



PATRIOT STORY GUIDE

Researching & Writing Your Patriot's Revolutionary War Story



JANUARY 17, 2022
LAKE MINNETONKA CHAPTER DAR

America 250! Our Patriot Stories
RESEARCH & WRITING GUIDE
TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I:

America 250! Introduction 4

Patriot Story Introduction 4

PART II:

Patriot Research Process Overview 6

- **Step 1: DAR Records 6**
- **Step 2: Personal Information 7**
- **Step 3: Revolutionary War Service 8**
- **Step 4: Deciphering Revolutionary War Service 11**
- **Step 5: Historical Importance of Events 12**

PART III:

Patriot Story Writing Process Overview 17

- **Step 1: Assemble Patriot Facts 17**
- **Step 2: Write Your Story 18**
- **Step 3: Refine Your Story 21**

APPENDIX:

- **Appendix A: Timeline of the Revolutionary War 24**
- **Appendix B: Revolutionary War Military Ranks 29**
- **Appendix C: Patriot Profile Examples 30**
- **Appendix D: Patriot Snapshot Example 31**
- **Appendix E: Patriot Story Example 32**

Note: No part of this Guide or its Appendices may be reprinted without express written consent from the Lake Minnetonka Chapter DAR.

PART I

Introduction

America 250! Introduction

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is preparing to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of our nation. The America 250! Celebrations will commemorate the anniversaries of the key milestones in the Revolutionary War, beginning with the anniversary of the Boston Tea Party in 2023 and ending with the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 2033.

Our chapter will celebrate the anniversary of the American Revolution through fun and meaningful events, chapter projects, and community contributions. As descendants of Revolutionary War Patriots, we look forward to honoring America's founding. As the orator Daniel Webster said on the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill, "We are justly proud of being descended from men who have set the world an example of founding civil institutions on the great and united principles of human freedom and human knowledge."

However, we must also recognize America's founding flaws that still reverberate through our culture today. The perpetuation of slavery, the exclusion of women, and the mistreatment of indigenous people are among our nation's most challenging foundational flaws. These realities make our America 250! celebrations complicated as we seek to honor our Patriots while acknowledging and being sensitive to those who have not always enjoyed the freedoms those Patriots fought so hard to achieve. Our nation remains divided over many issues today.

Despite these differences, there are some things we can all agree on. Our founders created an undeniably compelling vision of equality, built on some strong and enduring values. This vision of equality and values like liberty, justice, faith, and peace are written into our founding documents. America has been on a now 250-year journey toward making this vision and these values a reality for all Americans.

To respectfully and sensitively honor America's 250th birthday, the Lake Minnetonka Chapter DAR's America 250! mission will focus on uniting America around these founding vision and values. Our mission will be to:

"Promote American Unity by Celebrating Our Nation's Founding Values through the DAR's three pillars of Historic Preservation, Education and Patriotism."

Patriot Story Writing Introduction

Perhaps the most authentic and enduring contribution we can make to this mission is to discover and preserve the values embedded in our own Patriots' stories. Each of our Patriots all has a meaningful and interesting story to tell. Meeting them and understanding the roles they played in the American Revolution is an important part of being a member in the DAR. It's hard work, but well worth the effort!

Our Patriot stories will therefore be the foundation of our chapter's celebrations. Researching and writing these stories will be our chapter's focus during the years leading up to the official America 250! Launch in 2023. We'd have set a goal of writing 100 Patriot stories.

The purpose of this guide is to equip members with a research process, resource links, and guides to writing our Patriot stories.

There are three different formats our Patriot stories can take. The format you choose will depend on your personal objectives and the amount of effort you'd like to invest. First is a Patriot Profile. These are 200 words in length and will be used in our chapter newsletter, a chapter booklet, and hopefully our local newspapers. Our goal is to have every active member write their Patriot Profile. Second is a Patriot Snapshot. These are a more visual depiction of the Patriot Profile and will be used primarily on social media. Third is a Patriot Story. These are longer, 5+ page versions of our patriot stories that are well researched and cited. They make a wonderful legacy gift for your family. If enough members are willing to undertake this challenge, we can consider publishing the collection in a book. Examples of these three types of stories may be found in the appendix.

When they are finished, we will share these stories with our families, each other, and our community throughout the America 250! celebration. We will seek to do this in a manner that honors and includes the rich gender, age, race, and religious diversity so vital to the history and future of our nation.

PART II

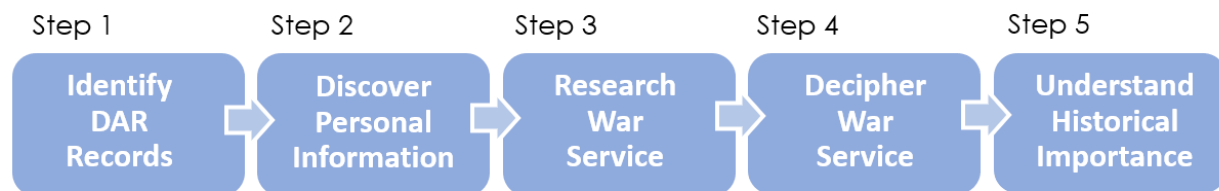
Researching Your Patriot's Revolutionary War Story

Patriot Research Process Overview

Researching your Patriot's Revolutionary War service is both an exciting and challenging adventure. You may know a piece of your Patriot's service from the evidence you have read in the DAR records, but you may not know what those service records mean. And because the DAR requires only one piece of evidence to qualify an ancestor as a Patriot, this record generally provides an incomplete picture. But accepting the challenge of wading through all these issues can be exceptionally rewarding.

The research process outlined below can guide your work. The steps and strategies were developed through a process of trial and error as I researched my own Patriot's story. The purpose of this research process is to help you research and understand your Patriot's complete personal and Revolutionary War service story and be able to put this information into historical context.

The five-step process begins with identifying and reviewing the facts recorded in the DAR records. These records are a reliable starting point. Step two is to discover additional personal information about your Patriot. Steps three through five involve researching your Patriot's complete war service from among a variety of potential records, deciphering this information to interpret its meaning, and finally to understand the historical importance of this information.



STEP 1 - Patriot's DAR Recorded Service & Personal Information

Start your research on the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution ancestor database to get the essential facts that originally established your Patriot's service. This database is part of the DAR's Genealogical Research System and is available from the public DAR site as well as the member site. Access information is provided below. You may discover that your Patriot was involved in more events or roles than are recorded here, but this is a great starting point. Other resources can help you research and discover your Patriot's complete story.

The NSDAR accepts evidence of three different types of service as proof when establishing a Patriot. The first is Military Service in a provincial, state, or continental military unit. The second is Patriotic Service in a role such as a delegate to a provincial or continental congress, a member of a war committee, or a doctor, nurse, or minister who can be proven to have supported the cause of independence. Patriotic Service also includes providing material or monetary aid to the Revolution. The third is Civil Service in a role such as town selectman, magistrate, juror, constable, sheriff, or justice of the peace. Except for the Boston Tea Party, acceptable military or patriotic service must have been performed between the dates of April 19, 1775 and November 26, 1783. Acceptable civil service must have been performed after a state's royal government was replaced. Many Patriots played multiple roles and discovering them is an important part of understanding and building a picture of your Patriot's story.

A. DAR Patriot Ancestor Records of Service

1. How to Access
 - a. Go to the national website at DAR.org
 - b. Click “Members” tab and login by entering your state, chapter and DAR number
 - c. Click on Genealogy tab and choose “Member Search” from drop down menu
 - d. Enter your DAR number
2. What Search will Reveal
 - a. Personal Information
 - b. Evidence of Revolutionary War Service (military, civil, or patriotic service)
3. What to Note
 - a. DAR Ancestor Number
 - b. Personal information: birth date and location, death date and location, family
 - c. State of service
 - d. Service designation: military rank designates military service, “PS” designates patriotic service and “CS” designates civil service
 - e. Service description
 - f. Regiment and Leaders under whom your Patriot served
 - g. Service source

STEP 2: Patriot’s Personal Information

Once you discover your Patriot’s home colony and town from the DAR database, you can search for other personal information like your Patriot’s family, occupation, or immigration history that may add interest and context to your Patriot’s story. In addition to the DAR lineage records, you can consult:

A. Local Records: Your Patriot’s hometown may have historical records or a historical society that documents your Patriot’s family history. You can search for them with your browser. It might be helpful to start your search with the guides provided on these free sites:

- Family Search Wiki: <https://www.familysearch/wiki>
- Rootsweb Wiki: https://wiki.rootsweb.com/wiki/index.php/Main_Page

B. Family History Secondary Sources: A historian may have written a genealogy and history of your family’s migration to America and experience in the colonies. While the DAR generally does not permit such secondary sources on applications, they are acceptable for your story writing based on your judgment of their reliability. If the author cites primary sources, you can identify and research those yourself.

C. Family History Primary Sources: And of course, if you are really blessed, you may have resources such as letters and diaries that may be in your family’s possession! These can be rich resources for your story. Be aware that the more time that passed between your Patriot’s service and the actual writing of these types of documents, the more likely it is that they will be a bit ‘embellished.’ For that reason, the DAR generally does not allow documents like family recollections to be evidence of

a Patriot's service. But as with secondary sources, they may be used for your story if you judge them to be reliable.

STEP 3: Patriot's Revolutionary War Service - The Complete Story

Armed with the important starter clues provided in the DAR Patriot database, you can now do the research necessary to build the complete story of your Patriot's service. The outcome of this step is a complete timeline of your Patriot's service milestones.

Revolutionary War military service archives are compiled at both the national and state levels. Links to such records are listed below. While patriotic and civil service records can be at the state or continental level, many are recorded at the town or county level. However, it is often easiest to use sites like Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org that compile these records so you can search these collections by your Patriot's name, rather than by record type. Sometimes these search engines are temperamental, and you may need to try several times by entering different levels of information. For example, I entered my Patriot's full name along with dates and places of birth, death, and marriage on Ancestry.com. No records came up until I simplified the search and just entered his name and birthplace.

