

MILITARY TIMELINE

Many researchers overlook the less common Military Records. We present here a list of military engagements.

- 1770 Colonial Wars: No national records, state record of original 13 states.
1780 Revolutionary War: 1775-1783 (220,000 veterans) Funeral records published, lots of films, loyalists under Canada.
1790
1800 Tripolitan War, 1801-1805
1810 War of 1812: 1812-1815 (285,000 veterans)
Seminole War, 1817-1818 (8,000)
1820
1830 Black Hawk War, 1831-1832 (7,000)
Seminole War II, 1835-1842 (41,000)
1840
1850 Mexican War, 1846-1848 (85,000 veterans)
1860 Civil War, 1861-1865 (2,250,000 Union Veterans)
(1,000,000 Confederates)
1870
1880 Western Indian Wars
1890 Mexican Border War, 1891-1893
1900 War with Spain, 1898-1899 (275,000 veterans)
Phillipine Insurrection, 1899-1902
Boxer Rebellion, 1900-1901 (5,000)

Thanks to Karon Burningham for the above information. Another valuable reference book containing military records is the SOURCE. Information begins on page 255. This book is available in the local LDS library.

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Research Tips: DRAPER: A dealer in dry goods, etc. CORDWAINER: A worker in cordovan leather. CHANDLER: (1) a dealer or trader; (2) one who makes or sells candles; (3) a retailer of groceries. COOPER: One who makes or repairs vessels formed of staves and hoops, as casks, barrels, tubs, etc. HOSTLER: One who takes care of horses, especially at an in (variant of OSTLER). WAINWRIGHT: A wagon maker.
From Kansas Kin, Feb., 1986

Military Records: Where to find

Determine if your ancestor was in the military

Clues to if they served in the military:

Federal Census: 1840, 1890, 1910, 1930, some state.

Death certificates, cemetery records, tombstone

Diaries, family stories, memorabilia, letters, photographs

Land entry files, naturalization records (if served in military, they could become naturalized after a certain amount of time), newspaper articles, obituaries, local histories (county histories)

Colonial Wars, before 1775

- a. Most served at local level so will not be in federal records.
- b. Look at state or county level: state repositories, libraries, archives, societies
- c. Look in British records as they may have been fighting on that side.

King Philip's War: bigelowsociety.com/rod/soldiers.htm

King George's War (Rhode Island): genealogytrails.com/ri/kinggeorge_war.html

2. Revolutionary War, 1775-1783

- a. Index to compiled service records or Revolutionary War soldiers (M860) (index covers the two following records) M= National Archives Film Series and can be found on Ancestry.com
- b. Compiled service records of Soldiers who served in the American Army during the Revolutionary war (M881)
- c. Compiled Service Records of American Naval Personnel and Members of the Departments of the Quartermaster general and the Commissary General of Military Forces who serviced during the Revolutionary War (M880)
- d. Revolutionary War Rolls: 1775-1783 (M246)
- e. Dar Lineage books and website- Contains index under widow's maiden name
 - i. Midwest Genealogy Center
 - ii. <http://www.dar.org>
 - iii. US Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900 (M805) (Heritagequest.com) (selected files)
 - iv. Many available for searching free at fold3: pay a fee if you want to order
 - v. Revolutionary war rejected pensions: Ancestry.com

3. Revwarapps/org Southern revolutionary war pension rosters

- i.

May have served in a different state than you think.

Go to abstract of Pension plan and then go back to service record and find service records

4. Post Revolutionary war, 1784-1811

- a. Congress kept regiments to build a military. Served a one year term
 - i. Index in book format:

5. War of 1812- 1812-1815

- a. Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers who served during the War of 1812 (M602) :Microfilm, book and Ancestry.com Index. Compiled service Records of
- b. Volunteer Soldiers who served during the War of 1812 (Order through NARA Currently working on filming and digitizing in conjunction with familysearch.org)

