

Family Tree Magazine War Service Reference Guide

What wars were fought in your ancestor's lifetime? <https://www.familytreemagazine.com/recordreferences>
(enter your email to get the cheat sheet)

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

- Archival Research Catalog (ARC) <http://www.archives.gov/research/military/veterans/online.html>
- Archival Databases (AAD) <http://www.archives.gov/research/military/veterans/arc.html>
- National Personnel Records Center <http://www.archives.gov/aad>
- Locations of service records <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel>
<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/locations>

The War Memorial in Baltimore

<https://war-memorial.baltimorecity.gov/misc-information>
Approximately 70,000 WWII discharge papers for Maryland veterans

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 Landing Page: <http://www.ancestry.com/cs/us/militaryrecords>

www.fold3.com (Subscription database)

Memorial Wall

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

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

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

Ancestry.com database

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

Nationwide Gravesite Locator for veterans' cemeteries

<http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov>

American Battle Monument Commission

<https://www.abmc.gov>

U.S. Veterans Headstone Applications, 1925-1963

Ancestry.com database

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

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>

USAHEC Tutorials on my Blog

USAHEC: Using the Online Catalog: Reference Bibliographies

<http://aweekofgenealogy.com/usahec-using-the-online-catalog-reference-bibliographies>

USAHEC: Searching the Library and Digital Collections

<http://aweekofgenealogy.com/usahec-searching-the-library-and-digital-collections>

USAHEC: Finding the Veterans Survey Inventories

<http://aweekofgenealogy.com/usahec-finding-the-veterans-survey-inventories>

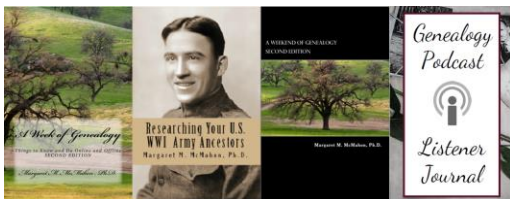
Contacting an archive

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	http://grc-usmcu.libguides.com/marine-corps-archives/main
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 Marines	American Merchant Marine at War	http://www.usmm.org



More about Military Research can be found in our books
A Week of Genealogy: Things to Know and Do Online and Offline
(available as book and Kindle eBook)
and

Researching Your U.S. WWI Army Ancestors

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

Our books are available at Amazon.com

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books, and other items of genealogical interest:

<https://aweekofgenealogy.com/signup>

or use this QR code.

