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Revolutionary War Pensions

*Presented to the Arlington RUG
June 13th, 2026*

An Overview of Federal Pension Acts and Online Resources

Copyrighted by Janis Parkison Rodriguez June 2026

Prepared with the assistance of ChatGPT, Duck AI, & Microsoft CoPilot
Using Fold3, NARA, NPS and websites

INTRODUCTION

Why Pension Records Matter

For genealogists, understanding the evolution of Revolutionary War pension legislation is essential. Each law required different evidence — and therefore generated different types of records.

Rich Evidence

Applications often contain birth dates, residences, marriage records, and personal narratives.

Family Networks

Affidavits from neighbors, relatives, and fellow soldiers preserve community ties.

Pre-1850 Federal

Among the most valuable federal records created before the Civil War era.

Disability or Invalid Pension Acts

During and after the Revolution, Congress authorized pensions for soldiers wounded or disabled in service — compensation for injury, not service. The federal government later assumed many of these obligations.

WHO QUALIFIED

- Disabled officers and enlisted men
- Individuals whose injuries were directly connected to military service
- Widows of invalid officers (1780)
- State troops & Militia (1806)

IMPORTANCE

Established the principle of federal responsibility for disabled veterans of the Revolution.

GENEALOGICAL VALUE

- Generally, more limited than later pension files
- May include medical evidence and proof of service

Officers Service Pension Acts

During and after the Revolution, Congress authorized pensions for officers — compensation for injury, not service. The federal government later assumed many of these obligations.

WHO QUALIFIED

Officers who remained in the service to the end of the war

Half pay for 7 years (1778)

Half pay for life (1780)

Full pay for 5 years (1783)

Widows & orphans of Officers (1780) – half pay for 7 years

IMPORTANCE

Established the system of pensions for officers of the Revolution.

GENEALOGICAL VALUE

Generally, more limited than later pension files

May include proof of service

Files before Nov 1800 fire at War Dept mostly destroyed

Revolutionary War Pension Act of 1818

The first major federal pension law for surviving Revolutionary War veterans. It provided pensions to Continental Army and Navy veterans who had served at least nine months and could demonstrate financial need.

WHO QUALIFIED

Continental Army soldiers
Continental Navy personnel
Veterans who could
demonstrate indigence

IMPORTANCE

First broad federal pension program for Revolutionary War veterans — thousands of elderly veterans applied.

GENEALOGICAL VALUE

Applications often include age and residence
Military service details and personal circumstances

Pension Act of 1820

Concerned about the cost of the 1818 program, Congress passed a stricter law requiring pensioners to submit schedules of their assets and property to prove continued need.

WHO QUALIFIED

Existing pensioners under the 1818 law

New applicants subject to asset disclosure

Pensions later restored for some (1823)

KEY CHANGE

Required pensioners to file detailed schedules of property — a rare economic snapshot.

GENEALOGICAL VALUE

Land holdings and livestock

Household goods and occupations

Family circumstances and physical condition

Revolutionary War Pension Act of 1828

Congress relaxed earlier restrictions and granted pensions to surviving Continental officers and enlisted men who had served to the end of the war or under certain qualifying enlistments. Financial need no longer had to be demonstrated.

WHO QUALIFIED

Certain Continental Line officers
Certain Continental Line
soldiers

IMPORTANCE

Marked a shift from welfare-based pensions to pensions recognizing service itself.

GENEALOGICAL VALUE

Verifies length and unit of Continental service
Useful corroboration for service narratives

ACT VI · JUNE 7, 1832

Revolutionary War Pension Act of 1832

*The **most significant** Revolutionary War Service Pension law. It dramatically expanded eligibility and produced the pension files genealogists rely on most today.*

WHO QUALIFIED

Veterans with at least six months of service · Continental Army · State troops · Militia members · Naval personnel and marines

MAJOR CHANGES

Eliminated the requirement to prove poverty
Opened eligibility to militia service
Allowed partial pensions for six months or more service
2 years or more - full pay for life

GENEALOGICAL VALUE

Detailed narratives of service
Names of officers, battles, and campaigns
Places of residence and neighbor testimony
Often the only surviving firsthand accounts

Widow's Pension Act of 1836

This act extended pension benefits to the widows of Revolutionary War veterans, opening a new and exceptionally rich vein of records.

WHO QUALIFIED

Widows whose marriage occurred before the end of their husband's Revolutionary War service

REQUIRED EVIDENCE

Proof of marriage, proof of husband's service, and witness testimony where records were unavailable.

GENEALOGICAL VALUE

Marriage records and Family Bible pages

Affidavits from relatives, maiden names

Dates and places of marriage

Widow Pension Expansion Act of 1838

Congress broadened eligibility to allow pensions for certain widows who had married veterans before January 1, 1794 — even if they did not meet the stricter requirements of the 1836 law. Granted pensions for five years.

WHO QUALIFIED

Widows married to veterans
before January 1, 1794

Widows previously excluded
under 1836 criteria

IMPORTANCE

Enabled many additional widows to
qualify, dramatically increasing the volume
of widow files.

GENEALOGICAL VALUE

Often references the earlier 1836
application

Frequently contains marriage proof and
family affidavits

Subsequent Widow Acts

As surviving veterans died and their widows sought support, Congress passed a series of acts extending and liberalizing widow benefits through the 1840s and 1850s.

1842

Continued payments to qualifying widows under earlier acts.

1843

Renewed and extended widow pension rights.

1840s–1850s

Ongoing supplemental acts broadening eligibility.

Timeline of Major Pension Legislation

Year	Law	Primary Beneficiaries
1776–1789	Invalid Pension Laws	Disabled veterans
1818	First General Pension Act	Indigent Continental veterans
1820	Asset Disclosure Act	Existing pensioners and applicants
1828	Expanded Veteran Pension Act	Continental Army veterans
1832	Service Pension Act	Continental, militia, state troops, naval
1836	Widow's Pension Act	Widows married before end of service
1838	Expanded Widow's Act	Widows married before 1794
1840s–1850s	Supplemental Acts	Widows and surviving beneficiaries

What Pension Files Often Contain

Revolutionary War pension files are among the most valuable federal records created before the Civil War. A single file can reconstruct a life.

- ✱ Birth dates and places
- ✱ Residences over time
- ✱ Military service details
- ✱ Marriage information
- ✱ Names of spouses and children
- ✱ Family Bible records
- ✱ Affidavits from relatives, neighbors & other veterans
- ✱ Economic inventories
- ✱ Personal narratives of wartime experiences

Online Resources

Where to find digitized pension files and finding aids.

National Park Service — *Revolutionary War Veteran and Widow Pensions overview.*

National Archives (NARA) — *Revolutionary War Pension Records guide and finding aids.*

Fold3 — *Subscription site with digitized pension files.*

Southern Campaigns Pension Statements — *Volunteer pension transcriptions.*

Familysearch.org — *AI transcriptions.*

ONLINE RESOURCES - NPS

National Park Service Overview

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/revolutionary-war-veteran-and-widow-pensions.htm>

Revolutionary War Pensions – Overview & Online Resources



Fold3 Revolutionary War Pensions

Revolutionary War Pensions – Overview & Online Resources

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ONLINE PENSION FILES

Revolutionary War Pensions

Digitized pension and bounty-land warrant files — free and searchable.

