

Government Documents (& a few other things) for Genealogy

Locating Civil War Ancestors

Plans for the hour

Offer a brief overview of some of the government resources commonly used for genealogy research with including:

- Military Records
- Civil War Pension Records
- The Official Record
- Civil War Maps
- Newspapers

A note about Government Documents

The role of
Keeping America Informed



Preaching to the Choir

Do your homework before you start your research --

- Determine if you have an ancestor that fought in the Civil War
- Would your ancestor have been in the Union or Confederate army?
- In what state did your ancestor serve?
- Where did your ancestor live after the war?

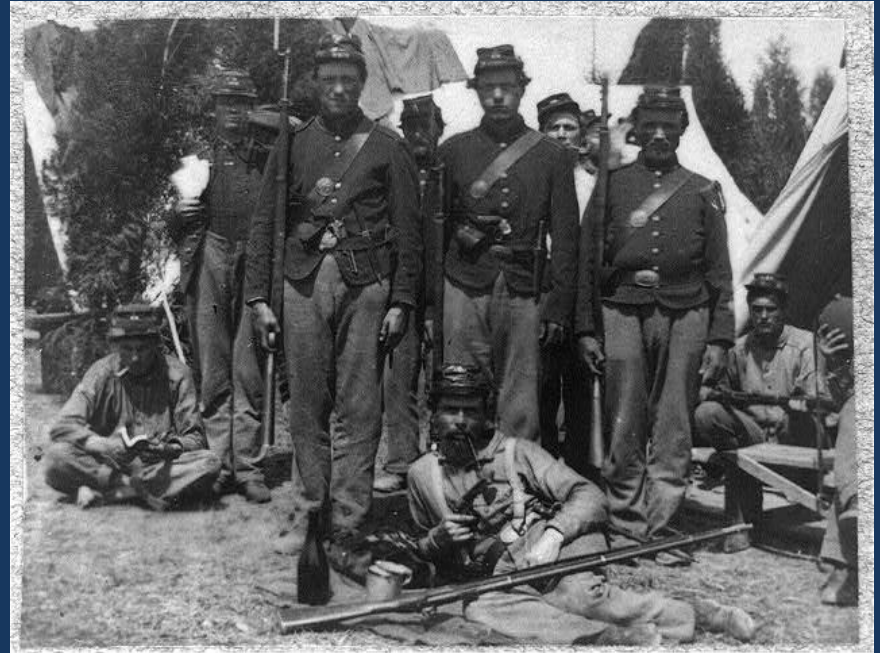
Military Records

Military records offer information about service dates, regiment, rank and, for Navy personnel , vessel of duty.

2 types of military records to look for:

1. Compiled Service Record

**2. Pension Applications and
Pension Payment Records**



23rd New York Infantry; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.



Unidentified Union Soldiers; [Liljenquist Family Collection of Civil War Photographs](#),
Library of Congress

Army Registry & Medal of Honor Recipients

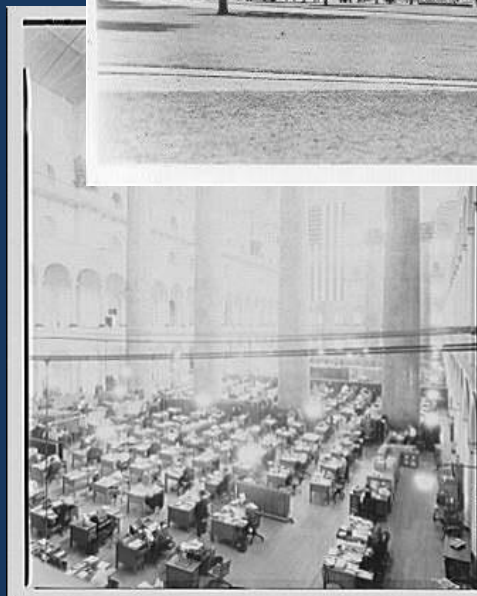
- [U.S. Civil War Soldiers, 1861-1865](#)
- [Civil War Soldiers & Sailors System](#)
- [Civil War Service Records @](#)
Footnote.com
- [Medal of Honor Citations](#)
- [Congressional Medal of Honor Society](#)
- [Books from the Library's collections](#) (refer to your bibliography)

(Union)

Pension Records

After the Civil War **millions** of men, or their dependents (**Union not Confederate**), applied for pension support from the federal government.

