



Skirts & Skirmishes, Wars & Widows: Finding Service Records, Pensions, & More

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- ★ Nearly all your ancestors were eligible for military service.
- ★ Finding records, pensions, citizen files, enlistment, and draft registrations can easily be located in the digital age.
- ★ Veterans, widow and heirs made claims creating a wealth of information for genealogists.
- ★ Migration patterns, children, births, death and marriage records can be proved.
- ★ Don't forget genetic DNA to help prove relationships!
- ★ Exciting facts and discoveries are just waiting to be discovered in these records!

Military Types of Information

- ⇒ Service records (branch of service)
- ⇒ Discharge records
- ⇒ Pension (Veteran & Widow)
- ⇒ Place of birth & Death dates of soldier & widow
- ⇒ Length of service
- ⇒ Location enlisted from
- ⇒ Age, Birth, Death of soldiers & widow
- ⇒ Description of soldier
- ⇒ Marriage dates & locations (including multiple marriages)

Locating Records & Information Gained

- **Finding records, pensions, citizen files, enlistment, and draft registrations can easily be located in the digital age.**
- **Veteran's, widow and heirs made claims creating a wealth of information.**
- **Pension applications were rejected in some cases, which created more records as the soldier, widow or heirs tried to prove their claims.**
- **Siblings provided testimony of service. Migration patterns, children, births, death and marriage records can be proved.**
- **Files include bible records before states required births or deaths to be filed with local authorities.**
- **People wrote letters requesting information about war service, family records and pensions to the Adjunct General seeking American Revolution records.**
- **Exciting facts and discoveries are just waiting to be discovered in these records!**

Wars & The Records They Created

●^{*} Records for pensions based on federal military service before WWI & Bounty land warrants based on federal service before the mid 1850's

●^{*} No central depository for records of service before the American Revolution, but some militia and misc. records have been preserved

●^{*} Many Rosters & rolls published & can be found @ libraries

●^{*} Records for Revolutionary War & more at National Archives

Know your Wars!

- Revolutionary War, 1775-83

Post - Revolutionary Wars

- War of 1812 (President Madison) 1812-14 (Pensions online Fold3.com)
- Indian Wars (several Presidents) 1817-58
- Mexican War (President Polk) 1846-48 (Index online Fold3.com)
- Civil War (President Lincoln) 1861-65
- Spanish American War (Pres. McKinley) 1898 Modern Wars
- WWI (President Wilson) 1917-18
- WWII (President Roosevelt) 1941-45
- Korean War (President's Truman & Eisenhower) 1950-53
- Vietnam (President's Kennedy, Johnson & Nixon) 1961-73

Presidents & Your Ancestors were involved-all involved!!!

Four Types for Genealogists

- Draft
- Service
- Discharge
- Veterans
- Records also created and preserved by state & local jurisdictions Veterans Benefits
- Benefits fall into two groups
- a) Pensions
- b) Bounty Land Warrants

- Also burial benefits (20th & 21st Century only)
- Records for pensions based on federal military service before WWI & Bounty land warrants based on federal service before the mid 1850's Civil War Records
 - *●* Confederate States of America dissolved after the Civil War & no central Gov. agency provided pensions for service or disability to ex- soldiers.
 - *●* Turn of century the Gov. of former states in the Confederacy provided pensions for Confederate veterans & widows
 - *●* Confederate veterans & their widows had to prove proof of service and financial need to qualify
 - *●* Not required to have served from state residing in at time of application

World War I & Beyond

- ✎ World War I draft records at National Archives, Southeast Region, 1557 St. Joseph Ave., East Point, Ga. 30344 (discharge records kept at county level in some locations) WWI draft cards available online
- ✎ WWII draft records @ federal record centers which covers ancestor's state. (Discharge records at county clerk's office & online)
- ✎ Korean & Vietnam service personnel that died during service can be found on index available from Family History Library & local libraries

Things to Know & Locations

- Records of service during last 75 years protected by privacy laws & can't be viewed or copied by public (some info available upon request)
- National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63132 National Archives & Regional Branches
- Larger public libraries & the Family History Library
- Records for veterans of the U.S. Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy are available through the National Archives, (earliest records, Revolutionary War). The collection includes service records, pension applications and records, bounty land records, and even pardon petitions for Confederate Army veterans.

Repositories & Resources via the Web

- Ancestry.com, (subscription site) free at libraries with a Library Edition subscription <https://www.ancestry.com>
- Bureau of Land Management <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/default.aspx>
- Chronicling America Newspapers free access with links to all states covers the time period of 1789 to 1963 and updated as newspapers are digitized
- https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/-tab=tab_advanced_search
- Cyndi's List of Genealogical Sites <http://www.CyndisList.com>
- [FamilySearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) Check the card catalog
- Fold3, Revolutionary War up to recent wars & Free access to the War of 1812 Pension Files online <https://www.fold.3.com>
- Mexican War Resources https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/US_Mexican_War_Pension_Records
- National Archives For Genealogists (great for links to several sources and partners) <https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy>
- National Archives Veterans Service Records <https://www.archives.gov/veterans>
- National Association of Army Nurses of the Civil War (includes photos) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Association_of_Army_Nurses_of_the_Civil_War
- National Grave Locator <http://www.cem.va.gov>
- National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution <https://dar.org>
- National Society Sons of the American Revolution <https://sar.org>
- National Society United States Daughters of 1812 <https://usdaughters1812.org/>
- Online Veterans and Military Documents <https://www.archives.gov/research/military/veterans/online>
- Texas Adjutant Records <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/apps/arc/service/index.php?formType=name>
- Union Veterans Pension Records https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Union_Pension_Records
- United States Military Pension Records https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Military_Pension_Records
- US Mexican War Pension Records https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/US_Mexican_War_Pension_Records

- Veterans Service Records
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Union_Pension_Records
- War of 1812 Pension Records
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/US_War_of_1812_Pension_Records#1883_Pension_Roll
- United States Military Pension Records
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