



## Using the Civil War Soldiers & Sailors System Database

### What is the Civil War Soldiers & Sailors System Database?

The Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System is a computerized database containing very basic facts about the 6.5 million servicemen who served on both sides during the Civil War. In addition, the pension records for those eligible individuals has also been indexed. The original records have not been digitized; however, the NARA (National Archives and Records Administration) film number has been included. Naval personnel will be indexed; however, the records sources for the Navy are not as well organized as the Army records, nor are they micro-filmed, the target date for this is still to be determined. The site currently includes regimental histories of units from 44 states and territories and include histories of over 4,000 Union and Confederate units (regiments), which will be linked to soldiers' names and battle histories. These will be completed in 2006. Other features of the site that are currently being added are: Battles, Cemeteries, Monuments, Medal of Honor recipients, Prisoners and (Prisoner of War camp records).

### Accessing the Civil War Soldiers & Sailors System Database

- Go to <http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/>
- Click on **Soldiers**.
- Enter information in the field(s) given. If all you want to enter is the last name, that will be fine. Remember, names were sometimes misspelled. It may be necessary to repeat the search using an alternate spelling of the name.
- Press **<enter>** or click on the **Submit query** button.
- A list of persons with that name will appear. The list will indicate whether the person was a Union or Confederate soldier and the regiment in which he served.
- Click on the name to view the information for that individual or click on the regiment to see an overview of the regiment's service history and make up.

#### Soldier's Record

- Click on the soldier's name
- A new window will open which will give the Regiment Name, Side (Union or Confederate), Company, Soldier's Rank In, Soldier's Rank Out, Alternate Name (if any), Notes (if any), and the NARA Film number.

#### Regiment's History Record

- Click on the Regiment's name at the end of the soldier's listing
- A new window will open giving the history of that unit. If there are names of battles that appear as blue links, click on those to learn about that particular battle.
- Click on **Click here of a listing of all soldiers in this unit**. This is particularly helpful if siblings or fathers and sons enlisted together. To scroll forward in the list, go to the bottom of the window and click on the number indicating the number of individuals on the list. Click until you reach the name you are searching.

### Accessing the Soldier's Packet on Microfilm

If you know the military unit with which the individual served, you will be able to located the film for that military unit at the Family History Library. The soldiers' records are alphabetically listed within the military unit. Eventually, the records of all Union and Confederate