

Sources for Revolutionary Statutes of the Thirteen States

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23 April 2016

Statutes of the states that were enacted during the Revolution can be invaluable to those researching the service of their ancestors. They can provide insight into the organization of the militia, the financial underpinnings of the Revolution, and the rights and obligations of the citizens. Statutes can show that a right of a person recognized by the government was dependent upon performance of an act that the Sons of the American Revolution recognizes as Revolutionary Service—Military Service, Civil Service, or Patriotic Service. Laws on a subject varied from state to state in content and duration.

To date, statutes for all thirteen states have been located in printed form and most are on-line. Unfortunately, the publications sometimes redact the text of the statutes and even the dates. I myself had to photograph some Maryland tax laws from the original manuscripts in the project of determining which tax lists were mandated in support of the Revolution because the published laws were abstracted and in some cases critical information was omitted.

Connecticut

Acts and Laws of the State of Connecticut in America, New London, 1784.

<https://archive.org/stream/actsandlawsstat00lawgoog#page/n31/mode/2up>

Delaware Acts that expired are merely noted as such and are redacted.

Laws of the State of Delaware, Vol. 2 [1777-1797], New-Castle, 1787.

https://books.google.com/books?id=HMtJAQAAIAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gsb_ge_summary_r&hl=en#v=onepage&q&f=false

Georgia Laws no longer in force as of 1800 are listed as obsolete.

Watkins, Robert & George: *A Digest of the Laws of the State of Georgia*, Philadelphia, 1800.

<https://books.google.com/books?id=ZMdJAQAAIAAJ&pg=PA299&dq=georgia+laws&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi2gaqiz53MAhVIVj4KHQv3A4kQ6AEIVDAJ#v=onepage&q=georgia%20laws&f=false>

Maryland Significant portions of laws are sometimes redacted.

Hanson, Alexander Contee: *Laws of Maryland Made Since MDCCLXIII*, Annapolis, 1787.

<http://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000203/html/index.html>

Massachusetts

The Acts and Resolves Public and Private of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, Vol. V [Acts 1769-1780], Vol. XIX [Resolves, Etc., 1775-1776], Vol. XX, [Resolves, Etc. 1777-1778], Vol. XXI, [Resolves, Etc. 1779-1781].

New Hampshire

Metcalf, Henry Harrison: *Laws of New Hampshire, 1776-1784, Vol. IV*, Bristol, 1916.

https://books.google.com/books?id=P71GAQAIAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=new+hampshire+laws&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwivxtXf0J3MAhXMHT4KHSeLC_sQ6AEIYDAK#v=onepage&q=new%20hampshire%20laws&f=false

New Jersey

Acts of the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey [published by year]

<http://njlaw.rutgers.edu/collections/njleg/>

New York

The Secretary of State: *Laws of the State of New York, Vol. I*, Albany, 1886.

<http://books.google.com/books?output=text&id=0N8TAAAAAYAAJ&q=chap.+47#v=onepage&q=%22authorizing%20the%20united%20states%20in%20congress%22&f=false>

North Carolina

Clark, Walter: *The State Records of North Carolina, Vol. XXIV, Laws 1777-1788*, Goldsboro, 1905.

https://books.google.com/books?id=uDoUAAAAAYAAJ&dq=laws+of+north+carolina++1777&printsec=frontcover&source=in&hl=en&ei=WeUPTLqYN4H_8AaFsqShCQ&sa=X&oi=#v=onepage&q=laws%20of%20north%20carolina%20%201777&f=false

Pennsylvania

Mitchell, James T, & Henry Flanders: *The Statutes at Large of Pennsylvania, Vol. VIII, 1770-1776*, 1902, *Vol. IX, 1776-1779*, 1903, *Vol. X, 1779-1781 [sic., 1782]*, 1904, *Vol. XI, 1782-1785*, 1906.

<http://www.palrb.us/stlarge/index.php>

Rhode Island Usually only the title and a summary of a statute is given.

Bartlett, John Russell, *Records of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations In New England, 1770-1776, Vol. VII*, Providence, 1862.

https://books.google.com/books/about/Records_of_the_Colony_of_Rhode_Island_an.htm?id=9IsaAAAAAYAAJ

Bartlett, John Russell, *Records of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations In New England, 1776-1779, Vol. VIII*, Providence, 1863.

https://books.google.com/books?id=88INAQAAMAAJ&source=gbs_similarbooks

Bartlett, John Russell, *Records of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations In New England, 1780-1783, Vol. IX*, Providence, 1864.

<https://books.google.com/books?id=QVwaAAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=records+of+the+colony+of+rhode+island#v=onepage&q=records%20of%20the%20colony%20of%20rhode%20island&f=false>

South Carolina

Cooper, Thomas: The Statutes at Large of South Carolina, Vol. I, Columbia, 1836.

<https://books.google.com/books?id=wK44AAAIAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=the+statutes+at+large+of+South+Carolina&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjj1a7PoKHMAhXH4yYKHdhFCc4Q6AEIKzAC#v=onepage&q=the%20statutes%20at%20large%20of%20South%20Carolina&f=false>

Cooper, Thomas: The Statutes at Large of South Carolina, Vol. IV, Columbia, 1838.

<https://books.google.com/books?id=g2ZMAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=the+statutes+at+large+of+South+Carolina+1786&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiM5OL2oaHMAhUE1x4KHb4RBS0Q6AEIKjAC#v=onepage&q=the%20statutes%20at%20large%20of%20South%20Carolina%201786&f=false>

Virginia

Hening, William Waller: *The Statutes at Large; Being a Collection of All the Laws of Virginia, Vol. IX [1775-1778]*, Richmond, 1821, *Vol. X [1779-1781]*, Richmond, 1822, *Vol. XI [1782-1784]*, Richmond, 1823.

<http://vagenweb.org/hening/>