

Revolutionary War Documents Official Sources

A man born between 1730 and 1765 who lived in the American colonies is probably listed in some form of military record. If he supported the rebellion, he may be mentioned in records as a rebel patriot, Whig, or signer of the Continental Association. Those who opposed the rebellion were Loyalists or Tories.

Official documents are those created by the government during the war or soon afterward.

- ★ **Federal Service Records**--Military service records may give rank, dates of service, age, place of residence prior to enlistment, physical description, and date and place of discharge or death. The Family History Library has the microfilm index to the *Compiled Military Service Records*. They are available here on microfilm. Microfilm numbers of these records are listed in *Register of Federal United States Military Records: 1775-1860* (vol. 1, p. 7) (Religion/Family Ref CS 68 .R44) Volume 4, p. 9-52 lists the film numbers to the *Compiled Service* records.

- ★ **Federal Pension and Bounty Land Records**--The names of soldiers or widows who applied for pensions or bounty land warrants are indexed in the book *Index of Revolutionary War Pension Applications in the National Archives*. (Religion/Family CS 42 .N43 no. 40)

To examine microfilmed pension records, consult *Register of Federal States Military Records: 1775-1860*, vol. 1 pp. 18-109. (Religion/Family Ref CS 68 .R44) Pension records document the soldier's service in the war and often have valuable genealogical information such as dates and places of birth and marriage. The files are arranged alphabetically by the name of the veteran.

- ★ **State Service, Pension, and Veterans Lists**--You can find state service, pension, and veterans lists in the Family History Library Catalogue. New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, South Carolina, and Virginia kept such records.

- ★ **Loyalist Sources**--There are many published books and manuscripts listing Loyalists. Check the Family History Library Catalogue by subject under "American Loyalists" and "United Empire Loyalists." Film numbers for muster rolls and claims are listed in *Register of Federal United States Military Records (Vol. 4, pp. 57-64)* (Religion/Family Ref CS 68 .R44).

Revolutionary War Documents Secondary Sources

Secondary sources contain information about Revolutionary War soldiers that was compiled from original sources long after the war, often by lineage societies.

- ★ **DAR Patriot Index**--The Daughters of the American Revolution require that members submit proof of descent from a revolutionary soldier. The names of all of the soldiers whose service has been used to prove eligibility for the DAR have been indexed in *DAR Patriot Index* (vols. 1-2 and 1982 supplement), (Religion/Family Ref E255 .D36).
- ★ **Published Records**--Many rosters of soldiers, lists of veteran burials, and compilations of biographical data have been published. Consult the research outline (Table 4B) for the state from which the soldier served. You may also want to look in the Family History Library Catalogue under [STATE] - MILITARY RECORDS - REVOLUTION 1775-1783.
- ★ **DAR Lineage Books**--If a soldier's name is listed in the *DAR Patriot Index*, an abstract of the application may be published in the *DAR Lineage Books* (E 202.5 .A15), which are indexed in *The Index of the Rolls of Honor in the Lineage Books of the NSDAR*. (Religion/Family Ref E 202.5 .A15) The lineage books, in 160 volumes, provide brief biographical information on the Revolutionary War soldier and the names and years of birth, marriage, and death of direct-line descendants. To get a copy of the original membership record, send your request to: Treasurer General, NSDAR; 1776 D Street, NW; Washington, D.C. 20006. All inactive membership records are available to the public.
- ★ **DAR Burial Index**--This is a card index taken from the DAR Lineage Book. The soldiers are listed alphabetically. Check the DAR Lineage Book (E 202.5 .A15) for more information.
- ★ **SAR Records**--Over 100,000 application papers for the Sons of the American Revolution are available on microfilm. These papers have documented lineages of SAR members. Consult the *Register of U.S. Lineage Societies* for library members (FHL Fiche 6050647).