

I'll begin by discussing the records we have from the Adjutant General's Office and the Maine National Guard, and then I will tell you about some additional records outside the military that can be used to research the military. Originally this was going to be a collaborative presentation with the Maine State Library about the Aroostook War, but due to some unforeseen circumstances we had to make a change. However, we do still continue to work with the Library and the State Museum as we plan to create a collaborative exhibit using all of our holdings related to the Aroostook War.

Since Maine did not become a state until 1820, we really do not have much for military records from before that year. However, we do have some records for the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. The first is list of men who served at Valley Forge from Maine. This list is a list that was made later at the order of the Adjutant General.

There are also a few lists of Maine men who served in the War of 1812 in Massachusetts militias. These lists were also made later and then sent to Maine as a record for the Adjutant General.

The first war in the State of Maine to produce a large set of military records is the Aroostook War. This war, while not well-known outside the State of Maine, and often not even in the State, was largely fought between the State of Maine and Province of New Brunswick. Often called the Bloodless War, there were no battles fought, and no one died as a result of fighting. Essentially it was a period of high tension between Maine and New Brunswick as a result of a border dispute between the two. The border was disputed between the United States and Great Britain, but the tension was less at the national level. The militia involvement was at its greatest from February to March of 1839. The tension had been rising for many years as a result of disputes over timberlands. Both governments wanted to claim property to increase their amount of timberlands, and to get better access to the St. John River. Following the Revolutionary War, this boundary was never firmly settled, and this led to the tensions increasing as both Maine and New Brunswick looked to settle the land of present-day Aroostook County. A few regiments were sent to build fortifications and to stand guard against the British troops, but ultimately there was no fighting between the two. Eventually the federal governments stepped in and negotiated a peace treaty between the State and Province, as the national governments had only limited involvement. They each had sent some army troops, but only a small number.

Following the treaty in March of 1839, however, the relationship between the local governments still remained tense. The Land Office, at that point, became the most involved, while the militia took a back seat. The Land Office sent a civil posse to inhabit the land as a way to keep the people of New Brunswick from settling. Finally, by 1842, the Webster-Ashburton treaty was signed which firmly declared the border between the two countries.

The records we have for this conflict, from the perspective of the military, consists largely of muster rolls. The muster rolls show the different companies and the men who served. They show how many miles the soldiers traveled, where they were from, and how much they were paid. We also have records which show other financial matters, and pay stubs for the individual soldiers. There are also general orders from the Adjutant General and correspondence to and from him.

The Mexican-American War also saw Mainers in military service. This war did not generate as many records as the Aroostook War did, but we do have a number of muster rolls for the militia companies that were involved.

The Civil War was one of the most transformative military engagements for the State of Maine. Maine was involved from the beginning of the war in 1861 with thousands of men enlisting to serve on the Union side. There were also men who more than likely enlisted to serve the Confederates, but as the Maine Militia as a whole was on the Union side, these are the records that we have. Maine had 32 infantry regiments and among other regiments were the 1st Maine Heavy Artillery and the 1st Maine Cavalry. These men were involved in some of the most infamous battles of the war and so Maine played an important role in the outcome of the war.

Because there were thousands of men who served, a large number of records were generated that had not been created for previous wars. Additionally, because the State did not have a lot of money at the time, more records were kept in order to prove that soldiers had indeed been in the war so that they could receive their bounties or pensions. As a result, Maine has one of the largest collections of Civil War records.

The soldiers records are some of the most valuable records that we have. These typically include enlistment papers. Enlistment papers often include such information as place of birth and residence, age, and physical descriptions. They really help to paint a picture of the individual soldiers. Unfortunately, because the individual regiments were largely responsible for keeping their own records, we do not have these papers for all of the Maine regiments. But, we do have them for most, and they help to present the history of those regiments.

The other type of enlistment record we have is for substitutes. Following the 1864 draft, those who did not want to serve could pay to have a substitute go in their place. This record is an example of a navy substitute, and is interesting in that it includes tattoos in the description, and shows that the people who fought in the War were not just American-born men.

