Resources for Ohio Civil War Genealogy Research

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To Research Individual Soldiers:

Websites:
Note: For brevity, NARA is used in this document to indicate the National Archives and Records Administration.


(3) Civil War Pension Indexes and VA payment cards.
   (b) Organizational index: Footnote.com. <http://www.footnote.com>. Subscription database. Index by military unit. Images of index cards from NARA’s Organization Index to Pension Files of Veterans Who Served Between 1861 and 1900, T289 (see #5, 10.)

(4) Ohio Civil War Genealogy Center. Ohio Genealogical Society, <www.ogs.org>. Online component of Ohio Civil War Genealogy Journal, quarterly subscription publication of OGS. Includes several free databases and a subscriber-only section with PDF versions of all issues of OCWGJ, databases, and research tools that are updated frequently.

(5) National Archives Research Room. Washington, DC: NARA. Free access. <http://www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war/civil-war-genealogy-resources/index.html>. Contains background information on types of records available and now provides online ordering for Compiled Military Service Records or pension files. (Orders may still be submitted by paper through US Mail; order CMSR on NARA Form 86 or pension files on NARA Form 85, both available from NARA by mail or from the website). Identifying the correct veteran in the appropriate index is not required before submitting an order form, but it will increase the likelihood of success of obtaining the correct file from NARA, due to different spelling of surnames, multiple veterans with the same surname, etc. Tips for online ordering are available from <ocwgj-experts@ogs.org>.

(6) Burial Locations: There are several sources for burial information of Civil War veterans:
   (a) National Graves Registration Database: Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The national database for this ongoing project is searchable at <http://www.suvcwdb.org/home/index.php>.
   (b) Nationwide Gravesite Locator: Dept. of Veterans Affairs. This database allows searching all national cemeteries, keeping in mind that many Civil War burials are as Unknown. <http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1>.
   (c) Card Records of Headstones Provided for Deceased Union Civil War Veterans, ca. 1879-ca. 1903: Images of cards from the headstone applications for civilian cemeteries. Now online at Ancestry.com with limited search capability. Ohio Civil War Genealogy Center is extracting the information for burials in Ohio and for burials of veterans from Ohio units.
   (d) Roll of Honor section of Ohio Official Roster (see #13) and Quartermaster General Roll of Honor (see #14.)
   (e) Websites with cemetery records by OGS chapters, USGenWeb, etc. For an excellent example, see the Warren County Chapter OGS website at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohwarren/military/cw.htm>. See OGS website for chapter contacts. <www.ogs.org>.

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National Archives’ Microfilm Publications (available at NARA or major genealogy libraries):

(9) General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934. T288. 544 rolls. Pages 258-262. These records are for Union veterans only, since Confederate pensions were given only by states. Available in some major libraries and online at Ancestry.com.


Printed Sources:


(13) Official Roster of Soldiers of the State of Ohio in the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1866. Twelve volumes. Akron, OH: Werner Company, 1886-1895. Published by the Adjutant General of Ohio, these state rosters are organized by unit, so they are difficult to use for searching for an individual if the unit is not known. The Work Projects Administration created an alphabetical index to the Rosters that is available in major Ohio libraries. Each volume has a Roll of Honor for the units in that volume, which should not be confused with the US Quartermaster General’s Office Roll of Honor (see #14.) Each volume is available on CD sold on Ebay by <OhioFamilyRoots@yahoo.com>, and is transcribed on the American Civil War Research Database (see #1.)


(15) Hardesty’s Military History of Ohio. This can be an extremely valuable resource if an edition was published for the county in which information is needed on veterans, units, and GAR posts. A complete inventory of the 60 known county editions (out of the 88 Ohio counties) was published in OCWGJ (Vol. X, 2006), and is updated at the Ohio Civil War Genealogy Center. Some OGS chapters have reprinted their county editions, or included it in another publication.

Other Government Records:

(16) State, county, township, and city records: may include discharge records, veterans grave registration files, militia and draft records, state muster rolls, county infirmary and poor house records, township and county relief activities, etc. These may be found in county offices, in local historical and genealogical societies or libraries, and in the State Archives at the Ohio Historical Society.

