

How to Find Your Ancestors Civil War Records

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1. Did they serve in the Civil War?

The 1890 Veterans Schedule Census for union soldiers is available on ancestry.com. If your ancestor was born between 1816 and 1848, there is a good chance they fought in the civil war. Disabilities incurred during the war along with state and unit numbers are given.

The National Park System has a free database at www.idt.nps.gov/cwss/. Their database gives listings of soldiers and sailors by state and regiment. A complete record of each regiments activities and number of deaths is given. Cemeteries where enlisted men are buried are given and they are in the process of listing all men buried in each of those cemeteries.

Most states and many counties have databases giving enlisted men's names and units. Many of these databases are on line and can be found on Google and ancestry.com.

2. Finding information through pension applications.

ancestry.com The General Index to the Civil War Pension Files is on ancestry.com, and fold3.com.

familysearch.org Databases: Civil War Pension Card index, United States 1890 census of Union Veterans, United States Civil War Soldier Index and many others.

NARA To order civil war pensions: eservices.archives.gov/orderonline/. Use form 85D to order up to 100 pages of a pension file for \$75. Confederate Pension Records: NARA tells you where to look for Confederate soldier pension indexes in the 14 states that gave Confederate pensions and then where to order that pension file.

cyndislist.com/cyndi/pensions.htm is an excellent guide on how to ordering union civil war pensions.

3. Other sources.

Fold3.com has good civil war records. This database is free at the FHC but much faster at home with a subscription (\$79.95) or 7 day free trial.

ancestry.com 98 civil war collections are on line. Free at the Family History Center
Google "The War of the rebellion - Cornell University" The official record on all battles of the civil war, confederate and union. All 83 volumes can be downloaded on line free.