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KNOWN MILITARY DEAD DURING THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTIONARY WAR 1775-1783

By

EX-LIEUT CLARENCE STEWART PETERSON, M.A.

Dedicated to The Unknown Soldiers and Sailors who died during
The American Revolutionary War.

"A Nation That Honors Its Heroes Honors Itself"-D.A.R. Yearbook 1916-17

"If I have sayed amiss I am willing any man should amend it." Robert Ascham.

"As in all wars, most of those who died were so young they never had a chance to live. The great event in their lives was death. Why should we forget them?"-Author

"To forget the heroic past, is to introduce the germ of future" decay.

"He who dares to die, who lays his life on the altar of his nation's need, is beyond doubt the noblest development of mankind. In this he comes closest to the image of his Creator who died on the Cross that the human soul might live. I do not know the dignity of their birth, but I do know the glory of their death". General Douglas MacArthur.

"He stands in that unbroken line of Patriots who have dared to die that freedom might live, and grow, and increase its blessings - Freedom lives, and through it, he lives in a way that humbles the undertakings of most men". Official U. S. Defense Dept. Military Service death announcement during the Korean War.

"O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom -
Would I had died instead of you. O Absalom, my son, my son".
II Samuel Chap. 18, v.33

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Special acknowledgement and thanks is also due the Adjutant Generals of the United States and of the thirteen original states that fought the American Revolutionary War; the state and local historical societies and libraries of these thirteen states; the national and state officials of military parks and monuments in these thirteen states; and all aid given by colonial and patriotic organizations, public and private.

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INTRODUCTION

No evidence is available that any previous attempt has ever been made publicly or privately to prepare a complete list of the known military dead during the American Revolutionary War 1775-1783. Such a list probably has been prepared, but if so, it appears to have been lost.

This list was never intended for publication and I planned to use this only for personal reference. But during this research in libraries and archives the suggestion was made to me repeatedly that this list of Known Military Dead During The American Revolutionary War 1775-1783 is of special value and should be published.

No complete list of the military dead of any war has ever been made. This is not a complete list. There are always the missing who were lost forever in every war. So the Americans have the Tomb To The Unknowns in the Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. Some listed herein died after their military service in the Rev. War but during the war, some served several enlistments and in different organizations, one in twelve.

It is sincerely hoped, that in preparing this list of the Known Military Dead During The American Revolutionary War, some names have been rescued of those of long ago long since forgotten, and forever enshrined in the memories and souls of our ever grateful American people.

"History is but the life stories of us all. We meet and pass as ships that pass in the night with lights burning on port and starboard sides, but those who come after us may find a guide for the future pathway of life. Such a compass and chart have been left us by the Fathers of our Republic".

My search for military war dead began in 1939 before the outbreak of World War II. I found no list of military war dead for any of our six major wars or any of the minor ones. There are lists of those who died in the U. S. Navy and Marines in World War I. Since then lists of the known Military dead of World War II and the Korean War have been compiled. Casualties given vary, 2000 are said to have died in British prisons in New York and 11,000 on one British prison ship alone, - the horrible Jersey.



The list of known military dead in the Revolutionary War was the most difficult to prepare of all four I have compiled on my spare time the past twenty years. This difficulty resulted from the destruction of government military records during a fire in Washington, D. C. November 8, 1800 and later by destruction and theft in 1814 when the British occupied and burned the National Capitol. There were also other causes of destruction. I have had to rely on private collections and on the state military records of the thirteen original states that fought the Revolutionary War, now found in the National archives, and the excellent yearbooks and Lineage Book of the Daughters of The American Revolution and similar material of the Sons of The American Revolution. The War Dept. in 1873, 1889, 1894, 1915 acquired records later deposited in the National Archives.

