

Drums, Diaries, and Duty

The Roles of Children in Revolutionary America

Melanie McComb, Senior Genealogist

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Meet today's presenter



Melanie McComb

Senior Genealogist

OVERVIEW

- **Presentation (50 mins.)**
 - Historical Background
 - Military Service (including spies)
 - Boycotts and Mob Enforcement
 - Online Resources
 - Published Resources (including diaries)
 - Notable Children of the Revolution
- **Q&A (10-15 mins.)**

Historical Background

English Common Law

- Based on case law and precedent instead of a codified set of laws
- Anyone under 21 years old was considered a minor

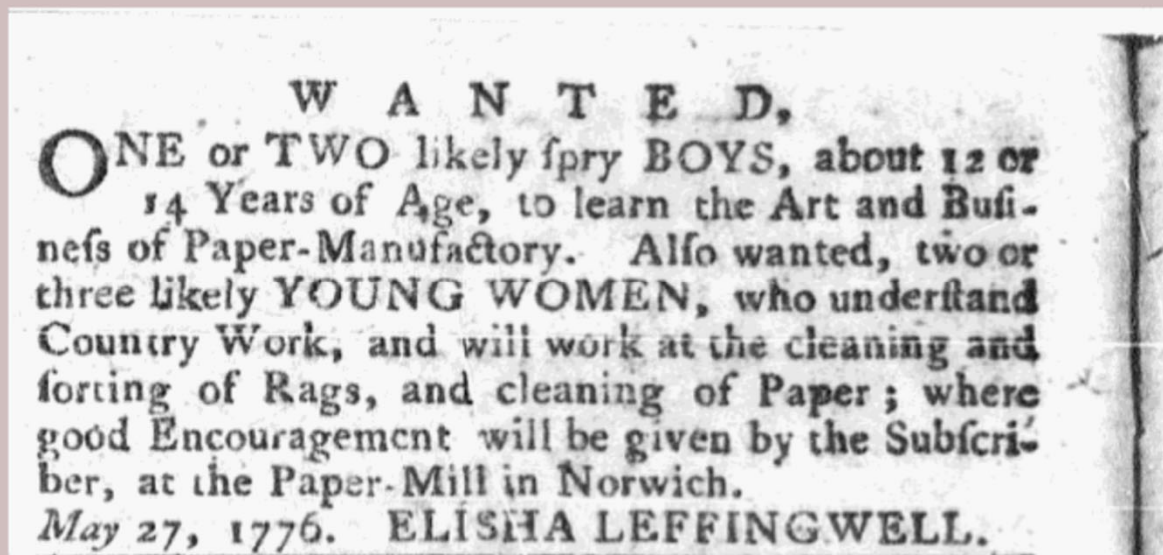
Apprentices and Indentured Servants

- 12 years old - typical age when a child would start an apprenticeship.
- Boys had opportunities to learn many different trades, although over 40% were bound out to learn husbandry (farming).
- Girls were overwhelmingly indentured for only one occupation: domestic servitude.
- Records are decentralized and may be found in town records and court records

Apprentices and Indentured Servants (Cont'd)

- Children could be "bound out" to local individuals until they reached adulthood
 - 18 for girls
 - 21 for boys
- Under an indenture contract, the child was provided with food, clothing, shelter, and training in a trade
- There was a fixed end date for the contract
- The Boston Overseers of the Poor records show that between 1756 and 1806 over 1,100 children were bound out.

Newspaper Advertisements



W A N T E D,
ONE or TWO likely spry BOYS, about 12 or
14 Years of Age, to learn the Art and Bu-
nefs of Paper-Manufactory. Also wanted, two or
three likely YOUNG WOMEN, who understand
Country Work, and will work at the cleaning and
sorting of Rags, and cleaning of Paper; where
good Encouragement will be given by the Subscri-
ber, at the Paper-Mill in Norwich.
May 27, 1776. ELISHA LEFFINGWELL.

Source: *Norwich Packet*, 10 June 1776, Accessed via
Early American Newspaper Series I

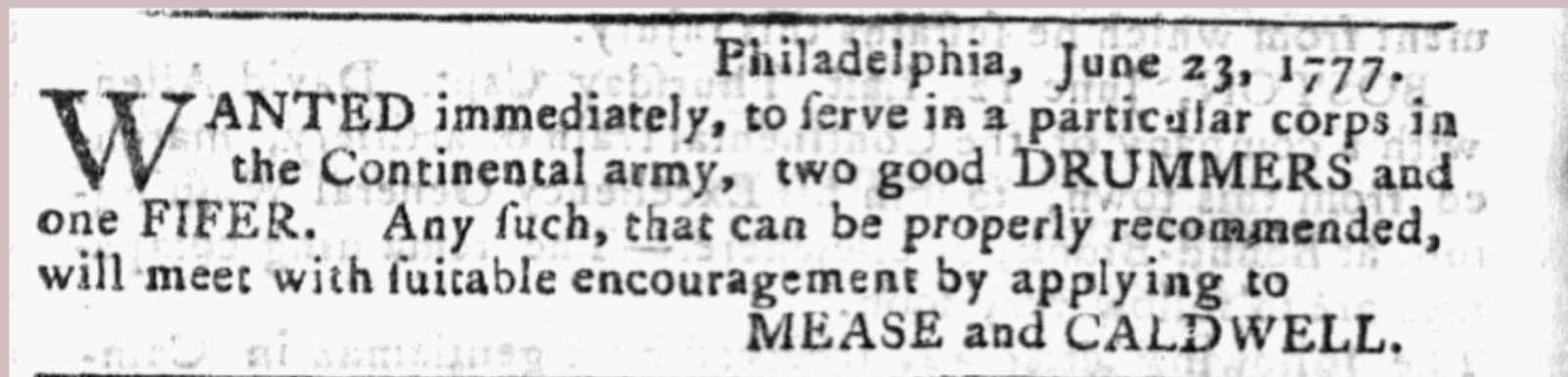
Military Service

Fifers and Drummers

- Young boys – sometimes as young as 10 years old, served as musicians and accompanied troops into battle.
- They translated complex commands (March, Load, Fire, or Retreat) into distinct rhythms
- They served as the "alarm clock" to signal when to wake up, eat meals, do chores, and end work for the day



Newspaper Advertisement



Philadelphia, June 23, 1777.
WANTED immediately, to serve in a particular corps in
the Continental army, two good DRUMMERS and
one FIFER. Any such, that can be properly recommended,
will meet with suitable encouragement by applying to
MEASE and CALDWELL.

Source: *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, 24 June 1777.

Accessed via Early American Newspaper Series I.

[eI

Not all fifers and drummers were teenagers or young children. Adults also held these roles.

Recruitment

- Military recruiters rarely asked for proof of age
- The minimum age for militia service pre-Revolutionary War was 16 years old in all North American colonies except Pennsylvania and Delaware (where it was 18 years old)

Recruitment Cont'd

- Serving in the Continental Army opened up opportunities for poorer teenagers, including indentured servants and apprentices
- "Boys with little property, no marital ties, and visions of military glory were considered 'very proper for service'"
 - *In Pursuit of Liberty: Coming of Age in the American Revolution* by Emmy E. Werner

Grace Period

- In January 1776, the Continental Congress resolved that a soldier under 21 years old could discharge from the Continental Army within 24 hours after enlistment.
- The soldier would return any bounty money and equipment received.
- By November 1776, Congress set guidelines that recruiters should enlist "able-bodied men, not under sixteen years of age". The grace period was abandoned.

