>> Please stand by for realtime captions.

>> Good afternoon, informed. Welcome to the webinar with Genealogical Research of the National Archives. This is Kathy Carmichael here at GPO. With here is our presenter . Before we get started, I will walk you through a few housekeeping reminders. If you have any questions or comments on the presentation, please feel free to chat them in the chatbox. It is located on the bottom right-hand corner of your screen. I will keep track of all the questions that come in. At the end of the presentation, Rose and John will respond to each of them. You really are recording today's session and will email a link to the recording and the slides to everyone who is registered for the webinar. We will also be sending you a certificate of participation using the email you used to email to register for today's webinar. If anyone needs additional certificates because model people people have watched, please reach out to us through the email address provided. If you need to zoom in on the slides being shown by the present or, you can click on the full-screen button at the bottom left hand side of your screen. To exit the full-screen mode, there is a blue bar at the top of the screen that expands. You can click on the blue return button to get back at the DeVault -- default view.

>> At the end of the presentation, we will have the satisfaction survey. We will let you know when it will appear. We would appreciate your feedback after the session for today. These keep in mind to insert comments about presentation style and value for the survey. Use this webinar chatbox for questions that you would like to report any issues that you encounter. We will have a microphone over to Rose and John. They will take it from here.

>> Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you for sitting today's webinar. My name is Rose Buchanan.

>> We can't really hear you at all, rose. Can you turn your volume up or get closer to your microphone?

>> Is is better?

>> That's great.

>> Great. [Laughter]. Thank you for attending today's webinar, everyone. Thank you for bearing with us. Like Kathy said, my name is Rose. I am the prep specialist here at the national archives in D.C. I will be talking about how to conduct basic genealogical research with the records of familiar agencies that we have. John will talk about records that we have related to the military service.

>> First, let's take a step back. We will talk about the national archives actually have an does. We are the nations recordkeeper. It is the repository of the valuable and historical records of the government. 3% of records generated by the government are ultimately deemed a permanent value. There are billions of records coming in every year. We are charged with preserving these records. Donations include records of all three branches of the government. There built here in D.C. [Indiscernible]. We have records of the U.S. Supreme Court and district appellate courts of D.C. They are housed in [Indiscernible]. Finally, we have records in [Indiscernible].

>> It's easy to talk about what we don't have than what we do have. In general, we do not have vital statistics which include birth, death, marriage, or divorce records. There are some exceptions for events that happen in D.C. Mostly, these records are created on a state or local level. That's where researchers have to go to view them. They are [Indiscernible]. They can contact the Library of Congress. They can buy the materials online. In terms of base, our holdings generally start in 1789 [Indiscernible].

>> We do not have many colonial era of pre-federal records in holding. Researchers interested in those records need to contact the state archives of the general research.

>> We do not have a single index to all of our holdings. This is very important for researchers to understand. We are not like libraries which are typically researchers previous point of reference. Our holdings are not arranged by subject or funding. They are range by the federal court or agency that created them in what we call record groups. We have funding for much of our groups. They exist in varying levels. It makes research in our holdings more time-consuming for many researchers. They will likely need to translate that information that they have about a person or topic. We can use that to

identify the records. As we like to say, we are looking for individuals. It's best to start by seeking help someone might interact with government. You can narrow down which federal agencies they might have dealt with in which records they have not dealt with.

>> Enough about we don't have. In terms of civilian records that are helpful for geological research, we tend to talk about the four main types of records that we do have. These are census records, immigration records, naturalization records, and passport applications. Let's start with census records. As we usually suggest researchers get started with their own genealogy, we start with those statistics records first. Federal population records go every 10 years. They determined a portion in the House of Representatives among other things. The first was taken in 1790. The next will take place in 2020. [Indiscernible]

>> There is 72 year privacy restriction on this record. This is more recent. They are not yet publicly available. The next census to be release will be the 1950s. It will be probably available in 2022. Since census records are arranged by year end vary by under state, the penalty is, the records may be arranged by the towns within the county or by immigration district. It is with the areas that cover in a particular state. We generally recommend that genealogists start by consulting them by recent specific availability. [Indiscernible].

