Research Guide to Civil War Materials at the Connecticut State Library

The Connecticut State Library contains a wealth of information useful to genealogists seeking Civil War ancestors as well as to historical researchers examining political, economic, social, and military aspects of the Civil War. For convenience this research guide is divided into the following categories:

- **Introductory Materials**
- **Archival Materials**
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**Introductory Materials**

An introduction to Civil War genealogical research may be found in:


For other aspects of the war, recommended bibliographies include:

Archival Materials
Researchers must read the current *Rules and Procedures for Researchers Using Archival Records, Original Newspapers, and Special Collections* and obtain an archives pass prior to requesting materials. The major record groups in the State Archives which relate to the Civil War era are listed below. Many finding aids are now online.

RG 2, Records of the General Assembly. General Assembly papers and rejected bills for the years following the Civil War include petitions and special acts relating to soldiers, sailors, and their families.

RG 5, Records of the Governor. See especially:

- 5:9, Military Correspondence, 1883-1889. Includes applications for admission to military hospitals, 1873-1882 and miscellaneous Civil War papers, 1861-65.

RG 8, Records of the Comptroller.

- 8:67, Material Pertaining to Paymaster and Quartermaster Accounts, 1861-65. This is a miscellaneous, unarranged collection of papers, probably from the office of H. W. (or H. J.?) Morse, pertaining to the accounts for pay, expenses, supplies and equipment of Civil War military operations. It includes bank books, vouchers, pay rolls, inventories, clothing returns and correspondence. Unarranged. 2 feet.
- 8:72, Records of Payments to Civil War Soldiers and Families, 1861-1866. This item constitutes a two-volume compilation, by town, of returns and payments from August, 1861 to August, 1866. The volumes contain the name of each serviceman, name of the wife, names and ages of children, regiment and company, rank, date of muster, term of enlistment, changes in service, and payments made. In most cases, exact dates of deaths of children are given. Generally, estimates of year and month of deaths of children and wives can be calculated from the payment schedules.

A list of dates on which various Connecticut regiments were mustered out appears at the beginning of volume two. The index lists page numbers in volume one and then, after the term "New Book," page numbers in volume two. No index for towns beginning with the letter "W" existed; staff created one and appended to copies. A copy of the index is in the register. This item has been microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah (LDS microfilm #1533593) and is available through LDS Family History Centers.

RG 12, Records of the State Library. Includes the records of the War Records Department. Item 9 contains lists, compiled from various sources, of Connecticut men and women who served in the Civil War. Item 37 consists of replies from 48 states to an inquiry by Charles R. Hale regarding marking the graves for the Sons of Veterans of the Civil War. Item 44 includes some original discharge papers of Civil War soldiers admitted to Fitch's Home for the Soldiers (predecessor of the Veterans' Home and Hospital) ca. 1900.
RG 13, Records of the Military Department. Military units in Connecticut were under the jurisdiction of the Adjutant General. During the war, that office was the central receiving point for information on enlistments, commissions, promotions, discharges, resignations, transfers of servicemen, operations, engagements, casualties, general orders, courts martial, pay, recruiting, bounties, pensions, deaths and wounds, substitutes, Knight General Hospital in New Haven, Fitch's Home for Soldiers in Noroton, and the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in Dayton, Ohio. There is also an enormous amount of unprocessed records, including individual enlistment papers (arranged by unit), muster rolls, and quartermaster correspondence.

Of special note are:

- 13:14, Incoming Letters and Orders, 1861-1865
- 13:30, List of Deceased Connecticut Volunteers, 1861-1866. (See also RG 2.)


RG 69, Manuscript Collections.

