



*McKenny John A*  
 Co. F & 1 U.S. Vol. Cavalry.  
 (Spanish War.)  
*Corporal 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant*

CARD NUMBERS.	
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REFERENCE INFORMATION PAPER 109

# Military Service Records

## AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES



# Military Service Records at the National Archives

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**R E F E R E N C E   I N F O R M A T I O N   P A P E R   1 0 9**

National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC

Compiled by Trevor K. Plante

Revised 2009

PLANTE, TREVOR K.

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DC : NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION, REVISED 2009.

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SOURCES. 3. UNITED STATES — HISTORY, MILITARY — SOURCES. I. UNITED  
STATES. NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION. II. TITLE.

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Front cover images:

Bottom: *Members of Company G, 30th U.S. Volunteer Infantry, at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, August 1899. The regiment arrived in Manila at the end of October to take part in the Philippine Insurrection. (111-SC-98361)*

Background: *Fitzhugh Lee's oath of allegiance for amnesty and pardon following the Civil War. Lee was Robert E. Lee's nephew and went on to serve in the Spanish-American War as a major general of the United States Volunteers. (RG 94)*

Top left: *Group of soldiers from the 71st New York Infantry Regiment in camp in 1861. (111-B-90)*

Top middle: *Compiled military service record envelope for John A. McIlhenny who served with the Rough Riders during the Spanish-American War. He was the son of Edmund McIlhenny, inventor of Tabasco sauce. (RG 94)*

Top right: *Union naval officers and crew shown on vessel guarding the port of Alexandria, Virginia, during the Civil War. (111-B-513)*

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Back cover: *Group of officers from the 16th Pennsylvania Cavalry during the Civil War. (111-B-2191)*

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## P R E F A C E

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This reference information paper describes military service records held at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The National Archives is the official repository for records of military personnel who have been discharged from the U.S. Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard.

Six decades ago, the National Archives began publishing reference information papers (RIPs) as part of a comprehensive descriptive program designed to help people find their way through voluminous records in our holdings. Related records addressed in other publications are the *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives of the United States* (rev. 2000) as well as the *Microfilm Resources for Research: A Comprehensive Catalog* (2000) and *Military Service Records: A Select Catalog of National Archives Microfilm Publications* (1985). The National Archives and Records Administration's web site, [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov), offers access to more sources for genealogical research as well as to the Archival Research Catalog (ARC), the online catalog of NARA's nationwide holdings.

As the nation's record keeper, NARA safeguards records of all three branches of the Federal Government. NARA meets an almost unlimited range of information needs, ensuring access to records on which both the credibility of government and the accuracy of history depend. We welcome any comments you may have on the information products and services NARA provides. Use the "contact us" link on [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov).

Adrienne C. Thomas

*Acting Archivist of the United States*



*Taking the oath of enlistment to join the U.S. Army, ca. 1898. (111 SC 113514)*

# INTRODUCTION

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Several changes have occurred since the 1985 revision of General Information Leaflet (GIL) Number 7, *Military Service Records in the National Archives of the United States*. This reference information paper (RIP) replaces GIL 7 and updates much of its content. For example, some records listed under the Coast Guard section of GIL 7 as residing in the Washington National Records Center in Suitland, Maryland, are now found in the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, Missouri. Also the Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs) of former members of all branches of the Armed Forces who were discharged or retired from or who died in service 62 or more years ago have been accessioned into the National Archives and are made available to the public by the National Personnel Records Center's Archival Programs Division. In addition, unit rosters, morning reports, and other strength accounting records for Army, Army Air Corps, and Army Air Force organizations, 1912–47, at NPRC have been accessioned and are available to the public.

Computer technology has also greatly changed how researchers can conduct research on military service records at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). You can now order copies of military service records and pension and bounty land records, stored at the National Archives in Washington, DC, online where before it required mailing in a form. Now veterans and their next of kin can order copies of military personnel files from the National Personnel Records Center online. For those conducting Civil War research, you can go to the National Park Service's "Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System" online and conduct a name search for those who served during the conflict. At least one Internet site provides access to Federal Civil War pension indexes for a fee. Likewise the Veterans

Administration now provides a searchable database for finding veterans buried in national cemeteries on their web site. Several web sites provide databases or information that can assist researchers in gaining access to NARA records, and in some cases, copies of NARA records are available on these sites as well.

Each section of this reference information paper contains additional sources of information such as published articles, books, or finding aids and, in some cases, links to Internet sources. For records relating to service in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, there are quick reference guides that provide consolidated lists or “hot spots” to search when conducting research on those particular records. In the case of military records for service in the Army there is a further breakdown for volunteers and regulars and for enlisted men and officers. After the sections concerning the various services, there are descriptions of different types of records such as pensions, bounty land files, headstones and burials, medals, and discharges. This RIP provides information on online sources throughout the finding aid in addition to a consolidated section on web sites relating to military service records at the National Archives.

Records at the National Archives are arranged by the creating agency or office in groupings called *record groups* (RG). For example, RG 127 is the Records of the U.S. Marine Corps, and RG 94 is the Records of the Office of the Adjutant General’s Office, 1780s–1917. Under the record group is the *series*, a body of records that are related chronologically (Civil War compiled military service records) or by subject (headstone applications for private cemeteries).

The National Archives and Records Administration has microfilmed over 3,000 series of Federal records that contain a wealth of valuable information for scholars and other researchers. These publications are cited in this RIP by the publication number (such as M260 or T1099) and the series title (*Records Relating to Confederate and Naval Marine Personnel* or *Index to Rendezvous Reports, Civil War, 1861–1865*).

For additional information beyond the scope of this RIP consult the



*Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives of the United States* (2000). There is a section on military records containing chapters on: records of the Regular Army; service records of volunteers; naval and marine service; pension records; bounty land warrant records; and other records relating to military service.

#### *Additional Sources of Information*

Eales, Anne Bruner and Robert M. Kvasnicka, eds. *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives of the United States*. Third edition, Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 2000.

Johnson, Lt. Col. Richard S. *How to Locate Anyone Who Is or Has Been in the Military: Armed Forces Locator Directory*. San Antonio, TX: MIE Publishing, 1995.

Neagles, James C. *U.S. Military Records: A Guide to Federal and State Sources, Colonial America to the Present*. Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry, 1994.

Plante, Trevor K. "An Overview of Records at the National Archives Relating to Military Service," *Prologue*, Fall 2002, Vol. 34, No. 3.

#### *Internet Sources*

The following web sites are useful places to begin your research:  
[www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com). Provides information on various genealogical topics.  
[www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com). Some parts of this web site are by subscription.  
[www.heritagequest.com](http://www.heritagequest.com). Web site is by subscription through libraries.  
[www.footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com). Web site is a partially fee-based site.

All these web sites are available on public access computers at the National Archives research facilities.

For information on civilian records consult RIP 110, *Using Civilian Records for Genealogical Research in the National Archives, Washington, DC, Area*, prepared by Constance Potter.

✓ 4531 Next Num 453-

Gay, Sam

1 Massachusetts Regim

(Revolutionary War)

Corporal

CORPORAL

CARD NUMBERS.

1 37174622	20
2	21
3	22
4	23
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Card from a compiled military service record showing that Cpl. Samuel Gay, 1st Massachusetts Infantry, was discharged from the Army after it was learned the soldier was a woman serving as a man during the Revolutionary War. (RG 93)

## BEFORE GETTING STARTED

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Before getting started, there are several questions that when answered can greatly help you in your quest:

- What branch of service did the person serve in?
- Do you know the conflict they fought in or their dates of service?
- If they served in the Army, was it in the Regular Army or a volunteer unit?
- Do you know what state they were living in when they joined the military?
- Did the individual serve as an officer or enlisted man?
- Did the veteran, their widow, or a dependant apply for or receive a pension?

These questions are important, for the answers help determine which search paths to follow in researching records in our holdings.

### Using the National Archives

The National Archives, established in 1935, is the official depository for records of military personnel separated from the U.S. Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy, and Marine Corps. There are two main repositories for records relating to military service, the National Archives Building, Washington, DC, and the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), St. Louis, Missouri. Listed below are some military service records that are in the holdings maintained at each facility. On subsequent pages are pertinent details about the records available.

The following records relating to military service are held at the National Archives Building in **Washington, DC**:

- Volunteer enlisted men and officers whose military service was performed during an emergency and whose service was considered to be in the Federal interest, 1775 to 1902
- Regular Army enlisted personnel, 1798–October 31, 1912
- Regular Army officers, 1798–June 30, 1917
- U.S. Navy enlisted personnel, 1798–1885
- U.S. Navy officers, 1798–1902
- U.S. Marine Corps officers and enlisted personnel, 1798–1904
- Those who served in predecessor agencies to the U.S. Coast Guard, i.e. the Revenue Cutter Service (Revenue Marine), the Life Saving Service, and the Lighthouse Service, 1791–1919
- Confederate Army, Navy, and Marine Corps (Civil War)

For researchers unable to visit the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, copies of compiled military service records, pension files, and bounty land records held by NARA can be obtained through the mail. To obtain the proper request form, please write to Old Military and Civil Records, National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20408-0001. You can also request a paper form be mailed to you at: [www.archives.gov/global\\_pages/inquire\\_form.html](http://www.archives.gov/global_pages/inquire_form.html). The NATF Form 80 is now obsolete. Form 80 was replaced by NATF Form 85, National Archives Order for Copies of Federal Pension or Bounty Land Warrant Applications, and Form 86, National Archives Order for Copies of Military Service Records. NATF Forms 85 and 86 can be requested from our web site, or you may order copies of these records online at: [www.archives.gov/research\\_room/orderonline.html](http://www.archives.gov/research_room/orderonline.html).

If requesting information on military records at the National Archives Building related to Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard personnel, please do not use a form; send a written inquiry either by mail to the address above or e-mail [archives1reference@nara.gov](mailto:archives1reference@nara.gov).

The National Personnel Records Center in **St. Louis, Missouri**, holds military personnel files for the following:

- U.S. Army officers, separated July 1, 1917–September 30, 2002, and enlisted personnel, separated November 1, 1912–September 30, 2002
- U.S. Air Force officers and enlisted personnel, separated September 25, 1947–September 30, 2004
- U.S. Navy officers, separated January 1, 1903–December 31, 1994, and Navy enlisted personnel, separated January 1, 1886–December 31, 1994
- U.S. Marine Corps officers and enlisted personnel, separated January 1, 1905–December 31, 1998
- U.S. Coast Guard officers and enlisted personnel, separated after January 1, 1898; civilian employees of Coast Guard predecessor agencies such as Revenue Cutter Service, Life Saving Service and Lighthouse Service, from 1864 to 1919

To request copies of an individual's military personnel file held at the National Personnel Records Center, use a Standard Form 180, Request Pertaining to Military Records. If you are a veteran requesting a copy of your records or next of kin of a **deceased** veteran, you use [www.archives.gov/research\\_room/evetrecs/](http://www.archives.gov/research_room/evetrecs/) to order a copy of the military records online. For more information on what records are available at NPRC and who may request them due to privacy restrictions, consult the National Archives web site at [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov).

**Note:** The National Personnel Records Center is currently in the process of opening to the public nearly 1.2 million official military personnel files of former U.S. Navy and Marine Corps enlisted personnel who served in the military between 1885 and 1939.

This reference information paper provides further detailed information on records relating to military service at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, the National Archives in College Park, Maryland, and the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, Missouri. While the National Archives Building and the NPRC maintain military personnel records, researchers may also wish to consult unit/ship organization and operational records held in College Park, Maryland. It should be noted that only rarely do these records include information about named individuals.





# ARMY

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*National Archives Building, Washington, DC*

## **Records Relating to U.S. Volunteer Soldiers**

The place to start researching a volunteer soldier's service is the compiled military service record. The compiled service records, available for both volunteer enlisted men and officers, consist of an envelope that may contain card abstracts taken from records such as: muster rolls, returns, pay vouchers, orders, and other records that relate to the individual soldier. Information in the service record may include references to mustering-in, mustering-out, wounds, hospitalization, absence from the unit, capture and imprisonment by the enemy, courts-martial, and death.

The general name index and compiled service records for Revolutionary War soldiers are available on National Archives microfilm publications M860, *General Index to Compiled Military Service Records of Revolutionary War Soldiers*, and M881, *Compiled Service Records of Soldiers Who Served in the American Army During the Revolutionary War*. The indexes to the War of 1812, early Indian Wars, Mexican War, Spanish-American War, and the Philippine Insurrection are on microfilm, but the compiled military service records for these conflicts are not. The Philippine Insurrection is the last conflict in which the War Department compiled military service records for volunteers.

The Civil War is more complicated for the National Archives does not maintain an overall general name index for Union soldiers. However, there are microfilmed name indexes for each state. **Note: The state where the soldier joined may be different from the state in which he lived at the time.** Most of the compiled military service records for Union soldiers are not avail-

*Left: A group of volunteer officers pose for a picture during the Civil War. (111-B-5299)*

able on microfilm. For records of state or local militias or National Guard units that were not Federalized, consult the state archives from where the unit served.

Begin researching volunteers by consulting the appropriate name indexes available on National Archives microfilm. The index cards are arranged alphabetically by the individual's last name and show the soldier's name, rank, and the unit or units in which he served. If the soldier you are researching served in more than one unit he should have a compiled military service record for each volunteer unit in which he served. In some cases, there are cross-references to names that appear in the records under various spellings. For a listing of microfilm publications relating to name indexes and compiled service records, consult the National Archives' *Microfilm Resources for Research: A Comprehensive Catalog* (2000). The *Military Service Records: A Select Catalog of National Archives Microfilm Publications* (1985) is also a very good resource to consult.

You can also consult the name database found on the "Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System" online at [www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/index.html](http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/index.html). For more information on the "Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System" see page 45.

For compiled military service records that have not been reproduced on microfilm, researchers can request to see the original records at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC. Researchers unable to come to Washington, DC, may request copies of these records by using NATF Form 86, National Archives Order for Copies of Military Service Records or order copies of these records online at [www.archives.gov/research\\_room/orderonline.html](http://www.archives.gov/research_room/orderonline.html). After utilizing the compiled military service records consult the pension file. For additional information on these records consult the description of pensions on page 35 of this reference information paper.

For medical information concerning volunteer soldiers who fought in the Mexican and Civil Wars, consult carded medical records found in RG 94, Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780s–1917, entry 534. These cards relate to volunteers admitted to hospitals for treatment and may

include information such as name, rank, organization, complaint, date of admission, hospital to which admitted, date returned to duty, deserted, discharged, sent to general hospital, furloughed, or died. This series is arranged by state, thereunder by the number of the regiment (cavalry, infantry, and artillery are filed together under the common regiment number), and then by initial letter of surname. For example, the 1st Pennsylvania Cavalry is filed under "1 Pennsylvania" along with the 1st Pennsylvania Infantry, 1st Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery, 1st Pennsylvania Light Artillery, and 1st Pennsylvania Reserves.

Carded medical records of volunteers who served in the Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection, however, are filed with the individual's compiled military service record.

#### Revolutionary War, 1775–83

- Compiled Military Service Record
- Pension File/Bounty Land Warrant File

#### War of 1812, 1812–15

- Compiled Military Service Record
- Pension File
- Bounty Land Warrant File

#### Early Indian Wars, 1815–58

- Compiled Military Service Record
- Pension File
- Bounty Land Warrant File

#### Mexican War, 1846–48

- Compiled Military Service Record
- Pension File
- Bounty Land Warrant File

#### Civil War (Union), 1861–65

- Compiled Military Service Record
- Pension File
- Carded Medical Records

#### Spanish-American War, 1898

- Compiled Military Service Record (includes carded medical records)
- Pension File

Philippine Insurrection, 1899–1902

- Compiled Military Service Record (includes carded medical records)
- Pension File

### *Additional Sources of Information*

*Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives*, third ed., pages 127–150.

Heitman, Francis B. *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During The War of the Revolution, April 1775, to December 1783*, Washington, DC: The Rare Book Shop Publishing Co., 1914.

Neagles, James C. and Lila L. Neagles. *Locating Your Revolutionary War Ancestor: A Guide to Military Records*, Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1983.

**Note:** The National Archives does not alter records or compiled military service records. It is not unusual to have a soldier's name spelled differently on various cards within the same compiled military service record.

## **Records Relating to Regular Army Service**

### ***Enlisted Men***

Unlike the compiled service records for individuals who served as volunteers, the War Department did not compile military service records for those who served in the Regular Army. The place to start researching enlisted men is the Regular Army Enlistment Papers, 1798–1912, RG 94, entry 91. This series is arranged alphabetically by name of soldier and generally shows the soldier's name, place of enlistment, date of enlistment, by whom enlisted, age, place of birth, occupation, personal description, regimental assignment, and certifications of the examining surgeon and recruiting officer. Soldiers usually have multiple enlistment papers if they served two or more enlistments.

Researchers should also consult M233, *Register of Enlistments in the U.S. Army, 1798–1914*. The register of enlistments is arranged chronologically and thereunder alphabetically by first letter of surname. The regis-



ter usually shows the individual's name, military organization, physical description, age at time of enlistment, place of birth, enlistment information, discharge information, and remarks. For more detailed information concerning service consult the unit muster rolls arranged by arm of service, thereunder by regiment number, then alphabetically by company, troop or battery, and thereunder chronologically. The muster rolls are found in RG 94, entry 53, Muster Rolls of Regular Army Organizations, 1784–October 31, 1912.

For medical information, consult carded medical records found in RG 94, entries 529 and 530 covering the years 1821–85 and 1894–1912 respectively. These cards relate to Regular Army personnel admitted to hospitals for treatment and may include information such as name, rank, organization, age, race, birthplace, date entered service, cause of



*Recruits wait while clerks fill out Army enlistment papers, ca. 1898. These papers are found in entry 91, Enlistment Papers, RG 94, Records of the Adjutant General's Office. (111-SC-113512)*

admission, date of admission, hospital to which admitted, and disposition of the case. Entry 529, covering the years 1821–85, is arranged by the number of the regiment (cavalry, infantry, and artillery are filed together under the common regiment number) and then by initial letter of surname. For example, the 1st Cavalry is filed under the number “1” along with the 1st Infantry and 1st Artillery. Regimental designations are followed by Ordnance, Engineers, Signal Corps, Scouts, and miscellaneous (including Recruits, Prisoners, Service Troops, and General Mounted Service). Entry 530, covering the years 1894–1912, is arranged by arm of service, thereunder by number of regiment, and thereunder by initial letter of surname. Infantry, Cavalry, and Artillery regiments are followed by Coast and Field Artillery batteries, Philippine Scouts, Prisoners, Engineers, Ordnance, Signal Corps, Service School Detachment, Navy Marines, Transports, men on duty at West Point, the Hospital Corps, miscellaneous (including recruits, discharged soldiers, ex-volunteers, unassigned persons and civilians). For information on other records related to Regular Army enlisted men, consult the sections on returns, Army courts-martial and pensions found later in this reference information paper.

#### Regular Army, (Enlisted Men)

- Enlistment Papers, 1798–1912
- Register of Enlistments, 1798–1914 (M233)
- Carded Medical Records
- Court-Martial Records
- Pension File
- Unit Returns
- Post Returns

#### *Additional Sources of Information*

*Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives*, third ed., pages 109–122.

## Officers

When researching Army officers, researchers should first consult Francis B. Heitman's *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army, From Its Organization, September 29, 1789, to March 2, 1903*, two volumes (Washington, DC: GPO, 1903). Volume one contains a register of Army officers providing a brief history of their service. Volume two contains a "chronological list of battles, actions, etc., in which troops of the Regular Army have participated and troops engaged." Heitman's has been reproduced on M1858.

The War Department did not maintain or compile personnel files for Regular Army officers until 1863. Prior to that date, records concerning officers can be found in several different series in RG 94. The best place to start is the series of letters received by the Adjutant General's Office (AGO). The registers have been reproduced on M711, *Registers of Letters Received, Office of the Adjutant General, 1812–1889*. The letters are found on M566, *Letters Received by the Office of the Adjutant General, 1805–1821*; M567, *Letters Received by the Office of the Adjutant General (Main Series), 1822–1860*; and M619, *Letters Received by the Office of the Adjutant General (Main Series), 1861–1870*.

