"Putting the Puzzle Together, Finding the Missing Pieces"

US Military Records

“Basic Training”
Want a CD of the presentation?

or

Have a:
Question?
Suggestion?
Idea?

Contact

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WIKI

In the FamilySearch Research Wiki, you can learn how to do genealogical research or share your knowledge with others.

Click here on any page to go to WIKI

VIDEO “The FamilySearch Research Wiki - An Introduction”  CLICK HERE
Helpful Articles
(by Barry J Ewell)

Revolutionary War 1776-1783
War of 1812 (1812-1814)
Mexican War 1846-1848
Early Indian Wars 1815-1858
Civil War 1861-1865
World War I 1917-1919
World War II 1941-1945
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Learning Center

For Helpful Videos and Lessons

Click Here
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Military Records - Largest Data Set?

• Millions of American citizens have served in the armed forces

• Chances are good that one or more of your relatives served at one time or another

• An ancestor may have enlisted in military during peacetime

• There are relatively few American families whose genealogies would not benefit from a search of military records.
About Military Records
Generally, military records are discussed in three broad categories:

- service records
- pension files
- military histories
Military Records

1902

Pre 20th Century Before 1902

• No central, organized record keeping

• All records are open to the public

20th Century forward After 1902

• Centralized, structured record keeping with service numbers

• Limited access if you are not the veteran or “next of Kin”
New Records Access

Starting in 2012 record access is restricted to just the prior 62 years

Records restricted for privacy to “Next of Kin”

- Next of Kin:
  - Brother
  - Sister
  - Mother
  - Father
  - Son
  - Daughter
  - un-remarried spouse
Service Records

- **Compiled Service Records**: Records for soldiers serving in volunteer units in wars between 1775 and 1902.

- **Service Personnel File**: After 1900, records kept in a centralized file with a service number for identification. Starting 1969, the person's Social Security Number was used as the Service Number.
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**Pension Records**: Federal and state granted pensions.

**Bounty Land Warrants**: Bounty land or free land was given to those who served in the Revolutionary War.
1. The Confederate soldiers were not discharged after the war, they were paroled.

2. The Confederate soldiers did not receive pensions from the Federal Government. However, in later years, the ex-confederate states did set up pension funds. These records are at the state level.
Military Records at the State Level

• Do a PLACE Search in the FamilySearch Catalog
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Military Records at the State Level

• Do a PLACE Search in the FamilySearch Catalog
Military Records at the State Level

Check the Internet for state archives and military records

https://www.google.com/
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Key Web Sites

"Lt. McCoy caught by the hidden surveillance camera."
"Putting the Puzzle Together, Finding the Missing Pieces"
"Putting the Puzzle Together, Finding the Missing Pieces"

Mesa FamilySearch Library

http://mesafsl.org/

Mesa FamilySearch Library
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
41 South Hobson Street, Mesa, Arizona  85204  480-964-1200

- Books & CD Records
- Film Index
- Accident & Death
- Search this site

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- Favorite Websites
  - Website Index
    - United States
    - International
  - Websites by Category
  - Salt Lake FHL Catalog
- Family Search WIKI
  - FamilySearch
  - Other Large FamilySearch Libraries
  - Subscription Websites
    - Available at the Mesa FamilySearch Library only
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http://www.archives.gov/

Resources for Genealogists

Subject Index
"Putting the Puzzle Together, Finding the Missing Pieces"

http://www.archives.gov/research/

- Getting Started
- Hints to Find ancestry
- Military Records
- Genealogy
"Putting the Puzzle Together, Finding the Missing Pieces"

http://www.archives.gov/veterans/

**Service Records WW1 to Present**

**Service Records Before WW1**

**Replacing Medals**
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- Partnership with **The National Archives**, Library of Congress and other institutions.
- Footnote helps you find and share historic documents.
- Free at the Mesa FamilySearch Library
- Over 400,000,000 records

http://www.fold3.com/
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http://www.fold3.com/
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Ancestry.com

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FamilySearch.org

https://familysearch.org/search/collecti on/list#page=1&recordType=Military
World War I Registration

• completed by 24 million men living in 1917 and 1918.

