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PAMPHLET DESCRIBING M860

**General Index to Compiled
Military Service Records of
Revolutionary War Soldiers**



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The records reproduced in the microfilm publication

are from

War Department Collection of

Revolutionary War Records

Record Group 93

GENERAL INDEX TO COMPILED MILITARY SERVICE RECORDS OF REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS

On the 58 rolls of this microfilm publication is reproduced a name index, called the General Index, to the compiled service records of soldiers who served with the American Army during the Revolutionary War. The index also contains entries for several small series of Revolutionary War compiled service records of sailors, members of army staff departments, and other persons associated with the American Army and Navy. Each card of the index gives the name and unit of a soldier or civilian and sometimes his rank, profession, or office. Both the index and the compiled service records are part of the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, Record Group 93.

The American forces during the Revolutionary War included many types of military organizations created by the Continental Congresses, the States, towns, and counties. The regular army units authorized by the Continental Congresses formed the "Continental Army," but this Army was frequently supplemented by units of militia and volunteers from the States. The index reproduced in this microfilm publication contains entries for the regular soldiers of the Continental Army and for the militia, volunteers, and others who served with them. The combined forces are referred to in this publication as the "American Army." The term "American Navy" is similarly used to refer to naval forces organized by the Continental Congresses and by the States.

Most of the records of the American Army and Navy in the custody of the War Department were destroyed by fire on November 8, 1800. The War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records was begun in 1873, when Secretary of War William Belknap made the first of several purchases of Revolutionary War records for the Department. By War Department orders of July 3 and 16, 1889, a Record and Pension Division was established in the War Department to take custody of the military records of the volunteer armies of the United States and to transact the pension and other business of the Department connected with those records. The Division was designated the Record and Pension Office of the War Department by an act of May 9, 1892 (27 Stat. 27), and Col. Fred C. Ainsworth became Chief of the Office. At Ainsworth's instigation, Congress passed acts on July 27, 1892 (27 Stat. 275), and August 18, 1894 (28 Stat. 403), that directed the other executive departments of the Government to transfer military records of the Revolutionary War in their possession to the War Department. A final major addition to the collection was made in 1914-15, when the War Department made photographic copies of Revolutionary War records in the possession of individuals and institutions in several States to supplement the original records.

The compilation of military service records from the War

Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records was begun in 1894 under the direction of Ainsworth. The abstracts made from the original records were verified by a separate operation of comparison, and great care was taken to ensure that the abstracts and the indexes were accurate.

The service records consist of one or more jacket-envelopes for each soldier or civilian, labeled with his name, rank, profession or office, and the unit or special corps in which he served. The jacket-envelope contains card abstracts of entries relating to the soldier or civilian as found in original muster rolls; payrolls; rank rolls; inspection, provision, and clothing returns; receipts for pay and bounty; accounts for subsistence, pay, rations, clothing, and ordnance; abstracts of muster and payrolls; and correspondence. Abstracts were also made from 23 of the numbered record books in the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, Volumes 1-11, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$, 139, 142, 143, 145, 147 $\frac{1}{2}$, 170-173, 175, and 176. There are cross-references in the compiled service records and the index cards for soldiers' names that appeared in the records under more than one spelling.

The index reproduced in this microfilm publication pertains to both of the two series of Revolutionary War compiled service records. The larger series, compiled service records of Revolutionary War soldiers, is reproduced on approximately 1,100 rolls of National Archives Microfilm Publication M881, Compiled Service Records of Soldiers Who Served in the American Army During the Revolutionary War. A few references to sailors, civilian employees, prisoners of war, and other persons associated with the American Army and Navy are included in the records reproduced on M881, but most of the Revolutionary War compiled service records for persons other than soldiers are available on the four rolls of M880, Compiled Service Records of American Naval Personnel and Members of the Departments of the Quartermaster General and the Commissary General of Military Stores Who Served During the Revolutionary War.

The compiled service records of Revolutionary War soldiers (M881) are arranged under the designation "Continental Troops" or a particular State, thereunder by organization, and thereunder alphabetically by soldier's surname. The military organizations designated "Continental Troops" were generally State units adopted by the Continental Congress in the first years of the Revolutionary War, or units raised in more than one State. Regular units of the Continental Army that were raised in only one State are generally listed with that State's military organizations.

