

Civil War Documents Union Sources

If you have a male ancestor who was born between 1820 and 1845, you might find information about him in Civil War military records. Every state except South Carolina supplied military units to the Union Army. In most cases, you will want to check all available service, pension, and published records.

- ★ **Service Records**--Military service records may give rank, dates of service, place of residence prior to enlistment, age, physical description, and date and place of discharge or death. There is no master index to the names of soldiers in the Union Army. You must know the state where an individual enlisted to use the service records. For more information and library microfilm numbers, consult *Register of United States Federal Military Records: Civil War* (vols. 2 and 4) (Religion/Family Ref CS 68 .R44). The Family History Library has indexes for all states and the service records of Union Army regiments enlisted from southern states. The indexes give only the name, rank, and unit. Copies of service records may be ordered online from the National Archives at http://archives.gov/research_room/orderonline.html.

- ★ **Pension Records**--The federal government issued pensions to soldiers who met certain criteria. Pension files may include information on a soldier's military service, family members, places of residence, and other genealogical information.

Union pensions have not been microfilmed, but an index is available on Ancestry.com and at BYU:

General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934 (Microfilm RG 15 T288). Film numbers are found in the blue binder, *US Military Pension Records and Indexes*, (Table 4B).

Copies of pension records may be ordered online from the National Archives at http://archives.gov/research_room/orderonline.html.

- ★ **Published Records**--Many rosters of soldiers, lists of veteran burials and compilations of biographical data have been published. Consult the research outline for the state from which the soldier served. You may also look in the Family History Library Catalog under [STATE] - MILITARY RECORDS - CIVIL WAR, 1861-1865.