Materials for
Researching Revolutionary War Ancestors
(A Selected Web/Bibliography)

Heritage Room
http://www.clarke.public.lib.ga.us/hqdepts/heritage/index.html
August 2010

This list should give you information that you can use to find materials specifically related to researching the history of and the people who lived before, during, and after the time of the American Revolution. Many people chose not to get involved; others got involved on one side or the other. The purpose of these materials is to help you find your ancestors regardless of whether they were Patriots or Loyalists (Tories). You may have several lines of ancestors that go that far back, and some may have been loyal to the King (Tories).

Remember that soldiers did not necessarily render service from the colony in which they lived, so you need to check records of other colonies if you do not find him.

Be sure to look for research guides to various states. Each colony/state was like a country unto itself before the Revolution and even today as far as how they kept records. Many of the thirteen original colonies have some kind of published Revolutionary Records. Knowing what records were kept and how they were kept will help you find what you are looking for.

If you’re looking for a Revolutionary soldier that came to Georgia you need to check all the books concerning the Georgia Land Lotteries (1805-1832). For reports on those who lied to obtain chances in the land lotteries, see The Georgia Black Book, pp.15-48 by Robert Scott Davis, Jr. For other states, learn what benefits were offered to veterans of the American Revolution in that state.

Georgia Genealogical Society publishes a quarterly that is very good for Georgia information. In addition to book reviews and lists of the books approved for publication by the R.J. Taylor...
Foundation, read the overviews of different libraries in the state. The GGS Quarterly does one library in each issue and describes what its strengths are for research, its arrangement, its hours and such. The older reports, done a number of years ago, can be found at http://www.gagensociety.org/Libraries/index.htm. This can be a great way to discover that there may be a library you need to go visit.

Two main Georgia libraries that you need to visit for Revolutionary War and Colonial America are the Washington Memorial Library, Genealogical and Historical Department http://www.co.bibb.ga.us/library/GH.htm in Macon and the Ladson Genealogical Library http://www.ohoopeelibrary.org/userfiles/ladsoninfo.html in Vidalia. The collection in Macon began in 1923 and its original focus was on the 13 original colonies. The Ladson collection “specializes in materials on Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, New England, the Mid-Atlantic States, and Virginia.”

Use bibliographies and published/printed lists of books especially those printed a long time ago. An example is Index to Printed Virginia Genealogies, including Key and Bibliography, (GR 975.5 STEWART) published by Old Dominion Press, Richmond, in 1930. Look online at sites like the DAR Library Catalog and Worldcat.org to locate materials that might be relevant.

Draw a time line. Write 1607 at one end and 2010 at the other end. Divide line about where 1776 would come. This can give you a good perspective on how many years of records and activity preceded the Revolution.

The following list is intended to be a guide, not a comprehensive listing. The titles were chosen because they are often relatively easy to locate in a library collection and can lead you to other materials; or because they are to be a reminder of the kinds of records generated and materials published that might be available for the area in which you are researching.

DAR Materials

DAR Library in Washington D.C.

http://www.dar.org/library/


Contains the names of Revolutionary patriots, both men and women whose service (between 1771-1783) and identity have been established by the NSDAR. Arrangement is alphabetical by surname, try other spellings. Only use the most recent edition of the Patriot Index to verify patriotic service.

Call No: GR 929.373 DAUGHTER

This indexes DAR Magazine from 1892-1950, Vol. 1-84. There is a supplement that covers through Vol. 89 which the Heritage Room does not have.

Georgia State Society, NSDAR. Membership Roll and Register of Ancestors of the Georgia State Society of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Call No: GR 369.135 DAUGHTER

An alphabetical listing of chapters by chapter name, with name of town in which chapter is located. Members are listed alphabetically within each chapter with member number, the ancestor that they have membership through, and the state from which that ancestor served. The back of each volume has a Supplement listing members approved late in the year and Members at Large living in Georgia, a list of deceased members, an Index to Cities and Chapters, and an Index of Revolutionary Ancestors. These are published at 10 year intervals.


Call No: GR 929.1 GRUNDSET

I believe there is an updated edition of this, but could not remember when I was pulling this list together.

Hoyt, Max Ellsworth. Index of Revolutionary War Pension Applications, 4 volumes.

Call No: GR 973.3 HOYT

These were originally published as Supplements to The National Genealogical Society Quarterly, beginning March 1943. Information included: full name of veteran, name of state from which service was rendered, and the file number (with few exceptions), also notes whether applicant was Survivor, Widow or Rejected Claim. Includes Bounty Land Warrants- sometimes note will say “No papers”; that means the application papers were burned in the year 1801 or 1814.

