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INDEX TO COMPILED SERVICE RECORDS OF VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS WHO SERVED DURING INDIAN WARS AND DISTURBANCES, 1815-58

On the 42 rolls of this microfilm publication is reproduced an alphabetical card index to the compiled service records of volunteer soldiers who served in various Indian wars or participated in the quelling or solving of Indian disturbances or problems, 1815-58. Each index card gives the name of a soldier, his rank, and the name of the war or disturbance, as well as the unit or units, in which he served. There are cross-references for names that appeared in the records under more than one spelling.

The supposedly correct name of a volunteer soldier who served during an Indian war or disturbance may not appear in the index for several reasons. First, he may have served in the Regular Army. Second, he may have served under a different name or used a different spelling of his name. Third, a proper record of his service may not have been made; or, if made, it may have been lost or destroyed in the confusion that often attended the initial mobilization, subsequent military operations, and disbandment of troops. Fourth, the references to the soldier in the original records may have been so vague that it was not practicable to determine his correct name or the unit in which he served.

The compiled service records to which the index applies consist of a jacket-envelope for each soldier, labeled with the name of the war or disturbance and the soldier's name, and containing (1) card abstracts of entries relating to the soldier as found in original muster rolls and pay vouchers, and (2) the originals, if any, of papers relating solely to the particular soldier. A typical example of a compiled service record is filmed at the beginning of this index.

Most of the compiled service records of volunteer soldiers who served during the Indian wars and disturbances are arranged alphabetically by State or Territory and thereunder by war or disturbance.

The remaining units—Indian regiments and U.S. volunteers who served in the Utah Expedition, 1857-58—were not limited to any one State or Territory. The records are further arranged according to an organizational breakdown ending with the regiment or the independent battalion or company. Under each unit the service records are arranged alphabetically by surname of soldier. Unless the unit in which a soldier served is known, his compiled service record can be located only through the use of an index, such as the one reproduced in this microcopy, which gives the name of the unit in which he served.

The compilation of service records of volunteer soldiers who served during Indian wars and disturbances was begun about 1891 under the direction of Maj. Fred C. Ainsworth, head of the Record and Pension Division of the War Department. The abstracts made from the original records were verified by a separate operation of comparison, and great care was taken to ensure that the abstracts and the indexes were accurate.

Reproductions of specific compiled service records corresponding to entries in the index reproduced in this microcopy may be obtained from the National Archives for a fee. Requests for such reproductions should give the name of the war or disturbance, the State or Territory, the regiment or battalion, and the company for each soldier, exactly as shown in the index.

The index and the compiled service records referred to above are part of Record Group 94, Records of the Adjutant General's Office.

The National Archives has other records that contain information relating to soldiers who served during Indian wars and disturbances. Information relating to soldiers who served in the Regular Army is recorded in Registers of Enlistment's in the U.S. Army, 1798-1914 (reproduced as Microcopy 233), and in other records of The Adjutant General's Office.⁶ If an application for a pension or a bounty-land warrant was made, additional information about the soldier may be among the pension and bounty-land-warrant application files of the Veterans Administration in Record Group 15.

CONTENTS

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Index Range</u>
1	A-Ar
2	As-Ba
3	Be-Bl
4	Bo-Bri
5	Bro-By
6	C-Ce
7	Ch-Cl
8	Co-Cot
9	Cou-Dan
10	Dar-Do
11	Dr-E
12	F-Fo
13	Fr-Gh
14	Gi-Gra
15	Gre-Ham
16	Han-Haz
17	He-Hof
18	Hog-Hul
19	Hum-Joe
20	Joh-Ka
21	Ke-Ky
22	Le-Le
23	Li-Map
24	Mar-McC
25	McD-Mel
26	Mem-Moon
27	Moor-Na
28	Ne-Or
29	Os-Pel
30	Pem-Po
31	Pr-Re
32	Rg-Ro
33	Ru-Se
34	Sh-Smil

35	Smit-Sr
36	St-Sy
37	T-Th
38	Ti-Tz
39	U-Wap
40	War-Whid
41	Whig-Will
42	Wilm-Z