

MILITARY GENEALOGY RESEARCH:

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Numerous United States Military Records exist with pensions, militia lists, census records, county court records, land warrants, deeds, cemeteries, lineage societies, compiled service records, etc.

The first step to any research into military records is to determine what information is need. Find any ancestor in each generation according to his age to determine if he may have been able to serve. Even if the soldier didn't serve in a military unit, he may still be recorded in some other type of information.

FEDERAL RECORDS:

The National Archives in Washington D.C. has the largest single collection of military records at the Federal level. These records cover the Colonial Period (Revolutionary War) to the Boxer Rebellion (1902) and include many types of records from all the military branches.

- Volunteer Records 1775-1902 (RG94)
- US Regular Army Service for Enlisted Personnel 1789-1912 and for Officers 1789-1917 US Navy for Personnel and Officers 1798-1885 (RG45)
- USMC Personnel 1789-1904 (RG127)
- US Coast Guard 1791-1919 (RG26)
- Confederate States 1861-1865 (RG109)
- Pensions-Military service 1775-1916 (RG15)
- Bounty Land Applications 1775-1855(RG15)

Post-Boxer Rebellion records are located at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri. Some of these records are more difficult to obtain.

STATE RECORDS:

State Archives for each maintain their own collection of military based records. The military records from each state will vary greatly depending on the location. Often times the types of information will include; Muster Rolls, State Census, Pay Rolls, Pension Papers, Draft Records, National Guard Records, and Personal Papers & Manuscripts to name just a few great genealogy sources. A simple listing of some of these records might include:

- Confederate States Pensions (At State Level Only)
- Military Muster-Rolls and other records from the Colonial periods (Pre-Revolution-1607 to 1775)
- State Pensions (All War Periods)
- Court Records (Sometime contain genealogy information dealing with land grants (military service), etc.)

LOCAL RECORDS:

Numerous Genealogical and Historical Societies also keep military genealogical research materials for their local areas. Some of these local sources could include veteran grave registration at the local level, and finding obituaries and newspaper stories dealing with your

relative. These should not be overlooked if trying to find more on the individual soldier. In addition to those records, finding anything in county governmental records from tax lists, probate, deeds, etc. may provide additional clues to obtain further information on an ancestor.

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS:

Bockstruck, Lloyd DeWitt. *Naval Pensioners of the United States 1800-1851*. Baltimore: Maryland Genealogical Publishing Co., 2002.

Bockstruck, Lloyd DeWitt. *Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants Awarded by State Governments*. Baltimore: Maryland Genealogical Publishing Co., 1996.

Groene, Bertram H. *Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor*. Winston-Salem: John F. Blair Publishing, 1996.

Neagles, James C. *U.S. Military Records: A Guide to Federal and State Sources*. Salt Lake City: Ancestry Publishing, 1994.

Plante, Trevor K. *Military Service Records at the National Archives*. Washington: National Archives and Records Administration, 2007.

Scott, Craig R. *The Lost Pensions-Settled Accounts of the Act of April 6, 1838*. Lovettsville: Willow Bend Books, 1996.

Segers, J.H. *In Search of Confederate Ancestors*. Murfreesboro: Southern Heritage Press, 1996.

**The Above list is just a small sampling of genealogical reference books dealing with military genealogical research. Consult your local library for more materials.

LINEAGE ORGANIZATIONS:

Most of your ancestors, just as you do today belonged to groups and organizations that shared their same interest and wanted to be around people who were like them and who shared many of the same experiences. Many of our Military conflicts in the United States from Colonial times forward have one form or another of a lineage/research society associated with that war. Many contain materials that were submitted to support the application and these records sometimes can be the only place where the document may be located. Some of these include;

- Daughters of the American Revolution (www.dar.org)
- Sons of the American Revolution (www.sar.org)
- War of 1812 Society (www.societyofthewarof1812.org)
- Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (www.suvcw.org)
- Sons of the Confederate Veterans (www.scv.org)