Parental Permission

- Teenagers under the age of 16 years old were required to obtain parental consent to serve in the army
- Many boy soldiers served with their fathers or other male relatives, some as substitutes
- They were usually between the ages of 13 and 15 years old. However, there are some examples of boys serving as young as 8 to 10 years old.

Age Certification Letter

This is to certify whom it may concern
that David Clark son of John & Martha
Clark was born August 24th 1762, & will
be 18 years of age 24th August 1780 - a
record of which I have seen & it is in my
hand this 6th day of May 1780
The above mentioned David Clark is
in the militia company commanded
by Capt. Lockner
John Hombright
At Fort Augusta, Sunbury, Penna.

Credit: Museum
of the American
Revolution,
2012.18.01

Contents of a Service Record

- Name
- Unit
- Period of service
- Muster rolls
- Pay rolls
- Hospitalization and prisoner of war rolls
(if applicable)



United States, Revolutionary War Compiled Service Records, 1775-1783

Service record cards of approximately 80,000 individual soldiers who served in the Revolutionary War. The cards are arranged under the designation "Continental Troops" or under a state name, then by organization, and then alphabetically by soldier's surname. Corresponds to NARA Publication M881: Compiled Service Records of Soldiers Who Served in the American Army During the Revolutionary War, 1775-1783. Index courtesy of Fold3.

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First Names

Last Names

Birth Place

Birth Year

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Historical Record Filtered Search Results (20)

Collection: Military, United States, Revolutionary War Compiled Service Records, 1775-1783 (20) X

Collection Sex Race Other

Name	Events	Relationships
Edmund Morris Baker Principal United States, Revolutionary War Compiled Service Records, 1775-1783	Military Service from 1775 to 1783 Massachusetts, United States	 
Edmund Baker Principal United States, Revolutionary War Compiled Service Records, 1775-1783	Military Service from 1775 to 1783 Massachusetts, United States	 
Edmund Baker Principal United States, Revolutionary War Compiled Service Records, 1775-1783	Military Service from 1775 to 1783 New York, United States	 

Search X

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First Names

Last Names

Add Life Event

BIRTH MARRIAGE RESIDENCE DEATH ANY

Birth Place

Birth Year (Range)
From To

Add Family Member

SPOUSE FATHER MOTHER OTHER PERSON

Add Record Options

LOCATION TYPE BATCH NUMBER
FILM/EICHC/IMAGE GROUP NUMBER (DGS) PRINCIPAL



FamilySearch.org



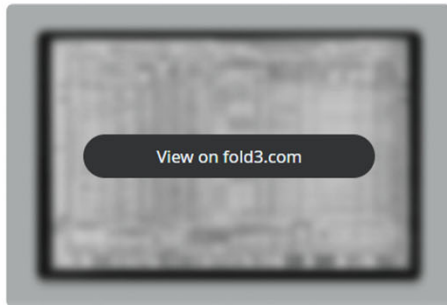
Edmund Morris Baker

Military • United States, Revolutionary War Compiled Service Records, 1775-1783

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Name **Edmund Morris Baker**
Military Regiment **Massachusetts**
Event Type **Military Service**
Event Date **from 1775 to 1783**
Affiliate Publication Number **M881**
Affiliate Publication Title **Compiled Service Records of Soldiers Who Served in the American Army During the Revolutionary War**

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The screenshot shows the FamilySearch.org interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes the FamilySearch logo and links for Family Tree, Search, Memories, Get Involved, and Activities. A secondary bar contains links for Records, Full Text, Images, Family Tree, Genealogies, Catalog, Books, and Wiki. The user's name, Melanie McComb, is in the top right corner. The main content area features a large header for "Edmund Morris Baker" with the subtitle "Military • United States, Revolutionary War Compiled Service Records, 1775-1783". Below this, there are buttons for SAVE, EDIT, and SHARE. A modal dialog box titled "Leaving FamilySearch" is centered on the screen, containing the text: "This image is only available on fold3.com. Are you sure you want to leave FamilySearch?". The dialog has two buttons: "STAY" and "GO TO FOLD3.COM". In the background, a document image is visible with a "View on fold3.com" button overlaid. To the right, there is a "Tree" section with an "ATTACH TO TREE" button and a "Similar Records" section stating "No similar records were found." Below the document image, there is a "VIEW ORIGINAL DOCUMENT" button.

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Index Card, Fold3.com

B	Mass.
Edmund Morrie Baker	
Appears on a	List
of the Men Raised in the County of Essex in the State of the Massachusetts Bay for the Purpose of filling up and Compleating the Fifteen Battalions of Continental Troops Directed To be raised for the Term of Nine Months from the Time of their Arival at Fish Kill Agreeable to a Resolve of Genl Court Past 20 th April 1778 (Revolutionary War.)	
List dated	Not dated, 17
Time of Arival at Fish Kill	June 20, 17
Town Procured for,	Haverhill
Regl Belongs to,	Col. Johnson
Camp Procured from,	Mash
Age,	16
Stature,	5-2
Complection,	Light
Remarks:	
Number of remark:	41
(545m)	Scotmill
	Copist

Muster Rolls

- A list or return of all troops, including officers and soldiers, present or accounted for on muster day.
- Soldiers would respond at roll call when their names were read aloud.
- Muster rolls often contain the date when a soldier joined or left a military unit (including if a soldier deserted, taken prisoner, or died).

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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.

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Historical Record Filtered Search Results (36)

Collection: Military, United States, Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783 (36) x

Collection Sex Race Other

Name	Events	Relationships
Edmund Morris Baker Principal United States, Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783	Military Service June 0020 Massachusetts, United States	 
Edmund Baker Principal United States, Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783	Military Service March 1779 New York, United States	 
Edmond Baker Principal United States, Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783	Military Service January 1781 Massachusetts, United States	 
Edmond Baker Principal United States, Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783	Military Service February 1781 Massachusetts, United States	 

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NAME ALTERNATE NAME SEX

First Names

Last Names

Add Life Event

BIRTH MARRIAGE RESIDENCE DEATH ANY

Birth Place

Birth Year (Range)
From To

Add Family Member

SPOUSE FATHER MOTHER OTHER PERSON

Add Record Options

LOCATION TYPE BATCH NUMBER
FILM/FICHE/IMAGE GROUP NUMBER (DGS) PRINCIPAL

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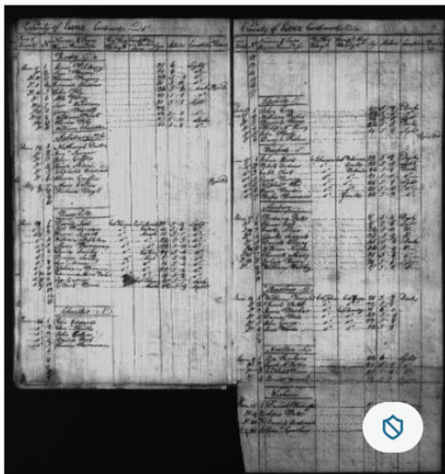
Edmund Morris Baker

Military • United States, Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783

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Name Edmund Morris Baker

Age 16

Event Type Military Service

Event Place Massachusetts, United States

Affiliate Film Number 42

Affiliate Publication Number M246

Affiliate Publication Title Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783.

