



2018 Virtual Genealogy Fair Schedule



#	TIME (ET)	SESSION	PRESENTER(S)
	10 a.m.	Welcoming Remarks	David S. Ferriero Archivist of the United States of America
1	10:05 a.m.	<i>Calling all Citizen Archivists! Getting the Most Out of the National Archives Catalog</i>	Suzanne Isaacs and Meredith Doviak Community Managers for the National Archives Catalog National Archives at College Park, MD
2	11 a.m.	<i>Federal Records that Help Identify Former Slaves and Slave Owners</i>	Claire Kluskens Reference and Digital Projects Archivist National Archives in Washington, DC
3	12 p.m.	<i>All's Fair in Love and War: The Civil War Widows' Pension Files</i>	Alexandra Villaseran Processing Archives Technician National Archives in Washington, DC
4	1 p.m.	<i>How to Search for Photographs that Document Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camps and Activities</i>	Kaitlyn Crain Enriquez , Archives Specialist and Kelsey Noel , Processing Archivist National Archives at College Park, MD
5	2 p.m.	<i>Tennessee Valley Authority Records: To St. Louis and Beyond!</i>	Cara Moore Lebonick Archives Technician National Archives at St. Louis
6	3 p.m.	<i>America's Military Made the Call: Hello Nurses!</i>	Anna Csar Expert Archives Technician National Archives at St. Louis
	4 p.m.	Closing Remarks	Ann Cummings Executive for Research Services



2018 Virtual Genealogy Fair



All's Fair in Love and War: The Civil War Widows' Pension Files

Skill Level: Beginner

The Case Files of Approved Pension Applications of Widows and Other Dependents of the Army and Navy Who Served Mainly in the Civil War and the War with Spain are records heavily used by genealogists and social historians. They contain records received by the Bureau of Pensions from widows to prove entitlement for pensions based on their deceased husbands' military service.

Pension files contain records for all claims relating to the veteran and include:

- marriage and/or divorce
- certificates from examining surgeons
- birth records of children
- copies of veterans' death certificates
- correspondence between parties and the Bureau of Pensions

Presenter Biography



**Alexandra
Villaseran**

Alexandra Villaseran has been a processing archives technician at the National Archives in Washington, DC since 2016. A great lover of art, design, and history, she holds an MA in History and a BS in Interior Design from West Virginia University. At the National Archives, she has worked on digitization of Record Group 109; Collected Record Books of Various Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Offices of the Confederate States of America, 1860–1865; Record Group 15, Entry 12-A, the Civil War and Later Widows' Certificates, 1861–1934; Record Group 85, Entry 7, the Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service Letters Received, 1882–1906; and Record Group 45, Entry 231, the Collection of the Office of Naval Records and Library, Messages Sent and Received 1912–1926. Previously, she worked in archives at the West Virginia (WV) and Regional History Center in Morgantown, WV and at the Architect of the Capitol in Washington, DC.



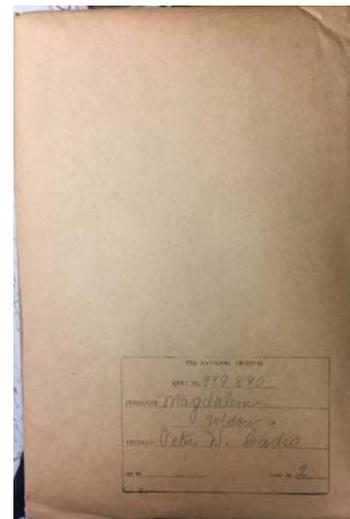
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All's Fair in Love and War

The Civil War Widows' Pension Files

The Completion of Record Group 15 "WC Files" Processing

Long-term archival
storage boxes
containing Widows
Pension Files



An envelope
containing "WC
File" documents



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The Civil War Widows' Pension Files

[WPA Worker
with Pension
Files](#)



[Humidifying
Chamber,
Veterans' Pension
File, Work Projects
Administration
\(WPA\) Project](#)



All's Fair in Love and War

The Civil War Widows' Pension Files

Widows' Pensions File Numbering Scheme

SO number = Soldier's application for pension ("Soldier's Original")

SC number = Pension certificate granted to soldier ("Soldier's Certificate")

WO number = Widow's application for soldier's pension ("Widow's Original")

WC number = Widow's certificate granted ("Widow's Certificate")

There are also dependents' applications for minors ("MO files") and granted certificates ("MC files") that are typically interfiled with the WC pension records.



