

NARA Records with Civil War Medical Information

Below are *some* of the records at NARA where you may find medical information about soldiers.

Record Group 15: Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 1773 – 2007

Approximately 115,000 disapproved pension applications submitted by soldiers between 1861 and 1934, and by sailors between 1910 and 1934.

A typical pension file includes the application and original jacket; a brief of the case prepared by the Pension Bureau; a statement of the service record supplied by the War or Navy Department; affidavits, depositions, medical records and other documentary evidence submitted in support of the claim; correspondence from interested persons; and occasionally a certificate of discharge, a death certificate, and papers relating to claims for burial expenses.

The pension application files document the name, age, residence, date and place of birth of soldiers and sailors. In addition, information about the nature and extent of the veteran's military service is often included.

- **Case Files of Approved Pension Applications of Widows and Other Dependents of Navy Veterans, compiled ca. 1861 – ca. 1910**

Approximately 20,000 approved pension application files of widows and other dependents of U.S. Navy veterans who served between 1861 and 1910. The applications are commonly referred to as "Navy Widows' Certificates (NWCs)."

An approved pension application file consists of the applications of one or more claimants based on the service of a single veteran, documents submitted as evidence of identity and service, and papers showing actions taken by the Government concerning the claim or claims. A typical file includes an application; a brief of the case prepared by the Bureau of Pensions; a statement of service; documentary evidence of service, such as commissions or discharge certificates; affidavits or written declarations made by the widow, dependents, physicians, or other veterans; depositions made by individuals in support of the claim; papers giving power of attorney; papers relating to guardianship; letters from attorneys, Members of Congress, pensioners, and others relating to the progress of the claim; and correspondence with offices of the Department of the Treasury concerning verification of service, dates of discharge or death, and pay. Also included in some application files are copies of medical records, marriage records, birth and death certificates, and papers relating to burial expense claims. Occasionally, pages from family bibles, photographs, personal letters, and other family memorabilia were submitted by a widow as proof of marriage(s) or birth.

The pension files document the names, ages, residences, and dates and places of birth of a Navy veteran, his wife or children. In addition, information about naval commands with which a veteran served, details of battles and campaigns, and other documentation concerning the veteran's service may also be included in some pension application files.

- **Case Files of Disapproved Pension Applications of Veterans of the Army and the Navy Who Served Mainly in the Civil War and the War with Spain, compiled ca. 1861 – ca. 1934**

This series consists of approximately 115,000 disapproved pension applications submitted by soldiers between 1861 and 1934, and by sailors between 1910 and 1934.

A typical pension file includes the application and original jacket; a brief of the case prepared by the Pension Bureau; a statement of the service record supplied by the War or Navy Department; affidavits, depositions, medical records and other documentary evidence submitted in support of the claim; correspondence from interested persons; and occasionally a certificate of discharge, a death certificate, and papers relating to claims for burial expenses.

The pension application files document the name, age, residence, date and place of birth of soldiers and sailors. In addition, information about the nature and extent of the veteran's military service is often included.

Pension application case files relating chiefly to claims based on death or disability incurred in service in the regular forces between the end of the Revolutionary War in 1783 and the outbreak of the American Civil War in 1861. The claims concern service in the Regular Army, Navy, or Marine Corps during the War of 1812, Mexican War, Indian wars, and in a few cases, the Civil War. There are also bounty land warrant claims submitted by Indians who served with military forces between 1812 and 1855.

- **Case Files of Pension Applications Based on Death or Disability Incurred in Service Between 1783 and 1861 (“Old Wars”), compiled ca. 1815 – ca. 1930, documenting the period ca. 1783 – ca. 1930**

This series consists of the following subseries: case files of pension applications based on death or disability incurred in service between 1783 and 1861 ("Miscellaneous Service, Old Wars"), 1800-1930; case files of bounty land warrant applications of Indians based on service between 1812 and 1855; case files of pension applications based on death or disability incurred in the Mexican War ("Old Wars"), 1847-1930; case files of pension applications based on the death or disability of Civil War veterans who also served before the Civil War ("Old Wars"), 1861-1900; and case files of pension applications based on death or disability incurred in Civil War naval service ("Old Wars"), 1861-1922.

Pension file includes the application and original jacket; a brief of the case prepared by the Pension Bureau; a statement of the service record supplied by the War or Navy Department; affidavits, depositions, medical records, marriage records, and other documentary evidence submitted in support of the claim; correspondence from interested persons; and occasionally a certificate of discharge, a death certificate, and papers relating to claims for burial expenses.

The pension application files document name, age, residence, date and place of birth of soldiers and sailors. Information about the nature and extent of the veteran's military service is often included. These files also contain a family

questionnaire, and for the veteran, a personal history questionnaire. The family questionnaire shows the maiden name of the veteran's wife; date and place of marriage and the name of the person who performed the marriage ceremony; name of former wife, if any, and date and place of her death, divorce; and names and dates of birth of living children.

Record Group 94: Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1762 – 1984

Arranged in three parts. The larger part of the series is arranged numerically, each number referring to a type of wound or injury under which all pertinent papers were filed. There is also a miscellaneous group of similar papers which is unarranged, and a group of inquiries concerning wounds received which is arranged alphabetically by the name of the person about whom the inquiry is made. (ARC ID 655743)

- **Regular Army**

- **Carded Medical Records, Regular Army, 1821-84** (RG94, Entry 529). These carded records provide such information as the soldier's name; rank; organization; nature of complaint; date of admittance and name of military hospital; date returned to duty, deserted, discharged, sent to a general hospital, furloughed, or died; remarks; and references to the original hospital record. The cards cover enlisted men and noncommissioned personnel; cards for commissioned officers are filed with their military service records. Cards are arranged by number of regiment, then type of unit, and initial letter of the soldier's surname. Regimental designations are followed by Ordnance, Engineers, Signal Corps, Scouts, and miscellaneous personnel (including recruits, prisoners, service troops, and the General Mounted Service).

