

**Researching your Civil War Ancestors – Union and Confederate**  
**Mary Boyle, Local History/Genealogy Librarian Santa Clara City Library, 2635 Homestead Rd., Santa Clara, CA 95051 (408)615-2909 mboyle@santaclaraca.gov**

**Introduction**

- A. Causes – *For the Common Defense* by Allan R. Millett, Peter Maslowski, and William B. Feis
  - a. “maintained a reputation for brooking no insults”
  - b. Beyond slavery, states’ rights
- B. Gen. Beauregard, Fort Sumter

**Did you have an ancestor who fought?**

**A. Military Research**

- 1. Determine if he served
- 2. Research Sources
- 3. Write your family’s story

**B. Determine if he served**

- 1. How old was he? 18-30 average age Born 1790-1850
- 2. Family Memorabilia or stories      military ephemera, oral tradition

**C. Cemetery Clues**

- 1. G.A. R. symbol on stone
- 2. Example

**Published Sources**

**A. Research Sources**

- 1. State Records
  - a. Enlistment lists
    - North Carolina <https://blogs.lib.unc.edu/ncm/index.php/2011/09/12/north-carolina-civil-war-resources-online/>
  - b. Published compilations of veterans
  - c. Adjutant General Reports

- d. G.A.R. membership lists
- 2. **Census Clues**      Ancestry.com
  - a. 1890 Special Census
  - b. 1910 veteran questions
  - c. 1930 veteran question
- 3. State Censuses (Depends on the state)      Ancestry.com
  - a. Three enumerated in 1865
  - b. Loss or absence of fighting age men
  - c. Special veteran status question

U.S. Civil War Draft Registrations Records, 1863-1865      Ancestry.com

### **Learn more about his service**

- A. Soldiers and Sailors Database – National Park Service –

<http://www.nps.gov/civil-war/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm>

- B. **Military Service Records – Both Union and Confederate - National Archives**

<https://archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/pre-ww-1-records.html>

- 1. Email request: [Inquire@arch2.nara.gov](mailto:Inquire@arch2.nara.gov)
- 2. Visit: [www.nara.gov](http://www.nara.gov)
- 3. Compiled military service file (NATF 86) by mail

- C. **Pension Applications**

Order them here:

<https://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline/start.swe>

- 1. Who applied?
  - a. Most union soldiers or their widows or minor children
  - b. A dependent father or mother sometimes applied
- 2. What does Federal (Union) Pension Record Include
  - a. Declaration for pension and pension application

- b. Certificate of disability
  - c. Surgeon's certificate with disability description (form and sketch)
  - d. Questionnaires (Form 3-447 used before 1902; Form 3-389 widow questionnaire)
  - e. Affidavits (for and against petitioner)
  - f. Correspondence
  - g. Bills and receipts
3. How does one get the Pension file?
- a. An index to pension file applications can be found on **FamilySearch.org** and **Ancestry**
4. Were there Confederate Pensions?
- a. Yes! State funds were used
  - b. Given to Confederate veterans, widows and orphans
  - c. They applied through the state in which they were currently living
    - i. Alabama
    - ii. Arkansas
    - iii. Florida
    - iv. Georgia
    - v. Kentucky
    - vi. Louisiana
    - vii. Mississippi
    - viii. Missouri
    - ix. North Carolina
    - x. Oklahoma
    - xi. South Carolina
    - xii. Tennessee
    - xiii. Texas

xiv. Virginia

**Determine if your ancestor was killed or wounded**

- A. Published Sources
- B. Newspapers
- C. Death registers

**Research post-service records other than pension**

**Union and Confederate State Soldier Homes**

National Soldier Home Records (Union and Confederate) are found on **Ancestry.com** and **FamilySearch.org**

The National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers

1. Read this article in Prologue's Genealogy Notes

<https://archives.gov/publications/prologue/2004/spring/soldiers-home.html>

**Published Sources**

**Apply to Hereditary Societies**

The Military Order of the Loyal Union Soldiers of the United States (MOLLUS)

[www.suvcw.org/mollus/mollus.htm](http://www.suvcw.org/mollus/mollus.htm)

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War – [www.suvcw.org](http://www.suvcw.org)

Auxiliary to the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War – [www.asuvcw.org](http://www.asuvcw.org)

Daughters of Union Veterans – [www.duvcw.org](http://www.duvcw.org)

National Society Daughters of the Union – [www.nsdou.org](http://www.nsdou.org)

Military Order of the Stars and Bars – [www.militaryorderofthestarsandbars.org](http://www.militaryorderofthestarsandbars.org)

National Order of the Blue and Gray – <http://nobg.us>

United Daughters of the Confederacy [www.hqudc.org](http://www.hqudc.org)

Sons of Confederate Veterans [www.scv.org](http://www.scv.org)

**How did the fighting stop?**

- A. Lincoln's re-election
- B. Sherman's March

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