

# PLANTING YOUR FAMILY TREE IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Ready to find your family's revolutionary roots? Even if you know the name of an ancestor who fought in the American Revolution, you'll still want to march back through history to be sure you have the right man – and the right family.

## READY: 1900s

Records created in the 20th century are the best place to start a search for family members. Focus your initial searches on family members you know were around for the 1930 and 1920 censuses.

Clues in census records, including residence, names of siblings and children, ages, birthplaces and occupations can be used to search older censuses and other records so you can continue going back in time.

Names, ages and birth locations from the 1920 census help locate the family 10 years earlier, too.

The screenshot shows the Ancestry.com search interface. It includes fields for Name (First & Middle Name(s) and Last Name), Birth (Year and Location), Lived In (Year and Location), and Family Member (First Name and Last Name). There are also dropdown menus for gender and race/nationality, and a search button.

Populate census search forms with the information or add the details to people in your family tree at Ancestry.com and let the tree do the searching for you.

### ★ TIP

Birth, marriage and death records are another great way to follow a family back through time. Marriage indexes will include a wife's maiden name, birth records will include parents and even a modern obituary could include the name of a spouse, cousin or grandparents as well as hometowns. Use what you discover to start or build your Ancestry.com family tree. That way you'll stay organized while your tree helps you search further back in time.

A snippet of a handwritten 1920 U.S. Federal Census form. It shows columns for Name, Relation, Sex, Age, Color or race, and Place of birth. The handwriting is in cursive and includes names like 'Mary', 'John', and 'Homer'.

1920 U.S. Federal Census



A snippet of a printed 1910 U.S. Federal Census form. It shows columns for Name, Relation, Personal Description, and Place of birth. The form is filled with handwritten entries in cursive, including names like 'Margaret', 'Susan', and 'Clarence'.

1910 U.S. Federal Census

# SET: 1800s

Where's the 1890 census? While a scant few records from 1890 remain, nearly all of the 1890 U.S. Federal Census was destroyed by fire or subsequent water damage. Use city directories to help you fill in the gap.

Note that early in the 19th century, you'll only find heads of households listed in census records. Maps, court documents and Civil War-related records including the 1890 Veterans Schedule may provide additional information. Also pay attention to special census schedules created during the late 19th century. The government collected these unique details about everything from farming (agricultural schedules) to manufacturing (industrial schedules) and even deaths (mortality schedules), all of which can provide details you'll need to find family members from earlier times.

The 1910 census shows James was a molder; that same occupation in an 1890 city directory helps you know you're on the right trail.

DATE OF BIRTH: 1910.

		OCCUPATION.				EDUCATION.			OWNERSHIP OF HOME.			
Whether able to speak English or, if not, in language spoken.		Trade or profession of, or particular kind of work done by this person, as engineer, salesman, laborer, etc.	General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which this person works, as cotton mill, dry goods store, farm, etc.	Whether an employer, or working on one's own account.	If an employee-Whether "time" or "hour" of work out of work on week ending April 1, 1910.	Whether able to read and write.	Whether able to read and write.	Whether able to read and write.	Whether able to read and write.	Whether able to read and write.	Whether able to read and write.	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
English	None											
English	Molders	At home	Emp									
English	Molder	Iron foundry										
English	None											
English	Black	Railroad										
English	Black	Eff. Co.										
English	None											
English	None											

1910 U.S. Federal Census

**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Directories, 1888-92 about Jas Crossman**

Name: **Jas Crossman**  
 Location 1: **67 Twelfth**  
 Occupation: **mldr**  
 Year: **1890**  
 City: **Pittsburgh**  
 State: **PA**

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Directory, 1890

Special Schedule.—Surviving Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines, and Widows, etc.

S. D.: 1 ; E. D.: 199 ; Minor Civil Division: Minn

House No.	Family No.	NAME OF SURVIVING SOLDIER, SAILOR, AND MARINE, AND WIDOW.	Rank.	Compan.	Name of Regiment or Vessel.	Date of Enlistment.	Date of Discharge.	Length of Service.		
								Yr.	Mo.	Days.
88	83	Joseph C. ...	Private	1	11th Regt	1865	1865	7	1	6
81	87	Joseph ...	Private	6	32d Regt	1862	1862	8	1	18
81	87	Joseph ...	Private	4	1st Regt	1864	1864			
84	100	Joseph ...	Private	6	1st Regt	1861	1864	3	1	5

  

POST-OFFICE ADDRESS.		DISABILITY INCURRED.	
10	11	10	11
Nashville Centre Mason Co Mo		X	
" " " " "		X	
" " " " "		X	
Winnemucca City Humboldt Co Nev		X	
" " " " "		X	
" " " " "		X	
" " " " "		X	

1890 Veteran's Schedule

The United States of America, 4-25

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

Whereas, there has been deposited in the General Land Office of the United States, a CERTIFICATE of the Register of the Land Office at Jackson, Minnesota, whereby it appears that pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May, 1862, "To secure Homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of Joseph Dubner has been established and duly commuted in conformity to law for the South half of the North East quarter, and the South half of the North West quarter, of Section Twenty seven, in Township One hundred and three of Range Twenty nine, in the District of lands subject to sale in Jackson Minnesota, containing one hundred and sixty acres.

