



# Genealogy Scouting for Military Records



## Where Do I Begin?

- What branch
- Which conflict
- What dates
- Regular army or volunteer unit
- Officer or enlisted personnel
- Pension application

## Where to Look

- Compiled Service Records
- Pension Applications and Pension Payment Records
- Bounty Land Records
- Online Veterans and Military Documents

## Compiled Service Records

- Abstracts from muster rolls, returns, pay vouchers, and other records
- Provide rank, unit, date mustered in and mustered out, basic biographical information, medical information, and military information

## Pension Applications and Pension Payment Records

- NARA has these for veterans, their widows, and other heirs for service in armed forces 1775-1916
- Pension files have most genealogical information
- Supporting documents – narratives of events during service, marriage certificates, birth records, death certificates, pages from family Bibles, family letters, depositions of witnesses, affidavits, discharge papers and other supporting papers
- Pension files divided into – Revolutionary War, Old Wars, War of 1812, Indian Wars, Mexican War, and Civil War and later
- Civil War and later pensions – General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934
- See NARA's Microfilm Resources for Research: A Comprehensive Catalog

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## Bounty Land Records

- Bounty Land warrant application files, 1775-March 3, 1855 (Revolutionary War, War of 1812, early Indian Wars, or the Mexican War)
- Claims based on wartime service 1775-March 3, 1855
- Often contain documents similar to those in pension files
- Many of the bounty land application files relating to Rev. War and War of 1812 have been combined with pension files

## Obtaining Copies of Military Service Records

- Recent records can be obtained by the veterans or next-of-kin can obtain free copies of their DD Form 214 (Report of Separation) and other military and medical records: eVetRecs (online system); Mail form SF-180; see NARA website
- Older military personnel records (generally before WWI) on file at NARA in Washington DC.: Service Records (Order online or use NATF Form 86); Pension claim files (Order online or use NATF Form 85)

## Genealogy Center Titles

*DAR Patriot Index*

*Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files*

*Index to Revolutionary War Service Records*

*Index to Old Wars Pension Files, 1815-1926*

*Index to War of 1812 Pension Files*

*Index to Volunteer Soldiers in Indian Wars & Disturbances, 1815-1858*

*Roster of Union Soldiers, 1861-1865*

*Roster of Confederate Soldiers, 1861-1865*

*Index to Indian Wars Pension Files, 1892-1926*

## Bibliography

*An Overview of Records at the National Archives Relating to Military Service* by Trevor K. Plante. Prologue Magazine, Fall 2002, vol. 34, no. 3

*Military Records* by Lloyd deWitt Bockstruck and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking

*The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy* edited by Loretto Dennis Szucs & Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, Ancestry, 2006

## Additional Information

Explore additional resources on our [website](#) and blog [Plano Library Learns](#), including information about library [databases](#)

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) [Link](#)

fold3 [Link](#)

## Genealogy: Scouting for Military Records

Ancestry (available in Library only) [Link](#)

Family Search [Link](#)

National Park Service – The Civil War – Soldiers and Sailors Database [Link](#)

Our Military Heritage [Link](#)

American Merchant Marine at War (All Wars) [Link](#)

Online Military Indexes and Records [Link](#)

Cyndislist [Link](#)

Portal to Texas History [Link](#)