

That's Revolutionary (War)!

Answers to Basic Questions
Genealogists are Afraid to Ask

Questions About The War

19 April 1775

To

26 Nov 1783

Colonists (“Whigs,” “Patriots”)

Vs

British (“Tories,” “Loyalists,” Indian Allies)

Questions About Military Structure

The Continental Line



Questions About Military Structure

The
State
Line



Questions About Military Structure

The Militia



Questions About Military Structure

Continental Line Ranks

Commissioned Officer

(Maj Gen>Brig Gen>*Col*>Lt Col>Maj>*Capt*>Lt>Ens)

Staff Officer

(Doctor, Aide de Camp, Quartermaster, Chaplain, etc)

Non-Commissioned Officer

(Sgt Maj>Sgt>Cpl)

Mus, Private

Questions About Military Structure

State Line Ranks

(same)

State Navy Ranks

(Adm>Capt>Cdr>Lt>Mid>Mate>Smn)

Militia Ranks

(Col>Lt Col>Capt>Lt>Ens>Sgt>Cpl>Pvt)

Questions About Military Service (Cont & State Lines)

Terms of Service

- Enlistment
- Draft
- Substitution

“Kinds” of Service

- Infantry -Artillery
- Cavalry -Staff Officers and Mus

Questions About Military Service

Drummer
Boys



Questions About Military Service (Cont Line)

Age, Occupation and Origin

Ages in a 1780 Virginia Size Roll (917 men)

13-19 (37.3%)

20-29 (45.8%)

30-39 (11.0%)

40-49 (4.8%)

50-60 (1.1%)

[Goldenberg et al, "Revolutionary Ranks: An Analysis of the Chesterfield Supplement," in *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* (87: 1979), 182-9).

Questions About Military Service (Cont Line)

Age, Occupation and Origin

Occupations in a 1780 Virginia Size Roll (917 men)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Farmer/Planter – 582 men | 2. Shoemaker – 42 men |
| 3. Carpenter – 36 | 4. Blacksmith – 27 |
| 5. Sailor – 25 | 6. Weaver – 24 |
| 7. Tailor – 21 | 8. Bricklayer – 11 |
| 9. Wheelwright – 10 | Just for fun: Taxter – 1 |

Desertions in a 1780 Virginia Size Roll (917) men

Did not desert – 90.1%

Deserted – 9.9%

Chesterfield Supplement

Wm. Kelley 20. 5. 6. do do

Stapp Stapp 20 Gray do

Deserted (Reg. 18)
 Deserted Dec. 25. 18 from Chesterfield, does.
 on Aquia abt. 2 miles S. from Selu Peyton.

Questions About Military Service (Militia)

Didn't All Men Serve in the Militia?

Statutory Militia Requirements:

Connecticut: 16-50; Alarm List up to 60 [Hoadly, *Pub Recs of CT*, vol 1, 91-2]

Delaware: 17-50 [*DE Arch*, vol 1, 543]

Georgia: 16-60 (1765-1778); 15-60 (1778-1784)
[*Backgrounds of the Selective Service*, vol II, part 4, 55, 118, 122]

Maryland: 16-50 [Clements & Wright, *MD Militia in the Rev*, 222]

Questions About Military Service (Militia)

Statutory Militia Requirements:

Massachusetts: 16-50; Alarm List to 65 [*Selective Service*, vol II, part 6, 220, 226, 231, 243]

New Hampshire: 16-50; Alarm List to 65 [NSDAR, *African-American & American Indian Patriots*, 1st ed., 123]

New Jersey: 16-50 [Militia Act of 15 March 1777]

New York: 16-50 [Militia Act of 8 Jan 1781]

North Carolina: 16-50 [NSDAR, 83, 159]

Pennsylvania: 18-53 [*Selective Service*, vol II, part 11, 31-3, 77, 84-5, 105-8, 118-20]

Questions About Military Service (Militia)

Statutory Militia Requirements:

Rhode Island: 16-50 [*Selective Service*, vol II, part 12, 87, 126, 144-154]

South Carolina: 16-60 (1775-82); then 16-50
[*Selective Service*, vol II, part 13, 67, 94]

Virginia: 16-50 [*Selective Service*, vol II, part 14, 273-4, 278-80, 321-2, 342-52, 373-5, 412-13]

Vermont: 16-50 [Haraty et al, *Put the Vermonters Ahead*, Chapter 5, 47]

Important Considerations for Military Service

How old was your ancestor?

Where did he live?

What was his socio-economic status?

Was he educated?

What was his religion?

Are you prepared for the possibility that your ancestor did nothing?

Questions About Military Sources

Continental Line

Or

Militia?

