

Jewish Patriots in the American Revolution

Melanie McComb, Senior Genealogist

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



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Meet today's presenter



Melanie McComb

Senior Genealogist

OVERVIEW

- **Presentation (50 mins.)**
 - Historical Context
 - Motivations
 - Researching service
- **Q&A (10-15 mins.)**

Immigration and Settlement

Sephardic Jewish Migration

- Earliest Jewish immigrants came from Recife, Brazil, arriving in New Amsterdam in 1654
- These 23 immigrants were part of the diaspora that dated back to the 1492 expulsion of Jews from Spain



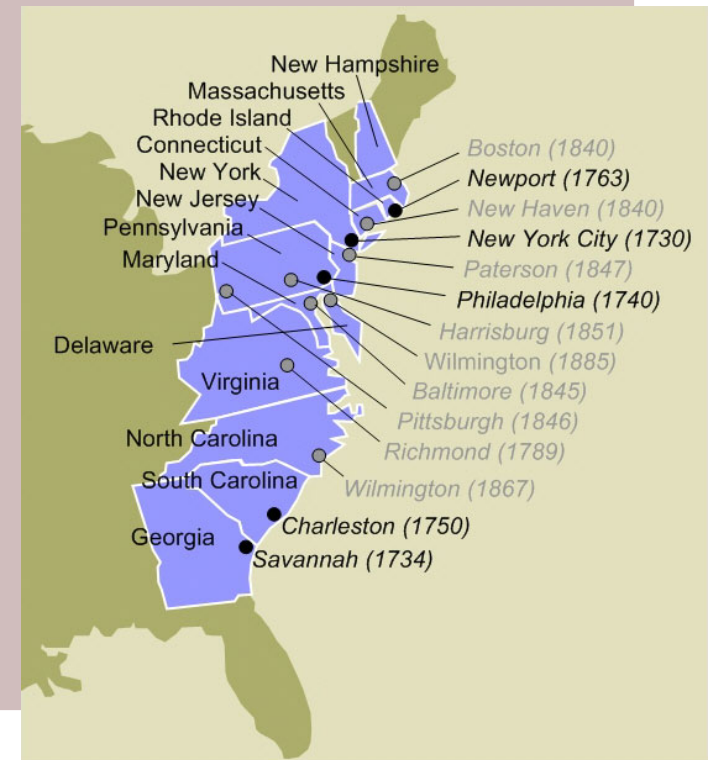
Interior, Kahal Zur Israel
Synagogue in Recife, Brazil

Ashkenazi Jewish Migration

- Earliest Ashkenazi Jewish immigrants started arriving in the late 17th and 18th centuries.
- They came from Central and Eastern Europe.
- They outnumbered Sephardic Jews in some ports around 1730.

Pre-American Revolution

- Both Sephardic and Ashkenazi merchants began to establish homes in colonial ports:
 - Newport, Rhode Island
 - New Amsterdam (now New York)
 - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 - Charleston, South Carolina
 - Savannah, Georgia



The Jewish Population in the Thirteen Colonies

- Approximately 2,500 Jews lived in the colonies during the American Revolution (0.1% of total population)
- Colonial synagogues adhered to Sephardic ritual and controlled all aspects of Jewish religious life.



Congregation Shearith Israel in
Manhattan, New York City

English Plantation Act of 1740

- A law passed by Parliament to allow non-British subjects to become natural-born subjects of the Crown. This included Jews, Quakers, and other Protestant dissenters.
- Applicants had to live in an American colony for seven consecutive years, with no more than a two-month absence
- They had to swear an oath of allegiance to the King and take the Protestant sacrament in open court

English Plantation Act of 1740

Cont'd

- Jews were permitted to omit the phrase “upon the truth faith of a Christian” from the oath
- Once naturalized, individuals could not sit on the Privy Council, enter Parliament, hold civil or military trust offices, or receive Crown land grants in Great Britain or Ireland

Pushback on Naturalization

- In 1761 and 1762, the Rhode Island Superior Court and General Assembly rejected the citizenship petitions of prominent Newport merchants, Aaron Lopez and Isaac Elizer.
- The rejection was because they were non-Christians who would not take the mandatory naturalization oath on a Bible.
- New York and Massachusetts ultimately granted Aaron and Isaac citizenship.



Aaron Lopez

Jewish Response to the American Revolution

Proclamation Act of 1763

- After the French and Indian War, many Jews settled in Western Pennsylvania selling goods to the frontiers in exchange for furs.
 - They were stifled by the Proclamation Act of 1763 who wanted to settle further west but were prohibited by the British from doing so.



Jewish Boycotts

- Many Jewish merchants expressed their discontent with British taxation
- Among the 375 signatories of a non-importation agreement in Philadelphia in 1765, nine Jews had signed.
- Jewish merchants such as Isaac Adolphus of New York advertised American made goods, saying they were “equal in price and superior in goodness to British goods”

A Merchant's Thoughts on the Non-Importation Resolution

- Bernard Gratz, a prominent Philadelphia merchant, wrote a letter while visiting in London to his brother Michael back home in Pennsylvania
- Gratz had signed the Non-Importation Resolution and wrote that King George's speech to Parliament about the imperial crisis was such "narishkeit" (Yiddish for "foolishness") that it was not worth paying the postage to enclose a transcript.

