



**IS THAT  
SERVICE RIGHT?**

National Society  
Daughters of the American Revolution



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The senior staff members of the Registrar General's Genealogy Department have prepared this publication. It should be used with *Is That Lineage Right, Application Papers: Instructions for their Preparation*, the *DAR Handbook* and the *DAR Patriot Index*. The current editions of these publications are available from the DAR Store (formally, the Office of the Corresponding Secretary General.) They provide the necessary tools for those whose goal is to prepare acceptable lineage papers.

Each chapter registrar should read and understand the verification process and what criteria the National Society uses to evaluate the veracity of a lineage submitted for membership or to establish additional patriot ancestors.

The National Society offers these publications to assist the researcher in the absorbing pursuit of genealogy and the individual's search for her connection to this nation's history.

June 2005

## INTRODUCTION

**I**s *that Service Right?* is a reference tool for training and to inform chapter registrars and DAR applicants of the types of military, civil and patriotic service acceptable to the National Society. Obviously, not every acceptable service is listed.

This publication is to help you locate correct residence and service and prepare acceptable application papers. The Genealogy Staff has compiled an excellent bibliography using materials in the DAR Library for each state. The applicant may submit a photocopy of the title page and pages on which her proof is found or refer to the author, title and pages of the book in the DAR Library. Specific pages may be ordered from the DAR Library. Local libraries will have some of the suggested items or you may be able to order them using Inter-Library Loan. Some of these books contain militia lists and lists of civil officers with dates of service. Libraries in the town where your ancestor lived may have rosters of men who served. *Application Papers: Instructions for their Preparation* (2004) gives step by step instructions for completing application forms, amounts of fees and dues and mailing addresses. This publication is available free of charge from The DAR Store.

The applicant and chapter registrar, or member assigned to assist the applicant, must develop the lineage to the Revolutionary War period, determining exactly where the ancestor lived between 1775 and 1783. The ancestor must have lived within the town/township where the civil or patriotic service was performed, or state militia was activated. By studying the battles that occurred in the area, the dates on which the various committees were appointed (Patriotic Service), or the dates civil government was in effect, you will know whether the service claimed was possible.

Men who served in the Continental Line may have served in all major battles from Canada to Yorktown. **You must prove that the service claimed belonged to the ancestor named.** Men between the ages of sixteen and sixty were generally obligated to

serve in the military. These ages may vary as each state passed its own law or laws regulating military service.

Military Service and pension records are available at both the National Archives and Records Administration and the DAR Seimes Technology Center. The State Archives in the state where the soldier lived may have additional records.

Photocopies of previously verified DAR application papers may be obtained from the Office of Registrar General, Record Copy.

## THE VERIFICATION PROCEDURE

When an application for membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution is prepared, it will be examined by the registrar of the chapter which the prospective member wishes to join. The Chapter Registrar will make sure the application is filled out *properly*. The following information will help the registrar evaluate the application.

All names are to be listed fully: William Henry Harrison is preferable to W.H. Harrison or William Harrison. Jr. and Sr. are not to be used. (The Society reserves these terms to distinguish father and son of the same name, when both could have provided service in the Revolution.) Dates should be complete (day, month and year) whenever known. If dates of birth, marriage or death are unknown, leave the space blank, but documentation must be submitted to show that the person was living at the time of the birth of the child through whom the applicant descends.

Dates given for each generation should be logical. Scrutinize marriages contracted at very early ages. Beware of extreme longevity and the birth of a child late in a mother's life. Care must be taken to insure that extra generations have not been added, nor generations omitted. **The application must be reasonable and biologically possible.**

The Chapter Registrar will determine that all information given on the lineage paper can be supported by documentation. If the applicant chooses to use, for some of her evidence, printed sources available in the DAR Library, state this fact on her paper. If a previously accepted application is to be used as proof, give the name of the member, and her National number if known.