Vol. 4 (three items bound together in this one volume) has spine label that reads “Genealogical Aids” and “Corrections to the Index of Revolutionary War Pension Applications”. Includes: Corrections to the Index of Revolutionary War Pension Applications, General Aids to Genealogical Research, and Special Aids to Research on Southern Families.

**Call No:** GR 973.34 NATION

### History/Background/Basics


**Call No:** GR 929.1072 SOURCE


**Call No 975.802 COLEMAN (In Heritage Collection the call no. is GR 975.803 COLEMAN)**

Cyndis List

[http://www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)

Then go to Military Records Worldwide and under that select U.S. – *The American Revolution*

In this section, go to “How To” [http://www.cyndislist.com/amrev.htm#HowTo](http://www.cyndislist.com/amrev.htm#HowTo) and there are some great helps. Helpful links include: one to an article by Curt Witcher “Finding Your Patriot: Basic Sources for Starting Revolutionary War Research”. Another link takes you to FamilySearch.org and

### RESEARCH GUIDANCE

**U.S. Military Records**

**Research Outline**

Or you can get there by going to FamilySearch.org > Guidance > Military records. U.S. Military Records Research Outline. In Table of Contents are links that take you to brief explanations of what the record can tell you.


**Call No:** GR 975.8 Wilkes DAVIS

Laura W. Carter
Athens-Clarke County Library
Heritage Room Librarian
15 August 2010

heritageroom@arlsmail.org
FamilySearch Research Wiki on *Revolutionary War, 1775 to 1783*
https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Revolutionary_War%2C_1775_to_1783

**Footnote.com** subscription through GALILEO for Athens Regional Library users with GALILEO password

---

**Call No: 929.1  GREENWOO**

**Call No: 973.3  MORISON**

Laura W. Carter  
heritageroom@arlsmail.org  
Athens-Clarke County Library  
Heritage Room Librarian  
15 August 2010
*Call No:  R 973.3  PURVIS*
This reference book can provide basic context plus some specifics that will help the researcher in understanding the place and time of their ancestor.

*Call No:  GR 975.6  RANKIN*

Revolutionary War Genealogy Research (43 minutes) sponsor: Midwest Genealogy Center http://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy
*Class is at:*
http://www.familysearch.org/eng/library/education/frameset_education.asp?-PAGE=education_research_series_online.asp%3FActiveTab=2

*Call No:  GR 973.3  SCHWEI*
This book gives a basic overview of the Revolutionary War, beginning research steps, and then has chapters that list various resources and records that can be used for research. 110 pages to make your life simpler and many of them do not have to be read verbatim, just copied so you will have them as a reference tool to get you back to the materials.

*Call No:  973.33  SEARCY*

Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution
http://www.southerncampaigns.org/
“Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution is an informal fellowship of people with an interest in the events, people, places, and ideas surrounding the American War of Independence. We organize conferences, roundtables, field trips, and archeological expeditions to promote research and sharing of information and to promote scholarly debate. And we publish the on-line magazine Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution. We also facilitate the discovery, preservation, interpretation, and promotion of historic sites on the ground.” From Website, accessed 04 August 2010.
**Call No:** GR 929.2 NATIONAL (This is in the Oconee Co. Library in Watkinsville, not in Athens)

**Call No:** GR 929.1072 PRINTED

**Call No:** GR 974.7 UNIVERSI

“For general use as part of the program of the Executive Committee on the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the American Revolution.”

**Call No:** 973.3 WILBUR

**Call No:** 973.3113 YOUNG

**Loyalists/Tories**

**Call No:** GR 973.314 BUNNEL

**Call No:** GR 973.314 CASHIN

Details exploits and experiences of Thomas Brown who had just come to Georgia colony when war broke out. Includes information on colonial migration patterns.

**Call No:** GR 973.314 CLARK


**Call No:** 966.4 CLIFFORD


**Call No:** GR 975.7 LAMBER


**Call No:** GR 973.314 SABINE

**Military/Soldiers**

Cyndis List

[http://www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)
Then go to Military Records Worldwide and under that select U.S. – The American Revolution

Military Records: Revolutionary War, (34 minutes) video

[http://www.familysearch.org/eng/library/education/frameset_education.asp?PAGE=education_research_series_online.asp%3FActiveTab=2](http://www.familysearch.org/eng/library/education/frameset_education.asp?PAGE=education_research_series_online.asp%3FActiveTab=2)


**Call No:** R 357 STEFFEN


**Call No:** GR 973.3 UNITED
“Originally produced as a government document in 1915 and later published by Genealogical Publishing Company in 1973, this work provides an index to Revolutionary War claim records, including the veteran's name, certificate number, military unit and the amount of the claim.” from About.com Genealogy pages http://genealogy.about.com/od/revolution/a/revolutionary.htm, accessed 04 August 2010


**Call No:** GR 973.34 WHITE

This was prepared from microfilm series M860, *General Index to Compiled Military Service Records of the Revolutionary War,* NARA. Includes both Navy and Army personnel and some civilians. There are cross references for service in more than one unit. There are entries for each tour of service as well as for service under variant names or more than one name.