A. Ancestry.com

1. Log into your Ancestry.com account
2. Enter your Patriot's name and other information in the Search bars
3. Set filters sequentially to maximize the search results (ie. "Military", "Birth, Death, Marriage", etc.)
4. Review the results. You may find that records from several individuals come up. Choose the files that match what you learned about your Patriot from the DAR ancestor records.
5. NOTE: Many town records have not been transcribed and are therefore not 'tagged' by name for use in search engines, so you may need to access and research your Patriot's complete town record in its *original written form* to identify roles your Patriot may have played.

B. DAR Genealogical Records Committee (GRC) Database & Patriot Research Tutorial

The DAR has its own collection of Revolutionary War service databases. The GRC database and the Revolutionary War database have extensive collections of records and can be accessed on the DAR website after logging in as a member. The Revolutionary War tab provides access to the Patriot Records Project Index and to the Forgotten Patriots Research Guide in which African American and Native American Patriot information can be found.

Members can use the databases' search features to access an index to these records. The index cites ancestor Patriot names and members must fill out a form and send a fee to order copies of the original documents. In addition to the GRC, the DAR members only site below provides links to numerous national, state, and local level Revolutionary War service records. These resources are provided as part of the DAR tutorial designed to help new applicants establish a new Patriot and prove their lineage and can be found here: <http://www.learnwebskills.com/lineage/>. This website and tutorials were created by DAR member, Debbie Duay, Ph. D. (Copyright © 2004 - 2019 by Debbie Duay, Ph.D., Fort Lauderdale, FL. All Rights Reserved.)

D. National Archives: <https://www.archives.gov/research/military/american-revolution>

1. **Overview** <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2002/fall/military-records-overview.html>
2. **Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files**
 - a. [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) (by subscription or at Hennepin County Library)
 - b. [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) (free with login)
 - c. [Fold3.com](https://www.fold3.com) (by subscription or at Hennepin County Library)
3. **Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783**
 - a. [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) (by subscription or at Hennepin County Library)
 - b. [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) (free with login)
 - c. [Fold3.com](https://www.fold3.com) (by subscription or at Hennepin County Library)
4. **Compiled Service Records of American Naval Personnel and Members of the Departments of the Quartermaster General and the Commissary General of Military Stores Who Served During the Revolutionary War**
 - a. [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) (by subscription or at Hennepin County Library)
 - b. [Fold3.com](https://www.fold3.com) (by subscription or at Hennepin County Library)
5. **Compiled Service Records of Soldiers who Served in the American Army During the Revolutionary War**
 - a. [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) (by subscription or at Hennepin County Library)
 - b. [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) (free with login)
 - c. [Fold3.com](https://www.fold3.com) (by subscription or at Hennepin County Library)
6. **Carded Records Showing Military Service of Soldiers Who Served in Volunteer Units During the Post-Revolutionary War Period, Compiled 1899 - 1927, documenting the period 1784 - 1811**
 - a. [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) (by subscription or at Hennepin County Library)
7. **Numbered Records Books Concerning Military Operations and Service, Pay and Settlement of Accounts, and Supplies in the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records**
 - a. [Fold3.com](https://www.fold3.com) (by subscription or at Hennepin County Library)
8. **Miscellaneous Numbered Records (The Manuscript File) in the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, 1775-1790's**
 - a. [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) (by subscription or at Hennepin County Library)
 - b. [Fold3.com](https://www.fold3.com) (by subscription or at Hennepin County Library)

D. State Libraries, Archives & Historical Societies:

Below are links to state level resources for the thirteen original colonial states. The DAR has published research guides for nine of these states which can be found through the library publications page at: <https://www.dar.org/library/research-guides/dar-publications>

1. New York:
http://www.archives.nysed.gov/research/res_topics_gen_guide_mil.shtml
<http://www.saratoganygenweb.com/>
2. Massachusetts:
<https://www.massar.org/massachusetts-revolutionary-soldiers-and-sailors/>
3. Pennsylvania:
<https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Revolutionary-War.aspx>
<https://valleyforgemusterroll.org/>
4. Delaware:
<https://archives.delaware.gov/guide-revolutionary-war-records/>
5. Connecticut:
<https://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/hg/militaryrecords/revwar>
6. Rhode Island:
<https://www.rihs.org/mssinv/Mss673sg2.htm>
7. New Jersey:
https://www.njstatelib.org/research_library/new_jersey_resources/highlights/revolutionary_war_officers_and_men/
8. Maryland:
<http://www.mdhs.org/findingaid/revolutionary-war-military-records-1776-1824-ms-1146>
9. New Hampshire:
<https://www.library.unh.edu/find/digital/object/propapers%3A0015>
10. Virginia:
https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/rn8_varev.pdf
11. Vermont:
<https://archive.org/details/rollsofsoldiersi00verm/page/n3/mode/2up>
12. North Carolina:
<http://www.ncgenweb.us/ncstate/amrev/ncrevwar.htm> and
<https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/custom/troop-returns>
13. South Carolina:
<https://revolutionarywar.us/continental-army/southcarolina/>
14. Georgia:
<https://revolutionarywar.us/continental-army/georgia/>

Once you find all the documents that pertain to your Patriot’s service, you may find it useful to record the key information you identify in chronological order in a table like this:

<u>Source</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Rank/ Role</u>	<u>Service Locations</u>	<u>Company Commander</u>	<u>Regiment Commander</u>	<u>Service/Notes</u>
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						
7.						
8.						

At this stage, it is important to do a “sense check” on your findings to make sure they are accurate and all the information is attributable to your Patriot. Many Patriots shared common names and many fathers and sons with the same name both served in the military and are not well distinguished in the records.

Here are some questions you can ask yourself to detangle some of these potentially conflicting records. Are my Patriot’s military ranks progressing in the right chronological order? People were rarely demoted, so if you have ranks that move backwards chronologically, you may be mixing two people. In my case, this question helped me sort out which service pertained to my original Patriot and which pertained to his son of the same name. Next, ask yourself if your Patriot served with regiments from his own state? And with commanders from his own town or state? These are good indicators that you are attributing the service to the correct Patriot. Finally, review the data to make sure it shows that your Patriot served in one place at a time.

Based on the answers to these questions, you may need to identify and eliminate outliers in your data.

STEP 4: Deciphering Your Patriot’s Records

Once you find and record your Patriot’s complete service records, you will likely need to decipher them a bit to understand how they may be used in your story.

The origins and duties of Patriotic and Civil Service roles can be clarified with a quick internet search. These roles often have their origins in an act of the first Continental Congress. Declarations and resolves of the first Continental Congresses can be found here:

https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/resolves.asp

Deciphering military service can be more complicated. The names of conflicts and campaigns were not originally recorded with the names commonly known today. Often you will just have your Patriot’s name on a muster roll that includes dates and commanding officer names. Three strategies may help you make sense of the records of your Patriot’s Military Service.

- A. **Strategy 1 - TIMELINE:** When you discover your Patriot’s service dates and locations, you can consult a Revolutionary War timeline to discover the events that occurred on those dates or you can search “Revolutionary War + Location + Date” to match your Patriot’s service dates with the conflicts or campaigns conducted at that time. A complete Revolutionary timeline and links to additional timelines are provided in the Appendix A.
- B. **Strategy 2 - UNITS & LEADERS:** A second means of deciphering your Patriot’s service records is to search your Patriot’s military units and leaders to see where and when this group served. For military service, you may be able to identify your Patriot’s conflict or campaign by cross referencing his service dates with those of his regiment.
- C. **Strategy 3 - EXPERTS:** A third strategy is to seek expert advice. A National Park Ranger at the battle site where you believe your Patriot served or Military Historian may be able to review your Patriot’s service records and confirm your hypotheses. Links to many National Historical and Battle Sites can be found in the next section. Archivists and librarians may also be valuable sources. These include the David Library of the American Revolution and the National Genealogical Society. A relevant webinar by Craig Roberts Scott can be found at: <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cgs/researching-revolutionary-war-ancestors/>

STEP 5: Historical Importance of Revolutionary Conflicts

Now that you have built a complete, deciphered record of your Patriot’s service, you can now put this service into historical context. For your story, you will need to research the specific events, outcomes, and impact of his or her service. You may be able to discover eye-witness accounts or actual newspaper articles to bring the story to life, as well as learn which famous founders and British Generals may also have been present and crossed paths with your Patriot. While your audience will be interested in what your Patriot did, they will also want to understand how this service impacted the course of the Revolution.

Many of the historic, battle, and campaign sites associated with the Revolutionary War are National Historic Parks or National Military Sites which have excellent information on their websites. Reliable resources with links to help guide your research are listed below.

