

Resources for Ohio Civil War Genealogy Research

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To Research Individual Soldiers:

Websites: (For brevity, NARA is used in this document to indicate the National Archives and Records Administration.)

(1) *American Civil War Research Database*. Duxbury, MA: Historical Data Systems, Inc. <http://www.civilwardata.com> . Subscription database containing more than 4.2 million soldier records, along with regimental rosters and histories. Transcribed primarily from each state Adjutant General's reports, supplemented with other histories. Includes 297,345 entries for soldiers from Ohio units, based on the Ohio Adjutant General's *Official Rosters* (see #13).

(2) *Civil War Soldiers & Sailors System*. Washington, DC: National Park Service. <http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/index.html> . Free database containing 6.3 million records (including an estimated three million duplicate individuals for multiple enlistments or units). No Navy data included. Based on the General Index Cards of NARA's *Compiled Military Service Records* (see #5, 7, 8). The Ohio Civil War Genealogy Center includes the Ohio portion of this database as a free database, "Names of Union Soldiers with Civil War Service in Ohio Units," with 464,270 records. http://www.ogs.org/cwc/search_ohcwsscwc.php

(3) *Civil War Pension Indexes and VA payment cards*.

(a) Alphabetical index: Ancestry.com. <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=4654> . Subscription database. Alphabetical index with images of index cards from NARA's *General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934, T288* (see #5, 9.)

(b) Organizational index: Fold3.com. http://www.fold3.com/title_57/pensions_index_civil_war_to_1900/ . Subscription database. Index by military unit. Images of index cards from NARA's *Organization Index to Pension Files of Veterans Who Served Between 1861 and 1900, T289* (see #5,10.)

(c) *VA Pension Payments, 1907-1933*: Archive.org <http://www.archive.org/details/veteransadminist0001unit> ; use Arne Trelvik's index at http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohwarren/military/pension1907_1933.htm .

(4) *Ohio Civil War Genealogy Center*. Ohio Genealogical Society, www.ogs.org . Online component of *Ohio Civil War Genealogy Journal*, quarterly subscription publication of OGS. Includes several free databases and a subscriber-only section with PDF versions of all issues of *OCWGJ*, databases, and research tools that are updated frequently.

(5) *National Archives Research Room*. Washington, DC: NARA. Free access. Compiled Military Service Records or pension files by online order: <https://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline/start.swe?SWECmd=Start&SWEHo=eservices.archives.gov> (Orders may still be submitted by paper through US Mail on NARA Form 86 or pension files on NARA Form 85, both available from NARA by mail or from the website). Identifying the correct veteran in the appropriate index will increase the likelihood of success of obtaining the correct file from NARA, due to different spelling of surnames, multiple veterans with the same surname, etc. Tips for online ordering are available from email to <ocwgj-experts@ogs.org>.

(6) Burial Locations: There are several sources for burial information of Civil War veterans:

(a) *National Graves Registration Database*: Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The national database for this ongoing project is searchable at <http://www.suvcwdb.org/home/index.php> .

(b) *Nationwide Gravesite Locator*: Dept. of Veterans Affairs. This database allows searching all national cemeteries, keeping in mind that many Civil War burials are as Unknown. http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1 .

(c) *Card Records of Headstones Provided for Deceased Union Civil War Veterans, ca. 1879-ca. 1903*: Images of cards from the headstone applications for civilian cemeteries. Online at Ancestry.com with limited search capability. *Ohio Civil War Genealogy Center* is extracting the information for burials in Ohio and for burials of veterans from Ohio units (76% complete.)

(d) Roll of Honor section of Ohio *Official Roster* (see #13) and Quartermaster General *Roll of Honor* (see #14.)

(e) Websites with cemetery records by OGS chapters, USGenWeb, etc. For an excellent example, see the Warren County Chapter OGS website at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohwarren/military/cw.htm> .

(f) Find-a-Grave at <http://www.findagrave.com/> . Extremely valuable for both cemetery and individual information.

