

# Basic Training: U.S. Military Records

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Searching for Online Military Records
For the following searches, select an ancestor who could have served in the military during a war, using the following table.

Birth year	Possible service	Hints
1721-1767	Revolutionary War (1775-1783)	
1752-1799	War of 1812 (1812-1815)	
1720-1880	Indian Wars (1780s-1890s)	
1788-1832	Mexican War (1846-1848)	
1801-1849	Civil War (1861-1865)	
1828-1882	Spanish American War (1898)	
1838-1886	Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902)	
1857-1900	World War 1 (1917-1918)	Draft Cards - birth years 1873-1900
1881-1927	World War 2 (1941-1945)	Draft Cards - birth years 1877-1927
1890-1935	Korean War (1950-1953)	
1905-1955	Vietnam War (1964-1972)	

## U.S. Military Records Resources

FamilySearch Wiki [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United\\_States\\_Military\\_Records](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Military_Records)  
Ancestry <https://www.ancestry.com/academy/course/finding-ancestors-us-military-records>.  
Neagles, James C. *U.S. Military Records: a Guide to Federal and State Sources, Colonial America to the Present*. Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry, 1994.

## United States Military Records Online

<https://www.familysearch.org> > Search > Catalog > Keywords [*name of war*] > Availability > Online

<https://www.ancestry.com/cs/militaryrecords>

<https://www.fold3.com> (available for free at a local Family History Center)

[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United\\_States\\_Military\\_Online\\_Genealogy\\_Records](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Military_Online_Genealogy_Records)

<https://www.archives.gov/research/military/veterans/online>

<https://www.cyndislist.com/us/military/>

<https://www.google.com> > [*name of war*] military records


### FamilySearch Historical Records

1. Sign in to **familysearch.org**, and go to **Family Tree**.
2. Go to the **details** page of an ancestor who may have served in the military.
3. Under Search Records, click **FamilySearch.org**.
4. Under **Restrict records by**: click **Type**, and then click **Military**.
5. If needed, under **Search with a life event**:, click **Residence**, enter the state where the ancestor lived at the time of the war, and then click **Search**.

### Ancestry.com (available for free at a local Family History Center)

1. Sign in to **ancestry.com**.
2. Click the **Search** tab and then click **Military**.
3. Enter your ancestor's **first** and **last names** in the search fields.
4. For the **Lived In Location**, enter the **state** where the person lived during the war.
5. For the **Military Year**, enter the **year range** of the war. (For example, for the Civil War, enter 1863 +/- 2 years.)
6. Click **Search**.
7. If needed, in the upper left-hand corner, make the **search filters** more exact.

### Fold3.com (available for free at a local Family History Center)

1. Sign in to Fold3.com or at a Family History Center, open the **FHC Portal**. Click **Premium Family History Websites**, and then click **Fold3.com**
2. Enter your ancestor's **first** and **last names** in the search fields and click  **Search**.
3. Click the **name of the war** under **All Categories**.
4. If needed, select a **state** under the map to narrow the search (if available).
5. Click a **record title** that matches your ancestor.
6. Click **View Larger**.

### Archives.gov

To order US military records go to **archives.gov**, click **Veterans' Service Records**.

- For records between 1917 and today, click **Request Personnel ... Online**.
- For pre-WWI records, click **Locate older ... records**.