

## Civil War Research on the Internet

Bob Heck, MPAFUG May 14, 2025

### 1. Did my ancestor serve in the Civil War?

- Tombstones
- Obituaries
- Biographical sketches
- US Census 1890 & 1910
- Internet

### 2. Tombstones

- Often a Civil War Veteran has his unit inscribed on the tombstone.
- Check for flag & brass/bronze marker holding flag.

### 3. Tombstone Inscription and Marker

### 4. Civil War Veteran 61-65

### 5. Co D 72nd Regt Ohio Vol Inf

### 6. Discharged Sept 1, 1865

### 7. Sometimes you can find out about military service from an old photograph

### 8. "GAR" Grand Army of the Republic

- The "GAR" was a Veteran's Organization.
- Founded on April 6, 1866, membership was limited to honorably discharged veterans of the

Union Army, Navy, Marine Corps or the Revenue Cutter Service who had served between

April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865.

- The last member of "GAR" died in 1956, at the age of 109.

### 9. Obituaries

- Civil War veterans often had their service time included in their obituary.

### 10. Obituary with Service Info

### 11. Biographical Sketches

- Often biographical sketches and county histories will show the names of those enlisted

during the Civil War.

- They may include a group picture of the military unit if it was composed of local men.

### 12. Biographical Sketches

### 13. Found in Racine County Millitant

### 14. My Cousin from Waterford, WI

- BIOGRAPHY: Frederick W. Henningfeld served in the Civil War. His picture was printed in

the Racine County Millitant. I also have his Civil War pension records. He served in

Company "A", 43rd Regiment, Wisconsin Infantry. Frederick W. Henningfeld was listed in

his parents probate record. Parents were shown as William and Elizabeth Henningfeld.

Frederick was my 1st Cousin, three times removed.

15. 1890 and 1910 US Census

- The 1890 census was partially destroyed by fire.
- The sections that survived include a listing of Civil War veterans.
- The 1910 census had a specific line asking if the person had been in the Union or Confederate Army or Navy.

16. 1890 Census for Wisconsin

17. 1910 Column 30 Shows U or C, Sometimes.

18. The Internet

- Many states have an on-line list of Civil War veterans.
- Wisconsin is one of them.

19. Civil War Items on the Internet

<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS4267/>

20. Search the Roster for Wisconsin Volunteers

21. Enter a name for a Search

22. Search Results for Henry Heck

23. Search by Regiment

24. Select the Regiment

25. Select a Company for a Search

26. Roster of Wisconsin Volunteers

27. Civil War Rosters by State

[https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailorsdatabase.](https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailorsdatabase.htm)

htm

28. Soldier's List Search System

29. Search Results for Jacob Weekley

1st Regiment PA Light Artillery

30. American Civil War Soldiers Index 1861-1865 on FamilySearch.org

- Enter a name and State in the search form.

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<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1910717>

31. Found Joseph Heck in Minnesota

32. Henry Heck, Co F, 19th Vol Inf Wisconsin

33. Battle Field where Henry Heck was wounded in 1864

34. A diary of a soldier in the 19th Wisconsin Infantry, Company F

35. Rutgers University Libraries Civil War Collection

[http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/rr\\_gateway/research\\_guides/history/civwa](http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/rr_gateway/research_guides/history/civwa)

r.shtml

36. The CivilWar History Site

<http://www.civilwar.com/>

<http://www.civilwar.com/>

37. Civil War Maps

The Battle of Vicksburg

The situation on July 3, 1863

Civil War Sketches

38. The Civil War Archives

<http://www.civilwararchive.com/>

39. The Civil War Archives

- Regimental Index
- Union Corps Index
- Soldiers Letters
- Soldiers Diaries
- Research Room
- Battle Reports
- Roundtables
- Helpful links
- Recent Updates

40. Note 73 Organizations for Wisconsin

41. Confederate Units are also listed

42. Regimental Histories

43. 19th Wisconsin Infantry History

44. 26th Wisconsin Infantry

45. The 26th Infantry Roster

46. Peter Heck, Brother of Henry Heck

47. Suggestions

- If you find that your ancestor served in the Civil War be sure to send for his Pension

48. Records AND his Military Service Records.

- Pension Records yield the most genealogical data.
- Military Service Records generally contain little genealogical data but do contain historical data.

- <https://www.archives.gov/forms/>

49. Obtaining Pension Records

- Pension Records: Paper copies of Civil War Pension records can be requested online using a

50. NATF Form 85 for each soldier (Volunteer Army or Regular Army, Union Navy or Marine

Corps). You can download the NATF Form 85 at <https://www.archives.gov/forms/>.

- Use the above address to order online.

- Form 85 for Military Service Records

51. Obtaining Military Service Records

- Military Service Records: Paper copies of Civil War military service records can be requested

online using a NATF Form 86 for each soldier (Volunteer Army or Regular Army, Union Navy

or Marine Corps). You can download the NATF Form 86 at:

- <https://www.archives.gov/forms/>.

- Use the above address to order online.
- Form 86 for Military Service Records

52. Place an order online: NATF Form 85 & 86

53. Records are not cheap.

Pension = \$80, Service = \$30

54. What might I find in a Pension Record?

- Birth information, marriage information, death information.
- Locations of events.
- Statements of your ancestor's employment, service, health, physical description, wages, places where he lived.
- List of children living or dead, their date and place of birth.
- Sometimes they tore the pages out of their family bible and sent them to Washington DC.

55. So, Bob, What did you find?

56. Conclusion

- There is a great deal of information on the Internet about the Civil War and the men and

women who fought it.

- Finding information about your ancestor can add real depth to your research story.

57. Are There Any Questions?