

Military Genealogical Records:



Records in the National Archives:

The National Archives hold military records for those men and women who fought in our nation's service from 1775-1919. All other records are housed in St. Louis Missouri at the National Personnel Records Center. Records are compiled by folder and include card abstracts of muster rolls, returns, pay vouchers and other records. The info may include references to wounds suffered, hospitalization, absence from the unit, courts-martial and death.

Revolutionary War (1776-1783)

Revolutionary War Pensions: The first several acts passed by Congress only included those who were disabled due to injuries suffered during the war or to widows and minors of those killed. By 1818 pensions were given to those that could show need. By 1832 anyone who served for 2 years could file for pension benefits and by 1855 anyone who served for any length of time including widows whose husbands were veterans could apply.

Information includes: Name, rank, military unit, period of service, residence, birthplace, and date of birth or age. If the claim was based on need, a list of property owned is included. Also, for widows and heirs additional supporting information may be available including date and place of death of veteran, discharge papers, marriage and or birth certificates.

Land Bounty Warrants: Land given to those officers and enlisted men who served until the end of the war. By 1855 anyone who served in the Revolutionary War or widows and minors of those who served could file for Land Bounty Warrants. These files only include land that was given by public act by Congress (1776-1856) and does not include lands given by individual states for service in the Revolutionary War.

The total acreage given was as follows:

Enlisted men 100 acres

Ensign 150 acres

Lieutenant 200 acres

Other officers up to Colonel 500 acres

General 850 acres

Brigadier General 1100 acres

The Daughters of the American Revolution are the premier source of information pertaining to American Revolutionary War soldier's and Citizen Patriots. They have an extensive collection of books, journals, documents, microfilm and other types of records available within their research library in Washington D.C. Can't make it to Washington? Try visiting their online database here: http://services.dar.org/public/dar_research/search/?Tab_ID=1. Other sources of Revolutionary War records are www.fold3.com and HeritageQuest who have digitized

Revolutionary War Pension Files. Ancestry.com has numerous digitized indexes of Revolutionary War publications including the “American Revolutionary War Rejected Pensions” database containing 8,600 names.

All Revolutionary War pension applications and files received before 1800 were destroyed in a War Department fire. Those currently on file were resubmitted by pensioners after the fire.

War of 1812 (1812-1814)

War of 1812 Pension Applications Files Index 1812-1910.

Information includes: Name, pension application and certificate numbers, bounty and land warrant application number and the name/number unit served in.

Additional information available at the Illinois State Archives includes: “Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Illinois” includes Illinois residents who fought on the western frontier and includes the soldier’s name, rank, name and number of unit and his enlistment term and place of enlistment (list incomplete).

Supplements of this record can be found in “Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Quarterly 1904” and the “Illinois Genealogical Society Quarterly fall 1973.”

If you are searching for Illinois soldiers a searchable index is available at the Illinois Secretary of State web site. <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases.html>

Ancestry.com has compiled indexes to published volumes of War of 1812 records.

Black Hawk War (1831-1832)

Black Hawk War Records 1832-1891

Muster roll entries include: Name, rank, date and length of enrollment, county residence, amount of pay due and the number of traveling rations drawn. For Cavalry, value of arms and equipment issued and descriptions of horses are also provided. Microfilm rolls are arranged by brigade or county of residence.

If you are searching for Illinois soldiers a searchable index is available at the Illinois Secretary of State web site.
<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases.html>



BLACK HAWK, THE SAG CHIEFTAIN.

Mexican War (1846-1848)

Mexican War Records 1846-1890.

Muster Roll entries include: Name, rank, age, date place and term of enrollment, county residence, name of person who enrolled the soldier, date last paid, paymaster's name, discharge date, amounts allowed for travel and sustenance following discharge and values of horses and equipment, if any. Records are arranged by county of residence.

If you are searching for Illinois soldiers a searchable index is available at the Illinois Secretary of State web site: <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases.html>



Civil War (1861-1865)

The National Archives has numerous files related to the Civil War. There is a separate index for Confederate soldiers and Union soldiers. Record groupings include muster rolls, military censuses, compiled service records and official records. Also records pertaining to pensions and Land Bounty Warrants are separate from enlistment papers and other military service records.

