



National Archives and Records Administration

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Volunteer Military Service during the War of 1812 (1812–1815)

The War of 1812 was fought between the United States and the British Empire, including Great Britain, Canada, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland. The Treaty of Ghent, which became effective on February 18, 1815, ended the war. With the signing of the treaty the U.S. and Britain recognized the pre-war boundaries between the United States and Canada, and gave the United States fishing rights to the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Compiled Military Service Records (CMSRs)

In the 1890s, the Department of War used numerous sources, such as muster rolls, descriptive rolls, and pay rolls to create compiled military service records. These records generally show when a soldier joined a unit and if he was present when the unit was mustered. There are several indexes to compiled service records of volunteer soldiers who served during the War of 1812. With the exception of the Territory of Mississippi and two Native American detachments, there are no service records on microfilm.

Indexes

___M602, *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the War of 1812*. 234 rolls. DP. Arranged alphabetically by surname.

___M229, *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the War of 1812 in Organizations from the State of Louisiana*. 3 rolls. DP. Arranged alphabetically by surname.

___M250, *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the War of 1812 in Organizations from the State of North Carolina*. 5 rolls. DP. Arranged alphabetically by surname.

___M652, *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the War of 1812 in Organizations from the State of South Carolina*. 7 rolls. DP. Arranged alphabetically by surname.

Records

___M678, *Compiled Military Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the War of 1812 in Organizations from the Territory of Mississippi*. 22 rolls. DP. Arranged by organization and thereunder alphabetically by surname.

___M1829, *Compiled Military Service Records of Maj. Uriah Blue's Detachment of Chicasaw Indians in the War of 1812*. 1 roll

___M1830, *Compiled Military Service Records of Maj. McIntosh's Company of Creek Indians in the War of 1812*. 1 roll

Pensions

A veteran's pension file can include his rank, place of residence, age or date of birth, and time of service. A widow's application can also include her place of residence, her maiden name, the date and place of marriage, the date and place of her husband's death, and the names of children under 16. A child's or heir's file contains information about both the veteran and the widow, as well as the child's place of residence, date of birth, and the date and place of the widow's death.

___M313, *Index to War of 1812 Pension Application Files*. 102 rolls. DP. Arranged alphabetically by surname. All pensions granted to veterans of the War of 1812 and their surviving dependents before 1871 were based exclusively on service-connected disability or death.

Remarried Widows

Some widows drew pensions from the service of multiple husbands. In this case the pension application information for all soldiers is usually included in a single file, under the surname of the most recent husband. The index includes the name of the claimant, the name of the soldier and his service (unit), and the pension number.

___M1784, *Index to Pension Application Files of Remarried Widows Based on Service in the War of 1812, Indian Wars, Mexican War, and Regular Army Before 1861*. 1 roll. DP. Arranged alphabetically by the widow's surname.

Bounty Land Records

Documents found within bounty land files are similar to those found in pensions files and in many cases they are interfiled with the pension.

___M313, *Index to War of 1812 Pension Application Files*. DP. 102 rolls. Arranged alphabetically by surname. This series relates to claims based on service rendered between 1812 and 1815, including military actions against Indians during the War of 1812. Each entry provides the filing information for bounty-land warrants granted under the acts of 1812, 1850, and 1855.

___M848, *War of 1812 Military Bounty Land Warrants, 1815–1858*. DP. 14 rolls. Arranged numerically by warrant number. An index appears on Roll 1. These warrants relate to files from the Territories of Michigan, Illinois, and Louisiana (in present-day Arkansas).

___*Case Files of Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Service Between 1812 and 1855 and Disapproved Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service [Unindexed Bounty-Land Warrant Files]*. Arranged alphabetically by surname. These files are in the records of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (RG 15), and cover service in the War of 1812 as well as the Old Indian Wars. **An automated index is currently being created and is available in the Microfilm Research Room.**

For more information, see the following reference report: *Bounty-Land Warrants for Military Service, 1775–1855*.

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