

State of Connecticut

Towns and Cities where One or More African American Soldiers and Sailors
Resided or Enlisted During the American Revolution
(Compiled by National Mall Liberty Fund D.C.)

# Patriots	Town	# Patriots	Town
9	Ashford	9	Milford
2	Barkhamsted	17	New Haven
1	Bolton	10	New London
11	Branford	10	New Milford
2	Bridgeport	7	Newtown
1	Bristol	2	Norfolk
1	Brookfield	1	North Stonington
2	Brooklyn	5	Norwalk
1	Canaan	32	Norwich
8	Canterbury	13	Plainfield
2	Cheshire	10	Pomfret
33	Colchester	7	Preston
2	Cornwall	2	Redding
3	Coventry	5	Ridgefield
16	Danbury	6	Saybrook
4	Derby	1	Sharon
4	Durham	1	Shelton
6	East Haddam	6	Simsbury
6	East Hampton	1	Somers
2	East Haven	1	Southbury
5	East Windsor	1	Southington
1	Enfield	4	Stamford
16	Fairfield	28	Stonington
15	Farmington	32	Stratford
8	Glastonbury	4	Suffield
2	Goshen	1	Thompson
1	Granby	2	Tolland
24	Groton	4	Voluntown
11	Guilford	20	Wallingford
7	Haddam	2	Washington
5	Hartford	3	Waterbury
8	Hebron	1	Watertown
6	Kent	1	West Hartford
7	Killingly	6	Wethersfield
8	Lebanon	1	Wilton
1	Lisbon	2	Winchester
4	Litchfield	11	Windham
5	Lyme	9	Windsor
1	Mansfield	17	Woodbury
10	Middletown	6	Woodstock
		562	Town Totals
		258	No residence given
	State Total	820	

Quick Facts about Connecticut's African American Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War

- ✓ At least 820 African American soldiers, and seamen (patriots) served in the Revolutionary War from Connecticut. (This does not include those who provided civilian assistance or demonstrated a personal desire to be liberated from enslavement. Many men, women and children ran away or filed freedom petitions with courts and the General Assembly.)
- ✓ Connecticut's 820 patriots represent 16 percent of the known 5,000 who served from the 13 colonies and territories.
- ✓ Some estimate that up to 10,000 African Americans served In the Revolutionary War.
- ✓ At least 562 African American patriots are connected by birth, enlistment or residence to a town.
- ✓ At least 258 African American patriots are not associated with a town.
- ✓ Of Connecticut's 169 towns, 80 are connected to an African American patriot.
- ✓ At the time of the Revolution, African Americans accounted for 2.6 percent of the population of Connecticut, not including American Indians.
- ✓ According to the Connecticut census of 1774, 2,883 African American males of all ages resided in six counties in the state. (Middlesex County and Tolland County were created in 1785.)
- ✓ If, for example, 50 percent of the African American male population under 20 was over 16 and 80 percent of those over 20 were under 40, the level of eligible African American male participation in the Revolutionary War would be nearly 43 percent.

County	# Towns with Blacks Serving	Black Male Pop. 1774 -20	Black Male Pop. 1774 +20	Est. Eligible 16-20	Est. Eligible 20-40	Total Est. Eligible Black Males	Total Serving	% Eligible Serving	Total White Population	Total Black Population	Black % Total Pop.
Hartford	13	274	370	137	296	433	63	15.47	50,666	1,093	2.11
New Haven	10	199	268	100	214	314	80	29.63	25,896	854	3.19
New London	11	328	335	164	268	432	153	31.71	31,542	1,194	3.65
Fairfield	12	286	358	143	286	429	92	20.49	28,936	1,153	3.83
Windham	9	127	147	64	118	181	67	35.89	27,494	476	1.70
Litchfield	13	92	99	46	79	125	52	49.52	26,844	331	1.22
Middlesex (1785)	6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	39	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Tolland (1785)	6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	16	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
No residence given	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	258	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	80	1,306	1,577	653	1,262	1,915	820	42.83	191,378	5,101	2.60

* See Table 87, Population of the Colony of Connecticut: Census of 1774, *A Century of Population Growth*, pp. 166-169. This table lists the total black population at 6,464. The population subtotals of American Indians amounting to 1,363 are included erroneously.