National Archives' Microfilm Publications (available at NARA or major genealogy libraries):

Items #7-10 below are described in NARA's catalog: *Military Service Records: A Select Catalog of National Archives Microfilm Publications*, 1985. Page references:

- (7) *Microfilmed Indexes and Compiled Service Records for Union Army Volunteers*. Pp. 42-75.
(8) *Microfilmed Indexes and Compiled Service Records for Confederate Army Volunteers*. Pp. 84-163.
(9) *General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934*. T288. 544 rolls. Pages 258-262. These records are for Union veterans only, since Confederate pensions were given only by states. Available in some major libraries and online at Ancestry.com.
(10) *Organization Index to Pension Files of Veterans Who Served Between 1861 and 1900*. T289. 765 rolls. Pages 263-276. Available online at Fold3.com.

(11) *Censuses of the United States, First (1790)-Fifteenth (1930), Federal Population Schedules; 1890 Special Schedule of Union Veterans and Widows*. Washington DC: NARA. Available at major libraries and online at Ancestry.com, et. al.

Printed Sources:

(12) *Roster of Confederate Soldiers* (16 volumes by state) and *Roster of Union Soldiers* (42 volumes by state). Janet B. Hewett, editor. Wilmington, NC: Broadfoot Publishing Company. Based on NARA *Compiled Military Service Records*.

(13) *Official Roster of Soldiers of the State of Ohio in the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1866*. Twelve volumes. Akron, OH: Werner Company, 1886-1895. Published by the Adjutant General of Ohio, these state rosters are organized by unit, so they are difficult to use for searching for an individual if the unit is not known. The Work Projects Administration created an alphabetical index to the *Rosters* that is available in major Ohio libraries. Each volume has a Roll of Honor for the units in that volume, which should not be confused with the US Quartermaster General's Office *Roll of Honor* (see #14.) Each volume is available on CD sold on Ebay by <OhioFamilyRoots@yahoo.com>, and is transcribed on the *American Civil War Research Database* (see #1.) Available online at Ancestry.com and Internet Archive www.archive.org.

(14) *Roll of Honor*. Originally published by the US Quartermaster General's Office, 1869-1871, to record burials in national cemeteries. Reprinted: Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1994-1996, as *Roll of Honor Volumes I-XXVII, Index to the Roll of Honor*, and *Unpublished Roll of Honor*. Also available on CD from Family Tree Maker, #351 (not being upgraded to new FTM versions.) Available online at Ancestry.com (Volumes I - VII, *Final Disposition, Unpublished ROH* not included.)

(15) *Hardesty's Military History of Ohio*. This can be an extremely valuable resource if an edition was published for the county in which information is needed on veterans, units, and GAR posts. A complete inventory of the 60 known county editions (out of the 88 Ohio counties) was published in *OCWGJ* (Vol. X, 2006), and is updated at the Ohio Civil War Genealogy Center. Some OGS chapters have reprinted their county editions, or included it in another publication.

Other Government Records:

(16) State, county, township, and city records: may include discharge records, veterans grave registration files, militia and draft records, state muster rolls, county infirmary and poor house records, township and county relief activities, etc. These may be found in county offices, in local historical and genealogical societies or libraries, and in the State Archives at the Ohio Historical Society.

To Research A Military Unit:

Websites:

- (17) *American Civil War Research Database* (see #1) contains histories, assignments, and casualty summaries for most units, drawn primarily from Dyer's *Compendium* (see #24).
(18) *Ohio in the Civil War*, by Larry Stevens. <http://www.ohiocivilwar.com>. Includes unit histories; the most complete bibliography available for each Ohio infantry, cavalry, and artillery unit; and recruiting by county if available.
(19) *U.S. Army Military History Institute*. http://www.ahco.army.mil/site/finding_aid.html. Includes unit histories and bibliographies for all Union and Confederate units. Photograph and manuscript catalogues.
(20) *Civil War Trust*. Extensive website with maps, articles, video <http://www.civilwar.org/> The largest Civil War preservation organization.

