

# SEARCHING FOR YOUR REVOLUTIONARY WAR ANCESTORS

Wayne County Genealogy Society

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# Slides are Online

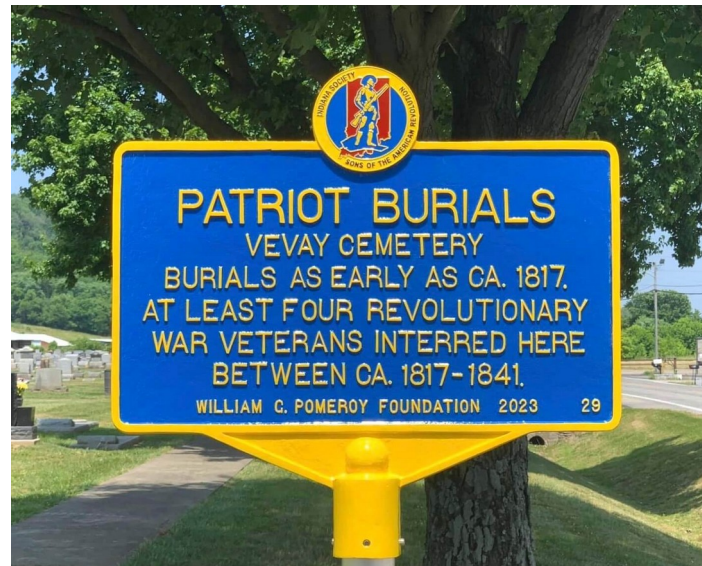
- At [www.dennisAhogan.com](http://www.dennisAhogan.com), click on Lectures and Handouts tab
- Select a file and save to your computer, then you can click on links to try out websites
- The handout file:
  - **Course Revolutionary War Handout**

# 2026

- Soon you will be hearing a lot about our Declaration of Independence. 2026 is the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its signing - also referred to as the United States Semiquincentennial.
- Many organizations are preparing festivities to commemorate the occasion.
- <https://www.revolution250.org/>

# Pomeroy Foundation

- Provides grants for historical markers
- Now offering grants for a special marker for cemeteries containing remains of Revolutionary War Veterans



# Primary Sources

You are hoping to identify individuals who participated in some way in the Revolutionary War. This should be supported by primary sources - documentation created at or near the time of the event.

# 3-Pronged Research

Personal: Non-Military

Town/Colony/State Records

Vital Records

Fan Club: Friends/Associates/Neighbors

Personal: Military

Pensions

Service Records

Bounty Lands

Regimental

Muster Rolls

Chain of Commands

Regimental History

# Caution

Do you have the correct "John Smith"?

Ways to differentiate your Rev War Vet:

- Colony they served from
- Unit and commanding officers
- Birth date/place, Death date/place, Burial
- Marriage, spouses and children
- Census inventory
- Occupation before and after the war

# The Revolutionary War

April 19, 1775 - War begins with shots fired at Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts.

June 14, 1775 - Continental Congress (13 Colonies) creates the Continental Army with George Washington as the commander.

June 17, 1775 - Battle of Bunker Hill - first major conflict and first American win.

**July 4, 1776 - Continental Congress adopts Declaration of Independence**

December 1776 to January 1777 - Washington crosses the Delaware River and achieves victory at Trenton, New Jersey

February 1778 - France enters war against Britain

September to October, 1781 - British Army Surrenders

September 3, 1783 - Treaty of Paris officially ends the war



# Military Service

**Militia** (~145,000 soldiers)

community based, irregular training

**Minute Men Militia**

advanced regular training

**Continental Army** (~231,000 soldiers + ~12,000 French)

professionally training

[British ~22,000 + Loyalists ~25,000 + Hessian ~ 30,000]

# Non-Military Patriotic Service

Oaths of Fidelity

Doctors & Nurses

Teamsters/Suppliers

Lending Money or Munitions

Patriotic Sermons

Taxes specific for the war effort

<https://www.sar.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Revolutionary-War-Tax-Law-Records-Multiple-States.pdf> [A state-by-state breakdown on which county and local taxes count for patriotic service]

Revolutionary Taxes as Evidence of Patriotic Service -

<https://www.sar.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Revolutionary-Taxes-as-Evidence-of-Patriotic-Service.pdf>

# Non-Military Patriotic Service

Women:

Boycotting British goods - cloth, tea, etc

Liberty Teas

Spinning Bees

Fundraising for supplies for soldiers

# Identify Your Ancestors Who Served

Typically males born 1730 through 1770 are candidates. Search your genealogical database for men born in this timeframe (and living during the war).

Don't limit your search to direct ancestors. Brothers, cousins, uncles, nephews, in-laws may have served and their military records may include important family info.

