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The Military Records Quick Starts are designed to help the user get started in researching their ancestor’s military past.

There are 5 Quick Starts that are set up chronologically:

1. Revolutionary War
2. Confederate Soldier Civil War
3. Union Soldier Civil War
4. Pre-20th Century Other Wars
5. 20th Century

The format is that of a worksheet. The user goes through each suggested step and records what he/she has learned. The final step is to set up a go-forward plan. Based on what has been learned, the user can now set up the next steps to continue the research as needed.

NOTE: AS THE USER GOES THROUGH EACH STEP, THIS ACTIVITY SHOULD BE RECORDED IN THE RESEARCH LOG FOR THIS ANCESTOR
Quick Starts (cont’d)
Introduction
Introduction

Tracking down military records may not be life threatening, but be prepared. It may not be easy. But the research is worth the effort. Military records, such as discharge certificates, death records and records of training, can provide key genealogical information.

Many people incorrectly turn to the Department of Defense to gain access to records of American veterans. Once military service is completed, however, the National Archives and Records Administration maintains and stores Field Personnel Files in St. Louis, Mo. The office preserves all files from the 20th century (though a catastrophic fire in 1973 destroyed 18 million records).

Unless you are the veteran or the veteran's next of kin, access to military records is limited to dates of service, awards and training. You are required to put your request in writing, preferably through a Standard Form 180, "Request Pertaining to Military Records." The form can be downloaded from NARA's site, but because a signature is required by law, requests cannot be made by e-mail.

Because of the laws regulating this information, you're unlikely to find the whole records online. However, the Internet can help provide a basis for your research. Increasingly, more of this information is going online, and as it does, it will become much easier to discover the military pasts of your ancestors.

This “help guide” is produced by the Military Records Committee of The Mesa Regional Family History Center. It is intended to help you get started and going in the right direction in your research.

There are a few “figures” used to help you.
Introduction (cont’d)

This figure indicates that the section of information to the right gives you some suggestions on where to look for records.

This figure “flags” the section of information to the right as being very important and/or useful.

This figure appears frequently to remind the user to “Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline”. This guide is discussed on the following page.

This figure is used to prompt the user to “Search the INTERNET”. Every month, Cities, Counties, States, Associations, Organizations, Businesses and Individuals are “digitizing” records, photos and information.

The reader is reminded to be patient and practice the “Keys to Effective Research” below

- Record the source for every item of genealogical data you collect.
- Verify information from original records or photocopies when possible.
- Make and keep a copy, transcript, or abstract of every source that may apply.
- Note the sources whenever you summarize or list your data.
- Share your work with others interested, and invite their comments.
- Keep an open mind toward new evidence or new perspectives.
- Have a sound reason for identifying a record with a particular person.
A comprehensive outline for doing research in U.S. Military Records is available.

- It may be **purchased** at the MRFHC or through LDS Church Distribution (Item# 34118000)

- The contents may be found **free** on the Family Search website (www.familysearch.org) in the SEARCH section under “Research Helps”.

# U.S. Military Records Research Outline

## Table of Contents

### Introduction

### Basic Search Strategies
- Step 1. Identify An Ancestor You Wish To Find In Military Records
- Step 2. Decide What You Want To Learn
- Step 3. Select A Record To Search
- Step 4. Find And Search The Record

### Records At The Family History Library

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- Bounty Land Warrants
- Draft Or Conscript Records
- Unit Histories
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- Cemetery Records
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- Veterans' And Lineage Society Records
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### World War I, 1917 To 1918
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### World War II, 1941 To 1945
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- Pension Records
- Cemetery Records
- Draft Records
- Unit Histories
- Prisoner Of War Records
- Sources For Further Reading

### Korean War, 1950 To 1953, And Vietnam War, 1964 To 1972
- Unit Histories

### For Further Reading
- Computer Numbers For Selected National Archives Microfilm Publications
- Comments And Suggestions
About Military Records
About Military Records

Millions of American citizens have served in the armed forces, so chances are good that one or more of your relatives served at some time or another in the military. If they did, the military offices kept records about them and their service. Families do a reasonably good job of passing down information about relatives who served in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, or the two World Wars. But even if your family has no tradition of military service, it's still worth checking to see if ancestors who lived during the war periods did in fact serve. It's possible, too, that an ancestor enlisted in the military during peacetime or that an ancestor who didn't serve had siblings who did. For all these reasons, there are relatively few American families whose genealogies would not benefit from a search of military records.

Military records frequently reveal all sorts of information about an ancestor and can help lead you to other sources. Generally, military records are discussed in three broad categories:

- service records
- pension files
- military histories

Depending on the specifics of your family, other, more specialized military records such as draft records or military cemetery burial records may also be worth reviewing.

Increasingly, people are sharing compiled records via the Internet, in printed form, or both. Individuals and groups are going beyond their own families and sharing information pertaining to a particular place, ethnic group, surname, military event, or other specialized area of interest. These generous people save the rest of us from starting from scratch. The best way to thank such avid compilers is to mimic them and do the same for another group of records that you may have in your possession.
About Military Records (cont’d)

National Archives (NARA)

Vision Statement
The National Archives is a public trust on which our democracy depends. We enable people to inspect for themselves the record of what government has done. We enable officials and agencies to review their actions and help citizens hold them accountable. We ensure continuing access to essential evidence that documents:

• the rights of American citizens

the actions of federal officials

the national experience

Mission Statement
NARA ensures, for the citizen and the public servant, for the President and for the Congress and the Courts, ready access to essential evidence.

Home Page
http://www.archives.gov/
The National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records (NPRC-MPR) is the repository of millions of military personnel, health, and medical records of discharged and deceased veterans of all services during the 20th century. (Records prior to WWI are in Washington, DC.) NPRC (MPR) also stores medical treatment records of retirees from all services, as well as records for dependent and other persons treated at naval medical facilities. Information from the records is made available upon written request (with signature and date) to the extent allowed by law.

### Branch of Service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Branch of Service</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>Military service performed by persons serving during an emergency and whose service was considered to be in the Federal interest, 1775 - 1902</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Regular Army     | Enlisted personnel, 1775 - October 31, 1912  
                   | Officers, 1798 - June 30, 1917 |
| Navy             | Enlisted personnel, 1798 - 1938  
                   | Officers, 1798 - 1962 |
| Marine Corps     | Enlisted personnel, 1798 - 1944  
                   | Some officers, 1798 - 1955 |
| Coast Guard      | Persons who served in predecessor agencies to the U.S. Coast Guard: the Revenue Cutter Service (Revenue Marine), the Life-Saving Service, and the Lighthouse Service, 1791 - 1919 |
| Confederate States | Persons who rendered military service for the Confederate States government in its armed forces, 1861 - 1865 |
| Veterans Records | Claims files for pensions based on Federal military service, 1776 - 1916 and Bounty land warrant application files relating to claims based on wartime service, 1776 - 1865 |
The National Archives Home Page

http://archives.gov/
Military Records may be ordered through this web site:

1. 20th century by the veteran or next of kin
2. 20th century by others
3. Pre 20th century by anyone
The next of kin can be any of the following: surviving spouse that has not remarried, father, mother, son, daughter, sister, or brother.

1. Click on “eVetRecs” for next screen

2. Click on “Launch eVetRecs” and follow the 4 steps
Limited information from Official Military Personnel Files is releasable to the general public without the consent of the veteran or the next-of-kin. You are considered a member of the general public if you are asking about a veteran who is no relation to you, or a veteran who is a relative but you are not the next-of-kin. Next-of-kin is defined as the unremarried widow or widower, son or daughter, father or mother, brother or sister of the deceased veteran.

1. Click on “Military Service Records” for the next screen

2. Click on “Mail or Fax a Standard form SF-180” for the next screen

3. Follow the instructions to complete and submit your request

Note: A PDF version of the form may be downloaded by clicking here.
Click "Order Online!" for next screen

Click "PROCEED TO ORDERLINE" for next screen

Enter "User ID" and "Password" then click "Login" for next screen

NOTE: If you have not registered, click "New User" and register first.
Pre 20th century by anyone (cont’d)

4. Click “Made-to-order Reproductions” for next page

5. Click “Military Service and Pension Records” for next page

6. Click on the “Item” you want to order for the next screen

- Compiled Military Service File
- Federal Military Pensions – Complete File
- Federal Military Pensions Application-Pension Documents Packet
Pre 20th century by anyone (cont’d)

Click “Add to Cart” for next page

Complete the order form

Click “Continue to Pay and Ship” to input shipping and credit card information to complete the process
Access to Military Records by the General Public, including genealogists who are not next-of-kin:

Limited information from Official Military Personnel Files is releasable to the general public without the consent of the veteran or the next-of-kin. You are considered a member of the general public if you are asking about a veteran who is no relation to you, or a veteran who is a relative but you are not the next-of-kin.

Next-of-kin is defined as:

- the un-remarried widow or widower
- son or daughter
- father or mother
- brother or sister of the deceased veteran

The type of information releasable is intended to strike a balance between the public's right to obtain information from Federal records, as outlined in the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and the veteran's right to privacy as defined by the Privacy Act. Information will not be released if requested for unethical purposes.

The type of information releasable to the general public is dependent upon the veteran's authorization.

With the veteran's authorization.

The veteran (or next-of-kin if the veteran is deceased) must authorize release of information which is not available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). (In some cases the veteran may already possess military documents that contain the information you are seeking.) The authorization must 1) be in writing; 2) specify what additional information or copies that NPRC (MPR) may release to you; and 3) include the signature of the veteran or next-of-kin.

Without the veteran's authorization.

Limited amounts of information can be released from a record to a member of the general public. This is the information available under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Please review the list of releasable items under that topic.

About Military Records (cont’d)

Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act (FOIA)

The public has access to certain military service information without the veteran's authorization (or that of the next-of-kin of deceased veterans). Examples of information which may be available from Official Military Personnel Files without an unwarranted invasion of privacy include:

- Name, Service Number, Dates of Service, Branch of Service, Rank and Date of Rank, Salary *, Assignments and, Geographical Locations, Source of Commission *, Military Education, Promotion Sequence Number *, Awards and decorations (Eligibility only, not actual medals), Duty Status, Photograph, Transcript of Court-Martial Trial, Place of entrance and separation

If the veteran is deceased: Place of birth, Date and geographical location of death, Place of burial

Items marked with an asterisk are rarely available in the records.

Provisions of the Privacy Act

The basic provisions of the Privacy Act, as it applies to military and civilian records at NPRC (MPR), are to provide safeguards for an individual against an invasion of personal privacy by:

- permitting the subject to find out what records pertaining to him/her are maintained;

- permitting the subject to prevent records that pertain to him/her from being used or made available for purposes other than the purpose for which they were created

- permitting the subject to gain access to the records, or to have photocopies made of all or any portion thereof, and to correct or amend such records.

The Privacy Act places great emphasis on the privacy of the individual named in the record, and carries provisions for civil action against Federal agencies for violations of an individual's rights under the Act.

See: http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode05/usc_sec_05_00000552---a000-.html
About Military Records (cont’d)

Ancestry.com is a commercial company that is free at the Mesa Regional Family History Center. It provides an efficient search of hundreds of data bases related to military records. The resources are constantly being added to monthly.

Input search criteria here

View available data bases here

**About Military Records (cont’d)**

### Record Selection Table

Once you know in which war(s) your ancestor may have served, use this table to decide which records to search. Use this table as a guide only. The information listed here is generally found in pre-20th century records, but each item is rarely found in every individual record.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Look in → If you need</th>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Pension</th>
<th>Bounty Land</th>
<th>Draft</th>
<th>Cemetery</th>
<th>Soldier Homes</th>
<th>Veteran/Lineage Society</th>
<th>Military Biography</th>
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<td>♦</td>
<td>♦</td>
<td>♦</td>
<td>♦</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About Military Records (cont’d)

Needed information to find the desired person

- War – When the ancestor served (War or time period, Rev., Civil war etc…)
- State – May have served in local state or federal unit.
- Branch of Service and Rank – Which Branch (Army, Air force, Marines, Coast guard, Navy, Army Air Force, Army Rangers etc….
- Regiment – Many Records are sorted by Unit such as Regiment.

