

Researching Canadian & American World War I Veterans

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Step #1 – Determine if he served

1. How old was your soldier?
 - Age range of typical soldier, 17-40
 - Average birth year 1873-1900
2. 1930 U.S. Census
3. State Census – Connecticut Military Census of 1917.
4. Home resource checklist
 - Family papers
 - War diaries
 - Letters and postcards
 - Military ephemera
 - Newspaper articles and obituaries
 - Oral traditions or interview older relatives
 - Military photographs
5. Cemetery Clues

Step #2 – Researching Canadian Veterans

1. Using the CEF (Canadian Expeditionary Force Database).
2. Canadian War Diaries of WWI
3. Canadian Virtual Memorial of WWI

Step #3 – Researching American Veterans

1. Did they enlist before April 6, 1917?
2. Selective Service and the Draft of 1917
3. Draft Registration Cards
4. Searching Familysearch.org for WWI Draft cards
5. U.S. Army
6. Records of the A.E.F. – RG120
7. Army Air Force – RG18
8. U.S. Army Mobile Units – RG391

9. U.S. Army Overseas Operations – RG395
10. Office of the Judge Advocate General – RG153
11. U.S. Navy & U.S. Marine Corps
12. Records at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri
13. U.S. Navy Ships involved in WWI
14. Searching Ancestry.com for U.S. Marine Corps Muster Rolls
15. U.S. Merchant Marines
16. U.S. Coast Guard

Bibliography

Dudek, Debra M., *World War I genealogy research guide: tracing American military and non-combatant ancestors* (IL: Debra M. Dudek, 2019).

Johnson, Col. Richard S. Johnson and Debra Johnson Knox, *How to Locate Anyone who is or has been in the Military – Armed forces locator guide.* (Spartanburg, SC: MIE Publishing, 1999)

Neagles, James C., *U.S Military Records: A Guide to Federal and State Sources.* (Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry, 1994)

Schaefer, Christina K., *The Great War: a guide to the service records of all the world's fighting men and volunteers.* (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1998)

Websites

- American Ancestors – www.americanancestors.org
- ABMC – American Battlefield Monuments Commission – www.abmc.gov
- Ancestry - www.ancestry.com – Census and various WWI and WWII databases
- Canadian Virtual Memorial (WWI)
www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial
- Canadian War Diaries (WWI) <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/pages/war-diaries.aspx>
- CEF Database: <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/search.aspx>
- DANFS – Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships –
www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs.html
- FamilySearch – www.familysearch.org – WWI and WWII Draft and military databases
- Fold3.com – www.fold3.com WWI military various resources from the National Archives
- Find a Grave – www.findagrave.com Free gravestone registry
- SF-180 Form <https://vetrecs.archives.gov/VeteranRequest/home.html>