References are to be fully listed on the application, noting the source of information and the generation to which it applies. All unpublished data must be identifiable: a deed must contain the date and county in which that contract was made, an obituary must show the name of the publication in which it appeared and the date of issue, etc. Make reference to published material in standard bibliographical form: include the complete title, name of author and date of publication.

The Chapter Registrar will examine the service claimed for the ancestor of the prospective member. The dates on which the service was rendered must fall within the guidelines set by the

Society. The type of service and the source of proof must be ones acceptable to the Society. (For further information see NSDAR, *Application Papers, Instructions for their Preparation.*)

If the application does not pass the above scanning procedure, the Chapter Registrar will advise the applicant. She should make specific suggestions concerning the changes required on the paper, and specific requests for additional data which may be needed. After the application is found acceptable by the Chapter Registrar, it will be submitted to an additional verification process by the National Society. Make sure the applicant understands that a request for further documentation does not mean the National Society disapproves her application.

The verifying genealogist at National will compare the lineage portion of the application with the documentation submitted by the applicant to be sure that no typographical or other errors have been made. Beginning with the applicant and working toward the Revolutionary War ancestor, each reference given on the paper will be checked to see that all names, dates, and places are correct, and that proof is presented to show that the persons listed in each generation actually were the parents of the child through whom the applicant claims descent.

After the genealogist has determined that the lineage given on the application paper is possible, all source material available in the library will be used to verify the paper to insure that no errors of identity have been made. If the applicant submits, for instance, the will of John Ball to prove that William Ball was his son, she has proven only that John had a son William, but not that he was identical to the man named on her paper. It may be found that there were five William Balls living in the county at the time the will was written, any one of whom *could have been* the son of John.

If no contradictions can be found on the information given on the application, the lineage is presumed to be correct and the paper may be accepted. If it is determined that an error, or possible error, has been made, the applicant will be notified of the problem, and further documentation will be requested, or the applicant may be asked to apply using a substitute or different ancestor.

The second portion of the application deals with the service of the Revolutionary War ancestor. His place of residence at the time of the Revolution must be proven. If, for instance, civil service is claimed, the man must necessarily have been a resident of the

town or county in which the civil service was performed. In the case of military service, it is assumed that the man lived in the locality from which the military unit was recruited. **If it is said that he served from some other geographical area, evidence is needed to conclusively identify the man with the service.**

Once his place of residence has been determined, it must be shown that the man was living at the time the service was performed; he was of an age suitable to have performed the service; it is reasonable to assume that he, and not another man of the same name, actually performed the service.

This procedure is followed for all application papers, including those for which the Revolutionary War ancestor is a previously established patriot.

It should be noted that all applications are subject to modification or revocation as new information becomes available. Many previous papers have been found to be inaccurate or undocumented and applicants may be asked to submit additional documentation to substantiate the line. If all lineage papers were complete and no mistakes had ever been made, an application based on previously accepted papers could be verified merely for the recent generations. In the early days of the Society, however, few dates and places were required and there were numerous misidentifications. It is now known that many genealogies compiled from tradition were accepted without authentic evidence.

Every organization that wishes to maintain a high standard of historical truth must constantly strive to bring its older records up to date, and to supplement them from newly discovered data. When an incomplete paper (with few dates and places, and no references given for lineage or service) is used as a basis for a new application, the applicant must furnish sufficient information to adequately identify each person named in the line of descent. She must also document the Revolutionary War ancestor with his place of residence and service during the Revolution.