Civil War records for Union soldiers are not arranged by name. There are microfilmed indexes for each state as well as numerous other digitized indexes available from Ancestry.com and other genealogy websites. Most of the military services records for Union soldiers have NOT been microfilmed! You would have to submit a request to the National Archives for photocopies of those records. The National Archives recommends consulting state archives for records pertaining to state or local militias or National Guard units that were not federalized.

For those records that have been microfilmed the indexed records include: Soldiers name, rank, unit/s in which he served. If the records have not been microfilmed the researcher can ask to see the original records at the National Archives in Washington DC or you can request copies using form NATF 86.

Record grouping at the Illinois State Archives: These records are not limited to Illinois soldiers. They often include soldiers who were transferred to Illinois units.

Muster and Descriptive Rolls (1861-1865):

Information includes: Name, rank, regiment number, company letter, age, height, eye and hair colors, complexion, occupation, marital status, birthplace and residence, date and place where mustered in, name of mustering officer, date and place of mustering out, name of mustering out officer, remarks concerning transfers, promotions and special duty, and any indications of injury or death.

Military censuses 1861-1863: These are roughly arranged by county then township. These censuses were conducted by township assessors and recorded men eligible for service between the ages of 18-45. There were two lists. The first list was comprised of volunteers who organized themselves into units. The information includes: Name, residence, age, birthplace, occupation and date and term of service. The second list included men who did not volunteer, but were eligible to be drafted. This list usually lists the man's name, nativity (typically state only) and age. Copies of these records are also kept in most state archives.

Index to Compiled Service Records of Union Army Veterans (1861-1865):

Name index includes: Name, regiment number, company letter, rank, mustered in date and mustered out date. This is an index only. Official records would need to be requested from the National Archives.

Official Records of the War of Rebellion and Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion: Information includes: Official reports, correspondences, orders, returns and maps. (Microfilm) a general index provides series and volume listings to the names of all persons included in these papers.

If you are searching for Illinois soldiers a searchable index is available at the Illinois Secretary of State web site:

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases.html>



Genealogy web sites such as Ancestry.com, Proquest's Ancestry Library and others offer digitized abstracts of Civil War records including searchable databases. The following databases are the most popular:

American Civil War Regiments

American Civil War Soldiers

Civil War Service Records

Civil War Pension Index (provides digitized image of pension card)

The information provided in these databases varies and can include: Name of soldier, rank, enlistment date, mustered out date and the state and unit of service. The pension indexes include: Name, state and unit served, date pension claim was made, application number, certificate number and for widows' pensions', name of the widow and state claim was filed.

Spanish-American War (1898-1899)

General Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the War with Spain:

Mustered In Rolls: include: Age, birthplace, eye and hair color, complexion, height, marital status, occupation and the names and addresses of next-of-kin.

Mustered Out Rolls: Include: Name, rank, date, place and term of enrollment, name of enrolling officer, places of residence and discharge, amounts of pay, travel and reimbursement due.

If you are searching for Illinois soldiers a searchable index is available at the Illinois Secretary of State web site: <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases.html>

**The following records are housed at the National Personnel Records Center:
9700 Page Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63132**

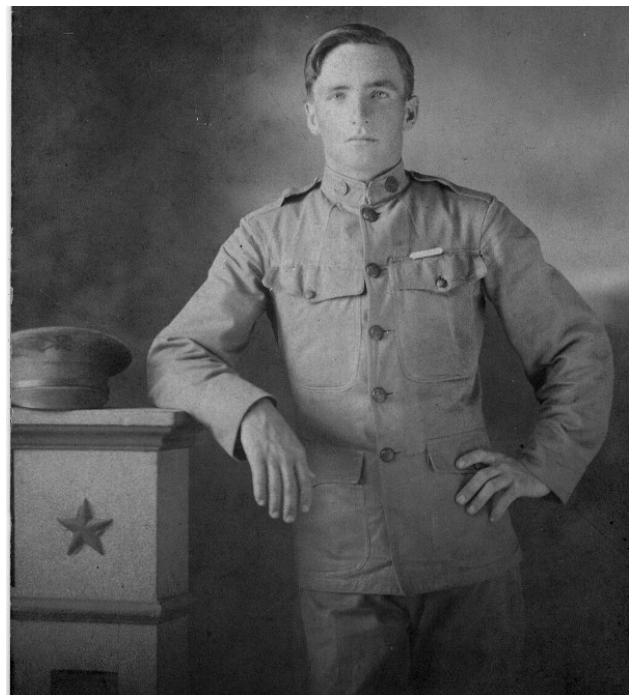
World War I (1917-1919)

