Civil War Research:
Learning about Your Union Veteran Ancestor

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Union veterans would have been born between 1816 and 1843 and signed up from:
California, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, & Wisconsin;
but may also have lived in: Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, or Missouri.

To check rosters: Go to www.FamilySearch.org, click on "Catalog" link.
Go to "keyword" on the drop-down menu and enter "index, Civil War, adjutant general, _____(state to search)"; Look over list for "rosters"

To check for veterans: Go to www.Ancestry.com, click on "Military" and the "Civil War Service Records."
Enter veteran's name and as much data as known.

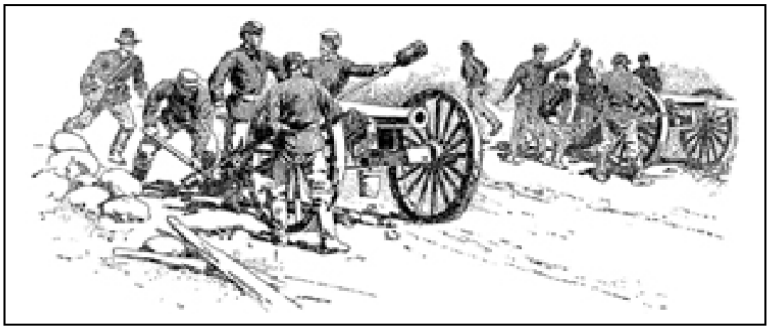
Other options: State Civil War sites. Enter "Civil War" and state name into a search engine. Some offer rosters.
Most provide history of the state in the war, allowing the researcher to track the serviceman with the addition of his *Muster Rolls* (obtained from the National Archives Records Administration: www.archives.gov).
Fold3.com (formerly Footnote) – various Civil War pension index card records, among other things (changing rapidly)

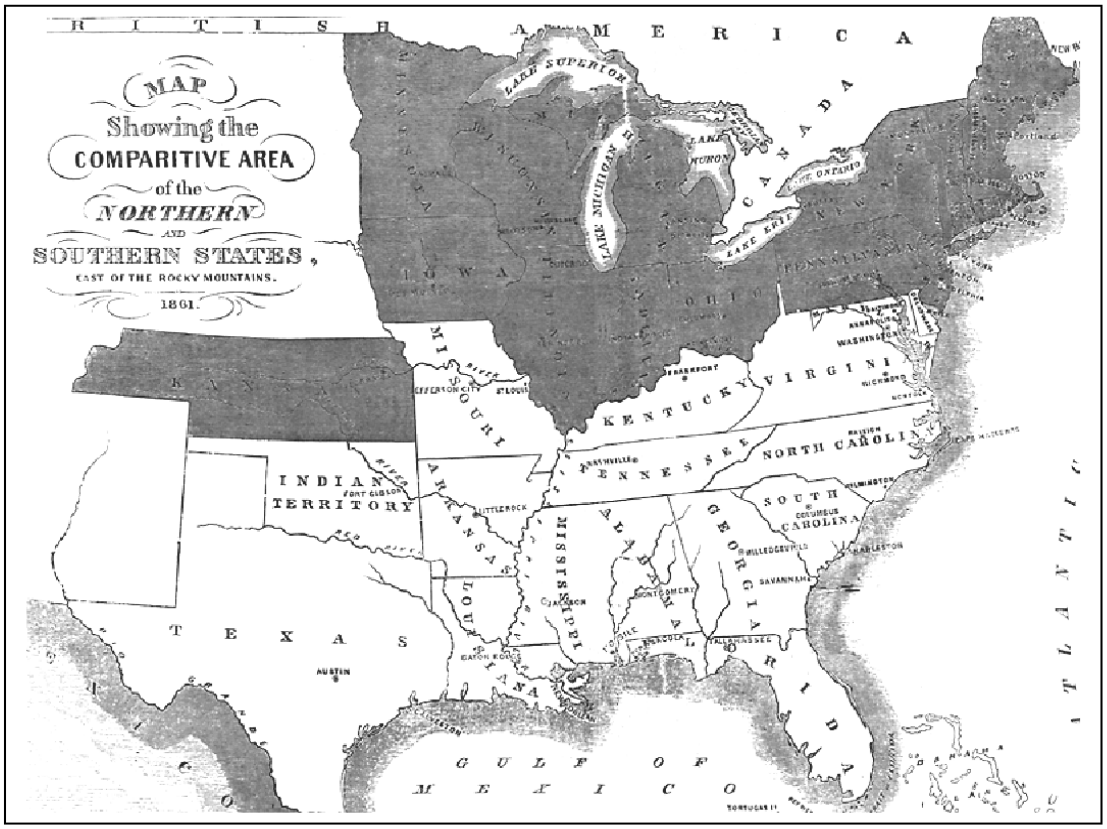
Military Service Records (muster rolls plus other documents accumulated during the serviceman's duty time) also provide information about injuries, illnesses, imprisonments, desertions, pay raises, advancements, demotions, etc.

Pension Records issued to veterans (invalids) who can prove need: include affidavits from the veteran as well as his friends and family members, the names his wife and children (with birth dates), and other personal information.

Widow's Pension Records include serviceman's widow's application, including personal information (wedding date and place, specifics of other marriages, and more). May include copies of vital records. (Part of the **Pension Records** file for the veteran, assuming he predeceased his wife.)

Steps to navigate NARA website (www.archives.gov):
On home page, in the upper right-hand corner, click on "Shop Online"
Click on "request & order reproductions"
If a new user, register on the right side of the page; otherwise, sign in
Click "Order Reproductions"
Click on "Military Service and Pension Records"
Select the records you wish to order (avoid the "Pension Documents Packet")
Click "Add to Cart"
Complete file information on the serviceman and the payment data to order





A Few Helpful Websites

http://americancivilwar.com/ history, timeline of battles, links to maps and much more

http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/abpp/battles/bystate.htm Civil War Battles summaries by State

http://accessgenealogy.com/military/civil/index.htm Access Genealogy – a searchable database on Civil War Records and Battlefield Maps

http://sunsite.utk.edu/civil-war/warweb.html The American Civil War Homepage – resources about battles, state rosters, reenactments, histories and biographies, more links and bibliographies, state sites, etc.

www.suvcw.org Sons of Union Veterans group, formed from the GAR

maybe we're related . . . check my website & click "my people" to see my ancestors under investigation!

www.circlemending.org

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