

*Rock Island
MISC
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Database of Soldiers' & Sailors' Home Residents 1887-1916 from Rock Island County at the Illinois State Archives Website <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/quincyhome.html>

NAME COMPANY UNIT	COUNTY	DATE ADMITTED	NUMBER	
ABBOTT, THEO 6 NJ INF	ROCK ISLAND	MAY 22, 1900	5227	H
ALILES, ELIJAH K 6 IA INF	ROCK ISLAND	FEBRUARY 5, 1901	5471	H
ANSORGE, AUGUST G, F 1 IA INF, 5 MO CAV	ROCK ISLAND	MARCH 6, 1890	1504	
BAILEY, BENJAMIN F 93 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	OCTOBER 12, 1910	9248	A
BALLIST, JOHN W 52 PA INF, 28 PA INF	ROCK ISLAND	SEPTEMBER 17, 1896	3100	
BAUMBACH, HENRY 129 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	JULY 22, 1913	10042	K
BEARDSLEY, JAMES M 13 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	DECEMBER 8, 1902	6186	HQ
BIEHL, JOHN 12 MI INF	ROCK ISLAND	AUGUST 7, 1902	6020	E
BISHOFF, JACOB 5 MD INF	ROCK ISLAND	DECEMBER 22, 1904	6985	E
BLACKSTOCK, DAVID 37 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	NOVEMBER 19, 1892	2387	H
BLACKSTOCK, DAVID 58 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	NOVEMBER 19, 1892	2387	K
BLEDSON, AMANDA	ROCK ISLAND	SEPTEMBER 15, 1916	903	
BLEDSON, JAMES W 25 IA INF	ROCK ISLAND	MAY 27, 1914	10329	H
BOOTH, ELIJAH WI LT ART	ROCK ISLAND	APRIL 11, 1888	744	F
BOUGHTON, WILLIAM T 25 WI INF	ROCK ISLAND	SEPTEMBER 5, 1901	5691	D
BOWERS, CHARLES 123 PA INF	ROCK ISLAND	SEPTEMBER 17, 1904	6857	D
BREWER, STEPHEN 126 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	JUNE 11, 1902	5953	I
BROWN, GEORGE 8 PA RES	ROCK ISLAND	MARCH 29, 1887	69	F
BROWN, GEORGE 6 US CAV	ROCK ISLAND	MARCH 29, 1887	69	D
BROWN, LUREL D, I 18 PA RES CORPS	ROCK ISLAND	JANUARY 6, 1914	10244	
BROWNLEE, GEORGE W 65 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	MARCH 27, 1905	7045	B

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Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society

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 quincyhome.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/quincyhome.html)

BURGH, MARTIN W 12 IL CAV	ROCK ISLAND	JUNE 4, 1889	1211	D
BURGH, MARTIN W 12 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	JANUARY 10, 1900	1211	D
BURGH, MARTIN W 12 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	AUGUST 8, 1898	1211	
BURGH, MARTIN W 12 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	MAY 13, 1897	1211	D
BURNS, MILES B 3 CA INF	ROCK ISLAND	SEPTEMBER 8, 1904	6844	C
CANAGA, JACOB US NAVY	ROCK ISLAND	APRIL 8, 1915	10581	
CANAGA, MARGARET	ROCK ISLAND	APRIL 8, 1915	751	
CANTILLON, WILLIAM ORD DEPARTMENT	ROCK ISLAND	AUGUST 23, 1888	918	
CARROLLA, SEBASTIAN C 4 NY CAV	ROCK ISLAND	JANUARY 18, 1912	9722	L
CASE, THOMAS 33 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	MARCH 16, 1909	8532	G
CHASE, LEANDER M 12 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	JUNE 4, 1910	9072	D
CHRISTY, WILLIAM 19 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	JUNE 6, 1904	6736	H
CLARK, OMAN D 4 MN INF	ROCK ISLAND	OCTOBER 5, 1893	2669	H
CLAYBURN, MICHAEL 118 IN INF	ROCK ISLAND	APRIL 3, 1901	5503	C
COCHRAN, WILLIAM P 74 IN INF	ROCK ISLAND	MAY 16, 1905	7094	A
COLEMERE, RICHARD 58 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	FEBRUARY 19, 1897	3943	K
COLLINS, GEORGE 19 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	JULY 17, 1890	1626	H
CONLEY, CHRISTOPHER 15 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	JULY 14, 1903	3647	D
CONLEY, CHRISTOPHER 15 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	SEPTEMBER 1, 1896	3647	D
CONN, PATRICK H 12 IL INF, 4KY CAV, 5 IN CAV,	ROCK ISLAND	JULY 29, 1887	433	C,C,L,D
CORBIN, NATHAN H 100 IN INF	ROCK ISLAND	JULY 2, 1901	5592	E
COX, HILL R 14 IL CAV	ROCK ISLAND	FEBRUARY 4, 1910	8966	C
DAUM, PHILIP 150 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	APRIL 24, 1907	7753	H
DAVIS, MARY E	ROCK ISLAND	MAY 20, 1910	321	
DAVIS, ROBERT 33 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	FEBRUARY 2, 1903	6228	I
DAWSON, JOSEPH N 77 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	OCTOBER 15, 1909	8788	E
DEAN, HARRY W 3 IL INF - SP AM	ROCK ISLAND	MAY 5, 1913	9995	E
DONAHUE, JOHN 126 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	APRIL 18, 1904	2591	E