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Haverhill									
June 19	1	David Lord	Col. Johnson	Capt. Merrill	29	5-4	Light		
d ^o	2	Isaac Harriman	d ^o	Eaton	40	5-6	d ^o		
d ^o	3	Thomas Leggett	d ^o	Mash	18	5-7	d ^o		
d ^o	4	William Appleton	d ^o	d ^o	24	5-5	d ^o		
d ^o	5	Moses Harriman	d ^o	d ^o	22	5-11	d ^o		
d ^o	6	David Smiley	d ^o	Eaton	19	5-4	d ^o		
d ^o	7	Francis Smiley	d ^o	Mash	17	5-2	d ^o		
d ^o	8	Sam ^l Aimes	d ^o	d ^o	16	5-4	d ^o		
d ^o	9	Ephraim Browne	d ^o	d ^o	25	5-1	d ^o		
d ^o	10	Edmund Morris Baker	d ^o	d ^o	16	5-2	d ^o		
d ^o	11	Asa Carrier	d ^o	Capt. Johnson	40	5-7	dark		
d ^o	12	Gilbert Bond	d ^o	Mash	22	5-9	light		
	13								

List of Soldiers from Haverhill, Massachusetts

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Not all Revolutionary War rolls
contain age. Additional research is
needed to verify their age.

Muster Roll of Capt. Daniel Piatt's Comp. 1st Regiment Commanded by Colonel Matthias Ogden, Taken for the Month January 1779

Commissioned Officers. { Daniel Piatt Captain
William Piatt 1st Lieut. & Command.
Elden Burrows 2nd Lieut.

N ^o	Serjeants	Intaled	Warr	3 Year	9 Mon	Remarks	N ^o	Corporals	Intaled	Warr	3 Year	9 Mon	Remarks
1	James Holmes ✓		1				1	Benj. Osman ✓		1			
2	Wm. Halbrook ✓		1				2	Joseph Stout ✓		1			
3	Folbert Dow ✓				1		3	John Hubble ✓		1			B. Wifford
4	Philo W. Gray ✓		1			Sub Pluckimin							
1	James Pardon Drum ✓		1				1	Dad. Bertron fife ✓		1			
N ^o	Private	Intaled				Remarks	N ^o	Private	Intaled				Remarks
1	John Piatt ✓	Volunt.					40	Jos. Wright ✓		1			
2	Benj. Gonyard ✓	26 May					41	John W. Galt ✓	31 May			1	
3	Isa. Crane ✓	21 J ^y					42	Peter Doty ✓	21 J ^y			1	
4	John Storm ✓	B.					43	John Compton ✓	J ^y			1	
5	Peter Taylor ✓						44	Isaac Wood ✓		1			

Muster Roll, 1st New Jersey Regiment,
FamilySearch Film #007196989

Revolutionary War Pension History

- **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 for 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

Revolutionary War Pension History (Cont'd)

- **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.

Revolutionary War Pension History (Cont'd)

- **1853:** All widow restrictions were eliminated.
- **1878:** Widows authorized pensions for life if the veteran served a minimum of two weeks.

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

Survivor's Pension Information Collected

- Name
- Age
- Residence
- Letter from veteran soldier
- Affidavits from those that served with the soldier

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

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United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900

Pension and bounty land warrant application files of veterans and widows of veterans who served in the Revolutionary War. The files correspond to National Archive publication M804 Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files and contain applications and other documents in support of a claim. The index was created by Fold3.

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First Names

Last Names

Birth Place

Birth Year

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Historical Record Filtered Search Results (377)

Collection: Military, United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900 (377) 

Collection Sex Race Other Residence

Name	Events	Relationships
John Piatt Principal United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900	Pension Bergen, New Jersey, United States	 
John D Piatt Principal United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900	Pension Bergen, New Jersey, United States	 
John H Piatt Principal United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900	Pension Middlesex, Connecticut, United States	 

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NAME ALTERNATE NAME SEX

First Names

Last Names

Add Life Event

BIRTH MARRIAGE RESIDENCE DEATH ANY

Birth Place

Birth Year (Range)

Add Family Member

SPOUSE FATHER MOTHER OTHER PERSON

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LOCATION TYPE BATCH NUMBER
FILM/FICHE/IMAGE GROUP NUMBER (DGS) PRINCIPAL

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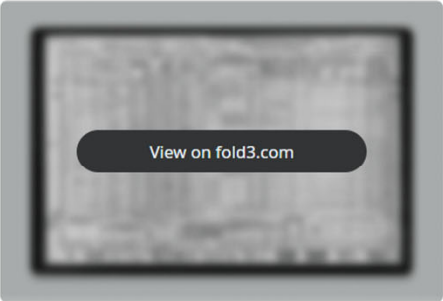
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John Piatt

Pension • United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900

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Document Information

▼

Name	John Piatt
Residence Place	New Jersey
Event Type	Pension
Event Place	Bergen, New Jersey, United States
Event Place (Original)	New Jersey
File Name	1931
Pension Number	W. 1,473
Source Publication Title	Revolutionary War Pensions
Affiliate Publication Number	M804
Affiliate Publication Title	Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files

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John Piatt

Pension • United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900

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Document Information

Collection Information

Event Place (Original) New Jersey

File Name 1931

Pension Number W. 1,473

Source Publication Title Revolutionary War Pensions

Affiliate Publication Number M804

Affiliate Publication Title Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files

Affiliate Name National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

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Affidavit of John D. Piatt

Bergen Common Pleas
State of New Jersey }
Bergen County - } P
On the 24th day of October 1832.
Personally appeared in open court before the
Judge now sitting, being a court of record so consti-
tuted by the laws of the State of New Jersey John D
Piatt a resident of Pequannock, monie County
and State of New Jersey aged sixty ^{four} years 15" March last
who being first sworn according to law, doth on
his oath make the following declaration in order
to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed
the 4th June 1832 -
That he entered the service of the United
States under the following named officers, and
served as herein stated -
That he enlisted as a Private at the age
of ten years in the company of Daniel
Piatt (who was his Father) in the 1st New
Jersey Regiment, New Jersey Line, as well as he
can recollect at this time, in the latter part of

Fold3 Transcription

[eI

You can find Revolutionary
War pensions in the National
Archives catalogue for free

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Record Group 15: Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs

Series **PARTIALLY AVAILABLE IN THE CATALOG**

Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service, ca. 1800-ca. 1912

Other titles: Revolutionary War Pension Files / Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files

Creators:
Department of the Interior. Bureau of Pensions. (1849 - 1930) (Most Recent)
War Department. Office of the Secretary. (1789 - 09/18/1947) (Predecessor)
War Department. Military Bounty Lands and Pension Branch. (ca. 1810 - 1815) (Predecessor)

NAID: 300022 | Textual Records | Collected: ca. 1800-ca. 1912 | Covers: ca. 1775-ca. 1900

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1–20 of 184 results for **Piatt, John** in 1.00 seconds.

Results per page: 20

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File Unit

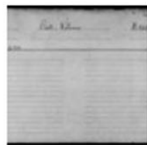
**Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application File W. 1,473,
for John D Piatt, New Jersey**

Pensioner: Jane Piatt. Veteran's Service: New Jersey.