Response to Lexington and Concord

- After the first shots at Lexington and Concord, there was a day of prayer on May 12, 1776.
- The Jews of the Mill Street Synagogue in New York prayed for their “Sovereign Lord, George III...to turn away their fierce wrath from against North America” and repeated several biblical phrases for peace and reconciliation.



Response to the Declaration of Independence

- Jonas Phillips of Philadelphia took a holiday to celebrate from July 3 to July 7 after the vote for independence.
- The Fourth of July 1776 also coincided with the Seventeenth of Tammuz, which is a fast day commemorating the destruction of the Holy Temples in Jerusalem.



The Battlefield

Military Service

- Approximately 100 Jewish men served with the Continental Army across all theaters of war.
- Enlisted as privates as well as officers
- Also served with state militias

Jewish Regiments

- Many of Charleston's Jewish men served in Captain Richard Lushington's company, which was nicknamed the "Jew Company"
- This company was not purposely segregated to only have Jewish men, and they were not a majority within the regiment.
- James Bentham, another Charleston merchant, also commanded a regiment containing Jewish men.

Francis Salvador

- Former member of the Provincial Congress of South Carolina and General Assembly
- Served with the South Carolina militia
- He is remembered as the first Jewish patriot to die during the Revolution
- “The Jewish Paul Revere”
- He was shot and scalped by Cherokee who allied with the British on August 1, 1776

Benjamin Nones

- Born in Bordeaux, France
- Emigrated to Philadelphia about 1772
- Joined Continental Army in 1777
- Became Major towards end of war
- After the war he was appointed as an interpreter of Spanish and French for the U.S. government



Courtesy of Loeb Jewish
Portrait Database

Mordecai Sheftall

- Assisted in smuggling gunpowder to Boston in 1776
- Appointed as Commissary General for Continental Army in Georgia, highest ranking Jewish officer
- Was captured with son Sheftall during the December 1778 fall of Savannah
- They escaped but were re-captured and sent to Caribbean until they were paroled in 1780.



Courtesy of the Loeb Jewish
Portrait Database

The Homefront

Patriotic Service

- Besides military service, Jewish men and women demonstrated their loyalty to the Patriot cause in other ways
- This included loaning money and paying for food, ammunition, and other supplies
- Gratz brothers and Hayman Levy of York served as de facto bankers for the Continental Army and militias, loaning money and paying for supplies and seeking reimbursement from Congress

Military Supplies

- Many merchants created supplies for the troops
- Gratz brothers used local manpower to make uniforms for soldiers
- Joseph Simon of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania manufactured rifles
- Isaac Moses leased ships as privateer vessels

Haym Salomon

- Born in Leszno, Poland, he was from a Sephardic Jewish family, immigrated to New York around 1775
- Became a key financial broker and financier of the American Revolution, working alongside Robert Morris, Superintendent of Finance
- Raised money (over \$650K) to pay troops and purchase provisions to keep the army advancing at Yorktown



Abigail Minnis

- German-born Ashkenazi Jewish immigrant, land owner, merchant, and plantation owner in Savannah, Georgia
- After being widowed in 1757, she managed a popular tavern that hosted colonial leaders
- Actively supported the Patriot cause by supplying food and provisions to the troops

Gershom Mendes Seixas

- In 1766, leader of Shearith Israel, New York City's first and oldest Sephardic congregation
- When the British fleet approached New York Bay that summer, he gave an emotional sermon warning that the day's services would be the last held when British occupation started.
- The entrance of the synagogue closed; Gershom and the community fled New York for Stratford, Connecticut
- In 1780, he helped establish Congregation Mikveh Israel in Philadelphia
- He invoked blessings on Congress and Commander George Washington.



Rebecca Gomez

- Jewish merchant and chocolatier who owned a shop in Manhattan during the British occupation
- Her customers included Robert Townshend of George Washington's Culper Spy Ring
- Traded drinking chocolate as an alternative to British tea

Advertisement published in *The Royal American Gazette*, December 2, 1780

REBECCA GOMEZ,
Has for sale at the CHOCOLATE Manufactory
No. 14, upper end Nassau-street between
Commiffary Butler's and the Brick Meeting.
SUPERFINE warranted CHOCOLATE,
S wholefale and retail, white wine Vinegar
by the cask or fingle gallon at 4 s.—Spermaceti
oil and common Lamp oilto, Fig Blue, soap
starch, &c. &c. Also a few gros Mogul and
Andrew playing Cards, at a low rate and by
the dozen. †

Finding the Records



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.

HOW TO USE THIS COLLECTION

First Names

Last Names

Birth Place

Birth Year

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Contents of a Military Service Record

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

David Emmanuel

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

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Name **David Emmanuel**

Military Regiment **Bickham's Company, Georgia Militia**

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**

FamilySearch.org

C | Bickham's Company. **Georgia Militia.**

David Emmanuel

Appears with the rank of *Priv* on a

Pay Roll

of the commissioned and non-commissioned officers and privates of Capt. Abner Bickham's Company of Militia of Burk county in the State of Georgia, commanded by Col. Asa Emmanuel,

(Revolutionary War,

from *Aug 15 - 1781 to Feb 1 - 1782*

1782, with the subsistence money.