A. Overview of the Revolution

- <https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/revolution-images>
- <https://www.loc.gov/collections/today-in-history/>
- <https://www.loc.gov/collections/george-washington-papers/articles-and-essays/timeline/the-american-revolution/>
- <https://revolutionarywar.us/>

B. Newspaper Articles Reporting Revolutionary War Events

- <https://www.newspapers.com/topics/american-revolution/>
- <https://allthingsliberty.com/2013/09/american-revolution-news-10-breaking-reports/>

- C. **National Park Service - List of Revolutionary War Historic Sites**
https://www.nps.gov/revwar/contact/park_info.html
- D. **Library of Congress - Today in History**
<https://www.loc.gov/collections/today-in-history/>
- E. **Boston Tea Party - May 1773**
<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/the-boston-tea-party>
- F. **First Continental Congress - Fall 1774**
<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/first-continental-congress-convenes>
- G. **Seizure of Fort Ticonderoga - May 1775**
<https://www.fortticonderoga.org/>
- H. **Second Continental Congress - May 1775**
<https://www.ushistory.org/us/10e.asp>
- I. **Battles of Lexington & Concord - April 1775**
<https://www.nps.gov/mima/index.htm>
<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/revolutionary-war/battles/lexington-and-concord>
- J. **The Battle of Bunker Hill - June 1775**
<https://www.nps.gov/bost/planyourvisit/bhm.htm>
<http://www.masshist.org/bh/index.html>
- K. **Independence National Historic Park - July 1776**
<https://www.nps.gov/inde/learn/historyculture/resources-declaration-secondcontinentalcongress.htm>
- L. **Battles of Long Island and New York - August-December 1776**
<https://www.history.com/topics/american-revolution/battle-of-long-island>
- M. **Battle of Trenton, New Jersey - December 1776**
<https://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/historic/Trentonbattlemonument/index.htm>
- N. **Morristown Encampment - Winter 1775-76 and Winter 1777**
<https://www.nps.gov/morr/index.htm>
- O. **Battle of Princeton, New Jersey - January 1777**
<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/revolutionary-war/battles/princeton>
- P. **Battle of Saratoga, New York - October 1777**
<https://www.nps.gov/sara/index.htm>

Q. Valley Forge Encampment - Winter 1777-1778

<https://www.nps.gov/vafo/index.htm>

<https://valleyforgemusterroll.org/>

R. Kings Mountain - Fall 1780

<https://www.nps.gov/kimo/index.htm>

S. Cowpens - January 1781

<https://www.nps.gov/cowp/index.htm>

T. Guilford Courthouse - March 1781

<https://www.nps.gov/guco/index.htm>

U. Battle of Yorktown - October 1781

<https://www.nps.gov/colo/index.htm>

If you discover a book you'd like to review, you can use these resources to help you locate a copy:

- World Cat Library Catalog: <https://www.worldcat.org/>
- Hathi Trust Digital Library: <https://www.hathitrust.org/>
- Google Book Search: https://books.google.com/advanced_book_search

PART III

Writing Your Patriot's Revolutionary War Story

PATRIOT STORY WRITING PROCESS OVERVIEW: Bringing Your Patriot's Story to Life

Once you have researched, interpreted, and organized the key facts associated with your Patriot's service, you are ready to write his or her story. There are three broad steps to writing your Patriot's story. Step one is to assemble your facts. This includes assembling the personal, Revolutionary War service, and historical information from the research process outlined in Part I. The second step is to write your story. This step involves some personal reflection, developing a story outline, and writing your first draft. The final step is to refine your story. This step involves getting feedback, editing your work, and completing your citations.



STEP 1: Assemble Your Patriot Facts

Hopefully your research has resulted in lots of rich facts and information about your Patriot and American Revolutionary history. Research can be messy as you follow leads from a variety of sources! At this point you probably have lots of disparate pieces of information. Before you write your story, it is helpful to organize and assemble your information in the manner suggested below.

A. Personal Information: Personal information is a great way to introduce your Patriot. There are several pieces of information that you can assemble to paint a picture of you Patriot as a person. This may include:

- Family & Genealogical Information:
 - Patriot's full name and DAR Ancestor Number
 - Relationship to you
 - Patriot's Family Members – Spouse, Children, Parents
- Information about his or her life:
 - Birth Date & Location
 - Occupation & Community Roles
 - Faith

- Historical information about your Patriot before and after the Revolution
 - Family Immigration to Colonies
 - Life After the Revolution
 - Death Date & Location

B. Revolutionary War Service Information: Next you'll assemble the facts about your Patriot's Revolutionary War service that you uncovered in your research. As a reminder, the DAR recognizes three different types of service: Military, Patriotic, and Civil. All three types of service would be appropriate to include in your story. The facts you'll want to assemble for this section include:

- Military Service:
 - Rank
 - Dates Served
 - Military Unit
 - Military Leaders
 - Events Participated In
 - Actions Taken
- Patriotic & Civil Service:
 - The roles your Patriot played
 - Dates Served
 - Place Served
 - Actions Taken in his or her role

C. Historical Information: The final set of facts you'll assemble is the historical information surrounding your Patriot's service that you learned in your research.

- Military Service:
 - Historical events leading to the conflict or campaign in which your Patriot served
 - Historical events of the conflict or campaign
 - Outcome of the event
 - Importance of the event to the Revolution
 - Quotes from eyewitnesses or news reports
- Patriotic & Civil Service:
 - National and local events leading to role served; for example, if your Patriot served on a war committee like a Committee of Safety or Committee of Correspondence, these were recommended by the first Continental Congress in 1774.
 - Responsibilities of role
 - Importance of the role to the Revolution
 - Quotes from documents creating the role

In addition to the facts themselves, please remember to record the sources of your information. Source information needed for the end notes of your Patriot Story include titles, authors, publisher, publishing date, website addresses, and website access organizations (such as Ancestry.com or History.com).

STEP 2: Write Your Story

A. Personal Reflection: Once you've assembled your Patriot facts, it's time to do some personal reflection on what you've learned. What you come up with in this step can engage your audience by adding the heart component to the facts of your Patriot's story.

Here are some reflection questions you can ask yourself at this stage. You don't have to answer all these questions. Just choose the ones that spark your interest.

- Your motivations for writing your Patriot story:
 - What motivated you to research and write your Patriot's story?
 - How did you become interested in the American Revolution? Your family's genealogy? The DAR?
- Your response to what you've learned about your Patriot's service:
 - What part of your Patriot's story makes you particularly proud?
 - What surprised you about your Patriot's story?
 - How has learning your Patriot's story impacted you?
- How the story may impact your family:
 - What traits do you or your family share with your Patriot?
 - What aspects of your Patriot's story will be most interesting and valuable to your family?
 - To whom are you dedicating your Patriot story? Why is it important for them to know the story?

As noted in the introduction, we'd like each of our Patriot Profiles and Stories to express a value evident in your Patriot's service. Another important aspect of your personal reflection is to discern the values that motivated your Patriot's service. Unless you are blessed with a diary or letter written by your Patriot you may not expressly discover character traits or values in your research. However, these values are not hard to infer from your Patriot's service.

A militiaman who stood face to face against the British Army at Lexington and Concord surely showed the value of courage. A person elected by his community to serve on a committee surely showed trustworthiness and leadership. Someone who contributed food or clothing or other material resources to the cause surely showed generosity and industriousness. And we can assume anyone who served in any capacity during the Revolution believed in the values of the Declaration of Independence because they put their very lives at risk and committed treason to do so. People don't risk their lives for values they don't believe in!

Examples of values written into the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution for you to consider as you reflect on your own Patriot's values include:

- Courage
- Perseverance
- Family
- Generosity

- Liberty
- Justice
- Tenacity
- Optimism
- Faith
- Ingenuity
- Loyalty
- Equality
- Resilience

Please feel free to include visuals that may add interest to your story. Visuals may include things like pictures, original handwriting, maps, or paintings of events and people in the public domain.

B. Develop Your Outline: It is always easier to write a story when you can follow an outline. To ensure our stories are similar in composition, we suggest using the following outline for your profile and story.

- Patriot Profile: 200 words
 - Title: that includes
 - Patriot's name & DAR ancestor number
 - Birth & death dates
 - Your name
 - Followed by one paragraph that describes their personal life,
 - Patriot's personal information
 - Relationship to you
 - And a second paragraph that describes their Revolutionary War service and value.
 - Patriot's Revolutionary War Service
 - Personal value evidenced in Patriot's service
 - Please also include a short 'works cited' sentence at the end of your Profile.
- Patriot Story: 5+ pages & end notes
 - Section One: Introduction.
 - This section is 1-3 paragraphs in length
 - And is designed to engage your reader
 - This is the place to share some personal reflections
 - Section Two: Patriot's Personal Life
 - It can be 1-2 paragraphs long
 - And is where you introduce your Patriot and paint a picture of his family's life.
 - Section Three: Patriot's Revolutionary War service, described in historical context
 - This will be your longest section as it may include multiple military events, or patriotic or civil service events.
 - This can be 5 or more paragraphs
 - Where you'll describe the roles your Patriot's service and the historical events surrounding it.

- This is where you can bring your story to life with quotes from eyewitnesses and historical documents. For example, in my story, I included a quote from another soldier who wrote a letter to his mother describing what the Battle of Bunker Hill was like, and a quote from a British officer commenting on how surprisingly well the Americans fought.
 - Section Four: Conclusion
 - It can be 1-3 paragraphs
 - This is where you'll share the value evidenced in your Patriot's service
 - Conclude story with some additional personal reflections
 - Section Five: Endnotes
 - Be sure to include endnotes to cite the sources of each fact in your story.

C. Write Your First Draft: Armed with your facts, your personal reflections, and your outline, you're ready to actually write your Patriot's story. It can be daunting when you think about writing the whole thing, so just take it one step from the outline at a time. Be patient with yourself and enjoy the process. When you hit a rough patch, think about how much your family will appreciate your efforts on this and about how much fun it will be to share your story at a chapter meeting or read it in your local newspaper!

STEP 3: Refine Your Story

A. Get Feedback: At this stage, it's important to step back from your story and get some feedback from a variety of sources.

- Your family can give you great feedback on things like:
 - Is the story Interesting?
 - Does it leave unanswered questions that should be addressed?
 - Does the story instill pride in your family history?
- Friends are another good source of feedback, because unlike your family, they don't have any genealogical interest in your story. They can help you with issues like:
 - Is the story engaging?
 - Is the story understandable?
 - Is the story educational?
 - Does the story inspire?
- Finally, we'll pull together a team of chapter members to be available to provide feedback. Chapter members can look at your story to see if it:
 - Does the story illuminate a founding value?
 - Is the story historically accurate?
 - Is the story formatted correctly?

B. Edit Your Story: When you've collected this feedback, you can edit and polish your story using whatever feedback you found valuable.

C. Complete End Notes: The final step in completing your Patriot story is citing your sources in end notes. Every fact in your Patriot story should be supported by a credible source. We will be using the

Chicago Style Manual for endnote format found here: <https://owl.purdue.edu/search.html>.

