

World War I Genealogy – Where Do I Start?

Debra Dudek, Lockport, IL 60441

debradudek@yahoo.com

<http://www.debradudek.com>

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Homework:

- What's in Your Family Collection?
 - Photos, postcards, letters, medals?

The following records apply to military service veterans of all ethnic and racial backgrounds

Part 1 – First Online Searches

1. Veterans Administration Master Index Card
2. Military Headstone Applications
3. Army Transport Lists
 - Europe and Russia
 - National Archives Transport Photos
4. Muster Rolls/Rosters

Part 2 – Intermediate Online Research

1. *US Morning Reports 1912-1939*
2. *WWI Panoramic Photos*
3. Military Naturalizations
4. Internet Archive & HathiTrust
 - World War Honor Books
 - Soldiers of the Great War
5. Library of Congress
6. National World War I Museum and Memorial

Part 3 – It Might Be Online: State and Local Resources

1. Service Statement Cards & Military Discharges
2. Veterans Bonus Claim Registers
3. Veterans Bonus Application Files
4. Veterans Census

Part 4 – Archival Research

1. National Personnel Records Center – St. Louis
 1. Requesting Records
 2. Primary Record Sets
 3. Final Payroll Vouchers
 4. Nursing Corps & Officers Records
2. National Archives II - College Park
3. Sharing Your Ancestor's Story

Women's Service Files


US Army, US Marines, and US Navy Nursing Corps

- Enlisted in Nursing Corps or Voluntary Aid Detachments
- Nurses have military records and are eligible for pensions
- Records for women are kept at the same levels as their male counterparts
 - Military Service File
 - State Military Service Card
 - Military Naturalization Petitions
 - Discharge Papers
 - County Discharge Files
 - Headstone Applications

Special Note - Records for enlisted women are kept at the same levels as their male counterparts! Check for local chapter records for

volunteer work through groups such as the National Defense Women's Committee, American Red Cross, Daughters of the American Revolution, Colonial Dames, National Federation of Women's Clubs, State Defense Councils, and other social and civic groups.

First Steps of Conducting Research Online

- FamilySearch
 - *United States Veteran's Administration Master Index 1917-1940*
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2968245>
- Ancestry
 - *U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1970*
 Red check marks signify the headstone application against the original military service file on record at the NRPC
 - *U.S., Army Transport Service, Passenger Lists, 1910-1939*
 - *U.S., Marine Corps Muster Rolls, 1798-1958*
 - *U.S., Navy Cruise Books, 1918-2009*
- National Archives Photo Collection <https://catalog.archives.gov/>
 - Search by ship name, and limit by 'Photographs and Other Graphic Materials' and 'Dates by Year 1910-1919'
- FamilySearch
 - *United States, Enlisted and Officer Muster Rolls and Rosters, 1916-1939*
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3346936>
 - Extra Credit: Use Google Maps to Find Locations Listed for each date

Part 2 – Intermediate & Advanced Online Research

- Fold3
 - *U.S. Morning Reports 1912-1939 (FREE!)*
 - *WWI Panoramic Unit Photos (FREE!)*
- FamilySearch
 - *Military Naturalizations* <https://bit.ly/2J2qRJu>
 - What was your ancestor's citizenship status?
 - "Alien" – Citizen of a foreign government residing in the US
 - Filed "First papers" – Submitted declaration of Intent
 - Filed "Second Papers" or "Final Papers" – Submitted Naturalization Petition
 - Owned a "Certificate" – Naturalization Certificate Granted
 - Was Their Parent(s) naturalized?
 - All underage children would have been included in parent's application for citizenship
- Internet Archive
 - County and State World War Honor Books
 - Find these listed as '(insert location) World War'
 - Include soldiers, nurses, Gold Star mothers, Liberty Loan officers, Draft Boards, and much more!
 - *Soldiers of the Great War* <https://tinyurl.com/4uxyf6yj>
- Library of Congress Photo Collection
<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/>
- National World War I Museum and Memorial
<https://theworldwar.org/research/database>

Part 3 – It Might Be Online: State and Local Resources

These records may be online through Ancestry, Fold3, FamilySearch, or a state archive/website

- Service Statement Cards & Military Discharges
- Veterans Bonus Claim Registers
- Veterans Bonus Application Files
- Veterans Census

State Collections - Online

- FamilySearch Statement of Service Cards - <https://tinyurl.com/39eebnp3>
- Missouri 'Over There' <http://missourioverthere.org/service-database/>
- Connecticut in the First World War <http://connecticuthistory.org/topics-page/world-war-i/>
- Delaware in World War I <http://www.militaryheritage.org/WorldWarI.html>
- Florida World War I Service Cards <https://www.floridamemory.com/Collections/WWI/>
- Wisconsin World War I Roster Database <https://www.wisvetsmuseum.com/research/search-the-wisconsin-veterans-museums-world-war-i-database/>
- New York World War I Units <https://dmna.ny.gov/historic/reghist/wwi/>