# Identify Your Ancestors Who Served

Any family legends concerning the Revolutionary War?

Any family relics that may be from the Revolutionary War era?

# Cemetery Records

[rarely include primary sources - treat as hints]

Findagrave.com

Billiongraves.com

Interment.net

Locateagrave.com

Procure a photo of stone.

Any flags or other markers?

# Types of Records

- Bounty Lands
- Pension
- Muster Rolls - FamilySearch
- Compiled Service Records
- State Specific Service - DAR has guides
- Non-Military Service - Town Records, Letters
  
- Where:
  - FamilySearch.org
  - Ancestry.com
  - Fold3.com

# Bounty Lands

- Federal - located in present-day Ohio
  - Usually required 3 years service in Continental Army
- State - MA, ME, NY, PA, MD, VA, NC, SC, GA
- Ex: New York land was in present-day counties: Cayuga, Cortland, Onondaga, Seneca, Oswego, Schuyler, Tompkins, and Wayne
- National Archives, "Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, ca. 1800 - ca. 1900," Record Group 15, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/567388> . Online at Family Search, Ancestry and Fold3.



## Pension Files

<https://catalog.archives.gov/search-within/300022>

U.S., The Pension Roll of 1835:

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/60514/>

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/746935?availability=Family%20History%20Library>

<https://www.fold3.com/publication/467/us-revolutionary-war-pensions-1800-1900>

United States Revolutionary War Pension Payment Ledgers:

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/2069831>

# Pensions at Fold3

fold3 by ancestry

Search & Browse Featured

+ Create

solomon blodgett

Actions... Share

## Blodget, Solomon

Blodget, Silas

Info Contributions

### Blodget, Solomon Info

Title	Blodget, Solomon
Total images	20
State	Massachusetts
Veteran	Blodget, Solomon
Service	Mass.
Pension Number	S. 12,244
Conflict Period	US Revolutionary War
Served for	United States of America

### US, Revolutionary War Pensions, 1800-1900

Page 1 Page 2 Page 3

Page 4

US, Revolutionary War Pe... ) Solomon e 6

# Pensions at Fold3

The screenshot displays the Fold3 website interface. At the top, the logo "fold3 by ancestry" is visible on the left, and navigation options "Search & Browse" and "Featured" are in the center. On the right, there are buttons for "+ Create", a help icon "?", and a menu icon. Below the navigation bar, a search bar contains the text "war us" and a magnifying glass icon. To the right of the search bar, it says "Match 1 of 31". Further right are buttons for "Actions...", "Annotate", "Share", and "Save To Ancestry".

On the left side, there is a "Page 2 Info" section with the following details:

Title	Page 2
State	Massachusetts
Veteran	Blodget, Solomon
Service	Mass.
Pension Number	S. 12,244
Conflict Period	US Revolutionary War
Served For	United States of America
Views	45

Below this section is a link to "Add a correction".

At the bottom left, there is a "Publication Info" section.

The main content area shows a handwritten document page. The text is written in cursive and reads: "New York 2862 Solomon Blodget of Gorham in the State of New York who was a Private in the Company commanded by Captain Toogrod of the Regt. commanded by Col. Nixon in the Heaps line for B. Heath". To the right of the document, there are navigation controls: a plus sign, a minus sign, a refresh icon, and a double arrow icon.

At the bottom of the document viewer, there is a breadcrumb trail: "< > US, Revolutionary War Pensions, 18... > Solomon".

At the very bottom of the page, there is a link "See Keyboard Shortcuts".

# Muster Rolls at FamilySearch



## Filtered Results (42)

✓ Collection: Military, United States Revolutionary War Rolls, 177... ✕

[FILTERS](#) [PREFERENCES](#) [SEARCH](#)

[Collection](#) [Sex](#) [Race](#) [Other](#)

### Name

### Events and Relationships

#### Solomon Blodgett

Principal  
United States Revolutionary War Rolls,  
1775-1783



**Military Service** 1 July 1777  
Massachusetts, United States

#### Solomon Blodgett

Principal  
United States Revolutionary War Rolls,  
1775-1783



**Military Service** 5 January 1779  
Massachusetts, United States

## Search

### Add Ancestor Information

[NAME](#) [ALTERNATE NAME](#) [SEX](#)

First Names

Solomon

Last Names

Blodgett

### Add Life Event

[ANY](#) [BIRTH](#) [MARRIAGE](#) [RESIDENCE](#)

Place

City, County, State, Province, or Country

Year (Range)

