

# Discovering Ancestral Military Veterans

- I. Things to know before beginning your search
  - a. Determine time and place
  - b. Note the rank of your ancestor
    - i. Note rank at beginning and end of service if possible
    - ii. Officer/Enlisted
- II. Places to look for identifying information
  - a. Family stories
  - b. Newspaper clippings
  - c. Correspondence
  - d. Scrapbooks
  - e. Journals
  - f. Diaries
  - g. Service medals
  - h. Memorabilia
  - i. Photographs in uniform
  - j. Grave markers
- III. Research Strategies
  - a. Create a Historical Time Line
    - i. Compile a list of ancestor's known dates and places of residence from birth to adulthood
    - ii. Compare your ancestor's time line with a time line of significant military events and conflicts (Was your ancestor eligible for the Draft, Civil War, World War I, etc.?)
  - b. Consult General Research Guides on Genealogy and Family History
  - c. Review Published Histories of Military Conflicts and Regimental Histories
  - d. Research Family Heirlooms and Photographs
  - e. Interview Friends & Family Members
    - i. Several helpful resources on Oral History Projects are available in the H&G Dept. of the St. Louis County Library
- IV. Information From Military Records
  - a. Dates of birth and death
  - b. Residence
  - c. Names and addresses of family members
  - d. Military rank
  - e. Military affiliation/branch
- V. Types of Records
  - a. Draft records
  - b. Service records
  - c. Pension records

- d. Bounty Land records
  - e. Claim records
  - f. Military histories
- VI. Databases
- a. Ancestry
  - b. Fold3
  - c. American Civil War Research Database [Alexander Street]
  - d. American Civil War Letters and Diaries [Alexander Street]
  - e. Findmypast
- VII. FamilySearch
- a. Missouri Military Records
    - i. Missouri, Reports of Separation Notices, 1941-1946
- VIII. National Archives
- a. Military Records at the National Archives
    - i. Compiled Service Records
    - ii. Pension Applications
    - iii. Bounty Land
  - b. How to Search the Records
    - i. Revolutionary War-1918-National Archives Building in Washington, DC
    - ii. WWI-present: National Military Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, Missouri
    - iii. Online Veterans and Military Documents
  - c. Obtaining Copies of Military Service Records
- IX. Military Records in the History & Genealogy Department of the St. Louis County Library
- a. Finding Aids & Guides [military records](#)
    - i. Civil War Slave Compensation Claims in Compiled Military Service Records of US Colored Troops
    - ii. Descriptive Recruitment Lists of Volunteers for the United States Colored Troops for the State of Missouri, 1863-1865
    - iii. Glossary of terms for Records of the Field Offices of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
    - iv. Guide to "Organization Index to Pension Files of Veterans Who Served Between 1861 and 1900" (T289)
    - v. Guide to Researching Southern Claims Commission Records
    - vi. Index to Jewish Service Men From St. Louis
    - vii. Star-Times newspaper title index to special article series
    - viii. US Army Enlistees From St. Louis, 1855
  - b. Collection Guide
    - i. Print collection
    - ii. Microfilm collection
    - iii. Library Electronic Databases

- X. United States Military Museums, Archives, and Special Collections
  - a. US Army
    - i. US Army Center of Military History (<http://www.history.army.mil/>)
  - b. US Navy
    - i. Naval History and Heritage Command(<https://www.history.navy.mil/>)
  - c. US Marine Corps
    - i. Marine Corps-History Division (<https://www.usmcu.edu/historydivision>)
  - d. US Air Force
    - i. Air Force-History Office (<http://www.afhistoryandmuseums.af.mil/Home.aspx>)
  - e. US Coast Guard
    - i. Coast Guard-History Office (<http://www.uscg.mil/history/>)
- XI. International Military Records
  - a. Fold3
  - b. Ancestry
  - c. Findmypast
  - d. SLCL collection guide/bibliography

Program sites are accessible. Upon two week's notice, accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities. Call 314 / 994-3300.  
[www.slcl.org](http://www.slcl.org)