Draft Registration Cards 1917-1919. Information included: name, address, date and place of birth, age, race, citizenship status, occupation, name and address of employer, name and address of next-of-kin, records of prior service. Registrar's Reports also include: Physical descriptions such as height, build, eye and hair color, presence of baldness and any physical disabilities. These registration cards do not say whether or not the person in question served in the military.

Each state also kept a record of its WWI Draft Registration Cards. There are numerous websites out there that have indexed soldiers by state (i.e. Ancestry.com).

If you are searching for Illinois soldiers a searchable index is available at the Illinois Secretary of State web site: <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases.html>

Ancestry.com has the "American Soldiers of WWI" database of soldiers Killed in Action.



World War II (1941-1945), Korean Conflict (1950-1953), Vietnam War (1959-1973).



The National Personnel Records Center will provide information upon written request on living and deceased veterans. The office requires the veteran's name, war and branch of service and if possible social security number or serial number.

Ancestry.com has the following databases that can be used to obtain records for these conflicts:

WWII and Korean Veterans Interred Overseas: Includes the name, rank, state, combat organization, date of death, place of monument, last known status, and U.S. awards.

Korean Conflict Death Index: Includes: Name, age, home, service number, rank, pay grade, branch of service, service component, casualty type, death date, race and citizenship.

Vietnam Casualty Index: Includes: name, birth date, death date, race, home city, state, date tour began, length of service, social security number or service number, casualty type, branch of service, religion, sex, marital status and posthumous promotion.

Check Ancestry.com and www.fold3.com for more information on WWII soldiers.

Additional Military Records:

There are other sources for military information besides the National Archives. State Archives contain records for Soldiers and Sailors' Homes, Veterans Cemeteries and Soldiers' Widows Homes. In some cases states, during the Great Depression, gave bonuses to World War I veterans and continued the practice for other returning veterans up to the Vietnam War.

Often returning soldiers filed a copy of their discharge papers with the local county clerk or registrar. This is an alternative place to look if your relatives' records were destroyed in the National Archives fire of 1977. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the military base or naval station of the soldier in question as well as contacting the unit or division headquarters for records filed during their service.

Confederate Civil War Records:

Fold3 <http://www.fold3.com>

Texas State Library and Archives Commission
<http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc/genfirst.html#indigent> Digitized Records

Alabama Department of Archives and History
<http://www.archives.state.al.us/referenc/military.html>

North Carolina Archives and History Center
<http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/archives/veterans.htm#info>

Georgia State Archives <http://www.sos.state.ga.us/archives>
Digitized Records

South Carolina Archives and History Center
<http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/research.htm>

Florida State Archives <http://dlis.dos.state.fl.us/barm/fsa.html>
(Also has WWI draft cards)

Virginia State Archives <http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/mil/index.htm>
(Extensive list of other military records from the Revolutionary War to WWII. Digitized Records)

