

Revolutionary War

Microfilm Publication M247, Papers of the Continental Congress; 204 rolls
Index in 5 volumes located in Textual Research Room
Microfilm located in Cabinet 55, drawers 3-5

The INDEX is alphabetically arranged by subject
Within each heading the entries are in chronological order
Entries with more than one name or location are generally cross-referenced

SOURCE CITATION

A typical citation is: M247, r79, i 65, v1, p35
This reads as M247 = Microfilm Publication
R79 = roll 79 RI 65 = Item 65
V1 =Volume 1, p35 = Page 35

Exercise 1

Find the letter from George Washington to Lord Stirling dated March 19, 1776
Copy the citation M247, R____, i____, v____, p____

1. What news is Washington conveying to Stirling?
2. When did this event occur?
3. What items were left behind in Boston? By Whom?
4. Why do you suppose they were left behind?

Exercise 2 After the battles of Lexington & Concord, depositions of participants were taken for the Massachusetts Provincial Congress.

Find the Depositions of JAMES BARRETT, April 23rd 1776 and JOHN PARKER, April 25th, 1776 regarding the battles of Lexington and Concord.

James Barrett M247, r____, i____, v____, p____

John Parker M247, r____, i____, v____, p____

1. What event is Barrett describing?
2. On what date did this occur?
3. What event is Parker describing?
4. On what date did this occur?
5. Are they describing the same event?
6. There is one critical element common to both depositions. What is that element?
7. Why might the Massachusetts Provincial Congress have wanted these depositions?

Exercise 3 American State Papers

Location: Cabinet 42, drawer 5 (Pink label)

The *American State Papers*, comprising a total of thirty-eight physical volumes, contain the legislative and executive documents of Congress during the period 1789 to 1838. The collection includes documents that cover the critical historical gap from 1789 to the printing of the first volume of the *U.S. Serial Set* in 1817. The books are arranged into ten topical classes or series:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| I. Foreign Relations | VI. Naval Affairs |
| II. Indian Affairs | VII. Post Office Department |
| III. Finances | VIII. Public Lands |
| IV. Commerce and Navigation | IX. Claims |
| V. Military Affairs | X. Miscellaneous |

CLASS IX, CLAIMS contains Private Bills filed with the Congress by individuals seeking pensions or other compensation from the government. Many of the claims are for service during the Revolutionary War.

Exercise A

Find the citations for JOSIAH WITTER Pages _____, _____, & _____
Copy the pages as well as the Title Page for each set.

These all concern an application for an INVALID pension in 1792.

When and where was he disabled?

How was he disabled (wounded)?

Based on the information provided, was Josiah Witter approved for a pension?

Exercise B Find the Pension Application File of JOSIAH WITTER

Microfilm Publication M804 *Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files*. 2670 rolls

On these rolls are the approximately 80,000 extant pension applications based on service in the Revolutionary War. The records are arranged in alphabetical order. The roll list for M804 indicates for each roll of film the First and last names to be found on that roll.

1. What is the number of his pension file?
2. What was his rank?
3. How long did he enlist for?
4. How much was his monthly pension allowance?
5. When did his pension begin?