All's Fair in Love and War

The Civil War Widows' Pension Files



Indexes to Pension Files

T288, *General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934*

- 544 Rolls
- Available to research in the Microfilm Room at the National Archives in Washington, DC (Archives I) and online at Ancestry.com
- Arranged by surname, then first name
- Include names of widow and/or dependents

T289, *Organizational Index to Pension Files of Veterans Who Served Between 1861 and 1900*

- 765 Rolls
- Available to research at Archives I and online at Fold3.com
- By state, type of service, then regiment, then company, then soldier's name
- In general, it does not indicate the name of widow or the guardian of minors
- In general, more likely to indicate a date of death

Microfilming of Veterans Bureau Pension Index



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The Civil War Widows' Pension Files

NAME OF SOLDIER:		(3-H-3)		
NAME OF DEPENDENT:		Widow, Chick, Laura de E. b. B.		
SERVICE:		A. 17 Me Inf. 6 18. VRC		
DATE OF FILING.	CLASS.	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH FILED.
1865 July 2	Invalid,	75.632	102.909	
1916 Sept. 11.	Widow, Minor,	1072.964	815.792	Pa
1917 May 18.	Contract Widow	1103.932		Maine.
ATTORNEY:				
REMARKS:		1916-113		

T288: U.S., Civil War
Pension Index: General
Index to Pension Files,
1861-1934

[Pension Index Card for William H. Chick; Source: Ancestry.com](#)



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All's Fair in Love and War

The Civil War Widows' Pension Files

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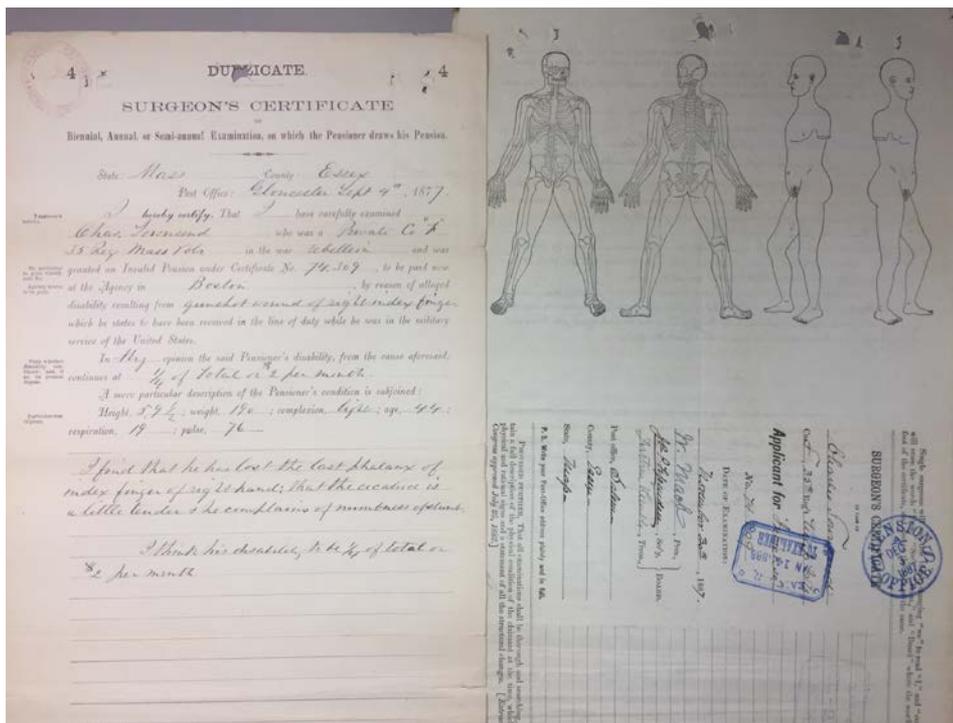
NAME OF SOLDIER: <i>Townsend, Charles</i>				
NAME OF DEPENDENT: <i>Widow, Townsend, Annie S.</i>				
SERVICE: <i>F. 35 Mass. Inf.</i>				
DATE OF FILING.	CLASS.	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH FILED.
<i>1896, Nov. 20</i>	<i>Invalid, Widow, Minor,</i>	<i>644939</i>	<i>893.807</i>	<i>Mass.</i>
ATTORNEY:				
REMARKS: <i>P.L.H. L.H.</i>				

T288: U.S., Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934

[Pension Index Card for Charles Townsend; Source: Ancestry.com](#)

All's Fair in Love and War

The Civil War Widows' Pension Files



Examining Surgeon's Certificate for Charles Townsend; from WC 893,807



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All's Fair in Love and War The Civil War Widows' Pension Files

Copy of Marriage Certificate for Annie Denton and William Chick; from WC 893,807

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
COUNTY OF ESSEX, TOWN OF ESSEX.

