ^y Wench			✓
		Bethsey Mann	5				✓

In Pursuance of two orders from His Excellency Sir Guy Carleton K. B. General & Command
 in Chief of His Majesty's Forces from Nova Scotia to West Florida Inclusive, Both dated Head Quarters
 New York the 15th & 16th of Decr 1763

Pompy Colt entry

Search Database

★ Favorite

Black Loyalist Directory, 1783-1788

Exact Search Soundex

SEARCH

First Name

Last Name

Years

Record Type

Location Exact Location

Keywords

See other databases in this category

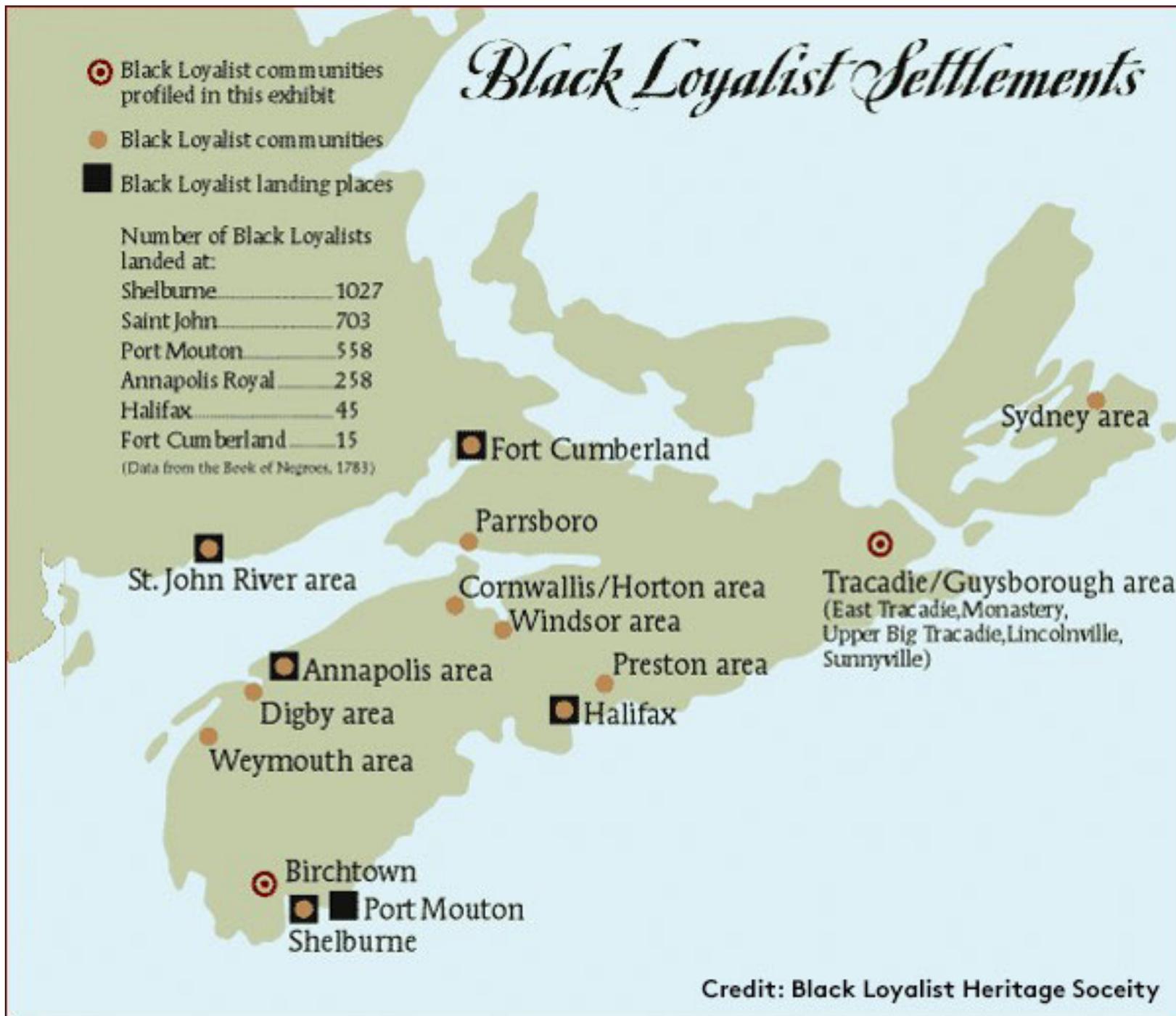
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Did you know?