When researching the records for an officer's military service after 1863, consult the Commission Branch (CB) and Appointment, Commission and Personal Branch (ACP) records both found in RG 94, entry 297, Letters Received, 1863–94. There is a card index arranged by name of officer for each of these files. CB files are reproduced on M1064, *Letters Received by the Commission Branch of the Adjutant General's Office, 1863–1870*, and a select number of ACP files have been reproduced on National Archives microfiche M1395, *Letters Received by the Appointment, Commission and Personal Branch, 1871–1894*. For service after 1894, consult M698, *Index to General Correspondence of the Adjutant General's Office, 1890–1917*. The index provides document file numbers to RG 94, entry 25, Document File, 1890–1917.

If the officer attended West Point consult M688, *U.S. Military Academy Cadet Application Papers, 1805–1866*, and M91, *Records Relating to the U.S. Military Academy, 1812–1867*.

For information on other records related to Regular Army officers, consult the sections on returns, Army courts-martial, and pensions found later in this reference information paper.

#### Regular Army (Officers)

- Francis B. Heitman's *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army*
- AGO Letters Received, 1805–89
- CB and ACP Files, 1863–94
- AGO Doc File, 1890–1917
- Pension File
- Court-Martial Files
- Unit Returns
- Post Returns

#### *Additional Sources of Information*

*Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives*, third ed., pages 109–122.

Cullum, George W. *Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York Since its Establishment in 1802*. Multiple volumes for various years.

Adjutant General's Office, *Official Army Registers*. Washington, DC. Multiple volumes for various years.

Hamersly, Thomas H.S. *Complete Regular Army Register of the United States: For One Hundred Years, (1779 to 1879)*. Washington, DC: T.H.S. Hamersly, 1881.

Powell, William H. *List Officers of the United States Army From 1779 to 1900*. New York: L.R. Hamersly & Co., 1900.

Powell, William H. *Records of Living Officers of the United States Army*. Philadelphia: L.R. Hamersly & Co., 1890.

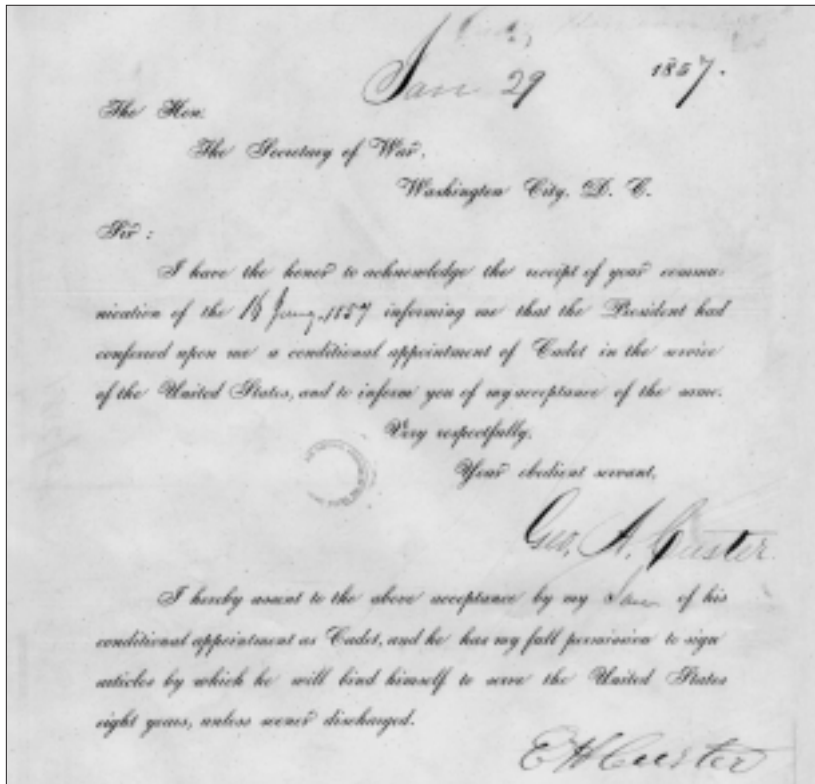
Powell, William H. *Officers of the Army and Navy (Volunteer) Who Served in the Civil War*. Philadelphia: L.R. Hamersly & Co., 1893.

Powell, William H. *Officers of the Army and Navy (Regular) Who Served in the Civil War*. Philadelphia: L.R. Hamersly & Co., 1892.

## Returns

Other records that may be of interest to researchers are Army post returns and Regular Army unit returns. Returns for many military posts, camps, and stations are reproduced on National Archives microfilm publication M617, *Returns from U.S. Military Posts, 1800–1916*. Returns generally show units stationed at the post and their strength, the names and duties of officers, the number of officers present and absent, and a record of events. For researchers working on enlisted men the returns generally do not single out enlisted men by name but rather provide general information about the unit.

Returns for Regular Army units are reproduced on microfilm and can be found on M665, *Returns From Regular Army Infantry Regiments, June*



George A. Custer's acceptance of appointment to West Point. In addition to Custer's signature, note his father's signature at the bottom consenting to the acceptance. (RG 94)



1821–December 1916; M744, *Returns From Regular Army Cavalry Regiments, 1833–1916*; and M727, *Returns From Regular Army Artillery Regiments, June 1821–January 1901*. There are also returns found on the following National Archives microfilm publications: M690, *Returns From Regular Army Engineer Battalions, September 1846–June 1916*; M691, *Returns From Regular Army Coast Artillery Corps Companies, February 1901–June 1916*; M727, *Returns From Regular Army Artillery Regiments, June 1821–January 1901*; M728, *Returns From Regular Army Field Artillery Batteries and Regiments, February 1901–December 1916*; M851, *Returns of the Corps of Engineers, April 1832–December 1916*; and M852, *Returns of the Corps of Topographical Engineers, November 1831–February 1863*. These monthly returns of military organizations report stations of companies and names of company commanders, unit strength, including the number of men present, absent, sick, on extra duty or daily duty, in arrest or confinement, and significant remarks. For additional information on records related to posts and units consult RG 391, *Records of United States Regular Army Mobile Units, 1821–1942*; RG 393, *Records of U.S. Army Continental Commands, 1821–1920*; and RG 395, *Records of U.S. Army Overseas Operations and Commands, 1898–1942*.

### **Army Courts-Martial**

Court-martial records are a great source of information not only for a particular individual but also for providing insights into the trials and tribulations faced by soldiers. Records related to the proceedings of U.S. Army courts-martial, courts of inquiry, and military commissions can be found in RG 153, *Records of the Judge Advocate General (Army)*.

To find an individual's case file in the early date span first consult M1105, *Registers of the Records of the Proceedings of the U.S. Army General Courts-Martial, 1809–1890*. The registers provide case file numbers to a subseries covering the years 1809 to 1894. The other subseries covers the years 1894–1917. An index for 1891–1917 is found in RG 153, entry 17. Both of these subseries are filed by case file number in RG 153, entry 15A. These records are located in the Old Military Records section at the

National Archives Building in Washington, DC. Only a few select cases have been reproduced on microfilm. Court-martial files covering the years 1917 to 1938 (RG 153, entry 15B) are located in the Modern Military Records section of the National Archives in College Park, Maryland.

*Additional Sources of Information*

Plante, Trevor K. "The Shady Side of the Family Tree: Civil War Union Court-Martial Case Files," *Prologue*, Winter 1998, Vol. 30, No. 4.



*Union soldiers from the Army of the Cumberland awaiting court-martial. (111-B-2738)*

## NAVY

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*National Archives Building, Washington, DC*

### **Records Relating to Naval Service**

#### ***Enlisted Men***

Useful sources to consult for Navy enlisted men include pension files, rendezvous reports, keys to enlistment, jackets of enlisted men, and muster rolls.

The place to begin research on Navy enlisted men is the pension files. The pension file may provide leads such as dates of service and the ship(s) or duty station(s) the sailor served on. Pensions usually provide the most genealogical information for researchers. For information on searching these records see the pension file section found later in this reference information paper.

Your next step is to search rendezvous reports. A rendezvous was the recruiting station where the men signed up to enlist in the Navy. Officers at the rendezvous kept a record of each man enlisted and reported the information weekly to the Navy Department. These documents are known as the “rendezvous reports” and provide the following information: name of recruit, date and term of enlistment and rating, previous naval service, usual place of residence, place of birth, occupation, and personal description. The indexes to these records, both arranged alphabetically, are available on microfilm T1098, *Index to Rendezvous Reports, Before and After the Civil War, 1846–1861, 1865–1884*, and T1099, *Index to Rendezvous Reports, Civil War, 1861–1865*. The enlistment rendezvous have been reproduced on M1953, *Weekly Returns of Enlistments at Naval Rendezvous (“Enlistment Rendezvous”), January 6, 1855–August 8, 1891*.

Next search RG 24, Records of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, entry 224, Keys to and Registers of Enlistment Returns, 1846–1902. The keys to enlistment show names of men enlisting at rendezvous or on board vessels, enlist-



*Crew working the gun on a Civil War Navy gunboat. (111-B-486)*

ment data, and a summary of service. The series is arranged chronologically.

Another good source to consult is jackets of enlisted men found in RG 24, entry 204, Records Relating to Enlisted Men Who Served in the Navy Between 1842 and 1885. The “jackets” that make up this series are arranged alphabetically by sailor’s name and contain correspondence that was collected on men who served in the Navy between 1842 and 1885. The jackets also contain material for the years 1885 to 1941 if the sailor made an application for pension, filed a claim, or requested verification documents. Jackets may also contain letters received, copies of letters sent, endorsements, applications for certificates of honorable discharge, or copies of other types of certificates.

To track the service of an enlisted man in the Navy consult the Navy muster rolls and pay rolls, which cover 1798 to 1938. There are several series of bound volumes of muster rolls and pay rolls of ships and stations. Muster rolls generally show the name of the enlisted man, the ship or station on which he was serving, his dates of service, and, in some cases, the ship or station from which he had transferred. Pay rolls generally show the name of the enlisted man, his station or rank, date of commencement of his service, and terms of service. To use muster rolls and payrolls, researchers should know where the subject of research was stationed during the time

pertinent to the research. Generally, muster and pay rolls of vessels are arranged alphabetically by name of ship and thereunder chronologically. Muster and pay rolls of shore establishments are also arranged alphabetically by name of station and thereunder chronologically. Many of the pre-1860 Navy muster rolls and pay rolls have been reproduced on T829, *Miscellaneous Records of the Office of Naval Records and Library*.

For medical information consult RG 52, Records of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (Navy), entry 21, Medical Journals of Shore Stations, 1812–89; entry 22, Medical Journals of Ships, 1813–1910; entry 30, Reports of Diseases and Deaths, July 1828–December 1846; entry 31, Certificates of Death, Disability, Pension and Medical Survey, June 1842–January 1896; and entry 51, Registers of Patients, 1812–1929. U.S. Navy deck logs and Navy courts-martial files may also prove useful. Information on Navy deck logs and Navy courts-martial files can be found in later sections of this reference information paper.

If you are researching sailors in the Revolutionary War, the War Department compiled service records of naval personnel for that conflict. These records are fragmented, and it should be noted that they are based on War Department records and not Navy Department records. The place to begin is the index found on M879, *Index to Compiled Service Records of American Naval Personnel Who Served During the Revolutionary War*. The compiled service records are reproduced on M880, *Compiled Service Records of American Naval Personnel and Members of the Departments of the Quartermaster General and the Commissary General of Military Stores Who Served During the Revolutionary War*.

### ***Navy (Enlisted Men)***

- Pension Files
- Rendezvous Reports
- Keys to and Register of Enlistment Returns, 1846–1902
- Jackets of Enlisted Men, 1842–85
- Muster Rolls
- Deck Logs
- Court-Martial Records

## Officers

When beginning research on U.S. Navy officers first consult the *List of Officers of the Navy of the United States and of the Marine Corps, From 1775 to 1900*, edited by Edward W. Callahan for names and dates of service. You can also consult M2078, *General Register of the United States Navy and Marine Corps, 1782–1882*. Next consult the pension files. The pension file may provide leads such as dates of service and the ship(s) or duty station(s) the officer served on. Pensions usually provide the most genealogical information for researchers. For information on searching these records see the pension file section found later in this reference information paper.

Your next step is to consult the abstracts of service. These records have been reproduced as M330, *Abstracts of Service Records of Naval Officers* (“Records of Officers”), 1798–1893, and M1328, *Abstracts of Service Records of Naval Officers* (“Records of Officers”), 1829–1924. The descriptive pamphlet for M1328 provides a name index to the abstracts. If the officer attended the Naval Academy you can consult M991, *U.S. Naval Registers of Delinquencies, 1846–1850, 1853–1882, and Academic and Conduct Records of Cadets, 1881–1908*. You can also consult various records relating to applications and appointments of naval cadets found in several series in RG 24.

For a list of officers on board Naval vessels during the Civil War consult National Archives microfilm publication M1976, *Lists of Officers of Vessels of the United States Navy, August 1860–December 1877*. The microfilm is arranged primarily by vessel name.

Additional information on naval officers can be found in examining board and retiring board files in RG 125, Records of the Judge Advocate General (Navy). The records of these boards are found in entry 58, Records of the Proceedings of Naval and Marine Examining Boards, 1861–1903, arranged alphabetically; and entry 56, Records of Proceedings of Naval and Marine Retiring Boards, 1861–1909, numerical files arranged chronologically with a partial register found in entry 59. For additional information on Navy officers consult Navy deck logs and Navy courts-martial files. Descriptions for these files are found on page 26 of this reference information paper.



WASHINGTON, D. C.,

*Oct. 28, 1903.*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

The following is a statement of the  
service of *B. H. McCalla*  
since last promotion:

Grade to which to be promoted *Rear Admiral*

Present grade *Captain*

Total time in grade *2 yrs. 2 mos. 1 day.*

Sea duty in grade *2 yrs. 11 mos. 18 days.*

Shore duty in grade *1 yr. 8 mos. 8 days.*

Percentage of time at sea in grade *57.1 + 0/10*

H. C. TAYLOR,

Chief of Bureau.

If you are researching naval officers in the Revolutionary War, the War Department compiled service records of naval personnel for that conflict. These records are fragmentary. The place to begin is the index found on M879, *Index to Compiled Service Records of American Naval Personnel Who Served During the Revolutionary War*. The compiled service records are reproduced on M880, *Compiled Service Records of American Naval Personnel and Members of the Departments of the Quartermaster General and the Commissary General of Military Stores Who Served During the Revolutionary War*.

#### Navy (Officers)

- Edward W. Callahan's *List of Officers of the Navy of the United States and Marines Corps, From 1775 to 1900*
- Abstracts of Service Records (M330 and M1328)
- Examining Board and Retirement Board
- Pension Files
- Court-Martial Files
- Deck Logs

#### *Additional Sources of Information*

Hamersly, Lewis R. *The Records of Living Officers of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps; with a History of Naval Operations During the Rebellion of 1861–65, and a List of the Ships and Officers Participating in the Great Battles*. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott & Co., 1870.

Hamersly, Lewis Randolph. *The Records of Living Officers of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps; Compiled From Official Sources*. Philadelphia: L.R. Hamersly & Co., 1890.

Hamersly, Thomas H.S. *General Register of the United States Navy and the Marine Corps, Arranged in Alphabetical Order, For One Hundred Years, (1782 to 1882)*. Washington, DC: T.H.S. Hamersly, 1882.

Powell, William H. *Officers of the Army and Navy (Volunteer) Who Served in the Civil War*. Philadelphia: L.R. Hamersly & Co., 1893.

Powell, William H. *Officers of the Army and Navy (Regular) Who Served in the Civil War*. Philadelphia: L.R. Hamersly & Co., 1892.



### ***Navy Courts-Martial***

Navy court-martial records are found in Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General (Navy), RG 125. They also relate to officers and enlisted men of the Marine Corps. The records include transcripts of proceedings of general courts-martial. A name index identifies the case file of a particular person and the records relating to a court of inquiry. Each dossier, when complete, contains the precept appointing the court; letters detailing or detaching its several members; a letter dissolving the court; the charges and specifications; minutes of the court consisting chiefly of a verbatim transcript of testimony; the plea of the defendant (often printed); copies of correspondence introduced as part of the minutes; the finding of the court, the sentence in case of a finding of guilty; and various endorsements. The earlier records are available as M273, *Records of General Courts-Martial and Courts of Inquiry of the Navy Department, 1799–1867*. Later records can be found in entry 28, Registers of General Courts-Martial, 1861–1904; entry 27, Records of Proceedings of General Courts-Martial, 1866–1940; entry 30, Records of Proceedings of Courts of Inquiry, Boards of Investigation and Boards of Inquest, 1866–1940; entry 31, Registers of Courts of Inquiry, Boards of Investigation and Boards of Inquest, 1866–1940, and entry 49, Index to Summary Courts-Martial, 1895–1904.

### ***Navy Deck Logs***

U.S. Navy deck logs typically provide information on a ship's performance and location, weather conditions, personnel (names of officers, assignments, transfers, desertions, deaths, injuries, and courts-martial), supplies received, and miscellaneous observations. For a listing of logbooks held by the National Archives, consult Special List 44, *List of Logbooks of U.S. Navy Ships, Stations, and Miscellaneous Units, 1801–1947*.

For brief histories of U.S. Navy vessels consult the multivolume *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*. In this publication you will find an alphabetical listing of Navy ships that includes a brief history of each vessel and provides statistics such as: type or classification, tonnage or displacement, length, beam, draft, speed, complement, armament, and



*Officers and crew of the USS Monocacy, during the 1871 expedition to Korea. (200-KWG-42)*

class. Consulting the dictionary is important for several reasons. It is important to verify that the ship was in fact a U.S. Navy vessel and to verify dates of service. Before conducting a search in ship-related records make sure you have information on the correct vessel. Several ships served at different times under the same name, so first consult the *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships* to find the dates of service of the vessel you are researching.

#### *Additional Sources of Information*

*Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives*, third ed., pages 155–160.

Bacon, Lee D. “Early Navy Personnel Records at the National Archives, 1776–1860,” *Prologue*, Spring 1995, Vol. 27, No.1.

Bacon, Lee D. “Civil War and Later Navy Personnel Records at the National Archives, 1861–1924,” *Prologue*, Summer 1995, Vol. 27, No. 2.

# MARINE CORPS

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*National Archives Building, Washington, DC*

## **Records Relating to Marine Corps Service**

### ***Enlisted Men***

Generally, service records for enlisted marines who separated from service prior to 1905 are held in Washington, DC. Service records or “case files” of enlisted marines at the National Archives are found in RG 127, Records of the U.S. Marine Corps, entry 76. Service records may include: enlistment and reenlistment papers, descriptive lists, conduct records, notice of discharge, military history, and in some cases the issuance of campaign badges and awards. There are two series of case files. The first (marines who enlisted prior to 1895) is arranged by date of enlistment or last reenlistment starting in 1798. If the enlistment date is unknown, researchers can use the card index found in RG 127, entry 75, Alphabetical Card List of Enlisted Men of the Marine Corps, 1798–1941. The second series of case files, relating to Marines who enlisted after 1895, is arranged alphabetically. It was not unusual for enlisted marines to use aliases during this period. Service records and enlistment cards are filed under the name the marine used while in service.

To track a marine’s service, consult the Marine Corps muster rolls. The Marine Corps muster rolls, 1798–1940, are arranged chronologically by year and month, and thereunder by post, station, ship detachment, or other unit, except during World War I, when they are arranged in two subseries: (1) posts and stations and (2) mobile units. There are indexes in the volumes to the names of ships and stations. A muster roll generally shows name of ship or station and name; rank, date of enlistment or reenlistment; and if applicable, date of desertion or apprehension; sentence of court-martial (and the offense);

injuries sustained or illness and type of treatment; and date of death or discharge for officers and enlisted men. Depending on the date, the researcher must know the vessel on which the marine served, the unit in which he served, or duty station. Marine Corps muster rolls have been reproduced on T1118, *Muster Rolls of the U.S. Marine Corps, 1798–1902*, and T977, *Muster Rolls of Officers and Enlisted Men of the U.S. Marine Corps, 1893–1940*. For more information consult correspondence files in RG 127. Also Navy deck logs, Navy courts-martial files, and pension files may contain information on Marines.

