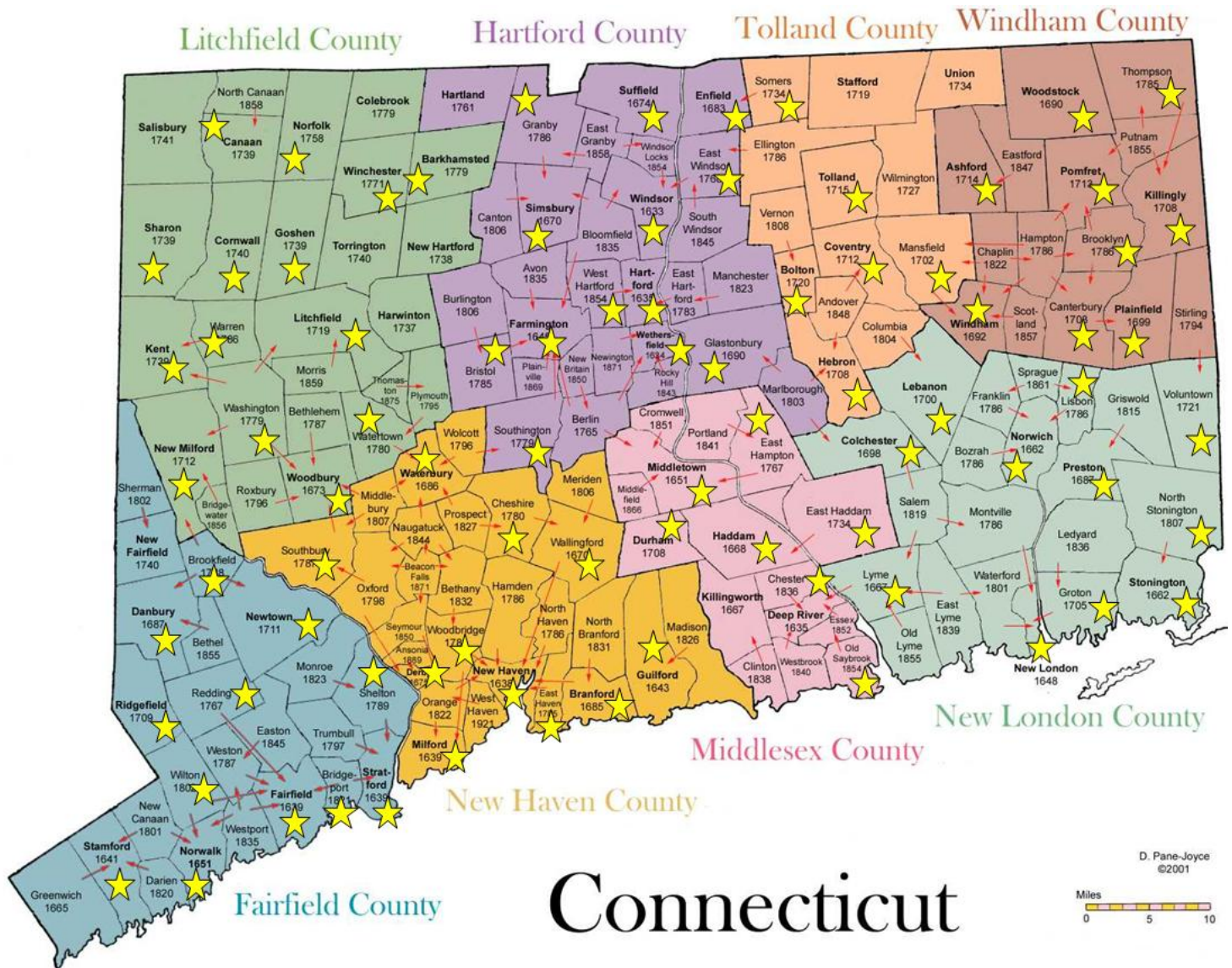


The Hometowns of Connecticut's African American Revolutionary War Soldiers, Sailors and Patriots



NATIONAL MALL LIBERTY FUND D.C.

www.libertyfunddc.org

Maurice A. Barboza

mbarboza@libertyfunddc.org

703-299-0408

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

Branford

CAESAR, African American ("Negro"), Branford

EDORE, POMP/POMPY, African American, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), Branford

GEORGE, PRINCE, African American ("Free Black"), S43594, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), Branford

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

LYON/LION, PETER, African American, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), Lyme [Also known as Peter Freeman], Branford

MIX, PETER, African American, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), Branford

OTIS, JESSE/JOSHUA, African American, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), Branford

OTIS, JOSEPH/JO, African American, S27276, Branford

VIOLET, DICK, African American, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), Branford

BAGDEN/BAGDON, CAESAR, African American, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), Branford

ASHER/ASHUR, GAD, African American, S17244, [died November 28, 1833 in North Branford; left no widow, but three children: Ruel Asher, Temperance Primus and Mariette Copes (wife of Caleb Copes)]
Branford, Guilford

