



National Archives and Records Administration

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001

Pensions for Service in the Regular Army, 1775–1912

Pension applications and records of pension payments for veterans, their widows, and heirs are based on service in the armed forces of the United States. These files can contain supporting documents such as narratives of events during service, marriage certificates, birth records, death certificates, family letters, statements from witnesses, and affidavits.

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.

These records have not been filmed and in some cases must be requested from the Veterans Administration.

Revolutionary War Pension Files

Revolutionary War pension files are available on microfilm. They are the only pension records that have been reproduced in their entirety on film.

___M804, *Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application*. 2,670 rolls. DP. Arranged alphabetically by claimant's surname. These files may include veterans with non-Federal service.

___M910, *Virginia Half Pay and Other Related Revolutionary War Pension Application Files*. 18 rolls. DP. Arranged in two sections (soldiers and sailors) and then alphabetically by surname.

Post-Revolutionary War Pension Files, 1789–1912

Post-Revolutionary War pension files are not on microfilm. To request a copy of a file, go to Order Online! at www.archives.gov.

Indexes

The indexes give the name of the veteran, name and type of dependent, dates of service, application numbers, certificate numbers for approved claims, and, if applicable, bounty-land warrant numbers.

___M313, *Index to War of 1812 Pension Application Files*. 102 rolls. DP. Arranged by the soldier's surname. This series relates to claims based on service rendered between 1812 and 1815.

___T316, *Old War Index to Pension Files, 1815–1926*. 7 rolls. Arranged alphabetically by the claimant's surname. This series indexes claims based on disability or death for primarily Regular Army, Navy, and Marine Corps service between 1783 and 1861. The cards show the name of veteran; the name and type of dependent, if any; unit; application numbers, certificate numbers, and in some cases file numbers; and the state from which the claim was made.

___T317, *Index to Mexican War Pension Files, 1887–1926*. 14 rolls. Arranged by the soldier's surname. Based on service in the U.S. Army from 1846 to 1848.

___T318, *Index to Indian War Pension Files, 1892–1926*. 12 rolls. Arranged alphabetically by claimant's surname. This card index relates to service in the Indian campaigns, 1817–1898. It gives the name of the veteran; name and type of dependent; service dates; application numbers; certificate numbers for approved claims; and the state from where the claim was made.

___T288, *General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934*. 544 rolls. Arranged alphabetically by soldier's surname.

___T289, *Organization Index to Pension Files of Veterans Who Served Between 1861 and 1900*. 765 rolls. Arranged alphabetically by state or territory, then by type of unit (cavalry, artillery, or infantry), followed by militia, reserves, sharpshooters, and other organizations, and finally alphabetically by name. The publication concludes with records of units not limited to geographic location, such as the U.S. Colored Troops, U.S. Volunteers, and U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps.

___A1158, *Numerical Index to Pensions, 1860–1934*. 359 rolls. Arranged numerically; this index is useful when trying to decipher unclear numbers on T288 or T289. The cards give the name of the veteran or dependant who had the number as an application number or as a certificate number. Each number could be used four times for four different people. For application or original numbers, the card also shows the certificate number.

___M850, *Veterans Administration Pension Payment Cards, 1907–1933*. 2,539 rolls. DP. Arranged alphabetically by the soldier's or widow's surname. This series reproduces Pension Office cards that record payments to pensioners from 1907 to 1933, except for World War I veterans. The card includes the pension certificate number.

For more information, see the following reference reports: *Pensions for Soldiers Who served during the Civil War, 1861–1865* and *Bounty-Land Warrants for Military Service, 1775–1855*.

Remarried Widows

Some widows drew pensions from the service of multiple husbands. In such cases the pension application information for 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. Widows could draw pensions for the service of two or more soldiers.

___M1785, *Index to Pension Application Files of Remarried Widows Based on Volunteer Service in the Civil War and Later Wars and in the Regular Army After the Civil War*. 7 rolls. DP. Arranged alphabetically by the widow's surname.

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