Examples include:

- Book:
⁷ Norton, Mary Beth. "1774 *The Long Year of Revolution*." (Penguin Random House LLC: New York, 2020), 320.
- Digital Article:
¹² Horwitz, Tony. The True Story of the Battle of Bunker Hill. *Smithsonian Magazine*. May 2013. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-true-story-of-the-battle-of-bunker-hill-36721984/>. Accessed June 19, 2021.
- Digital Database:
³³ Massachusetts Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988. Granby 1710-1900. Microfiche Pg. 26. Accessed on Ancestry.com, June 19, 2021.

In Conclusion:

We sincerely hope this Guide equips you with the information you need to write your Patriot's story. Although this can be time consuming and sometimes difficult work, we also hope you actually enjoy the process of discovering and preserving these important slices of history. We are confident that your families will be grateful for your efforts for years to come.

When dedicating the Battle of Bunker Hill memorial, Daniel Webster left us with a hopeful reason for remembering our national history during difficult times. May it inspire you to write your Patriot's story.

*"We wish that, in those days of disaster, which, as they come upon all nations, must be expected to come upon us also, desponding patriotism may turn its eyes hitherward, and **be assured that the foundations of our national power are still strong.**"* - Daniel Webster

APPENDIX

Appendix A
Timeline of the Revolutionary War

- **U.S. History** - <https://www.ushistory.org/declaration/revwartimeline.html>
- **Library of Congress** - <https://www.loc.gov/collections/today-in-history/>
- **George Washington Papers** - <https://www.loc.gov/collections/george-washington-papers/articles-and-essays/timeline/the-american-revolution/>
- **Year by Year Wikipedia Articles** - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Years>

1764

- April 5: The Sugar Act
- September 1: The Currency Act

1765

- March 22: The Stamp Act
- March 24: The Quartering Act of 1765
- May 29: Patrick Henry's "If this be treason, make the most of it!" speech
- May 30: The Virginia Stamp Act Resolutions
- Oct. 7-25: The Stamp Act Congress

1766

- March 18: The Declaratory Act

1767

- June 29: The Townshend Revenue Act

1768

- August 1: Boston Non-Importation Agreement

1770

- March 5: The Boston Massacre

1772

- June 9: The Gaspee Affair

1773 (2023) *Start of NSDAR America 250 Calendar

- May 10: The Tea Act
- Dec. 16: The Boston Tea Party

1774 (2024)

- March 31: Boston Port Act, one of the "Intolerable Acts"
- May 20: Administration of Justice Act, one of the "Intolerable Acts"
- May 20: Massachusetts Government Act, one of the "Intolerable Acts"
- June 2: Quartering Act of 1774, one of the "Intolerable Acts"
- June 22: Quebec Act, one of the "Intolerable Acts"
- Sept. 5-Oct. 26: The First Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia and issues Declaration and Resolves
- Oct. 10: Battle of Point Pleasant, Virginia (disputed as to whether it was a battle of the American Revolution or the culmination of Lord Dunmore's War)
- Oct. 20: The Association (prohibition of trade with Great Britain)
- Oct. 24: Galloway's Plan rejected

1775 (2025)

- March 23: Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death" speech
- Apr. 18: The Rides of Paul Revere and William Dawes

- Apr. 19: Minutemen and redcoats clash at Lexington and Concord "The shot heard 'round the world."
- Apr. 19, 1775 – Mar 17, 1776: Siege of Boston
- May 10: Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys seize Fort Ticonderoga
- May 10: The Second Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia
- June 15: George Washington named Commander in Chief
- June 17: Battle of Bunker Hill: The British drive the Americans from Breed's Hill
- July 3: Washington assumes command of the Continental Army
- August 1775 - July 1776: Quebec Campaign
- Nov. 10-21: Ninety-Six, SC, Patriots sieged
- Nov. 13: The patriots under Montgomery occupy Montreal in Canada
- Dec. 11: Virginia and NC patriots rout Loyalist troops and burn Norfolk
- Dec. 22: Col. Thomson with 1,500 rangers and militia capture Loyalists at Great Canebrake, SC
- Dec. 23-30: Snow Campaign, in SC, so-called because patriots are impeded by 15" of snow
- Dec. 30-31: American forces under Benedict Arnold fail to seize Quebec

1776 (2026)

- Jan. 1: Daniel Morgan taken prisoner in attempt to take Quebec City
- Jan. 15: Paine's "Common Sense" published
- Feb. 27: The patriots drive the Loyalists from Moore's Creek Bridge, North Carolina
- March 3: The Continental fleet captures New Providence Island in the Bahamas
- March 17: The British evacuate Boston; British Navy moves to Halifax, Canada
- June 8: Patriots fail to take Three Rivers, Quebec
- June 12: The Virginia Declaration of Rights
- June 28-29: Patriots successfully defend Charleston
- June 28: Sullivan's Island, SC, failed British naval attack
- June 29: The First Virginia Constitution
- June 28: Patriots decisively defeat the British Navy at Fort Moultrie, South Carolina
- July-October 1777: Battles of Saratoga
- July 1: At the instigation of British agents, the Cherokee attack along the entire southern frontier
- July 1-4: Congress debates and revises the Declaration of Independence. See Chronology of the Declaration
- July 4: Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence; it's sent to the printer
- July 8: The Declaration of Independence is read publicly
- July 15: Lyndley's Fort, SC, Patriots fend off attack by Indians and Tories dressed as Indians
- Aug. 1: Ambushed by Cherokees, Patriots are saved by a mounted charge at Seneca, SC
- Aug. 2: Delegates begin to sign The Declaration of Independence
- Aug. 10: Tugaloo River, SC, Andrew Pickens defeats Cherokees
- Aug. 12: Andrew Pickens' detachment surrounded by 185 Cherokee Indians, forms a ring and fires outward. It is known as the "Ring Fight."
- Aug. 12: Col. Williamson and Andrew Pickens defeat Cherokee Indians and burn Tamassy, an Indian town
- Aug. 27: Redcoats defeat George Washington's army in the Battle of Long Island. Washington's army escapes at night.
- Sept. 15: The British occupy New York City
- Sept. 16: Generals George Washington, Nathanael Greene, and Israel Putnam triumphantly hold their ground at the Battle of Harlem Heights
- Sept. 19: Col. Williamson's patriots attacked by Cherokees at Coweecho River, NC

- Oct. 11: Benedict Arnold defeated at the Battle of Valcour Island (Lake Champlain), but delayed British advance
- Oct. 28: The Americans retreat from White Plains, New York. British casualties (~300) higher than American (~200).
- Nov. 16: The Hessians capture Fort Washington, NY
- Nov. 20: Lord Cornwallis captures Fort Lee from Nathanael Greene
- Dec. 26: Washington crosses the Delaware and captures Trenton from Hessians

1777 (2027)

- Jan. 3: Washington victorious at Princeton
- Jan. 6-May 28: Washington winters in Morristown, NJ
- Apr. 27: Benedict Arnold's troops force a British retreat at Ridgefield, Connecticut.
- May 20: Treaty of DeWitt's Corner, SC: Cherokees lose most of their land east of the mountains
- June 14: Flag Resolution
- July 5: St. Clair surrenders Fort Ticonderoga to the British
- July 27: Lafayette arrives in Philadelphia
- Aug. 6: The Redcoats, with Iroquois support, force the patriots back at Oriskany, NY, but then have to evacuate
- Aug. 16: American Militia under General Stark victorious at the Battle of Bennington, VT (actually fought in Walloomsac, New York, several miles to the west)
- Aug. 23: British withdraw from Fort Stanwix, NY, upon hearing of Benedict Arnold's approach
- Aug. 25: British General Howe lands at Head of Elk, Maryland
- Sept. 11: The British win the Battle of Brandywine, Pennsylvania
- Sept. 16: Rain-out at the Battle of the Clouds, Pennsylvania
- Sept. 19: Burgoyne checked by Americans under Gates at Freeman's Farm, NY. This is part of the "Battles of Saratoga."
- Sept. 21: Paoli Massacre, PA
- Sept. 26: British under Howe occupy Philadelphia
- Oct. 4: Americans driven off at the Battle of Germantown
- Oct. 7: Burgoyne loses second battle of Freeman's Farm, NY (at Bemis Heights). This is part of the "Battles of Saratoga."
- Oct. 17: Burgoyne surrenders to American General Gates at Saratoga, NY
- Oct. 22: Hessian attack on Fort Mercer, NJ repulsed
- Nov. 16: British capture Fort Mifflin, Pennsylvania
- Dec. 5-7: Americans repulse British at Whitmarsh, Pennsylvania
- Dec. 19: Washington's army retires to winter quarters at Valley Forge

1778 (2028)

- Feb. 6: The United States and France sign the French Alliance
- March 7: British General William Howe replaced by Henry Clinton
- May 20: Battle of Barren Hill, Pennsylvania. Lafayette with 500 men and about 50 Oneida Indians successfully evade British onslaught
- June 18: British abandon Philadelphia and return to New York
- June 19: Washington's army leaves Valley Forge
- June 28: The Battle of Monmouth Court House ends in a draw
- July 4: George Rogers Clark captures Kaskaskia, a French village in present day Illinois
- Aug. 8: French and American forces besiege Newport, RI
- Dec. 29: The redcoats occupy Savannah

1779 (2029)

- Feb. 3: Maj. Gen. Moultrie defeats British detachment at Port Royal Island, SC
- Feb. 14: Patriots Andrew Pickens and Elijah Clarke beat Loyalists at Kettle Creek, GA
- Feb. 23-24: American George Rogers Clark captures Vincennes (in what is now Indiana) on the Wabash in the Western campaign
- March 3: British Lt. Col. Jacques Marcus Prevost defeats Americans under Gen. John Ashe at Brier Creek, GA
- May 11-13: Maj. General Augustin Prévost (brother of Jacques, see above) breaks his siege when American forces under Maj. Gen. Lincoln approaches
- June 20: Stono River, SC, Maj. Gen. Lincoln inflicts extensive British casualties in indecisive battle
- June 21: Spain declares war on Great Britain July 8: Fairfield, CT, burned by British July 11: Norwalk, CT, burned by British July 15-16: American "Mad" Anthony Wayne captures Stony Point, NY
- Aug. 19: Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee attacks Paulus Hook, NJ
- Aug. 29: Newtown, NY, after two massacres, American forces burn Indian villages
- Sept. 23: John Paul Jones, aboard the Bonhomme Richard, captures British man-of-war Serapis near English coast Sept. 28: The Tappan Massacre ("No Flint" Grey kills 30 Americans by bayonet)
- Oct. 9: American attempt to recapture Savannah, GA fails
- Nov.-June 23, 1780: Washington's 2nd winter at Morristown, NJ (the harshest winter of the 18th century)