National Archives (NARA) — [Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications, 1800–1912.](#)

FamilySearch — *Search via Records and/or Full-Text Search.*

[United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900](#)

[Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service, ca. 1800–ca. 1912](#)

Full Digitized pension and bounty-land warrant files

Fold3 (\$\$) — *Subscription site with full digitized pension files.*

ONLINE RESOURCES - NARA

[Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service, ca. 1800–ca. 1912](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/300022)

National Archives

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/300022>

The screenshot shows the National Archives Catalog interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for 'Menu' and 'Log in / Sign Up'. Below the header, the page title 'Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service, ca. 1800–ca. 1912' is prominently displayed. The page is categorized under 'Record Group 15: Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs'. A 'Series' label indicates that the records are 'PARTIALLY AVAILABLE ONLINE'. Below the title, there are links for 'Other titles' and 'Creators'. The 'Creators' section lists the 'Department of the Interior. Bureau of Pensions. (1849 - 1930) (Most Recent)', 'War Department. Office of the Secretary. (1789 - 09/18/1947) (Predecessor)', and 'War Department. Military Bounty Lands and Pension Branch. (ca. 1810 - 1815) (Predecessor)'. At the bottom, there is a search bar for the series, showing '83,071 File Units' and '4 Items'.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES
CATALOG

Search

Menu

Log in / Sign Up

Print Share... Options...

Record Group 15: Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs

Series **PARTIALLY AVAILABLE ONLINE**

Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service, ca. 1800–ca. 1912

Other titles: [Revolutionary War Pension Files](#) / [Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files](#)

Creators:
Department of the Interior. Bureau of Pensions. (1849 - 1930) (Most Recent)
War Department. Office of the Secretary. (1789 - 09/18/1947) (Predecessor)
War Department. Military Bounty Lands and Pension Branch. (ca. 1810 - 1815) (Predecessor)

NAID: 300022 | Textual Records | Collected: ca. 1800–ca. 1912 | Covers: ca. 1775–ca. 1900

Search within this Series

83,071 File Units | 4 Items

NARA - Record Group 15

- “Search within this Series”
- Use quotes “John Kelty” for the name then broaden

Revolutionary War Pensions – Overview & Online Resources

Series

Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service

Includes: 83,071 File Units / 4 Items

“John Kelty”

Search

1–8 of 8 results for “John Kelty” in 0.77 seconds. Results per page: 20

Filter by:

Sort by: NARA ID (Lowest First)

< Prev 1 of 1 Next >

All records

Available to access online (8)

Type of Materials

Textual Records (8)

Level of Description

File Unit (8)

File Format of Archival Materials

Part of Record Groups

Location of Archival Materials

Dates by Year

File Unit

Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application File W. 15869, Jonathan Adams, Mass.

Pensioner: Abigail Adams

NAID: 53785164

Creators: War Department, Military Bounty Lands and Pension Branch. ca. 1810-1815; War Department, Office of the Secretary. 1789-9/18/1947; Department of the Interior, Bureau of Pensions. 1849-1930

Series: Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service

File Unit

Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application File R. 14699, John Hall, N.C.

Pensioner: Hetty Hall

NAID: 54765320

Creators: War Department, Military Bounty Lands and Pension Branch. ca. 1810-1815; War Department, Office of the Secretary. 1789-9/18/1947; Department of the Interior, Bureau of Pensions. 1849-1930

Series: Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service

File Unit

Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application File W. 3638, Henry Williams, Md.

Pensioner: Esther Williams

NAID: 111720409

Creators: War Department, Military Bounty Lands and Pension Branch. ca. 1810-1815; War Department, Office of the Secretary. 1789-9/18/1947; Department of the Interior, Bureau of Pensions. 1849-1930

Series: Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service

File Unit

Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application File W. 15917, for John Kelty, New York

Pensioner: Margaret Kelty. Veteran's Service: New York.

NAID: 196104174

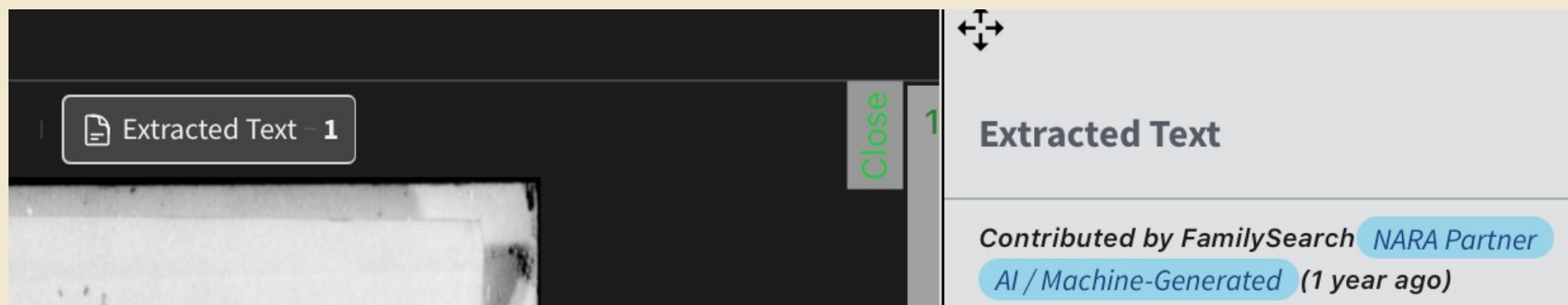
Creators: War Department, Military Bounty Lands and Pension Branch. ca. 1810-1815; War Department, Office of the Secretary. 1789-9/18/1947; Department of the Interior, Bureau of Pensions. 1849-1930

Series: Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service

ONLINE RESOURCES - NARA

NARA - Record Group 15

- Includes selected pages from file, not always all images
- Some transcripts available via FamilySearch



ONLINE RESOURCES

FOLD3 US Revolutionary War Pensions

The screenshot shows the FOLD3 website interface for the 'US Revolutionary War (United States)' collection, which contains 34M+ records. The page is divided into three main sections: Overview, Publications, and Description. The Overview section features a search bar, a 'Featured Publications' list, and a 'More about US Revolutionary War' section. The Publications section shows a list of publications, including 'US, Revolutionary War Pensions, 1800-1900'. The Description section provides a detailed overview of the war, its duration, and its significance. The right sidebar contains 'Related Collections' and 'Search Tags'.

US Revolutionary War (United States)
34M+ records

OVERVIEW PUBLICATIONS DESCRIPTION

Search names, places, & more

Featured Publications [See All ...](#)

US, Revolutionary War Pensions, 1800-1900
United States • 1775-1900

More about US Revolutionary War
The Revolutionary War formally began on April 19, 1775, at Lexington, Massachusetts. Colonists felt they were being unfairly taxed by Great Britain, and when negotiations failed to produce a solution, a militia gathered to fend off a munitions seizure by British troops at Lexington and Concord. Within a few months, George Washington assumed command of the Continental Army, and the conflict spread from North Carolina and Charleston in the south to Canada in the North. The Revolutionary War lasted eight years, during which the colonies would unite under the Declaration of Independence as the United States of America. The war ended on September 3, 1783, when Great Britain signed the Treaty of Paris and recognized the independence of the US.