 NAID: 196398200

 Creators: **War Department. Military Bounty Lands and Pension Branch. ca. 1810-1815; War Department. Office of the Secretary. 1789-9/18/1947; Department of the Interior. Bureau of Pensions. 1849-1930**

 Series: **Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service**



File Unit

**Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application File R. 8221,
for William Piatt, New Jersey**

Veteran's Service: New Jersey U.S.A. 1799 To 1834.

 NAID: 196398300

 Creators: **War Department. Military Bounty Lands and Pension Branch. ca. 1810-1815; War Department. Office of the Secretary. 1789-9/18/1947; Department of the Interior. Bureau of Pensions. 1849-1930**

 Series: **Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service**



File Unit

**Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application File S. 10,676,
for Harmanus Phlipse, New York**

Veteran's Service: New York.

 NAID: 196398671

 Creators: **War Department. Military Bounty Lands and Pension Branch. ca. 1810-1815; War Department. Office of the Secretary. 1789-9/18/1947; Department of the Interior. Bureau of Pensions. 1849-1930**

 Series: **Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service**

Archives.gov

Pension Roll of 1835

- In 1834/1835, the U.S. Senate passed a series of resolutions requiring a list be compiled of pensioners who were drawing pensions for service in the Revolutionary War
- Some War of 1812 veterans may be listed
 - Most appear in later pension rolls

U.S., The Pension Roll of 1835

☐ Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s)

Last Name

Day

Month

Year

Location

Birth

Death

Lived In

City, County, State, Count

Any Event

City, County, State, Count

Keyword

e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers" ▾

Day

Month

Year

Pension
Enrollment
Date

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Title

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State

Related data collections

[U.S., Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900](#)

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 10" x

Ancestry.com

Ernest's Brother	do	30 02	230 00	Virginia militia	Oct. 3, 1857	do	75
Richard Westbrook	"	30 03	64 07	Prova militia	Sept. 16, 1853	do	75
Thomas Graham	do	30 05	130 76	Virginia State Co.	Aug. 25, 1853	do	75
William Williams	"	30 07	100 00	"	Jan. 21, 1854	do	75
Wheatley, Wm.							
John Heywood	"	30 08	29 00	Virginia militia	Oct. 5, 1852	do	75
Anthony Palmer	"	30 10	130 07	Prova militia	Sept. 26, 1853	do	75
Leahurst Jones	"	30 12	120 03	Virginia militia	Oct. 5, 1852	do	75
William Marshall	"	30 13	87 00	"	Oct. 5, 1852	do	75
Charles Heywood	"	30 15	100 00	Prova militia	Sept. 26, 1853	do	75
William Taylor	"	30 16	90 00	N. Carolina militia	Sept. 26, 1853	do	75
Harley B. Wadley	"	30 18	"	Generalized B. Co.	Jan. 17, 1854	do	65
Suspended.							
Adam Adams	"	30 19	100 00	Virginia militia	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
John Clifton	"	30 20	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Caldwell	"	30 21	100 00	Virginia militia	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
Joseph Rogers	"	30 22	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 23	100 00	Virginia militia	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 24	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 25	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 26	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 27	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 28	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 29	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 30	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 31	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 32	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 33	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 34	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 35	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 36	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 37	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 38	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 39	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 40	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 41	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 42	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 43	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 44	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 45	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 46	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 47	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 48	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 49	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 50	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 51	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 52	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 53	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 54	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 55	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 56	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 57	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 58	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 59	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 60	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 61	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 62	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 63	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 64	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 65	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 66	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 67	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 68	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 69	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 70	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 71	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 72	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 73	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 74	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 75	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 76	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 77	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 78	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 79	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 80	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 81	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 82	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 83	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 84	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 85	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 86	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 87	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 88	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 89	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 90	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 91	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 92	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 93	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 94	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 95	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 96	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 97	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 98	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
William Adams	"	30 99	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77
James Smith	"	30 100	100 00	"	Aug. 27, 1853	do	77

James Kincaid

U.S., The Pension Roll of 1835



Save this record?

Save

Detail ⓘ

Name	James Kincaid
Rank	Private
Age	71
Birth Year	abt 1760 [abt 1760]
Pension Enrollment Date	4 Mar 1831
Residence Place	Lafayette, Missouri, USA

Ancestry.com

Benjamin Proctor	-	do	80 00	200 00	Virginia militia	Oct. 3, 1833	do	74	Died August 30, 1833.
Richard Westbrook	-	do	26 66	64 07	Penn. militia	Sep. 18, 1833	do	74	
CRAWFORD.									
Thomas Snelson	-	do	56 08	168 24	Virginia State tr.	Sep. 18, 1833	do	74	
William Wright	-	do	80 00	240 00	do	Jan. 31, 1834	do	75	
FRANKLIN.									
John Epperson	-	do	20 00	50 00	Virginia militia	Oct. 3, 1833	do	70	Suspended.
Leonard Farrar	-	do	40 00	120 00	N. Carolina militia	Sep. 26, 1833	do	70	
Littlebury Hunt	-	do	40 00	100 00	Virginia militia	do	do	73	
William Mitchell	-	do	20 00	50 00	do	Ap'l 2, 1833	do	70	
Hartly Sappington	-	do	40 00	-	Pennsylvania mil.	Ap'l 28, 1833	do	76	
Russel Twitty	-	do	30 00	90 00	N. Carolina militia	Sep. 26, 1833	do	70	
Charles H. Whittlesey	-	do	30 00	-	Connecticut St. tr.	June 19, 1834	do	63	
HOWARD.									
Amos Ashcraft	-	do	80 00	193 54	Virginia militia	Aug. 29, 1833	do	77	Died August 5, 1833.
Abner Chappell	-	do	20 00	50 00	do	May 13, 1833	do	71	
James Callaway	-	do	80 00	240 00	Virg. continental	May 3, 1834	do	78	
Joseph Huges	-	do	27 43	82 29	Penn. militia	Ap'l 28, 1834	do	81	
Clabourn Johnson	-	do	50 00	150 00	Virginia State tr'p.	May 28, 1834	do	74	
William Long	-	do	73 33	219 99	do	Feb. 6, 1833	do	74	
James Noble	-	do	80 00	240 00	Virg. continental	Jan. 29, 1834	do	73	
Samuel Tomlin	-	do	20 00	60 00	Virginia militia	Ap'l 28, 1833	do	79	
Edward Williams	-	Pri. & ser.	29 16	87 48	N. C. militia	Feb. 6, 1833	do	73	
Jesse Walker	-	Private	80 00	240 00	do	Jan. 29, 1834	do	86	
JACKSON.									
William Moore	-	do	80 00	200 00	Virginia cont'l	Oct. 17, 1833	do	77	
Ledston Noland	-	do	80 00	-	N. C. militia	Ap'l 8, 1834	do	84	
LAFAYETTE.									
James Demaster	-	do	80 00	240 00	Virg. cont'l	May 2, 1833	do	71	
Joshua Ferguson	-	do	20 00	-	S. Carolina St. tr.	July 16, 1834	do	80	
James Kincaid	-	do	58 11	174 33	Virginia militia	Ap'l 28, 1834	do	71	
LINCOLN.									
Joseph Brown	-	do	80 00	240 00	N. C. State troops	Oct. 17, 1833	do	77	
William Butler	-	do	20 00	60 00	Virg. State troops	Jan. 9, 1834	do	72	
James Cannon	-	Pr. of cav.	100 00	300 00	S. Carolina militia	Aug. 29, 1833	do	73	

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[514]

Children Also Served as Spies

- Children were used as couriers to send messages through British lines
- They used codes, invisible ink, and hid messages
- They gathered intelligence on British troop movements and counted their weapons

The Darragh Family

- During the occupation of the city of Philadelphia in 1777, William Darragh, a schoolteacher, wrote messages that his wife Lydia sewed into their son John's coat buttons
- John was only 14 years old. He wasn't stopped by the sentries while passing and re-passing through the city.
- He met his older brother Charles outside of the occupied city to deliver the messages.

