

Genealogical Guide to Monroe County, New York

Military and Veteran Records

The land that is now constitutes Monroe County was inhabited only by the Seneca Indians during the American Revolution, but many veterans of that war are buried here. *Soldiers of the Revolution and War of 1812 Buried in Monroe County, N.Y.* (1976) by Pearl D. Smith has a list of veterans and gives their burial location. That booklet is available at the Rochester Public Library, Family History Library and a few other libraries. See [listing on WorldCat](#) for a complete list of available libraries. *Revolutionary Soldiers of Monroe County, N.Y.* (30 pages) compiled by Mary T. Douglas has short biographies of some Revolutionary War veterans. It is only available in book form in the Rochester Public Library (Rqr929.061 D735r).



In spite of many Revolutionary War service records being destroyed by the British in the War of 1812, many of the service records were later recreated from other records. Original service records and pension records are at the National Archives. They were microfilmed many years ago and those films have been digitized and put online. The best collection of records is on [Fold3](#). There are some records on [Ancestry](#) that are not on Fold3 even though Fold3 is owned by Ancestry. [FamilySearch](#) has indexes to the records on Fold3 but you will be sent to Fold3 to see the digitized records. Both Fold3 and Ancestry are subscription websites but there are times during the year when they offer free access to military records. Free access is also available at some public libraries and LDS Family History Centers.

The War of 1812 just touched the shores of present Monroe County. *Northfield on the Genesee*, (1981) a book by Margaret MacNab, Katherine Thompson and Shirley Husted gives an excellent account of Monroe County during the War of 1812. See [listing on WorldCat](#) for of libraries that have this book. FamilySearch has free access to [Index to Service Records](#). Fold3 has the same "Index" only for paid subscribers but they have free access to War of 1812 pension records.

It seems as that there are more available records for the Civil War than any other US war. The original service records and pension records are at the National Archives. There is nothing better than going to the National Archives and having them bring you an original Civil War service file or pension. You can also order records from the National Archives online. Start at [this web page](#). Current prices are \$30 for compiled service records, \$30 for an eight page or less pension application and \$80 for a larger pension application. You can pick to have them send you paper copies, documents on a CD or have them emailed the records to you. Fold3 has most the same records that the National Archives have. If you want more than one Civil War record it might be cheaper to subscribe to the Fold3 website. Ancestry and FamilySearch also have some Civil War records but nowhere near as many.

There is a list of veterans of the Civil War in the back pages of *History of Monroe County, N.Y.* (1877) by Prof. William H. McIntosh. The veterans are listed in that book by their town of residence (see pages 269 – 294). The Rochester Public Library also extracted the names from the book and created [this alphabetical name list](#) (337 pages). Either the book or the name list will tell you the unit that the veteran served in..

Many years ago the Local History section of the Rochester Public Library created a Civil War card file to newspaper articles in the Rochester *Union-Advertiser* newspaper. It is indexed by the name of the soldier and by subject. Now this [index is online](#) and runs 2100 pages.

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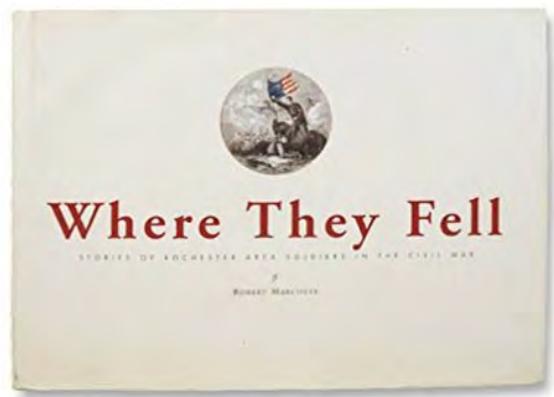
Another source that might show a Civil War unit is the 1865 New York State census. There is free access to this census on [FamilySearch](#). On the right side of the census page there are columns that indicate if the person is currently in military service or was previously in the service. Then every few pages there is a section that gives more information on the soldier. Current veterans (in 1865) show their current Regiment and date of enlistment. For previous veterans an additional date of a discharge is usually given. FamilySearch also has this “[Civil War Soldiers Index](#)” that you can search for a soldier for the whole US.

Another source to find a regiment of a Civil War soldier is: *New York Soldiers in the Civil War* by Richard A. Wilt, 1999 (see [listing on WorldCat](#)). This is a two volume index that will give you the Regiment that each soldier belonged to.

One book that tells the history of almost all the Monroe County regiments is *Where They Fell: Stories of Rochester Area Soldiers in the Civil War*, (2002) by Robert Marcotte, 2002 (see [listing on WorldCat](#)). This is a 295 page book that is very well documented. It tells about conditions that the soldiers had to deal with during the war. The book also gives battles that regiments were involved in and in some cases shows diagrams of the battlefield tactics.

After you find out the unit that the Civil War soldier was in then you may want to see if there is a published history of the regiment. These regimental histories are from units that were mostly comprised of recruits from Monroe County:

- [A Brief Account of the Thirteenth New York State Volunteer Regiment](#), (1925).
- [Path of Blood: The True Story of the 33rd New York Volunteers](#), (1996) by George W. Contant ([WorldCat listing](#)).
- [History of the 27th Regiment N.Y. Vols.](#), (1888) by Charles Bryant.
- [The Story of the Thirty-third N. Y. S. Vols.](#), (1864) by David W. Judd.
- [A Complete Military History and Record of the 108th Regiment N. Y. Vols.](#), (1894) by Private Geo. H. Washburn.
- [Written in Blood: A History of the 126th New York Infantry in the Civil War](#), (1997) by Wayne Mahood, 1997 ([WorldCat listing](#)).
- [Sons of Old Monroe: a Regimental History of Patrick O' Rorke's 140th New York Volunteer Infantry](#), (1992) by Brian A. Bennett ([WorldCat listing](#)).
- [Reminiscences of the 140th Regiment, New York State Volunteers](#), (1879?) by Porter Farley ([WorldCat listing](#)).
- [Deeds of Daring, or, History of the Eighth N. Y. Volunteer Cavalry](#), (1889) by Henry Norton.



