

Individual Narrative of Ruth⁶ Gorsline [78] Daughter of Samuel Gorsline and Martha⁵ Leverich [23] Wife of Henry Southard

Ruth Gorsline^{1,2,3,4} was born circa 1761 at Newtown, Queens, New York, probably the sixth child of Samuel Gorsline and Martha Leverich, who were married at Newtown 3 March 1750. In his will dated 25 May 1782, Samuel Gorsline of Dutchess Co, New York names his children Samuel, Martha, William, Elizabeth, Sarah, Ruth, James, Richard, and Jose. The context of the will suggests that the children were listed in birth date order. The 1761 birth date for Ruth Gorsline is a calculated date accordingly.^{5,6}

On 19 January 1844, Ruth Gorsline Southard, widow of Henry Southard Sr, made a deposition in support of her application for a widow's pension based upon Henry's service during the Revolutionary War. In this deposition, Ruth indicates that she is age 82, hence born c 1761-1762.⁷

On 19 May 1779, in the Court of Common Pleas, Dutchess Co, New York, a complaint was filed by the overseer of the poor and Ruth Gorsline against John McAuley for bastardry. No further record of Ruth's presumed child by John McAuley have been found. The record in this case reflects the filing of a complaint, but does not reflect the ultimate disposition of the complaint.⁸

Ruth Gorsline married Henry Southard on 12 Jul 1783 at Fishkill, Dutchess Co, New York, according to a family record included in Ruth's application for a widow's pension based upon Henry's service during the Revolutionary War. According to Ruth's 19 January 1844 affidavit, the marriage ceremony was conducted by the Rev. Isaac Rysdyk, who was associated with the Protestant Dutch Reformed Church of Fishkill, However, marriages are missing from the Church records from 8 June 1760 to 11 February 1784.^{9,10,11}

Henry Southard reported his age in 1818 to be 66 years old. Therefore, Henry was born about 1752, probably in New York State. Henry may have been the son of Henry Southard and Phebe Totten of Long Island and then Dutchess Co, New York, according to multiple unsourced public family trees at Ancestry.com.^{12,13}