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DONAHUE, JOHN E 126 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	APRIL 20, 1897	2591
DONAHUE, JOHN E 126 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	JULY 24, 1893	2591
EBERHART, CHARLES E 3 NE INF - SP AM, 35 US INF - SP AM	ROCK ISLAND	AUGUST 21, 1902	6032
EICHHOLTZ, ALFRED L 13 PA CAV	ROCK ISLAND	MAY 19, 1903	6332
FORDHAM, GEORGE M G 47 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	APRIL 21, 1904	6684
FRANCE, HENRY H B 65 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	JULY 28, 1905	7173
FREELAND, JOHN W C 2 IA CAV	ROCK ISLAND	NOVEMBER 15, 1900	5394
FRENCH, WELCOME B K 112 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	AUGUST 12, 1910	9146
FULSINGER, F A,K 9 IL CAV, 58 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	APRIL 4, 1890	1525
GARCIA, MANUEL I 8 NJ INF	ROCK ISLAND	OCTOBER 23, 1903	6520
GARDNER, JOSEPH M B 9 IL CAV	ROCK ISLAND	JULY 9, 1903	6362
GEIGER, MATHIAS E,G 43 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	MAY 25, 1888	810
GOBEN, JOSEPH G 8 IA INF	ROCK ISLAND	AUGUST 10, 1896	3614
GOERIG, PETER A 106 OH INF	ROCK ISLAND	NOVEMBER 12, 1891	2080
GOLDEN, CYRUS I 13 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	OCTOBER 21, 1912	9880
GOLDEN, WILLIAM F 89 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	APRIL 17, 1909	8547
GRIFFIN, JOHN K 129 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	JULY 25, 1903	6388
GROTNESS, JOHN H B 22 US INF - SP AM	ROCK ISLAND	NOVEMBER 3, 1915	10759
HAKES, DAVID A D 12 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	FEBRUARY 7, 1912	9740
HALL, JOSEPH P F 6 IL INF - SP AM	ROCK ISLAND	DECEMBER 20, 1912	9940
HANDY, PETER K 58 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	SEPTEMBER 12, 1904	6851
HANSON, LEANDER G 147 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	AUGUST 11, 1914	10379
HANSON, LOUISE	ROCK ISLAND	AUGUST 11, 1914	680
HARDING, BENJAMIN L 17 IL CAV	ROCK ISLAND	FEBRUARY 11, 1903	6241
HARRIS, WILLIAM O C 91 PA INF	ROCK ISLAND	DECEMBER 4, 1891	2102
HARSON, CALVIN P D 13 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	JULY 23, 1908	8203
HARSON, PARLEY P G 140 IL INF	ROCK ISLAND	AUGUST 20, 1914	10389
HAYDEN, SAMUEL	ROCK ISLAND	FEBRUARY 14, 1910	8971