Source: *Invisible Ink: Spycraft of the American Revolution* by John Nagy



clements.umich.edu/exhibit/spy-letters-of-the-american-revolution

Boycotts and Mob Enforcement

Boycotts

- Children joined their parents in boycotting British goods, including tea and textiles
- They pledged to wear homespun clothes and brewed herbal teas.



Spinning Bees

- Gatherings of women and young girls spinning yarn
- The amount of thread and yarn produced at the spinning bees was published in the newspapers



Abigail (Morse) Belcher

An Old Lady.

Mrs. Abigail Belcher, widow of the late Atherton Belcher, now residing with her son-in-law, Mr. S. Willard Wild, in Canton, near the Stoughton line, will, on the 13th of this month, have reached her one-hundredth year. Her children, three in number, are now all living, their aggregate ages being 215 years. She has contributed aid, by knitting socks, for the soldiers of the Revolution, war of 1812, and those now engaged in the war against the rebellion. A patriotic old lady! May she live to see our country again united and happy.



Courtesy of Stoughton Historical Society

Source: *The Stoughton Sentinel*, 9 Jan. 1864

"Liberty Boys"

- Often organized by the Sons of Liberty
- Teenagers often intimidated merchants and customs officials, including throwing snowballs and other items, engaging in tarring and feathering Loyalists, etc.

Christopher Seider/Snider

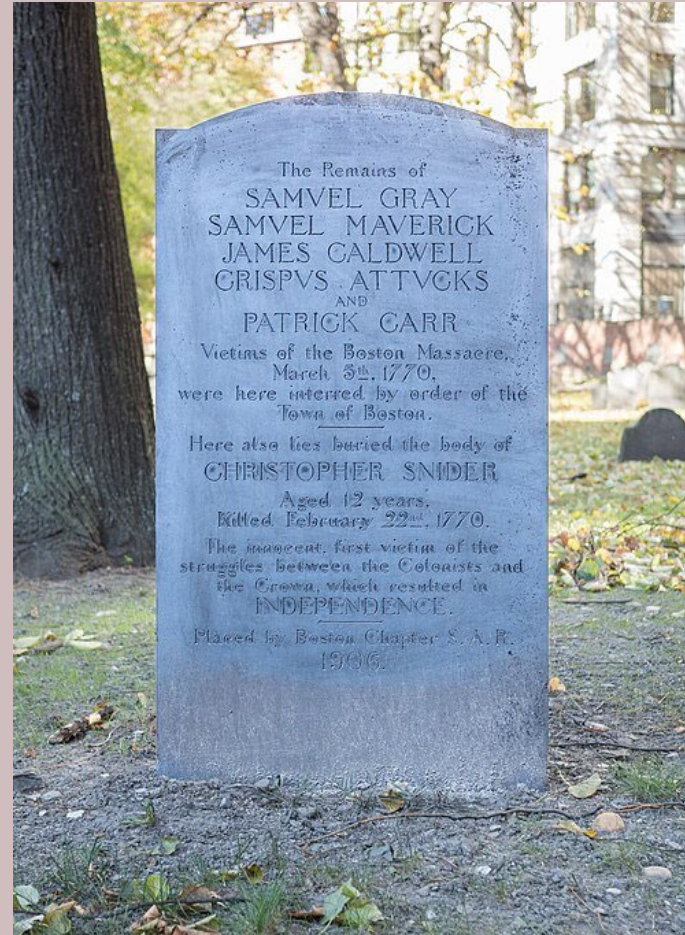
- In 1770, Christopher Seider/Snider (age 11) joined a gang of boys with harassing a Loyalist merchant
- A customs official fired into the crowd and killed Christopher.
- His funeral was widely attended.

Also,
BEAR IN REMEMBRANCE
That on the 22d day of February, 1770,
The infamous
EBENEZER RICHARDSON, Informer,
And tool to Ministerial hirelings,
Most barbarously
MURDERED
CHRISTOPHER SEIDER,
An innocent youth !
Of which crime he was found guilty
By his Country
On Friday April 20th, 1770 ;
But remained *Unsentenced*
On Saturday the 22d day of February, 1772.
When the GRAND INQUEST
For Suffolk county,
Were informed, at request,
By the Judges of the Superior Court,
That EBENEZER RICHARDSON'S Case
Then lay before His MAJESTY.
Therefore said *Richardson*
This day, MARCH FIFTH ! 1772,
Remains UNHANGED !!!
Let THESE things be told to Posterity !
And handed down
From Generation to Generation,
'Till Time shall be no more !
Forever may AMERICA be preserved,
From weak and wicked monarchs,
Tyrannical ministers,
Abandoned Governors,
Their Underlings and Hirelings !
And may the
Machinations of artful, *designing* wretches,
Who would ENSLAVE THIS People,
Come to an end,
Let their NAMES and MEMORIES
Be buried in eternal oblivion,
And the PRESS,
For a SCOURGE to Tyrannical Rulers,
Remain FREE.

The Massachusetts Spy, 5 Mar. 1772.
Accessed via Early American
Newspaper Series I

Christopher Seider/Snider (Cont'd)

- 1st casualty of the American Revolution
- Buried in Granary Burying Ground with the victims of the Boston Massacre.



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The Bank of the United States, at Boston, 5th 183 *3*

RECEIVED of the PRESIDENT, Agent for paying Pensioners,
belonging to the State of *Massachusetts*,

Thirteen Dollars *06* Cents,
being for Months

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U.S. Newspapers

NewspaperArchive

NewspaperArchive is an online database of billions of newspaper articles and obituaries from all over the world, spanning from 1607 to 2023. NewspaperArchive is a great tool for genealogists and historians, providing dates, names and stories, about individuals, communities, and the world.

NewspaperArchive is currently offline. We hope to restore access soon.

19th Century U.S. Newspapers

The **19th Century U.S. Newspapers** database provides access to approximately 1.7 million pages of primary-source newspaper content from throughout the 1800s. It features full text and images from hundreds of papers from every region in the U.S., and it contains a wealth of genealogical content, including birth, death, and marriage notices. A few of the New England and New York papers: *Boston Daily Advertiser*, *New Haven Palladium*, *Bangor Daily Whig and Courier*, *New Hampshire Statesman*, *Providence Patriot*, *Vermont Chronicle*, and *New York Herald*.



Early American Newspapers

Early American Newspapers, Series 1: From Colonies to Nation contains over one million pages of fully searchable early newspapers, such as the *Boston Gazette*, *New-York Evening Post*, and many more. Includes marriage, death, and court records.

