In honor of the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, this is the fourth in a series of articles about records at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., that are useful in researching the war and its participants.

In the last issue of NGS Magazine, we learned about some of the millions of cards inside the Compiled Military Service Record (CMSR) jackets of volunteer soldiers of the Civil War (Union and Confederate) that make it easy to access information that would otherwise be challenging and time consuming to access in its original form.

In this article, we discuss compiled records that are outside the CMSR jacket that researchers must pursue separately from the CMSR.

Unfiled cards and miscellaneous personal papers
The visionary goal of General Fred C. Ainsworth, as discussed in a previous issue of NGS Magazine, was that each CMSR would contain a soldier’s complete record of service in one regiment. Unfortunately, Ainsworth was not completely successful in achieving his goal. The CMSR project—which involved creating 58 million cards recording the service of volunteer soldiers from more than six wars—spanned about twenty-five years. Under the circumstances, it was inevitable that a small percentage of those records never got filed in their proper places.

Why? A two decades-long project involving huge quantities of records is bound to have loose ends that remain unfinished. There are at least two reasons. First, there were cards and personal papers containing discrepancies, contradictory, or insufficient information that could not positively link the record to a soldier for whom a CMSR had been established on the basis of normal service records, so none was created. Second, large lengthy projects inevitably involve managers changing priorities, resulting in staff being shifted to different tasks before finishing the task at hand. Loose ends get left for “later” but instead get forgotten. As a result, numerous cards and personal papers that could have easily been filed inside a CMSR jacket just never got filed in their proper places.

How does the researcher discover whether there are “unfiled” cards and personal papers for a particular soldier?

Researchers can easily discover the additional records for Confederate military personnel in
National Archives Microfilm Publication M347, Unfiled Papers and Slips Belonging in Confederate Compiled Service Records (442 rolls), which is available on microfilm at the National Archives Building, Washington, D.C. (NAB); selected NARA regional archives; libraries having large genealogical collections; and online at Fold3.com. The records are arranged alphabetically by name without regard to state or unit, but similar sounding names are grouped together. For example, Collman, Colman, Colmon, and Coalman are all grouped together under Coleman.

Researchers seeking the additional records for Union military personnel face a more nuanced search. As mentioned in previous articles, Civil War CMSRs are filed by state, then by regiment. (There were also certain organizations, such as the U.S. Colored Troops, U.S. Sharp Shooters, and others, that lacked a “state” designation.) For Union military units, “unfiled” cards (sometimes called by other names such as “miscellaneous card abstracts”) and personal papers may be physically located (1) at the end of the CMSRs from that state; (2) at the end of that regiment; (3) after every couple regiments; or (4) in some combination of these locations. Researchers can easily discover the additional records on microfilm or online for Union units whose CMSRs have been microfilmed. However, for Union units whose CMSRs have not been microfilmed, the researcher must do research in person at the NAB or submit a request to NARA for copies of the additional records separately from a request for a copy of the soldier’s CMSR. Should you bother? Yes, because these additional records can contain excellent information not found inside the CMSR jacket. Understand, however, that many soldiers may not have additional records.

Examples
George H. Moulton, who served as a private in Company I, 38th Massachusetts Infantry, provides an excellent example of what the additional unfiled records may yield. Moulton’s CMSR jacket holds eighteen cards and six personal papers. Are there more records outside the jacket? Yes. There are “unfiled cards” for the 37th, 38th, and 39th Massachusetts Infantry regiments physically located between the end of the CMSRs for the 38th Massachusetts and the beginning of the CMSRs for the 39th Massachusetts. In CMSR box 13481, which contains unfiled cards for men...
Moulton and Despard are just two random examples of men whose CMSRs are incomplete. It is regrettable that Ainsworth’s staff never finished filing cards and personal papers in their appropriate Civil War CMSR jackets. However, knowledgeable researchers who are aware of these facts can pursue the additional records that are outside the CMSR jacket. Good luck!

For more information
Table 1 indicates which rolls of microfilm contain records outside the CMSR jacket. These records are available on microfilm at the NAB; selected NARA regional archives; libraries having large genealogical collections; and online at Fold3.com.