Commencement of time *Aug 15, 1781*.

To what time *Feb 1, 1782*.

Amount of time *5* months *15* days.

Pay per month in dollars *9*

Subsistence money

The whole amt. in dollars *49 1/2*

Remarks:

Pay Roll, Private David Emmanuel, FamilySearch

Muster Rolls

What's a Muster Roll?

- 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).

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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.

First Names Last Names

Place Year

City, County, State, Province, or Country Birth or Death Year

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Revolutionary War Rolls

Records: 1,647,555 · Complete: 100%

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Browse these rolls by state and name of organization (regiment, battalion, guard, company, etc.). Find names of soldiers with the help of annotations supplied by other Fold3 users and feel free to add your own. Thousands of records from 138 rolls of microfilm provide names and details about the men who fought for independence.

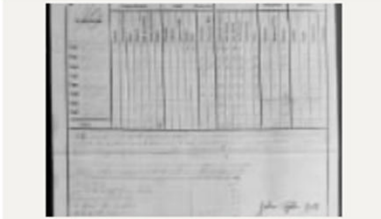
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Example Records

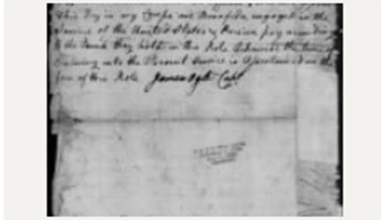
1770 2nd Regiment Connecticut Rolls



1776 10th Regiment Continental Troops



Sample



Fold3.com

37

Muster Roll of the Field Staff and Commissioned Officers of
the 7th Connecticut Regiment of Foot in the Service of the
Revolution, Mustered by Col. H. Swift Per O. C. 1780

Appointed	Officers Names Rank	Remarks	20
June 1 st 77	Nathan Swift Col.	Light Infantry	
May 25 th 78	Mordecai Holdridge Lt. Col.		
July 10 th 78	Broderick Woodcock Major	Br. Maj. & Insp.	
Sept. 11 th 78	Joseph W. Wood Lt. Col.	Light Infantry	
Aug. 1 st 79	Phineas Groves Lt. Col.	Transferred to 26 th Oct. 79	
Oct. 26 th 79	Phineas Groves Lt. Col.	Appointed Oct. 26 th 79	
July 26 th 79	Augustin Taylor Lt. Col.		
Oct. 15 th 79	Henry Daggett Lt. Col.		
Aug. 1 st 80	Samuel Mathew Surgeon		
	1 st Company		
June 1 st 77	Nathan Swift Col. Capt.		

2nd Comp.

May 25 th 78	Mordecai Holdridge Lt. Col. Capt.	
Dec. 2 nd 77	Phineas Groves Lieut.	Promoted to Capt. Lt. Col. 26 th Oct. 79
June 20 th 79	Augustin Taylor Lieut.	Discharged from Capt. 26 th Oct. 79
Oct. 1 st 79	Samuel Mathew Lt. Col.	
Aug. 1 st 80	Joseph W. Wood Lt. Col.	Discharged from Capt. 26 th Oct. 79
Sept. 1 st 80	Thomas Starr Lt. Col.	Discharged from Capt. 26 th Oct. 79
	4 th Comp.	

Muster Roll, 7th Connecticut Regiment, Fold3

Pension Records

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 who served with deceased soldier



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

Collection Details

- Record Type: Military
- 6,959,032 Records
- 24,749,726 Personas
- 6,959,035 Images

FamilySearch.org

(8-1776)

SERVICE

NUMBER

S. G.

Cohen, Gershom

Rebecca

R. 2108

CONTENTS

Fold3.com

State of New York
City & County of New York

On this 5th day of November
1838 personally appeared before
the undersigned, Mrs Rebecca Cohen, a resident of the
City of New York aged 76 years, who being duly
sworn according to Law, hath on her oath, Made the
following declaration in order to be entitled to the
benefit of the provision, Made by the act of Congress pass-
ed July 7th 1838 Entitled an act granting half pay and
pensions to certain Widows "that she is the widow of
Gershom Cohen late of Charleston Dist^{ct} 10th who was a private
Volunteer Soldier during the war of the Revolution, and
served in the same two years, as Depoant has reason to
believe in the following manner, to wit: He at the
commencement of the war took up arms against the
British and served 12 Months and more before the
Surrender of Charleston in May 1780. during this time
he served at the Expedition to drive the British out
of Savannah in October 1779. the Name of the Corps in
which, nor the officers under whom he served, Depoant
cannot have recall to her recollections, said Gershom
Cohen also served at the Siege of Charleston, and when
the Town Surrendered he was Made a prisoner while
under Arms, and retained so a prisoner 12 Months.
Depoant further declares she was Married to the
said Gershom Cohen on the 17 August 1779 in the City
of Charleston so la. and that her Husband the afore-
said Gershom Cohen died in said City on 24th December
1802, and that she has remained a Widow ever
since that period - as will more fully appear by

