

# Basics of American Military Research

Genealogy KC 2022  
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## Did My Ancestor Serve?

- If your ancestor was between 16-40 during a war, there's a higher likelihood of a draft registration or other military service records.
- Check for Home Sources: discharge paperwork, letters, diaries, family stories, medals, artifacts, etc.
- For military information on the Federal census, look across the headings at the top of the page.
  - Resource-Family Search Wiki: United States Census Military Records ([https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United\\_States\\_Military\\_Census\\_Records](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Military_Census_Records))
  - 1840 Federal Census-American Revolution Pensioners  
If your ancestor happened to be still alive, the information is on the second page. Census is available at Ancestry or Family Search.
  - 1890 Veterans Census: Enumerated Union soldiers and widows. Destroyed included the states of Alabama through Kansas and approximately half of Kentucky. Check websites such as *Ancestry* for surviving schedules of other states.
  - 1910 Federal Census: Survivors of the Union or Confederate Army or Navy
  - 1930 Federal Census: Asks, if a veteran, which war?
  - 1940 Federal Census: If your veteran ancestor was on lines 14 or 29, there were supplemental questions about their service.
- State census may include military service questions.
- Check county histories for lists of people who served.

## What Records Are Available?

- Draft Records WW I Draft
  - It started with the Civil War.
  - The draft registrants pool was more extensive than those who served. So, you may find ancestor information such as next of kin, occupation, and signature even though the person didn't enlist.
  - Available at Ancestry & Fold3
- In the 1890s, the government started compiling Military Service Records.
  - For ancestors that served, use the NARA website: (<https://www.archives.gov/research/military/army/compiled-military-service-records> )
  -
- Pension and Bounty Land Records  
(<https://www.archives.gov/research/order/order-vets-records.html>)

World War I Draft Registration CARD

1 Name of registrant (Last, first, middle)  
2 Address (City, street, county, state, postal)  
3 Date of birth (Month, day, year)  
4 Place of birth (Country, state, county, township, range, section, school section)  
5 Education (School, college, university, etc.)  
6 Place of service (Army, Navy, Air Force, etc.)  
7 Date of registration  
8 Place of registration  
9 Name of father, mother, wife, child under 18, or other person under 18, with dependent status of registrant (Last, first, middle)  
10 Name of next of kin (Last, first, middle)  
11 Place where service may be traced (Last, first, middle)  
12 Name and address of person to whom copies should be sent (Last, first, middle)  
I certify that I have notified above persons and that they are true.  
Signature of Registrant  
Registration No. 1001

Compiled  
Service  
Record

## Where Can I Find Military Records?

### Online-NARA Ordering :

- **Service Records-Washington D.C.:**  
(<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>)
- **Service Records-St. Louis:** Records focus on 20th-century wars. There was a fire in 1972, but it never hurts to inquire. No charge for the basic search. (<https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/military-personnel> ). If they find something, they will inform you regarding the fee for a copy.
- **Contact Information-NARA Kansas City.:**  
Address: 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO 64108.  
Phone: 816-268-8000  
Website: (<https://www.archives.gov/kansas-city> )

72 N. 2

Clippin J. Kagon  
1st Lt., Co. D, 1st Reg't N. Y. Infantry.

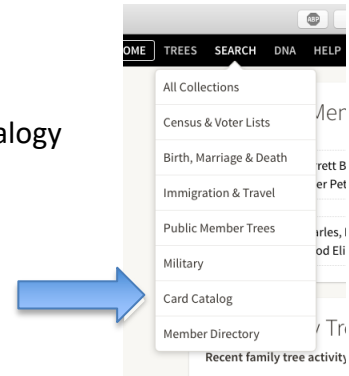
Appears on  
Company Muster Roll  
for May 5, 1862  
Present or absent Absent  
Stoppage, \$ ..... 100 for .....  
Due Gov't, \$ ..... 100 for .....

Remarks: Captured prisoner at the battle of Williamsburg May 5, 1862, Jamesstown Va.

Book mark: .....  
308 Clippin

## Websites:

- Fold3 : <https://www.fold3.com/>  
You can access the library edition through Midwest Genealogy Center
- Ancestry: Military Category or Card Catalog
- Heritage Quest: Access through the Johnson Co. Library website
- Family Search Research Wiki: (<https://www.familysearch.org>)  
Good for learning about military research and resources for specific wars.
- Family Search Catalog



