

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

Archives and Records Management Division
Archival Services Branch

Researching Civil War Ancestors:

Existing information on Civil War ancestors may be found in Union Army records, Confederate Army records, or both. Other individuals could have been members of Kentucky state forces, or irregular outfits such as the "Home Guards" or "Independent Scouts." Although these records very rarely include information concerning a soldier's extended family, the most complete picture of an individual's military service during the Civil War will be found by searching a variety of records.

RESOURCES FOR BOTH SIDES:

Compiled Service Records	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ includes a master index providing the name, rank, and unit for each soldier▪ individual service files may include information from muster rolls, regimental returns, hospital rolls, descriptive books, lists of deserters, military prison records, "Miscellaneous Card Abstracts," and/or "Personal Papers"
Report of the Adjutant General	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ includes indexes▪ includes rosters of Kentucky units mustered into Federal services, U.S. Colored Troops, Kentucky State Troops, and Enrolled Militia <p>Adjutant General's Report concerning Confederate soldiers contains errors and omissions as their records were either poorly kept, lost, or destroyed.</p>
Circuit Court Records	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Order Books contain indictments for war-related acts (i.e. battle-related death, seizure of property, destruction of property, et. al) <p>Confederate soldiers not found in official records may be found in these records.</p>

RESOURCES FOR BOTH SIDES:

Governor's Papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Papers of Governor Thomas E. Bramlette contain petitions for pardon stemming from war-time indictments Governor's Executive Journals include dates for pardons
1890 Census of Union Veterans and Widows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typically includes name, rank, unit, length of service, and nature of service related disability <p>Some Confederate veterans were accidentally included in this census.</p>
1910 Census	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes a category for Civil War veterans using the notation "U" or "C"

FURTHER SOURCES FOR CONFEDERATES:

Louisville Military Prison Registers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registers containing references for prisoners-of-war (1862-1865) Registers containing references to civilian prisoners engaged in guerrilla warfare or disloyal act to the U.S. government
McLean Barracks Military Prison Records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registers of confined soldiers (1863-1865)
Register of Confederate Prisoners Who Died in Federal Prisons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compiled register for "Marking the Graves of Confederate Dead"
Amnesty Papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applications for pardon from soldiers and civilians submitted to President Andrew Johnson (1865-1867)
Confederate Pension Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indexed applications for the "Confederate Pension" provided by Kentucky Typically includes name, date of birth, place of birth, unit designation, and term of service (may also contain marriage and/or death records)
Kentucky Confederate Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roster of applicants (1903-1909) List of inmates (1912) Searchable Database available