

Connecticut Historical Society
museum & library

American Revolution Collection

American Revolution Collection of the Connecticut Historical Society

Collection Overview

Repository:	Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, Connecticut
Creator :	Connecticut Historical Society
Title :	American Revolution Collection
Dates :	1776-1786
Extent :	5.5 linear feet (11 boxes)
Abstract :	Collection consists of records of the Council of Safety, whose function it was to handle the day to day affairs of Connecticut's wartime government; records of the Commissary department which was responsible for providing food and equipment for the soldiers; records of the Committee of Paytable which paid for supplies and services; payroll records of Col. Sheldon's Light Dragoons; the commissary and paymaster records of the Third Regiment, Connecticut Line; orderly books, journals and correspondence describing activities of Connecticut persons during the Revolution.
Location:	Ms Amrev1776
Language:	English

History

American colonists in the mid-eighteenth century felt that the economic policies of Great Britain were unfair and that they did not have a sufficient voice in making decisions regarding these policies. Colonial boycotts of British goods did sufficient damage to force the repeal of the Stamp Act in 1766 and the Townshend Acts in 1770. When Parliament punished Massachusetts for destroying thousands of pounds of tea in Boston Harbor, the organized groups that had introduced these boycotts rebelled. The colonists had not intended to wage a war and were totally unprepared to provide soldiers with the weapons, training, clothing and food needed.

Scope and Content

The collection has been organized into nine series: Records of the Council of Safety (1774-1783), Commissary Records (1774-1783), Pay Table Records (1774-1783), Colonel Sheldon's Light Dragoons (1770-1783), Third Regiment, Connecticut Line (1779-1780), Journals and Orderly Books (1775-1782), Account books (1775-1783), Naval affairs (1773-1789), and Correspondence (1774-1853).

Series I: The Records of the Council of Safety consists of muster rolls, returns, exemptions, substitutes, deserters, prisoners and soldiers missing in action.

Series II: The Commissary Records relate to the organization and deployment of supplies and ordnance for the military.

Series III: The Committee of the Pay Table was set up to authorize disbursements and examine and settle accounts for supplies and services needed for the Revolutionary War. It was succeeded by the office of the Comptroller in 1786. The series consists of accounts, returns and receipts concerning the payment of soldiers.

Series IV: Pay Table Records Payroll records of Colonel Sheldon's Light Dragoons are found in the fourth series.

Series V: The fifth series contains payroll and commissary records of the Third Regiment, Connecticut Line.

Series VI: Journals and Orderly books are arranged alphabetically by name. They describe the siege of Boston in 1775, the expedition against Canada in 1775, the campaign around New York in 1776 and 1777 and the Burgoyne campaign in 1777.

Series VII: Commissary and paymaster Account Books comprise the seventh series.

Series VIII: Naval Affairs series includes correspondence of Timothy Parker, commander of the frigate "Oliver Cromwell", Nathaniel Shaw, naval agent for Connecticut, John Deshon, agent and commissary at New London, Connecticut and records dealing with the conversion of merchant vessels to ships of war.

Series IX: Correspondence of Asa Waterman, commissary of purchases for the Continental Army, of Peter Colt, deputy quarter master general of the Eastern department and letters of other Connecticut persons describing their activities during the American Revolution.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Use Restrictions

Use of the material requires compliance with the Connecticut Historical Society's Research Center Regulations.

Subject Headings

Personal Names

Billings, Sanford.
Boardman, Benjamin.
Brown, Obadiah.
Burgoyne, John, 1722-1792.
Butler, Zebulon, 1731-1795.
Chapman, Samuel, 1729-1813.
Chapman, William.
Chester, John, 1749-1809.
Clark, Elihu.
Culver, David.
Curtis, Giles.
Douglass, John, 1734-1809.
Hart, John.
Hart, Timothy, 1731- .
Hempsted, John.
Hillyer, Andrew, 1743-1828.
Hooker, Roger.
Janes, Elijah, 1744-1826.
Morgan, Joseph, 1754-1829.
Pease, Calvin, 1757- .
Pierce, John.
Porter, Elijah.
Richards, Samuel.
Riley, Ashbel.
Shaw, Thomas, 1739-1795.
Sherman, Isaac.
Smith, David, 1747-1814.
Smith, Joel, 1748-1835.
Spencer, Joseph, 1714-1789.
Stanton, William.
Tracy, William.
Ware, Daniel.

