

# Researching 20<sup>th</sup> Century Military Veterans

*History & Genealogy  
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## Things to know before beginning your search

- Determine time and place
- Note the rank of your ancestor
- Note rank at beginning and end of service if possible
- Officer/Enlisted

## Places to look for identifying information

- Family stories
- Newspaper clippings c. Correspondence
- Scrapbooks
- Journals
- Diaries
- Service medals
- Memorabilia
- Photographs in uniform
- Grave markers

## Research Strategies

- Create a Historical Timeline
- Compile a list of ancestor's known dates and places of residence from birth to adulthood
- Compare your ancestor's timeline with a timeline of significant military events and conflicts (Was your ancestor eligible for the Draft, World War I, etc.?)
- Consult General Research Guides on Genealogy and Family History
- Review Published Histories of Military Conflicts and Regimental Histories d. Research Family Heirlooms and Photographs
- Interview Friends & Family Members (Several helpful resources on Oral History Projects are available in the H&G Dept. of the St. Louis County Library)

## Information often included in Military Records

- Dates of birth and death
- Residence

- Names and addresses
- Military rank
- Military affiliation/branch

## **Types of Records**

- Draft records
- Service records
- Pension records
- Military histories

## **Databases**

- Ancestry
- Fold3
- Findmypast

## **Missouri Military Records**

- Missouri, Reports of Separation Notices, 1941-1946

## **National Archives**

- Compiled Service Records
- Pension Applications
- WWI-present: National Military Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, Missouri

## **Online Veterans and Military Documents**

- Obtaining Copies of Military Service Records

## **Military Records in the History & Genealogy Department of the St. Louis County Library**

- Finding Aids & Guides [military records](#)
- Index to Jewish Service Men from St. Louis
- Star-Times newspaper title index to special article series
- Collection Guide
- Print collection
- Microfilm collection
- Library Electronic Databases

## World War I Records & Resources

- About: In 1917 and 1918, approx. 24 million men registered for the draft in the U.S. It included men born from September 11, 1872 to September 12, 1900.
  - The WWI Draft Registration Cards created in 1917 and 1918 are digitized and online.
  - The draft cards are records of people who registered for the draft.
  - Not everyone who registered actually served in WWI.
- Online Indexes and Records for WWI Draft Registration Cards
  - (FamilySearch.org) United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918  
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1968530>
  - (Ancestry) U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918  
<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/6482/>
- Forms
  - Blank WWI Draft Registration Cards at the National Archives website  
<https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/charts-forms>
- Order Copies by Mail
  - The Southeast Regional Branch of the National Archives in Morrow, Georgia has the original WWI draft cards. You can request copies of the cards by mail.  
<https://www.archives.gov/research/military/ww1/draft-registration>
- Related Record Sets
  - **United States, Veterans Administration Master Index, 1917-1940**  
*Collection contains an index to veterans who served at any time during WWI and who made (or whose heirs made) pension or benefits claims of the Veterans Administration between 1917 and 1940. Each card contains the name of the veteran as well as other personal identifying information such as home address at the time of enlistment, date of birth, and date of death. The cards may provide the following service information: rank, branch of service, service number, date of entry and discharge, claim number, insurance number(s), cross-reference to the beneficiary of the veteran, and first organization of the veteran was assigned. Additional indexed records will be published as they become available. – FamilySearch.org*  
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2968245>

- **Index to Naturalizations of World War I Soldiers, 1918 (Fold3)**

<https://www.fold3.com/title/107/naturalization-index-wwi-soldiers>

- **United States Veterans Administration Pension Payment Cards, 1907-1933 (FamilySearch)**

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1832324>

- **United States, World War I, Military Muster Rolls and Rosters, 1916-1939 (FamilySearch)**

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/3378445?availability=Family%20History%20Library>

- **United States, World War I American Expeditionary Forces Deaths, 1917-1919 (FamilySearch)**

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2996059>

- **World War I – State Records**

- Missouri:

**Missouri World War I Service Cards (included in the Missouri State Archives' Soldiers Records database)**

<https://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/soldiers/>

- **Missouri, Pre-WWII Adjutant General Enlistment Contacts, 1900-1941 (National Guard)**

(FamilySearch)

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2576872>

-St. Louis Area Records

- **St. Louis Post-Dispatch WWI and WWII Casualty Lists**

<https://web.archive.org/web/20150424070751/http://indexes.slpl.org/Pages/obit.aspx>

- **St. Louis Star Times Article Series: St. Louis World War Fighters (index)**

<https://www.slcl.org/content/star-times-article-series-st-louis-world-war-fighters>

- **Missouri History Museum: Genealogy Index**

<http://genealogy.mohistory.org/genealogy/names>

- Other Records

- **Veterans Affairs Burial Search for National Cemeteries and Burials with VA Grave markers**

- <https://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/>

- **1930 US Census**

- Column 30 asked, "Were you a veteran of U.S. Military or naval forces? "Yes or no."

- Column 31 asked, "What War or Expedition?"

## **World War II Records & Resources**

- View list of publications and record sets at **Fold3** by clicking browse and filter by Conflict/War and Place
- Find records available on FamilySearch.org by going to [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United\\_States\\_Military\\_Online\\_Genealogy\\_Records](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Military_Online_Genealogy_Records) and scroll down to section on World War II, 1941-1945.

## **Korean War Records & Resources**

- FamilySearch- Research Wiki, Korean War, 1950-1953  
[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United\\_States\\_Military\\_Online\\_Genealogy\\_Records](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Military_Online_Genealogy_Records)
- Feature Collections:
  - United States American Prisoners of War During the Korean War, 1950-1953 (index)  
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2043777>
  - United States Korean War Battle Deaths, 1950-1957 (index)  
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2127893>
  - United States Korean War Dead and Army Wounded, 1950-1953 (index)  
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2127897>
  - United States Korean War Repatriated Prisoners of War, 1950-1954 (index)  
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2127902>
  - American Battle Monuments Commission- Korean War Honor Roll  
<https://www.abmc.gov/korean-war-veterans-memorial-honor-roll>

- Fold3- Browse – Filter Publications by Conflict/War – Click See All- Select Korean War

## **Vietnam War Records & Resources**

- FamilySearch- Research Wiki, [Vietnam, 1964-1972](#)
- Feature Collections:
  - United States Casualties of the Vietnam War, 1956-1998  
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2127907>
  - United States Military Personnel who Died During the Vietnam War, 1956-2003  
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2127916>
  - Vietnam Veterans Memorial  
<https://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/>
- Fold3- Browse – Filter Publications by Conflict/War – Click See All- Select Vietnam War

## **United States Military Museums, Archives, and Special Collections**

- US Army Center of Military History (<http://www.history.army.mil/>)
- US Navy- Naval History and Heritage Command(<https://www.history.navy.mil/>)
- US Marine Corps-Marine Corps-History Division (<https://www.usmcu.edu/historydivision>)
- US Air Force-Air Force-History Office (<http://www.afhistoryandmuseums.af.mil/Home.aspx>)
- US Coast- Guard Coast Guard-History Office (<http://www.uscg.mil/history/>)

## **International Military Records**

- Fold3
- Ancestry
- Findmypast

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