1780 (2030)

- March-May 1780: Siege of Charleston
- May 12: British capture Charleston, SC
- May 29: British crush Americans at Waxhaw Creek, SC
- June 20: Patriots rout Tories at Ramseur's Mill, NC
- July 11: French troops arrive at Newport, RI, to aid the American cause
- Aug. 6: Patriots defeat Tories at Hanging Rock, SC
- Aug. 16: British rout Americans at Camden, SC
- Sept. 23: John André arrested in New York, leading to the exposure of Benedict Arnold's plans to cede West Point to the British
- Oct. 7: King's Mountain, SC: battle lasts 65 minutes. American troops led by Isaac Shelby and John Sevier defeat Maj. Patrick Ferguson and one-third of General Cornwallis's army
- Oct. 14: Washington names Nathanael Greene commander of the Southern Army

1781 (2031)

- Jan. 1: Mutiny of unpaid Pennsylvania soldiers
- Jan. 17: Patriot Morgan overwhelmingly defeats British Col. Tarleton at Cowpens, SC
- Feb. 1: The Battle of Cowan's Ford, Huntersville, NC
- March 2: Articles of Confederation adopted
- March 15: British win costly victory at Guilford Courthouse, NC
- April 25: Greene defeated at Hobkirk's Hill, SC
- May 15: British Major Andrew Maxwell cedes Fort Granby, SC to patriot Lieutenant Colonel Henry Lee
- June 6: Americans recapture Augusta, GA
- June 18: British hold off Americans at Ninety Six, SC
- July 6: "Mad" Anthony Wayne repulsed at Green Springs Farm, VA
- Sept.-Oct.: Battle of Yorktown

- Sept. 8: Greene defeated at Eutaw Springs, SC
- Sept. 15: French fleet drives British naval force from Chesapeake Bay
- Oct. 19: Cornwallis surrounded on land and sea by Americans and French and surrenders at Yorktown, VA

1782 (2032)

- March 20: Lord North resigns as British prime minister
- July 11: British evacuate Savannah, GA
- Nov. 30: British and Americans sign preliminary Articles of Peace
- Dec. 14: British leave Charleston, SC

1783 (2033) *End of NSDAR America 250 Calendar

- April 19: Congress ratifies preliminary peace treaty
- Sept. 3: The United States and Great Britain sign the Treaty of Paris
- Nov. 25: British troops leave New York City
- Dec. 23: Washington resigns as Commander

1787

- Sept. 17: U.S. Constitution signed

1788

- June 21: U.S. Constitution adopted with New Hampshire's ratification

Appendix B
REVOLUTIONARY WAR ARMY ORGANIZATION & RANKS

The military forces of revolutionaries during the War of American Independence fell into three categories: Militias organized for local defense and maintained by each of the thirteen states maintained a militia organized for local defense; State troops comprised of longer-serving regulars under the control of the state governments; the Continental army who served exclusively at the national level under the authority of the Continental Congress. The Continental Army's organizational units and ranks included:

1. **Platoon**: A platoon consisted of a minimum of 16 and a maximum of 31 men.
 - Lieutenant: 1
 - Sergeant: 1
 - Corporal: 1
 - Privates: 13-28

2. **Company**: At full strength, a company would have 90 officers and men made up of the following positions, ranked from highest to lowest:
 - Captain: 1
 - Lieutenants: 2
 - Ensign: 1
 - Sergeants: 4
 - Corporals: 4
 - Fifers/Drummers: 2
 - Privates: 76

3. **Regiment**: A regiment (replacing the term 'battalion' midway through the war) contained eight to ten platoons, the number needed in linear warfare to provide a constant wave of volley fire. A regiment typically consisted of eight to ten companies. At full strength, an eight-company infantry regiment would contain about 728 officers and men. However, these numbers were rarely met. A regiment was commanded by a:
 - Colonel: 1
 - Lieutenant Colonel: 1
 - Major: 1

4. **Brigade**: A brigade generally comprised three and five regiments, plus an artillery company. The regimental composition of many brigades frequently remained constant for up to three or more years. The typical brigade, numbering between approximately 1,200 and 1,750. Given the high priority of state orientation and allegiance, virtually all Continental brigades were composed of regiments of the same state. A brigade was commanded by a:
 - Brigadier General: 1

5. **Division**: A division consisted of between two and four brigades. A division was commanded by a:
 - Major General: 1

Sources:

<https://revolutionarywar.us/continental-army/>

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/continental-army-organization>

Appendix C
PATRIOT PROFILE EXAMPLE

Bartholomew Somers A110885

(1744 -1832)

Meghan Flannery

Bartholomew Somers, born in 1744 in Cambuslang, Scotland, immigrated to America and settled in Ryegate, Vermont in 1774. Nicknamed “Long Bart,” Somers was a jolly man with a fondness for practical jokes. Like his fellow Scotsmen, Somers defended his new home from British threats, and he was elected corporal in Captain Frye Bayley’s militia company.

In October 1777, Capt. Bayley’s company heeded the Continental Army’s call for aid in Saratoga, New York, against British General John Burgoyne’s campaign down the Hudson River. After marching over 170 miles, the company arrived in Saratoga on October 11, 1777. Capt. Bayley heard reports of 15 poorly guarded, full British supply boats that they could easily capture. When they found these boats, Somers, along with another unnamed soldier, selflessly and courageously volunteered to swim across the Hudson to steal the first boat. They emptied the boat to carry over the rest of the company to capture the remaining 14 boats. This significant loss of supplies likely pushed General Burgoyne to famously surrender to the Continental Army on October 17, 1777. Throughout this adventure, Somers persevered through the long march to Saratoga and fearlessly forced the British to cease their attacks on his adopted homeland.

[Works Cited: Edward Miller and Frederic P. Wells. *History of Ryegate, Vermont: From It’s Settlement by the Scotch-American Company of Farmers to the Present Time With Genealogical Records of Many Families*. St. Johnbury, Vermont: The Caledonian Company, 1913.]

Appendix D
PATRIOT SHAPSHOT EXAMPLE



Patriot Snapshot
Bartholomew Somers
Corporal, Ryegate, Vermont Militia

Born: 1744
Cambuslang, Scotland
Died: June 11, 1832
Barnet, Vermont
Wife: Susanna Carr
Children: Jane, Marion, Robert, William,
Agnes, Susanna, Bartholomew, John

Notable Fact: He swam across the Hudson River to capture British supplies during the Battle of Saratoga.

Looking for or have a Revolutionary War Patriot Ancestor?
Contact lakemtkadar@gmail.com or visit lakeminnetonkadar.org.
Lake Minnetonka Chapter NSDAR —
Wayzata, MN



Appendix E
PATRIOT STORY EXAMPLE

Patriot Stories
Captain Eleazer Warner's American Revolution

Written by Linda Kline
In Honor of my grandmother, Eula Wilder Todleben
And to bring joy to my sister, Lisa Monroe, and my son, Christopher Kline

My grandmother had the extraordinary gift of seeing potential. She could look past the rough edges of something as it was and see what it could become. With this gift came her compulsion to save *everything*. On a Thanksgiving visit to Minneapolis, she once asked to save the turkey carcass I was about to toss. When I say "save," this meant taking the turkey carcass with her on the plane back to Grand Rapids. I have always wondered what must have gone through the minds of the airport security team when she sent it on the conveyor belt through the x-ray machine. But where others saw bones, she saw soup. And honestly, her request to pack up the carcass did not particularly surprise me because I had always known her to save every fabric scrap, button, and yarn remnant from her sewing and knitting. She lived by a principle that said, "with a little styrofoam, you could make something really pretty out of that."

I was never more grateful for her gift of seeing potential than when she collected the scraps of our family history. She embraced her role as family historian with determination, writing dozens of letters to relatives requesting genealogical information and accumulating hundreds of family photos in a box she kept in her closet. Among my favorite artifacts is a large photograph, circa 1919, of a group of neatly appointed boys and girls known as "The Pig Club." I can still see the twinkle in my grandmother's eye when she explained that Mr. Wilson promised a piglet to any boy who was brave enough to ask a girl to the town dance. Another treasure is a picture of Ivan, the beautiful black farm horse with the star on his forehead, who pulled a plow over acres of cauliflower fields in summer and a sleigh over acres of snow in winter. My sister and I have never been able to part with the blanket that the prudent and practical Wilder family had made from Ivan's hide - despite its unusual smell. Clearly, we inherited our sentimentality from another branch of the family tree.

I enjoyed looking at these photos with my grandmother and recording names, dates, and as many other details as she could remember. I ultimately took over the mantle of family historian when she died in 1998 and began to really sift through her stacks of letters and documents. My grandmother's primary interest in genealogy had been finding long lost cousins; mine was unraveling family mysteries. The first mystery I hoped to prove true was my grandmother's belief that we were somehow related to President Calvin Coolidge. That one turned out to be false. He was just a neighbor in Vermont. The second mystery was her belief that we were related to author and pioneer, Laura Ingalls Wilder. That one turned out to be true, by marriage at least. Almanzo Wilder, Laura's husband and subject of her book, *The Farmer Boy*, was my cousin six times removed.

However, the most tantalizing mystery remained unsolved for many years. Among the papers in my grandmother's collection was a statement made by a William McNitt that read, "*Hannah Warner, daughter of the younger Eleazer, grew up in Pittsford hearing stories of the Revolutionary War*" where her

father and grandfather “*had served under the command of General George Washington.*” Were we related to this Warner family and what incredible stories had been shared with young Hannah? After the President Coolidge disappointment, I knew where to set my expectations. But my grandmother had spotted potential in this mystery, so I trusted her intuition. And this time, months of plundering old military archives, pension files, and town records revealed a much more satisfying answer.