Questions About Military Sources (Continental Line)

National Archives

Muster Rolls

Capt Yelles Mead's company,
1st NJ Regt, Nov 1778

[NARA, M246; digitized at sites
such as fold3.com]

Samuel Marsh >

*Muster Roll of Capt. Yelles Mead's Comp^y 1st N^y Jersey Regt^t Command^d by Colonel Matthias Ogden
Taken for the Month of November 1778*

*Commissioned Officers. Yelles Mead Captain 29 Oct^r 1777
John Howells 1 Lieut^t Sick absent
Samuel Saly 2 Lieut^t Scurlock*

No	Rank	Name	Entered	Remarks	No	Rank	Name	Entered	Remarks
1	Sergeant	Laurence Dempsey	1	Furlow	1	Corporal	William Lewis	1	
2		Joseph Long	1		2		Wm. Bradshaw	1	
3		John Howland	1	Command	3		David Lee	1	
4		John Taylor	1						
1	Rank	James Drown	1		1	Rank	James Rodgers	1	
1	Private	John Brunnett	1		29	Private	Ben. Brunell	29 May	Guard
2		Samuel Bedworth	1		30		Geo. Marsh	1	Do
3		Ben. Bunnell	1		31		Sam ^l Carter	1	Do
4		Wm. Biggle	1		32		Calb ^l Suttle	1	Do
5		Rich ^d Clark	1		33		Israel East	1	C Spring field
6		Rich ^d Carter	1		34		Sam ^l Gray	1	C Northport
7		John Dennison	1		35		John Thomas	1	Do
8		Geo. Ferguson	1		36		Sam ^l Wipstick	29 May	Do
9		David Fowler	1		37		Jacob Gunning	1	C Mahanwa
10		Rich ^d Hoyle	1		38		Peter Johnston	1	C Morris town
11		William Ives	1		39		Thomas Stewart	1	C Mansworth
12		Jarring Lines	1		40		John Gadden	1	C Mahanwa
13		Benj ^m Lewis	1		41		Gilbert Brunell	1	C with Storage Mus
14		Reubin Pen	1		42		John Denton	1	C Westfield
15		Israel Pugh	1		43		William Sears	1	C Spring field
16		John Purdy	1		44		John Brunnett	1	C Mahanwa
17		Joseph Sayer	1		45		John Gunning	1	C Mansworth
18		Wm ^l Smith	1		46		Jos ^l Standlow	1	Furlow Sick 2
19		Benj ^m Thurston	1		47		Rob ^t Hamstead	1	Do
20		David White	1		48		John Denman	1	Do
21		Benj ^m Gutter	1		49		Matthias Beant	1	Do
22		Daniel Keady	29 May		50		Matthias Beant	1	Sick Present
23		Wm ^l Reed	1		51		Geo. Brown	1	Do Absent
24		Sam ^l Seward	1		52		Jos ^l Brown	1	Do Morris town
25		David Cooper	1		53		John Cuscut	1	Do Westfield
26		Sam ^l Withinson	1		54		John Yelle	1	Do Absent
27		Sam ^l Marsh	1		55		Jonathan Hush	1	Do Brunswick
28		Tho ^s Simpson	1	Woff for Service					

Elizabeth Town 15 Decem^r 1778.
Then Mustered Capt. Yelles Mead's Comp^y as Specified on the above.
Dechey D.C.

Questions About Military Sources (Continental Line)

National Archives

Compiled Military Service Records (aka CMSR's, M881)

[NARA, M881; digitized at sites such as
fold3.com]

Want a quick lookup in book form?

Virgil White, *Index to Revolutionary War
Service Records*, 4 vols.

M | 1 | N. J.	
(3d Establishment, 1777-83.)	
Saml. Marsh	
Rank	{ Capt. Yelles Mead's Co. of the 1st New Jersey Reg't of Foot, com- manded by Col. Matthias Ogden.*
(Revolutionary War.)	
Appears on	
Company Muster Roll	
of the organization named above for the month	
of	Oct, 1778.
Roll dated	Elizabeth Town
	Nov 2, 1778.
Appointed	....., 17 ..
Commissioned	....., 17 ..
Enlisted	June 5, 17 ..
Term of enlistment	9 months
Time since last muster or enlistment	.....
Alterations since last muster	.....
Casualties	.....
Remarks:	.....
*This company was designated at various times as Capt. John Conway's, Capt. Yelles Mead's, Capt. Giles Mead's, 3d and 7th Com- pany.	
(543)	Copyist

Questions About Military Sources (Continental Line)

National Archives Pensions

[digitized at such
sites as fold3.com;
ancestry.com]

SERVICE		NUMBER
New Jersey	Marsh, Samuel	S. 36.065
N.H. Garrison	or March	
CONTENTS		

Want a quick
lookup in book form?