#### Marine Corps (Enlisted Men)

- Case Files (prior to 1905)
- Muster Rolls (T1118 and T977)
- Pension Files
- Court-Martial Records

#### **Officers**

A good source to verify service of a marine officer is the *List of Officers of the Navy of the United States and of the Marine Corps from 1775 to 1900*, edited by Edward W. Callahan. Several series found in RG 127, Records of the U.S. Marine Corps, can provide documentation of the military service of Marine Corps officers. A one-volume register shows the name, rank, and state of birth of commissioned officers of the Marine Corps in each year, 1819–48. A similar register for each year, 1849–58 (contained in the front part of the first of two volumes of abstracts of military service of Marine Corps officers), shows the same information and date of entry into service, state from which appointed, and state of residence. The remainder of that first volume pertains to officers serving during the period 1869–73, and the second volume, to officers serving during the period 1899–1904. Entries are arranged by rank, but there are name indexes in the volumes. The entries give information about promotions, appointments to boards, assignments and transfers, and retirement. The second volume also shows date and place of birth, state from which appointed, state of residence, and date of commission for each officer. Another series of two volumes contains press copies of military histories and statements of service of officers covering 1904 to 1911

which were prepared by the Marine Corps in response to inquiries from military officials. The records are arranged chronologically, but there are name indexes.

Marine Corps muster rolls, Navy deck logs, Navy courts-martial files, and pension file records can also provide additional information on Marine Corps officers.

#### Marine Corps (Officers)

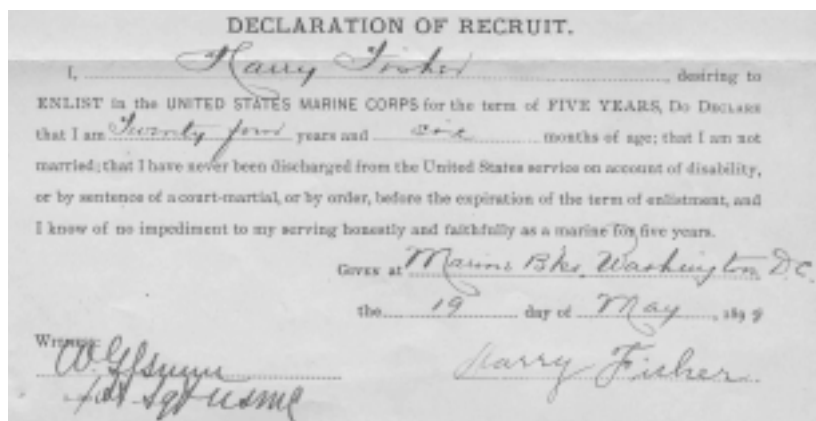
- Edward W. Callahan's *List of Officers of the Navy of the United States and Marines Corps, From 1775 to 1900*
- Records of Service, 1819–1911 (with gaps)
- Muster Rolls (T1118 and T977)
- Pension Files
- Court-Martial Files

#### *Additional Sources of Information*

*Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives*, third ed., pages 160–164.

Plante, Trevor K. “U.S. Marines in the Boxer Rebellion,” *Prologue*, Winter 1999, Vol. 31, No. 4.

Smith, Charles R. *Marines in the Revolution: A History of the Continental Marines in the American Revolution, 1775–1783*, Washington, DC: History and Museums Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, 1975.



Portion of Harry Fisher's Marine Corps enlistment paper in 1899. Fisher was an alias for Franklin J. Phillips, previously dishonorably discharged from the U.S. Army for desertion. He was killed July 16, 1900, in the siege of Peking, China, during the Boxer Rebellion, and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. (RG 127)

## COAST GUARD

*National Archives Building, Washington, DC*

### **Records Relating to Coast Guard Service**

The National Archives has records relating to the Coast Guard and its predecessor agencies: the Lighthouse Service, Revenue Cutter Service, and the Life Saving Service. These records are found in RG 26, Records of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Registers of Lighthouse Keepers were compiled chronologically and have been reproduced on M1373, *Registers of Lighthouse Keepers, 1845–1912*. Indexes to each of the volumes are alphabetical by surname of keeper and/or name of lighthouse. The registers include the names of keepers and assistant keepers. The registers typically consist of the person's name; the district and the name of the light; the date of appointment; the date of resignation, discharge or death; and sometimes annual salary.

Correspondence Concerning Keepers and Assistant Keepers, 1821–1902, is arranged alphabetically by surname. These letters may contain: nominations of keepers and assistant keepers with testimonials, lists of examination questions, notifications of appointments, oaths of office, requests for transfer, recommendations for promotion, complaints, petitions, and reports of inspectors and letters of resignation.

Records relating to officers of the Revenue Cutter Service include records of officer personnel, 1791–1919, indexed alphabetically by name of officer. These volumes provide dates of service, citations to pertinent correspondence, and charges. There are also copies of commissions, 1791–1910, in two series. One, for 1791–1848, is arranged chronologically as commissions were issued; the other, for 1815–1910, is arranged chronologically and thereunder alphabetically by surname of officer.



*Surfmen with their lifeboat equipment in front of a U.S. Life Saving Station in North Carolina in the late 1800s. Records of the U.S. Coast Guard (RG 26) include records of predecessor agencies such as the U.S. Life-Saving Service. (26-CGS-66-02-01)*

The records relating to enlisted crew members of the Revenue Cutter Service include muster rolls, payrolls, and shipping articles. In one series of muster rolls are unbound monthly reports, 1848–1910, arranged by name of vessel and thereunder chronologically. They are not indexed, so they can be searched only by name of vessel and the individual's approximate date of service. Muster rolls and payrolls show the name, and, when appropriate, signature or mark of each crew member. The muster rolls for the Revenue Cutter Service/Coast Guard, 1833–1932, provide name, rating, date and place of enlistment, place of birth, age, occupation, personal description, and number of days served during the reported month for each crew member, along with notes if the crewman was detached, transferred, discharged, deserted, or died during the report period. The records are arranged alphabetically by name of vessel.

The shipping articles, 1863–1915, are volumes arranged alphabetically by name of vessel and are not indexed. Use of these records requires knowledge of

the name of the ship and the approximate date of crewman's service. Information includes crewmember's name, rating, wages, date and place of enlistment, place of birth, age, occupation, personal description, and signature or mark.

Useful records to search in the Life Saving Service include registers, service record cards, and articles of engagement. The registers of employees, 1866–1913, usually show the name of employee, post office address, previous occupation, year of birth, year when employee would reach age 55, present age, military service, if any, state from which appointed, date of appointment, compensation, date discharged, and reason for leaving.

The service record cards, 1900–14, show name of employee, legal residence, place of birth, place and status of employment, changes of status, and salary. The cards are arranged alphabetically.

Articles of engagement for surfmen, 1878–1914, are arranged chronologically, and thereunder by district. The article shows a list of surfmen, terms of engagement, and compensation. They may include reports of changes in crew along with the reason for the change and biographical information on new crewmembers. Often, medical inspection reports providing physical descriptions of the surfmen examined are also included.

#### Coast Guard (Lighthouse Service)

- Registers of Lighthouse Keepers
- Correspondence Concerning Keepers and Assistant Keepers

#### Coast Guard (Revenue Cutter Service)

- Records of Officer Personnel
- Muster Rolls
- Pay Rolls
- Shipping Articles

#### Coast Guard (Life Saving Service)

- Registers of Employees
- Service Record Cards
- Articles of Engagement



*Additional Sources of Information*

*Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives*, third ed., pages 164–165.

*Historical Register, U.S. Revenue Cutter Service Officers, 1790–1914*

Noble, Dennis L. *Historical Register, U.S. Revenue Cutter Service Officers, 1790–1914*, Washington, DC: USCG Historian's Office, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 1990.

U.S. Life Saving Service, *U.S. Life Saving Service, Annual Reports, 1876–1914*, Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1876–1915.

Canney, Donald L. *U.S. Coast Guard and Revenue Cutters, 1790–1935*, Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1995.

Scheina, Robert L. *U.S. Coast Guard Cutters & Craft of World War II*, Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1982.

Scheina, Robert L. *U.S. Coast Guard Cutters & Craft, 1946–1990*, Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1990.

## PENSIONS

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The National Archives has pension applications and records of pension payments for veterans, their widows, and other heirs. The pension records are based on service in the Armed Forces of the United States between 1775 and 1916. **Note: Civil War Federal pensions are based on Union and not Confederate service.** Application files often contain supporting documents such as discharge papers, affidavits, and depositions of witnesses, narratives of events during service, marriage certificates, birth records, death certificates, pages from family Bibles, and other supporting papers. Pension files usually provide the most genealogical information for researchers.

The pension files in the National Archives are divided into the following major series: Revolutionary War, Old Wars, War of 1812, Indian Wars, Mexican War, and Civil War and later. The series of “Old War” pensions relate primarily to claims based on death or disability incurred in service in the Regular Army, Navy, or Marine Corps between the end of the Revolutionary War in 1783 and the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. The series of “Indian War” pension applications relate to service performed in the Indian campaigns between 1817 and 1898. Consolidated with this series are some Indian War pension application files that were formerly in the Old War series. The records in each series are arranged alphabetically by name of veteran, except those in the Civil War and later series, which are arranged numerically by application, certificate, or file number. All series of pension application files have alphabetical name indexes.

For the Civil War and later pensions consult T288, *General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934*. This microfilm publication is arranged alphabetically by the

AUGUSTA, ME.

B-402.

Certificate No. 96906

Name, Joshua L. Chamberlain

Department of the Interior,  
BUREAU OF PENSIONS.

Washington, D. C., January 15, 1898.

SIR:

In forwarding to the pension agent the executed voucher for your next quarterly payment please favor me by returning this circular to him with replies to the questions enumerated below.

Very respectfully,

*W. H. Brandt*

Commissioner of Pensions.

First. Are you married? If so, please state your wife's full name and her maiden name.

Answer, Frances Caroline Adams

Second. When, where, and by whom were you married?

Answer, December 7<sup>th</sup> 1855. {Monsieur de Maine, Rev. Dr. George C. Adams (pastor) officiating.

Third. What record of marriage exists?

Answer, Records Town Clerk's office, Brunswick, Maine

Fourth. Were you previously married? If so, please state the name of your former wife and the date and place of her death or divorce.

Answer, Not previously married.

Fifth. Have you any children living? If so, please state their names and the dates of their birth.

Answer, Grace Dupre (now Mrs. Horace G. Allen) born October 1856

Harriet Myllys, born October 1858  
Joshua L. Chamberlain

Date of reply, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 1898

9-2

(Signature)

100-15000-1-00

This document is from the pension file of Joshua Chamberlain who served in the 20th Maine Infantry during the Civil War. It is a questionnaire from the Bureau of Pensions seeking information relating to his wife and children. (RG 15)

individual's last name. The index cards include the individual's unit(s) making it easier to decipher individuals with the same name. Once the application number or pension certificate number is found (this includes invalid and widow pensions), researchers can request to view the pension file. Researchers unable to come to Washington, DC, may request copies of these records by using a NATF Form 85, National Archives Order for Copies of Federal Pension or Bounty Land Warrant Applications. You can also order copies of these records online at [www.archives.gov/research\\_room/orderonline.html](http://www.archives.gov/research_room/orderonline.html).

If the pension file was still active in 1934, the file will still be in the legal custody of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Send a Freedom of Information Act request to Department of Veteran Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M33), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420.

Pension files (including application files) often contain valuable personal information on soldiers, sailors, and marines not found in other records. A typical pension file contains the application of the claimant, documents submitted as evidence of identity and service, and records of action taken on the claim. The claimant may have been a veteran or his widow, minor children, or other dependant. Since a claimant could have applied for a pension under several different acts, a pension file may contain more than one application from a claimant. It may also contain applications from several claimants because applications for pensions based on the service of one serviceman for a certain period were usually filed together. Documents submitted in support of some pension claims include affidavits attesting to service, pages from family Bibles, and copies of birth, marriage, and death records. For service in the Civil War and later, a pension file may also include Bureau of Pensions questionnaires sent out in 1898 and 1915, which contain genealogical information. Information on pension payments, often including last payment, can be found on M850, *Veterans Administration Pension Payment Cards, 1907–1933*.

You can also search T289, *Organization Index to Pension Files of Veterans Who Served Between 1861 and 1900*. Note that T289 does not include naval service. Three microfilm publications that include records relating to Navy pensions are: M1274,

*Case Files of Disapproved Pension Applications of Widows and Other Dependents of Civil War and Later Navy Veterans* ("Navy Widows' Originals"), 1861–1910; M1279, *Case Files of Approved Pension Applications of Widows and Other Dependents of Civil War and Later Navy Veterans*, ("Navy Widows' Certificates"), 1861–1910; and M1391, *Lists of Navy Veterans for Whom There are Navy Widows' and Other Dependents' Disapproved Pension Files* ("Navy Widows' Originals"), 1861–1910.

For a listing of microfilm publications to other pension indexes and pension files, consult the National Archives' *Microfilm Resources for Research: A Comprehensive Catalog* (2000). For more information on pension records consult chapter seven of the *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives*.

#### *Selected Published Indexes*

*Index of Revolutionary War Pension Applications in the National Archives.*

Washington, DC: National Genealogical Society, 1976.

White, Virgil D., compiler. *Index to US Military Pension Applications of Remarried Widows for Service between 1812 and 1911*. Waynesboro, TN: The National Historical Publishing Company, 1999.

White, Virgil D., compiler. *Index to Pension Applications for Indian Wars Service between 1818 and 1898*. Waynesboro, TN: The National Historical Publishing Company, 1997.

White, Virgil D., transcriber. *Index to War of 1812 Pension Files*. 2 Vols. Waynesboro, TN: The National Historical Publishing Company, 1992.

#### *Additional Source of Information*

*Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives*, third ed., pages 169–177.

#### *Internet Sources*

##### *HeritageQuest*

HeritageQuest Online ([www.heritagequestonline.com](http://www.heritagequestonline.com)) contains selected Revolutionary War pension and bounty-land warrant applications. The database can be searched using surname, given name, state, and type of service. The database provides images taken from records found on

M805, *Selected Records From Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files*. The result pages also provide the series (microfilm publication number) and roll number that the image is found on.

#### *Ancestry.com*

Ancestry maintains a Civil War and later military pension database. The database is an index to nearly 2.5 million pension application cards. Each record includes the veteran's name and state in which he, or his dependents, filed the application. If a widow or a child filed the application, their name is provided. Because these pension files were for Federal benefits, this collection only contains the names of Union veterans. To researchers of Civil War ancestors this database can be a useful source of detailed information. The index contains a link to a digitized image of the index card itself, which will contain additional information on the individual, such as unit of service, date of filing, and application and certificate numbers for the pension case file housed at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC.

Ancestry also maintains a Revolutionary War Pension Index database. The database is an index to a list of pensions awarded to U.S. veterans of the war. It was taken from "Letter from the Secretary of War, communicating A Transcript of the Pension List of the United States showing the Number of Pensioners in the Several Districts. Also, The Amount Allowed to each Pensioner" dated June 1, 1813. It provides the name of pensioner, state or district of residence, number in the roll, rank, and annual stipend. The districts included are: New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana territory, Michigan, and the District of Columbia. It reveals information regarding over 1,700 men. While *Ancestry.com* is a fee-based site, all National Archives facilities have public access computers that can link researchers to an institutional version of their web site.

### *Footnote.com*

Footnote currently maintains a Civil War and later pension database arranged by unit. The site provides an index to pension applications for service in the U.S. Army between 1861 and 1917, grouped according to the units in which the veterans served. Index cards may include: the individual's rank, company, and regiment, dates of service, and application number. The application number can be used to view or request copies of the pension application file housed at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC. While *Footnote.com* is a partially fee-based site, all National Archives research facilities have public access computers that can link researchers to their web site.

## BOUNTY LAND

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Bounty land warrant application files relate to claims based on wartime service between 1775 and March 3, 1855. If your ancestor served in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, early Indian Wars, and the Mexican War, a search of these records may be worthwhile. Documents found in these records are similar to those in pension files. Please note many of the bounty land application files relating to Revolutionary War and War of 1812 service have been combined with the pension files. There is also a series of unindexed bounty land warrant applications based on service between 1812 and 1855, which includes disapproved applications based on Revolutionary War service. This series is arranged alphabetically by name of veteran.

### *Additional Sources of Information*

*Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives*, third ed., pages 181–185.

### *Internet Source*

#### *HeritageQuest*

HeritageQuest Online ([www.heritagequestonline.com](http://www.heritagequestonline.com)) contains selected Revolutionary War pension and bounty land warrant applications. The database can be searched using surname, given name, state, and type of service. The database provides images taken from records found on M805, *Selected Records From Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files*. The result pages also provide the series (microfilm publication number) and roll number that the image is found on.



# CIVIL WAR

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## Union Volunteers

The National Archives does not maintain an overall general name index for Union soldiers. However, there are microfilmed name indexes for each state. **Note: The state where the soldier joined may be different from the state in which he lived at the time.** Most of the compiled military service records for Union soldiers are not available on microfilm. For records of state or local militias or National Guard units that were not Federalized, consult the state archives from where the unit served.

Begin researching volunteers by consulting the appropriate name indexes available on National Archives microfilm. The index cards are arranged alphabetically by the individual's last name and show the soldier's name, rank, and the unit or units in which he served. If the soldier you are researching served in more than one unit, he should have a compiled military service record for each volunteer unit in which he served. In some cases, there are cross-references to names that appear in the records under various spellings. For a listing of microfilm publications relating to name indexes and compiled service records, consult the National Archives' *Microfilm Resources for Research: A Comprehensive Catalog* (2000). The *Military Service Records: A Select Catalog of National Archives Microfilm Publications* (1985) is another very good resource to consult.

You can also consult the name database found on the National Park Service's "Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System" online at: [www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/index.html](http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/index.html). For more information on the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System see page 45.

For compiled military service records that have not been reproduced on

microfilm, researchers can request to see the original records at the National Archives Building. Researchers unable to come to Washington, DC, may request copies of these records by using NATF Form 86, National Archives Order for Copies of Military Service Records. You can order copies of these records online at [www.archives.gov/research\\_room/orderonline.html](http://www.archives.gov/research_room/orderonline.html). After utilizing the compiled military service records, consult the pension file. Additional information on the soldier may be found in a pension application file.

For information on Union unit activities consult the record of events reproduced on M594, *Compiled Records Showing Service of Military Units in Volunteer Union Organizations*. This series is arranged by unit.

For medical information concerning soldiers who fought in the Civil War, consult carded medical records found in RG 94, Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780s–1917, entry 534. These cards relate to volunteers admitted to hospitals for treatment and may include information such as name, rank, organization, complaint, date of admission, hospital to which admitted, date returned to duty, deserted, discharged, sent to general hospital, furloughed, or died. This series is arranged by state, thereunder by the number of the regiment (cavalry, infantry, and artillery are filed together under the common regiment number), and then by initial letter of surname. For example, the 1st Pennsylvania Cavalry is filed under “1 Pennsylvania” along with the 1st Pennsylvania Infantry, 1st Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery, 1st Pennsylvania Light Artillery, and 1st Pennsylvania Reserves.

Additional information may be found on Union veterans in the 1890 Union Veterans Census. These records have been reproduced on M123, *Schedules Enumerating Union Veterans and Widows of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1890*. The microfilm contains individuals enumerated in the 1890 special census of Civil War Union veterans and widows of veterans. Although this schedule was to be used to enumerate Union veterans, in some cases, Confederate veterans were listed as well.

The 1890 veterans schedules provided spaces for the following information: names of surviving soldiers, sailors, and marines, and widows; rank; name of regiment or vessel; date of enlistment; date of discharge; length of service; post office address; disability incurred; and remarks.

Veterans schedules are often used as a partial substitute for the 1890 Federal census, which was destroyed by fire. While fragments of the 1890 census may exist in state and local repositories, they are often difficult to track down and are incomplete. Although they do not list everyone who was included in the 1890 census, the veterans schedules are a partial head of household list for those who were old enough to have served in the Union military during the Civil War. Veterans schedules can be used to verify military service and to identify the specific military unit in which a person served. A search of the state where an individual lived in 1890 may yield enough identifying information to follow up in service and pension records at the National Archives; in some cases, it can often trace Civil War veterans to their places of origin.

#### Civil War (Union), 1861–65

- Compiled Military Service Record
- Pension File
- Carded Medical Records
- 1890 Union Veterans Census

#### *Additional Sources of Information*

Hunt, Roger D. and Jack R. Brown. *Brevet Brigadier Generals in Blue*. Gaithersburg, MD: Olde Soldier Books Inc., 1990.

Munden, Kenneth W. and Henry Putnam Beers. *The Union: A Guide to Federal Archives Relating to the Civil War*. Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 1986.