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR GENERAL.

Now know ye, That there is therefore granted by the UNITED STATES unto the said Joseph Dubner the tract of Land above described: To Have and to Hold the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said Joseph Dubner and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony whereof, at Washington, this 1st day of April, 1882, I, Wm. S. Grant, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto set.

U.S. General Land Office Record

Information in the 1890 Veterans Schedule provides details about Joseph's Civil War injuries as well as a place of residence, which leads to a previous land grant. The land grant contains the information needed to locate an agricultural schedule from 1870.

★ TIP

Create a timeline of family members and events so you'll know when you've found the right family and who to search for next. Include vital details (births, marriages and deaths), migration and other facts you uncover and add information from history, which can help explain your family's actions and point to the whereabouts of family members you're missing.

21	Wagon Road	7	2	27	700		2	2	1	1	225	50	41	45
22	Wagon Road	24	7	16	570	100	2	2	1	1	232	120	50	137
23	Wagon Road	24	10	12	700	257	7	1		7	366	110	60	90
24	Wagon Road	15	14	11	75		1	2		1	175			
25	Wagon Road	20	14	12	62		2	1	6		570	200	100	50
26	Wagon Road	14	6	6	200	20		2	2	1	132	34		24
27	Wagon Road	20	2	10	2000	30	2	3	4	2	675	160	15	15
28	Wagon Road	02	2	1	170		3	2	1	1	225	200	40	300

1870 Agriculture schedule

## GO: 1700s

It wasn't until 1790 that a newly formed America took its first census. You can use this early census as well as other information you've uncovered to link back to the Revolutionary War.

Search Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications at Ancestry.com that document the person who applied for membership to the society – which

may have happened as late as 1970 – all the way back to his family's Revolutionary War hero (see Using Sons of the American Revolution Applications, next page).

Find a connection to someone listed in the application and then use names, dates and other details in the application to search for additional information about your Revolutionary War link. Check pension applications of Revolutionary War veterans and military service records. Also search for family in Revolutionary War rolls, Daughters of the American Revolution Lineage Books, officers' records, and military records from the original colonies.

Details in the Sons of the American Revolution Applications as well as other 18th century records can be used to search for — and find — even more information.

National Number 77826

**Supplemental Application** No. 2.

NOTE: KINDLY USE TYPEWRITER IN FILLING OUT THIS APPLICATION. It is requested that complete dates, month, day and year, be supplied for generations (1), parents, and (2), grandparents of applicants. Complete dates for all generations should be given if possible. Also all names should be given in full.

National Number 77826 State Number 4461

THE OHIO SOCIETY  
OF THE  
**SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

John Kermit Smith  
Of CINCINNATI CHAPTER, by descent from ABSALOM SMITH

Examined and approved MAR 6 1964 19 Approved APR 28 1964 1964  
State Registrar Registrar General

I, John Kermit Smith, am a lineal descendant of ABSALOM SMITH, who was born in Amwell Twp, Hunterdon Co., N.J. on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1756, and died in Williamsburg, Ohio on the 28th day of December, 1834, and who assisted in establishing American Independence. Please give all dates in numerals, month first, and all names in full, including wives' maiden names.

(1) I am the son of John Wesley Smith, born 5-2-1889, Sterling Twp, Brown Co., O., and his (1st) wife Mabel Elsie Curry, born 1-1-1897, Williamsburg, Ohio, died living.

(2) grandson of George Parks Smith, born 4-22-1856, Sterling Twp, Brown Co., O., and his (1st) wife Ida Florella Arthur, born 12-31-1862, Williamsburg, Ohio, died living.

(3) great-grandson of James Smith, born 7-17-1825, Sterling Twp, Brown Co., O., and his (1st) wife Rebecca B. Hughes, born 1828, Virginia, died 12-12-1857, Sterling Twp, Brown Co., O.

(4) great-grandson of Abraham Smith, born 1802, Penna., and his (1st) wife Sarah (Sally) Waits, born ca 1806, died after 1880.

(5) great-grandson of ABSALOM SMITH, born 1754, Amwell Twp, Hunterdon Co., N.J., and his (1st) wife Susan or Susannah, born 1766, New Jersey, died after 1838.

(6) great-grandson of \_\_\_\_\_, born \_\_\_\_\_, died \_\_\_\_\_.

(7) great-grandson of \_\_\_\_\_, born \_\_\_\_\_, died \_\_\_\_\_.