A **Legacy** membership may be issued to women who are eligible to apply for membership using a short form. The genealogist will attempt to verify the short form using current genealogi-

cal standards, however, should that not be possible, a Legacy may be issued. This will be assigned when the verifying genealogist encounters problems on the lineage or the service of the application referenced. A sequentially assigned membership number will be given with the designation, "Legacy." Legacy will not be allowed if the patriot's line is closed. A legacy designation may not be applied to a supplemental application. **If you, or the applicant, do not want the short form application designated "Legacy," you should submit a long form application with appropriate documentation.**

## SERVICE ACCEPTABLE FOR DAR MEMBERSHIP

### Signers of the Declaration of Independence

On 1 July 1776, Richard Henry Lee presented to Continental Congress a resolution proposed by Virginia: “*That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states.*”

On 4 July 1776, by the unanimous vote of twelve colonies, Congress voted to accept the Declaration of Independence drafted by Thomas Jefferson. Most delegates signed the document on 12 August.

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See also biographies of the individual signers

### Military Service

Military service in the Revolution began, with a few exceptions, with the Battle of Lexington, 19 April 1775 and ended on 26 Nov 1783, the date that the British evacuated New York. The National Society recognizes military service rendered by officers and men of the Continental Army, Navy, Marines, State and Local Militias, State Navies, the French Army and Navy.

A soldier is credited with the highest rank achieved during the Revolution. When proof of service with the regular forces exists, but details of the service are unknown, the man is credited as a soldier.

### The Continental Army

In June 1775, the Continental Congress authorized the establishment of military companies which became the Line or Continental Army.

The soldiers of 1775 and 1776 are often identifiable with their place of residence. The companies were formed in the same fashion as the militia and there is a relationship between members of a company and the town, township or county from which it was drawn. By 1777, the Continental Army was composed of men from different colonies making proof of service, other than residence, necessary. Some enlistees joined regiments of states offering the most attractive terms, bonus, or bounty land. Continental units recruited replacements in the area where the need arose. For this reason it is necessary to identify Continental service by some other means, such as pension or bounty land claims, local histories, or depositions of persons who knew the soldier.

### The Continental Navy

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

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

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

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## **The Marines**

On 10 November, the Continental Congress authorized the formation of the Marines. Never a large force, the Marines served throughout the war.

The National Archives and Records Administration holds service records for some Marines who served during the Revolution.

## **State and Local Militia**

Militia units were organized during the early settlement of the colonies for the protection of the colonists from Indian attacks. The militia was called for emergency duty, usually within the boundaries of the colony or state. Service may have been for a few hours or several days.

It is necessary to provide proof that the ancestor was living in the place where the militia company was formed. These companies were formed in specific towns, townships or locations within a county. When service is claimed for a man who resided in a place different from other members of the company, specific evidence needs to be submitted to show that the claim is valid.

## **State Navies**

In July 1775, the Continental Congress authorized each colony, at its own expense, to provide armed vessels to protect its harbors and navigation of its seacoasts. Although some colonies commissioned the building of armed vessels, most state navies were composed of converted merchant ships. Their fleet size and effectiveness varied from colony to colony. New Jersey, Delaware and Vermont did not maintain a state navy (armed vessels).

## **Privateers**

Privateers were privately owned, armed trading vessels, commissioned or issued letters of marque from either the Continental Congress or from the individual provisional government (sometimes by both) to capture enemy ships and goods. The bounty or prize was divided between the officers and seamen and the governing body that authorized the privateering. Bounties made pri-

vateering very profitable and provided much needed supplies to the American forces. The Continental Congress officially authorized privateering for the war 23 March 1776, although, some states had already initiated privateering prior to that date.

## **Civil Service**

Civil service is credited to those individuals who conducted public business under the authority of the new federal, state, county and town governments and displayed evidence of loyalty to the cause of political separation from England.

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

Applicants seeking to establish civil service for an ancestor must first prove his place of residence. If the government unit was a town, the ancestor must have lived in that town at the time the service was performed. If the unit was a county or state, he must have resided in the place where the service was rendered. It was the law in all states during the Revolution that office holders be vested in the government they served.

Civil service began in the new American states when (1) the royal governor was removed from power and (2) a form of statewide American government was established.

Credit is not given for civil service in cities or states which were occupied by the British. Civil service is credited only when the Americans regained control of the locality.