Van Sickle, Ron R. *General Index to Official Army Register of the Volunteer Force of the United States, 1861–1865*. Gaithersburg, MD: Ron R. Van Sickle Military Books, 1987.

War Department. *Official Army Register of the Volunteer Force of the United States Army for The Years 1861, '62, '63, '64, '65*. (8 Volumes), Washington, DC: Adjutant General's Office, 1865.

Warner, Ezra J. *Generals in Blue: Lives of the Union Commanders*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1964.

### Internet Sources

#### U.S. Army Military History Institute

The U.S. Army Military History Institute (USMHI) maintains a digitized copy of Heitman's and Dyer's on their web site. The 1903 edition of Francis B. Heitman's, *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army, from its Organization, September 29, 1879, to March 2, 1903*, and Frederick H. Dyer's, *A Compendium of the War of Rebellion*, are both available online under the Civil War section at: [www.carlisle.army.mil/usamhi/DL/chron.htm](http://www.carlisle.army.mil/usamhi/DL/chron.htm).

#### Naval Historical Center

The Naval Historical Center recently digitized and revised Edward W. Callahan's *Officers of the Continental and U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, 1775-1990*. There is a new foreword by Rear Adm. Paul E. Tobin, USN (Ret.), the Director of Naval History. The information on these officers is now available at: [www.history.navy.mil/books/callahan/index.htm](http://www.history.navy.mil/books/callahan/index.htm).

#### *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (OR)* *and the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies* *in the War of the Rebellion (ORN)*

Both *The War of the Rebellion: a Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (<http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/moa/browse.monographs/waro.html>) and the *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion* (<http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/moa/browse.monographs/ofre.html>) are now available online at Cornell's web site as part of "Making of America." Both publications reproduce official battle reports and correspondence of Union and Confederate forces during the Civil War.

#### Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System

The National Park Service maintains a database called the "The Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System" at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov). This database contains very basic information about servicemen who served on both sides during the Civil War; a list of regiments in both the Union and Confederate Armies; identifications and descriptions of 384 significant battles of the war; references that identify

the sources of the information in the database; and suggestions for where to find additional information. There are sections for Soldiers, Sailors, Regiments, Cemeteries, Battles, Prisoners, Medals of Honor, and links to Civil War–related National Parks found at: [www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/index.html](http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/index.html).

Under the Soldiers section, for example, you can input information on last name, first name, state of origin, unit number, and function (infantry, cavalry, artillery, sharpshooters, or engineers). The database is based on National Archives indexes on microfilm so if you find someone in this database they should have a compiled military service record at the National Archives. The search result usually provides the regiment number, side (Union or Confederate), company, soldiers rank in and out, alternate name (if applicable), and the film number (National Archives microfilm publication number and roll number that the information can be found on; this is the index microfilm and not microfilm reproducing the service record).

Union regimental histories in the system were taken from Frederick H. Dyer's, *A Compendium of the War of Rebellion*.

#### *Ancestry.com*

Ancestry maintains a Civil War and later military pension database. The database is an index to nearly 2.5 million pension application cards. Each record includes the veteran's name and state in which he, or his dependents, filed the application. If a widow or a child filed the application, their name is provided. Because these pension files were for Federal benefits, this collection only contains the names of Union veterans. To researchers of Civil War ancestors this database can be a useful source of detailed information. In addition, the index contains a link to a digitized image of the index card itself, which will contain additional information on the individual, such as service unit, date of filing, and application and certificate numbers for the pension case file housed in the National Archives Building in Washington, DC.

Ancestry also maintains a database for the 1890 Union Veterans Census. The database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1890 special census of Civil War Union veterans and widows of veterans based on records found on M123, *Schedules Enumerating Union Veterans and Widows of Union Veterans of the Civil War*.

Ancestry is currently working on a Civil War Research Database in an effort to compile and link all available records of soldiers in the Civil War. They are attempting to link a wide variety of records including state rosters, pension records, regimental histories, photos, and journals. So for now the site only provides information on limited soldiers' searches. While *Ancestry.com* is a fee-based site, NARA research facilities have public access computers that can link researchers to an institutional version of this web site.

#### *Footnote.com*

Footnote currently maintains a Civil War and later pension database arranged by unit. The site provides an index to pension applications for service in the U.S. Army between 1861 and 1917, grouped according to the units in which the veterans served. Index cards may include: the individual's rank, company, and regiment, dates of service, and application number. The application number can be used to view or request copies of the pension application file housed at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC. While *Footnote.com* is a partially fee-based site, NARA research facilities have public access computers that can link researchers to their web site.

### **Records Relating to Confederate Service**

Compiled military service records for many, but not all, of the men who served in the Confederate States Army are in the National Archives Building. They contain information similar to those previously described relating to Union volunteer soldiers.

As the Confederate government evacuated Richmond in April 1865, the central military records of the Confederate Army were taken to Danville, Virginia, and then Charlotte, North Carolina, by the adjutant and inspector general, who then transferred them to the Union commander. The records were taken to Washington, DC, where, along with other Confederate records captured by the Union Army, they were preserved by the War Department. In 1903 the Secretary of War persuaded the governors of most Southern states to lend the War Department Confederate military personnel-related records, such as muster rolls, in the possession of the states so that they could be copied.

The compiled military service record of a Confederate soldier consists of one or more card abstracts and sometimes one or more original documents. Each card abstract copies an entry in original records, such as Confederate muster rolls, returns, and descriptive rolls and Union prison and parole records. The card abstracts in the jacket of any soldier, if the original record of his service was complete, may serve to trace that service from beginning to end, but they normally do little more than tell where he was at a given time. The only information of genealogical interest they are likely to give is his age and place of enlistment.

Many of the original records from which compiled service records were made are among NARA holdings, but there is rarely a need to examine them because of the care and thoroughness with which the information they contain was copied.

A soldier may have served in a state militia unit that was never mustered into Confederate service. Records of service in such units, if they exist, are likely to be in the archives of the state or in custody of the state adjutant general. Many Southern states have records relating to payment of state benefits to Confederate veterans as well.

All indexes and compiled military service records relating to service in the Confederate Army are available on microfilm. The general name index has been reproduced on M253, *Consolidated Index to Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers*. There are also name indexes to soldiers who served in organizations from each of the Confederate states plus the Arizona Territory, Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri. All the states have been reproduced on National Archives microfilm as well as organizations raised directly by the Confederate government, Confederate generals and staff officers, and non-regimental enlisted men. For a listing of microfilm publications of indexes and compiled service records relating to Confederate service, consult the *Microfilm Resources for Research: A Comprehensive Catalog* (2000) under RG 109. You can also use the National Park Service's Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System described on page 52 to learn more about Confederate soldiers and units.

For information on Confederate unit activities consult the record of

events reproduced on M861, *Compiled Records Showing Service of Military Units in Confederate Organizations*. This series is arranged by unit.

If the Confederate soldier, sailor, or marine you are researching was captured during the war consult prisoner-of-war records found on M598, *Selected Records of the War Department Relating to Confederate Prisoners of War, 1861–1865*. For more information on Confederate prisoners, see the section on Civil War under the “Prisoners of War” section found later in this reference information paper.

A series of “unfiled papers and slips belonging in Confederate compiled service records” were created or collected by the War Department to be interfiled with the compiled military service records. This was never accomplished. Most of the items in this series are card abstracts and personal papers. The card abstracts contain information taken from other sources such as vouchers, requisitions, paroles, oaths of allegiance, and references to original records are noted.

Original papers were placed in this series when their proper filing location was uncertain or there was no place to file them, usually because the information was insufficient or contained discrepancies and could not be positively identified with any particular soldier for whom there was a compiled military service record. In some cases it is difficult to determine if the records in this series refer to a soldier, civilian employee, or private individual. Papers concerning Confederate civilians are similar to those found in the Confederate papers relating to citizens or business firms (M346, *Confederate Papers Relating to Citizens or Business Firms*), but the identity of each person was not always clearly indicated. Civilian records may include employment information about hospital attendants, clerks, and other employees. Also included are some papers relating to Confederate sympathizers similar to those found in the Union Provost Marshal records reproduced on M345, *Union Provost Marshal’s File of Papers Relating to Individual Civilians*, and M416, *Union Provost Marshal’s File of Papers Relating to Two or More Civilians*.

The unfiled papers and slips are arranged alphabetically by surname and have been reproduced on M347, *Unfiled Papers and Slips Belonging in Confederate Compiled Service Records*.



Civil War (Confederate), 1861–65

- Compiled Military Service Record
- Prisoner-of-War Records (M598)
- Unfiled Papers and Slips (M347)
- Pension File (Consult the archives of the state the veteran lived in after the war.)

The National Archives also maintains records relating to some individuals who served in the Confederate States Navy and Marine Corps, 1861–65. Confederate naval and marine service records give the serviceman's name and rank, and sometimes his duty station. In rare cases, if he was imprisoned, a record may give the date of his capture, place of his imprisonment, and date of his parole. These records are reproduced on M260, *Records Relating to Confederate Naval and Marine Personnel*.

*Additional Sources of Information*

*Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives*, third ed., pages 144–148.  
Allardice, Bruce S. *More Generals in Gray*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1995.

Beers, Henry Putnam. *The Confederacy: A Guide to the Archives of the Government of the Confederate States of America*. Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 1986.

Donnelly, Ralph W. *Service Records of Confederate Enlisted Marines*, (Washington, NC, by the author, 1979).

Donnelly, Ralph W. *Biographical Sketches of the Commissioned Officers of the Confederate States Marine Corps*, (Washington, NC, by the author, revised 1983).

Krick, Robert E. *Staff Officers in Gray: A Biographical Register of the Staff Officers in the Army of Northern Virginia*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2003.

Office of Naval Records. *Register of Officers of the Confederate States Navy, 1861–1865*. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1931.

- Sifakis, Stewart. *Compendium of the Confederate Armies: Alabama*. New York: Facts on File, 1992.
- Sifakis, Stewart. *Compendium of the Confederate Armies: Florida and Arkansas*. New York: Facts on File, 1992.
- Sifakis, Stewart. *Compendium of the Confederate Armies: Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, the Confederate units and the Indian units*. New York: Facts on File, 1995.
- Sifakis, Stewart. *Compendium of the Confederate Armies: Louisiana*. New York: Facts on File, 1995.
- Sifakis, Stewart. *Compendium of the Confederate Armies: Mississippi*. New York: Facts on File, 1995.
- Sifakis, Stewart. *Compendium of the Confederate Armies: North Carolina*. New York: Facts on File, 1992.
- Sifakis, Stewart. *Compendium of the Confederate Armies: South Carolina and Georgia*. New York: Facts on File, 1995.
- Sifakis, Stewart. *Compendium of the Confederate Armies: Tennessee*. New York: Facts on File, 1992.
- Sifakis, Stewart. *Compendium of the Confederate Armies: Texas*. New York: Facts on File, 1995.
- Sifakis, Stewart. *Compendium of the Confederate Armies: Virginia*. New York: Facts on File, 1992.
- War Department. *List of Staff Officers of the Confederate States Army, 1861–65*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1891.
- Warner, Ezra J. *Generals in Gray: Lives of the Confederate Commanders*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1959.

#### *Internet Sources*

*Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (OR)*  
and *the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies*  
*in the War of the Rebellion (ORN)*

Both *The War of the Rebellion: a Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (<http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/moa/browse.monographs/waro.html>) and *the Official Records of the Union and Confederate*

*Navies in the War of the Rebellion* (<http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/moa/browse.monographs/ofre.html>) are now available online at Cornell's web site as part of "Making of America."

#### Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System

The National Park Service maintains a database called The Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov). This database contains very basic information about servicemen who served on both sides during the Civil War; a list of regiments in both the Union and Confederate Armies; identifications and descriptions of 384 significant battles of the war; references that identify the sources of the information in the database; and suggestions for where to find additional information. There are sections for Soldiers, Sailors, Regiments, Cemeteries, Battles, Prisoners, Medals of Honor, and links to Civil War-related National Parks found at [www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/index.html](http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/index.html).

Under the Soldiers section, for example, you can input information on last name, first name, state of origin, unit number, and function (infantry, cavalry, artillery, sharpshooters, or engineers). The database is based on National Archives indexes on microfilm so if you find someone in this database they should have a compiled military service record at the National Archives. The search result usually provides the regiment number, side (Union or Confederate), company, soldiers rank in and out, alternate name (if applicable), National Archives microfilm publication number, and roll number that the information can be found on.

Confederate regimental histories in the system were taken from Joseph H. Crute, Jr.'s *Units of the Confederate States Army*.

#### **Confederate Amnesty, Pardon, and Parole Records**

Early in the Civil War, Congress authorized the President to extend pardon and amnesty to participants in the rebellion (12 Stat. 592). Presidential proclamations of December 8, 1863, May 29, 1865, and September 7, 1867, granted pardon and amnesty to increasingly larger groups of individuals on the condition that they take an oath of allegiance. President Andrew Johnson's procla-

mation of July 4, 1868, granted pardon and amnesty to virtually all remaining participants without the requirement of an oath. Amnesty and pardon records in the National Archives are found in RG 59 and RG 94.

Several series of amnesty oaths, 1863–66, relate to the vast number of Southerners who wished to gain or regain U.S. citizenship. Usually a single document, the oath is all that relates to one person. Filed with the oaths, in appropriate instances, are acknowledgements of warrants of Presidential pardons and agreements to accept the conditions of pardon. One series consists of documents relating to one person arranged by state, thereunder usually alphabetically by the first two letters of the surname. To use the records, the researcher must know the state where the individual took the oath of allegiance. Another series of documents that relate to more than one person is arranged numerically, usually under the name of a state. In the series of documents relating to one person are cross-references to the names on documents in the series of papers relating to more than one person.

An oath shows the name of the person; place the oath was taken, which was often the place of residence; date the oath was taken; and usually the signature of the person taking the oath. Sometimes an oath gives the age and a description of the person taking the oath and, in appropriate instances, their Confederate military organization.

The series of amnesty papers, in Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780s–1917, RG 94, are dated primarily 1865–67. President Andrew Johnson's 1865 proclamation of amnesty excluded most people who had held high civilian or military rank under the Confederacy, as well as all Southerners with taxable property exceeding \$20,000 in value. These persons were required to petition the President directly for special pardons. The application files of 14,000 such individuals are in this series. The files, which include oaths of allegiance and other supporting documents, are arranged by state, thereunder alphabetically by name of applicant. A general name index to the series has been prepared by National Archives staff members. An application file gives the name, age, occupation, and place of residence of the applicant, together with biographic data. The files and index are available on M1003, *Case Files of Applications from Former Confederates for Presidential Pardons* ("Amnesty Papers"), 1865–1867.

The series of pardons in RG 59 consist of copies of Presidential pardons for Confederates, 1865–66, arranged chronologically. Also available are lists of persons accepting amnesty pardons, 1865–67. There is a consolidated name index to the pardons, as well as indexes in the separate volumes.

Copies of pardons show the name and address of the person pardoned and the date of the pardon. Lists of acceptances include name and, in some cases, addresses. The consolidated index entries give the name and county for each person pardoned. Lists of the names of most individuals who received pardons in the years 1865–67 were published in various congressional documents:

*Message of the President* ... [May 4, 1866] (39th Cong., 1st Sess., H. Doc. 99, serial 1263)

*Message of the President* ... [January 8, 1867] (39th Cong., 2nd Sess., H. Doc. 31, serial 1289)

*Message of the President* ... [March 2, 1867] (39th Cong., 2nd Sess., H. Doc. 116, serial 1293)

*Message of the President* ... [July 8, 1867] (40th Cong., 1st Sess., H. Ex.Doc. 32, serial 1311)

*Impeachment of the President* [November 25, 1867] (40th Cong., 1st Sess., H. Rept. 7, serial 1314)

*Final Report of the Names of Persons Engaged in Rebellion Who Have Been Pardoned by the President* [December 4, 1867] (40th Cong., 2nd Sess., H. Ex. Doc. 16, serial 1330).

The first message includes lists showing the names of persons with property worth more than \$20,000 who were pardoned and others listing the amount of property seized and returned. The messages of January 8, March 2, and July 8, 1867, responded to a House resolution of December 10, 1866, which requested the names of all persons engaged in the late rebellion who had been pardoned between April 15, 1865, and December 10, 1866. House Report 7, by the House Judiciary Committee, includes a reprint of the list of March 2, 1867. The message of December 4, 1867, was the final report on persons pardoned.

References to oaths of allegiance and paroles from Confederate soldiers can often be found referenced in compiled military service records for captured soldiers/prisoners.

The Union provost marshals' file of one-name papers relating to civilians, 1861–67, available on M345, contains some loyalty and amnesty oaths, bonds, and paroles of prisoners. The Union provost marshals' file of two-or-more-name papers, 1861–67, available on M416, contains some oaths and bonds, paroled prisoners; and a file relating to military and civilian personnel, 1861–65, available on M347, has oaths of allegiance, oaths and paroles of prisoners of war. There is also a miscellaneous collection of manuscripts, 1861–65, which contains some records relating to prisoners' paroles. These files are cross-referenced in individual Confederate compiled military service records.

### **Confederate Pensions**

Confederate pensions are not at the National Archives. The Federal Government did not authorize pensions for former Confederates until 1959. Pension records for 1959 and later have not yet been transferred to the National Archives. Pensions based on military service to the Confederate States of America were granted by the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. To search these records, contact the state listed above where the veteran lived after the war. Descriptions of state pension laws and addresses and telephone numbers of state archives that hold these records are available on the National Archives web site *www.archives.gov*.

The agencies listed below are repositories for Confederate pension records. **Note: The veteran was eligible to apply for a pension to the state in which he lived, even if he served in a unit from a different state.** Generally, an applicant was eligible for a pension only if he was indigent or disabled. In your letter to the repository, state the Confederate veteran's name, his widow's name, the unit(s) in which he served, and the counties in which he and his widow lived after the Civil War. Some repositories also have records of

Confederate Homes (for veterans, widows, etc.), muster rolls of state Confederate militia, and other records related to the war. **For information on procedures and fees for requesting copies of records, contact the appropriate repository.**

## ALABAMA

Alabama Department of Archives and History  
624 Washington Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36130-0100  
334-242-4363

In 1867 Alabama began granting pensions to Confederate veterans who had lost arms or legs. In 1886 the state began granting pensions to veterans' widows. In 1891 the law was amended to grant pensions to indigent veterans or their widows.

## ARKANSAS

Arkansas History Commission  
1 Capitol Mall  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
501-682-6900

In 1891 Arkansas began granting pensions to indigent Confederate veterans. In 1915 the state began granting pensions to their widows and mothers. Two published indexes are available in many libraries:

Allen, Desmond Walls. *Index to Confederate Pension Applications*. Conway, Ark.: Arkansas Research, 1991.

Ingmire, Frances Terry. *Arkansas Confederate Veterans and Widows Pensions Applications*. St. Louis, MO: F.T. Ingmire, 1985.

## FLORIDA

Florida State Archives  
R. A. Gray Building  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250  
850-487-2073

In 1885 Florida began granting pensions to Confederate veterans. In 1889 the state began granting pensions to their widows. A published index, which provides each veteran's pension number, is available in many libraries:

White, Virgil. *Register of Florida CSA Pension Applications*.  
Waynesboro, TN: National Historical Publishing Co., 1989.

## GEORGIA

Georgia State Archives  
Archives and History Division  
5800 Jonesboro Road  
Morrow, GA 30260  
678-364-3700

In 1870 Georgia began granting pensions to soldiers with artificial limbs. In 1879 the state began granting pensions to other disabled Confederate veterans or their widows who then resided in Georgia. By 1894 eligible disabilities had been expanded to include old age and poverty. A published index is available in many libraries:

White, Virgil D. *Index to Georgia Civil War Confederate Pension Files*. Waynesboro, TN: National Historical Publishing Co., 1996.



## KENTUCKY

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives  
Research Room  
300 Coffee Tree Road  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
502-564-8704

In 1912 Kentucky began granting pensions to Confederate veterans or their widows. The records are on microfilm. A published index is available in many libraries:

Simpson, Alicia. *Index of Confederate Pension Applications, Commonwealth of Kentucky*. Frankfort, KY: Division of Archives and Records Management, Department of Library and Archives, 1978.

## LOUISIANA

Louisiana State Archives  
3851 Essen Lane  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809-2137  
504-922-1208

In 1898 Louisiana began granting pensions to indigent Confederate veterans or their widows.

## MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
P.O. Box 571  
Jackson, MS 39205  
601-359-6876

In 1888 Mississippi began granting pensions to indigent Confederate veterans or their widows. A published index is available in many libraries:

Wiltshire, Betty C. *Mississippi Confederate Pension Applications*. Carrollton, MS: Pioneer Publishing Co., 1994.

## MISSOURI

Missouri State Archives  
600 W. Main  
P.O. Box 1747  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
573-751-3280

In 1911 Missouri began granting pensions to indigent Confederate veterans only; none were granted to widows. Missouri also had a home for disabled Confederate veterans. The pension and veterans' home applications are interfiled and arranged alphabetically. Typically, the pension file is small, perhaps four to eight pages, containing a standard application form and may include letters of recommendation from family members or others.

## NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina State Archives  
109 East Jones Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601-2807  
919-733-7305

### **Mailing Address:**

North Carolina State Archives  
Public Services Branch  
4614 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-4614

In 1867 North Carolina began granting pensions to Confederate veterans who were blinded or lost an arm or leg during their service. In 1885 the state began granting pensions to all other disabled indigent Confederate veterans or widows.

## OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma Department of Libraries  
Archives and Records Management Divisions  
200 Northeast 18th Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
1-800-522-8116, ext. 209 (nationwide)

In 1915 Oklahoma began granting pensions to Confederate veterans or their widows. This published index is available in many libraries:

Oklahoma Genealogical Society. *Index to Applications for Pensions from the State of Oklahoma, Submitted by Confederate Soldiers, Sailors, and Their Widows*. Oklahoma City, OK: Oklahoma Genealogical Society Projects Committee, 1969.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina Department of Archives and History  
8301 Parkland Road  
Columbia, SC 29223  
803-896-6100

A state law enacted December 24, 1887, permitted financially needy Confederate veterans and widows to apply for a pension; however, few applications survive from the 1888–1918 era. Beginning in 1889, the South Carolina Comptroller began publishing lists of such veterans receiving pensions in his *Annual Report*. From 1919 to 1925, South Carolina granted pensions to Confederate veterans and widows regardless of financial need. These files are arranged alphabetically. Pension application files are typically one sheet of paper with writing on both sides. Also available are Confederate Home applications and inmate records for veterans (1909–57) and applications of wives, widows, sisters, and daughters (1925–55).

## TENNESSEE

Tennessee State Library and Archives  
Public Service Division  
403 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, TN 37243-0312  
615-741-2764

In 1891 Tennessee began granting pensions to indigent Confederate veterans. In 1905 the state began granting pensions to their widows. The records are on microfilm. This published index is available in many libraries:

Sistler, Samuel. *Index to Tennessee Confederate Pension Applications*. Nashville, TN: Sistler & Assoc., 1995.

## TEXAS

Texas State Library and Archives Commission  
P.O. Box 12927  
Austin, TX 78711  
512-463-5480

In 1881 Texas set aside 1,280 acres for disabled Confederate veterans. In 1889 the state began granting pensions to indigent Confederate veterans and their widows. Muster rolls of state militia in Confederate service are also available. This published index is available in many libraries:

White, Virgil D. *Index to Texas CSA Pension Files*. Waynesboro, TN: National Historical Publishing Co., 1989.

## VIRGINIA

Library of Virginia  
Archives Division  
800 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
804-692-3888

In 1888 Virginia began granting pensions to Confederate veterans or their widows. The records are on microfilm.

The National Archives continues to add information on these state archives relating to Confederate pensions including links to online information. Consult our web site for up-to-date information at [www.archives.gov/genealogy/military/civil-war/confederate/pension.html](http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/military/civil-war/confederate/pension.html)

### **Conflicts for Which We Have Compiled Military Service Records:**

Revolutionary War, 1775–83

War of 1812, 1812–15

Early Indian Wars, 1815–58:

Includes Compiled Military Service Records (CMSRs) for 1815–58

Seminole or Florida Wars, 1817–18, 1834–42, and 1855–58

Winnebago War, 1827

Sac and Fox War, 1831

Black Hawk War, 1832

Creek War, 1836–37

Indian Wars in Texas, 1849–51

Indian removal, 1835–41

(There are no CMSRs, but bounty land or pensions may have been granted for service in the Osage War, 1832; Patriot and Aroostock War, 1838–39; Heatherly War, 1836; and Cayuse War, 1848).

Mexican War, 1846–48

Civil War, 1861–65

Spanish-American War, 1898

Philippine Insurrection, 1899–1902

## AFRICAN AMERICANS

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In 1863 the U.S. Army began to organize regimental units of African Americans as the United States Colored Troops (USCT). Both freemen and former slaves served in these regiments as enlisted men. Some USCT regiments originated as state militia units that formed prior to 1863. A few Connecticut and Massachusetts African American regiments retained their state designators and did not assume USCT regimental numbers. Several Louisiana Native Guard and Corps de Afrique regiments were reorganized or renamed as USCT regiments and came under the USCT jurisdiction by late 1864. USCT regiments included regiments of cavalry, artillery, and infantry.

Two sets of records that will be most useful to researchers are the compiled military service records and pension files. Begin researching soldiers who served in USCT units by consulting the individual compiled military service records. The compiled military service records consist of an envelope that may contain card abstracts taken from records such as: muster rolls, returns, pay vouchers, orders, and other records that relate to the individual soldier. Information in the service record may include references to mustering-in, mustering-out, wounds, hospitalization, absences from the unit, capture and imprisonment by the enemy, courts-martial, and death.

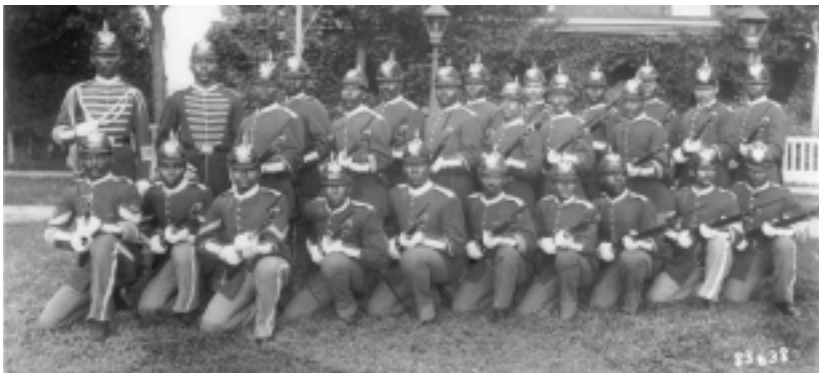
Eventually all USCT compiled military service records will be available on National Archives microfilm. Currently, all USCT cavalry and artillery units are on film as well as many of the lower numbered infantry regiments.

For information on unit activities consult M594, *Compiled Records Showing Service of Military Units in Volunteer Union Organizations*, rolls 205–217, which documents the movements of USCT regiments and companies. This series is arranged by unit.

During the Civil War approximately 179,000 African Americans served in U.S. Colored Troops volunteer cavalry, artillery, and infantry units, but the opportunity to serve as regulars in the Army was not afforded African Americans until after the Civil War. In 1866, due in large part to the wartime service of the USCT, Congress authorized the Army to raise six black regiments: four infantry and two cavalry. This change was part of a much larger Army reorganization.

On July 28, 1866, Congress passed an act reorganizing the Army by adding 4 regiments to the already existing 6 regiments of cavalry and expanding the number of infantry regiments from 19 to 45. The reorganization included the creation of 6 colored regiments designated in November as the 9th and 10th Cavalry and the 38th, 39th, 40th, and 41st Infantry. The new colored regiments were to be composed of black enlisted men and white officers. Three years later, Congress reorganized the Army again by reducing the number of infantry units from 45 to 25 regiments. For the African American regulars, this reorganization changed only the infantry units and not the 9th and 10th Cavalry. The 38th Infantry and 41st Infantry became the 24th Infantry, while the 39th and 40th were consolidated into the 25th Infantry. These two new infantry regiments completely replaced the former 24th and 25th.

The place to start researching black regulars is Regular Army Enlistment Papers, 1798–1912, RG 94, entry 91. This series is arranged alphabetically by name of soldier and generally shows the soldier's name, place of enlistment, date of enlistment, by whom enlisted, age, place of



*Soldiers of Company I, 25th U.S. Infantry, at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, taken in the 1880s. (111-SC-83638)*

birth, occupation, personal description, regimental assignment, and certifications of the examining surgeon and recruiting officer. Soldiers usually have multiple enlistment papers if they served two or more enlistments.

Researchers should also consult M233, *Register of Enlistments in the U.S. Army, 1798–1914*. The register of enlistments is arranged chronologically and thereunder alphabetically by first letter of surname. The register usually shows the individual's name, military organization, physical description, age at time of enlistment, place of birth, enlistment information, discharge information, and remarks. For more detailed information concerning service consult the unit muster rolls arranged by arm of service, thereunder by regiment number, then alphabetically by company, troop or battery and thereunder chronologically. The muster rolls are found in RG 94, entry 53, Muster Rolls of Regular Army Organizations 1784–October 31, 1912.

For medical information, consult carded medical records found in RG 94, entries 529 and 530, covering the years 1821–85 and 1894–1912 respectively. These cards relate to Regular Army personnel admitted to hospitals for treatment and may include information such as name, rank, organization, age, race, birthplace, date entered service, cause of admission, date of admission, hospital to which admitted, and disposition of the case. Entry 529 is arranged by the number of the regiment (cavalry, infantry, and artillery are filed together under the common regiment number) and then by initial letter of surname. For example, the 9th Cavalry is filed under the number “9” along with the 9th Infantry and 9th Artillery. Entry 530 is arranged by arm of service, and thereunder by regiment number. For information on other records related to Regular Army enlisted men consult the sections on returns, Army courts-martial, and pension files. For service in the Navy, consult pages 20–22 for records related to enlisted men.

#### *Additional Sources of Information*

Reidy, Joseph P. “Black Men in Navy Blue during the Civil War,” *Prologue*, Fall 2001, Vol. 33, No. 3.

Plante, Trevor K. “Researching African Americans in the U.S. Army, 1866–1890: Buffalo Soldiers and Black Infantrymen,” *Prologue*, Spring 2001, Vol. 33, No. 1.



## WOMEN

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Recent scholarship has started to explore in greater detail women who served as men in various armed conflicts. For example, in the compiled service record of Cpl. Samuel Gay, who served in the First Massachusetts Regiment during the Revolutionary War, there is a card noting that he was “discharged, being a woman, dressed in Mens cloths Aug. 1777.” There are several hundred women who reportedly served as men during the Civil War for both the Union and Confederacy. Compiled military service records for these individuals are filed under the male aliases that the women took on while they served. For example, the Civil War compiled military service record for Sarah Edmonds Seelye is filed with the 2nd Michigan Volunteer Infantry under the name Franklin Thompson. You need to know the woman’s alias that she used while serving as a soldier to search these records. In some cases the compiled military service records and pension files identify soldiers as women serving as men but in many cases they do not.

In some cases, the National Archives also has records relating to women hired as civilians by the War Department or Army Quartermaster Department. There are also several Civil War-era series relating to Union and Confederate regimental and hospital laundresses, nurses, and spies. Post-Civil War records include various series on nurses, Quartermaster Department employees, and regimental and fort laundresses.

There are several series related to women who served as contract nurses during the Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection, and later in the Nurse Corps. The Nurse Corps was formed in the Regular Army in 1901. Prior to 1901, nurses in the Spanish-American War and Philippine

Insurrection worked under contract with the U.S. Army. Personal Data Cards of Spanish-American War Contract Nurses, 1898–1939, RG 112, Records of the Office of the Surgeon General (Army), entry 149, include contract nurses who served during the Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection. The personal data cards provide information such as full name, address, education, hospital experience, age, date, and place of birth, and marital status. The files also include a brief history of service with the Army and in many cases cross-references to files found in the Surgeon General's general correspondence file found in RG 112, entry 26. For additional records in the general correspondence file consult the name and subject index (RG 112, entry 23) under "contract nurses." Other records related to nurses in the Army Nurse Corps during the Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection can be found in RG 112, entries 104 and 105, case files of candidates seeking appointments as Army nurses and the register of military service of members of the Army Nurse Corps, 1901–02.

#### *Additional Sources of Information*

Blanton, DeAnne. "Women Soldiers of the Civil War," *Prologue*, Spring 1993, Vol. 25, No. 1.

Blanton, DeAnne and Lauren M. Cook. *They Fought Like Demons: Women Soldiers in the American Civil War*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2002.

Palmer Seeley, Charlotte, comp. *American Women and the U.S. Armed Forces: A Guide to the Records of Military Agencies in the National Archives Relating to American Women*. National Archives Trust Fund: Washington, DC, 1992.

## DRAFT RECORDS AND SELECTIVE SERVICE

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### **Draft**

#### ***Civil War***

The Enrollment Act, enacted by the 37th Congress to enlarge the ranks of the Union Army, subjected all males between the ages of 20 and 45 to the draft. Men who were mentally or physically impaired, the only son of a widow, the son of infirm parents, or a widower with dependent children were exempt. The act divided the United States into enrollment districts along the same lines of congressional districts.

Records of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau, 1863–65, RG 110, are the principal records that relate to the 1863 draft. Enrollees had their names placed on consolidated lists. The consolidated lists are the most useful of the Washington, DC, office of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau that relate to individual men. Most are bound volumes arranged by state, thereunder by enrollment or congressional district, and thereunder by class. The three classes established by the draft acts were Class I: men between the ages of 20 and 35 subject to military duty and unmarried men above 35 and under 45 subject to military duty; Class II: married men above 35 and under 45; and Class III: veterans or those who were currently in the service. Entries in each class are arranged roughly in alphabetical order by initial letter of surname. Each entry shows name; place of residence; age on July 1, 1863; occupation; marital status; state, territory, or country of birth; and if Class III, the military organization. The lists do not include information about the men's families.

# REGISTRATION CARD

SERIAL NUMBER <b>1145</b>	ORDER NUMBER <b>A 3156</b>
1 <b>Edward Kennedy Ellington</b> (First name) (Middle name) (Last name)	
2 PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS: <b>1955-3rd St NW</b> (No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) <b>Washington, D.C.</b> (State)	
Age in Years 3 <b>19</b>	Date of Birth 4 <b>Apr. 29th 1899</b> (Month) (Day) (Year)
RACE	
White	Negro <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oriental	Indian
Citizen	Non-citizen
5	7
U. S. CITIZEN	
Native Born	Naturalized
10 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11
Citizen by Father's Naturalization Before Registrant's Majority	Alien
12	13
14	15
15 If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject?	
PRESENT OCCUPATION	EMPLOYER'S NAME
16 <b>Messenger</b>	17 <b>Federal Govt.</b>
18 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: <b>Chief Staff - War Dept Wash DC</b> (No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (Country) (State)	
NEAREST RELATIVE	19 <b>Edna C. Ellington</b> Name
20 <b>1955-3rd St NW Wash DC</b> Address	(No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (Country) (State)
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE	
P. M. G. O. Form No. 1 (Red)	63-1081 (Registration's signature or mark) (OVER)

World War I draft registration card for Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington. (RG 163)

Many consolidated lists are not complete, a fact some researchers find frustrating because a draft enrollment is one of the few places an individual may be located if he does not have a military service record.

Descriptive rolls or lists are the principal records of the enrollment districts that relate to individual men. They are arranged by state, thereunder by number of enrollment or congressional district. The rolls are chiefly in bound volumes, and their arrangement varies from district to district. Some are not indexed; some are indexed by initial letter of surname; and some are by place of residence.

An entry often shows, in addition to information in the corresponding consolidated list, the physical description, place of birth, and whether accepted or rejected for military service. Entries in many volumes, however, are not complete.

It is difficult to find a particular individual in either the consolidated lists or the descriptive rolls unless the congressional district in which he lived during the Civil War is known. If the researcher knows the county in which the individual lived in 1863, the number of the congressional district can be ascertained from the *Congressional Directory for the Second Session of the Thirty-Eighth Congress of the United States of America* (Washington: U.S. House of Representatives, 1865).

Before using the consolidated lists and descriptive rolls, researchers should know the congressional district in which the individual lived. If the person lived in a major urban area, a city directory of the period is an effective way of discovering the person's place of residence. A map of the city, usually used in conjunction with census files, will help determine the congressional district as well as the subdistrict encountered in urban demography. In addition, it helps to know when the person was enrolled. Almost all the enrollment districts generated registers of enrolled men, lists of substitutes, and records relating to exemptions.

Researchers should take certain steps before attempting to find answers about any individual in the records of the provost marshal. Consulting the service records and pension files should be the first step. If the individual is located in these files, there is no need to check the draft records, for there

won't be any additional information. If, on the other hand, the individual has neither a service record nor a pension file, and the researcher knows his age and place of residence, then a look at the records of the provost marshal may pay off. Researchers should keep in mind, though, that consolidated lists, corrections to enrollment, and other obscure records in RG 110 are not complete and are quite fragile.

Records of district level offices, such as correspondence, descriptive books, medical registers, and records relating to enrolled men, drafted men, recruits, substitutes, and deserters, are located at various National Archives regional facilities depending on the state where the draft took place.

Under terms of the Conscription Act, the President on May 8, 1863, issued a proclamation announcing that aliens who had declared their intention to become citizens and were in the United States 65 days after that date would not be allowed to avoid the draft on the plea of alien status. The State Department became involved in the release from military service of aliens who were drafted from 1862 onward.

General Records of the Department of State, RG 59, contains case files relating to aliens drafted into the U.S. Army and released, 1862–64. Included are draft notices, depositions, and correspondence relating to releases. These files are arranged alphabetically by surname of alien. Each file contains the alien's name, district from which drafted, country of citizenship, and occasionally, date of release. Some files provide age, length of time in the United States, and physical description of the alien.

## **Selective Service**

### ***World War I***

The National Archives and Records Administration—Southeast Region in Atlanta maintains World War I draft records, which are part of RG 163, Records of the Selective Service System (World War I). For records relating to the World War I draft, consult M1509, *World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards*. This series is arranged alphabetically by state or territory; thereunder by county or city. The Selective Service System established local boards for each county or city with populations

of 30,000 or more. Within the county, city, or local board, the cards are arranged alphabetically by surname of registrant. On May 17, 1917, Congress passed the Selective Service Act authorizing the President to draft men into military service. The Selective Service System registered men between the ages of 21 and 31 for the draft. During World War I there were three registrations: the first was on June 5, 1917; the second on June 5, 1918 (with a supplemental registration on August 24, 1918); and the third on September 12, 1918 (which included men between the ages of 18 and 45).

The draft registration cards contain information supplied by each registrant, including name, address, date of birth, age, race, citizenship status, birthplace, occupation and employer, dependant relative, marital status, father's birthplace, and name and address of nearest relative.

For help in establishing what geographic areas to search in the above series, especially if the person you are researching lived in a heavily populated area, you may wish to consult M1860 *Boundary Maps of Selected Cities and Counties of World War I Selective Draft Registration Boards, 1917–1918*. The maps are arranged geographically.

## ***World War II***

On April 27, 1942, the Selective Service conducted the fourth of six draft registrations. Also called the “Old Man’s Registration” or “Old Man’s Draft,” this registration collected information on the industrial capacity and skills of men born between April 27, 1877, and February 16, 1897 (ages 45 to 64). This draft registration was not intended to be used for military service but to provide a complete inventory of manpower resources in the United States that could be used for national service during World War II.

The draft cards are arranged by state and then alphabetically by the registrant’s surname. The fourth registration draft cards contain the following information on the registrant: name, serial number, residence, mailing address, telephone number, date and place of birth, name and address of employer, height, weight, race, hair color, eye color, distinguishing marks,

signature, and the name and address of a person who would know the registrant's address.

For copies of the fourth registration draft cards, contact the National Archives and Records Administration, ATTN: Archival Programs, P.O. Box 28989, St. Louis, MO 63132-0989. There are no fourth registration draft cards for the following states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

To obtain copies of draft cards for the other World War II registrations, contact the National Archives and Records Administration, ATTN: Archival Programs, P.O. Box 28989, St. Louis, MO 63132-0989. Provide the registrant's full name, date of birth, and address (including county, if known) at the time of registration. The registration card shows a registrant's name, date of birth, home address, Selective Service registration number, name and address of family member or close friend to contact, and may include additional information like the registrant's occupation, phone number and/or marital status. See below for information on World War II classification ledgers.