AmericanAncestors.org/search/databasesearch/2823/black-loyalist-directory-1783-1788





Library and Archives Canada



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Home → Discover the Collection → Military Heritage → Loyalists → Black Loyalist Refugees, 1782-1807- Port Roseway Associates

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Black Loyalist Refugees, 1782-1807- Port Roseway Associates

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Search: Database

The Records



A Black Wood Cutter at Shelburne, Nova Scotia
[Source](#)

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Colonel, BUCKE

[Back to search results](#)

1 of 2 [Next](#)

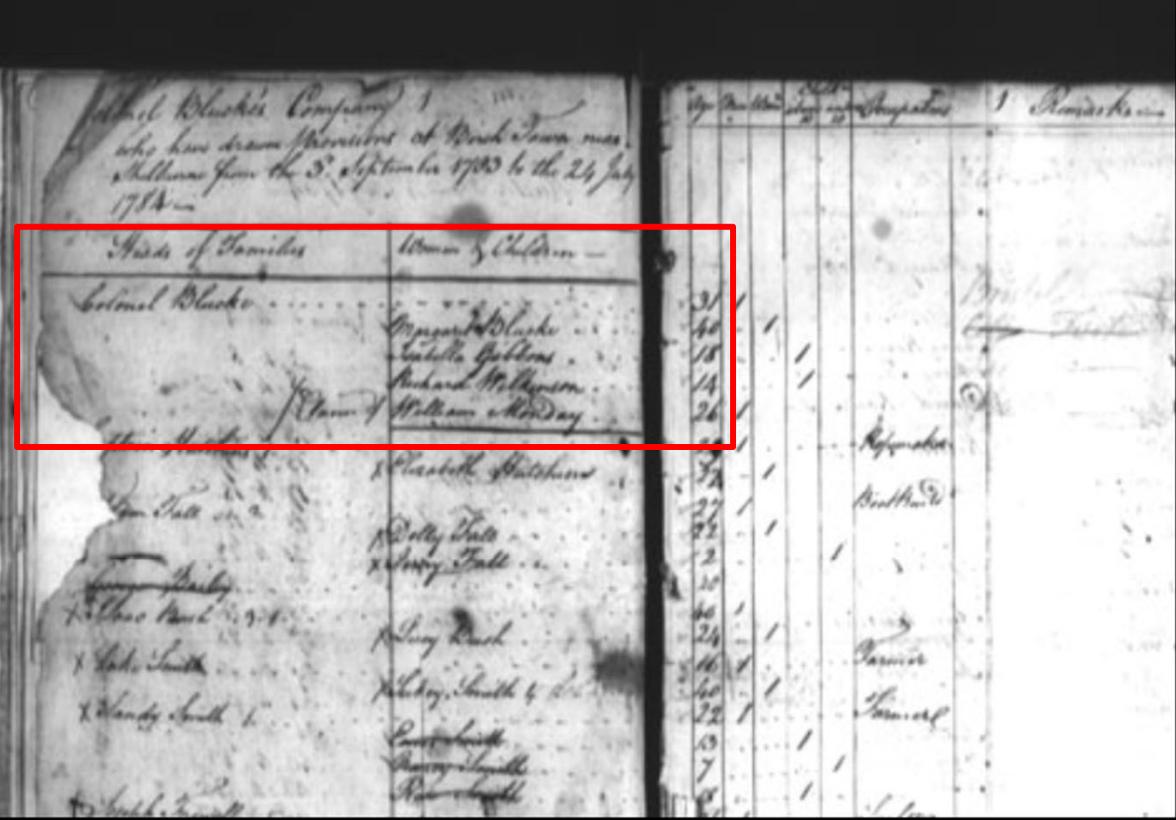
CONTENTS

[Thumbnails](#) [Details](#)



9007891577-v6

Colonel, BUCKE



Families	Men & Children	Total
Colonel Blucke	Richard Blucke	31
	Isabella Giddens	18
	Richard Wilkinson	14
	James & William Monday	24
	Elizabeth Hutchins	27
	John Hall	22
	Henry Hall	2
	Henry Hall	10
	Henry Hall	24
	Henry Hall	16
	Henry Hall	60
	Henry Hall	22
	Henry Hall	13
	Henry Hall	7
	Henry Hall	8