>> People usually know the name of at least one relative like a grandparent who would have appeared in the 1940s census that they may not know the names or the relatives who appeared earlier.

>> Those early census from that air also present particular challenges when it comes to identifying individuals. These sentences only list the names of the hell it does head of the household and not all the individuals living in the household. Other members are usually listed as specific Rickarby age, six, age, six, -- [Indiscernible].

>> [Indiscernible - low volume]

>> The man what usually happened considered the head of the household. [Indiscernible].

>> In this next page, we see the continuation of the [Indiscernible]. There are no numbers. The family did not have any slaves. [Indiscernible]. Also note the discrepancy in the records. This page says that there are seven total people residing in the house. We just did the math on the previous slide. There were four males and four females for a total of eight. This is a good example of how census records, like many records, are not infallible. They were created by humans and they do make mistakes. That does not mean that these records are not trustworthy sources. Researchers might want to treat numerical values like ages or years that might have to be calculated or remembered overtime as estimates and not necessarily as precise values.

>> Luckily, we get to 1850 census, we get a little bit easier for individuals. 1850 census lists all members of the household by name. It does not provide individuals relationships. We also have separate schedules for slaved and free individuals. Here is an example of a schedule for Maryland. They usually provide the name of the slaveholder. [Indiscernible]

>> This information can include slave age, six, color, and any disabilities. As you can see with this example, female slaveholders are listed by name.

>> On very rare occasions, you also by the names as slaves usually when someone is disabled or reached the age of 100. It is really uncommon. Slaves are not listed.

>> Here is an example.

>> The first census to include all individuals by name regardless of their age, race, enslaved status or relationship to the head of the household. 1870 census also included more information about each person. Not only do you get the names age and sex, you get there occupation. Maggie Taylor from Prescott, Arizona. She is highlighted in red. She worked as a [Indiscernible] moment -- woman.

>> The birthplace can be very helpful for geological research. The trend to ask for more information on that consensus continues as you move into the 1880s and later. These ask for relations of and the head

of the household. They began in 1900. They asked for citizenship and for naturalization status. Again, it is best for researchers to take years with a grain of's salt.

>> [Indiscernible - low volume]

>> The 1880 census is also with the use of enumeration District starts. Enumeration District [Indiscernible] [Indiscernible - low volume]. In rural areas were fewer districts, [Indiscernible - low volume].

>> I was want to quickly highlight a few things. The first relate to 19s does 1890s. Parts of the special senses of Civil War veterans does survive. The census was taken by the Veterans Administration and to count the number of dependents. You can find Confederate veterans and veterans with other conflicts like Mexican-American war on the list as well.

>> Here is an image of the 1940s [Indiscernible]. It asks for the birthplace of individual and that mother and father which is helpful for geological research. This includes the veteran status. What is important to note is that the census only exists in digital form. We do not have microfiche as well. This is available on our website.

>> The next census will be released in 2018.

>> In addition to census schedule, we have numeration districts where you can sort [Indiscernible - low volume]

>> Are census records are also available on microfilm and online through databases like ancestry.com and [Indiscernible]. It costs access. Our catalog is also getting the enumeration District map available. They are catalog -- there catalog is for free.

>> [Indiscernible - low volume].

>> I spent a lot of time going through the consensus records. There the bedrock of doing genealogical research. Most people the country were included on the census. This differs from the next few types of records that will cover -- be covered. We have immigration records known as passenger arrival records. The date from 1822 1957. We have a few arrival records for Philadelphia and New Orleans a date from 1800s. The federal government does not Berggren -- begin requiring that. Women have a record of their arrival in our holdings. That would be something they might be able to pursue on the state level.

>> Until 1990s, immigration was being overseen by the customs service. [Indiscernible - low volume]. We have passenger arrival records from the major port of arrival. Reports listed on the slide are few of the major ones. Our website provides a more comprehensive list of which we have a record. We also have records of Canadian and Mexican border crossings. It is important to note that order crossing records from multiple cities can be consolidated under the name of a single crossing point or subject heading. Michigan border crossings actually include crossing several points of entry.