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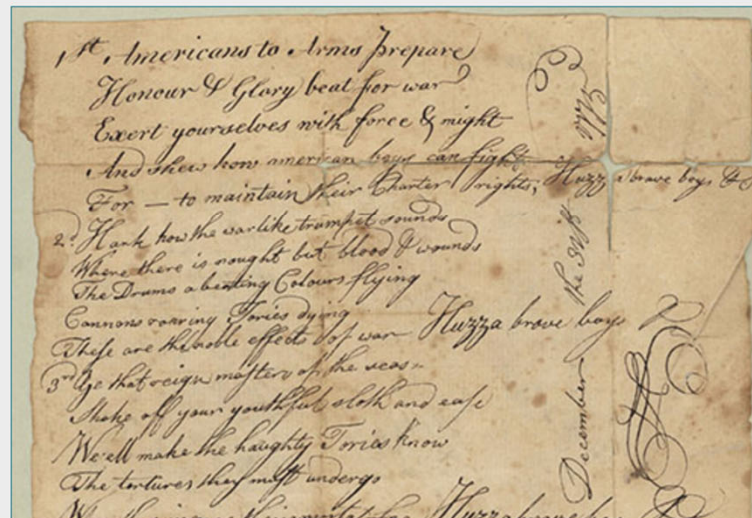
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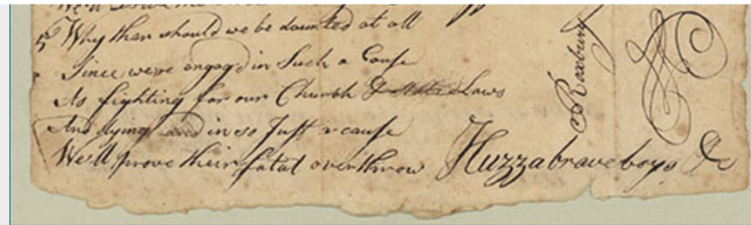
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Revolutionary War Manuscripts



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About this collection

This collection contains selected manuscripts from the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections related to the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783). These collections include account books, commissions, diaries, letters, orderly books, rolls, receipts, and other materials produced by soldiers and sailors that provide details about their military experiences as they served during this war. The collection includes similar documents produced by civilians that provide insight into economic and other effects of the war. The documents primarily relate to events that occurred in New England, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania.

Additional manuscripts will be added to this digital collection on a regular basis.

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A journal of a march from Cambridge [Mass.], on an expedition against Quebec, in Colo. Benedict Arnold[s] detachment, 1775 September 13-1776 June 6.

Mss C 2034

Journal of Joseph Ware documenting the attempted invasion of Quebec, also listing Continental Army members killed, wounded, or taken prisoner.

Canadian Invasion, 1775-1776; Soldiers -- Massachusetts



A journal of the proceedings on board H. M. Ship Hind, Wm Young Esqr Commander from 11th of Augt 1779 to the 26th of Feby 1782, kept by Jas Cox

Mss A 1061

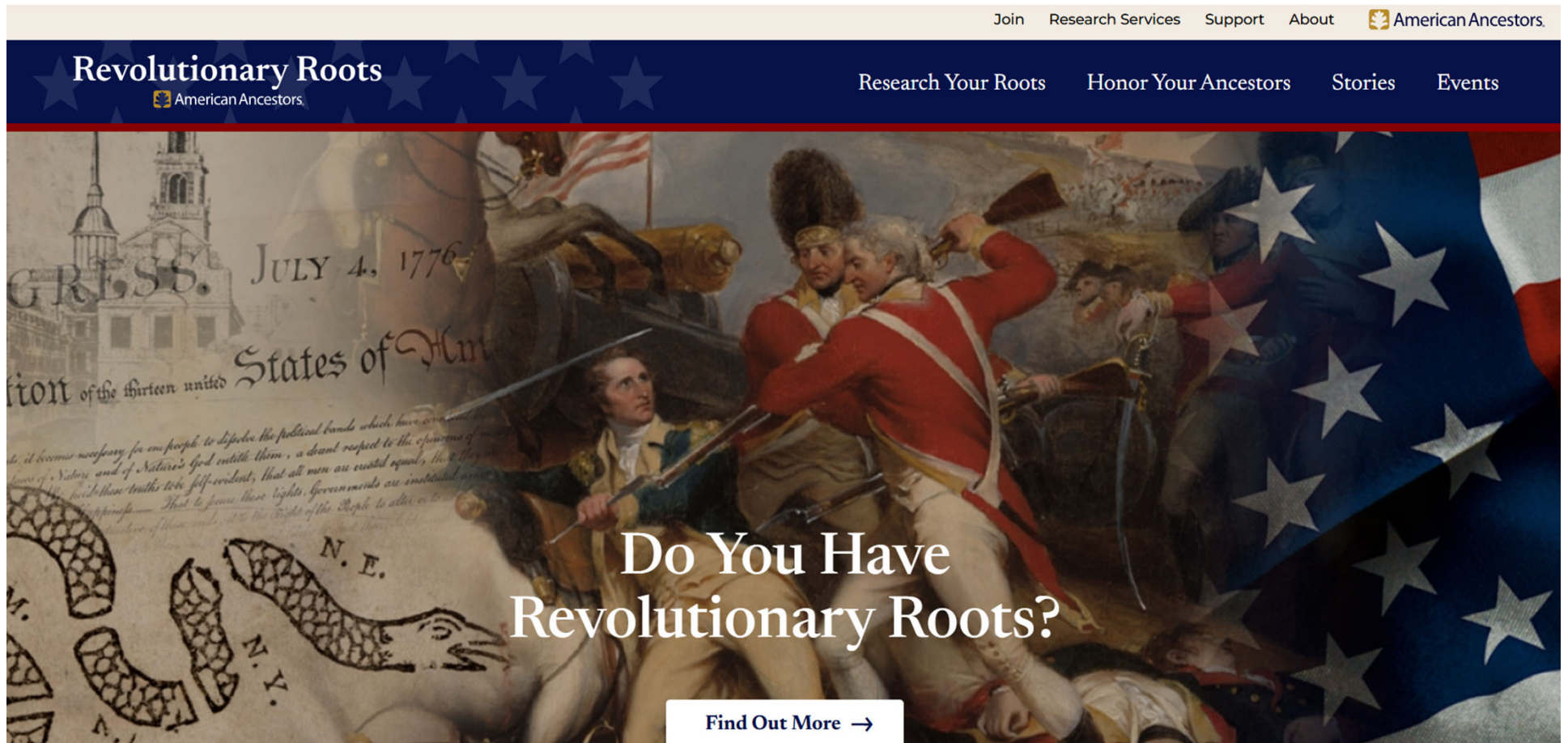
Leather bound diary with ""James Cox / Journal book / Hind"" on the cover. Entries concern the date, winds, and remarks. The remarks include a general description of the

Subject (Names)