We also have the muster rolls for all of the regiments. These were taken periodically throughout the war, and help to show when a soldier was present with the regiment, or if he was absent. We also have the soldier cards that were created from the Adjutant General's Office. These were created on index cards, and basically take all of the information on one person collected from all of the muster rolls, with references back to the muster roll pages the soldier was found on. These are perhaps the greatest resource for learning about individual soldiers. They show all of the basic information, such as the physical description, place of birth, all regiments the soldier was in, and when the soldier was discharged. This is generally how I tell people to start when they are researching a Civil War veteran because it shows all of the information to get started.

One of the most unique collection of records we have for the Civil War is the large collection of cartes-de-visites. A number of these were sent to the Archives from the Adjutant

General's office who had collected these for the Maine soldiers, but we also have a large collection of digital cartes-de-visites that were given as a gift. Together we have over a thousand of these images, and the majority are identified. Quite a few of them remain unidentified, but they provide us with a look at who the soldiers were, and make it so that they aren't just a name on a paper. The image on the left is Joshua Chamberlain, the famed General and later Governor, and on the right is a rare carte-de-visites that shows not just the soldier, but his wife as well, William and Miranda Barrows.

Perhaps the largest part of our Civil War records are the correspondence. We have such a large number of correspondence from the Civil War era that they have been organized between municipal correspondence and regimental correspondence, as well as a few other smaller categories. All of these records are the incoming correspondence to the Adjutant General. The regimental correspondence is generally written from the officers of the regiments, reporting on certain situations in the battlefield, or in many cases referring to promotions of officers. The municipal correspondence, on the other hand, is generally written from the families of the soldiers, or in some cases from town selectmen. This particular letter is a sad example of Maranda Barrows, whose photo you saw on the previous slide. She is writing to ask about her husband, who she had been told had died in battle, but had then seen a list reporting that he would be among the men coming home. To clear up the confusion, she wrote to the adjutant general asking what was really happening. Sadly, he had, in fact, died and the list must have been made in error.

In addition to these large groups of records, there are also a number of other smaller groups of records which contribute to the history of the Civil War. Among these records are the bounties. These records are one of the few Civil War record sets which have been largely unprocessed. However, I know that these records include bounties by regiment, and by name, and show the money paid for the soldier's service. There are also a collection of bounties which are shown by town, and list the soldiers in that town who earned a bounty. These bounty records have been processed, and are organized alphabetically by town.

We also have a few sets of volumes which add to these records. The first is a set of addresses for the soldiers, arranged by regiment, after they returned for the war. I believe these were likely maintained as a way for the Adjutant General's office to contact the soldiers if necessary. There are also returns of the regiments for many, but not all, of the Maine regiments for the years 1861 through 1864. These give some of the basic information about the regiments, such as numbers of soldiers and any deaths that might have occurred. Consolidated morning reports are also kept for some of the regiments, but for only a small number. These are like the returns, but include basically statistical information, along with a few comments from the commanding officer. These vary, but most include daily reports. Finally there are records of clothing for the regiments. These, like the morning reports, only exist for some regiments, and vary in their content. Some only show the total amount of money spent on clothing, while others

break the information down and show how much was given for each soldier and list the soldier's name and the dates the clothing was given.

Another interesting set of records for the Civil War are the hospital returns. Although we only have a small number, these include hospital records from various hospitals around the country where Maine soldiers would have been admitted. They include lists of the men who were at the hospitals at various times, and give the reason they were there.

The final record I want to discuss about the Civil War is the 12 volume series which has certificates of service for soldiers. These 12 volumes cover the time frame between 1886 to 1912. The certificates were created for the soldiers likely because they were either applying for a pension or their family was seeking the pension or a military burial. These records show basically the same content as the soldier cards that I discussed earlier, but will have the date the certificate was issued, and many show the location it was sent. These later certificates help to add the stories of these soldiers and the impact of the Civil War as a whole.

The Spanish-American War, much like the Revolutionary War and War of 1812, created few documents that are at the Maine State Archives. One big reason for this is that, following the Civil War, the army became much more federalized, and so the State level military created much less records. The militia, by this time, had been changed into the Maine National Guard. The best resource for looking at individual soldiers is to look at the lists we have of men who served in the Spanish-American War, as well as the Adjutant General correspondence. Like during the Civil War, the volume of incoming correspondence increased during this period in 1898.