>> As the census records, the information included on the passenger arrival record will vary over time with more recent records typically, not always come offering more details than earlier records. All records should provide the name of the vessel, the name of the ship's master, the poor of the arrival and the name and date of departure and the date of arrival.

>> Arrival records from the early to mid 19th century also include the name of the individual. Come the age, occupation, country of origin, and destination.

>> This record is an experiment arriving in Philadelphia in June 1809. Is one of the earlier records that we have for the port of Philadelphia. Note the damage the records. There are possible water damage. You look at someone try to take the records back together we can still read the list and see towards the bottom of the list passengers. [Indiscernible - low volume]

>> He is another record. This one is from a ship. We can see that it provides a little more information about a passenger. [Indiscernible - low volume].

>> We can also see that two people died during that wreckage. The record lists the individuals with the presumed cause of death in the death in the state. There listed as dying single piece which is partial or complete loss of consciousness possibly due to heart problems.

>> The more recent immigration records from the late 19th century to the late 20th century include the fame does the same information but also a personal description. [Indiscernible - low volume].

>> The names and addresses of relatives are particularly useful to now. This manifests shows [Indiscernible]. Sometimes citizens and aliens are listed on separate sheets.

>> You can see their calling for the passengers birthplace, the address the U.S. and the U.S. passport number. All this is helpful to the genealogical department.

>> We can see that this person is 21 years old and he is married. He has a passport. If you look at the right-hand column, you can see that for others listed above and below him also live at the same address. Perhaps, their relatives. You also note that today's recross off the manifest. That means that the individuals were planning to travel did not do so. If you look at the bottom of the page under the call, you can see that one passenger never departed. [Indiscernible - low volume]. It was duplicated. It appears elsewhere on the manifest.

>> Here is a passenger arrival record. [Indiscernible - low volume]. We can still determine that John and [Indiscernible] are related. We noticed because their Travilah same passport number. That means they are either married or one of the disappeared are one of them has a child.

>> Here is an example of a 1909. [Indiscernible - low volume].

>> Here is an example of a border crossing record from Mexico. With border crossing records, you will usually get the full-blown manifest like we have been seeing so far, but cards documenting individual occurrences as well. Daniel Brown crossed the NEXCom border in 1919. He had been living in San Antonio, Texas in 1914. As with our records, they are available on microfilm and online. [Indiscernible - Audio cutting in and out]

>> Please feel free to reach out to us after the webinar.

>> Naturalization records. The first act was passed in 1790. It could apply to any court of law in the state where he lived for at least one year. For the first century, many people chosen naturalize went to a state or local court close to home not to a federal court. [Indiscernible - low volume].

>> After 1906, changes in immigration and naturalization laws gradually restricted the power to grant naturalization to federal ports only. Ports were often required to report naturalization to the immigration naturalization service to the INS. They can be found after 1906. It can be found either at the [Indiscernible]. We can go to the website for more information.

>> Naturalization was a two-step process. You had to go through the ports and declared the attention [Indiscernible]. That provide proof that they live the U.S. for at least two years. This Declaration of Independence our first papers which makes of the first half of the naturalization paperwork that they would have to file.

>> Three years after the person declared there naturalization, they can formally file their [Indiscernible]. It's important to keep in mind that individuals did not have to stand in the same place between find a declaration of intent in filing their participation of naturalization. They million additional residents in the U.S. as a whole. Individuals could and often did file the declaration and their participation into court. This makes finding naturalization paperwork more difficult. Individuals could also have started the naturalization process by following the declaration of intent. They never fall through the petition. In that case, was worse. We will not have any petition to find.

>> You can see a list of the type of information that are usually included in the declaration of intent. They usually include more genealogical information. Later declarations tend to include more than early ones. Here's a list of the types of information are usually included in the [Indiscernible] for naturalization. [Indiscernible]. You can obtain each individual's arrival date. That can be really helpful for identifying the process of arrival records. There are some exceptions to keep in mind when searching for naturalization records. Women, for example, did not have individual citizenship status until the act of 1922.

