



# THE DCGS NEWSLETTER

Dutchess County Genealogical Society

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## DCGS Website Update

The Members Only section of the website is up and running. DCGS members may initially establish a username and password by clicking the *Not Registered Yet?* link and following the prompts. Once registered, you may log onto that portion of our website. Current content includes the shelf listing of the materials in the Family History Center/Dutchess County Genealogical Society library.

## Membership

Roland Ormsby, Membership VP  
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Membership lists are shown in the printed version of the Newsletter, but not in the web version.

## Researching Military Service in the 13 Colonies and the United States

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This is a much abbreviated version of the handout for the talk on this subject that I gave for the society on Sept. 17, 2013, plus a small amount of content from the talk.

## Records at the National Archives

- Volunteers (i.e., not regular military; they may have been drafted rather than actually volunteering!): 1775-1902
- Reg. Army enlisted: 1798-1912
- Reg. Army officers: 1798-1917
- Navy enlisted: 1798-1885
- Navy officers: 1798-1902
- Marine enlisted & officers: 1798-1904
- Coast Guard predecessors: 1791-1919
- Confederate non-volunteer services (CW)

## Military Information from Censuses

- 1840 US census: military pensioners listed; this can be useful when they are not the head of household
- 1890 Union veterans' census (alphabetically, states Kentucky and after only); a small amount of information about the veteran, but you can use this to see if an ancestor living at that time was a veteran, and notes about injuries may be interesting
- 1910: column to indicate Union and Confederate vets;
- 1930: vets of any war or conflict up to that time. Mostly "WW" (World War—no number as this was supposed to have been the war to end all wars...) but a few Civil War vets.

The state archives of many states have web pages with indexes to or information about military service of people who lived in the state. To locate such information, Google [state name] State Archives (e.g., New York State Archives). At the state archives web site, look for links such as "research," "military records," etc.

The US National Archives created two versions of Revolutionary War pension files.

M804: "Full Pension Application File:" includes every paper in the person's pension file.

M805: "Pension Documents Packet:" eight specific types documents from the file that include information of genealogical interest, such as the names of children, marriage information for the veteran, etc. If at all possible, get the full pension file! If you look at Revolutionary War pension files in online databases, be aware that Fold3 includes M804, the full pension file. HeritageQuest Online includes M805, the partial pension file.