Eleazer Warner Sr.

Following clues left in New England’s colonial birth and marriage records on Ancestry.com, I was able to establish that Eleazer Warner Sr. was my five-times great grandfather. His ancestors had arrived in the Massachusetts Bay colony from Ipswich, Essex County, England in 1637 during the Great Migration.¹ Eleazer himself was born in Hadley, Massachusetts nearly a hundred years later on January 15, 1731.² He married Mary Chapin of Springfield, Massachusetts on June 6, 1752.³ The couple settled in nearby Granby, Massachusetts and had ten children, including their eldest son, Eleazer Jr., born in 1755.⁴

Given his family’s deep roots in the colonies, Eleazer Sr. volunteered to serve as a soldier in the British Army during the French and Indian War in 1760.⁵ He returned from that war to become a leader in his community, serving in the local government of the town of Granby as a surveyor, an assessor, a member on the committee to divide school funds, and a selectman.⁶ In these leadership roles, it is likely that he joined his fellow Granby residents in discussions of the fairness of new taxes like those imposed on the colonies by the British Parliament in laws like the Sugar Act and the Stamp Act, intended to raise revenue to pay debts from the French and Indian War. The town must have been especially intrigued when they heard that a group known as the “Sons of Liberty” in nearby Boston dressed as Native Americans and dumped tea into Griffins Wharf on December 16, 1773 to protest the Tea Act tax.⁷ To punish the colony of Massachusetts for this act of defiance, the British Parliament responded by issuing the “Coercive Acts” which authorized a naval blockade of Boston Harbor and replaced the colony’s elected government officials with Royal appointees.⁸

During the fall of 1774, representatives from across the colonies met in the First Continental Congress to discuss a potential unified response to protest these “Coercive Acts.”⁹ This Congress passed the Articles of Association calling for a repeal of the “Coercive Acts” along with a colony-wide boycott of British imports.¹⁰ Towns were encouraged to create local committees to enforce the resolves in the Articles of Association.¹¹ On February 15, 1775, an assembly in the town of Granby voted that “the Resolves and Proceedings of the Continental Congress be read in the meeting.”¹² Following this reading, Lt. Eleazer Warner Sr. was voted to have a position on the Committee of Inspections for the town of Granby.¹³ In this role, he and his fellow committee members were instructed to “inspect the inhabitants of [Granby] and to their endeavor to attend strictly to the resolves of the Continental Congress.”¹⁴ Eleazer had clearly chosen to join the side of rebellion against Great Britain.

The Battle of Bunker Hill

Just two months later, the first shots of the American Revolution were exchanged on the town green in Lexington, Massachusetts at dawn on April 19, 1775.¹⁵ News of this clash between 77 Massachusetts militiamen and 700 British soldiers¹⁶ spread remarkably quickly through Massachusetts towns.¹⁷ One of the fastest reports was from Massachusetts Committee of Safety member, Joseph Palmer, who sent a

dispatch that made its way by couriers on horseback to central Massachusetts. Although it has never been determined which side fired the first shot,¹⁸ the dispatch boldly read,

*“To all the Friends of American liberty - Be it Known that this Morning before Break of Day, a Brigade Consisting of about 1,000 to 1,200 Men Landed at Phips’s Farm at Cambridge & marched to Lexington - where they found a Company of our Colony Militia in Arms, upon whom they fir’d without any Provocation & killed six men and wounded four others [...]”*¹⁹

A report such as this one undoubtedly reached the people of Granby. Outraged, the town responded by immediately assembling and dispatching its own minutemen. On April 20, the 44-year-old Eleazer Warner Sr. marched the 90-mile journey from Granby to Boston as a second lieutenant under the command of Colonel Ruggles Woodbridge with the goal of preventing further attacks on Massachusetts towns.²⁰ Lt. Warner’s regiment encamped at Cambridge,²¹ joining 20,000 other provincial militiamen from several states to surround Boston and trap the British in a siege of the city.²²

Until that point, American and British leaders believed the conflict could be resolved in negotiations.²³ Uncertain of the other’s intent, the two armies stood in a tense standstill for two months.²⁴ In June, British General Thomas Gage developed secret plans to occupy the high ground on the Charlestown peninsula and Dorchester Heights with the intent of launching an attack to break free of the siege.²⁵ However, these plans were discovered by the Massachusetts Provincial government and counterplans were developed to pre-empt General Gage.²⁶ As part of this counterplan, the Massachusetts Committee of Safety ordered American General Artemis Ward to secure Bunker Hill on the Charlestown Peninsula.²⁷ Ward chose Colonel William Prescott to execute this operation. Choosing nearby Breed’s Hill instead, Prescott and 1,000 militiamen from Massachusetts and Connecticut worked tirelessly through the night of June 16 to build a crude but commanding dirt, stone, and fence-post fort 160 feet long and 30 feet high -- directly facing the British Army.²⁸

Upon seeing this fortification at daybreak on June 17, General Gage interpreted the rebels’ threatening position on Breeds Hill as a provocation and ordered an attack.²⁹ British cannon fire bombarded the Americans as they worked to complete the fortification and Gage began transporting soldiers to the peninsula via naval ships.³⁰

When a conflict appeared imminent, Lt. Warner marched with Colonel Woodbridge’s regiment from Cambridge across the narrow neck of land connected to Charlestown peninsula to reinforce the Americans at Breed’s Hill.³¹ They were met enroute by American General Israel Putnam on horseback who commanded them to run to the hill.³² Under heavy cannon fire from British naval ships stationed in Boston Harbor, Woodbridge’s regiment raced to Breed’s Hill and arrived just before the battle began.³³ A part of the regiment took up positions on the right flank and another group reinforced the men in the redoubts.³⁴ Which group Lt. Warner joined is unknown.

More than 2,000 British soldiers, led by General Howe, arrived on the peninsula at 3:00 in the afternoon and marched toward the militia’s fortification, setting fire to Charlestown along the way.³⁵ The American militiamen were instructed to hold their fire until the British were within fifty yards of their redoubts.³⁶ Their heavy fire decimated British soldiers in this first charge.³⁷ General Howe regrouped and the

inexperienced, audacious militiamen repelled them for a second time.³⁸ One courageous and grateful surviving militiaman recounted the experience in a letter to his mother stating,

*“The enemy landed, fronted before us, and form’d themselves, in an oblong square, in order to surround, which they did in part -- after they were well form’d they advanced towards us in order to swallow us up, but they found a Choaky mouthful of us. [...] But God in Mercy to us fought our battle, and tho’ we were but few in number, and suffer’d to be defeated by our enemy, yet were preserv’d in a most wonderful manner [...]”*³⁹

Reinforced by another 400 British soldiers, and this time forming in columns rather than rows, General Howe ordered a third attack.⁴⁰ The militiamen fought valiantly until they had no more ammunition.⁴¹ When British soldiers breached the fortification with bayonets drawn, the militiamen fought them hand to hand with rocks and the butts of their guns.⁴² The Americans were forced to retreat as “balls flew like hailstones and Cannon roar’d like thunder.”⁴³ Lt. Warner and Woodbridge’s regiment valiantly covered the retreat of the Continental Army over the Charlestown neck back to Cambridge.⁴⁴

Despite being a loss for the new Continental Army, the Battle of Bunker Hill demonstrated the strength of the colonial resolve to the British. The British Army had suffered over 1,000 casualties.⁴⁵ One shocked British officer was reported in the Edinburgh Advertiser newspaper as having said, “The engagement, while it lasted, was the hottest I ever saw and in all the actual service I ever was in. I never saw troops keep up a more constant fire than the provincials.”⁴⁶ When news of the battle reached London, King George III concluded that the colonies were instituting an uprising and issued a Proclamation of Rebellion.⁴⁷

The Siege of Boston continued after this conflict and on July 2, General George Washington arrived in Cambridge to take over command of the Continental Army.⁴⁸ On July 7, after seventy-eight days of service in the Siege of Boston and at the Battle of Bunker Hill, Lt. Eleazer Warner Sr. returned home to Granby.⁴⁹ This would not be his last contribution as a patriot of the American Revolution. It seems clear that he brought home a deepened conviction in the cause of liberty, along with the confidence that it might actually be achieved.

Granby Declares its Support for Independence

In March 1776, Lt. Warner was voted to serve in the town government of Granby as a selectman “for the year ensuing.”⁵⁰ In May 1776, the delegates to the Continental Congress were divided on the issue of independence. Colonial assemblies of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York had authorized their delegates to work for reconciliation with Great Britain.⁵¹ However, Massachusetts took a decidedly more democratic approach. Representatives in the Massachusetts General Court, the colony’s legislative and judicial assembly, passed a resolve encouraging town governments to discuss and communicate their opinions between a choice for independence or reconciliation. On Thursday, May 9, 1776, the Massachusetts General Court “hereby recommended to each Town in this Colony, who shall send a Member or Members to the next General Assembly, fully to possess him or them with their Sentiments relative to a Declaration of Independency of the United Colonies on Great Britain.”⁵² These collective sentiments would “be made to Congress” for the purpose of “instruct[ing] them what Conduct they would have them observe.”⁵³

The town of Granby eagerly complied. On June 20, 1776, the town voted on the issue of independence. In light of his role as a selectman, it is reasonable to assume that Eleazer Warner Sr. would have vigorously participated in this debate and vote. The people of Granby voted for liberty. The town's decision to stake their very lives in support of the cause of independence is unwaveringly recorded in the town records with the following statement:

*"Voted that we of this town will support the Independence of the American Colonies with our lives and our fortunes provided the American Congress shall declare these Colonies Independent from the Kingdom of Great Brittain [sic]."*⁵⁴

Fortified by the support for independence from towns like Granby, the Massachusetts delegates spiritedly argued for independence in the Continental Congress. The provisional government of Virginia concurred and instructed its own delegates to submit a proposal for independence to Congress.⁵⁵ A committee composed of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston, and Benjamin Franklin was appointed to draft this proposal and the Declaration of Independence was approved by vote in the Continental Congress on July 2, 1776.⁵⁶

The Declaration was read in gatherings across Massachusetts. Colonial town governments in Massachusetts at that time were associated with the Congregational Church and it was ordered that the Declaration be read by every minister to their congregations.⁵⁷ In a letter to her husband, John, Abigail Adams described the joyful response when the Declaration was read to Bostonians saying, "As soon as [the reading] ended, the cry from the Belcona was God Save our American states and then 3 cheers which rended the air."⁵⁸ It is not hard to imagine a similarly enthusiastic response from the Warner family when the Declaration was read aloud to the people of Granby.