Basic Search Strategies

Step 1. Identify An Ancestor You Wish To Find In Military Records
You may find ancestors in a federal military record if they:
- Served in a state volunteer unit that was mustered into federal service during wartime. Most men who served during pre-twentieth century wars enlisted in state volunteer units.
- Enlisted in the regular U.S. military forces during wartime or peacetime.
- Served in a local militia or national guard unit that was mustered for federal service during an emergency.
- Enrolled for the drafts for the Civil War, World War I, or a subsequent war and later enlisted or was drafted.

Step 2. Decide What You Want To Learn
- Decide what information you want to know about your ancestor, such as:
  - his or her birth date and place
  - spouse, marriage date
  - burial place

Step 3. Select A Type Of Record To Search

Step 4. Find, Search And Analyze The Record
Types of Military Records That May Be Available

- Service Records: Document an individual’s involvement in the military including any citation’s or medal’s.

- Enlistment and Discharge Records: Give the Name, Date, Place of Enlistment and muster.

- Compiled Service Records: Records for soldiers serving in volunteer units in wars between 1775 and 1902.

- Other Service Records: Such as payrolls, order books, hospital records, POW Records, Promotions, Desertions, and court martial. Many of these are at the national archives.

- State Records of Service: Each state keeps service for its own militia, volunteer, Regiments, and National Guard units. Found in state archives, state historical societies, or state Adjutant General’s Office

- Pension Records: Federal and state granted pensions.

- Bounty Land Warrants Bounty land or free land was given to those who served in the Revolutionary War.

- Draft or Conscription Records: Since 1863 the Fed. Gov. has registered men.

- Unit Histories: Histories of regiments and other units

- Census Records: Federal Censuses of 1840, 1890 and 1910 asked to identify veterans and pensioners. The 1900, 1910, and 1920 include special enumerations of personnel serving at military installations, Ships, and hospitals here and abroad.

- Cemetery Records: Soldiers and veterans were often buried in National Cemeteries.

- National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers: National homes for disabled veterans in since 1866.
How to Find Military Records

In looking for military service and pension records, the best place to begin is with indexes. These indexes will usually provide you a few extra details such as the soldier's rank and/or unit and lead you to the service or pension record. The unit information can also direct you to military histories that will help you gain an appreciation for your ancestor's experience.

Indexes can be found at:

• The National Archives and its branches. The National Archives in Washington, D.C. has primary responsibility for most records up to 1902.

• National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri has responsibility for most records for the 20th century on.

• Family History Centers

• State archives

• Some larger libraries

• Microfilm rental programs

• The INTERNET

In order to use the indexes, you will generally have to know the name of the individual, the conflict and military branch in which he served, and the state in which he resided. Any additional details you have may prove useful, especially in the case of urban ancestors with common names.
About Military Records (cont’d)

Key Resources:

- National Archives – www.archives.gov
- Family Search – www.familysearch.org
- Mesa Regional Family History Center - www.mesarfhc.org/
- Daughters of the American Revolution – www.dar.org
- National Park Service Civil War Soldiers Index – www.itd.nps.gov/cwss
- Veterans Administration – www.va.gov
- Military cemeteries overseas – www.abmc.gov
- Ancestry - www.ancestry.com
- State Archives - www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/
- USGenWeb – www.usgenweb.com
- Library of Virginia - www.lva.lib.va.us/
- SEARCH ENGINES
  - www.google.com
  - www.searchengines.com
- Public Libraries
- Histories
- Historical Societies
- Military Unit Organizations
- Veterans Organizations
About Military Records (cont’d)

SN and SSN

Service Number (SN) and Social Security Number (SSN) - Service numbers and social security numbers are used at NPRC as part of the identifiers used to store and locate records. Social Security Number (SSN). Always include the veteran's social security number on a request. Service Number (SN). Also include the veteran's service number on a request if service was during the period when service numbers were assigned as personal identifiers. The military services discontinued using the service number as an identifier and began using the social security number on the following dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Branch of Service</th>
<th>Date of Changeover</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Army and Air Force</td>
<td>July 1, 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy and Marine Corps</td>
<td>January 1, 1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coast Guard</td>
<td>October 1, 1974</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**SN and SSN (cont’d)**

Since 1973, social security numbers have been issued by our central office. The first three (3) digits of a person's social security number are determined by the ZIP Code of the mailing address shown on the application for a social security number. Prior to 1973, social security numbers were assigned by our field offices. The chart below shows the first 3 digits of the social security numbers assigned throughout the United States and its possessions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>001-003 New Hampshire</th>
<th>252-260 Georgia</th>
<th>478-485 Iowa</th>
<th>545-573 California</th>
<th>648-649 New Mexico</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>004-007 Maine</td>
<td>261-267 Florida</td>
<td>486-500 Missouri</td>
<td>574 Alaska</td>
<td>650-653 Colorado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>008-009 Vermont</td>
<td>268-302 Ohio</td>
<td>501-502 North Dakota</td>
<td>575-576 Hawaii</td>
<td>654-658 South Carolina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>010-034 Massachusetts</td>
<td>303-317 Indiana</td>
<td>503-504 South Dakota</td>
<td>577-579 District of Columbia</td>
<td>659-665 Louisiana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>035-039 Rhode Island</td>
<td>318-361 Illinois</td>
<td>505-508 Nebraska</td>
<td>580 Virgin Islands</td>
<td>667-675 Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>050-134 New York</td>
<td>387-399 Wisconsin</td>
<td>516-517 Montana</td>
<td>586 Guam</td>
<td>680 Nevada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>135-158 New Jersey</td>
<td>400-407 Kentucky</td>
<td>518-519 Idaho</td>
<td>586 American Samoa</td>
<td>681-690 North Carolina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>159-211 Pennsylvania</td>
<td>408-415 Tennessee</td>
<td>520 Wyoming</td>
<td>586 Philippine Islands</td>
<td>691-699 Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>212-220 Maryland</td>
<td>416-424 Alabama</td>
<td>521-524 Colorado</td>
<td>587-588 Mississippi</td>
<td>700-728 Railroad Board**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>221-222 Delaware</td>
<td>425-428 Mississippi</td>
<td>525,585 New Mexico</td>
<td>589-595 Florida</td>
<td>729-733 Enumeration at Entry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>223-231 Virginia</td>
<td>429-432 Arkansas</td>
<td>526-527 Arizona</td>
<td>596-599 Puerto Rico</td>
<td>750-751 Hawaii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>232 North Carolina</td>
<td>433-439 Louisiana</td>
<td>528-529 Utah</td>
<td>600-601 Arizona</td>
<td>752-755 Mississippi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>232 North Carolina</td>
<td>440-448 Oklahoma</td>
<td>530 Nevada</td>
<td>602-626 California</td>
<td>756-763 Tennessee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>247-251 South Carolina</td>
<td>468-477 Minnesota</td>
<td>540-544 Oregon</td>
<td>646-647 Utah</td>
<td>766-772 Florida</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: The same area, when shown more than once, means that certain numbers have been transferred from one State to another, or that an area has been divided for use among certain geographic locations.

* = New areas allocated, but not yet issued

** = Issuance of these numbers to railroad employees was discontinued July 1, 1963.
### About Military Records (cont’d)

**Forms That Document Military Service**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DA 1569</td>
<td>Transcript of Military Record</td>
<td>WD AGO 755</td>
<td>Honorable Discharge, Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DD 2</td>
<td>Armed Forces Identification Card (Active)</td>
<td>WD AGO 0729</td>
<td>Honorable Discharge from Army of the United States of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DD 13</td>
<td>Statement of Service</td>
<td>WD AGO 01502</td>
<td>Certificate in Lieu of Lost or Destroyed Discharge Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DD 214</td>
<td>Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty</td>
<td>WD AGO 01504</td>
<td>Discharge Certificate Bureau of Investigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DD 217</td>
<td>Discharge Certificate</td>
<td>NAVCG-553</td>
<td>Notice of Separation from U.S. Coast Guard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DD 256</td>
<td>Honorable Discharge Certificate</td>
<td>NAVCG-2510</td>
<td>Honorable Discharge, U.S. Coast Guard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DD 257</td>
<td>General Discharge Certificate</td>
<td>NAVMC-455</td>
<td>U.S. Marine Corps Certificate of Service, In Lieu of Lost or Destroyed Discharge Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DD 303</td>
<td>Certificate in Lieu of Lost or Destroyed Discharge</td>
<td>NAVMC 70-PD</td>
<td>Honorable Discharge, U.S. Marine Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADJ 545</td>
<td>Discharge Certificate Army</td>
<td>NAVMC 78-PD</td>
<td>U.S. Marine Corps Report of Separation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DS ODF</td>
<td>Honorable Discharge from the United States Army</td>
<td>NMC 258</td>
<td>A&amp;I Discharge Certificate NMC 2571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGO 525</td>
<td>Discharge Certificate</td>
<td>NAVPERS-553</td>
<td>A&amp;I Honororable Discharge, U.S. Marine Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGO 755</td>
<td>Discharge Certificate</td>
<td>NAVPERS-563</td>
<td>Notice of Separation from U.S. Naval Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGO 01252</td>
<td>Discharge Certificate</td>
<td>NAVPERS-566</td>
<td>Navy Discharge-Notice of Separation from U.S. Naval Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGO 01254</td>
<td>Transcript of Military Record</td>
<td>NAVPERS-660</td>
<td>Standard Statement of Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGO 01502</td>
<td>Discharge Certificate WD</td>
<td>NAVPERS-661</td>
<td>Honorable Discharge from U.S. Navy Certificate of Discharge, U.S. Navy Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGO 53</td>
<td>Enlisted Record and Report of Separation Honorable Discharge</td>
<td>NAVPERS-663B</td>
<td>Discharge Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WD AGO 53-55</td>
<td>Enlisted Record and Report of Separation Honorable Discharge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WD AGO 53-58</td>
<td>Enlisted Record and Report of Separation General Discharge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WD AGO 53-90</td>
<td>Certificate of Service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WD AGO 53-98</td>
<td>Military Record and Report of Separation Certificate of Service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WD AGO 55</td>
<td>Honorable Discharge from The Army of the United States</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WD AGO 280</td>
<td>Certificate of Service, AVS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WD AGO 525</td>
<td>Honorable Discharge from the United States Army</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Service Records

Service records document an individual’s involvement with the military and can provide your ancestor’s unit or organization. This information makes it easier to search the pension records. Service records seldom provide information about other members of a soldier’s family.

Those who served in a military unit (company or regiment) were listed on muster rolls (similar to attendance rosters). These records generally give the soldier’s name and the date and place of enlistment and muster. You may also find descriptive rolls that provide the individual’s name, rank, age, physical description, marital status, occupation, place of birth, place of residence, and service information. The National Archives or the state’s adjutant general’s office may have these rolls.

The Federal Government has “compiled” military service records for soldiers serving in wars between 1775 and 1902.

Each state keeps service records for its own militia, volunteer regiments, or national guard units. These are usually available at state archives, state historical societies, or state adjutant general’s office.

Discharge Records.

When an individual was discharged from military service, he or she was listed on muster-out rolls. Copies of the federal muster-out rolls were sent to the office of the state adjutant general. Discharge certificates, however, are not usually part of the service record. If a soldier served between 1865 and 1944, the discharge certificate may be in the family’s possession. Copies of the discharge were not kept in soldiers’ service files, but counties sometimes recorded discharges.

FHC Library Catalog for additional state records under:

[STATE] - [COUNTY] - MILITARY RECORDS
Revolutionary War Discharge

THIS is to certify that the Bearer, Nicholas Spell, having served in the 11th Regiment of Pennsylvania during the Term of his Enlistment, is now discharged the Service of the United States of America. Given at Philadelphia, this 28th Day of June, 1781.

Certif'd Stadt & Warranted

[Signature]
Civil War Discharge

Transcribed Civil War Discharged Record of Stephen Lawson
To all whom it may Concern:
Know Ye, That Stephen Lawson
a private of Captain Harbert S Rogers
Company, (L,) Eighth Regiment of Tennessee Cavalry Volunteers, who was enrolled on the twelfth day of September
One thousand eight hundred and Sixty Three to serve three years or
during the war, is hereby Discharged from the service of the United States
This Eleventh day of September, 1865 at Knoxville Tenn. by reason of S, A, No. 49 H A Int Dept Tenn ___
(No objection to his re-enlisted is known to exist.)
Said Stephen Lawson was born Buncombe County in the State of North Carolina, is fifty years of age,
Five feet nine inches high, light complexion, Blue eyes, Sandy hair, and by occupation, when enrolled, a farmer.
Given at Knoxville Tenn. this eleventh day of September 1865.

