



## ***Officers in the Regular Army, 1789–1916***

Congress established the War Department on August 7, 1789 (1 Stat. 49), which marked the beginning of the Regular Army. The War Department did not create compiled military service records (CMSRs) for Regular Army Officers.

### **Correspondence Files of the Commission Branch (CB), 1863–1870, and the Appointment, Commission and Personal Branch (ACP), 1871–1894**

These records include information about appointments, transfers, assignments, duties, examinations, promotions, discharges, courts-martial, resignation, and pay. A file marked with an asterisk (\*) is a consolidated file that contains most or all records documents pertaining to this individual. Note: A textual card index is available in the Consultants' Office.

#### **Commission Branch, 1863–1870**

\_\_\_ The alphabetical card index by name to the CB files is in the consultant's office.

\_\_\_ M1064, *Letters Received by the Commission Branch of the Adjutant General's Office, 1863–1870*. 527 rolls. DP. This series is arranged chronologically by year, then alphabetically by the initial first letter of surname, and then by the assigned number.

#### **Appointment, Commission, and Personal Branch (1871–1894)**

\_\_\_ M1125, *Name and Subject Index to the Letters Received by the Appointment, Commission, and Personal Branch of the Adjutant General's Office, 1871–1894*. 4 rolls. DP. This index is organized alphabetically and includes very few indexes by subject. Most of the letters indexed in this series relate to personnel actions affecting Regular Army or Volunteer officers and individuals.

\_\_\_ M1395, *Letters Received by the Appointment, Commission, and Personal Branch, Adjutant General's Office, 1871–1894*. 1,693 microfiche. This microfiche is arranged alphabetically by the surname of the officer. **Note:** This series is incomplete. If a person is not listed then you must order the document through the Consultants Office.

## **Correspondence Files of the Adjutant General's Office, 1812–1917**

### **Registers and Indexes**

\_\_\_ M711, *Register of Letters Received, Office of the Adjutant General (Main Series), 1812–1889*. 85 rolls. DP. This register gives the name or office of the correspondent; the date of the letter; the place from which it was sent; the date of receipt; the number assigned to it; and an abstract of its contents. Within this series there are three different arrangements: 1812–1821, 1822–1870, and 1871–1889.

\_\_\_ M725, *Indexes to Letters Received by the Office of the Adjutant General, 1846, 1861–1889*. 9 rolls. DP. Roll 1 comprises a name index for 1846 and subject index 1861–1870 and 1871. Beginning with roll 2, the index is arranged by year 1861 to 1889 and then by last name.

\_\_\_M698, *Index to General Correspondence of the Adjutant General's Office, 1890–1917*. 1,269 rolls. DP. Arranged alphabetically by name and subject. The records in this publication are not on microfilm and must be ordered in the Consultants' Office.

### **Correspondence**

\_\_\_M566, *Letters Received by the Office of the Adjutant General, 1805–1821*. 144 rolls. DP. Arranged chronologically, then alphabetical by name, office, or title.

\_\_\_M567, *Letters Received by the Office of the Adjutant General, 1822–1860*. 636 rolls. DP. Arranged by year and then by file number.

\_\_\_M619, *Letters Received by the Office of the Adjutant General, 1861–1870*. 828 rolls. DP. Arranged by year and then by file number.

\_\_\_M666, *Letters Received by the Office of the Adjutant General, 1871–1880*. 593 rolls. DP. Arranged by year and then by file number.

\_\_\_M689, *Letters Received by the Office of the Adjutant General, 1881–1889*. 740 rolls. DP. Arranged by year and then by file number.

### **Unit and Post Returns, 1800–1916**

#### **Post Returns**

Post returns identify the units stationed at a particular post and their strength. They provide the names and duties of officers, the number of officers present and absent, and a record of events.

\_\_\_M617, *Returns from United States Military Posts, 1800–1916*. DP. 1,550 rolls. Arranged alphabetically by post and then chronologically by date.

#### **Unit Returns**

Unit returns usually include the names of company commanders and other officers; unit strength, including men present, absent, sick, on extra duty, and in arrest or confinement; and remarks. The records are arranged by regiment and then chronologically.

