

1. **Military Pension Files** – Military pension files from the Revolutionary War up to the start of WWI are available at the National Archives in Washington, DC. A soldier had to prove his identity as well as his military service to get a pension. There are usually many details about his service, injuries and illnesses associated with the military service, places of residence before and after service, and a soldier's date and place of birth is often listed. Dependents could apply for a pension after the soldier passes away. Family members had to prove their relationship to the soldier, so often included with their file are details about marriages, birth information for children, and death date of the soldier.
  - a. *War or 1812 pension files and Bounty Land Application Files*. NARA ID = 564415
  - b. *Ancestry Library Edition, HeritageQuest Online* include Revolutionary War Pension Files.
  - c. *Ancestry Library Edition* includes pension indexes for some other wars
2. **Settled Accounts for Payment of Accrued Pensions, 1838-1865** - Heirs of pensioners (wars before 1860) could claim the amount of pension accrued to a pensioner between the date of the last payment and the date of death. Heirs had to prove their relationship to the soldier, so family details should be included in the files. NARA ID = 605914
  - a. *The "Lost Pensions" Settled Accounts for Payment of Accrued Pensions, 1838-1865* – by Craig Scott. This is an index to the records. A copy is available in the Grosvenor Room.
3. **Military Bounty Land Files** – May be available for your soldier ancestor if he fought in any war including the Revolutionary War up until the Civil War. Are similar to military pension files and may include important family documents and details. Some of these documents can be found in pension files. Often, the pension index will list the bounty land file number and that number will enable you to order a copy of the file through the National Archives. Sometimes the pension index will not list a bounty land file number, but a file still exists in a record set called *Unindexed Bounty Land Files*. These files are in alphabetical order at the National Archives.
  - a. A partial index has been completed and is online for free on Fold3:  
[https://www.fold3.com/browse/247/h\\_5UoXzIz](https://www.fold3.com/browse/247/h_5UoXzIz)
  - b. Contact the National archives if you find your soldier in the index, or if they are not found, staff will search for the file for you by name. <https://www.archives.gov/research/order>
4. **Land-Entry Case Files, 1787-1976** - If your ancestor lived in a public land state, there may be a case file. These files may be associated with military bounty land, Homestead Act, cash or credit sales, private land claims and others.
  - a. General Land Office website - <https://gloreCORDS.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>
    - i. If your ancestor's name has a W by it, the land was military bounty land.
  - b. Homestead Act – 1862. An adult citizen or intended citizen could obtain up to 160 acres of free land. In 1909 it changed to 320 acres. In order to own the land, a homesteader had to improve the property, build a dwelling, cultivate the land, stay on land for 5 years (1912 this changed to 3 years.)
    - i. Only 40% of homesteaders completed the processThe file may include details about property improvements, naturalization information, names of family members, military service information, affidavits from neighbors.
  - c. If you don't find your ancestor in the General Land Office database, they may have not completed the process. There are still files for these individuals.
    - i. Find the township and range number for the area where your ancestor was living:  
<http://www.histopolis.com/>
    - ii. FamilySearch Wiki entry for land record tract books – Find the tract book volume number that would include the township and range where your ancestor was living.  
[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United\\_States,\\_Bureau\\_of\\_Land\\_Management\\_Tract\\_Books\\_Coverage\\_Table\\_-\\_FamilySearch\\_Historical\\_Records](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States,_Bureau_of_Land_Management_Tract_Books_Coverage_Table_-_FamilySearch_Historical_Records)

- iii. Use FamilySearch to browse the tract books for your ancestor's name and the legal description of the property - <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2074276>
5. **Confederate Slave Rolls, 1861-65** - Payrolls for enslaved labor on Confederate military defenses. Slaveholders were pressured or required to have their enslaved laborers work for the Confederate military and collect pay for their work. Data provided include a list of the enslaved, location of work, daily pay rate, length worked, slaveholder name. Keyword searchable. NAID = 719477.
  - a. Possible terms to input: First name of formerly enslaved person or a combination of first names (family members); Surname of slaveholder if known or surname of formerly enslaved persons if you think that they may have taken his name; Locations where formerly enslaved ancestors lived
6. **Board of Special Inquiry Appeals** – If you find your ancestor on a special inquiry list (mixed in with passenger lists) and there is a note that your ancestor appealed, there are likely records related to the appeal. You need the case file number to order the file. Records that may give the case file number are as follows:
  - a. *Name Index, ca. 1893 - ca. 1932* – NARA ID = 4709010
  - b. Search the NARA catalog for your ancestor's name - <https://www.archives.gov/research/catalog>
  - c. *Letters Received, 1882 – 1906* – This index is predicted to be online by the end in the near future. NARA ID = 1564919
  - d. *U.S. Subject Index to Correspondence and Case Files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1903-1959* – This is an index available in Ancestry Library Edition. Keyword search it by name. Browse subject headings: Boards of Special Inquiry; Name of Port; Vessels (name of vessel); Entry, Legalized.
7. **Legislative Records** – If your ancestor corresponded with Congress, there may be records that provide more detail about your ancestors' requests. Reasons they may have contacted Congress: increase in military pension, issues related to public land, to obtain payment of goods/services provided to government, to obtain payment for property damaged/stolen related to war, immigration issues, patent extensions. Search the following sources for clues that your ancestor petitioned/corresponded with Congress:
  - a. *HeritageQuest Online* – Partial content of the U.S. Serial Set. Available for at-home use with your valid B&ECPL card.
  - b. *HeinOnline* – A legal database available at every B&ECPL location. Search the U.S. Serial Set, U.S. Code, and U.S. Congressional Documents.
  - c. Contact the National Archives for information on how to obtain records associated with your ancestor in legislative records. <https://www.archives.gov/contact>
8. **Official Register of the United States, 1817-1959** – Directory of federal government employees. Generally lists name, job, state or country born, and pay. Published every 2 years 1817-1920 and every year 1921-1959.
  - a. Available online - <https://www.govinfo.gov/>
  - b. <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2004/winter/genealogy-official-register.html>
9. **Federal Native American Boarding School Records** - May list family member names, grades, Native American Name, tribe, marriage information, places of residence and more.
  - a. Carlisle Indian School, Pennsylvania - [http://carlisleindian.dickinson.edu/student\\_records](http://carlisleindian.dickinson.edu/student_records)
10. **Learning About Federal Records**
  - a. *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives* - <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/003834362>
  - b. *Guide to the Federal Records in the National Archives of the United States* - <https://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records>
  - c. Records Digitized by NARA Partners - <https://www.archives.gov/digitization/digitized-by-partners>
  - d. Read descriptions of Microfilm Collections - <https://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline/>
  - e. Allen County Public Library, NARA Research Guides - <http://www.genealogycenter.info/nara/>
  - f. Prologue Magazine - NARA articles - <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue>
  - g. The Twelve Key - Blog by a NARA archivist - <https://twelvekey.com/>
  - h. NARA Finding Aids - <https://www.archives.gov/publications/finding-aids/guides.html>