

# The Presidential Family Secret of Joseph W. Clifton: A Delaware Genealogy Case Study

The Delaware Genealogical Society

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## The Genealogical Proof Standard – Five Elements

- A reasonably exhaustive search
- Complete and accurate citation of sources
- Analysis and correlation of the collected information
- Resolution of conflicting evidence
- A soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion

## Research Check List

### Home Records

- Family Bible
- Family Letters
- Interviews
- Photographs

### Church Depositories

- Archives
- Local Parish Rs
- Local Church hist.

### County Records

- Vital Records
- Marriage Rs
- Wills, Estates, etc.
- Deeds, etc.
- Mortgages
- Recorders' Rs
- Naturalization Rs

### Town Records & Libraries

- City & County Directories
- Cemetery Rs/grave inscriptions
- Public Histories
- Newspaper Files
- Taxes List
- School Rs
- Maps

### State Records

- Vital Records
- Land Grants
- State Census
- Militia Rs
- Tax Lists
- Archives
- Acts, Journals

### National Records

- Censuses
- Mortality Schd.
- Military Rs.
- Pension Rs.
- Passenger Lists
- Immigration Rs.
- Land Rs.
- Special Rs.

### Libraries & Historical Societies

- Indexes, special
- Misc. genealogies
- Printed Histories
- Occupational Hists.
- Biog. compendia
- Manuscript Hists.
- Obit col/indexes
- CemRs/grave inser
- Abstract volumes
- Maps

# **Military Records**

## Federal Records

The original Federal records/documents prior to WWI are held at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC and College Park, MD. The original federal service personnel records/documents from WWI to present day are stored at the National Personnel Record Center in St. Louis, MO. However, we can access many of these records through microfilm and databases of the digitized records.

## Federal Records History

- Most of the pre-1801 records were destroyed in two fires: 1800 and 1814 (War of 1812)
- The War Department gathered substitute records from private collections and from other departments of the U. S. government
- Few Pension Records exist prior to the Act of 1818
- Major record loss at The National Personnel Records Center in the fire of July 1973  
Records affected:
  - Army personnel discharged Nov. 1, 1912 to Jan. 1, 1960 - estimated loss: 80%
  - Air Force personnel discharged Sept. 25, 1947 to Jan. 1, 1964 with names alphabetically after Hubbard, James E. - estimated loss: 75%

## Compiled Military Service Records

- CMSRs were created for the purpose of verifying an individual's military service for the federal pension office.
- Compiling of military service records began circa 1892 under the direction of Col. Frederick C. Ainsworth
- CMSRs can be found on:
  - Fold3
  - NARA: Service Records Indexes microfilm
  - Ancestry.com
- Information on the CMSR abstract cards came from regimental or other unit/departmental records:
  - Enlistment Papers
  - Muster Rolls
  - Payrolls
  - Hospital and Medical Records
  - Prisoner of War Records
  - Supply and Clothing Records
  - Descriptive Books
  - Casualty Reports

## Pension Records

All pension related documents should be investigated

- Pension Application
- Pension Ledgers
- Pension Payment Vouchers

- Last and Final Pension Payment
- Bounty Land File
- Post Career Correspondence

Found at:

- Fold 3
- NARA
- ProQuest
- Ancestry.com

## Bounty Land Records

Two types of records:

Bounty Land Applications

- Ancestry.com
- Fold 3
- NARA: Most of the Bounty Land Applications are interfiled with Pension Application files (RG 15)
- NARA - *Unindexed Rejected Bounty Land Application* file (textural file)

Bounty Land Surrendered Warrants

- Ancestry.com: *U.S. War Bounty Land Warrants, 1789-1858*
- NARA: Surrendered Warrants are Land Records (RG 49)

## Federal Resources

National Archives and Records Administration - <http://www.archives.gov>

- Military Resources at the NARA: <http://www.archives.gov/research/military/>

National Personnel Records Center - <https://www.archives.gov/st-louis/>

Library of Congress

- Digital Collections - <https://www.loc.gov/collections/>
- American Revolution and Its Era: Maps and Charts of North America and the West Indies, 1750-1789 - <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/armhtml/armhome.html>
- Peter Force Library - <http://www.loc.gov/rr/rarebook/coll/084.html>
- The Rochambeau Map Collection – <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/rochambeau-maps/index.html>
- The Revolutionary War unit histories and personal narratives – <http://lccn.loc.gov/2007061511>

## State Resources

- Pennsylvania State Archives - Harrisburg, PA  
<http://www.digitalarchives.state.pa.us/archive.asp>
- Delaware State Archives - Dover, DE  
<http://archives.delaware.gov/exhibits/exhibits-toc.shtml>
- New Jersey State Archives - Trenton, NJ  
<http://www.nj.gov/state/archives/pdf/GenealogicalRecords.pdf>

## Specialty Libraries and Museums

- The David Library of the American Revolution (their collection is now at The American Philosophical Society: <https://www.amphilsoc.org/david-center-american-revolution>)
- Grand Army of the Republic Museum and Library: <http://garmuslib.org/>
- The Museum of the American Revolution, Philadelphia, PA (Coming in 2017) <https://www.amrevmuseum.org/>
- The United States Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle, PA <https://ahec.armywarcollege.edu/>

## Historical and Lineage Societies

- Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA - <http://hsp.org/>
- Daughters of the American Revolution, Washington DC - <http://www.dar.org/>
- Sons of the American Revolution, Louisville, KY - <https://www.sar.org/>
- Society of the Cincinnati, Washington DC - <http://www.societyofthecincinnati.org/>

## Internet Resources

- Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System (CWSS): <http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm>
- Rev War'75 (to locate Orderly Books)- <http://www.revwar75.com/>
- The American Revolution.org - <http://www.theamericanrevolution.org/>
- FamilySearch.org – U. S. Military Basic Search Strategies - [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/US\\_Military\\_Basic\\_Search\\_Strategies](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/US_Military_Basic_Search_Strategies)

## **Suggested Reading and Resources**

- Bockstruck, Lloyd deWitt and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking. “Military Records.” *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy, Third Edition*, edited by LLoretto Dennis Szucz and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, 499-558. Provo, UT Ancestry 2006
- Eales, Anne Bruner and Robert M. Kvasnicka. *Guide to Genealogical Records in the National Archives*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Trust Fund Board, 2000.
- Greenwood, Val D. *The Researcher’s Guide to American Genealogy, Fourth Edition*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing, Inc., 2017
- Neagles, James C. *U. S. Military Records: A Guide to Federal and State Sources, Colonial America to the Present*. Provo, UT: Ancestry Publishing, 1994
- Rose, Christine, *Military Bounty Land: 1776-1855*. San Jose, CA: CR Publications, 2011
- Rose, Christine, *Military Pension Laws, 1776-1858: From the journals of the Continental Congress and the United States Statutes-at-Large*. San Jose, CA: Rose Family Association, c2001.
- Scott, Craig Robert, *Researching Your Revolutionary War Ancestors*, National Genealogical Society, Continuing Genealogical Studies Course

**Now go have a genealogy adventure!**