

**OKLAHOMA CONFEDERATE APPLICATIONS
AND PENSIONS COLLECTION
RECORD GROUP 5**

*Oklahoma State Archives Division
Oklahoma Department of Libraries
200 Northeast 18th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105*

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday; Closed Holidays

TDF 2008



Oklahoma Confederate Applications and Pensions Record Group 5

Like several other states, Oklahoma enacted legislation to provide for pension payments to Confederate veterans or to their indigent widows. By law, the administrator of the pension fund had to be either a Confederate veteran or the descendent of one. To qualify for pensions, applicants had to provide proof of honorable discharge and of at least one year's residency in Oklahoma prior to making application. In addition, they had to furnish evidence that they did not own more than \$2,000 worth of property and that they had an annual income of \$500 or less. Along with formal applications for benefits, persons seeking pensions frequently submitted "proofs of service," affidavits, and other documents. **Confederate pensions were awarded to residents of Oklahoma regardless of the state in which their service was rendered.**

Applications:

1915-1933
24 Cubic Feet

The pension application files include both veterans' and widows' applications interfiled. The series includes files on approved and denied pension claims. Arranged by application numbers, this indexed record provides a plethora of information about veterans and their widows, including full names; dates and places of birth; addresses; home ownership; previous pension applications; dates and places of enlistment; military units served in; types of discharges received; names of commanding officers; discharge dates and places; and wounds incurred during the war. In addition to applications, these files contain affidavits, "proofs of service," such as occasional correspondence between the applicant and the Board, sworn statements on proof of service by comrades, and War Department service abstracts, and other documents used to establish eligibility for benefits.

The widow's application includes her full name, date and place of marriage, date and place of her husband's death, her place and length of residence in Oklahoma, and proof of her husband's service. Some early applications also include the widows' date and place of birth.

Pension Files:

1915-1949
33 Cubic Feet

Consisting of incoming letters and copies of outgoing responses, these files pertain to lost warrants, deaths of pensioners, questions of continuing eligibility for benefits, and other matters relating to administration of the pension program.

Photocopies:

Digital copies of the application and pension files may be downloaded from this website at no charge. Photocopies of the pension files are available from the Oklahoma State Archives for a flat fee of \$2.50 per application OR pension file.

Checks should be payable to the Oklahoma State Archives, and mailed to:

Oklahoma State Archives
Oklahoma Department of Libraries
200 Northeast 18th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

We do not accept credit card orders, only personal checks and money orders.

More Information:

The National Archives' website provides a listing of repositories alphabetical by state that house confederate applications and pensions and other records related to the Civil War. See <http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/military/civil-war/confederate/pension.html>

Askew, Alice Ann. *Oklahoma Division of United Daughters of the Confederacy, History & Patriots*. Wyandotte, OK: The Gregath Publishing Co., 2001.

Chase, Marybelle W. *Indian Home Guards – Civil War Service Records*. Tulsa, OK: Marybelle W. Chase, 1993.

_____. *Index to Civil War Service Records – Watie's Cherokee Regiments*. Tulsa, OK, Marybelle W. Chase, 1989.

Talkington, N. Dale. *Long Blue Line – Civil War Union Soldiers Buried in Oklahoma*. Houston, TX: N. D. Talkington, 1999.

See also the Researching Civil War Ancestors website at <http://www.tulsagenealogy.org/CWAncestors.htm>