>> We had derivatives citizenship. Immigrant women along with their minor children obtain citizenship through their husbands. That is only of the house and it was naturalize. If [Indiscernible - low volume], she became a citizen as well. Is an American woman married a noncitizen, that she is losing her citizenship status even if she had been born here.

>> Between August 24, 1906, some exceptions were often made for aliens who arrived to the U.S. on their own as minors. If they have been living the U.S. for at least five years prior to their 23rd birthday come they can follow declaration and the petitions of naturalization together. They do not have to have the waiting period.

>> The veterans of the [Indiscernible] were also given some special considerations. In 1862, the law allowed honorable discharges of any work for Port Isabel transition without having purposely filed a declaration of intent. As long as they have lived in the U.S. from the previous year. In 1894 law, they had exception to honorably discharged Navy Marine Corps veterans. If you're looking for a petition or particular declaration of intent the vertical it might be ports keep these logs those laws in mind. As I mentioned before, researchers might have to check multiple repositories to find naturalization records. It depends on the court in which is records were filed. It default in the County Court, the records will likely be with that poor or they may I've been transferred to a Counties the archive. In select cases, the regional facility closer to the county might have copies of these records usually on microphones does microfilms. There's usually not a guarantee. [Indiscernible]. For example, records for someone who filed in the Federal District Court in Indiana would be at the national archives of Chicago. Here, we only have naturalization records that took place in D.C. port.

>> After 1906, [Indiscernible - low volume]. The researchers often request [Indiscernible].

>> In order to search for naturalization records, Rogers need to find names of individuals, place of living, [Indiscernible].

>> [Indiscernible - low volume]

>> If an immigrant arrived to the United States after June 1906, the Ynez have to verify their lawful entry by locating the arrival records. Once a record was located come the Ynez considered a certification known as the certificate of arrival come as you see here. A certificate of arrival is not required. [Indiscernible - low volume]

>> [Indiscernible - Audio cutting in and out]

>> We have a certificate of naturalization. This one is for Robert Crawford who naturalize in D.C.. Most of the time, the original certificate with naturalization where it was given to the individual when they completed the naturalization process. Researchers looking for certificates should contact the [Indiscernible] which retain more reliable [Indiscernible].

>> [Indiscernible - Audio cutting in and out].

>> They usually provide full name of the applicant, residence, and citizenship. Only U.S. citizens and those were natural born or naturalized or eligible to travel on the U.S. passport. Many early passport applications for handwritten requests similar to any other correspondence or early two midnight -- [Indiscernible].

>> [Indiscernible - low volume]

>> When looking for passport application, the passport was issued in [Indiscernible]. We should have our application sensitive applications before March 1925. When a document transfer sheet appears in the microfilm or database that you see online, it means that the department state hold the application at some point probably [Indiscernible]. In this case, her application was transferred on May 17, 1926. If your conducting application research online, database will probably feature digitized versions of our microfilm application, passport reproduced in our microfilm which are not that great quality.

>> You can contact our staff at the national archives in Maryland.

>> [Indiscernible - low volume]

>> [Indiscernible]

>> They are available on microphones and online through databases like [Indiscernible]. Researchers may also email us and request a copy of a specific application or the [Indiscernible] for the photographs. They can contact our [Indiscernible].

>> I will turn over the presentation to John. He will talk about the military.

>> We are just going to switch PowerPoints here real quick.

>> My name is John. I am one of the military archivists. I will review the military records that we have here at the national archives. In general, the military records that we have fall into two very broad categories. The first category or pure is where we generally refer to as the old military. It covers the period from the late 18th century beginning with the Revolutionary war up to the beginning of the 20th century and up to the non-including the start of World War I. This period was characterized by different types of service including volunteer service as well as a regular military including the Army, Navy, Marine Corps. Each of these sources were distinct types of records. We will go over all those types. No matter what type of service of Erin perform come he also had attention records that cover the same time period.