[Continue Reading](#)

Source Information
Fold3, *US Revolutionary War* (<https://www.fold3.com/collection/us-revolutionary-war-us> : accessed Jun 10, 2026), database and images, <https://www.fold3.com/collection/us-revolutionary-war-us>

Total Publications 34
Total Records 34,428,392

Related Collections

- [US Revolutionary War - \(United Kingdom\)](#)
- [Afghan War \(US\)](#)
- [Black History](#)
- [Korean War](#)
- [Native American](#)
- [Non Military](#)
- [Vietnam War](#)
- [War of 1812 - \(United States\)](#)
- [World War I - \(United States\)](#)
- [World War II - \(United States\)](#)
- [See all collections](#)

Search Tags
[US Revolutionary War](#) [United States of America](#)

ONLINE RESOURCES

FamilySearch Pension Collection

Note the name of the record collection is different from the collection for full-text search

Records Collection is located at:
<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1417475>

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch website interface. The browser address bar displays `familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1417475`. The website header includes the FamilySearch logo and navigation links: Family Tree, Search, Memories, Get Involved, and Activities. Below the header is a secondary navigation bar with links: Records (highlighted), Full Text, Images, Family Tree, Genealogies, Catalog, Books, and Wiki. The main content area has a yellow background and features the title **United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900** in large, bold, brown text. Below the title is a paragraph: "Pension and bounty land warrant application files of veterans and widows of veterans who served in the Revolutionary War. The files correspond to National Archive publication M804 Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files and contain applications and other documents in support of a claim. The index was created by Fold3." At the bottom of this section is a button labeled "HOW TO USE THIS COLLECTION". On the right side of the page is a search form with the following fields: "First Names" (containing "John"), "Last Names" (containing "Kelty"), "Birth Place" (containing "City, County, State, Province, or Country"), and "Birth Year" (empty). Below these fields are two buttons: "SEARCH" and "MORE OPTIONS".

ONLINE RESOURCES

FamilySearch Pension Collection

- **Records Search**
- **Use “More Options”**

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1417475>

Revolutionary War Pensions – Overview & Online Resources

United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900

Pension and bounty land warrant application files of veterans and widows of veterans who served in the Revolutionary War. The files correspond to National Archive publication M804 Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files and contain applications and other documents in support of a claim. The index was created by Fold3.

 HOW TO USE THIS COLLECTION

Cite This Collection

"United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900." Database. *FamilySearch*. <http://FamilySearch.org> : 9 April 2026. From

Add Ancestor Information

NAME ALTERNATE NAME SEX

First Names

John

Last Names

Kelty

Add Life Event

BIRTH MARRIAGE RESIDENCE DEATH ANY

Birth Place

City, County, State, Prov

Birth Year (Range)

1748

1752

Add Family Member

SPOUSE FATHER MOTHER OTHER PERSON

Spouse's First Names

Margaret

Spouse's Last Names

Add Record Options

LOCATION TYPE BATCH NUMBER
FILM/FICHE/IMAGE GROUP NUMBER (DGS) PRINCIPAL

Country or Location

State or Province

☐ Show Exact Search

 SEARCH

FEWER OPTIONS

ONLINE RESOURCES

FamilySearch Pension Collection

- Include name and other narrowing information

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1417475>

Revolutionary War Pensions – Overview & Online Resources

FamilySearch

Family Tree Search Memories Get Involved Activities

Records

Full Text Images Family Tree Genealogies Catalog Books Wiki

Collection: Military, United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900 (222)

Collection

Sex

Race

Other

Residence

Name	Events	Relationships
John Kelty Principal United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900	Pension	Maryland, United States
Jno Kelty Principal United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900	Pension	Virginia, United States
John Kelty Principal United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900	Pension States	Massachusetts, United States
John Kelty Principal United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900	Pension	Maryland, United States
John Kelty Principal United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900	Pension States	Massachusetts, United States
Jno Kelty Principal United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900	Pension	New York, United States

Search

Add Ancestor Information

NAME ALTERNATE NAME SEX

First Names

John

Last Names

Kelty

Add Life Event

BIRTH MARRIAGE RESIDENCE

Birth Place

City, County, State, Province, or Country

Birth Year (Range)

From To

Add Family Member

SPOUSE FATHER MOTHER OTI

Spouse's First Names

Margaret

Spouse's Last Names

Add Record Options

LOCATION TYPE BATCH NUMBER FILM/FICHE/IMAGE GROUP NUMBER (DGS)

Country or Location

State or Province

Show Exact Search

FAMILYSEARCH

Records Search

Click on name and more information displays

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1417475>

Revolutionary War Pensions – Overview &

FamilySearch			Family Tree Search Memories Get Involved Activities		
Records Full Text Images Family Tree Genealogies Catalog Books Wiki					
Name	Events	Relationships			
Principal United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900					
Jno Kelty Principal United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900	Pension	Virginia, United States			
John Kelty Principal United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900	Pension States	Massachusetts, United States			
John Kelty Principal United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900	Pension	Maryland, United States			
John Kelty Principal United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900	Pension States	Massachusetts, United States			
Jno Kelty Principal United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900	Pension	New York, United States			
John Kelty Principal United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900	Pension	Maryland, United States			

Record Information

Jno Kelty

Pension • United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900

VIEW RECORD

Name

Jno Kelty

Residence Place

New York

Event Type

Pension

Event Place

Manhattan, New York City, New York, United States

New York City, New York County, New York, United States

New York, United States

Event Place (Original)

New York

File Name

1468

Pension Number

W. 15917

Source Publication Title

Revolutionary War Pensions

Affiliate Publication Number

M804

Affiliate Publication Title

Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files

Affiliate Name

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

Other People on This Record

OPEN ALL

[UNKNOWN](#)

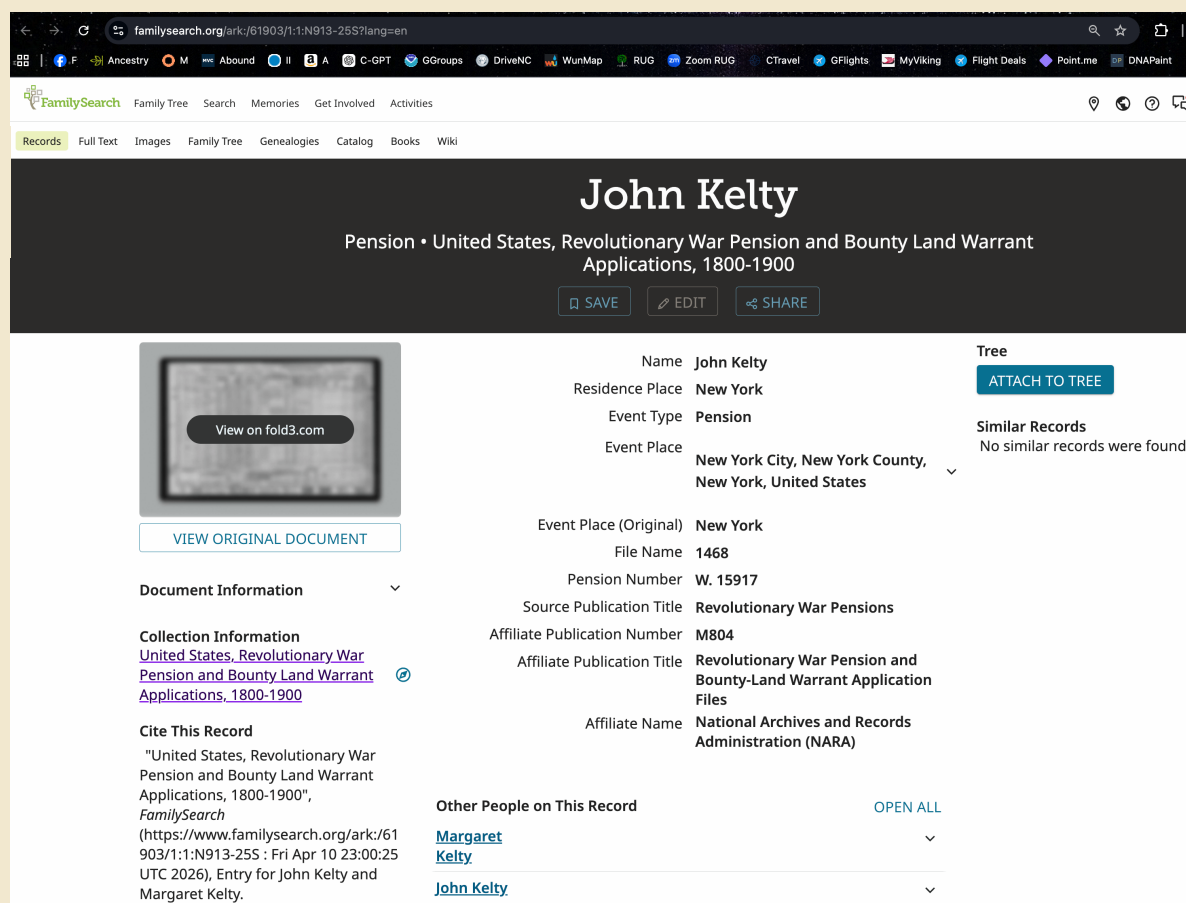
[Margaret Kelty](#)