(8) great-grandson of \_\_\_\_\_, born \_\_\_\_\_, died \_\_\_\_\_.

and he, the said ABSALOM SMITH (No. \_\_\_\_\_) is the ancestor who assisted in establishing American Independence, while acting in the capacity of Private in 1st Regiment, Hunterdon Co., N.J. Militia, under Capts. Parker, Stout and Phillips. Tours \_\_\_\_\_.

Private, N. J. Militia APR 28 1964

Search

First & Middle Name(s) Last Name  
Absalom Smith

Name a place your ancestor might have lived Estimated birth year  
Ohio, USA 1756 Calculate it

Location  
Birth New Jersey Remove

+ Add life events (birth, marriage, death, and more)

Family Member First Name Last Name  
Spouse Susan Remove

+ Add family members (mother, father, spouse, siblings, children)

Search Show Advanced Clear Form Help

The Official roster of the soldiers of the American Revolution buried in the state of Ohio

Revolutionary War Records

NAME: Absalom Smith

Sly, William  
Smith, Absalom  
Smith, Dennis  
Smith, Dr. John  
Snider, Adam

Showing 4 of 5 matches found on this image.

Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900

Name: Absalom Smith

Pension Year: 1833

Application State: Ohio

Applicant: Widow's Pension Application File View original image

Designation: Susan Smith

Second Applicant: Susan Smith

Name: Susan Smith

Second Applicant: 1834

Pension Year: Ohio

Second Applicant: Ohio

Application State: M804

Archive Publication Number: 2204

Archive Roll Number: 42

Total Pages in Packet: 42

### ★ TIP

It's fine to use information you found in the 19th century to start searching for 18th century records. But check dates and relationships carefully whenever possible — the same given name may have been used through multiple generations of a family. Approximate birth years may help you decide if you're looking at the patriot named A. Smith or if you're really reviewing a record for his son.

# USING SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Search > Military

## U.S., Sons of the American Revolution Memberships

**Search** Clear Form Show Advanced

**Name**  
 First & Middle Name(s)  Last Name

**Event**

**Birth**  
 Day  Month  Year  Location

**Death**  
 Day  Month  Year  Location

**More**  
 Keyword   
e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers"

**Search**

OF THE

## SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

John Kermit Smith  
 Of CINCINNATI CHAPTER, by descent from ABSALOM SMITH

Examined and approved... MAR 6 1984... Approved... MAR 26 1984

I, John Kermit Smith, am a lineal descendant of ABSALOM SMITH, who was on the... day of... 175 on the... day of December... 18... pendence. Please give all dates in numerals, month first,

(1) I am the son of John Wealey Smith and his (1st) wife, Mabel Elsie Curry

(2) grandson of George Parks Smith and his (1st) wife, Ida Florella Arthur

(3) great-grandson of James Smith and his (1st) wife, Rebecca E. Hughes

(4) great-grandson of Abraham Smith born... 1802... died 1-2-1880, Sterling Twp, Brown Co., O. and his (1st) wife, Sarah (Sally) Waits born... 1806... died after 1860

**Absalom Smith**  
-1834

**Spouse & Children** ▼

**Suzanna**

**Abraham Smith**

**+ Add relative**

★ 1  
 Input the name of the person you're searching for — applicant, patriot or someone in between.

★ 3  
 Compare the information in the Sons of the American Revolution packet to the details you've documented in your own family tree on Ancestry.com.

### U.S., Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889-1970

about Abraham Smith

Name:	<b>Abraham Smith</b>
SAR Membership:	77826
Birth Date:	1802
Birth Place:	Pennsylvania
Death Date:	2 Jan 1880
Death Place:	Sterling, Brown, Ohio
Father:	<a href="#">Absalom Smith</a>
Mother:	<a href="#">Susan Smith</a>
Spouse:	<a href="#">Sarah Waits</a>
Children:	<a href="#">James Smith</a>

[View original image](#)

**Search**

First & Middle Name(s)  Last Name

Name a place your ancestor might have lived  Estimated birth year  [Calculate it](#)

Year  Location  [Remove](#)

**Death**   [Remove](#)

**+ Add life events** (birth, marriage, death, and more)

**Family Member** First Name  Last Name  [Remove](#)

**+ Add family members** (mother, father, spouse, siblings, children)

**Search** [Show Advanced](#) [Clear Form](#) [Help](#)

★ 2  
 Review search results carefully. Click on the image to see the original application and follow the names back in time.

★ 4  
 While Sons of the American Revolution lineage charts are well researched and documented, you should still take steps to ensure all names and relationships in the packet are connected to your family. To do this, input information — relationships and dates included - for each person in the application into your Ancestry.com family tree so your tree can search for you. You can also use the application information to populate your own searches at Ancestry.com.

*Keep going — work with census records, birth, marriage and death records, family trees and other details you find at Ancestry.com to document your direct connection back to your Revolutionary War ancestor.*