

TRACING YOUR LINEAGE

Can you trace your lineage back to a Patriot who served in the Revolutionary War?

A small sampling of possible Patriots...

<i>Hamet Achmet (CT)</i>	<i>Mary Hemings (VA)*</i>
<i>Prince Ames (MA)*</i>	<i>Micajah Hicks (NC)</i>
<i>Evans Archer (VA)</i>	<i>Zachariah Jacobs (NC)*</i>
<i>Gad Asher (CT)</i>	<i>Charles Lewis (VA)*</i>
<i>Josiah Arnold (RI)*</i>	<i>Jeff Liberty (CT)</i>
<i>London Atis (ME)</i>	<i>Absalom Martin (NC)*</i>
<i>Scipio Bartlett (MA)</i>	<i>Ambrose Month (VA)</i>
<i>Prince Bent (RI)</i>	<i>Ichabod Nye (MA)*</i>
<i>Cato Black (MA)</i>	<i>Adam Pierce (NJ)*</i>
<i>Isaac Brown (VA)</i>	<i>Sampson Moor (NH)*</i>
<i>John Brister (CT)</i>	<i>Amos Nicken (VA)*</i>
<i>Joseph Clark (ME)*</i>	<i>Rolff Penn (VA)*</i>
<i>Richard Cozens (RI)</i>	<i>Adam Pierce (NJ)</i>
<i>Henry Dorton (MD/VA)*</i>	<i>Samson Presho (MA)*</i>
<i>John Ellis (NC)</i>	<i>Joseph Ranger (MA)*</i>
<i>James Forten (PA)</i>	<i>John Redman (VA)</i>
<i>Sherard Going (VA)*</i>	<i>Caesar Russell (MA)*</i>
<i>Ezekiel Gomer (MA)*</i>	<i>Prince Sayward (ME)</i>
<i>Brister Gould (MA)</i>	<i>John Sidebottom (VA)</i>
<i>Gideon Griffin (SC)</i>	<i>Charles Storum (NY)*</i>
<i>Isaac Hammond (NC)</i>	<i>Nathan Weston (NH)*</i>
<i>George Hayes (NH)*</i>	<i>Henry Williams (MD)</i>

*DAR established Patriot

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

Lineage Research Committee
Minority and Ethnic Research
lineageresearch@nsdar.org
www.dar.org/minorityresearch

National Society Daughters of
the American Revolution
1776 D Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-5303
(202) 628-1776
www.dar.org



Researching Your African American Patriot



Portrait of James Forten
Historical Society of Pennsylvania
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RESEARCH YOUR LINEAGE

Begin your search.

Start with yourself and go backwards, one generation at a time. Useful records to collect include birth, death, and marriage certificates; obituaries, cemetery records, and funeral cards; probate and land records; newspaper announcements; oral histories; military records and discharge papers; and federal and state censuses.

Work your way back to 1870.

For enslaved ancestors, the 1870 federal census is especially important because it is the first census taken after the Civil War and names all persons in a household.

For free ancestors, the 1850 federal census is the first census to name all persons in a household.

Not all African Americans were enslaved.

Approximately 15% of African Americans were free when the Civil War began in 1861.

Continue your research in other records.

Findings in pre-1870 records are built on research in post-1870 records. Seek out marriage settlements, probate distributions, and court records. Documenting lineage and service is easier in the New England states than in the Southern states.

ESTABLISHING YOUR PATRIOT ANCESTOR

Who served and how did they serve?

More than 5,000 African American or mixed descent patriots served in the American Revolution.

Military service is credited to those who served in campaigns against the British between 19 April 1775 and 26 November 1783.

Civil Service is credited to those who conducted public business under the authority of the new federal, state, county, and town governments.

Patriotic service is credited to those who took action to further, or demonstrate loyalty to, the cause of American independence, such as taking the oath of fidelity, paying supply taxes, providing supplies or monetary aid, or serving on a committee made necessary by the war.



Peter Salem at Bunker Hill

From *The Colored Patriots of the American Revolution*
by William C. Nell

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USEFUL SOURCES

The following resources are available online or through interlibrary loan:

- ☆ *Freedman's Bureau Marriage Records, 1815 – 1866*
Available at www.familysearch.org
- ☆ *Freedman's Bank Records 1865 - 1871*
Available at www.familysearch.org
- ☆ *U.S. Southern Claims Commission Master Index 1871 – 1880*
www.slcl.org
- ☆ U.S. federal censuses, 1790 – 1940
Widely available
- ☆ Amistad Research Center
www.amistadresearchcenter.org
- ☆ *Records of Antebellum Southern Plantations from the Revolution through the Civil War*, Kenneth M. Stampp.
Ongoing; microfilm via interlibrary loan
- ☆ *Forgotten Patriots: African American and American Indian Patriots in the Revolutionary War*, NSDAR
www.dar.org/library/fp.cfm



Historic Preservation - Education - Patriotism