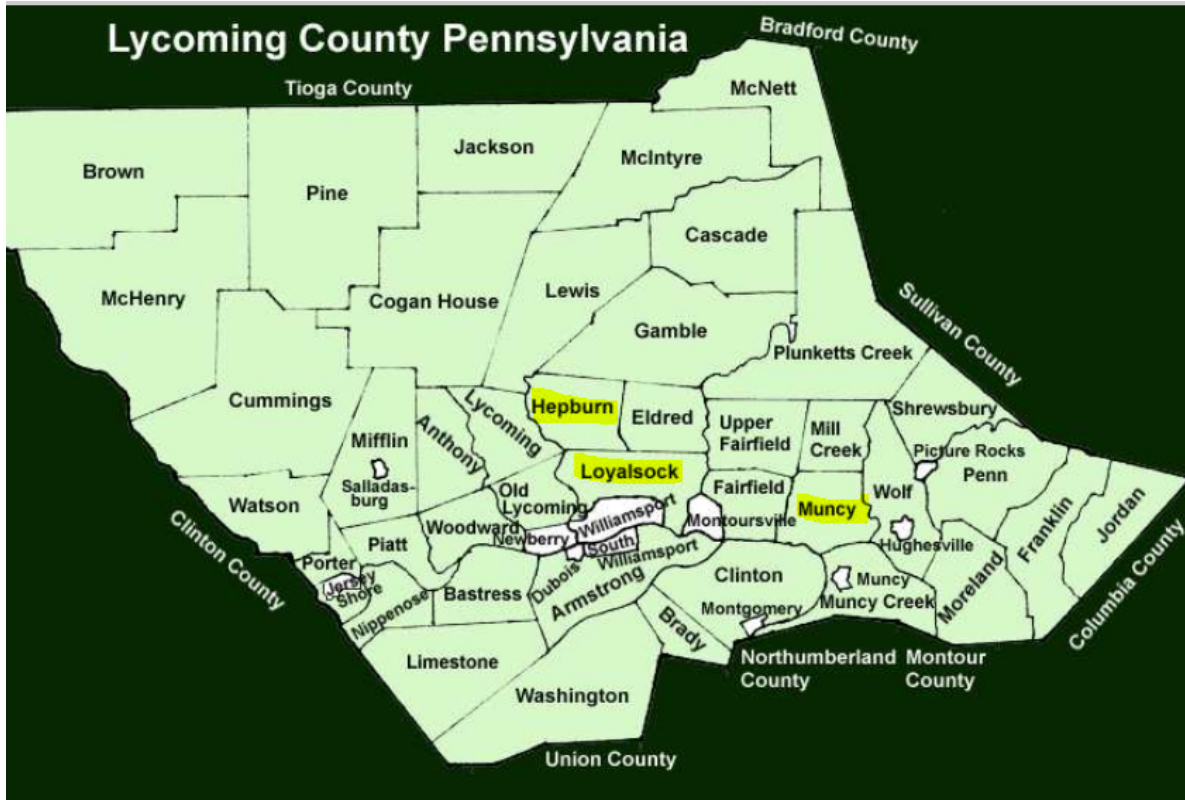
On 3 May 1818, Henry Southard, living in Muncy Township, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, swore an affidavit as part of his application for a Revolutionary War pension. Henry stated that he "enlisted in the year 1779 for nine months, in the state of New York, in the company commanded by Captain Hunter, under Colonel Pawling, and was discharged (the) later end of December of said year ... was afterwards enlisted in the year 1782 for nine months, in the state of New York, in the company commanded by Lieutenant Johnson, under Colonel Courtland, (and) was discharged in the winter of the same year at Newboro (?Newburgh?) in the state of New York ... that he was in the campaign with Sullivan against the indians, but was not in any battles". *New York in the Revolution as Colony and State* records a Henry Southard serving in the 2nd Dutchess County New York Regiment of Militia commanded by Colonel Abraham Brinckherhoff.^{14,15,16,17}

In the 1790 U.S. Census, Henry Southard is listed as a head of household in Mamakating, then Ulster Co, now Sullivan Co, New York. The census tallies included 1 free white male under the age of 16 (son Henry Jr), 1 free white male over the age of 16 (Henry Sr), and 3 free white females (wife Ruth, daughters Martha and Nancy).¹⁸

By 1798, Henry Southard and family had removed to Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, where Henry is listed on the U.S. Direct Tax List in the Town of Muncy. The tax record indicates that Henry owned a house valued at \$20.00, and ten acres of land valued at \$30.00.¹⁹

In the 1800 U.S. Census Henry Southard is listed as a head of household in the Town of Muncy, Lycoming Co, Pennsylvania. The census tallies include 3 free white males under the age of 10 (sons Daniel, John, Isaac), 1 free white male age 10 to 15 (son Henry Jr), 1 free white male age 26 to 44 (Henry Sr, but incorrect tally, he would have been age 48); 2 free white females under the age of 10 (daughters Sarah and Mary), 1 free white female age 10 to 15 (daughter Nancy), 1 free white female over the age of 45 (wife Ruth, but incorrect tally, she would have been age 38). Eldest daughter, Martha, age 16 is not accounted for. She was not yet married, but may have been "working out" as domestic help in another household.²⁰

In the 1810 U.S. Census Henry Southard is listed as a head of household in the Town of Loyalsock, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. The census tallies include 1 free white male age 10 to 15 (son Isaac), 2 free white males age 16 to 25 (sons Daniel and John), 1 free white male over the age of 45 (Henry Sr); 1 free white female age 10 to 10 (daughter Mary), 2 free white females age 16 to 25 (daughters Nancy and Sarah), 1 free white female over the age of 45 (wife Ruth). Listed adjacent to Henry Southard in the census is son-in-law Aaron Corter, husband of daughter Martha. Son Henry Jr who was married about 1807, may have been living in the household of his father-in-law William Van Horn, also in the Town of Loyalsock.²¹