The Warner Family Fights for Independence

Eleazer Warner Sr. dedicated the next four years of his life to the American Revolution. Granby town records for January 1777 stated that he needed to be replaced in his role as town assessor because "Lt. Eleazer Warner [...] is gone into the war."⁵⁹ This likely refers to his service in the fall of 1776 when Woodbridge's regiment formed part of the garrison at Fort Ticonderoga.⁶⁰ On August 16, 1777, he continued to serve under Col. Woodbridge when his regiment was called to join other forces gathering for what would become the Saratoga Campaign.⁶¹ He first marched 69 miles from South Hadley, Massachusetts in response to an alarm at Bennington, Vermont.⁶² Then he marched to Saratoga Springs, New York where he fought with the 8th company of Col. Elisha Porter's 4th Hampshire Company Regiment of the Massachusetts militia in the Battle of Saratoga from September 23 to October 15.⁶³ This battle was a decisive victory for the Americans and proved to be a turning point in the war. British Lieutenant General John Burgoyne surrendered to American Major General Horatio Gates on October 16, 1777.⁶⁴ After this victory, the French, Spanish, and Dutch finally recognized the American republic and agreed to join the fight against the British.⁶⁵ In recognition of his service in this conflict, Lt. Eleazer Warner Sr. was promoted to the rank of Captain on November 5, 1777.⁶⁶ The newly appointed Captain Eleazer Warner returned to Massachusetts to recruit soldiers for the Continental Army.⁶⁷

Eleazer Warner Sr. passed on his revolutionary fervor to his son. Pvt. Eleazer Warner Jr. volunteered in the Continental Army at the age of 21 when troops were called for in October 1776.⁶⁸ His service was recorded in his own words in the personal statement he made when applying for a military pension. He stated that he marched from Granby to Peekskill, New York in Captain Oliver Smith's company.⁶⁹ His company then marched to the Continental Army's headquarters in Morristown, New Jersey where he served for eight months during the winter of 1777.⁷⁰ His brave statement makes no mention of the deplorable conditions for troops at that encampment. Food, clothing, and boots were in short supply and many soldiers marched in the snow in bare feet.⁷¹ As a smallpox outbreak threatened to devastate the Continental Army, soldiers at Morristown were secretly inoculated with crude, live virus collected from the sick.⁷² He survived these hardships and later that year father and son marched together in response to the alarm at Bennington.⁷³ Pvt. Warner Jr.'s personal statement included valuable details about his service at Morristown. He recalled that he was at Morristown "when General Howe with the British Army were said to lie at New Brunswick and Amboy."⁷⁴ And at the end of his statement, he added the words that would definitively solve my family's mystery: "*General George Washington was at Morristown at the same time.*"⁷⁵

After the Revolution

Thankfully, both men survived the war and lived to see America become a new nation. Capt. Eleazer Sr. remained in Granby, Massachusetts for the rest of his life. Eleazer Warner Jr. moved to Pittsford, Vermont where he married Hannah Cox in 1783.⁷⁶ Their daughter, Hannah, was born there in 1807.⁷⁷ They must have been proud to see George Washington, their Commander in Chief at Bunker Hill and Morristown, become America's first president. They both lived to see the Articles of Confederation give way to the Constitution in 1789 and the Bill of Rights they had fought so valiantly to achieve be ratified in 1791. And both men lived to see their fellow Massachusetts patriot, John Adams, to whom the town of Granby entrusted its vote for independence in the Continental Congress, become the nation's second president.

Captain Eleazer Warner Sr. died in his hometown of Granby, Massachusetts on June 19, 1810 at the age of 81.⁷⁸ He is buried in West Street Cemetery in Granby, Massachusetts where his grave is commemorated as a patriot of the American Revolution with a marker placed by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Eleazer Warner Jr. died in Pittsford, Vermont at the age of 80.⁷⁹ He is buried next to his wife, Hannah Cox Warner, in the Pittsford Congregational Church Cemetery in Vermont.

Mystery Solved

These are the stories of the American Revolution that young Hannah Warner must have heard on cold winter evenings sitting before a cozy, field stone fireplace growing up in Vermont. She heard her father share the story of her grandfather's courageous Battle of Bunker Hill, Granby's self-sacrificing vote for independence, her father's strength in surviving the horrific winter at Morristown with General George Washington, and the glorious American victory at the Battle of Saratoga. At some point, she must have asked her father why he and her grandfather chose the side of revolution. I imagine he told her that they saw the potential for a better life in an independent nation that valued *liberty*. Hannah must have taken this sentiment to heart as she courageously set out in a covered wagon as a young bride for a new life in Niagara, New York and ultimately Grand Rapids, Michigan. And it may very well have encouraged her to

see potential in a nation that valued *unity* when she sent three of her sons to fight for the Union in the Civil War.⁸⁰

However, I imagine Hannah's father also shared that seeing potential was not always easy. Lt. Eleazer Warner Sr. must have found it difficult to see through the cannon fire he was outrunning at the Battle of Bunker Hill. And Pvt. Eleazer Jr. must have found it difficult to endure the pain when he was cold, starving, and facing smallpox at Morristown. I am grateful for their heroic example of looking past this pain and fear to see potential, and to my grandmother for passing this perspective on to me. Twenty-twenty has been a difficult year. It is not easy to see potential in a year dominated by a painful global pandemic, ugly racial prejudice, mean spirited election campaigns, and destructive fires, locusts, and hurricanes.

Our national history teaches us that if we can look beyond these trials, we can see a path to a better future. This path is lit by the courage of committed teachers like my sister, who bravely faces the pandemic to teach her students each day. It is lit by the conduct of people like my son who never fails to uplift clients with his encouraging words and quick wit. And it is lit by simple things like the kind words in a note from a friend, a text that includes an encouraging prayer, and laughter over games played on Zoom. I am collecting all these blessings of courage, compassion, levity, and beauty in this difficult year. Like my grandmother taught me, I know I can take each of these treasures, find a metaphorical piece of styrofoam, and "make something really pretty out of that."

Endnotes

-
- ¹ Wilder, Justin E. *The Descendants of Harvey Wilder*. Pg. 153. Copyright 1974. Goshen, Indiana.
- ² *Ibid.* at 157.
- ³ Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988 for Mary Chapin, Springfield. Births, Marriages and Deaths. Accessed on Ancestry.com.
- ⁴ Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988 for Eleazer Warner; Granby. Town Records with Births, Marriages and Deaths. Pg. 866, microfiche pg. 4. Accessed on Ancestry.com.
- ⁵ *The Descendants of Harvey Wilder* at 157.
- ⁶ Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988, Granby, Town Records. Entries from 1768, 1775, 1776, and 1779. Accessed on Ancestry.com. Also, Selectman for 1770 and 1776 noted in *The Descendants of Harvey Wilder*, pg. 157.
- ⁷ "The Boston Tea Party." Massachusetts Historical Society. 2020. <https://www.masshist.org/revolution/teaparty.php>.
- ⁸ "The Coercive (Intolerable) Acts of 1774." George Washington's Mount Vernon. Washington Library Center for Digital History. <https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/the-coercive-intolerable-acts-of-1774>.
- ⁹ "Congress Convenes." Continental Congress. History.com. Editors. A&E Television Network. Updated January 14, 2020; original February 9, 2010. <https://www.history.com/topics/american-revolution/the-continental-congress>.
- ¹⁰ *Ibid.*
- ¹¹ "A Continental Congress." The American Revolution. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. 2020. <http://www.ouramericanrevolution.org/index.cfm/page/view/p0041>.
- ¹² Massachusetts Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988. Granby 1710-1900. Microfiche pg. 22. Accessed on Ancestry.com.
- ¹³ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁴ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁵ "Battles of Lexington and Concord." History.com. Editors. Updated January 14, 2020 and original December 2, 2009. <https://www.history.com/topics/american-revolution/battles-of-lexington-and-concord>.
- ¹⁶ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁷ "The Battles of Lexington and Concord: A Public Relations Case Study." American Antiquarian Society. Worcester, Mass. <https://americanantiquarian.org/earlyamericannewsmedia/exhibits/show/age-of-revolution/lexington-and-concord>.
- ¹⁸ "Battles of Lexington and Concord." History.com. Editors. Updated January 14, 2020 and original December 2, 2009. <https://www.history.com/topics/american-revolution/battles-of-lexington-and-concord>.
- ¹⁹ *Ibid.* Quote text from "The Lexington Alarm." John H. Sheide. PDF page 1. Original capitalization and spelling retained. <https://www.americanantiquarian.org/proceedings/44807014.pdf>. Note: According to "Battles of Lexington and Concord" at History.com, eight militiamen were killed and nine were wounded.
- ²⁰ Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War. Pg. 583; microfiche pg. 582. Accessed on Ancestry.com. Text reads: "Warner, Eleazer, Granby. 2d Lieutenant, Capt. John Cowles's company and Col. Woodbridge's regiment, which marched April 20, 1775, in response to the alarm of April 19, 1775."
- ²¹ "Benjamin Ruggles Woodbridge - Revolutionary War - Battle of Bunker Hill." Liquisearch. 2020. http://www.liquisearch.com/benjamin_ruggles_woodbridge/revolutionary_war/battle_of_bunker_hill.
- ²² "The Battle of Bunker Hill." The Coming of the American Revolution. Massachusetts Historical Society. 2020. <https://www.masshist.org/revolution/bunkerhill.php>.
- ²³ Horwitz, Tony. "The True Story of the Battle of Bunker Hill." Smithsonian Magazine. May 2013. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-true-story-of-the-battle-of-bunker-hill-36721984/>.
- ²⁴ *Ibid.*
- ²⁵ "Bunker Hill Memorial - National Park Information." National Park Service. National Historic Park Boston, Massachusetts. National Park Service. July 1, 2020. <https://www.nps.gov/bost/learn/historyculture/bhm.htm>.
- ²⁶ *Ibid.*
- ²⁷ "The Battle of Bunker Hill." Massachusetts Historical Society. 2020. <https://www.masshist.org/revolution/bunkerhill.php>.