>> When we or talk about volunteer service during this period, volunteer service was a very unique aspect of the American military tradition. That was a tradition that is based on the small standing army. It would be supplemented by state troops. The volunteer service included the citizen soldiers who were recruited by the state governments in response to a specific threat or national crisis. They were organized in the state regiments and malicious. They were turned over to the federal government for service. Once their enlistments it's expired, the volunteers were discharged in the units were expended every soldiers were returned to the civilian lives. The principal that we have for the state volunteers is compiled military service records. Because marches were organized by the states, the federal government didn't have a direct role in the recruitment. They also help few consolidate records documenting their service enlistment. This became a problem in the 1890s when the war Department became inundated with applications from union veterans for the Civil War. In order to process the appellations in a timely matter, the water part meant it to [Indiscernible] so they could get the benefits. They came up with the idea to compiled service records. What the war department it was they hired a army of clerks to go through all the other existing records that were created during the war. This is to the regimental roles and payrolls and casualty reports and hospital records and POW records and so forth. They will compile or transcribe specific information about individual soldiers from these records onto a series of cards. At the end of the process, they became the compiled service records. With the records we have now, their range by state. By military unit, within each military unit, and that is alphabetical.

>> After it got done, they decided it was a good idea that they were going to go back and create carton service records for state volunteers only from other owners as well. Now, we have is compiled military service for state volunteers from the Revolutionary war all the way up to the early 20th century with the Philippines direction which ended in 1902. It was last conflict in which troops were called out. This also includes the early Indian wars that occurred from the end of the Revolutionary war. Indian war that were fought after the Civil War were generally conducted by the regular armies. For the most part, all the service records we have for each of these different wars are only available in their original textual form with a couple of exceptions. These include the Revolutionary war. All the service records we have were both the Continental Army, Continental Navy and state militias that serve directly with the Continental in line. Which have been microfilmed and available online either ancestry.com or poultry.com. Also, the period of the post Revolutionary period from 1784 to 1811 up to the war of 1812, those militia service records have been digitized. For the Civil War, records are not available online include all of the Confederate service records selected union regimens from soldiers who served from the border states and Western states and territories from southern states and also all of the U.S. troops or all digitized. Are all available on trend -- [Indiscernible].

>> This includes the soldiers names, dates of enlistments, in the term you signed up for. They will usually give a the time of the enlistments which may or may not be place of birth. It also includes personal description which includes age, height, complexion, healthcare -- I color and hair color.

>> [Indiscernible]

>> There are any special duty assignments that have happened. He could have been killed during combat or sick in the military hospital or he could've been a prisoner. Will not find some information in these records. He will often go looking to them to find names of the soldiers parents are next of kin. But in the 19th century, the water department did not collect that type of information. We will look at an example of compiled military service looks like. Is for William Graham. The document that is pictured here the moment is actually the envelope of the jacket which contains compiled service records. It gives you basic information about the soldier. This includes the name, unit, ForEX -- first Massachusetts Regiment. You will see two lists. [Indiscernible].

>> You also see a series of card numbers and a lot of folks think that these numbers lead you to a number of things. This is a 19th-century record-keeping at this. It's just a means of the correct cards or felt in the correct jacket. If you look down at the bottom of the envelope, it's a bookmark. Is is a handwritten file number there. That information can lead you to additional records or information. Those bookmarks often are included with citations which are files that are in different correspondence series [Indiscernible]. If you see some of their, you can give it to the reference staff. We can decipher what it means to find additional records.

>> This slide shows a couple of examples of the cars that are inside. That is the service jacket. This is -- it shows information that was extracted from to company payrolls. It gives you a little more detailed information about his service. You will see information about the company that he served in. In this case, he was part of Abraham's hunt company. It identifies the regimental commander of the first Massachusetts which is Colonel Joseph. The middle card also provides a variant of spelling and unit information. It is a same thing as a Massachusetts Regiment. Does have a a different way. This card also shows a date of enlistment, January 26, 1726. He enlisted for a term of three years.

