

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS
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**Compiled Service Records of
Volunteer Soldiers Who Served
During the Mexican War in
Organizations From the
State of Pennsylvania**



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are from

Records of the Adjutant General's Office,

1780's-1917

Record Group 94

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

On the 13 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the compiled service records of Volunteer soldiers who served in the Mexican War and who belonged to units from the State of Pennsylvania. These records consist of a jacket-envelope for each soldier, labeled with his name and rank and the unit in which he served. A jacket-envelope typically contains: (1) card abstracts of entries relating to the individual soldier as found in original muster rolls, returns, payrolls, company and regimental books, hospital registers, and lists of deserters; (2) originals of any papers relating solely to the soldier, such as correspondence and requests for leaves of absence; and (3) notation cards giving supplemental information not found on the card abstracts. There are also cross-reference jacket-envelopes to indicate soldiers' names that appear in the records under more than one spelling. These compiled service records are part of the Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's-1917, Record Group 94.

Compilation of service records of Volunteer soldiers who served in the Mexican War began in 1891 under the direction of Maj. Fred C. Ainsworth, head of the Record and Pension Division of the War Department. This operation was designed to permit more rapid and efficient checking of military and medical records in connection with Army pension claims and other veteran benefits; it also sought to preserve heavily used records from further damage. Card abstracts were made from the original records in the custody of the War Department and from other records borrowed from the Second Auditor of the Treasury. The abstracts made from these original records were verified by a separate operation of comparison, and great care was taken to ensure that the abstracts and indexes were accurate.

The compiled service records of the Volunteer soldiers belonging to units from Pennsylvania are arranged according to regimental number and thereunder alphabetically by each soldier's surname. Preceding the jacket-envelopes for the individual soldiers in each regiment are envelopes containing record-of-events cards and caption cards. The former contain abstracts of information found on muster rolls and returns indicating the stations, movements, and activities of the regiment or a part of it. The latter show exact captions from the muster-out rolls. These cards generally show the name of the commanding officer, by whose order and what authority the troops were called into service, date of muster in, length of service, date of discharge, and a statement by the mustering officer verifying the accuracy of the regimental records.

The card abstracts for an individual Pennsylvania soldier show the soldier's presence or absence on certain days as well

as his rank, military organization, term of service, promotions or demotions, and death or disability incurred in service. Card abstracts taken from descriptive books generally provide a physical description of each soldier, his age, his occupation prior to enlistment, his place of birth, and the date and place of his enlistment. Included with the compiled service records of these Volunteer soldiers are card abstracts of six civilian females who were employed as hospital matrons by the Pennsylvania regiments.

The compiled service record of a Mexican War soldier from Pennsylvania might not appear in this microfilm publication for several reasons. First, the individual may have served either 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 military service may never have been made, or, if made, they may have been lost or even destroyed in the confusion that often accompanied the initial mobilization, subsequent military operations, and final demobilization. Fourth, references to a soldier in the original records may be so vague that it is impracticable to determine his correct name or the unit in which he served.

To assist researchers in locating the carded records of particular individuals, there is an alphabetical card index to the compiled service records of Volunteer soldiers who served in the Mexican War from the various States and Territories. This index, reproduced as National Archives and Records Service (NARS) Microfilm Publication M616, *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the Mexican War*, contains the name of each soldier, his rank, and the unit in which he served.

In the National Archives of the United States there are other records that may contain further information relating to Pennsylvania soldiers who served in the Mexican War. For example, there is a series of compiled service records that consists of medical records for Volunteer Union and Mexican War veterans. The registers of enlistments in the U.S. Army, 1798-1914 (reproduced as M233) and other records of the Adjutant General's Office may provide valuable information relating to soldiers who served in the Regular Army. If a former soldier applied for a pension or a bounty-land warrant, additional information about that individual may be found among the pension and bounty-land-warrant application files in Records of the Veterans Administration, Record Group 15. Pension application case files based on death or disability incurred in service between 1783 and 1861 ("Old War" series) include claims relating to soldiers whose compiled service records are reproduced in this publication. The name index to these files has been microfilmed by NARS as T316. For the pension files that are based on service only in the Mexican War, there is also a name index that has been microfilmed as T317. In addition to the pension files, the records of the

original bounty-land warrants issued to former soldiers under the various military bounty-land warrant acts are in Records of the Bureau of Land Management, Record Group 49.

Ronald J. Plavchan prepared this microfilm publication and wrote these introductory remarks.

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General Services Administration