

Print and Online Sources

Neagles, James C. U.S. Military Records: A guide to Federal & State Sources : Colonial America to the present c1994

Morebeck, Nancy Justus Locating Union and Confederate Records : A guide to the most commonly used Civil War records of the National Archives and the Family History Library c2001

Groene, Bertram Tracing your Civil War Ancestor c1995

Schaefer, Christina K. The Great War (WW I): A Guide to the service record of all the worlds volunteers c1998

Knox, Debra Johnson World War II Military Records: A Family Historian's Guide c2003

Johnson, Lt. Col. Richard S. How to Locate anyone who is or has been in the Military : Armed Forces Locator Guide. c1999 8th Edition

Ancestry Plus Databases

- WW I Draft registration cards 1917-18
- American Civil War Soldiers
- Civil War Pension Index
- Revolutionary War Service Records 1775-83
- American soldiers of WW I
- WW II and Korean Conflict Veterans interred overseas
- Vietnam Casualty Index
- War of 1812 Service Records
- DAR Lineage Books 152 volumes
- 120 additional state specific databases

www.archives.gov/research_room/genealogy/research_topics/military.html

www.hd.nps.gov/cwss/soldiers.htm

www.cyndislist.com/military.htm#records

www.familysearch.org

US War Chronology

Colonial Wars

Pre-1775

American Revolution

1775-1783

War of 1812

1784-1815

Indian Wars

1790-1898

Mexican War

1816-1860

Texas Independence (Alamo)

1836

Civil War

1861-1865

Spanish American War

1866-1900

World War I

1901-1940

World War II

1941-1945

Korean War

1946-1953

Vietnam War

1954-1975



www.defenselink.mil

The War Department became the Department of Defense in 1949



**WHEN
JOHNNY
COMES
MARCHING
HOME...**

**How can I find
my ancestors
U.S. Military
Records?**

Algonquin Area Public Library District

2600 Harnish Drive
Algonquin, Illinois 60102
847-458-6060

*Compiled by
Virginia Freyre
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Federal and State Archives

Military and pension records may often provide details of your ancestor's date of birth, place of residence, names and addresses of family members and other personal information. There is no one single comprehensive guide for locating these sources.

You need to know your ancestors full name, war or period of service served and the state from where they served. There is often evidence of military service in public records; i.e., newspapers, monuments, census records, court records, naturalization documents, and published works.

Federal military records are available on microfilm at the **National Archives** and its regional centers, state archives, historical societies, public libraries and Family History Centers (FHC).

National Archives and Records Administration
Attn: NWCTB
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington DC 200408-0001

National Personnel Records Center
Military Personnel Records
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

State Archive repositories, by law, hold public records from the state and local level. These records from government agencies are deemed to possess permanent administrative, legal or historical research values. Military Service records can also be kept at the state level.

Illinois State Archives and IRAD

www.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/archives.html



Types of Records

During Military Service

Militias and National Guard

U.S. Army

Officer Appointment and Commissions
Muster Rolls
Payrolls
Other lists and rosters
Correspondence
Battle reports and events
Court-Martial Cases and Deserters'
Prisoners of War
Casualties and Deaths
Medical Reports and Lists (Roll of Honor)
Photographs

U.S. Navy

Navy and Marine Officers
Navy Enlisted Personnel
Confederate Navy
Deck Logs
War Diaries
Navy Correspondence
Historical and Manuscript Collections

Other Branches

Marine Corps
Coast Guard
Merchant Marine

Military Academies

West Point, New York
Annapolis, Maryland

Post-Service

Pensions, Navy Pensions
Bounty-Land Grants
Soldier's Homes
National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers
Burials
Overseas
Burial at Military Posts
National Cemeteries
Civil War Burials
Censuses of Veterans
Conscription (Draft)



July 12, 1973 Fire!



The (NPRC) National Personnel Records Center, in St. Louis, Missouri permanently **lost** approximately 16-18 million Official Military Personnel Files . No duplicate copies or microfilm were created. Records lost:
Army : November 1, 1912—January 1, 1960
Air Force: September 25, 1947—January 1, 1964

Many Revolutionary War documents were also destroyed in a fire at the War Department in 1800 and again in 1814 when the British captured and burned Washington, D.C.

Compiled Military Service Records

CSMR were created by the War Department around 1900 from original company muster rolls, regimental returns, hospital rolls, descriptive books and other records to compile a more complete record of individual soldiers who served from 1775 in all wars up through the Philippine Insurrections of 1899-1902. Though records vary, the information was copied on to cards and put into jacket envelopes. The purpose was to create a "personnel file" to search more efficiently for verification and "proof of service" for pensions, claims and other veterans benefits.

Confederate Records

The War Department had few records pertaining to Confederate soldiers unless they were captured by union forces. In 1903, governors of southern states were asked to lend any Confederate records to the War Department to compile service records, and then they were returned. Confederate records often contained additional information about capture, prison time and parole. Pensions were paid from state funds and are available only in State Archives and may or may not be on microfilm. The U.S. *Federal Government* did not authorize pensions for service in Confederate forces until 1959, the year *after* the last Confederate soldier died at the age of 112!

Union Records



Early Enlistments were short, up to one year and often for only 30-60 days!

No national index for union soldiers exists, but there are indexes for each union state, southern and border states. The schedule enumerating Union Veterans and Widows of Union Veterans of the Civil War was compiled during the 11th Census in 1890 and is searchable on Ancestry Plus.