The organizations for the Continental Troops and for each State are arranged in two major groups, according to size of organization. The larger military units--including regiments, battalions, detachments, corps, brigades, and legions--precede the smaller units, such as companies, parties, troops, or commands.

Companies, parties, troops, or commands that were not independent but were component parts of larger organizations are generally arranged within the larger organizations. Within the two major groups according to size, units with numerical designations precede units with nominal designations. Thus, the arrangement of the compiled service records for South Carolina organizations is as follows: First Regiment - Sixth Regiment, Casey's Regiment - Thomson's Regiment, First Company - Third Company, Butler's Company - Watson's Company. An appendix, which follows the introduction to M881, lists the roll numbers of the compiled service records for each military organization.

At the end of the compiled service records for the Continental Troops and for each State, except Georgia, are series of compiled service records labeled "Miscellaneous" for the Continental Troops but only by name of State for the State troops. The names in these miscellaneous series were generally copied from records that did not identify the names with a particular military organization. The series labeled "Miscellaneous" includes compiled service records for many high-ranking officers of the American Army who were associated with several military organizations. The miscellaneous series labeled "Pennsylvania" was taken from such records as a list of officers who were prisoners on parole on Long Island, a list of the prisoners from different regiments in General Wayne's division, a "Return of the Pennsylvania Line, entitled to donation lands, reported by the late Comptroller General," and an account book entitled The State of Pennsylvania Against the United States for Depreciation on Pay of the Army.

The Revolutionary War compiled service records for persons other than soldiers (M880) are arranged in three major divisions: Naval, Quartermaster General's Department, and Commissary General of Military Stores Department. Thereunder the records are arranged by surname of soldier, sailor, or civilian.

The designations of military organizations on the index cards are identical to those on the compiled service records. There are printed numbers on the index cards that enumerate the number of cards on each roll of microfilm.

Related Records

There are 20 additional name indexes in Record Group 93 to Revolutionary War compiled service records: soldiers of the Continental Troops; soldiers who served in organizations from the States of Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, and Virginia; members of the Commissary General of Military Stores Department and the Quartermaster General's Department; naval personnel; "miscellaneous personnel"; and the soldiers of Maj. John Brown's

detachment of militia from New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts. Two of these indexes are available on microfilm: M257, Index to Compiled Service Records of Revolutionary War Soldiers Who Served With the American Army in North Carolina Organizations, and M879, Index to Compiled Service Records of American Naval Personnel Who Served During the Revolutionary War. Most of the names listed in these 20 indexes are duplicated in the General Index.

Most of the original records and copies of records from which the Revolutionary War compiled service records were made are available in two microfilm publications of the National Archives: M246, Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783, and 853, Numbered Record Books Concerning Military Operations and Service, Pay and Settlement of Accounts, and Supplies in the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, 1775-1790's. Notations in the lower left corner of the card abstracts frequently indicate the file or volume number of the original record copied.

Pension and bounty land warrant application files based on the service of Revolutionary War military and naval personnel are in the records of the Veterans Administration, Record Group 15. They have been reproduced as National Archives Microfilm Publication M804, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files, and as Microfilm Publication M805, Selected Records from Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files.

Other records from the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records have also been filmed as M859, Miscellaneous Numbered Records (The Manuscript File) in the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, 1775-1790's, and M847, Special Index to Numbered Records in the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, 1775-1783. The record group contains other series of unnumbered record books and photographic copies of some State records.

Journals, correspondence, and other records of the Continental and Confederation Congresses are in the Records of the Continental and Confederation Congresses and the Constitutional Convention, Record Group 360. These records have been microfilmed as National Archives Microfilm Publication M247, Papers of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789, and Microfilm Publication M332, Miscellaneous Papers of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789. International and Indian treaties are in the General Records of the United States Government, Record Group 11, and the Indian treaties have been reproduced as National Archives Microfilm Publication M668, Ratified Indian Treaties, 1722-1869. Ledgers and other fiscal records of the Government of the Revolutionary period are in the Records of the Bureau of Accounts (Treasury), Record Group 39; the Records of the Bureau of the Public Debt, Record Group 53; the General Records of the Department of the Treasury, Record

Group 56; and the Records of the United States General Accounting Office, Record Group 217.

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication were prepared for filming by L. Marie Allen.

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