ONLINE RESOURCES

John Kelty's Pension File on familysearch.org

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHK-C7MP-8SM7-X>

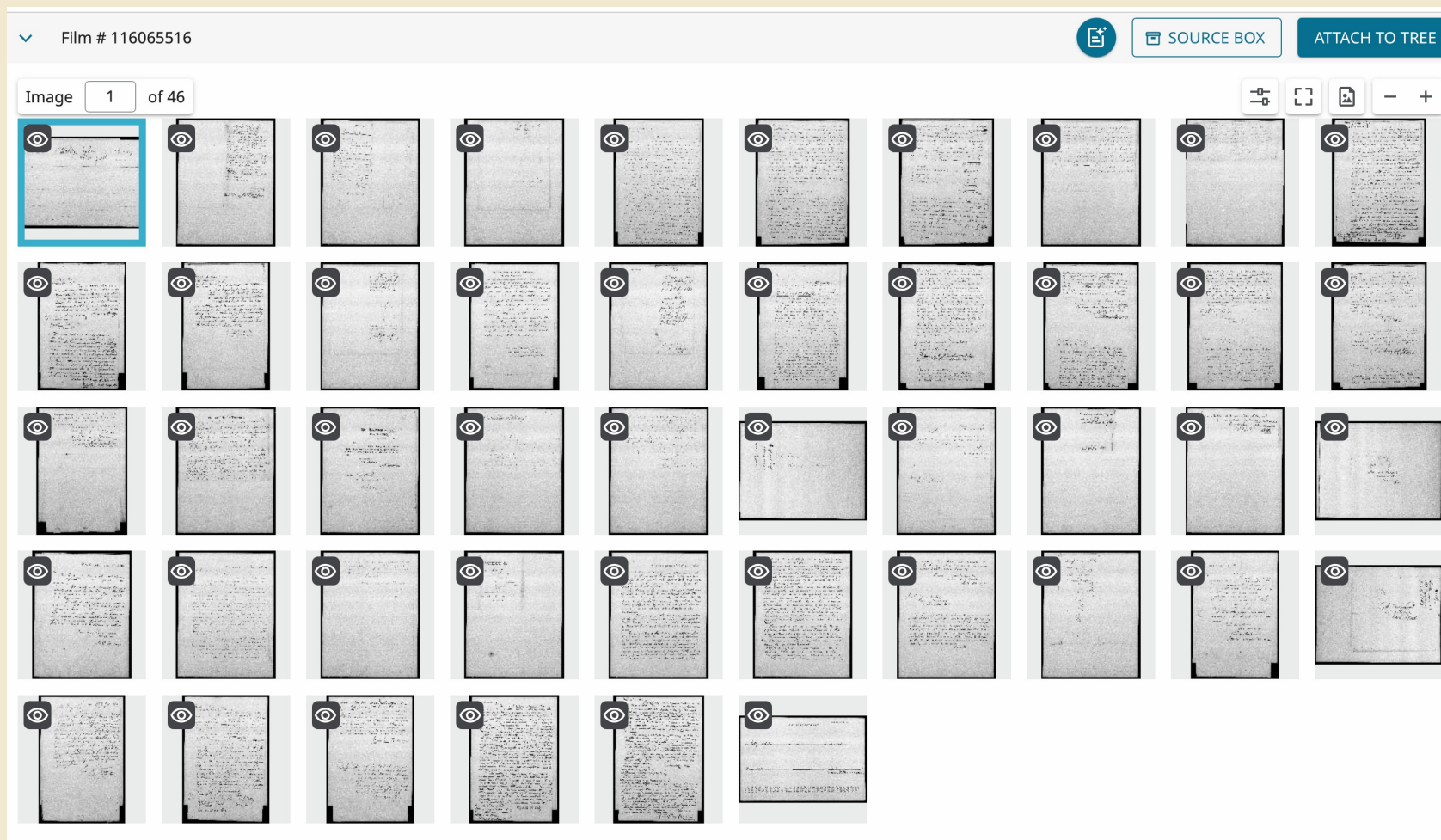
All 46 pages are on familysearch.org!



The screenshot displays the FamilySearch.org profile for John Kelty. The header shows the name "John Kelty" and the record type "Pension • United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900". Below the header, there are buttons for "SAVE", "EDIT", and "SHARE". The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Document Information:** Includes a thumbnail of the document with a "View on fold3.com" button and a "VIEW ORIGINAL DOCUMENT" button.
- Collection Information:** Links to the "United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900" collection.
- Cite This Record:** Provides a citation for the record: "United States, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900", FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:N913-25S : Fri Apr 10 23:00:25 UTC 2026), Entry for John Kelty and Margaret Kelty.
- Personal Details:** Lists Name (John Kelty), Residence Place (New York), Event Type (Pension), Event Place (New York City, New York County, New York, United States), Event Place (Original) (New York), File Name (1468), Pension Number (W. 15917), Source Publication Title (Revolutionary War Pensions), Affiliate Publication Number (M804), Affiliate Publication Title (Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files), and Affiliate Name (National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)).
- Other People on This Record:** Lists Margaret Kelty and John Kelty with expandable arrows.
- Tree:** Includes an "ATTACH TO TREE" button.
- Similar Records:** States "No similar records were found."