Webb, Charles, 1724-1780.
Wyllys, Samuel.

Corporate Names

Connecticut Militia. 10th Regiment.
Oliver Cromwell (ship).

Subjects

Saratoga Campaign, 1777.

Geographic Names

United States History Revolution, 1775-1783 Claims.
United States History Revolution, 1775-1783 Finance, commerce, confiscations, etc.
United States History Revolution, 1775-1783 Hospitals, charities, etc.
United States History Revolution, 1775-1783 Naval operations.
United States History Revolution, 1775-1783 Personal narratives.
United States History Revolution, 1775-1783 Prisoners and prisons.
United States History Revolution, 1775-1783 Regimental histories.
United States History Revolution, 1775-1783 Registers, lists, etc.
United States History Revolution, 1775-1783 Sources.
United States History Revolution, 1775-1783 Supplies.
United States History Revolution, 1775-1789 Economic aspects.

Genre Forms

Holographs; holographs, signed; printed forms completed in manuscript.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Item, Collection Title, Collection number (Box #, Folder #). Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, Connecticut.

Processing Details

Collection was processed and EAD instance was converted from a finding aid by Ruth Blair in October 1998.

EAD updated to EAD 2002 in December 2010.

Accruals

The collection is closed.

Contents:

I. Records of the Council of Safety

Box Folder

1	A	Muster Roll of Colonel Return Jonathan Meigs. 1779 (1 item)
1	B	Muster Rolls of Captain Abel Pettibone. 1774 (3 items)
1	C	Muster Rolls 1775 - 1781 (18 items)
1	D	Muster Rolls: Transcripts and photocopies. 1777-1782 (7 items)
1	E	Military Exemptions. 1771-1777 (35 items)
1	F	Substitutes 1777-1781 (6 items)
1	G	Deserters 1781 (1 item)
1	H	List of Men Killed at Fort Groton. 1781 (1 item)
1	I	Miscellaneous 1774-1781 (7 items)
1	J	Returns for 1775. 1775 (1 item)
1	K	Returns for 1776. 1776 (1 item)
1	L	Returns: Prisoners and Soldiers Missing in Action. 1777 (2 items)
1	M	Returns: Rhode Island Expedition. 1777 (1 item)
1	N	Returns for 1777. 1777 (8 items)
1	O	Returns: 4th Brigade Militia. 1778 (1 item)
1	P	Returns for 1778. 1778 (8 items)
1	Q	Returns: Resolution by the General Assembly. 1779 (1 item)
1	R	Returns: 21st Regiment of Militia. 1779 (1 item)
1	S	Returns for 1779. 1779 (3 items)
1	T	Returns for 1780. 1780 (5 items)
1	U	Returns: Recruits for the Continental Army, as reported by James Hyde, 1781. 1781 (5 items)
1	V	Returns: 1781 and undated. [177? - 178?] (16 items)
1	W	Returns: Transcripts and Photocopies. 1781 (1 item)

II. Commissary Records

Box Folder

1	X	Clothing. 1775-1782 (42 items)
1	Y	Forage. 1777-1779 (4 items)
1	Z	General Hospital, Hartford. 1778-1779 (6 items)
1	AA	Ordnance. 1775-1782 (25 items)
1	BB	Ordnance : Receipts for lead. 1777 (10 items)

- 1 CC Provision Returns from Robert Blair. 1782 (1 item)
- 1 DD Provision Returns from Elijah Hubbard. 1779-1781 (6 items)
- 1 EE Provision Returns from Elijah Lewis. 1776-1777 (1 item)
- 1 FF Provision Returns from James Robinson. 1781 (21 items)
- 1 GG Provision Returns from Asa Waterman. 1777 (51 items)