Part 4 – Short Introduction to Archival Research

Online Quick Guides

- Guide to World War I Military Research
<http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/military/ww1.html>
- Records of the American Expeditionary Forces WWI
<http://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/120.html>

National Archives National Personnel Records Center

1 Archives Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63138

<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>

1. Final Payroll Voucher – Completed during discharge and includes serial number, address, discharge camp name and location, discharge unit, and final payment details
2. “Burnt File” - Copies of the surviving records of service for military service people who served in the 1917-1918
 - a. No guarantee of what type of records will be contained in a burnt file
 - b. Range from a single note to an array of documents
3. “Full” Service File – Copies of documents and records of military service

Major Record Sets

- *Veteran’s Administration Index Cards 1912-1939* – **Now Available on FamilySearch!** The most complete account of US veterans from the Spanish American War, Philippine War, and World War I.

Available online at FamilySearch or at the NPRC on self-serve microfilm. Veterans' names arranged alphabetically by last name.

- *Muster Roll / Roster File* – **Now Available on FamilySearch!** Information lists, usually prepared bimonthly, of the names of soldiers assigned to a military unit and remarks from superior officers.
- *Daily Morning Reports* – **Now Available on Fold3!** Account of unit activities on a day-by-day basis. Includes assignments, furloughs, special duties, battle details, and leisure activities.
- *Air Force Individual Flight Records* – Training records dating from 1911-1958 are open to the public. These include Army Air Service, Air Force, Reservists, St. Louis, Civilian, and Supplemental records.

Nursing Corps and Officers Records

- *Veterans Administration Index Cards, 1912-1939*
- *Nurses Medical Cards, 1912-1939*
- *World War I Officers and Nurses Pay Cards, 1917 - 1921*
- *World War I Officers and Nurses Final Pay Vouchers, 1917 - 1921*
- *Returns of the Army Nurse Corps, 1917 - 1921*
- *Army Student Nurse Individual Academic Records, 1918 - 1951*

National Archives II – College Park

8601 Adelphi Rd, College Park, MD 20740

<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>

1. Record Group 393 - *Records of U.S. Army Continental Commands 1821-1920*
 - a. Unit Records

2. Division Records
 - a. Memos
 - b. Furlough
3. Quartermaster Records
 - a. Supply Schedules and Locations
4. War Dead by State
5. RG 86 *Records of the Women's Bureau, 1892 - 1995*

DOWNLOAD THIS! List of Authorized Military Abbreviations
https://ncarchives.files.wordpress.com/2016/11/ncwwiservicecards_abrvlist.pdf

What Can I Find on Ancestry?

Navy & Marine Specific

- U.S., *Navy and Marine Corps Registries, 1814-1992*
- U.S. *Marine Corps Muster Rolls, 1798-1958*
- U.S. *Navy Support Books, 1901-1902, 1917-2010*
- U.S. *Navy Cruise Books, 1918-2009*
- U.S., *World War I Naval Deaths, 1917-1919*

General

- *American Soldiers of World War I (not complete)*
- U.S., *WWI Jewish Servicemen Questionnaires, 1918-1921*
- U.S., *Lists of Merchant Seamen Lost in WWI, 1914-1919*
- U.S., *Adjutant General Military Records, 1631-1976*
- U.S., *Lists of Men Ordered to Report to Local Board for Military Duty, 1917-1918*
- U.S., *World War I Soldier Naturalizations, 1918 (not complete)*
- *Kansas, Camp Funston Military Records, 1914-1919 (not complete)*
- *Kansas, World War I Veteran Collection, 1917-1919*
- U.S. *National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938*
- U.S., *World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*
- *WWI, WWII, and Korean War Casualty Listings*
- U.S. *Veterans' Gravesites, ca.1775-2006*

State Specific Records

- *California, World War I Death Announcements, 1918-1921*
- *Connecticut, Military Census, 1917*
- *Connecticut, Military Questionnaires, 1919-1920*
- *Maryland Military Men, 1917-1918*
- *New Mexico, World War I Records, 1917-1919*
- *New York, Abstracts of World War I Military Service, 1917-1919*
- *New York, Military Service Cards, 1816-1979*
- *New York, World War I Veterans' Service Data, 1913-1919*
- *Ohio Soldiers in WWI, 1917-1918*
- *Utah, Military Records, 1861-1970 - WWI Service Questionnaires*
- *Utah, Veterans with Federal Service Buried in Utah, 1847-1966*

Nursing Files

- U.S., *American Red Cross Nurse Files, 1916-1959*

What Can I Find on Fold3?

