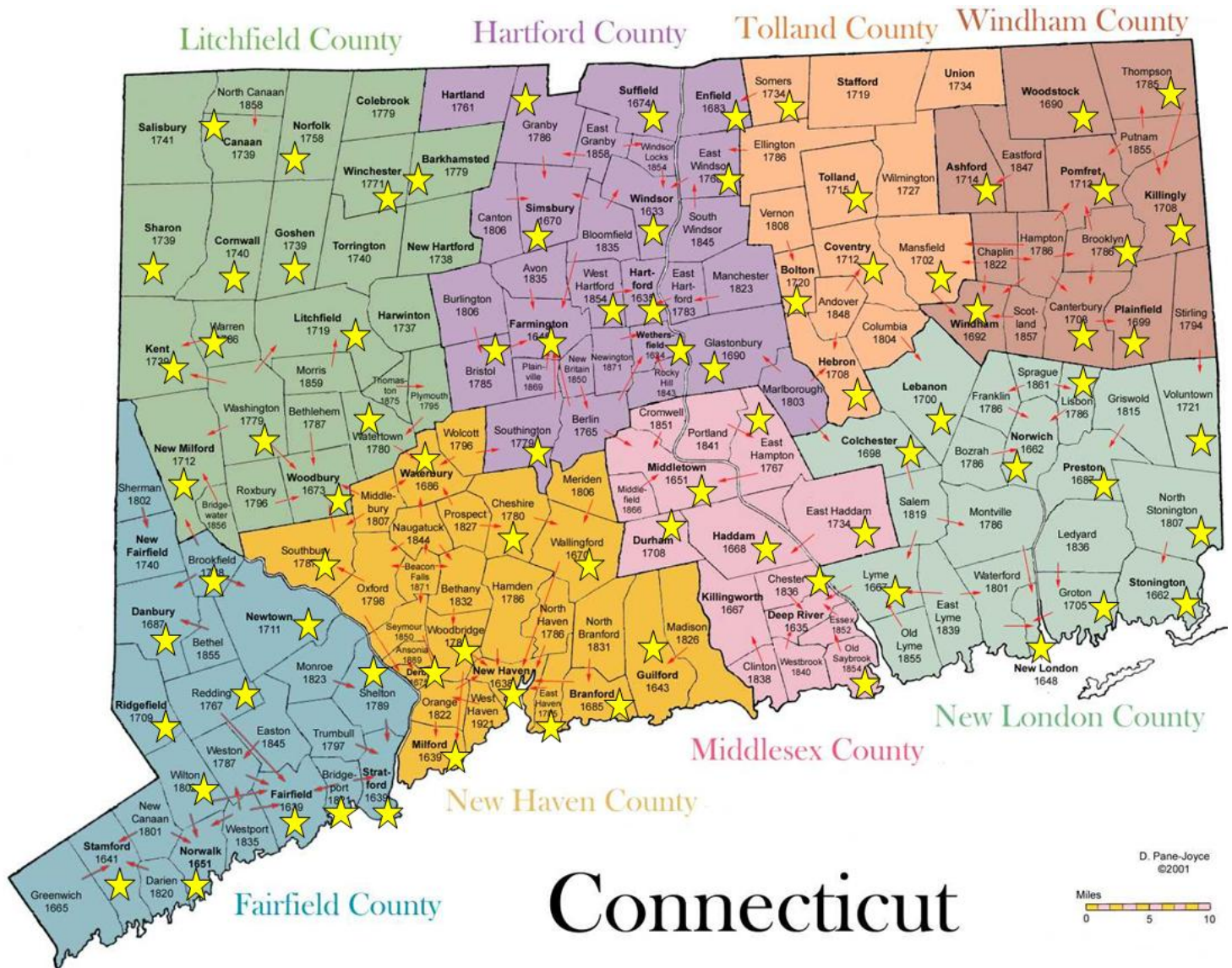


# The Hometowns of Connecticut's African American Revolutionary War Soldiers, Sailors and Patriots



## Connecticut

NATIONAL MALL LIBERTY FUND D.C.

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## 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
		<b>562</b>	<b>Town Totals</b>
		<b>258</b>	<b>No residence given</b>
	<b>State Total</b>	<b>820</b>	

## 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>1,306</b>	<b>1,577</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>1,262</b>	<b>1,915</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>42.83</b>	<b>191,378</b>	<b>5,101</b>	<b>2.60</b>

\* 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 1<sup>st</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> 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*

#### **Coventry**

MARK, African American ("Negro"), Coventry

WOOD, SCIPEO/SIPO, African American, Coventry

PELHAM/PELLOM/PELLON, EDWARD, Mixed descent ("Mulatto"), S36216, Coventry/Preston

#### **Hebron**

BRISTER, African American ("Negro"), Norwich

CAESAR, African American ("Negro"), Hebron

JACK, African American ("Negro"), Hebron

PETER, African American ("Negro"), Hebron

PHILLIPS/PHILIPS, REUBEN, African American ("Free Black"), W15214, Hebron

POST, BRISTOL/AUGUSTUS, African American, Hebron

SCIPEO/CIPEO/SIPPEO, CEASAR, African American, Hebron

SIPPIO/SIPAO/SIPEO/SIPES/SIPPO/CIPAO/CIPAS/CIPIO/CIPO/CIPPIO,

CEASAR/CESAR, African American, Hebron

#### **Mansfield**

ALLEN, ASHER, Mansfield

#### **Tolland**

HARRIS, BRISTOR/BRUSTER, Tolland

MOLATTO, NEWPORT, Mixed descent ("Mulatto"), Tolland

#### **Bolton/Haddam**

SAWYER, SOLOMON, aka LONDON SAWYER, African American, Haddam & Bolton

#### **Somers/Farmington**

DAN, African American ("Negro"), Farmington/Somers

#### **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)