



Pathfinder for Military Bounty Land and Pensions War of 1812

Introduction

Bounty land was land promised to soldiers in exchange for military service. It was a practice that began during Colonial times and was widely used during the Revolutionary War and was again used during the War of 1812. The latter bounty lands were \$125 and 320 acres of land in selected states and territories. [Billingsley, John D. "Bounty, Military." *Encyclopedia Americana*. Grolier Online, 2010. Web. 28 Dec. 2010.]

Military bounty land was an option available to qualified veterans, the other option being a military pension. Qualifications for pensions and bounty land changed over time and the longer a veteran lived, the more likely he was to receive compensation for military service. Many men received a bounty land warrant and immediately sold it without ever setting foot on the land. Don't assume that your veteran ancestor lived on land he received as bounty land.

Pension, bounty land, and military records for the War of 1812 are available from the National Archives by using Form 85 for pension and bounty land information and Form 86 for ordering service records. If a search for bounty land comes up negative, ask the Archives to search the unindexed bounty land applications.

Bounty land for the War of 1812 was set up in Arkansas, Michigan, Illinois, Missouri and Louisiana.

Dates and Provisions for Bounty Land

1811	First warrant act
1812	Non-commissioned officers serving five years or their heirs received 160 acres
1814	"Double Bounty Warrants" issued to soldiers who enlisted after December 1814
1842	Bounty land could be located in any public domain land. [Statutes at Large. 27 th Congress. Session II. Chapter LXIX.]
1855	Land awarded for 14 days of service or participation in battle action. [Statutes at Large. 33 rd Congress. Session II. Chapter CCVII]
1871	Pension or bounty land for 60 days service. Included widows if married before 1815. [Statutes at Large. 41 st Congress. Session III. Chapter XLIX]
1878	Pension or bounty land for 14 days of services or battle action. Included all widows. [Statutes at Large. 45 th Congress. Session II. Chapter 28]

War of 1812 Microfilm Sources at Midwest Genealogy Center

Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the War of 1812
[M602]

*Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the War of 1812
in Organizations from the State of Louisiana* [M229]

*Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the War of 1812
in Organizations from the State of North Carolina* [M250]

*Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the War of 1812
in Organizations from the State of South Carolina* [M652]

*Compiled Military Service Records of Major McIntosh's Company of Creek Indians in the War
of 1812* [M1830]

*Compiled Military Service Records of Major Uriah Blue's Detachment of Chickasaw Indians in
the War of 1812* [M1829]

War of 1812 Military Bounty Land Warrants, 1815-1858 [M858] Arranged chronologically by
warrant number. Roll 1 indexes four volumes that refer to patentees from Missouri,
Arkansas, and Illinois.

Records Relating to War of 1812 Prisoners of War [M2019]

Index to Records Relating to War of 1812 Prisoners of War [M1747]

War of 1812 Papers of the Department of State, 1789-1815 [M588]

*Prize and Related Records for the War of 1812 of the U.S. District Court for the Southern
District of New York, 1812-1816* [M928]

*War of 1812 Prize Case Files of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of
Pennsylvania* [M966]

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Selected Printed Sources at Midwest Genealogy Center

- Neagles, James C. [*U.S. Military Records: A Guide to Federal & State Sources: Colonial America to the Present*](#). Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry, 1994.
- Oberly, James W. [*Sixty Million Acres: American Veterans and the Public Lands before the Civil War*](#). Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 1990.
- Smith, Clifford Neal. [*Federal Land Series: a Calendar of Archival Materials on the Land Patents Issued by the United States Government, with Subject, Tract, and Name Index*](#). Chicago: American Library Association, 1972.
- [*Virginia Militia in the War of 1812: From Rolls in the Auditor's Office at Richmond*](#). Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2001. 2 volumes.
- Wardell, Patrick G. [*War of 1812: Virginia Bounty Land & Pension Applicants : a Quick Reference Guide to Ancestors having War of 1812 Service Who Served, Lived, Died, or Married in Virginia or West Virginia*](#). Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1987.
- White, Virgil D. [*Index to US Military Pension Applications of Remarried Widows for Service Between 1812 and 1911*](#). Waynesboro, Tenn.: National Historical Publishing Co., 1999.
- White, Virgil D. [*Index to War of 1812 Pension Files*](#). Waynesboro, Tenn.: National Historical Publishing Co., 1992. 3 volumes. [This index primarily covers the pensions and bounty land acts of 1871 and 1878]