

**How to Research  
Your Civil War Ancestors  
With Added Information  
on  
How to Begin a Genealogy Search**

**Sponsored By  
Powers Museum  
and  
Carthage Public Library**

**Presented by  
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SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH**

**Start with yourself.**

**Interview the oldest members of your family as soon as possible.**

**Keep an open mind.**

**Record the source of each piece of info.**

## **UNSURE OF THESE TERMS?**

<b>User</b>	The person using the computer
<b>Mouse</b>	A device that you hold in your hand that helps you use the computer.
<b>Click</b>	Use your right finger to “click” on the left side of the mouse in order to make a selection on the screen.
<b>Website</b>	A collection of web pages that has helpful info.
<b>Website address</b>	A URL (Uniform Resource Located) that helps you find websites on the Internet.
<b>Opening Screen</b>	The web page that you see on the computer when you first go to a website.
<b>Scroll</b>	Sometimes, the screen extends below the area that you can see on the computer. To quickly see the lower part, place the pointer on the rectangle on the right side of the screen. Hold down the pointer and slide the rectangle to the bottom of the screen. Notice that you are now seeing the lower part of the web page that you couldn't see before.
<b>Do a Search</b>	Go to web sites that allow you to learn more about a topic. Examples are: <a href="http://www.yahoo.com">www.yahoo.com</a> <a href="http://www.google.com">www.google.com</a> <a href="http://www.dogpile.com">www.dogpile.com</a> <a href="http://www.altavista.com">www.altavista.com</a> <a href="http://www.bing.com">www.bing.com</a>

## **General Resources for Beginners**

## Learn how to get started in genealogy

[www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com) When the screen opens, click on Roots Web's "Guide to Tracing Family Trees"

## Obtain free forms to record genealogy info

[www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com) When the website opens, click on Guide to Tracing Family Trees." When the next screen opens, click on "Index by Subjects." When the next screen opens, click on "Where to Begin." When the next screen opens, scroll down to "genealogy charts."

Has "Individual Data Sheet" form to record info on each person

Has "Family Group" form to record info on each set of ancestors and their children.

Has "5-Generation Chart" to record names of 5 generations of ancestors and their relationship

Has "Relationship Chart" that you can use to see how you are related to someone.

Has census forms. Since type of data changed on each census, the forms vary for the years.

## Learn about an area and the types of info that are available

\*USGenWeb Project [www.usgenweb.org](http://www.usgenweb.org)

Has thousands of websites about states and counties. Maintained by volunteers, so sites vary in types of info. When the site opens, click on a state. When the next screen opens, click on a county.

## Search for info gathered by other researchers

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

Sponsored by Mormon Church. Use this info as clues for future research since much of it is secondary info submitted by researchers. There is a charge for some info, but others are free.

## Free help in areas that you can't visit

Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness [www.raogk.org](http://www.raogk.org)

Has over 4,000 volunteers in every state. They will often go to a cemetery or a courthouse, etc. a for only reimbursement of gas costs.

## \*How to Find Obituaries and Other Articles in Old Missouri Newspapers

<http://shs.umsystem.edu/newspaper/index> State Historical Society has microfilmed copies of hundreds of old Missouri newspapers. When site opens, click on "Online

Catalog.” The newspapers are organized by county and then by town. Click on the county and then town to find what newspapers they have. The microfilm copies can be ordered through Interlibrary Loan at your local public library for a small fee to use for several days.

### **\*How to find phone numbers and addresses of living people and businesses today**

[www.switchboard.com](http://www.switchboard.com) When site opens, click on “Find a person.” When next screen opens, enter the location and a last name.

To find a business. When the website first opens, enter the business name and the town.

### **\*Read Recent Obituaries of Relatives Who Die in Other States. Has 5,000 newspapers**

[www.newslink.org](http://www.newslink.org) When screen opens, click on “daily newspapers.” When the next screen opens, click on the state where your relative died. Next, click on the town and then the newspaper.

### **\*Birth and death records for Missouri** Sponsored by Missouri Secretary of State Office

[www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/birthdeath/](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/birthdeath/)

Has digitized copies of birth and death records in Missouri from late 1800s- 1959. Early records might not exist in some areas where doctors did not report the data to the county courthouse.

### **Family Histories and other Genealogy books**

**BYU Family History Archives** [www.lib.byu.edu/fhc](http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc)

Site has index to 60,000 genealogy items, such as family histories. Database is courtesy of Allen County Public Library, Clayton Library Center, Midwest Genealogy Center, BYU libraries, and Mormon Church History Library.

**Google Books** <http://books.google.com> Lists thousands of books and institutions where they can be found, as well as places where they can be purchased. The entire text of many of the older books can be downloaded free of charge.

### **Public Libraries**

If you know the name and author of a book, it can often be obtained through Interlibrary Loan at your local public library. A small fee is charged for postage and handling.

### **Family History Centers Sponsored by Mormon Church**

They have microfilm of courthouse records and other records from around the country. The microfilm can be ordered to use for a few days at the history center.

\***Link to 275,000 other genealogy sites**

Cyndi's List [www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)

## **RESOURCES FOR RESEARCHING CIVIL WAR ANCESTORS**

### **\*Missouri Secretary of State Office**

**Soldier Database** [www.sos.mo.gov/archives/soldiers/](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/soldiers/)

Has digitized copies of the service cards of 380,000 Civil War soldiers in Missouri. Enter last name only and then click on Civil War. After an entry is found, click to see the actual record. Then, print a copy.