Widow's Affidavit, Pension of Gershom Cohen,
Fold3

State of South Carolina }
 District of Charleston } We the Trustees of the
 Hebrew Congregation of Charleston South Carolina
 hereby Certify, that, it is the opinion of this commu-
 nity that ^{1779 or} Mr Gershon Cohen ¹⁷⁸⁰ was married
 in the year ^{1779 or} 1780 to Mrs Rebecca Cohen. widow
 that he was always regarded as a Revolutionary
 Soldier, and that she was esteemed as a respectable
 married lady. We also Certify that said Gershon
 Cohen died in the year 1802. and that the
 statements of said Rebecca Cohen. the widow
 of said Gershon Cohen are entitled to full
 Credit, and we do therefore recommend
 our case to the favorable consideration of the
 Department. In testimony whereof we have
 hereunto subscribed our names, and affixed
 the Seal of the Congregation this 30 day of September
 1838 - and we also Certify that the records of the
 Church were burnt or destroyed in the year 1790
 and in the month of April 1838

Nathan Hart
 H. M. Herz
 Abr^m. Ottolengui

Moses
 Valentine
 Secy.

Letter Supporting Marriage from Hebrew Congregation in Charleston, SC, Pension of Gershon Cohen, Fold3

[eI

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1 of 1 result for "Gershom Cohen" in 0.56 seconds.

Results per page: 20

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Data Source

Archival Descriptions (1)

Type of Materials

Textual Records (1)

Level of Description

Sort by: Most Relevant

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File Unit

Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application File R. 2108, Gershom Cohen, S.C.

Pensioner: Rebecca Cohen

NAID: 54258396

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

Record Group 15: Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs

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

Catalog.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

Statement, &c. of New Haven county—Continued.

NAMES.	Rank.	Annual allowance.	Sums received.	Description of service.	When placed on the pension roll.	Commencement of pension.	Ages.	Laws under which they were formerly inscribed on the pension roll; and remarks.
Moses Potter	do	96 00	364 85	do	do	Ap'l 16, 1818	82	Died October 3, 1822.
Solomon Pinto	Ensign	240 00	1,443 87	do	May 4, 1818	Mar. 23, 1818	65	Died March 28, 1824.
Samuel Parsons	Private	96 00	1,527 16	Baldwin's regiment	June 12, 1818	Ap'l 8, 1818	74	
Richard Pitis	do	96 00	126 34	Maryland line	do	Ap'l 13, 1818	70	Died August 6, 1819.
John Pierpoint	Matross	96 00	177 82	New York line	June 30, 1818	Ap'l 28, 1818	58	Suspended under act May 1, 1820.
Jotham Prindle	Private	96 00	729 32	do	June 12, 1818	Ap'l 3, 1818	82	Died November 7, 1825.
Samuel Pool	Sergeant	96 00	406 96	Connecticut line	Sep. 21, 1818	May 2, 1818	76	Died July 28, 1822.
Edmund Parker	Private	96 00	382 70	New York line	Sep. 17, 1818	Mar. 25, 1818	68	Died March 19, 1822.
Enos J. Prindle	do	96 00	210 53	do	Sep. 25, 1818	Ap'l 14, 1818	69	Died July 31, 1820.
Galloway Peter	do	96 00	1,528 49	Connecticut line	May 20, 1819	Ap'l 3, 1818	74	
Elias Pond	do	96 00	768 69	do	Sep. 5, 1819	Nov. 13, 1818	79	Dropped under act May 1, 1820. Restored commencing May 14, 1824. Died Jan. 28, 1831.
John Powers	do	96 00	465 03	New Jersey line	Sep. 12, 1821	May 1, 1818	87	
Jonathan Ralph	do	96 00	471 16	Baldwin's corps	June 12, 1818	Ap'l 8, 1818	79	
Harthan Ramsdell	do	96 00	518 39	Massachusetts line	May 4, 1818	Ap'l 11, 1818	70	
Laban Riggs	do	96 00	1009 28	Connecticut line	June 12, 1818	Mar. 31, 1818	80	Died October 4, 1828.
Heman Rogers	do	96 00	1211 12	do	June 5, 1818	April 1, 1818	77	Dropped under act May 1, 1820. Restored commencing June 27, 1823.
David Rogers	do	96 00	268 38	do	do	do	60	Died January 17, 1821.
Thaddeus Rice	do	96 00	1179 53	New Jersey line	Sep. 17, 1818	April 9, 1818	72	Died July 22, 1830.
David Roberts	do	96 00	1529 28	Connecticut line	do	Mar. 25, 1818	74	
Elijah Rouse	do	45 00	1074 74	do	-	Sep. 4, 1794	78	April 20, 1796. Invalid.

