

Civil War Addendum (military records & pension applications may contain detailed info, including birthplace)

- 2011 marks the 150th anniversary of the start of the U.S. Civil War (12 Apr 1861 at Fort Sumter, SC).
- At the time of the war, Irish immigrants were generally not welcomed with open arms in many circles. Fighting for their new country was seen as a way to earn credibility and/or acceptance.
- Unless specifically mentioned, most items that follow are relevant to both Union and Confederates.
- This addendum only scratches the surface. There is essentially an unlimited supply of research material about the Civil War.

- **Some Background Info:**
 - Branches:
 - Army: Regular vs. Volunteer. Most who served during the Civil War, enlisted as Volunteers for units from their home state. Regulars were serving prior to the war mostly on the western frontier. The U.S. Military Academy had been established in 1802 at West Point, NY and had trained many of the officers on both sides.
 - Navy: The Union had as many as 51,000 sailors while the Confederates had about 4,000. The U.S. Naval Academy was established in 1850 at Annapolis, MD. The Academy moved to Rhode Island during the War.
 - Marine: The Union had about 4,000 marines while the Confederates had about 600.
 - Civilians: There were also many civilians directly employed or contracted, including doctors, nurses, and support staff. Beyond that, not many families in the U.S. went unaffected. Women often took on new roles such as doing farm work or working in factories.
 - Army unit hierarchy:
 - Companies: about 100 men, lead by a captain, 1st lieutenant, 2nd lieutenant, 8 sergeants, 8 corporals.
 - Artillery companies were referred to as batteries and cavalry companies were called troops.
 - Companies were named by letter from A to M. J was skipped to avoid confusion with the letter I.
 - Battalions: 2 to 6 companies led by a major.
 - Some companies and battalions were independent of regiments.
 - Regiments: 10 companies (infantry) and were lead by a colonel, lieutenant-colonel, and 2 or 3 majors.
 - Usually 12 companies made up artillery and cavalry regiments.
 - Battalions and regiments were named by number, 1st, 2nd, etc. Caution - In some cases, a state has multiple 1st, 2nd, etc. battalions or regiments.
 - Brigades: 2 or more regiments lead by a colonel or brigadier general.
 - Divisions: 2 or more brigades
 - Corps: 2 or more divisions
 - Armies: 1 or more corps

- **Identify family members who served**
 - Don't limit your search to direct ancestors. Brothers, cousins, uncles, nephews, in-laws may have served and their military records may include important family info (remember the benefits of Whole Family Research).
 - Typically males born 1825 through 1845 are candidates. Older and younger men did serve (born 1790 – 1850), but those cases were not common. Even some women served – disguised as men!
 - Locate the candidates in the 1860 U.S. Census. Most served in Voluntary units which were state-based. In most cases, the state where they resided at the time of the 1860 census will be the same state where they enlisted.
 - 1860 US - free at www.familysearch.org; free at www.libraryweb.org/heritage.html with a Monroe County library card; Ancestry.com, free at 7 Monroe County libraries with card and at Family History Centers
 - Locate the candidates in the following censuses, which include an indication of their veteran status:
 - 1865 NY (census of other states may include similar info) – free at www.familysearch.org. Includes unit and service dates.
 - 1890 US Veterans & Widows Schedule- free at www.familysearch.org; Ancestry.com, free at 7 Monroe County libraries with card and at Family History Centers. Includes unit and service dates. The veteran did not have to have been alive in 1890 to be included.
 - 1910 US – free at www.familysearch.org; free at www.libraryweb.org/heritage.html with a Monroe County library card; Ancestry.com, free at 7 Monroe County libraries with card and at Family History Centers
 - 1930 US - Ancestry.com, free at 7 Monroe County libraries with card and at Family History Centers; footnote.com, free at Family History Centers

- Search for your candidates in rosters of soldiers and sailors.
 - Caution – you will encounter multiple men with the same name, multiple spellings of the same name, records for a single individual recorded in multiple files because of multiple spellings of the same name, records for a single individual recorded in multiple files because he served in more than one unit, etc.
 - Civil War Soldiers and Sailors (CWSS) – free at www.civilwar.nps.gov. For each soldier found, gives easy access to regimental history and basic info about each of its battles.
 - There are many other sources of rosters, although CWSS is a great site and seems to be very thorough. County histories published after the war usually have rosters and can be found at local libraries and museums. <http://www.usgenweb.org/> can lead you to other resources.
- **Procure service record from the New York State Archives**
 - This is an excellent resource for those who served in a Volunteer unit which originated in New York State. A one page form includes name, age, date and place of enlistment, rank, company, regiment, date and place of discharge, birthplace (usually just state or country), occupation, height, color of eyes, hair, and complexion. Often the form is hard to read.
 - You need to know the following in order to procure records (the research steps above should lead you to this info for each of your candidates):
 - Infantry or Cavalry or Artillery or Colored Troops or Engineers
 - Regiment
 - **How to order a service record (\$3)**
 - Go to http://www.archives.nysed.gov/common/archives/files/res_topics_mi_warsvc_form.pdf
 - Enter name and regiment info & click *Find*
 - If there's more than one person with the same name in a regiment, you will receive records for all of them at no extra charge.
 - *Click to Order*, fill in the form and mail it with a check for \$3.
- **Procure military records and pension applications**
 - You need to know the following in order to procure records (the research steps above should lead you to this info for each of your candidates):
 - home state
 - Union or Confederate
 - branch: Army, Navy, Marine
 - Volunteer or Regular
 - Other info which will be useful to provide:
 - Regiment and company
 - Infantry or Cavalry or Artillery
 - Officer or Enlisted (not an officer)
 - Date and place of birth
 - Date and place of death
 - There are 2 types of Civil War records that can be procured:
 - Pension application files
 - Compiled military service records
 - The National Archives suggests that genealogists:
 - first order the pension application files (often contains great info relevant to the family history).
 - If no pension application is found, then order the compiled military service records (usually contains only info about their service record, although in some cases they include some family history).
 - Sources of copies:
 - Order copies from the National Archives (see next page)
 - Order copies from private sources such as American Civil War Ancestor (<http://www.acwancestor.org/>) (see next page)
 - Visit the National Archives and make copies yourself. For rates see <http://www.archives.gov/research/order/fees.html>

