

## American Revolution Primary Source Pathfinder



### [Adams Family Papers: An Electronic Archive](#)

The Massachusetts Historical Society has digitized the letters between Abigail and John Adams, John's diary and autobiography. This is a rich, searchable resource enabling the researcher to tap the economic, political, and social history of three decades of that generation of the family.

### [American Archives](#)

A database of the contents of [Peter Force](#)'s compilation of booklets, pamphlets and newspaper articles pertaining to 1774-76. These primary sources can be searched in a variety of ways, including thematically.

### [The American Colonist's Library—A Treasury of Primary Documents](#)

This is a comprehensive collection of public documents that relate to colonists' lives. These, of course, include Parliamentary legislation.

### [Benjamin Franklin, The Papers of](#)

You can browse the complete Franklin papers according to chronological order in The Papers of Benjamin Franklin, edited and published at Yale.

### [British Library: Treasures in Full, Magna Carta](#)

View and learn about the Magna Carta, the 13th-century document that inspired colonists in America almost six centuries later.

### [British Library: Online Gallery, The American Revolution](#)

Items held at the British Library include those related to the American Revolution. This feature makes use of several pieces from the collection to investigate the course of the revolution and its impact not only on America and Britain, but on and the rest of Europe as well.

### [Colonial Williamsburg Research Division](#)

This part of the Colonial Williamsburg website offers a digital library that includes manuscript collections for Virginia Revolutionary figures such as Peyton Randolph. Also, the digital library offers an indexed collection of the Virginia Gazette and 17th- and 18th-century probate inventories from York County.

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### [Elizabeth Murray Project](#)

Elizabeth Murray was a Boston retailer and importer of goods from the 1750s-1770s. Her status as a businesswoman entangled her in the American Revolution. The project consists of digitized correspondence, legal documents, and newspapers ads and articles in both manuscript form and transcriptions.

### [Famous American Trials – The Boston Massacre Trials](#)

Part of a larger series that uses court documents in the form of depositions, lawyers' summations, etc., this is a very rich set of primary sources that are organized for easy accessibility.

### [Geography of Slavery in Virginia](#)

This is a searchable collection of 4,000 newspaper advertisements for runaway slaves and indentured servants in Maryland and Virginia from 1734 to 1804. Also includes some court records and slaveholder records.

[George Washington's Mount Vernon](#) Discover more about George Washington and Mount Vernon with this collection of primary source documents from the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association and others.

### [George Washington Papers at University of Virginia](#)

This website is a good complement to the more complete Library of Congress collection. This includes selected documents penned by Washington. But it also has a full text collection of articles on Washington written by scholars.

### [Gunston Hall Probate Inventory Database](#)

The website for George Mason's Gunston Hall Plantation offers over 300 transcribed probate inventories from 1740-1810. Probate inventories can offer students insight into daily life, differences in social class, etc.

### [John Jay, The Papers of](#)

An online index and database of over 13,000 documents, including correspondence, memos, diaries, etc. written by or to the American statesman John Jay.

### [Liberty Fund Online Library - The American Revolution and Constitution](#)

A large collection of electronic books from thinkers and politicians, including Adam Smith, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and others.

### [Monticello Plantation Database](#)

This website contains information about people who lived in slavery on Thomas Jefferson's Virginia plantations. It provides access to a database of information on over six hundred individuals--details of life span, family structure, occupation, and transactions like purchases and sales. It is hoped that it will give voice to the men, women, and children whose labor sustained Jefferson's family and plantations but whose lives and contributions went unrecorded

### [Revolutionary War Era Orderly Books](#)

Orderly Books were the controlling document of day-to-day life in the military, most notably during the Revolutionary War. These are handwritten volumes documenting military orders, movements and

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engagements by brigade, regiment, company and other specific military units between 1748 and 1817. The content in Orderly Books provides detailed accounts of troops' daily lives, documenting everything from court martial cases to the price of necessities charged by locals.

### [Spy Letters of the American Revolution](#)

Clements Library, University of Michigan

### [Thomas Jefferson Papers: An Electronic Archive](#)

One of the most important collections at the Massachusetts Historical Society, The Coolidge Collection of Thomas Jefferson Manuscripts consists of thousands of pages of Jefferson's correspondence, manuscripts of writings, and voluminous records of Monticello including account books, journals, and more than 400 architectural drawings.

### [The War Department 1784-1800, Papers of](#)

A project of the Center for History and New Media, George Mason University

## Exhibits

### [Historic Threads: Online Clothing Exhibit](#)

Colonial Williamsburg. Antique garments and accessories from three centuries are gathered in this online collection. Zoom in close on these rare survivals, and read the stories of their creation. Advanced filter capabilities and keyword search make this a powerful tool for research and education.

### [The National Archives of the United States: The Charters of Freedom](#)

Part of the National Archives, this site provides information and images on several important American documents including the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights.

### [Witness to the Early American Experience](#)

The digital images of historical documents in this archive preserve the words of hundreds of eyewitnesses to the American Revolution in and around New York City. The letters, newspapers, broadsides, legal records, and maps presented here record events from the early years of the Dutch settlement of New Amsterdam through the British occupation of the city during the Revolution. Here you can explore the history of New York through the words of those who lived it...

## eBooks

Humphrey, Carol Sue, ed. *Voices of Revolutionary America: Contemporary Accounts of Daily Life*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood, 2011.

(<https://reader.follettshelf.com/mobileReader/indexMin.html#/ktsId/148180>)

## Maps

### [American Revolution and Its Era: Maps and Charts of North America and the West Indies, 1750 to 1789](#)

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Most of the items presented here are documented in *Maps and Charts of North America and the West Indies, 1750-1789: A Guide to the Collections in the Library of Congress* compiled by John R. Sellers and Patricia Molen van Ee. The bibliography contains approximately 2,000 maps and charts.

### [Rare Map Collection - Revolutionary America](#)

Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of Georgia Libraries

## **Music**

### [Music and the American Revolution](#)

Digital History. Site allows visitors to compare Revolutionary and Loyalists songs.

### [Revolutionary War Music](#)

Varsity Tutors