

How to get started

The first step in researching your family history is to record everything you know about yourself, parents, grandparents and great-grandparents.

List the names, birth dates, marriage dates, and death dates of your ancestors, as well as the location (town, county, state, country) where each event occurred.

Contact other family members who might be able to provide additional information.

Begin collecting records such as birth, marriage, and death certificates. Look for family Bibles, obituaries, letters, diaries, deeds, and probate records.

If your ancestors were born in the Netherlands, look for vital records in the Nationaal Archief and central Bureau voor Genealogie. The Dutch are well known pioneers of data recording and many vital records are published online for research. Other online record bases such as Ancestry and FamilySearch may also have records available.

If your ancestors were born on a Dutch controlled Caribbean island, probate, church, and vital records may be accessible through online record databases and local government sites.

Membership

Membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) honors and preserves the legacy of our patriot ancestors. As a member of the DAR you can honor their actions by supporting historic preservation programs, promoting educational activities, and participating in patriotic endeavors.

Any woman 18 years of age or older, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background, who can prove direct descent from a person who aided in achieving the American independence during the period between 19 April 1775 and 26 November 1783 is eligible for membership

Founded in 1890, the NSDAR has approximately 190,000 members in 3,000 chapters across the United States and internationally. Each year, DAR members volunteer millions of hours in their communities, award thousands of dollars in scholarships, support our veterans and troops overseas, and assist with historic preservation projects throughout the country.

For more information, contact the Specialty Research Committee

specialtyresearch@nsdar.org

**National Society
Daughters of the American
Revolution**

**(202) 628-1776
www.dar.org**



Researching Your Dutch Patriot

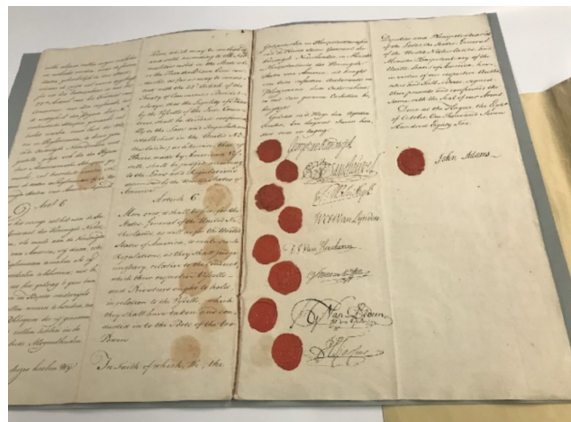
Do you have ancestors from the Netherlands or the Caribbean?

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



The Netherlands in the American Revolution

The news of the American Revolution did not bring joy for everyone in the Dutch government. Being a society with a royal head as well, many noblemen were uneasy with the idea of the people wanting their own power. However, there were just as many Dutch officials who were tired of the oppressive Stadhouder Regime and sought to create agreements and treaties with the Americans. As allegiances to the British Empire began to shift, John Adams was able to use the political state of the country to convince the Stadhouder to join with his people and support the American Cause.



Treaty of Amity and Commerce between John Adams (acting as the US) and the provinged of the Netherlands, 1782.

The Dutch were some of the first supporters of the American Revolution and threw themselves into the cause on many different fronts. Between generous loans, consistent trade, and moral/political alignment, the Netherlands played a significant role in the American Revolution.

Joan Derk van der Capellen tot den Pol (nobleman), an ardent supporter of the American Cause, corresponded and met with John Adams regularly as they became close friends during Adams's time in Holland. He went on to collaborate with Françoise Adriaan van der Kemp (minister) to clandestinely write and distribute a controversial pamphlet, *Aan het Volk van Nederland*, pleading for a society free from Stadhouder nepotism and corruption. Despite the reward put on the heads of the authors, the pamphlet garnered vast support from the people and was reprinted in English, French and German.



Herring was one of the main exports form Holland to the American Rebels. This along with the gunpowder and weapons they supplies helped secure victory against the English..

Abraham Ravene (Commander of Ft. Orange) and Johannes de Graaf (Governor of St. Eustatius, Saba, and St. Martin) executed the first salute of the Stars and Stripes on 16 November 1776. Thus stating to the whole world that the Dutch recognized the United States as a sovereign foreign power.



First Salute at 'Statia, 1776

Further Reading & Resources

Central Bureau voor Genealogie: Free online access to WieWasWie and many Dutch record cards. <https://cbg.nl>

Dutch Patriot List: Accessible on the Dutch Specialty Research landing page with new names being added as they are found. Specialty Research Committee: <https://www.dar.org>

The Dutch Republic and American Independence

Jan Willem & Schulte Nordholt, 1979
translated by Herbert H. Rowen, 1982

The Dutch Republic and the American Revolution

Friedrich Edler, M.Dipl., Ph.D, 1911

The First Salute: A View of the American Revolution

Barbara W. Tuchman, 1988

Nationaal Archief: Hundreds of years of Dutch-American relations easily accessible for the public.

<https://www.nationaalarchief.nl/>

Stadsarchief Amsterdam: Free access to over 750 years of city knowledge.

<https://www.amsterdam.nl/stadsarchief/>

Westfries Archief: Friesland was second only to France in giving diplomatic recognition to the new America.

<https://www.hoorn.nl/westfriesarchief>