World War I has more records at the Maine State Archives than the Spanish-American War, but less so than the Civil War. There are many index cards for those served during World War I, and for those who didn't. The Maine Adjutant General received copies of the 1918 Draft registration cards and we have over 100 boxes of these. There is also a set of index cards, organized by town, showing the men who served during World War I, and another set of index cards showing those who died. Since many men were in the National Army rather than the national guard, we do not have the records for those men. We do, however, have records for those who had served under the national guard. These records mainly consist of discharge papers for the soldiers. These records generally include a copy of the original enlistment, and together they provide information such as full name, place of birth, residence, occupation, physical description, dates of enlistment and discharge, and even the battles the participated in. Although these records are generally only one to two pages, they provide a wealth of information about the individuals service.

For World War II we have even less records than World War I. We have some index cards which show the women who had served in the military during the War, and there are index cards which show the men, by town, who had served. Starting with World War II we also have the military discharge papers, known as DD214s, which are now required for most veterans to prove military service. These records, like those of World War I, are only for those who served in the National Guard. The National Archives has the records for the men and women who served in the federal military branches, apart from the large portion of them that were burned in a fire in the 1970s. These DD214s continue up through the Vietnam era, however, as we move into the more modern records, the privacy of the records comes into question. Currently there is a restriction of 62 years on DD214s and National Guard files. During the 62 year window, the records are only accessible by the veteran or next-of-kin. After 62 years the record is publicly available. This is an example of a DD214 in our electronic database, which I will speak a bit more about in a few minutes.

Now that I have touched on the many wars that Mainers have been involved in, I would like to speak a bit more about the military records we have for non-wartime military activities. The correspondence is one of our largest collections to cover this period. We have incoming correspondence from the time of the Civil War through the 1940s, and this is a wealth of information. Found in this correspondence is such records as requests from veterans for aid and people looking for information about their service.

There are also a number of muster rolls for these non-war times going back to 1820. Generally these only show the officers of the militias, rather than the individual soldiers, but they do provide more information about the militia. When the National Guard replaced the militias in the late 19th century, some of the muster rolls did begin to include the regular soldiers instead of just the officers, but there are few of these. With these are muster rolls are another set of index cards which show the officers of the militia. These are arranged alphabetically and show the corresponding references to the officer in the records.

A particularly interesting set of records within our military collection is the courts martial records. These records span from the 1820s to the 1850s and include the information on various people who violated militia law. This is a particularly interested set of records that, as of today, has been largely untouched.

One of my personal favorite collections that we have uncovered at the Maine State Archives is the alien registrations. These registrations were done in the year 1940 and were generally done at the local town office between the months of June and July. This was a reaction to the war going on in Europe at the time and Maine wanted to see what it had for immigrants. Each form includes the name of the person, date and place of birth, how long they have been in the United States and Maine, in particular, and whether they have applied for citizenship. There are thousands of these records which provide information about the aliens living in the State. But there are also the administrative records that go along with them, as well as the statistical data extracted from the registrations. The statistical data shows the total number of aliens living in the state, organized by place of origin, and then these numbers are broken down by county and

town, so researchers could look through and see pockets of various immigrant groups. These made a wonderful test case for our digital archives initiative, which just began in full force last year. We have since scanned and indexed all of these records into our digital repository. Although currently they are only on an internal database, we are continuing to work on building this database and hope to make things available online in the future.

Some of the most revealing records we have about the military are not military records at all. Many other government records contain information about the military, and these are often just as informative. The first branch of government I would like to speak about is the Legislature. In the early years of the State, the Legislature made laws about the militia in the State. Some of the cases that stand out are when various people were organizing, or trying to organize, militia companies. These went before the Legislature for approval. Within our legislative records, also, are what we call the Legislative graveyard. The graveyard holds records of bills that were not passed by the Legislature, and within this collection are a number of attempts at organizing militia companies. Even though these did not pass, they are interesting in that they usually contain petitions signed by many members of a community, and they show the process required for developing a militia company.