Cataloged Manuscripts. In past years manuscripts were often catalogued, either individually or as collections. Most of those items are now in a single Dewey decimal group of "Catalogued Manuscripts" and are accessible through the Manuscripts and Archives Catalog in the H&G Reading Room. For letters, journals, diaries, and other items relating to the Civil War, check the Manuscripts and Archives Catalog under the subject headings:

- Connecticut--History--Civil War U.S.--History--Civil War

Uncataloged Manuscripts. Record Group 69 also includes groups or collections of manuscripts which were not classed as "Catalogued Manuscripts" but which are represented in the Manuscripts and Archives Catalog. Major collections dealing with the Civil War include:

- 69:7, Hamilton and Knapp Families. Hamilton-Knapp collection, 1746-1924. 5 inches. Family papers of the Hamilton and Knapp families of the Danbury, CT area, including
deeds, sketch maps, correspondence, check stubs, school report cards, and Civil War letters. Received from Doylestown (PA) National Bank and Trust Co., 1964.


- 69:28, Royce, Lucien Merriam, 1838-1907. Royce (Rice) and Phelps family papers, 1740-1944. 3 feet. Pharmacist and Civil War surgeon's steward. Correspondence, diaries, related materials of L. M. Royce, 1853-1907. Also deeds and other papers (with overview) pertaining to the Royce (Rice) family of Farmington and Bristol, CT and the Atwater, Phelps and other families from the Windsor, CT area. Unpublished guide. Gift of Helen E. Royce, 1945 and earlier.

- 69:49, Davis, Fred Cady. Fred C. Davis collection, 1723-1951. 10 feet. Personal and business papers of a number of relatives, associates, and descendants of Deacon Daniel Davis (1768-1847) of Somers, CT, including Amariah Kibbe (1780-1840) of Somers, and members of the Cady, Chapin, Harwood, Hurlburt and Stebbins families. Edwin C. Davis (1844-1917) was a Civil War soldier, Deputy Customs Collector at Darien, Georgia, and member of the Connecticut General Assembly. The collection includes account books, diaries, correspondence, memorabilia, pamphlets and children's books. Unpublished guide. Gift of Richard W. Davis, 1972-3.


- 69:63, Judd, Major Edwin D., 1833-1908. Papers, 1861-79. 32 feet. Civil War military and Reconstruction paymaster, especially in Georgia and Texas. Letterbooks (1863-75), incoming letters (1867-78), vouchers (1861-79), accounts current, check stubs, property accounts, bank books. Bequeathed by Major (Lt.-Col.) Judd, 1909(?).


RG 72, Vital Records. Item 4 within this record group is a list of veterans buried in Connecticut, ca. 1640-1934. The list contains the name, company, regiment, date of death, and age of each veteran and the war in which he or she served.

RG 113, Records of the Grand Army of the Republic, Connecticut Department. Box 10 includes a list of members, obituary rolls, and a roster of Civil War veterans buried in Willimantic Cemetery, Willimantic, CT.

RG 114, Griffin A. Stedman, Camp 6, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Connecticut Division, 1909-13. This organization, still active, is composed of male descendants of veterans of the Union Army in the Civil War. Camp 6 was concerned with such activities as marking the graves of Civil War veterans, proper observance of national holidays, and care and upkeep of Civil War memorials.

RG 119, The Army and Navy Club of Connecticut, 1892-1936. This organization, formed Nov. 27, 1879, was composed of any soldier or sailor honorably discharged and sponsored by a member. It appears to have been limited to Civil War veterans. Annual dinner meetings were held, usually in Hartford, until disbandment of the club in 1936. Records include biographical sketches, lists of members, obituary notices, and other related materials.

RG 138, Connecticut Medical Society, 1792-1912. The Connecticut Medical Society was incorporated in 1792. From its inception until 1893 it was responsible for the licensing of physicians. For material relating to the selection of physicians for Civil War service, see item 2, "Connecticut Medical Examining Board Records and Correspondence, 1861-65".

*Artifacts*
For information on Civil War artifacts, including uniforms, flags, and weapons contact the Museum of Connecticut History.

*Battle Flags*


*Bounty Claims*


RG 13:52, Certificates of Eligibility for Bounty, 1865-1866.
Conscientious Objectors

Discharge Papers


RG 13:42, Notices of Discharge or Resignation; Acceptances of Appointment, 1861-63.

RG 13:44, Discharge Certificates, 1898-1956. Includes some original Civil War discharge papers of soldiers admitted to the State Veterans' Home ca. 1900.