In an affidavit dated 5 September 1820, in support of his revolutionary war pension, Henry Southard states that "I am by trade a Cooper, but by age and infirmity am not able to pursue this occupation. I have no family residing with me except my son John aged 27 years and my wife Ruth age 69 (an apparent error, other sources indicate Ruth was age 59 in 1820), and infirm like myself. Accompanying the affidavit is a Schedule of Property, indicating that Henry had assets valued at \$24.20, and outstanding debts of \$109.00.²² In the 1820 U.S. Census Henry Southard is listed as a head of household in the Town of Muncy, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. The census tallies include 2 free white males age 16 to 25 (possibly sons John and Daniel, twins, but they were age 27 in 1820), 1 free white male over the age of 45 (Henry Sr); 1 free white female over the age of 45 (wife Ruth).²³

In the 1830 U.S. Census Henry Southard is listed as a head of household in the Town of Hepburn, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. The census tallies include 1 free white male age 30 to 39 (unidentified), 1 free white male over the age 70 to 79 (Henry Sr); 1 free white female age 5 to 9 (perhaps an unidentified granddaughter), 1 free white female age 20 to 29 (unidentified); 1 free white female age 70 to 79 (wife Ruth, but her age was 68). Listed nearby in the census is son-in-law William McCaslin, husband of daughter Mary.²⁴

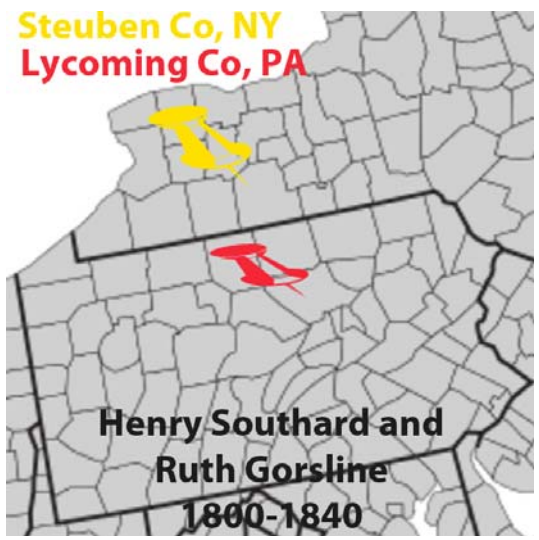
About 1834, Henry and Ruth Southard removed two counties north to Cohocton, Steuben Co, New York, according to *A History of Steuben Co, New York and Its People*.²⁵

The 1840 U.S. Census, list of veterans, records Henry Southard, a veteran age 87, living in the household of his son-in-law William McCaslin, husband of daughter Mary.²⁶

Henry Southard died 24 September 1842 at Cohocton, Steuben Co, New York, according to his wife Ruth's application for a widow's pension based upon Henry's Revolutionary War Service. A place of burial for Henry has not been determined. No record of an estate proceeding has been found for Henry.²⁷