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

## **Patriotic Service**

Patriots of the Revolution are considered to be those men and women who by an act or series of actions demonstrated **unfailing**



**loyalty to the cause of American Independence from England.**

Patriotic service might begin as early as April 1774. We depend upon recorded actions to give us an indication of patriotism. What was the purpose of the action? What were the risks? The consequences? Answers to these questions can determine whether the action actually applied to an attempt to further the cause of independence or demonstrated loyalty to that cause.

Evidence of patriotic activity may be found in town, county, state, and federal records. Many records kept by the states have been indexed and often a letter to the state archives will be sufficient to determine if evidence exists to show that a person contributed supplies or made some other contribution to the war effort. Town and county records have usually not been indexed and a personal search of town minutes and court minutes is required. Minutes of the Continental Congresses have been published. Old letters, diaries, and other family papers can often be used as evidence of patriotic intent, provided the record was made at the time of the event described.

Not all actions illustrating patriotism are mentioned here. Many others exist. When it is considered desirable to establish another type of patriotic service, proof of the action taken must be submitted with the application paper, together with historical justification to show that the action did indeed imply patriotic intent.

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

**The Provincial Congresses, State Governors, Legislators:** The Provincial Congresses met in each of the colonies in 1774 and continued to meet until the new state governments were established. Minutes have been published. DAR does not accept royal governors.

**The First Continental Congress** met 5 September 1774 in Carpenter's Hall, Philadelphia with delegates from every colony except Georgia. The Second Congress met from May 1775 until March 1781. It became the governing body of the United States and continued to meet until the Articles of Confederation were ratified in 1781. The minutes of the Continental Congresses have been published.

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

**Revolutionary Committees:** The committees at the county and town level had a number of different names: Committee, General Committee, or Committee of Safety, or Inspection or Observation (or some combination thereof). The members of these committees were elected, as specified in the First Continental Congress' Articles of Association in October 1774. Their main duty was to encourage compliance with the terms of the Association.

**Signers of the Oaths of Allegiance:** Most states required their adult male inhabitants to swear (or, for certain groups, affirm) an Oath of Allegiance to the new state government. For example, Virginia enacted such a law in May 1777, which applied to all free males above the age of sixteen. The men who took these oaths qualify for patriotic service. Some lists of names have been published, usually at the town or county level. Statewide compilations are available for Delaware and New Hampshire.

**Signers of Petitions** to the new provincial governments and/or state governments acknowledged the new government's right to represent the people. The content and wording of the petition must demonstrate loyalty to the cause of American independence. Petitions having to do with religious issues do not qualify.

**Defenders of Forts and Stations** were individuals who lived on the frontier, from the great northern lakes to Georgia, and who actively defended the western frontiers against British forces and their allies, the Indians.

**Doctors, nurses** and others who rendered aid to the American wounded (other than to their immediate families).

**Ministers** who gave patriotic sermons and encouraged patriotic activity.

**Prisoners of War or refugees** from occupying forces.

**Prisoners on the British Ship New Jersey and other prison ships:** Since there is no positive residence or unit identification of these lists of names, the applicant must supply documentation which proves without a doubt that the prisoner is indeed the person from whom the applicant descends.

*Those who rendered material aid*, such as furnished supplies, with or without remuneration, loaned money or provided munitions or guns. Some states enacted special tax laws to raise money for supplies. Payment of such “supply” taxes is considered patriotic service.

### Loyalists/Tories

Loyalists were those Americans who remained loyal to the Crown during the Revolution. Those individuals, also known as Tories, were opposed to the Revolution. The colonies were administrated by royal governors appointed by the Crown. Only Governor Jonathan Trumbull of Connecticut supported the Americans throughout the war. The others fled, or were deposed and replaced.

Most of the colonists’ loyalties were clearly divided: those who demanded that the British Parliament honor the rights granted by charter (patriots), and those loyal to the Crown (loyalists or Tories).

