

# Basic Military Records at the National Archives

Revolutionary War to 1917

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#### Introduction

Most people have relatives who served in the military or fought in a particular war. From 1775 to the early 20th century (before America's entrance into World War I), the United States engaged in numerous military conflicts, both internally and against foreign foes. This period, from the Revolutionary War to 1914, is generally referred to as the Old Military, and is characterized by different types of service, including volunteer service (state regiments and militias) as well as the Regular military (Army, Navy and Marine Corps). These various types of service were each documented by distinct types of records (compiled service records, registers of enlistment, rendezvous reports, and service records or case files). There are also several basic records that are common to all types of service (muster rolls, regimental books, and medical cards.

## Volunteer Service

Volunteer service has always been a unique aspect of the American military tradition—a tradition based on a small standing army that would be supplemented, when necessary, by state troops. Volunteer service included the citizen soldiers—the militiamen—who were recruited by the state governments in response to a specific threat or national crisis, organized into state regiments and militias, and then turned over to the federal government for service. Once their enlistments expired, these volunteers were discharged, their units disbanded, and the soldiers returned to their civilian lives. Records documenting volunteer service are in Records of the Adjutant General's Office, Record Group 94. The lone exception are Confederate records, which are in War Department Collection of Confederate Records Group 109.

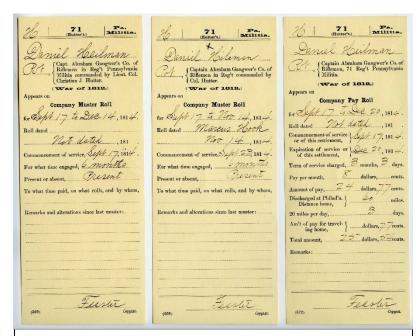
# Compiled Military Service Records (CMSRs)

Beginning in the 1890s, the War Department created the Compiled Military Service Record (CMSR) to document the military service of volunteer soldiers. Transcribed from original muster and pay rolls, regimental returns, descriptive books, hospital rolls, and other records, the CMSRs were intended to permit more rapid and efficient checking of military and medical records in connection with claims for pensions and other veterans' benefits. A separate card was prepared each time an individual name appeared on a document. These cards were numbered on the back, and these numbers were entered onto the outside jacket containing the cards. The numbers on the jacket correspond with the numbers on the cards within the jacket.

#### Content

The CMSR contains basic information about the soldier's military career, and it is the first source the researcher should consult. The CMSR includes an envelope (a jacket) containing one or more cards. These cards typically indicate that the soldier was present or absent during a certain period. Other basic information contained on the cards may include:

- Full name
- Date(s) of enlistment
- Period(s) of service
- Residence at the time of enlistment (which may or may not be the same as place of birth)



Compiled military Service Record (CMSR) for Daniel Heilman, 71st (Hutter's) Pennsylvania Militia, War of 1812. <u>NAID 300392</u>.

• Personal description, including age, height, hair and eye color, and complexion

Other cards may indicate pay rates and bounty, and other information such as promotions, wounds received during battle, or hospitalization for injury or illness. Note, however, that the CMSR does not identify parents or next of kin, and it rarely indicates battles (see NAID 300392) in which a soldier fought; that information must be derived from other sources.

The War Department initially created CMSR's for Union veterans and later expanded the records to include state volunteers from other conflicts. As a result, the National Archives now holds CMSRs for volunteer soldiers from the Revolutionary War through the Philippine Insurrection. Carded service records for the Revolutionary War, the Post–Revolutionary period, and the Civil War (including all Confederate and some Union organizations) have also been digitized and are available online at <a href="https://www.ancestry.com">www.fold3.com</a>.