- **How to order a pension application file**
 - There is not a pension application for everyone that served. You can search for your candidates in the Civil War Pension Index Cards - free at www.familysearch.org (3.0 million records).
 - Even if you don't find a candidate in that file, you can still order a pension application. You will not be charged if the National Archives does not find an application.
 - Go to <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/pre-ww-1-records.html#natf85>
 - Under *Military Pension/Bounty Land Warrant Applications*, click *Download the Form* in order to verify that you have the required information to order.
 - Under *Military Pension/Bounty Land Warrant Applications*, click *Order Online* to order.
 - **You will have to choose between 2 pension options:**
 - Full Pension Application File-Civil War, 1860 or Later (\$80 for 1st 100 pages & \$.70 per page beyond 100 pages)
 - Pension Documents Packet (\$30)
 - The Form 85 instructions describe both options. In theory, the \$30 packet has the sections which most likely contain genealogical info, but you will have no indication of what you might be missing by not ordering the full option.
 - These pension applications are for Union only. The Form 85 instructions give info about Confederate pensions.
 - You can order from a private source such as American Civil War Ancestor (<http://www.acwancestor.org/>). (\$60 for 1st 200 images & \$.25 per image beyond 200)
- **How to order a compiled military service record**
 - Go to <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/pre-ww-1-records.html#natf86>
 - Under *Military Service Records*, click *Download the Form* in order to verify that you have the required information to order.
 - Under *Military Service Records*, click *Order Online* to order (\$30).
 - These service records are for Army only. The Form 86 instructions give info about other branches
 - You can order from a private source such as American Civil War Ancestor (<http://www.acwancestor.org/>). (\$27.50)
- **Other New York-specific Resources**
 - For finding individual soldiers:
 - <http://dmna.state.ny.us/historic/reghist/civil/rosters/rosters.htm>
 - Town Clerks' Register of Men Who Served in the Civil War, New York Archives at Ancestry.com, free at 7 Monroe County libraries with card and at Family History Centers. Includes father's name and mother's maiden name.
 - New York State Adjutant General's Office, *Register of New York Regiments in the War of the Rebellion*, 43 vols., (Albany, N.Y.: J. B. Lyon and others, 1894–1906). These adjutant general reports are indexed in Wilt, Richard A., *New York Soldiers in the Civil War*, 2 vols. (Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1999).
 - New York State Adjutant General's Office, *A Record of the Commissioned Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and Privates, of the Regiments which were organized in the State of New York*, (Albany, N.Y.: Comstock & Cassidy, 1864–1868).
 - Townsend, Thomas S., *Heroes of the Empire State in the War of the Rebellion*. (New York: Lowell & Co., 1889).
 - For researching the history of a specific unit:
 - Phisterer, Frederick (Compiler). *New York in the war of the rebellion, 1861 to 1865*. Albany: J.B. Lyon Co., State printers, 1912. Online version available at <http://dmna.state.ny.us/historic/research/DigBooks/DigBooksIndex.htm>

- **Other Resources**

- Bibliography: http://www.ahco.army.mil/site/finding_aids_brief.jsp
- Cemeteries: <http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov> <http://www.suvcwdb.org/> www.findagrave.com www.interment.net
- GAR: NYS Archives, <http://iarchives.nysed.gov/xtf/view?docId=B1706.xml;query=b1706;brand=default>
- GAR: Library of Congress, <http://www.loc.gov/rr/main/gar/garhome.html>
- GAR: <http://www.garrecords.org/>
- Maps: http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/civil_war_maps/ Official Military Atlas of the Civil War at <http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/historicalmaps/civilwar/atlas.html>
- Newspapers: <http://www.fultonhistory.com/> <http://www.neh.gov/projects/usnp.html>
- Official Records: The 128-book set, "Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies" and the 30-volume equivalent for the Navy are available online free at <http://dlxs2.library.cornell.edu/m/moawar/index.html>
- Photos: <http://www.loc.gov> <http://www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war/photos/index.html>
<http://www.carlisle.army.mil/ahec/usamhi/photosearch.cfm>
- Prisons: <http://cyndislist.com/cw.htm#prisons>
- Veteran Home Registers: At FHC rent microfilm (\$5.50), see <https://www.familysearch.org/#form=catalog>
- Other: <http://www.civilwarhome.com/> <http://militaryindexes.com/civilwar/> <http://www.civilwar.org/>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Civil_War <http://www.cwc.lsu.edu> <http://www.cyndislist.com/us/civil-war>,
<http://www.acwancestor.org/>