



War of 1812 Online Resources

Diane L. Richard looks at the growing number of resources online and available for US and Canadian researchers

WITH THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WAR OF 1812 being celebrated the past few years (1812-1815), many are learning what I have known for years – it’s a conflict rarely talked about in the US (and much more popular when one tours Canada) and there are some neat records that survived and might prove invaluable to your genealogical research. The good news is, that a lot of War of 1812 records are becoming increasingly available, as never before, via the internet. And, I expect that by the time you read this article, there will be even more!

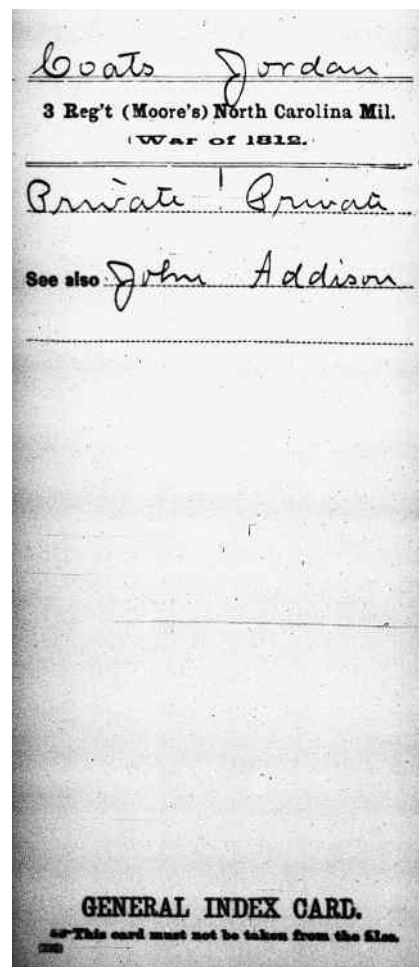
With many early 19th century records not extant, and a lot of movement occurring as individuals and families continued moving westward, these records can really be helpful in bridging from where a family ended up to where it started and also help fill in details of birth places, dates, marriage date and place, surviving children and much more!

For one patriot, Jordan Coat(e)s, after exhausting all the local extant records, it was through his widow’s War of 1812 bounty land application that we learned where and when he married and when he died. Both events for which NO other documentation has ever been found!

Like others though, until fairly recently, most of my military genealogy research focused on the Revolutionary War and Civil War with brief forays into the records of other conflicts. I now consider whether War of 1812 service is feasible and, if so, pursue the relevant records.

As with all online research, recognize that not all War of 1812 records are available online, or have even been published. This caveat is important since the War of 1812 records are relatively new to the web, and what is available is less complete than for other military record groups. Additionally, records, like *Unindexed Military Bounty Land Warrants and Related Papers* (NARA, Record Group 49), are just now being indexed, and are only available at NARA.

And, though more and more records for the War of 1812 are becoming available, they are NOT always indexed. Both FamilySearch and Ancestry.com have digitized records for which there is currently no index, as does Library and Archives Canada. Typically, newly digitized material is made available in a somewhat raw version and then as staff and/or volunteers are able, such records might be then indexed with the



Jordan Coats Service Card.

indexed entries eventually linked to the raw images. What this means for you, the researcher, is that you will just need to “browse” the appropriate “digital microfilm”



(often organized alphabetically) and that's no different than what we do when physically visiting an archive!

And, note, that some of the records are available at more than one website. Given differences in indexing (in terms of name spelling, information included, etc.), it can make sense to check more than one version of the "seemingly" same index. For one project, I examined at least 3 of the "same" indexes and it was the last one checked which indicated that the file of my soldier cross-referenced another soldier; the other indexes or versions of the document did not mention that as they were abstracts of the document and not an original of it. And, always better to find a reference more than once than not at all!

Below are "some" of the War of 1812 resources currently available to those researching War of 1812 ancestors in the US and Canada. The focus is on databases with some historical context resources.

ONLINE WAR OF 1812 RESOURCES (US)

War of 1812 Pensions – preserved and digitized, <https://go.fold3.com/1812pensions.php> [free] — an ongoing project to digitize all War of 1812 Pension Records (7.2 million pages) which is being funded by individual and organizational donations matched dollar for dollar by Ancestry.com. These records are housed on Fold3 and other partners are FGS and NARA. Read more about the Preserve the Pensions project, www.preservethespensions.org.