Box Folder

- 2 A Return of Provisions Destroyed in a British Raid 1777 (3 items)
- 2 B Provision Returns: Flour 1775-1776 (31 items)
- 2 C Provision Returns: Survey of Grain Supply. 1779 (18 items)
- 2 D Provision Returns and Receipts (including records for the French Army). 1773-1787 (61 items)

III. Pay Table Records

Box Folder

- 2 E Training Accounts. 1774 - 1776 (6 items)
- 2 F Lexington Alarm (Includes statement of soldier who returned on foot). 1775-1777 (57 items)
- 2 G Lexington Alarm,(continued). 1775 (45 items)
- 2 H Lexington Alarm: Accounts of Captain James Clark 1775 (10 items)
- 2 I Ticonderoga, 1777. 1777 (2 items)
- 2 J Bounties. 1777-1782 (5 items)
- 2 K Mileage Rolls. 1776-1777 (4 items)
- 2 L Pay rolls: Captain Elijah Babcock's Company 1775-1776 (2 items)
- 2 M Pay rolls: Colonel Charles Burrall's Regiment 1776 (6 items)
- 2 N Pay rolls: Colonel John Douglas' Regiment 1776-1777 (15 items)
- 2 O Pay rolls: Colonel J. Dugan's Regiment 1776-1777 (7 items)
- 2 P Pay rolls: Colonel Samuel Elmore's Regiment 1776 (6 items)
- 2 Q Pay rolls: Colonel John Ely's Regiment 1776 (1 item)
- 2 R Pay rolls: Colonel James Livingston's Regiment 1776-1777 (3 items)
- 2 S Pay rolls: Colonel Samuel McClellan's Regiment 1777-1778 (2 items)
- 2 T Pay rolls: horse teams: conductors Broadhurst - Garvin 1782 (9 items)
- 2 U Pay rolls: horse teams: conductors Holmes - McDonald 1775-1782 (17 items)
- 2 V Pay rolls: horse teams: conductors Milton - Moore 1782 (12 items)
- 2 W Pay rolls: horse teams: conductors Nichols - Pannill 1782 (6 items)
- 2 X Pay rolls: horse teams: conductors Ray - Smith (9 items)
- 2 Y Pay rolls: General 1776 (19 items)

Box Folder

- 3 A Confiscated estates (includes statement that Continental Army

- soldiers were paid from the proceeds). 1781-1792 (9 items)
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|---|---|--|
| 3 | B | Accounts and Receipts (includes two from African -American soldiers). 1775-1792 (43 items) |
| 3 | C | Records: Monies Due. 1773-1784 (5 items) |
| 3 | D | Comptrollers: Disability Certificates. 1783-1789 (2 items) |
| 3 | E | Comptrollers: Claims and Settlements for Military Service 1792-1852 (32 items) |
| 3 | F | Troops Furnished by Each State and Claims Therefor. 1776-1783 (7 items) |
| 3 | G | Selectman's Reports on Quotas and Soldiers' Families. 1775-1783 (6 items) |

IV. Colonel Sheldon's Light Dragoons

Box Folder

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|---|---|--|
| 4 | A | Records of Paymasters E. Janes and W. Stanton. Feb. 1779 - Apr. 9, 1783 (49 items) |
| 4 | B | Records of Paymasters E. Janes and W. Stanton. Apr. 10 - Jun. 5, 1783 (54 items) |
| 4 | C | Records of Paymasters E. Janes and W. Stanton. Jun. 6 - Jun. 12, 1783 (71 items) |
| 4 | D | Records of Paymasters E. Janes and W. Stanton. Jun. 13 - Aug. 5, 1783 (52 items) |
| 4 | E | Records of Paymasters E. Janes and W. Stanton. Aug. 6 - Sep. 30, 1783 (56 items) |
| 4 | F | Records of Paymasters E. Janes and W. Stanton. Oct. - Dec., 1783 (62 items) |
| 4 | G | Records of Paymasters E. Janes and W. Stanton. Jan. - Mar., 1784 (57 items) |
| 4 | H | Records of Paymasters E. Janes and W. Stanton. Apr. 1784 - Jul. 5, 1786 (52 items) |
| 4 | I | Records of Paymasters E. Janes and W. Stanton. Jul. 5, 1786 - Jul. 30, 1787 (52 items) |
| 4 | J | Records of Paymasters E. Janes and W. Stanton. Aug., 1787 - 1822 & undated (30 items) |
| 4 | K | Payroll. 1780-1783 (1 item) |
| 4 | L | Other General Records (16 items) |