The **Index to Pension Records, 1861-1934** contains nearly 2.5 million these application cards.



D.C. Wash. Pension Office bldg. view across park; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.

Pension Office Building. Interior of Pension Office Building; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C

(Union)

Pension Records

What is on a Pension Index Card?

- veteran's name
- state in which he, or his dependents, filed the application
- unit of service
- service dates
- date of filing
- application and certificate numbers (the pension case file is housed at NARA in Washington D.C.)

FEAD				
NAME OF SOLDIER: <i>Rockwell, Rufus</i>				
SERVICE: <i>Late rank, O Co. B., 51 Reg't N.Y. Inf.</i>				
TERM OF SERVICE: <i>Enlisted June 3, 1865 Discharged July 25, 1865</i>				
DATE OF FILING.	CLASS.	APPLICATION NO.	LAW.	CERTIFICATE NO.
<i>1918 Aug. 30</i>	<i>Invalid,</i>	<i>464,944</i>	<i>age</i>	<i>436,762</i>
<i>1882 Nov 15</i>	<i>Widow,</i>	<i>1,128,913</i>	<i>sep</i>	<i>864,692</i>
<i>1918 Oct. 1</i>	<i>Minor,</i>			
ADDITIONAL SERVICES: <i>B. 109. N.Y. Inf</i>				
REMARKS: <i>Died July 21, 1918, at Candor, N.Y.</i>				

Access the [Index to Pension Files @ Ancestry.com](#) (for a fee or free in the library); Also available at [Footnote.com](#) (for a fee or free in the Genealogy Library)

(Confederate)

Pension Records

What about Confederate Soldiers?

The Federal Government **did not** provide pensions to Confederate Soldiers or their dependents.

When Southern states were able to pay pensions, soldiers or their survivors were asked to

Confederate pension records can be located in **state repositories** (a list is available at [Archives.gov](https://www.archives.gov))



[Fair Oaks, Va. Lt. James B. Washington, a Confederate prisoner, with Capt. George A. Custer of the 5th Cavalry, U.S.A.]

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.

The Official Record

The War of the Rebellion:
a compilation of the official
record of the Union and
Confederate armies documents
the battle history of the Civil War.

contains first-hand accounts, orders,
reports, maps, diagrams, and
correspondence from both
Confederate & Union governments



General Napoleon Bonaparte McLaughlen and staff near Washington, D.C.

The Official Record

The full OR is made of 4 series consisting of 128 volumes.

Available at the Genealogy Library & online

- [Cornell University Digital Library](#)
- [Ohio State University](#)
- Via [Ancestry.com](#) -- fee or library card required (contains 193,819 records)



