

RESEARCHING AT APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE

PRESENTED BY DR. DANIEL HUBBARD, PERSONAL PAST



- Many unique records exist because of the conflict.
- More people than just the soldiers and sailors appear in those records.
- Unique records are not restricted to the war itself, the conditions that led to the war produced unique records and so did the aftermath.
- Ancestry, FamilySearch and Fold3 have large online collections. Many small online collections.
- Paper and microfilm collections at the National Archives and state archives.

CLUES:

Why might you suspect that you have a soldier in the family?

- Photographs
- Societies
- Headstones
- Census (young man alive in 1860, missing in 1870. Gap in children)
- Civil War Soldiers & Sailors System (www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/)

CIVIL WAR BY THE NUMBERS:

- The numbers aren't the story but they can make the story more understandable
- January 1861- .05% of the population in the army, January 1863- 5% in an army
- By war's end 1 in 5 men had served.
- Hundreds of thousands on both sides died of disease and wounds.

RECORDS BEFORE THE WAR:

- Records concerning slaves and their owners
- Abolitionist societies
- Underground Railroad
- Population and slave schedules

NOT THEIR FATHER'S WAR:

Technological change was one of the hallmarks of the war and it greatly impacted people's experiences of the war.

RECORDS DURING THE WAR YEARS:

MILITARY:

- Enlistment
- Muster Rolls
- Hospital
- Prisoners
- Records of Installations
- Casualty Lists
- Service Records
- Unit histories

CIVILIAN:

- Draft
- Income Tax
- Provost Marshall Records

AFTER APPOMATTOX:

- Sultana Disaster
- Freedmen's Bank
- Amnesty papers
- Southern Claims Commission
- 1890 Veteran's Schedules
- Pension Indices (Ancestry & Fold3)
- Pension files (Can be ordered from NARA)
- Veterans' Organizations (Index to G.A.R. posts at <http://www.loc.gov/rr/main/gar/>)

FURTHER READING FROM MY BLOG:

- The Census Goes to War (in the April 2011 archive) (<http://www.thepersonalpast.com/2011/04/10/the-census-goes-to-war/>)
- Seven Score and Ten (in the April 2011 archive) (www.thepersonalpast.com/2011/04/17/seven-score-and-ten/)
- Reconstructing the Post-War World (in the April 2011 archive) (www.thepersonalpast.com/2011/04/25/reconstructing-the-post-war-world/)
- Before the Titanic there was... (the *Sultana* Disaster) (www.thepersonalpast.com/2012/04/27/before-the-titanic-there-was/)

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KEY WEBSITES:

- NARA Online Record Orders- www.archives.gov/research/order/
- Ancestry- www.ancestry.com
- Fold3 (formerly Footnote)- www.fold3.com
- Family Search- familysearch.org
- Making of America, Official Record, Armies- ebooks.library.cornell.edu/m/moawar/waro.html
- Making of America, Official Record, Navies- ebooks.library.cornell.edu/m/moawar/ofre.html
- Google Books and Internet Archive- books.google.com archive.org Search for "Compendium of the War of the Rebellion" Note that there are multiple versions on Google books. Some are previews of a modern reprint but one is a complete scan of the original.