Membership in the National Society is based on strict adherence to the cause of independence through military service in the continental line, state lines, militia, navy, marines, privateers, etc., or rendered civil and/or patriotic service.

An application based on the service of a loyalist or Tory is not acceptable.

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### Pacifists

As the colonists became increasingly hostile to the acts of the British Parliament and war seemed inevitable, loyalties were divided. Many favored separation from England, others were loyal to the Crown, and still others, called pacifists, believed that disputes between nations should and could be settled peacefully. Opposition to the war was demonstrated by refusal to participate in military action. The pacifists, with strong moral convictions, prevented men from taking any oaths, including Oaths of Allegiance. Some pacifists did provide medical aid, food, goods or financial aid to the cause.

## CONNECTICUT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## DELAWARE

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

Delaware men served with military distinction in major battles from New York to Yorktown. They were nicknamed “Blue Hen’s Chickens.” Others who were lukewarm to the Revolution were often grouped with the loyalists, but were “hesitants” and “pacifists,” like the Quakers.

Delaware began statehood with a population of thirty-seven thousand: two-thirds were of English descent, the remainder consisting of Scots-Irish, Swedes, Welsh, Dutch and Black slaves. This helps to explain Delaware’s allegiance to the British. Loyalist backed insurrections broke out in Sussex County in 1776, 1777 and 1780 as well as Kent County in 1776 and 1778. An Act of 26 June 1778 pardoned many of the inhabitants who had given aid to the British, and tended to quell the outbreaks of violence, which had occurred. New Castle County, with a sizable minority of Presbyterian Scots-Irish showed the greatest support in favor of American independence. Delaware, prosperous at the beginning of the Revolution, ended in poverty.

Original military records of Delaware are at the Hall of Records, Dover.

With the exception of the Oaths of Allegiance, which have been published, many sources of civil and patriotic service are found in microfilms issued by the State.

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## GEORGIA

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

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

Vouchers and certificates are the documents that indicate that the person was originally entitled to the land. These are the documents needed to prove Revolutionary service for NSDAR. They may be requested from the Georgia Archives. The researcher may also use *Georgia Revolutionary Bounty Land Records* by O'Kelley and Warren, pages 1–44, 48–89 as a source. Evidence exists that the original vouchers and certificates could be used as specie and transferred to another person who could then petition for and receive the land grant. As a result, the person who actually received the grant was not necessarily the person originally entitled to it. For this reason, petitions for land warrants, the bounty land warrants and land grants issued in 1784–1785 may not be used as proof of Revolutionary Service.

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

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

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

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

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## LOUISIANA

Service is accepted for Spanish troops led by Don Bernardo de Galvez and for the Louisiana Militia after 24 December 1776. The classification is patriotic service.

The date is derived from the Royal Order signed by Jose de Galvez, Minister of the Indies, and sent to Luis de Unzaga, the Spanish governor of Louisiana. While Spain had allowed some material aid to flow to the American colonies previous to this date, the Royal Order gave open support to the American effort to free the Mississippi River Valley of British domination.

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

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## MARYLAND

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## MASSACHUSETTS

During most of the ten years preceding the Lexington alarm of 19 April 1775, Massachusetts was in a state of unrest due to oppressive legislation passed by the British Parliament.

The colonists had begun forming Committees of Correspondence in early 1772 and in December 1773 retaliated to the infamous Tea Act by staging the Boston Tea Party.

In October 1774, towns and cities throughout the state sent delegates to the First Provincial Congress held in Concord.

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

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

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

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

Loyalists in eastern Massachusetts were well organized and established the first loyalists corps in the American colonies at Freetown in 1774. Another group of loyalists was centered in the Penobscot area of Maine.

Boston was a haven for loyalists from surrounding towns and the neighboring colonies, especially during the British occupation of the city from May 1774 to March 1776.

