

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

Military Records at Ancestry.com

Military records are chock-full of answers and clues you won't find anywhere else. But before you can dive into the details, you'll want to be sure you've found the right record and the right person. Here are some tips to make the task smoother:

Start with a simple search through military records only. To get to the military collection at Ancestry.com, click on the Search tab. Then choose Military from the Special Collections box on the right. Put your ancestor's name, birthplace and birth date, if known, in the Search box and see what's returned. Too many or too few results? Tackle this challenge with the help of the next six tips.

Make a timeline. Determine the approximate range of years your ancestor could have been in the military. Also plot military history during his (or her!) lifetime – conflicts large and small could have influenced the likely age at enlistment or amount of time served. This will help you pinpoint likely years of service.

Fill in with family clues found at home. Listen to family stories – do they indicate your ancestor was in the military? Also look for photos, uniforms, letters, medals and other evidence. Brothers or cousins may have served or enlisted together so pay close attention to anyone in the family who is said to have served. Each of these can help you determine if you're on the right track.



Special Collections Box

Check obituaries, cemeteries and newspapers. Headstones may include military details. Plus small-town publications – and some larger ones, too – often included announcements about military service. Use information found here to fine-tune your search.



April 9, 1930, Mrs. Zena Bassafield, Emma

OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY			EMPLOYMENT				VETERANS			
OCCUPATION	INDUSTRY	CODE	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
None										
Chief Bookkeeper	Steam Railway	4371	W	Pa	1841				Yes	Yes
None										
Automobile	Automobile	4389	W	Pa					Yes	Yes

1930 Census

Look for clues in nonmilitary records at Ancestry.com. Both the 1910 and the 1930 census indicate prior military service in major conflicts. (You'll find that info on the far right side of the page.) The 1840 census lists Revolutionary War pensioners. You may find similar information in state censuses, too. Apply these clues to a search of the specific conflict mentioned at www.ancestry.com/military.



Military Search Page

Read carefully. Searching through draft registration cards and other documents could turn up numerous results that seem to match your ancestor, so consider details on the record carefully. Note birth date, names of any relatives listed, location of draft board, employer, occupation and more. Then compare these to details you know to be true about your ancestor (note, however, that occupations may have changed) and plot it all on your timeline. Do the facts add up? Then you may have found the right person.

Keep an open mind. Your ancestor may have contributed to a military cause without ever serving in the military itself. Local historical and genealogical societies or even a quick Internet search may indicate other ways in which your ancestor supported the war effort and where you can locate related records.

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1847 and on or before February 16, 1917)

SERIAL NUMBER 1480 NAME (First) Charles (Last) Vileck ORDER NUMBER

2. PLACE OF BIRTH (First) Fayette Fairbank Redstone Top Fayette Pa (Last) Pa

3. MARITAL STATUS Single

4. TRADE, OCCUPATION, BUSINESS, PROFESSION, SERVICE, OR SERVICE (First) None (Last) 57

5. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (First) Mrs. Mary Vileck Fairbank, Pa. (Last) H.C. Frick Coke Co. Fairbank, Pa.

6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL NOTIFY YOU (First) Gilbert Mine Fairbank Pa. (Last) Charles Vileck

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Military Draft Registration Card



Where Next?

Military documents can hold valuable clues that can point you to even more answers about your family. See what we did with just one draft registration card.

“Folger” is an uncommon middle name. But additional family research indicates this was a middle name of Roland’s cousin, too. These facts could indicate that this was a family name, possibly the mother’s or grandmother’s maiden name.

Montana didn’t start recording births until 1907, but Roland’s WWI draft registration card makes a nice stand-in, noting his date and place of birth.

Occupation information can be used to help you quickly identify a soldier in other records, too, although not every male who registered for the draft picked up the same occupation upon his return stateside.

Key details on this card make identifying Roland in other records much simpler. A search for Roland Folger Dubois born in Montana in 1894, for example, leads directly to a 1920 census, which reveals the names of his wife and children plus other details.

Surprise! That 1920 census record plus the details on this draft card make it simple to find Roland living with his parents in 1910 and 1900.

Form 4 REGISTRATION CARD No. 57

1 Name in full *Roland Folger Dubois* Age in yrs *22*

2 Home address *1005 2nd St. N.E. Maple Minn*

3 Date of birth *Nov 12 1894*

4 Are you (1) a natural born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? *Natural Born*

5 Where were you born? *Helena Mont. U.S.*

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? *R. R. Clerk*

8 By whom employed? *Omaha R. R.*

Where employed? *4th Ave N. 7 1st St.*

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, wholly dependent on you for support (specify which)? *Wife & Child*

10 Married or single (which)? *Married* Race (specify which)? *Caucasian*

11 What military service have you had? Rank _____ branch _____ years _____ Nation or State _____

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? *No*

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

23 Roland Folger Dubois