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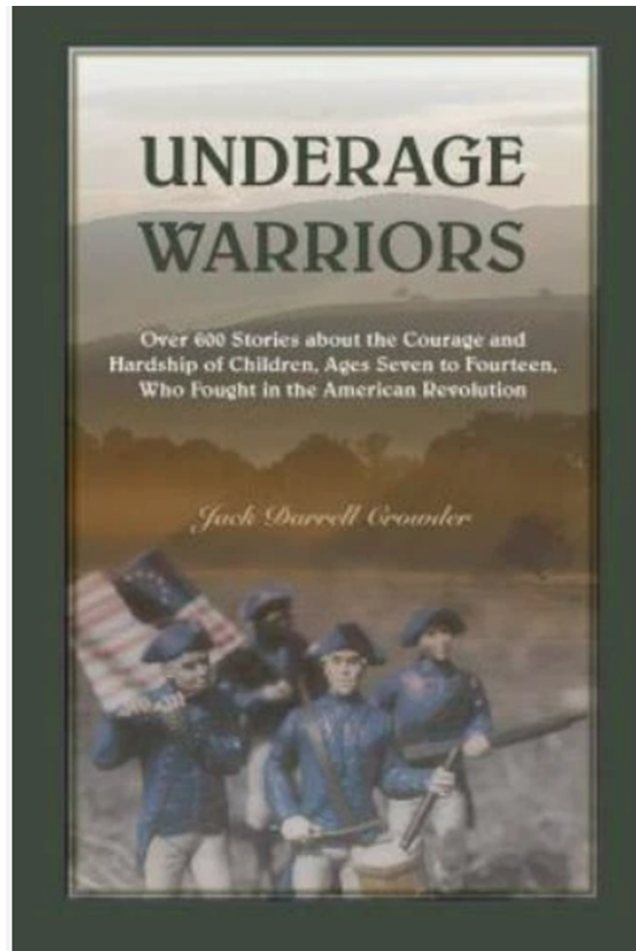
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Published Sources

Underage Warriors **by Jack Darrell Crowder**



Affidavit of John Collinsworth

“In the year 1776 my brother Edmond Collinsworth went to muster in the County of Culpepper state of Virginia where there was a Lieutenant Wescot who was a recruiting officer enlisting soldiers for the term of two years in the continental volunteer companies The said Edmond enlisted and took the bounty. When he returned home and thought of what he had done he did not like it. I stated to my father that I would take his place and I did so. When the company was made up it was put under the command of Capt John Lee from Culpepper County Virginia.”

Affidavit of Gaius Hitchcock

“In the spring of 1778 being then very young I believe about the 1st day of April 1778 I entered for one and half months as a waiter to Captain Bryant then stationed at Springfield Ms. I served out my full term of enlistment and was discharged. Was employed when not waiting upon Captain Bryant in preparing cartridges & ammunition & in carrying them from place where aforesaid to the armory.”

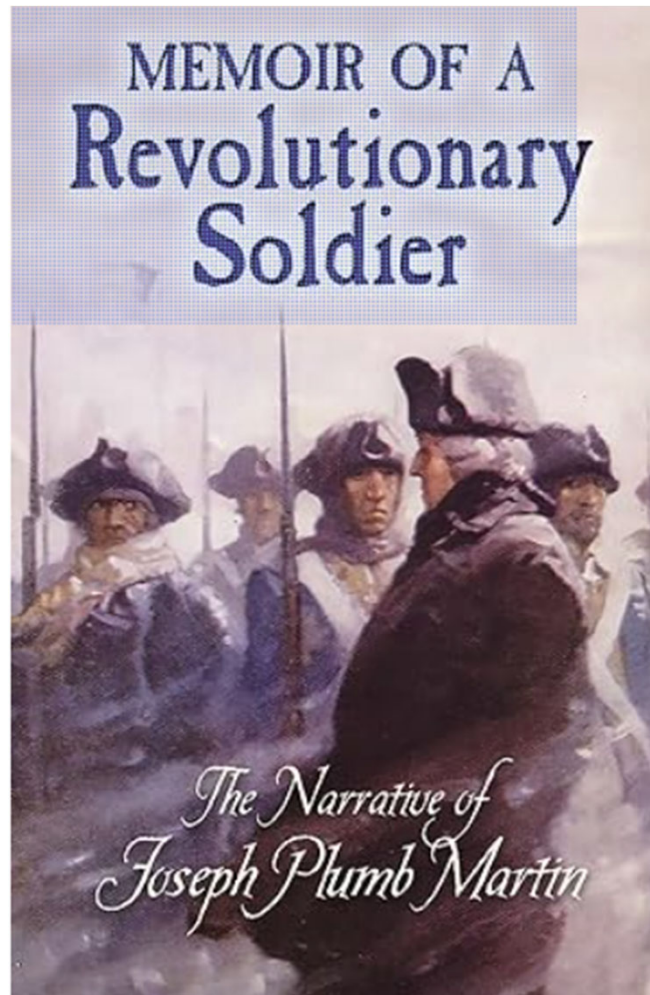
Affidavit of Horatio Jones

“I entered the service of the United States in character of a Musician being a fifer in the autumn of the year 1776...at Princeton where I remained till in the winter when being attacked by the small pox. I was removed to a Pox hospital some two miles from the college where I remained long confined with that disease.”

What Was Written in a Diary?

- The weather
- Chores they completed
- People they met with
- Events that occurred in their local community
- Soldiers recorded their experiences during war including what battles, their time in camp, etc.

Joseph Plumb Martin



Joseph Plumb Martin Details

- Born in 1760 in Berkshire County, Massachusetts
- Ran away from his grandfather's home in Connecticut
- Joined the Continental Army
- Served for eight years

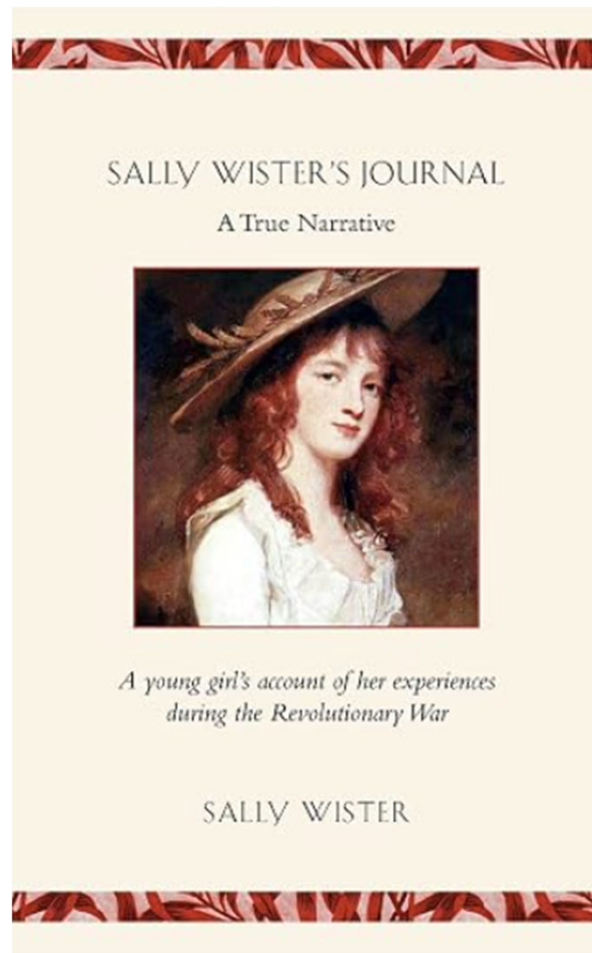
Joseph Martin's Enlistment

"So seating myself at the table, enlisting orders were immediately presented to me; I took up the pen, loaded it with the fatal charge, made several mimic imitations of writing my name, but took especial care not to touch the paper with the pen until an unlucky wight who was leaning over my should gave my hand a stroke, which caused the pen to make a woeful scratch on the paper. "O, he has enlisted," said he, he has made his mark, he is fast enough now." Well, thought I, I may as well go through with the business now as not; so I wrote my name fairly upon the indentures. And now I was a *soldier*, in name at least, if not in practice..."