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A	35 IA INF				
HERRON, HARVEY T		ROCK ISLAND	DECEMBER 8, 1905	7347	E
93 PA INF					
HODGES, JAMES L		ROCK ISLAND	AUGUST 8, 1904	6808	C
66 IL INF					
HODGSON, ALBERT		ROCK ISLAND	NOVEMBER 18, 1896	3797	F
37 WI INF					
HOUSTON, OLIVER		ROCK ISLAND	JULY 26, 1900	5290	A
6 IA INF					
HUBBARD, GEORGE		ROCK ISLAND	OCTOBER 26, 1906	7618	H
54 MA INF					
HUEY, JOHN L		ROCK ISLAND	OCTOBER 22, 1902	6110	H
19 IL INF					
HUMPHREY, LUKE		ROCK ISLAND	APRIL 24, 1888	769	K
88 IL INF					
HUNTER, WILLIAM		ROCK ISLAND	OCTOBER 31, 1907	7927	A
65 IL INF					
HURD, ROBERT		ROCK ISLAND	NOVEMBER 15, 1890	1775	M
6 IA CAV					
HURD, ROBERT		ROCK ISLAND	OCTOBER 12, 1901	1775	M
6 IA CAV					
HUSSEY, SAMUEL Y		ROCK ISLAND	DECEMBER 14, 1907	7992	B
4 MA H ART					
INGALLS, FRANCIS D		ROCK ISLAND	JULY 17, 1898	4424	C
5 IL CAV					
JACOBSON, FREDERICK C		ROCK ISLAND	OCTOBER 31, 1905	7293	D
12 IL INF					
JENKINS, CHARLESP AM		ROCK ISLAND	APRIL 3, 1904	6670	C
119 IL INF					
JOHNSON, CHARLES M		ROCK ISLAND	DECEMBER 1, 1896	3822	I
28 IL INF					
JOHNSON, JOHN		ROCK ISLAND	MAY 26, 1888	814	D
57 IL INF					
JOHNSON, WILLIAM H		ROCK ISLAND	OCTOBER 8, 1904	6881	D
65 IL INF					
JONES, MARTHA J		ROCK ISLAND	JULY 14, 1916	875	
JONES, WINFIELD S		ROCK ISLAND	MAY 6, 1912	9789	M
12 IL CAV					
KENDALL, HENRY C		ROCK ISLAND	JANUARY 16, 1893	2446	A
14 NY INF					
KIEFER, MATHIAS		ROCK ISLAND	MARCH 24, 1897	2088	E
151 IL INF					
KIEFER, MATHIAS		ROCK ISLAND	NOVEMBER 25, 1891	2088	E
151 IL INF					
KUHNS, WEAVER P		ROCK ISLAND	SEPTEMBER 18, 1907	7871	I
126 IL INF					
LAFFERTY, JAMES D		ROCK ISLAND	NOVEMBER 20, 1908	8421	K
58 IL INF					
LAKE, COMFORT D		ROCK ISLAND	JULY 23, 1911	9527	I
16 IA INF					
LAWHEAD, LEROY		ROCK ISLAND	DECEMBER 6, 1892	2414	
F,G	69 IL INF, 47 IL INF				
LAWSON, BENJAMIN F		ROCK ISLAND	APRIL 22, 1887	224	F
89 IL INF					
MAHER, GEORGE W		ROCK ISLAND	JUNE 22, 1911	9498	I

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quincyhome.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/quincyhome.html)**

