



# Researching Your 19<sup>th</sup> Century Ancestors on Fold3

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Fold3.com has a large collection of military records on their site. Not everything there is original documents; much of their collections are indexes to records that are at the National Archives.

The following is a listing of basic records that are great starting points for researching your 19<sup>th</sup> century military ancestors on Fold3.

## War of 1812 (1812-1814)

### **Compiled Military Service Records**

- These exist for soldiers in state militias, but not the Regular Army (regiments with US in their title)
- They are indexed on Fold3 for all soldiers
- They've been digitized for Mississippi and some Native American regiments

### **Pensions**

- Pensions weren't granted until 1871, so many soldiers didn't live long enough
- All of them are indexed on Fold3
- The complete pension files have been digitized for last names A-S. Some of the S names through Z aren't digitized yet, but will be eventually.

### **Bounty land applications**

- Most bounty land wasn't granted until the 1850s
- Bounty land was given to soldiers who served in wars up through 1855
- The applications are indexed A-L. They will all be indexed eventually.
- None of the bounty land applications themselves are digitized.
- If the soldier also received a pension, the application would be in the pension file, and therefore not indexed in the bounty land application.

### **Enlistment ledgers**

- These exist only for soldiers who enlisted in the Regular Army between 1798-1914.
- They are fully indexed and digitized on Fold3.

### **Discharge papers**

- About 2,200 soldiers in the Regular Army have discharge papers digitized and indexed on Fold3.
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## **Civil War, Union (1861-1865)**

The National Park Service Soldiers and Sailors Database contains a listing of every soldier on both sides of the war. This is a website that is outside of Fold3, but is useful to help determine the company and regiment of the soldier before you start your research on Fold3.

<https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm>

### **Compiled military service records**

- These are fully indexed on Fold3.
- They are fully digitized for the following states and groups: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Dakota Territory, Delaware, DC, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, US Colored Troops
- These exist for soldiers in state regiments, NOT the Regular Army (regiments with US in their title).
- These do not exist for Navy sailors.

### **Pensions**

- These are fully indexed on Fold3.
- The index on Fold3 also includes Spanish American War veterans.
- Fold3 has the widow/dependent pensions up through #148,100. Many of these are soldiers who died during the war or shortly after. If your ancestor lived well past the end of the war, their pension is most likely not online.
- Many Navy pensions are online as well

### **Enlistment ledgers**

- These exist only for soldiers who enlisted in the Regular Army between 1798-1914.
- They are fully indexed and digitized

### **Bounty land applications**

- Civil War soldiers were not eligible for bounty land
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## **Civil War, Confederate (1861-1865)**

The National Park Service Soldiers and Sailors Database contains a listing of every soldier on both sides of the war. This is a website that is outside of Fold3, but is useful to help determine the company and regiment of the soldier before you start your research on Fold3.

<https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm>

### **Compiled Military Service Records**

- All Confederate service records have been digitized and uploaded to Fold3.

### **Pensions**

- These are not indexed or digitized on Fold3. Instead, check the state archives for the state where the soldier was living at the time (not necessarily the state they served from)
  - [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Confederate\\_Pension\\_Records](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Confederate_Pension_Records) (links to some of the files that are online)
  - <https://www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war/confederate/pension> (addresses and phone numbers of various state archives that have the Confederate pensions)
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## **Indian Wars (various conflicts through the 1800s)**

### **Pensions**

- Some are indexed on Fold3
- Check out the Old War pension index on Family Search for other Indian War pensions: <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1979425>

### **Service Records**

- These are fully indexed on Fold3.
- These represent multiple conflicts and wars throughout the 1800s.

### **Bounty Land Applications**

- Most bounty land wasn't granted until the 1850s
- Bounty land was given to soldiers who served in wars up through 1855
- The applications are indexed A-L on Fold3. They will all be indexed eventually.
- None of the bounty land applications themselves are digitized.

### **Enlistment ledgers**

- These exist only for soldiers who enlisted in the Regular Army between 1798-1914
  - They are fully indexed and digitized on Fold3.
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## **Mexican American War (1846-1848)**

### **Pensions**

- These are not indexed on Fold3.
- These are indexed on Family Search instead: <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1979390>
- Check out the Old War pension index on Family Search for other Mexican War pensions:

### **Compiled Military Service Records**

- These are fully indexed on Fold3.
- They are digitized for the following states and groups: Arkansas, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, and the Mormon Battalion
- These exist for soldiers in state regiments, NOT the Regular Army (regiments with US in their title)

### **Bounty Land Applications**

- Most bounty land wasn't granted until the 1850s
- The applications are indexed A-L. They will all be indexed eventually.
- None of the bounty land applications themselves are digitized.

### **Enlistment ledgers**

- These exist only for soldiers who enlisted in the Regular Army between 1798-1914
  - They are fully indexed and digitized
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## **Spanish American War (1898)**

### **Pensions**

- These are fully indexed on Fold3.
- The index also includes Union Army pensions, so look for "War with Spain" stamped on the card.
- None of these pensions are digitized.

### **Compiled Military Service Records**

- These are fully indexed on Fold3.
- These are digitized for the state of Florida only.
- These exist for soldiers in state regiments, NOT the Regular Army (regiments with US in their title).

### **Bounty land applications**

- Spanish American War soldiers were not eligible for bounty land.

### **Enlistment ledgers**

- These exist only for soldiers who enlisted in the Regular Army between 1798-1914.
- They are fully indexed and digitized on Fold3.