- Carded Service Records of Volunteer Organizations: Revolutionary War, 1775–1783 (NAID <u>570910</u>)
- Carded Service Records of Volunteer Organizations: Post-Revolutionary Period, 1784-1811 (NAID 654491)
- Carded Service Records of Volunteer Organizations: War of 1812 (NAID 300392)

- Carded Service Records of Volunteer Organizations During Indian Wars, 1817– 1858 (NAID 300395)
- Carded Service Records of Volunteer Organizations: Mexican War, 1846 1848
   (NAID <u>654520</u>)
- Carded Service Records of Volunteer Organizations: Civil War (Union), 1861–1865 (NAID 300398)
- Carded Records of Soldiers Who Fought in Confederate Organizations (NAID 586957)
- Carded Service Records of Volunteer Organizations: Spanish-American War, 1898 (NAID 300400)
- Carded Service Records of Volunteer Organizations: Philippine Insurrection, 1899–1902 (NAID <u>654560</u>)

#### **Indexes to Compiled Military Service Records**

There are microfilmed indexes to the service records for each war or period; for the Civil War there are separate Union and Confederate indexes for each state. The indexes for the War of 1812, Early Indian Wars, Mexican War, Civil War, and Spanish—American War have also been digitized and are available online at <a href="www.ancestry.com">www.ancestry.com</a> or <a href="www.fold3.com">www.fold3.com</a>. In many instances, there are also indexes for individual states (see the National Archives Catalog descriptions below for more information).

- Indexes to Revolutionary War Compiled Military Service Records (NAID <u>572371</u>)
- Indexes to Carded Records, Volunteer Organizations, Post-Revolutionary War Period, 1784–1811 (NAID <u>654498</u>)
- Indexes to Carded Records, Volunteer Organizations: War of 1812 (NAID 654501)
- Indexes to Carded Records, Volunteer Organizations: Indian Wars, 1817–1858 (NAID <u>654513</u>)
- Indexes to Carded Records, Volunteer Organizations: Mexican War (NAID 654518)
- General Index to Carded Records, Volunteer Organizations: Civil War (Union) (NAID 654530)
- General Index to Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers (NAID 595144)
- Indexes to Carded Records, Volunteer Organizations: Spanish-American War (NAID <u>654543</u>)
- General Index to Carded Records, Volunteer Organizations: Philippine Insurrection (NAID <u>654566</u>)

## **Personal Papers**

Many compiled service records also have important personal papers filed with them. As the War Department created the CMSRs, whenever they came across individual documents that related to a specific soldier, the clerks would file those records in the CMSR. Therefore, many service records include extra file copies of enlistment/discharge papers. For soldiers who died during service, there are often

copies of inventories of personal effects, final statements of service, casualty reports, and reports of death and interment. For earlier wars (particularly the War of 1812), there are also pay and subsistence accounts for officers (officers had to purchase their own rations and supplies and were then reimbursed by the War Department). Copies of correspondence and orders sometimes appear as well.

- Unfiled Papers and Slips Belonging to Confederate Compiled Service Records, National Archives Microfilm Publication M347 (NAID 2133276)
  - o Not included in the state or consolidated indexes
  - A "catch-all" series intended to be with the CMSRs but never filed
  - Could not be linked to an established service record
  - Insufficient evidence to create a service record
  - Some of the papers document civilian service, such as employment as Army teamsters or government service

#### **Bookmarks**

Bookmarks are file notations listed at the bottom of a soldier's CMSR jacket. Quite often throughout the 19th century, various offices or bureaus of the War Department investigated or reviewed a soldier's service information to resolve questions or discrepancies in the record, a process that usually generated paperwork. The bookmark notations, therefore, are cross-references to documents located in one of several possible document files in the Adjutant General's Office (Record Group 94), depending on the file designation. Some bookmarks are straight number files preceded by an office code, while others are alpha-numeric codes followed by a year. The bookmarks usually refer to one of the following series, which are in Record Group 94, Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's-1917:

- **CB** Files Letters Received, 1863 1917 (NAID <u>300360</u>)
  - Letters Received by the Commission Branch of the Adjutant General's Office, 1863–1870, National Archives Microfilm Publication M1064. Available online at www.fold3.com.
- ACP Files Letters Received, 1871 94 (NAID <u>602140</u>)
  - Letters Received by the Appointment Commission and Personal Branch, Adjutant General's Office, 1871–1894, National Archives Microfilm Publication M1395. Available online at <a href="https://www.fold3.com">www.fold3.com</a>.
- **CT** Files— Letters Received (Colored Troops Division), 1863–1894 (NAID 593342)
- EB Files Letters Received (Enlisted Branch), 1862–1889 (NAID 607910)
- **VS** Files— Letters Received (Volunteer Service Division), 1861–1889 (NAID 596127)
- R&P Files Document Files (Record & Pension Office), 1889-1904 (NAID 300385)
  - If a file number in this series is not available, an abstract of it may be in the series Record Cards, 1889-1904 (NAID <u>588796</u>)

