

I've Found My Ancestor's Service Record! Now What?

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Surviving WWI Records

National Archives

1. "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
2. Muster Roll / Roster File – Information lists, usually prepared bimonthly, of the names of soldiers assigned to a military unit and remarks from superior officers
3. "Full" Service File – Copies of documents and records of military service

Taking a Look at Different Files

Muster Roll / Roster File

- Date and Place of Enlistment
- Enrollment officer
- Date of muster into service
- Date of last payment
- Remarks
 - Absent, Deceased, AWOL, Hospital
- Activities engaged in by the unit

“Full” Service File

- Date and Place of Birth
- Enlistment Location
- Profession before enlistment
- Unit, rank, group, and division information
- Training camp information
- Quartermaster equipment and clothing list
- Departure for service date
- Details of guard duty and leave
- Court Martial Notes
- Service summery
- Return date and name of transport ship
- Discharge date
- Service Record Requests

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
 - Discharge Papers
 - County Discharge Files
 - Headstone Applications
- Women were pressured to return to their roles as wives and mothers after the war
- Some women did not seek recognition for their work in the service
- Some women returned to the service during World War II

WWI American Records

State Archives and County Courthouse

- Military Discharge Papers, Veterans Census, Bonus Claim Register

Family Search

- US Military Records
https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/World_War_I_United_States_Military_Records,_1917_to_1918

Fold3

- WWI Military Cablegrams - AEF and War Department
- WWI Officer Experience Reports – AEF
- WWI Panoramic Unit Photos

Ancestry

- Military Headstone Application, Draft Registration Cards, Member Connect
- BIRLS Files
- U.S., Army Transport Service, Passenger Lists, 1910-1939

Trench Journals and Unit Magazines of the First World War

- Try-It! Illinois Database Trial (October 1 – November 30)

National Archives

- WWI 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>

Library of Congress

- 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/>
- WWI Posters - <https://www.loc.gov/collections/world-war-i-posters/about-this-collection/>
- Military Battles and Campaign Maps
<https://www.loc.gov/collections/military-battles-and-campaigns/about-this-collection/>

US Army Campaigns WWI

http://www.history.army.mil/html/reference/army_flag/wwi.html

World War I Museum: <https://www.theworldwar.org/>

U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center

<http://www.carlisle.army.mil/ahec/index.cfm>

Bingham Young WWI Document Archive

http://wwi.lib.byu.edu/index.php/Main_Page

Online World War I Indexes and Records – USA

<http://www.militaryindexes.com/worldwarone/>

State Collections - Online

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/>

Illinois First World War Centennial

<http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/illinois-wwi-centennial-home.html>

New Jersey World War I Deaths

<https://wwwnet1.state.nj.us/DOS/Admin/ArchivesDBPortal/WWICards.aspx>

New York World War I Units <https://dmna.ny.gov/historic/reghist/wwi/>

State Collections – Internet Archive

Soldiers of the Great War by Frank G. Howe and Alfred C. Doyle

- Volume 1 <https://archive.org/details/SoldiersOfTheGreatWarV1>
- Volume 2 <https://archive.org/details/SoldiersOfTheGreatWarV2>
- Volume 3 <https://archive.org/details/SoldiersOfTheGreatWarV3>

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/>

Additional Resources

World War I Centennial Commission

<http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/>

The Great War YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheGreatWar>

Pritzker Military Museum & Library www.pritzkermilitary.org

American Battle Monuments Commission: <http://www.abmc.gov/>

The Great War Society http://www.worldwar1.com/dbc/gen_faq.htm

Latest hand-picked First World War news and articles

<http://firstworldwar.cloudworth.com/>