



ABUNDANT GENEALOGY

Researching Military Ancestors Memorial Day Resources

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<https://abundantgenealogy.com>

FREE ACCESS Genealogy and Family History Sites

Most of these sites are offering access only to their Military records; however some sites are offering full access or other record sets.

Fold3

[FREE ACCESS to over 558 Million Military Records at Fold3](#). FREE ACCESS to over 550 MILLION records this weekend at Fold3! Get access to military records, city directories and newspapers. This is a RARE OPPORTUNITY to research your military ancestors for FREE! One of the newest military collections is the [World War II Draft Registration Cards](#) and they are so clear and easy to read in color! Registration cards show name, residence, age, place of birth, employer, physical characteristics, and other information." Free access valid through Monday, May 25th. Click [HERE](#) to access.

**Access to the records in the featured collections will be free until 25 May 2020 at 11:59 p.m. ET. After the free access period ends, you will only be able to view the records in the featured collections using a paid Ancestry® All-Access or Fold3® membership.*

MyHeritage

[FREE ACCESS to over 57 million Military Records at MyHeritage This Weekend!](#)

"In honor of Memorial Day, MyHeritage is offering free access to all 57 MILLION military records on the MyHeritage website from May 20–26, 2020. Many of us may have a relative or ancestor who served in the military. We invite you to pay tribute to these heroes and honor their legacy by learning more about them through military records. The MyHeritage collection consists of 57 million records and includes draft, enlistment, and service records, pension records, and other military documents from North America and around the world, dating back to the American Revolutionary War in the late 18th century." Click [HERE](#) to access.

FREE ACCESS Weekend Strategies, Tips and Tricks

Having SO MANY free resources available can be overwhelming, especially when there is a limited window of access such as this weekend. Here's some advice on how to get the most out of these resources AND still have fun learning more about your ancestors! Remember: You can't make up with speed what you lack in direction!

- **First Thing: SAVE THAT IMAGE!:** Remember that the sites providing free access this weekend won't let you retrieve those images after the offer period has expired, even with a free account. You will need to pay for a subscription to

get access. Whenever you find ANY RECORD IMAGE, whether it is positive or negative evidence, right click over the image and select “Save Image As.”

- **What If I Can’t Save That Image?:** For some sites, it is not as easy as right-clicking and selecting “Save Image As” to save that record image. Consider using the **Evernote Web Clipper** or even **Pinterest** to capture the image. In the worst case scenario use the **PrtScrn** button and paste the image into an email and send it to yourself.
- **File Names Matter – Do It Right the First Time!:** While you may want to work quickly this weekend, there is no sense in spending hours to clean up file names etc. once the free access period is over. Instead of saving that record image as IMG001, create a clear and concise name – one that you can look at in a file directory and know right away what is in the file! Create a file naming convention and stick to it! One example: for a World War I US Draft Card for John Ralph Austin dated June 5, 1917: **AUSTIN John Ralph WWI US Draft Card 19170605.**
- **Also capture text, notes and URLs!:** Don’t forget to capture as much info as possible! Options include: 1) highlight, copy and paste into a TXT file, a Word document or an email and send it to yourself; or 2) right click the web page and select Print then select Microsoft PDF (for Windows 10 computers). Also bookmark the URL for a specific site or document and save it in a document or with your web browser favorites.
- **Create to-do lists AHEAD OF TIME!:** When I am working with records during a free access period and I have some advance notice, I try to formulate what I am looking for. Example: I know my great-grandfather John Ralph AUSTIN was born in 1894 and that would make him eligible for the draft in 1917 for World War I. So I know I want his US draft card PLUS if he did service during the War, info on his enlistment and perhaps pension. In addition, don’t forget that in the US many were part of the National Guard so look there too!
- **Pay no attention to that BSO (Bright and Shiny Object)!”** I always have a “To Do List” document open and available – a text file, a Word document, a spreadsheet or even a pen and paper – for writing down those nagging “I have to remember to do THIS” thoughts. Example: As I research my great-grandfather John Ralph Austin, I find his World War I US Draft Card and there is NEW INFORMATION such as a home address, the name and address of an employer etc. Try to quickly note these items to follow up at a later date but NOT DURING THE FREE ACCESS PERIOD! Example: on the World War II US Draft Registration for John Ralph AUSTIN, the reverse of the card notes that he is missing “half of index finger on left hand.” Well this wasn’t on the World War I Draft Registration and even if I am dying to know the story about how it went missing, I resist the temptation to research it right away! SAVE IT FOR LATER!
- **Do you already have access to the records?:** If the site with free access is part of a subscription I already pay for, I shouldn’t be using that site at all. In fact, if I am a regular user, a free access period means the website could be slow during that period. So I make a note to come back AFTER the free period.

- **Can I get the records elsewhere?:** Can I access them for free on **FamilySearch** or even **Internet Archive**? A BSO can become “dull” with just a little research as to available access points for those records.
- **Is it more cost and time-effective to hold off?** Let’s face it, those records aren’t going anywhere. It is just a free access period that will expire. It might be a better use of my time to sign up for a special one-month subscription at the site when I have more time to fully dedicate my attention to the records. Also, by then, I might have many items to search in my To-Do List using those records.

