

## Lead the Charge: Go Social With Your Military Research

M. M. McMahon, Ph.D.

BCGS

<http://aweekofgenealogy.com>  
[facebook.com/AWeekOfGenealogy](https://www.facebook.com/AWeekOfGenealogy)

### Military Organizations

Services have command structures

Research ancestor at different levels

The squadron or company

Move up to the larger organization(s)

Regiment or vessel history

NOTE: These techniques can be used in other research that includes communities

### Command Structures

Army <https://www.defense.gov/Experience/Military-Units/Army/#army>

Navy <https://www.defense.gov/Experience/Military-Units/Navy/#636>

Marines <https://www.defense.gov/Experience/Military-Units/Marine-Corps/#nav>

Air Force <https://www.defense.gov/Experience/Military-Units/Air-Force/#air-force>

Army: Army Group, Army Region, Field Army, Corps, Division, Regiment, Battalion, Company, Platoon, Squad, Team

Navy (Operational): Combatant Commands, Component Commands, Numbered Fleets, By Tasks, Major Deployable Units, Vessels (Departments, Divisions), Aviation Units (Air Wing, Squadron, Aviation Unit)

Marine Corps: Marine Division, Regiment, Battalion, Company, Platoon, Squad, Fire Team

Air Force: Major Command, Numbered Air Force (Geographic), Wing, Group, Squadron, Flight, Section

**#1 Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com>

There are groups for many interests

Military, dedicated to: Specific war, Specific battle(s), Specific countries, Libraries, museums, and archives, Military organizations - Army, Division, Regiments, Battalions, Companies, Locations- troop camps, quartered, battles

Group – Community, Share photos, Share memories, Collaborate, Share files

Private Group - Membership Questions, Keep Spammers Out

Search for military organizations at all levels

Like relevant pages or join groups, follow the rules for posting

Optional: Start a page about your interest

Interact with larger communities

Connect to larger groups

**#2 Twitter** <https://twitter.com>

Follow experts in the area, Follow repostories for new developments

When you follow: Learn from them, Look for opportunities to interact, They may follow you, They may retweet your post(s)

### **#3 Find A Grave**     <https://www.findagrave.com>

Virtual Cemeteries - Graves must be part of Find A Grave, Publicly Visible

Way to honor the veterans, Way to connect with their descendants

If no memorial check National Gravesite Locator and create one <https://gravelocator.cem.va.gov>

### **#4 ebay**                     <https://www.ebay.com>

Be careful with search terms

Images copyrighted by the lister

### **#5 History Hub**         <https://historyhub.history.gov>

NARA sponsored crowdsourcing platform

Ask, share, collaborate with NARA experts, History enthusiasts, Citizen archivists

During COVID-19 shutdown still monitored remote research inquiries and requests

Community: Military Records         <https://historyhub.history.gov/community/military-records>

NARA Videos relating to Military Records     <https://historyhub.history.gov/docs/DOC-1391>

### **#6 email**

Contact State Archives/Libraries, Museums, Reunion organizations, Military History Societies

### **#7 Military Reunions and Lineage**

Organizations will have historian(s)

Military Reunions Network

<https://militaryreunionnetwork.com/upcoming-reunions/#!/directory>

Alliance of Military Reunions         <https://www.allmilitaryreunions.org/index.htm>

U.S. Army Center of Military History (CMH)     <https://history.army.mil/>

Lineage and Honors Information             <https://history.army.mil/html/forcestruc/lh.html>

### **#8 Start A Blog**

Publish content about your military ancestors - Share information you wished you had known

Share permanent links on social media – Facebook, Twitter

Blogger         <https://www.blogger.com/>

Wix Blog         <https://www.wix.com/html5us/hiker-blog>

### **#9 Build A Website**

Find a web hosting service, Register a domain name, Manage a website

OR Create a website on existing platform

How to use Google Sites         <https://support.google.com/sites/answer/6372878?hl=en>

Wix                     <https://www.wix.com/freesitebuilder/hiker-builder>

Note: A website can host a blog

### **#10 Write A Book**

Self-publish electronic or paperback book - Kindle (Amazon), Blurb, Lulu

Use blog content as basis Or write a young readers book

Our eBooks and Books online at:

<https://www.amazon.com/author/margaret.m.mcmahon>

RootsTech Class: Write Their Story: From Timeline to Young Readers Book

[www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rtc2021/series/write-their-story-from-timeline-to-young-readers-book](http://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rtc2021/series/write-their-story-from-timeline-to-young-readers-book)