## Military Resources

### Online-How To:

- **Ancestry Academy-How to Use Fold3:**  
([https://www.ancestry.com/academy/course/military-vets-fold3?cj=1&netid=cj&o\\_xid=0001029688&o\\_lid=0001029688&o\\_sch=Affiliate%2BExternal](https://www.ancestry.com/academy/course/military-vets-fold3?cj=1&netid=cj&o_xid=0001029688&o_lid=0001029688&o_sch=Affiliate%2BExternal))
- **RootsWeb Wiki-Overview of Military Records:**  
([https://wiki.rootsweb.com/wiki/index.php?title=Overview\\_of\\_Military\\_Records&cj=1&netid=cj&o\\_xid=0001029688&o\\_lid=0001029688&o\\_sch=Affiliate+External&\\_gl=1\\*kksnz\\*\\_gcl\\_aw\\*R0NMLjE2NDYzMTQwMzcuQ2owS0NRaUE2NEdSQmhDWkFSSXNBSE9McmllY0RjVm5jdXRhS3V1bnlqMmtQRiE5OU9aeHdqRV9CdkFiRFBKOFVDellRd20zaGZzR1ZjOGFBdTRxRUFMd193Y0I.\\*\\_gcl\\_dc\\*R0NMLjE2NDYzMTQwMzcuQ2owS0NRaUE2NEdSQmhDWkFSSXNBSE9McmllY0RjVm5jdXRhS3V1bnlqMmtQRiE5OU9aeHdqRV9CdkFiRFBKOFVDellRd20zaGZzR1ZjOGFBdTRxRUFMd193Y0I.&\\_ga=2.46916451.510934990.1646410745-794147226.1589934053&\\_gac=1.160988495.1646314037.Cj0KCQiA64GRBhCZARIsAHOLriKcDcVncutaKuunyj2kPFQ99OZxwjE\\_BvAbDPJ8UCzYQwm3hfsGVc8aAu4qEALw\\_wcB](https://wiki.rootsweb.com/wiki/index.php?title=Overview_of_Military_Records&cj=1&netid=cj&o_xid=0001029688&o_lid=0001029688&o_sch=Affiliate+External&_gl=1*kksnz*_gcl_aw*R0NMLjE2NDYzMTQwMzcuQ2owS0NRaUE2NEdSQmhDWkFSSXNBSE9McmllY0RjVm5jdXRhS3V1bnlqMmtQRiE5OU9aeHdqRV9CdkFiRFBKOFVDellRd20zaGZzR1ZjOGFBdTRxRUFMd193Y0I.*_gcl_dc*R0NMLjE2NDYzMTQwMzcuQ2owS0NRaUE2NEdSQmhDWkFSSXNBSE9McmllY0RjVm5jdXRhS3V1bnlqMmtQRiE5OU9aeHdqRV9CdkFiRFBKOFVDellRd20zaGZzR1ZjOGFBdTRxRUFMd193Y0I.&_ga=2.46916451.510934990.1646410745-794147226.1589934053&_gac=1.160988495.1646314037.Cj0KCQiA64GRBhCZARIsAHOLriKcDcVncutaKuunyj2kPFQ99OZxwjE_BvAbDPJ8UCzYQwm3hfsGVc8aAu4qEALw_wcB))
- **Family Search Wiki-United States Military Online Genealogy Records:**  
([https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United\\_States\\_Military\\_Online\\_Genealogy\\_Records](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Military_Online_Genealogy_Records))
- **Family Search Wiki-Military Tips for Beginners:**  
([https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Military\\_Records\\_Tips\\_for\\_Beginners](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Military_Records_Tips_for_Beginners))
- **Cyndi's List: U.S. Military** <https://www.cyndislist.com/us/military/>  
Cyndi collects links to websites that may have pertinent information.

## Online-NARA Ordering:

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- **Service Records-St. Louis:**  
(<https://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel>)
- **Contact Information-NARA Kansas City.:**  
Address: 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO 64108.  
Phone: 816-268-8000  
Website: (<https://www.archives.gov/kansas-city>)

## Online-Indexes:

- **National Cemetery Grave Locator:**  
(<https://gravelocator.cem.va.gov>)
- **Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Database:**  
(<https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm>)
- **Online Military Indexes and Records: A Genealogy Guide:**  
(<http://www.militaryindexes.com>)

## Books-How To:

James C. Neagles, *U.S. Military Records: A Guide to Federal and State Sources, Colonial America to the Present*, Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry, 1994.

**Comments:** Good comprehensive book but predates the computer era

**Locations:** Olathe Public Library and Midwest Genealogy Society (not available for checkout)

Richard S. Johnson and Debra Johnson Knox, *How to Locate Anyone Who is or Has Been in the Military*, San Antonio, Texas: Military Information Enterprises, 1999.

**Location:** Midwest Genealogy Center (not available for checkout),

W. Daniel Quillen, *Mastering Military and Census Records*, Cold Spring Harbor, NY]: Cold Spring Harbor Lab, 2014. (available for checkout through Johnson County Library)

E. Kay Kirkham, *The Land Records of America; Military Records of America; Census Records of America*, North Provo Utah: Stevenson's Genealogical Center, 1972.  
(Available in the Genealogy Area, Central Resource Library: Genealogy/973/Kirkham)

Craig Scott (CD) *Basic Military Research: Where to Begin*, 2001, available for checkout at Midwest Genealogy Center.