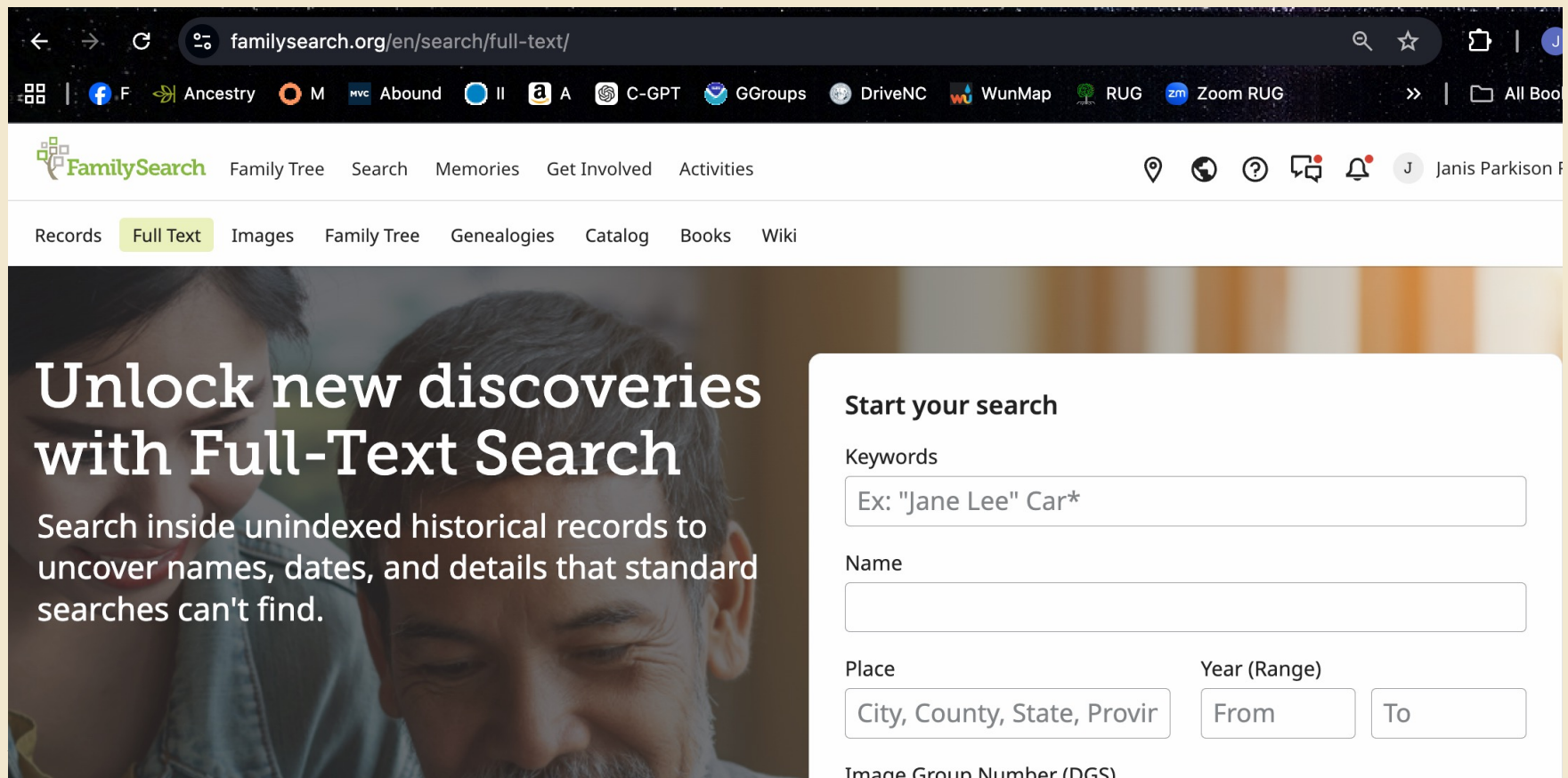
JOHN KELTY'S Pension File on familysearch.org



ONLINE RESOURCES

FamilySearch Full-Text Search

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/full-text>



familysearch.org/en/search/full-text/

FamilySearch Family Tree Search Memories Get Involved Activities

Records **Full Text** Images Family Tree Genealogies Catalog Books Wiki

Unlock new discoveries with Full-Text Search

Search inside unindexed historical records to uncover names, dates, and details that standard searches can't find.

Start your search

Keywords
Ex: "Jane Lee" Car*

Name

Place Year (Range)
City, County, State, Provin From To

Image Group Number (DGS)

Search the Specific Collection:

[Case Files of
Pension and
Bounty-Land
Warrant
Applications
Based on
Revolutionary
War Service,
ca. 1800–ca.
1912](#)

Unlock new discoveries with Full-Text Search

Search inside unindexed historical records to uncover names, dates, and details that standard searches can't find.

Start your search

Keywords

Ex: "Jane Lee" Car*

Name

Place

City, County, State, Province, or Count

Year (Range)

From

To

Image Group Number (DGS)

007561265, 007943373

SEARCH



Search for a specific collection

Narrow your results by searching within a single collection of historical records. Start typing, and we'll suggest matching titles.

Collection Title

Case Files

Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications
Based on Revolutionary War Service, ca. 1800–ca. 1912



Tips for successful full-text searching

Too many results? Try these strategies to focus your search:

Find an exact word or phrase

Use quotation marks. Example: "Henry Jones"

Search for multiple words or phrases

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/full-text/collection/500042>

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch website interface. At the top, the browser address bar displays the URL: [familysearch.org/en/search/full-text/collection/5000421](https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/full-text/collection/500042). Below the address bar is a navigation bar with the FamilySearch logo and links to Family Tree, Search, Memories, Get Involved, and Activities. A secondary navigation bar includes links to Records, Full Text (highlighted), Images, Family Tree, Genealogies, Catalog, Books, and Wiki. The main content area has a light blue background. On the left, a large heading reads: **Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service, ca. 1800–ca. 1912**. Below this heading, a paragraph states: **Revolutionary War pension and bounty-land warrant applications from National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)**. On the right, a white search box titled **Start your search** contains several input fields: **Keywords** (with the example text "Jane Lee" Car*), **Name**, **Place** (with a placeholder "City, County, State, Provir"), **Year (Range)** (with "From" and "To" sub-fields), and **Image Group Number (DGS)** (with the example text "007561265, 007943373"). A blue **SEARCH** button is located at the bottom of the search box.

FamilySearch Family Tree Search Memories Get Involved Activities

Records **Full Text** Images Family Tree Genealogies Catalog Books Wiki

Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service, ca. 1800–ca. 1912

Revolutionary War pension and bounty-land warrant applications from National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

Start your search

Keywords
Ex: "Jane Lee" Car*

Name

Place
City, County, State, Provir

Year (Range)
From To

Image Group Number (DGS)
007561265, 007943373

SEARCH

ONLINE RESOURCES

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (DAR)

REVOLUTIONARY WAR RECORDS

Revolutionary War Pensions – Overview & Online Resources

[Library Catalog](#)[Record Copy](#)[DAR.org](#)[GIVE](#)[Ancestor](#) [Member](#) [Descendants](#) [GRC](#) [Rev War](#) [Bibles](#) [Resources](#)

Revolutionary War Records

Indexed Revolutionary War Documents



To order photocopies of images from these databases, [please use](#), the [Photocopy Request Form \(LG-3001\)](#).

For more information on the Revolutionary War Records, [please see the user guide \(LG-1010\)](#).

250 for the 250th

250 for the 250th: NEW! An additional resource to help illuminate the important contributions of under-represented Patriots to the cause of American Independence, as part of the National Society's commemoration of America's 250th anniversary.

Patriot Records Project Index

Patriot Records Project Index: This index contains every readable name of numerous Revolutionary War records. The documents span over 75 years, starting at the very beginning of the Revolutionary War through the last petitions for remuneration. The online collection currently consists of records from the 13 original colonies/states as well as some of the newer states including Maine, Vermont, and Ohio. The collection also includes some French and Spanish records. Over 500,000 documents have been indexed, and millions of names of patriots are now searchable.

