

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES (NARA) ORDER FOR COPIES OF FEDERAL PENSION OR BOUNTY LAND WARRANT APPLICATIONS

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### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR ORDER

DO NOT use this form for any request relating to military service in World War I or II, or subsequent service. Write to:  
*National Personnel Records Center, 1 Archives Drive, St. Louis, MO 63138.*  
For additional information about these later records, visit eVetrecs at [www.archives.gov/veterans](https://www.archives.gov/veterans).

The success of our search depends on the completeness and accuracy of the information you provide in blocks 2-17 on this form. Often there are many files for veterans of the same or nearly the same name. If there are three or fewer files for men with the same name as the individual in whom you are interested, we will examine the relevant files and compare their contents with the information that you have provided us. If the veteran's identity seems obvious, we will furnish you a copy of the file we think is the correct one. Please note that each NATF Form 85 is handled separately. When you send more than one form at a time, you may not receive all of your reproductions at the same time. You will receive a postcard acknowledging receipt of your order and providing our tracking number.

We cannot make a file-by-file check to see if the information in the numerous files matches that provided for the veteran in whom you are interested. In such cases, we suggest that you visit the National Archives and examine the various files, or hire a professional researcher to examine the files for you. We do not maintain a list of persons who do research for a fee; however, many researchers advertise their services in genealogical periodicals, usually available in libraries.

### USE NATF FORM 86 TO OBTAIN COPIES OF MILITARY SERVICE RECORDS.

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

Use a separate NATF Form 85 for each file that you request. You must complete blocks 1 – 6 or we cannot search for the file. Print your name (last, first, MI) and address in the box provided at the bottom of the form. This serves as your mailing label. **We destroy requests without return addresses.** Please enter the Card Validation Code in the space provided on the form. For Master Card, Visa and Discover, this is a three digit code found on the back of the card. For American Express this is a four digit code printed on the front of the card. When we search your order, we will make reproductions of records that relate to your request. We accept MasterCard, VISA, American Express, and Discover credit cards. Do NOT send cash or check. Forms with incomplete Credit Card information will be destroyed. **Make a copy of the completed form for your records.** Mail it to: *Archival Operations Washington D.C., Form 85 – Pension, National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20408-0001.* Please allow up to 90 days for processing your order. You will receive a postcard acknowledging receipt of your order and providing our tracking number. You can track the status of your order at our website, [eservices.archives.gov/orderonline](https://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline). Do not use this form to request certified copies of records. To request certified copies contact us at [www.archives.gov/contact](https://www.archives.gov/contact) or write to the above address. We cannot provide digital certifications.

**RETURN POLICY:** Due to various factors, it is occasionally difficult for NARA to make a legible reproduction. NARA will notify customers and ask for approval to proceed if we anticipate a reproduction of questionable legibility. As a result, NARA does not provide refunds except in special cases. If a customer requests a refund, we review the order to determine if we properly notified the customer of the questionable nature of the original and if the product is a true representation of the original. If the product is a true representation of the original, we will not issue a refund. If you feel we processed your order incorrectly or it contains errors, please contact us within 30 days of your delivery date to have your issue verified. Once we verify the issue, we will correct the error and resend the documents. If we cannot correct the error, you will receive a refund.

## TYPES OF RECORDS THAT CAN BE ORDERED WITH THIS FORM

### FEDERAL PENSION APPLICATION FILES

**Full Pension Application File - Civil War (1860) and Later, (\$80 up to 100 pages + \$.70 per additional page); Pre Civil War (\$55):** Pension application files generally are most useful to those who are doing genealogical research and contain the most complete information regarding a soldier's military career. We suggest that you first request reproductions of a soldier's pension file. You should request reproductions of a bounty-land warrant file or a military record only when no pension file exists. If the veteran's service was during the Revolutionary War, bounty-land warrant applications have been consolidated with pension application papers. You can obtain both files by requesting the pension file only. Military service records rarely contain family information. Use NATF Form 86 to obtain reproductions of military service records.

