GENEALOGY GUIDELINES

Part Three:

Service

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PREFACE

This publication, *The Genealogy Guidelines - Part 3: Service,* contains guidance for Chapter Registrars and members proving service for DAR applications and member supplemental applications. All information reflects the current procedures for Chapter Registrars and members as outlined in the DAR Bylaws and Handbook and per the Office of the Registrar General. The information also reflects recent modifications affecting the submission and verification of New Member applications and Member Supplementals, including those changes made per rulings of the Executive Board. Following the **Genealogy Guidelines** will promote the timely approval of applications submitted for review at National Headquarters.

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INTRODUCTION

It is essential that each Chapter Registrar understand the verification process and criteria by which the National Society evaluates applications and supplementals. This section of the Genealogy Guidelines will assist chapter registrars and applicants in researching Revolutionary War service by providing examples of the types of military, civil, and patriotic service currently accepted by the National Society. Bibliographies of the most commonly accepted sources are included in several of the sections below; however, these bibliographies are not exhaustive. Additional sources may be submitted as proof of service, provided all documentation conforms to the current DAR Standards of Acceptability as explained in the previous sections of this publication.

Please note: Due to the unique nature of each application, the Staff Genealogist evaluates all information on a case-by-case basis; therefore, the National Society does not guarantee acceptability of any service or source of service prior to an application's submission.

The material in this portion of the publication is to be used as a training tool and reference guide by researchers who are passionate in their pursuit of genealogy. As a lineage society and as Americans, we believe that our ancestry connects us to the history of this great nation. Together we can ensure that the service and sacrifice of each DAR patriot is accurately documented and remembered.

GENEALOGY GUIDELINES, PART THREE: SERVICE

SECTION I: THE VERIFICATION PROCESS

When an application for membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution is prepared, the Chapter Registrar and the prospective member must examine the application to ensure it is properly completed.

Information that has been verified on previous applications does not need to be proven again; however, when an incomplete paper (that is missing dates and places, and/or references for lineage or service) is used as a basis for a new application, the applicant must furnish sufficient information to identify each person named in the line of descent. She must also document the service and place of residence for her Revolutionary War ancestor.

The place of residence during the Revolution must be given as fully as possible, usually at the town level in New England, and at the county level elsewhere. If the ancestor's residence is not currently listed in her/his GRS profile, or if a "new ancestor" application is being submitted, the residence requirement must be met *before* service sources will be considered. The Society requires proof of residence: (1) to connect the claimed ancestor in the lineage on page two of the application with the service claimed on page four; and (2) to ensure that service is not assigned to one person when, in fact, it was performed by another of the same/similar name.

In most cases, except for pensions, the source used to prove residence will not be the same as that used to prove service. For instance, if you have proof of service for an individual on a jury, you should prove, from other source(s) generated from the Revolutionary War era, that the juror was the same person as that found on page two.

Residence must be shown to be consistent with the life events for the individual. For example, if an ancestor was born and died in Massachusetts, but residence and service in New Jersey are claimed, acceptable documentation must be provided to show that the individual moved from Massachusetts to New Jersey and then back to Massachusetts. If there is more than one person of the same name in the same place, it must be CONCLUSIVELY proved that the service belongs to the ancestor the applicant claims.

The challenges of proving residence are unique to each application and, as such, what may work for one submission might be entirely ineffective for another. If vital records show an ancestor's birth,

marriage, and death in a given locality, and show the births of her/his children in the same place, such might be a good indicator of place of residence. Most applicants are not this lucky. Other common sources used to prove residence include, but are not limited to, church records, court minutes, land grants, etc. If the claimed ancestor was so young during the Revolutionary War that records may not be available to prove residence, and if the parents may be proved from acceptable sources, the residence of the parents may be taken into consideration.

Records showing individuals in "list" format, such as tax records, often include little biographical detail. Such records should be used with care, particularly if the verified lineage on page two of the application does not warrant such usage. For example, if an ostensible ancestor married in Wilkes County, Georgia in 1785 and died there in 1820, a Brunswick County, Virginia tax list from 1782, *alone*, may be insufficient to prove residence. The migration may need to be proven from additional records, such as deeds showing the ancestor selling land in Brunswick County and buying land in his new place of abode.

Once a place of residence has been determined, it must be shown that:

1. The individual was living at the time the service was performed;
2. S/he was of an age suitable to have performed the service;
3. It is reasonable to assume that this individual, and not someone else of the same name, performed the service.

The applicant and Chapter Registrar (or member assigned to assist the applicant) must develop the lineage to the Revolutionary War period, determining exactly where the ancestor lived between 1775 and 1783. The ancestor must have lived within the town, township, precinct or hundred where the civil or patriotic service was performed, or the state in which the militia was activated. One might determine whether the service claimed was possible by studying the battles that occurred in the area, the dates on which the various committees were appointed (Patriotic Service), or the dates civil government was in effect.

Men who served in the Continental Line may have served in all major battles from Canada to Yorktown. **You must prove that the service claimed belonged to the ancestor named.** Men between the ages of sixteen and fifty were generally obligated to serve in the militia. These ages may vary as each state passed its own law or laws regulating military service.

The NSDAR does not credit service to children under the age of twelve years. This includes, but is not limited to, those children who were prisoners of war or who were refugees from British-occupied areas.

Military service and pension records are available at both the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and websites such as *Ancestry.com*, *Fold3.com,* and *FamilySearch.org*. The State Archives in the state where the soldier lived may have additional records.

On occasion, it may be necessary to include a Service Study. Service Studies are commonly used to identify the service of multiple men of the same name in the same area. A Service Study should be as concise as possible, ideally two to three pages long. Copies of all proof documents cited in the Service Study must also be included. The Members' Website contains an example of a Service Study as well as a Genie Clip about how to create one.

A Service Study should include five sections:

1. Statement of Purpose
2. List of Documents
3. Identification of the Persons in question
4. Establish Residence
5. Conclusion: Attributing Service

SECTION II: EXAMPLES OF ACCEPTABLE SERVICE

Signers of the Declaration of Independence

On 1 July 1776, Richard Henry Lee presented to the Continental Congress a resolution proposed by Virginia: "*That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states."* On 4 July 1776, by the unanimous vote of twelve colonies, Congress voted to accept the Declaration of Independence as drafted by Thomas Jefferson. Most delegates signed the document on 12 August 1776.

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Goodrich, Charles A. *Lives of the Signers to the Declaration of Independence*. 7th ed. New York: Thomas Mather, 1837.

Pyne, Frederick Wallace. *Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence.* 7 Vols, Camden and Rockport, ME: Picton Press, 1997–2000.

Military Service

Military service in the Revolution began with the Battle of Lexington, 19 April 1775, and ended on 26 Nov 1783, the date that the British evacuated New York City. The National Society assigns military service rendered by officers and men of the Continental Army, Navy, state lines, militias, state navies, and the French Army and Navy.

A soldier is credited with the highest rank achieved during the Revolution. When proof of military service exists, but details of the service are unknown, the man is assigned the rank of "Soldier." While many men served in military capacities after the Revolutionary War period, these activities are outside the scope of the DAR verification process.

The Continental Army

In June 1775, the Continental Congress authorized the establishment of military units that became the Continental Line or Continental Army. Regiments in the Continental Army, particularly earlier in the war, were recruited and raised from very specific areas, and it is common to expect that soldiers in these early units were residents of the towns and counties with which the regiment in question was closely identified. Later in the war, with the reorganization(s) of the army, regiments may or may not have maintained easily distinguishable affiliations with particular regions. Nevertheless, unless an affidavit of service found in a pension renders it unnecessary, applicants claiming descent from a Continental Line soldier are advised to study the history of the unit in which it is believed the man served. The applicant may avoid the common error of claiming service for her Patriot, when it was actually performed by a different man of the same name. Importantly, applicants should understand that the Society might not assign Continental Line service simply because a name is found on a muster roll or an account for payment. The residence of the man in question must be demonstrated before any military service will be considered.

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Trussell, John B.B., Jr. *The Pennsylvania Line, Regimental Organization and Operations 1776-1783.* Harrisburg, PA: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1977.

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State Lines

During the Revolution, some state assemblies created regiments of regular troops, separate from both Continental Line units and the militia, that were dedicated for local defense. Virginia was a notable example. Whereas the state's Continental Line units could be deployed for service anywhere in the United States, the concept regarding State Line units was that they were to be reserved for the defense of that particular state. This general rule was compromised as the war progressed and neighboring states were faced with the threat of invasion and other emergencies.

Militia

Militia units were organized during the early settlement of the colonies for the protection of the colonists from attacks by certain American Indian groups. Militiamen were expected to drill at various points throughout the year and were subject to emergency or expeditionary service at the discretion of the Governor of the colony. Active-duty service may have been for a few hours, several days, or perhaps a few months. Since the county and/or town organized militia service, it is imperative to prove the residence of a man from acceptable sources *before* considering any service sources. Unless it is a pension, the service source itself does not prove place of residence during the Revolution. The Society will not assign militia service in one county or town to a man who clearly lived somewhere else.

While, in theory, every able-bodied free man of a certain age (roughly 16-50) was a "member" of the militia, the Society will not assign military service without documentary evidence from an appropriate source, such as a muster roll, an account of payment, a pension, etc. The Society will consider military service based on certain class lists (lists grouping men for potential service); however, there are exceptions.