#### **Records of Events**

Along with the CMSRs for individual soldiers, the War Department also prepared carded histories for volunteer organizations. Referred to as "troop movements" or "record of events," these carded records contain information relating to stations, movements, or activities, and frequently include a unit's organization or composition, strength and losses, and disbandment. Sometimes, the names of commanding officers, the unit's dates of enlistment and muster out, and the terms of service are included. In 1903 Ainsworth compiled carded histories of Confederate units as well, using captured Confederate records from the War Department in addition to other privately held Southern sources.

- Compiled Records Showing Service of Military Units in Volunteer Union
   Organizations, National Archives Microfilm Publication M594 (NAID <u>118738969</u>)
- Compiled Records Showing Service of Military Units in Confederate Organizations, National Archives Microfilm Publication M861 (NAID 2555751)
  - Note: Union and Confederate records of events have also been published in Janet B. Hewett, ed., Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Part II: Record of Events. 80 vols. Wilmington: Broadfoot Publishing Co., 1994–98. This publication is available in the Archives Library Information Center (ALIC) in the National Archives Building. The volumes are arranged alphabetically by state; microfilm publication and roll number citations follow the transcriptions for each unit.

Carded unit histories only in textual form exist for volunteer organizations from the Old Indian Wars (1811–1858), the Mexican War (1846–1848), the Spanish-American War (1898), and the Philippine Insurrection (1899–1902). These carded histories are filed with the Compiled Military Service Records for each volunteer unit. The cards are usually arranged first, followed by the individual service records for the unit.

Volunteer organizations from the **post–Revolutionary** period (1784–1811) and the **War of 1812** (1812–1815) do not have "record of events" cards. These organizations have "caption cards" that identify the source records (muster and pay rolls) used to create the compiled service records. Caption cards often note the length of service for a particular unit but do not provide details about troop movements or unit activities. Some Old Indian Wars and Mexican War volunteer units also have caption cards instead of carded histories; some have both.

# **Regular Military**

Old Military records also include the Regular military establishment (Army, Navy, and Marine Corps). The Regular or Standing Army comprised the professional or career soldiers. They differed from the volunteers in that they served during peacetime as well as during war; they enlisted for a specific term of service (rather than for the duration of the war as did some volunteers); and they were assigned to preexisting military units that continued to operate after the individual soldier was discharged

and left the service (as opposed to volunteer units that were disbanded after the enlistments expired). Since the War Department was directly responsible for recruiting men into the Regular Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, it maintained specific records relating to the enlistment of individual personnel. The following records are part of Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's – 1917.

## Register of Enlistments (Army)

The principal source of information for recruitment in the Regular Army is the Register of Enlistments. The Register of Enlistments is a huge series of 161 bound volumes covering service in the Regular Army from 1798 to 1914. It is arranged by year of enlistment, then generally in alphabetical order by the first letter of the soldier's surname, then chronologically by date of enlistment. Therefore, to search the volumes, you need to start with an approximate date when the soldier enlisted.

The Register of Enlistments contains basic information about the Regular soldier but is often more detailed than what you find in the CMSRs for volunteers. In addition to name, rank, date of enlistment, unit assignment, and physical description, the registers provide such personal details as the soldier's age, place of birth, and civilian occupation. The "remarks" column in the soldier's entry can also include date and place of discharge; highlights of important events, such as promotions, transfers to different units, and post assignments; and sometimes medical information (if they were admitted to a military hospital for an extended period). The microfilmed records listed below have been digitized and are available online at <a href="https://www.ancesty.com">www.ancesty.com</a> and <a href="https://www.ancesty.com">www.fold3.com</a>.

