

MILITARY PENSION RECORDS: VITAL RECORDS IN DISGUISE!



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“Pension Records. The federal government and some state governments granted pensions or bounty land to officers, disabled veterans, needy veterans, widows or orphans of veterans, and veterans who served a certain length of time. Application files often contain supporting documents such as discharge papers, affidavits, depositions of witnesses, narratives of events during service, marriage certificates, birth records, death certificates, pages from family bibles, and other supporting papers. Pension records usually contain more genealogical information than service records”

Wiki, “US Military Pension Records,” *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org), 5 Dec 2017.

Resources

Blogs

Barnickel, Linda. *Ancestry Blog*, “Restoring Slave Families Using USCT Pension Records,” (<https://blogs.ancestry.com>), 27 Feb 2017.

Moneymaker, Will. *Ancestral Findings*, “Using Military Records to Construct Family Trees.” (<https://ancestralfindings.com>), no date.

Books

A General Index to A Census of Pensioners for Revolutionary of Military Service 1840. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1965.

Neagles, James C. *U.S. Military Records: A Guide to Federal and State Sources, Colonial America to the Present*. First Edition. Lehi, UT: Ancestry Publishing, 1994.

Rose, Christine. *Military Pension Laws, 1776-1858*. Rose Family Association, 2001.

Scott, Craig Robert. *The “Lost” Pensions: Settled Accounts of the Act of 6 April 1838 (Revised)*. Berwyn Heights, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 2013.

Scott, Craig Robert. *Understanding Revolutionary War and Invalid Pension Ledgers, 1818 – 1872, and the Payment Vouchers They Represent*. Berwyn Heights, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 2014.

United States War Department. *Pensioners of the Revolutionary War Struck Off the Roll. Clearfield Co., 1898.*

Pension Records by Conflict

- Colonial Wars, 1607 to 1763
- Revolutionary War, 1775 to 1783
- War of 1812, 1812 to 1815
- Mexican War, 1846 to 1848
- Civil War, 1861 to 1865
- Indian Wars, 1780's-1890's
- Spanish-American War, 1898
- Philippine Insurrection, 1899 to 1902
- World War I, 1917 to 1918
- World War II, 1941 to 1945

Images & Webinars

Bennett, Bernice. "United States Colored Troops Civil War Widows' Pension Applications: Tell the Story," 14 April 2015, *Legacy Family Tree Webinar* (<https://familytreewebinars.com>).

Evans, Loretta. "Why U.S. Military Pension Records May Unlock Clues," 26 April 2016, Ancestry Blog (<https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2016/04/26/why-u-s-military-pension-records-may-unlock-clues-with-loretta-evans/> : accessed 15 Jul 2020).

Koford, Rebecca Whitman. "The War of 1812 Records—Preserving the Pensions," 2 Mar 2016, *Legacy Family Tree Webinars* (https://familytreewebinars.com/download.php?webinar_id=387).

Scott, Craig R. "Revolutionary War Series 4 of 5: Records Created by the Revolutionary War After the War—Pensions," 28 August 2017, *Legacy Family Tree Webinars* (https://familytreewebinars.com/download.php?webinar_id=667).

Online References

"Genealogy Research in Military Records," National Archives (<https://www.archives.gov/research/military/genealogy> : 15 Jul 2020).

"Genealogy Workbook: Military Pension Records." *Family Tree Magazine* (<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/premium/genealogy-workbook-military-pensions/> : accessed 15 Jul 2020).

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Powell, Kimberly. "Civil War Union Pension Records," *ThoughtCo* (<https://www.thoughtco.com/civil-war-union-pension-records-1421789> : accessed 27 April 2018).

"Record of Invalid Pension Payments to Veterans of the Revolutionary War and Regular Army and Navy, March 1801–Sept. 1815." National Archives Microfilm Publication M1786. *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1116/> : accessed 28 Apr 2018).

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