1 OH H ART MANLY, DAVID S	ROCK ISLAND	JANUARY 6, 1888	645	
98 2 BATTALION VRC MARSHALL, THOMAS	ROCK ISLAND	OCTOBER 22, 1898	4587	B
64 IL INF MCCORMICK, JAMES	ROCK ISLAND	AUGUST 30, 1899	4959	C, K
37 IL INF, 29 IA INF MCGURK, JAMES	ROCK ISLAND	JULY 28, 1891	1954	F
1 IL CAV MCNEIL, QUINCY	ROCK ISLAND	SEPTEMBER 6, 1890	1678	D
13 IL INF, 2 IL CAV METZGER, JACOB	ROCK ISLAND	SEPTEMBER 22, 1888	960	D
4 NJ ART MOAK, PHILIP	ROCK ISLAND	JANUARY 9, 1913	9946	K
9 IL CAV MONTGOMERY, JAMESP AM	ROCK ISLAND	APRIL 24, 1903	3635	K
58 IL INF MONTGOMERY, JAMESP AM	ROCK ISLAND	AUGUST 26, 1896	3635	B, K
65 IL INF, 58 IL INF MOORE, HENRY	ROCK ISLAND	MAY 7, 1901	4536	D
14 IL CAV MOORE, HENRY	ROCK ISLAND	AUGUST 13, 1898	4536	D
14 IL CAV MOORE, HENRY	ROCK ISLAND	SEPTEMBER 10, 1902	4536	D
14 IL CAV MORGART, PETER F	ROCK ISLAND	SEPTEMBER 8, 1904	6845	D
13 IL INF MULHEIM, CHARLES	ROCK ISLAND	MARCH 31, 1887	101	H
37 IL INF MURRAY, JOHN	ROCK ISLAND	JULY 17, 1905	7152	F
89 IL INF NEELY, JOSEPH L	ROCK ISLAND	OCTOBER 10, 1913	10130	B
126 IL INF NEWCOMB, DANIEL	ROCK ISLAND	SEPTEMBER 2, 1904	6832	B
24 WI INF NEWCOMB, JAMES E	ROCK ISLAND	FEBRUARY 22, 1893	2489	D
40 WI INF NICHOLSON, MARY J	ROCK ISLAND	AUGUST 2, 1910	337	
NICHOLSON, WILLIAM F	ROCK ISLAND	AUGUST 2, 1910	9130	H
51 IL INF NORK, JAMES	ROCK ISLAND	AUGUST 7, 1911	9552	C
116 NY INF O'HARA, CHARLES H	ROCK ISLAND	NOVEMBER 21, 1910	9320	C
2 WI CAV O'MARA, JOHN	ROCK ISLAND	JANUARY 5, 1897	144	F
89 IL INF O'MARA, JOHN	ROCK ISLAND	APRIL 6, 1887	144	F
89 IL INF OLSEN, OLAF	ROCK ISLAND	APRIL 18, 1907	7745	F
69 IL INF PADEN, JOHN	ROCK ISLAND	AUGUST 24, 1905	7210	E
16 OH INF PATTERSON, JOHN A C	ROCK ISLAND	JUNE 13, 1897	4092	F
12 RI INF PECK, NATHANIEL	ROCK ISLAND	OCTOBER 22, 1887	564	B

45 IL INF WEBB, FREDERICK M	ROCK ISLAND	OCTOBER 24, 1903	6522	K
8 VT INF WEIS, FRANK	ROCK ISLAND	JANUARY 21, 1888	666	G
32 IN INF, 9 HANCOCK CORPS WELLS, JACKSON	ROCK ISLAND	DECEMBER 7, 1899	3998	H
37 IL INF WELLS, JACKSON	ROCK ISLAND	APRIL 17, 1897	3988	H
37 IL INF WELLS, JACKSON	ROCK ISLAND	FEBRUARY 13, 1903	3988	H
37 IL INF WESTBURGH, PETER	ROCK ISLAND	FEBRUARY 16, 1898	4249	C
66 IL INF WILCOX, JAMES D	ROCK ISLAND	AUGUST 17, 1903	6428	C
155 IL INF WILLIAMSON, JOHN E	ROCK ISLAND	APRIL 11, 1887	161	E
2 IA CAV				

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126 IL INF	PETERS, JOHN H	ROCK ISLAND	JULY 16, 1906	7503	E
43 IL INF	PETERSON, ANNA	ROCK ISLAND	AUGUST 31, 1908	65	
	PETERSON, NELS	ROCK ISLAND	AUGUST 24, 1908	8244	C
43 IL INF	PETERSON, SARAH E	ROCK ISLAND	DECEMBER 3, 1908	150	
	PETERSON, WALTER A	ROCK ISLAND	DECEMBER 3, 1908	8441	F
69 IL INF	PRATT, B M	ROCK ISLAND	JUNE 4, 1894	2798	A
110 NY INF	PRESTEN, WILLIAM M	ROCK ISLAND	APRIL 25, 1901	5525	
2 MN BATT LT ART	PRESTON, WILLIAM M	ROCK ISLAND	MARCH 8, 1904	5525	

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	WILLSHIRE, WILLIAM J	ROCK ISLAND	APRIL 15, 1890	1538	F
1 NE INF	WOOD, EPHRIAM	ROCK ISLAND	JULY 25, 1905	7167	C
66 IL INF	YOUNG, MILTON	ROCK ISLAND	JULY 28, 1906	7520	A
141 IL INF	YOUNG, WILLIAM	ROCK ISLAND	SEPTEMBER 22, 1893	2659	H
132 IL INF					