Pension Roll of 1835, Connecticut

[Search](#) > [Military](#) > [U.S., Revolutionary War Pensioner Census, 1840](#)

U.S., Revolutionary War Pensioner Census, 1840

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First & Middle Name(s)

Last Name

Any Event

Year

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Location

Keyword

e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers"

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CENSUS OF PENSIONERS.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Names of pensioners for revolutionary or military services.	Ages.	Names of heads of families with whom pensioners resided June 1, 1840.	Names of pensioners for revolutionary or military services.	Ages.	Names of heads of families with whom pensioners resided June 1, 1840.
CITY OF CHARLESTON.			EDGEFIELD--Continued.		
<i>1st ward.</i>					
Joseph Righton - - -	78	Joseph Righton.	Zilpha Nobles - - -	-	Theophilus Loudy.
Mariy G. Mathews - - -	79	O. L. Dobson.	Abner Corley - - -	82	J. W. Devore.
Richard Wall - - -	102	Richard Wall.	Phebe Randal - - -	76	Alfred Randal.
Elizabeth Jeffords - - -	86	Richard Clark.			
Mrs. Isaac Motte - - -	85	Mrs. Isaac Motte.			
<i>2d ward.</i>			LEXINGTON DISTRICT.		
David Sarzedas - - -	80	F. Spencer.	Clem. Clemmons - - -	75	Clem. Clemmons.
S. Cardozo - - -	74	S. Cardozo.	Needham Busby - - -	80	Needham Busby.
Susanna Hall - - -	81	Susanna Hall.			
Mrs. C. C. Smith - - -	68	Mrs. C. C. Smith.			
Mrs. Rachel Lazarus - - -	78	Mrs. Marks Lazarus.	RICHLAND DISTRICT.		
Mrs. Mary Brown - - -	78	Mrs. Mary Brown.	Nancy Higgins - - -	83	Martha Howell.

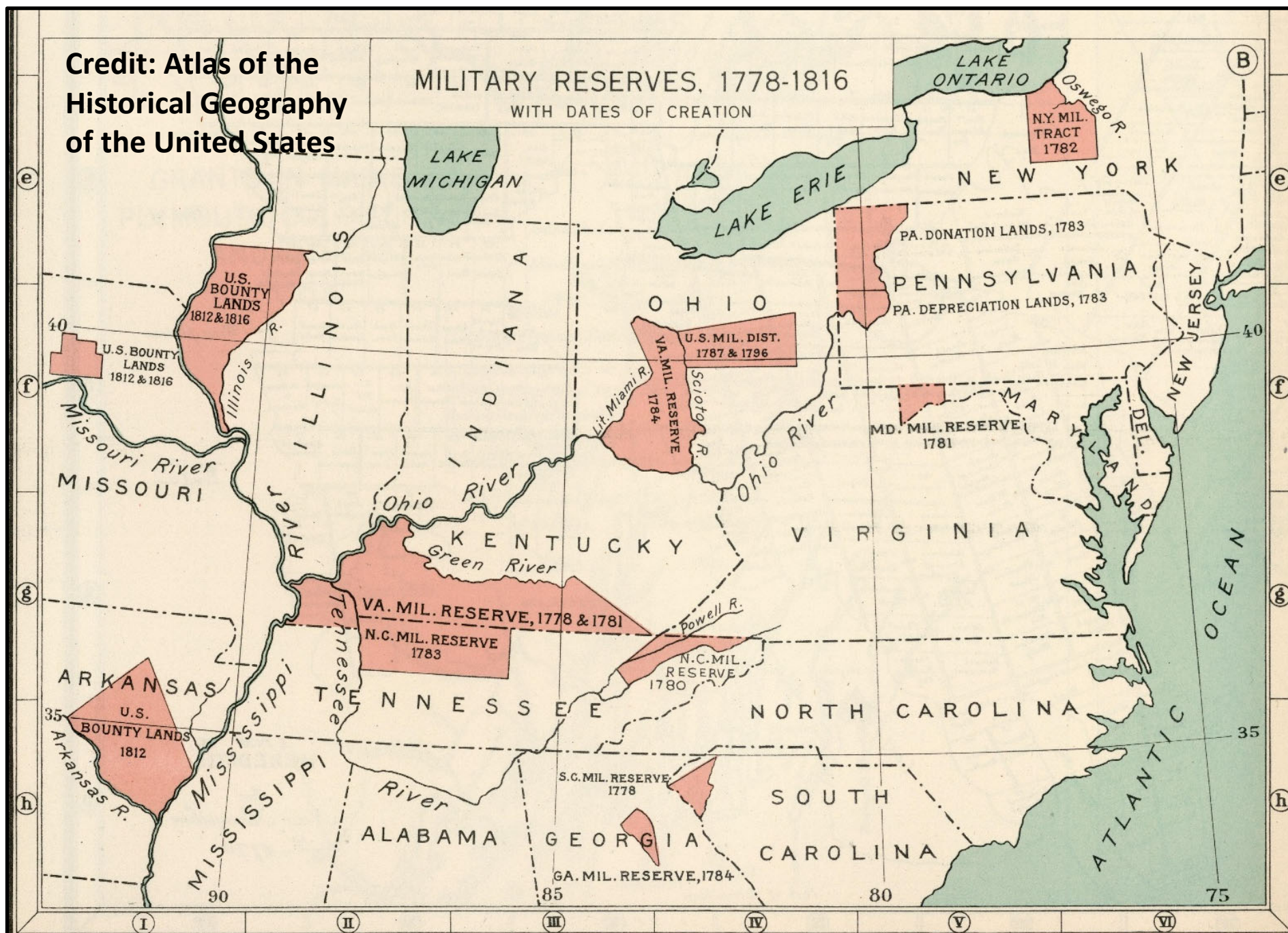
1840 Revolutionary War Pension Census,
South Carolina, Ancestry.com

