



National Archives and Records Administration

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Pensions for Soldiers Who Served During the Civil War, 1861–1865

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. The states, not the Federal Government, granted pensions to Confederate veterans. For more information about Confederate pensions, see the following reference report: *Pensions for Military Service in the Army of the Confederate States of America*.

Pension Indexes

___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 alphabetical 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*. Arranged numerically by application and certificate numbers.

___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. 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.

___*Index to Navy Pension Files, 1861–1910*. CD-Rom. Searchable by sailor's surname.

Pension Records

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 narratives of events during service, marriage certificates, birth records, death certificates, family letters, statements from witnesses, and affidavits.

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

Pre-1910 pension files for Navy sailors and dependents (widows, children, etc.) are on microfiche.

___M1274, *Case Files of Disapproved Pension Applications of Widows and Other Dependents of Civil War and Later Navy Veterans ("Navy Widows' Originals")*, 1861–1910. Approximately 8,500 cards of microfiche. DP. Arranged by pension application number.

___M1279, *Case Files of Approved Pension Applications of Widows and Other Dependents of Civil War and Later Navy Veterans ("Navy Widows' Certificates")*, 1861–1910. Approximately 40,000 cards of microfiche. Arranged by pension certificate number.

___M1408, *Case files of Disapproved Pension Applications of Civil War and Later Navy Veterans ("Navy Survivors' Applications")*, 1861–1910. Approximately 13,560 cards of microfiche. Arranged by pension application number.

___M1469, *Case Files of Approved Pension Applications of Civil War and Later Navy Veterans ("Navy Survivors' Certificates")*, 1861–1910. Approximately 41,200 cards of microfiche. Arranged by pension certificate number.

For more information, see the following reference report: *Pension Records for Service in the United States Navy, 1776–1910*.

Pension Payment Cards

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

Pension Office Records

___M686, *Index to General Correspondence of the Record and Pension Office, 1889–1904*. 385 rolls. DP. Arranged alphabetically by the soldier's surname, with some variations. The names are placed together in a phonetic system; those with similar sounding last names are filed together. For example: Smith, Smithe, Smyth, etc. are grouped under Smith. A card listing all variant spellings precedes each new section. The index includes the date of the reply and the number assigned to the correspondence, who the correspondence is from and who it is to, and the subject of the correspondence. The related correspondence has not been filmed.

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