

Civil War Families of Tennessee

The East Tennessee Historical Society invites you to join its new heritage program, Civil War Families of Tennessee. CWFT seeks to identify and honor the sacrifices of the valiant soldiers on both sides of the conflict. Any person who is a direct or collateral descendant of a Civil War veteran (Union or Confederate) who lived or died in Tennessee or lived elsewhere but served in Tennessee during the war is eligible for membership. By joining, you will be paying special tribute to your ancestor, documenting his service and lineage, and making a special investment that will benefit the past, the present, and the future.

Documentation is required to prove generation-by-generation descent from a Civil War ancestor and to authenticate the ancestor's military service.

STEP 1 Proof of Civil War Service: Only one proof of service is required – either a military service record or a military pension application. Copies may be made from the original records or from a microfilm copy, available in many genealogy libraries.

To determine if an ancestor served and, if so, his state, regiment, branch, and company: a) Consult the book *Tennesseans in the Civil War*. For service in other states, see the books of Civil War Participants by J.B. Hewitt. These volumes are available in the McClung Historical Collection of the Knox County Public Library in Knoxville, TN, in state libraries and/or archives, and in large genealogical libraries. You may also use the computer index at www.itd.nps.gov/cwss.

Military Service Records: For Tennessee service, obtain Compiled Service Records from National Archives microfilms which are available for Tennessee in the Tennessee State Library and Archives, in the McClung Historical Collection, Knoxville, and in the National Archives Regional Branches. Microfilm copies are also available for AL, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, MO, NC, TN, TX, UT, VA, and WV. Records for other states have not been microfilmed and must be ordered from the national Archives using Form NATF-86. Form NATF-86 is available by writing the National Archives, Attn: NWCTB, 700 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20408-0001. A less expensive way to obtain these records from the national Archives is to contact a researcher in Washington, DC.

Union Pension Records: Order from National Archives, using Form NATF-85. Order as above. A less expensive way to obtain records is to contact a researcher in Washington, DC. Union pension records are not available on microfilm.

Confederate Pension Records: Confederate pensions were granted in the state in which the veteran lived following the war. They can be ordered from the individual State Archives. Addresses of state archives can be obtained in the search facility of your computer or from print reference sources in your library.

STEP 2 Primary Sources to connect generations: Primary Sources are defined as contemporary or governmental records made by the parties involved at the time of the event.

- a) Tennessee birth records and death records have been kept statewide since 1914. Death records 1951 to current and all birth records can be ordered from Office of Vital Records, First Floor, Center Services Building, 421 Fifth Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37247. For other states, consult www.vitalrec.com.
- b) Marriage records for Tennessee are available from the county Court Clerks, usually from the county's origin. Marriages after July 1, 1945 are also available at the Office of Vital Records, address as above. For other states, consult www.vitalrec.com.
- c) Census records are available for Tennessee every ten years beginning in 1820 (1830 for East Tennessee) and excluding 1890. The 1850 census is the first to name every person in the household and to include age and state of birth. The 1880-1920 census records family relationships. Surviving 1890 census records list Union veterans. (1930 census released in April 2002). For available records for each county and state, consult *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy*, available in genealogical libraries.
- d) Will, estate, probate, and guardianship records for Tennessee, some listing heirs, are available from County Court clerks. For other states, consult the book *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy*, available in genealogical libraries.
- e) Land deeds, plats, and mortgages often show residence and sometimes marital relationships. For individual counties and states, consult the book *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy*.
- f) Church records often contain birth, death, funeral, or parent information.
- g) Mortuary records often contain death, funeral, or parent information.
- h) Court records of civil suits, criminal, divorce and naturalization records are located in the appropriate county and state courts.

STEP 3 Secondary Sources: If the above records do not adequately document the connections, then secondary sources may be consulted. Secondary sources are sources in print or on the internet that represent a contemporary or government record. These records vary greatly in accuracy, so they will be evaluated by the Credentials Committee on a case-by-case basis. **Secondary sources will be accepted as proof for only one generation.**

- a) For published family histories, country histories, and biographies, include a copy of the title page, the information pages, and the location of the book.
- b) For Bible records, include a copy of the title page, the pages showing publisher and publication date, and the information pages. Also include your transcription of the information.
- c) For obituaries and other newspaper items, include a copy of the first page of the newspaper showing the name and the date, and the information pages showing the page number. State libraries often have large collections of newspapers. Local libraries often have local newspapers.
- d) Books of published biographical sketches are available for many counties.
- e) Personal papers include letters, diaries, journals, reunion records, and manuscripts. Some of these may qualify as primary sources.
- f) For tombstone inscriptions, include a readable photograph, the name and location of the cemetery.
- g) For lineage organization records (DAR, SAR, UDC, SCV, GAR and others) submit a copy of the approved application which shows the line of descent. First Families of Tennessee applications may also be referenced for proof of descent.
- h) For published transcriptions of original records, include the title page, pages describing the location of the original sources, and the page containing the information.

Notes Regarding Evaluations of Applications

- a) The East Tennessee Historical Society (ETHS) has contracted with an organization of expert Civil War genealogists to evaluate the application. The purpose is to ensure that the evaluations are unbiased and are universally acceptable to the genealogical and historical communities. The aim is to collect accurate, authenticated, verifiable information so that a high quality collection of Tennessee Civil War data can be made available to researchers and future generations. The evaluations and decisions are the task of the organization that has been retained. This organization will function as the Admissions Committee. All contact with the Admissions Committee (questions, requests, appeals, complaints, etc) must be in writing so that a permanent record of all such interactions can be kept. The address is Admissions Committee, CWFT, East Tennessee Historical Society, P.O. Box 1629, Knoxville, TN 37901.
- b) Staff members of the McClung Collection and ETHS will be able to offer advice regarding research, but they will not be able to do the research. Should persons desire others to do the research leading to an application, it is recommended that a professional genealogist be hired.
- c) Approved First Families of Tennessee files will be accepted as proof for the generational connections. Copies of the FFT application and line of descent page must be included.
- d) Birth certificates will be removed from the submitted applications and stored separately. They will not be available for research.
- e) Applications and copies of documentation will be housed in the McClung Historical Collection for benefit of researchers.

CWFT Application Fees

After the initial application fee, accompanying applications on the same ancestor and submitted at the same time may qualify for reduced fees (see below). This refers to accompanying applications for an applicant's immediate family members (siblings, children, parents, etc) and for collateral lines of an ancestor (a direct ancestor's father, son, or brothers). When submitted together, the first application be charged at the individual rate, and other accompanying applications will be at the multiple application rate (see below). [For example: for ETHC members, the first application would be \$30 and any accompanying applications on the same ancestor would be \$15 each.] **These multiple fees apply ONLY if the applications are on the same ancestor and are submitted at the same time;** otherwise, individual fees will apply. **Separate applications must be completed for each applicant and for each direct and/or collateral ancestor.**

Individual Application Fees

\$30 ETHS Members
 \$30 Members ETHS Affiliate Society
 \$40 Non-members
 \$20 ETHS Membership*

*Special price applies to first year membership for new members

Fees for Accompanying Applications*

\$15 ETHS Members
 \$15 Members ETHS Affiliate Society
 \$20 Non-members

*The first application is at the individual price accompanying applications on the same ancestor & submitted at the same time receive the above reduced fee.

Mail completed applications to **Civil War Families of Tennessee
 East Tennessee Historical Society
 P.O. Box 1629
 Knoxville, TN 37901**