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.

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Child	•	John			Ren	ove	
Child	•	Homer			Rem	ove	
Child	•	James			Rem	ove	
Add fami	ly membe	rs (moth	r, father, :	spouse, sibling	gs, children)		
More							
Keyword						_	
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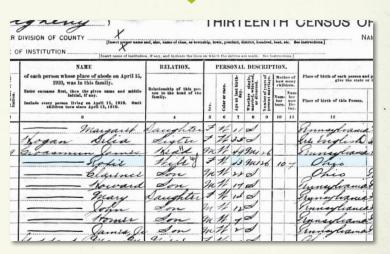
Populate census search forms with the information or add the details to people in your family tree at Ancestry.com and let the tree do the searching for you. Names, ages and birth locations from the 1920 census help locate the family 10 years earlier, too.

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1920 U.S. Federal Census



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.



1910 U.S. Federal Census

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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.

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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.

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.

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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Directory, 1890

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How know ye, That there is therefore granted by the UNITED STATES unto the Joseph Feibner

the list of Land above described : **"To Barro and to Hold**, the suid tract of Land, with the appu thereof, unto the sold Jose A. D. C. & C. C. & and to 7. heirs and assigns forever.

> In Testimony whereof, J, Welysses S. Grant , president of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these betters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the Can

U.S. General Land Office Record

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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

National Number_77826
Supplemental Application ^{No. 2}
NOTE: KINDLY USE TYPEWHITER IN FILLING OUT THIS APPLICATION It is requested that complete date, month, day and year, be supplied for generations (1), parents, and (2), grandparents of opplicant. Complete dates for all generations should be given if possible. Also all names should be given in full.
National Number // 020 State Number
THE_OHIOSOCIETY
OF THE
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
OfCINCINNATI_CHAPTER, by descent fromABSALOM_SMITH
MAR 6 1964
Approved Approved Approved
State Registrar. Repiata General.
I, John Kermit Smith, am a lineal descendant of
ABSALOM SMITH
on the <u>28th</u> day of <u>December</u> <u>1834</u> , and who assisted in establishing American Inde-
pendence. Please give all dates in numerals, month first, and all names in full, including wives' maiden names.
Z DATE PLACE AND STATE 2 (1) I am the son of John Wesley Smith born 5-2-1889, Sterling Twp, Brown Co, 0.
atealiving and his (1st) wite Mabel Elsie Curry born 1-9-1897. Williamsburg, Obio
diod living
(2) grandson of George Parks Smith born 4-22-1856, Sterling Twp, Brown Co, 0.
f, 1st Ida Florella Arthur 12-31-1861
Married 10-7- 1000
(3) great-grandson of James Smith born 7-17-1825; Sterling Twp, Brown Co., 0. diad. 4-12-1885;
and his (1 St wife Rebecca E. Highes born 1828/ Virginia 1899 Sterling Twp. Brown Co.O.
12=12=1853
(4) great-grandson of the diag 1-2- 1880, Sterling Twp, Brown Co.0.
Å and his (1 st wire_Sarab(Sally) Walts_born_ca1806, "",0- died after 1880
(6) great-grandson of AESALOM SMITH born 1756, Amwell Twp, Hunterdon, Co. dee_12-26-1834. Williamsburg, Ohio
and his (1st) wire Susan or Susannah2 born 1766 New Jersey
and his (1st) wite Susan or Susannah2 born 1766 New Jersey died after 1838
(6) great-grandson ofborn
and his () wifeborn
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(7) great-grandson of died
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died
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and he, the said <u>ABSALOM SMITH</u> (No) is the ancestor who assisted in satabilahing American Independence, while acting in the capacity of Private in 1st Regiment, Hunter-
don Co., N. J. MElitia, under Capts. Parker, Stout and Phillips. Tours
Prinate, m. S. meitzi APR 28 1964
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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.

Revolutionary War Records

Sly, William Smith, Absolon Smith, Dennis

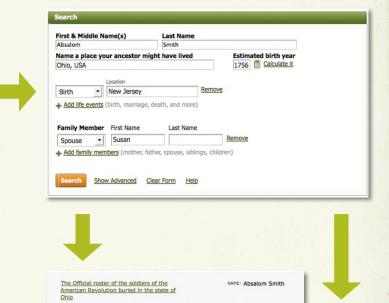
Smith, Dr. John

Snider, Adam matches found on this image

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Showing 4 of 5



★ 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.

5

alom Smith Absal 1833

Ohio

2204

ion State:

nd Applicant Susan S 1834 nd Applicant

USING SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS $* \star \star \star$

Search > Military

U.S., Sons of the American Revolution Membershi

		Smith	
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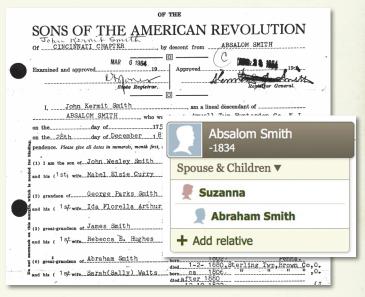
★1

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

Name:	Abraham Smtih	
SAR Membership:	77826	The set of
Birth Date:	1802	
Birth Place:	Pennsylvania	
Death Date:	2 Jan 1880	View original im
Death Place:	Sterling, Brown, Ohio	
Father:	Absalom Smith	
Mother:	Susan Smith	
Spouse:	Sarah Waits	
Children:	James Smtih	

★ 2

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



★ 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.

First & Middle Na Abraham	me(s)	Last Name	
		Smith	
Name a place you Pennsylvania, US		ght have lived	1802 Calculate it
	Year Location		
Death 🔹	1880 Ohio,	USA	Remove
Family Member	First Name	Last Name	
Father •	Absalom	Smith	Remove
Father •			

★ 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.



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