• Register of Enlistments in the U.S. Army, 1798–1914, National Archives Microfilm Publication M233 (NAID 575272)

# **Enlistment Papers**

Enlistment papers are the original paper contract to serve in the U.S. Army, signed by the recruit. The War Department retained the original copies on file, organized in two subseries covering the periods 1798–July 14, 1894, and July 15, 1894–October 31, 1912. The earlier subseries contains enlistment papers that show the recruit's name, place of enlistment, date, age, occupation, a personal description, regimental assignment, and certifications of the examining surgeon and recruiting officer. The second subseries (1894–1912) contains similar enlistment papers as well as descriptive and assignment cards, prior service cards, certificates of disability, final statements, inventories, and records of death and interment. These papers are in jackets that show name, date of enlistment, and organization. Each subseries is arranged alphabetically by surname.

- Enlistment Papers, 1798 October 31, 1912 (NAID <u>300390</u>)
- Enlistment Papers of Indian Scouts, 1866 1914 (NAID <u>593325</u>)
  - o This series is indexed by the series "Index to Enlistment Papers of Indian Scouts, 1866–1914" (NAID 593964)

#### **Personal Papers**

Like the state volunteers, Regular Army soldiers had personal papers that consisted of various types of documents, including descriptive lists, orders, assignment cards, certificates of disability, final statements, discharges, and burial records. The War Department originally intended to file all personal papers relating to an individual soldier in his enlistment jacket, but this effort never really came to fruition. An attempt was made at some point to separate some documents by type, including certificates of disability and final statements, but the other personal papers remained as a miscellaneous collection.

- Personal Papers, 1812-1912 (NAID <u>654713</u>)
- Certificates of Disability, 1812–1899 (NAID <u>654716</u>)
- Final Statements, 1862-1899 (NAID <u>654719</u>)
  - o This series has been digitized and is available online at <a href="https://www.fold3.com">www.fold3.com</a>.

## Rendezvous Reports (Navy)

For U.S. Navy service during the Old Military period, the basic source of information is the Rendezvous Report (which is the naval equivalent of the Army enlistment record). A Rendezvous was the term for a Navy recruiting event, and Rendezvous Reports were weekly summaries of recruiting activities at specific locations.

Surviving Rendezvous Reports at the National Archives cover the mid- to late-19th century, from the Mexican War to the early 1890s (Rendezvous Reports for earlier periods have not survived).

A typical Rendezvous Report provides basic information about a sailor (like the Army enlistments, with some minor differences). In addition to name, date and term of enlistment, and rating (naval equivalent of rank), the reports indicate:

- Previous naval service
- Usual place of residence (when not at sea)
- Place of birth
- Occupation
- A personal description, including
- Distinguishing features (permanent marks, scars, tattoos, birthmarks, or disfigurements)

The Rendezvous Reports are part of <u>Records of the Bureau of Naval Personnel</u>, <u>Record Group 24</u>. They have been digitized and are available in the NARA Catalog at NAID <u>2363711</u>.

- Weekly Returns of Enlistments at Naval Rendezvous ("Enlistment Rendezvous"),
   January 6, 1855-August 8, 1891, National Archives Microfilm Publication M1953
   (NAID 2363711)
  - o Index to Rendezvous Reports, Before and After the Civil War, 1846–1861, 1865–1884, National Archives Microfilm Publication **T1098**
  - o Index to Rendezvous Reports, Civil War, 1861–1865, National Archives Microfilm Publication **T1099**. This publication has been digitized and is available online at www.fold3.com.

## Service Record Case Files (Marine Corps)

Information about service in the U.S. Marine Corps for the Old Military period covers 1798 to 1895. For this time period, enlisted Marines have jacketed service records or case files that may contain any of the following documents: (1) enlistment/reenlistment papers, (2) conduct record, (3) descriptive list, (4) notice of discharge, (5) medical surveys, (6) service reports, and (7) military history. There is an alphabetical card index for enlisted service from 1798 to 1941, organized by the initial letters of the Marine's surname, then alphabetically by their given name. The index provides the date and place of enlistment/reenlistment. Once the date is known, the service record can be located. These records are part of Records of the United States Marine Corps, Record Group 127.

- Alphabetical List of Enlisted Men, 1798–1941 (NAID <u>922151</u>)
  - o Arranged alphabetically by initial letters of the enlisted man's surname and then alphabetically by their first name.
- Service Records of Enlisted Men, 1798-1895 (NAID 922155)
  - o Arranged by year of enlistment, then alphabetically by surname.