Now we'll take a look at the many resources available to you, as you sit at home, possibly in your jammies, while you research ancestors who may have served in the War of 1812.

1. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) [free]

- War of 1812 Discharge Certificates, www.archives.gov/research/military/war-of-1812/1812-discharge-certificates/discharge-certificates.html, including a list of soldiers by name, www.archives.gov/research/military/war-of-1812/1812-discharge-certificates/soldiers-by-name.html
- Where and how to do online ordering for War of 1812 Pension Files, Military Bounty Land Warrants, etc. via NARA, <http://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline/start.swe?SWECmd=Start&SWEHo=eservices.archives.gov>
- Learn more about the War of 1812 and the records created via this NARA website, "Military Resources: War of 1812", www.archives.gov/research/military/war-of-1812
- Learn more about the Unindexed Bounty Land Warrant Applications, <http://research.archives.gov/description/567388>

2. FamilySearch.org [free]

- United States, War of 1812 Index to Pension Application Files, 1812-1910, <http://familysearch.org/search/collection/1834325>
- United States, War of 1812 Index to Service Records, 1812-1815, www.familysearch.org/search/collection/show#uri=http://hr-search-api:8080/searchapi/search/collection/1916219

- Old War Pension Index, 1815-1926 — card index to pension files located at NARA for service in the Regular Army, Navy or Marine Corps between 1783 and 1861. NARA microfilm T316, <http://familysearch.org/search/collection/1979425>
- Various “state” records for this conflict, e.g. “Louisiana War of 1812 Pension Lists”
- Also check out the “War of 1812” wiki page for additional information about this conflict and resources, www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/War_of_1812,_1812_to_1815
- Louisiana War of 1812 Pension Lists, <http://familysearch.org/search/collection/1527724>

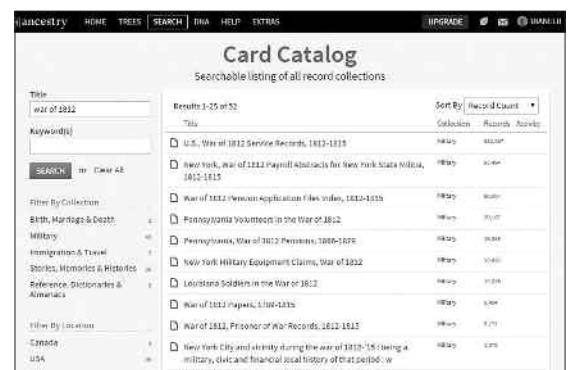
3. Search the Internet for a particular state or county + “War of 1812” or just on the “War of 1812” to see what you can find. See #6 for some NC-specific finds, and some of the gems I found for other states include:

- War of 1812 Roster of Ohio Soldiers (1,759 Officers & 24,521 enlisted men), <http://archive.org/details/rosterofohiosold00ohio> & U.S.D. 1812 Ohio Society Online Index to Grave Records of Servicemen of the War of 1812, State of Ohio, www.ohiodaughters1812.org/graveindex
- Illinois War of 1812 Veterans, www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases/war1812.html
- [Virginia] Index to War of 1812 Pay Rolls and Muster Rolls (~ 40,000 names), http://lva1.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/F/?func=file&file_name=find-b-clas12&local_base=CLAS12
- [Missouri] Soldiers’ Records: War of 1812 - World War I, www.sos.mo.gov/archives/soldiers
- Indiana Muster, Pay and Receipt Rolls, War of 1812, www.ulib.iupui.edu/collections/War1812
- War of 1812 Pensioners in Michigan, 1883, www.genealogycenter.info/search_michigan1812.php
- [Maine] Pensioners under the Act of 1816 (via Genealogy Quest) – select counties including Cumberland, <http://genealogy-quest.com/states/maine/1816-cumberland-county-maine>, Hancock, Kennebec, Lincoln, etc.) — Statement of the Names, etc. of the Heirs of non-commissioned Officers, Privates, etc., who died in the United States’ service, who obtained five years’ half-pay in lieu of bounty land, under the second section of the Act of April 16, 1816, and who resided in the State of Maine.
- [Pennsylvania] War of 1812 Soldier’s Index Pages, www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r2-61War1812Index/r2-61%20WarOf1812Interface.htm — Arranged alphabetically by surname of soldier. An undated list of soldiers who served during the War of 1812. The index lists each soldier’s name, term of service, and the name of the company commander. Written remarks noting desertions or the name of the battalions in which a militiaman served are also sometimes found.

