

NATIVE AMERICANS IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

During the 1700s, Native Americans faced many threats to their way of life, culture, and existence on the land that they had inhabited for many, many generations. European colonization and expansion often led tribes to choose sides in numerous conflicts and wars to protect their interests.



VALLEY FORGE. 1777.

drawing by A. Gibert, lithograph by P. Haas

This image of an encampment of the Continental Army at Valley Forge in 1777 illustrates the diversity of those present. Note the American Indian man leaning on the tree to the right and African American man tending the fire in the front center.

At the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, Native Americans in the east, south, and along the frontier once again had to weigh their options

to protect their homes and have access to trade and supplies. Some chose the Loyalist side, some the Patriotic cause, while others tried to remain neutral. Often tribes were split.

Since the mid-1980s, the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) has supported efforts to identify the names of Native Americans and individuals of mixed heritage who supported the American struggle for independence from Great Britain during the American Revolution. In the last thirty years, the NSDAR Library has greatly expanded its collection of resources for Native American lineage research.

The NSDAR Specialty Research Committee is also an excellent resource for assistance with Native American Research. This committee has identified specific genealogical research materials, both online and in print, to help you document your lineage and locate proof of service for Native Americans who contributed to the American Revolution.

You are encouraged to document your Native American Patriot and submit an application for membership on these lines.

STEPS TO BEGIN

NATIVE AMERICAN SPECIALTY RESEARCH

1. Start with yourself and work your way back, one generation at a time.
2. Document as you go.
3. These types of records will be very helpful:
 - US federal, state, and county records
 - US Federal Indian records, US Federal Indian Census Rolls, Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - State records for non-federally recognized tribes
 - Tribal Records
4. As you progress, identify tribe, time frame, and location.
5. Learn the culture, beliefs, and history of the tribe; this will help direct your research as you work back on your lineage.

Historic Preservation - Education - Patriotism

COULD YOU HAVE A NATIVE AMERICAN ANCESTOR?

Hopefully, your family has documented proof of Native American Heritage. But if not, other possible clues may be:

- ☆ Family stories told by your parents, grandparents, or other family members.
- ☆ Customs, habits, words or phrases, distinctive dress, or traits that you have known since childhood.
- ☆ Family talk or memorabilia of a specific Native American tribe.
- ☆ Location of your ancestors' home near Native American land and communities.
- ☆ Family naming patterns.
- ☆ Time frame and destination of family migration.
- ☆ Family members missing from traditional genealogical records.
- ☆ The smallest piece of information may be the key!



☆ ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP

Any woman 18 years or older who can prove lineal, bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American independence is eligible to join the DAR. She must provide documentation for each statement of birth, marriage, and death, as well as of the Revolutionary War service of her Patriot ancestor.

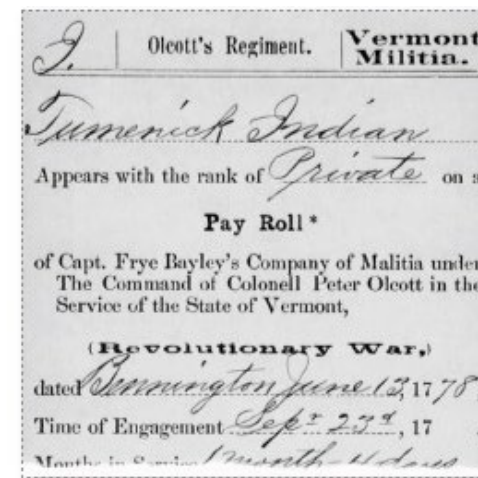
There are nearly 3,000 DAR chapters in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several foreign countries.

For more information, contact
The Specialty Research Committee
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Researching Your Native American Patriot



Can you trace your family back to those
who lived during the American
Revolution, 1775 - 1783?

If so, you may be eligible
for membership in the
Daughters of the American Revolution.