#### **Muster Rolls**

Muster rolls are lists of all troops present on parade or otherwise accounted for, made on the day of muster or review of troops under arms in order to take account of their number, inspect their arms and accoutrements, and examine their condition. The muster rolls from which the names were called also served as the paymaster's voucher for the pay issued. The musters were made by an inspector general or other officer specially designated by the commander of the regiment, division, department, or post. The forms were furnished by the Adjutant General's Office, and consisted of several types of muster rolls, including descriptive rolls, muster-in and muster-out rolls (for volunteers only), and the regular muster-for-pay rolls for individuals, detachments, companies, and regiments as well as field, staff, and band.

# U.S. Volunteer Muster Rolls, 1775– 1902

The muster rolls of U.S. volunteer organizations provide information by company for each unit, showing their locations or duty stations during each reporting period, and the names of individuals who had

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Muster roll for Capt. Thomas Boude's Company, 5th Pennsylvania Regiment, Revolutionary War. NAID 602384

enlisted, deserted, died, or been discharged. Muster rolls for the Revolutionary War have also been digitized and are available online at <a href="https://www.fold3.com">www.fold3.com</a>.

- Records Relating to Military Service (Revolutionary War Rolls), 1775 1783 (NAID <u>602384</u>)
  - Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783, National Archives Microfilm Publication M246.
- Muster Rolls of Volunteer Organizations: War with Northwest Indians, 1790– 95 (NAID 654587)
- Muster Rolls of Volunteer Organizations: War of 1812 (NAID 654644)
- Muster Rolls of Volunteer Organizations in Various Indian Wars and Other Incidents Requiring the Employment of Troops, 1794–1858 (NAID <u>654651</u>)
- Muster Rolls of Volunteer Organizations: Civil War, Mexican War, Creek War, Cherokee Removal, and Other Wars, 1836–1866 (NAID 300388)
- Confederate Muster and Pay Rolls, 1861–1865 (NAID 653757)
- Muster Rolls of Volunteer Organizations: Spanish-American War (NAID 654654)
- Muster Rolls of Volunteer Organizations: Philippine Insurrection, 1899–1901 (NAID 654657)
- Muster Rolls of the Puerto Rico Regiment, U.S. Volunteers, 1899–1901 (NAID 654658)

#### Regular Army Muster Rolls, 1784–1912

The muster rolls of Regular Army organizations include field units (infantry, cavalry, and artillery), general service recruits, detachments doing recruiting service, other detachments, Indians scouts, Philippine scouts, prisoners; and other miscellaneous groups organized by location. These rolls are arranged into three groups by time period, including Wayne's War, 1791 to 1795; 1795 to 1821; and 1821 to October 31, 1912. Certain rolls for portions of the Regular Army that existed from the end of the Revolutionary War to the organization of the Legion of the United States in 1792 are also available. Army muster rolls are in Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's–1917, Record Group 94.

- Post-Revolutionary War Papers, 1784–1815 (NAID <u>654838</u>)
  This series includes muster and payrolls for portions of the Regular Army that existed from the end of the Revolutionary War to the organization of the Legion of the United States in 1792.
- Muster Rolls of Regular Army Organizations, 1784 October 31, 1912 (NAID 654583)

# Navy/Marine Corps Muster Rolls, 1798–1900

Early Navy muster rolls up to the Civil War, as well as captured or surrendered Confederate Navy rolls, are part of <u>Naval Records Collection of the Office of Naval Records and History</u>, <u>Record Group 45</u>. U.S. Navy muster rolls for vessels and shore

establishments from 1860 to 1900 are in <u>Record Group 24</u>, while U.S. Marine Corps muster rolls are in <u>Record Group 127</u>.