Capt. _____ Co Capt. _______
Spanish American War Discharge

To all Whom it May Concern:

Know ye. That Joseph D. Munkley, a private of Company E of the 15th Regiment of Illinois Volunteers, who was enrolled on the 9th day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, to serve two years, or during the war, is hereby discharged from the service of the United States, by reason of sickness of the regiment.

No objection to his reenlistment is known to exist.

He said he was born in White County, the age of 20 years, 170 inches tall, five feet, 10 inches high, dark complexion, brown eyes, dark hair, and by occupation a policeman.

Given at Augusta, the 20th day of May, 1899.

Countersigned.

Mastering Officer.

*To be signed should there be anything in the conduct or physical condition of the soldier rendering him unfit for the Army.
World War I Discharge

The Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army was a two-sided document. The front side includes the name, serial number, unit, and rank. It also indicates the person's place of birth, the age at enlistment, occupation, hair color, eye color, complexion, height, and the date and place of discharge. The reverse side contains the individual's name and grade (rank), the date and place of enlistment, whether this was the first period of service and, if not, what prior service there might have been. The document indicated whether the individual was a non-commissioned officer, his marksmanship or gunner qualification or rating, and any horsemanship training or rating. Battles, engagements, skirmishes, and expeditions are listed (often with dates), as are vaccination records for typhoid and paratyphoid and any wounds received in service. Persons who suffered shell shock, poison gassing, and mental breakdown were described here. The individual's physical condition at discharge, marital status, and character are listed. Additional remarks may be included, particularly concerning eligibility for travel pay.
About Military Records (cont’d)

**World War II**
There were several documents associated with an individual's military discharge during the World War II era. The Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army for this period was almost identical in information content to that from World War I. The reverse side, however, contained more information. In this era, it includes the individual's date of induction and the location. Promotions and dates are included, as are fields to indicate whether the individual was qualified in arms and horsemanship, the army specialty and any schools/training attended and completed. A list of battles and engagements, if any, is included and any wounds received in service. Decorations, service medals, and citations are included. The document includes a vaccination history for smallpox, typhoid-paratyphoid, diphtheria, and other vaccinations/inoculations (tetanus, yellow fever, malaria, and others). The physical condition of the individual at discharge is indicated, along with marital status, and a statement of the person's character. The soldier signed the document on this side and applied his or her right thumbprint, and the document was signed by the commanding officer, adjutant, or other official.

In addition to this document, an Honorable Discharge certificate printed on heavy paper stock was presented to the individual.
About Military Records (cont’d)

The Korean War & Later

The DD214 form is the form most familiar to persons serving in the Korean War and later. The DD Form 214, Report of Separation, is filed in the Official Military Personnel File. Certain basic information is needed to locate military service records. This information includes the veteran's complete name used while in service, service number or social security number, branch of service, and dates of service. However, it also contains the individual's date and place of birth, sex, hair color, eye color, height, weight, marital status, and highest civilian education level attained. The Selective Service Board of record for the individual is included, as is the person's social security number, the home of record at the time of entry into active service, and the permanent mailing address for subsequent communications. The person's specialty is generally listed, along with a list of military training courses completed, places where he or she served, and a list of medals, ribbons, badges, citations, commendations, and other decorations. The date and place of discharge is included as well as the termination date of military reserve obligation.
About Military Records (cont’d)

Pension Records

The federal government and some state governments granted pensions or bounty land to officers, disabled veterans, needy veterans, widows or orphans of veterans, and veterans who served a certain length of time. Pension records usually contain more genealogical information than service records. However, not every veteran received or applied for bounty land or a pension. Veterans who did not qualify under the pension laws may have received benefits by special acts of Congress. The appropriate federal or state agency maintained a pension file for each applicant. These files contain the application papers and any further correspondence or documents. In a person’s pension application papers you may find his name (and sometimes his wife’s maiden name); rank; military unit; period of service; residence; age; date and place of birth, marriage, and death; and the nature of his disability or proof of need. To prove that he served in the military, he may have included documents such as discharge papers or affidavits from those with whom he served. Widows or heirs had to prove their relationship to the veteran with marriage records and other documents, and the file may list the names of dependent children under the age of 16. Pension files for 1775 to 1916 are available at the National Archives in Record Group 15, Records of the Veterans Administration. Only those for the Revolutionary War have been microfilmed. Lists of federal and state military pensioners have been published for the years 1792 to 1795, 1813, 1817, 1818, 1820, 1823, 1828, 1831, 1835, 1840, 1849, 1857, 1883, and 1899. Most of these lists are found in the U.S. Congressional Serial Set, available at federal repository libraries and major university libraries. The lists can provide the soldier’s name and his heirs, age, death date, and service information.
About Military Records (cont’d)

Pension Records (cont’d)

Check the FHLC and do a title search for the records described below:

Title
Organization index to pension files of veterans who served between 1861 and 1900- [1917]
Stmt.Resp.
United States. Veterans Administration
Authors
United States. Veterans Administration (Main Author)
Notes
"The information provided here is virtually the same as that in the General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934, T288. Unlike the alphabetical General Index, however, this index groups the applicants according to the units in which they served. The cards are arranged alphabetically by state, thereunder by arm of service (infantry, cavalry, artillery), thereunder numerically by regiment, and there-under alphabetically by veteran's surname"--Military Service Records, p. 263.
"Each card gives the soldier's name, rank, unit, and terms of service; names of relationships of any dependents; the application number; the certificate number; and the state from which the claim was filed"--Military Service Records, p. 263.
"The index cards reproduced on this microfilm publication refer to pension applications of veterans who served in the U.S. Army between 1861 and 1917. The majority of the records pertain to Civil War veterans, but they also include veterans of the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection, Indian wars, and World War I"--Military Service Records, p. 263.
Subjects
United States - Military records - Pensions - Indexes
Physical
765 microfilm reels ; 16 mm.
**About Military Records (cont’d)**

**Bounty Land Warrants**

The federal government provided bounty land for those who served in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and Indian wars between 1790 and 1855. It was first offered as an incentive to serve in the military and later as a reward for service. Bounty land could have been claimed by veterans or their heirs. The federal government reserved tracts of land in the public domain for this purpose. The states of New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia also set aside tracts of bounty land for their Revolutionary War veterans.

A veteran requested bounty land by filing an application at a local courthouse. The application papers and other supporting documents were placed in bounty land files kept by a federal or state agency. These documents contain information similar to the pension files and include the veteran’s age and place of residence at the time of the application. If the application was approved, the individual was given either a warrant to receive land or scrip which could be exchanged for a warrant. Later laws allowed for the sale or exchange of warrants. Only a few soldiers actually received title to the bounty land or settled on it; most veterans sold or exchanged their warrants.

Bounty land applications and warrants for the Revolutionary War and some warrants for the War of 1812 have been microfilmed. They are available at the Family History Library and are described in this outline in the sections for those wars. Bounty land files, including those not microfilmed, are available at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., in Record Group 15, *Records of the Veterans Administration.*

**Example**

![Bounty Land Warrant Example](image-url)
Draft Or Conscription Records

The draft registration cards from both world wars are an excellent genealogical source. Draft registration cards for the millions of men who registered for World War I are readily available on microfilm and partially available at Ancestry.com. World War II draft registration cards (from the 4th registration for men born between 28 April 1877 and 16 February 1897) are available through the branches of the National Archives.

About the WWI Draft Registration Cards

• On May 18, 1917, the Selective Service Act was passed authorizing the President to increase temporarily the military establishment of the United States.

• The Selective Service System, under the office of the Provost Marshal General, was responsible for the process of selecting men for induction into the military service, from the initial registration to the actual delivery of men to military training camps.

• Local boards were established for each county or similar subdivision in each state, and for each 30,000 persons (approximately) in each city or county with a population over 30,000. The local boards were charged with the registration, determination of order and serial numbers, classification, call and entrainment of draftees.
WWI Registration (cont’d)

- During World War I there were three registrations.
  
  - The first, on June 5, 1917, was for all men between the ages of 21 and 31.
  
  - The second, on June 5, 1918, registered those who attained age 21 after June 5, 1917. (A supplemental registration was held on August 24, 1918, for those becoming 21 years old after June 5, 1918. This was included in the second registration.)
  
  - The third registration was held on September 12, 1918, for men age 18 through 45.
  
  - The registration cards consist of approximately 24,000,000 cards of men who registered for the draft, (about 23% of the population in 1918).

Where do you find the cards?

![Ancestry.com](image)
World War I Draft Registration Card A—(5 June 1917)

REGISTRATION CARD

Form 1

1. Name in full (Given name) (Family name)
   Age in years

2. Home Address (No.) (Street) (City) (State)

3. Date of birth (month) (day) (year)

4. Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)?

5. Where were you born? (town) (state) (nation)

6. If not a citizen, of what nation are you a citizen or subject?

7. What is your present trade, occupation, or office?

8. By whom employed?

9. Where employed?

10. Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)?

11. What military service have you had? Rank __________ branch __________ years __________ Nation or State __________

12. Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)?

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

(Signature or Mark)

REGISTRAR’S REPORT

1. Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? __________ Bend, medium, or stout (specify which)?

2. Color of eyes __________ Color of hair __________ Build __________

3. Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, eye, or both eyes or is he otherwise disabled (specify)?

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

(Signature of Registrar)

Precinct _________

City or County _________

State _________ (Date of Registration)
About Military Records (cont’d)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Name in full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth date</td>
<td>Date of birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where born</td>
<td>Birthplace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizenship</td>
<td>Race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What other country?</td>
<td>Birthplace of any relatives other than those who were born in the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nearest relative</td>
<td>Name of nearest relative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**World War I Draft Registration Card B—(5 July 1918)**

**Serial No.**

1. **Name in full**
2. **Address**
3. **Date of birth**
4. **Where were you born?**
5. **Father's birthplace**
6. **Name of employer**
7. **Place of employment**
8. **Name of nearest relative**
9. **Address of nearest relative**
10. **Race—White, Negro, Indian**

**Registrar's Report**

1. **Sex**
2. **Color of eyes**
3. **Color of hair**
4. **Has person lost first, arm, leg, hand, eye, or is he physically disabled (specify)?**

I certify that the answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of the answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

(Signature of Registrar)

(Date of Registration)
### About Military Records (cont’d)

#### World War I Draft Registration Card C—(12 September 1918)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration Card</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizenship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nearest relative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Registration Card

- **Serial number:**
- **Order number:**

**2 Permanent Home Address**

- **Age by Years:**
- **Date of birth:**
- **Race:**
  - White
  - Negro
  - Oriental
  - Indian
  - Citizen
  - Non-Citizen

**U.S. Citizen / Alien**

- **Native Born:**
- **Naturalized:**
- **Affirmative Oath:**
- **Declarant:**
- **Non-declarant:**

**Present Occupation**

**Employer’s Name**

**Place of Employment or Business**

**Nearest Relative:**

**Signature of Registrant**

**Date of Registration**

---

**P.M.G.O. Form No. 1**

*Ancestry.com*
WW2 Registration

There are draft cards from World War II. Some of these cards are available to the public.

The cards that are publicly available are from the fourth registration done in 1942. This registration included men born between 28 April 1877 and 16 February 1897. These cards are organized by state and are filed with the appropriate regional branch of the National Archives. The only way to access these cards is on-site at the appropriate regional branch of the National Archives. They are not on microfilm. A few cards for Ohio have been digitized (see the NAIL reference at the end of this article).

The major drawback to these records is that they are not available on microfilm and must be accessed either in person or via a researcher. One significant advantage of these cards is that they generally are organized alphabetically for an entire state.

The seven registrations and the ages of the men registered were:
• First Registration: October 16, 1940. Men 21-35 years.
• Second Registration: July 1, 1941. Men who had reached the age of 21 since the first registration.
• Third Registration: February 16, 1942. Men 20-21 and 35-44 years.
• Fourth Registration: April 27, 1942. Men 45-64 years, not liable for military service.
About Military Records (cont’d)

WWII Registration (cont’d)

• Fifth Registration: June 30, 1942. Men 18-20 years.
• Sixth Registration: December 10-31, 1942. Men who had reached the age of 18 years after June 30, 1942.
• “Extra Registration”: November 16-December 31, 1943. American men living abroad, aged 18-44 years.

