



Tracing Your Civil War Ancestors – Summary and Links

General Links -

National Archives (NARA) Civil War Collection (information on Union Records and links to Confederate Records held by states where veterans resided after the war) - www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war/

National Park Service Civil War Soldiers & Sailors Database (CWSS) (basic enlistment information for both Union and Confederate Soldiers and Sailors, Regiments, Cemeteries, Prisoners, Medal of Honor, National Parks) - www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/

Fold3 Civil War Collection (Digitized images of NARA Documents and Records – images of general interest are free, some images pertaining to specific individuals are premium (available online with paid subscription) Civil War data sets include service records, pension records, widows pension records, court records, and claims by southerners loyal to the Union and receipts for material aid provided to the Confederacy) - www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war/

Library of Congress (photos, drawings, maps, books) - www.loc.gov/

Ancestry.com – (paid access) Civil War Draft Registration, some county histories, 1890 Veteran's Schedules, 1910 Census, also well indexed census records from 1850-1930. www.ancestry.com

Family Search Free Access to Civil War Era Records - Indexing Project (some data is already online, other data is still being indexed. This should be a great resource once it's all online) <https://www.familysearch.org/civil-war>

Identify Your Civil War Ancestors

County Histories –

check county historical society websites, county site on USGenWeb Google Books at www.books.google.com or Internet Archives at www.archives.com

Veteran's Headstone Records -

History of Government Furnished Headstones and Markers - www.cem.va.gov/hist/hmhist.asp

Union Veterans:

Headstones Provided for Deceased Union Civil War Veterans, 1879-1903 (includes burials in both military and private cemeteries from 1861-1903, but stones were erected starting in 1879) NARA Microfilm Publication M1845, 22 rolls (alphabetically by last name) or online at www.ancestry.com - 166,000 records

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War National Graves Registration Database -
www.suvcwdb.org

**Confederate Veterans:**

Sons of Confederate Veterans Confederate Graves Registry (Veterans: 65414 Cemeteries:8108 States:44 Countries:11): <http://cgr.scv.org/>

In Georgia - <http://www.csagraves.com/>

In Mississippi - <http://mscgr.homestead.com/>

If you believe he died in a Union Hospital or Prison Camp check the *Register of Confederate Soldiers, Sailors, and Citizens Who Died in Federal Prisons and Military Hospitals in the North, 1861 - 1865* (National Archives Microfilm Publication M918, 1 roll).

Census Records - find census records on microfilm at NARA or in most local libraries and historical societies, find digital images online at www.FamilySearch.org (in the records section – some indexing still underway), www.heritagequest.com, and www.ancestry.com .

1910 US Census – question 32 (both Union and Confederate)

1890 Veteran's Schedules (mostly Union, some Confederate)

Death between the 1860 and 1870 Census

Exploring Your Ancestor's Civil War Military Service

National Park Service Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Database – see above

Civil War Service Records – Original docs and images at NARA & online at www.Fold3.com

Civil War Muster Rolls – Original docs and images at NARA & online at www.Fold3.com

Summaries in State Reports and some County Histories

Civil War Regimental Histories – see CWSS above, find more detail in County Histories (see sources above) also State Reports (check state archives and state historical society for state of service)

Pension Applications & Records - Original docs and images at NARA & online at www.Fold3.com (images of card index online at www.ancestry.com)

Widows Pension Applications & Records - Original docs and images at NARA & online at www.Fold3.com (images of card index online at www.ancestry.com)

Prison Records -

Disabilities suffered in the war – check the 1890 Veteran's Schedules (for help understanding the complaints described -

Hospital Records -

Medical Conditions, Treatments, Facilities, Procedures, and Follow Up after the war -

Use the wikipedia description of the contents of the MSHWR (see Medical Info below) to find which volume would cover your ancestor's condition (records are separated by condition and race of the patient). Choose the appropriate volume and search for your ancestor's name. He might have been one of the cases described.

(Caution - Detailed medical illustrations. Not for the faint of heart!)