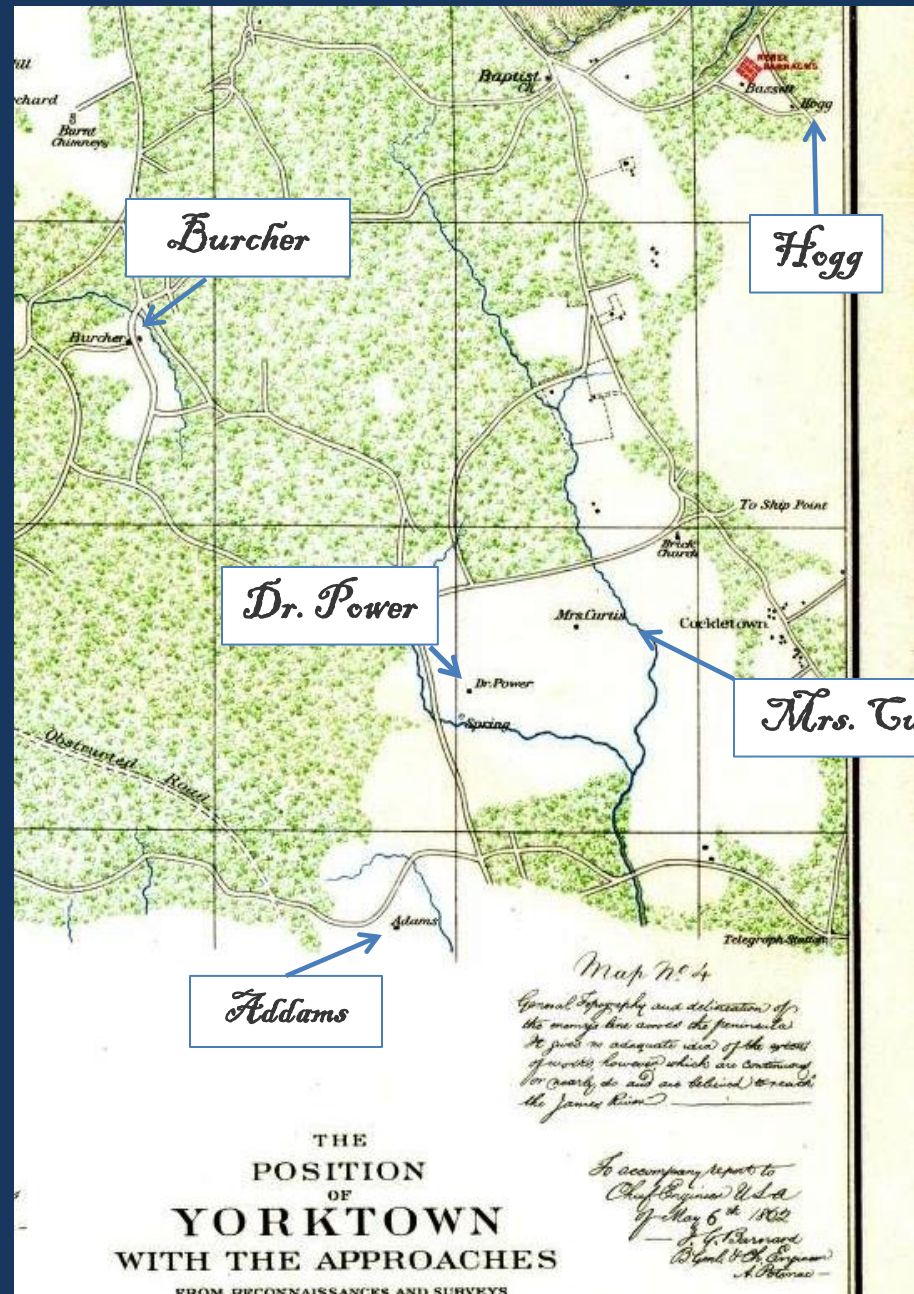
Fort Massachusetts, sally port and soldiers, 1861; National Archives & Records Administration

Maps

Civil War maps often contain locations & names of residents and property owners

What's available?