## Bibliography

1. Beers, Henry Putney. *The Confederacy: A Guide to the Archives of the Government of the Confederate States of*

- America*. Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 1986.
2. Daughters of the American Revolution. *DAR Patriot Index*. Baltimore, MD: Gateway Press, 2003.
  3. Dyer, Frederick H. *A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion*. Any ed.
  4. Grundset, Eric G. *New York in the American Revolution: A Source Guide for Genealogists and Historians*. Washington: National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, 2012. Available from [http://dar.org/omni/store/store32/books\\_brochures\\_leaflets\\_10253999430.html](http://dar.org/omni/store/store32/books_brochures_leaflets_10253999430.html) NOTE: This is a *bibliography*, to lead you to useful sources. The DAR plans to publish a bibliography like this one for each of the thirteen colonies. As of this writing, South Carolina is the only other one in print. If you have ancestors who fought in the Revolution from other colonies, check this page periodically to see if the book for it is available.
  5. Neagles, James. *Confederate Research Sources: A Guide to Archive Collections*. 2nd ed. Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry, 1997.
  6. Neagles, James. *U.S. Military Records: A Guide to Federal and State Sources, Colonial America to the Present*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry, 1994.
  7. Plante, Trevor K. *Military Service Records at the National Archives*. Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 2009. Available for free download as an Adobe PDF at <http://www.archives.gov/publications/ref-info-papers/rip109.pdf> (starts downloading automatically once you type in this URL) ((an essential guide to US military records)
  8. United States. Census Office. 6th Census, 1840. *A Census of Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Services, with Their Names, Ages, and Places of Residence, as Returned by the Marshals of the Several Judicial Districts, under the Act for Taking the Sixth Census*. Washington: Blair and Rives, 1841 (many reprints are available). Information is abstracted online at <http://www.us-roots.org/colonialamerica/census/1840/index.html>
  9. United States. Pension Bureau. *List of Pensioners on the Roll January 1, 1883; Giving the Name of Each Pensioner, the Cause for which Pensioned, the Post-office Address, the Rate of Pension per Month, and the Date of Original Allowance, as Called for by Senate Resolution of December 8, 1882*. Washington: GPO, 1883 [available full text on Google Books].
- Web Sites**
10. American Battle Monuments Commission (for military personnel buried overseas): <http://www.abmc.gov/home.php>
  11. Ancestry.com (subscription): a diversity of military service databases. If you don't subscribe, ask if your local library subscribes to it: <http://www.ancestry.com/>
  12. Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System: <http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm>
  13. Coffelt Database of Vietnam Casualties: <http://coffeltdatabase.org/>
  14. Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet: US Military: <http://www.cyndislist.com/us/military/>
  15. National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution databases: several databases, available free to the public, in which you can see the lineage from a Revolutionary patriot down to a DAR member: [http://services.dar.org/public/dar\\_research/search/?tab\\_id=0](http://services.dar.org/public/dar_research/search/?tab_id=0)
  16. FamilySearch.org military records: <https://www.familysearch.org/s/collection/list#page=1&recordType=Military>
  17. Fold3 (partly subscription): This database specializes in military records: Revolutionary War pension and bounty land applications (*all* documents); index to Civil War pension applications 1861-1917; and much more. Some databases are available without a subscription (e.g., Confederate service records). <http://www.fold3.com/>
  18. HeritageQuest Online: includes Censuses, Revolutionary War pension and bounty land applications (pages selected for genealogical significance only); Freedman's Bank records; Publications (books); PERSI (PERiodical Source Index). Available free through some libraries with access from home, including to patrons in the Poughkeepsie area through the Greater Poughkeepsie Public Library District, with your library card number.
  19. NARA: Genealogy Research in Military Records: <http://www.archives.gov/research/military/genealogy.html>
  20. NARA: page for forms to order records: <http://www.archives.gov/contact/inquire-form.html#part-a> Some records may seem expensive, but compare the cost with the cost of a trip to Washington, DC.
  21. NARA: *Prologue Magazine* (magazine of the National Archives). Articles from Summer, 1997, and following issues are available online; has indexes by year. Check for articles about military service and other genealogically useful records: <http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/index/>
  22. Veterans Administration National Gravesite Locator: <http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/> Includes listings for all stones in national cemeteries, government headstones placed after 1997, and government headstones placed earlier *if* someone has requested that the earlier stone be added to the database.

## Family Tree Maker 2014

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Ancestry.com recently released its latest version of Family Tree Maker (FTM). It has many features that come in handy when working on one or more family trees. FTM also allows a researcher to synchronize a family tree with a copy on Ancestry.com if desired.

The software has a Plan space that provides the user with summary information about the tree being worked on. The Plan space has been reorganized in this version and prominently displays the list of research tasks to be accomplished.

FTM provides the user with tools to manage people with all their facts and relationships. It also helps the user manage Places, Media, and Sources. The application has a number of useful reports grouped in collections labeled Charts, Genealogy Reports, Person Reports, Relationship Reports, Place Reports, Media Reports, Source Reports, Other, and Books. These reports can be a useful tool in the researcher's arsenal to clearly see the results of their research so far. One such report is the Timeline, which allows one to see the sequence of facts entered and related to a specific person, including key relationships and age at time of the event. The Timeline report also includes an option for seeing historical events to provide context about the person and sometimes can point to a record type that has not yet been researched.

One particularly useful that I now use routinely is the ability to rate source material. This feature allows a user to rate a specific source for a particular fact associated with a single individual or shared fact. Source quality can be identified in four areas: Source (original or derivative), Clarity (clear or marginal), Information (primary or secondary), and Evidence (Direct or Indirect). In addition, a text area allows the capture of the justification narrative.

Quality score: not rated

✕ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆  Use standardized ratings

Quality measures

**Source:**  Original  Derivative **Original:** The source is an original or image copy of the original.

**Clarity:**  Clear  Marginal **Derivative:** The source is derived (transcribed, translated, etc.) from the original.

**Information:**  Primary  Secondary

**Evidence:**  Direct  Indirect

Reset

Justification:

The definitions of each quality measure are shown to the right as each quality measure is highlighted.

FTM 2014 includes a number of changes requested by the user community. These include a new family view similar to the one that can be seen on Ancestry.com; tree synchronization speed improvements; a new organizational tool for Places that allows them to be displayed by country, state, county, and city, making them easier to look at and sort through; changes to reports including a new Undocumented Facts Report. The Index of Individuals Report now includes anniversary, birthday, and contact lists. A particularly time-saving feature is the new ability to copy facts to multiple family members, rather than having to type them in individually. Also, if an individual has multiple versions of the same fact, they can now be merged and all source data will be retained.