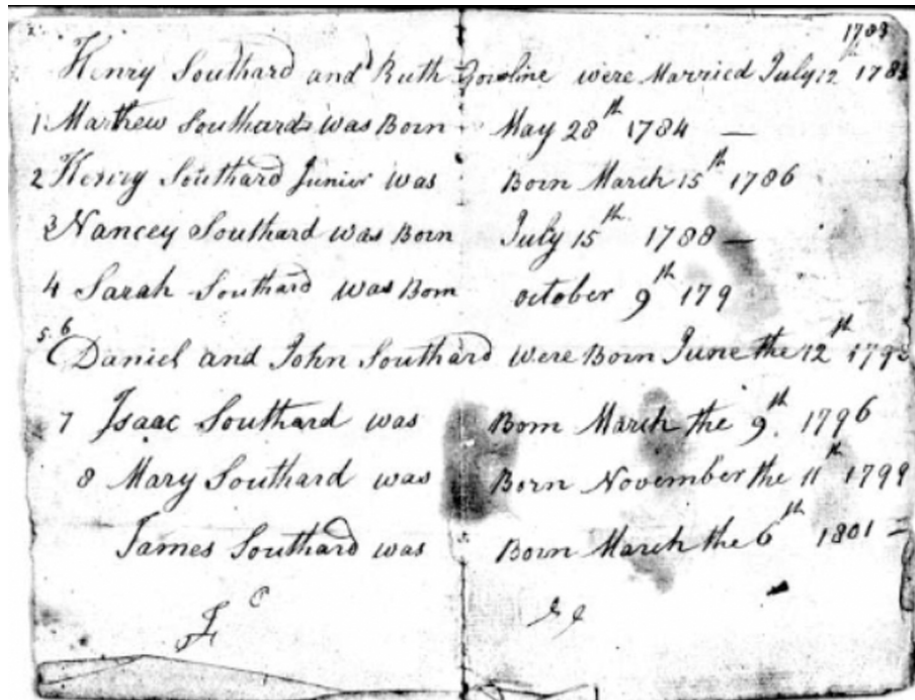
Ruth Gorsline Southard, widow of Henry Southard, swore a declaration as part of her application for a widow's pension on 19 January 1844 at Cohocton, Steuben Co, New York. Ruth declares that she is age 82 (hence born c 1761). She further states that she is the widow of Henry, and cites both their marriage date and Henry's date of death.²⁸ On the same date William McCaslin, son-in-law of Ruth Southard, swore an affidavit in support of Ruth's pension application.²⁹



Ruth Gorsline Southard died on 8 Feb 1845 at Cohocton Township, Steuben, New York. Mary McCaslin of Cohocton Township, Steuben Co, New York made a declaration on 5 March 1846 stating that she was the daughter of Ruth Southard, stipulated Ruth's date of death, and noted six surviving children, i.e. Henry, Daniel, and Isaac Southard, Margaret Corter, Nancy Stage, and Mary McCaslin. This statement was part of Ruth's widow's pension application file.³⁰

Letters of administration were granted on the estate of Ruth Southard on 4 September 1845 to William McCaslin, in Steuben County, New York.³¹

Ruth Gorsline and Henry Southard had nine children, eight of whom survived to adulthood. Henry Southard kept a "family record", a copy of which Ruth included as part of her application for a widow's pension based upon Henry's Revolutionary War military service.³²



**Family Record
Henry Southard and Ruth Gorsline
Revolutionary War Pension Record
File W22,279
Ancestry.com S>Smith-Southern,
Image 758 of 1172**

- i. Martha Southard was born 28 May 1784, probably in Dutchess Co, New York. Martha married c 1806 Aaron Corter, probably in Lycoming Co, Pennsylvania. Martha died between 1860 and 1870 in Ionia Co, Michigan. Martha's name on the Family Record transcribes to "Marthew". This record has been interpreted in many unsourced on line family trees as "Mathew". However, other sources support "Martha". The 1820 and 1830 U.S. Census record Aaron Corter in Lycoming Co, Pennsylvania; 1830 in Genesee Co, New York; 1840 in Livingston Co, New York; 1850 and 1860 in Boston, Ionia Co, Michigan.^{33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41}
- ii. Henry Southard Jr. was born 15 March 1786, probably in Dutchess Co, New York. Henry married first about 1807 Margaret Van Horn, probably in Lycoming Co, Pennsylvania. He married second 24 February 1831 Lavina Neese in Lycoming Co, Pennsylvania. Henry married third between 1850 and 1860 Mary Bridgen, probably in Lycoming Co, Pennsylvania. Henry died 9 February 1869 in Lycoming Co, Pennsylvania. Henry Southard Jr is found in the U.S. Census 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, and 1860 in Lycoming Co, Pennsylvania.^{42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51}

