

NORTH or SOUTH? Finding YOUR Kentucky Civil War Ancestor

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Kentucky and the Civil War

KENTUCKY --

Did not secede from the Union
Had a star on both flags – USA and CSA
Kentucky was “neutral” from May to Sept. 1861
Kentucky sided with the Union in September 1861
Legislature made it difficult for Kentucky men to join CSA army
Brought indictments against several Kentucky men who served with the Confederate army or government

Internet Sites

Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>)

HeritageQuest.com (<http://www.heritagequest.com>)

Civil War Soldiers & Sailors (<https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm>)

War of the Rebellion (also known as the Official Records)
Cornell University – search Civil War Documents (Official Records)
http://collections.library.cornell.edu/mpa_new/waro.html

Civil War Governors of Kentucky Digital Documentary Edition
(<http://discovery.civilwargovernors.org/>)

Use your Internet search engine to locate websites on Civil War veterans from a certain state, unit histories, cemetery listings, etc. There are countless Civil War sites on the Internet.

National Archives

- Compiled Service Records
- Pension Records
- Various archives concerning a wide range of Civil War subjects.

REFERENCE RESOURCES (National Archives Holdings)

- Munden, Kenneth W. et al. *The Union: A Guide to Federal Archives Relating to the Civil War.* (1962, 1986 revised ed.)
- Beers, Henry P. *The Confederacy: A Guide to the Archives of the Government of the Confederate States of America.* (1963, 1986 revised ed.)

Kentucky Historical Society

General Stacks

Civil War histories and references
Kentucky County histories and monographs (976 902 by County)
Out-of-state historical society newsletters and journals
Southern Bivouac (Vols. I-VI), *Confederate Veteran* (Vols. 1-40)
United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) Minutes

Microfilm

Civil War Pension Applications
Adjutant General's Reports – Union and Confederate
Civil War Clothing Books and Morning Reports (Union)
Confederate Pension Applications

Online Access

Ancestry.com (special database access in KHS Library)
HeritageQuest.com (special database access in KHS Library)
Fold3
Official Records of the War of the Rebellion (OR)

Vertical Files

Surname Files
County Files
Subject Files
Biographical Files

Periodicals

Kentucky historical and genealogical society newsletters: *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*
Various Civil War related publications – *Civil War Times*, *Blue and Gray*, *Civil War History*

Kentucky State Library and Archives

KDLA Archives Research Room

Confederate Pension Applications
Confederate Home Records
Compiled Service Records (Union and Confederate)
Louisville Military Prison Registers
McLeans Barracks Prison Registers
Petitions for Amnesty by Kentuckians Submitted to President Andrew Johnson
Union – Supplemental Service Records: Personal Papers and Misc. Interfiles
War-related lawsuits in county level judicial courts
Petitions for pardon submitted to wartime Kentucky governors

Other Research Locations

Filson Club (Louisville, Kentucky)

Civil War histories, maps, personal papers, manuscripts

Local Public Libraries – Kentucky rooms and general Civil War histories

Historical and Genealogical Societies

Doing Civil War Genealogy

Schweitzer, George K. *Civil War Genealogy* (2003).

Groene, Bertram H. *Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor* (1973, Revised Edition 1995).

McManus, Stephen et al. *The Civil War Research Guide*. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books. (2003)

Sauers, Richard A. *How to Do Civil War Research*. Da Capo Press. (1995)

Finding Your Civil War Ancestor

How did your ancestor enter the army?

Volunteer

Draftee (conscript)

Already on Active Duty at war's start

Where and when did your ancestor join the army?

January 1861 through late 1861

Confederate forces – Tennessee or Virginia

Union forces – Indiana or Ohio

Kentucky -- what county or city did the enlistment take place in?

