

# Revolutionary War Research

## *Finding Your Revolutionary War Ancestors*

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The rich collections of records for soldiers of the Revolutionary War have aided scholars for generations. It is the purpose of this lecture to introduce and review these resources in researching the life of the veteran during the war and in their post-war life.

### Basic Steps of Military Research

1. Why research a veteran?
2. How old was your veteran?

### Examining previous services in the Colonial Wars

1. Determine if your ancestor fought.
2. What Colonial Wars occurred during his lifetime?
  - a. King George's War: 1740-1748.
  - b. French and Indian War: 1754-1763.

### American Revolutionary War

1. Does his age fit the Muster Roll?
2. Family relics in the attic.
3. Forgotten images of your veteran.
4. Oral family traditions.
5. Cemetery clues and pitfalls.

### American Revolutionary War Resources

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



## **From Published to Primary Sources**

1. Published accounts to Muster Rolls.
2. Overview of published resources for New York State, and the 1911 NY State Capitol fire.
3. Loyalist research overview.
4. U.S. Federal Pension files.
5. Going beyond Pension abstracts and dissecting pension files.
6. Final Pension Vouchers.
7. 1840 Census of Pensioners.

## **Consider Adopting the Regiment or Crew**

Consider using the steps you have learned and examine the pensions and stories of those men who served with your ancestor. The details in the diaries, letters, and pensions of his fellow veterans may add more detail to the story you know from researching his records.

## **Overview of the best approaches for adopting a regiment or company**

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

## **Applying to various Hereditary Societies for the Revolutionary War**

- National Society Daughters of the American Revolution  
<https://www.dar.org/>
- National Society Sons of the American Revolution  
<https://www.sar.org/>
- National Society Children of the American Revolution  
<https://www.nscar.org/>



- General Society of the Sons of the Revolution  
<https://sr1776.org/>
- The Society of the Cincinnati  
<https://www.societyofthecincinnati.org/>
- The Order of Founders and Patriots  
<https://ofpa.org/>
- Daughters of the Cincinnati  
<https://daughters1894.org/>