I, Epis Sargent, hereby certify, that it appears by the Record of Marriages in said Town, that a marriage was solemnized in said town between Wm. H. Chick and Annie S. Denton on the 11th day of April in the year eighteen hundred sixty seven.

The Record is in the following words and figures, to wit:

- Date of Marriage, April 11th 1867 Color, _____
- Groom, Wm. H. Chick Bride, Annie S. Denton
- Place of Residence, Squam Nova Scotia
- Place of Birth, Livington, Va. Warport, Va.
- Place of Marriage, Essex
- Age, 22 21
- Occupation, Machinist First
- No. of Marriage, First First
- Father's Name and Birthplace, Geo. Chick John Denton
- Mother's ~~Name~~ Name and Birthplace, Mary Adeline
- By Whom Married, Rev. J. M. Bacon

I, Epis Sargent, above named, depose and say, that I hold the office of Town Clerk, of the Town of Essex, in the County of Essex, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, that the Records of Births, Marriages and Deaths, in said Town are in my custody; and that the above is a true extract from the records of marriages in said Town as certified by me.

Epis Sargent
Town Clerk.

Essex, Mass. May 5 1917 5

No. 38819

This is to Certify that the following is a true and correct copy of a certificate of death filed in the Bureau of Vital Statistics, Pennsylvania State Department of Health, as directed by Act of Assembly, approved June 7, 1913.

Wm. R. Batt
(State Registrar)

May 22, 1917

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1. PLACE OF DEATH Essex
County of Essex Registration District No. 122
City of Essexville Precinct of Essexville Registered No. 504

2. FULL NAME Wm. H. Chick

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3. SEX M COLOR OR RACE White MARRIED OR DIVORCED Married

4. DATE OF BIRTH March 9, 1848

5. AGE 67 8 12 Less than 1 day less than 1 week less than 1 month less than 1 year

6. OCCUPATION Engineer
(a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work
(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which engaged (or employer)

7. BIRTHPLACE Maine
(State or Country)

8. NAME OF FATHER Alfred Chick

9. MOTHER'S NAME Bermya Kellogg
(State or Country) America

10. BIRTHPLACE America
(State or Country)

11. THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.
(Informant) Wm. H. Chick
(Address) Essexville

12. MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

13. DATE OF DEATH March 9, 1917

14. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from March 6, 1917 to March 9, 1917
(When not over 48 hours) since on March 9, 1917 and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at Essexville and the CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows:
Arteriosclerosis

15. SIGNATURE OF PHYSICIAN Wm. R. Batt
(Address) Essexville

16. SIGNATURE OF REGISTRAR Wm. R. Batt
(Address) Essexville

17. PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL Essexdale DATE OF BURIAL March 11, 1917

18. UNDERTAKER Wm. Schumann ADDRESS Essexville

19. PLACE OF DEATH Essexville DATE OF DEATH March 9, 1917

20. UNDERTAKER Wm. Schumann ADDRESS Essexville

21. SIGNATURE OF REGISTRAR Wm. R. Batt
(Address) Essexville

Death Certificate of William Chick; from WC 893,807

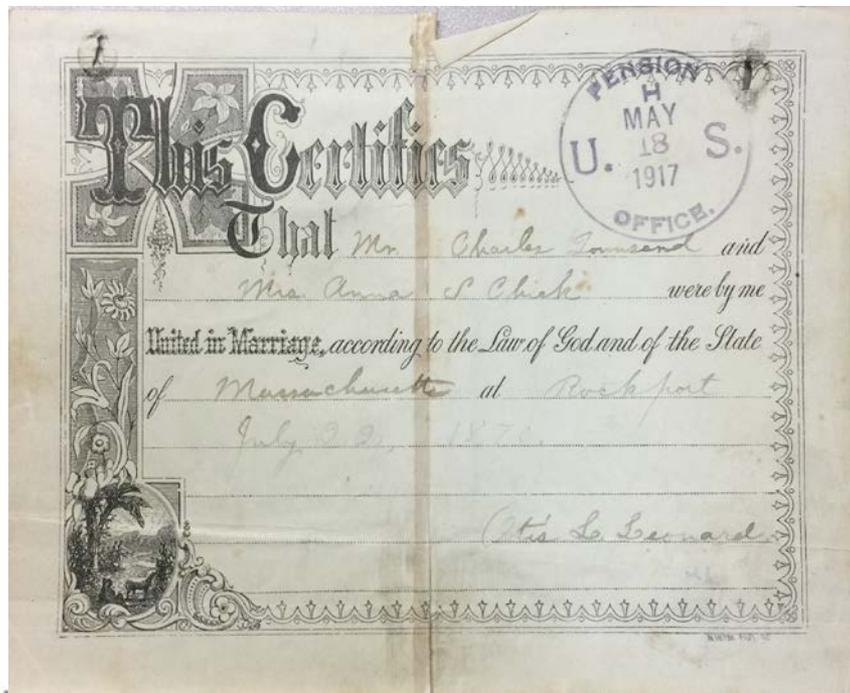


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All's Fair in Love and War

The Civil War Widows' Pension Files

Certification of Marriage
between Anna S. Chick
and Charles Townsend;
from WC 893,807





