

Civil War Sesquicentennial

The Civil War Sesquicentennial is being commemorated from 2009, 150 years from John Brown's raid, through 2015, 150 years from Lee's surrender at Appomattox. Many people living today are interested in tracing their ancestry back to the Civil War era and finding information about ancestors who may have served in that war. Between the holdings of the Virginia-North Carolina Piedmont Genealogical Society and the Danville Public Library genealogy room there are excellent sources of information on the War and those who served in it.

The Society has a copy of "The Roster of Confederate Soldiers 1861-1865", edited by Janet B. Hewett and published in 1995. It contains 16 volumes and contains the names of almost all of the men who served in the Confederate military. They are listed alphabetically by surname with their State, Regiment and Company given, and sometimes their rank. The books contain a glossary in Volume XVI.

The Society also has a large number of Virginia Regimental Histories which give a history of the Regiment during the war and lists all members of the Regiment with information about them. The Infantry and Cavalry volumes bear the Regiment or Battalion numbers of the regiments. Artillery regiment volumes usually bear the name of the regiment, although some bear regiment or battalion names. Although there are not volumes for all regiments there are ones for almost all who had men from our area serving in them. In searching for a particular man it is often advantageous to find his name in "The Roster of Confederate Soldiers 1861-1865" mentioned above to find the regiment in which he served, and then go to the regimental history of his unit to find information about his service. The Genealogy Room of the Library also has a large number of Virginia Regimental Histories, many of which duplicate the Society's holdings, but they have some that the Society does not have, especially those on Artillery units. In searching, if the history you want cannot be found in one room it is well to check in the other.

Between the Library Genealogy Room and the Society's search room there are 15 volumes of "North Carolina Troops 1861-1865" compiled by Weymouth T. Jordan, Jr. with unit histories by Louis H. Manarin. The books give histories of the various North Carolina regiments during the war and list the members of each regiment by company with brief descriptions of each man's service. Volumes 1-4 are in the Library's Genealogy Room and Volumes 5-15 are in the Society's search room.

The Genealogy Room of the Library has a complete copy of "The War of the Rebellion" edited by Ainsworth and Kirkley and published in 1901. It is a monumental work containing 128 volumes which was published at a cost of \$2,858,514.67 from government sources. It contains almost day to day accounts of the War and contains sections on Reports and Correspondence, Prisoners of War, Union Correspondence and Confederate Correspondence. It contains indices which make specific information, events, places or people easier to find.

The Genealogy Room of the Library also contains a complete copy of the “Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies” consisting of 100 bound volumes which were edited by Janet B. Hewett and published in 2001. These volumes give details on all aspects of the Civil War including people, places and events.

There are also many books written about the Civil War both in the Society’s search room and in the Library’s Genealogy Room. Some of these are specific to the Danville area. Taken together, the holdings in the Society’s search room and the Library’s Genealogy Room provide rich resources for those interested in tracing their ancestor’s involvement in the War.