



Militias – What was Expected

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Image courtesy of the National
Park Service



Samuel Sandoval 1925-2022

Samuel Sandoval, one of the WW2 four last Navajo code talkers passed away July 29th, 2022, in Shiprock, New Mexico.

Joined the Marines at 18 in 1943.

Sent to join the original 29 Navajo code talkers to learn how to pass the unbreakable coded messages.

“The Marine Corps was my choice, to begin with,”

Overcame his own alcohol abuse to open his own clinic in the Farmington area.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2022/07/31/samuel-sandoval-navajo-code-talker-wwii-dies/10197898002/>



Before We Begin

- July's MRD Video - <https://archive.org/details/military-newspapers-5jul-2022>
- September 6th's Meeting Canceled and Topic Moved to October 4th.
- AGS August's Summer Stories - <https://abqgen.org/events/summer-stories-2/>
- AGS Calendar of Events - <https://abqgen.org/upcoming-events/>





Introduction

- Militias were the first line of defense for early Colonial residents. Typically, manpower was drawn from locals who were required to respond to crises with their own weapon, powder, and shot. How well trained were they? Not very well.

Where did Militias come from.

- **English Beginnings**

- The idea of militia goes back to English traditions beginning with the Assize of Arms in 1181: “He will possess these arms and will bear allegiance to the lord king, Henry, namely the son of empress Maud, and that he will bear these arms in his service according to his order and in allegiance to the lord king and his realm.”¹

¹ A Short History of the Militia in the United States, [March 20, 2017](https://angrystaffofficer.com/2017/03/20/a-short-history-of-the-militia-in-the-united-states/) by [Angry Staff Officer](#), <https://angrystaffofficer.com/2017/03/20/a-short-history-of-the-militia-in-the-united-states/>

Colonial Times



The Rise of the local Militias

Colonial Militias

- At the time, the Crown could not provide protection to the Colonies. The locals were forced to improvise. Each village or community had to provide for their own security and respond to threats.
- FamilySearch –
 - https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Genealogy
- Pennsylvania - <https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Militia-Resource-Guide-1682-1815.aspx>
- Massachusetts including Maine, New Hampshire Archives - <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arccol/colmac.htm>
- New Jersey – Most covers the Revolutionary Period - <https://www.nj.gov/state/archives/eventsat.html>
- New York Archives - http://www.archives.nysed.gov/research/res_topics_mi_warsvc.shtml

Weapons 1600-1800

Examples of early Colonial Weapons possibly carried by a militia

- Smithsonian Learning Lab
 - <https://learninglab.si.edu/collections/weapons-of-war-1600-1800/HUoHq60eaAj1UKyz>
- Colonial Williamsburg eMuseum
 - https://emuseum.history.org/groups/mechanical_arts_arms/results/list

Revolutionary War and 1812

- **Militia, Minutemen, and Continentals: The American Military Force in the American Revolution**

- <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/militia-minutemen-and-continentals-american-military-force-american-revolution>

- **Militia Rosters—**

- https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Rosters_of_Revolutionary_War_Soldiers_and_Sailors_-_FamilySearch_Historical_Records

- https://www.njstatelib.org/research_library/new_jersey_resources/highlights/revolutionary_war_officers_and_men/

- **War of 1812 Pay Rolls and Muster Rolls Index:** <https://lva-virginia.libguides.com/1812-index>

- USGenWeb Archives: <http://usgwarchives.net/pensions/1812/index.htm>



Source

**Frontier Militiaman
in the War of 1812:
Southwestern
Frontier (Warrior
Series)**

by Ed Gilbert
(Author), Adam Hook
(Illustrator)

Publisher:
Osprey Publishing

<https://www.amazon.com/Frontier-Militiaman-War-1812-Southwestern/dp/184603275X>

Histories

Massachusetts: <https://history.army.mil/reference/mamil/mamil.htm>

Revolutionary War Journal: <https://www.revolutionarywarjournal.com/militias-in-colonial-america/>

Angry Staff Officer: <https://angrystaffofficer.com/2017/03/20/a-short-history-of-the-militia-in-the-united-states/>

A New Look at Colonial Militia: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/1919295>

The History of the Right to Bear Arms: <https://www.encyclopedia.com/reference/energy-government-and-defense-magazines/history-right-bear-arms>

Civil War

Both the Union and Confederates were ill prepared for the scope and duration of the War Between the State

Most militias up to 1861 had not participated in large scale maneuvers now required to fight or coordinate as a single unit.

A lot of militias were poorly trained, only use to participating in parades.

The call by both sides for volunteers resulted in states sending militias according to their State statutes.

The defeat of Union forces at Bull Run by Confederate Forces demonstrated the need for a single unified Federal Army.

Library and Book Searches - Militia

Example of Library Searches:

Albuquerque Library

<https://abclibrary.org>

WorldCat:

[WorldCat.org: The World's Largest Library Catalog](https://www.worldcat.org/)

Google Books

[Google Books](https://books.google.com/)

Gutenberg Project

[Free eBooks | Project Gutenberg](https://www.gutenberg.org/)

19 Best Sites to Download Free Books in 2022

[19 Best Sites to Download Free Books in 2022 \(lifewire.com\)](https://www.lifewire.com/best-sites-to-download-free-books-in-2022/)

Militia Controversies – Both Old and New

While militias have been used to defend the Colonies and United States' Territories. They also have been abusive relating to local uprisings and insurrections.

Southern Poverty Law Center

[Militia Movement | Southern Poverty Law Center \(splcenter.org\)](#)

Wikipedia – Militias

[Militia \(United States\) – Wikipedia](#)

There are a lot of websites online dedicated to various current militia organizations. These organizations have evolved beyond the initial scope from the earlier militias of the colonial period.

Federal Legislation

There have been several pieces of legislation regarding militias.

Militia Clauses

<https://law.justia.com/constitution/us/article-1/58-the-militia-clauses.html>

Federal United States Code (USC) –

<https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title10/subtitleA/part1/chapter12&edition=prelim>

Cornell Law Library –

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/10/246>

Early US Congressional Legislation

[The Militia Act of 1792 \(constitution.org\)](#)

The Militia Act of 1862 – Civil War (US Congress)

<http://www.freedmen.umd.edu/milact.htm>

The Militia Act of 1903 – Establishment of the National Guard

<https://archive.org/details/jstor-25119439/page/n1/mode/2up>



Summary

Militias have served an important military service to the Colonies and to the United States. Controversies still exist over the use of the militias to put down local uprisings as well as colonial expansion. However, they can still be called upon if needed if the times demand it.