- Topographic Maps
- *Atlas to Accompany the Official Records*
- Battlefield Maps
- Military Forts & Installations

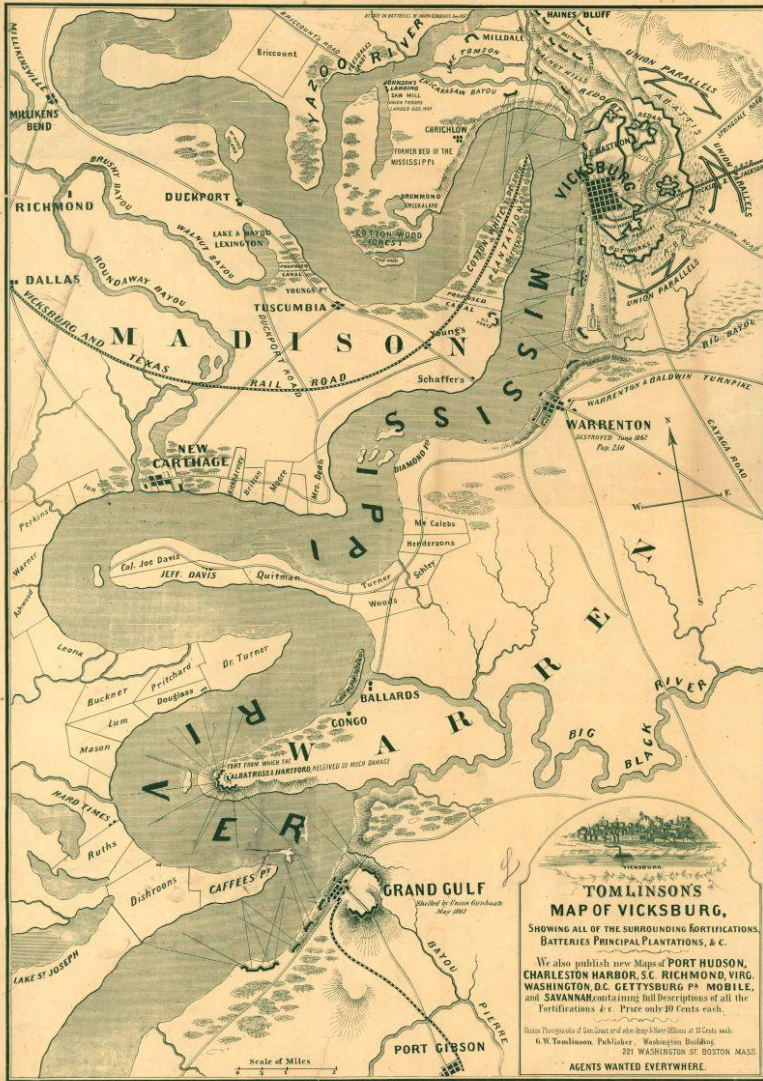


Partial image of Yorktown, VA from the Atlas of the Official Records

NEW MAP of VICKSBURG,

SHOWING THE SCENE OF GEN. GRANT'S OPERATIONS, TOGETHER WITH ALL OF THE FORTIFICATIONS BATTERIES, RIFLE PITS &c.

Sketch of Vicksburg and the surrounding Batteries.



Vicksburg is the Capital of Warren County, and is situated on the Mississippi River, about 160 miles from the Gulf of Mexico, and 220 miles from the City of New Orleans. It is the only city in the State of Mississippi that is situated on a high bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. The city is surrounded by a high bluff, and is situated on the Mississippi River, about 160 miles from the Gulf of Mexico, and 220 miles from the City of New Orleans. The city is surrounded by a high bluff, and is situated on the Mississippi River, about 160 miles from the Gulf of Mexico, and 220 miles from the City of New Orleans.

TOMLINSON'S MAP OF VICKSBURG,
SHOWING ALL OF THE SURROUNDING FORTIFICATIONS, BATTERIES, PRINCIPAL PLANTATIONS, & c.

We also publish new Maps of PORT HUDSON, CHARLESTON HARBOR, S.C. RICHMOND, VIRG. WASHINGTON, D.C. GETTYSBURG, PA. MOBILE, and SAVANNAH, containing full Descriptions of all the Fortifications & c. Price only 10 Cents each.

Agents Wanted Everywhere.