The following served as Adjutants Generals during the Revolutionary War: Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates June 17, 1775-June 5, 1776; Col. Joseph Reed June 5, 1776 - Jan. 22, 1777; Brig. Gen. Arthur St. Clair Jan. 22, 1777- Feb. 20, 1777; Brig. Gen. George Weedon Feb. 20, 1777 - Apr. 19, 1777; Col. Morgan

Connor Apr. 19, 1777 - June 18, 1777; Col. Timothy Pickering June 18, 1777-Jan. 5, 1778; Col. Alexander Scammel Jan. 5, 1778-Jan. 1, 1781; Brig. Gen. Edward Hand Jan. 8, 1781-Nov. 3, 1783; Maj. William North Nov. 5, 1783-Oct. 28, 1787.

In August 1941 I copyrighted a composite picture of the last surviving veterans of the three first major American Wars, according to the military records in the U. S. Adjutant General's office, which I had found in searching records for military dead in war time.

On this picture is Daniel Frederick Bakeman the last surviving veteran on record of the Revolutionary War. He died in Freedom, Cattaraugus County, New York on April 5, 1869 aged 109 years, 5 months, 26 days. He is buried at Freedom, New York.

On this same picture copyrighted in 1941 is also Hiram Cronk the last surviving veteran on record of the War of 1812. Born April 29, 1800 and died May 13, 1905, aged 105 years, 14 days. Actually lived during three centuries. He is buried in Mount Victory Plot, Cypress Hills National Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York. Served as private in Captain Edmund Fullers Company, 157th Regiment (Westcoats) New York Militia, Oct. 8 to Nov. 16, 1814. In 1955 my "Known Military Dead During War of 1812", was published.

The third on this composite picture dated 1941 that I prepared was Thomas Edgar Owen the last surviving veteran on record of the war with Mexico. He was born in Philadelphia, Pa; June 17, 1831, died September 3, 1929 at John Dickson Home, Washington, D. C., aged 98 years, 2 months, 17 days and buried in the Congressional Cemetery, Wash., D. C. He served as apprentice on Frigates Experience, Pennsylvania, Potomac and Allegheny, Feb. 10, 1846 to Aug. 8, 1849.

In 1957 my "Known Military Dead During Mexican War 1846-48", was published.

In 1958 my "Known Military Dead During The Spanish American War and The Philippines Insurrection 1898-1901", was published.

During World War I it was my duty, privilege and honor to serve in the American Expeditionary Force 1917-1919. Since no lists existed back in 1939 of the known military dead in our nation's wars I then proceeded to prepare these four with a feeling of a sense of duty, honor and loyalty to my comrades in arms who lie buried on some foreign field, and at home, and have turned to dust that is forever American.

In listing the known military dead during the American Revolutionary War, I have simply given the veteran's name, date of death - usually the year, and the state given is, where those interested can perhaps most easily trace him, where he was born or the state organization in which he served or where he died, and is buried. It would take several specially trained in research a number of years to give more fully in detail necessary information for genealogical and other reference purposes.

The D.A.R. and S.A.R. have done excellent in caring for graves of Revolutionary War Veterans.

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It would be splendid if veterans of recent wars would aid in searching for and marking and caring for neglected graves of veterans of all our wars. Perhaps in days to come a grateful nation might erect a military memorial with the names of those who gave their lives in wartime and memorialize them till this nation shall be no more.

The official date given the American Revolutionary War is from April 19, 1775 to November 3, 1783 - about 8½ years. Early important dates are: Battles of Lexington & Concord April 19, 1775. Capture of Ticonderoga May 10, 1775; Mecklenburg, N. C. Declaration of Independence adopted May 20, 1775. Battle of Bunker Hill June 17, 1775; Capture of Montreal Nov. 13, 1775; Defeat at Quebec Dec. 21, 1775.

Historian General Martha L. Moody, N.S.D.A.R. in Vol. 51-1904 very well states: "Citizenship entails duties and responsibilities that must be met as well as the privileges which they enjoy - in this manner seeking to perpetuate the ideals for which the men of the American Revolution gave of their lives and fortunes."