- Miscellaneous Records of the Office of Naval Records and Library, National Archives Microfilm Publication T829
  - o Rolls 1–12 for muster rolls of ships, 1813–1859 (NAID <u>1813771</u>)
  - o Rolls 13-140 for combined muster-payrolls of ships, ca. 1798-1847
  - Rolls 142-164 for lists of personnel at U.S. Naval stations, ca. 1803-1839
     (NAID 1814571)
  - Rolls 165 172 for muster rolls of Naval and Marine Corps Personnel at Confederate Shore Establishments, June 1861 – February 1865 (NAID 1853245)
  - o Rolls 175 191 for lists of personnel at Navy yards, ca. 1805 1840
- Muster Rolls of Naval Ships, January 1, 1860 June 9, 1900 (NAID 563603)
  - This series is available digitally in the National Archives Catalog at https://catalog.archives.gov/id/563603.
- Muster Rolls, Payrolls, and Related Records of Confederate Vessels, May 1861– March 1865 (NAID 1853221)
- Muster Rolls, Payrolls, and Related Records for Marine Detachments of the Confederate States Navy, July 1861 – December 1864 (NAID 1862072)
- Muster Rolls of the U.S. Marine Corps, 1798–1892, National Archives Microfilm Publication T1118 (NAID 922159). Available digitally online at www.ancestry.com.

#### **MUSTER ROLL ACCESS POLICY**

The Archives I Reference Section (RR1R) is the custodian of United States Army muster rolls from the Revolutionary War through 1916, both Regular Army and Volunteer units. This branch also holds muster rolls of the Confederate States Army. Without exception, all the muster rolls are fragile, and many are in poor physical condition. To better preserve them, this branch has initiated the following policies for their use:

- Muster rolls can be pulled for viewing in the Research Room only if the
  information sought by the researcher is unavailable in other records or
  publications, and if the staff determines that pulling the muster rolls in question
  will not cause further deterioration.
- Photocopying of muster rolls is prohibited under all circumstances.
- Non-flash photography of muster rolls may be permitted upon approval by the staff in the Research Room. Flash photography is never allowed.
- Digitization of muster rolls is permitted only after the records have undergone appropriate conservation treatment.

# Regimental Records

Regimental records generally include the administrative records that were created and used by units as they operated in the field. They usually documented information about members of the regiment as well as the activities of the unit.

## **Volunteer Organizations**

Regimental book records are available for state volunteer infantry, cavalry, and artillery organizations from the Mexican War through the Philippine Insurrection (records for earlier wars may not have survived or been retained by the War Department or may be in state repositories). Regimental books can include the following types of records: (1) Letter Books, containing correspondence issued by regimental and company officers; (2) Order Books, which can include general and special orders and circulars issued by regimental headquarters and companies; (3) Descriptive Books, containing general rosters and personal information about officers and enlisted members of specific regiments; and (4) Morning Reports, showing daily statistical information about personnel, including numbers present for duty, sick, or in arrest or confinement. The following records are in Record Group 94:

- Book Records of Volunteer Organizations: Mexican War, 1846 1848 (NAID 654703)
- Regimental Books of Volunteer Organizations: Civil War (Union), 1861–1865 (NAID <u>577134</u>)
- Regimental and Company Books of Volunteer Organizations: Spanish-American War, 1898 (NAID 654694)
- Regimental and Company Books of U.S. Volunteer Organizations: Philippine Insurrection, 1899–1901 (NAID <u>654700</u>)
- Regimental and Company Books of U.S. Volunteer Organizations: Puerto Rico, 1899-1901 (NAID <u>6564701</u>)

A limited number of regimental books for Confederate volunteer organizations are available in Record Group 109. Most are part of the series "Record Books of Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Offices of the Confederate Government, 1874–1899" (NAID 596501). This series is arranged by chapter number and then by volume number.

The Preliminary Inventory of the War Department Collection of Confederate Records provides the chapter and volume numbers for Confederate regimental books under the heading "Records of Regiments, Battalions, and Companies" (pages 194–209). A digital copy of this inventory is available at <a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=osu.32435070532676&view=1up&seq=220">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=osu.32435070532676&view=1up&seq=220</a>.

# **Regular Army Organizations**

Regular Army infantry, cavalry, and artillery regiments also have a variety of regimental books, including letter, order, and descriptive books, as well as other records such as rosters of officers and enlisted men, military histories of officers and units, additional muster rolls and returns, and scrapbooks. The earliest available regimental books are in the Records of United States Army Commands, 1784–1821, Record Group 98. The Record Group generally includes:

- Records of field establishments of the U.S. Army:
  - o Departments, Districts, Divisions, Posts, and Units
- Orderly books, Company books, Morning Reports, and other miscellaneous returns:
  - o Artillery (Corps of Artillery)
  - Cavalry (Dragoons)
  - Infantry
  - o Riflemen

The company books are described in the Preliminary Inventory of the Records of United States Army Commands, 1784–1821, Preliminary Inventory NM-64 (1966). The Preliminary Inventory is reproduced in National Archives Microfilm Publication M248, Publications of the National Archives, 1935–, which is available in the National Archives Catalog at <a href="https://catalog.archives.gov/id/178403550">https://catalog.archives.gov/id/178403550</a> (digital frames 937–978).