Complete titles of NARA microfilm publications, along with descriptive pamphlets, roll lists, and information on which NARA facilities have them, can be obtained at “Order Online,” https://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline/. Click on the “Microfilm” tab to get started. You do not need to register or buy anything.

Table 2 provides guidance on whether there are Unfiled Cards (called “Cards” in the table) or Miscellaneous Personal Papers (called “Papers” in the table) outside the CMSR jacket. Box numbers are provided when possible. CMSRs and records outside the jacket must be requested from NARA.

To request paper copies of CMSRs by mail, either order the records online at “Order Online” at https://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline or request by mail using NATF Form 86, National Archives Order for Copies of Military Service Records, available at http://www.archives.gov/forms/pdf/natf–86.pdf>. A free online index to CMSRs is the “Civil War Soldiers & Sailors System” online on the National Park Service website, http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/index.html.

To request copies of unmicrofilmed records outside the CMSR jacket, write to the Old Civil and Military Records Branch, National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20408, or send an

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Table 1
States and units whose Union CMSRs have been microfilmed

These microfilm publications include the records outside the jacket.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State/unit</th>
<th>Microfilm Publication number</th>
<th>Rolls with records outside the jacket</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>M276</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>M399</td>
<td>59–60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dakota</td>
<td>M1960</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>M1961</td>
<td>110–117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>M400</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>M403</td>
<td>not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>M397</td>
<td>473–515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>M396</td>
<td>47–50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>M384</td>
<td>208–238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>M404</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>M405</td>
<td>723–850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>M1787</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>M1789</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>M427</td>
<td>44–46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY 1st Engineers</td>
<td>M2004</td>
<td>36–39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>M401</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>M1816</td>
<td>18 and 34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>M395</td>
<td>200–220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>M402</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>M692</td>
<td>not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>M398</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>M508</td>
<td>232–261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USCT: 54th Massachusetts</td>
<td>M1898</td>
<td>19–20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USCT: 55th Massachusetts</td>
<td>M1801</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USCT: 1st–6th Cavalry (various)</td>
<td>M1817</td>
<td>not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USCT: 1st Infantry (various)</td>
<td>M1819</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USCT: 14th–19th Infantry</td>
<td>M1822</td>
<td>17, 32, 48, 64, 83, 104–105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USCT: 20th–25th Infantry</td>
<td>M1823</td>
<td>21, 36, 50–51, 70–71, 98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USCT: 26th–30th Infantry</td>
<td>M1824</td>
<td>16, 33, 53, 71, 90, 108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USCT: 31st–35th Infantry</td>
<td>M1992</td>
<td>18, 31, 48, 63, 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USCT: 36th–40th Infantry</td>
<td>M1993</td>
<td>25–26, 51, 78, 100, 116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USCT: 41st–46th Infantry</td>
<td>M1994</td>
<td>17–18, 31, 55, 73, 92–93, 113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st–6th U.S. Volunteer Infantry</td>
<td>M1017</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 2

**States and units whose Union CMSRs have not been microfilmed**

This table gives guidance on whether there are unfiled cards (“Cards”), miscellaneous personal papers (“Papers”), or other miscellaneous records that are outside the CMSR jacket. These are usually arranged alphabetically by name (“alpha”), unless otherwise indicated (such as “by Regt. then alpha”). States marked “Cards filed after each regiment” may have cards for particular regiment(s) filed before or after the regiment in a similar manner to those marked “Cards (by Regt. then alpha) filed after every couple regiments.” Box numbers are indicated when possible.

Boxes 1–250 are a subseries separate from the main CMSR series. CMSRs for more U.S. Colored Troops, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, and Vermont are slated for future digital filming. These records are part of the series, *Carded Records Showing Military Service of Soldiers Who Fought in Volunteer Organizations During the American Civil War* (ARC Identifier 300398), in Record Group 94, Records of the Adjutant General’s Office, 1780s–1917.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State/Unit</th>
<th>CMSR Box Nos.</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>not applicable</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>Papers at end of state</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>Cards and Papers at end of state</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>1226–1264</td>
<td>Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District of Columbia</td>
<td>Cards and Papers at end of state</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Cards at the end of some regiments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5292–5294</td>
<td>Cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5295–5394</td>
<td>Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5395–5422</td>
<td>Papers (by Regt. then alpha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Papers (by Regt. then alpha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>8014–8021</td>
<td>Cards (by Regt. then alpha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8022</td>
<td>Cards, Permanent Party Garrison Guards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8022–8023</td>
<td>Cards (by Regt. then alpha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8024–8055</td>
<td>Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>9255–9256</td>
<td>Cards (by Regt. then alpha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9258</td>
<td>Cards (Misc. Infantry by Regt. then alpha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9259–9280</td>
<td>Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Papers (by Regt. then alpha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Cards (by Regt. then alpha) filed after every couple regiments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9506–9507</td>
<td>Cards (by Regt. then alpha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9655–9659</td>
<td>Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9659A</td>
<td>Cards (Cavalry and Battery by Regt. then alpha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Cards (by Regt. then alpha) filed after every couple regiments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11642</td>
<td>Cards (by Regt. then alpha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11643–11666</td>
<td>Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Cards (by Regt. then alpha) filed after every couple regiments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13743</td>
<td>Papers (1st subseries)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13744–13788</td>
<td>Papers (2nd subseries)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13789</td>
<td>Papers (3rd subseries)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5–23</td>
<td>Papers (4th subseries) (by Regt. then alpha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Cards filed after each regiment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15170–15193</td>
<td>Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Various Cards</td>
<td>Other Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>various Cards filed after each regiment</td>
<td>15554 Cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15556–15562 Papers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>various Cards filed after each regiment</td>
<td>21376–21397 Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>various Cards filed after each regiment</td>
<td>22239–22255 Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22255A Papers, rejected recruits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>various Cards filed after each regiment</td>
<td>28498–28502 Cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28503 Cards, VRC transferred from NY organizations</td>
<td>28504–28513 Cards, 33rd–193rd Infantry, and misc. (by Regt. then alpha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>28515–28684 Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>32608–32609 Cards, misc. infantry</td>
<td>32618–32663 Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>32664 Papers, rejected recruits</td>
<td>32665–32678 Cards (by Regt. then alpha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>32679–32679C Cards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>various Cards filed after some regiments</td>
<td>37079 Cards, 1st–4th Cavalry (by Regt. then alpha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>37080–37083 Papers</td>
<td>37088 Cards, 192nd–215th Infantry (by Regt. then alpha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>37089–37223 Papers</td>
<td>25–234 Papers (by Regt. then alpha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>various Cards (by Regt. then alpha) filed after every couple regiments</td>
<td>37469–37473 Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>Cards filed after each regiment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>38505A Cards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>various Cards filed after each regiment</td>
<td>40230 Cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>40231–40253 Papers, miscellaneous</td>
<td>40254–40261 Papers, “proof file” (enlistment papers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>251–324 Papers (by Regt. then alpha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>various Cards filed after each regiment</td>
<td>43104 Cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>43105 Papers</td>
<td>43154 Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U.S. Colored Troops, 56th &amp; up Cards at end of most regiments</td>
<td>44294–44315 Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cards and Papers at end of U.S.C.T.</td>
<td>44316–44371 Cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>235–250 Papers (by Regt. then alpha)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Home Guards</td>
<td>various Cards at end of each regiment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc. States &amp; Orgs.²</td>
<td>various Cards at end of each regimen</td>
<td>3–4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
email to archives1reference@nara.gov. Provide the soldier’s name, company, and regiment; specify Civil War and that you seek “unfiled cards and personal papers” that are outside the CMSR jacket.

Notes
2. Papers, random material relating to men serving from Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, and U.S. Colored Troops. In January 1937 (25 years after Ainsworth’s resignation from the Army), a Mr. Wilmarth in the Army’s medical department recommended these records be filed in personal papers jackets, but no action was ever taken.

Claire Prechtel-Klusken, a microfilm projects archivist at NARA, served as NGS registrar (1996–98) and director (1998–2000). She can be reached at ckluskens@verizon.net.

Infantry resting from drill (ARC Identifier 524639); Matthew Brady Photographs; RG 111, Records of the Office of Chief Signal Officer; NARA, College Park, MD.