Col. Stephen Blucke in the Muster of Free Blacks, Birchtown, 1784

Life in Nova Scotia

- Forced to settle in areas outside the main towns
- Difficulty receiving land
 - Received less than white counterparts
 - Poor farming conditions
- Worked in various industries, but received lower wages



Land Records



Nova Scotia Archives

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Services

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Search



Nova Scotia Land Papers 1765-1800

This is a searchable database for petitions made to government by individuals or groups of people seeking grants of Crown Land for settlement purposes in early Nova Scotia. The database contains 11,464 names, and will link from the petitioner's name to the fully digitized document file created for that particular land grant — 1890 files, containing 9259 image scans. If you're searching for online information about early land settlement in Nova Scotia, you've come to the right place!

Researchers who have worked onsite at the Nova Scotia Archives may remember the index and digitized documents presented here as "Record Group 20, Series A, Land Petitions and other material." All research into the granting of land to early settlers in Nova Scotia begins here.



Nova Scotia Land Papers 1765-1800

[Archival Description](#) Commissioner of Crown Lands

[The Grant Process](#)

[Using the Resource](#)

[Short Guide to Land Records](#)

[County Map of Nova Scotia](#)

[Cape Breton Island Petitions 1787-1843](#)

archives.novascotia.ca/land-papers/



Nova Scotia Land Papers 1765-1800

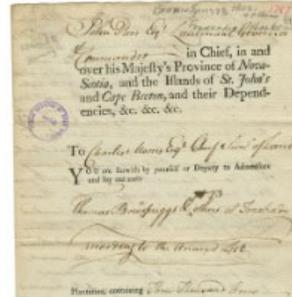


Results 1 to 2 of 2 from your search: **Colt**



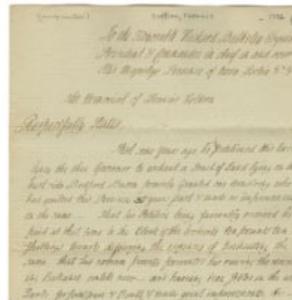
Brownspriggs, Thomas and others – 1787 – Antigonish County

Documents: Warrant to Survey; Survey Certificate;



Coltson, Francis – 1792 – Halifax County

Documents: Memorial (Petition);



- Nova Scotia Land Papers 1765-1800
- Archival Description Commissioner of Crown Lands
- The Grant Process
- Using the Resource
- Short Guide to Land Records
- County Map of Nova Scotia
- Cape Breton Island Petitions 1787-1843



Nova Scotia Land Papers 1765-1800

Brownspriggs, Thomas and others – 1787 – Antigonish County

Names listed in the documents: Thomas Brownspriggs, Samuel Minton, Benjamin Gero, Alexander Elmer, Samuel Dismal, Peter French, James Lenox, Thomas Richardson, Richard Jordan, Prince Hederick, Robert Bachus, James Emma, Qart Shephard, Jno. Devos, Charles Ringwood, William Gordon, Charles Lamb, John Green jr., Pompey Colt, Adam Minton, John Skelly, Anthony Morris, Isaac Bolton, Jno. Slaughter, James thomas, Samuel Grierson, Jno Green, John Bratton, Samuel Willis, Garret Hart, Anthony Barton, Charles Ash, Prince Frederic, Joseph Ringwood, Moses Reduck, John Farmer, Joseph Colts, Jacob Wistoff, Samuel Hawkins, Andrew Izard, Charles Sweeney, Pompey Clark, Baccus Ervin, Christopher King, John Vanbright, Samuel Smith, John Robinson, Cornelius Hunt, William Sampson, Cesar Jordan, Willis Page - dead, Joseph Bowers, Robert Dawton, King Farr, Samuel Magra, Prince Costly, George Baker, Philip Batley, John Ireland, Rachael Brewen, Joseph Harris, Philip Thompson, Daniel Brown, Jacob Bradey, Seven Waters, Gilbert Laffarts, Clause Herring, Robert Conway, Dinnah Lumian, Violet Miller, Mina Townshend, York Berden, Andrew Whitehead, Thomas Bailey, Abraham Bayard

Warrant to Survey. Surveyor's Certificate. All negroes. Surveyor's Report: 3000 acres. Traccadie. Bounded in part by land granted Peter Bennois and others - on the east side of the Harbour.