### ***Korea and Vietnam***

The National Archives and Records Administration has Selective Service records for men born before 1960. **NOTE: Men born from March 29, 1957, through December 31, 1959,** were not required to register with Selective Service because the registration program was suspended when they would have reached age 18. To obtain copies of registration cards, contact the National Archives and Records Administration, ATTN: Archival Programs, P.O. Box 28989, St. Louis, MO 63132-0989. Provide the registrant's full name, date of birth, and address (including county, if known) at the time of registration. The registration card shows a registrant's full name, date of birth, home address, Selective Service registration number, name and address of family member or close friend to contact, and may include additional information like the registrant's occupation, phone number and/or marital status.

Classification ledgers, 1940–75, cover World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. The ledgers provide registrant's name, their classification history,



and a basic service history, such as service in and out dates including type of discharge. To obtain copies of ledger entries for individual registrants, contact the National Archives and Records Administration, ATTN: Archival Programs, P.O. Box 28989, St. Louis, MO 63132-0989.

*Additional Sources of Information*

Meier, Michael T. "Civil War Draft Records: Exemptions and Enrollments," *Prologue*, Winter 1994, Vol. 26, No. 4.

Yockelson, Mitchell. "They Answered the Call: Military Service in the United States Army during World War I, 1917–1919," *Prologue*, Fall 1998, Vo. 30, No. 3.

## PRISONERS OF WAR

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### ***Revolutionary War***

For information relating to Revolutionary War prisoners of war consult M247, *Papers of the Continental Congress, 1774–1789*. This microfilm publication reproduces the Records of the Continental and Confederate Congresses, 1774–89, and documents the activities of these pre-Federal Congresses in a wide range of areas, including military, foreign, fiscal, and naval affairs. The records are arranged in a numerical sequence of 196 series referred to as item numbers.

There is information on prisoners scattered throughout the papers. They include a printed report that provides a list of British officers taken at Trenton, New Jersey, to a detailed accounting of several dozen American prisoners of war detained on a ship in Charleston Harbor. The Papers of the Continental Congress include records relating to American prisoners of war as well as British and loyalist prisoners.

Another good source relating to Revolutionary War prisoners is M246, *Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775–1783*. Roll number 135 of this publication contains about 30 pages of names of American prisoners of war. There are several lists containing name, rank, colony of residence, and regiment. These lists are mainly centered around 1780, but the dates cover most of the war. There is also a short catalog of files containing names of British, Loyalist, and American prisoners of war during the American Revolution. In some cases prisoners of war may be found on M847, *Special Index to Numbered Records in the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, 1775–1783*. This microfilm publication reproduces an alphabetical

card index to names that appear in numbered record books or numbered unbound documents relating to the Revolutionary War. If the index cites a manuscript number consult M859, *Miscellaneous Numbered Records (the Miscellaneous File) in the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, 1775–1790s*. If the index cites a volume number consult M853, *Numbered Books Concerning Military Operations and Service, Pay and Settlement of Accounts, and Supplies in the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records*.

### ***War of 1812***

To begin research on War of 1812 prisoners of war consult M1747, *Index to Records Relating to War of 1812 Prisoners of War*. The index indicates the manuscript number and, within a multipage manuscript, it also contains the page number where you can find information concerning the indexed person. If available, it also notes the soldier's rank and the regiment and company in which he served. The index is arranged alphabetically by soldier's name and is the key to accessing M2019, *Records Relating to War of 1812 Prisoners of War*. The Adjutant General's Office arranged, numbered, and indexed these records. The office assigned the records manuscript number ranging from 1 to 94. Some are oddly numbered such as 10 1/2 and 92 1/3, apparently these records were similar topics to the whole number (e.g. 10 and 92) and were later inserted into the sequence. The manuscript number usually appears on the reverse side of the document, along with a number written in a circle which refers to the number of names for which an index card was created. The records are arranged numerically by manuscript number.

### ***Civil War***

Most information taken from records relating to Union prisoners of war can be found in the individual's compiled military service record. More detailed records may be found in Records of the Office of the Commissary General of Prisoners, RG 249. This record group contains a variety of series of registers, rolls, lists, and reports relating to Federal prisoners of war including information on paroled and exchanged Federal prisoners.



*Confederate prisoners standing along a fence in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. (200-CC-2288)*

If you are researching a Confederate soldier, sailor, or marine who was captured during the war consult prisoner-of-war records found on M598, *Selected Records of the War Department Relating to Confederate Prisoners of War, 1861–1865*. This microfilm publication contains lists and registers of prisoners of war and records related to individual prisons or stations. Records related to all prisoners include: registers of prisoners; registers of deaths of prisoners (compiled by the Office of the Commissary General of Prisoners); registers of prisoners' applications for release and decisions; registers related to release of prisoners; registers relating to prisoners' possessions; and registers of deaths of prisoners (compiled by the Surgeon General's Office). These records are followed by the records of individual prisons or stations including Alton, Illinois; Bowling Green, Virginia; Camp Butler, Illinois; Camp Chase, Ohio; Cincinnati, Ohio; Fort Columbus, New York; Department of the Cumberland; Fort Delaware, Delaware; Camp Douglas, Illinois; Elmira, New York; Gratiot and Myrtle Streets Prisons, St. Louis, Missouri; Department of the Gulf; Hart Island, New York; Hilton Head, South

Carolina; Johnson's Island, Ohio; Knoxville, Tennessee; Fort Lafayette, New York; Little Rock, Arkansas; Louisville, Kentucky; Fort McHenry, Maryland; McLean Barracks, Cincinnati, Ohio; Memphis, Tennessee; Department of the Missouri; Camp Morton, Indiana; New Orleans, Louisiana; Newport News, Virginia; Department of the Ohio; Old Capitol Prison, Washington, DC; Point Lookout, Maryland; Richmond, Virginia; Rock Island Barracks, Illinois; Ship Island, Mississippi; Fort Warren, Massachusetts; Division of West Mississippi; and District of West Tennessee. Also consult M918, *Register of Confederate Soldiers, Sailors, and Citizens Who Died in Federal Prisons and Military Hospitals in the North 1861–1865*. It contains individual burial information, generally arranged alphabetically by name of prison camp or other location where the deaths of Confederate prisoners occurred, and thereunder alphabetically by name of deceased. The register provides name, company, regiment, date of death, and number and location of grave of each individual interred. Some of the information is incomplete.

Some information can be found in Confederate compiled military service records (see the appropriate microfilm for the regiment you are researching) as well as in M260, *Records Relating to Confederate Naval and Marine Personnel*.

The U.S. Navy collected a variety of records after the war including some fragmentary Confederate muster rolls, shipping articles, clothing receipts, descriptive rolls, and payrolls related to confederate sailors and marines. These records are located in RG 45, Naval Records Collection of the Office of Naval Records and Library. Many of these records can be found in the Subject File, 1775–1910, RG 45, entry 464, and are reproduced as M1091, *Subject File of the Confederate States Navy, 1861–1865*. This series is arranged by primary and secondary subjects. The primary subjects include: naval ships (design, constructions, etc.); ordnance; communications; engineering; battles and casualties to ships; instructions; nautical technology and science; medical; personnel; operations of Naval ships and fleet units; bases (naval bases—including navy yards and stations); prisoners and prisons; merchant ships and commerce; governmental relationships; supplies; and pensions.

Of particular interest to those researching Confederate marines are

subjects: “M” Medical (see MV Marine Corps–Miscellaneous); “N” Personnel (NV Marine Corps–Miscellaneous); “R” Prisoners and Prisons; “H” Engagements and Casualties to Ships; and “O” Operations of Naval Ships and Fleet Units. Subject file NA contains muster rolls, pay rolls, and lists of naval and marine personnel. Most of these records are related to vessels, stations, squadrons, and naval shore batteries. Subject file OV contains bills, vouchers, correspondence, certificates of deposit, invoices, abstracts of expenditures, accounts, receipts, special orders relating to provisions, clothing, equipment for marine detachments, returns of ordnance and ordnance stores, returns of clothing and equipment, and transportation requests.

The publication contains a series of records relating to the Confederate Navy that was originally part of a larger collection of naval documents known as the Subject File of the United States Navy, 1775–1910. The Confederate records were removed and consolidated into a separate record series in 1963 to facilitate research on the Confederate States Navy. Related official records of the Union Navy that dealt with Confederate prisoners of war and Confederate vessels were integrated into the new Confederate record series as well. Rolls 43–44 contain category “R” (Prisoners and Prisons) of the Subject File. The R category is further divided into the following subtopics: RB, Prisoner-of-War Rolls and Lists (Persons Captured by Union Forces); RE, Release and Exchange; RL, Paroles; and RV, Miscellaneous. Subtopic RB is arranged alphabetically by name of vessel and contains lists of captured Confederate naval personnel as well as foreign civilians and crewmen of captured blockade runners. Other subtopics are arranged by name of ship, naval station, or individual.

Also in RG 45, entry 464, Old Subject File and New Subject File under “R” contains two series with records relating to U.S. Navy and Marine Corps prisoners.

## DISCHARGES

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Prior to 1944, Army regulations allowed for the preparation of only an original discharge certificate, which was given to the soldier. The National Archives would not have the certificate on file unless it was later submitted by the veteran in support of a claim such as a pension or bounty land application, nor does it have the authority to prepare another.

Likewise the National Archives does not have discharge papers for most Navy and Marine Corps enlisted personnel. A few were submitted by veterans in support of pension claims, and these can be found in select pension files.

M1856, *Discharge Certificates and Miscellaneous Records Relating to the Discharge of Soldiers from the Regular Army, 1792–1815*, reproduces discharge certificates and miscellaneous other records relating to the discharge of soldiers from the Regular Army, 1792–1815. These records are part of the Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780s–1917, RG 94, and are part of entry 19, Post Revolutionary War Papers, 1784–1815. This is not a complete set of discharges for soldiers who served from 1792 to 1815. Many of these discharges were submitted by veterans to the War Department as proof of service in order to collect back pay.

## NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS

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Originally designated the National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers to serve Union volunteers from the Civil War, the first asylum opened in Togus Springs, Maine, in 1866 as the Eastern Branch. The next year, two more asylums opened, the Central Branch in Dayton, Ohio, and the Northwestern Branch in Wood, Wisconsin, near Milwaukee. Eventually other branches followed: the Southern Branch in Hampton, Virginia; the Western Branch at Leavenworth, Kansas; the Pacific Branch at Sawtelle, California, near Los Angeles; the Marion Branch at Marion, Indiana; the Danville Branch, at Danville, Illinois; the Mountain Branch at Johnson City, Tennessee; the Battle Mountain Sanitarium at Hot Springs, South Dakota; the Bath Branch at Bath, New York; the Roseburg Branch in Oregon; the St. Petersburg Home in St. Petersburg, Florida; the Biloxi Home in Biloxi, Mississippi; and the Tuskegee Home in Tuskegee, Alabama.

A record of veterans admitted to the homes as members is contained in “Historical Registers” that were maintained at the various branches. These registers are now found at the National Archives in RG 15, Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs. A home number was assigned to each individual upon admission. The member retained his original number even if he was discharged and was later readmitted to the branch. Each page of the register is divided into four sections as follows: military history, domestic history, home history, and general remarks. The veteran’s military history gives the time and place of each enlistment, rank, company, regiment, time and place of discharge, reason for discharge, and nature of disabilities when admitted to the home. The domestic history provides information about



the veteran such as: birthplace, age, height, various physical features, religion, occupation, residence, marital status, and name and address of nearest relative. The home history provides the rate of pension, date or dates of admission, conditions of readmission, date of discharge, cause of discharge, date and cause of death, and place of burial. Entered under general remarks is information about papers relating to the veteran, such as admission papers, Army discharge certificate, and pension certificate. Information was also entered concerning money and personal effects if the member died while in residence at the branch.

The home registers have been reproduced as M1749, *Historical Registers of National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866–1938*. This microfilm publication is available at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, and many of the National Archives regional facilities. Some of the regional sites have all of the microfilm rolls covered under



Veterans in the dining hall of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in Marion, Indiana, in the late 1890s. (Trevor K. Plante Collection)

M1749, while others maintain only the rolls for the soldiers' home that operated in their geographic region. For example, the NARA region in Waltham, Massachusetts, maintains microfilm rolls only relating to the Eastern Branch of the National Soldiers Home that operated in Togus, Maine. In addition to the historical registers some other records relating to soldiers homes have also been reproduced as part of M1749. The microfilm publication also contains registers of death for Bath and Roseburg; funeral records for Bath and Danville; and burial registers and hospital registers for Togus. Please note that the National Archives does not have Historical Registers for the St. Petersburg Home, the Biloxi Home, or the Tuskegee Home.

The regional archives maintain only a **select** number of member case files for the homes that operated in their regions. The majority of the original case files for individual members were disposed of decades ago.

#### *Additional Sources of Information*

*Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives*, third ed., pages 191–192.

Plante, Trevor K. "The National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers," *Prologue*, Spring 2004, Vol. 36, No. 1.

## HEADSTONES AND BURIALS

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### ***National Cemeteries***

If you are researching a veteran you believe may be buried in a National Cemetery you should first consult the Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration web site [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov) and use their “Nationwide Gravesite Locator.” You can access the page directly at [http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL\\_v1](http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1).

The site allows researchers to search for burial locations of veterans and their dependents who are buried in Veterans Affairs National Cemeteries, state veterans cemeteries, and various other Department of Interior and military cemeteries. The search can be conducted with as little information as a first and last name, and you can choose between a basic search versus an advanced search. With the advanced search you can provide the veteran’s last name, first name, middle name, date of birth, date of death, and name of cemetery. If you cannot locate the person you are searching for, please provide the following information on each individual: full name, including any alternate spellings; date and place of birth; date and place of death; state from which the individual entered active duty; and military service branch. Most requests take approximately four weeks for a reply. Be sure to include your return mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address with your request and send it to: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration, (41C1), Burial Location Request, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420.

### ***National Archives Building***

Early headstone applications are found in RG 92, entry 628, Card Records

**APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONES.**

To the QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, U. S. ARMY,  
Washington, D. C.

GENERAL: Following is a list of deceased graves of soldiers, sailors, and marines for which headstones are desired, it being understood that if they are furnished and delivered at Government expense, freight prepaid, to railroad station or standard landing indicated below, they will be promptly removed and set up at private expense.

(When the consignee is some person other than the applicant, a letter from him giving his permanent address and stating that he will promptly remove the headstone from the depot must accompany the application.)

NAME	RANK	COMPANY	U. S. REGIMENT, INFANTRY	DATE OF DEATH	PLACE OF INTERMENT	BY WHOM SET UP	DATE SET UP
Walter H. Slesper	Private	F	3 <sup>d</sup> ST. Inf	June 6, 1901	Silver Lake	Athol Mass	
Charles H. Remington	"	C	27 <sup>th</sup> Mass	June 2, 1905	"	"	
James S. Robbins	"	B	55 <sup>th</sup> Inf	Dec 9, 1915	"	"	
Frederick B. Clark	"	F	14 <sup>th</sup> Inf	Aug 24, 1915	"	"	

For headstones made but not removed for any cause or which are placed on other than authorized ground is hereby waived.

To be shipped to: Athol - Massachusetts - Mass

No fee should be paid in connection with this application.

Date of application: July 21<sup>st</sup> 1921

Respectfully,  
Charles W. Brown  
123 Silver Lake Dr. Athol, Mass.

(For separate blank for headstone)

Headstone application, dated July 21, 1921, for four veterans buried in Silver Lake Cemetery located in Athol, Massachusetts. (RG 92)

of Headstones Provided for Deceased Union Civil War Veterans, ca. 1879–1903. These records have been reproduced on M1845, *Card Records of Headstones Provided for Deceased Union Civil War Veterans, ca. 1879–1903*.

The Quartermaster General's office created three-by-four-inch cards to keep track of headstones ordered for private cemeteries, mostly for soldiers who died between 1861 and 1903. Because some cemetery superintendents and relatives of veterans of previous wars applied for and received headstones, records of headstones for veterans of earlier wars, including the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Mexican War, are scattered throughout the collection of the 166,000 cards as well as a few relating to the Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection. The cards record the name, rank, company, and regiment or vessel of the veteran (both Army and Navy), the name and location of the cemetery, the date of death, the company that supplied the headstone, and the date of contract. The cards are arranged alphabetically.



*Burying the dead at Fredericksburg, Virginia. (111-B-71)*

Another good series to consult is the Applications of Headstones in Private Cemeteries, 1909–1924, found in RG 92, entry 592. The headstone applications were often completed by superintendents of cemeteries and therefore do not contain next-of-kin information. Although the starting date of the series is 1909, many applications were submitted for veterans already buried in cemeteries prior to 1909. Like the card records of headstones, applications can also be found for veterans of earlier conflicts.

The basic information on the applications is similar to the headstone card records and provides the name of veteran, rank, company, regiment or vessel, date of death, the name and location of the cemetery, and the date of application. Applications for headstones in private cemeteries are arranged by state and thereunder by county.

### ***National Archives at College Park, Maryland***

Additional records relating to headstones and burials can be found at the National Archives at College Park, Maryland. In 1925 the quartermaster

revised the look of the headstone application, although the information requested did not substantially change. The full sheets of paper were exchanged for eight-by-five-inch cards and are found in RG 92, entry 2110C, Applications for Headstones, 1925–1963. The cards ask for name, rank, branch of service, company, regiment or ship, years of birth and death, date of application, name of honorably discharged veteran, if the veteran died while on active duty, dates of enlistment and discharge, address of cemetery, religious emblem (if designated), and the name and address of applicant and relationship to deceased. As on the older applications, some handwritten notations by the quartermaster clerks may be found, but the frequency and value of the markings diminish as the date of the applications grows more recent. Later applications also include the service number. These cards are organized roughly by year, thereunder alphabetically. The key to finding the desired application is by knowing the date it was submitted. The first set within this entry encompass the years 1925–41. This segment has been reproduced as M1916, *Applications for Headstones for U.S. Military Veterans, 1925–1941*. The second segment covers the years 1942–48, thus a rough estimate of the year is all that is necessary to find an application. Segments thereafter are confined to two- or three-year spans. The applications for 1964–70 found in RG 92, entry 1942A, are organized strictly by government fiscal year and thereunder alphabetically. The information and organization reflect the earlier series. However, unlike the headstone applications for private cemeteries, the headstone applications for this series reflect burials in national cemeteries.

Headstone applications after 1970 provide the same information and are similarly organized to the headstone applications described above. Although the series is dated 1965–1985, the bulk of the collection begins in 1970. In 1972 the national cemetery system and the responsibility of providing headstones was transferred to the U.S. Veterans Administration. Divided annually by fiscal year and thereunder alphabetically, these records are found in the Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, RG 15, entry 52) and include headstone applications for private cemeteries. Please note that the applications are filed by fiscal year of application, which may differ from the fiscal year of death.

Because the records are contemporaneous and provide information regarding the next-of-kin of the deceased, access to these records is limited to those who ordered the headstone. However, reference staff can make copies of such applications for researchers, redacting the sensitive information. Researchers should provide name of decedent and date of application to the reference staff of the Modern Military, Attn: Military Headstone Applications, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740. If the date of application is unknown, the staff will search the application based on date of death. Please keep in mind that due to limited resources only one search per request can be conducted.

One such series is the Interment Control Forms, ca. 1928–62, RG 92, entry 2110B. Arranged alphabetically by the name of the decedent, these forms were used as records of control over burial lots in national cemeteries. The forms contain name of decedent; rank; units served; serial number; war of service; dates of birth, death, interment; service, including enlistment; and discharge or retirement, if applicable; the place of burial and location of gravesite; next of kin; and sometimes burial location of spouse if in the same cemetery. Much of the information on these forms is similar to that found on headstone applications, but because these records are organized alphabetically, researchers unsure of a date of application should find these records easier to use.

Record Group 92 contains burial case files, 1915–39, which may include correspondence, reports, telegrams, applications, and other papers relating to burials of service personnel during and after World War I. In some cases, the files show the initial burial location and the name and place of reburial in a cemetery overseas or if the body was returned to the United States. The burial files are arranged alphabetically by the surname of the deceased.

Researchers looking for interment information for World War II veterans buried overseas should consult Headstone Inscriptions and Interment Records in the Records of the American Battle Monument Commission (AMBC), RG 117, entry 43. The records cover 1946 to 1949, but they are easier to use than the headstone applications because they are arranged alphabetically, regardless of year. Established in 1923, the American Battle Monument Commission was founded to honor the American armed forces where they served by monitoring and advising the construction of military

monuments and markers on foreign soil by other nations. After World War II, American soldiers were exhumed from their temporary burial place and moved to one of 14 sites selected by the Secretary of the Army and the ABMC, with the permission of the host country, to become eternal shrines to those who gave their lives in the course of the war.