Revolutionary War Pension Index

The Revolutionary War Pension Index: In the years prior to the availability of the federal Revolutionary War pensions on microfilm and now online, DAR staff genealogists and volunteers visited the Pension Office and later the National Archives to abstract, type up, and index thousands of pensions needed to prove the Revolutionary War service of pending ancestors of prospective members. They did not, however, abstract every Revolutionary War pension. [More...](#)

Patriots of Color

Patriots of Color: This is a new database of names of individuals from a wide variety of origins and backgrounds (African, African American, Native American, Latin American, etc.), who assisted the Revolutionary War effort on the Patriot side. The database builds upon the work done by DAR's *Forgotten Patriots Project* in highlighting the important contributions made by these individuals to the cause of American independence.

Forgotten Patriots Research Guide

African American and American Indian Patriots of the Revolutionary War: A Guide to Service, Sources, and Studies: Since its founding in 1890, the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution has collected and published information about the American Revolution. Included in this tradition have been articles, grave markings, or placement of historical plaques that note the involvement of African Americans and American Indians in the struggle. It is in that vein that the Forgotten Patriot has been developed and published. [More...](#)

Rev War Records

[Rev War User Guide](#)[Patriots of Color](#)[Patriot Records Index](#)[Rev War Pension Index](#)[Forgotten Patriots Research Guide](#)[Rev War Grave Marker Index](#)

Beginning March 16, 2026,
record copies will be \$15

Become a Member!



DAR members are women who come from diverse backgrounds and hold a variety of interests. Their common bond is their lineal descent from Patriots of the American Revolution. [Learn more](#)

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ONLINE RESOURCES

DAR Revolutionary War Records Users Guide

A 10-page pdf users guide

<https://www.dar.org/system/files/members/darnet/forms/LG-1010.pdf>

Revolutionary War Pensions – Overview & Online Resources

Revolutionary War Records

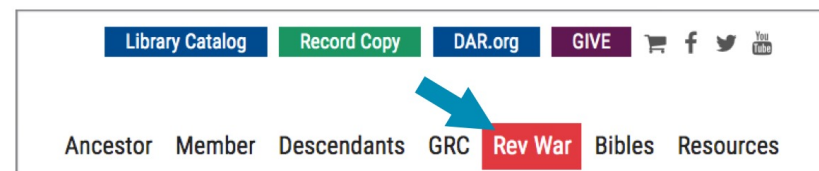


User Guide

2021

At-Home Use

The Revolutionary War Records Collection is a part of the Genealogical Record Search (GRS) available through the NSDAR website. It can be found on the GRS under the “Rev War” tab or at services.dar.org/Public/DAR_Research/search.



The Revolutionary War Records Collection contains two searchable indexes, a downloadable research guide on Forgotten Patriots and the DAR's newest database, the Patriots of Color database, with an introductory explanation on each resource.

Patriot Records Project Index

Patriot Records Project Index: This index contains every readable name of numerous Revolutionary War records. The documents span over 75 years, starting at the very beginning of the Revolutionary War through the last petitions for remuneration. The online collection currently consists of records from the 13 original colonies/states as well as some of the newer states including Maine, Vermont, and Ohio. The collection also includes some French and Spanish records. Over 60 records have been indexed, and millions of names of patriots are now searchable.

Revolutionary War Pension Index

The Revolutionary War Pension Index: In the years prior to the availability of the federal Revolutionary War pensions on microfilm and now online, DAR staff genealogists and volunteers visited the Pension Office and later the National Archives to abstract, type up, and index thousands of pensions needed to prove the Revolutionary War service of pending ancestors of prospective members. They did not, however, abstract every Revolutionary War pension. [More...](#)

Patriots of Color

Patriots of Color: This is a new database of names of individuals from a wide variety of origins and backgrounds (African, African American, Native American, Latin American, etc.), who assisted the Revolutionary War effort on the Patriot side. The database builds upon the work done by DAR's *Forgotten Patriots Project* in highlighting the important contributions made by these individuals to the cause of American independence.

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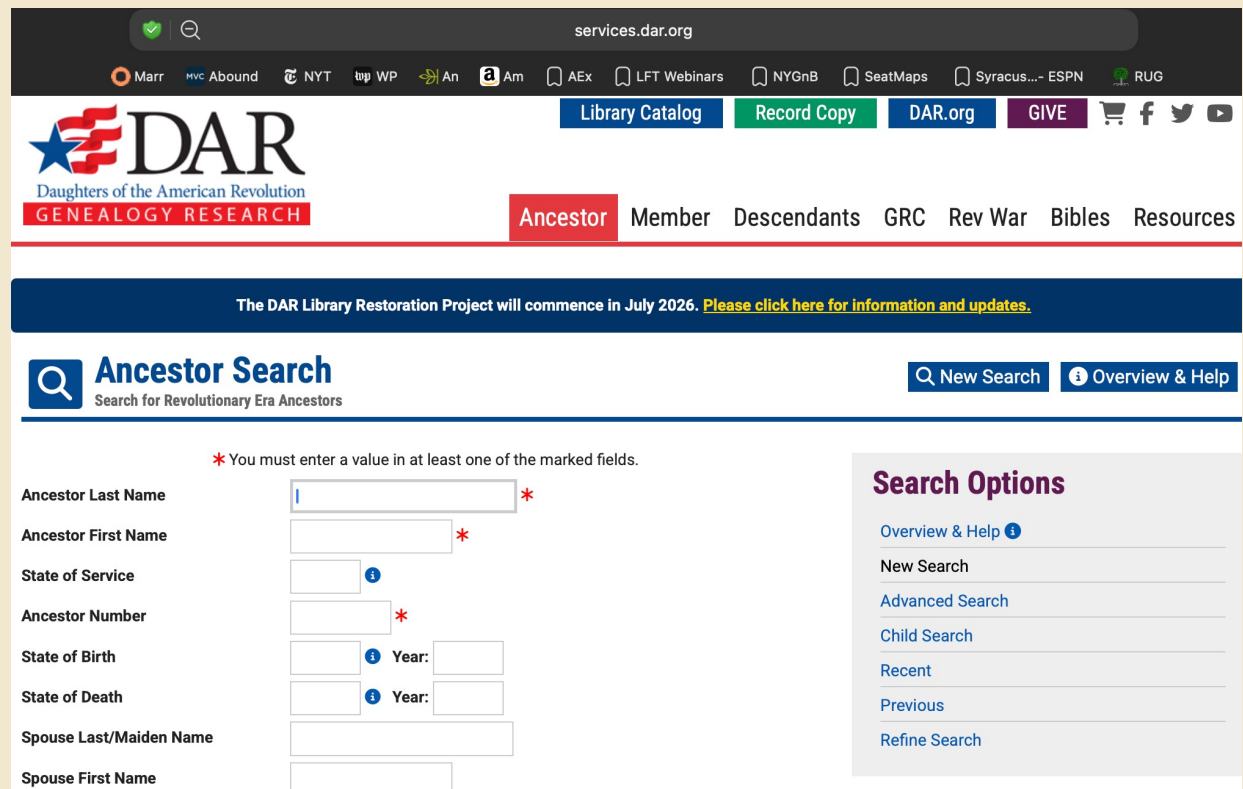
ONLINE RESOURCES DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

DAR Applications – Search Ancestors/Members/Descendants

Ancestor Search

[https://services.dar.org/
Public/DAR_Research/
search/?Tab_ID=1](https://services.dar.org/Public/DAR_Research/search/?Tab_ID=1)

