



# House History

A Research Guide

## Introduction

Since the beginning of history, we as human beings have been involved in warfare, even during peacetime. Learning about your ancestors' service in any of the armed forces is an important part of your family's story. This resource guide will help you learn more about how to research your family's military history and where to find those records.

## Online Resources

[Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) is an online database of historical records commonly used in genealogy research. The database includes records pertaining to births and deaths, censuses, immigration, taxes, wills, military service, etc. Muncie Public Library has a subscription to Ancestry Library Edition, which slightly differs from Ancestry.com. ProQuest, who partnered with Ancestry.com to create the Library edition, has put together a helpful [guide](#). Ancestry Library Edition is available at all Muncie Public Library locations.

Similar to Ancestry.com, [MyHeritage](https://www.myheritage.com) is a genealogy database that includes comparable historical records to Ancestry Library Edition. This database is also available at all Muncie Public Library locations, but unlike Ancestry Library Edition, it can additionally be unlocked for home access with a Muncie Public Library card.

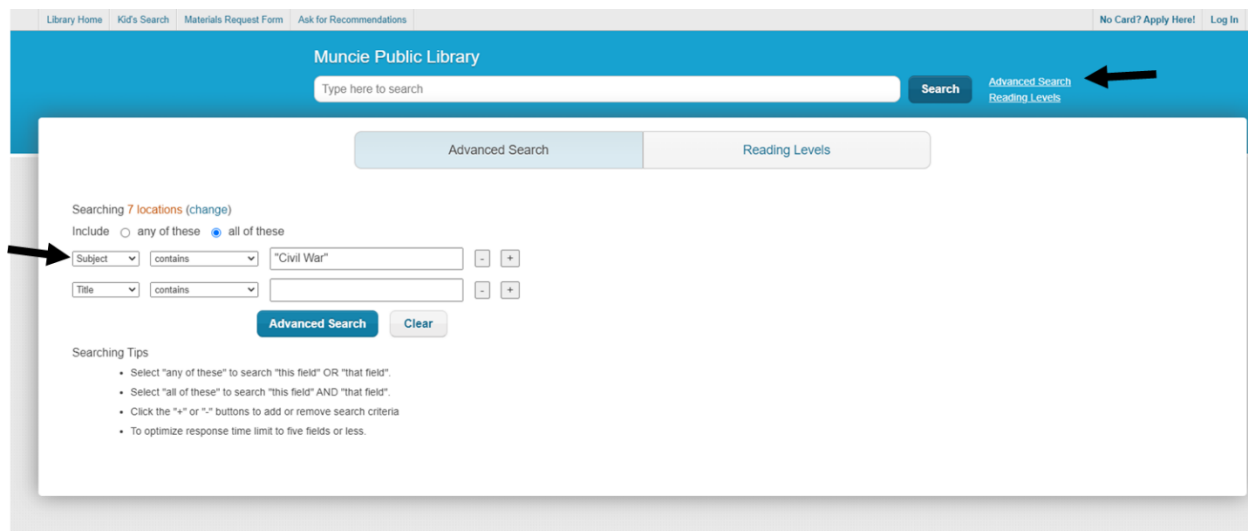
[Indiana Archives and Records Administration](https://www.indiana.gov) (IARA) holds military records from the territorial period in Indiana's history up to 1988. Early records can be useful for genealogical purposes and can include biographical information on the soldier while later records show proof of benefits or military funerals. The records at IARA also have information on general military history within the state of Indiana.

[National Archives and Records Administration](https://www.archives.gov) (NARA) is the organization that holds all military records on behalf of the federal government. Indexed military records can be found on the [National Archives' Access to Archival Databases](https://www.archives.gov) or the [National Archives' Online Public Access site](https://www.archives.gov). Declassified, non-digital records can be ordered online from [NARA](https://www.archives.gov) or the [National Personnel Records Center](https://www.archives.gov) in St. Louis, MO.

Note: Military records for conflicts after World War II may still be classified and unavailable to researchers.

## Books

An important part of understanding your ancestor's service within the armed forces is also learning some history about our involvement in warfare whether it began prior to the establishment of the United States with the Native Americans or more recently with the Vietnam War. We have a number of histories within our [catalog](#) at [www.munciepubliclibrary.org](http://www.munciepubliclibrary.org). Try an advanced subject search using the name of the war that you want to research encompassed in quotes.



The screenshot shows the Muncie Public Library website's search interface. At the top, there are navigation links: Library Home, Kid's Search, Materials Request Form, Ask for Recommendations, No Card? Apply Here!, and Log In. The main header is blue with the text 'Muncie Public Library'. Below the header is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Type here to search' and a 'Search' button. To the right of the search bar is a link for 'Advanced Search Reading Levels' with a red arrow pointing to it. Below the search bar are two tabs: 'Advanced Search' (selected) and 'Reading Levels'. The search criteria are displayed as 'Searching 7 locations (change)'. There are two radio buttons for 'Include': 'any of these' and 'all of these' (selected). Below this are two search criteria: 'Subject contains "Civil War"' and 'Title contains'. There are minus and plus buttons next to each criterion. Below the search criteria are 'Advanced Search' and 'Clear' buttons. At the bottom, there is a 'Searching Tips' section with the following text:

- Select "any of these" to search "this field" OR "that field".
- Select "all of these" to search "this field" AND "that field".
- Click the "+" or "-" buttons to add or remove search criteria.
- To optimize response time limit to five fields or less.

You can also find a publication containing an alphabetical list of battles from 1754-1900 on the [Internet Archive](#).

If you are a complete newcomer to genealogy research and want to find military records for ancestors, a good place to start would be general handbooks explaining the types of records, where they are held, and how to find and obtain them. Here are some suggestions from the Carnegie collection.

[U.S. Military Records: A Guide to Federal and State Sources, Colonial America to the Present](#) by James C. Neagles

Gathered in this volume is source information for the National Archives and its adjuncts; historical institutions and archives of the armed forces; the Department of Veterans Affairs (Veterans Administration); state archives, libraries and historical organizations; and such patriotic organizations as the Daughters of the American Revolution. Extensive bibliographic listings of published sources for the United States in general and published sources for each state are also included.

[Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives of the United States, 3rd ed.](#) edited by Anne Bruner Eales and Robert M. Kvasnicka

[Military Service Records at the National Archives](#) compiled by Trevor K. Plante

Both of the above books are publications from the National Archives detailing how Military Service Records can be obtained. They would be very helpful for new genealogists or even for more experienced genealogists who aren't sure how to find and request military records.

[Searching American Military Records](#) by Fran Carter

This is another good resource for military records that includes holding organizations beyond the National Archives as well as lists and small summaries of wars fought, indexes and registers, veterans homes, and much more! We also have resources for specific wars in United States history like the American Revolution or the Civil War. Be sure to check out our [catalog](#) and search for "military records." Change the library location to Carnegie Library to see what we have in our local history and genealogy collection.