\_\_\_M665, *Returns from Regular Army Infantry Regiments, June 1821–Dec. 1916*. 300 rolls. DP.

\_\_\_M727, *Returns From Regular Army Artillery Regiments, June 1821–Jan. 1901*. 38 rolls. DP.

\_\_\_M744, *Returns from Regular Cavalry Regiments, 1833–1916*. 117 rolls. DP.

### **U.S. Military Academy, 1805–1867**

\_\_\_M688, *U.S. Military Academy Cadet Application Papers, 1805–1866*. 242 rolls. DP. Roll 1 is a name index to the applications. The index is arranged alphabetically by the initial letter of the surname, thereunder by the initial vowel sound of the surname and then chronological by date of application. The index included the file number of the application papers.

The applications are arranged by year and then numerically by file number. This series includes letters pertaining to requests of appointment; recommendation letters; notifications from War Department if the candidate was appointed; and letters of acceptance. Entries for which correspondence has been found are marked with an asterisk (\*)

\_\_\_M91, *Records Relating the U.S. Military Academy, 1812–1867*. 29 rolls. DP.

Letters are arranged chronologically and within each microfilmed volume there is a name and subject index. The records include nomination, appointments, resignations, and dismissal of cadets; appointment and discharge of instructors; course of study; erection of buildings, etc.

### **General Courts-Martial Records, 1809–1890**

\_\_\_M1105, *Registers of the Records of the Proceedings of the US Army General Courts-Martial, 1809-1890*. 8 rolls. DP. This register gives the alphanumeric series of the case file. It also includes the name of the soldier tried; his rank and unit; the month, year, and location of the trial; the name of the president of the court; the name of the judge advocate prosecuting the case; and in the first volume, the sentence imposed by the court. The proceedings are not on microfilm.

### **Published Sources**

The publications listed below are available at the National Archives. They may also be available at larger public, college, or university libraries in your local area.

\_\_\_Cullum, George W. *Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the United States Military Academy*, 9 vols. New York, D. Van Nostrand, 1868. (U410 .H5 1868) This publication is organized by year of graduation, then by class rank. The alphabetical index lists the Cullum number. The Register comprises a brief military history that can include the person's rank, a list of units in which he served, battles in which he fought, when he resigned or retired; an overview of his life outside of the army, including jobs he held outside of the military, books he wrote, and if he ran for office; his place of birth; the date and place of his death; and occasionally the cause of death.

\_\_\_Dyer, Frederick H. *Compendium of the War of the Rebellion*. New York: T. Yoseloff, 1959. (E491 .D99 1959) This publication provides brief Union Civil War regimental histories that include where the regiment was organized, where they served, and the number of casualties.

\_\_\_Hamersley, T.H.S. *Army Register of the United States for One Hundred Years, 1779–1879*. (U11.U5 H3) Part one is organized chronologically by unit and then by rank. Part two contains an alphabetical list of cadets at West Point. Part three contains an alphabetical register of officers that lists dates of service; appointments, resignations, and retirements; state where born, and sometime the date of death.

\_\_\_Heitman, Francis B. *Historical Register and Dictionary for the United States Army, 1789–1903*, 2 vols. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1903. (W 3.11: 789-903) Volume one contains a register of army officers and gives a brief history of each man's service. Volume two contains a chronological list of battles in which troops of the Regular Army were involved.

\_\_\_United States. Dept. of the Army. *U.S. Army Register*. Doc ed. Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office (W 3.11:) This publication is a list of Regular Army Officers beginning with 1813.

*The Register* lists the officer's name, rank, military specialty, date of commission, staff appointments and brevets, and regiment and military district. It is organized by year thereunder by regiment and thereunder by rank.

\_\_\_Veterans Administration. *List of Pensioners on the Roll, January 1, 1883*, 6 vols. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1883. (I 24.6 1883) This publication gives the name of each pensioner, the reason the pension was granted, the pensioner's post-office address, the rate of the pension per month, and the date of original allowance. It is arranged alphabetically by state, thereunder by county and thereunder by town.

Note: The citations in parentheses for the first three publications are Library of Congress call numbers and for the last three they are Superintendent of Documents (SuDocs) numbers.
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For more information, see the following reference report: *Pensions for Service in the Regular Army, 1789–1912*.

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