After the sixth registration of December 1942, registration was required of every man upon reaching his eighteenth birthday.
About Military Records (cont’d)

Example of 4th registration

[Image of registration card and photograph]
Selective Service

• For more than 50 years, Selective Service and the registration requirement for America's young men have served as a backup system to provide manpower to the U.S. Armed Forces.

• President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 which created the country's first peacetime draft and formally established the Selective Service System as an independent Federal agency.

• From 1948 until 1973, during both peacetime and periods of conflict, men were drafted to fill vacancies in the armed forces which could not be filled through voluntary means.

• In 1973, the draft ended and the U.S. converted to an All-Volunteer military.

• The registration requirement was suspended in April 1975. It was resumed again in 1980 by President Carter in response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Registration continues today as a hedge against underestimating the number of servicemen needed in a future crisis.

• The obligation of a man to register is imposed by the Military Selective Service Act. The Act establishes and governs the operations of the Selective Service System.

•(Source: Selective Service System - June 25, 2001 revision)
20th Century Military Draft Registration

www.sss.gov/records.htm

Records Information

For records of men born on or after January 1, 1960, click here, or call (847) 688-6888.

For records of men born before January 1, 1960, click here.
Unit Histories

Histories of military units may contain biographies of officers, rosters of soldiers in the unit, and clues to where the soldiers were living when they enlisted. They may also provide dates of death of veterans or their place of residence after their service. It is best to look in the Author/Title search of the Family History Library Catalog on microfiche under the name of the author.

Example sites

http://www.olive-drab.com/od_history_unit_histories.php3

http://www.military.cibmedia.com/index.asp


http://www.spanamwar.com/units.htm

http://www.militaryunits.com/

http://www.screamingeagle.org/
About Military Records (cont’d)

Census Records

The federal censuses of 1840, 1890, and 1910 specifically identify veterans and pensioners. Some state censuses also have information about soldiers and veterans. The federal censuses of 1900, 1910, and 1920 include special enumerations of personnel serving at military and naval installations, ships, and hospitals at home and overseas.

• The 1840 census asked for the names and ages of "Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Services, Included in the Foregoing [Household]." Pensioners included both veterans and widows. For example, veteran Alexander Tackels, aged 85, was enumerated in the household of Jonathan Arnold in Middlebury, Genesee (now Wyoming) Co., NY, and the widow Chloe McCullar, aged 81 1/2, was enumerated in the household of W.W. Blake in St. Albans Township, Licking Co., OH.

• A 1921 fire mostly destroyed the 1890 census, it contained information about the person’s name, rank, company, regiment or vessel, length of service, and disabilities associated with the service. The listing of widows of Union veterans survived for some states.

• For the 1910 census, enumerators asked every male over fifty years of age who were born or immigrated to the country before 1865 if they were a survivor of the Civil War.
Cemetery Records

Soldiers and veterans were often buried in private, public, church, national, and military post cemeteries. Others were buried on the battlefield or in prison or hospital cemeteries. The first national military cemeteries were created in 1862 during the Civil War. The National Cemetery System has a card index that identifies nearly all soldiers who were buried in national cemeteries and other cemeteries under federal jurisdiction from 1861 to the present.

http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1

Burial & Memorial Benefits

Veterans Benefits & Services

Nationwide Gravesite Locator

Search for burial locations of veterans and their dependents in VA National Cemeteries, state veterans cemeteries and various other Department of Interior and military cemeteries.

The National Grave Locator includes burial records from many sources. These sources provide varied data; some searches may contain less information than others.

If your search returns incorrect information about the deceased, please contact the cemetery directly to discuss your findings.

To search for a gravesite location, please provide the following:

- Last Name: exact match
- First Name: begins with

(Required)
About Military Records (cont’d)

Cemetery Records (cont’d)

ABMC Home Page
http://www.abmc.gov/

The Commission administers, operates, and maintains twenty-four permanent American burial grounds on foreign soil. Presently there are 124,917 U.S. War Dead interred at these cemeteries, 30,922 of World War I, 93,245 of World War II and 750 of the Mexican War. Additionally 6,010 American veterans and others are interred in the Mexico City and Corozal American Cemeteries. For details about these cemeteries click on the links to the right.

http://www.abmc.gov/abmc2.htm
About Military Records (cont’d)

Cemetery Records (cont’d)

“Lost at Sea”

The U.S. Navy Memorial pays tribute to every man and woman who has served or will ever serve in the United States Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine. Within the Naval Heritage Center, the Navy Log Room stands out as an essential and meaningful element in this tribute. The Navy Log, as it is currently configured, is an interactive computerized database including a quarter of a million Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine personnel. These veterans were enrolled by themselves, or by friends, shipmates, or relatives, through a donation to the Navy Memorial Foundation.

http://www.lonesailor.org/lasl.php
About Military Records (cont’d)

National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers

Congress established national homes for disabled veterans in 1866. Veterans were eligible for admittance if they were honorably discharged; had served in the regular, volunteer, or militia forces mustered into federal service; were disabled and without support; and were unable to earn a living. In 1930 the homes were combined with other agencies to form the Veterans Administration (now the Department of Veteran Affairs).

The registers are divided into four sections:

- Military
- Domestic
- Home
- General remarks.

Contact http://maxpages.com/disabledaccess/HOMES_FOR_DISABILITY_VETS

The national homes were in:

Bath, New York ................. Bath Branch
Biloxi, Mississippi ............. Biloxi Home

Danville, Illinois ............. Danville Branch
Dayton, Ohio .................. Central Branch

Hot Springs, S.D. ...... Battle Mountain Sanitarium
Johnson City, Tennessee ...... Mountain Branch

Kecoughton, Virginia ........ Southern Branch
Leavenworth, Kansas ......... Western Branch

Marion, Indiana .............. Marion Branch
Roseburg, Oregon ............ Roseburg Branch

St. Petersburg, Florida ...... St. Petersburg Home
Sawtelle, California .......... Pacific Branch

Togus, Maine ................. Eastern Branch
Tuskegee, Mississippi ....... Tuskegee Home

Wood, Wisconsin ............ Northwestern Branch
About Military Records (cont’d)

Veterans’ and Lineage Society Records

Records of veterans’ organizations and lineage societies may be found at their national headquarters or at state archives, historical societies, and public libraries. Some societies require members to submit applications documenting their ancestry back to a soldier. The applications typically provide birth, marriage, and death information, as well as establish relationship through multiple generations from the applicant to the qualifying ancestor. They may publish membership lists and other records. For eligibility requirements, write to the society’s national headquarters. This outline gives addresses of some organizations that have significant material of use for family history research.

Examples on the internet:

Daughters of the American Revolution – http://www.dar.org/
The DAR, founded in 1890, is a volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children. As the most inclusive lineal society in the country, DAR boasts 168,000 members in 3,000 chapters across the United States and internationally.

Sons of the American Revolution - http://www.sar.org/
The SAR is a historical, educational, and patriotic non-profit, United States 501(c)3, corporation that seeks to maintain and extend * the institutions of American freedom * an appreciation for true patriotism * a respect for our national symbols * the value of American citizenship * the unifying force of *e pluribus unum* that has created, from the people of many nations, one nation and one people.

Descendants of Mexican War Veterans - http://www.dmwv.org/
A non-profit, non-political, national lineage society chartered by the State of Texas whose purposes are historical, genealogical, educational and charitable in nature.
Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War - http://www.duvcw.org/
Sororial lineage society comprised of direct descendants of veterans of the Federal US Army who fought in the defense and for the preservation of the Union during the American Civil War.

United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada - http://www.uelac.org/
Lineage society with membership based upon descendancy to a loyalist who worked to promote the interest of Great Britain during the American Revolution. Provides membership criteria, branch chapter information and contacts, The Loyalist Gazette, and links to other Loyalist sites.

General Society War of 1812 - http://www.societyofthewarof1812.org/
Membership is gained through the State societies and is open to any male over the age of 21 who is the lineal blood descendant of one who served during the War of 1812, in the army, navy, revenue-marine, or privateer service of the United States.

Created in 1865 upon the death of Abraham Lincoln, and originally composed of Union Officers, it is now a fraternal lineage society composed of direct male descendants of those Union officers of the US Army, Navy and Marines who served in the Civil War.

Alamo Defenders Descendants Association - http://www.alamodescendants.org/
Organization of direct descendants of the defenders of the Alamo. Objectives, history, events and memorial days, profiles of the defenders, and related links.
Awards And Decorations

Military Awards and Decorations
Requests for the issuance or replacement of military service medals, decorations, and awards should be directed to the specific branch of the military in which the veteran served. However, for Air Force (including Army Air Corps) and Army personnel, the National Personnel Records Center will verify the awards to which a veteran is entitled and forward the request with the verification to the appropriate service department for issuance of the medals.

• Go to the NARA
• Click “Veterans & Their Families”
• Click “Request Replacement Medals and Awards”
• Follow instructions
Pre-20th Century (before 1900)

- Colonial Period: 1606 to 1763
- Revolutionary War: 1775 to 1783
- War of 1812: 1812 to 1815
- Indian Wars: 1815 to 1858
- Mexican War: 1846 to 1848
- Civil War: 1861 to 1865
- Spanish American War: 1898
- Philippine Insurrection: 1899 to 1902
Colonial Period

Many colonists served in local militias and participated in King William’s War (1689–97), Queen Anne’s War (1702–13), King George’s War (1744–48), and the French and Indian War (1754–63). Because these were local units and not part of the British Army, any surviving records are in historical societies and state libraries and archives.

• Check the Family History Library Catalog for MILITARY RECORDS in STATE and COUNTY

• Check The General Society of Colonial Wars - www.gscw.org

• Check Library of Virginia , Bounty Lands –

  www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/mil/va16_colonial.htm

Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline (page 11)

• Search the INTERNET
The Revolutionary War

** Revolutionary War 1775-1783 **

US Military Records

** Getting Started With What I Know **

1. What was his name? _________________________________
2. When did he serve? _________________________________
3. What unit did he serve in? ___________________________
4. What other information do I have? ___________________

** Notes:**

2. Refer to the Mesa Regional Family History Center "US MILITARY RECORDS HELP GUIDE" for additional information.

To obtain information for a Revolutionary soldier, you need to know:

1. Name _________________________________
2. Colony _________________________________
3. Unit or Regiment ___________________________

If you have this information go to step 2.

Or continue to search for this information.

1. Check the Service Records to see if this person served.
   - Check the "Index of Service Records of Revolutionary Soldiers". Family History Library films 882,841 to 882,880. (shows name, state, unit)

   - Check [http://www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

3. If the person cannot be found, he may have been in the Colonial Militia. These records are kept in the state archives of the 13 original colonies' states and must be ordered from the appropriate state archives.

Revision: C, 26 June 2006

Mesa Arizona Regional Family History Center

Page 1 of 2
The Revolutionary War

U.S. Military Records

Mesa Arizona Regional Family History Center
Revision: B, 01 July 2006

Quick Start Worksheet

1. Next check for Pension Records and Bounty Land Warrants
   - Use the “Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files” at the Family History Center call number 973 M38g by Virgil White (4 volumes)
   - You can also look on the Internet at www.ancestry.com
   - New go to the National Archives to order records: http://www.archives.gov

2. Look at the Internet
   - An analyze: What do you now know?

3. Order Service/Pension records
   - Are there Pension Records?
   - Are there any records with the DAR?
   - Did the person side with England?
   - Look at the Internet

4. Analyze: What do you now know?
   - What next?

Revision: 6, 16 June 2006
Mesa Arizona Regional Family History Center

Page 2 of 2
The Revolutionary War

The Revolutionary War began with the confrontation between British troops and local militia at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, on 19 April 1775. Throughout the war, state troops and local militias supplemented the Continental (federal) Army. The total number of men who served is not known.

Service Records - The original service records and the earliest pension records of the Revolutionary War were destroyed in fires in 1800 and 1814. Substitute records were used to make the compiled service records.

- Check the Index to Service Records on the following page

- Check the Family History Library Catalog for MILITARY RECORDS in STATE and COUNTY

- Check www.ancestry.com

- Check lineage societies
  - Daughters of the American Revolution – www.dar.org

Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 12

Search the INTERNET
### Revolutionary War (cont’d)

Service Records Index  
This is an alphabetical list of names in service records. This is for Continental Troops, State Continental Line Organizations, Navy, and Marines.