Pension application files, based on Federal (not State or Confederate) service before World War I, usually include an official statement of the veteran's military service, as well as information of a personal nature. **Pension files for the Civil War and later can be very large and average more pages than pension files for previous wars so the National Archives Trust Fund sets a page limit on these items. If the file requested exceeds the page limit the researcher will receive the first block of pages along with a quote for the remaining pages. The customer must return the quote with payment to receive the remainder of the file.** Pensions based on military service for the Confederate States of America were authorized by some Southern States but not by the Federal Government until 1959. Inquiries about State pensions should be addressed to the State archives or equivalent agency at the capital of the veteran's State of residence after the war. See the special notes below about Confederate pensions.

**Pension Documents Packet (\$30):** The pension documents package will contain, to the extent that these documents are present in the file, 8 documents that contain genealogical information about the pension applicant. Not all of these documents will be found in every file. The package will include any of the following items that are in the file: (1) declaration of pension, (2) declaration of widow's pension, (3) Adjutant General statements of service, (4) questionnaires completed by applicants (numbered forms), (5) "Pension Dropped" cards, (6) marriage certificates, (7) death certificates, (8) discharge certificate. We will not provide a count of the remaining pages; if you wish to obtain a full pension file after reviewing the pension documents packet, you will need to order the complete file. If the entire pension file is no more than 10 pages, we will mark the order "Complete file provided."

### BOUNTY-LAND WARRANT APPLICATION FILES

**Bounty-land warrant application files (\$30)** are based on Federal (not State) service before 1856. Documents in a bounty-land warrant application file are similar to those in a pension application file. In addition, these files usually give the veteran's age and place of residence at the time the application was made. For a copy of the surrendered Bounty-Land Warrant, you will need to submit a request on NATF Form 84, National Archives Order for Copies of Land Entry Files.

### SPECIAL NOTES ABOUT CONFEDERATE PENSIONS

The following Southern State Archives have Confederate pension records. For links to State Archives websites and links to online finding aids please go to the Confederate pension page on our website at [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov) or you can write to the addresses below for more information.

**Alabama** Department of Archives & History, 624 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104

**Arkansas** History Commission & State Archives, One Capitol Mall, Little Rock, AR 72201

**Florida** State Archives, R.A. Gray Building, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

**Georgia** Department of Archives & History, 5800 Jonesboro Road, Morrow, GA 30260

**Kentucky** Department for Libraries & Archives, Kentucky State Archives, 300 Coffee Tree Road, Frankfort, KY 40601

**Louisiana** State Archives, 3851 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809-2137

**Mississippi** Department of Archives & History, Charlotte Capers Building, 100 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201

**Missouri** State Archives, State Information Center, 600 West Main Street, Jefferson City, MO 65101

**North Carolina** State Archives, 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27601

**Oklahoma** Department of Libraries, State Archives, 200 N.E. 18th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105

**South Carolina** Department of Archives & History, South Carolina History Center, 8301 Parklane Road, Columbia, SC 29223

**Tennessee** State Library & Archives, 403 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37243

**Texas** State Library & Archives Commission, 1201 Brazos Street, Austin, TX 78711-2927

The Library of **Virginia**, 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219-8000

#### PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Collection of this information is authorized by sections 2108, 2116, and 2307 of Title 44 U.S. Code. Disclosure of the information is voluntary; however, we will be unable to respond to your request if you do not furnish your name and address and the minimum required information about the records. The information is used by NARA employees to search for the record; to respond to you; to maintain control over information requests received and answered; and to facilitate preparation of internal statistical reports. If you provide credit card information, that information is used to bill you for copies.

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A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. The OMB Control No. for this information collection is 3095-0027. Public burden reporting for this collection of information is estimated to be 10 minutes per response. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of the information collection, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to National Archives and Records Administration (ISP), 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park MD 20740. DO NOT SEND COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND COMPLETED FORMS TO THE ADDRESS INDICATED IN THE FORM INSTRUCTIONS.