V. Third Regiment, Connecticut Line

Box Folder

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|---|---|--|
| 5 | A | Muster rolls: 1779 - 1780. 1779-1780 (18 items) |
| 5 | B | Pay Master's record book: 1779 - 1780. 1779-1780 (1 item) |
| 5 | C | Pay Master's records (includes information on sick, deceased and deserted). 1779-1780 (42 items) |

5	D	Pay Master's records. 1779-1780 (11 items)
5	E	Pay Master's records: substitutes. 1779 (1 item)
5	F	Commissary records: arms. 1777-1779 (4 items)
5	G	Commissary records: clothing. 1777 (9 items)
5	H	Commissary records: clothing. 1778 (33 items)
5	I	Commissary records: clothing. 1778 (14 items)
5	J	Commissary records: clothing. 1779 (18 items)
5	K	Commissary records: clothing. 1779 (20 items)
5	L	Commissary records: clothing. 1779 (21 items)
5	M	Commissary records: clothing. 1779 (48 items)
5	N	Commissary records: clothing. 1780 (43 items)
5	O	Commissary records: clothing. 1780 (57 items)
5	P	Commissary records: provisions. 1779-1780 (75 items)
5	Q	Commission to Joshua king. 1779 (1 item)

VI. Journals and Orderly Books

Box Volume

6	A	Sanford Billings: journal. 1776
6	B	Benjamin Boardman: journal. 1775
6	C	Oliver Boardman: journal. 1777
6	D	Obadiah Brown: journal (photoprinted copy). 1776
6	E	Zebulon Butler: orderly book. 1782
6	F	Zebulon Butler: orderly book. 1782
6	G	Samuel Chapman: orderly book. 1782
6	H	William Chapman: journal. 1775
6	I	John Chester: orderly book. 1776
6	J	Elihu Clark: journal. 1775
6	K	Continental Regiments: orderly book. 1775
6	L	Continental Regiments: orderly book. 1776
6	M	David Culver: orderly book. 1778
6	N	Giles Curtis: orderly book. 1782
6	O	John Douglass: orderly book. 1776

Box Volume

6A	P	Moses Fargo: orderly book (transcription). 1775
6A	Q	Christopher French: orderly book. 1776
6A	R	John Hart: orderly book. 1781
6A	S	Timothy Hart: orderly book. 1780

Box Volume

7	A	John Hempsted: orderly book. 1776
7	B	Andrew Hillyer: orderly book (typed transcription). 1775
7	C	Roger Hooker: orderly book (typed transcription). 1775

7	D	Roger Hooker: orderly book (photostat) 1775
7	E	Simeon Lyman: journal (manuscript excerpt) 1775
7	F	Joseph Morgan: orderly book. 1782
7	G	Nathaniel Morgan: journal. 1775
7	H	Calvin Pease: journal. 1775
7	I	John Pierce, Jr.: orderly book. 1777
7	J	Elijah Porter: journal (transcription). 1780
7	K	Samuel Richards: orderly book. 1780
7	L	Ashbel Riley: orderly book. 1780

Box Volume

8	A	Isaac Sherman: orderly book. 1778
8	B	David Smith: orderly book. 1778
8	C	David Smith: orderly book. 1779
8	D	David Smith: orderly book. 1779
8	E	David Smith: orderly book. 1779-1780
8	F	David Smith: Orderly book. 1780
8	G	Joel Smith: orderly book. 1779
8	H	Joel Smith: orderly book. 1779-1780
8	I	Joseph Spencer: orderly book (bound with printed copy). 1775
8	J	William Tracy: orderly book (photostat). 1777

