



Military Service during the Winnebago Indian Disturbances of 1827

Resentment against lead mining operations on Winnebago lands east of the Mississippi River led to hostilities. On June 26, 1827, four Winnebago Indians attacked a farm house at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, killing two men and scalping a child. To protect the miners and other settlers, four companies of volunteers were formed; the settlers requested additional support from Illinois and the regular U.S. Army. By September 1, 1827, most of the troops had reached the center of hostilities and although prepared for battle, only a few small skirmishes took place. Seven days later, surrounded by troops, the Winnebago chiefs surrendered and agreed to hand over the six Indians responsible for the attacks.

Compiled Military Service Records (CMSRs)

In the 1890s, the Department of War used numerous sources, such as muster rolls, descriptive rolls, and pay rolls to create compiled military service records. These records generally show when a soldier joined a unit and if he was present when the unit was mustered.

___M629, *Index to Compiled Military Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the Indian Wars and Disturbances, 1815–1858*. 42 rolls. DP. Arranged alphabetically by soldier's surname. Each index card gives the name of the soldier, his rank, and the name of the war or disturbance, as well as the unit or units, in which he served. There are cross-references for names that appear in the records under more than one spelling.

___M1505, *Compiled Military Service Records of Michigan and Illinois Volunteers Who Served During the Winnebago Indian Disturbances of 1827*. 3 rolls. DP. Arranged by state and then alphabetically by soldier's surname. Records for soldiers from Illinois are indexed on rolls 1–2; soldiers from Michigan are indexed on roll 3.

Service in the Regular Army

For more information, see the following reference reports:

- *Officers in the Regular Army, 1789–1916*
- *Enlisted Service in the Regular Army, 1789–1914*

Pension Records

A veteran's pension file can include his rank, place of residence, age or date of birth, and time of service. A widow's application can also include her place of residence, her maiden name, the date and place of marriage, the date and place of her husband's death, and the names of children under 16. A child's or heir's file contains information about both the veteran and the widow, as well as the child's place of residence, date of birth, and the date and place of the widow's death.

___T316, *Old War Index to Pension Files, 1815–1926*. 7 rolls. Arranged alphabetically by the claimant's surname. This series indexes claims based on disability or death for primarily regular army, navy, and marine corps service. The cards show the name of veteran; the name and type of

dependent, if any; unit; application numbers, certificate numbers and in some cases file numbers; and the state from which the claim was made.

___T318, *Index to Indian War Pension Files, 1892–1926*. 12 rolls. Arranged alphabetically. This card index relates to service in the Indian campaigns, 1817–1898. It gives the name of the veteran, name and type of dependent, service dates, application numbers, certificate numbers for approved claims, and the state from where the claim was made.

Remarried Widows

Some widows drew pensions from the service of multiple husbands. In this case the pension application information for all soldiers is usually included in a single file, under the surname of the most recent husband. The index includes the name of the claimant, the name of the soldier and his service (unit), and the pension number.

___M1784, *Index to Pension Application Files of Remarried Widows Based on Service in the War of 1812, Indian Wars, Mexican War, and Regular Army before 1861*. 1 roll. DP. Arranged alphabetically by the widow's surname. Widows could draw pensions for the service of two or more soldiers.

Military Correspondence Files

Although some of these files do not include information about individual soldiers, they contain documents describing the highlights of the Winnebago Disturbances.

Registers to Letters Received

___M22, *Registers of Letters Received by the Office of the Secretary of War, Main Series, 1801–1870*. 134 rolls. DP. Arranged by date. The register gives the name of the office or correspondent, the date of the letter, the place from which it was sent, the date of receipt, the assigned file number, and an abstract of its contents.

___M711, *Registers of Letters Received, Office of the Adjutant General (Main Series), 1812–1889*. 85 rolls. DP. Arranged alphabetically by the initial letter of the surname or office of the writer and then chronologically by date of receipt. The registers include cross-reference entries that show the date received, the file number, and the name of the person or subject of primary concern.

Letters Received

___M221, *Letters Received by the Office of the Secretary of War, Main Series, 1801–1870*. 317 rolls. DP. Arranged by date and then by file number. See Roll 106, File 187 B 1827 for letters relating to the Winnebago Disturbance.

___M567, *Letters Received by the Office of the Adjutant General (Main Series), 1822–1860*. 636 rolls. DP. Arranged by date and then by file number. See Roll 25, File 78 A 1827 (Begins at frame 292); File 100 A 1827 (File pertains to Private Robert Allison. Begins at frame 354); and File 101 A 1827 (Begins at frame 359) for letters relating to the Winnebago Disturbance.

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