- **Carded Medical Records, Regular Army, 1894-1912** (RG94, Entry 530). These cards indicate the soldier's name, rank, organization, age, race, birthplace, date entered service, reference to original record, date of admission to hospital, source of admission, name of hospital, cause of admission (whether sustained in the line of duty), complications, disposition of the case, and date of disposition. Records are arranged by arm of service, then number of regiment, and by initial letter of the soldier's surname. Infantry, Cavalry, and Artillery regiments are followed by Coast and Field Artillery batteries, Philippine Scouts, Prisoners, Engineers, Ordnance, Signal Corps, Service School Detachment, Navy, Marines,

- **Carded Medical Records of Hospital Attendants, Matrons, and Nurses, 1861-65** (RG94, Entry 535). Shows name of the individual, hospital muster roll and date of original record, when attached, capacity in which employed, by whom and date last paid, whether present or absent, and remarks. Arranged by initial letter of the surname.

- **Volunteer Soldiers**

- **Carded Medical Records, Volunteers: Mexican and Civil Wars, 1846-65** (RG94, Entry 534). Similar to Regular Army cards, these show the soldier's name; rank; organization; nature of complaint; date admitted and name of hospital; date returned to duty, deserted, discharged, sent to a general hospital, furloughed, or died; remarks; and reference to the original hospital record.

Arranged by state, then numerical designation of organization, and then by initial letter of the soldier's surname, the Mexican War records follow the Civil War. The U.S. Colored Troops and Veteran Reserve Corps are included in the alphabetical file, followed by miscellaneous personnel (persons whose organizations were apparently unknown), teamsters, laborers, and other employees and civilians; prisoners; recruits, substitutes, drafted, and unassigned; and persons belonging to named organizations (no state designations).

- **Naval and Marine Personnel**
Carded Medical Records, Marine Corps, 1821-84 (RG94, Entry 533). The records in this series are similar to those described in Entry 529 for the Regular Army. They cover marines treated in Army hospitals, and arranged by initial letter of surname.
- **Carded Medical Records, Gunboat and Naval Service, compiled 1861-65** (RG94, Entry 536). Records provide individual's name and rank; the name of the vessel on which he served; the nature of the complaint; date of admission and name of hospital; date returned to duty, deserted, discharged, sent to a general hospital, furloughed, or died; remarks; and refers to original source material. Arranged by initial letter of surname. (ARC ID 655722)
- **Chronological Index to Casualty Lists, compiled 1861 – 1865**
Index shows the date; place of Civil War engagement, organizations participating; character of record (designated "K", "W", or "M"); reference to documents on which the names appear; name of surgeon signing the document; and remarks. (ARC ID 1226203)
- **Records of Payments for Medical Services During the Civil War, compiled 1863 – 1864**
These volumes show the date, name of doctor, place and dates of service performed; rate and amount of pay. (ARC ID 1224810)
- **Nurses**
Index to Papers Relating to Female Nurses in the Civil War, compiled 1861 – 1865
Arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname. (RC ID 655671)
Papers Relating to Female Nurses in the Civil War, compiled 1861 – 1865
Includes applications, discharges, and other papers concerning the service of female nurses during the Civil War. (ARC ID 655674)

Record Group 109: War Department Collection of Confederate Records, 1825 – 1927 (ARC ID 1593132)

- **Record Books of Confederate Chimborazo Hospital No. 5 in Richmond, Virginia, 1861 – 1865**
Chapter VI: "Orders, Letters, and Circulars Received, 1863 - 1864" (Volume 8); "Registers of Patients, 1861 - 1865" (Volumes 23, 25, 34, 57, 70, 97, 228 and 232);

"Record of Payments to Patients, 1863 - 1865" (Volume 104); "Case Books of Wounded, 1862 - 1864" (Volumes 442, 443 and 445); "Morning Reports of Patients, 1864 - 1865" (Volume 58); "Record of Vaccinations, 1863 - 1865" (Volume 319); "Men Furloughed, 1864 - 1865" (Volume 232 1/2); and "Record Books, 1861 - 1865" (Volumes 61, 91, 220 and 440), which include statistical reports, lists concerning patients and treatments, and lists of medical officers and attendants. There is also one small volume entitled "Prescription Book for Union Colored Troops, April 1865" (Chapter VI, Volume 325), which shows patient's name, organization, complaint, and medicine given.

Record Group 110: Series of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau, 1861 – 1907.

- **Letters, Logbooks, Registers and Lists, *compiled 1861 – 1865***
Entries below. (ARC ID 3340588)
- **Records Concerning Volunteers and Recruits, compiled 1861 – 1866**
Medical Register of Examinations of Recruits, 3/1862 - 10/1862; and Muster and Descriptive Book of Recruits for the Veteran Reserve Corps, 1861-1865. Other subseries also included. (ARC ID 3493173)
- **Medical Register of Examinations of Drafted Men, Recruits, and Substitutes, compiled 10/1864 – 4/1865**
A medical register of examinations of drafted men, recruits, and substitutes assembled during Civil War recruitment. Entry includes date, name, where and when enrolled, occupation, race, age, nativity, description, marital status, and remarks. (ARC ID 5987809)
- **Lists of Persons Exempted from Service Because of Physical Disabilities, Alienage, or Supplying Substitutes, ca. 1863**