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Circular No. 7 – Military Records II

The military records at the Archives of Michigan relate to several aspects of military service and its impact on veterans. Among these are the benefits available to service personnel and their families. Listed in this circular are records relating to these facets of military service which are not necessarily geared to any one specific war.

Fraternal Organizations

Fraternal organizations were formed for Civil War soldiers and Spanish-American War soldiers. Located in the counties, the local posts of the Grand Army of the Republic -- an association of Civil War veterans -- provided reports to the State Department Headquarters. These muster rolls contain names of members and information on their military history, as well as other details. The United Spanish War Veterans was organized in 1904 as an organization for Spanish-American War soldiers. The camp records of the USWV contain the majority of information on members. The twenty-one different types of records in this series include applications for charter, applications for membership (providing name of individual, name and post number of camp, age, etc.), membership lists, and muster rolls. The records for these two organizations can be seen at the Archives under the following record groups.

<u>Record Group</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates</u>
RG 63-19	Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)	1876-1945
RG 84-88	Management & Budget (United Spanish War Veterans)	1898-1985

Veteran's Facility

Originally called the Soldier and Sailor's Home, the facility was established to meet the needs of persons who had served in the Civil War. The facility cared for honorably discharged men who were disabled in some fashion and who had no adequate means of support. After World War I, services needed to be expanded for veterans who had served in the armed forces during wars up to that time. Services were first extended to women in 1893 to include ex-nurses, wives, and mothers of soldiers; then again in 1921 to include the widow, wife, or mother of any honorably discharged soldier through World War I. Also, after World War I rehabilitation of veterans was emphasized more than the home aspect of the facility. In January of 1945, the name was changed to the State Veteran's Facility. Since the establishment of the U.S. Veterans Administration, the home was operated in conjunction with that agency, which requires abiding by the rules and regulations of the federal government. The rules on admission now affect honorably discharged veterans of all wars in which the United States has been, is, or hereafter shall be engaged.

The Veteran's Facility acted as an independent agency until 1965 when the present Department of Public Health was created by Public Act 380 of 1965. At that time the agency and its' Board of Managers was placed under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Health. In 1991 control over the Facility was transferred from Public Health to the Department of Military Affairs.



Indexes to Members, 1885-1986

Men, 1885-1977. Numbers 1-19,999. Includes name of resident, assigned number, and death date for some individuals. Arranged alphabetically by name. Microfilm reel 5479.

Women, 1894-1986. A-Z. Includes name of individual, admission numbers, and remarks relating mainly to date of death. Arranged alphabetically. Microfilm reel 5910.

Register of Inhabitants, 1885-1927

Offers name of inhabitant, military history, information on nearest relative, date and cause of discharge, date and cause of death, etc. Volumes relating to Women's Building show relationship to veteran. Arranged numerically. Males: 1-7500, 1885-1920. Microfilm reels 688-695. Females: 1-1500, 1894-1927. Microfilm reels 695-696.

Case Files Relating to Men, 1885-1982

Early files provide applications for admission and readmission to the facility. A short military history is included on the application. Late in 1924 the case files expanded to include correspondence relating to each individual, completed application forms for admission to the facility, and discharge papers. Together these documents provide a good deal of personal information about veterans seeking to live at the home. Such data include military history, physical characteristics, and details about the immediate family. Arranged numerically.

<u>Record Group</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates</u>	<u>Case Files</u>
RG 64-20	1885-1924	1-7909
RG 82-22	1924-1952	7910-14999
RG 85-47	1952-1982	15000-20999

Case Files Relating to Women, 1894-1980

Case files of women accepted for membership in the facility. Women who were wives, widows, or mothers of veterans, or who were veterans in their own right, were entitled to membership in the facility. Early files provide applications for admission and re-admission to the facility. A short history of the individual's military history or connection to the husband's military affiliation is included. In 1929 the files were expanded to include original or subsequent applications for admission to the home. They may also include the veteran's honorable discharge from military service, marriage certificate, notice of death, statement of next of kin, and correspondence relating to the individual's physical condition and personal affairs. Arranged numerically by registration number.

<u>Record Group</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates</u>	<u>Case Files</u>
RG 64-20	1894-1929	1-1619
RG 74-83	1929-1956	1620-2551
RG 86-55	1956-1980	2552-2654



Recap of Veteran's Facility Records, 1885-1986**Men's Records, 1885-1982**

<u>Record Group</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Case Numbers</u>	<u>Reel Numbers</u>
RG 64-20	1	1885-1920	1-7500 (Men's register)	688-695
	12	1885-1924	1-7909 (Case files)	698-757
RG 82-22	1	1924-1952	7910-14999 (Case files)	-----
RG 85-47	1	1952-1982	15000-20000 (Case files)	-----
RG 84-93	1	1885-1977	1-19999 (Men's index)	5479

Women's Records, 1894-1986

<u>Record Group</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Case Numbers</u>	<u>Reel Numbers</u>
RG 64-20	1	1894-1927	1-15000 (Women's register)	695-696
	12	1894-1929	1-1619 (Case files)	757-771
RG 74-83	25	1929-1956	1620-2551 (Case files)	-----
RG 86-55	1	1956-1980	2552-2654 (Case files)	-----
RG 86-103	1	1894-1986	A-Z (Women's index)	5910