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- *Full Measure of Devotion: The Eighth New York Volunteer Heavy Artillery*, (1997) by Wilbur Russell Dunn, 1997 ([WorldCat listing](#)).
- *The Ninth New York Heavy Artillery*, (1899) by Alfred Seelye Roe.

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was a Civil War veteran's group organized in local Posts, much like today's American Legion. The book entitled [Directory; Grand Army of the Republic](#) (1899) compiled by Major Thomas H. Lake, lists members of the Monroe County Posts, giving their home and their wartime company and regiment. The book also lists members of the Woman's Relief Corps and members of the Sons of Veterans organizations. The Family History Library has microfilm of some GAR records. [Film number 1421788](#) (item 2) has GAR members (1883 to 1919), lists of the Sons of Union Veterans (1979 to 1986), a list of Civil War soldiers from Monroe County, and some miscellaneous rosters dated 1882 to 1985. The records are continued on film number 1421789 (item 1) with more miscellaneous rosters. These films have not yet been digitized so the only place to view them is at the Family History Library, in Salt Lake City.

Formerly in the Monroe County Clerk's office was a set of volumes of "Veteran's Discharges." The discharges were filed as they were received so there is no logical order. Volume one has records dated from August 1866 to March 1924. Other volumes continue to 1985. These discharges are no longer in the Clerk's Office but are in storage. You could ask to see them but it may take a few days for the volumes to be retrieved from storage. Also check the index volumes labeled "Miscellaneous Records." These are also in the County Clerk's office and they contain some veteran's discharges, especially for the Civil War. Also beginning 1985 all new military discharges have been filed in the "Miscellaneous Record" volumes.

Records of people in the military service during World War One were filed at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, MO. A disastrous fire in 1973 destroyed 80% of US Army records (before 1960) and 75% of Air Force records (before 1964). Most of the records of members of the Navy and Coast Guard survived. You can order records only if you are next of kin. See [instructions for ordering records](#).

For World War I, there is a three volume set, *World War Service Record of Rochester and Monroe Co., N. Y.* edited by Edward R. Foreman, that is an excellent source for service members from Monroe County. Volume one is subtitled "[Those Who Died For Us](#)" (652 pages) and has biographies of men that lost their life during the war. Also many of those deceased men have photos in this volume. Volume two is subtitled "[Those Who Went Forth to Serve](#)" (1985 pages). It is the most useful of the series as it has brief service records for almost all Monroe County veterans. Volume three of the series "[Those Who Supported The Service](#)" (588 pages) lists individuals and organizations that volunteered their services for the war effort.

Draft records for World War I are available online on many websites. FamilySearch has the [WWI draft records](#) available for free while other websites offer the same records for a subscription fee. The draft registration card always gives the birth date and place. It also usually has some identifying information like hair color and eye color. [Fold3](#) has some other small databases related to WWI and probably the most number of records available online for that war.

Form 1 1940 REGISTRATION CARD			No. 205
1	Name in full		
	Albert Henry Klem		
2	Home address	Webster	Age, in yrs.
	(No.)	(Street)	22
3	Date of birth	May 25	(Year)
	(Month)	(Day)	1895
4	Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)?		
	Natural Born		
5	Where were you born?	Webster	U.S.
	(Place)	(City)	(Nation)

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The Rochester Public Library has two scrapbooks of newspaper clippings of death of WWI veterans that are online. [This volume](#) covers from Sept. 1916 to March 1919 and has an index at the front of the volume. [This volume](#) has clippings from Oct. 1918 to July 1926 and has an index in the rear of the volume.

There are draft records and some other enlistment records for World War II on [FamilySearch](#). [Ancestry](#) has more WWII service records. Then the largest number of records related to WWII appears to be on [Fold3](#).

The Local History section of the Rochester Public Library has a card index to newspaper articles related to soldiers during World War II. The same [index is available online](#) (2044 pages). This index gives references to newspaper articles in the *Democrat & Chronicle* and *Times-Union*. This index includes missing, injured, wounded, captured and killed service members.

The Local History section of the Rochester Public Library has put online two scrapbooks of newspaper articles devoted to the men who served in Korea. [Volume 1](#) has surnames A – Ma. [Volume 2](#) has surnames Mc – Z. These are articles about service members who were wounded, captured, killed, etc.

[This list of casualties](#) of Monroe County residents during the Korean War came from the US Department of Defense.

[FamilySearch](#) has some records from the Korean War but [Ancestry](#) has more. Again, it appears that the largest number of records related to the Korean War are on [Fold3](#).

GenWeb of Monroe County has [a list of casualties](#) of soldiers from Monroe County during the Vietnam War. That list came from the US Department of Defense and is also on the three big websites. Then there are five web pages of deaths during the Vietnam War that came from the Monroe County Veteran's Service Agency. These contain much more information including names of relatives. Links to those pages:

1. [Surnames beginning with A – C](#)
2. [Surnames beginning with D – G](#)
3. [Surnames beginning with H – L](#)
4. [Surnames beginning with M – R](#)
5. [Surnames beginning with S – Z](#)

Lastly, you should also check the website of the [Vietnam Veterans Memorial of Greater Rochester](#) for more information on Vietnam War casualties.