Turn Military Records into Family Stories

There are several ways you can “share” your military record “finds” this weekend including creating a “virtual” Memorial Day Parade.

Fold3 Honor Wall

Did you know that Fold3 has a [Fold3 Honor Wall](https://www.fold3.com/wall/) for remembering US military veterans? Right now with the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, Fold3 is asking families to upload their photos and stories to the Honor Wall (<https://www.fold3.com/wall/>) and then share them on social media. Here's how:

- **Create a Memorial on our Honor Wall.** Search your veteran’s name on our Honor Wall here. If they already have a Memorial, you can add additional details, photos, and stories to it. If they don’t have a Memorial, you can create one. This video tutorial walks you through the process. Creating a Memorial is free and helps preserve your veteran’s military history for future generations. Be sure to include regiment, unit, or battalion, and as many searchable details as you can. You can also attach records, stories, photos, journals, and more. Visit our Honor Wall to see examples of other Memorials.
- Next, **send us a URL link to your Memorial** with a short summary of your veteran’s service. Remember, a social media post has to be BRIEF. Send it to content@fold3.com. You can write a longer version of your story and attach it to your Memorial. We’ll include your veteran’s photo in our social media post along with a link to your Memorial page.
- That’s it! We’ll honor as many of these WWII heroes that we possibly can in the upcoming months. Follow Fold3’s social media channels on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter and watch for your veteran!

Tools and Apps for Research

These tools, apps, and websites – most of them free – can assist you in snagging images, storing data, and more during free access periods.

- **Evernote**
<https://evernote.com>
- **Evernote Web Clipper**
<https://evernote.com/products/webclipper>
- **Dropbox**
<https://dropbox.com>
- **FamilySearch**
<https://familysearch.com>
- **Internet Archive**
<https://archive.org>
- **Pinterest**
<https://pinterest.com>
- **Pinterest Browser Button**
<https://about.pinterest.com/en/browser-button>

Resources

General Resources

- **Cyndi's List – Military Records**
<https://www.cyndislist.com/military-worldwide/>
- **Google Books**
<https://books.google.com/>
- **Internet Archive**
<https://archive.org/details/genealogy>

Australian Resources

- ***Australia Military Records*** (FamilySearch)
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Australia_Military_Records
- **Cyndi's List – Australia Military Records**
<https://www.cyndislist.com/australia/military/>

Canadian Resources

- ***Canada Military Records*** (FamilySearch)
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Canada_Military_Records
- **Cyndi's List – Canada Military Records**
<https://www.cyndislist.com/canada/military/>

UK Resources

- **British Military Records** (FamilySearch Wiki)
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/British_Military_Records
- **Cyndi's List – UK Military Records**
<https://www.cyndislist.com/uk/military/>

US Resources

- **9 tips on obtaining missing military records (and awards) for you or a loved one**
<https://www.militarytimes.com/military-honor/salute-veterans/2018/10/31/9-tips-on-obtaining-missing-military-records-and-awards-for-you-or-a-loved-one/>
- **Ages of Servicemen in Wars** (FamilySearch Wiki)
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Ages_of_Servicemen_in_Wars
- **Archive Grid – Military Records**
<https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/?q=military+records&p=1&ft=1>
- **Cyndi's List – US Military Records**
<https://www.cyndislist.com/us/military/>
- **Genealogy 101: Military Records** (GenealogyBank)
<https://blog.genealogybank.com/?s=military+records>
- **Genealogy Research in Military Records** (National Archives)
<https://www.archives.gov/research/military/genealogy>
- **Military Records Tips for Beginners** (FamilySearch Wiki)
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Military_Records_Tips_for_Beginners
- **Nationwide Gravesite Locator**
<https://www.cem.va.gov/gravelocator/>
- **Online Military Indexes & Records**
<https://www.militaryindexes.com/>
- **PERSI** (Findmypast)
<https://www.findmypast.com/persi>
- **Pritzker Military Library and Museum**
<http://www.pritzkermilitary.org/>
- **Request Military Service Records** (National Archives)
<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>
- **Research Guide for Headstone Records for U.S. Military Veterans Buried in Nonfederal Cemeteries, 1879–1985** (National Archives)
<https://www.archives.gov/files/research/military/veterans/headstones-nonfederal-cemeteries.pdf>

- **Researching Your Military Ancestors in the US**
FREE series of 80 short videos from Ancestry Academy covering War of 1812, US Civil War, World War I, Pension Files and more!
<https://www.ancestryacademy.com/getting-the-most-out-of-fold3>
- **Soldiers and Sailors Database** (National Archives)
<https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm>
- **United States Military Old Soldiers Home Records** (FamilySearch Wiki)
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Military_Old_Soldiers_Home_Records
- **War of 1812 Pension Files** (Fold3)
<https://www.fold3.com/title/761/war-of-1812-pension-files>