FINDING YOUR CIVIL WAR ANCESTORS

P. J. Smith, President
Yellowstone Genealogy Forum
Timeline of Civil War

- 11/6/1860  Abraham Lincoln elected president
- 12/20/60  South Carolina seceded from Union
- 02/1861  Confederate States of America (CSA) formed
- 3/4/1861  Lincoln inaugurated as president of United States of America
- 4/12/1861  Confederates bombarded Ft. Sumter at Charleston, South Carolina
States That Seceded from Union

- South Carolina, Mississippi,
- Florida, Alabama, Georgia,
- Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas,
- Tennessee, North Carolina,
- Virginia
Some states included Union and Confederate military forces
Battles of the Civil War

- 7/21/1861 Bull Run at Manassas, Virginia
- 4/6/1862 Shiloh (Tennessee)
- 9/6/1862 Antietam (Maryland)
- 7/1/1863 Gettysburg (Pennsylvania)
- 5/5/1864 Battle of the Wilderness (Virginia)
- 11/15/1864 Sherman’s March to the Sea
- 5/12/1865 Last engagement of war, Palmita Beach, Texas
Other National Events

- 1/1/1863  Emancipation Proclamation
- 11/8/1864 Abraham Lincoln re-elected President of United States of America
- 4/9/1865  Lee surrendered to Grant
- 4/14/1865  Lincoln shot
- 4/15/1865  Lincoln died
- 4/26/1865  Johnston surrendered to Sherman
- 5/12/1865  Last engagement of war, Palmita Beach, Texas
Statistics of the War

- 4 million men (and women) fought both for the United States of America and for the Confederate States of America
- Over 1 million died in battle or from disease
What you need to know

- First and last names. Knowing middle initial or name helps.
- State of residence in 1860.
- Date of death, more important than date of birth.
- (May have been born between 1805 and 1850).
- Wife’s first name.
Sources of Genealogy Information

- National Park Service
- Civil War Soldiers & Sailors (CWSS) System
- Database of 6.3 million names, both Union and Confederate
- Derived from General Index Cards
- Names copied from muster rolls
Sources of Genealogy Information

- Civil War Soldiers & Sailors (CWSS) database
- To search, enter any combination of
  - Last name
  - First name
  - Side (Union or Confederate)
  - State of enlistment
  - Unit number or function (i.e. infantry)
Sources of Genealogy Information

- CWSS

- When you’ve found the name
- Click on name to see basic information from General Index card.
- Name, company, rank, NARA microfilm location.
- Use information to search compiled military service record (CMSR)
Sources of Genealogy Information

- National Archives & Records Administration (NARA)

- Go to Research Our Records > Military Records > Genealogy Research in Military Records
- Compiled Military Service Record (CMSR) can be ordered online or by mail
- Requires war, name, regiment or state, any other information available
Sources of Genealogy Information

- NARA
- Union widows’ pension files

- Widows had to supply evidence of marriage.
- Applicants on behalf of children had to prove their birth and the soldier’s marriage.
- In order by place/state, then veteran’s or widow’s name.
- Request all documents in file.
NARA

Family History Library in Salt Lake City has many NARA microfilms. Some may be at the local Family History Center, 1711 6th St. West.

Records may be digitized and available on familysearch.org catalogue.
Sources of Genealogy Information

- Federal Census Records
- http://www.billingslibrary.org/

- Available on Billings Public Library website
- Services > Genealogy Room > Heritage Quest Online
- Enter library card number
- U. S. Census Records
Sources of Genealogy Information

- Federal Census
- 1890 Supplemental Schedule for Union Veterans or widows of Union Veterans

Find at
https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1877095
Sources of Genealogy Information

- Federal Census

- 1910, column 30, Whether a survivor of the Union or Confederate army or navy
  - UA = Union Army

- 1930, columns 30 & 31, VETERANS
  - Yes or No, what war or expedition
Some post-war state censuses also identify Union veterans

- 1865 New York
  - https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1491284
- 1885 Wisconsin
  - https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/turningpoints/search.asp?id=1539
Sources of Genealogy Information

- Organizations
  - Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)
    - [http://www.garrecords.org/](http://www.garrecords.org/)
  - Library of Congress (loc.gov) also has information on GAR and other societies
  - Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States; Daughters/Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Sources of Genealogy Information

- Military Graves
- Government Cemeteries
  - http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/
- National Cemeteries under National Park Service
  - http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-cemeteries.htm
Sources of Genealogy Information

- Cemeteries

- “Roll of Honor” – index of Union soldiers and burial locations

  [http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000832751](http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000832751)
Sources of Genealogy Information

- Battlefields
  - Often have rosters of units or participants.
  - [http://www.civilwar.org/](http://www.civilwar.org/)
- Books available at Billings Public Library
- 973.7 CIVIL “Civil War Sites”
- Descriptions of battlefields
Sources of Genealogy Information

- The “Official Record” or “OR”

- Once you know the battle, you can search the “OR” or Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 128 volumes located in the Genealogy Library at Billings Public Library

http://digital.library.cornell.edu//m/moawar/waro.html
Sources of Genealogy Information

- Family Search .org  https://familysearch.org/
- Click Search > Records
- Name – USA – state
- life event “Any”- dates 1861-1865
- Or select collections , United State, military, 1850-1899
Sources of Genealogy Information

- Cyndi’s List
- http://www.cyndislist.com/us/civil-war/
- Links to genealogy websites by topic
Sources of Genealogy Information

- State Office of Adjutant General
- Or state archives or state libraries

- Tennessee
- [http://www.tn.gov/tsla/NewSite/Collections/Military/CivilWar.htm](http://www.tn.gov/tsla/NewSite/Collections/Military/CivilWar.htm)
Sources of Genealogy Information

- PAY SITES
- Draft registrations
- Pension index
Sources of Genealogy Information

- PAY SITES
- Service records
- Widows’ pensions
- Southern claims
- Union citizens files
- Confederate amnesties
- Casualty reports
Sources of Genealogy Information

- PAY SITES
- American Civil War Research Database
- $25 per year
- [http://civilwardata.com/](http://civilwardata.com/)

- It has a “genealogy” demonstration
- Can subscribe for 7 days for $10
Offline Resources (as of 2011)

- Union Pension Files – request from NARA
- Confederate Pension Files – on microfilm at Family History Library
- Compiled Military Service Records – request from NARA
- Union Draft Records – at NARA
Confederate Pension Records

Pensions were issued by the states
The Kampf/Kemph Family

- Ulrich “William” Kemph
- Son Charles H. Kemph
- Son Frederick Kemph
- All served in Company F 39th Illinois infantry
- Son John Kemph
- Served in Company M, 1st Artillery Illinois

- Wife Magdalena “Mary” supposedly served as a cook, nurse, and commissary clerk.
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The Kampf/Kemph Family

- Ulrich “William” Kemph