County of Sydney. List - with the following names: Thomas Brownspriggs, Samuel Minton, Benjamin Gero, Alexander Elmer, Samuel Dismal, Peter French, James Lenox, Thomas Richardson, Richard

archives.novascotia.ca/land-papers/

579-1787
Warrant
Thomas Brownspriggs
& others Negro men

It appearing to me that a Warrant of Survey hath been duly executed according to His Majesty's Instructions and the Governor's Order and that the Surveyor General of the Woods hath certified that the Lands described are not within any Reservation for the Crown Let a Grant be prepared agreeable to the royal Instructions and in the usual Form taking care to annex the Plan thereto and to insert the Commencement of Birtment -
S. Blowers
Secy General
Halifax Septemr
29th 1787

To the Secretary of the Province Nova Scotia

Brownsprigg et al. land petition

Brown Spriggs Thos. 1787
& others 19
John Parr Esq Lieutenant Governor
Commander in Chief, in and over his Majesty's Province of Nova-Scotia, and the Islands of St. John's and Cape Breton, and their Dependencies, &c. &c. &c.

Warrant to Survey

To Charles Morris Esq Chief Secy of Land
YOU are forthwith by yourself or Deputy to Admeasure and lay out unto
Thomas Brownspriggs & others at Tracadie
according to the Annexed List
Plantation, containing Three Thousand Acres

and make a due Return into the Secretary's Office within Six Month from the Date hereof, with a Plott or Description hereunto annexed, as also to certify the Nature and Quality of the said Lands, comfortable to his Majesty's Instructions, and for so doing this shall be your Warrant.

Given under my Hand at Halifax,
28 Day of Sept^r 1787

Thomas Brownsprigg	1	Sam. Grierson	1	2
Peter French	1	Charles Lamb	1	2
Samuel Winton	1	Dr. Green	1	2
James Lenox	1	John Jun. Dent	1	2
Benj. Yero	1	John Bratton	1	2
Tho. Richardson	1	Pompey Colt	1	2
Alex. Ames	1	Samuel Willis	1	2
Rich. Jordan	1	Adam Winton	1	2
Sam. Diomal	1	Garret Hart	1	2
Prince Hedrick	1	Anth. Barton	1	2

Pompey Colt listed in land petition

New Brunswick

- New Brunswick was formed as a separate colony from Nova Scotia in 1784
- Saint John a destination for ships logged in the Book of Negroes
- Black Loyalists faced similar discrimination as those in Nova Scotia

Provincial Archives of New Brunswick

Search | Exhibits and Education Tools | Research Tools | About PANB

Index to Land Petitions: Original Series, 1783-1918 (RS108)

[Introduction](#) | [Name Index](#) | [Blacks](#) | [Indigenous People](#) | [Military Units](#)

Contains all the records grouped by family to facilitate searching.

66,008 records available in this database

[A](#) | [B](#) | [C](#) | [D](#) | [E](#) | [F](#) | [G](#) | [H](#) | [I](#) | [J](#) | [K](#) | [L](#) | [M](#) | [N](#) | [O](#) | [P](#) | [Q](#) | [R](#) | [S](#) | [T](#) | [U](#) | [V](#) | [W](#) | [X](#) | [Y](#) | [Z](#)

You can filter this result set further by adding additional letters to the family name and clicking the 'apply filter' button.

A

i 234 name(s) found containing 2,062 record(s).

Names are in alphabetical order.

Click the link indicating the number of records to view.

Page of 5

Showing 1 to 50 of 234 names found

1: ABAIRE [1 record]	2: ABBIT [1 record]	3: ABBOT [8 records]
4: ABBOTT [6 records]	5: ABEL [1 record]	6: ABELL [1 record]
7: ABERNATHY [1 record]	8: ABERNETHY [2 records]	9: ABLE [1 record]
10: ABRAHAM [8 records]	11: ABRAM [3 records]	12: ABRAMS [1 record]
13: ACADEMY LANDS [1 record]	14: ACADEMY RESERVE [1 record]	15: ACERSON [1 record]
16: ACHE [87 records]	17: ACHEE [1 record]	18: ACHESON [3 records]

archives2.gnb.ca/Search/RS108/

Sierra Leone

- In 1791, Thomas Peters formed a petition detailing the grievances of the Black community in Nova Scotia and presented it to the British government
- Negotiated free passage for about 1,200 Black Nova Scotians to resettle in Sierra Leone, where they established Freetown
- Remaining families stayed in Nova Scotia