Virgil White,
*Genealogical Abstracts
of Revolutionary War
Pension Files*, 4 vols.

honary war - That he the said Samuel Marsh
entered in the year 1775 in the State of New
Jersey in the Company commanded by Capt. Mead
of the first Regiment commanded by Colo. Mathias
Ogden in the Continental establishment - that he

Questions About Military Sources (Continental Line)

Federal Pensions: Some Thoughts

1. Do you always check the pensions?
2. Several pension acts (1818, 1832; 1836) Do you have a basic understanding of the provisions of each act? [Rose, *Military Pension Laws 1776-1858*]
3. Did your ostensible soldier live beyond the date of the pension act under which he would have qualified?

Questions About Military Sources (Continental Line)

Bounty Land

Federal or State bounty?

States that promised bounty land: GA, MD, MA,* NY,
NC, PA, SC, VA

States that did not promise bounty land: CT, DE,
NJ, RI, VT

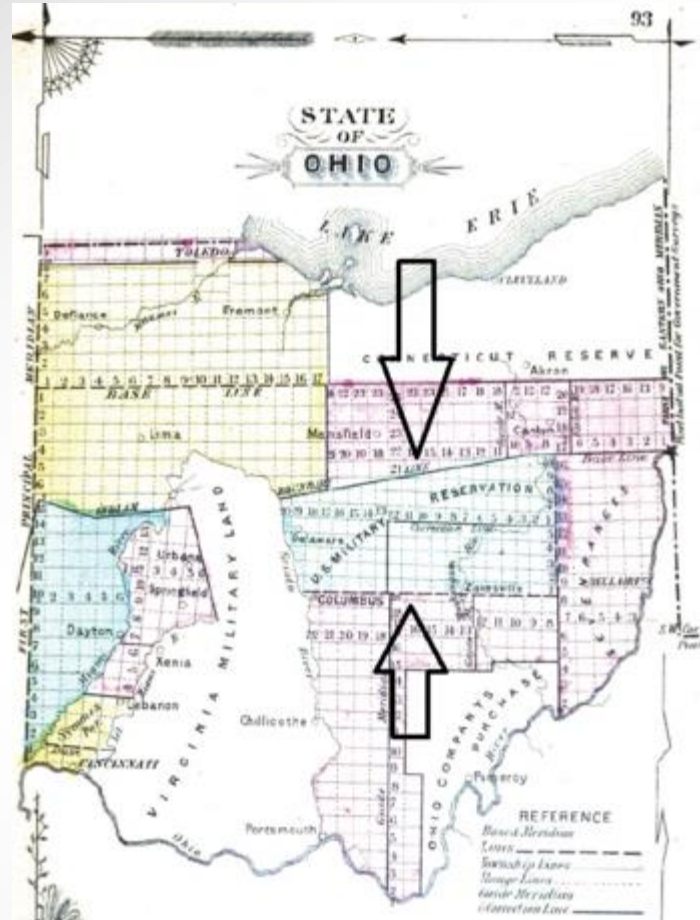
*MA was the only state that did not allow veterans
to claim both the federal and the state bounty

[Christine Rose, *Military Bounty Land 1776-1855*, 1-58]

Questions About Military Sources (Continental Line)

Bounty Land

U.S. Military Tract (1796)



Questions About Military Sources (Continental Line)

Bounty Land: Pitfalls

1. Searching for bounty land for a militiaman
2. Searching for state bounty land when it was actually federal, and vice versa
3. Assuming that any land acquired immediately after the war was bounty
4. Assuming that a man who settled in a bounty land tract was a soldier

Questions About Military Sources (Militia)

Where do I Look?

Connecticut: Johnston, *Connecticut Men in the Revolution*

Delaware: *Delaware Archives, vols I-III*

Georgia: Davis, *Georgia Citizens and Soldiers of the American Revolution*

Maryland: Clements & Wright, *Maryland Militia in the Revolution*

Massachusetts: *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War, 17 vols.*

New Hampshire: Hammond, *Rolls of the Soldiers in the Revolutionary War, NH State Papers, vols 14-17*

Questions About Military Sources (Militia)

Where do I Look?

New Jersey: Stryker, *Register of Officers & Men of New Jersey in the American Revolution*

New York: Roberts, *New York in the Revolution as Colony & State*

North Carolina: NC State Arch, *North Carolina Revolutionary War Pay Vouchers*, 73 microfilm rolls

Pennsylvania: Egle, *Pennsylvania Archives*, especially Series 5-6

Rhode Island: Smith, *Civil & Military Lists of Rhode Island*, vol 1

Questions About Military Sources (Militia)

Where do I Look?

South Carolina: SC Arch, *Accounts Audited Growing out of the Revolution*, 164 microfilm rolls

Vermont: Goodrich, *Rolls of the Soldiers in the Revolutionary War*

Virginia: Eckenrode, *List of Revolutionary Soldiers of Virginia*, vol 1

DAR Library “Source Guide” Series: at <http://www.dar.org/library/publication-guides>; States completed: GA, MA, NY, RI, VA

Also “Women in the Revolutionary Era” and “Forgotten Patriots: African American and American Indian Patriots”

Questions About Non-Military Service and Sources

Committees

Hollis, NH Town Meeting, 4 March 1776, "Capt Reuben Dow, Capt Noah Worcester, Ens Stephen Ames [...]" a Committee of Safety for this year.