>> Sometimes, compiled service records were also through personal papers within the as well. The water department is going to the process of creating these compiled service records whenever they came across an individual document. They were related to specific soldiers. In many cases, you will also find extra copies of enlistment papers or discharge papers. Especially for soldiers who died during service, there were a lot of different forms that the water department had to fill out. You also find copies of inventories of personal effects, final status of service or reports of death are determined. You can sometimes find [Indiscernible] that were submitted to the war department. Officers had to purchase their own Russian supplies and then they were reimbursed. You will see those records as part of the service records as well.

>> We also have the original muster rolls which was used to, great service records. For the most part, these are oversight and very fragile delicate conditions. We generally do not pull them for research unless it is proved by archivist. Usually advise researchers to consult the records first. They contain the same exact information.

>> We look at an example here of personal papers in the file of [Indiscernible]. Was interesting about this example is the file not only include the copy of his enlistment paper which is a document left in the copy of his for certificate and discharge a disability on the right, it is a copy of the medical exam that this had to go through when they were in the process of enlisting or recruiting into the Army. This exam report shows all the different questions does medical questions are asked by different recruits. You can see by the answers provided by the office, he ended up being an average healthy soldier.

>> This is an example of the next slide of substances account. [Indiscernible].

>> What this document shows is that for period of eight days from August 2 to August 19, Lieutenant received eight rations. It was two Russians per day which is a total of 16 rations. He also had a personal

servant within the field which is a common practice during the war of 1812. These received eight rations during the eight day period as well. The Russians cost $.20 per ration. He paid out of his own pocket to pay $3.20 for his rations in a dollar $.60 for his service rations for total four dollars plus. Along with this account, there was also up a receipt in his service file. It shows not only that he was for the same ATP rate they serve the field, he was paid a total of $7.70. It was based on a period of $30 per month for an officer. He also received compensation for the service of the servant. His servants were based on the pay rate of eight dollars per month poor -- for private. Received a grant total of $14.60 those eight days and he served during the war of 1812. It in silico very large amount by today's standards. Back in 1813, it was a considerable sum of money.

>> So, for the regular Army, during the same period at the military come the regular military establishment included the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps. The regular and standing army [Indiscernible] and creosote is different from the volunteers that they served peacetime as well as during war. They listed for specific term of service rather than the duration of the war. They were assigned to pre-existing military units that continue to operate after the individual was discharged. They left services pose as of the state volunteers. They were disbanded after the enlistment expired. Because the war department was ready responsible, they contained records about their enlistments. The primary source of information was that the U.S. Army registered enlistments. The register includes a huge series of about 161 volumes covering the entire period from 1790 to 1914. It is ranged by year and then in alphabetical order. And that it is arranged chronologically by data from a it. In order to search the volumes you usually have to have at least approximate date of of when the soldier joins the Army. Unfortunately, these records have also been microfilmed in [Indiscernible]. That publication is also digitized and available on ancestry and you can do a name search.

>> Basic information that is contained in the register of enlistments are very similar to what you find in the compiled service records for the state volunteers. It actually does include a little bit more detailed information. You not only get the name of the soldier in their rank, as well as physical description, it also provides their civilian occupation. Often, it does provide a date and place of birth. And then information that relays to their enlistment. You did that they were signed two determines service and also the discharge information. There's also a remark column as part of the entry which includes more information which includes a date and place of discharge be there any highlights of import information that highlights the special events of the service. It could be transferring. Sometimes there is medical information that is admitted to the military hospital for extended periods. This is what the registered enlistments look like. The we will look at the [Indiscernible]. It covers two pages. This is the first page. This is the second page. We can take all information collectively about the soldier. This is a summary that provides about his service. Who was born in Richmond for an engineer. -- Richmond, Virginia.

>> It shows that he has black hair, he was assigned to accompany [Indiscernible]. He has had three previous enlistments. It ended November 10, 1883. Expiration of service occurred in Texas. He was a private at the time of his discharge. It is also characterized as a good soldier at the time of his discharge. It gives you a basic and overall view of the service. It gives you not a whole lot of detail.