- ★ *Army Registers, 1798-1969*
- ★ *U.S. Morning Reports 1912-1939 (FREE)*
- ★ *U.S. WWI Burial Cards*
- ★ *US Veterans Administration Pension Payment Cards*
 - *Connecticut WWI Service Rosters*
 - *Foreign Burial of American War Dead*
 - *Gorrell's History - AEF Air Service*
 - *Naturalization Index - WWI Soldiers (not complete)*
 - *Navy and Marine Corps Officer Registers*
 - *Navy Casualty Reports, 1776-1941*
 - *Navy Cruise Books, 1918-2009*
 - *New York 74th Regiment Service Cards*
 - *New York State Adjutant General Reports, 1846-1995*
- *Ohio, Soldiers Grave Registration Cards, 1804-1958*
- *Rendezvous Reports Index - WWI Armed Guard Personnel*
- *US Army WWI Transport Service, Passenger Lists*
- ★ *US Expeditionary Force, North Russia*
 - *US Veterans Administration Pension Payment Cards*
 - *Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File*
 - *WWI - State Department Records*
 - *WWI Draft Registration Cards*
- ★ *WWI Military Cablegrams - AEF and War Department*
 - *WWI New York Army Cards*
 - *WWI Officer Experience Reports - AEF*
- ★ *WWI Panoramic Unit Photos (FREE)*

Recommended Resources

- American Legion Digital Archive
<https://www.legion.org/library/digitalarchive>
- Women's Overseas Service League <https://d.lib.msu.edu/wosl>
- American Battle Monuments Commission
<http://www.abmc.gov/>
- US Army Heritage and Education Center
<https://arena.usahec.org/web/arena>
- Bingham Young WWI Document Archive
http://wwi.lib.byu.edu/index.php/Main_Page
- The Great War YouTube Channel
<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheGreatWar>
- Music of World War I <https://tinyurl.com/2jcpjsww>
- Pritzker Military Museum & Library www.pritzkermilitary.org
- Home Before the Leaves Fall - <https://wwionline.org/wwi-online>
- Trenches to Treaties Online Exhibit hosted by the American Numismatic Association <https://www.money.org/money-museum/virtual-exhibits-wwi/>
- World War I Centennial Commission
<http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/>

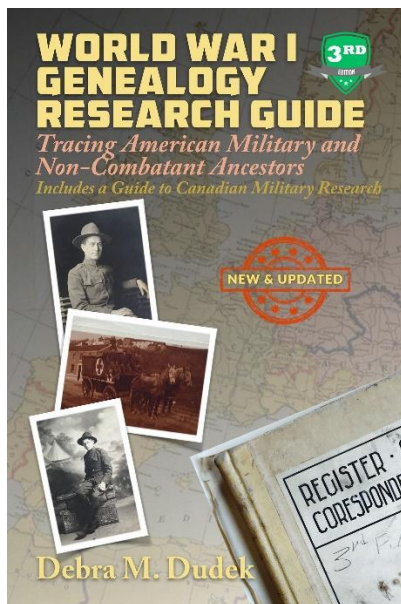
- Newspapers
 - *Stars and Stripes: The American Soldiers' Newspaper of World War I, 1918 to 1919*
<https://www.loc.gov/collections/stars-and-stripes/about-this-collection/>
 - BGSU Historical U.S. Newspapers Online
<http://libguides.bgsu.edu/USNewspapersInternet>
 - Library of Congress - Chronicling America - over 10.5 million pages from 43 states <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
 - Google News Archive -
<https://news.google.com/newspapers>
 - Old Fulton NY Post Cards - over 34 million pages of historical newspapers <http://www.fultonhistory.com/fulton.html>
 - Genealogy Bank (\$) - <http://www.genealogybank.com/>
 - Newspapers.com (\$) - <https://www.newspapers.com/>
 - Newspaper Archive (\$) - <http://newspaperarchive.com/us/>
- Photograph Archives
 - Photos of the Great War -
<http://www.gwpda.org/photos/greatwar.htm>
 - Bibliothèque Nationale de France Online Great War Photos -
<https://goo.gl/Rt7nUV>
 - Place Name or “Grande Guerre”
 - World War One Photo & Film Archive -
<http://www.ww1photos.com/>
 - Great War Pictures -
<http://www.wereldoorlog1418.nl/warpictures/>
 - World War One In Color
<https://worldwaronecolorphotos.com/>

- Military Battles and Campaign Maps
<https://www.loc.gov/collections/military-battles-and-campaigns/about-this-collection/>
- US Army Campaigns WWI <https://tinyurl.com/ya9c7yw9>
- Yana & Marty Davis Map Collection <https://bit.ly/2Ys9arY>
- World War I Posters - <https://tinyurl.com/3ebrvs2k>

Sharing Your Ancestor's Story

- ✓ Share what you've discovered with family and friends
- ✓ Submit your veteran's story of service
<https://doughboy.org/education/stories-of-service/>
- ✓ Write an article for a newspaper, museum or historical society
- ✓ Create a shadow box of family WWI memorabilia

Need help researching your Great War ancestors?



Debra M. Dudek
debradudek@yahoo.com
<http://www.debradudek.com>

Paperback and eBook on Amazon

<https://tinyurl.com/msrcx62n>