

RESEARCHING YOUR REVOLUTIONARY WAR ANCESTOR AT WALLACE STATE

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Two books have been published on Revolutionary War veterans in Alabama: Wallace: Louise Julich, *A Roster of Revolutionary Soldiers and Patriots in Alabama* (1979) and Thomas M. Owen, *Revolutionary Soldiers in Alabama* (1911). We also have on microfilm the records from the Alabama Archives upon which these books were based. These veterans came to Alabama long after the war. During the American Revolution, Alabama was Indian lands and British West Florida. Alabama Revolutionary War pension claims that never reached Washington are found in the continuing series by Pauline Gandrud, *Alabama Soldiers* (1975-); also see Alycon T. Pierce, *Selected Final Pension Payment Vouchers 1818-1864: Alabama* (1997).

For the whole United States, we have at Wallace the National Archives microfilm of the compiled service records of the Revolutionary War and the War Department Miscellaneous Collection of Revolutionary War records on microfilm. Such records are not complete because not all of the records have survived in the federal Archives. Rosters for soldiers from states like Virginia still make this microfilm a pretty good "people finder" for early America. These records have all been indexed and digitized on the subscription website Fold3.

Sometimes to find records of your ancestor's Revolutionary War service, you have to look in state records. We have on microfilm, for example, the North Carolina Revolutionary War accounts and vouchers, containing records of Revolutionary War service by thousands of people where no other records survive and have on microfilm the South Carolina Revolutionary War accounts audited (AA). The South Carolina Department of Archives and History has a card catalog that leads to names found within the accounts audited claims.

We have numerous published state lists of Revolutionary War rosters on the sixth floor shelved at E263. (Our Revolutionary War books are E255-263). These volumes include the South Carolina stub indent books for Revolutionary War service and *Roster of Soldiers From North Carolina in the American Revolution* (1984) These books are supplemented for Georgia with my *A Researcher's Library of Georgia* (2 vols., 1987-1990) and, for Virginia, we have Margie G. Brown, *Genealogical Abstracts Revolutionary War Veterans Scripts Act 1852* (1990). Many Revolutionary War service records are published in past issues of the respective genealogical journals or in volumes reproduced on the subscription genealogy website Fold3.

Although the United States government had been giving some pensions as early as 1776, by the 1830s a major effort was under way in Congress to award pensions to all of the veterans and widows of veterans of the Revolution. State pensions and the first federal pensions are listed in Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck, *Revolutionary War Pensions: Awarded by State Governments 1775-1874, the General and Federal Governments prior to 1814, and by Private Acts of Congress to 1905* (2011). A typical pension claim can contain the soldier's place and date of birth (sometimes even his Bible records); details of when and where he served and when he lived before and after

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the Revolution; the name of his wife; when and where he was married; names of friends and relatives; his place and date of death; and much more. So many claims were filed that often brothers and cousins can be found with useful information. We have Virgil White's indexed abstracts of these pensions: *Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files* (1990). The Birmingham and Gadsden public libraries, both within an hour of Wallace, have the claims themselves on microfilm. We subscribe to the HeritageQuest.com web site and on it can be found a few pages from each Revolutionary War pension claim and the final payment vouchers of pensions for Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina and some other states. On microfilm, we have the annual lists of Revolutionary War pensioners, a source for determining when a Revolutionary War pensioner died. Some information on Federal pensions and bounty lands can be found in *Digested Summary and Alphabetical List of Private Claims* (1853). Complete copies of the federal Revolutionary War pension files as they appear on National Archives microfilm M804 can be found on the subscription website Fold3.

Several published lists of Revolutionary War pensioners are at Wallace, including for pension files lost in the Washington fires of 1800 and 1814: *The Pension Lists of 1792-1795* (1991); *The Pension List of 1820* (1991); *Rejected or Suspended Applications for Revolutionary War Pensions* (1991); and *A Census of Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Service, 1840* (1990). In our vertical file, under Revolutionary War pensions, see "When a Revolutionary War Pensioner's Claim Can't Be Found," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 77 (1989): 128-32.

When you read "BLWT no papers," the reference is made to Revolutionary War bounty lands given by the Continental Congress. (The individual states also gave bounty lands to their respective soldiers, those records are at the respective state archives; we have some of these state records for North Carolina and Georgia). The service of the "BLWT" soldiers is given in *The American State Papers*. We have those books on microfilm and their index by Philip McMullen, *Grassroots of America* (1965). For bounty lands given to Revolutionary War veterans by nine states see Lloyd D. Bockstruck, *Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants Awarded by State Governments* (1996).

Many other valuable record sources also came out of the struggle for American independence. For example, the Daughters of the American Revolution have extensive genealogical files compiled by their members on the descendants of Revolutionary War soldiers. We have the a three volume list of these files at Wallace called *The DAR Patriot Index*.

For the Loyalists or Tories, Americans who supported the King's Cause, we have Murtie June Clark, *Loyalists in the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War* (3 vols., 1981); Gregory Palmer, *Biographical Sketches of Loyalists in the American Revolution* (1984) and *Bibliography of Loyalist Source Material* (1982); and Peter Wilson Coldham, *American Loyalist Claims* (1980) and *American Migrations* (2004). We have copies of the Loyalist claims on microfilm. For the histories of the Loyalist provincial units see Thomas B. Allen and Todd W. Braisted, *The Loyalist Corps: Americans in the Service of the King* (2011) and for the history of the Loyalists see Robert M. Calhoon, *Tory Insurgents* (2010 edition). Our collection also includes several books on Loyalists by battle, state, Nova Scotia, and Canada. Almost all of our Loyalist books are shelved at ARC E277.

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For persons wanting to go further into research on Revolutionary War ancestors, there is always something more. For example, we have the microfilm and index to the Papers of the Continental Congress and James C. Neagles' *Summer Soldier: An Index of Revolutionary War Courts Martial* (1986).