FINDING FAMILY HISTORY THROUGH MILITARY RECORDS

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Military records can provide a wealth of information that can not only help you get to know your ancestors, but may provide vital data found no where else. An individual may have a military record, such as draft registrations and military levying rolls, even if he did not enlist in a military branch.

Use this chart to determine if your ancestor may have military records:

BIRTH YEAR	WAR	BATTLE YEARS
1726 - 1767	Revolutionary War	1775 – 1783
1762 – 1799	War of 1812	1812 – 1815
1796 – 1831	Mexican War	1846 – 1848
1811 – 1848	Civil War	1861 – 1865
1848 – 1881	Spanish-American War	1898
1849 – 1885	Philippine Insurrection	1899 – 1902
1872 – 1900	World War I	1917 – 1918
1877 – 1925	World War II	1941 – 1945
1900 – 1936	Korean War	1950 – 1953
1914 – 1955	Vietnam War	1964 – 1972

Refer to Record Selection table on next page as a guide for information you may find.

There are three main categories of military records. They are:

1. Pre-Service Records: Draft registrations, Military Levying Rolls
2. Service Records: Enlistment, Duty and discharge papers, Muster Rolls, Pay vouchers, Captivity, Issuance of clothing allowance, Honors
3. Post-Service Records: Pensions, Bounty Land records, Soldier's homes, Veteran's organization records, Burial/Headstone and Cemetery records

Be aware that *most service records* are *not* available online, however you can obtain information through government archives – expect to pay substantial fees for copies. You can visit the National Archives (St Louis, Missouri) or pay a researcher to do the looking for you.

Many indexes and Pre-Service records are filmed and searchable on various websites including FamilySearch.org, Ancestry.com, Fold3.com, and findmypast.com.

There are many helpful learning guides and WIKI articles on familysearch.org as well as other sites such as ancestry.com. You should review the EIKI articles on military records for whichever

country you are researching. Check the sidebar links to military records for any location you are researching. You may want to review the WIKI page titled: "United States Military Online Genealogy Records." You can also find specific WIKI pages for each conflict such as Mexican War, Indian Wars, Revolutionary War, World War I, etc.

On the Family Search WIKI, go to the page titled "Classes in the Learning Center" and then do a control + F (find) search for any classes with the word War or Military. There are 14 classes with the word "Military." You can also find a good assortment of YouTube videos on the subject of military research!

Be sure to check www.cyndislist.com for links to military sites. Use Google to find more information about specific military units or battles.

Ancestry.com has a good webinar titled: Finding the U.S. Military Heroes in Your Family

Go to www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/ to request service records

Be sure to check the vast resources at the Library of Congress web site: www.loc.gov   Check for **individual state archive web sites** for their military record database (just google the state plus archives to find websites).

Consider doing **newspaper** searches for news of your military ancestor or details of battles.

www.fold3.com is a subscription site available free at the family history centers. The web site says: "**Fold3** provides convenient access to military records, including the stories, photos, and personal documents of the men and women who served. The records at **Fold3** help you discover and share stories about these everyday heroes, forgotten soldiers, and the families that supported them."

RescuedFilmProject.com