Although not as extensive in information as the interment records and headstone applications, the ABMC headstone inscription and interment records offer name of decedent, rank, unit of service, state of residence, date of death, cemetery, and grave location. They also provide information about the next of kin and any awards earned by the deceased.

*Confederates*

More than 40 years after the end of the Civil War, permanent, uniform markers were authorized for the graves of Confederate soldiers buried in national



*Civil War view of Arlington National Cemetery. (111-B-5304)*



cemeteries. In accordance with an act of March 9, 1906, Congress adopted the same size and material for Confederate headstones as for Union deceased but altered the design to omit the shield and give the stones a pointed rather than rounded top. In 1929 the authorization was extended to graves in private cemeteries. On May 26, 1930, the War Department implemented regulations for Confederate headstones that also authorized the inscription of the Confederate Cross of Honor in a small circle on the front face of the stone above the standard inscription of the soldier's name, rank, company, and regiment. Consult headstone application records described above at the National Archives at College Park, Maryland.

Researchers looking for burial locations of Confederates should consult M918, *Register of Confederate Soldiers, Sailors, and Citizens Who Died in Federal Prisons and Military Hospitals in the North, 1861–1865*. Completed in 1912, the register shows the location and number of the known grave of each deceased Confederate soldier and sailor and was compiled to assist the effort to mark Confederate graves. Arranged alphabetically by the name of prison or other location where the death occurred, the burial lists generally offer an individual's name, rank, company, regiment or vessel, date of death, and number and location of grave. Some entries do not provide complete information. Researchers may consult the microfilmed records in the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, and several of NARA's regional archives.

#### *Additional Sources of Information*

Mollan, Mark C. "Honoring Our War Dead: The Evolution of the Government Policy on Headstones for Fallen Soldiers and Sailors," *Prologue*, Spring 2003, Vol. 35, No. 1.

Quartermaster General's Office, *Roll of Honor: Names of Soldiers Who Died in Defense of the American Union*, (27 vols.), Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1865–1871.

Reamy, Martha and William Reamy, comp. *Index to the Roll of Honor*, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1995.

## MEDALS

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### *Army*

The only medal officially awarded during the Civil War, Indian Wars, Spanish-American War, and Philippine Insurrection was the Medal of Honor. Between 1905 and 1919, the War Department authorized several campaign medals for service between 1861 and 1902. The National Archives, however, is not authorized to issue or determine eligibility for medals or awards. That function comes under the jurisdiction of the Commander, U.S. Total Army Personnel Command, ATTN: TAPC-PDO-PA, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332-0471. For more information, call 703-325-8700 or visit [www.Perscom.army.mil/tagd/awards/index.htm](http://www.Perscom.army.mil/tagd/awards/index.htm).

The Army no longer manufactures, stocks, or issues the Civil War, Indian War, Spanish-American War, or Philippine Insurrection Campaign Medals. As there are no known living veterans who qualify for this award, there are no plans to manufacture more medals.

There are select files relating to soldiers who received medals of honor, but the term “Medal of Honor file” may be misleading. There is no series solely designated within the Records of the Adjutant General’s Office, RG 94, similar to compiled service records or pension files that documents the awarding of the Army Medal of Honor. Instead, files of correspondence relating to the Medal of Honor awards are scattered throughout several files of the AGO. The location of a honoree’s file within the AGO records depends largely on the rank of the individual and the date of application, as well as a myriad of other factors.

Many of the files are found in Letters Received, 1862–1889, Enlisted Branch of the AGO, RG 94, entry 409, where much of the correspondence regarding enlisted soldiers for 1862–1889 is located. Other record series that hold correspondence of Medal of Honor recipients include the Record and Pension Office (R&P) Document File, 1889–1904, RG 94, entry 501; Volunteer Service (VS) Letters Received, 1861–1889, RG 94, entry 496; AGO Document File, 1890–1917, RG 94, Entry 25; and Letters Received by the Office of the Adjutant General (LR) (available on several microfilm publications depending upon the year). Of particular interest to researchers of Medal of Honor recipients in the U.S. Colored troops is the Letters Received, 1863–1888, of the Colored Troops Division, RG 94, entry 360.

An unpublished finding aid, “19th-Century Army Medals of Honor,” available to researchers at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, lists alphabetically Army Medal of Honor recipients between 1863 and 1904, along with their rank, the unit they served in at the time of their honored action, and the file number.

For the years 1904–17, researchers should consult M698, *Index to General Correspondence of the Office of the Adjutant General’s Office, 1890–1917*, and search for the name of the honoree. After locating the file number(s) from the index, order the corresponding paper files. Although several file entries may be found for one individual in the index, they are often consolidated into one file.

Visitors to the National Archives Building may consult the “19th-Century Army Medals of Honor” finding aid for recipients between 1862 to 1904, or consult M698, *Index to General Correspondence of the Office of the Adjutant General’s Office, 1890–1917*, for recipients from 1904 to 1917. There are two National Archives microfilm publications relating specifically to the Medal of Honor, M929, *Documents Relating to the Military and Naval Service of Blacks Awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor From the Civil War to the Spanish American War*, and T732, *Records Relating to Military Service in the Civil War of Medal of Honor Winners From Michigan*.

Medal of Honor case files after 1917 are much more difficult to locate among the Army records at the National Archives. The War Department

did not consolidate recommendation papers and statements of witnesses into one file, and in many cases, the information is no longer extant or was transferred to an individual's military personnel file. The personnel files are among the holdings of the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri. If these documents do exist elsewhere, they may be included in the organizational files contained in several different record groups and may be among unit records housed in the Modern Military Records unit of the National Archives in College Park, Maryland.

Information on other Army medals can be found in RG 92, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General. Entry 256 provides name index cards for various series relating to the application or issuance of the following Army medals: Civil War Medal, Indian Wars Medal, Spanish War Campaign Medal, China Campaign Medal (China Relief Expedition), Philippine Campaign Medal, Philippine Congressional Medal, Mexican Service Medal, Mexican Border Service Medal, Army of Cuban Occupation Medal, Army of Puerto Rican Occupation Medal, and Cuban Pacification Medal. Later medals are listed in military personnel files at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

### ***Navy***

There are several series in RG 24, Records of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, that may or may not contain information relating to service men requesting or receiving the following Navy medals: Civil War Medal, West Indies Naval Campaign Medal, West Indies Campaign Medal, Spanish Campaign Medal, Philippine Campaign Medal, China Relief Expedition Medal, Cuban Pacification Medal, Nicaraguan Campaign Medal (1912), Mexican Service Medal, Haiti Campaign Medal (1915), Dominican Campaign Medal (1916), and the Haitian Campaign Medal (1919–20).

For correspondence files relating to the issuance of various medals consult RG 24, Records of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, entry 88, General Correspondence, 1889–1913, and entry 89, General Correspondence, 1913–25. Both series are arranged chronologically and thereunder by file number.

For records relating to Navy Spanish-American War Medals consult RG 24, entry 99, Correspondence Relating to the Award of Spanish-American War Medals, 1905–07. This series consists mainly of memorandums, many of which were prepared for the Secretary of the Navy by the Chief of the Bureau, relating to claims made by officers and men regarding their eligibility for medals. This unarranged series also includes extracts from logs and muster rolls bearing on these claims, a few press copies of letters sent to the claimants by the Bureau, and letters received from the claimants.

Record Group 24, entry 67, Miscellaneous Letters Sent to or Relating to Navy Service Personnel, (“Miscel. Navy”), February 10, 1896–February 22, 1903, contains press copies of letters, including form letters and endorsements, sent to men either in or formerly in the Navy, mainly enlisted men and warrant officers seeking return to the service. The series includes some copies of letters of commendation for acts of heroism, such as rescues at sea; and copies of letters concerning medals. The series is arranged chronologically.

Record Group 24, entry 70, Letters Sent Relating to Navy Medals and Badges (“Medals and Badges”), November 3, 1908–December 27, 1911, includes press copies of letters relating mainly to awards made for participation in the Spanish, Philippine, China, and West Indian Campaigns and the Civil War. Most of this series consists of form letters used for transmitting free medals and badges to recipients, either directly or through their commanding officers. Also included are letters requesting proof of identity or granting permission to purchase badges and medals from commercial firms, letters refusing awards, and letters to manufacturing firms that sought contracts to manufacture medals and badges. The series is arranged chronologically.

Also of interest to researchers working on medals is RG 24, entry 20, Letters Sent to the Superintendent of the Philadelphia Mint, May 14, 1906–March 27, 1909. This series has press copies of letters sent concerning the ordering, alteration, and return of medals and the accompanying additional service bars that were awarded to Navy men for service in the West Indian Campaign of the Spanish-American War. The letters are arranged chronologically.

For records relating to Navy Medals of Honor consult RG 24, entry 85, Letters Received Relating to Medals of Honor, January 1, 1862–December 31, 1866. This series contains letters received from commanders of vessels and other officers on board ship and ashore and from the men to whom medals were awarded. The letters relate to transmittal of the medals or acknowledge their receipt. The series is arranged chronologically. For an index to this series consult entry 103, Registers of Letters Sent and Received (“Index to Correspondence”), July 1862–December 1890.

Also, the “NH” file in RG 45, entry 464, Old Subject File and New Subject File, contains two series with records relating to Navy and Marine Corps medals.

#### *Additional Sources of Information*

Army, Department of the, Public Information Division. *The Medal of Honor of the United States Army*. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1948.

Kerrigan, Evans E. *American War Medals and Decorations*, New York: The Viking Press, 1964.

Lang, George, Raymond L. Collins, Gerard F. White, comps., *Medal of Honor Recipients, 1863–1994*, (2 Vols.), New York: Facts on File, 1995.

Mollan, Mark C. “The Army Medal of Honor: The First Fifty-five Years,” *Prologue*, Summer 2001, Vol. 33, No. 2.

#### *Internet Source*

Medal of Honor citations for all services are available at [www.history.army.mil/moh.html](http://www.history.army.mil/moh.html).

## MODERN MILITARY RECORDS

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### *National Archives at College Park, Maryland*

The Modern Military Records unit has custody of records relating to World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Please note that the records vary by conflict and by branch of service.

#### **AIR FORCE**

Unit histories and supporting documents, which may include historical reports, of Army Air Force and Air Force units are in the custody of the Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL 36112. For information on records relating to Army Air Forces, see page 99.

#### **ARMY**

##### *Army Courts-Martial*

Records related to the proceedings of U.S. Army courts-martial, courts of inquiry, and military commissions covering the years 1917 to 1938 are found in entry 15B, RG 153, Records of the Judge Advocate General (Army). These records are filed by case file number. The index covering the years 1917 to 1938 is still in the legal custody of the Army JAG office. Staff at the National Archives can contact the Army JAG office to obtain the necessary file number information needed to access the file.

##### *World War I*

The National Archives does not have duplicates of the World War I military personnel files that were destroyed in the 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center. We do, however, have several different types of records for divisions, reg-

iments, and other units of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I. These include war diaries, historical files and organizational records, and unit strength returns found in Records of the American Expeditionary Forces in (World War I), RG 120. It should be understood that these records seldom, if ever, contain information on individuals. Strength returns will usually show the number of men in a unit, but will not list their names; occasionally there will be a roster of officers. There is usually a brief “record of events” for the month of the return and strength returns at the company level for most units. War diaries and historical files were created at the divisional and regimental levels. War diaries consist of brief entries on forms prepared daily. Historical files are working papers which may include manuscript histories although these are generally less complete than available published unit histories.

Casualty lists of the American Expeditionary Forces, World War I, are found in Records of the Adjutant General’s Office, 1917–, RG 407, and are arranged by state. They include the decedent’s name, serial number, rank, organization at time of death, date of death, and race

*Soldiers of the Great War* (Washington: Soldiers Record Publishing Association, 1920) is a three-volume publication. Entries are arranged alphabetically by state from which the soldier served. Within each state, the entries are arranged under type of casualty: Killed in Action, Died of Disease, Died of Wounds, and Died of Accident. Under each type of casualty, the entries are arranged according to rank: commissioned officers, non-commissioned officers, miscellaneous ranks, and privates. The entries include only the names of the casualties and their hometowns. These volumes also include miniature photographs of many of the persons named in the lists. These volumes have been filmed on a single reel of 35mm microfilm. You can request copies of this film by writing to [archives2reference@nara.gov](mailto:archives2reference@nara.gov).

Navy and Marine Corps casualty lists for World War I are arranged alphabetically by individual surname. A listing by state is not available. *Officers and Enlisted Men of the United States Navy Who Lost Their Lives During the World War From April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1920), is subdivided into three parts: Officers, Regular and Reserve; Enlisted Men; and Navy Enlisted Men



Not in Active Service. Each entry includes: name and rank of deceased; date, place, and cause of death; and the name and address of next of kin.

The Marine Corps casualty list in the Records of the U.S. Marine Corps, RG 127, consists of mimeographed listings of names of officers and names of enlisted men. Each part is arranged alphabetically by name of deceased. Entries include name, rank, and unit of deceased; date, place, and cause of death; and name and address, and relationship of next of kin. These two listings are preceded by a statistical summary of the number of officers and the number of enlisted men from each state who died overseas. A portion of the page of this summary is missing; therefore, there are no figures of enlisted casualties from Alabama through Louisiana. These two lists have been combined on a single reel of 35mm microfilm. You can request copies of this film by writing to *archives2reference@nara.gov*.

Burial Case Files, 1915–39, found in Record Group 92, may contain correspondence, reports, telegrams, applications, and other papers relating to burials of service personnel during World War I. The burial files are arranged alphabetically by the surname of the deceased.

For information on U.S. soldiers being transported to and from Europe during World War I, there are several series in RG 92, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, relating to troop transports: entry 2060, Lists of Incoming Passengers, 1917–23, and entry 2061, Lists of Outgoing Passengers, 1917–26. Both series are arranged alphabetically by name of vessel and thereunder chronologically. If your search is limited by the name or number of the organization, consult entry 2043, List of Vessels Leaving the United States to Transport Troops to Europe, 1917–1919. This series is arranged alphabetically by organization and thereunder numerically by unit number. There are also two series containing card lists: entry 2051, Card List of Vessels Transporting Organizations Overseas and Back to the United States, 1918–1919, and entry 2053, Card List of Vessels Transporting Troops Back to the United States, 1918–20. Both series are arranged alphabetically by type of organization and thereunder numerically by unit number.

Please note that, unlike World War I, there are no troop manifests or troop transport lists for Army personnel transported during World War II in the custody of the National Archives.

## ***World War II***

For unit information consult U.S. Army Command Reports, 1940–54, found in Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1917–, RG 407. These records consist chiefly of narrative historical and after action reports as well as unit journals and other supporting documents. Because the files are arranged hierarchically, identification of the specific unit (i.e., division, regiment, and battalion) is necessary before a search can be conducted. They do not include personnel or medical information.

Modern Military also maintains custody of unit histories and supporting documents for Army units for the period 1917 through 1954. However, records for Army units active during the inter-war periods (1920–39 and 1945–50) are incomplete. Most of the unit records dating after 1954 (except units which served in Vietnam), if they still exist, remain in the custody of the Department of the Army. For information concerning these records, you should write to the Department of the Army, Freedom of Information Act Office, 7701 Telegraph Road, Casey Building, Suite 144, Alexandria, VA 22315-3905.

Army Air Forces combat mission reports for the World War II period are among the textual records held in the custody of Modern Military Records. This series consists of the original mission reports pertaining to specific targets. These reports were filed by the units and include some encounter reports by pilots, aerial photographs, and loading lists. The reports found in Records of the Army Air Forces, RG 18, are arranged by units, and identification of the group or squadron is necessary before a search can be conducted. They do not contain individual combat records of missions flown or a record of flying times.

Modern Military Records has custody of three indices to the missing aircrew reports. These indices are by name of individual crew member, by date of loss, and by plane tail number. The name index from Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, RG 92, has been microfilmed and is available on M1420, *Name Index to the Missing Air Crew Reports of the United States Army Air Forces, 1942–1947*. The reports, also from RG 92, are found on National Archives microfiche, M1380, *Missing Air Crew Reports (MACRs) of the U.S. Army Air Forces, 1920–1939 and 1945–50*.

The latter two indices also are available on microfilm. These indices were

created by the Air Force for their use and include the missing aircrew report number, the country where the plane was lost, the Air Force number, the group or squadron number, the plane type, tail number and date the plane was lost. The copy in the custody of Modern Military Records, provided by the Air Force, is in extremely poor condition and does not copy well. We suggest you obtain a copy of this microfilm from the Air Force Historical Research Agency, 600 Chennault Circle, Building 1405, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL 36112-6424.

### ***Korea***

The National Archives does not have histories for the Korean War. The principal unit records for the period 1949–54 are found in monthly compiled U.S. Army Command Reports, Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1917–, RG 407. These reports consist of narrative historical after action reports as well as unit journals and other supporting documents. They are filed at both the regimental and divisional levels on a monthly basis and often include several hundred pages, per month, of documentation.

### ***Vietnam***

For records relating to U.S. Army units in Vietnam consult the Records of the United States Forces in Southeast Asia, 1950–75, RG 472. These records consist mostly of unit organizational histories, after action reports, unit daily staff journals, and general orders. The files are arranged by unit, and identification of the unit is necessary before a search can be conducted. They do not include personnel or medical information.

### **NAVY**

Modern Military Records has custody of U.S. Navy deck logs from 1941 through 1973 as part of Records of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, RG 24. A deck log is a brief record of the daily administrative and operational activities of a ship. It includes journal-style entries of the ship's administrative activities; location and course of travel; disciplinary procedures; and any unusual events. Deck logs are not detailed journals describing a ship's

mission and all events transpiring in and around the ship. Also, for the period of 1941 to 1956, deck logs generally include monthly rosters of officers.

Beginning in March 1957, officers are included in the Navy muster rolls/personnel diaries found in Records of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, RG 24. Therefore, lists of officers may be obtained from the ship's muster rolls/personnel diaries from 1957 onward. To access deck logs from 1941 through 1973, you need to know the name, designation, or hull number of the ship and dates of interest.

Navy muster rolls/personnel diaries for World War II through 1970 are found in RG 24. Muster rolls consist of quarterly reports of a ship/unit's enlisted personnel with monthly updates of personnel changes. For the period of World War II through 1956, they list only the names of enlisted personnel who were officially attached to a particular ship/unit, not officers. Muster rolls typically contain the names, ranks/ratings, and service numbers of the individual servicemen. They do not contain current addresses of former naval personnel or their survivors. Some of the rolls do include the original place of enlistment. They are arranged by name of ship/unit for World War II through January 1, 1949. For 1949 through 1970, they are arranged by the ship/unit's activity number. These records are preserved in the form of 16mm positive microfilm copies of the original muster rolls/personnel diaries. To access these records you need to know the name or destination of ship/unit and dates of interest.

If you decide to order copies of the microfilm from the period of 1949–70, the records of more than one Navy unit or ship will appear on each reel. You can request copies of this film by writing to [archives2reference@nara.gov](mailto:archives2reference@nara.gov). Prior to 1949, the Navy filmed each ship/unit's record on separate reels. The records are arranged on the microfilm by the ship/unit's *activity number*. For example, the activity number for Composite Squadron 33, or VC-33, is 6716-0033; the activity number for USS *Wisconsin* is 0356-0064. The Modern Military Records staff can provide researchers with the ship/unit's activity number. To find the records, simply scroll through the microfilm until you come to records bearing this number near the top of the pages (usually next to the name of the ship/unit). Once you find the records for the unit in question, they are arranged chronologically.

Navy casualty reports from World War II through the late 1950s are found in Records of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, RG 24. The Modern Military Records unit maintains several series of casualty reports that may include casualty lists, reports of incidents resulting in casualties, statements of witnesses or survivors, and other documents relating to casualties. The content of casualty reports for specific ships, units, or operations may vary widely in quantity and quality. To access these records you need to know the name of ship, unit, or command; date of incident; name of the operation, battle, or campaign; and dates.