Accessing Maps

- [Civil War Trust](#)
- [Footnote](#)
- [Library of Congress Civil War Maps](#)
- [eHistory at Ohio State University](#)
- [Gilmer Civil War Maps Collection](#)
- [Hargrett Library Rare Map Collection - American Civil War](#)
- [NOAA's Charting a more perfect Union](#)

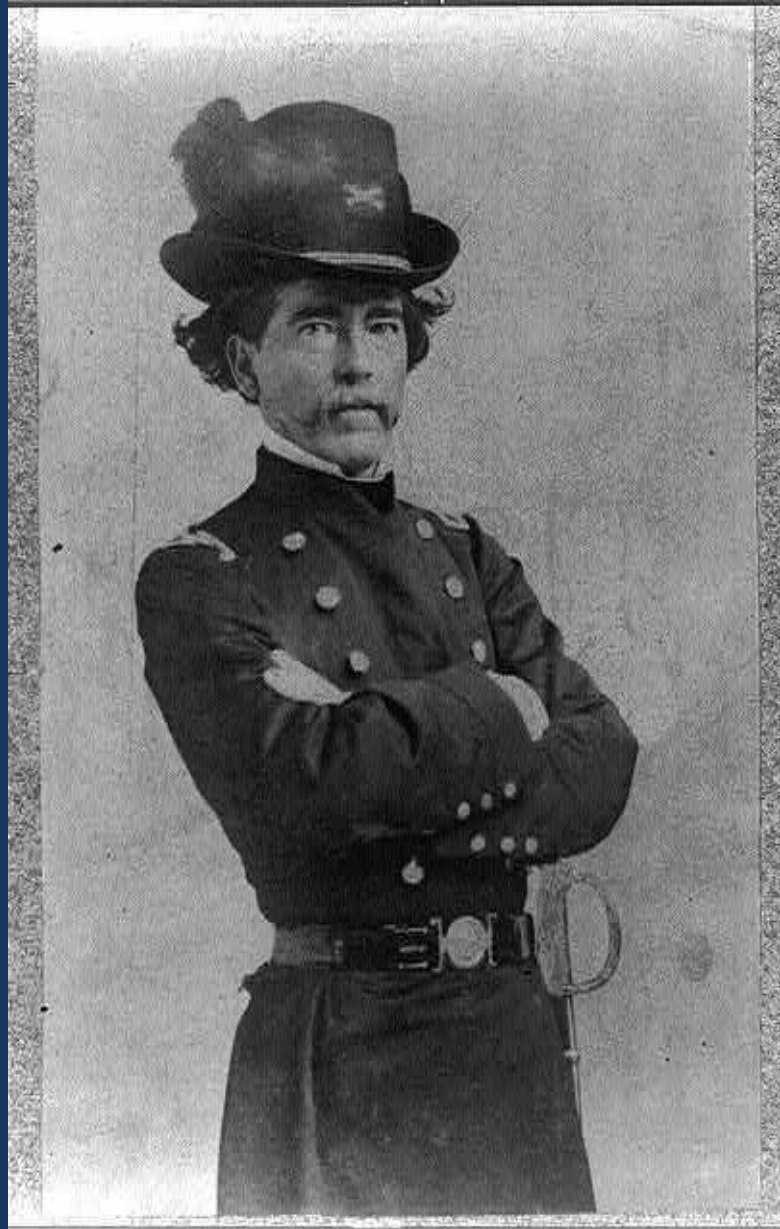
Footnote / NARA collections of note

- Brady Civil War Photos (free)
- Civil War Subversion Investigations (1861-1866)
- Confederate Amnesty Papers
- Confederate Citizens File
- Court Slave Records for DC
- Board of Commissioners - Emancipation of Slaves in DC
- Custer's Court Martial (free)
- Final Statements, 1862-1899
- Lincoln Assassination Papers (free)
- Navy Survivors' & Widows' Certificates

Additional Help & Resources

- Refer to your handout for links discussed today and books available in the Library's collections.

Thank you for
your time...



Paul Octave Herbert, Library of Congress