Subject--Topic

- Abolitionists (68)
- anti-slavery movements (68)
- Slavery (68)

Creator

- wilberforce, william, 1759-1833 (19)
- clarkson, john, 1764-1828 (5)
- naimbana, d. 1793 (4)
- canning, george, 1770-1827 (3)
- george iv, king of great britain, 1762-1830 (3)
- cread, s. (delineator) (2)
- hartshorne, lawrence (2)
- hawthornth, j. (sculptor) (2)
- smith, alexander (2)
- dickson, richard (1)

Show More

Browsing items in: Sierra Leone (University of Illinois Chicago) Sort by: Title Ascending Results per page: 20

Records 1-20 of 69 1 2 3 4 Save All

 Advertisement	 Certificate of character	 Character of the settlers	 Copy of articles of agreement between the Sierra Leone Company ...	 Diary
 Extract from the journal of a voyage from Sierra Leone to the River Kisi ...	 Extract from the journal of a voyage from Sierra Leone to the River Kisi ...	 Extracts from J. Hill's journal of a voyage to Fourcaria	 King Naimbanna's request for liquor	 Letter (April 2, 1807)
 Letter (April 2, 1807), page 1	 Letter (April 2, 1807), page 2	 Letter (August 25, 1808)	 Letter (August 25, 1808), pages 1, 4	 Letter (August 25, 1808), pages 2, 3

collections.carli.illinois.edu/digital/collection/uic_sierra

Additional Resources

- Church records
- Newspapers
- Town histories
- Personal papers/diaries
- Memoirs
- Local museums and other historical sites
- Published studies



Review

1. Freedom from enslavement was the main motive for serving during the war.
2. Race may not be explicitly stated in records. Locate other sources to confirm!
3. Widen your pool during the research process.

The background is a dark red, semi-transparent collage. It features various historical elements: a map of the United States with 'N. E.' and 'N. Y.' visible; a document with the date 'JULY 4, 1776' and the words 'States of'; and several portraits of men in 18th-century attire, including one with a powdered wig and another in a military-style uniform.

QUESTIONS?

Schedule a consultation
consultations@americanancestors.org

Hire Research Services
research@americanancestors.org

Researching Black Patriots and Loyalists During the Revolutionary Era

The American War of Independence was not only a fight for freedom from a tyrannical world superpower. For the thousands of Black soldiers who fought for the patriot cause, and even more—tens of thousands—for the Loyalists, emancipation was on the line. In this hybrid lecture, 10 Million Names Volunteer Manager Danielle Rose will provide a brief history of Black soldiers during the Revolutionary War and their motivations for joining either side; and discuss several resources, records, and strategies for piecing together the service and stories of individuals.

Registration in this program includes access to a 60-minute live broadcast, recording, and other materials for the foreseeable future.

Lecture Recording

AmericanAncestors.org/researching-black-patriots-and-loyalists-during-revolutionary-era-0

Revolutionary Roots

 American Ancestors

Research Your Roots

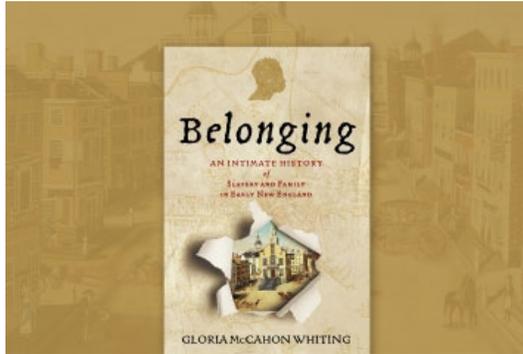
Honor Your Ancestors

Stories

Events



revolutionaryroots.AmericanAncestors.org



Upcoming Events

AMERICAN INSPIRATION ONLINE AUTHOR EVENT

Belonging: An Intimate History of Slavery and Family in Early New England with author Gloria McCahon Whiting

Moderated by Kyera Singleton

February 24, 2026, 6:00 – 7:00 PM ET



HYBRID LECTURE

Researching Women in the American Revolution

Presented by Melanie McComb

March 21, 2026, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET



AMERICAN STORIES, AMERICAN LIVES GALA

Commemorating Revolutionary Roots

Honoring Glenn Close and Dr. Jane Kamensky

Boston Harbor Hotel, Boston, MA

April 23, 2026, 6:00 – 9:00 PM ET

AmericanAncestors.org/Events



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