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<th>First Name on Film</th>
<th>Last Name on Film</th>
<th>Film Number</th>
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NOTE: Index gives 1) name 2) Rank 3) Unit Served in
The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)

Founded in 1890 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a volunteer women's service organization. DAR boasts 168,000 members in 3,000 chapters across the United States. DAR National Headquarters houses one of the nation's premier genealogical libraries and an extensive collection of early American manuscripts and imprints.

The DAR Patriot Index contains names of Revolutionary patriots, both men and women, whose service (between 1775 and 1783) has been established by the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution. Additional information available may include: dates and places of birth and death, name(s) of wife (wives) or husband(s), rank, type of service, and the State where the patriot lived or served. If pension papers are known to exist, that fact will be included.

1) You can request a free look up of an ancestor on-line by completing the request at www.dar.org/natsociety/pi_lookup.cfm

If your ancestor is found, they will notify you of cost to copy information and lineage papers (descendants pedigree). The search may take 3 months

2) The Patriot Index is in the MRFHC. The books are in section 973 C42da

3) The “Rolls of Honor” can be found in books (973 D2d) and on microfiche (6051292 for 1972 and a revision 6051293 for 1980) at the MRFHC

4) Lineage Books are on 793 microfiche in 92 packets
Revolutionary War (cont’d)

DAR (cont’d)

1) GO to
DAR Web Site: http://www.dar.org/

2) GO to
Patriot Lookup: http://www.dar.org/natsociety/pi_lookup.cfm

3) Complete on-line request form
Revolutionary War (cont’d)

DAR (cont’d)

Example:
DAR Lineage on application

LINEAGE

I. Martha Austin White being of the age of eighteen years and upwards, hereby apply for membership in the Society by right of lineal descent in the following line from William Richie

who was born in Bucks County, Pa. on the __ day of __, 1756,
and died in Montgomery County, Pa. on the __ day of July, 18__.

His place of residence during the Revolution was:

(Please give all dates by numerals, month first, and given names in full)

1. I am the daughter of

   Edward H. Pancoast__ born on 5-12-1835 at __
died at __ on __ living and his (first or ) wife

   Rebecca A. Bishop Pancoast__ born on 11-12-1837 at __
died at __ on __ living; married on 3-18-1857

2. The said Rebecca A. Bishop Pancoast__ was the child of

   Abah Bishop __ born on 10-2-1807 at __
died at __ on __ 1884 and his (first or ) wife

   Sarah Sharp Bishop __ born on 7-7- 1817 at __
died at __ on __ 1884 married on 10-5-1833

3. The said Sarah Sharp Bishop__ was the child of

   Joseph Sharp __ born on 7-18-1787 at __
died at __ on __ 1869 and his (first or ) wife

   Sarah Richie Sharp __ born on 3-29-1790 at __
died at __ on __ 1847 married on 3-5-1810

4. The said Sarah Richie Sharp__ was the child of

   William Richie __ born on 1756 at Bucks County, Pa.
died at Montgomery County, Pa. on __ 1812 and his (first or ) wife

   Sarah Thomas Richie __ born on 1766 at __
died at __ on __ 1845 married on 3-7-1786

5. The said __ was the child of

   __ born on at __
died at __ on __ and his (first or ) wife

   __ born on at __
died at __ on __ married on __

6. The said __ was the child of

   __ born on at __
died at __ on __ and his (first or ) wife

   __ born on at __
died at __ on __ married on __
DAR Online Index.


The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) has an online index to the Genealogical Records Committee Reports -- the name for its collection of genealogical information from family Bibles, tombstones, church records and the like. You can search this 18-million name index for your ancestors at:


The results will show you the book title and a link to its catalog record with the volume number and location in DAR's library. You'll also see the contents of the subject and notes fields, which can help you determine if the book is relevant to your research. Click "Ordering Page Copies" for details on requesting photocopies of the pages of interest.
Pension Records And Bounty Land Warrants - The first pension law in 1776 granted half-pay for life to soldiers disabled in the service and unable to earn a living. The first pension law based on service was passed in 1818, but it was later amended to make eligible only those soldiers unable to earn a living. The pension act of 1832 allowed pensions again based on service and made widows of veterans also eligible to receive pension benefits. Fires in 1800 destroyed the earliest Revolutionary War pension application records. As a result, pension application papers on file at the National Archives begin after 1800. Certain pension records predating 1800 survive in the form of Congressional reports and other legislation. Reports available are arranged by state; they give name, rank, regiment, description of wounds, and disability; they also give information regarding pension, place of residence, and physical fitness.

- Check the Family History Library Catalog for UNITED STATES - MILITARY RECORDS – PENSIONS
- Check National Archives Microfilm Publication M829. (FHL films 1025141–1025156)
- Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 13
- Search the INTERNET
  - Check “Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files” FHL 973 M28g by Virgil White
  - Order Pension and Bounty Land information from the National Archives
    www.archives.gov/research_room/vetrecs/
Unit Histories
Knowing the history of your ancestor’s military unit can help you find a place of residence at the time of enlistment or help you find a death place.

- Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 14
- Search the INTERNET

Census Records
Federal Censuses of 1840, 1890 and 1910 asked to identify veterans and pensioners. Some state censuses may also include such information.

- Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 14
- Review Census records on film or www.ancestry.com
- Search the INTERNET
Revolutionary War (cont’d)

**Cemetery Records**

The Daughters of the American Revolution has published the grave locations of Revolutionary War soldiers in *DAR Annual Report to the Smithsonian Institution, 1900–1974*. These lists have been continued in the *DAR Magazine*. beginning with the October 1969 issue. The lists give name, birth date, death date, burial place, rank, and state and regiment of service if known. There are more than 58,500 identified graves.

Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 14

Search the INTERNET

**Searchable Websites**

The Internet is an ever expanding source of information and records. Each month it grows. Here are some useful Sites for searchable data bases:

*Online Searchable Military Records & Databases – USA* a genealogy guide Note - many of the military indexes listed here are free to use - the ones that require payment are marked

- [http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/military.html](http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/military.html)
- [http://www.coax.net/people/lwf/mil_rec.htm](http://www.coax.net/people/lwf/mil_rec.htm)
- DON’T FORGET TO SEARCH FOR OTHERS
Quick Start Worksheet

Pre-20th Century (Other Wars)

1. What was his name?
2. When did he serve?
3. What unit did he serve in?
4. What other information do I have?

Getting Started With What I Know

Notes:
Search for U.S. Military Records Research Outline, Item #3411B
2. Refer to the Mesa Regional Family History Center “US MILITARY RECORDS HELP GUIDE” for additional information.

To obtain information for a soldier, you need to know:

1. NAME
2. STATE WHERE HE ENLISTED
3. UNIT OR REGIMENT

If you have this information go to step 2
Or continue to search for this information.

Check the Service Records to see if this person served
1. Check http://www.ancestry.com
2. Check the National Archives to order Compiled Service Record
   http://www.archives.gov
3. Check the Family History Library Catalog for MILITARY RECORDS in STATE and COUNTY

Revision: B, 01 July 2006
Mesa Arizona Regional Family History Center
Pre-20th Century (other Wars)

Quick Start Worksheet

1. Check for Pension Records
2. Check for Pension Index by Virgil White, call numbers 973 M22 on west wall reference area
3. Check Index to War of 1812 Pension Application Files: FHL films 00431/00540 and 047501-047532, Check War of 1812 Military Bounty Land Warrants, 1812-1858 FHL films 983183-983177
4. Check for Pension Records at the National Archives www.archives.gov
5. Check Cemeteries
   - National Cemetery System has a card index that identifies nearly all soldiers who were buried in national cemeteries from 1861 to the present
   - Appropriate local Cemeteries
6. Search the Internet (Service websites, Vet organizations, Unit websites, etc.)

Are there Pension Records?

Order Service/Pension Records

Check Cemeteries

Look at the Internet

Analyse: What do you now know?

What next?

What did I learn?

Make a Plan, What are my next steps?

1.
2.
3.

Revision: C, 24 Jan 2006
Mesa Arizona Regional Family History Center

Revision: B, 01 July 2006
Mesa Arizona Regional Family History Center
British interference with American trade, impressment of American seamen, and “War Hawks” drive for western expansion lead to war. The War of 1812 between the United States and Great Britain involved about 60,000 U.S. Army forces supported by 470,000 militia and volunteer troops. Most of the soldiers who saw action were from New York.

**Service Records** - Includes names, ranks, and units of soldiers compiled from original records.

- Check *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served during the War of 1812*. National Archives Microfilm Publication M602. (FHL films 882519–882752)
- Service records are on “CD Computers” 1, 2, & 3. They are found in the MILITARY folder, then select War of 1812 muster rolls

Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 17

- Order records from the National Archives
  www.archives.gov/research_room/orderonline.html
- Check www.ancestry.com

**Pension Records** - Pensions were first granted to soldiers who were disabled while in the service and to heirs of soldiers who died during the war. The files have not been filmed and are available only at the National Archives.

- Check *Index to War of 1812 Pension Application Files*. (FHL films 840431–840500 and 847501–847532)
- Check Pension Index by Virgil White 973 M22i: 2 volumes (A-I & J-Z) In alphabetical order

Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 19

Search the INTERNET
War Of 1812 (cont’d)

Bounty Land Warrants
Veterans were offered a total of 6 million acres of bounty land in Arkansas, Illinois, Michigan, and later, Missouri. Starting in 1852 bounty land warrants were also awarded outside these assigned districts.

- Check *War of 1812 Military Bounty Land Warrants, 1815–1858*. National Archives Microfilm Publication M848. (FHL films 983163–983177) The records usually contain the veteran’s name, rank, company, and regiment; the date the warrant was issued; and the date the warrant was exchanged for a specific parcel of land.

- Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 19

- Search the INTERNET

Prisoner of War Records
Americans were incarcerated on ships and in prisons

- Check *Records Relating to American Prisoners of War, 1812–1815, from the Public Record Office, London*. (FHL films 1454583–1454593) The books give each prisoner’s name; ship; date and place of capture; rank; birthplace; age; physical description; and details of discharge, death, or escape.

- Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 19

- Search the INTERNET
War Of 1812 (cont’d)

Cemetery Records

Only about 2,000 soldiers and sailors were killed during the War of 1812.

• Check Peterson, Clarence Stewart. Known Military Dead during the War of 1812. Baltimore: Clarence Stewart Peterson, 1955. (Microfiche 6051255) Includes the name, rank, place where enlisted, whether the soldier died or was killed, and the date of capture, if he was taken prisoner.

Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 20

Search the INTERNET

Searchable Websites

The Internet is an ever expanding source of information and records. Each month it grows. Here are some useful Sites for searchable data bases:

Online Searchable Military Records & Databases – USA a genealogy guide Note - many of the military indexes listed here are free to use - the ones that require payment are marked

• http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/military.html
• http://www.coax.net/people/lwf/mil_rec.htm
• DON’T FORGET TO SEARCH FOR OTHERS
The most spectacular of these conflicts were those with the Sioux and Cheyennes of the northern Plains from 1876 through 1881, notably the now-legendary Custer's Last Stand--the Battle of Little Bighorn, in which more than 200 men under Gen. George A. Custer perished on June 25, 1876. Sioux and Cheyenne resistance ended with the surrender of the Sioux chief, Sitting Bull, in 1881. The Red River War of 1874-75 finally brought peace to the southern Plains and Texas as Kiowas, Comanches, Cheyennes, and Arapahoes accepted life on reservations. Other encounters were the Modoc war of 1872-73, in the California lava beds; the dramatic flight (1877) of Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce from Idaho across more than 1,500 miles of the American Northwest, almost to Canada; the Bannock-Paiute uprising of 1878 in Idaho and Oregon; and the Ute outbreak of 1879 in western Colorado. The long and bloody Apache wars of New Mexico and Arizona closed in 1886 when Geronimo surrendered for the last time. Wounded Knee, the tragic clash of reservation Sioux with U.S. troops in 1890, marked the end of the Indian Wars--in the very year that the U.S. Census recorded the disappearance of a frontier of settlement.

**Service Records**

Service records for the Indian conflicts are available at the National Archives. They consist of abstracts from original muster rolls, pay rolls, and medical records.

- Check Service Records index on the next page
- Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 42
  - Order records from the National Archives [www.archives.gov/research_room/orderonline.html](http://www.archives.gov/research_room/orderonline.html)
  - Check [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)
  - Search the INTERNET
## Indian Wars (cont’d)

This is an alphabetical list of names in service records.