- iii. Nancy Southard was born 15 July 1788, probably in Dutchess or Ulster Counties, New York. Nancy married about 1810 William Stage, probably in Lycoming Co, Pennsylvania. Nancy died between 1860 and 1870 in Noble County, Indiana. William Stage is found in the 1820 U.S. Census in Lycoming Co, Pennsylvania; in 1830 and 1840 in Luzerne Co, Pennsylvania; and in 1850 and 1860 in the Town of Perry, Noble Co, Indiana.^{52,53,54,55,56,57,58}
- iv. Sarah Southard was born 9 October 1790, probably in Ulster Co, New York. She may have married John McCaslin, probably before 1815 in Lycoming Co, Pennsylvania. Sarah may have died 19 January 1844 in Steuben County, New York. A burial place for Sarah has not been found. The identity of her husband, her date and place of death, are undocumented, cited in on line family trees that cite as sources correspondence with a Nancy S. Oliver and the International Genealogical Index (IGI). A John McCaslin is found in the 1820 U.S. Census in Lycoming Co, Pennsylvania, and the 1840 Census in Steuben Co, New York. This migration pattern matches that of Sarah's parents Henry Southard and Ruth Gorsline, as well as her sister Mary and her husband William McCaslin. The 1850 U.S. Census records a John Macasalin, age 56, in the Town of Posey, Fayette Co, Indiana, with a much younger wife Rachel age 27, and a son Isaac born c 1817 in Pennsylvania. This John may be the remarried widower of Sarah Southard.^{59,60,61,62,63,64}
- v. Daniel Southard, and his twin John Southard, were born 12 June 1793, probably in Ulster Co, New York. Daniel may have married Nancy Payne on 18 August 1822, probably in Lycoming Co, Pennsylvania. Date of marriage and name of spouse supported by on-line family tree that cites correspondence with a Nancy S. Oliver as source. No primary documentation has been found. Daniel Southard died 2 January 1876 in the Town of Eldred, McKean Co, Pennsylvania. Daniel Southard is found in the 1840 U.S. Census in Steuben Co, New York; not found in 1850; in 1860 and 1870, Town of Eldred, McKean Co, Pennsylvania.^{65,66,67,68,69,70,71}
- vi. John Southard, and his twin Daniel Southard, were born 12 June 1793, probably in Ulster Co, New York. John is living with his parents in Lycoming Co, Pennsylvania in 1818 according to his father's Revolutionary War pension application. It is not known if John was married or to whom. A John Southard is found in the 1830 Census of Lycoming Co, Pennsylvania. The census tallies suggest a wife and five children, 2 sons and 3 daughters. John Southard died in Lycoming Co, Pennsylvania 16 June 1832 and was buried at the Quaker Hill Cemetery.^{72,73,74}
- vii. Isaac Southard was born 9 March 1796, probably in Lycoming Co, Pennsylvania. Isaac married first about 1819 Mary Shirley, probably in Lycoming Co. Isaac married second 30 December 1852 Mary Ann Leonard in Clearfield Co, Pennsylvania. Isaac died 21 March 1883 in Clearfield, Clearfield Co, Pennsylvania. Isaac Southard was found in the U.S. Census for Clearfield Co, Pennsylvania 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880.^{75,76,77,78,79,80,81,82,83,84,85,86}
- viii. Mary Southard was born 11 November 1799 in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. Mary married about 1814 William McCaslin in Lycoming County. Mary died 1 February 1880 in Wayland, Allegan County, Michigan. William McCaslin is found in the U.S. Census 1820 and 1830 in Lycoming Co, Pennsylvania; 1840 in Steuben Co, New York; in 1850 in Livingston Co, New York. Mary Southard McCaslin is found in the U.S. Census 1860 in Kent Co, Michigan; in 1870 Muskegon Co, Michigan.^{87,88,89,90,91,92,93,94,95}
- ix. James Southard was born 6 March 1801 in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. James likely died as a child prior to 1810. The 1810 U.S. Census tallies for his father Henry Southard do not record a free white male under the age of 10. James is not mentioned as living with his parents in 1820 when his father Henry swore an affidavit in support of his application for a Revolutionary War pension. No other record of a James Southard as an adult has been found.^{96,97}