Bounty Land

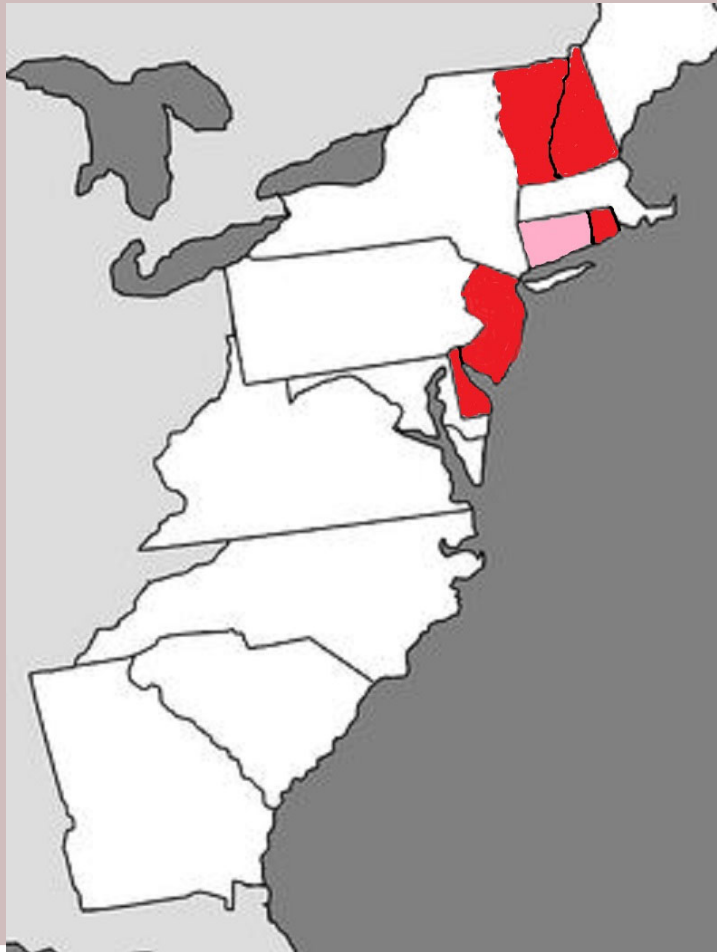
What is Bounty Land?

- To entice soldiers to fight, the Continental Congress in 1776 promised land in exchange for service
- After the war, states had to cede land to federal government
 - Competing land claims among states

**Credit: Atlas of the
Historical Geography
of the United States**



States WITHOUT Bounty Land



- Colonies:
 - New Hampshire
 - Rhode Island
 - New Jersey
 - Delaware
 - Connecticut
- Independent
 - Republic of Vermont

Eligibility

- **Unit:** Continental line
- **Rank:** Soldier or non-commissioned officer
- **Duration:** Minimum three years of service
- **Assignment Allowed:** No (changed in 1788)
- **State Application Allowed:** Yes

Amount by Rank

Rank	Amount
Colonel	500 acres
Lieutenant Colonel	450 acres
Major	400 acres
Captain	300 acres
Lieutenant	200 acres
Ensign	150 acres
Private	100 acres
Resolution: 16 September 1776 Source: NARA Pamphlet Describing M804: Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files	

Process Generated Paper

- Steps
- Federal Agencies
 - Secretary of War reviewed applications and issued warrants
 - Treasury Department supervised selection of land and issued patents
- State Agencies
 - Unique to state

Application

Warrant

Survey

Patent

Possession

Finding Your Patriot

Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck, *Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants Awarded by State Governments* (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1996)

Sheftall, Mordicai. Ga. ———. 22 Jul.
1784. 1150 acres.

Bockstruck's book is on Ancestry as "Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants"

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The DAR Library Restoration Project will commence in July 2026. [Please click here for information and updates.](#)



Genealogical Research System

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution



The DAR Genealogical Research System (GRS) is a free resource provided by the [National Society Daughters of the American Revolution](#) (DAR) to aid general genealogical research and to assist with the DAR membership process. The GRS is a collection of databases that provide access to the many materials amassed by the DAR since its founding in 1890.

DAR members across the country are passionate ambassadors for genealogical preservation and research, and the National Society is committed to being a premier provider of genealogical resources.

The online databases are the culmination of 10 years of work by members volunteering to scan and index the vast genealogical resources of the DAR Library. The creation of these research tools was funded in large part by the President General's Projects of Linda Tinker Watkins (2001-2004) and Presley Merritt Wagoner (2004-2007). This system of databases will continue to expand as new information is added.

Beginning March 16, 2026, record copies will be \$15

Become a Member!



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The DAR Library Restoration Project will commence in July 2026. [Please click here for information and updates.](#)



Ancestor Search

Search for Revolutionary Era Ancestors

[New Search](#)[Overview & Help](#)

* You must enter a value in at least one of the marked fields.