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All's Fair in Love and War

The Civil War Widows' Pension Files

LBS

4-1801

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF PENSIONS
WASHINGTON
July 21, 1920.

W.O.No. 813792,
Laura De E.S.B. Chick,
William H. Chick,
A, 17th Me. Inf.

W.O.No. 1103939,
Annie S. Chick Townsend,
Contesting widow,
William H. Chick,
A, 17th Me. Inf.

With W.O. 644939,
Annie S.,
Widow of
Charles Townsend,
F, 30th Mass. Inf.

Chief, Law Division:

These cases are referred for your further consideration and opinion, especially as to the claim of Annie S., as the widow of Charles Townsend.

The claim of Annie S., as the widow of William H. Chick, to whom she was married April 11, 1867, was rejected on the ground that the presumption obtains that her marriage to the soldier Chick was dissolved at some indefinite time prior to his marriage to one Laura, and that she has failed to show that her said marriage existed at that time, and therefore she had no status as his lawful widow at the time of his death. Her claim as the widow of Townsend stands rejected on the ground that she has no title to pension, she being manifestly unable to show as a fact the dissolution of her marriage to Chick prior to her marriage to the soldier Charles Townsend.

In the one case the action indicates that her marriage to the soldier Chick was dissolved at some indefinite date, while in the other case it is held

that her marriage to Chick was not dissolved prior to her marriage to the soldier Townsend.

This claimant by reason of the action taken in her claims is placed in rather an anomalous situation and one difficult to defend by the Bureau.

As Senator David I. Walsh has requested information as to that he can make reply to the points raised by the pensioner, your early opinion is requested.

F. J. Brewster
Acting Commissioner.

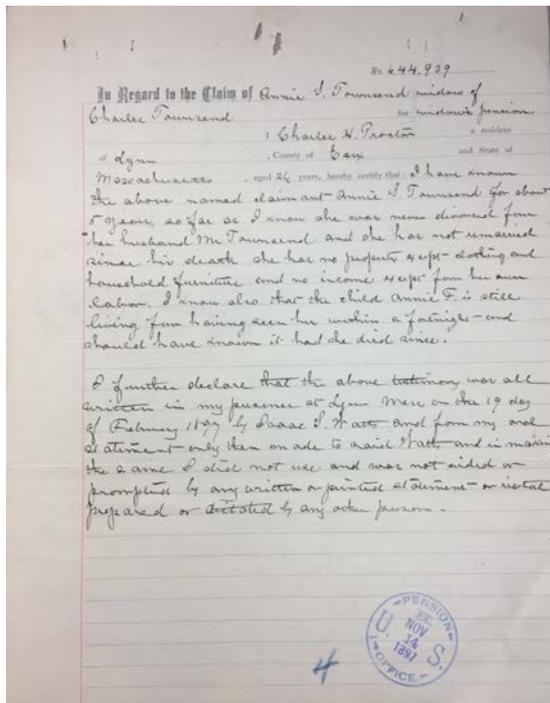
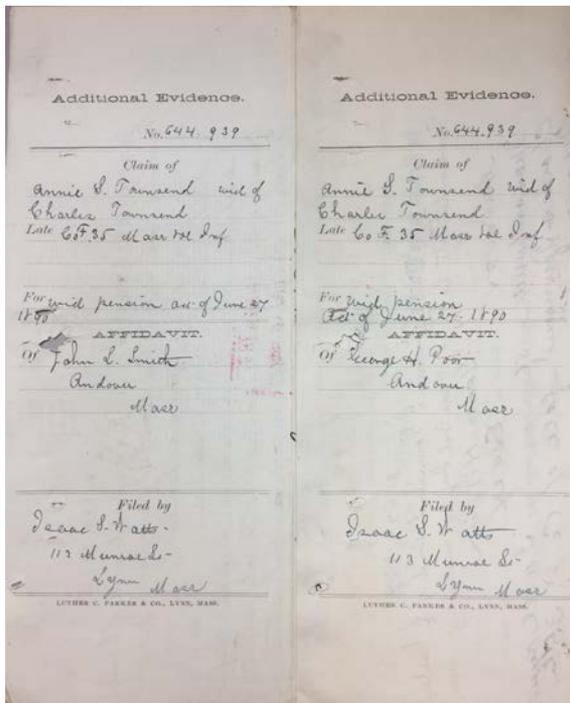
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Correspondence between
Acting Commissioner of the
Bureau of Pensions and the
Chief of the Law Division;
from WC 893,807



