

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS
PAMPHLET DESCRIBING M863

**Compiled Service Records of
Volunteer Soldiers
Who Served During the
Mexican War
in Organizations from the
State of Mississippi**



NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
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The records reproduced in the microfilm publication

are from

Records of the

Adjutant General's Office, 1780's-1917

Record Group 94

in the National Archives Building

COMPILED SERVICE RECORDS OF
VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS WHO SERVED DURING THE
MEXICAN WAR IN ORGANIZATIONS FROM THE
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

On the nine rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the compiled service records of volunteer soldiers belonging to units from the State of Mississippi who served in the Mexican War. The compiled service records consist of a jacket-envelope for each soldier--labeled with his name, rank, and the unit in which he served--typically containing (1) card abstracts of entries relating to the soldier as found in original muster rolls and returns, (2) originals of any papers relating solely to the soldier, and (3) notation cards giving information that was not placed on the card abstracts. There are cross-references for soldiers' names that appeared in the records under more than one spelling.

There is an alphabetical card index to the compiled military service records of volunteer soldiers who served in the Mexican War. This index (reproduced as M616) contains names of soldiers, their ranks, and the units in which they served. The index, however, is a master index containing entries for soldiers who served in organizations from various States.

The compiled service records reproduced in this microfilm publication and the index referred to above are part of a body of records in the National Archives designated as Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's-1917, Record Group 94.

The compilation of the service records of soldiers of the Mexican War was begun around 1891 under the direction of Maj. Fred C. Ainsworth, head of the Record and Pension Division of the War Department. Abstracts were made from documents in the custody of the War Department and from muster rolls borrowed from the Second Auditor of the Treasury. 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 were accurate.

The compiled service records of soldiers belonging to units from the State of Mississippi are arranged according to an organizational breakdown ending with either the regiment or the independent company. Under each unit the service records are arranged alphabetically by soldiers' surnames.

Preceding the jacket-envelopes for the individual soldiers in each organizational unit are envelopes containing record-of-events cards giving the stations, movements, or activities of the unit or a part of it.

The compiled service record of a Mexican War soldier from

Mississippi may not appear in this microfilm publication for several reasons. First, he may have served in a unit from another State or in the Regular Army. 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; or, if made, they 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 be so vague that it is not practicable to determine his correct name or the unit in which he served.

The National Archives has other records that may contain information relating to Mississippi soldiers who served in the Mexican War. There is a series of compiled service records that consists of medical records for volunteer Union and Mexican War soldiers. Information relating to soldiers who served in the Regular Army is recorded in Registers of Enlistments in the U.S. Army, 1798-1914 (reproduced as M233), and in other records of the Adjutant General's Office. If an application for pension was made, information about a soldier may be among the pension application files of the Veterans Administration in Record Group 15.

The archivist responsible for the preparation of this microfilm publication is Maida Loescher.

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