

NATIONAL ARCHIVES (NARA) ORDER FOR COPIES OF FEDERAL PENSION OR BOUNTY LAND WARRANT APPLICATIONS

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR ORDER

The success of our search depends on the completeness and accuracy of the information you provide in blocks 2-17 on this form. Often there are many files for veterans of the same or nearly the same name. If there are three or fewer files for men with the same name as the individual in whom you are interested, we will examine the relevant files and compare their contents with the information that you have provided us. If the veteran's identity seems obvious, we will furnish you a copy of the file we think is the correct one. Please note that each NATF Form 85 is handled separately.

We cannot make a file-by-file check to see if the information in the numerous files matches that provided for the veteran in whom you are interested. In such cases, we suggest that you visit the National Archives and examine the various files, or hire a professional researcher to examine the files for you. We do not maintain a list of persons who do research for a fee; however, many researchers advertise their services in genealogical periodicals, usually available in libraries.

USE NATF FORM 86 TO OBTAIN COPIES OF MILITARY SERVICE RECORDS.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

Use a separate NATF Form 85 for each file that you request. You must complete blocks 1 – 6 or we cannot search for the file. Print your name (last, first, MI) and address in the box provided at the bottom of the form. This serves as your mailing label. **We destroy requests without return addresses.** Please enter the Card Validation Code, found on your card, in the space provided on the form (three or four digits). We will make reproductions of records that relate to your request. We accept Master Card, VISA, American Express, and Discover credit cards. Do NOT send cash or check. Forms with incomplete Credit Card information will be destroyed. **Make a copy of the completed form for your records.** Mail it to: *Archival Operations Washington D.C., Form 85 – Pension, National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20408-0001.* Please allow up to 90 days for processing your order. If you provide your email address, we will send you an email with your order number. You can track the status of your order at our website, eservices.archives.gov/orderonline. We cannot provide digital certifications.

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TYPES OF RECORDS THAT CAN BE ORDERED WITH THIS FORM

FEDERAL PENSION APPLICATION FILES

Full Pension Application File - Civil War (1860) and Later, (\$80 up to 100 pages + \$.70 per additional page); Pre Civil War (\$55): Pension application files generally are most useful to those who are doing genealogical research and contain the most complete information regarding a soldier's military career. We suggest that you first request reproductions of a soldier's pension file. You should request reproductions of a bounty-land warrant file or a military record only when no pension file exists. If the veteran's service was during the Revolutionary War, bounty-land warrant applications have been consolidated with pension application papers. You can obtain both files by requesting the pension file only. Military service records rarely contain family information. Use NATF Form 86 to obtain reproductions of military service records.

Pension application files, based on Federal (not State or Confederate) service before World War I, usually include an official statement of the veteran's military service, as well as information of a personal nature. **Pension files for the Civil War and later can be very large and average more pages than pension files for previous wars so the National Archives Trust Fund sets a page limit on these items. If the file requested exceeds the page limit the researcher will receive the first block of pages along with a quote for the remaining pages. The customer must return the quote with payment to receive the remainder of the file.** Pensions based on military service for the Confederate States of America were authorized by some Southern States but not by the Federal Government until 1959. Inquiries about State pensions should be addressed to the State archives or equivalent agency at the capital of the veteran's State of residence after the war. See the special notes below about Confederate pensions.

Pension Documents Packet (\$30): The pension documents package will contain, to the extent that these documents are present in the file, 8 documents that contain genealogical information about the pension applicant. Not all of these documents will be found in every file. The package will include any of the following items that are in the file: (1) declaration of pension, (2) declaration of widow's pension, (3) Adjutant General statements of service, (4) questionnaires completed by applicants (numbered forms), (5) "Pension Dropped" cards, (6) marriage certificates, (7) death certificates, (8) discharge certificate. We will not provide a count of the remaining pages; if you wish to obtain a full pension file after reviewing the pension documents packet, you will need to order the complete file. If the entire pension file is no more than 10 pages, we will mark the order "Complete file provided."

BOUNTY-LAND WARRANT APPLICATION FILES

Bounty-land warrant application files (\$30) are based on Federal (not State) service before 1856. Documents in a bounty-land warrant application file are similar to those in a pension application file. In addition, these files usually give the veteran's age and place of residence at the time the application was made. For a copy of the surrendered Bounty-Land Warrant, you will need to submit a request on NATF Form 84, National Archives Order for Copies of Land Entry Files.

SPECIAL NOTES ABOUT CONFEDERATE PENSIONS

The following Southern State Archives have Confederate pension records. For links to State Archives websites and links to online finding aids please go to the Confederate pension page on our website at www.archives.gov or you can write to the addresses below for more information.

Alabama Department of Archives & History, 624 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104

Arkansas History Commission & State Archives, One Capitol Mall, Little Rock, AR 72201

Florida State Archives, R.A. Gray Building, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

Georgia Department of Archives & History, 5800 Jonesboro Road, Morrow, GA 30260

Kentucky Department for Libraries & Archives, Kentucky State Archives, 300 Coffee Tree Road, Frankfort, KY 40601

Louisiana State Archives, 3851 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809-2137

Mississippi Department of Archives & History, Charlotte Capers Building, 100 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201

Missouri State Archives, State Information Center, 600 West Main Street, Jefferson City, MO 65101

North Carolina State Archives, 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27601

Oklahoma Department of Libraries, State Archives, 200 N.E. 18th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105

South Carolina Department of Archives & History, South Carolina History Center, 8301 Parklane Road, Columbia, SC 29223

Tennessee State Library & Archives, 403 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37243

Texas State Library & Archives Commission, 1201 Brazos Street, Austin, TX 78711-2927

The Library of **Virginia**, 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219-8000

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Collection of this information is authorized by sections 2108, 2116, and 2307 of Title 44 U.S. Code. Disclosure of the information is voluntary; however, we will be unable to respond to your request if you do not furnish your name and address and the minimum required information about the records. The information is used by NARA employees to search for the record; to respond to you; to maintain control over information requests received and answered; and to facilitate preparation of internal statistical reports. If you provide credit card information, that information is used to bill you for copies.

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