**Call No:** 973.38 WILBUR

**Patriotic Service other than military**


**Call No:** GR 975.5 ABERCR

**Pensions**


**Call No:** GR 973.34 WHITE

These are abstracted from microfilm publication M805 *Selected Records from the Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files,* NARA. Some entries were supplemented with additional data from NARA, series M 804. Virginia Half Pay Claims are cross referenced. Information for the disability pensions awarded prior to 1814 is limited due to the fire in the War office in 1800 and then the August 1814 fire in DC when the British burned Washington.

**Note:** M805 is the same information that is available online from home via HeritageQuest Online in GALILEO under *Selected Records from Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files (M805)* which on microfilm is 898 rolls. By clicking on Read

Laura W. Carter
Athens-Clarke County Library
Heritage Room Librarian
15 August 2010
More About Rev War records, in the database, you will find the notes from the microfilm publication that explain the files, how files were selected, what is on each roll, and other related publications. HeritageQuest Online provides the images of most of the documents that White’s book indexes.

Rosters/Lists of Names


Call No: GR 975.7 MOSS

*The Official Roster of the Soldiers of the American Revolution buried in the State of Ohio.*
The Heritage Room has volume 3 of this three volume set and the actual title of volume three is *Official Roster III Soldiers of the American Revolution Who Lived in the State of Ohio*. It was published by the Ohio Society of NSDAR in 1959.

Call No: GR 977.1 OFFICIA


Call No: R 973.3092 PURCELL

Other Online Resources

Ancestry Library Edition (ALE) – Free through GALILEO, but only inside public libraries and University System of Georgia academic libraries.

Examples of the databases in Ancestry Library Edition under the Military Records category that relate specifically to the American Revolution are:

- American Revolutionary War Rejected Pensions
- North Carolina Revolutionary War Soldiers
- Officers of the Continental and U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, 1775 – 1900
- Pennsylvania Pensioners, 1835
- Revolutionary War Courts-Martial
- Revolutionary War Officers
- Revolutionary War Pension Index
- Revolutionary War Pensioner Census, 1841
- U.S. Compiled Revolutionary War Military Service Records, 1775-1783
- U.S. Revolutionary War Miscellaneous Records (Manuscript File), 1775-1790s
- U.S. Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783
- U.S. War Bounty Land Warrants, 1789-1858
• Virginia Militia in the Revolutionary War

**Family History Archives** - There are 17673 items in this free online collection.  
http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/index.php

“The Family History Archive is a collection of published genealogy and family history books. The archive includes histories of families, county and local histories, how-to books on genealogy, genealogy magazines and periodicals (including some international), medieval books (including histories and pedigrees), and gazetteers. It also includes some specialized collections such as the Filipino card collection and the “Liahona Elders Journal.” The books come from the collections of the FamilySearch Family History Library, the Allen County Public Library, the Houston Public Library – Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, the Mid-Continent Public Library – Midwest Genealogy Center, the BYU Harold B. Lee Library, the BYU Hawaii Joseph F. Smith Library, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Church History Library.” Website accessed 10 August 2010

**HeritageQuestOnline** - Free through GALILEO from home – you will need the current GALILEO password or to sign in through your PINES account. Go to http://www.clarke.public.lib.ga.us/ > select GALILEO under Research and Homework from box on right of screen > then on next page select from green box on right Genealogy & Georgia > then choose HeritageQuest Online from that list. Once you are in HeritageQuestOnline, choose “Search Revolutionary War”. You will also want to check under “Search Books” and “Search U.S. Serial Set” in HeritageQuest Online.

**Resources at UGA Libraries**  
http://www.libs.uga.edu/


**Reference Books** - this list is only a few to get you to the right area.


Main Ref:  KF40 .C570 1987


Main Ref:  Z1223 .Z7 C260 1975

Also check the UGA Online catalog (GIL) for materials.  https://gil.uga.edu/