- c. US War Bounty Land Warrants, 1789-1858: (M848) : On microfilm and books, Not complete: ancestry.com
- d. War of 1812 papers, 1789—1815: (M588)
Familysearch.org: Index to pension records, Old war pension index, War pension lists
- 6. Indian wars, 1815- 1858
 - a. US Army Indian Campaign Service Records Index, 1815-1858 (M629, M243, M256, M907, M908) Ancestry.com
Must order records by sending form 86 to NARA
- 7. Mexican war, 1846
 - a. Index to compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers who served during the Mexican War (M616) - have to order on form 86 to NARA
 - b. Pension Files available through NARA, form 85
 - c. Unit Histories, Look at genealogy libraries
- 8. Civil war, 1861-1865
 - a. Check indexes for both Union and Confederate if you don't know the service
 - b. Soldiers and Sailors: <http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/>
 - c. If you find your person, determine if they have been filmed. If not you have to order
 - d. Most important records are the Union Compiled Service Records:
 - i. Look at Muster rolls, company muster in and out records, volunteer enlistment forms, memorandum forms, found on fold3- If they are not on fold three you have to order them from NARA
 - e. Confederate Service Records: Nearly identical to Union records: Also found on fold3

If you are interested in official correspondence records, you can search online at <http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/sources/records/> . These would include payroll, etc.

 - f. 1890 Veterans census. Only for states alphabetically after Kentucky. Only veteran and widow.
 - g. Civil War Unit Histories. Soldiers and Sailors website

Civil War Pensions: available at fold3
Costs a lot to order through NARA. Confederate ordered through state levels.
- 9. Spanish-American War, 1898-1899
 - a. General index:
 - b. State indexes- on Ancestry.com-no images
 - c. Spanish American War Unit Histories- on microfiche
Pension Record Index for Spanish American War, Ancestry.com
www.paspanishamericanwar.com//allstates.html
- 10. Philippine Insurrection, 1899-1902
- 11. Boxer Rebellion, 1900
- 12. Mexican Expedition, 1916
- 13. World War I
 - a. Draft Registration Cards. Online: ancestry.com, familysearch.org
 - b. Missouri and Kansas Draft Cards on microfilm

- c. Records have not been filmed and need to be ordered through NARA. Next of kin may use online order form.

14. World War II

- a. NARA at aad.archives.gov
 - i. WWII Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Casualties, 1941-1945
 - ii. WWII Prisoners of War, 141-1946
 - iii. US WWII Army enlistment records, 1938-1946
 - iv. WWII US Navy Aircraft Carrier Muster Rolls, 1939-1949
 - v. WWII United News Newsreels, 1942-1946
 - vi. US WWII Draft Registration Cards, 1942

National Archives: add.archives.gov

Findagrave: gravesites listed for American National Cemeteries

Fire of 1973 at national records centers in St Louis, destroyed many of the records for WWI and WWII

Try an online group regiment: [http://www.91st bombgroup.com](http://www.91stbombgroup.com)

Unit histories

Monuments for soldiers in counties www.abmc.gov/home.php

Items at state or county level

Clubs and organizations

Fold3 information: 6.67/month. Cancel anytime.

WWII, WWI, Civil War, Revolutionary war, misc. records.

Other websites to try:

Freegenealogytools.com

Olivetreenealogy.com/mil/

Militaryindexes.com

Freesurnamesearch.com

Forces-war-records.co.uk: for British wars: paid site

Canada: collectionscanada.gc.ca

Cmhg.gc.ca

www.cwgc.org: searchable database of all British and commonwealth military personnel who died during 1st and 2nd world wars and buried in CWGC cemetery

rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canmil/: Canadian Military Heritage Project

German

<http://www.volksbund.de/graebersuche.html>

http://denkmalprojekt.org/covers_vl/verlustlisten.htm

<http://archiveswiki.historians.org/index.php/Bundesarchiv-Milit%C3%A4rarchiv>

<http://www.preussenweb.de/preussstart.htm>

Familysearch.org : Learn, German Military records

Sweden

<http://www.soldatreg.se/>

<http://www.arkivdigital.net/> Pay site

<http://sok.riksarkivet.se/svar-digitala-forskarsalen>

Norway: <http://arkivverket.no/Digitalarkivet>