Genealogical Information
The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), the post-Civil War organization of Civil War veterans, often placed flags on soldiers' graves. The Hale Collection of Connecticut Cemetery Inscriptions includes references to GAR flag markers if they were in place ca. 1934. In some instances, the headstone inscription itself may include the name of the unit in which the veteran served.

In addition to checking the Hale Collection and other Connecticut genealogical materials, researchers should check the Veteran's Deaths Index.

See also the following State Archives Records Groups:
RG 12:37, Letters concerning marking and maintenance of soldiers' graves, 1926. Replies from 48 states to an inquiry by Charles R. Hale, Chairman of the Sons of Veterans of the Civil War's National Committee on Marking Graves.

RG 13:80, Record of Deaths at Fitch's Home, 1884-1942.

For burials in National Cemeteries, consult:

General Histories
The State Library has many general histories dealing with the Civil War. Books which provide an overview include:


Newspapers
Newspapers published during the Civil War are an excellent primary source for information. The Connecticut State Library holds an extensive collection of original or microfilmed newspapers for this period. Many titles from the Civil War era are online through our Digital Collections.

Marriage notices and death notices from 90 early Connecticut newspapers, covering the period ca. 1750-1865, were abstracted by the Works Progress Administration during the 1930's. The abstracts sometimes provide the place of death and/or unit of Civil War soldiers.

Payrolls and Muster Rolls
Although most payrolls and muster rolls relating to Connecticut units are found within State Archives Record Group 13, Records of the Military Department, some rolls were acquired from other sources and appear in other record groups. The following list, while representative, is not exhaustive:

RG 8:67, Paymaster and Quartermaster Accounts, 1861-65. An unarranged collection of papers pertaining to pay, expense accounts, and supply accounts, probably from the office of H. W. (or H. J.?) Morse.


RG 13:82, Bounty Register, Receipts, Muster Rolls for Three-Month Enlistees, First Regiment, Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, 1861-79.


RG 69:64, Edward V. Preston Papers, 1861-65. Major Edwards was a Civil War paymaster and quartermaster. The collection includes payrolls, muster rolls, vouchers, etc.

RG 69:81, Andrew M. Morgan Civil War Papers, 1861-71. Includes muster rolls, receipts, reports, correspondence relating to the 8th Regiment, Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.

_Pensions_

_Published Material_

_State Archives Record Groups_
RG 8:72, Records of Payments to Civil War Soldiers and Families, 1861-66.


RG 13:58, Record of Pension Vouchers, 1877-1923. List of persons to whom payments for US pensions were made.


_Photographs_
The major picture groups in the State Archives which relate to the Civil War are:

PG 80, Civil War Collection. Includes 450 photos, prints, and glass negatives, including battle sites at Antietam and Gettysburg, camp sites and forts, monuments, the South, Connecticut troops, Andersonville and Libby Prisons, and portraits of military officers and noted people of the period.

PG 85, Brady Collection of Civil War Photographs, 1861-65. Includes about 7,500 photos and 134 lantern slides by noted Civil War photographer Matthew Brady.

PG 385, Goddard Collection. Includes lantern slides of the Civil War.
PG 570, Connecticut Military Portraits, ca. 1860-1945. Includes individual and group portraits of Civil War soldiers and veterans of the Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. Photographs may or may not be identified by unit.

PG 850, Cartes de Visite, 1860-1885. Includes individual portraits of Civil War officers, group portraits of Civil War soldiers, and other Civil War portraits.

PG 860, Daguerreotypes, Tintypes and Ambrotypes, ca. 1850-1882. Includes some portraits of Civil War soldiers.

Published Materials
Atwater, Dorence A. *A List of the Union Soldiers Buried at Andersonville*. The Tribune Association, 1866 [CSL call number E 612 .A5 A8].


State Archives Materials
RG 69:23, George Q. Whitney Collection. Includes materials pertaining to the 16th Connecticut Volunteers imprisoned at Andersonville and to the Andersonville monument.

PG 80, Civil War Collection. Includes photographs of Andersonville and Libby Prisons.

