

Daughters of 1812 Service

by

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Acceptable Civil and Military Service  
proofs for applications and where to  
find them

# Civil Service (1785 – 1815)

Those who signed the Oath of Allegiance or the Loyalty Test.

- All state, county and town officials and also jurors.
- A member of the Continental or Federal Congress, or a member of a State Assembly or Legislature of one of the first eighteen states.
- A delegate to the convention which framed The Constitution of the United States.
- A member of a State Convention which ratified The Constitution of the United States.
- An elector of one of the first four Presidents of the United States.
- A legislative, executive or judicial officer of the United States of America, including such appointive officers as Treaty Commissioners, Territorial Officers, etc.

# Some Specifics

## Offices

- Justice of the Peace
- County Sheriff
- Postmaster
- Juror
- Road Overseer
- County Commissioner
- Town Officials

## Proof Sources

- Usually a state appointment, so check state archives
- Usually elected or appointed locally, so county records
- Appointed by US Postal Service (records at Family Search)
- County court minutes or town records

# Military Service

- Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania, 1784-1787.
- Shays' Rebellion, Massachusetts, 1786-1787.
- Wars with Indians, 1784-1815.
- Whiskey Insurrection, Pennsylvania, 1794.
- War with France (Undeclared), 1798-1800.  
(Quasi-Naval)
- Sabine Expedition, Louisiana, 1806.
- Attack of British warship *Leopard* upon the United States frigate *Chesapeake*.

# Military Service

Embargo troubles, – Lake Champlain, 1808.

Engagement between United States frigate *President* and the British ship *Little Belt*.

Expedition against Lafitte Pirates, 1814.

Wars with the Barbary Powers, 1801-5 and 1815.

War with Great Britain, 1812-1815.

The Creek War, 4 October 1813 to 24 January 1815.

Lafitte Aides to General Andrew Jackson.

Local or state militia service, 1784-1815, or giving material aid to the Army and Navy.

Member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804-6.

# Published Records

- Muster rolls have been published for *many* states
- Ncpedia.org – an online *referenced* encyclopedia that has biographies for many state and local officials (other states have versions of this)
- Other published biographies
- Local Histories – either well-referenced or very old
- Published abstracts of county court minutes
- Published sources may be taken from the internet (ex. Google books, Internet Archives); always include the title page

# Family Search

- Often the easiest way to search county court minutes, unless there is a book alternative
- Especially useful if you cannot go to the courthouse or state archives
- Has lists of postmasters (organized by post offices)
- How to use – catalog at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

# Ancestry

- Has a lot of published books – not all are acceptable proofs, so be careful!
- Has the 1812 military service card index – not acceptable proof by itself, but can be a start
- Has indexes to federal land records – these include military bounty land grants to soldiers



# Fold3.com

- MANY useful databases AND can be used for FREE at home via the NC State Genealogy Library (if you are a NC resident, you just need a library card to log in)
- Has regular army registers beginning 1798
- Federal bounty land warrants index – land certificates can be found at <https://glorerecords.blm.gov>
- Veteran's gravesite list

# Fold3.com (cont)

- NARA War of 1812 service cards index – again, not acceptable service proof alone
- Federal pensions for 1812 soldiers and widows (now through “S”) and complete index
- Some 1812 service records (not NC)
- <https://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/research/information-researchers/online-resources>

# NC Digital Collections

<https://digital.ncdcr.gov/>

- Has collections of Governor's papers, biographies of Supreme Court Justices
- "Troop Returns" database – mostly Revolution, but some later lists
- "War of 1812 Pay Vouchers"

# Other Sources

- Outside NC, don't neglect the websites for archives in other states
- Check out genealogy journals – they often publish county records that might name officials like sheriffs, commissioners, Judges, etc. – look for multi-volume indexes (many journals back issues are now online AND searchable)
- Publications from state governments (from the 1785 – 1815 period) can show the names of appointed officials and many of these works are now online

# How to use applications from other organizations

- Make sure the applicant proved everything herself – no references to other papers (exception: a supplemental may refer to the applicant's original paper)
- The 1812 Ancestor must be in that lineage and his service must be documented
- 1812 application must copy everything EXACTLY from the other paper(s)

# Be careful!

- Information found in family trees isn't always correct!
- Information on Find-a-Grave (aside from the tombstone inscription) is not accepted by 1812 (or any lineage organization) and may be incorrect – a modern Veteran's tombstone may have been awarded in error!
- Be certain that the civil or military service belongs to YOUR ancestor – not a relative with the same name! Most 1812 enlisted soldiers were young men (officers were older).

# NC Daughters of 1812

- 5 chapters in the state
- Chapter registrars will help you with your application paper
- Can also join as Member-at-Large
- As State President, I will put you in touch with the chapter in your area