Ancestor Last Name

*

Ancestor First Name

*

State of Service



Ancestor Number

*

State of Birth



Year:

State of Death



Year:

Spouse Last/Maiden Name

Spouse First Name

Search Options

[Overview & Help](#)[New Search](#)[Advanced Search](#)[Child Search](#)[Recent](#)[Previous](#)[Refine Search](#)

Dar.org/GRS



Ancestor

Member

Descendants

GRC

Rev War

Bibles

Resources

SHEFTALL, MORDECAI

Ancestor #: A102403



Service: GEORGIA Rank(s): COLONEL

Birth: 12-12-1735 SAVANNAH CHATHAM CO GEORGIA

Death: 7-6-1797 SAVANNAH CHATHAM CO GEORGIA

Service Description: 1) CMSRY GEN OF ISSUES, WITH RANK OF COL

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Beginning **March 16, 2026**,
record copies will be **\$15**

SPOUSE

Number	Name
1)	FRANCES HART

*Hint: Click on the member number to see more.***ASSOCIATED APPLICATIONS AND SUPPLEMENTALS**

Nat'l Num	Add Vol.	Docs	Child	[Spouse #] Spouse	
197579			MOSES	[1] NELLIE BUSH	PURCHASE

Become a Member!

DAR members are women who come from diverse backgrounds and hold a variety of interests. Their common bond is their lineal descent from Patriots of the

Dar.org/GRS

Manuscripts

Haym Salomon Collection

- Held at Center for Jewish History, New York City
- Contents include correspondence, bank notes, his marriage contract with Rachel Franks, probate records, guardianship records, and more

Mordecai Sheftall Papers

- Held at Center for Jewish History, New York City
- Contents include provision returns for goods purchased for troops, family papers, privateer records, and more
- Some of his miscellaneous papers are available at the Hargrett Library in Georgia and are digitized on the Digital Library of Georgia web site

Aaron Lopez Papers

- Newport Historical Society – merchant records, letter books, personal and financial correspondence
- Rhode Island Historical Society – oath of allegiance, shipping records, correspondence, etc.
- Center for Jewish History in New York City – pre-Revolution mercantile and shipping records, and correspondence

Strategies for Identifying Origins

Military Records

- Locate military records, particularly pension files for surviving soldiers – they often wrote affidavits describing when and where they were born.
 - Some may have noted a specific townland or region

State of South Carolina
City of Charleston

On the 30th day of July 1832, Personally appeared before me Thomas Lee district Judge for South Carolina (the applicant being too infirm to attend in open Court) David N Cardyo a resident of this City and State, aged Seventy Eight years passed and being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his Oath make the following declaration

That he was born in the City of New York in the State of New York, on the 29th August 1753, that a record of his age is deposited in the archive of the Hebrew Congregation of the City of New York of which he has a copy - that since the Revolution he has resided sometime in Savannah in the State of Georgia

fold3
by Ancestry

See Keyboard Shortcuts

Search within this image

Actions Hide Transcription Save To Ancestry

TRANSCRIPTION > SUMMARY

State of South Carolina
City of Charleston
On the 30th day of July 1832 Personally appeared before me Thomas Lee district Judge for South Carolina The applicant being too infirm to attend in open Court David N Cardyo a resident of this City and State aged Seventy Eight years passed and being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his Oath make the following declaration

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AncestryAI may make mistakes. [Learn more](#)

Fold3.com

Court Records

- Locate court records in the places where they lived
- Many court records are held at the county level and can be found on FamilySearch or at a state archives
- Naturalization records provide a lot of detail

FAN Club

- Research the extended family, associates, and neighbors to learn about their origins.
- Many brothers served together. By finding a sibling's military records, you may uncover more clues about their origins.

DNA Testing

- Identify a living male descendant of the soldier to take a Y-DNA test with FamilyTree DNA.
- The tester may match others with the same surname where others have researched and identified their origins, including others who may live overseas.
- Many testers upload their results to a surname project.

QUESTIONS?

Schedule a consultation

consultations@americanancestors.org

Hire Research Services

research@americanancestors.org

 American Ancestors

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Heritage & Culture

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Jewish Patriots in the American Revolution

Jewish Americans participated in the struggle for American independence in a variety of ways. From merchants and soldiers to community leaders and financiers, Jewish Patriots contributed to the revolutionary cause while navigating questions of loyalty, religious freedom, and their place in a new nation.