Historian General Mary Cooley Bassett, N.S.D.A.R. Preface to Lineage Book, Vol. XL 1902 says most appropriately: "To glance through this catalogue of names, is to be reminded of pioneer days and blood, of lives keen to defend, ready to fight, fearless to risk, and to imitate. It is to recall men and women of kingly courtesy and queenly grace, of virile personal charm and force, worthy to be patterns for our own age and people.

"As we think of those for whom these names stand, seeking a new country, and finding themselves in a new environment that made for equality of being and of opportunity, we realize that there and then was the beginning of that real Democracy to which we are heirs.

"Shall we descendants of these patriots, be mere decadent parasites upon our noble inheritance, feeding upon glories won by men and women who counted life well lost in the pursuit of spiritual liberty? The laurel may not pass from brow to brow; it belongs only to the winner.

"As the past closes, the future opens. We need all the courage the past can give us; we need all the consecration it can inspire.

These thousand soldier patriots who offered life itself, today beckons us on, and nerve us modern patriots by their splendid cheer, the tenacity and simplicity of their faith, their inspired vision, and their perception of spiritual freedom, to meet the ever increasing number and complexity of the problems and conflicts of our day."

July 4th, 1959
Baltimore, Maryland

Songs of The American Revolution

Edward Arthur Dolph in his book of Soldier Songs "Sound Off" states that before the battle of Bunker Hill "the Americans frequently wrote ballads to express their ideas about tea and taxation. Ballads of the Burgoyne Campaign, and songs such as 'The Battle of the Kegs' and 'Mad Anthony Wayne' were very popular".

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British song tunes were borrowed for nearly all the Revolutionary War songs. Melodies from old English colonial tunes and British military songs were almost American native composers like Francis Hopkinson almost entirely lacking. American National music did not appear for many years. Musical instruments were lacking except for a few fifes and drums, in the American Army.

The British marched on Lexington to the tune of "Yankee Doodle" in April 1775. Verse without music were used to describe most of the battles of the Revolution.

When General Cornwallis surrendered at Yorkton the British band played "The World Turned Upside Down" and "Yankee Doodle" was played by the band of the Continental Army.

The origin of the tune "Yankee Doodle" is clouded in the mystery of the distant past. It may have been a Roman Church chant in the 12th century, an Irish air, a Welsh Jig, a Dutch harvest dance, a Hungarian folk-dance, or a Pyrenees folk tune. Dolph supports the following theory as to its origin! In 1758 during the French and Indian War, a British Army surgeon, Doctor Richard Shuckburgh, an American resident of nearly a lifetime, was encamped near Albany, N.Y. on the old Van Rensselaer estate with General Abercrombie. The ridiculous rustic appearance of the mobilizing provincials caused the humorist Doctor Shuckburgh to write and set to music the words of the song that has come down to us known as "Yankee Doodle". This original song was lost. The present version was perhaps composed in 1775 at Cambridge, Mass. at the Provincial Camp when General Washington was in command there.

Burl Ives in his song book mentions these Revolutionary War songs: "The Rifleman's Song at Bennington", "The Battle of Saratoga", "The Yankee Man Of War," "Johnny Has Gone For A Soldier", "How Happy The Soldier", "The Battle of The Kegs", "Sir Peter Parker," "Cornwallis Country Dance," "My Days Have Been So Wondrous Free".

Edward A. Dolph mentions, among others, these songs from the days of Yankee Doodle and the Revolution: "Come Out, Ye Continentals", "Come Swallow Your Bumpers, ye Tories," "Follow Washington," "Free America," "How Stands The Glass Around", "Mad Anthony Wayne", "Saratoga Song", "Sergeant Champe", "Swamp Fox," "Volunteer Boys".

