

Genealogical Research System of the DAR

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OVERVIEW

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) has been collecting genealogical information since 1890 to support both the application process for membership and to honor the service of Patriots. The Society operates a marvelous library in Washington, D.C. Over the last few years they have scanned and provided public access to extensive online resources.

GENEALOGICAL VALUE

The focus of the collection is information on individuals who may have served in the Revolutionary War. However, these resources cover much more than Revolutionary War material; they provide both genealogical information and historical context for research from colonial times to the nineteenth century.

ONLINE RESOURCES—WORKING REMOTELY

The principal online resource is the DAR Genealogical Research System (GRS). This system is composed of several databases described below. It is important to note that these databases are dynamic; new records are added every day. Also of note is the fact that the GRS supersedes the *DAR Patriot Index* and the *DAR Lineage Books*. Also useful is the ability to order online a record copy of the application or supplemental to join the DAR and to download it as a PDF file. The service costs \$10.

The screenshot shows the DAR Genealogical Research System (GRS) website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for 'Ancestor', 'Member', 'Descendants', 'GRC', 'Bibles', 'Resources', and 'Catalog'. Below this, the main heading reads 'Genealogical Research System' with the subtitle 'National Society Daughters of the American Revolution'. A 'GRS Tutorial' video player is featured, with a description stating: 'The DAR Genealogical Research System (GRS) is a free resource provided by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) to aid general genealogical research and to assist with the DAR membership process. The GRS is a collection of databases that provide access to the many materials amassed by the DAR since its founding in 1890.' To the right, there is a 'Become a Member!' section with a photo of three women and a 'Learn more' link. Below that is a 'DAR Quick Facts' section, which includes the founding date (October 11, 1890) and the organization's objectives: 'Historic Preservation, Education, Patriotism'. A disclaimer at the bottom states: 'The databases contain DAR proprietary information which should under no circumstances be redistributed to others; assembled or collected for purposes other than DAR membership or for citation in genealogical scholarship; or reproduced, published, or posted in any form whatsoever. Access to the various databases is through the "tabs" along the top of the search screen. The following descriptions provide basic information about each database.'

- **Ancestor Search Tab.** This database contains the names of individuals who have been established as patriots under the DAR definition and who have been documented by members of the DAR in their application process. It is not a complete listing of all veterans of the Revolutionary War. No such list exists. New names are added when a new patriot's service is verified in the application process. Currently ten to twelve names are added each week.
- **Member Search Tab.** Using a member's national number, one can search to find the various lines of descent that qualified an individual to join the DAR. In the past, members could restrict the release of their name. If this is the case, the search result will show "name restricted."

Limitations caused by this restriction can be overcome by an onsite visit where researchers can access the unrestricted database. Currently, there are over 185,000 members.

- **Descendants Search Tab.** This database includes more than seven million names taken from the applications and supplementals.
- **GRC Search Tab.** This database provides access to genealogical records committee (GRC) reports that have been submitted by local DAR chapters since 1890. The index provides the name, volume, and page number of an individual who appears on a record extracted by DAR members. There are more than 20,000 typescript volumes, and most have been scanned. To date over 12,000 are indexed. If you find a record of interest, contact the Library to obtain a copy.
- **Rev War Tab.** This tab provides access to the Patriot Records Project Index, and the Revolutionary War Pension Index. Millions of names of Patriots and related individuals are contained in these databases. The pension extract card was an effort that preceded microfilm and digital versions of the pension files held by NARA. Largely superseded by resources such as *Fold3*, it still may be useful as the extractors identified every name in a pension file. Also found in this tab is a link to the *African American and American Indian Patriots of the Revolutionary War: A Guide to Service, Sources, and Studies*. This publication identifies over 6,600 African American and Indian patriots. But it is much more than a name list; it is an important research tool for the Revolutionary era. It is essentially a guide to sources and studies from the colonial era to the early nineteenth century. The original publication and a supplemental publication are available free as PDF downloads.
- **Bibles Tab.** DAR collections include many entries from Bibles, especially within the GRC reports. Search this database of more than 84,000 Bible records and order copies from the DAR Library's Search Service (<https://www.dar.org/library/services/search-services>).
- **Resources Tab.** This tab provides access to the DAR Analytical Card Index. The analytic information was compiled by the library from the early 1920s to the 1970s. This information is useful to find information in published materials held by the library.

