

Mining Post Civil War Records – More Than Pensions and Old Soldiers Homes!

Diane L. Richard gives us an overview of many of the available sources for researching Civil War ancestors

Many different types of records were created as a result of the Civil War. In fact, they are possibly a goldmine for those researching Civil War era ancestors. Whether you seek more on your ancestor who “served”, beyond his military service, or you are researching civilians, there are many records, often overlooked, that you WILL want to look into! Some “mining” might be required and I guarantee that you won’t regret putting in the effort.

Let’s recap some of the more obvious and recently written about records and then begin our journey into other records created during or after the Civil War that are often overlooked as we do our research.

On the military front, we have compiled service records (aka CSRs) to document service, pension records for those who served and survived long enough to receive a pension, and more. Many are familiar with these records and access them regularly via NARA,

Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, Fold3, and appropriate state-level collections for Confederate pension records, etc.

As soldiers (or their widows) aged, they often ended up in Old Soldier’s Homes. David Norris in his article “Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Widows’ Homes” for the October/November 2015 issue of *Internet Genealogy* discusses the genealogical records left behind by the wives of soldiers who served in the Civil War and other conflicts. Not all states though had homes that included or catered to widows; many were just for those who served.

Additionally, Freedmen’s Bureau Records, the subject of the article “Online Freeman’s Bureau Records” featured in the October/November 2016 issue of *Internet Genealogy*, discussed how this bureau handled rations in the immediate post Civil War years (c. 1865-1872) for ALL poor southerners (ex-slaves, disabled soldiers, poor widows, feeble elders, etc.), the return of abandoned lands, documentation

of slave-era marriages, paperwork related to Colored Troops (USCT), and more.

And, there are still more records created during or after the Civil War that you will want to look into. Some of those



RG 109.8.4 Records of Hospitals, NARA, www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/109.html — General Hospital No 4 (Wilmington, 1862-1865) — Entry for Samuel Jordan.

records are discussed in this article. Let's see what types of records I discovered as I researched into Samuel Jordan (died during the war) and J.J. Bennett (lived into the early 20th century). Both served in North Carolina as Confederate soldiers.

Though most are examples from records created in North Carolina, regarding Confederate soldiers, many other states and the Federal Government created similar records.

Hospital Records

It ends up that Samuel Jordan (of Pleasant Hill, Northampton, NC) died in General Hospital No 4 in Wilmington, NC.

I was able to easily access these records because they have been transcribed, www.onhgs.org/confedhosp.htm, and then the originals, held at NARA, were acquired. Such records give you a sense of the breadth of what the soldiers were suffering from at any given time, as well as the specific details of your soldier.

Even if the compiled service record (CSR) tells you that an individual died in the hospital during the war, there is just something about actually seeing the hospital records.

- Have you looked for hospital records?

Artificial Limbs

Many soldiers, if they returned from the war, did not do so unscathed. Many returned missing limbs. Because of this, there were many programs to either provide artificial limbs or to pay money instead. Learn more about this toll on returning soldiers in Life and Limb (a US National Library of Medicine Exhibition), www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/lifeandlimb/index.html.

Name	County	Rank
Samuel Jordan	Lenoir	Private
W. A. Allen	Warren	Private
A. G. Bunting	Swain	Private
C. B. Cole	Swain	Private
H. B. Boyer	Swain	Private
W. C. Boyer	Swain	Private
J. A. Baker	Franklin	Private
W. S. Cannon	Swain	Private
W. H. Post	Swain	Private
S. A. Colquhoun	Swain	Private
Brown H. Burt	Swain	Private
W. S. Brown	Swain	Private
Andrew Beatty	Swain	Private
John Briggs	Swain	Private
Frank Bennett	Swain	Private
J. J. Bennett	Swain	Private
W. S. Brown	Swain	Private