"How Stands The Glass Around", was sung in 1759 in Quebec by General James Wolfe to his officers, and it was sung for nearly a century thereafter in the early American Wars. "Come Out, ye Continentals", was said to be a true soldier song and was still sung in the Mexican War. One of the most convivial songs of the American Revolution "the Volunteer Boys" was written by the Englishman Henry Archer who came here in 1778 and became a Continental Army Volunteer. "The Girl I Left Behind Me" was brought to America in the early days by the British Army before the American Army existed. Here it remained to become the Regimental song of the Seventh Infantry. It was a popular Civil War song. General Custer's Indian fighters in the Old Seventh Cavalry sang it on the western plains. At West Point every June at graduation at the last class assembly this tune is a part of the medley march played by the Academy band.

Whitely, John	1 Va	Killed	1779
Whitemore, Jonas	Pvt N J	Died	3-25-1777
Whithed, Daniel	Pvt Can	"	6-22-1777
Whithed, Elishna	Pvt Can	"	7-17-1777
Whiting, Charles	Capt Conn	"	5-15-1777
Whiting, Charles	Capt Conn	Killed	7-10-1779
Whiting, Gershon	Pvt 4 Mass	Died	11-20-1777
Whiting, James	Mass	"	1781
Whiting, James	Conn	"	1781
Whiting, Nathaniel	Pvt Mass	"	9-4-1779
Whiting, Stephen	Sgt 3 Mass	Killed	7-22-1777
Whiting, Thomas	Lt Col Va	Died	1781
Whittington, Elijah	Pvt 9 Mass	Killed	9-19-1777
Whitley, William	5 N C	Died	11-2-1777
Whitlock	N J	"	In War
Whitlock, John	Lt N J	Killed	2-13-1777
Whitman, Seth	Pvt Mass	Died	1783
Whitman, Welch	Que	"	4-8-1776
Whitmore, James	N H	Killed	6-17-1775
Whitmore, Nathaniel	Pvt 15 Mass	Died	12-1-1777
Whitman, Enoch (Enos)	Pvt Mass	"	10-1-1778
Whitman, John	Pvt 4 N Y	"	6-1778
Whitman, Josiah	Pvt Mass	"	3-30-1778
Whitman, Seth	Pvt Mass	"	10-17-1783
Whitney, Abram	Pvt 8 Mass	"	7-8-1777
Whitney, Andrew	Pvt Mass	"	1778
Whitney, Caleb	Pvt 15 Mass	"	2-1-1778
Whitney, Daniel	Mass	"	1782
Whitney, Eliasaph	Conn	"	1-1782
Whitney, Hezekiah	Pvt Mass	"	6-15-1778
Whitney, Israel	Pvt Mass	"	7-1778
Whitney, John	Pvt 18 Cont	"	5-5-1776
Whitney, Jonas	Pvt Mass	"	1781
Whitney, Silas	Mass	"	1781
Whiton, Elias	Capt Mass	"	1778
Whiton, Enoch	Capt Mass	"	1777
Whiton, Stephen	Pa	"	7-3-1778
Whittlesey, Asaph	Col Pa	Killed	1778
Whittlesey, John	Conn	"	1781
Whittlesey, Joseph	Pa	Died	7-3-1778
Whittlesey, Stephen	Conn	"	1781
Whitton, Moses	Pvt 18 Cont	"	10-8-1776
Wibberham, Peter	Pvt 15 Mass	"	11-15-1779
Wickes, Richard	Navy	Killed	6-29-1776
Wickom, John	Ens 2 SC	"	10-9-1779
Wicks, Nathan	Lt R I	"	6-28-1778
Widger, Davis	Pvt Conn	Died	9-17-1777
Wier, John	SC	"	1780
Wiggins, Thomas	Pvt 5 N C	"	4-27-1778
Wigglesworth, Toppan	Pvt Mass	"	2-2-1781
Wight, Jonathan	Pvt Mass	"	3-13-1782
Wight, Simeon	Surg Mass	Killed	1777
Wigton, James	Pa	Died	7-3-1778

NJ80
WT41