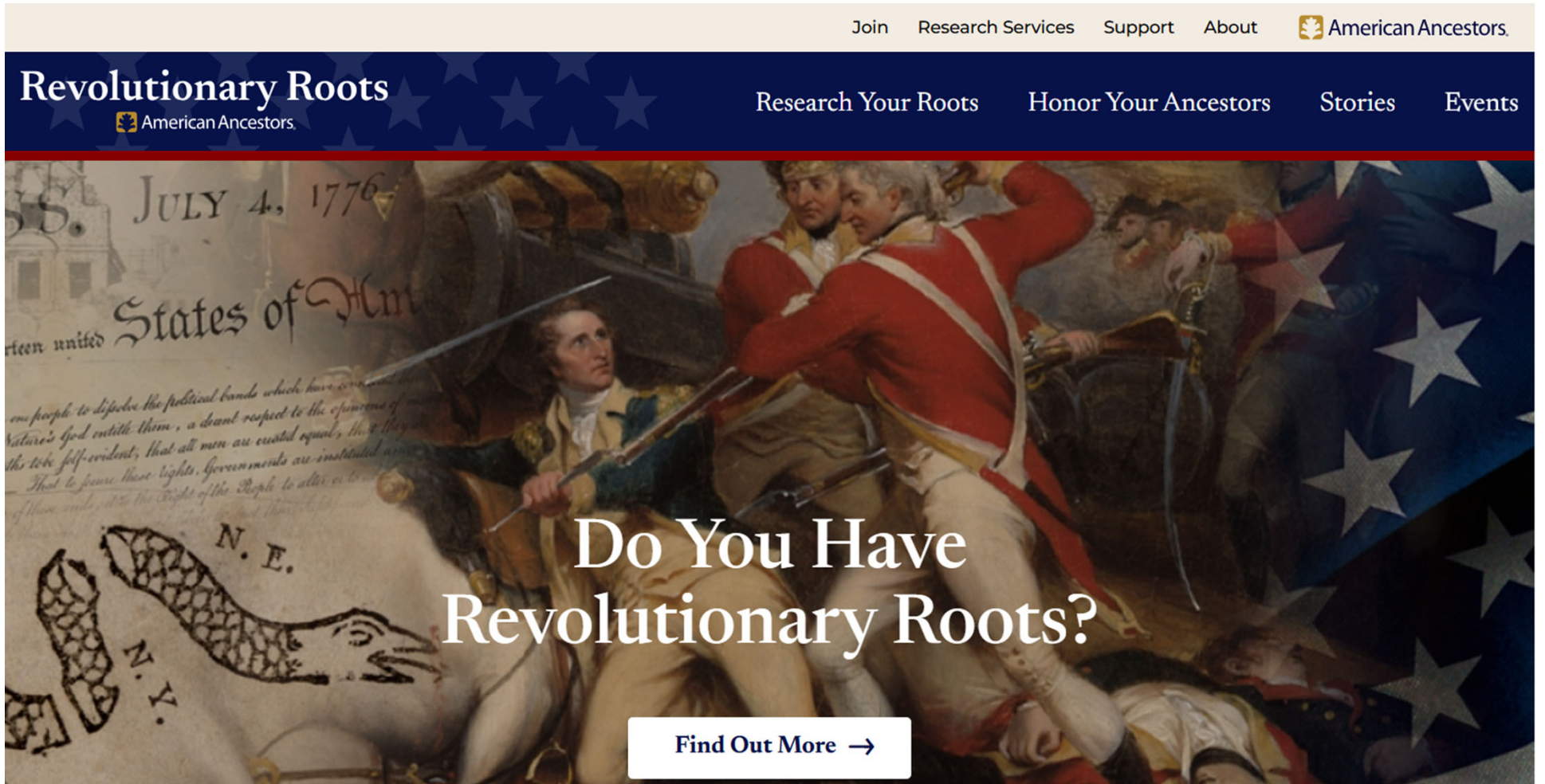
This lecture explores the experiences of Jewish men and women during the American Revolution, highlighting both well-known figures and lesser-known individuals. We'll consider where Jewish communities were located, how they responded to the Revolution, and the ways Jewish Patriots supported the cause on the battlefield and on the home front.

Along the way, we'll discuss several record sets, demonstrating how they can reveal not only what our ancestors did, but also the communities and families that shaped their experiences of the Revolution.

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

Join the Live Broadcast

AmericanAncestors.org/jewish-patriots-american-revolution



Join Research Services Support About  American Ancestors.

Revolutionary Roots

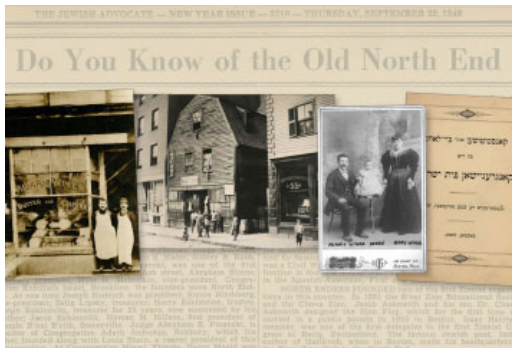
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Research Your Roots Honor Your Ancestors Stories Events

Do You Have Revolutionary Roots?

[Find Out More →](#)

revolutionaryroots.AmericanAncestors.org



Upcoming Events

ONLINE LECTURE

Portraits of Patriots: Colonel John Trumbull and Five Fellow Patriots from Connecticut in the American Revolution

Presented by Damien Cregeau; Moderated by Curt DiCamillo
October 30, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

ONLINE LECTURE

The World Turned Upside Down: New York in the Revolution

Presented by David Allen Lambert; November 12, 3:00 – 4:00 PM ET

ONLINE LECTURE

The Turn of the Century in the North End: Jewish Immigrants and Their Neighbors

Presented by Randall Geller; November 19, 6:00 – 7:00 PM ET

IN-PERSON EXHIBIT

Patriots of Color

April 23–December 31, 2026

AmericanAncestors.org/Events



THANK YOU!

AmericanAncestors.org



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