

Confederate Military Records

Tracing your ancestor's service in the Confederate army during the Civil War can be a very rewarding part of genealogical research. As the first state to secede from the Union, South Carolina has had an abiding interest in preserving a record of the Palmetto State's service to the Confederate States of America. Today, the South Carolina Department of Archives and History continues that tradition with its collection of Confederate military records. The records listed below, consisting of National Archives' microfilm and original documents from various state agencies, are the primary tools for tracing your ancestor's Confederate service. [A Guide to Civil War Records](#), a more in depth description of our Civil War collection is available from our publications branch. All the records listed below are available to the public in the SC Archives' Reference Room. For your ease, we have broken the list into two groups: military service records and veteran benefit records.

Military service records

- National Archives, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Serving from South Carolina, 1861-1865, microfilm: **M267**.

The compiled service records microfilm is the Department's most comprehensive and widely used set of Confederate records. These service records are based on the original muster rolls, and other documents captured or collected by the Union Army and the War Department during and after the war. They were created by the War Department in 1903 because of the deteriorating condition of the original documents. The service records include information related to unit, rank, enlistment, dates of service, wounds, capture, and death in service. The records are arranged by state, branch of service (cavalry, artillery, and infantry) and unit. Within each unit, the individual service records are arranged alphabetically. At the beginning of each unit, caption and record of event cards for each company of the unit provide the duty station and other pertinent information that may have been recorded on the muster roll. The Archives only has the service records of units from South Carolina. Records for units from other states should be obtained from that state or the National Archives.

- National Archives, Compiled Service Records of Confederate General and Staff Officers and Non-regimental Enlisted Personnel, 1861-1865, microfilm: **M331**.

These records cover officers and enlisted men who served in commands above the regimental level as well as the military personnel of the departments of the Confederate Adjutant and Inspector General, the Quartermaster General, the Commissary General, the Surgeon General, and the Ordnance Bureau. The records are arranged alphabetically regardless of state, rank, or unit. Generally, these records do not include prior or later service in regiments or smaller units.

- National Archives, Consolidated Index to Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers, microfilm: **M253**.

This master index covers all the Confederate compiled service records held by the National Archives. Each index card contains the soldier's name, his rank, and the unit in which he served. Service in two or more units will be represented by more than one card. Names may also appear under variant spellings.

- National Park Service Civil War Soldiers & Sailors System.
<http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/> This is an on-line index to Union and Confederate Service Records, Regimental Histories, National Cemeteries, etc.

Confederate Historian, Rolls of South Carolina Volunteers in the Confederate States Provisional Army

- Volume 1 Field and Staff Officers
- Volume 2 Infantry
- Volume 3 Infantry
- Volume 4 Cavalry and Artillery
- Volume 5 Miscellaneous and State Troops

These rolls were compiled over a 35 year period following the Civil War by the state adjutant general and confederate historian in an effort to record the participation of South Carolina troops in the war. The rolls consist of staff and company rosters of the state's regiments and battalion. Better known as "The Memory Rolls", these rosters were sometimes based on recollections of surviving veterans as well as documentary sources. The material is neither comprehensive nor completely indexed. It should be noted that these records contain some names not found in the Compiled Service Records. These records are available as a micropublication, Records of the Confederate Historian.

Confederate Historian, Roll of Honor Roll of Dead South Carolina Troops

These manuscript volumes are the result of the state's effort to record the names of South Carolina soldiers who died during the war. The Roll of Honor with 6344 names was compiled between 1862 and 1864, before the compiler was dismissed by the legislature for shoddy work. The Roll of Dead was compiled between 1865 and 1867 and contains 13,138 names, including many names that appear in the first volume. It has been estimated that over 20,000 South Carolinians died in the war. Both of these volumes are also included in the micropublication listed above.

Veteran benefit records

Comptroller General, Pension Department, Pension applications 1919-1925

Indexed Confederate pension applications are available from 1919 through 1925 for all counties except Williamsburg. Although pensions were first provided in 1888, few pre-1919 applications survive. County pension rolls, however, were published in the comptroller general's annual report. Confederate pensions were granted by the state of residence, rather than the state of service if the two were different. In South Carolina, early pensions were issued only to disabled veterans and war widows. Later statutes expanded eligibility requirements to financially needy veterans and widows. The index to the Confederate pension applications can be accessed on-line at:

<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/search.aspx>

Artificial Limb Records: Comptroller General, Pension Department, Artificial Limb Applications and Vouchers, 1879-1899

The state instituted five programs between 1866 and 1907 to provide artificial limbs or cash to amputees from the war. This group of records include the extant applications or vouchers for these programs as well as a group of claims from disabled veterans made in 1886. An index and descriptive guide to these records is available for purchase: [Artificial Limbs for Confederate Soldiers](#)

Confederate Home and Infirmary Applications

The state opened the Confederate Home and Infirmary in Columbia in 1909 to house two infirm and destitute veterans from each county. Widows and wives were admitted beginning in 1925 and sisters, daughters, and nieces were admitted in later years. The home was closed in 1958. The applications provide name, age, residence, occupation, relationship (if female), unit, dates of service, and name of closest relative. A related inmate register can also provide some medical history and date of death.