Rank	Name	Service	Remarks
Private	Samuel Jordan	Aug 4th 1862	
Private	W. A. Allen	Apr 11th 1862	
Private	A. G. Bunting	July 30th 1862	
Private	C. B. Cole	Apr 21st 1862	
Private	H. B. Boyer	Apr 21st 1862	
Private	W. C. Boyer	Apr 21st 1862	
Private	J. A. Baker	Apr 21st 1862	
Private	W. S. Cannon	Apr 21st 1862	
Private	W. H. Post	Apr 21st 1862	
Private	S. A. Colquhoun	Apr 21st 1862	
Private	Brown H. Burt	Apr 21st 1862	
Private	W. S. Brown	Apr 21st 1862	
Private	Andrew Beatty	Apr 21st 1862	
Private	John Briggs	Apr 21st 1862	
Private	Frank Bennett	Apr 21st 1862	
Private	J. J. Bennett	Apr 21st 1862	
Private	W. S. Brown	Apr 21st 1862	

Aud 6.1, p.4, [NC] State Auditor, Register of Artificial Limbs, 1866-1870 + Register of Pensioners 1879-1884, State Archives of North Carolina, Natural and Cultural Resources, Raleigh, NC – listed here as Jos J. Bennett.

In NC, J.J. Bennett was given the option of receiving an artificial limb (for his lower arm) or taking a payment. He opted to receive the payment. A cursory glance of the NC records suggest there was about a 50/50 split of returning soldiers who opted for limbs versus cash payments.

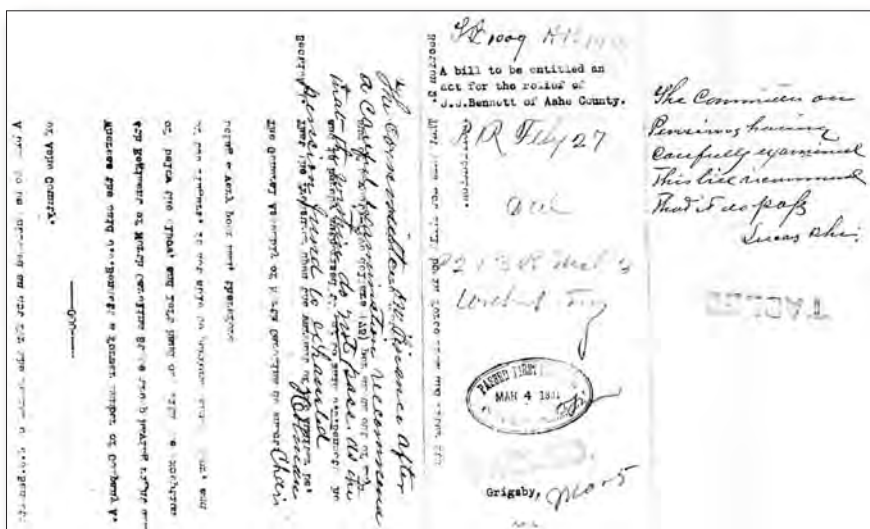
These records helped us with J.J. because though he lived in Iredell County when he served and died in Ashe County, he was in Wake County at the time of his payment; another locale

to check for additional records.

- Have you checked artificial limb records?

Legislative Petitions

It is clear that J.J. Bennett remained pretty poor the rest of his life. He tried several times to receive a pension from the state of North Carolina (he was ultimately successful as the 20th century dawned) and he also applied to the Old Soldiers Home (though was never admitted).



[NC] General Assembly Session Records 1891, Box 18, Folder: Senate Bills 1005-1076, State Archives of North Carolina, Natural and Cultural Resources, Raleigh, NC – SB 1009 HB 1464 – Bill on behalf of J. J. Bennett.

Pensions and related resources were not the only recourse available to a soldier disabled by war. With the aid of a legislator, "A bill to be entitled an act for the relief of J.J. Bennett of Ashe County" wound its way through

the legislature in 1891 (SB 1009 HB 1464). It was ultimately tabled and never resurrected – "The committee on finance after a careful examination recommends that the within do not pass as the pension fund is

exhausted." Even so, it provided additional details on J.J.'s circumstances in 1891.

- Have you pursued legislative records?

County Lists of Pensioners

With J.J., it took a while to figure out that he was in Ashe County. Why he ended up there, we may never know. He died living with a stranger and was buried on that person's farm.

That said, once he was placed there, I discovered extant annual records where those receiving a pension were listed on summaries provided to the state auditor – "This is to certify that persons named below, and who have been allowed Pensions under Chapter 198, Laws of 1889, and the Acts amendatory thereto, are still living and are entitled to the provisions of said Act."

As the years went by, these lists were updated to indicate those who died or moved to another jurisdiction. Given that death certificates were not yet required in NC (and wouldn't be fully available for decades), these lists are an excellent way to determine (within 1 year) when a person died. Such news was often NOT published in local newspapers. From this list, we know that J.J. died between Dec 1903 and Dec 1904.

- Did your locale publish lists of pensioners? Have you consulted these?

We've been digging in the goldmines that are non-military records related to those who served.

There are also records created at this time for those who did not serve. Let's look at a few of those.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
Office CLERK SUPERIOR COURT,
ASHE COUNTY,

1904.

B. F. DIXON,
Auditor of State.

SIR:—This is to certify that the persons named below, and who have been allowed Pensions under Chapter 198, Laws of 1889, and the Acts amendatory thereto, are still living and are entitled to the provisions of said Act.

SOLDIERS.

NAME	Co.	Reg't N. C. S. T.	Class	DISABLED BY	POST-OFFICE	REMARKS
Baldwin, Joseph	A	25	2	Lost leg above knee	Eugene	Dec 12/1904
Carter, I. M.	A	20	2	Lost leg off above knee	Grassy Creek	Dec 12/1904
Lyall, William	A	34	2	Right arm off above elbow	Transton	Dec 12/1904
Riehardson, J.	A	24	2	Arm off above elbow	Secksville	Dec 12/1904
Wayman, John W.	B	1 Cav.	2	Wounds	Jefferson	Dec 12/1904
Bennett, J. J.	A	4	3	Lost right arm below elbow	Secksville	Dec 12/1904
Blevins, Felix	A	26	3	Loss of foot	Weaver's Ford	Dec 12/1904
Boggs, Peter E.	A	9	3	Loss of leg below knee	Baldwin	Dec 12/1904
Blevins, Calvin	A	26	3	Right leg off below knee	Herritage	Dec 12/1904
Black, John	A	34	3	Left leg off below knee	Herritage	Dec 12/1904
Davis, Elijah	A	32	3	Left leg off below knee	Herritage	Dec 12/1904
Hanton, Lee	D	9	3	Lost left arm above elbow	Obids	Dec 12/1904
Hopkins, Palmer	C	1 Cav.	3	Lost left leg below knee	Baldwin	Dec 12/1904
Johnson, John A.	A	34	3	Wounds	Baldwin	Dec 12/1904
Loggins, Naman	A	26	3	Lost right leg below knee	Idol	Dec 12/1904
Miller, Jonathan B.	A	34	3	Wounds and disease	Transton	Dec 12/1904
Phipps, Nathan	A	26	3	Wounds	Weaver's Ford	Dec 12/1904
Fasley, W. J.	C	21	3	Wounds and disease	Transton	Dec 12/1904
Anderson, Floyd	A	37	4	Wounds	Sturgill	Dec 12/1904
Baldwin, Creed E.	A	5 Ky.	4	Disease	Todd	Dec 12/1904
Blackburn, John L.	I	1	4	Wounds	Baldwin	Dec 12/1904
Brown, Martin	I	John Manning	4	Disease	Nathan's Creek	Dec 12/1904
Blevins, Allen	F	26	4	Disease	Herritage	Dec 12/1904
Bare, John, Sr.	A	34	4	Disease	Wagoner	Dec 12/1904
Benge, Henry	B	35	4	Wounds	Obids	Dec 12/1904
Blevins, George	L	36	4	Disease	Silas Creek	Dec 12/1904
Blevins, Albert	L	36	4	Disease	Parsons	Dec 12/1904
Baker, M. T.	L	38	4	Wounds	Conceit	Dec 12/1904
Barker, K. M.	A	1	4	Disease	Eugene	Dec 12/1904
Brown, Matthias	A	34	4	Disease	Venus	Dec 12/1904
Church, Levi	A	63	4	Wounds	Wagoner	Dec 12/1904
Chappel, M. C.	F	62	4	Disease	Grayback	Dec 12/1904
Colvard, Jesse B.	A	0	4	Wounds	Obids	Dec 12/1904
Crowson, John C.	B	1	4	Disease	Othello	Dec 12/1904
Campbell, Hugh, X.	H	1	4	Disease	Bud	Dec 12/1904
Cockerham, E. V.	C	56	4	Wounds	Secksville	Dec 12/1904
Cole, D. F.	L	58	4	Wounds and disease	Bemboiland	Dec 12/1904
Dobler, W. H.	L	68	4	Wounds	Grayback	Dec 12/1904
Denny, C.	A	29	4	Disease	Linsay	Dec 12/1904
Davis, James	A	25	4	Disease	Parsons	Dec 12/1904
Davis, Elias	A	20	4	Wounds and disease	Parsons	Dec 12/1904
Dixon, J. D.	L	48	4	Wounds and disease	Secksville	Dec 12/1904
Duwall, Mastin	A	26	4	Wounds and disease	Berlin	Dec 12/1904
Edwards, Berry	I	61	4	Disease	Secksville	Dec 12/1904
Elliott, J. C.	A	68	4	Disease	Secksville	Dec 12/1904
Eldredge, Levi	A	63	4	Disease	Conet	Dec 12/1904
Eller, Jesse	A	9	4	Wounds and disease	Crumpler	Dec 12/1904
Farelotti, M. M.	L	58	4	Wounds and disease	Linsay	Dec 12/1904
Farrington, Munford	A	58	4	Wounds and disease	Idol	Dec 12/1904
Fowler, James A.	L	58	4	Wounds	Nathan's Creek	Dec 12/1904
Farrington, Madison	A	37	4	Wounds	Ore Knob	Dec 12/1904
Gentry, Joseph C.	A	68	4	Wounds	Idol	Dec 12/1904
Grimsley, J. M.	K	37	4	Wounds	Eugene	Dec 12/1904
Handy, F. M.	J	56	4	Hand disabled	Vernon	Dec 12/1904
Hudler, David	R	37	4	Disease	Kogee	Dec 12/1904
Hudler, John	B	37	4	Disease	Secksville	Dec 12/1904
Hurley, Andrew	A	37	4	Wounds	Husk	Dec 12/1904
Hurley, Jasper	A	20	4	Wounds	Silas Creek	Dec 12/1904
Hurley, William R.	A	20	4	Injury received in service	Silas Creek	Dec 12/1904
Harris, W. M.	L	52	4	Wounds	Silas Creek	Dec 12/1904
Ham, Alfred	F	55	4	Disease	Obids	Dec 12/1904
Houck, J. F.	L	4	4	Wounds	Herritage	Dec 12/1904
Houck, J. W.	A	28	4	Wounds	Herritage	Dec 12/1904
Hurley, Eliza	L	58	4	General disability	Othello	Dec 12/1904
Johnson, Thomas A.	A	9	4	Disease	Beaver Creek	Dec 12/1904
Jones, W. R.	A	37	4	Disease	Herritage	Dec 12/1904
Jones, Samuel	B	37	4	Disease	Aster	Dec 12/1904
Jones, James	H	1 Cav.	4	Disease	Vernon	Dec 12/1904
Jones, Robert	I	21 Va.	4	Disease	Parsons	Dec 12/1904
Kemp, Robert	C	3 Sen. Res.	4	Disease	Jefferson	Dec 12/1904
Krippa, Nathan	K	37	4	Wounds	Burt Hill	Dec 12/1904
Key, W. F.	F	37	4	Disease	Jefferson	Dec 12/1904
Kelly, F. C.	A	9	4	Disease	Beaver Creek	Dec 12/1904
Lathan, D. C.	A	0	4	Wounds	Trout	Dec 12/1904
Lovence, Andrew	L	58	4	Disease	Parsons	Dec 12/1904
Lyall, Alfred	L	24	4	Wounds	Transton	Dec 12/1904
McNeill, L. A.	G	66	4	Wounds	Berlin	Dec 12/1904
McClure, J. J.	I	30	4	Disease	Jefferson	Dec 12/1904
Malin, W. M.	I	21 Va.	4	Disease	Beaver Creek	Dec 12/1904
Miller, Henry	A	1 Cav.	4	Disease	Othello	Dec 12/1904
Nicholson, Joseph E.	C	20	4	Disease	Othello	Dec 12/1904
Pennington, O. H.	D	50 Va.	4	General disability	Sturgill	Dec 12/1904
Parsons, J. F.	A	9	4	Disease	Wilkes Co.	Dec 12/1904
Fasley, Wiley	A	9	4	Disease	New River	Dec 12/1904
Pendergrass, Harrison	B	6	4	Disease	Edison	Dec 12/1904
Pinner, J. R.	A	9	4	Disease	Crumpler	Dec 12/1904
Phipps, E. J.	C	21 Va. Cav.	4	Wounds and disease	Conceit	Dec 12/1904
Quinn, James	F	37	4	General disability	Conceit	Dec 12/1904
Quinn, James	A	34	4	Wounds	Secksville	Dec 12/1904

Ashe County, NC Pension Records, Folder: 1900-1903, C.R.006.923.1 & Folder: 1904-1905, State Archives of North Carolina, Natural and Cultural Resources, Raleigh, NC – J.J. Bennett noted as dec[ease]d.



RETURN OF

PRESIDENT in District No. 11, County of Bullock, State of Alabama, by the Board of Registration for the Election District, to possessors

No.	Name of Elector	NAME OF FUTURE	DATE		CLASS.	AGE OF RESIDENT.	
			1	2		In Years	In Months
1	John J. [unclear]	John J. [unclear]	1852	1852	Black	21	0
2	John J. [unclear]	John J. [unclear]	1852	1852	White	21	0
3	John J. [unclear]	John J. [unclear]	1852	1852	White	21	0
4	John J. [unclear]	John J. [unclear]	1852	1852	White	21	0
5	John J. [unclear]	John J. [unclear]	1852	1852	White	21	0
6	John J. [unclear]	John J. [unclear]	1852	1852	White	21	0
7	John J. [unclear]	John J. [unclear]	1852	1852	White	21	0
8	John J. [unclear]	John J. [unclear]	1852	1852	White	21	0
9	John J. [unclear]	John J. [unclear]	1852	1852	White	21	0
10	John J. [unclear]	John J. [unclear]	1852	1852	White	21	0

LEFT: Gilmer Maps, UNC Collection, Copy 2: map of a part of eastern North Carolina from a map in progress compiled from surveys and reconnaissances, <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/gilmer/id/56/rec/1> – note the names of individuals with their approximate location. RIGHT: Bullock County, Alabama, Return of Qualified Voters, www.archives.state.al.us/voterreg/images/9_V2_PG113.pdf — list of voters and whether white or black.

Provisions Supplied Indigent Families of Volunteers

Remember Samuel Jordan? The relationship between he and his wife appears to have been quite colorful – they were called before the court for “fornication and adultery”, though the charges were dropped when

Month	Item	Quantity	Value
Sept 1	2 lbs Sugar	40	1.00
Sept 2	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 3	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 4	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 5	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 6	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 7	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 8	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 9	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 10	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 11	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 12	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 13	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 14	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 15	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 16	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 17	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 18	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 19	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 20	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 21	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 22	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 23	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 24	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 25	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 26	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 27	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 28	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 29	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00
Sept 30	2 lbs Meal	40	1.00

Northampton County, Provisions Furnished Indigent Families, ND, 1861-1865, C.R.071.928.9, Folders 1862 & 1863, State Archives of North Carolina, Natural and Cultural Resources, Raleigh, NC – entry for Mrs. Sam(uel) D Jordan.

they were able to produce a marriage bond. Shortly thereafter, Samuel joined the war effort (whether he volunteered or was conscripted, we might never know) and he died 11 months later.

As soon as he joined up, his wife started receiving rations “Amt of Provisions furnished the Indigent families of Vollen-tiers in a part of Dist. No 2 from Sept to Decr Court 1864 By B Miles Comr”.

During this period, the wife of Samuel received bacon, meal, salt, and beef – commensurate with what other wives were receiving, with amounts based on family size.

- Have you pursued ration records or other types of poor relief records?

Maps

Though Civil War maps were obviously created to serve the military, this doesn’t mean that their utility stops there! The Gilmer and Hotchkiss Maps collections (see sidebar) as well as other resources provide great access to Civil War era maps.

I love to use these maps as a bridge from earlier maps to late 19th/early 20th century maps

(e.g., soil survey maps) to modern GIS maps. Name changes to landmarks and locales can challenge us to connect long ago metes and bounds descriptions to current day “where” is that land. I have found that the placements are not exact (and for military purposes, unnecessary) and they are pretty darn close. Your family not listed? Then look for whom they bought land from, whom they sold land to, who their neighbors were, etc. I have used these maps to facilitate locating the current location of documented 18th century land.

- Have you considered how Civil War maps might help your research?

1867 Voter Registration

Across the country in 1867, lists of Qualified Voters were created. These are the first lists to include, whites, what were free persons of color, AND freed slaves.

These records are readily available for several states online – AL (see included image), FL, www.floridamemory.com/collections/election1867, TX, www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/votersreg.html, and then as published abstracts/

transcriptions for other states (including North Carolina – North Carolina Extant Voter Registrations of 1867 by Frances Holloway Wynne). For NC, not all the records are extant and NOT all freed slaves are listed and there are many “black” individuals listed.

- *Have you checked out the 1867 Voter Registration records for your state?*

There are still many other records created and not discussed here that have relevance to your search into your Civil War era ancestors – Southern Claims, Union Citizens Files, Confederate Citizens Files, newspapers, freed slave marriage records, cemetery records, census records, pardons and parole records, vital records (marriages and deaths), Freedman’s Savings and Trust Company, and more – see the sidebar bibliography for guidance regarding some of these records.

Hopefully you now have an appreciation of the wealth of information possibly available to those researching Civil War era ancestors. Look beyond military service and pension records. Look beyond records for just the serving soldiers. This relatively short period of history generated many records invaluable to genealogists! Make sure that you are “mining” all of these records as you research your family history. ☞☞☞



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SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Civil War Era Genealogy Research

- NARA, www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war
 - Ancestry.com (\$), www.ancestry.com/cs/civilwarrecords
 - Fold3 (\$), <http://go.fold3.com/records/civil-war>
 - FamilySearch, <http://familysearch.org/civil-war>
 - National Park Service, Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System, www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-soldiers.htm
 - Southern Claims, Confederate & Union Citizens Files (check NARA, Ancestry.com, Fold3)
 - Library of Congress – Civil War Maps www.loc.gov/collection/civil-war-maps/about-this-collection
 - The NOAA Civil War collection www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/history/CivilWar
 - US Military Old Soldiers Home Records (FamilySearch Wiki), http://familysearch.org/wiki/en/US_Military_Old_Soldiers_Home_Records
 - Freedman’s Savings and Trust records (FamilySearch Wiki) http://familysearch.org/wiki/en/African_American_Freedman's_Savings_and_Trust_Company_Records
 - Have you gone out on a Limb? Have you researched your Civil War ancestors and his artificial limb(s)? (Upfront with NGS blog post), <http://upfront.ngsgenealogy.org/2015/12/have-you-gone-out-on-limb-have-you.html>
 - PA Civil War Era Newspaper Collection <http://digitalnewspapers.libraries.psu.edu/Default/Skins/civilwar/Client.asp?skin=civilwar&AW=1415734743909&AppName=2>
 - Harper’s Weekly Original Civil War Newspapers www.sonofthesouth.net/leefoundation/the-civil-war.htm
 - The Valley of the Shadow – Civil War-Era Newspapers (VA) <http://valley.lib.virginia.edu/VoS/newspapers/opening.html>
- Library of Virginia, Civil War, Newspapers
www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/Civil-War/Newspapers.htm
- Richmond Daily Dispatch, 1860-1865
<http://dlxs.richmond.edu/d/ddr>