

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

Microfilm Publication M1051

INDEX TO COMPILED SERVICE RECORDS
OF REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS WHO
SERVED WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN
GEORGIA MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
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INTRODUCTION

On the one roll of this microfilm publication is reproduced a name index to the compiled service records of soldiers who served with the American Army in Georgia military organizations during the Revolutionary War. Each card of the index lists the name and unit of a soldier or civilian employee 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.

History of the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records

Most of the records of the Revolutionary War 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 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 as 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 Federal Government to transfer military records of the Revolutionary War in their possession to the War Department. The last major addition to the Collection was 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.

Compiled Military Service Records

The compilation of military service records and indexes from the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records was begun in 1894 under the direction of Colonel 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 indexes were accurate.

The compiled service records consist of one or more jacket-envelopes for each soldier, labeled with his name; his rank, profession, or office; and the unit or special corps in which he served. Each jacket-envelope contains card abstracts of entries

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relating to the soldier as found in original muster rolls; payrolls; rank rolls; inspection, provision, and clothing returns; receipts for pay and bounty; accounts for subsistence, pay, rations, and ordnance; abstracts of muster rolls and payrolls; and correspondence. Abstracts were also made from numbered record books in the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records. 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 Revolutionary War compiled service records for Georgia military organizations are available on roll 396 of the National Archives and Records Service Microfilm Publication *Compiled Service Records of Soldiers Who Served in the American Army During the Revolutionary War*, M881. The Georgia records generally pertain to those Georgia military organizations that were in the Federal service. Included are Georgia units that were officially part of the Continental Army and units of Georgia militia and volunteers that served with the Continental Army. The appendix that follows this introduction lists the Georgia military organizations for which there are compiled service records. The compiled service records are arranged by military organization and thereunder by soldier's surname.

The index to Georgia compiled service records, which is reproduced in this microfilm publication, is only one of many indexes to Revolutionary War compiled service records in the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records. There are separate indexes for each State, Vermont, the Continental Troops, naval personnel, and others. Most of the entries in these indexes are duplicated in the comprehensive general index to compiled military service records of Revolutionary War soldiers, available on microfilm as M860.

The printed numbers frequently found on index cards served an administrative purpose at one time, but are no longer useful or significant.

Related Records in the National Archives

Although most of the Revolutionary War compiled service records are available on microfilm M881, a few compiled service records relating to persons other than soldiers have been filmed as *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*, M880.

The original records from which the compiled service records were made are also available on microfilm. Numbered record books from the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records are published as *Numbered Record Books Concerning Military Operations and Service, Pay and Settlement of Accounts, and Supplies in the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records*, M853.

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Muster rolls, payrolls, and returns in the War Department Collection are available as *Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783*, M246. Another important series of records in the same record group is available as *Miscellaneous Numbered Records (The Manuscript File) in the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, 1775-1790's*, M859.

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 *Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files*, M804, and *Selected Records From Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files*, M805.

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 *Papers of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789*, M247, and *Miscellaneous Papers of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789*, M332.

Maida Loescher prepared this introduction. Annis Olsen was the editor.

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APPENDIX

List of Georgia Organizations

Numerical Designations

First Battalion
Second Battalion
Third Battalion
Fourth Battalion

Miscellaneous

Georgia Battalion

Nominal Designations

Bickham's Company, Georgia Militia
Capt. Samuel Scott's Company