National Archives' Microfilm Publications:

(21) *Records of Movements and Activities of Volunteer Union Organizations*. NARA Microfilm Series M594, with index by roll in *Military Service Records*, pp. 75-83. *Records of Confederate Movements and Activities*. NARA Microfilm Series M861,

with index by roll in *Military Service Records*, pp. 163-164. These records are published in the *Official Records Supplement* (#23d below). Available online at <http://openlibrary.org/> : Arne Trelvik's finding aid for Ohio units: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohwarren/military/m594.htm> ; and for all other units: <http://www.donslist.net/PGHLookups/IAUnionServRecs.html#Group94AZ> (lower section of finding aid page.)

Printed Sources:

(22) *Ohio in the War: Her Statesmen, Generals and Soldiers*. Whitelaw Reid. Cincinnati: The Robert Clarke Company, 1895. Two Volumes. Reprinted by Bergman Books, Columbus, Ohio. Primary source for state-wide history and unit histories, includes histories for each Ohio infantry, cavalry, and artillery unit. It includes a roster of officers for most units, but not enlisted men.

(23) *Official Records (OR)*:

(a) *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. U. S. War Department. 70 volumes in 128 parts. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1880-1901. Also available on CD from Broadfoot Publishing and Oliver Computing LLC, and online at the *Making of America* site at Cornell University, <http://moa.cit.cornell.edu/moa/browse.monographs/waro.html> .

(b) *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion*. U. S. Naval War Records Office. 31 volumes. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1894-1927. Also available on CD and online as noted above.

(c) *Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. U.S. War Department. Maj. George B. Davis, Leslie J. Perry, and Joseph W. Kirkley. Compiled by Calvin D. Cowles, issued in 35 numbered and 2 unnumbered parts and in bound editions in two volumes or three volumes. Washington, D.C.: 1891-1895. Reprinted in one volume by Barnes and Noble Publishing, 1983. Available on CD from Oliver Computing LLC.

(d) *Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. 100 volumes. Wilmington, NC: Broadfoot Publishing Company, 1995-2001. Includes documents not published in the original *OR*, such as each unit's *Record of Movements and Activities* (#21.)

(24) *A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion: From Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Reports of the Adjutant Generals of the Several States, the Army Registers, and Other Reliable Documents and Sources*. Frederick H. Dyer. Dyer Publishing Co., 1908.

(25) Harper, Robert S. *Ohio Handbook of the Civil War*. Columbus, Ohio: The Ohio Historical Society for the Ohio Civil War Centennial Commission, 1961.

(26) Many county histories written in the 1880's include detailed information about the county's participation in the war, including the units that were recruited primarily in that county, and in some cases, lists of names of residents who served in the military.

(27) Many histories and studies of regiments, batteries, higher commands, specific battles, and major campaigns have been written, starting with personal memoirs written by participants up to recent studies by current historians. Their citations and bibliographies are often helpful for locating further sources on a specific subject, especially those that are unpublished. The existence of these studies for subjects of interest can be identified using the Bibliographic Sources listed below. In some cases, online sources such as Google Books, archive.org, and gutenberg.org have full text versions of public domain books.

(28) Newspapers are a valuable source of local information on people, events, and organizations, often including letters from soldiers in the field. Newspapers reprinted stories from other newspapers, broadening the possible sources of information that may have been considered newsworthy in other cities or areas. Ohio Historical Society has the most comprehensive collection of Ohio newspapers, but other libraries often have Civil War-era newspapers on microfilm. Online services such as Ancestry.com, GenealogyBank.com, and the Library of Congress (*Chronicling America*) have historic newspapers. Look for specific index materials such as Steven L. Wright's five-volume *Kentucky Soldiers and their Regiments in the Civil War Abstracted from the Pages of Contemporary Kentucky Newspapers*, which includes a great deal of Ohio information.

Bibliographic Sources:

(29) *Military Bibliography of the Civil War*. C. E. Dornbusch. 3 volumes. New York: New York Public Library, 1967-1971. Sources specific to Ohio units are in Volume I.