From

To

# Compiled Service Records

## All U.S., Compiled Revolutionary War Military Service Records, 1775-1783 results for Solomon Blodgett



Provided in association with National Archives and Records Administration

Your search

✎ ... 1-2 of 2

Solomon Blodgett

Broad  Exact

Apply

Filters

Clear all

Military

View Record	Name	Military Date	Military Place	View Images
<a href="#">View Record</a>	Solomon Blodgett	Jun 1777	Massachusetts	
<a href="#">View Record</a>	Solomon Blogett		Massachusetts	

Results 1-2 of 2

50 per page

< 1 of 1

# Researching with Lineage Societies

- DAR, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, <https://www.dar.org>
- SAR, National Society Sons of the American Revolution, <https://www.sar.org>

# Researching on the DAR site

- <https://www.dar.org>
- Click GRS, Ancestor, enter patriot info
- Click Search yields a list of all ladies who applied through that patriot
- Click on the Nat'l Number, click on "Purchase Associated Record Copy"
- Click on Preview: Lineage
- Displays the patriot's lineage
- (Many other useful resources are available)

# DAR Content Example

died at Sugar Grove Warren Co PA on 3 - Jan - 1866 and his ( 1st ) wife

Esther Ann Spencer born on -- 1828 at Sugar Grove Warren Co PA

died at Sugar Grove Warren Co PA on 30 - Dec - 1865 married on 4 - Mar - 1851

married at Sugar Grove Warren Co PA

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3. The Said William Oren Blodget was the child of

Search ▾

Arba Blodget born on 18 - Apr - 1789 at Brimfield Hampshire Co MA

died at Sugar Grove Warren Co PA on 28 - Nov - 1837 and his ( 1st ) wife

Bebe Bullock born on 8 - Mar - 1790 at Reheboth Hampshire Co MA

died at Sugar Grove Warren Co PA on 21 - Jun - 1878 married on 31 - Dec - 1811

married at Bush Chautauqua Co NY

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9. The Said Arba Blodget was the child of

Search ▾

Solomon Blodgett born on 4 - Apr - 1756 at Brimfield Hampshire Co MA

died at Gorham Ontario Co NY on 21 - May - 1844 and his ( 1st ) wife

Hepzibah Brown born on 26 - Mar - 1759 at Brimfield Hampshire Co MA

died at Easton Ontario Co NY on 17 - Feb - 1793 married on 19 - Sep - 1782

married at Brimfield Hampshire Co MA



# Researching on the SAR site

- <https://www.sar.org>
- Click *Genealogy*, Patriot Research System
- Click on the Patriot Research System box
- Click on *Descendent search*, yields a list of all men who applied through that patriot
- Click on an applicant
- Click patriot's name, displays patriot details
- Click on *View Application Detail*, displays the patriot's lineage
- (Many other useful resources are available)

# SAR Content Example

State of Service: MA    Qualifying Service: Private / Patriotic Service

DAR #: A011

Birth: 04 Apr 1756 Brimfield / Hampshire / MA

Death: 21 May 1844 Gorham / Ontario / NY

## **Patriotic Service Description:**

1. Private in Captain Abel Thayer's company, Colonel Fellows's (8th) regiment; company return dated Dorchester, October 1775
2. Captain Thomas Barns's (Light Infantry) company, Colonel Thomas Nixon's regiment; Continental Army pay accounts for service from 2 April 1777 to 31 December 1779
3. Captain William Toogood's company, Colonel Nixon's regiment; return of men in camp on or before 15 August 1777, dated Camp near Peeksk 16 February 1779; reported deserted 12 April 1778; returned 14 May 1778
4. Captain Barnes's company, Colonel Nixon's (6th) regiment; pay abstract made up from 17 May 1779, to 31 August 1779; reported returned from captivity 17 May 1779
5. Prisoner of war

## **Sources:**

1. Rev War Graves Register. Clovis H. Brakebill, compiler. 672pp. SAR. 1993
2. SAR Rev War Graves Register CD. Progeny Publishing Co: Buffalo, NY
3. Rev War Pension #S12244
4. Secretary of the Commonwealth, MA Soldiers, and Sailors of the Rev War, MA. Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co, 1901, Vol 2, page, 199

**Spouse:** (1) Hepzibah Brown; (2) Thankful Blair

**Children:** Arba; Martin; Augustus; Lorin; Melinda; Cyrenus; Garnder;

# Joining a Lineage Society

<https://www.americanancestors.org/video-library/applying-revolutionary-war-lineage-societies>

# Other Resources

Locating your Revolutionary War Ancestor: A Guide to the Military Records by James C. Neagles and Lila L. Neagles, free at FamilySearch.org.

Lloyd Dewitt Bockstruck, Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants: Awarded by State Governments (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co, 1996). Online at Ancestry under the title "Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants."