

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Learning Lagniappe: Educator Extras Confederate Pension Records (Mississippi)

Mississippi Office of the State Auditor

Series 1201: Confederate Pension Applications, 1889-1932

http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/pensions/

The records in this series document the military service and post-war quality of life of thousands of former Confederate soldiers and sailors, their widows and wartime servants residing in Mississippi. The applications and supporting documentation (if any) are filed in alphabetical order by name of applicant. A printable copy of each pension image is available by clicking on the “print friendly” link at the bottom right of each image page and selecting the print command from your browser.

Subjects that can be addressed within this Digital Archive:

Mississippians during the Reconstruction Era and post-Reconstruction Era, prosthetics, warfare, employment opportunities, migration patterns, veterans benefits, military benefits for widows, and African American military members in the Civil War.

Suggested Classroom Activities:

Search for familiar names from your city or county and research that family. Compare Civil War veterans to modern war veterans. Interview veterans for their perspective on war today.

For more lessons and activities based on the Digital Archives and other collections visit the Classroom Materials page on our website at

<http://www.mdah.ms.gov/new/learn/classroom-materials/lesson-plans-and-teaching-units/>

Teacher Discussion Guide on Reverse

Teacher Discussion Guide

Use images from the MDAH Digital Archive entitled “Mississippi Office of the State Auditor Series 1201: Confederate Pension Applications, 1889-1932,” (found at http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/pensions/) to lead your class in a discussion analyzing and interpreting the following images:

1. Click “Browse Images” then “Mansell – Martiniere.” In the box at the bottom of the page type “5” and hit enter.
 - a. What is the name of the person on the application? **Mandy Mansell**
 - b. What information can you learn about the applicant from this document? **Name, age, and place of residence. The record of her husband’s military service (date/place of enlistment and discharge and his unit or regiment). The applicant’s current financial situation to include ownership of a home, additional income, family.**
 - c. Was this applicant a veteran, a servant of a veteran, or a widow? **Widow**
 - d. What is the title of the application completed by the applicant? **Form No. 3 Application of indigent Widow of Soldier or Sailor of the late Confederacy, under Chapter 73, Acts 1900.**
 - e. What problem did the applicant have with filling out the regiment portion of the application? **“My husbands parole and other papers have been destroyed and I have no data or knowledge.”**
 - f. In the box at the bottom of the page type “6” and hit enter. Was the application approved? Who were some of the prominent persons who needed to approve the application? **The application was approved. Prominent people who approved it included the president of the board, the sheriff, and the chancery clerk.**
 - g. In the box at the bottom of the page type “7” and hit enter. Who wrote the letter? What does he say about the applicant? **That the author (J.J. Williams, the mayor of Abbeville, Miss.) was at the home of John Mansell in July 1893 where he examined Mansell’s papers. This included his parole as a soldier of the Confederate Army. The letter also confirms that Mandy Mansell is his widow and is in destitute circumstances.**
2. Click “Browse Images” then “Mansell – Martiniere.” In the box at the bottom of the page type “10” and hit enter.
 - a. What was the name of the applicant? **Stephen Manuel**
 - b. What form did he complete? **Application for Pension Form No. 3 – Servant; Application of Indigent Servant of a Soldier or Sailor of the Late Confederacy, under Chapter 108, Code of 1906, as amended by Chapter 333, Laws of 1924.**
 - c. Who do you think constituted servants in the Confederate military? **Slaves, who were brought to the front by their owners as menservants (butlers, valets, etc.), conscripted for manual labor (such as ditch digging, fortification construction, etc.), or served as armed soldiers who engaged in combat.**
 - d. In the box at the bottom of the page type “11” and hit enter. Look at the signature of the applicant on the top right of the document. What do you notice that would be considered unusual today? **In between the first and last name is an “X” with the words “his mark.” This indicates that the applicant was probably unable to write and possibly also unable read.**
3. Click “Browse Images” then “Tenhet – Thigpen.” In the box at the bottom of the page type “93” and hit enter and “94” and hit enter.
 - a. What can you learn about this applicant’s war wounds? **He suffered 13 wounds consisting of shots on the body, leg, head, shoulder and wrist. His wounds occurred on the first day of the Battle of Shiloh (April 2, 1862), at Chickamauga (September 19-20, 1863) and at Lookout Mountain during the Chattanooga Campaign (November 24, 1863).**
 - b. Do some research on the prevalence and after-effects of amputations during the Civil War. **There were approximately 35,000 amputations performed on soldiers during the Civil War (Union and Confederate). After the war, Mississippi dedicated 20% of its yearly budget to providing amputees with prosthetics.**
 - c. How do you think the lives of amputees today have been affected by modern medicine and technology? **Research and development by scientists, inventors, and health care providers around the world have resulted in a broad spectrum of advanced prosthetics that allow their wearers to return to “normal” activities (such as athletics). Many of the recent advancements have occurred as a direct result of military operations, as military personnel who lose limbs have an increased survival rate over that of the Civil War soldier and the desire to return to active duty and other physical activities.**
 - d. In addition to the high number of amputations during the Civil War, what other types of medical issues plagued soldiers? How would these issues have affected the course of the war? **Infection, poor hygiene, and poor diet greatly affected the health and moral of both the injured and uninjured soldiers. After the war, many veterans complained of the lingering effects from treatment experienced while held in prisoner of war camps while others suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder. Sadly, the emotional and mental effects of the Civil War were often taken as insanity and many Union and Confederate soldiers were committed to asylums by their families.**
4. The Confederate pensions were paid by the Federal government, the government that previously had been at war with the Confederacy. Do you think there were challenges in the Federal government paying pensions to their former enemy? Do you think 2 paying the pensions was the right thing to do? Why or why not?