**This chart was compiled by National Mall Liberty Fund D.C.

- ✓ 60 African Americans served in Col. Humphrey's Colored Troops.
- ✓ African Americans served in at least the 1st through 9th Connecticut Regiments and many other units, including the Continental Army and those associated with the names of captains and colonels.
- ✓ African Americans were privateers, marines, sailors and seamen, serving on the Brigantines Marshall, Minerva, Independence, Delight, and Defense, among others.
- ✓ At least 2 African Americans from Connecticut served in the all-black Rhode Island Regiment
- ✓ Slaves and free men served -- some were substitutes for their masters.
- ✓ Some African American patriots were boys, including drummers, fifers and marines.
- ✓ Some slaves received their freedom in exchange for service.
- ✓ At least 90 African American patriots are known to have applied for pensions.

It is but little wonder that when the Revolutionary War began in 1775 Connecticut's blacks were optimistic. In times of upheaval conditions change, and the black American of that era must have believed that change for him had but one way to turn – for the better. – David O. White

Durham

CAMP, SHARP/HEARPER, African American, S37821, 1790CT, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), [died December 30, 1824 intestate], Durham

CATO, African American ("Negro's), Durham

SHARP, African American ("Negro"), Durham

WILBROW/WILBOUR/WILBOROW/WILLIAMS, CATO, African American, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), Durham

East Haddam

BROWN, ROBERT, Mixed descent ("Mulatto/Indian"), East Haddam

CUFF, African American ("Negro"), East Haddam

FREE, NERO, African American, East Haddam

JACK, JOHN, African American, 196, East Haddam

LYON, MOSES, African American, , East Haddam

RAY, WARWICK/WARRICK, African American, S35602, East Haddam, Warwick?

East Hampton (Chatham)

CAPLES, JESSE, African American, Chatham

CARTER, ASHER, African American, Chatham

CARTER, EDWARD/NED, African American, Chatham

CHAPPEL, EDWARD CARTER, African American, W20850, Chatham

FREEMAN/TREEMAN, CATO, African American, Chatham

East Hampton (Chatham/Colchester)

DART, DOLPHIN/DOLFIN, African American, [died January 3, 1825 intestate in Chatham], Chatham/Colchester

Haddam

CAESAR/CEASAR/CESAR/CESARE/CESASAR/CESSAR/CESSEAR/CESSER/CASER/CESER, TIMOTHY/TIM, African American, 1790CT, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), Haddam

CHAPMAN, CAESAR/CEASAR, African American, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), Haddam

CUDJO, African American ("Negro"), Haddam

LIBERTY, PERO, African American, Haddam

PARO, JOSEPH, alias LIBERTY, African American, Haddam

PERO, JOSEPH, aka LIBERTY or PERO LIBERTY, African American, Haddam

SAWYER, LONDON, African American, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), Haddam

Middletown

BOSTON/BASTON, SAWNEY/SHAWNY/SAUNEY/SAUNY, Middletown

CUFF, African American ("Negro"), Middletown

FREEDOM, CUFF, African American, (enslaved man of Joseph Coe), Middleton

FREEMAN, PHILEMON/PHJLO, African American, S36523, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), Middletown

FREEMAN/FREMAN, CUFFEE, African American ("Negro"), Middletown

FREEMAN/FREMON, EXETER/EXTER/EXETRA, African American, Middletown

LIBERTY, CUFF, African American, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), Middletown

MOLATTO/MULATTO, DICK/DICK P., Mixed descent ("Mulatto"), Middletown

ZADO/ZADA/FADO, CONGO, African American, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), Middletown

SMITH, CUFF/CUFFEE1, African American ("Other Free"), S36321, 1800 CT, (son of Venture Smith), [died January 13, 1822], Middletown/East Haddam

Saybrook

BRISTON, African American, Saybrook

FREEMAN, THOMAS/TOM, African American ("Free Black"), (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), Saybrook

FREEMAN/FREMAN, GIFT, African American, Saybrook

GIFT/GIST, African American ("Negro"), marine on the brigantine Minerva, Saybrook

LIMBO, African American ("Negro"), CACRW:30:34b, CCHS, Saybrook

MUNGER, PETER, African American ("reported a Negro"), Seabrook

NICHOLS/NICHOLLS, BRISTOL/BRISTER, Saybrook

References:

A Century of Population Growth, pp. 166-169 (Connecticut State Library)

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, *Forgotten Patriots, African American and American Indian Patriots of the Revolutionary War* (2008)

David O. White, *Connecticut's Black Soldiers 1775-1783* (Chester, 1973)

Robert Ewell Greene, *Black Courage 1775-1783* (Washington, 1984)