Regimental Histories

Published Materials
The Connecticut State Library has many published regimental histories, including some for out-of-state units. A sampling of Connecticut regimental histories follows; some include lists of enlisted men with birth dates, death dates and other biographical information. Many of these titles that were published before 1923 have been digitized and are online through Internet Archive, Google Books, HathiTrust and other websites.

General

African American
See "29th and 30th Infantries", below.
1st Light Battery

1st Heavy Artillery


2nd Heavy Artillery


5th Infantry

6th Infantry

7th Infantry
Tourtellote, Jerome. *A History of Company K of the Seventh Connecticut Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War, Compiled by a Member who was Second in Rank in the Company When the Regiment Left the State for the Front and Second in Rank in the Regiment When it Returned to the State for Final Discharge.* 1910. 217 p. [CSL call number E 499.5 7th .T67 1910].

**9th Infantry**

**13th Infantry**

**14th Infantry**

**15th Infantry**

**16th Infantry**

**18th Infantry**

**19th Infantry**
See "2nd Heavy Artillery".

**20th Infantry**
Storrs, John W. *The "Twentieth Connecticut": a Regimental History.* Ansonia: Naugatuck Valley Sentimental, 1886. 306 p. [CSL call number E 499.5 20th .S76 1886].

**21st Infantry**
The *Story of the Twenty-First Regiment, Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, During the Civil War, 1861-1865.* Middletown: Stewart Printing Co., 1900. 498 p. [CSL call number E 499.5 21st .U54 1900].
22nd Infantry

26th Infantry

27th Infantry
Sheldon, Winthrop Dudley. *The Twenty-Seventh, a Regimental History.* New Haven: Morris and Benham, 1866. 144 p. [CSL call number E 499.5 27th]. Also filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah (LDS 896,829) and available through LDS Family History Centers.

28th Infantry


29th and 30th Infantries
"Connecticut's Colored Volunteers," in *Lure of the Litchfield Hills* 104 (Summer 1962) 3 [CSL call number F 104 .L6 L8]. In this article, W. J. Finan outlines the organization and service of the 29th and 30th Connecticut Volunteers, 1864-65, who suffered extraordinarily high casualties at Petersburg. The author says these two regiments included 1,664 African Americans. A photograph purporting to be of some of them is actually a photograph of a Pennsylvania unit.


Other

State Archives Record Groups
Representative items are listed below. The library staff is unable to search original records for the public. They may be searched in-house, following the *Rules and Procedures for Researchers Using Archival Records and Secured Collections Materials.*
RG 13:29, Reports of Operations, Engagements, Casualties, July 1860-March 1866. The research guide register to Record Group 13 includes a chronological list with brief description of each report.

RG 13:31, Records of the Connecticut Volunteer Regiments, 1861-65. Bound volume, by regiment, containing lists of men with summary of their records, brief histories of the units, etc. The index volume at the end includes a numerical list of the men in each regiment.

Service Records

Original Records
Copies of military records and pension application files can be ordered from the National Archives in Washington, DC. More information is available on the NARA website.

Published Materials
The following printed sources are suggested for information on Civil War service in Connecticut units. Copies may be consulted at the Connecticut State Library but are not available on interlibrary loan:

Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the War of the Rebellion. Hartford: Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co., 1889 [CSL call number HistRef ConnDoc Ad44 ran]. Includes brief regimental histories as well as the name, rank, residence, date of enlistment, date of muster, and a basic service record of most soldiers and sailors who served from Connecticut.


Soldiers' Homes and Hospitals
RG 5:9, Military Correspondence. Includes applications for admission to military hospitals, 1873-1882.

RG 73:002. Includes original discharge papers of Civil War soldiers admitted to Fitch's Home for the Soldiers (predecessor of the Connecticut Veterans' Home and Hospital) ca. 1900. Veteran name access is available by using the Fitch's Home for Soldiers database.

RG 13:45, Knight General Hospital Reports, 1863-65.

Prepared by the History and Genealogy Unit, Connecticut State Library, 11-96.