

Getting Military Records from NARA/NPRC in

St Louis

For MPAFUG Group

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I have been saying for some time now that I am not going to do presentations that just rattle off a bunch of websites.

Instead, I am going to give you some facts and best practices to follow for the subject.

This subject has been talked about for many years without any real details on how to apply for DOD papers on your ancestor.

As typical with all Federal Websites the NARA sites are full of rules and nonsense and gobilty gook. Written by PHD's and Scientists.

I do not have anything against them personally, but they need to make it easier for the average person to navigate the website..

To request military records for a deceased relative from St. Louis, you can use Standard Form 180 (SF-180), notes archives.gov. You can mail or fax the form to the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis.

How to request records.

1. Complete the SF-180
2. Include as much information as possible
3. Attach copies of any service documents you have
4. Include proof of death, such as a copy of the death certificate
5. Mail or fax the form to the NPRC
 - Requesting Copies of Military Service Records thru NARA.

<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/pre-ww-1-records>

[Here is a very easy site to use](#)

<https://www.usa.gov/military-records#:~:text=Records%20for%20yourself%20or%20next,2%20on%20this%20web%20page.>

NARA St. Louis. We hold permanent records that include:

[Official Military Personnel Files \(OMPFs\)](#)

[Official Personnel Folders \(OPF\)](#)

[Civilian Conservation Corps \(CCC\), Enrollee Records](#)

[Selective Service Records](#)

[Deceased Veteran's Claim Files](#)

[Individual Deceased Personnel Files](#)

[Persons of Exceptional Prominence](#)

Mail.

Send a written request to the National Personnel Records Center, 1 Archives Drive, St. Louis, MO 63138

For Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) records, use Standard Form 14136

For medical records, use NA Form 13042

In person.

Schedule an appointment to visit the Archival Research Room at the National Archives at St. Louis.

The research room is open by appointment only, Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Other options.

Use the eVetRecs website to request records.

Hire an independent researcher to examine the records on your behalf.

Military personnel records

Military personnel records are open to the public 62 years after the service member's separation from the military.

There may be a fee for archived research, depending on the individual case need.

This is where to go for Coast Guard and Merchant Marine Records.

https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/records_request/correspondence_request.pdf

I emailed this form along with my father's death certificate and had his Merchant File in two weeks. No big surprises except that he made four trips to Shanghai, China, not one.

- American Battle Monuments Commission

<https://www.abmc.gov/>

Type in Samuel Smith WW I certificate

I wanted to show you some very interesting documents that I have found in my files and on other people's trees.

ChatGPT Translated it for me.

I, Joseph Brown of Douglas in the County of Worcester & Commonwealth of Massachusetts of lawful age, depose & say that I was personally acquainted with Joseph Combs of Douglas, & do testify & affirm that he served in the Revolutionary army of the United States at Cambridge in the year Seventeen hundred & seventy-five, being myself at the same time stationed at Roxbury. I frequently saw said Combs,

& knew of his being at the battle on Bunker Hill from the following circumstance viz. The day after the battle I was on Prospect Hill & distinctly in the building of a breastwork at which place I saw said Combs who was called on duty on that day, in consequence of his having been in the battle the day previous, & from seeing said Combs frequently during the siege, & more than this, he served at Roxbury. I am confident that said Combs served eight months at Cambridge, volunteering as he served there with the eight months men.

- And further your deponent saith not.
- Joseph Brown

I printed out a dozen of the 180 forms, they are on the table here.

Any questions?

Thank you,

Randy Ray