Cheshire

BRISTER/BRISTO/BRISTORL, DICK, African American, 1790CT, Cheshire

DOOLITTLE, CEASAR, pvt. Corps of Sappers & Miners, Cheshire

Derby

FREEMAN, JETHRO, African American, S36520, Derby

FREEMAN, PRIMAS/PRIMUS/PRINNIS, African American, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), Derby

FREEMAN/FREMAN/FREMON, FRANK, Derby

PERO, TOBIAS, African American, Derby

East Haven

PINTO, ABRAHAM, East Haven

POMP, African American ("Negro"), East Haven

Guilford

CUFF, African American ("Negro") ("Negro/Negrow"), Guilford

CYRUS, African American ("Negro"), Guilford

DORUS/DORAS, POMP, African American, Guilford

GAD, African American ("Negro"), Guilford

LANDING, CAZAR, Guilford

NIGAR/NIGER, PHILIP, Guilford

NIGAR/NJGER, CUFF, African American, Guilford

PHILIP, African American ("Negro"), Guilford

POMPY, African American ("Negro"), Guilford

THEOS/THEODORE, African American ("Negro"), Guilford

TOFFE/POFFE, African American ("Negro"), Guilford

Milford

CAESAR/SEASOR/CEASER/CASAR/CESAR/CESSAR/CESSEAR/CESSER, JOB/JOBE, African American, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), Milford

CYRUS/SYRUS/CYRES/CYRIS, POMP, African American, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), Milford

FREEMAN, JUBE/JUBA, African American, Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), Milford

GIBBS, PETER, African American, 5869-100 (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), Milford

JUBE, African American ("Negro"), Milford

MOLATTO/MULATTO, CYRUS, Mixed descent ("Mulatto"), Waiter, Milford

PETER, African American ("Negro"), Milford

SORVERS/SOWERS, WILLIAM, African American/and/or Pequot Indian, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), Milford

ZADO, CONGO, African American, Milford

New Haven

BAKER, BRISTOL/BRISTER, African American, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), New Haven

BRISTER, African American ("Negro"), New Haven

DINNAH/DINER/DINOR/DINAH, JAMES, African American, S37891, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), [died August 5, 1843 leaving no widow or children], res. New Haven

JACK, African American ("Negro"), Danbury

JACK, ANDREW, African American, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), New Haven

JETHRO, MARTIN, African American, New Haven

LITTLE, JACK, African American, (Served in Capt David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), New Haven

MARTIN, LEWIS, African American, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), New Haven

MIX, BRISTER, African American, New Haven

PETERSON, DANIEL, African American, New Haven

ROGERS, SHARP/SHARPER, African American, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), New Haven

SILL/SILLS/STILES, JEFF/JEFFREY/JEFFERY, African American, (Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), New Haven [See also Jeffrey Brace.]

STILL, JOSEPH, African American, , New Haven

TUPHAM/TUPHAND/TOPHAND, EZEKIEL, African American, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), New Haven

WILLIAMS, HECTOR, Free African American, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), New Haven

ATWATER, African American ("a negro slave"), New Haven/East Haven

PENDALL, TOBY, African American ("Free Negro"), New Haven/Norwich

Southbury

PETERS, GALLOWAY, "Colored," W18736 [in. Nancy Corner; he d. July 20, 1848], Southbury

Wallingford

AFRICA/AFFRICA/AFRACA, RAUL/RUEL/BUEL, African American, Wallingford

ATWATER, TITUS, African American, Wallingford

BOSTON, African American ("Negro"), Wallingford

CUDJOE, HAM, African American, Wallingford

CUMBER/CUMBO, LEMON/LEMUEL, African American, , Wallingford/Kent

FREEDOM/FREEDUM, DICK, African American, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), Wallingford

FREEDOM/FREEMAN, CHATHAM, African American, , Wallingford

FREEMAN, CHATHAM, African American, 536524, [died February 13, 1834 in Wallingford; widow Mariah Freeman], Wallingford

HOTCHKISS/HODGKISS, PRINCE, African American, Wallingford

HULL, JOB, African American, , Wallingford

| |
|---|
| JOB, African American ("Negro"), Wallingford |
| LIBERTY, SHARP, African American, R7286, (Served in Capt. David Humphrey's Company of Colored Troops), Wallingford |
| MOLATTO, ADAM, Mixed descent ("Mulatto"), Wallingford |
| PETER, African American ("Negro"), Wallingford |
| PRINCE, African American ("Negro"), Wallingford |
| SAMPSON/SAMSON, African American ("Negro"), Wallingford |
| SHARP, African American ("Negro"), Wallingford |
| SMITH, SAMPSON, African American ("Negro"), Wallingford |
| TONY, African American ("Negro"), Wallingford |
| YALE, SHARP/SHARPE, African American, Wallingford |
| Waterbury |
| CAPENY, CUFF, African American, Waterbury |
| PETE, LEMUEL, African American, Waterbury |

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)