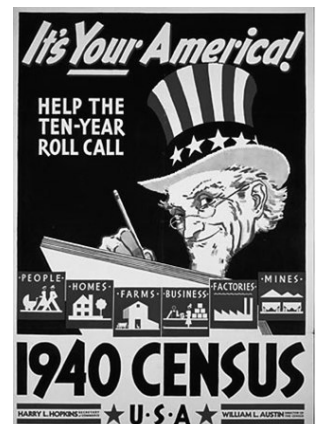
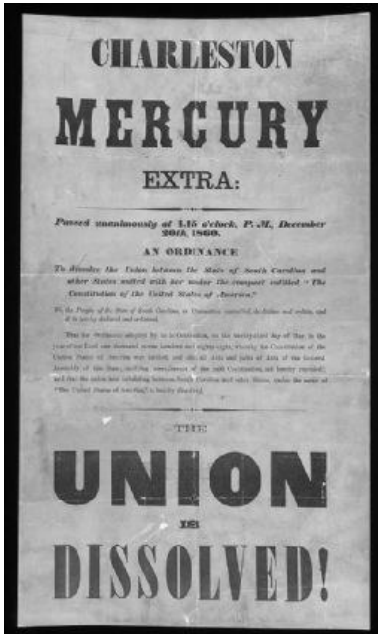
Tennessee State Library and Archives <http://www.tennessee.gov/tsla/history/military/index.htm>
Includes lists of soldiers up to Vietnam. (Does not include WWII)

Arkansas History Commission http://www.ark-ives.com/research/materials/military_records.asp
Web site contains an extensive collection of military records including WWI, WWII, Confederate Soldiers Home records and other non-military records. (Digitized Records)

Mississippi State Archives and Library <http://www.mdah.state.ms.us/arlib/collection.html> Web site does not give specific list of documents available at the archives.

Genealogy Web Sites:

Access Genealogy: <http://www.accessgenealogy.com/military/>
All Genealogy Sites website: <http://www.all-genealogysites.com/Military/>
Ancstry.com: <http://www.ancestry.com/>
Cindy's List: <http://www.cyndislist.com/military.htm>
Fold3 <http://www.fold3.com>



HeritageQuest: <http://www.plainfield.lib.il.us> Available remotely with valid Plainfield Library Card.

National Archives and Records Administration:

http://www.archives.gov/research_room/obtain_copies/veterans_service_records.html

National Parks Service Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System: <http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/>

State Archives, Libraries and Historical Societies:

Allen County Public Library: <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/index.html>

Daughters of the American Revolution: <http://www.dar.org/library/default.cfm>

The Georgia State Archives has a wonderful list of every state archives in the nation at:

[http://www.sos.state.ga.us/archives/what do we have/other state archives/default.htm](http://www.sos.state.ga.us/archives/what_do_we_have/other_state_archives/default.htm)

Illinois State Archives: <http://www2.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/databases.html>

Newberry Library: <http://www.newberry.org/genealogy/L3gabout.html>

N.Y. State Archives and Military Museum: <http://www.dmna.state.ny.us/historic/mil-hist.htm>

Wisconsin Historical Society: <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/military/>

Military History and Related Web Sites:

Air Force Historical Research Agency: <http://www.maxwell.af.mil/au/afhra/>

American Legion: <http://www.legion.org/>

The Great War Society: <http://www.worldwar1.com/tgws/>

Korean War Veteran's Association: <http://www.kwva.org/>

Library of Congress Veterans' Oral History Project: <http://www.loc.gov/vets/stories/>

National World War II Memorial: <http://www.wwiimemorial.com/>

Naval Historical Center: <http://www.history.navy.mil/>

United States Army Center for Military History: <http://www.army.mil/cmh/>

United States Coastguard Historian's Office: <http://www.uscg.mil/history/>

United States Marine Corps History and Museums Division: <http://hqinet001.hqmc.usmc.mil/HD>

Veterans of Foreign Wars: <http://www.vfw.org/>



Military Genealogy Books and other resources:

Croom, Emily Ann, Genealogist's Companion and Sourcebook 2nd Edition. *Military Records*. Betterway

Books. Cincinnati, OH. 2003. Pp 194-211.

DeWhitt, Benjamin. Records Relating to Personal Participations in World War II: American

Military Casualties and Burials. National Archives. Washington D.C. 2000.

Knox, Deborah, Johnson. WWII Military Records: A Family Historians Guide. MIE Publishers, Spartanburg, S.C. 2003.

National Archives. Military Service Records: A Select Catalog of National Archives Microfilm Publications. National Archives. Washington D.C. 1985.

Neagles, James C. U.S. Military Records. Ancestry. Salt Lake City. 1994.

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

Penn, Lisha B. Records of Military Agencies relating to African-Americans from the Post World War I period to the Korean War. National Archives. Washington D.C. 2000.



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