4. Ancestry.com [subscription]

Databases mentioned

- War of 1812 Pension Application Files Index, 1812-1815, <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1133>
- War of 1812 Service Records, <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=4281>
- War of 1812 Military Bounty Land Warrants, 1815-1858; (NARA Microfilm Publication M848), <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1165>

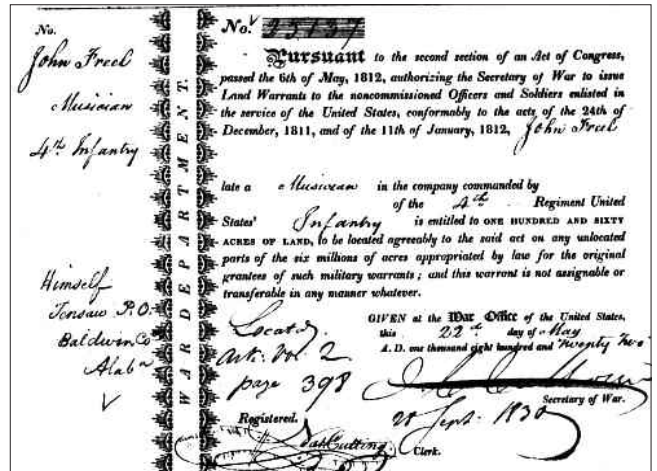


Ancestry.com Catalog search on “War of 1812” as part of title.



WAR OF 1812.		
Number	Soldier	Bounty Land
W. C. 8650	Soldier Jordan, Benjamin	63109 - 40 - 50
W. C. 5463	Widow Jordan, Mary	24144 - 120 - 55
Service Pvt., Capt. William Kevel's Co., Va. Ill.		
Enlisted Aug. 31, 1814 Discharged Nov. 30, 1814		
Residence of Soldier	1851, 1855, Highland Co., Ohio	Remarks Soldier served as a substitute for George
Residence of Widow	1875, Highland Co., (P.O. Sugar Tree Ridge) Ohio	Roads in the above organization. Soldier's
Married name of Widow	Mary Bacila	certificates of discharge on file.
MARRIAGE OF SOLDIER AND WIDOW DEC. 25, 1815, Highland Co., Ohio		
DEATH OF SOLDIER	Feb. 12, 1859, Brown Co., Ohio	
DEATH OF WIDOW	Sept. 5, 1879, Fairland, Shelby Co., Ind.	

Example of War of 1812 Pension Index Card – note that not all the cards are this detailed – many just list soldier, what unit served and pension/blw issued.

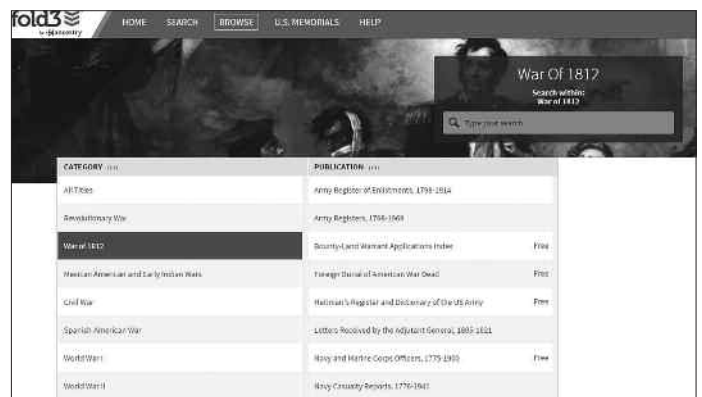


Example of a War of 1812 Military Bounty Land Warrant from NARA microfilm M848.

- Search catalog for “War of 1812” for additional material such as Prisoner of War, War of 1812 Papers and other relevant state-level collections (e.g. Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, et al).

5. Fold3 [mix of free & subscription], www.fold3.com/browse/247

- War of 1812 Pension files (already mentioned)
- War of 1812 Service Records (includes Creek & Chickasaw Indians), www.fold3.com/browse/276
- War of 1812 Society Applications (District of Columbia), www.fold3.com/browse/300
- and more



6. NC Specific – check for similar publications for your state [free unless otherwise indicated]

- War of 1812 Pay vouchers, <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16062coll7>. There is also a published Index to War of 1812 Vouchers (includes vouchers for 28 out of 68 counties at the time) in the NC Archives research room.



- AIC18, War of 1812 Records in the North Carolina State Archives (a finding aid), <http://nc1812.files.wordpress.com/2011/03/archives-1812-records.pdf>
- The State of NC has created a website dedicated to the War of 1812, <http://nc1812.wordpress.com>
- Military Collection, War of 1812 Records (a finding aid), http://archives.ncdcr.gov/Portals/26/PDF/findingaids/pdf/MilColl_Warof1812.pdf

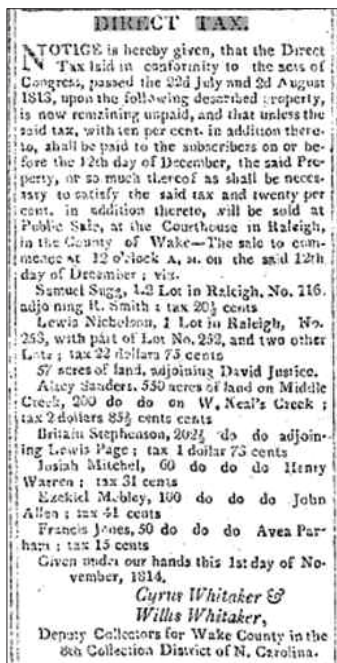
- Index – Muster rolls of the soldiers of the War of 1812: Detached from the Militia of North Carolina in 1812 and 1814, <http://archive.org/details/musterrollsof00nort> & (via Ancestry.com), <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=10166>
- [print volumes only – State Archives of North Carolina & State Library of North Carolina] Adjutant Generals Records, Index to the Manuscript Muster Rolls of the War of 1812 by Kendrick N. Simpson (1980)
- Online NC War of 1812 rosters — <http://files.usgwarchives.net/nc/statewide/military/1812roll.txt>
- North Carolina — The War of 1812, The Known Military Units from North Carolina, www.carolana.com/NC/1800s/antebellum/war_of_1812_military_units.html
- Abstract of pensions of North Carolina soldiers of the Revolution, War of 1812, & Indian Wars, <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=30057> (via Ancestry.com)
- North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal articles Index, www.ncgenealogy.org/publications/ncgs-journal/171-ncgs-journal-a-listing-of-articles-1/file — search on “War of 1812” though recognize that the Governors Papers for 1812-1815 would also have relevance.

7. Additional online collections relevant to War of 1812 research [free]

- Native Americans Mustered into the Service of the United States in the War of 1812 (USGenWeb Project), www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyrensse/indians.htm?cj=1&netid=cj&o_xid=0000584978&o_lid=0000584978&o_sch=Affiliate+External — Information on this page is from Index of Awards on Claims of the Soldiers of the War of 1812, compiled by the New York Adjutant General’s Office.
- N.S.U.S.D. of 1812 Ancestor Database (United States Daughters of 1812), www.usdaughters1812.org/dbLaunch.html — database contains over 40,943 records that have been officially verified by the National Society United States Daughters of 1812.
- Naval Officers in the War of 1812 (Naval History and Heritage Command), www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/organization-and-administration/historical-leadership/naval-officers-of-the-war-of-1812.html
- 1820 Pension List For Revolutionary or Military Services [also includes lists for 1813, 1818 and 1840], www.newhorizonsgenealogicalservices.com/1820-pension-list.htm
- General Society of the War of 1812, www.societyofthewarof1812.org, includes a timeline, links and state society information.
- Index to War of 1812 Pensions (Debbie Duay), www.learnwebskills.com/patriot/war1812pensions.htm — This ongoing project is part of the free tutorial “Researching Your Revolutionary War Patriot Ancestor”. Currently, this site provides a free index to over 32,000 War of 1812 pension application files for soldiers with last names beginning with the letters A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and H.

The screenshot shows the website for the Naval History and Heritage Command. The main heading is "Naval Officers in the War of 1812". Below the heading is a large image of a naval battle scene. To the right of the image is a search bar with the text "Connect with NHHHC" and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, and Flickr. Below the image is a list of historical leadership roles with expandable menus:

- Historical Leadership
 - Officers List
 - Office of the Secretary of the Navy
 - Fleet Commanders
 - District Commanders
 - Bureaus
 - Navy and Marine Corps Officers: 1775-1900
 - Naval Officers of the War of 1812
- Captains of the War of 1812 (Explore >>)
- Boatwains of the War of 1812 (Explore >>)
- Gunners of the War of 1812 (Explore >>)
- Carpenters of the War of 1812 (Explore >>)
- Sailmakers of the War of 1812
- Marine Corps Officers of the War of 1812



Raleigh (North Carolina) Register, and North-Carolina Gazette, November 18, 1814.

- A Guide to the War of 1812 (The Library of Congress), www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/1812
- Recognize that the Federal Direct Tax of 1816 was a means of financing the War of 1812, www.archives.com/experts/richard-l-diane/using-federal-direct-tax-records.html
- War of 1812: Privateers, www.1812privateers.org/index.html — Principally the activities of both American and British privateers; including listings of American POWS held in the UK, and British subjects held in the United States.
- US Army Center of Military History, War of 1812, www.history.army.mil/html/bookshelves/resmat/wo1812.html

One more note — Because of the way pensions were handled, some records for those who served in the War of 1812 are part of collections that also encompass those who served in the Revolutionary War. Two such databases are the 1820 Pension List for Revolutionary or Military Services, January 20, 1820, www.newhorizonsgenealogicalservices.com/1820-pension-list.htm and the 1840 Census for Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Services, June 1, 1840, www.newhorizonsgenealogicalservices.com/1840-census-of-pensioners.htm (both from New Horizons Genealogical Services).

ONLINE WAR OF 1812 RESOURCES (CANADA)

1. Search the internet for a particular province + "War of 1812"

2. Ancestry.com [subscription]

- Canada, Registers of Prisoners of War, 1803-1815, <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=30057>
- War of 1812: Miscellaneous Canadian Records, <http://search.ancestry.ca/search/db.aspx?dbid=6151>

3. FamilySearch – NO records as we go to press

4. Library and Archives of Canada [free]

- [NEW Dec 2015] Library and Archives of Canada (LAC) – War of 1812 Database, www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/war-of-1812/Pages/introduction.aspx — There are no service files for the Canadian militia; however, Library and Archives Canada (LAC) holds a unique and vast collection of records about the Canadian men and women who were involved in the War of 1812. Their names can be found on muster rolls, pay lists, claims, certificates of service, land grants, and medal registers.

Item: Asa JONES (7837)

Given Name(s):	Asa
Surname:	JONES
Rank:	Private
Unit:	Incorporated Battalion of Militia of Upper Canada
Record Title:	A Return of the Incorporated Battalion of Militia of Upper Canada entitled to land for soldiers during the late War with the United States of America
Volume Number:	1
Page Number:	6
Fonds:	Incorporated Battalion of Militia, Canada West Collection
Reference:	MG24 G37
Item Number:	7837
Mikan Number:	99726

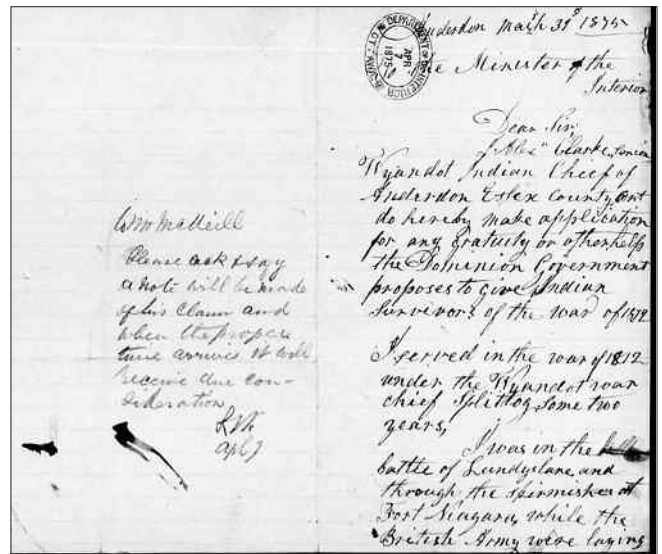
Entry from Library and Archives of Canada War of 1812 Database.

- Microform Digitization, War of 1812, www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/news/pages/new-digitized-reels-war-of-1812-records.aspx
- War of 1812: Board of Claims for Losses, 1813-1848, RG 19 E5A
- War of 1812: Lower Canada Nominal Rolls and Paylists, RG 9 1A7
- War of 1812: Miscellaneous Records
- War of 1812: Upper Canada Returns, Nominal Rolls and Paylists, RG 9 1B7
- Main website on The War of 1812, www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/military/025002-2100-e.html [archived though accessible]
- Canada in the War of 1812 (FamilySearch Wiki), http://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Canada_in_the_War_of_1812

Account of Money paid to Militiamen Discharged from Captain James Mackin's or Third Company; Being twenty days full pay allowed them after their Discharge.

Rank	Names	Pay	Gratuity	Comment
1st Lt	Etienne Dupont	20	16	8
2nd Lt	Jean B. Collet	20	16	8
Capt	Enoie Beloin	20	16	8
3rd Lt	Jean B. Dubois	20	16	8
4th Lt	Jean B. Fontelle	20	16	8
5th Lt	Jean B. Lefebvre	20	16	8
Sgt	Francois Bisson	20	16	8
6th Lt	Jean B. Beloin	20	16	8
7th Lt	Francois Cole	20	16	8
8th Lt	Andoine Cartier	20	16	8
9th Lt	Charles Aronoff	20	16	8
10th Lt	Pierre Ducharme	20	16	8
11th Lt	Christien Droque	20	16	8
12th Lt	Maxime Ducharme	20	16	8
13th Lt	Antoine Gauthier	20	16	8
14th Lt	Jean Gauthier	20	16	8
15th Lt	Jean B. Gauthier	20	16	8
16th Lt	Dominus Gauthier	20	16	8
17th Lt	Jean B. Gauthier	20	16	8
18th Lt	Augustin Jacques	20	16	8
19th Lt	Benojamin Lefebvre	20	16	8
20th Lt	Jean Lefebvre	20	16	8
21st Lt	Francois Lefebvre	20	16	8
22nd Lt	Andoine Lefebvre	20	16	8
23rd Lt	Jean B. Lefebvre	20	16	8
24th Lt	Francois Lefebvre	20	16	8
25th Lt	Jean B. Lefebvre	20	16	8
26th Lt	Francois Lefebvre	20	16	8
27th Lt	Jean B. Lefebvre	20	16	8
28th Lt	Francois Lefebvre	20	16	8
29th Lt	Jean B. Lefebvre	20	16	8
30th Lt	Francois Lefebvre	20	16	8
31st Lt	Jean B. Lefebvre	20	16	8
32nd Lt	Francois Lefebvre	20	16	8
33rd Lt	Jean B. Lefebvre	20	16	8
34th Lt	Francois Lefebvre	20	16	8
35th Lt	Jean B. Lefebvre	20	16	8
36th Lt	Francois Lefebvre	20	16	8
		24	2	11

Canadian War of 1812 Paylist from RG 9 1A7 from www.collectionscanada.gc.ca.



Gratuity Application by Alexander Clark, a Wyandot Indian Chief and Survivor of the War of 1812 found in Library and Archives Canada, RG10 (Indian Affairs).

- Great overview of what types of records of interest to genealogists are extant for the British Colonial Era, including War of 1812 Muster Rolls for Upper (Ontario) and Lower (Quebec) Canada, www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/Pages/british-colonial-era.aspx
- Do a general search of the Library and Archives Canada as all War of 1812 documents are not necessarily in the aforementioned collections. I found "Claim of Alexander Clark to a Gratuity, Being a Survivor of the War of 1812-1814" as part of an Indian Affairs (RG10, Volume 1957, File 4669) collection.

As with all lists, it's impossible to be comprehensive and hopefully you are now inspired to further research your War of 1812 ancestor. Whether stuck or not in your research, if you have an ancestor who could have served in the War of 1812, thoroughly look into these records – you too may find some hidden gems of information! ☺

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