Civil War Records

G. David Dilts, AG, U.S. and Canada Research Specialist

FamilySearch
E-mail: diltsgd@familysearch.org

I. Explain the value of researching Civil War ancestors.
   A. Genealogical information possible in military records: physical description, age, birthplace or residence, death, (and in pension applications) marriage and wife’s maiden name.
   B. Use Civil War unit histories to write bio sketches. Contribute those sketches to Memories.
   C. Thoroughness (part of the Genealogical Proof Standard) on an ancestor’s family group.
      2. https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Adding_a_Custom_Event_to_a_PAF_Family_Group_Record
      3. Add these sources to document your ancestor on FamilySearch Tree

II. Explain how to identify a Civil War ancestor’s unit.
   A. Identifying a serviceman’s unit (regiment or vessel) is essential to finding military records.
   B. Use Civil War Soldiers and Sailors at www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm
   C. Sometimes county histories show unit(s) that recruited young men. Find county histories in the FamilySearch Catalog Place Search under county name with the topic History

III. Explain how to find a Civil War ancestor’s compiled service record.
   A. Service records show where a soldier/sailor was every two months when they got paid.
   B. Wiki tells how to use them at Confederate Service Records, and Union Service Records
   C. National Archives explains them at www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war/resources.html
   D. fold3 at http://www.fold3.com/category_19/
   E. You can e-mail request paper copies from the National Archives.
      http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/pre-ww-1-records.html

IV. Explain how to find a Civil War ancestor’s pension record.
   A. Pension records are applications from disabled or old soldiers, their widows or orphans.
   B. Confederate pensions, if any, were paid by the state (NOT federal) governments.
   C. Wiki tells how to use them at Confederate Pension Records, & Union Pension Records
   D. National Archives explains them at www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war/resources.html
   E. 1. fold3 Pension Index at http://www.fold3.com/title_57/civil_war_and_later_veterans_pension/
      3. Union pensions at either FamilySearch or at Ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=4654
      4. Always view the original packet in Washington D.C. whenever possible!
   F. You can e-mail request paper copies from the National Archives (same as above).

V. Explain how to find unit histories for a Civil War ancestor’s unit.
   A. Unit histories tell in what places the unit served and in which battles they fought.
   B. Civil War Soldiers and Sailors histories (click unit name) are from F H. Dyer, Compendium.
   C. Google a unit’s history.
D. *Family History Library Catalog* [familysearch.org/catalog-search](http://familysearch.org/catalog-search) and/or *WorldCat* [worldcat.org/](http://worldcat.org/) can help find many unit histories.

VI. **List other kinds of Civil War related and veterans’ records.**

A. 1890 Census Union Veterans Schedules (States: ½ Kentucky to Wyoming only) [search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=8667](http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=8667)


C. Confederate Pension Indexes are scattered on several state sites, for example, [ark-ives.com/documenting/confed_pensions.aspx](http://ark-ives.com/documenting/confed_pensions.aspx) or [floridamemory.com/collections/pensionfiles/](http://floridamemory.com/collections/pensionfiles/)

D. Veteran organizations like Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) or United Conf. Vets (UCV)
   1. Use search engines like Google to find society names and acronyms looking for records
   2. Use the Catalog *Keyword Search*, for example “Grand Army of the Republic Kansas”

E. Cemetery records
   1. Based on the clues on the family group, find or guess where the ancestor was buried
   2. Use Catalog *Place Search* to find (a) the town, and (b) county cemetery records at FHL
   3. Internet searches like [findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fq.cgi](http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fq.cgi) and [www.interment.net/](http://www.interment.net/)

F. Freedmen’s Bureau (Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands) [freedmensbureau.com/](http://freedmensbureau.com/)

G. Freedman’s Savings and Trust Company


VII. **Describe major Civil War history. Also describe recruiting, draft, camp life, battle conditions, POWs, casualties, life after the war, modern battlefields, reenactments**

A. Anaconda Plan – Blockade
B. Lee’s Invasions of the North
C. Grant’s Vicksburg Campaign
D. Sherman’s March to the Sea
E. Grant wears Lee down to surrender
F. Recruiting and the draft
G. Camp life, battle conditions, POWs, and casualties
H. Aftermath: Reconstruction, Veterans Organizations, and Old Soldiers Homes
J. African Americans during the Civil War and Reconstruction
K. Modern battlefields and reenactments

**Homework:**

A. Obtain a copy of a Civil War ancestor’s service record, and if appropriate his pension record.
B. Visit battlefields and reenactments to learn more about your ancestor’s way of life.
C. Source document an ancestor’s Civil War records (during and after) in FamilySearch Tree.
D. Write a biographical sketch of his Civil War service and donate it to FamilySearch Memories.

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