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medical_and_Surgical_History_of_the_War_of_the_Rebellion

Medical Information about the Civil War – Including statistics and illustrations of wounds, diseases, procedures, medical personnel, procedures, hospitals, prisons and post-war follow up on some cases. A 6 volume 3000 pg government report “prepared Under the Direction of Surgeon General



United States Army, [Joseph K. Barnes](#)” was released in 6 volumes between 1879 and 1883 (wikipedia says 1888). Useful for researching wounded, or sick soldiers or the medical personnel who cared for them. ***The Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion, 1861-65*** (the MSHWR) is well described by the wikipedia article shown above which allows you to select the volume you want to search, then follow the links at the bottom of the article to the online versions at www.archive.com . Please credit the National Museum of Health and Medicine, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology if used. It was also reprinted in (1990-92) as ***The Medical and Surgical History of the Civil War*** (Broadfoot Publishing Company; editor, James I. Robertson, Jr.) and is available on CD and online several places including google books & archive.com (it even has its own facebook page).

Follow Your Civil War Ancestors & Their Families

Search for the ancestor with his or her family from the 1850 census through the 1910 census
Many Civil War Veterans migrated after the war.

Union: Check Pension applications and Widow's Pension applications (see above) for more information about the family.

Confederate: Pensions were typically awarded only to disabled or indigent vets and widows. They were awarded by the state where the veteran resided at the time of the application (not necessarily the state of service). Follow links from the NARA Civil War page to information on different state records (some are online, some are not)

Exploring Your Ancestor's Non-military Service

1. **Obituary** – sources include county historical society, County GenWeb site, microfilm copies of local newspaper, many state archives have a historical newspaper database
2. **Biography in the County History** - check biography for medical occupations or political, abolitionist, or Underground Railroad activity.

Doctors (served in all branches of service – also check the CWSS) for more information on Civil War Medicine check the MSHWR (previously mentioned) especially Part III Vol. II (1883), which describes "The Medical Staff and Materia Chirurgica," and "Transportation of the Wounded." - www.archive.org/details/MSHWRSurgical3

Nurses & US Sanitary Commission members - Many women volunteered on both sides. The Union effort included the work of the US Sanitary Commission (USSC) which through fundraising fairs and supported battlefield medical assistants including the army nurses headed by Dorothea Dix. Search for ancestors in the [History of the United States Sanitary Commission, being the general report of its work during the War of the Rebellion \(1866\)](#) - www.archive.org/details/historyofuniteds00stiluoft

Politicians – usually mentioned in County History, may be mentioned in State or National History as well. For more biographic links or burial info, check the **Political Graveyard** www.politicalgraveyard.com. For US Senators & Representatives check **The Biographical Directory of the US Congress 1774- present** <http://bioguide.congress.gov/biosearch/biosearch.asp>



Abolitionists & conductors of the Underground Railroad - If you are looking for an abolitionist, also check the church history for mention of anti-slavery politics (clues include membership or voting with the Free Soil Party, being a Quaker, membership in a church with abolitionist views (some congregations split over this issue)

Anti-Slavery MS Collection Fold3 (free) (from Boston Public Library) –

www.fold3.com/title_669/antislavery_manuscripts_collection/

Lineage Societies for Descendants of Civil War Soldiers and Sailors

Union Veterans:

Many of them were members of the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) – now that they have passed on there are five Allied Orders of the GAR. Both the SUVCW and the ASUVCW accept Jr members as young as 6.

1. **Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW)** - www.suvcw.org Open to male descendants of Union Veterans (including collateral) with additional character requirements (lineage) – Interested men who do not meet the lineage requirement can become Associate Members
2. **Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War** – asuvcw.org Open to descendants of Union veterans, and the wives, widows, and adopted daughters of SUVCW members. (lineage or marriage)
3. **Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War** – Open to women who descend from a Union veteran who did or could have belonged to the GAR (lineage)
4. **Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic** – Open to women who trace their ancestry to a Union Civil War soldier, sailor, marine or member of the Revenue Cutter Service. (lineage)
5. **National Woman's Relief Corps, Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, Inc.** – www.suvcw.org/WRC - “a patriotic organization whose express purpose is to perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic, as we are their auxiliary organized at their request on July 25 and 26, 1883 in **Denver, Colorado**, and incorporated September 7, 1962.” - (no

Confederate Veterans:

Sons of Confederate Veterans - <http://www.scv.org/> open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate armed forces.

United Daughters of the Confederacy - <http://www.hqudc.org/> open to women no less than 16 years of age who are blood descendants, lineal or collateral, of men and women who served honorably in the Army, Navy or Civil Service of the Confederate States of America, or gave material aid to the cause

Children of the Confederacy - <http://www.hqudc.org/CofC/index.html> open to boys or girls 0-18 who are blood descendants, lineal or collateral, of men and women who served honorably in the Confederate Army, Navy, or Civil Service, or gave material aid to the cause.