

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 image shows a search form with the following sections:

- Name:** First & Middle Name(s), Last Name, (Nickname)
- Event:** Year, Location
- Birth:** Year (1867), Location (Ohio, USA)
- Lived In:** Location (Pittsburgh, Allegheny, Pennsylv)
- Family Member:** First Name, Last Name, Relationship (Child, Spouse, etc.)
- More:** Keyword, Gender, Race/Nationality

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.

This is a handwritten 1920 U.S. Federal Census table. The columns include Name, Relation, Sex, Age, Color, Birthplace, and other personal details. The entries are written in cursive and include names like 'Maggie A.', 'Rebecca C.', 'Mary C.', etc.

1920 U.S. Federal Census



This is a handwritten 1910 U.S. Federal Census table. The columns include Name, Relation, Personal Description, Birthplace, and other details. The entries are written in cursive and include names like 'Margaret', 'Susan', 'William', etc.

1910 U.S. Federal Census

★ 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.

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 died living born 1-1-1897, Williamsburg, Ohio

(2) grandson of George Parks Smith married 5-31-1918 born 4-22-1856, Sterling Twp, Brown Co., O., and his (1st) wife Ida Florella Arthur died 12-26-1932, Williamsburg, Ohio

(3) great-grandson of James Smith married 10-7-1880 born 7-17-1825, Sterling Twp, Brown Co., O., and his (1st) wife Rebecca B. Hughes born 12-31-1821, Williamsburg, Ohio

(4) great-grandson of Abraham Smith married 12-12-1851 born 1802, Penna., and his (1st) wife Sarah (Sally) Waits born ca 1806, Sterling Twp, Brown Co., O.

(5) great-grandson of ABSALOM SMITH married 12-19-1822 born 1754, Amwell Twp, Hunterdon Co., N.J., and his (1st) wife Susan or Susannah born 1766, New Jersey

(6) great-grandson of _____ born _____ and his () wife _____ died _____

(7) great-grandson of _____ born _____ and his () wife _____ died _____

(8) great-grandson of _____ born _____ and his () wife _____ 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

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 1964... Approved... MAR 26 1964

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... died 1-2-1880, Sterling Twp, Brown Co., O. and his (1st) wife, Sarah (Sally) Waits born... 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:	Abraham Smith
SAR Membership:	77826
Birth Date:	1802
Birth Place:	Pennsylvania
Death Date:	2 Jan 1880
Death Place:	Sterling, Brown, Ohio
Father:	Absalom Smith
Mother:	Susan Smith
Spouse:	Sarah Waits
Children:	James Smith

[View original image](#)

★ 2

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

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](#)

★ 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.