

For Those Who Served: Military Research from Colonial Conflicts to World War II

Class 3: War of 1812 Veterans

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Step # 1 – Determine if he fought

1. Too young or too old?
 - Age range of typical soldier, 18-35
 - Average birth year 1775-1795
 - Extremes mid 1750s & late 1790s
2. Cemetery Clues.
 - Is there a gravestone?
 - Cemetery and Burial records
 - Transcribed Gravestones
 - Where is his spouse buried?
 - Is there a flag marker?

Step # 2 - Research

Useful Resources

1. War of 1812 Compiled Military Service Records (NARA M602)
TIP: Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina are not in M602
2. Searching the Index to Service Records 1812-1815 on Familysearch.org
TIP: Check for multiple enlistments.
3. War of 1812 Papers, 1789-1815 (NARA M588) on Ancestry.com
4. War of 1812, Prisoner of War Records, 1812-1815 (NARA M1747) on Ancestry.com
5. U.S. Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914 on Ancestry.com
6. U.S. Navy Records (NARA RG 45) and Logbooks.
7. U.S. Marine Corps Record (NARA Microfilm T1118) on Ancestry.com
8. State Records
9. Regimental Histories
10. Researching U.S. Navy Vessels. TIP: Adopt the regiment or the crew

Pension Research

- Pension Guidelines created in the 1870's by Congress; eligible if served 14 days or engaged in battle
- Published Resource: White, Virgil *Index to War of 1812 pension files* (Tenn.: National Historical Pub. Co., 1989)
- Searching War of 1812 (NARA M313) for Free on Fold3.com.

- 1840 Census of Pensioners.
- Bounty Land Warrants on Ancestry.com and U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Step # 3 – Seek out or apply to Hereditary Societies

- General Society of the War of 1812 (some state societies have their own webpage)
- National Society United States Daughters of 1812
- Military Society of the War of 1812
- Membership Applications of the General Society of the War of 1812

Bibliography of Websites

American Ancestors – www.americanancestors.org

Index to War of 1812 Service Records (Familysearch.org) - <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1916219>

Various War of 1812 databases on the subscription website – www.Ancestry.com

Naval Records Collection (NARA RG 45) Table of contents - www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/045.html

U.S. Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914 - <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1198/>

Logbooks of the U.S. Navy at the National Archives - www.archives.gov/research/military/logbooks/navy.html

Various published War of 1812 State histories and muster rolls – <https://archive.org/>

New York War of 1812 Claims holdings: www.archives.nysed.gov/1812_claims.shtml

U.S. Army War College Library catalog – http://usawc.libguides.com/graduates_others

Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships - www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs.html

War of 1812 Pensions Online (FREE) - www.fold3.com

U.S., War Bounty Land Warrants, 1789-1858 - <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1165/>

Bounty Land Records on the Bureau of Land Management website - <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/search>

General Society of the War of 1812 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Society_of_the_War_of_1812

Membership Applications General Society of the War of 1812 (AmericanAncestors.org)-
<https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databasesearch/2781/general-society-of-the-war-of-1812-membership-applications-1854-1979>

United States Daughters of the War of 1812 - <http://www.usdaughters1812.org/>

Military Society of the War of 1812 - <https://www.militarysocietyofthewarof1812.com/>