Later regimental records are in <u>Records of United States Regular Army Mobile Units</u>, <u>1821–1942</u>, <u>Record Group 391</u>. The record group generally includes:

- Artillery (regiments, field batteries, Coast Artillery Companies, and U.S. Army mine planters)
- Cavalry (Dragoons)
- Infantry
- Engineers (Sappers/Miners/Pontoniers)

The regimental records are described in the Preliminary Inventory of the Records of United States Regular Army Mobile Units, 1821–1942, Preliminary Inventory NM-93 (1970). The Preliminary Inventory is reproduced in National Archives Microfilm Publication M248, Publications of the National Archives, 1935–, which is available in the National Archives Catalog at <a href="https://catalog.archives.gov/id/178396820">https://catalog.archives.gov/id/178396820</a> (digital frames 184–394).

## **Medical Records**

Beginning in 1889, the Record and Pension Office of the War Department created various types of carded records relating to officers and enlisted men who served in the U.S. Army. This project, which ended in approximately 1915, was intended to facilitate the verification and approval process for the pension applications of veterans and widows. One of the types of records created were the Carded Medical Records (CMR).

Carded Medical Records provide information about wounds, injuries, sicknesses, hospitalizations, and deaths. These records are not helpful in documenting those killed-in-action, as these casualties were not typically transported to field or general hospitals. The CMR were mostly transcribed from the hospital registers of sick and wounded, which are part of the series Field Records of Hospitals, 1821–1912 (NAID 655731) in Record Group 94. The hospital registers were transcribed verbatim onto the cards, and do not include additional information about the patient.

The CMR may include some or all the following information: name, rank, organization, complaint, date of admittance and name of hospital to which admitted, remarks, and date returned to duty, deserted, discharged, transferred to another hospital, furloughed, or died. They also include a reference to the original hospital register from which the information was transcribed. CMR dated 1894 and later may also include race, birthplace, date of enlistment, and complications.

#### **Volunteers**

Carded Medical Records for the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and early Indian Conflicts are not extant, with one exception (noted below). Medical cards for Confederates are included in their compiled military service records (CMSR). Carded Medical Records for the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection are also filed within the CMSRs for both conflicts.

- Carded Records of Patients, Williamsville Hospital, New York, War of 1812 (NAID 655643)
- Carded Medical Records of Officers, 1861–1865 (NAID 655649)
- Carded Medical Records of Volunteer Soldiers in the Mexican and Civil Wars, 1846–1865 (NAID <u>655646</u>)
  - o Records for selected regiments are available digitally in the National Archives Catalog at <a href="https://catalog.archives.gov/id/655646">https://catalog.archives.gov/id/655646</a>.
- Carded Medical Records, Pioneer Corps, 1861–1865 (NAID <u>655723</u>)

## **Regular Army**

Medical information about Regular Army officers and enlisted personnel is essentially non-existent prior to 1821. Additionally, for reasons unknown, the Record and Pension Office did not transcribe most hospital registers for the period 1885–1893.

- Carded Medical Records, Regular Army, 1821–1884 (NAID 655638)
- Carded Medical Records of Hospital Stewards, Noncommissioned Staff Officers, and Musicians, 1821–1884 (NAID 655724)
- Carded Medical Records, Regular Army, 1894–1912 (NAID 655639)
- Carded Medical Records of Contract and Dental Surgeons, 1898–1912 (NAID 655725)

# U.S. Navy and Marine Corps

These records only exist for U.S. Navy officers and seamen, and U.S. Marines, who were treated in U.S. Army hospitals.

- Carded Medical Records, Marine Corps, 1821–1884 (NAID <u>655645</u>)
- Carded Medical Records, Gunboat and Naval Service, 1861–1865 (NAID 655722)