Kentucky Civil War Histories

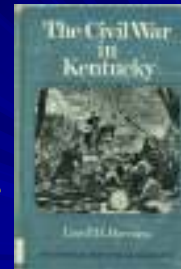
Coulter, E. Merton. *Civil War and Readjustment in Kentucky*. (1926)

Harrison, Lowell H. *The Civil War in Kentucky*. (1976)

Sanders, Stuart. *Perryville Under Fire*. (2012)

-- *Maney's Confederate Brigade at the Battle of Perryville* (2014)

-- *The Battle of Mill Springs, Kentucky* (2013)



Major Kentucky Civil War Battles

Books in print on major Civil War battles occurring in Kentucky

Perryville -- Hafendorfer, Noe, Sanders

Mill Springs -- Hafendorfer, Sanders

Richmond -- Hafendorfer, Lambert

Munfordville -- Monographs, McDonough

Camp Wildcat -- Hafendorfer

Morgan's Raids -- Reid, Ramage

Cynthiana -- Penn

Camp Nelson -- Sears

Confederate Cavalry -- 1862 campaign -- Hafendorfer

Perryville Aftermath -- Stuart Sanders




Kentucky Civil War Resources

Alfaro, Armando "Al". *The Paper Trail of the Kentucky National Guard*. (2003) 531 pages

Alfaro, Armando "Al". *The Paper Trail of the Civil War in Kentucky*. (2001) 72 pages

Kentucky Adjutant General's Reports
Union Army (published 1867)
Confederate Army (published 1915)



Social History of Your Ancestor

Identifying your Civil War ancestor is *just the beginning*.

Questions to answer in your research:

1. What time period did your ancestor serve in?
2. Where did your ancestor actually serve in the war?
3. What unit was your ancestor assigned to?
4. What happened to your ancestor or to his immediate friends and acquaintances during his Civil War service?
5. Did your ancestor survive the war? If not, where is he buried? Can you identify his grave?
6. If your ancestor became a casualty, did he die or recover from his wounds?

Reference Sources:

Sturdevant, Katharine S. *Bringing Your Family History to Life through Social History*. (2000)

Varhola, Michael J. *Everyday Life During the Civil War*. (1999)

Long, E. B., ed. *Civil War Day by Day: An Almanac, 1861-1865*. (1971)

Wiley, Bell I. *The Life of Billy Yank*. (1952); *The Life of Johnny Reb*. (1971)

Personal Sources for Civil War Ancestors Research

Personal papers surviving your ancestor -- attic, basement, barn, chicken coop (A.P. Hill's personal papers), outbuildings, etc.

Civil War pension application (Union – National Archives; Confederate – KDLA)

Newspaper accounts of Civil War service and experiences

Published or unpublished family histories

Unit histories

Family papers – possibly stored in local libraries, historical or genealogical societies, Filson Club, Kentucky Historical Society, Library of Congress

Ask the question --- does anyone in your family have old papers, records of your family's ancestors?

Possible Research Surprises

North or South??? Which side did he serve on?

The records may reveal facts that your family traditions/histories have confused.

"Great-grandfather was a WHAT?"

"I found out my great-grandfather was a d----ed Yankee." (or vice versa)

Your ancestor doesn't show up at all in available records –

There are far more of "Morgan's Men" than could have ever served with that CSA organization. Or, your Civil War ancestor was underage and didn't use his real name to enlist.

Your Civil War ancestor "disappears" during the war.

Your ancestor may have been killed or died of illness and his death was not adequately documented. Many battle and disease casualties were buried without their graves being officially documented. An "underage" ancestor may have changed his name in order to gain entry into the army.

Your Civil War ancestor may have been like a lot of military veterans and never really shared his wartime experiences. Many men had war experiences that they felt inadequate to describe. PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder or battlefield fatigue) did not start in the twentieth century.

Saving Your Ancestor's Civil War Experience

■ What can you do?

Discover your Civil War era ancestors and what they did during the war?

- Served in the military
- Worked in war-support efforts
- Waited at home for those off in the army

Put your information together in a family history or biography of your Civil War ancestor and place it on file in your local historical society or local public library.

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➤ Questions?

➤ Email: donrightmyer@yahoo.com

➤ Ask for free PDF of this talk if you would like one.