

# Researching Early New England

## *Class 4: Researching Colonial and Revolutionary War Soldiers*

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### COLONIAL WARS

#### Step #1 - Determine if he fought.

1. How old was your Veteran?
2. What colonial wars occurred during his lifetime?

##### 17<sup>th</sup> Century Conflicts

1. Pequot War: 1636-1638.
2. King Philip's War: 1675-1676.
3. King William's War: 1689-1697.

##### 18<sup>th</sup> Century Conflicts

1. Queen Anne's War: 1702-1713.
2. King George's War: 1740-1748.
3. French and Indian War: 1754-1763.

##### Consider family heirlooms for clues

1. What might be in the attic?
2. Ask relatives.
3. Museum and Archives.
4. Ebay or Auction catalogs.

Tip: Examine probate inventories.

#### Step #2 - Confirm published sources.

1. Don't re-invent the wheel.
2. What has been published?
3. State by state lists.
4. Local histories.
5. Internet resources when available.

Tip: Adopt your ancestor's regiment.

##### Overview of New England Repositories

1. Massachusetts State Archives.
2. Connecticut State Archives.
3. Maine Historical Society.
4. State by state lists.

##### Published Sources

1. Compilations of Colonial Soldiers
2. Published histories of battles and wars
3. Hereditary Society publications

#### Step #3 – Apply to hereditary societies.



# REVOLUTIONARY WAR

## Step # 1 – Determine if your Ancestor fought

1. Too young or too old?
2. Family relics in the attic.
3. Oral family traditions.
4. Cemetery clues and Pitfalls.
5. Forgotten Images.

## Step # 2 - Research

- 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

### Going from Published Accounts to Primary Sources

1. Published accounts to Muster Rolls
2. Going beyond abstracts and dissecting Pension files.

## Step # 3 – Learn about the Pensions

1. Pension timeline
2. Published pension abstracts
3. Going beyond the abstracts with online Pensions
4. Using Fold3.com Revolutionary War pensions
5. Final Payment Vouchers Index
6. 1840 Census of Pensioners.

Tip: Look for Diaries of fellow veterans

1. Local repositories
2. Searching online

## Step # 4 – Applying to Hereditary Societies

1. Available Revolutionary War related societies
  - National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
  - National Society Sons of the American Revolution
  - National Society Children of the American Revolution
  - General Society of the Sons of the Revolution
  - Society of the Cincinnati
  - Daughters of the Cincinnati
2. DAR ancestors search overview
3. SAR ancestor search overview

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DAR Library : [www.dar.org/](http://www.dar.org/)

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SAR "Patriot Search": <http://preview.sar.org/genealogy/patriot-search>

Revolutionary War Maps at the Library of Congress:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/armhtml/armhome.html>

Valley Forge Muster Roll Project: <http://valleyforgemusterroll.org/>

1840 Pension Index from Census: <http://www.us-roots.org/colonialamerica/census/1840/>

Various websites for Revolutionary War History: <http://www.americanrevolution.org>

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