

# US Military Records for Genealogists: Online and Offline Search Strategies

## Syllabus

Instructor: Diana Crisman Smith

### Lesson 1: Military Records Overview

- A. Military Basics
  - I. Military Records Glossary
  - II. Military Branches and Ranks
  - III. Structure of a Military Unit
  - IV. US Wars Timeline
- B. Accessing Military Records
  - I. Records at NARA
  - II. Finding Military Records
- C. Tips and Tricks for Success
- D. Exercise

### Lesson 2: Military Service Records

- A. What is a military service record?
- B. Do service records exist for my ancestor?
- C. Service Record by War
  - I. Revolutionary War
  - II. War of 1812
  - III. Mexican War
  - IV. Civil War
  - V. Spanish-American War
  - VI. Phillippine Insurrection
- D. US Regular Forces Service Records
  - I. Regular Army
  - II. Regular Navy and Marine Corps
- E. Tips and Tricks for Success
- F. Exercise

### **Lesson 3: Military Pension Records**

- A. Pension Records Overview
  - I. What is a military pension?
  - II. Do pension records exist for my ancestor?
  - III. Contents of Pension Files
- B. Military Pensions by War
  - I. Revolutionary War
  - II. War of 1812
  - III. Mexican War
  - IV. Indian Wars
  - V. Civil War
- C. Requesting Pension Records From NARA
- D. Tips and Tricks for Success
- E. Exercise

### **Lesson 3: Military Bounty Land Records**

- F. Overview of Military Bounty Lands
  - IV. What are military bounty lands?
  - V. Military Bounty Land Warrants
  - VI. Did my ancestor receive military bounty lands?
- G. Finding Military Bounty Land Records
  - VI. Sample Search of GLO Records Database
  - VII. Requesting Bounty Land Records From NARA
- H. Tips and Tricks for Success
- I. Exercise

### **Lesson 5: Military Draft Records**

- A. History of the Draft
  - I. Civil War
  - II. World War I
  - III. World War II
  - IV. "Peacetime" Conscription
- B. How to Find Draft Records
  - I. Online
  - II. On Microfilm
  - III. At NARA
- C. Tips and Tricks for Success
- D. Exercise