



# *National Archives and Records Administration*

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## **SELECT MICROFILMED RECORDS RELATING TO BOUNTY-LAND WARRANTS (1789 to 1855) AND PENSIONS FOR SERVICE IN THE REGULAR ARMY (1789-1916)**

Congress established the War Department August 7, 1789 (1 Stat. 49). This date also marked the beginning of the Regular Army.

### **PENSION RECORDS**

Begin your search by trying to locate a pension file for the soldier. A person need not have received a pension for there to be a file, because the Pension Bureau created a file when a person applied even if they did not receive a pension.

Pension records often contain a great deal of personal information about a soldier and his family. A veteran's file may include his age or date of birth, place of residence, rank and period of service, date and place of death, name of widow and names of children under 16. If the husband received a pension, it is combined with the widow's. If the soldier did not apply, and his widow did, the file contains only her pension file. A widow's file contains her age, residence, maiden name, date and place of marriage, and the place of her death.

### **BOUNTY-LAND WARRANT RECORDS**

To encourage enlistments, the Federal government promised veterans public land. **Note:** Not all of the bounty-land warrant files are indexed. If you do not find the soldier listed in one of the indexes described below, submit a request for an unindexed bounty-land warrant file.

Many veterans who received bounty land did not take possession. To find the land surrender warrant, you need to know the war, the bounty-land warrant number, the number of acres, and the act of Congress under which the person was eligible. Bounty-land warrants generally do not contain as much personal information as the pensions. Contact the consultants for assistance.

### **ORDERING THE RECORDS**

Request forms to view pension and bounty-land files must be filled out in the Microfilm Reading Room Monday through Friday before 3:30 to examine them the same day. Request forms can be submitted after 3:30 p.m. and on Saturdays, but the files will not be pulled until the next working day. You must order land surrender warrants from the Consultants' Office.

### **MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS**

     M313, *Index to War of 1812 Pension Application Files*, 102 rolls. DP. The files in this War of 1812 series relate to claims based on service rendered between 1812 to 1815. See the descriptive pamphlet for additional information about these records.

     T316, *Old War Index To Pension Files*, 7 rolls. For claims based on disability or death for regular military service between the end of the Revolutionary War in 1783 and the beginning of the Civil War in 1861.

\_\_\_ T317, *Index to Mexican War Pension Files, 1887-1926*, 14 rolls. These files pertain to service in the Army from 1846 to 1848.

\_\_\_ T318, *Index to Indian War Pension Files, 1892-1926*, 12 rolls. Card index relating to service in the Indian Campaigns between 1817-1898. The index shows the name of the veteran, name and type of dependent, service data, application numbers, certificate numbers for approved claims and state from where the claim was made.

\_\_\_ T288, *General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934*, 544 rolls. These pension files are based on service performed from primarily 1861 to 1916.

\_\_\_ T289, *Organization Index to Pension Files of Veterans Who Served Between 1861 and 1900*, 765 rolls. Arranged by state, thereunder by arm of service (infantry, cavalry, artillery,) thereunder numerically by regiment, and then alphabetically by the veterans last name.

### **Remarried Widows**

Some widows drew pensions from the service of two soldiers. Usually, the pension application information for both men is included in a single file, under the surname of the second husband.

\_\_\_ M1784, *Index to Pension Files of Remarried Widows Based on Service in the War of 1812, Indian Wars, Mexican War, and Regular Army Before 1861*, 1 roll. This index contains files of widows who were drawing pensions from the service of two soldiers (her 1<sup>st</sup> husband and then her 2<sup>nd</sup> husband). The information on both soldiers is usually included in one pension file. These files are arranged alphabetically by the widow's remarried name.

\_\_\_ M1785, *Index to Pension Application Files of Remarried Widows Based on Volunteer Service in the Civil War and Later Wars and in the Regular Army After the Civil War*, 7 rolls. Arranged alphabetically by surname.

### **Pension Payment Cards**

\_\_\_ M850, *Veteran's Administration Pension Payment, 1907-1933*, 2,539 rolls. This microfilm series reproduces Pension Officer award cards that record payments to pensioners from 1907 to 1933, except World War I veterans. Arranged alphabetically by surname.

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