>> For the Navy, during the old military. Of the basic source information for the rendezvous report, it is the equivalent of the Army enlistment record. The rendezvous with the term for the Navy recruiting event so the rendezvous report for re--- weekly summaries for vacations. The national archives have some bonding rendezvous reports. The reports for earlier. Had not survived. We don't have the information. As I said before, we do have compiled service records for individuals who served in the Continental Navy during the Revolutionary war. If you looking for someone in the war of 1812, we generally have to rely on available vessel that we do have. You will need to know the name of the vessel the sailors served on. You can track the servers with the muster rolls.

>> For the rendezvous reports, with do have two different indexes. One the peer before and after the Civil War from 1846 to 1884. Than the separate index just for the Civil War period from 1861 to 1865.

These reports have been microfilmed with publication M [Indiscernible]. It has also been digitized and pushed online. A typical rendezvous report will give you this information about the sailor in the sailors name and the date and the term of enlistment. It is equivalent to his rank. They show any previous naval service. His usual place of residence when he's not see as well as a place of birth and a civilian occupation and a personal description and sometimes it will also give you information about permanent marks and scars and other distinguishing features. This was an aspect that was unique to the naval service. In the late 18th and 19th century, the personal or offensive suitable to being pressed into foreign navies. The American Navy documented these distribution features such as scars, tattoos, birthmarks or other disfigurement's. They I did by the soldiers as belonging to them. But not to the for Navy.

>> We are looking at examples of rendezvous reports. This one is for out in California in 1884. We will take a look at the sailor James G Mason. It provides you a brief summary of the service. It shows that he enlisted in June 25, 1884. You listed for one cruise on the USS Monaco Gila. He was 22 years old at the time of the enlistment. His occupation was a cook.'s description shows he was a Negro, five foot one half inches tall. It is gar on his left leg. His rating was a Landsman which busily means he had no prior experience or service at sea.

>> Okay. And then the basic record of service that we have for the Marine Corps for the same time period or series of service records which were also referred to as case files. There's an alphabetical card index that goes with these. It is organized by the initial letter of the Marines surname and the alphabetically by the given name. The index provides date and place of enlistment which is important because once a date is no, the service record can be located. The service work is a case file that we have arranged chronologically. You need to know the year that he enlisted. They are alphabetically listed by surname. The typical service records of a case file can include any of the following types of records including enlistments or reenlistment papers, conduct records come descriptive lists, which includes more physical information. There are notices of discharge and medical information surveys.

>> We will look at the example of service records for Marines. This is for John Easton who enlisted in 1864. His service record consists mainly of the enlistment paper that is shown here. It gives you basic information about his service. It shows that he enlisted in December 15, 1864. That was at the Marine barracks Portsmouth in New Hampshire. He was originally born in Bell font Pennsylvania. He is 28 years old. Five foot seven inches tall with blue eyes and brown hair's. He lists his occupation as a soldier. He previously served in the Army as a volunteer. That was before he transferred to the naval service.

>> Is not listed on this document. The envelope that the service record comes in often indicates that he deserted on January 11 1865 was in a month after enlisted in the Marines.

>> Those are the basic records of service that we have during the old military period. As a said before, we have pensions that cover the same period based on service between 1775 in 1915. There were different types of pensions that were passed and pensions laws with our pass over the years. Initially, veterans had to prove a disability that resulted directly from service in order to receive attention. They had to be a disability that prevented them from earning a living. That was in order to receive benefits. As time went on, the pension love became more generous along veterans to receive a pension just having served in the military. Even later on, widows independent of the deceased veterans were allowed to claim pensions based on the soldiers services as well.

>> The pension laws were constantly being revised and updated by Congress. If the veteran was rejected for under one law, they can always reapply for the next law that was passed. The important that we usually tell researchers is that, it really doesn't matter if the veteran actually received a pension. What is important is that they applied for one. The application is what the file will have all the pertinent information about his service and about his family. The information that you can generally find in a pension file again includes the name of the soldier. This includes dates of enlistment and date of service. You will see affidavits written.

>> [Event has exceeded scheduled time. Captioner must proceed to captioner's next scheduled event. Disconnecting at 3:00 p.m. EST]
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>> [Event Concluded]