Constables
 Deaⁿ Ensign Hays Deacon John Begeton Capt
 Reuben Dow (from voters)
 (community) Capt Reuben Dow Capt Noah Worcester Ens
 Stephen Ames Capt Daniel Hendrick Jacob
 Smith Oliver Loudness and Samuel Chamberlain
 Choose a Committee of Safety or Correspondence
 (nothing men) Mess^{rs} Josiah Conant Thomas Patch Thomas Hill
 Edward Taylor John Willoughby W^m Samuel Frost
 Chase Fulkins men

Questions About Non-Military Service and Sources

Public Claims

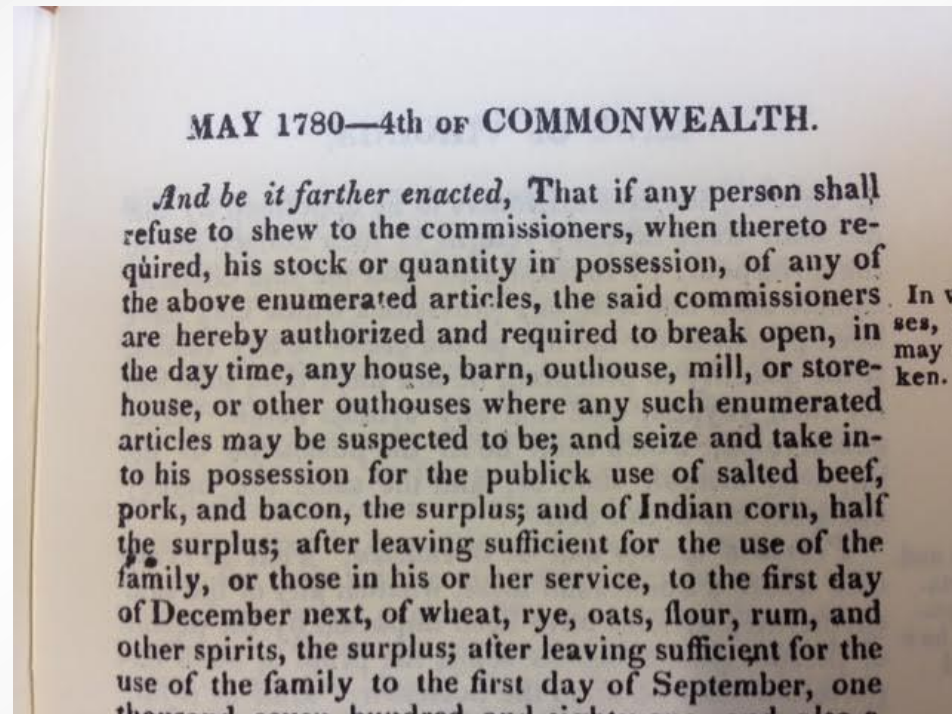
1 Jan 1781, NC to
Joshua Mabry of Warren Co,
for 59 pounds of pork
Supplied to the County
Commissioner

State of North Carolina 1781. Jan 1st 1781
Warren County
This may Certify that as Commissioner of the County
aforesaid I have purchased from Joshua
Mabry fifty nine pounds of pork at the
price obtained in Spanish Milled Dollars
by a ^{Bill} of Exchange drawn the 25th of July
1780 amounting in the whole to twenty seven
and six pence in Spanish Milled Dollars which
sum to bare Interest at Six ^{per} Cent until
paid Agreeable to an Act of Assembly in such
Case made
Yours Obedient Servant
John Christmas. Secy

Questions About Non-Military Service and Sources

Public Claims

Virginia to break open
“any house, barn,
outhouse, mill, or
storehouse, or other
outhouses where any
such enumerated
articles may be
suspected to be”



Questions About Non-Military Service and Sources

(Supply) Taxes

Lancaster County,
Pennsylvania, 1779

Margaret Anderson>>

508

EFFECTIVE SUPPLY TAX,

LEACOCK TOWNSHIP.

	Acres.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Negroes.
Anderson, Margret,	145	1	3	7	1
Abram, James,	1	..	..
Alexander, George,	1	..	..
Anderson, Roger,	2	3	8	..
Abram, William,	1	..	..

Other Groups

Loyalists

United Empire Loyalists <http://www.uelac.org/>

Clark, *Loyalists of the Southern Campaign* (3 vols.)

Hessians

Dulfer, *Hessische Truppen im Amerikanischen Unabhängigkeitskrieg* (6 vols., aka HETRINA)