Navy Armed Guard Logbooks for the World War II period are found in Records of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, RG 24. These records are the daily logbooks of U.S. Navy Armed Guard detachments aboard non-Navy (usually merchant) ships during the Second World War. These logs were prepared under the direction of the Armed Guard commander aboard each ship, and comprise a brief daily account of events of the Armed Guard crew. These logbooks vary widely in quality. The collection—as transferred to the National Archives by the Navy—is not complete, including occasional gaps in coverage for some ships. It is possible that the logbooks of certain ships may not be available for a particular time period. To access these records you need to know the name of ship to which the Armed Guard unit was attached and the dates.

Navy Action Reports for the World War II period are found in Records of the Chief of Naval Operations, RG 38. These materials represent the basic source of reports for naval actions and operations during World War II. Navy regulations required naval units to submit reports of combat engagements and other operations. The reports include materials on special operations during the pre-war period, some training reports, routine operations that occurred during the war, reports of the participation of commands in battles and engagements with the enemy, submarine special mission reports, and other war-related actions. To access these records you need to know the date of the action or date of report; name of ship, unit, or Navy command involved in the action or making report. If unknown, then you need the geographic location, name of the battle, engagement, action, operation, and the date.

Navy war diaries for the World War II period are in RG 38. These documents are daily journals of events submitted by all but the most minor of

naval commands during the Second World War. The operational information they contain is complementary to information provided by the action reports. If certain information cannot be located in one series, it may sometimes appear in the other. The structure and style of information presented in the war diaries is analogous to that found in the deck logs of Navy ships. In some cases, the Navy filed handwritten deck logs that ship commands submitted in lieu of war diaries. To access these records you need to know the name or destination of the ship, unit, or command and dates.

Navy Armed Guard Reports for the World War II period, in RG 38, contain reports of U.S. Navy Armed Guard detachments aboard non-Navy ships during World War II. The reports usually include Armed Guard crew lists, voyage reports, data relating to armaments and supplies provided by the U.S. Navy, correspondence relating to recommendations for medals for members of the Armed Guard crew, orders, and miscellaneous correspondence. To access these records you need to know the name of the ship to which the unit was attached and the dates of interest.

Submarine War Patrol Reports for the World War II period, in RG 38, include daily narrative summaries of the vessel's location and activities, weather conditions, mechanical issues, attacks against the enemy, and other information. Reports submitted from late 1943 through 1945 tend to be more detailed than earlier reports. In addition to the information listed above, reports for this period may also include information about tides, ship contacts, aircraft, mines, anti-sub measures or evasive tactics, radio, radar, sound gear, conditions, health, food, and habitability, personnel, fuel, communications, and other information. These records are available on M1752, *U.S. Submarine War Patrol Reports, 1941–1945*.

Records of Individual Convoys (Records of the 10th Fleet) for the World War II period, in RG 38, relate to the operations of convoys and the routing of independent ships during the war. They include detailed records of each convoy and of the activities of individual U.S. and Allied merchant ships that participated in them. To access these records you need to know the convoy designation or name of the ship participating in convoy; and the dates of the convoy.

Movement Report Cards (Records of the 10th Fleet) for the World War II period, in RG 38, consist of file cards for Navy ships, merchant marine vessels

having Navy armed guard crews on board, some Army troop transport ships, and other ships. Movement report cards detail the travel information of ships throughout the Second World War. They list ports of arrival, due dates, dates of actual arrival, and the dates of setting sail to the next port. If a ship sailed in a convoy, the cards also list the respective convoy designations in the route column. You need to know the name of the ship and dates of interest to access these records.

For general information on U.S. Navy vessels consult the *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*, a multivolume publication of the Department of the Navy. The publication contains brief histories of officially commissioned U.S. Navy ships. Typical entries may include name of ship; hull number; class; sites/dates of construction and launch; dates of commissioning/decommissioning; narrative of major activities; and information about purchase/sale and scrapping.

As a publication of the Government Printing Office, this eight-volume set should be available at most college, university, and large public libraries. Also, many of the dictionary's ship histories have been made available on the Internet at [www.uss-salem.org/danfs/](http://www.uss-salem.org/danfs/).

**Note:** Due to the availability of the *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships* on the Internet and at many large libraries, the Modern Military Records unit no longer provides copy orders of entries from this resource. If you require additional information about ship histories, we suggest that you contact the Ships' Histories Branch, Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC 20374, which produced the dictionary.

#### **MARINE CORPS**

The Modern Military Records unit maintains records relating to Marines who served overseas during World War I in Records of the American Expeditionary Forces (World War I), RG 120. There are several series that relate to the Second Division to which the Marine Corps units were assigned. Please note that the Marine Corps Muster Rolls for World War I are not located in the Modern Military Records Unit at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland, but rather are located at the Old Military Records Unit at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC.

The three main record series relating to U.S. Marine Corps participation in World War II are war diaries, action reports, and muster rolls. The war diaries are arranged by unit designation and the action reports are arranged geographically, primarily by battle location such as Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, etc. U.S. Marine Corps muster rolls are available from 1940 through 1975. There are variations to format and access as there are three distinct time periods for the muster rolls: 1940–45, 1946–58, and 1959–75. Please note that when they appear on the muster rolls, social security numbers are withheld for privacy reasons.

#### **COAST GUARD**

World War II merchant marine vessel logbooks are found in Records of the U.S. Coast Guard, RG 26. The logs document the names and assignments of crew members, drills conducted during the voyage, brief descriptions of situations and events and some personnel-related information. Some of the National Archives regional locations hold merchant marine logbooks for ports served by that region. Some have declassified merchant marine “secret logbooks” from 1942–45, that may contain more specific information than the merchant marine logbooks. Also, a national regional database, available at most of our regional archives, provides vessel names and voyage dates for various ports. Records of merchant vessels operating with navy convoys during World War II are found in Records of Individual Convoys (Records of the 10th Fleet), RG 38, located at the National Archives at College Park, see page 103 for more information.

Records of U.S. Navy ships crewed by Coast Guard personnel and serving as part of U.S. Navy task organizations are also among the holdings of Modern Military Records. Logs, muster rolls, and other records of Coast Guard vessels and stations, operated solely as a Coast Guard function, are at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC. Muster rolls for Coast Guard–manned Navy and Army vessels can be found there in RG 26 as well.

A merchant marine casualty file can be found in RG 26, Deceased and War Casualty Seaman’s Records, 1937–50, located at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC. This series is arranged alphabetically and may provide death date, name of vessel, application of seaman’s certificates,



copy of telegram announcing death, certificates of discharge from vessels, next-of-kin information, and photograph of the seaman.

### *Internet Source*

#### *Access to Archival Databases*

The Access to Archival Databases (AAD) System gives you online access to electronic records that are highly structured, such as databases. AAD allows you to search for and retrieve specific records from selected series and data files over the Internet. Using AAD, first select a series of electronic records, then select a specific data file within a series, and search for pertinent records by entering unique values, such as personal names, dates, cities, and states. AAD displays the records that match the search criteria. You may then view the records, print the records, or copy the records to your own computer and save them as an electronic file.

World War II Army Enlistment records are available on AAD. The series contains records of approximately 9 million men and women who enlisted in the United States Army between 1938 and 1946, including the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps and the Enlisted Reserve Corps. The series does not include records for Army officers, members of other military services, or enlistments from other time periods.

Records of World War II Prisoners of War are also available on AAD. This series has information about U.S. military officers and soldiers and U.S. and some Allied civilians who were prisoners of war and internees held by Japanese or German powers.

For example, if you are looking for information on individuals who died during the Korean War and Vietnam Conflict you now have the ability to search online for his or her record. Select examples of databases available on AAD on this subject are: Records of Military Personnel Who Died as a Result of Hostilities During the Korean War, ca. 1977–November 1979; Records on Korean War Dead and Wounded Army Casualties, 1950–1970; Records on Military Personnel Who Died, Were Missing in Action, or Prisoners of War as a Result of the Vietnam Conflict, January 20, 1967–December 1998; Records of Awards and Decorations of Honor During the Vietnam Conflict, May 1969–March 1973. The AAD system is available on the NARA web site at [www.archives.gov/aad/index.html](http://www.archives.gov/aad/index.html).

# NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER

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*St. Louis, Missouri*

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) is the repository for millions of military personnel, health, and medical records of discharged and deceased veterans of all services during the 20th century. NPRC also stores medical treatment records of retirees from all services, as well as records for dependents and other persons treated at military medical facilities. In addition, the Center houses select unit records for Army and Air Force organizations for the 20th century and for Navy organizations through the World War II era. Information from the records is made available upon written request to the extent allowed by law.

## **20th-Century Military Personnel Files Open to the Public at NPRC**

Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs) for personnel from all branches of the Armed Forces (Army, Army Air Corps, Army Air Forces, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard) who served and were discharged, died in service or were retired more than 62 years ago have been accessioned by the National Archives and are available to the public. NPRC will continue to open to the public its OMPF holdings of over 57 million individual files progressively until the entire collection has been accessioned in 2067.

These archived records are treasured by family members, historians, researchers, and genealogists alike. Contained in a typical OMPF are documents outlining all elements of military service, including assignments, evaluations, awards and decorations, education and training, demographic information, some medical information and documented disciplinary

actions. Some records also contain photographs of the individual and official correspondence concerning military service.

A selection of military personnel records of prominent individuals who have been deceased for 10 years or more is also now open to the public. For a current list of these “Persons of Exceptional Prominence” visit the NARA web site at [www.archives.gov/st.louis/militarypersonnel/public/persons-of-prominence.html](http://www.archives.gov/st.louis/militarypersonnel/public/persons-of-prominence.html).

**To review accessioned OMPFs at NPRC, visit NPRC's Archival**

Research Room in St. Louis, Missouri:

**National Personnel Records Center**

**9700 Page Avenue**

**St. Louis, MO 63132-5100**

Telephone: 314-801-0850

E-mail: [stlarr.archives@nara.gov](mailto:stlarr.archives@nara.gov)

**NOTE:** Military service records recovered after the 1973 NPRC fire that are requested for review by a visitor are always diverted to NPRC's Preservation Branch for condition assessment prior to delivery to the Research Room. Any preservation treatment required must be completed before a visit can be scheduled. Patrons are encouraged to call well in advance of a planned visit in order to check the status of the record(s) they hope to access at NPRC. Available research space and self-service photocopiers for public use are limited in the current NPRC facility, and advance appointments enable staff to ensure that everyone can be accommodated.

**To obtain photocopies of accessioned OMPFs from NPRC by mail, send a written request or a completed Standard Form 180 (SF 180), Request Pertaining to Military Records to:**

**National Personnel Records Center**

**9700 Page Avenue**

**St. Louis, MO 63132-5100**

Fax: 314-801-9195

Please submit a separate request for each individual whose records you wish to obtain. The SF 180 may be photocopied as needed. Information about the SF 180 and the download of the form can be found at [www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/standard-form-180.html](http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/standard-form-180.html).

Veterans and/or next-of-kin of deceased veterans may use [www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs) to order copies of military personnel records. EVetRecs is an online military personnel records request system that can be used by a military veteran or his/her next-of-kin. The next-of-kin can be any of the following: spouse of deceased veteran (who has not remarried), father, mother, son, daughter, sister, or brother of the veteran. For users who prefer to submit a request on paper, SF 180 may be completed and mailed or faxed to the appropriate address on the form.

**Please Note:** Veterans who completed their military service obligation less than 62 years ago and request records from NPRC must be sure to **sign and date** their written request for records.

**E-mail Access:** The Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a) and Department of Defense directives pertaining to military personnel records that remain in that agency's legal custody (records documenting service within the last 62 years) require a written request, signed and dated, to access information from the records. Thus, if the veteran's military service obligation ended less than 62 years ago, an e-mail request cannot be accepted by NPRC.

For additional information regarding records at NPRC for veterans who ended their service **less than 62 years ago**, please visit this NPRC web site: [www.archives.gov/facilities/mo/st\\_louis/military\\_personnel\\_records.html](http://www.archives.gov/facilities/mo/st_louis/military_personnel_records.html).

### ***What happens next?***

If a service record is located and determined to be among NPRC's accessioned holdings:

Requester is sent a response letter and order form regarding fees payable to NARA for a photocopy of the record. NARA reproduction fees apply. (A waiver of applicable fees may be granted to living veterans who request copies of their own records in order to establish entitlement to benefits.)

If a service record is located but it is **NOT** among NPRC's accessioned holdings:

When requester is **NOT** the veteran or the next-of-kin of a deceased veteran:

Information deemed releasable under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) will be sent and the response will include the date the individual completed his/her service obligation. Adding 62 years to that date will determine when the record will be accessioned by the National Archives and open to the public.

When requester **IS** the veteran or the next-of-kin of a deceased veteran:

Copies of requested documents on file are sent at no charge courtesy of the Department of Defense, the legal custodian of the service record.

**Important Note:** On July 12, 1973, a disastrous fire at the National Personnel Records Center destroyed approximately 16–18 million Official Military Personnel Files. The fire consumed approximately 80 percent of the personnel records of Army officers and enlisted personnel discharged from November 1, 1912, to January 1, 1960. About 75 percent of the records of Air Force personnel discharged from September 25, 1947, to January 1, 1964 (with surnames identified alphabetically from Hubbard, James E. through Z), were destroyed. Duplicate copies of the records were not created by the military service departments, nor had they created indexes to the files prior to the fire. In addition, millions of documents had been lent to the Department of Veterans Affairs before the fire occurred. Therefore, a complete listing of the records that were lost is not available. In the years since the fire, NPRC has used many alternate records sources (including dozens of series of Auxiliary Records collected and stored at the Center) in its efforts to reconstruct basic military service information on individual veterans and respond to requests.

In responding to requests for fire-related records that document service ending 62 years or more ago, NPRC will only attempt to reconstruct lost/destroyed record data when service verification is needed to establish entitlement to benefits. However, auxiliary records among NPRC's acces-

sioned holdings are made available to the public in the Archival Research Room and photocopies of these records may be purchased. Furthermore, visitors to the research room can pursue research in NPRC's accessioned auxiliary records holdings and other alternate record sources to locate and reconstruct for themselves service data that would have been included in an OMPF lost/destroyed in the fire. Archivists and archives specialists in the research room provide guidance to all visiting researchers, whether they are family members wishing to find a relative's military service history or general researchers seeking information on persons of interest to them. NPRC is also the repository of unit records created by the Army and Air Force during the 20th century. Portions of these records have been accessioned and are open to the public for research. Unit Records created by Army, Army Air Corps, and Army Air Force units active more than 62 years ago include: morning reports, rosters (with some exceptions), and sick reports. Unit records created by the Navy include muster rolls 1939–46 (primarily ship rosters). Unit records may be accessed by patrons who visit to the Archival Research Room. Please contact the research room staff to schedule a visit.

### **Other Military and Military-Related Records at NPRC**

NPRC stores medical and dental treatment records pertaining to members of all military services, as well as records for military dependents and other persons treated at military and contract medical facilities. These series are temporary records and therefore have not been accessioned by the National Archives.

Included are: health, dental, and mental health treatment records created for military personnel on active duty; Clinical records (inpatient hospitalizations) created for active duty, active reserve, and retired military personnel, military dependents, civilians, and others treated at military and contract medical facilities; and outpatient treatment records of military retirees, military dependents; and others. None of these are public records, and access to them is restricted by provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974.

Requests for medical and dental records received by NPRC from authorized parties are handled most effectively when prepared and submit-

ted on NA Form 13042, Request for Information Needed to Locate Medical Records. (See [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov), or use eVetRecs)

### **Military Awards and Decorations**

Requests for the issuance or replacement of military service medals, decorations, and awards for living veterans must be signed by the veteran and directed to the specific branch of the military in which the veteran served. For Air Force (including Army Air Corps) and Army personnel, the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) 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.

eVetRecs is preferred for requesting medals and awards. Provide as much information as possible and send the form to the appropriate address from the following tables:

#### ***Army***

Where to write for medals:

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

Medals are mailed from:

U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, IMMC  
Soldier Systems Directorate  
700 Robbins Avenue  
P.O. Box 57997  
Philadelphia, PA 19111-7997

Where to write in case of a problem or an appeal:

Commander PERSCOM  
Attn: TAPC-PDO-PA  
200 Stovall Street  
Alexandria, VA 22332-0471

***Air Force*** (including Army Air Corps and Army Air Forces)

Where to write for medals:

National Personnel Records Center

9700 Page Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Medals are mailed from:

Headquarters Air Force Personnel Center AFPC/DPPPR

550 C Street West, Suite 12

Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4714

Where to write in case of a problem or an appeal:

Headquarters Air Force Personnel Center AFPC/DPPPR

550 C Street West, Suite 12

Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4714

***Navy***

Where to write for medals:

Bureau of Naval Personnel Liaison Office

Room 5409

9700 Page Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Medals are mailed from:

Bureau of Naval Personnel Liaison Office

Room 5409

9700 Page Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Where to write in case of a problem or an appeal:

Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV 09B33)

Awards and Special Projects

Washington, DC 20350-2000



### ***Marine Corps***

Where to write for medals:

Bureau of Naval Personnel Liaison Office

Room 5409

9700 Page Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Medals are mailed from:

Bureau of Naval Personnel Liaison Office, Room 5409

9700 Page Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Where to write in case of a problem or an appeal:

Commandant of the Marine Corps

Military Awards Branch (MMMA)

3280 Russell Road

Quantico, VA 22134-5100

### ***Coast Guard***

Where to write for medals: Bureau of Naval Personnel

Liaison Office, Room 5409

9700 Page Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Medals are mailed from: Bureau of Naval Personnel

Liaison Office, Room 5409

9700 Page Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Where to write in case of a problem or an appeal:

Commandant U.S. Coast Guard

Medals and Awards Branch (PMP-4)

Washington, DC 20593-0001

## RESEARCHERS FOR HIRE

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The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) staff is available to provide reference assistance to researchers. However, if you find that you cannot conduct research in person and require extensive research assistance at a NARA facility, we offer a list of independent researchers who are available for hire. The listing is available on the National Archives web site and is sorted by topic. You can also find a researcher for hire based on: research topic specialty, media type specialty, and region and facility location.

**Please Note:** Researchers for hire are not NARA employees. Any individual or company that does research in our holdings on behalf of others is free to join the listing. Inclusion on the independent researcher lists should not be viewed as an endorsement of the quality of the researcher-for-hire's work, and NARA will not be responsible for any arrangement made with independent researchers. Such arrangements, including the character, extent, and cost of the work, are purely private, contractual matters between the independent researcher for hire and the researcher. It is also up to the researcher to determine whether or not the researcher-for-hire's experience and qualifications meet their needs. Comments or complaints received by NARA regarding any individual independent researcher for hire on the list will be forwarded to that researcher for hire for resolution.

## CONTACTING THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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### **Old Military Records:**

Old Military and Civil Records

National Archives and Records Administration

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20408-0001

*archives1reference@nara.gov*

### **Modern Military Records:**

Modern Military Records

National Archives and Records Administration

8601 Adelphi Road

College Park, MD 20740-6001

*archives2reference@nara.gov*

### **National Personnel Records Center:**

National Personnel Records Center

Military Personnel Records

9700 Page Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

### **Web Site**

*www.archives.gov*

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Research Support Branch (NWCC1)  
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20408-0001  
202-357-5400  
Fax: 202-501-7170



*Chow is served to American infantrymen on their way to  
LaRoche, Belgium, January 1945. (111-SC-198849)*

## APPENDIX

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### *Additional Sources*

#### **Guides**

Eales, Anne Bruner and Robert M. Kvasnicka, eds. *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives of the United States*. Third edition, Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 2000.

Mulligan, Timothy, comp. *Guide to Records Relating to U.S. Military Participation in World War II*. Two volumes. Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 2008.

Palmer Seeley, Charlotte, comp. *American Women and the U.S. Armed Forces: A Guide to the Records of Military Agencies in the National Archives Relating to American Women*. National Archives Trust Fund: Washington, DC, 1992.

#### ***Prologue Articles***

##### ***Revolutionary War***

Schultz, Constance B. "Revolutionary War Pension Applications: A Neglected Source for Social and Family History," *Prologue*, Summer 1983, Vol. 15, No. 2.

##### ***War of 1812***

Butler, Stuart L. "Genealogical Records of the War of 1812," *Prologue*, Winter 1991, Vol. 23, No. 4.

Dixon, Ruth Priest, "Genealogical Fallout from the War of 1812," *Prologue*, Spring 1992, Vol. 24, No. 1.

##### ***Mexican War***

Oberly, James W. "Military Bounty Land Warrants of the Mexican-American War," *Prologue*, Spring 1982, No. 14, Vol. 1.

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