Revolutionary War Pensions – Overview & Online Resources



The screenshot shows the DAR Ancestor Search page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links to Marr, MVC Abound, NYT, WP, An, Am, AEx, LFT Webinars, NYGnB, SeatMaps, Syracuse...- ESPN, and RUG. Below this is the DAR logo and a navigation menu with links to Library Catalog, Record Copy, DAR.org, GIVE, and social media icons. The main header includes links to Ancestor, Member, Descendants, GRC, Rev War, Bibles, and Resources. A banner for the DAR Library Restoration Project is visible. The search section is titled 'Ancestor Search' and includes a search icon and a link to 'New Search'. Below the search title, there's a form with fields for Ancestor Last Name, Ancestor First Name, State of Service, Ancestor Number, State of Birth, State of Death, Spouse Last/Maiden Name, and Spouse First Name. A red asterisk indicates that at least one of the marked fields must be filled. On the right side, there's a 'Search Options' sidebar with links to Overview & Help, New Search, Advanced Search, Child Search, Recent, Previous, and Refine Search.

services.dar.org

Marr MVC Abound NYT WP An Am AEx LFT Webinars NYGnB SeatMaps Syracuse...- ESPN RUG

Library Catalog Record Copy DAR.org GIVE

DAR
Daughters of the American Revolution
GENEALOGY RESEARCH

Ancestor Member Descendants GRC Rev War Bibles Resources

The DAR Library Restoration Project will commence in July 2026. [Please click here for information and updates.](#)

Ancestor Search
Search for Revolutionary Era Ancestors

[New Search](#) [Overview & Help](#)

* You must enter a value in at least one of the marked fields.

Ancestor Last Name *

Ancestor First Name *

State of Service ⓘ

Ancestor Number *

State of Birth ⓘ Year:

State of Death ⓘ Year:

Spouse Last/Maiden Name

Spouse First Name

Search Options

[Overview & Help ⓘ](#)

[New Search](#)

[Advanced Search](#)

[Child Search](#)

[Recent](#)

[Previous](#)

[Refine Search](#)

ONLINE RESOURCE

DAR Ancestors

Associated Applications

Revolutionary War Pensions – Overview & Online Resources

KELTY, JOHN

Ancestor #: A064439



Service: PENNSYLVANIA Rank(s): PRIVATE

Birth: 1750-52 CORK IRELAND

Death: 12-5-1833 PETERBORO NEW YORK

RESIDENCE

1) County: LANCASTER CO - State: PENNSYLVANIA

SPOUSE

Number	Name
--------	------

1)	MARGARET CONNOR
----	-----------------

Hint: Click on the member number to see more.

ASSOCIATED APPLICATIONS AND SUPPLEMENTALS

Nat'l Num	Add Vol.	Docs	Child	[Spouse #] Spouse	
440194		S D	CATHERINE GIBSON	[1] WILLIAM SMITH	PURCHASE
447903		D	CATHERINE GIBSON	[1] WILLIAM SMITH	PURCHASE

S = Supporting documentation available

D = Descendants list available for this member and this ancestor

D = Descendants list available for this member but not this ancestor

ONLINE RESOURCES - DAR



Member Search

Includes More Than 900,000 Records



This listing does not constitute proof of lineage. The databases contain DAR proprietary information which should under no circumstances be redistributed to others, assembled, reproduced, published, or posted in any form whatsoever with the exception of the following: (i) DAR membership and supplemental applications; (ii) citation in genealogical scholarship; and (iii) citing a DAR patriot name and number in publications and on third party websites.

King, Genevieve P.

Nat'l Num: 440194

Chapter: 5021WI

DESCENDANT LISTINGS

(What is this?)

Ancestor: [KELTY, JOHN \(A064439\)](#)

ANCESTORS (REVOLUTIONARY)



Purchase Associated Record Copy

KELTY, JOHN

Ancestor #: [A064439](#)



Child/Child : CATHERINE GIBSON / [1] WILLIAM SMITH

Service: PENNSYLVANIA Rank(s): PRIVATE

Birth: 1750-52 CORK IRELAND

Death: 12-5-1833 PETERBORO NEW YORK

Revolutionary War Pensions – Overview & Online Resources

DESCENDANTS LIST

Member: Genevieve Post King Nat'l #: [440194](#) Ancestor #: [A064439](#)

1.

[Search](#)

Harry Luther Post born on 22 - Aug - 1885 at Sextonville WI
died at Sextonville WI on 8 - Feb - 1919 and his (1st) wife
Mildred M Schaffer born on 6 - Sep - 1876 at Streator IL
died at _____ on - - married on 22 - Sep - 1909

2.

[Search](#)

The Said Harry Luther Post was the child of
Luther W Post born on 26 - Mar - 1852 at Sextonville WI
died at Sextonville WI on 16 - Jan - 1923 and his (1st) wife
Katherine Smith born on 17 - Jun - 1859 at Lone Rock WI
died at Sextonville WI on 10 - Dec - 1933 married on 3 - Dec - 1884

3.

[Search](#)

The Said Katherine Smith was the child of
Matthias M Smith born on 26 - Feb - 1826 at Litchfield NY
died at Osseo WI on 2 - Dec - 1905 and his (1st) wife
Elizabeth Thomas born on 20 - Feb - 1831 at Hamilton Madison Co NY
died at Osseo WI on 16 - Dec - 1908 married on 24 - Dec - 1852

4.

[Search](#)

The Said Matthias M Smith was the child of
William Smith born on 20 - Mar - 1770 at West Farms, Long Is NY
died at Bedford OH on 29 - Jul - 1857 and his (1st) wife
Catherine Gibson Kelty born on 16 - May - 1793 at Morrisania NY
died at Bedford OH on 10 - Jun - 1858 married on 20 - Sep - 1824

5.

[Search](#)

The Said Catherine Gibson Kelty was the child of
John Kelty born on - - 1750-1752 at Cork Ireland
died at Peterboro NY on 5 - Dec - 1833 and his (1st) wife
Margaret Connor born on - - 1763/64 at _____
died at Deerfield Oneida Co NY on 5 - Jun - 1838 married on 11 - Dec - 1779
married at NJ

ASSOCIATED ANCESTOR (REVOLUTIONARY) RECORD

KELTY, JOHN

Ancestor #: [A064439](#)



Service: PENNSYLVANIA Rank(s): PRIVATE

Birth: 1750-52 CORK IRELAND

Death: 12-5-1833 PETERBORO NEW YORK

22

ONLINE RESOURCES - <https://revwarapps.org/>

Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution (SCAR) decided to transcribe and post the applications of the veterans who either fought in the Southern Campaign or who lived in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina or Georgia during the Revolution. The project has been spearheaded by Will Graves since its inception with C. Leon Harris having shortly thereafter joined in the venture.

SCAR's website is found at <http://www.southerncampaign.org/> and the pension database with dedicated search engines is located at <http://revwarapps.org>.

[ROSTERS](#) [SUBMISSIONS AND USEFUL RESOURCES](#) [LEGISLATION](#) [SOURCES OF ORIGINAL APPLICATIONS](#) [DUPLICATE FILE NUMBERS](#)
[FAQ](#) [CONTACT US](#) [SEARCH](#)

Southern Campaigns Revolutionary War Pension Statements & Forms

Transcribers of these pension applications donate their contributions without compensation. They retain all rights. Permission is hereby granted to republish a reasonable number of transcriptions, with citation of the source, and provision of copyright law.