Also in the Legislature are the Resolves in the State. The Resolves were usually about providing funding, and in our Resolves are a number of different records related to the military in some way. The Aroostook War and the Civil War are the most prominent among the military resolves. Many of these involve individual soldiers who were applying for pensions, and these provide more information about the soldiers and the war as a whole. Like with the organization of militia companies, a number of these can also be found in the Legislative graveyard. There are also a number of Resolves from the time of the Aroostook War which are not about money, but are more about the correspondence between the governor and other people. For example, some of these resolves feature copies of communications between the President and the Governor, or the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick. This particular example from 1840 shows a drawing of a British fortification drawn by Benjamin Wiggin who was sent by the governor to assess the British involvement in the area from the Aroostook War.

The Executive Council also features a great deal of information about various military matters. From 1820 to 1976, nearly all matters of government had to pass through the Executive Council. This included resolves from the Legislature. Generally these would include further documentary evidence. In terms of military, when soldiers had applied for pensions and money was needed to pay for this, these matters went before the Executive Council. In 1848, almost 10 years after the Aroostook War, there were officers still asking to be paid for the services during the expedition. There are also a number of Executive Council records related to the Mexican-American War for that year, including more muster rolls for the soldiers as the officers were seeking to be paid, and they needed to provide the evidence of service.

Perhaps the greatest other government agency which can reflect on the military is the Land Office. This applies especially to the Revolutionary War and the Aroostook War, when the fighting was largely due to land. The Revolutionary War may be surprising, but this is because

the Revolutionary War veterans applied for land bounties through the land agent. The bounties had been funded by a series of Resolves in 1835. The veterans had to apply, or their widows did, and the applications, though they vary in information, can often be incredibly detailed. Some of the files only have the land certificate that remains, but others include affidavits from the soldier himself, or people who served with him. This particular example is for Abiah Hine, the widow of Richard Hine, a sergeant in the war. The file includes not only his own statement of service, but statements from those who served with him. This document is the certificate showing that Abiah did receive land for her husband's service. In the land office records are many maps which show the various roads in Aroostook County for the year 1839, including the location of blockhouses and particularly difficult territory to navigate. When the militia returned home after the peace treaty was signed, the Land Agent was still very involved in settling the lands of Aroostook County. A civil posse of men was sent to the region to settle, and there are many records which relate to this. One of the larger sets of records are a series of pay stubs for the people who went to Aroostook County who had not been soldiers. There are also pay stubs for the men and women responsible for building the roads and providing supplies. The final Land Office record I would like to mention is the journal of William Parrott. He had been assistant land agent during the Aroostook War, and surveyed a number of the road maps we have for the region. The journal details his day to day activities during the Aroostook War period.

Although it might be unexpected, the court system also has some involvement in the military. This is a discharge record from the Civil War in the Androscoggin Supreme Judicial Court. A number of men received their discharge through the court system rather than through the military, but this is only a small number. For those that did, we have the records for most counties in the State.

In the 1940s the Works Progress Administration did a project where they went to the various cemeteries in the State and drew maps. These maps also mark where there are veterans buried. Along with these maps, they also created grave registration cards. These cards show the information about the veterans from the Revolutionary War through World War I who are buried in Maine. They show the cemetery they are buried in and give basic information such as birth, death, and the regiment they were involved in. These are filed alphabetically and are another great resource for looking at the individual soldiers. Although primarily they are from the cemeteries in Maine, a number of cards were also generated for those who died during the war and are buried in the national cemeteries.

I'd like to conclude by talking about access. For the most part, all of our records are accessible in person at the Archives, with the exception of the records with confidentiality restrictions. But a number of the records are available online as well. Much of the Civil War material has been scanned by the LDS church onto Family Search. Although much of that is not indexed, the images are all there for browsing.

We also continue to work with the Maine State Library who operates the Maine Digital Commons. While we continue to develop ArchivesSpace as a finding aid, we have some of our images in Digital Commons for the public to already view from home. A small number of our cartes-de-visites, for example, are already in Digital Commons. We are also planning to continue working with the Library and the Museum as we continue to find that we have overlap in our collections. For example, all three institutions have a significant amount of material related to the Aroostook War, and our plan is to hopefully create an exhibit based on all three of our holdings.