-
- ²⁸ Horwitz, Tony. "The True Story of the Battle of Bunker Hill." *Smithsonian Magazine*. May 2013. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-true-story-of-the-battle-of-bunker-hill-36721984/>.
- ²⁹ "Bunker Hill Memorial - National Park Information." National Park Service. National Historic Park Boston, Massachusetts. National Park Service. July 1, 2020. <https://www.nps.gov/bost/learn/historyculture/bhm.htm>.
- ³⁰ "The Battle of Bunker Hill." Massachusetts Historical Society. 2020. <https://www.masshist.org/revolution/bunkerhill.php>.
- ³¹ "Benjamin Ruggles Woodbridge - Revolutionary War - Battle of Bunker Hill." Liquisearch. 2020. http://www.liquisearch.com/benjamin_ruggles_woodbridge/revolutionary_war/battle_of_bunker_hill.
- ³² Ibid.
- ³³ Ibid.
- ³⁴ Ibid.
- ³⁵ "The Battle of Bunker Hill." Massachusetts Historical Society. 2002. <https://www.masshist.org/revolution/bunkerhill.php>.
- ³⁶ Ibid. It is unknown whether the legendary command, "Don't fire 'til you see the whites of their eyes" was given at the Battle of Bunker Hill. Source: Horwitz.
- ³⁷ Ibid.
- ³⁸ Ibid.
- ³⁹ Letter from Peter Brown to Sarah Brown, 25 June 1775. "The Battle of Bunker Hill." Massachusetts Historical Society. 2020. <https://www.masshist.org/revolution/bunkerhill.php>.
- ⁴⁰ "The Battle of Bunker Hill." Massachusetts Historical Society. 2020. <https://www.masshist.org/revolution/bunkerhill.php>. Also, Horwitz, Tony.
- ⁴¹ Ibid.
- ⁴² Ibid.
- ⁴³ Letter from Peter Brown to Sarah Brown, 25 June 1775. "The Battle of Bunker Hill." Massachusetts Historical Society. 2020. <https://www.masshist.org/revolution/bunkerhill.php>.
- ⁴⁴ "Benjamin Ruggles Woodbridge - Revolutionary War - Battle of Bunker Hill." Liquisearch. 2020. http://www.liquisearch.com/benjamin_ruggles_woodbridge/revolutionary_war/battle_of_bunker_hill.
- ⁴⁵ "Battle of Bunker Hill." History.com Editors. Updated Sept. 30, 2019 and original Nov. 9, 2009. <https://www.history.com/topics/american-revolution/battle-of-bunker-hill>.
- ⁴⁶ Andriak, Todd. *Reporting the Revolutionary War*. Pg. 148. Sourcebooks, Inc. Naperville, Ill. 2012.
- ⁴⁷ "The Battle of Bunker Hill." The American Revolution. U.S. History. <https://www.ushistory.org/us/11d.asp>.
- ⁴⁸ "Battle of Bunker Hill." History.com Editors. Updated Sept. 30, 2019 and original Nov. 9, 2009. <https://www.history.com/topics/american-revolution/battle-of-bunker-hill>.
- ⁴⁹ Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War. Pg. 584. Microfiche pg. 582. Accessed on Ancestry.com.
- ⁵⁰ Massachusetts Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988. Granby 1710-1900. Microfiche pg. 26. Accessed on Ancestry.com.
- ⁵¹ "Declarations of Independence." Massachusetts Historical Society. 2020. 'Bring in a Resolve' link. <https://www.masshist.org/revolution/declarations.php>.
- ⁵² "Declarations of Independence." General Court, House of Representatives. Pages 264-270 from *A Journal of the Honorable House of Representatives*. At a Great and General Court or Assembly for the Colony of Massachusetts-Bay..., [Watertown, Mass.: printed by Benjamin Edes, 1776]. <https://www.masshist.org/revolution/declarations.php>. Massachusetts.
- ⁵³ Ibid.
- ⁵⁴ Massachusetts Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988. Granby 1710-1900. Microfiche pg. 26. Accessed on Ancestry.com.
- ⁵⁵ "Declarations of Independence." Massachusetts Historical Society. 2020. <https://www.masshist.org/revolution/declarations.php>.
- ⁵⁶ Ibid.
- ⁵⁷ "Spreading News of the War." The News Media and the Making of America, 1730-1865. The American Antiquarian Society. <https://americanantiquarian.org/earlyamericannewsmedia/exhibits/show/age-of-revolution/spreading-news-of-the-war>.

⁵⁸ “Declarations of Independence.” <https://www.masshist.org/revolution/declarations.php>. From link: “Cheers which rended the air.” Original text retained. The Declaration was read from the balcony of the State House.

⁵⁹ Massachusetts Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988. Granby 1710-1900. Microfiche pg. 26. Accessed on Ancestry.com.

⁶⁰ Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War. Pg. 583. Also, “Woodbridge’s Regiment of Militia.” Wikipedia. Dec. 23, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woodbridge%27s_Regiment_of_Militia.

⁶¹ “Woodbridge’s Regiment of Militia.” Wikipedia. Dec. 23, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woodbridge%27s_Regiment_of_Militia.

⁶² Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War. Pg. 582. Accessed on Ancestry.com.

⁶³ Ibid. at 583. Also, “American Participants in the Battle of Saratoga.” Text: “Warner, Eleazer. MA. Lieutenant, Capt. Enoch Chapin’s co., Col. Elisha Porter’s regt.; from 23 Sep to Oct 1777; on expedition to Northern department. Ref. MA01.” <http://sarotoganygenweb.com/batlwa.htm>.

⁶⁴ “A Crucial American Victory.” History & Culture. Saratoga National Historical Park New York. Feb. 26, 2015. <https://www.nps.gov/sara/learn/historyculture/index.htm>.

⁶⁵ “Battle of Saratoga.” History.com Editors. Updated Jan. 14, 2020; original Nov. 15, 2019. <https://www.history.com/topics/american-revolution/battle-of-saratoga>.

⁶⁶ Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War. Pg. 583. Accessed on Ancestry.com

⁶⁷ Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War. Accessed on Ancestry.com. Text: “Herrick, Isaac, Richmond. List of men raised to serve in the Continental Army, as returned by Capt. Eleazer Warner, dated Granby, and sworn to in Hampshire Co., April 6, 1779.” Also, Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988. Pg. 36. Dec. 1780, Capt. Eleazer Warner voted to the Committee to raise or hire men for the Continental Army.

⁶⁸ U.S. Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900. Warner, Eleazer. S. 22.571. Electronic page 653.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ Ibid. Note: The statement seems to imply that Lt. Eleazer Warner Sr. may also have been at Morristown.

⁷¹ “The First Winter Encampment in Morris County.” Morristown National Historic Park. Park Net. Dec. 2002. https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books.

⁷² Roos, Dave. “How Crude Smallpox Inoculations Helped George Washington Win the War.” Updated May 18; original May 13, 2020. <https://www.history.com/news/smallpox-george-washington-revolutionary-war>.

⁷³ Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War. Pg. 583. Accessed on Ancestry.com. Text: “Private, Capt. Phineas Smith’s co., Col. Woodbridge’s regt.; service 4 days; company marched on an alarm at Bennington Aug. 17, 1777. Role sworn to in Hampshire Co.”

⁷⁴ U.S. Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900. Warner, Eleazer. S. 22.571. Electronic page 653.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ Wilder, Justin E. *The Descendants of Harvey Wilder*. Pg. 159. Copyright 1974. Goshen, Indiana.

⁷⁷ Vermont Vital Records 1720-1988. Accessed on Ancestry.com.

⁷⁸ Massachusetts Town and Vital Records 1620-1988. Pg. 866. Accessed on Ancestry.com. Also, inscription on Capt. Eleazer Warner’s headstone in West Street Cemetery in Granby, Massachusetts.

⁷⁹ U.S. Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900. Warner, Eleazer. S. 22.571. Electronic page 651. Accessed on Ancestry.com. Also, inscription on Eleazer Warner’s headstone in Pittsford Congregational Church Cemetery, Pittsford, Vermont.

⁸⁰ Wilder, Justin E. *The Descendants of Harvey Wilder*. Pgs. 49, 81, 85. Copyright 1974. Goshen, Indiana. Also <http://www.wmcnitt.net/wilder/cw.htm>. Joseph Wilder (from whom I am descended) enlisted with the First Reg’t. of New York Lincoln Cavalry at the age of 19 on Aug. 12, 1861 and was honorably discharged with a permanent disability on Feb. 25, 1862; discharge document is in family possession). Willard Wilder enlisted in the Tenth Reg’t. of Michigan Cavalry on Aug. 31, 1863 and He served in Tennessee, Virginia, and North Carolina; he was captured by the Confederate Army at Thornhill Tennessee on October 10 1864, imprisoned in several locations, paroled on Feb. 22, 1865, and died in delirium at a hospital in his home town of Grand Rapids, Michigan of malnutrition and dysentery on April 8, 1865, just one day before General Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House. Edward Wilder enlisted on March 12, 1862 in the Third Reg’t. of Michigan Infantry; he participated in the Second Battle of Bull Run and the battles at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg; he died of disease on October 9, 1863, at Fort Schuyler, New York.