(30) *Military Bibliography of the Civil War, Volume Four*. Silas Felton. Dayton, OH: Morningside House, Inc., 2003. 1061 pages. This publication updates the three Dornbusch volumes.

(31) *The Civil War Literature of Ohio: A Bibliography with Explanatory and Historical Notes*. Daniel J. Ryan. Columbus, OH: 1911. Reprinted 1994. 518 pages.

(32) *Some Ohio Civil War Manuscripts: A Finding Tool*. Mary L. Bowman. Mansfield, OH: The Ohio Genealogical Society, 1997. 94 pages.

(33) The world's largest network of library content and services, WorldCat provides a search tool for thousands of libraries worldwide at <http://www.worldcat.org/> . In addition, the Library of Congress provides a gateway for searching nearly 1.5 million catalog records describing archival and manuscript collections and individual manuscripts through its WorldCat gateway at <http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/oclcsearch.html> .

(34) Major libraries and manuscript collections for Ohio should be searched, including Ohio Historical Society, Hayes Presidential Center, Western Reserve Historical Society, Cincinnati Historical Society, and the archival collections at Bowling Green State University, Ohio University, and Wright State University. Some of these collections can be searched online, either through their own websites or through WorldCat.

(35) Local historical societies, genealogical societies, and libraries may have collections of local manuscripts. These are often a good source of information on post-war veterans' reunions and articles about local veterans. This can be focused by searching in the geographic area from which the unit was recruited, using OGS Chapter websites and publications, Cyndi's List, et al.

(36) The local historians, genealogists, and librarians in the individual's home area or the unit's home area may have suggestions and resources for sources. In many cases, local experts are the only source for finding individuals who have private collections or family collections that may include documents of interest.

General Civil War References:

(37) NARA Publications: These are extremely valuable guides to understanding and locating records at NARA.

(a) *Military Service Records at the National Archives*. Reference Information Paper 109. Trevor K. Plante. 2009.

(b) *The Union: A Guide to Federal Archives Relating to the Civil War*. Kenneth W. Munden & Henry Putney Beers, 1986.

(c) *The Confederacy: A Guide to the Archives of the Government of the Confederate States of America*. Henry Putney Beers. 1986.

(38) Websites:

(1) Library of Congress: Civil War Resources: http://www.loc.gov/rr/main/uscw_rec_links/civilwarlinks.html

(2) Library of Congress: Historic Newspapers, esp. *National Tribune*: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

(3) NARA: CW Records: <http://www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war/civil-war-genealogy-resources/index.html>

(4) NARA: Archival Research Catalog–Civil War Gallery: <http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/topics/civil-war/>

(5) Fold3: Civil War Collection: <http://go.fold3.com/civilwar/>

(6) Ancestry: Civil War Collection: <http://search.ancestry.com/search/grouplist.aspx?group=CivilWar#databases>

(39) Broad reference books:

(a) *The Civil War Day by Day: An Almanac, 1861-1865*. E. B. Long, Barbara Long. New York: Da Capo Press, Inc., 1971.

(b) *The Library of Congress Civil War Desk Reference*. Margaret Wagner, Gary W. Gallagher, and Paul Finkelman, editors. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2002.

(c) *Encyclopedia of the American Civil War: A Political, Social, and Military History*. David S. and Jeanne T. Heidler. Five volumes. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2000. Also published in one volume by W. W. Norton & Company, New York.

(d) *Generals in Blue: Lives of the Union Commanders*. Ezra J. Warner. (1964, 1992.) *Generals in Gray: Lives of the Confederate Commanders*. (1959, 1987.) Both by Ezra J. Warner. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press.

(e) *The Union Army, 1861-1865, Organization and Operations. Volume I: Eastern Theater. Volume II: Western Theater*. Frank J. Welcher. Bloomington IN: Indiana University Press, 1989 (Vol. I), 1993 (Vol. II). Detailed information on the Union's command structure, military divisions, geographic departments, field armies, army corps, and miscellaneous organizations.