

An Overview of Sources for 19th Century Military Records

Curt B. Witcher, MLS, FUGA, IGSF

Director of Special Collections and Genealogy Center Manager

900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, IN 46802

www.GenealogyCenter.org | 260-421-1225 | Genealogy@ACPL.info

"Every generation, the possibility!"

Building the most complete contexts possible for one's military ancestors provides one with the great opportunities to discover records and resources. There is evidence of our ancestors' military service in so many places; and so much of that evidence exists in more than official military records. Commit to exploring them all.

Major conflicts of the 19th Century:

- War of 1812—America's second Revolutionary War—1812-1815
- Mexican-American War—1846-1848
- War Between the States/Civil War—1861-1865
- Spanish-American War—April 21, 1898 – December 10, 1898

Types of records and information we should seek:

- Service
- Pension
- Claims
- Military Histories
- Letters & Diaries
- Government Documents
- Other

Sources of records and information:

- Ancestry.com & Fold3.com
- FamilySearch Research Wiki: www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page
- ArchiveGrid: <https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/>
- National Union Catalog of Manuscript Materials (NUCMC): www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc
- Internet Archive: www.Archive.org
- WorldCat: www.WorldCat.org

Free Military Databases:

- War of 1812 Preserve the Pensions Database (Fold3—free forever)
- www.fold3.com/title/761/war-of-1812-pension-files
- US Mexican War Soldiers & Sailors Database
- www.nps.gov/paal/learn/historyculture/search-usmexwar.htm
- Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System (CWSS)
- www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm
- Our Military Heritage
- www.genealogycenter.info/military/