Database of 1929 Illinois Honor Roll from Rock Island County by the Illinois Veterans Commission from the Illinois State Archives Website at <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/GenealogyMWeb/HonorRollSearchServlet>

- ACKERMAN, W H CIVIL K 38 IA INF 2 446 ROCK ISLAND ROCK ISLAND NATIONAL
- ACKLEY, HARRISON CIVIL 13 US ENG 2 440 ROCK ISLAND NEW RIVERSIDE
- ADAIR, WILLIAM CIVIL F 9 IA INF 2 446 ROCK ISLAND ROCK ISLAND NATIONAL
- ADAMS, ABRAM B E CIVIL G 126 IL INF 2 444 ROCK ISLAND PORT BYRON
- ADAMS, HENRY 2 446 ROCK ISLAND ROCK ISLAND NATIONAL
- ADAMSON, HENRY CIVIL F 9 IL CAV 2 434 ROCK ISLAND BOWLESBURG
- ADANTE, FRANK WILLIAM WW 1 16 5 US MARINES 2 446 ROCK ISLAND ROCK ISLAND NATIONAL
- AINSWORTH, HENRY 2 435 ROCK ISLAND CALVARY ALDARE, H CIVIL A 108 USC INF 2 446 ROCK ISLAND ROCK ISLAND NATION
- AL ALEXANDER, THORNTON J CIVIL A 82 OH INF 2 438 ROCK ISLAND HARTZELL
- ALLEN, JOHN CIVIL A 4 IA BAT 2 446 ROCK ISLAND ROCK ISLAND NATIONAL ALLEN, JOHN A CIVIL G 126 IN INF 2 443 ROCK ISLAND OAK GROVE
- ALLEN, STEPHEN JAMES CIVIL H 51 IL INF 2 443 ROCK ISLAND OAK GROVE
- ALLEN, WILLIAM CIVIL G 108 USC INF 2 446 ROCK ISLAND ROCK ISLAND NATIONAL
- ALLISON, ISAAC MEXICAN K 2 OH INF 2 440 ROCK ISLAND NEW RIVERSIDE
- ALMSTEDT, JOHN N CIVIL C 43 IL INF 2 443 ROCK ISLAND OLD RIVERSIDE
- ALTZ, CHRISTOPHER CIVIL 44 IL INF 2 453 ROCK ISLAND SOLDIER MONUMENT GROUN

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/GenealogyMWeb/reform.html>

had been as a miner. He had two children who were 30 years and 32 years old. Della McKellip of Viola, Mercer County, Illinois was to be notified in case of illness or death. He was disabled because of an injured leg.

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Abbreviations used in the 1929 Illinois Roll of Honor Database are:

- B – Black Hawk War
- R – Revolutionary War
- C – Civil War
- S – Spanish-American War
- I – Indian War
- W – World War I
- M – Mexican War

2. Stephen Brewer of Rock Island County, Illinois was born 12 February 1839 in Grayson County, Virginia. His post office address was Muscatine, Iowa, and he was a farmer. He enlisted on 11 August 1862 at Rock Island County, Illinois in CI 126th Illinois Infantry, and was discharged 12 July 1865 at Pine Bluff, Arkansas. His wife was Nancy E. Brewer, and his children: Lee Brewer, Lizzie Tegard, Frank Brewer, Free Brewer, Glenn Brewer, Agnes Brewer, Nuffa Brewer, and Minnie Baird. When he entered the veterans home on 5 June 1902 he was 63 years old, and receiving a pension of \$12.00 a month. His papers included a short will, a listing of all of his children, and his widow's application for a pension.

Four Files of Rock Island County Residents of the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Home at Quincy, Illinois

by RICIGS members Jean Wistedt and Arlene Hudson

After the listing of the Rock Island County, Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Home Residents in the RICIGS Winter 2006 quarterly, these records were obtained from the Illinois State Archives. They are samples of what information may be obtained by ordering copies of the records.

3. Joseph S. Neely was born 25 December 1843 in Madison County, Illinois. He was enlisted at Edgington, Illinois on 16 August 1862 in Company B 126th Illinois Infantry, and discharged 8 October 1862 due to the loss of his right hand while in the service. He was receiving a pension of \$10 a month. He lived in Illinois City, Illinois. He entered the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Home in Quincy on 10 October 1913 at 69 years old.