#### **Index to Missouri Union Provost Marshal Papers 1861-1866**

Database has Civil War correspondence about prisoners, hospitals, arrests, pardons. Use online index to get a reel number to order more detailed info.

#### **St. Louis Court Cases from 1861-1868.**

[www.sos.mo.gov/archives/projects/stlcircuitcourt.asp](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/projects/stlcircuitcourt.asp) Includes 230,000 Civil War-era documents that include divorces, lawsuits, civil filings, neighbor squabbles. St. Louis was the center for cases in the Missouri and Mississippi Valleys during the Civil War. (Our Jasper County Record Center has some court records for this time period, but need to visit the center.)

### **\*National Park Service**

**Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System** [www.itd.nps.gov/cwss](http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss)

Has database of 6.3 million Civil War soldiers—and some sailors. Info from muster rolls.

Has capsule histories of Civil War regiments

Also has info on prisoners, battles, cemeteries, and Medals of Honor

**Department of Veterans.** [www.gravelocator.cem.va.gov](http://www.gravelocator.cem.va.gov)

**Burial location of veterans.** Info is on veterans buried at national cemeteries, state veteran cemeteries, and private cemeteries when the grave is marked with a government grave marker.

**\*National Archives.** [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov) Has Federal records.

**How to learn about Civil War military records at National Archives?**

When the website opens, click on "Genealogists/Family Historians." When the next screen opens, click on Civil War. The site then describes the types of records they have and how to order them.

National Archives has 13 main branches. Has smaller archives, too. Branches are closed holidays and weekends. Closest branches are at Kansas City and Ft. Worth. Has a few smaller sites, too. Directions to each branch are online.

Must visit a branch to check the "General Index to Civil War Pension Files" which is number T288. Use the index to find your ancestor and the number of his pension file. A copy of his file can then be ordered through Form NATF 85. This form can be downloaded from the National Archive website. There is a fee for a partial pension file. Fee for complete file is higher. The pension files are very helpful. (Since the files are stored at the main National Archives at Washington, D.C., the actual files can be viewed there.)

**Central-Plains Branch at Kansas City** has many records for MO, IA, KS, NE. Located at 400 W. Pershing Road. Phone 816-268-8000. Has computer room that has access to websites at Footnote, Pro Quest, Heritage Quest, and Ancestry. Website: [www.archives.gov/central-plains/](http://www.archives.gov/central-plains/)

**Southwest Branch at Ft. Worth** has many records for TX, AR, OK, LA. Located at 1400 John Burgess Dr. Phone 817-555-2051.

**Family History Centers**. Sponsored by Mormon Church. Joplin's FHC is located at 2101 Indiana St. Open Tues and Wed. 9-5. Phone 623-6506.

**Have microfilm of state and local documents.** Microfilm can be ordered and used at the center. One good microfilm is the Index to Union Civil War Pension Records.

**At FHC have online database of "The American Civil War"** by the Alexander Street Press. The database has info on about 4 million soldiers, thousands of battles, 15,000 photos. Also has 100,000 diaries, letters and memoirs written by Northern and Southern soldiers, officers, landowners and slaves.

## **Public Libraries**

**Local History Section.** Most public libraries have books on local history as well as microfilm of local newspapers

**HeritageQuest** Most public libraries subscribe to this collection. With library membership, patrons can often access the data from this website through a home computer as well as computers at the library.

Has census records from 1790 to 1930. 2. Has 28,000 books. 3. Has an index to 2.1 million articles on genealogy and local history. 4. Has records of Freedman's Bank from 1865-1874. The Freedman's Bank was founded to help former slaves.

## **Hulston Library at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield**

Located between Republic and Springfield. This is one of the largest Civil War libraries west of the Mississippi. Rangers help patrons who are researching at the library.

\*The library subscribes to [www.footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com).

Even though you are not a member, you can go to [www.footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com) website to see what types of info are available. When the website opens, click on "Civil War. Then click on photos, records, or maps. To see actual databases you must use the website at a subscribing library. The website has microfilm copies of thousands of Civil War records, 2,000 Civil War maps, 6,000 photos. Has records for MO, KY, TE and many other states. Some Union states not available, yet. Also has Confederate records from every state. Has Confederate rosters, payrolls, hospital registers, Union prison registers, records of soldiers and military units, widow pension files, index to pensions, Navy Widows Certificates.

[www.footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com) website also has T288 General Index to Pension Files that must otherwise be obtained at a National Archive Branch.

**Prairie Grove National Battlefield.** Has info on the battle and regiments. Talk with rangers, too.

**Pea Ridge National Battlefield.** Has info on the regiments and the battlefield. Talk with rangers, too.

**Library of Congress**      [www.memory.loc.gov](http://www.memory.loc.gov)      Has many digitized maps, including Civil War maps

**Oklahoma State University**      [www.ehistory.osu.edu](http://www.ehistory.osu.edu)      Has map collections, including Civil War maps.

When website opens, click on "Maps and Images." When next screen opens, click on "Civil War Maps."