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**NOTE:** Index gives 1) name 2) Rank 3) Unit Served in
Indian Wars (cont’d)

**Pension Records**

The pension files in the National Archives relate to service performed between 1817 and 1898. Soldiers killed or disabled during the Indian wars were initially covered by existing pension laws. The first pensions based on Indian war service were granted in 1892, but they were limited to specifically named wars. By 1902 pensions were extended to cover all service between 1817 and 1858. Later acts continued extending coverage for service to 1898.

• Check the *Index to Indian Wars Pension Files, 1892–1926*. National Archives Microfilm Publication T318. (FHL films 821610–21) The index gives name, names of dependents, rank, dates of enlistment and discharge, military unit, application and certificate numbers, date and state of filing, and the pension act it was filed under.

Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 46

Search the INTERNET

**Searchable Websites**

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• http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/military.html

• http://www.coax.net/people/lwf/mil_rec.htm

• **DON'T FORGET TO SEARCH FOR OTHERS**
Mexican War (1846 To 1848)

This conflict between the United States and Mexico resulted from the annexation of Texas by the United States in 1845. The war began with a Mexican attack on American troops along the southern border of Texas on Apr. 25, 1846. Fighting ended when U.S. Gen. Winfield Scott occupied Mexico City on Sept. 14, 1847; a few months later a peace treaty was signed (Feb. 2, 1848) at Guadalupe Hidalgo. In addition to recognizing the U.S. annexation of Texas defeated Mexico ceded California and New Mexico (including all the present-day states of the Southwest) to the United States. Thirty-five thousand U.S. Army troops and 73,000 state volunteers fought in this war. Most volunteer regiments were from southern states, such as Louisiana, Tennessee, Missouri, and Texas.

Service Records

Service records of volunteers are available at most state archives (see the state research outlines for more information) and at the National Archives.

- Check Service Records index on the next page
- Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 21
- Order records from the National Archives www.archives.gov
- Check www.ancestry.com
- Search the INTERNET
This is an alphabetical list of names in service records.

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Service Records of the Mormon Battalion

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NOTE: Index gives 1) name 2) Rank 3) Unit Served in
Mexican War (cont’d)

Pension Records

Pensions were first granted to widows and minor children whose husbands or fathers had died in the service and to veterans who were disabled. Pensions based on 60 days of service were first granted to veterans or unremarried widows in 1887.

- Check Selected Pension Application Files for Members of the Mormon [sic] Battalion, Mexican War, 1846–48. National Archives Microfilm Publication T1196. (FHL films 480129–49)

- Check Mexican War Index to Pension Files, 1887–1926. National Archives Microfilm Publication T317. (FHL films 537000–13) Alphabetically arranged and includes the veteran’s name, rank, and unit; names of dependents; date of filing and application

Check the Index to Mexican War Pension Files, 973 M22mw by Virgil White

Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 21

Search the INTERNET

Cemetery Records

- Check Peterson, Clarence Stewart. Known Military Dead during the Mexican War, 1846–48. Baltimore: Clarence Stewart Peterson, 1957. (FHL film 873756 and microfiche 6051240) An alphabetical list including the soldier’s rank, company, regiment, and death date.

Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 22

Search the INTERNET
Searchable Websites

The Internet is an ever expanding source of information and records. Each month it grows. Here are some useful Sites for searchable data bases:

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- [http://www.coax.net/people/lwf/mil_rec.htm](http://www.coax.net/people/lwf/mil_rec.htm)
- DON’T FORGET TO SEARCH FOR OTHERS
Spanish-American War (1898)

War actually began for the U.S. in Cuba in June when the Marines captured Guantánamo Bay and 17,000 troops landed at Siboney and Daiquirí, east of Santiago de Cuba, the second largest city on the island. At that time Spanish troops stationed on the island included 150,000 regulars and 40,000 irregulars and volunteers while rebels inside Cuba numbered as many as 50,000. Total U.S. army strength at the time totalled 26,000, requiring the passage of the Mobilization Act of April 22 that allowed for an army of at first 125,000 volunteers (later increased to 200,000) and a regular army of 65,000. On June 22, U.S. troops landed at Daiquiri where they were joined by Calixto García and about 5,000 revolutionaries.

U.S. troops attacked the San Juan heights on July 1, 1898. Dismounted troopers, including the African-American Ninth and Tenth cavalries and the Rough Riders commanded by Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt went up against Kettle Hill while the forces led by Brigadier General Jacob Kent charged up San Juan Hill and pushed Spanish troops further inland while inflicting 1,700 casualties. While U.S. commanders were deciding on a further course of action, Admiral Cervera left port only to be defeated by Schley. On July 16, the Spaniards agreed to the unconditional surrender of the 23,500 troops around the city. A few days later, Major General Nelson Miles sailed from Guantánamo to Puerto Rico. His forces landed near Ponce and marched to San Juan with virtually no opposition.

Representatives of Spain and the United States signed a peace treaty in Paris on December 10, 1898 established the independence of Cuba, ceded Puerto Rico and Guam to the United States, and allowed the victorious power to purchase the Philippines Islands from Spain for $20 million. The war had cost the United States $250 million and 3,000 lives, of whom 90% had perished from infectious diseases.
Service Records

Service records of volunteers are available at most state archives (see the state research outlines for more information) and at the National Archives.

- Check Service Records index on the next page
- Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 48
- Order records from the National Archives www.archives.gov
- Check www.ancestry.com
- Search the INTERNET

Pension Records

For pension files of Spanish-American War veterans, use *General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934*, National Archives Microfilm Publication T288. The index covers veterans of the Civil War, Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection, Boxer Rebellion (1900 to 1901), and the regular Army, Navy, and Marine forces. The pension records are *not* on microfilm at the Family History Library. To obtain copies you must request copies from the National Archives.

- Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 48
- Order records from the National Archives www.archives.gov
- Search the INTERNET
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Veterans’ and Lineage Society Records

*The United Spanish War Veterans* was established in 1899. Its membership includes veterans with service in the war with Spain and the Philippine Insurrection to 4 July 1902. The following sources with information on their members who were veterans of these wars are available at the Family History Library.

Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 48

Search the INTERNET

**Searchable Websites**

The Internet is an ever expanding source of information and records. Each month it grows. Here are some useful Sites for searchable data bases:

*Online Searchable Military Records & Databases – USA* a genealogy guide Note - many of the military indexes listed here are free to use - the ones that require payment are marked

- [http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/military.html](http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/military.html)
- [http://www.coax.net/people/lwf/mil_rec.htm](http://www.coax.net/people/lwf/mil_rec.htm)
- DON’T FORGET TO SEARCH FOR OTHERS
Philippine Insurrection (1899 To 1902)

As early 1899, U.S. and Filipino forces faced off as a tense situation became worse. American forces held the capitol of Manila, while Aguinaldo's army occupied a trench-line surrounding the city. On the evening of February 4, 1899, Private William Grayson of the Nebraska Volunteers fired the first shot in what would turn out to be a very bloody war. Grayson shot at a group of Filipinos approaching his position, provoking an armed response. Shooting soon spread up and down the ten-mile U.S.-Filipino lines, causing hundreds of casualties. Upon the outbreak of hostilities, U.S. troops, supported by shelling from Admiral Dewey's fleet, quickly overwhelmed the Filipino positions while inflicting thousands of casualties. Within days, American forces spread outward from Manila, using superior firepower, mobile artillery and command of the sea to full effect.

Emilio Aguinaldo was captured in March, 1902, and organized opposition from his followers soon faded. Despite the official end to hostilities proclaimed on July 4, 1902, individual tribes in Luzon and the Muslim Moros of the southern islands launched further uprisings for another decade or so. More than 125,000 American soldiers were sent to the Philippines, and over 4,000 deaths occurred during the conflict.

Service Records

Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served during the Philippine Insurrection. National Archives Microfilm Publication M872. (FHL films 1002559–82, see Table below.) The index lists each volunteer’s name, rank, and unit.

The service records have not been filmed and are only available at the National Archives. Regiments of state volunteers came from California, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.
Philippine Insurrection, 1899-1902
Index to Service Records

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NOTE: Index gives 1) name 2) Rank 3) Unit Served in

Pension Records

Pensions were first granted in 1922 to veterans of the Philippine Insurrection. The index to the records is *General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934*. National Archives Microfilm Publication T288. The pension files have not been filmed and are available at the National Archives. For additional information, see “Pension Records” in the “Civil War” section of this outline on pages 29–30.
Census Records

The Twelfth Population Census of the United States, 1900, National Archives Microfilm Publication T623. (FHL films 1241838–42; computer number 706386), enumerated military personnel stationed overseas in places such as Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines. The census gives the soldier’s name, rank, place of residence in the United States, birth date and place, company, regiment, and branch of service. These returns have been indexed as Index (Soundex) to the 1900 Population Schedules, National Archives Microfilm Publication T1081 (FHL films 1249622–52; computer number 706386.) To find specific microfilm numbers, look in the Locality search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

UNITED STATES - CENSUS - 1900

UNITED STATES - CENSUS - 1900 - INDEXES

Searchable Websites

The Internet is an ever expanding source of information and records. Each month it grows. Here are some useful Sites for searchable data bases:

Online Searchable Military Records & Databases – USA a genealogy guide Note - many of the military indexes listed here are free to use - the ones that require payment are marked

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- http://www.coax.net/people/lwf/mil_rec.htm
- DON’T FORGET TO SEARCH FOR OTHERS

Revision: B, 01 July 2006  Mesa Arizona Regional Family History Center
The Civil War

Union Soldier
U.S. Military Records
Civil War 1861-1865
US Military Records
Getting Started With What I Know

1. What was his name?
2. When did he serve?
3. What unit did he serve in?
4. What other information do I have?

References:
   Search for U.S. Military Records Research Outline, Item 594118
2. Refer to the Mesa Regional Family History Center "U.S. MILITARY RECORDS HELP GUIDE" for additional information.

Helps to find:
Name, State, and Regiment

What do you already know?

Reference to

Need NAME, STATE, & REGIMENT
(go to step 2 if known)

Helps to find

Name, State, and Regiment
The Civil War

Quick Start Worksheet

1. Check for Pension Records
   1. Check ancestry.com http://www.ancestry.com
   2. Check General Index to Pension Files 1861-1934. FHAlms 540757-541300. The index is arranged by the veteran’s or widow’s name. To find specific microfilm numbers, look in the Locality search.

2. Now order Service Records and/or Pension Records from the National Archives
   http://www.archives.gov

3. Check for CEMETERY RECORDS
   1. The National Cemetery System has a card index that identifies nearly all soldiers who were buried in national cemeteries from 1861 to the present. http://gravesearch.nps.gov
   2. Check appropriate local Cemeteries
      What did I learn?

4. Check Cyndi’s List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet www.cyndislist.com/cw.htm. This website provides links to American Civil War genealogical sites.
   What did I learn?

5. Search the Internet (Lineage organizations, Unit websites, histories, etc.). Use www.google.com or another good search engine.
   What did I learn?

6. Make a plan - What are my next steps?
   1. 
   2. 
   3. 

Are there Pension Records?

Order Service/Pension records

Check Cemeteries

Check Cyndi’s List

Look at the Internet

Analyze: What do you now know?
What next?
The Civil War

What do you already know?

Reference to

Need NAME, STATE, & REGIMENT
(go to step 2 if known)

Helps to find Name, State, and Regiment

To obtain information for a Confederate soldier, you need to know:

1. **NAME**
2. **STATE WHERE HE ENLISTED**
3. **UNIT OR REGIMENT**

If you have this information go to step 2.

Or continue to search for this information.

1. Check The National Park Service Index to Union and Confederate soldiers.

2. Check Ancestry.com at www.ancestry.com

3. Check the compiled service records for Confederate soldiers. They have been indexed and microfilmed. Consolidated Index to Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers, FILM 621594, 191120 – 191661. Also see films 1205316-1205335 for soldiers in units raised directly by the Confederate government.

4. Check Family History Library Catalog – Place search by state and then MILITARY RECORDS

Notes:


2. Refer to the Mesa Regional Family History Center "US MILITARY RECORDS HELP GUIDE" for additional information.

The Civil War

Quick Start Worksheet

2. Now order Service Records from the National Archives
   http://www.archives.gov/

3. Check Confederate State Pension records.
   1. For help in finding state pensions to confederate soldiers, see
      http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/military/civil-war/confederate/pension.html
   2. Also check the State Archives where the soldier lived after the war.