1. Alexander McKellip of Mercer County, Illinois was born on 9 May 1833 in Bedford County, Pennsylvania. He was a private of Captain James Thompson company B Battalion of the 13th Regiment of the Ohio Veteran Infantry Volunteers who reenlisted on 1 January 1865 at San Antonio, Texas. When he enlisted he was 31 years of age, five feet five inches tall, fair complexion, gray eyes, auburn hair, and by occupation when enrolled a laborer. When he entered the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Home in Quincy he was 73 years old, receiving a pension of \$12.00 a month from the Veterans Pension Office, and his trade

4. Quincy McNeil was born in Gibson County, Indiana, and was a citizen of Rock Island, Illinois. He enlisted three times during the Civil War. The first was 24 May 1861 in Dixon, Illinois Company D 13th Illinois Infantry, and discharged 12 August 1861 at Rolla, Missouri. The second enlistment was 6 August 1862 at Springfield, Illinois Company D Illinois Cavalry, and discharged 30 August 1862 as a Lt. Col. The third enlistment was 30 August 1862 as a Lt. Col in Tennesse, and resigned on 31 December 1862 at Holly Springs, Mississippi due to rheumatism contracted at Fort Fisher, North Carolina. He was receiving no pension. He was admitted to the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Home at Quincy on 21 August 1890 at 68 years old.

Ancestral Biographies

by Michael John Neill

Of all my children's ancestors, only two have biographies in old county histories. There are no letters or diaries left behind that provide insight into how our family lived one hundred years ago. Those who have such materials are extremely fortunate. This week we look at some other places to get biographical information and consider one of the great ironies of genealogical research.

A comprehensive search of genealogical sources can turn up biographical information. Of course county histories, obituaries, and home sources are potential sources of personal details beyond the vital statistics of births, marriages, and deaths. Pension files and court records are two great places to potentially learn more about your ancestor.

Pension Files

The amount of information in a military pension can vary greatly from one applicant to another and generally increases as records become more recent. Widows' applications are more detailed, as information about the marriage would have to be documented along with information about the soldier's service.

If your ancestor had to fight for his or her pension, the application may contain a great deal of personal information, more than a typical pension file. The Civil War pension application of Nancy Rampley was rejected several times to the point where a special hearing was held. There are more than a dozen pages of testimony from Nancy, including information about her nativity, the numerous migrations of her parents, the house where she married in 1867, and significant data about her farm operation ca. 1902. While her testimony was not an autobiography per se, it was very close and a wonderful find.

Files for direct ancestors are only the start. Pension files of ancestral siblings may be helpful as well. Nancy Rampley also gives a deposition in her sister-in-law's pension and another sister-in-law of Nancy provides testimony indicating

she was at the birth of one of Nancy's children.

The National Archives holds copies of federal pension records, and records of Confederate pensions are generally held by the appropriate state archives.

Court and Probate Cases

Records of the county court may also provide biographical details of your ancestor, more than are found in other county-level records, and in some situations more than you ever wanted to know. Cases involving estate settlements, property disputes, and divorces are particularly helpful, but one never knows what information will be contained in a case until it is accessed and read.

An estate squabble in Baltimore County, Maryland, in the 1790s indicated that my ancestor was afraid his brother-in-law was going to beat him up at an auction involving the estate of the brother-in-law's father (and father-in-law of the ancestor). The court records made it clear what family members were on what side and shed some light on the family dynamics. And if a few details were changed, the year could have as easily been 1990 instead of 1790!

A property title dispute in the 1870s in Illinois indicated that the widow ran the family's farming operations, even after her 1877 remarriage. Testimonies from several family members and neighbors discuss the operation of the farm and provide insight into the family's life in the late 1870s. The court case provided no "new" genealogical facts but was still a gold mine of information.

Divorce records can be equally informative. A husband's testimony from the 1930s in Chicago indicated that because the children were now old enough to take care of themselves, the mother had begun to go out partying in the evening—without her husband. The husband credited this to the fact that he was ten years her senior. After seven years of separation, he had had enough. Testimony in court records is usually slanted towards the person testifying, but some information can usually be gleaned from such records. When my ancestor was divorced from the same

