

Tip of the Month --- Military Records

By Howard Maynard Faulkner

Military Records were selected for the June 'Tip of the Month' to correspond with Memorial Day week and our June speaker, Mr. Dale Mower, who will address Military Pension Records. Coincidentally, a major announcement was made last week by The Generations Network, Inc. (parent company of Ancestry.com). **Ancestry.com has launched the largest US Military Records Collection Available Online.** This resource is available FREE through Sunday June 6th, 2007 after which it will be available to subscribers only.*

U.S. Military Records are a valuable resource for genealogists. **The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)** and the **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs** hold most of the military records that genealogists seek. These are held in depositories in Washington, DC and elsewhere around the country. In recent years some of these records have become available online through a variety of resources known to genealogists including the **Family History Libraries** of the LDS church, **Ancestry.com**, **Footnote.com**, and some Veterans organizations to name just a few.

Ancestry.com (see above), will now offer to subscribers * over 37 million images of original documents from over 700 databases including but not limited to:

- World War I and World War II draft registration cards
- Prisoner of war records from the War of 1812, Civil War, World War II, and Korea
- Muster rolls (unit rosters) for the Marine Corps 1893-1958 and WWII U.S. Navy Aircraft Carrier Muster rolls, 1939-1949
- U.S. Military burial registers 1768-1921
- Service Records from Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War
- Civil War Pension Index
- Casualty listings from WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) have original Military Service Records including; enlistment/appointment, duty stations and assignments, training, qualifications, performance awards and medals, disciplinary actions, insurance, administrative remarks, separation/discharge/retirement (including [DD Form 214, Report of Separation, or equivalent](#)) and other personnel actions. Pension Records are also at NARA. For an OVERVIEW of military records held by NARA go to: <http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2002/fall/military-records-overview.html>

To request specific information from NARA simply go to <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/> and download the appropriate forms to your computer. Print, complete and mail these forms to NARA. They will locate the documents and send you copies at low or no cost.

Military Medical Records are available from the Veterans Administration. Go to: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index.html> for the procedures to request these records.

State Military Records are kept for each state. The NARA has a complete list and addresses for each state at this website: <http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/state-archives.html>

Cyndi's List at: <http://www.cyndislist.com/milres.htm> must not be missed for both US and Foreign Military resources in some of the most obscure places. *You may just find it here as this is truly a gold mine.*

* *Many public libraries subscribe to Ancestry.com and make it available FREE to their patrons.*