Box Volume

9	A	Benjamin Trumbull: journals. 1775-1777
9	B	John Trumbull: orderly book. 1776
9	C	J. Waller: orderly book. 1776-1777
9	D	J. Waller: orderly book. [177?]
9	E	Daniel Ware: orderly book. 1777
9	F	Charles Webb: orderly book (typescript). 1775-1776
9	G	Bayze Wells, orderly book. 1775-1777
9	H	Samuel Wyllys: orderly book 1775-1776
9	I	Orders

VII. Account Books

Box Volume

9	1	Account Book. 1777-1779
9	2	Assistant Commissary of Issues to General Glover's Brigade. 1778-1783
9	3	Commissary. 1779-1781
9	4	Commissary cash book. 1775-1780
9	5	Commissary cash books, nos. 4-11. 1776-1777
9	6	Commissary receipt book. 1782
9	7	Commissary record book. 1777

9	8	Commissary record book. 1782
9	9	Commissary record book. 1783
9	10	Commissary record book: deliveries 1783
9	11	Paymaster General records, part I. 1775-1778
9	12	Paymaster General records, part II. 1775-1778
9	13	Paymaster General records, part III. 1775-1778
9	14	Paymaster General records, parts IV-V. 1775-1778
9	15	Paymaster General: receipt books, parts I-III. 1775-1776
9	16	Paymaster General: receipt books 1776-1777
9	17	Paymaster General: receipt books, parts I-III. 1777-1778

VIII. Naval Affairs

Box Folder

10	A	Correspondence of Timothy Parker. 1773-1781
10	B	Letters from Curtis Reed to his wife Sibbil Reed. 1779
10	C	Correspondence of Nathaniel Shaw. 1777 - Feb., 1779
10	D	Correspondence of Nathaniel Shaw. March - April, 1779
10	E	Correspondence of Nathaniel Shaw. May - June, 1779
10	F	Correspondence of Nathaniel Shaw and Thomas Leaming. 1779
10	G	Correspondence of Thomas Shaw and John Deshon. 1779
10	H	Letters to Thomas Shaw, Commissioner of Prisoners. 1779
10	I	Letters to Governor Jonathan Trumbull. 1781-1782
10	J	Letter from Joseph Trumbull. 1778
10	K	Records re Conversion of Merchant Vessels to Ships of War. 1780-1783
10	L	Records of the Armed Ship Oliver Cromwell. 1776-1778 and undated
10	M	Letters (Transcripts, extracts, photocopies). 1775-
10	N	Letters (Transcripts, extracts, photocopies). 1775-
10	O	Letter of Marque against the Dutch. 1781
10	P	Records. 1774-1789 and undated

IX. Correspondence

Box Folder

10	Q	Correspondence of Royal Flint. 1778-1779
10	R	Letter from Matthew Graves to George Washington. 1776
10	S	Letter from John Hancock to Nathaniel Shaw. 1776
10	T	Letter (transcription) from Joshua King re. Major Andre. 1817
10	U	Correspondence of John Sullivan. 1778-1779
10	V	Correspondence of Asa Waterman. 1777-1778
10	W	Letters from Peter Colt to Asa Waterman. 1778

10 X Letters from Thomas Lloyd Halsey to Asa Waterman. 1778

Box Folder

11 A Letters (Originals). 1774
11 B Letters (Originals). 1775
11 C Letters (Originals). 1776
11 D Letters (Originals). 1777
11 E Letters (Originals). 1778-1779
11 F Letters (Originals). 1780-1781
11 G Letters (Originals). 1782-1790
11 H Letters (Originals). 1791-1824
11 I Letters (Originals). 1825-1852
11 J Letters (transcriptions) from Roger Welles. 1780-1783
11 K Abstracts of letters. 1775-1778
11 L Maps.
11 M Documents. 1765-1853
11 N Documents: Call for Relief of Boston 1774
11 O Documents undated
11 P Documents: (Transcripts, extracts, photocopies)
11 Q Miscellaneous.
11 R Publications based on collection.