Joseph Martin's Account of a Female Artillerist

“One little incident happened during the heat of the cannonade, which I was eyewitness to, and which I think would be unpardonable to mention. **A woman whose husband belonged to the artillery and who was then attached to a piece in the engagement, attended with her husband at the piece the whole time.** When in the act of reaching a cartridge and having one of her feet as far before the other as she could step, a cannon shot from the enemy passed directly between her legs without doing any other damage than carrying away all the lower part of her petticoat. Looking at it with apparent unconcern, she observed that it was lucky it did not pass a little higher, for in that case it might have carried away something else, and continued her occupation.”

Sally Wister



Sally Wister Details

- 16 years old
- Quaker family
- Fled after the British occupation of Philadelphia in September 1777
- Kept a journal for her friend Deborah Norris
- Written over a nine-month period

Sally's Family Observing the Military Passing Through

"Yesterday, which was the 24th of September, two Virginia officers call'd at our house, and inform'd us that the British Army has cross'd the Schuylkill. Presently after, another person stopp'd, and confirm'd what they had said, and that Gen'l Washington and Anny were near Pottsgrove. Well, thee may be sure we were sufficiently scared; however, the road was very still till evening.

About seven o'clock we heard a great noise. To the door we all went. A large number of waggons, with about three hundred of the Philadelphia Militia. They begged for drink, and several push'd into the house. One of those that entered was a little tipsy, and had a mind to be saucy."

Sally's Family Observing the Military Passing Through Cont'd

"I then thought it time for me to retreat; so figure me (mightily scar'd, as not having presence of mind enough to face so many of the Military), running in at one door, and out another, all in a shake with fear; but after a while, seeing the officers appear gentlemanly, and the soldiers civil, I call'd reason to my aid. My fears were in some measure dispell'd tho' my teeth rattled, and my hand shook like an aspen leaf. They did not offer to take their quarters with us; so, with many blessings, and as many adieus, they marched off."

Review

1. Newspaper accounts and family stories may be a starting point for researching your family history.
2. Use published resources to locate the original documentation around a potential child soldier to verify their age, their residence, and other details.
3. Diaries can give you a window into a young person's thoughts on war and how it affected their family and community.

QUESTIONS?

Schedule a consultation

consultations@americanancestors.org

Hire Research Services

research@ americanancestors.org



Upcoming Events

IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE

August Adventures at American Ancestors

August 4, 2026, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM ET

AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT

This Land Is Your Land: A Road Trip Through America

Presented by Beverly Gage, Moderated by Edward L. Ayers

August 5, 2026, 6:00 – 7:15 PM ET

ONLINE LECTURE

Conscience and Conflict: The Quaker Experience in the American Revolution

Presented by Rhonda R. McClure

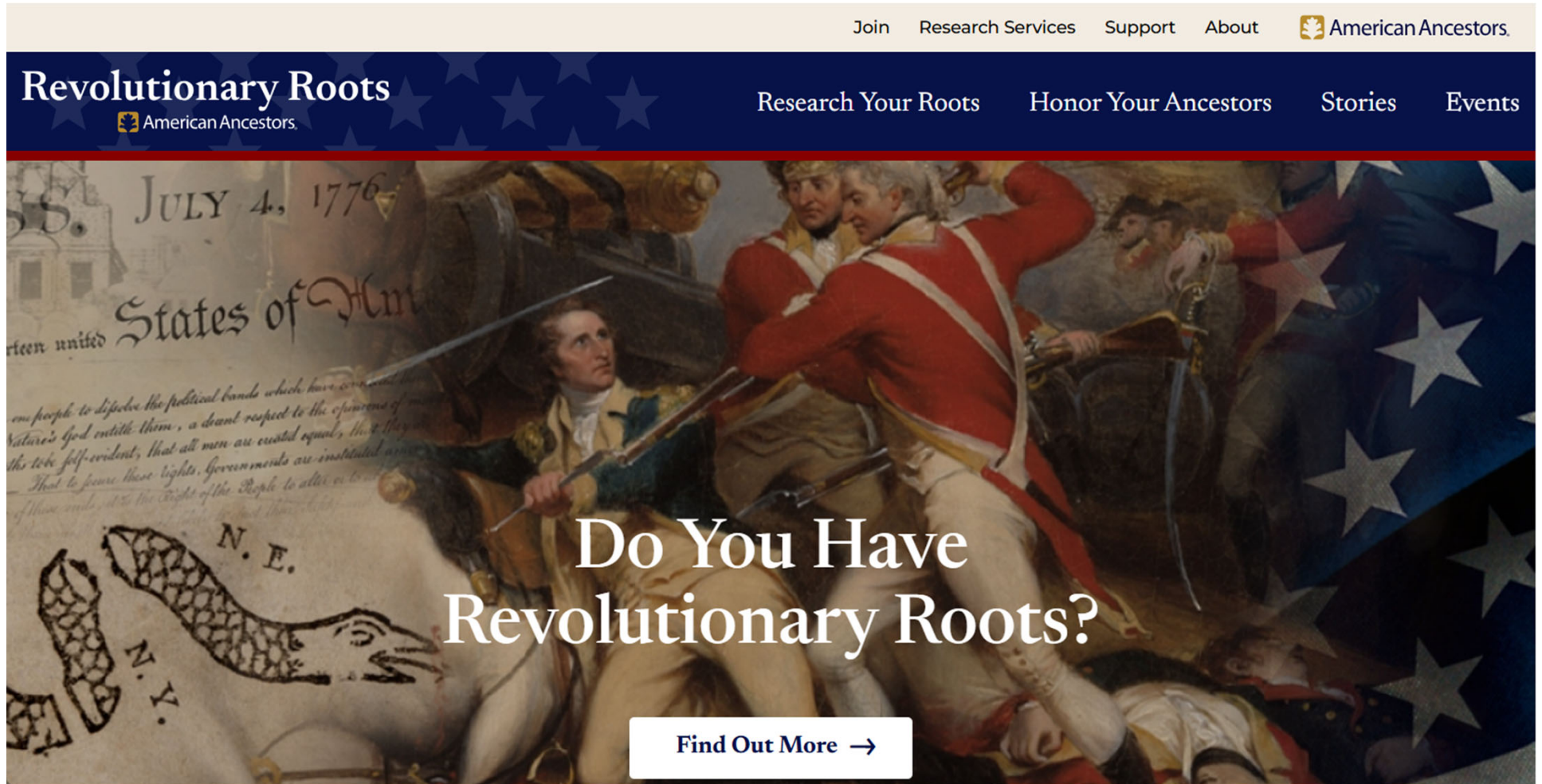
August 15, 2026, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

IN-PERSON EXHIBIT

Patriots of Color

April 23–December 31, 2026

AmericanAncestors.org/Events

The banner features a historical painting of a battle scene, likely the Battle of the Clouds, with soldiers in red and white uniforms. Overlaid on the left is a portion of the Declaration of Independence, showing the date "JULY 4, 1776" and the text "thirteen united States of America". The main text "Do You Have Revolutionary Roots?" is centered in a large, white, serif font. Below it is a white button with the text "Find Out More →". The top of the banner has a dark blue header with the "Revolutionary Roots" logo and the American Ancestors logo, and a navigation bar with links: "Join", "Research Services", "Support", "About", "Research Your Roots", "Honor Your Ancestors", "Stories", and "Events".

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U.S. JULY 4, 1776

thirteen united States of America

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