

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

Pamphlet Accompanying
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INDEX TO COMPILED SERVICE RECORDS OF
CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS WHO SERVED IN
ORGANIZATIONS FROM THE STATE OF
ALABAMA



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**INDEX TO COMPILED SERVICE RECORDS OF
CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS WHO SERVED IN
ORGANIZATIONS FROM THE STATE OF
ALABAMA**

On the 49 rolls of this microfilm publication is reproduced an alphabetical card index to the compiled service records of Confederate soldiers belonging to units from the State of Alabama. The index contains most of the names of Alabama soldiers to whom references were found in the records used in compiling the service records. An index card gives the name of the soldier, his rank, the unit in which he served, and often a statement about the origin or background of the unit. There are cross-references for soldiers' names that appeared in the records under more than one spelling.

The supposedly correct name of a Confederate soldier from Alabama may not appear in this index for several reasons. First, he may not have served in an Alabama unit. Second, he may have served under a different name or used a different spelling of his name. Third, proper records of his service may not have been made by the Confederate Army; or, if made, they may have been lost or destroyed in the confusion that often attended the initial mobilization, subsequent military operations, or the final surrender of the Confederate military forces. Fourth, the references to the soldier in the original records may be so vague that it is not practicable to determine his correct name or the unit in which he served.

The compiled service records to which this index applies are reproduced in Microcopy 311. They consist of a jacket-envelope for each soldier, labeled with his name and typically containing (1) card abstracts of entries relating to the soldier as found in original muster rolls, returns, rosters, payrolls, appointment books, hospital registers, Union prison registers and rolls, parole lists, and inspection reports; and (2) the originals of any papers relating solely to the particular soldier. A typical example of a compiled service record is filmed on the first roll of the index reproduced in this microcopy.

The compiled service records of soldiers belonging to units from the State of Alabama are 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 soldiers' surnames.

Two separate indexes may be used to locate the compiled service record of a soldier from Alabama. One is the State index reproduced in this microcopy. The other, which duplicates the information contained in the State index, is a "consolidated" or master card index

(reproduced as Microcopy 253) that contains the names of all Confederate soldiers found in compiling the service records, regardless of whether the service was with a unit furnished by a particular State, with a unit raised directly by the Confederate Government, or as a staff officer. Unless the unit in which a soldier served is known, his compiled service record can be located only through the use of one of these indexes.

The compilation of service records of Confederate soldiers was begun in 1903 under the direction of Brig. Gen. Fred C. Ainsworth, head of the Record and Pension Office of the War Department. Abstracts were made from documents in the War Department Collection of Confederate Records or from documents borrowed by the War Department in an effort to obtain as nearly complete military service records as possible. 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 State, the regiment or battalion, and the company for each soldier, exactly as shown in the index.

The two indexes and the compiled service records referred to above are part of a body of records in the National Archives designated as Record Group 109, War Department Collection of Confederate Records.

The National Archives has other records that may contain information relating to Confederate soldiers from Alabama. Among them are card abstracts and personal papers that were accumulated by the War Department to be interfiled with the regular series of compiled service records but were not interfiled, for one reason or another. The usual reason was that the information was insufficient or contained discrepancies and could not be positively identified with any soldier for whom there was a compiled service record. Other reasons were that no compiled service record had been established on the basis of regular service records and that the item did not provide enough evidence to justify establishing one. These card abstracts and personal papers, which are arranged in alphabetical order by name of soldier, are reproduced in Microcopy 347. They are not indexed.

Sometimes supposed Confederate military service is shown by the records to have been service in a civilian capacity, as in the case of government employees. Evidence of such service, or of having aided the Confederate cause as a civilian in some other way, may

sometimes be obtained from a series of records in the National Archives known as the "Citizens File," consisting of Confederate documents each of which relates to a particular civilian (reproduced as Microcopy 346). They are arranged alphabetically by name of person and are not indexed.

Other information about the activities of Confederate civilians is contained in a similar unindexed series of documents accumulated by Union provost marshals and known as the "Provost Marshal File." Some of these documents have been filmed under the title of "Union Provost Marshal's File" of One-Name Papers Relating to Citizens (Microcopy 345).

The National Archives has still other Confederate records in its custody among which documents may possibly be found relating to particular Confederate civilians or soldiers. Among them are two series relating to soldiers: (1) Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations Raised Directly by the Confederate Government (Microcopy 258), and (2) Compiled Service Records of Generals and of Officers and Enlisted Men Who Served in Confederate Staff Organizations (Microcopy 331).

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