SEARCHES

You need to use the [Search feature](#) to access the power of this database, even in cases where an application is not provided for your soldier of interest. Learn by trial and error (instructions provided), and no one sees your efforts. Your searches simultaneously access all the applications and rosters. Sorry, but we cannot search by name, location, or date. It never hurts to try spelling variations. Site last updated 6/7/2026. Indexed by the [FreeFind search engine](#) and its wonderful service. [FreeFind Rocks!](#)

Currently 432 Roster Transcriptions and 31,037 Pension Applications, Bounty Land Claims and related publicly available records have been transcribed. 5114 transcripts (designated using VAS file numbers) made from the online collection of the Library of Virginia; 6924 transcripts made from the [Carolina Department of Archives & History](#); and 96 transcripts made from the online collection of [the State Archives of North Carolina](#).

Note: As of June 5, 2020, the Library of Virginia changed the methodology for accessing its online databases. Unfortunately, we have rendered inoperative all links to its databases contained in our transcriptions made prior to that date. If you wish to view the original documents as posted online by the Library, please click [here](#) and follow the instructions provided.

[Adobe Reader®](#) (free) must be installed on your computer in order to read pension transcriptions. If you experience difficulty accessing any of the documents, please be sure you have downloaded and installed the most current version of [Adobe Reader®](#).

This site is dedicated to celebrating the lives and contributions made by the brave men and women who fought or lived in the South (to wit, North Carolina or Virginia) during the American Revolution and making their eye-witness accounts freely available in this searchable database. In addition, we have included other veterans whose applications were investigated by Special Agent W. G. Singleton as possibly involving fraud. See the file of Documents for excellent research covering Singleton's investigations. If interested in sharing your transcriptions of applications and calling them to our attention, please feel free to send them to the current administrator of this site Will Graves at att.net.

GOING
FURTHER

National Archives & National Park Service

Revolutionary War Pension Files Transcription Mission

<https://www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist/missions/revolutionary-war-pension-files>

Revolutionary War Pensions – Overview & Online Resources

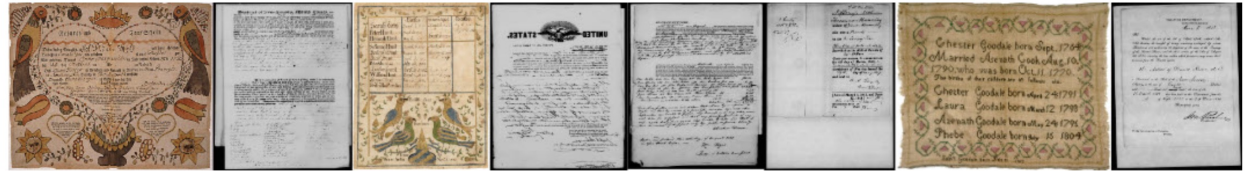
Citizen Archivist Dashboard

Home > Citizen Archivist > Citizen Archivist Missions > Revolutionary-War-Pension-Files

Citizen Archivist

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Revolutionary War Pension Files Transcription Mission



The stories of over 80,000 men and women who lived through the American Revolution are waiting to be told. Will you help us tell them?

Help transcribe military pension files from the Revolutionary War!

In celebration of the 250th anniversary of American independence, the National Archives and the National Park Service are collaborating on a special project to transcribe [Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service, ca. 1800 - ca. 1912](#). These Revolutionary War Pension Files consist of applications and other records pertaining to claims for pensions and bounty land warrants.

These records may contain valuable details about Revolutionary War veterans and their families, such as rank, unit, period of service, age, residence, date and place of marriage, and date and place of death of spouse. Also within these records, you may find copies of marriage or other family records, information pertaining to military activities or details about soldier's lives, along with letters, diaries, or family trees. Read more about these records and what you may find from the National Park Service's article [Tips and a Guide for the Curious](#).

Not interested in transcribing cursive? Join our [Revolutionary War Tagging Mission](#) - read the transcriptions by other Citizen Archivists and add tags to enhance searchability.

Share the stories

As you transcribe these records, did you find a surprising or intriguing story? An unexpected artifact? Let us know in our [survey](#)! The stories you share can be used to help others learn more about the lives of Revolutionary War veterans and their families.

NEW Read stories from the pensions

Since June 2023, thousands of Citizen Archivist volunteers have transcribed the pension files of Revolutionary War veterans. We've uncovered interesting stories that give battlefield stories, sightings of famous generals, a glimpse of life in the 18th century, and more. Explore these amazing [stories](#).

Are you ready to join us?

We invite you to help transcribe these records to unlock the details and stories found within these rich records.

- New to the Citizen Archivist program? Learn how to [register and get started](#).
- Be sure to review the video [How to Transcribe in the National Archives Catalog](#), our tutorial [Get Started Transcribing](#) and how-to videos on the [Resources](#) page.
- Already have an account? [Login here](#).
- Looking for something fun? Print out a [Revolutionary War Bingo Card](#) and fill it in as you transcribe these fascinating pension records.
- Questions? Check out our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) below

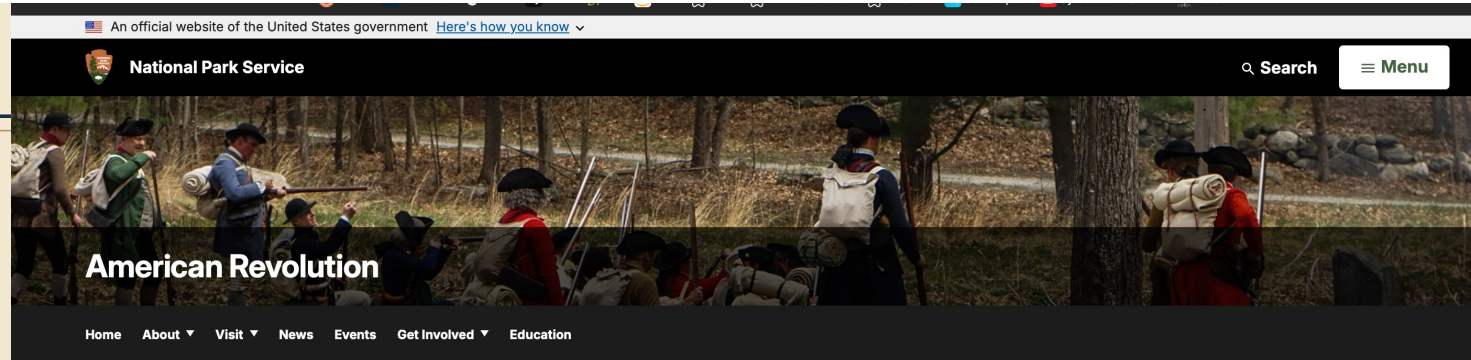
GOING
FURTHER

National Archives & National Park Service

Revolutionary War Pension Files Transcription Mission

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/americanrevolution/revolutionary-war-pension-project.htm>

Revolutionary War Pensions – Overview



[NPS.gov](#) > [Home](#) > [Get Involved](#) > NARA Pension Transcription Project

Revolutionary War Pension Files Transcription Project

Volunteer as a Citizen Archivist and help uncover stories of the American Revolution told by the people who lived it.

The National Park Service and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) are collaborating on a special project to transcribe the pension records of more than 80,000 of America's first veterans and their widows. Not only could you be the first person in 200 years to learn their stories, but your efforts will make a permanent contribution to the historical record in time for the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution! [Register as a volunteer with the National Archives](#), and show your support for the National Park Service by adding "NPS" to the beginning of your username (NPSNatalieM).



THANK YOU

Questions & Discussion