

WHERE TO START

Approach finding your Civil War ancestors the way you start all other research. Start with yourself and work your way backward. Utilize with the same information, documents, and techniques you use in all genealogical research:

- Vital Records (birth, marriage, death)
- Federal and State Census
- Personal Records (family bible, wills, letters, etc.)
- Probate/Court Records
- Church Records
- Interview family members

Use what you know about where that ancestor lived in order to locate them on the 1860 Census. Any male between the ages of 15 to 55 on that census will be of the right age to have served by 1861.

When looking for potential soldiers, men born 1822-1843 were likely to have served in the Civil War. However, as the war went on that window expanded to males between the ages of 10 and 70 (born 1791-1851).

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

Approximately 75% of the draft-age men in Confederate states and 50% of the draft-age men in Union states served in the military during the Civil War. It's very likely that at least one of your male relatives living in the US at the time was a Civil War soldier and can be found on a record.



CASS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY GENEALOGY BRANCH

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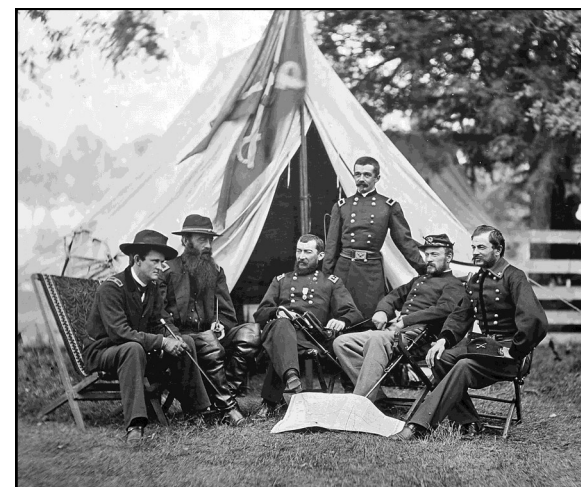
Chelsea Clarke

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 CCPL Genealogy's Guide To:

FINDING YOUR CIVIL WAR ANCESTORS



Connect with your family history!

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Cass County Public Library System

BASIC RECORDS

The most commonly used records in Civil War genealogical research include:

- State & Federal Census Records
- Compiled Military Service Records
- Muster Rolls
- Draft Registers
- Veteran & Widow Pension Records
- Casualty Lists & Military Cemeteries

Draft Registration Records

Between 1863 and 1865, four separate drafts were conducted which generated 3.175 million records in total. The first of these drafts created great tension in the Union after the New York City draft riots that occurred in 1863.

NAME	RESIDENCE	OTHER
Carpenter, Charles	24	100
Carpenter, David	31	100
Carpenter, John	32	100
Carpenter, William	33	100
Carpenter, John	34	100
Carpenter, John	35	100
Carpenter, John	36	100
Carpenter, John	37	100
Carpenter, John	38	100
Carpenter, John	39	100
Carpenter, John	40	100

Pension Records

Pensions for Union soldiers can be requested from the National Archives. These pension records have never been microfilmed, but are currently in the process of being digitized and indexes can be found on *Fold3*, *Ancestry*, and *Soldiers and Sailors*. Confederate pensions were generated on a state-level and some of these records are online.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Soldiers and Sailors Database

www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm

This database pulls its information from the General Index Cards for the Compiled Military Service Records held at NARA

Missouri Digital Heritage

Missouri Soldier's Database: War of 1812 - WWI
<https://bit.ly/2Me5FmH>

Ancestry Library Edition – Using the Card Catalog, search with the keyword “Civil War” to get a list of all relevant record collections. Examples include:

U.S. Civil War Soldiers, 1861-1865
Civil War Prisoner of War Records
U.S. Marine Corps Muster Rolls, 1798-1958
Missouri Confederate Death Records

Fold3 – Users can browse record collections organized by conflict. For the Civil War, the database contains service, pension, and casualty records for the Union and Confederacy.

National Archives Civil War Records

Resources and Guides: www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war

Request Copies: <https://bit.ly/2Z1cERG>

ADDITIONAL RECORD TYPES

1890 Federal Census Veterans Schedule
Awards and Decorations
Regiment Histories
Veterans' Homes Records
IRS Income Tax Assessment Lists (1862–72)

Compiled Military Service Records

CMSR contain basic information about the soldier's military career. Each soldier (Union and Confederate) should have a Compiled Military Service Record for each regiment in which they served, and these cards are stored in a labelled envelope (or “jacket”)

Information contained may include:

- Whether a soldier was present or absent during a certain period of time
- Dates of and rank upon enlistment and discharge, amount of bounty paid
- Any wounds sustained during battle or hospitalization for injury or illness
- Capture and parole information for prisoners of war
- Place of birth (only the country of foreign-born soldiers)

Confederate Company Muster Roll
Harris H. Barnes
2nd Spt. Co. E, Walker's Batt'n, Thomas' Legion, North Carolina Troops.
Enlisted: Nov 17, 1862
Where: White S. Tenn.
By whom: Not rec'd
Period: 3 years or the war
Last paid: Johnston
By whom: June 30, 1863
To what time: June 30, 1863
Present or absent: Absent
Remarks: Missing on retreat from Greenville, S.C. 1863
Appointed: 2nd Spt. Spt. 2nd Co. E.

Private Sergeant
Barnes, David L.
Co. E, Walker's Battalion, Thomas' Legion, North Carolina, (Confederate.)
CARD NUMBERS:
1 49072845
2 7863
3 7990
4 8116
5 3217
6 1344
7 4666
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