For example, obvious pacifists such as Quakers, while classed for potential militia service, probably never performed actual duty. A fine was very often paid, instead.

Special note about substitutes: If a man served as a substitute, he has military service (rank, service description and service source as appropriate). Patriotic Service is given to the man providing the substitute; Patriotic Service, Provided Substitute, and Source.

The Continental Navy

On 13 October 1775, the Continental Congress authorized the establishment of the Continental Navy as proposed by Rhode Island delegates. By December, merchant ships had been purchased and converted for use as warships to protect the coasts and commercial shipping, and the construction of additional ships was authorized.

The Continental Navy reached its maximum strength in 1776 but never had more than thirty ships at one time. Its purpose was to support land troops, protect the coasts and capture enemy supply ships.

National Archives records include payrolls of the Continental Ship *Confederacy* 1780-1781; photocopies of rosters of the officers and crew of the *Bonhomme Richard*, commanded by John Paul Jones; the *Dallas*, and the *Vengeance*, 1779; and photocopies of the log of the Continental Ship, *Ranger,* 1778-1780.

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State Navies

In July 1775, the Continental Congress authorized each colony, at its own expense, to provide armed vessels to protect its harbors and navigate its seacoasts. Although some colonies commissioned the building of armed vessels, most state navies were composed of converted merchant ships. Their fleet size

and effectiveness varied from colony to colony. New Jersey, Delaware and Vermont did not maintain a state navy.

Privateers

Privateers were privately owned, armed trading vessels, commissioned or issued letters of marque from either the Continental Congress or from the individual provisional government (sometimes by both) to capture enemy ships and goods. The bounty or prize was divided between the officers and seamen and the governing body that authorized the privateering. Bounties made privateering very profitable and provided much needed supplies to the American forces. The Continental Congress officially authorized privateering for the war on 23 March 1776, although some states had already initiated privateering prior to that date.

Courts Martial, Desertion, and Fines

Each colony, then state, as well as the Continental Congress, passed laws throughout the war governing the formation of our military units and the conduct of the men assigned to those units. The Continental Congress concerned itself with the Continental Line (our National Army). Either the men in the Continental Line were to be able-bodied white men who were not "idiots" (sic) who volunteered, or the state drafted them to fulfill their quota. The age for non-officers was generally 16-40 years of age. A portion of the legislation concerned the unexcused absence (desertion) from their legally required presence in a Continental Line unit opposing the enemy. A Court Martial was prescribed for any man found to have deserted and execution was a possible outcome. Desertion from a Continental Line unit is considered unpatriotic, and all prior service is negated. **Proof of acceptable service that occurred after the date of desertion must be provided.**

The colonies, then states, concerned themselves with the militia forces that were broadly similar to today's Army Reserve or National Guard. In general, all able-bodied white men who were not mentally challenged or who fell into a few exemption categories, were required to attend militia muster with the proper equipment when called upon. The ages of required militia service varied from state to state but were generally 16-50 years of age for the highest class of militia. A portion of the state's legislation pertained to absence from the required militia practices (missing muster) or presence at muster but without the required equipment.[1] A Court Martial would be held and fines assessed. Being fined or appearing on a fines list is

[1] Missing muster is considered a lesser offense than desertion.

considered unpatriotic and all prior service is negated. The Society will consider exceptional cases wherein the reason for the fine is explicitly given in the record; however, in most instances, proof of acceptable service that occurred after the date of the fine must be provided.

Some of the reasons for deserting or missing muster are well known. A non-exhaustive list of reasons includes a birth or death in family, bringing in the crops, or non-participation based on religious beliefs; however, the genealogy staff are not in a position to determine the reasons for desertion or fines and therefore must accept the surviving evidence at face value. A mark of desertion or fine in the military record of an ancestor is not considered acceptable service. Additional evidence is necessary to prove service after the date of the desertion or fine.

The Pennsylvania Archives, 3rd Series, Volumes 5, 6 and 7 contain fines lists for various counties in Pennsylvania. In the past, some individuals were erroneously credited with 'militia service' because their name appeared on one of these lists. When future applications are submitted through these individuals, the 'military service' incorrectly assigned will be removed and additional proof of service after that date will be required. The information in the Pennsylvania Archives is derived from data found on microfilms: "Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Records of the Office of the Comptroller General, Military Accounts Militia RG 4." These films have the exact dates of missing muster not just the broad two- or three-year-time spans found in the Pennsylvania Archives volumes. Unfortunately, the films are not indexed or transcribed.

Gwathmey, "Historical Register of Virginians in the Revolution," included the men court martialed in Augusta Co, VA in his list of soldiers. Creel, "Selected Virginia Revolutionary War Records volume 2: Augusta County Court Martial Minutes," provides transcriptions of the documents in question and clarifies who is and who is not a patriot. Like Gwathmey, Roberts, "New York in the Revolution," included the names of men who deserted or missed muster in his lists of soldiers. Records of desertion can be found in two series of records from the National Archives. The series M881, "Compiled Military Service Records of Soldiers Who Served During the Revolutionary War," and series M246, "Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783," do list deserters and should be used instead of Gwathmey or Roberts whenever possible. Gwathmey is not accepted for Augusta Co, VA militia service or for service in the Continental Line.

Civil Service

Civil service is credited to those individuals who conducted public business under the authority of the new federal, state, county or town governments and displayed evidence of loyalty to the cause of political separation from England. It was the law in all states during the Revolution that office holders be vested in the government they served.

In New England, the business of ordinary government was conducted by the towns. The principal officers were selectmen and moderators. Additional officers were added to suit the needs of the particular town. Outside New England, business was conducted at the county level and the types of offices held varied with the needs of the counties. Some states, notably New York, used both town and county forms of government.

As with all types of service, applicants seeking to establish civil service for an ancestor must first prove their place of residence. Documentation is required to prove that the patriot lived in the location where the service took place. It also must be demonstrated that the service claimed is consistent with the ancestor's age and status in the town.

Civil service began in the new American states when (1) the royal governor was removed from power and (2) a form of statewide American government was established. Credit is not given for civil service in cities or states that were occupied by the British. Civil service is credited only when the Americans regained control of the locality.

Some offices classified as civil service include State officials (other than governor and members of the legislature), county and town officers such as: Town Clerk, Selectman, Town Treasurer, Judge, Juror, Sheriff, Constable, Jailer, Overseer of the Roads, Justice of the Peace, Moderator, Overseer of the Poor, etc.

Patriotic Service

A Patriot of the American Revolution is any man or woman who demonstrated unfailing loyalty to the cause of American Independence from England. To prove this loyalty, the National Society requires documentation, from an acceptable source, of an act or series of actions, by which an individual clearly supported the fight for American Independence. Patriotic service is evaluated on a case-by-case basis that focuses on the purpose of the act or actions as well as the risks and consequences involved.

The Society will consider acts of patriotic service that occurred between 19 April 1775 and 26 November 1783. The exceptions to this rule are the individuals who served on committees made necessary by the approaching war in late 1774 and early 1775.

NOTE: Due to the unique information provided in each application, the National Society is unable to guarantee acceptability of any service or source of service prior to submission of an application.

Proof of patriotic service may be found in town, county, state, and/or federal records. At the town and county level, some records have not yet been indexed. This may require the researcher to search through archived town and court minutes, perhaps involving a visit to the local courthouse or repository. At the state level, most records are indexed. Researchers should contact the state archives to determine if evidence of an individual's contribution to the war effort exists. Many federal records, such as the Minutes of the Continental Congresses, have been published and are available online. Old letters, diaries, family records, and personal papers may also be used as evidence of patriotic service; however, before submitting, please make sure that these documents were recorded at the time of the event and meet the current DAR standards of acceptability.

To establish patriotic service that has not been previously proven, documentation of the act or actions must be submitted with the application, along with proof that the purpose, risk and consequence of that act clearly implied patriotic intent. Some examples of patriotic service currently accepted by the National Society appear below. This is by no means a complete list. All applications claiming patriotic service, as well as military and/or civil service, are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Members of the Provincial Congresses, including State Governors and Legislators

The Provincial Congresses met in each of the colonies in 1774 and continued to meet until the new state governments were established. Minutes for many of these meetings have been published.

NOTE: Royal governors do not qualify for service.

Members of Continental Congress

The first such gathering convened on 5 September 1774 in Carpenter's Hall, Philadelphia, with delegates from every colony except Georgia. The Second Congress met from May 1775 until March 1781 and became the governing body of the United States until the Articles of Confederation were ratified in

1781. The minutes of the Continental Congress have been published, along with the correspondence of its members. Its business papers are microfilmed with a five-volume printed index.

Members of Committees made necessary by the war

- Committees of Correspondence: These committees facilitated communication among the colonial assemblies. They represent the first step toward united action by the colonies, which eventually led to the call for a general Congress.

- Committees of Safety: The Committees of Safety at the state level were successors to the Committees of Correspondence. Appointed by the Provincial Congresses or Conventions, they served as interim state governments until new state constitutions were implemented. Their primary focus was security and defense, which often included command of the militia.

- Revolutionary Committees: Committees at the town and county level had several different names: Committee, General Committee, Committee of Safety, Committee of Inspection, Committee of Observation or some combination thereof. The members of these committees were elected, as specified in the First Continental Congress' Articles of Association in October 1774. The main duty of the Revolutionary Committee members was enforcing adherence to the terms of these Articles of Association.