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## NEW HAMPSHIRE

The New Hampshire General Assembly authorized a Committee of Correspondence in May 1774 to correspond and meet with representatives of the other colonies. Governor John Wentworth retaliated by dissolving the Assembly in June 1774.

All thirty-four members of the House were expelled from their chambers, but met as an “extra-legal” provincial congress in a nearby public house. Wentworth fled in the summer of 1775. Representatives from most of the one hundred fifty-five towns in the State continued to meet in five successive Provincial Congresses at Exeter. The Congress adopted a written constitution in January 1776, making the congress the House of Representatives and authorized an upper legislative body, the Council.

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

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

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

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## NEW JERSEY

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

In February 1774, Essex County leaders called for a Provincial Congress and Committees of Correspondence were established. On 21 July 1774, delegates to the First Continental Congress were elected by a Provincial Congress held at New Brunswick.

By July 1776, the Provincial Congress, representing all counties, had ordered the arrest of Governor William Franklin, adopted a state constitution, and resolved to support independence. On 27 August 1776, the Legislature convened under the new Constitution. Despite British occupation from August to December 1776, the Revolutionary government, consisting of the Council of Safety, Legislature and Assembly, remained in control.

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

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

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

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## NEW YORK

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

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

On 15 September 1776, the British regained control of New York City where they remained in power until their troops were evacuated in November 1783. During that time, most civil offices were held by men loyal to the King. Many loyalists signed Oaths of Allegiance before Royal Governor Tryon to King George in 1778.

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

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

Despite the strong loyalists ties in New York, thousands of men served in American forces. Military service was divided into three classes: the militia, the levies and the Line. The militia served primarily within New York but could be called upon to go outside the colony for as long as a three-month tour. The levies were drafted from the militia units and from the public at large to serve outside of New York for their entire tour of duty. The Line was composed of nine regiments, including the artillery and the Green Mountain Boys, in continental service under George Washington.

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

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## NORTH CAROLINA

The First Provincial Congress that met in August 1774 at New Bern recommended that each county elect a Committee of Safety.

In April 1775, the Second Provincial Congress met.

In May 1775, the Mecklenburg Resolves were adopted at a public meeting at Charlotte declaring null and void all commissions granted by the King and making provisions for a new government. At New Bern, the Committee of Safety called for a union of all colonies and pledged support for the Continental Congress. Governor Martin fled the state; royal rule ended.

On 12 April 1776, the Fourth Provincial Congress met at Halifax, unanimously adopting a resolution to Continental Congress known as the Halifax Resolves. This resolution gave the delegates of North Carolina the power to concur with delegates of other colonies to declare independence.

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

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

A designation of patriotic service is given to any person who entered a land claim for a land grant between 1 January 1778 and 26 November 1783 (the date of the law and the latest date accept-

ed by NSDAR for any service). The law states (State Records of North Carolina, vol. 24, p. 44) “That every person ... before he shall enter a claim for any of the lands aforesaid, shall take and subscribe the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance and Abjuration prescribed by the law of this state.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pennsylvania militia companies were composed of eight classes, each class being called into service in rotation to protect its local community from devastating loss. These men are considered soldiers, provided they were not fined for non-attendance. Other state controlled organizations included the “Flying Camp” and “Rangers.” A state navy was officially authorized on 13 October



1775, although it had been active informally prior to that time guarding the Delaware River.

A law passed 13 June 1777 required all men over the age of eighteen to sign an Oath of Allegiance, rejecting allegiance to King George. All signers and those citizens who paid the "Supply Tax," which was levied to fund the war effort are credited with patriotic service.

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## RHODE ISLAND

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

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

On 4 May 1776, the General Assembly renounced allegiance to King George, and removed his name from all commissions for offices and writs and processes in law.