• Information includes: name, place of residence, date and place of birth, race, country of citizenship, occupation, and employer.

http://content.ancestry.com/iexec/?htx=List&dbid=6482&offerid=0%3a7858%3a0
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U.S. World War II Registration 1942

• Indexed collection from the Fourth Registration.
• Referred to as the "old man's registration"


• Conducted on 27 April 1942 and registered men who were between 45 and 64 years old - and who were not already in the military.
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U.S. World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946

• Contains about 8.3 million men and women
• Includes: name of enlistee, army serial number, residence, place of enlistment, enlistment date, grade, army branch, component, term of enlistment, birthplace, year of birth, race and citizenship, height and weight, education, and marital status.

http://www.ancestry.com/search/db.asp?dbid=8939
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Societies

http://dar.org/natsoiety/pi_lookup.cfm
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Start From Home With 7 Key Internet Tools

Key Free Site Today and In The Future!

Familysearch.org

Google.com

Rootsweb.com

Findagrave.com

billiongraves.com/

Usgenweb.org

Mesa FamilySearch Library

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Sullivan Ballou
My dear Sarah.
The indications are very strong that we shall move in a few days -- perhaps tomorrow. Lest I should not be able to write again, I feel impelled to write lines that may fall under your eye when I shall be no more.

Our movement may be one of a few days duration and full of pleasure -- and it may be one of severe conflict and death to me. Not my will, but thine 0 God, be done. If it is necessary that I should fall on the battlefield for my country, I am ready. I have no misgivings about, or lack of confidence in, the cause in which I am engaged, and my courage does not halt or falter. I know how strongly American Civilization now leans upon the triumph of the Government, and how great a debt we owe to those who went before us through the blood and suffering of the Revolution.

And I am willing -- perfectly willing -- to lay down all my joys in this life, to help maintain this Government, and to pay that debt. But, my dear wife, when I know that with my own joys I lay down nearly all of yours, and replace them in this life with cares and sorrows -- when, after having eaten for long years the bitter fruit of orphanage myself, I must offer it as their only sustenance to my dear little children -- is it weak or dishonorable, while the banner of my purpose floats calmly and proudly in the breeze, that my unbounded love for you, my darling wife and children, should struggle in fierce, though useless, contest with my love of country?

I cannot describe to you my feelings on this calm summer night, when two thousand men are sleeping around me, many of them enjoying the last, perhaps, before that of death -- and I, suspicious that Death is creeping behind me with his fatal dart, am communing with God, my country, and thee.

I have sought most closely and diligently, and often in my breast, for a wrong motive in thus hazarding the happiness of those I loved and I could not find one. A pure love of my country and of the principles have often advocated before the people and "the name of honor that I love more than I fear death" have called upon me, and I have obeyed.

Sarah, my love for you is deathless, it seems to bind me to you with mighty cables that nothing but Omnipotence could break; and yet my love of Country comes over me like a strong wind and bears me irresistibly on with all these chains to the battlefield.

The memories of the blissful moments I have spent with you come creeping over me, and I feel most gratified to God and to you that I have enjoyed them so long. And hard it is for me to give them up and burn to ashes the hopes of future years, when God willing, we might still have lived and loved together and seen our sons grow up to honorable manhood around us. I have, I know, but few and small claims upon Divine Providence, but something whispers to me -- perhaps it is the wafted prayer of my little Edgar -- that I shall return to my loved ones unharmed. If I do not, my dear Sarah, never forget how much I love you, and when my last breath escapes me on the battlefield, it will whisper your name.

... O Sarah! If the dead can come back to this earth and flit unseen around those they loved, I shall always be near you; in the garish day and in the darkest night -- amidst your happiest scenes and gloomiest hours -- always, always; and if there be a soft breeze upon your cheek, it shall be my breath; or the cool air fans your throbbing temple, it shall be my spirit passing by.

Sarah, do not mourn me dead; think I am gone and wait for thee, for we shall meet again.

... Sarah, I have unlimited confidence in your maternal care and your development of their characters. Tell my two mothers his and hers I call God's blessing upon them. O Sarah, I wait for you there! Come to me, and lead thither my children.