Members of the Boston Tea Party

On 16 December 1773, the colonists boycotted the Tea Act by staging the Boston Tea Party. The only acceptable source for proving the members of the Boston Tea Party is Francis S. Drake's, *Tea Leaves: Being a Collection of Letters and Documents Relating to the Shipment of Tea to the American Colonies in the Year 1773, by the East India Tea Company. Now First Printed from the Original Manuscript. With an Introduction, Notes, and Biographical Notices of the Boston Tea Party.* Boston: A. O. Crane, 1884.
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Signers of an Oath of Allegiance or Fidelity

Most states required their adult male inhabitants to swear (or affirm, for certain groups) an Oath of Allegiance to the new state government. For example, in May 1777, Virginia enacted a law that required all free males above the age of sixteen to swear their loyalty to the Commonwealth of Virginia. The men who took these oaths qualify for patriotic service.

Signers of Petitions

Petitions signed by residents of the colonies between the dates of 19 April 1775 and 26 November 1783 may be used as sources of patriotic service, providing that the petition clearly demonstrates loyalty to the cause of American Independence.

The petitions most likely to be used for service will be those that:

1. Include requests facilitating the prosecution of the war by patriot military forces;
2. Include requests that approve of, promote, and/or facilitate the colonies' complete political separation from Great Britain;
3. Include language approving specific acts of rebellion on the part of an American governing body; and
4. Include specific language disapproving of those not loyal to the cause of American Independence from Great Britain.

Petitions primarily requesting an action resulting in gratuitous or self-indulgent financial and/or material gain may not be used as service. Religious petitions, such as those requesting the disestablishment of the Church of England, are usually unacceptable, however will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Such petitions must include explicitly patriotic language. DAR will not credit service to individuals based upon the general proclivities of a particular religious denomination.

The mere act of petitioning a provisional government is *not* acceptable as service. Loyalists often petitioned provisional governments for, among other things, the restitution of confiscated lands. Their act of petitioning a legislature, therefore, was not a demonstration of their loyalty to the American cause. The petition must include specific language that meets the criteria as stated herein.

Defenders of Forts and Stations lived on the frontier, from the Great Northern Lakes to Georgia, and are documented as having actively defended the western frontiers against British forces and a number of American Indian groups that had become their allies. These individuals qualify for patriotic service.

Doctors, nurses, and others who rendered aid to the American wounded qualify for patriotic service. This does not include individuals who only provided aid for wounded family members.

Ministers who gave patriotic sermons and encouraged patriotic activity. The Society requires documentary evidence from the Revolutionary War era proving patriotism, such as a sermon text.

Prisoners of War or refugees fleeing occupation by enemy forces qualify for patriotic service. Those who suffered depredation may also be eligible. To prove this, documentation must be provided that clearly indicates British forces and/or their allies were responsible for the depredation or imprisonment.

Prisoners on British prison ships. Prisoner lists rarely contain information regarding an individual's residence or military unit; therefore, the applicant must supply documentation to prove, without a doubt, that the prisoner is indeed the person from whom the applicant descends.

Those who furnished a substitute for military service. Military service is given to the man who served as the substitute.

Those who rendered material aid and supported the cause of American Independence by furnishing supplies, with or without remuneration, loaning money and/or providing munitions.

Those who paid a Supply Tax

Financing the American Revolution proved to be challenging, as there was no central treasury, nor did the only form of unified government, the Continental Congress, have the power to tax the individual states. Between January 1777 and October 1782, the Continental Congress passed a series of requisitions with the intent to raise money for the war effort. Individual quotas were placed on each state to raise the necessary funds. As only the individual state assemblies had the power of taxation, it is common to see wording in the state laws pursuant to an "Act of Congress dated _____."

Oftentimes, to understand the true intent of the state legislation, a researcher must refer back to the original Continental requisition. The Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789, can be found online at the Library of Congress, American Memory. In order for these supply taxes to be acceptable for DAR purposes, confirmation of the law that authorizes the tax must be submitted with the supply tax. We must evaluate the laws in order to determine whether it authorized a supply tax. Some records refer to the "Continental Tax." Determining which exact requisition of Congress these may refer to is oftentimes impossible. However, for NSDAR purposes, these "Continental Taxes" also constitute Patriotic Service, as all requisitions passed by the Continental Congress were relevant to raising funds to assist in the war effort.

It is important to note that some states exempted troops in Continental Line service from payment of taxes. In these instances, tax lists are not the best source to try to prove residence for military service.

The term "supply tax" is generally understood as money raised specifically to purchase material aid such as clothing, food, and wagons to provide to the military and naval forces. However, various legislative acts such as the "2% tax" in Virginia make it clear these taxes were also levied to raise bounties to help recruit soldiers into Continental Line service, and otherwise facilitate the prosecution of the war by recalling and sinking depreciated paper currency that threatened the ability to continue to finance the war. Nor were these taxes always paid specifically in specie or paper currency, but rather in commodities. For example, in some instances the taxes were to be paid in wheat, Indian corn, rye, barley, oats, hemp, inspected tobacco in transfer notes, rice, beef, or pork. These are referred to at times as "specific taxes" or "provisions taxes."

In many instances, although there are many legislative acts which would constitute a "supply tax," locating the corresponding assessments may be very challenging. For example, there are no extant Revolutionary War assessments for Georgia, and in 1779, the Continental Congress exempted Georgia from paying its quota of taxes due to British invasion. Although there are a very small number of tax records from South Carolina that appear to date to 1783, they do not constitute a "supply tax." The detailed nature of the individual state's laws precludes any in-depth discussions or listing of the exact supply tax legislation by state. Listed below is a select bibliography for most states for which supply taxes exist.

Those who suffered Depredation

The General Assembly passed a law titled "Defense of the frontiers of this state and for other purposes therein mentioned", act December 22, 1781 (10 St. L. 373, Ch. 956). This act exonerated the following localities from paying taxes "due to the…". The following locations are known to have this designation:

Bedford County
Northumberland County
Westmoreland County
Washington County
Armagh Township, Cumberland County

There are also some military functions designated as Patriotic Service: Assistant Commissary, Cadet, Court Martial Man, Court Martial Officer, Commissary, Commissary General, Dep Commissary General, Express Rider, Forage Master, Guide, Ostler, Orderly Sergeant, providing a Substitute, Recruiting Officer, Scout, Spy, Tailor, Teamster, Volunteer, Wagon Master, Wagoneer, and Waiter.

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Loyalists or Tories

Many of the colonists' loyalties during the Revolutionary War were divided: in very general terms, there were those who demanded that the British Parliament honor the rights granted to the colonies by charter ("Patriots"), and those loyal to the Crown ("Loyalists" or "Tories"). Terms such as "Loyalist" are somewhat problematic, not least since there were people on both sides of the conflict who considered themselves "loyal" in various degrees to their respective causes. Were Loyalists (with a capital L) only those who maintained allegiance to the Crown throughout the Revolution and who evacuated the colonies with the British Army at the end of the war? Certainly, there were many levels and manifestations of disaffection to the American cause. All levels of such disaffection are covered by the DAR eligibility clause, which states that any woman is eligible for membership who descends from "a man or woman who, with unfailing loyalty to the cause of American Independence," served in a military, civil, or patriotic capacity (*Bylaws*, Article III, Section 1).

The "unfailing loyalty" phrase has its origins in a vote of founders and members of the Society at the Continental Congress of February 1894, precisely in response to the Loyalist issue. As such, an application based on the service of a Loyalist or Tory is not acceptable.

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Pacifists

As the colonists became increasingly hostile in response to the acts of the British Parliament, many began to favor a separation from England. Others, known as Loyalists, disagreed, and insisted that the colonies remain loyal to the Crown. A third group, called Pacifists, believed that disputes between nations should and could be settled peacefully. Ancestors who were members of a religious pacifist sect require additional caution when proving Revolutionary war service. Groups such as the Religious Society of Friends (also known as Quakers), Moravians, Mennonites, Amish, German Baptists (also called Dunkers), Schwenkfelders, and Sandemanians generally opposed violence by refusing to bear arms or to support any form of military action. Many Pacifists also refused to swear oaths of allegiance to the patriot cause based on their belief that swearing an oath was a violation of God's law. Some Pacifists, however, did agree to "affirm" their allegiance, claiming that they were willing to aid their distressed neighbors without supporting the war effort in any way. If an individual's name appears on a list of affirmations, that individual can be credited with patriotic service.

Occasionally, a member of a religious pacifist sect did participate in military action; however, before the military service can be credited to that individual, the applicant must provide documentation that her ancestor, in violation of religious principles, actually performed the claimed service. Since Pacifists were chastised by their church for military involvement and misconduct, these repercussions can often be found in the church records. If an individual's name appears in such a record, a copy of that document must be submitted along with the accompanying record(s) of service.

Pacifists may also be eligible for patriotic service if documentation can conclusively prove that they provided medical aid, food, goods, or financial aid to the Patriot cause. Once again, however, in addition to the current standards required for proving an ancestor's residence and service, the service for an individual who was a Pacifist must also be accompanied by additional documentation that conclusively proves the claimed ancestor was the individual who performed the claimed service.

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SECTION III: STATES & COUNTRIES

SOURCES FOR SERVICE

Each State has a bibliography listing sources for service. As new information becomes available, some sources that may have been accepted in the past may be determined to have errors that call the source into question. **Please carefully review the Bibliography of each state and country for any updates to the sources listed.**

Connecticut

Connecticut residents held a statewide convention in Hartford in 1774 at which time the delegates agreed to support the American Revolutionary cause and formed a State Committee of Correspondence. By May 1776, the Colony had renounced King George III.

Support for the Revolution in Connecticut was very strong due to her strategic geographical location and large population. One of the supporters who embraced the cause was Jonathan Trumbull, the Royal Governor of Connecticut. He was the only Colonial Governor remaining in the United States to do so. Military participation in the state began when militiamen from several towns answered the Lexington Alarm on 19 April 1775. Men from Connecticut were among the leaders at some of the first battles of the Revolution such as Ticonderoga and Quebec. Connecticut forces fought throughout the war at many other battles including the final one at Yorktown in October 1781.

Both the Connecticut Navy, formed in the summer of 1775, and a coast guard, were of particular importance to Connecticut. They enabled her to interrupt Loyalist traffic from Long Island across Long Island Sound into the western parts of the State, particularly Fairfield County, where some supporters of the royal government resided.

In October 1776, Connecticut approved an Act for prescribing Oaths of Fidelity. In 1777 and 1778, legislation was passed by the General Assembly requiring all towns to clothe their non-commissioned officers and soldiers. In addition to supplying their own men, many residents of Connecticut loaned money to the United States Continental Loan Office.

A group of settlers from Connecticut, who relocated to the Wyoming Valley area of the present state of Pennsylvania, contributed two independent companies to the army.

In July 1778, combined British and American Indian forces attacked the Wyoming Valley settlement. Many of the patriotic settlers were massacred or forced to flee. Records pertaining to Wyoming Valley residents may also be found in Pennsylvania sources.

In 1781, the British destroyed nine towns by fire including New London, Greenville, Fairfield, Danbury, Ridgefield, Norwalk, New Haven and East Haven, and Groton. In 1792, the Connecticut Legislature set aside 500,000 acres in the western part of Connecticut's Western Reserve, to compensate

those who suffered depredations. These lands became known as the "Fire Lands" or "Sufferers' Lands," and encompassed what later became the counties of Erie and Huron in the state of Ohio. A listing of those who received compensation can be found in Volume 7 of Larabee's Public Records of the State of Connecticut.

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Delaware

Until 11 September 1776, Delaware was under the jurisdiction of the Governor of the state of Pennsylvania with the lower three counties referred to as the "tail on the kite." Councils of Safety were established in each county responsible to the government of Pennsylvania. These counties laid down regulations for their own militia and held meetings in Dover in 1775.

Delaware men served with military distinction in major battles from New York to Yorktown. They were nicknamed "Blue Hen's Chickens." Others who were lukewarm to the Revolution were often grouped with the Loyalists, but were "hesitants" and "Pacifists," like the Quakers.

Delaware began statehood with a population of thirty-seven thousand: two-thirds were of English descent, the remainder consisting of Scots Irish, Swedes, Welsh, Dutch and enslaved people of color. This helps to explain Delaware's allegiance to the British. Loyalist-backed insurrections broke out in Sussex County in 1776, 1777 and 1780 as well as in Kent County in 1776 and 1778. An Act of 26 June 1778 pardoned many of the inhabitants who had given aid to the British, and tended to quell the outbreaks

of violence, which had occurred. New Castle County, with a sizable minority of Presbyterian Scots Irish showed the greatest support in favor of American independence. Delaware, prosperous at the beginning of the Revolution, ended in poverty.

Original military records of Delaware are at the Hall of Records in Dover. Except for the Oaths of Allegiance, which have been published, many sources of civil and patriotic service are found in microfilms issued by the State.

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Georgia

On 17 January 1775, the Georgia Assembly convened in Savannah. The Provincial Congress met the following day. Radical and conservative Whigs continued to vie with the British for control of the government. A Second Provincial Congress was held 4 July 1775 that resulted in the Whigs gaining control and the removal of the British. The British returned later to regain control and occupy Savannah from December 1778 through July 1782. They also gained sporadic control of Augusta and other outlying areas causing the economy of the colony to weaken to a desperate level. The struggle to maintain a state government in the Whig controlled areas of Georgia continued after the return of the British. Political factions developed among the Whigs, as well, further complicating the situation. Civil and patriotic service may be established, however, when the activity can be proven to have been in support of the Whig movement and clearly was against the Tory elements in Georgia. Candler's *Revolutionary Records of Georgia* documents the efforts to re-establish the government in Georgia.

The key when using Georgia bounty land grants to establish Revolutionary service is to look for the person originally entitled to the land. Military service is recognized according to military rank and unit. Patriotic service is recognized by NSDAR for a refugee, refugee-citizen, or citizen who was issued a voucher or certificate signed by the Commanding Officer of the Military District, or a certificate signed by the Governor of the state of Georgia, entitling that person to enter public land per the Act of 20 August 1781. The statement "per the Act of 20 August 1781" must appear on the document.

Vouchers and certificates are the documents that indicate that the person was originally entitled to the land. These are the documents needed to prove Revolutionary service for NSDAR. They may be requested from the Georgia Archives. The researcher may also use *Georgia Revolutionary Bounty Land Records* by O'Kelley and Warren, pages 1-44, 48-89, as a source. Evidence exists that the original vouchers and certificates could be used as specie and transferred to another person. The person could then petition for and receive the land grant. As a result, the person who received the grant was not necessarily the person originally entitled to it. For this reason, petitions for land warrants, the bounty land warrants, and land grants issued in 1784-85 may not be used as proof of Revolutionary Service.

Certain Georgia land lotteries gave preference to Revolutionary War soldiers. The laws establishing the requirements for the land lotteries of 1820, 1827, and 1832 gave Revolutionary soldiers the right to an extra draw or draws if they met the other requirements for the lottery.

A Certificate, obtainable from the Georgia Archives, is the primary documentation that will indicate whether the lottery winner was a Revolutionary soldier. The results of the land lotteries have been published. The published records may be used for proof of service, if the record indicates that the man was a Revolutionary Soldier.

The above land records show only those persons who actually won land in the land lotteries, not all who were eligible and/or applied. In addition, not all the persons who received land in these three land lotteries were Revolutionary Soldiers. For a man to be credited with Revolutionary Service, "R.S." or "Rev. Sol." must follow his name on the certificate or in the published records of the land lotteries. A good publication on this subject is *Authentic List of All Land Lottery Grants Made to Veterans of the Revolutionary War by the State of Georgia*, by Alex M. Hitz. This may also be used as a citation for service.

The Hitz list does not include the names of the widows of Revolutionary Soldiers who won land in the 1827 and 1832 Lotteries. A "W.R.S." appearing after the woman's name serves as a citation for the Revolutionary Service of her husband.

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Louisiana

NSDAR assigns service to Spanish troops and local militia who participated under the authority of Louisiana Governor Bernardo de Galvez in military actions against the British and their allies in the Mississippi River valley and along the gulf coast. The Society also assigns service to those individuals who provided material support to Galvez's campaigns. All Louisiana service must date after 24 December 1776, when an order was signed by Jose de Galvez, Minister of the Indies, and sent to Luis de Unzaga, the Spanish governor of Louisiana. While Spain had passively allowed some material aid to flow to the American colonies prior to this date, the order gave active support to the effort to secure the American western flank from the British threat.

Patriotic service, rather than military service, is assigned because Spain did not have a treaty with the American colonies (as did France) and Spanish troops did not serve alongside American military units. Sources for establishing service acceptable for NSDAR applications are listed in the bibliography.

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Maryland

Maryland organized an effective system to deal with the grievances imposed by Great Britain long before the hostilities began. This action culminated in the formation of the Provincial Government, 1774–1776, known as the "Maryland Convention." On 26 July 1776, the Convention circulated a document, *The Association of Freemen of Maryland,* which resolved that the colony be put in a state of defense.

Complying with directives of the Continental Congress, Maryland organized the Flying Camp militia that reported for service in June 1776. Maryland troops served from New York to the Southern Campaign. The State also provided a training area for several distinguished foreign military experts such as the Marquis de Lafayette, Count Casimir Pulaski and Baron Johannes de Kalb.

29 August 1776 marked the first meeting of the Council of Safety, which served as the executive branch of the government. Its representatives were elected from the western and eastern shores. The Committees of Observation reported to this body and kept watch at the county level for those who were disloyal. In February 1777, a formal government, the General Assembly, was created. One of its first acts was to require all men not serving in a military capacity, over the age of eighteen years, to sign an Oath of Fidelity or Allegiance. The oaths, taken at the county level, were reported to the General Assembly beginning in February 1778.

Maryland's economic contributions to the Revolution were as important as its military ones, providing such items as consumables, wheat, clothing, and munitions. The operation of iron forges, lumber production, and shipbuilding were important industries.

Due to its geographic location, Maryland became a thoroughfare for both the Americans and the British, traveling by land or water, as they went up and down the Atlantic Seaboard.

Annapolis was the site of some of the sessions of the Continental Congress, was host to the signing of the Treaty of Paris, and the city where General George Washington resigned as General of the Army.

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Massachusetts

During most of the ten years preceding the Lexington alarm of 19 April 1775, Massachusetts was in a state of unrest due to oppressive legislation passed by the British Parliament. The colonists had begun forming Committees of Correspondence in early 1772 and in December 1773 retaliated to the infamous Tea Act by staging the Boston Tea Party. In October 1774, towns and cities throughout the state sent delegates to the First Provincial Congress held in Concord.

In 1778, Massachusetts was reorganized, and the District of Maine was created with the counties of York, Cumberland and Lincoln. Military, civil and patriotic service for men who served from those counties will be found in Massachusetts records.

Several Provincial Congresses were held during the War, and in 1780 the State Constitution, which is still in force today, was adopted. During the Revolutionary War, town governments were the most important forms of government in Massachusetts, although certain judicial matters were handled by the county courts. On 5 April 1775, Massachusetts passed the first of several resolutions regarding the establishment of an army. In late April, the Provincial Congress approved legislation calling for an army of thirty thousand men. Massachusetts remained in the military forefront throughout the Revolution supplying nearly one-third of all the colonial forces. Her troops participated primarily in the campaigns of the Northern Army, the defenses of New York and various battles in New Jersey and Pennsylvania; however, some Massachusetts men were engaged in the southern campaigns.

The Massachusetts economy was based heavily on maritime interests. To safeguard those interests, in November 1775, she passed the first of several resolves regarding the protection of her seacoast. The Maine coastline was especially vulnerable to British naval forces based in Canada. Due to the above circumstances, Massachusetts formed a state navy in January 1776.

Massachusetts, like her sister colonies, required Oaths of Allegiance from her citizens and the State's residents loaned money to the Continental Loan Office. Her Provincial Congresses passed several resolves to provide blankets and clothing for Massachusetts' forces. The first of such was the Coat Roll Resolution approved only a few days after the Battles of Lexington and Concord.

Several areas of Massachusetts and the District of Maine require extra caution when establishing service.

- Loyalists in eastern Massachusetts were well organized and established the first Loyalist corps in the American colonies at Freetown in 1774.
- Another group of Loyalists was centered in the Penobscot area of Maine.
- Boston was a haven for loyalists from surrounding towns and the neighboring colonies, especially during the British occupation of the city from May 1774 to March 1776.
- The Inhabitants of Martha's Vineyard took a Stance of Neutrality in 1777. **As a result, current lines citing only a post 1777 service will be closed unless an acceptable source of service off the island can be located.** Service prior to 1777 *may* be acceptable unless the individual appears on the list of those who gave aid to the British in September 1778 when British General Grey 'raided' the Island of livestock with a promise of compensation. The Martha's Vineyard Town minutes after 1777 may show civil service typical of other MA towns; however, the acceptability of this service is negated due to the Stance of Neutrality. The source for this civil service is found in Charles Edward Banks, *The History of Martha's Vineyard, MA,* Vol. 2, Town Annals, 1911. This source also contains a list of those who gave aid to the British during Grey's Raid. *Updated Dec 2022*

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The New Hampshire General Assembly authorized a Committee of Correspondence in May 1774 to correspond and meet with representatives of the other colonies. Governor John Wentworth retaliated by dissolving the Assembly in June 1774. All thirty-four members of the House were expelled from their chambers but met as an "extra-legal" Provincial Congress in a nearby public house. Wentworth fled in the summer of 1775. Representatives from most of the one hundred fifty-five towns in the State continued to meet in five successive Provincial Congresses at Exeter. The Congress adopted a written constitution in January 1776, making the Congress the House of Representatives and authorized an upper legislative body, the Council.

The Third Provincial Congress sent twelve hundred men to Massachusetts in response to the attack at Lexington in April 1775. Two New Hampshire regiments fought at Bunker Hill on 17 June. By the end of the first year of the war, New Hampshire had almost five thousand men in arms, or six percent of the entire population of the state. In September 1776, an act was passed which created a new state militia. New Hampshire commissioned only two naval vessels. However, the State Committee of Safety initiated a system of privateering that thrived throughout the war.

This patriotic fervor was also reflected in the response to the Association Test of April 1776 requiring men over twenty-one to pledge their allegiance. As of November 1777, all civil and military officers, barristers and attorneys were required to either sign the Test or be suspended from office. Some of the few Loyalists who lived throughout the state refused to sign. Their names were reported to New Hampshire's General Assembly and Committee of Safety.

As in other New England colonies, patriotic contributions and civil service were recorded in the minutes of the town councils. Some extracts or lists are published in various town histories.

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New Jersey

At the onset of the Revolution, the State of New Jersey consisted of two politically distinct areas, divided roughly along a diagonal line from the northwest to the southeast. A turbulent East Jersey teemed with both loyalists and anti-British sentiment that manifested itself in civil disobedience over land title disputes with the proprietors. In contrast, sparsely settled oppressive British laws less impacted West Jersey, with its concentration of Quakers, and did not exhibit dissatisfaction as dramatically as East Jersey.

In February 1774, Essex County leaders called for a Provincial Congress and Committees of Correspondence were established. On 21 July 1774, a Provincial Congress held at New Brunswick elected delegates to the First Continental Congress. By July 1776, the Provincial Congress, representing all counties, had ordered the arrest of Governor William Franklin, adopted a state constitution, and resolved to support independence. On 27 August 1776, the new Legislature convened under the new Constitution. Despite British occupation from August to December 1776, the Revolutionary government, consisting of the Governor, General Assembly and Legislative Council, as well as the Council of Safety, remained in control.

In this State, where loyalists comprised fully one-third of the population, the Revolution took on the semblance of a civil war. By an Ordinance passed at the February-March 1776 session of the Provincial Congress, voters were required to take an Oath of Allegiance. Anyone who can be proven to have voted between March 1776 and 26 November 1783 may be credited with patriotic service. Oaths of Allegiance were required of all civil and military officers as of 19 September 1776.

From 1779 to 1783, the New Jersey General Assembly passed a series of legislative acts with the intent to help finance the war. The New Jersey County tax ratables for the period of the Revolution are available in several locations noted in the bibliography. Only tax lists dated between 16 Sep 1779 and 1

Oct 1783 qualify for the designation - supply tax. Some of the lists published in the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey* include taxes from 1778, which do not qualify.

Militias were formally raised in June 1775, and by October 1775, men were recruited for the Continental forces. In 1776, a standing army of state troops was created.

British ships closely patrolled New Jersey's coastline, limiting her naval operations to privateering, chiefly from Little Egg Harbor.

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New York

New York had the unenviable position of being a politically and emotionally divided colony. Loyalists representing a large percent of the merchant and land-owning population, maintained strongholds in Westchester County, as well as New York City, Staten Island, and Long Island.

For several reasons, the control of New York was regarded as the key to the military situation in America: (1) New York lay at the gateway of the Hudson whose long valley extending northward close to the waters of Lake George and Lake Champlain formed a line straight through the heart of the country. It separated rebellious New England from the Southern Colonies. If the British could secure this line, the colonies would be cut in two, and each section could be crushed. (2) New York had the best harbor on the coast, which would afford a splendid base for the landing of troops and supplies. Great Britain's powerful navy could aid and support her army in capturing the city. (3) Thousands of Tories or Loyalists in New York could be relied on to aid the cause of the King.

On 15 September 1776, the British regained control of New York City where they remained in power until their troops were evacuated in November 1783. During that time, men loyal to the King held most civil offices. Many inhabitants of New York signed Oaths of Allegiance before Royal Governor Tryon to King George in 1778. This act negated any acceptable service that took place earlier in the war. This is especially true of residents of Suffolk County on Long Island.

Concurrently, the patriots were petitioning for fair representation and were organizing Committees of Correspondence. The Albany Committee called for representatives from each county to meet in New York City in September 1774 as a Provincial Congress. Acting independently of the loyalist New York Assembly, the Provincial Congress sent delegates to Philadelphia in April 1775 and passed numerous resolutions regarding the treatment of loyalists.

In May 1775, one hundred members vowed to "associate and to adopt and endeavor to carry into execution whatever measures may be recommended by the Continental Congress or resolved upon by this Provincial Congress, bound by all the ties of Religion, Honor and Love of our Country." Lists of Signers or Associators from New York towns and counties are published in the Calendar of Historical Manuscripts.

Despite the strong loyalist ties in New York, thousands of men served in American forces. Military service was divided into three classes: the militia, the levies and the Line. The militia served primarily within New York but could be called to go outside the colony for as long as a three-month tour. The levies were drafted from the militia units and from the public at large to serve outside of New York for their entire

tour of duty. The Line was composed of nine regiments, including the artillery and the Green Mountain Boys, in continental service under George Washington.

Because the British occupied New York City and surrounding waters throughout most of the war, New York's navy was never large or effective. The New York Provincial Congress commissioned only four privateers.

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- Historical context of the war in New York and Long Island (pages 1-238): use with caution
- Biographies and family histories (pages 239-690): do not use
- Appendixes (pages 691-1110): acceptable to use

Pages 1-238 may be *cautiously referenced* but they should ideally be supported by a resource from the appendix. In the event further context is needed for a resource on a refugee, these other resources may help:

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- Labaree, Leonard W. *The Public Records of the State of CT, 1782-1784*, vols 4-5
- Onderdonk, Henry *Revolutionary Incidents of Suffolk and Kings Counties* (1849).
- New York newspapers for the years 1775-1785, located on GenealogyBank (subscription required)

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New York City and Long Island Service

The category of New York City and Long Island in the American Revolution requires its own discussion due to the circumstances of the inhabitants during much of the war. A part of New York's jurisdiction, the island took an early interest in the separation from England with the rest of the colonies, beginning with the Association tests in May 1775. Multiple committees were formed as early as 1774 to oversee the protections of the harbors, British activities, and even Loyalists. The area became central to the

Revolutionary effort during the war due to its strategic position as the gateway to the Hudson River, as well as its geographical positioning in the colonies, which, if captured, could have split the colonies in two.