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- ³⁹1840 U.S. Census New York, Livingston Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M704, Roll 294, Town of Geneseo, page 249.
- ⁴⁰1850 U.S. Census Michigan, Ionia Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M432, Roll 352, Town of Boston, page 195B.
- ⁴¹1860 U.S. Census Michigan, Ionia Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARO, M653, Roll 546, Town of Boston, page 829.
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- ⁴³Ancestry.com Family Trees, online www.ancestry.com.
- ⁴⁴Ancestor Database. National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Ancestor No. A107325; unsourced reference to marriage of Henry Southard and Margaret Van Horn on 20 August 1807.
- ⁴⁵1820 U.S. Census Pennsylvania, Lycoming Co, Ancestry.com, Town of Loyalsock, page 101.
- ⁴⁶1830 U.S. Census Pennsylvania, Lycoming Co, Ancestry.com, Town of Hepburn, page 280.
- ⁴⁷*Lycoming Gazette*, Williamsport, Pennsylvania, 1838-1867. Hereinafter cited as *Lycoming Gazette*, 2 March 1831.
- ⁴⁸1840 U.S. Census Pennsylvania, Lycoming Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M704, Roll 473, Town of Hepburn, page 109.
- ⁴⁹1850 U.S. Census Pennsylvania, Lycoming Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M432, Roll 795, Town of Hepburn, page 240B.
- ⁵⁰1860 U.S. Census Pennsylvania, Lycoming Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M653, Roll 1136, Town of Fairfield, page 195.
- ⁵¹Meginness, *History of Lycoming County, Pennsylvania*, page 1213; unsourced reference to death date of Henry Southard in 1869.
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- ⁵³Ancestry.com Family Trees, online www.ancestry.com.
- ⁵⁴1820 U.S. Census Pennsylvania, Lycoming Co, Ancestry.com, Town of Loyalsock, page 101.
- ⁵⁵1830 U.S. Census Pennsylvania, Luzerne Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M19, Roll 145, Town of Tunkhannock, page 470.
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- ⁵⁷1850 U.S. Census Indiana, Noble Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M432, Roll 162, Town of Perry, page 189A.

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- ⁶⁹1860 U.S. Census Pennsylvania, McKean Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M653, Roll 1138, Town of Eldred, page 688.
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- ⁷³1830 U.S. Census Pennsylvania, Lycoming Co, Ancestry.com, Town of Hepburn, page 279.
- ⁷⁴Find A Grave, online www.findagrave.com, Memorial No. 43723749, John Southard.
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- ⁸¹1850 U.S. Census Pennsylvania, Clearfield Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M432, Roll 768, Town of Lawrence, page 311A.
- ⁸²Robert J. Allison, compiler, *Marriage Records of Clearfield Co, Pennsylvania* (Clearfield, Pennsylvania: Privately Printed, 1990), Marriages, 30 December 1852. Hereinafter cited as *Marriage Records of Clearfield Co, PA*.
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- ⁸⁵1880 U.S. Census Pennsylvania, Clearfield Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, T9, Roll 1116, Town of Clearfield, page 157B.
- ⁸⁶*Clearfield Republican*, Clearfield, Pennsylvania, 1851-1937. Hereinafter cited as *Clearfield Republican*, 28 March 1883, page 3.
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⁹⁰1830 U.S. Census Pennsylvania, Lycoming Co, Ancestry.com, Town of Hepburn, page 281.

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⁹⁴1870 U.S. Census Michigan, Muskegon Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M593, Roll 692, Town of Oceana, page 346B.

⁹⁵*Michigan Deaths and Burials 1867-1995*, Family Search Index, online <https://familysearch.org>), Deaths, 1880.

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