4. Check for Parole Records
   1. Keyword search for “parole confederate” at the Family History Library Catalog
      http://www.familysearch.org
   2. Parole records can also be searched at
      www.ara.gov/vich/parole/csp_annu.htm

5. Check for CEMETARY RECORDS
   1. The National Cemetery System has a card index that identifies nearly all soldiers who
      were buried in national cemeteries from 1861 to the present.
      http://casa.loc.gov/cas.htm
   2. Check appropriate local Cemeteries

   What did I learn?

6. Check Cyndi’s List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet
   www.cyndislist.com/cw.htm. This website provides links to American Civil War genealogical sites.

   What did I learn?

7. Search the Internet (Lineage organizations, Unit websites, histories, etc.) Use
   www.google.com
   or another good search engine.

   What did I learn?

8. Make a plan - What are my next steps?
   1. 
   2. 
   3. 

Revision: B, 01 July 2006
Mesa Arizona Regional Family History Center
Civil War (1861 To 1865)

The Civil War was fought between the Northern and Southern (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia) states, beginning on 12 April 1861 when troops in South Carolina fired upon the garrison at Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. Approximately 3.5 million soldiers fought in the war. The war resulted in almost 600,000 deaths and affected nearly every family in those regions of the country.

**General Reference Sources (Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 24)**

- National Archives and Records Administration [www.nara.gov/genealogy/civilwar.html](http://www.nara.gov/genealogy/civilwar.html)

- Cyndi’s List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet [www.cyndislist.com/cw.htm](http://www.cyndislist.com/cw.htm) This web site provides links to American Civil War genealogical sites, including: African-Americans, battles, forts, general resources, state-by-state resources, hospitals, libraries and archives, mailing lists, pension records, prisoners, publications, researchers, regimental rosters and histories, and societies.


Civil War (cont’d)

Civil War Soldiers System (Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 25)

The National Park Service is working to make a computerized index to Union and Confederate soldiers. When completed, this index will be available at National Park Service Civil War sites. The database will have 5.5 million names. They will also tell whether the soldier was Union or Confederate and will give regiment and rank. As completed, the National Park Service will be posting the entries on their Internet web site. The address for the site is:

www.itd.nps.gov/cwss

This site also contains basic facts about soldiers on both sides of the Civil War, a list of regiments, identifications and descriptions of 384 significant battles, references that identify the sources of the information in the database, and suggestions for where to find additional information. It also includes a search of the 235,000 name “U.S. Colored Troops” database.

Union Sources (Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 26)

Union Army soldiers may have served in the U.S. Army, local militia units mustered into federal service, or volunteer regiments raised by the individual states. The length of service varied from 90 days to three years. Many soldiers also reenlisted, serving in more than one regiment. The Union Army and Navy enlisted over 2.3 million men, of which nearly 359,000 died in combat or from wounds and disease.
Service Records

There is currently no master index to the names of soldiers who served in Union volunteer regiments. Individual indexes to state volunteer regiments are available on microfilm for every Northern state and every Southern state except South Carolina. A transcription of the National Archives indexes to compiled Military Service records of Volunteer Union soldiers is: Hewett, Janet B., ed. *The Roster of Union Soldiers, 1861–1865*. 33 vols. Wilmington, N.C.: Broadfoot Publishing, 1997–. (FHL book 973 M29h) This series is currently in publication. Most service records have not been microfilmed and are available only at the National Archives. Most of the filmed records and indexes are also available at the Family History Library.

- Use Tables on following pages
- To find specific microfilm numbers for indexes, look in the Locality search of the Family History Library Catalog under:
  
  [STATE] - MILITARY RECORDS – CIVIL WAR, 1861-1865 - INDEXES
  
  For service records, look under:
  
  [STATE] - MILITARY RECORDS – CIVIL WAR, 1861-1865

- Check www.ancestry.com

Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 26 to 29

- Order records from the National Archives www.archives.gov/research_room/orderonline.html

- Check the Grand Army of the Republic website. This was the major veterans organization after the war. http://suvcw.org/research.htm
**Civil War (cont’d)**

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<td>Louisiana.</td>
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| Nebraska         | *Index.* National Archives Microfilm Publication M547. (FHL films 821905–06; computer number 279839.) Also available at the National Archives, *Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the Territory of Nebraska.* National Archives Microfilm Publication M1787.
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<td>New Jersey</td>
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<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>Compiled Service Records. National Archives Microfilm Publication M401 (FHL films 1473248–72; computer number 437573) Also, Index. National Archives Microfilm Publication M391. (FHL films 881590–91; computer number 278987.)</td>
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<td>Oregon</td>
<td>Index. National Archives Microfilm Publication M553. (FHL film 821947; computer number 279892.) Also available at the National Archives, Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Oregon. National Archives Microfilm Publication M1816. • Pennsylvania. Index. National Archives Microfilm Publication M554. (FHL films 882336–472; computer number 324020.)</td>
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### Civil War (cont’d)

#### Table of Compiled Records and Indexes (cont’d)

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<td><em>Compiled Service Records.</em> National Archives Microfilm Publication M692. (FHL film 821588; computer number 279682.) Also, <em>Index.</em> National Archives Microfilm Publication M556. (FHL film 1292645; computer number 110832.)</td>
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<td>Vermont</td>
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<td>Virginia</td>
<td><em>Compiled Service Records.</em> National Archives Microfilm Publication M398. (FHL films 1292638–44; computer number 110844.) Also, <em>Index.</em> National Archives Microfilm Publication M394. (FHL film 881594; computer number 278963.)</td>
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<td>Washington</td>
<td><em>Index.</em> National Archives Microfilm Publication M558. (FHL film 821948; computer number 279908.)</td>
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<td>West Virginia</td>
<td><em>Compiled Service Records.</em> National Archives Microfilm Publication M508. (FHL films 1478231–475 and 1482026–041; computer number 432766.) Also, <em>Index.</em> National Archives Microfilm Publication M507. (FHL films 881595–607; computer number 278717.)</td>
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<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td><em>Index.</em> National Archives Microfilm Publication M559. (FHL films 882486–518; computer number 279932.) The indexes include the soldier’s name, rank, and unit.</td>
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### Additional service indexes for Union soldiers are:

- **Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in the Veteran Reserve Corps.** National Archives Microfilm Publication M636. (FHL films 1205358–83; computer number 328746.) Indexes the names of soldiers who were no longer able to serve combat duty but who could still perform limited duty, such as being prison guards and hospital stewards.

- **Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served with United States Colored Troops.** National Archives Microfilm Publication M589. (FHL films 1266617–43 and 1266546–616; computer number 34182.) Covers many former slaves from the South as well as free African-Americans who served in the Union Army between 1863 and 1865.

- **Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations Not Raised by States and Territories.** National Archives Microfilm Publication M1290. (FHL films 1604884–920; computer number 467348.) Indexes records of special units not raised by the states, such as the U.S. Sharpshooters, Indian Home Guard, and former Confederates.

- **Compiled Military Service Records of Volunteer Union Troops Who Served with the United States Colored Troops: 1st United States Colored Infantry, 1st South Carolina Volunteers (Colored) Company A, 1st United States Colored Infantry (1 Year).** National Archives Microfilm Publication M1819.

- **Compiled Military Service Records of Volunteers Who Served with the United States Colored Troops: 55th Massachusetts Infantry.** National Archives Microfilm Publication M1801.
Civil War (cont’d)

Table of Compiled Records and Indexes (cont’d)


Service Records of Sailors

For records of sailors who served in the Union Navy, contact the National Archives. The weekly returns of enlistments, 1855 to 1891, are the records of most value for sailors, particularly those who served between 1855 and 1865. Entries list the sailor’s name, enlistment date, birthplace, age, occupation, personal description, date of or return of enlistment, and record of previous naval service. The records have not been filmed and are available only at the National Archives in Record Group 24, Records of the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

- Index to Rendezvous Reports, Civil War, 1861–65. National Archives Microfilm Publication T1099. (FHL films 1570558–88; computer number 462166.) Entries contain the sailor’s name, ship or place of rendezvous, and date of enlistment.
Civil War (cont’d)

National Parks Service Civil War Site

http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/
Civil War (cont’d)

Pension Records

The pension law governing claims based on death or disability from military service was passed 14 July 1862. Later pension laws were based on length of service and disability not necessarily incurred in the service. Beginning in 1892 women who were employed as nurses by the government were also eligible for pensions. The pension files have not been filmed and are only available at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. The archives staff will copy only selected documents unless you request copies of all the documents in a file.

• Check General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934. National Archives Microfilm Publication T288. (FHL films 540757–1300; computer number 245945.) The index is arranged by the veteran’s or widow’s name and his unit, rank, date and application number, certificate number if accepted, and state of filing. To find specific microfilm numbers, look in the Locality search.

• Check Veterans Administration Pension Payment Cards, 1907–1933. National Archives Microfilm Publication M850. (FHL films 1634036–6574; computer number 500541.) This index is useful for veterans who were on the pension rolls between 1907 and 1933, except World War I pensioners. About two million cards record payment to veterans and widows. The veteran’s name, unit or branch of service, certificate number, law under which pensioned, rate of pension, pension date, date of certificate, place of residence, death date, former roll number, and widow’s name may be included on the cards. To find specific microfilm numbers, look in the Locality search.

• Check Organization Index to Pension Files of Veterans Who Served between 1861 and 1900. National Archives Microfilm Publication T289. (FHL 765 films; computer number 462116.) This index is similar in content to the general index and the pension payment cards, but it may provide death information.

Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 29

Search the INTERNET
Example: Confederate Parole

We have seen a picture of a Confederate Parole document.

Example:

Confederate Parole

VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI, JULY

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, KNOW YE THAT:

Alfred Derouin, Private of Co. A, 28th Regt. Louisiana

Vols. C. S. A., being a prisoner of War, in the hands of the United States Forces, in virtue of the capitulation of the city of Vicksburg and its Garrison, by Lieut. Gen. John C. Pemberton, C. S. A., Commanding, on the 4th day of July, 1863, do in pursuance of the terms of said capitulation, give this my solemn parole under oath:

That I will not take up arms against the United States, nor serve in any military, police, or constabulary force in any Fort, Garrison or field work, held by the Confederate States of America, against the United States of America, nor as guard of any prisons, depots or stores, nor discharge any duties usually performed by Officers or soldiers against the United States of America, until duly exchanged by the proper authorities.

Sworn to and subscribed before me at Vicksburg, Miss., this 7 day of July 1863.

Major

AND PAROLING OFFICER.
Civil War (cont’d)

Example:
Civil War Pension
How to get a copy of a soldier's "official" military record

- The CSRs in the National Archives (NA) are a summary of a soldier's military record. They were compiled between 1903 and 1927 by clerks in the War Department, because the constant handling of the original muster rolls and other records, due to requests from state governments to verify a soldier's service as part of a pension application, was tearing these documents up (and some are really in terrible shape today because of this). So the clerks went through all (or most, anyway) of the original records, extracting names. Every time they found an identifiable name and unit, they made an index card, noting what was said for this name, and the source (muster roll, so-and-so date, &c.). Because these records now appear as a series of index cards for each soldier, they are sometimes called the "Carded Service Records."

- This is what you get today - a photocopy of all those index cards that apply to that soldier. They are not really original Civil War period records, but they contain the data on that soldier from those records. For Federals, these often contain muster-in and muster-out data (including, sometimes, the soldier's discharge certificate or other actual period documents), as well as extracts from muster and pay rolls. For Confederates, these are usually just extracts from muster and pay rolls (normally just a note that the soldier was present for muster on a given date), but they sometimes contain descriptive data, especially if the soldier was ever wounded, or was captured and therefore had Federal prison records.
• These CSRs are only as complete as the surviving official records. Many Confederate units did not keep complete records, and many of the Confederate records were destroyed at the end of the war, or taken home and never turned in to Federal authorities (the Federals did some of this themselves at the end of the war, too). Many Confederate companies have only a few original muster rolls on file, even though the unit may have existed for most of the war. So your soldier may have only a small CSR. Indeed, most CSRs have only a few cards, noting nothing more than the dates when the soldier mustered in, was present for pay or other musters, and mustered out.