Additionally, New York State contained a strong Loyalist contingent, particularly among the merchants and upper class in the southern district and greater New York City area. The British army took note of these strategies during the Long Island campaign in the summer of 1776, when Washington's army tried to prevent the British from taking Long Island and New York City. Their efforts failed, and on 15 September 1776, the British took control of New York City. Their reign of control extended across the city and county of New York, Staten Island (Richmond County), and all of Long Island, constituting Kings, Queens, and Suffolk counties. They continued to hold power in these areas until the evacuation of New York in November 1783, when the American government regained power of the area and many Loyalist families fled to Canada or England.

While the Association tests of May 1775 were a sign of loyalty to follow the acts and resolves of the Provincial and Continental Congresses, there were those men who did refuse to sign the Association act. Once the British took control of Long Island in late 1776, many families fled across Long Island Sound into Connecticut, upstate New York, or into New Jersey; many of these families were labeled "refugees." Those residents who chose to remain on their farms were subjected to oaths to the British crown, most promising no disruptions to their lives so long as they affirmed their loyalty; failing to take the oath could result in pillaging and depredations to property, and even imprisonment, or occasionally death.

There were multiple oaths in the New York City area taken in late 1776 and the spring of 1777, while a compilation of oaths from across Suffolk County was drawn out in 1778 ("Tryon's List"). These oaths are key to establishing whether a resident supported the American or British causes. Although a resident who chose to stay made their oaths, life was not always simple or peaceful on the island. For multiple years, residents were subjected to real estate being taken for quarters for British officers and soldiers, personal property pillaged or looted in order to sustain the local militias, or by sea-faring Connecticut residents who often crossed the sound, robbed, and pillaged residents, sometimes with fatal results.

Not all residents who remained on Long Island from 1776 to 1783 were bona fide Loyalists, since it has been established by some sources that there were residents who maintained spy operations on the island for the benefit of the American army. There were multiple accusations of particular residents who were suspected of freighting and shipping supplies for use of the Americans into Westchester County, or

into Connecticut. There is evidence that William Floyd gathered monies as loans from residents of some communities to be used to finance the New York government in 1781 and 1782.

Despite these accounts, the DAR cannot imply that all residents on Long Island who remained there after the evacuation in 1783 were patriots, since most motivations, thoughts, or actions either have not been recorded or have been lost. It is to be understood by all applicants that the DAR ***cannot*** imply any actions or thoughts of residents or ancestors, particularly those from subsequent family histories or accounts of descendants. The acts and actions of the residents must speak for themselves, and the DAR reserves the right to adjudge the same based on the evidence.

Many families left their properties behind on Long Island and fled to other areas to escape British control in 1776 through 1778. Many refugees who went to Connecticut were often subjected to poor treatment, and most had very little ability to sustain a living in their temporary residences. Many petitions to the Connecticut government survive for permissions for refugees to be exempted from paying town taxes, or to receive passports (as was required at the time) to cross over into Long Island to retrieve personal property to take back into Connecticut. There were also refugees who requested travel back to Long Island for multiple extenuating circumstances, such as handling the estates of deceased relatives, or caring for elderly relatives or returning home to take care of family members or estates that remained on Long Island. In this case, there are examples of refugees who returned to Long Island prior to the recording of the king's oath. If the refugee returned to Long Island prior to the recording of the king's oath, they may have signed Tryon's List, in which case, alternate patriotic service after that date would need to be proven.

There are multiple instances where refugees returned to their homes on Long Island in the years 1779-1783, after Tryon's List had been recorded. There were even refugees who took a king's oath in 1776-1778, and then later fled Long Island and were refugees. It is important to know, for applicants, that the period a resident was a refugee versus the date of the king's oath will quantify whether the resident could be a patriot or a Loyalist. While we may not be entirely sure, a refugee who took a king's oath may not have been a patriot, most of the accounts for cargo and freightage for these refugees were delivered to the state governments, and it would appear the persons might have pledged themselves as friends of the patriots. Therefore, if a person can be proven he or she was a refugee ***after*** taking a king's oath, then it may be possible to establish said person as a patriot.

Any service to a New York City or Long Island resident comes with the careful examination of the entire story of the person between the years 1775 and 1783. Although the person may have taken the

patriotic Association test in 1775 and served in the patriotic Suffolk County Militia in 1775 and/or 1776 under Col. Josiah Smith, if the resident remained in Suffolk County and signed Tryon's List in 1778, all prior services are negated. Patriotic service would need to be demonstrated after the date of signing Tryon's List in 1778.

Multiple sources have become known in recent years demonstrating claims made by residents for property and supplies that were granted or supplied, impressed, or stolen. If these claims were made to the local town governments or to the British prior to 1783, we cannot establish the claim as an act of depredation, since the claims were made to subjects and officials working under the loyalty of the British crown. Some claims, such as the Blydenburgh Manuscripts from the town of Smithtown, appear to have been compiled and collected late in 1783 by the local Justice of the Peace, at a period of time when loyalty appears to have returned to the American side.

These claims have been accepted as a form of suffering depredation, despite the fact the dates for property stolen or taken was from 1777-1782. Multiple residents in Kings and Queens Counties are found as having been paid to house and keep American prisoners during British control in 1776 to 1783. These services do not qualify as patriotic service; some examples show that these persons were paid more as collateral against the American side to exchange British officers; even if the Americans paid these claims, their intention was not as a patriotic act.

For the New York City area, it is worth noting there exists several lists from 1776 proving the displacement of residents who fled the Battle of New York in that year. In August 1776, the town of Bedford, Westchester County, took a list of the poor of New York parish (New York County) who had fled the city and county and requested instructions for their charges for care, as well as instructions for future care. Another list found in Mather contains a list of the residents, families, women, and the poor who fled to different counties in upstate New York by August 1776.

These lists are instrumental in helping to prove if a New York City resident had fled prior to the British control or remained. Quite a few residents who fled were wives of soldiers or widows. Many of these residents offered services in the days leading up to the Battle of New York in June and July 1776 by offering their window leads as a source for lead for ammunition for the American army, as ordered by local representative Daniel Dunscomb. In May 1784, by a law passed by Dunscomb, these residents were reimbursed for these window leads. Not all of these were "supplied", as many were taken, such as the leads from the civic buildings. There were also residents who were Loyalists who had windows taken for this

purpose, so it is important to establish the resident's whereabouts after 1776 to ensure patriotic service. Please note that there are multiple examples of persons who took a Loyalist oath in 1776-1778 who were later paid for their services prior to the oath after the war had concluded. ***This does not negate their loyalism*** since the date of the services is prior to the date of the oath.

There will also be examples of residents who did not or who do not appear to have taken a King's oath, but appear to have remained on Long Island, or their exact whereabouts after 1777 may be unknown. It is imperative to note that if it appears that a resident lived in a British-controlled area but does not appear to have taken an oath, the resident may still qualify for patriotic services (such as if he served in the militia or took the Association Test in 1775). It befalls to the applicant, however, to ensure that the patriot did not contribute any services to the British during the occupation period.

There are also numerous Quaker families who resided in the Kings and Queens County areas during this time who remained on Long Island. While there are lists of acts of robbing, deaths, and other assaults against Quaker residents during the British occupation, these residents do not qualify for patriotic service because of their pacifist views. Some Quaker families in New York City did affirm an oath in 1777. Check the sources below for possible Patriotic Service.

NOTE: LINY --- Long Island New York. This is an Ancestor code indicating this patriot has residence on Long Island. This code is given to all patriots from these areas due to the political and economic climate of Long Island during the American Revolution. It does <u>not</u> mean the patriot cannot be used for membership. It is an indicator the patriot's service record may require inspection to ensure he/she is free of Loyalist activity; applicants must inspect sources for both Loyalists and patriotic service to ensure the patriot did not partake in any Loyalist activities, such as taking an oath to the king. Once an application is received and the patriotic record is reviewed and deemed clear of Loyalist activity, the LINY code will be removed by the verifying genealogist.

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North Carolina

The First Provincial Congress that met in August 1774 at New Bern recommended that each county elect a Committee of Safety. In April 1775, the Second Provincial Congress met. In May 1775, the Mecklenburg Resolves were adopted at a public meeting at Charlotte declaring null and void all commissions granted by the King and making provisions for a new government. At New Bern, the Committee of Safety called for a union of all colonies and pledged support for the Continental Congress. Governor Martin fled the state; royal rule ended. On 12 April 1776, the Fourth Provincial Congress met at Halifax, unanimously adopting a resolution to Continental Congress known as the Halifax Resolves. This resolution gave the delegates of North Carolina the power to concur with delegates of other colonies to declare independence.

In addition to the continental forces, North Carolina organized Military Districts – Edenton, Halifax, Hillsborough, New Bern, Wilmington, Salisbury and eventually Morgan. Three areas of North Carolina had heavy concentrations of loyalists; the Cape Fear Region with its wealthy merchants and plantation owners; the Piedmont Region whose Scottish highlanders had received land in exchange for an oath of loyalty to the King; and the western counties whose German and Quaker populations did not sympathize with the war.

