

CONSIDER REPORTS TO CONGRESS WHEN RESEARCHING YOUR REVOLUTIONARY WAR ANCESTOR

Departments, agencies, bureaus, etc. of the U.S. Federal government often submitted special reports to Congress. When Congress and the agency decided a wide circulation of the report was in the public interest, Congress arranged to have the report printed in the Congressional Serial Set. The Congressional Serial Set is available in larger libraries throughout the United States and online through the Government Printing Office's website. **You can access the OPM website and digitized government publications at govinfo.gov.** The site permits you to search for key words, e.g., "Revolutionary War." The search results enable you to access PDFs of documents that you can download free of charge. The reports include lists of names, documents on one person, and general information about the War. The search is also free; therefore, you should consider adding these reports to your research workplan.

An Example of a Potentially Useful Report

In 1852, the Secretary of the Interior sent a 462-page report to Congress entitled "Report of the Secretary of the Interior with a Statement of Rejected or Suspended Pensions" 16 February 1852. The report is arranged by state and the information for each pension is arrayed into three columns – Pensioner's Name; Residence; Reason for Suspension (or Rejection).

While the information is minimal it might provide you with useful insight into your ancestor's pension process, as well as information on Revolutionary War pensioners living in the same vicinity as your ancestor. The following list of four men illustrates the information you can find, including that people might have moved since their service in the Revolutionary War.

- Philip Hoffman; residing in Montgomery County, MD; pension rejected because he did not serve for six months (p. 229)
- Philip Rohr; residing in Frederick County, MD; pension rejected because he did not serve for six months (p. 230)
- George Stottlemeyer; residing in Frederick County, MD; pension rejected because he dissented (p. 230)
- George Zimmerman; residing in Phelps, Ontario County NY; pension suspended because he did not sufficiently document his service in the Maryland militia. (p. 155)

In addition to the report's title, you should include the following information in your citation – Serial Set 00618, 32nd Congress, Senate Executive Document 37.