• The index cards are stored in envelopes, or card jackets. These envelopes sometimes contain original individual documents, as well as the carded CSRs. When the clerks found an original document that applied only to a single soldier, they filed this document with that soldier's CSR. In the case of officers, these individual documents take the form of pay vouchers, requisitions, and sometimes letters and reports, and can run to many pages, with a wealth of data. Even privates' records may contain many pages of individual papers; it all depends on what original records survived.

• The CSRs of the Confederate soldiers and Federal soldiers from Border and Southern states have also been microfilmed, but when you order a copy from the NA, you get a copy of the original cards and papers, not the microfilm. These microfilm rolls can be found in many state and larger city libraries. There is also a microfilm index of the records, arranged by state. An overall index of Confederates has been microfilmed as series M253.
Civil War (cont’d)

Examples

Excerpts from Civil War records: 
- William H. Carney, 5th U.S. Colored Troops, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his gallantry in action at Fort Wagner, South Carolina, July 18, 1863.
- James McLin, 24th Cavalry, Texas, enlisted on April 28, 1862, and served until April 28, 1863.

Remarks:
- This company subsequently became Company B, 22nd Regiment Texas Cavalry.
- The 22nd Regiment Texas Cavalry, also known as the 2d Regiment Texas Mounted Riflemen, was organized April 28, 1862, with the first company, Company A, mustered out on November 15, 1863, at Little Rock, Ark.
- The regiment was mustered out at Little Rock, Ark., January 11, 1865, and exchanged with the 15th and 37th Regiments Texas Cavalry. The consolidation was broken up in March, 1865, when those parts of the 22nd and 37th Regiments Texas Cavalry were united to form one field organization, and each appears to have been used in the field organization.

*This company subsequently became Company B, 22nd Regiment Texas Cavalry.
Searchable Websites

The Internet is an ever expanding source of information and records. Each month it grows. Here are some useful Sites for searchable data bases:

Online Searchable Military Records & Databases – USA a genealogy guide Note - many of the military indexes listed here are free to use - the ones that require payment are marked

• http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/military.html
• http://www.coax.net/people/lwf/mil_rec.htm
• DON’T FORGET TO SEARCH FOR OTHERS
20th Century
U.S. Military Records
### 20th Century (After 1900)

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<td>World War II</td>
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<td>Korea</td>
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<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>June 6, 1983 to December 1, 1987</td>
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<td>Grenada</td>
<td>October 23, 1983 to November 21, 1983</td>
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<td>Panama</td>
<td>December 20, 1989 to January 1, 1990</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persian Gulf</td>
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<tr>
<td>War on Terrorism</td>
<td>September 11, 2001 to the present</td>
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20th Century (After 1900)

20th Century
US Military Records

World War I
World War II
Korea
Vietnam
Lebanon
Grenada
Panama
Darien
War on Terrorism

Getting Started With What I Know

1. What was the person's name?
2. When did he/she serve?
3. What unit did he/she serve in?
4. What was his/her Service Number?
5. What was his/her Social Security Number?
6. What other information do I have?

Notes:
   Search for U.S. Military Records Research Outline, Item #34118
2. Refer to the Mesa Regional Family History Center "US MILITARY RECORDS HELP GUIDE" for additional information.
3. Many 20th century records may no longer be available because of a 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center. You can contact the state archives in the state where your ancestor lived to possibly find any missing records.
4. 20th Century Records are the responsibility of the National Archives, but they are housed at the Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

Order SERVICE RECORDS
2. Personnel Records may be ordered online
   - This is free for the Vet and "Next of Kin" using the e VetRec option
   - All others must use the Form 180 option and there is a charge

Revision: B, 01 July 2006
Mesa Arizona Regional Family History Center
20th Century (After 1900)

Quick Start Worksheet

1. Check for DRAFT REGISTRATION record [http://context.ancestry.com]

What did I learn?

Check SOCIAL SECURITY DEATH BENEFIT'S RECORDS
[http://ssdi.rootsweb.com/]

What did I learn?

Check MILITARY CEMETERIES (as appropriate) and “Lost at Sea”
1. National Cemeteries [http://gravelocator.com/vagov/]
2. Overseas Cemeteries [http://va.gov]
3. Lost at Sea records are at [http://www.lonesailor.org/las/lasintro.htm]

What did I learn?

Check with the County Court Clerk or County Recorder’s Office of person’s home county to see if any documents, such as a discharge, were recorded.

What did I learn?

Search the Internet
1. Service websites, Vet organizations, Unit websites, etc. Use [www.google.com] or any other good search engine.
2. Check [www.ancestry.com] This site continues to add military records databases
3. Check the National Archives [http://archive.gov] This site continues to add new searchable databases

What did I learn?

Develop a Plan - What are my next steps?
1. 
2. 
3. 

Analyze: What do you now know? What next?
World War I (1917 To 1918)

The United States entered World War I in April 1917. Over 4.7 million men and women served in the regular U.S. forces, national guard units, and draft units. There were 53,402 killed in action, 63,114 deaths from disease and other causes, and about 205,000 wounded. New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Ohio furnished the most soldiers.

Service Records

Many records may no longer be available because of a 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center. You can also contact the state archives in the state where your ancestor lived. Indexes mentioning some sailors are the following: *Index to Rendezvous Reports, Naval Auxiliary Service, 1917–1918.* National Archives Microfilm Publication T1100. (FHL film 1380690) Lists the name, enlistment date, date of assignment, and place. *Index to Rendezvous Reports, Armed Guard Personnel, 1917–1920.* National Archives Microfilm Publication T1101. (FHL films 1380696–98) Lists the name, enlistment date, rank, dates of service, and name of vessel served on.

Pension Records

The Department of Veteran Affairs has benefit claims files. Veteran files are located at the regional office closest to the residence of the veteran at the time of application.

Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 50
Search the INTERNET
World War I (cont’d)

**Draft Records**

Twenty-four million men who were born between 13 September 1873 and 12 September 1900 (between the ages of 18 and 45) registered for the draft. A typical card has the man’s full name and signature, home address, age, birth date, citizenship status, occupation, employer’s name and address, race, dependents or nearest relative, and physical description. For registrants born between 6 June 1886 and 28 August 1897 the cards also give city or town, state, and nation of birth; previous military service; and marital status.

- Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 50
- Search the INTERNET

**Census Records**

The 1930 and 1940 federal population censuses identify veterans. Microfilm copies are not available. Authorized representatives or heirs can request a search by using form BC-600, “Application for Search of Census Records.” It is available from:

Bureau of the Census, P.O. Box 1545, Jeffersonville, IN 47131 Telephone: 812-285-5314

- Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 51
- Search the INTERNET
Searchable Websites

The Internet is an ever expanding source of information and records. Each month it grows. Here are some useful Sites for searchable data bases:

Online Searchable Military Records & Databases – USA a genealogy guide Note - many of the military indexes listed here are free to use - the ones that require payment are marked

• http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/military.html
• http://www.coax.net/people/lwf/mil_rec.htm
• DON’T FORGET TO SEARCH FOR OTHERS

Recorded Documents

Check the county courts/records office of person’s home to see if any documents such as discharge were recorded.
World War II (cont’d)

World War II
Over 16.5 million men and women served in the armed forces during World War II, of whom 291,557 died in battle, 113,842 died from other causes, and 670,846 were wounded. The Family History Library has few World War II military records.

Service Records
Because of privacy restrictions and loss of records, it is usually best to document World War II service by finding home sources, or by writing to the Adjutant General’s Office of the state from which a soldier served. Discharges may also have been recorded at local county courthouses. Many records may no longer be available because of a 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center.

- Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 52
- Search the INTERNET

Pension Records
The Department of Veteran Affairs has benefit claims files. Veteran files are located at the regional office closest to the residence of the veteran at the time of application.

- Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 52
- Search the INTERNET
Cemetery Records

At the National Personnel Records Center, the American Battle Monument Commission has a microfiche register of the names of 134,548 veterans who died and were buried in American military cemeteries overseas. The list provides such information as: name, service number, last organization, some awards, last rank, and burial place.

Draft Records

On 16 September 1940, President Roosevelt signed into law the first peacetime Selective Service Act. It required all 16 million men between the ages of 21 and 35 to register. Some Selective Service records are at the National Archives regional centers.

Unit Histories

The bibliographies on page 8 of this outline list published unit histories.
World War II (cont’d)

**Prisoner of War Records**

A valuable source when searching for prisoners of war is the Records of the Prisoner of War Information Division in the Records of the Office of the Provost Marshal General, 1941–, Record Group 389. It contains 31 volumes of rosters of P.O.W.s held by Germany, Japan, and neutral countries. Additional records and information on prisoners of war held by the German military are also located in Record Group 242, National Archives Collection of Foreign Records Seized.

Refer to the US MILITARY RECORDS Research Outline, page 52
Search the INTERNET

**Searchable Websites**

The Internet is an ever expanding source of information and records. Each month it grows. Here are some useful Sites for searchable data bases:

- Online Searchable Military Records & Databases – USA a genealogy guide Note - many of the military indexes listed here are free to use - the ones that require payment are marked
  - http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/military.html
  - http://www.coax.net/people/lwf/mil_rec.htm
  - DON’T FORGET TO SEARCH FOR OTHERS
Recorded Documents

Check the county courts/records office of person’s home to see if any documents such as discharge were recorded.
Korean War (cont’d)

Korean War (1950 To 1953)

About 54 thousand of the 5 million American service men and women who served in the Korean War were killed.

Assuming you have the full name, and the correct spelling of the surname, you can do the following:

• Check telephone listings, particularly if you are looking for an unusual given name or surname. Telephone Directories on the Web provides links to telephone white pages in the U.S., as well as nearly fifty foreign countries.
• Military reunion associations can assist you in locating someone from a particular outfit. The National VETS Archives (http://www.vets.org/) maintains a list of more than 12,300 reunion organizations — see if yours is in the list.
• Veterans organizations such as the American Legion or Disabled American Veterans may be able to assist in your search. A complete list of U.S. military associations has been compiled by Ben N. Myer, U.S. Army Retired and available on the Internet at http://vets.com/inside/assc.htm. It includes U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, and Marine Corps.
• Korean War Veterans organizations are on the Internet. Check out their web site for more information about each of the following organizations:
  • Check the Korean War Casualty List available at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).
  • Check the Social Security Death Index (SSDI) is an excellent source to determine if there may be anyone that fits the profile of the person you are trying to locate. Keep in mind that the SSDI does not list all deaths; only those for whom a social security death benefit was paid.
  • The SSDI is also useful in locating death data on the parents (assuming you know their names) of the buddy you are researching.
• If you know where the person resided after the war, odds are good that they filed discharge papers and/or service record at the local county courthouse. These records are open to the public and will give you information such as his date of birth, or a "permanent" address that may be a relative.
Searchable Websites

The Internet is an ever expanding source of information and records. Each month it grows. Here are some useful Sites for searchable data bases:

- Online Searchable Military Records & Databases – USA a genealogy guide Note - many of the military indexes listed here are free to use - the ones that require payment are marked
  - http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/military.html
  - http://www.coax.net/people/lwf/mil_rec.htm
  - DON’T FORGET TO SEARCH FOR OTHERS

Recorded Documents

Check the county courts/records office of person’s home to see if any documents such as discharge were recorded.
Vietnam War (1964 To 1972)

The "advisory" phase of U.S. involvement goes from 1956 to 1964, and then resumes from 1973 to 1975. The years 1964 to 1973 refer to the period of "official" combat deployment of U.S. forces in the war. About 58 thousand of the 7 million Americans who served in Vietnam died.

Assuming you have the full name, and the correct spelling of the surname, you can do the following:

- Check telephone listings, particularly if you are looking for an unusual given name or surname. Telephone Directories on the Web provides links to telephone white pages in the U.S., as well as nearly fifty foreign countries.
- Military reunion associations can assist you in locating someone from a particular outfit. The National VETS Archives (http://www.vets.org/) maintains a list of more than 12,300 reunion organizations — see if yours is in the list.
- Veterans organizations such as the American Legion or Disabled American Veterans may be able to assist in your search. A complete list of U.S. military associations has been compiled by Ben N. Myer, U.S. Army Retired and available on the Internet at http://vets.com/inside/assc.htm. It includes U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, and Marine Corps.
- Vietnam War Veterans organizations are on the Internet.
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# Change Log

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