At the very top of the page on any of the above search tabs is a blue **Library Catalog** button and a green **Record Copy** button.

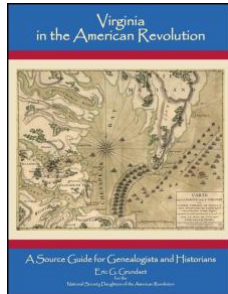
- **Library Catalog Tab.** This tab links the researcher to the DAR library catalog. From the catalog, you can conduct searches of the library collections. The catalog covers a substantial portion of the DAR collections. Information will be found on published materials acquired by the DAR (over 200,000 volumes) and the Seimes microfilm collection. Currently there is an ongoing effort to include the information from the table of contents of the GRC reports.
- **Record Copy Button.** This service allows public access to order online copies of DAR applications for membership and supporting materials. It supplies the lineage of an applicant back to the patriot. Search the GRS; where there is a green Purchase button, click on it to add that record to your cart. Pay online with a credit card and download the purchased document(s).

ADDITIONAL MEANS TO ACCESS DAR INFORMATION REMOTELY

- **The DAR Library Search Services** (<https://www.dar.org/library/services/search-services>). The library fulfills documentation requests, and provides a photocopy and search service. If you do not want to use the online ordering and download system, a downloadable PDF Documentation Request Form should be completed to request copies of supporting documents. The search service is intended to search sources related to lineage gaps in applications, family Bible requests, Mayflower Descendants, and the Huguenot Society. The search service is \$40 an hour for nonmember.

WHAT IS NOT ONLINE

- **The DAR Library.** The library's holdings comprise a unique collection of published materials that support genealogical research. Though strong in the Revolutionary War era, the collections span the colonial era to the nineteenth century. About 5,000 volumes are added each year.
- **Special Collections.** The DAR holds a number of special collections, to include the American Indian Collection, the American Women's History Collection, the Genealogical Records Committee Collection, the Manuscript Collection, the National Huguenot Society Collection, and the W.P.A. Collection. See <https://www.dar.org/library/collections/dar-special-collections> for a description of each collection.



- **DAR Publications – State Guides.** The DAR is publishing a series of state guides for genealogists and historians. These publications identify archival and manuscript material from the original states. Currently, guides for the following states are available (print or PDF): Connecticut, Georgia, Massachusetts and Maine, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Virginia.
- **DAR Publications - *America's Women in the Revolutionary Era 1760-1790: A History Through Bibliography.*** This guide intends to document and locate every relevant published source about Revolutionary War women and girls.

USEFUL WEBSITES (current as of 10 November 2018)

- *Ancestry*, Rev. War Collection (\$), <https://www.ancestry.com/cs/revolutionarywarrecords>
- DAR, GRS, http://services.dar.org/public/dar_research/search/?tab_id=0
- *Fold3*, Revolutionary War Collection (\$), <https://go.fold3.com/revolutionary-war>
- *Papers of the War Department, 1784–1800*, <http://wardepartmentpapers.org/>
- *National Archives*, Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service, ca. 1800–ca. 1912, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/300022> . This link provides access to 39,272 bounty land and pension application files.
- *Revolutionary War Service* (Debbie Duay, Ph.D.), <http://www.learnwebskills.com/patriot/revservice.htm> . This site provides tips on finding your DAR patriot.
- *Society of the Cincinnati*, Library, <https://www.societyofthecincinnati.org/collections/library/about>
- *The Twelve Key*, <https://twelvekey.com/> . This site is the personal website of Claire Kluskens, a senior research archivist at the National Archives. Many of the resources describe archival resources relating to the Revolutionary War.
- *Virginians in the Revolutionary War Era: Patriots, Scoundrels and Noteworthy People*, <https://revolutionarysoldiersofvirginia.wordpress.com/> . Bevin Creel's projects make available unpublished Revolutionary War records. A description of his efforts is on the website.
- West Point Atlases, Department of History, <https://www.westpoint.edu/history/SitePages/American%20Revolution.aspx> .

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