

Family Tree Magazine War Service Reference Guide

What wars were fought in your ancestor's lifetime? (enter your email to get the reference guide)

<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/free-quick-reference-guides-genealogy/>

Military Events

Register / Draft

Draft Registration cards

NARA, Ancestry.com

Inducted

Service

Medals, honors

Promotions

The Compiled Military Service Record (CMSR)

American Revolution, War of 1812, Civil War

Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF)

State Archives summaries

Rosters

Unit - Match their time in a unit to the action

Cruise books

Personal Papers, Special Collections

Discharge

DD Form 214 Report of Separation from Active Duty

Use eVetRecs or SF-180 to order

May have to look in local courthouse

Final pay voucher

Service summaries at state archives

Post-service

Bounty Lands

Pension – Veteran, Widow

Disabled Veterans Home

Veterans Affairs

Local Histories

Death

Obituaries

Burial

National cemetery

Headstone Applications

NARA

Military Records Research Research by Branch <https://www.archives.gov/research/military>

Archival Research Catalog (ARC) <http://www.archives.gov/research/military/veterans/arc.html>

Archival Databases (AAD) <http://www.archives.gov/aad>

National Personnel Records Center <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel>

Online Veterans and Military Documents www.archives.gov/research/military/veterans/online.html

Locations of service records <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/locations>

Ordering Military Records from NARA

eVetRecs for veterans and their families

<http://archives.gov/veterans>

veteran or next-of-kin can order online, but must mail/fax a signed request

Older records (pre-WWI)

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/pre-ww-1-records.html>

Click Order Online

Order Reproductions tab, Select Military Service and Pension Records

Consider using a NARA retrieval service company

US Military Records (selected sources)

Civil War Soldiers & Sailors System (CWSS)

<https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm>

Ancestry.com

Search Historical Records from the Search Page

Narrow your search by record type: Military

Search from Military Records Landing Page

<https://www.ancestry.com/cs/militaryrecords>

(if logged into library version)

<https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/cs/militaryrecords>

U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938

<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1200>

U.S. Veterans Headstone Applications, 1925-1963

<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=2375>

Fold3 (Subscription database)

<https://www.fold3.com>

Memorial Wall

<https://www.fold3.com/wall>

War of 1812 Pension Files (Free)

https://www.fold3.com/title_761/war_of_1812_pension_files

Civil War Widows' Pensions (Pay)

https://www.fold3.com/title_24/civil_war_widows_pensions

FamilySearch

U.S. Military Records Class Handout

https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/U.S._Military_Records_Class_Handout

Virginia Military Records

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Virginia_Military_Records

Veterans Legacy Memorial

<https://www.vlm.cem.va.gov/>

Department of Veterans Affairs Cemetery Listing

<https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/listcem.asp>

American Battle Monument Commission

<https://www.abmc.gov>

Library of Virginia Research Guides & Indexes

<https://lva-virginia.libguides.com>

Military Service Research Guides

click on Military Service to Expand

Other resources

State archives for possible service summaries, militia histories

State archives for Militia Records

<http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/state-archives.html>

Local courthouse for DD-214 (Separation)

Library of Congress: Veterans History Project

<http://www.loc.gov/vets/>

Military Reunion Groups and Associations

The Alliance of Military Reunions (Not comprehensive) <http://allmilitaryreunions.org>
Also search on Google

Facebook and other Pages (Examples)

<https://www.facebook.com/51stPioneerInfantry>
<http://51stPioneers.com>

Contacting an archive

You are: Not looking for an individual's personnel record
Looking for military unit, artifacts and papers

Steps: Locate the archives, what's online?
Use finding aids, tutorials

Engage: Educational sessions
Contact research reference desk
Some are on active military installations

USAF	Air Force Historical Research Agency	http://www.afhra.af.mil
USN	Naval History and Heritage Command Archives	http://www.history.navy.mil/research/archives.html
USMC	Marine Corps Archives	https://grc-usmcu.libguides.com/marine-corps-archives/main/about
USA	United States Army Heritage and Education Center	http://ahec.armywarcollege.edu
USCG	Genealogical research information	https://www.archives.gov/research/military/coast-guard
Merchant Marine	American Merchant Marine at War	http://www.usmm.org

Blog Posts

The U.S. Military Records That Never Burned
<https://aweekofgenealogy.com/the-u-s-military-records-that-never-burned>

Where Do I Find Out About My Ancestor's Military Service? The OMPF!
<https://aweekofgenealogy.com/where-do-i-find-out-about-my-ancestors-military-service-the-ompf>

Learn more about our books at <http://aweekofgenealogy.com/books>

Researching Your U.S. WWI Army Ancestors

Look for our upcoming book: (tentative title)

Researching for Historians and Genealogists: US WWI Combatants and Personnel

Our books are available at Amazon.com

To sign up for AWeekOfGenealogy mailing list for information about future classes, books, and other items of genealogical interest:

<https://aweekofgenealogy.com/signup>