

A Few Good Men--and Women: Searching for Family Military Records
Genealogical Society of Collier County--March 8, 2016
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TYPES of Military/Service Records discussed in this program:

Compiled military service records (CMSR)	Official military personnel files (OMPF)
Record of events (unit histories)	Cemetery records
Pension application files	Soldiers' Homes records
Bounty land warrants	Veteran/Lineage records
Draft registration	Military biographies

Also: journals/diaries, oral histories/interviews, reunion groups, photos, unit histories/pictorial histories, collectors and/or sellers of militaria/ephemera, military museums

GENERAL RESOURCES FOR MILITARY RESEARCH

- **National Archives and Records Administration** <http://www.archives.gov/>
 - Browse Microfilm Publications and Original Documents Digitized by NARA partners <http://www.archives.gov/digitization/digitized-by-partners.html>
 - Genealogy Research in Military Records <http://www.archives.gov/research/military/genealogy.html>
 - NARations, The blog of the US National Archives, <https://narations.blogs.archives.gov/about-2/>
 - Prologue, NARA's quarterly magazine (\$, but some articles posted online at NARA)
- **National Personnel Records Center** <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/>
See NPRC Home page/*What's New at NPRCC*--PDF files of 4 presentations from 2015 National Genealogical Society convention in St. Louis, including **McGraw (2015)**
- Best Military Genealogy Websites of 2015, Family Tree Magazine <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/best-military-genealogy-websites-2015>
- *Your Guide to Finding Ancestors in US Military Records* <http://www.barbsnow.net/Military.htm>
- Research Outline: US Military Records, Family History Library/LDS Church (2000, PDF 60 pp) [http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/FHD/Community/en/FamilySearch/US_Military/U.S. Military Record s Civil War/US%20Military%20Records%20Research%20Outline.pdf](http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/FHD/Community/en/FamilySearch/US_Military/U.S._Military_Record_s_Civil_War/US%20Military%20Records%20Research%20Outline.pdf)

State resources: Check state archives or state departments of military affairs

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/2015-best-state-genealogy-websites>

BURIALS

- National Cemetery Administration, US Dept of Veterans Affairs <http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/>
- American Battle Monuments Commission (Veterans' burials overseas) <https://www.abmc.gov/>

ONLINE RESOURCES

- FamilySearch.org (free)
- Fold3.com (\$)
- Ancestry.com (\$ or available thru CCPL in library)
- Heritage Quest (free thru CCPL, log-in online from anywhere through CCPL library card number)
- American Ancestors (formerly New England Historic Genealogical Society) <http://www.americanancestors.org> [free thru CCPL, use in library]

COLLIER COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY:Click “Resources for Genealogy”<http://www.collier-library.org/>
In Genealogy Room, Collier County Public Library/Collier County Genealogical Society (GSCC):

- Richard S. Johnson, and Debra Johnson Knox, *How to Locate Anyone Who Is or Has Been in the Military: Armed Forces Locator Guide*, 8th ed. (Spartanburg, SC: Military Information Enterprises, 1999)
- See Military Resources in Genealogy Room Collection using this link from GSCC:
http://thegsc.org/shelf_list/search_shelflist.php?fieldtolookin=*&functionradio=&functionradio=&SearchFor+=military&Submit=Search+the+Database

Writing a military service history:http://ww2lct.org/downloads/Writing_a_Military_Service_History.pdf

WOMEN

- National Women’s History Museum <https://www.nwhm.org/>
- Women Soldiers of the Civil War, Part 1- 3* by DeAnne Blanton (1993) for Prologue/NARA
<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1993/spring/women-in-the-civil-war-1.html>
<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1993/spring/women-in-the-civil-war-2.html>
<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1993/spring/women-in-the-civil-war-3.html>

Colonial Wars:

- American Ancestors<http://www.americanancestors.org/index.aspx>
- British Army: British National Archives/Guide to muster rolls, pay lists<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/british-army-muster-rolls-pay-lists-1730-1898/>

Revolutionary War:

- Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR):www.dar.org
- Researching Your Patriot Ancestor (Tutorial, DAR database searches)
<http://www.learnwebskills.com/patriot/>
- LOYALIST RECORDS: On-Line Institute for Advanced Loyalist Studies <http://www.royalprovincial.com/>

Civil War:

- National Park Service, Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System (CWSS)
<http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-overview.htm>
- NARA, Civil War Records <http://www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war/resources.html>

Spanish American War:Spanish American War Centennial www.spanamwar.com

WWI:

- Mighty Women of World War I <http://www.cnn.com/2014/07/01/opinion/davis-world-war-i-women/>
- World War I Records/NARA <http://www.archives.gov/research/military/ww1/>

WW2:

- Witness to War (oral histories, men and women; WW2-Iraq) <http://www.witnesstowar.org/>
- World War II Records/NARA <http://www.archives.gov/research/military/ww2/>

Militaria:

- U.S. Militaria Forum<http://www.usmilitariaforum.com/forums/>
- Medals of America <http://www.medalsofamerica.com/>

WAR[number who served]	BIRTH YEARS	BATTLE YEAR(S)
COLONIAL WARS	Ages 16-60 (militias)	
King Philip's War		1675-1676
King William's War		1689-1697
Queen Anne's War		1702-1713
King George's War		1744-1748
French and Indian War (Seven Years War)		1754-1763
American Revolution	1710-1765, alive 1776-77	1775-1783
Quasi-War with France		1798-1800
War of 1812 [60K US Army, 470K militia/volunteers]	1762-1799	1812-1815
Texas War of Independence		1835-1836
Mexican War	1796-1831	1846-1848
Utah War		1857-1858
Indian Wars		1860-1900/1780s-1890s
Civil War [3.5 million]	1811-1848	1861-1865
Spanish-American War [280.5K]	1848-1881	1898
Philippine Insurrection [125K]	1849-1885	1899-1902
World War I [2.4 million]	1872-1900	1917-1918
World War II [16.6 million men/women]	1877-1925	1941-1945
Korean War	1900-1936	1950-1953
Vietnam War	1914-1955	1964-1972

*CIVIL WAR: Birth Years for North – 1826-1846; South – 1811-1850

WAR dates/birth years:

See blog by Anne Gillespie Mitchell on April 23, 2014 in *Ask Ancestry Anne*, Military Records

<http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2014/04/23/what-war-did-my-ancestor-serve-in/#sthash.pV8k6Ojh.dpuf>

SOURCE: RESEARCH OUTLINE—U.S. MILITARY RECORDS, Family History Library
[http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/FHD/Community/en/FamilySearch/US_Military/U.S. Military Records Civil War/US%20Military%20Records%20Research%20Outline.pdf](http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/FHD/Community/en/FamilySearch/US_Military/U.S._Military_Records_Civil_War/US%20Military%20Records%20Research%20Outline.pdf)

Records Selection Table								
Once you know in which war(s) your ancestor may have served, use this table to decide which records to search. Use this table as a guide only. The information listed here is generally found in pre-20th century records, but each item is rarely found in every individual record.								
Look in → If you need	Service	Pension	Bounty Land	Draft	Cemetery	Soldier Homes	Veteran/ Lineage Society	Military Biography
Age	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Birth date		◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Birth place	◆	◆		◆		◆	◆	◆
Children		◆				◆	◆	
Death date	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆
Death place	◆	◆					◆	◆
Spouse, Marriage		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Military Unit	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆
Occupation	◆			◆		◆	◆	◆
Parents							◆	
Physical description	◆	◆		◆		◆		
Residence	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆
Service history	◆		◆				◆	◆

REQUESTING NARA/NPRC RECORDS:

Identify what is available: Overview of Records at the National Archives Relating to Military Service:

<http://www.archives.gov/research/military/veterans/prologue-military-records-overview.html>

Order records:

▪ *Non-archival files:* Only VETERAN/next-of-kin for deceased veteran/FOIA requests

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/#evetrecs>

▪ *Public/Archival files:* <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/pre-ww-1-records.html>