Because of the shortage of money in all of the colonies, various types of "notes of credit" were devised. In North Carolina, those who provided goods or services were given slips of paper, official forms, or handwritten scraps of paper. These slips were to be redeemed for cash with interest. In 1780, these vouchers were recalled and new notes were issued, cut from its stub in a curved manner called "indented" for later identification. Not all vouchers were records of Revolutionary War military service. Only forty to fifty thousand of the vouchers have been saved. These vouchers were registered in the Revolutionary Army Account books. An explanation of the types of records contained in each volume in which the researcher is interested should be consulted.

A designation of patriotic service is given to any person who entered a land claim for a land grant between 1 January 1778 and 26 November 1783 (the date of the law and the latest date accepted by NSDAR for any service). The law states (Clark, State Records of North Carolina, vol. 24, p. 44) "That every person . . .before he shall enter a claim for any of the lands aforesaid, shall take and subscribe the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance and Abjuration prescribed by the law of this state." Many of the entries for vacant land in individual counties have been abstracted and published by Albert B. Pruitt, Weynette Parks Haun, and others.

Oaths of Allegiance were also required of citizens in order to vote. Starting in March 1778, counties were charged with administering the oaths "to all free Male Persons above Sixteen Years of Age (Persons non compos Mentis, Prisoners of War, only excepted)" (Clark, *State Records of North Carolina*, Vol. 24, Chapter VI, pp. 84-88). Finding someone on a voter list after that date presumes that they signed the required oath, and so would qualify as patriotic service. **NOTE: though the same act specifies the signing of the said oath before engaging in other specific activities as well, evidence suggests that it was not strictly enforced. Therefore, at this time, the presumption of performing patriotic service for signing an Oath of Allegiance extends only to evidence of land entries and voting.**

Once the war got under way, North Carolina began taxing its citizens in various ways specifically to help the war effort. In 1779 and 1780, the Governor offered indented certificates for loans paid to the state to help defray the costs of bounties and supplies given to soldiers; locating one of these certificates in the state archives would be evidence of patriotic service. The state also collected specific provisions for the troops in 1780, 1781, and 1782, so appearance on one of those lists – labeled on the lists themselves as the "Specifics Tax" and listing goods such as corn, wheat, flour, oats, etc. – would also be evidence of patriotic service. In 1778 and again in 1781, property and poll taxes were levied to support the war effort (Clark, *State Records of North Carolina*, Vol. 24, pp 134-135, 390-394). Identification of a tax list in those years *that is specifically related to the acts that authorized them* would likewise qualify as patriotic service. The first pages of the tax lists and/or the page headers would likely give clues that they were collected in accordance with those acts.

During the revolution, the area now known as Tennessee was claimed and loosely administered by North Carolina. The settlers in southeastern Tennessee, in the area around the Watauga River, drew up a compact of government called the Watauga Association. This association petitioned the North Carolina Legislature in August 1776 requesting annexation to North Carolina. In May 1780, persons from a settlement on the Cumberland River in Middle Tennessee drafted the Cumberland Compact. Signers of both of these documents are considered to have patriotic service as a signer of a petition. Men from the area that is now Tennessee served in North Carolina units.

North Carolina gave military bounty warrants to its continental line soldiers. The Military Land District, where these grants were to be located was in Middle Tennessee mainly in the area of then Davidson and Sumner Counties. No military bounty land was given within the present boundaries of North Carolina. These military warrants could be sold or assigned so the person receiving the grant was not necessarily the person who performed the military service. Not all land grants in Tennessee at this period were given for

military service. The North Carolina Archives may be able to help in determining the person to whom a revolutionary military bounty land warrant was awarded.

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Pennsylvania

Benjamin Franklin described the composition of pre-Revolutionary Pennsylvania as one-third Quaker, one-third German and one-third mixed ethnicity, chiefly Scots-Irish, who dominated the western frontier. Pennsylvania was the host of the First Continental Congress, 5 September 1774 in Philadelphia. Her provisional government, in large measure reflecting its Quaker constituency, adopted a conservative and conciliatory approach toward problems with England.

Attacks from various American Indian groups on the western frontier forced a convening of the Assembly in 1774, which approved participation in a Continental Congress. Local Committees of Correspondence sprang up, giving the radical element an effective forum for popularizing their desire for independence. Ultimately, Pennsylvania agreed to the non-importation plan of the First Continental Congress.

On 24 July 1776, the Committees of Correspondence formed a Constitutional Convention, authorized a state constitution, and established a Committee of Safety to manage affairs until the constitution could be implemented. In September 1777, Philadelphia fell to the British army, which occupied the city until 18 June 1778.

Continental line soldiers from Pennsylvania served in battles from Quebec to Yorktown. Additionally, many fought with continental regiments, which were not raised exclusively in the state, such as Hazen's 2nd Canadian regiment, Armand's Partisan Legion and Pulaski's Legion. Men who fought in the Wyoming Valley are credited with Connecticut service. Sources for that service can be found in the Connecticut section.

Soldiers were recruited for continental service beginning in June 1775, but militias were not formalized until March 1777 when it became apparent that the volunteer Associators, forerunners of the militia since 1775, could not provide the large dependable force needed.

Pennsylvania militia companies were composed of eight classes, each class being called into service in rotation to protect its local community from devastating loss. These men are considered soldiers, provided they were not fined for non-attendance. Other state-controlled organizations included the "Flying Camp" and "Rangers." A state navy was officially authorized on 13 October 1775, although it had been active informally prior to that time guarding the Delaware River.

A law passed 13 June 1777 required all men over the age of eighteen to sign an Oath of Allegiance, rejecting allegiance to King George. All signers and those citizens who paid the "Supply Tax", which was levied to fund the war effort, are credited with patriotic service. Many of the supply taxes have been published in the "Pennsylvania Archives" series; however, not all tax lists published in these series are considered supply taxes.

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Rhode Island

The Rhode Island General Assembly set the stage for future independence on 15 June 1774 when it declared that a firm union of the colonies was necessary to preserve their rights and liberties. On 22 April 1775, it passed a resolution calling for an army of observation after receiving the news of the Battle of Lexington. This army, to be comprised of fifteen hundred men, was responsible for the protection of the people of Rhode Island, and if needed, to march and join with neighboring colonies for their safety and protection. In February 1778, every able- bodied male, including minorities, was permitted to enlist and was entitled to full wages and benefits.

In March 1776, one hundred ten men and officers were included in the fifteen hundred to outfit two armed vessels, chartered by the colony to protect its trade. This inauspicious beginning of the Rhode Island navy was subsequently augmented by acts commissioning privateers and procuring men and vessels.

On 4 May 1776, the General Assembly renounced allegiance to King George, and removed his name from all commissions for offices and writs and processes in law. As in other colonies, there was opposition. The loyalist element in Rhode Island reflected both commercial and conservative elements that rejected armed rebellion on economic and moral grounds. In June 1776, all men over the age of sixteen were required to take an oath, or affirmation, of allegiance.

An act passed in Rhode Island in March 1777, required a military census of all men over the age of sixteen. The surviving lists indicate age groups and the ability to bear arms but are not to be considered proof of military service during the Revolution.

Minutes of town meetings include committee members, civil officers, and patriotic contributions made during the Revolution. Town minutes recorded after the war also contain information on pensioners.

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South Carolina

There were many factional disputes in the colony of South Carolina throughout the Revolutionary War. There were dedicated loyalists living on the up-country frontier as well as Scots and Germans who had endured enough fighting in Europe. The low country Whigs could not support the Revolution alone and needed to involve the frontiersmen.

In June 1775, the Provincial Assembly authorized the raising of troops and the creation of a Committee of Safety. The reduction of Charleston on 12 May 1780 placed South Carolina under British martial law. Until the General Assembly reconvened on 2 January 1782, few records were kept.

South Carolinians served in the Continental Line, with militia companies, and in the navy. Proof of service in the Continental Line may be found at the National Archives and Records Administration. The South Carolina State Archives is the source for most other service, including pensions granted by the State; however, some militia muster rolls are in the collections of the South Carolina Library.

The best source for proof of South Carolina service will be found in the so-called Audited Accounts. When a claim was made between 20 August 1783 and 31 August 1786, it was audited, and an account was established as an "audited account." The Audited Account was approved or disapproved by the Auditor General. After final approval by a legislative committee, an "indent" was completed for payment of the claim. The indents were negotiable and often were sold.

South Carolina also granted bounty land to its Continental Line and Navy veterans and their survivors. A continental soldier was eligible to receive one hundred acres from the federal government and one hundred acres from the state. All land was located in South Carolina. All South Carolina bounty land grants are indexed in *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine* (1906): 7:173-8, 217-24. The Thomas Sumpter Papers in the Draper Collection are a valuable tool for documenting up country Revolutionary War service. References to the support provided to the United States by the Catawba Tribe may also be found in the Draper Collection.

The jury lists, which prove civil service for many of the state's residents, have been published.

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Vermont

The area that is now Vermont was claimed at various times by Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New York. The conflict over proprietorship resulted, first in the formation of Town Committees of Safety and then statewide conventions that were responsible for raising troops, defending the frontiers, and sending delegates to Continental Congress. On 15 January 1777, the Westminster Convention assumed responsibility for the whole territory and declared it a free and independent state. Even this remarkable declaration did not end the controversy and despite appeals to Continental Congress, Vermont's sovereignty was not recognized until 1791 when it became the fourteenth state. Because of the prolonged dispute, many references to Vermont in the Revolution are found in the state papers of New York and New Hampshire.

In September 1776, the General Convention at Dorset requested all males over sixteen to sign the Association Test pledging to take up arms against the British, if needed. At the same time, the Convention voted to build a jail to confine Tories. In July 1777, the Council of Safety voted to confiscate

and sell at public auction, the properties of proven Tories as a means of raising money for the defense of the state.

Vermont was the home of one of the most famous military units of the Revolution, the Green Mountain Boys. Under the leadership of Ethan Allen and Seth Warner, they captured Ticonderoga and Crown Point in May 1775. The Continental Congress recognized their services by authorizing their pay, allowing them to choose their own officers, and assigning them to the Convention of New York. In July 1775, New York ordered the Green Mountain Boys to be an independent body of troops of not more than five hundred men and officers. They were engaged in the invasion and defense of Canada, and the Battles of Saratoga and New York.

After Vermont declared itself an independent state, the General Assembly passed legislation to regulate a state militia. The Act of February 1779 divided the state into several militia districts from which five regiments were to be organized.

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Virginia

The colony of Virginia extended from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River during the era of the American Revolution. Within this vast territory were residents who encouraged the movement for

independence in a variety of ways. The names of the vast majority of Virginians who supported the Revolution are found in military records. To understand the structure of the armed forces of Virginia it may be helpful to consult a *Guide to Virginia Military Organizations in the American Revolution 1774-1787*, compiled by E. M. Sanchez-Saavedra. There were several types of military service, continental, state line, navy and militia.

Virginians became attached to continental line regiments soon after the Revolution developed into a military action. While the units were raised in the state, they came under the control of Continental Congress and the records created are found in the National Archives. Claims against the Federal government for compensation for continental service were being processed as late as 1852. Additional information can be found in the Virginia Half Pay and other Revolutionary War pension files. These payments started as a benefit for Virginia officers who would remain on duty until the end of the Revolution. When the federal government absorbed the state pension system, the Half Pay recipients were included in the transfer authority. Many documents and depositions appear in the Half Pay files that are not found in the regular pension files despite the fact that the same man may have applied for both benefits.

In theory, the Virginia state line was raised to defend the state, but the men often became attached to continental forces. In addition to guarding Virginia, their duties included the movement of prisoners and security of supply lines. While serving in the state line, officers and men were directed by the General Assembly and the records are in the State Library and Archives of Virginia.

Forming the militia was a function of the counties and was a steady source of drafted soldiers and officers to fill state and continental units. Officers maintained the enlistment and muster rolls. Quite often, those records did not reach a county or state repository. There are a few Virginia militia rolls in the collection of the National Archives, but the majority of available information will be found in the State Archives. County histories and genealogical periodicals contain some militia lists. Other sources for not only military service, but civil and patriotic service as well, are the county court order and minute books. Most militia companies did not serve more than a few days at a time. However, it was necessary for a man to have been on active duty for eight days in order to receive any payment from the state.

Largest of all the Revolutionary state navies, the Virginia Navy was an important part of the defense of Virginia. At least seventy- seven commissioned vessels and about one hundred privateers were on patrol duty in the local waterways. The crews for these vessels were made up of men who lived in the

coastal areas and along the rivers. In February 1776, a State Marine Corps was formed to operate the gunnery positions of the State Navy.

Additional sources for military service for a Revolutionary ancestor may be found in the Virginia State Archives bounty land warrants and military certificates, rejected claims, auditors' pay accounts and Virginia Revolutionary War state pensions. No bounty land was awarded in the confines of the present state of Virginia. The land was located in the military districts of Ohio and Kentucky. Some veterans settled on the land; however, many warrants were sold to speculators.

To the west, Virginians defended forts, kept the rivers open for the delivery of supplies and held the frontiers against British and American Indian attacks. In 1777, American Indian raids into Kentucky increased, backed by the British who wished to create a diversion on the frontier. In 1778, Virginia Governor Patrick Henry authorized Lieutenant Colonel George Rogers Clark to attack the British held outposts in the Illinois country that were supplying Indians with arms. Kaskaskia and nearby outposts, including Cahokia fell in the summer of 1778 and in February 1779, Clark and his men recaptured Vincennes. The vast number of records generated by the Clark expedition include the names of men who signed the Oath of Allegiance to the United States at Vincennes on 20 July 1778. Kaskaskia and Cahokia residents and their support of the Revolutionary effort are well documented in the printed collections of the Illinois State Historical Society. Actual military service in the western areas is credited as such; but Oaths and material support are classified as patriotic service.

Take care when researching the records of Kaskaskia, Cahokia and Vincennes to be sure an activity actually took place under American authority and supported the Revolution. Among the various valuable sources of information that document the western Revolutionary activity are collections held by various state archives and historical societies. Another key source is the Draper Papers: a collection of historical manuscripts gathered in the mid-1800s and grouped into topical series. Not all volumes include Revolutionary era material.

Patriotic service can apply to the elderly, the infirm and females in addition to able-bodied men who may not appear on any military list. Many people can qualify as Patriots because they provided provisions, livestock or services to benefit the armed forces. At the end of the Revolution, a majority of the Virginians who were eligible filed claims for compensation. An extensive collection of Virginia Revolutionary public claims dating mostly from 1780-1783 has been compiled and abstracted. The collection is based on records held by the Virginia State Archives.

In 1779 and 1790, a large number of Virginians turned in their paper money to the Continental Loan Office to aid an economy flooded with counterfeit notes. These people, including a few women, qualify as Patriots. The lists are kept by the State Archives and are arranged alphabetically with county of residence designation. This list is often referred to as a Short Census of Virginia.

Throughout the Old Dominion, citizens were busy signing petitions for various reasons. The substance of these petitions has been presented in Virginia Legislative Petitions, 6 May 1776 to 21 June 1782. Patriotic service can be established if an ancestor signed a petition that was compiled to further the Revolutionary cause.

In 1779, the General Assembly enacted legislation allowing settlers to make legal claims on unpatented lands in nine western counties. Actual recipients who obtained a certificate granted for Settlement or pre-exemption rights also qualify for patriotic service, as the Oath of Fidelity had to be taken at the time the certificate was received. The records of Land Office Preemption Certificates, 14 October 1779 through 26 November 1783 are available in the Land Office in Richmond.

Personal property tax or land tax in Virginia in the year 1783 is an acceptable form of Patriotic Service. At the October 1782 session of the Virginia General Assembly, the supply tax law was amended where it stated that a portion of the property tax collected would be for the defense of the state.

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FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS

Thousands of troops from France made their contribution to the American effort. The French Navy, under the command of Comte de Grasse and Comte D'Estaing, pursued the British fleet along the Atlantic coastal waterways. In 1780, fifty-five hundred men arrived with the military leader, Comte de Rochambeau, providing much needed supplies. The Marquis de LaFayette took part in several campaigns, including Williamsburg and Yorktown.

Other countries whose citizens aided the American cause were Sweden, Poland, Germany, Portugal, and the Netherlands. Hessian soldiers arrived in America as mercenaries for the British. Some of these switched sides and remained in America after the war.

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Canada

Several groups of sympathizers from Canada supported the American patriots, known as "Bostonians," in Canada. Among those sympathizers were Nova Scotians who had been born in New England, Nova Scotian Indians, Acadians, French-Canadians and a group of merchants from Montreal who

had roots in the United States, principally New England and New York. Many of those individuals fled Canada when the British took firm control of that country. Others joined the American army and stayed in the United States after the war. Ultimately, most of the refugees settled in the Maine District of Massachusetts, were granted refugee land in New York or returned to the colonies of their origins.

Some French speaking American supporters did remain in Canada. Among them were a few Acadians and some families who resided along the banks of the St. Lawrence River.

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Spain

Although Spain did not formally recognize the United States until the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783, authorities in the Spanish Empire assisted the American colonies in their struggle for independence. Carlos III of Spain authorized Bernardo de Galvez, the Governor of Louisiana, to discreetly supply the American colonists with supplies from Havana.

On 21 June 1779, Spain declared war on Great Britain, as obligated by the Bourbon Compact, which Carlos III had signed with France on 15 August 1761. Bernardo de Galvez immediately began his military campaigns in which the British were ultimately driven out of the Mississippi Valley and West Florida. (See also **LOUISIANA**.)

Ranchers from Spanish Texas provided cattle to the Spanish forces, thus qualifying them for Patriotic service.

In order to recover some of the expenses of the war, Carlos III issued a Royal Order on 17 August 1780 asking for a one time, voluntary donation, or "donativo", from his subjects in America. The extent to which the order was distributed is not currently known; however, there is documentation proving that it was collected in what is now New Mexico, Arizona and California.

Those women who can prove lineal descent from individuals who participated in any of the activities described above are eligible to join the NSDAR. The membership requirements are the same as for any other applicant.

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SECTION IV: GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

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We hope you have found the **Genealogy Guidelines, Part Three: Service** to be a helpful resource. For more detailed information regarding the preparation and submission of new member applications and member supplemental applications, please see:

The **Genealogy Guidelines, Part One: Guide for Chapter Registrars** which provides an in-depth review of the duties of the Chapter Registrar and includes detailed explanations of processes within the Department of the Registrar General as well as useful tools and guides.

The **Genealogy Guidelines, Part Two: Completing the Application and Proving Lineage** which offers an in-depth review of the application process, from finding an applicant to the final review status of the new member application or member supplemental application.