As in other colonies, there was opposition. The loyalist element in Rhode Island reflected both commercial and conservative elements that rejected armed rebellion on economic and moral grounds. In June 1776, tests or affirmations of allegiance were required by all men over the age of sixteen who were suspected of being hostile to the American colonies.

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

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

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## SOUTH CAROLINA

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

In June 1775, the Provincial Assembly authorized the raising of troops and the creation of a Committee of Safety. In this way, both factions of the colony served together in military units at the direction of the Committee. The reduction of Charleston on 12 May 1780 placed South Carolina under British martial law. Until the General Assembly reconvened on 2 January 1782, few records were kept.

While Revolutionary War service for South Carolina residents is found under the common heading of military, civil and patriotic, there are some unusual sources to consult for proof.

South Carolinians served in the continental establishment, in state troops, with militia companies and in the navy. Proof of service in the continental line may be found at the National Archives and Records Administration. The South Carolina Archives is the source for all other service, including pensions granted by the State. However, some militia muster rolls are in the collections of the South Carolina Library.

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

South Carolina also granted bounty land to its veterans and their survivors. A continental soldier was eligible to receive one hundred acres from the Federal Government and one hundred acres from the state. All land was located in South Carolina. Certificates or Oaths of Allegiance were not required to receive land grants.

The Thomas Sumpter Papers in the *Draper Collection* are a valuable tool for documenting up country Revolutionary War service. References to the support provided to the United States by the Catawba Tribe may also be found in the *Draper Collection*.

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

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## VERMONT

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

In September 1776, the General Convention at Dorset requested all males over sixteen to sign the Association Test pledging to take up arms against the British, if needed. At the same time, the Convention voted to build a jail to confine Tories. In July 1777, the Council of Safety voted to confiscate and sell at public auction, the properties of proven Tories as a means of raising money for the defense of the state.

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

After Vermont declared itself an independent state, the General Assembly passed legislation to regulate a state militia. The Act of February 1779 divided the state into several militia districts from which 5 regiments were to be organized.

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## VIRGINIA

The Colony of Virginia extended from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River during the era of the American Revolution. Within this vast territory were residents who encouraged the movement for independence in a variety of ways.

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

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

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

Forming the militia was a function of the counties and was a steady source of drafted soldiers and officers to fill state and continental units. Officers maintained the enlistment and muster rolls. Quite often, those records did not reach a county or state repository. There are a few Virginia militia rolls in the collection of the National Archives, but the majority of available information will

be found in the State Archives. County histories and genealogical periodicals contain some militia lists. Other sources for not only military service, but civil and patriotic service as well, are the county court order and minute books. Most militia companies did not serve more than a few days at a time. However, it was necessary for a man to have been on active duty for eight days in order to receive any payment from the state.

Largest of all the Revolutionary state navies, the Virginia navy was an important part of the defense of Virginia. At least seventy-seven commissioned vessels and about one hundred privateers were on patrol duty in the local waterways. The crews for these vessels were made up of men who lived in the coastal areas and along the rivers. In February 1776, a State Marine Corps was formed to man the gunnery positions of the State Navy.

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

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

Vincennes to be sure an activity actually took place under American authority and supported the Revolution.

Among the various valuable sources of information that document the western Revolutionary activity are collections held by various state archives and historical societies. Another key source is the *Draper Collection*, a collection of historical manuscripts gathered in the mid-1800s and grouped into topical series. Not all volumes include Revolutionary era material.

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

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

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

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

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## FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS

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

Other countries whose citizens aided the American cause were Sweden, Poland, Germany, Portugal, and the Netherlands.

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## CANADIAN PARTICIPANTS

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

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

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

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## SPAIN

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

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

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

Spain also supplied critical financial support to the French forces, which were fighting alongside the Americans. In one instance, the French fleet under the Comte de Grasse was not able to pay its sailors. Spain provided de Grasse with the needed funds, thus enabling the fleet to sail to Yorktown and prevent Cornwallis from escaping by sea.

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

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

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