All's Fair in Love and War

The Civil War Widows' Pension Files



Affidavits from neighbors in support of Annie Townsend's claim to Charles Townsend's pension; from WC 893,807



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All's Fair in Love and War

The Civil War Widows' Pension Files

3-285a.
(Deposition)

Case of Laura De S. S. Chick, No. 815,799.

On this 24 day of July, 1919, at Headville,
county of Crawford, State of Pennsylvania before me,
N. B. Miller, a Special Examiner of the Bureau of Pensions,
personally appeared Lula L. Haas, who, being by me first
duly sworn to answer truly all interrogatories propounded to her
during this special examination of aforesaid claim for pension.

Deposes and says:

1 My age is 47 years. I was born here in Headville Sept. 8, 1872.
2 Occupation, I am housekeeper and wife of George A. Haas, Foreman.
3 P. O. address, Headville, Crawford County, Pennsylvania. 512 Grove St.
4 I have lived here in this City most all of my life time.
5 My maiden name was Chick, daughter of William Haverchick and
6 Agnes McNulty. Both are dead, having died here in this City. Mother
7 died here in October 1897.
8 Father died here March 9, 1916. I have personal knowledge of the
9 death of both. Father was a soldier in the Civil War and drew a pen-
10 sion at the time of his death for service in the 17th Maine Inf.
11 My parents were married August 21, 1870 as shown by their marriage
12 certificate which I here present to you. Married by Rev. John E.
13 Seafield. I think they were married at Corry, Pa. The certificate
14 does not state place of marriage. But gives their addresses as
15 Headville, Pa. Parents lived here after marriage until death of my
16 mother. Father was a Railroad Engineer here for the Erie Railroad.
17 I was their only child. Father was remarried to Mrs. Laura Berry
18 a widow at St. Salsman, N. Y. They spent most of their married
19 life here in this City, and practically all of their married life.
20 They were at Salsman and Painesville, N. Y. a very brief time after
21 their marriage. Father always had lived here from 1870.
22 Father lived here in this City from my earliest recollection up
23 to the time he married the alicant Laura whose maiden name was Stone
24 as I learned, but I never knew her until father married her.
25 They lived together without separation or divorce until father died
26 and she has been remarried twice since my father died: First to Frank
27 Salanga, an Italian, about February 1917. I think they were married at
Page 8 Deposition a.

Transcribed interrogation
between Lula L. Haas and
Special Examiner N.B.
Miller; from WC 893,807



All's Fair in Love and War

The Civil War Widows' Pension Files

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It seems to be always the small man in the large place. So far, Mr Byington is the only man in the pension dept. that has shown any sense of justice; just consider for a moment. Twenty seven years of toil and privation as the wife of this soldier. Many years I went out washing to care for him and his children (He was sick quite a lot) I in all these many years of struggling on the narrow edge of want and sorrow I have never found that God was good. It is only the good in heart who suffer. God renders all the good things of this world to evil doers - what comes next in our human - justice - purchase. Who knows I have been a good doctor and have brought up a large family. My grand children were among the first to volunteer for the defence of their country. The race of which I come never have to be drafted. We are

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3 1713

always ready to face whatever comes in the line of duty. War - whenever it comes my children and grand children are ready. And now my dear Mr Wash I make this last appeal to your sense of justice.

I do not want you to think I am mercenary. This money means and old age passed in peace and comfort. I ask for it without shame, not as charity, but because I feel that I am entitled to it by every principle of fairness and equity.

Yours very truly
Annie S Townsend
43 Auburn Pt
Saugus
Mass

by Charles H Townsend
in care

April 6, 1923 Letter to Secretary of Interior from Annie Townsend; from WC 893,807



2018 Virtual Genealogy Fair



**Thank you for attending!
Please stay tuned for the next session.**

**If we did not get to your question,
you may submit it to inquire@nara.gov**

**Video recording and handouts
will remain available at
www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair**



Feedback



We value your opinion.

Please take a few minutes to complete a short evaluation. Your comments help us maintain the quality of our services and plan future programs.

Click ⇒ **Event Evaluation**

www.surveymonkey.com/r/KYREventEval