To Research A Military Unit:

Websites:

(17) American Civil War Research Database (see #1) contains histories, assignments, and casualty summaries for most units, drawn primarily from Dyer’s Compendium (see #24).

(18) Ohio in the Civil War, by Larry Stevens. <http://www.ohiocivilwar.com>. Includes unit history and the most complete bibliography available for each Ohio infantry, cavalry, and artillery unit.

National Archives’ Microfilm Publications:

(21) **Records of Movements and Activities of Volunteer Union Organizations.** NARA Microfilm Series M594, with index by roll in *Military Service Records*, pp. 75-83. **Records of Confederate Movements and Activities.** NARA Microfilm Series M861, with index by roll in *Military Service Records*, pp. 163-164. These records are published in the *Official Records Supplement* (#23d below).

Printed Sources:

(22) Reid, Whitelaw. *Ohio in the War: Her Statesmen, Generals and Soldiers.* Cincinnati: The Robert Clarke Company, 1895. Two Volumes. Reprinted by Bergman Books, Columbus, Ohio. Primary source for state-wide history and unit histories, includes histories for each Ohio infantry, cavalry, and artillery unit. It includes a roster of officers for most units, but not enlisted men.

(23) **Official Records (OR):**


   (d) *Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies.* 100 volumes. Wilmington, NC: Broadfoot Publishing Company, 1995-2001. Includes documents not published in the original *OR*, such as each unit’s *Record of Movements and Activities* (#21.)


(26) Many county histories written in the 1880's include detailed information about the county’s participation in the war, including the units that were recruited primarily in that county, and in some cases, lists of names of residents who served in the military.

(27) Many histories and studies of regiments, batteries, higher commands, specific battles, and major campaigns have been written, starting with personal memoirs written by participants up to recent studies by current historians. Their citations and bibliographies are often helpful for locating further sources on a specific subject, especially those that are unpublished. The existence of these studies for subjects of interest can be identified using the Bibliographic Sources listed below. In some cases, online sources such as Google Books, archive.org, and gutenberg.org have full text versions of public domain books.

(28) Newspapers are a valuable source of local information on people, events, and organizations, often including letters from soldiers in the field. Newspapers reprinted stories from other newspapers, broadening the possible sources of information that may have been considered newsworthy in other cities or areas. Ohio Historical Society has the most comprehensive collection of Ohio newspapers, but other libraries often have Civil War-era newspapers on microfilm. Online services such as Ancestry.com, GenealogyBank.com, and the Library of Congress (Chronicling America) have historic newspapers. Look for specific index materials such as Steven L. Wright’s five-volume *Kentucky Soldiers and their Regiments in the Civil War Abstracted from the Pages of Contemporary Kentucky Newspapers*, which includes a great deal of Ohio information.
Bibliographic Sources:


(33) The world’s largest network of library content and services, WorldCat provides a search tool for thousands of libraries worldwide at <http://www.worldcat.org/>. In addition, the Library of Congress provides a gateway for searching nearly 1.5 million catalog records describing archival and manuscript collections and individual manuscripts through its WorldCat gateway at <http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/oclcsearch.html>.

(34) Major libraries and manuscript collections for Ohio should be searched, including Ohio Historical Society, Hayes Presidential Center, Western Reserve Historical Society, Cincinnati Historical Society, and the archival collections at Bowling Green State University, Ohio University, and Wright State University. Some of these collections can be searched online, either through their own websites or through WorldCat.

(35) Local historical societies, genealogical societies, and libraries may have collections of local manuscripts. These are often a good source of information on post-war veterans’ reunions and articles about local veterans. This can be focused by searching in the geographic area from which the unit was recruited, using OGS Chapter websites and publications, Cyndi’s List, et al.

(36) The local historians, genealogists, and librarians in the individual’s home area or the unit’s home area may have suggestions and resources for sources. In many cases, local experts are the only source for finding individuals who have private collections or family collections that may include documents of interest.

General Civil War References:

(37) NARA: These are extremely valuable guides to understanding and locating records at NARA.

(38) Broad reference books:

(39) Warner, Ezra J.