

973.74M3  
C732  
1906

STATE LIBRARY OF MASSACHUSETTS  
PUBLIC DOCUMENT HOUSE, BOSTON . . . . No. 66.  
JAN 3 1907

REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS  
ON  
WAR RECORDS.

JANUARY, 1907  
STATE LIBRARY  
OF  
MASSACHUSETTS



BOSTON:  
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,  
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.  
1907.

STATE LIBRARY  
TO  
ATTORNEYS



REPORT

OF THE

*Mass.*

COMMISSIONERS

ON

WAR RECORDS.

JANUARY, 1907.



BOSTON:

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,  
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.

1907.

*U.*

APPROVED BY  
THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

WASSEL STATE  
TO  
ATTORNEYS

973.74M3

C732

1906

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

---

### REPORT.

---

The Commissioners on War Records have the honor to submit the following report:—

The work of the Bureau of War Records during the past year has been prolific of results which will prove their value in the final summing up for publication.

The carding of muster-in rolls of all the long-term regiments of infantry, artillery, cavalry and batteries of light artillery is finished. Those of the twenty-six regiments and thirty-six companies of infantry and three batteries of artillery of the militia in the service of the United States for various terms are well on the way to completion. All these have been carefully compared and read over by competent men.

Connections of service of the same individuals have been ascertained, and made with the greatest care. These are of the utmost value in establishing the good service of each individual in *all* his terms of service. In many cases men served not only in Massachusetts organizations, but in those of other States or the regular establishment or the navy also. The law requires that each man's *entire* service shall be given. Unless his whole service, through all his terms of enlistment, was honorable, he is ineligible for State aid or any soldiers' home. His widow also is debarred from aid on account of her husband's service unless he was mustered out honorably from every term of service.

The carding of the enlistment papers has been finished.

A large amount of work has been done on the sworn lists of cities and towns of men furnished on calls.

## NAVY.

This work has been very satisfactorily advanced. The great number of men still without finals or proper connections on the lists has been reduced as much as could have been hoped. This work entails the utmost care and untiring investigation. As heretofore, every aid has been afforded by the Navy Department. During the year the names of many men, hitherto unknown as sailors serving in the navy from this Commonwealth during the civil war, have been added to the list.

It should be borne in mind that the work of this Bureau is not only the preparation for publication for simply historical purposes, but also for the immediate and effective correction of errors or omissions in the Adjutant-General's records, and the discovery and addition to the record of services of individuals both in army and navy which have not previously been known. And this is of present value in assuring the correctness of the certificates of service which are daily called for in such numbers, the accuracy of which is so important not only to the soldier and sailor or to his widow but to the Commonwealth itself, which up to the present time has paid out about \$32,000,000, and is now paying \$800,000 to \$900,000 per annum in State and military aid.

The number of Massachusetts men whose records have heretofore been unknown and unrecognized proves to be far greater than could have been suspected at this late period; and the interested and valued co-operation of the able keeper of archives of the Adjutant-General, the intelligent investigation of the assistants in the Bureau, together with the courteous help from the State Aid Department, is bringing very satisfactory results.

It may be well to call attention to the fact that this Bureau, when organized, took over work for some years previously performed by the clerks of the Adjutant-General's office especially appointed for the purpose, and under special salaries which were included in the Adjutant-General's appropriations for the year, — these clerks being peculiarly



fitted for the work to be done. They and their duties were transferred to this Bureau, to its great advantage, and their salaries, ceasing in the office of the Adjutant-General, were thereafter included in the appropriation for the War Records Bureau; so that the appropriation for carrying on this Bureau is not represented as an additional expense of \$10,000 to the Commonwealth, but amounts to the payment of only \$5,750 annually more than the sum formerly expended in the office of the Adjutant-General for a relatively small proportion of the work now being done by the War Records Bureau.

The Adjutant-General's office is also relieved almost entirely of the burden of correspondence necessary in the correction of the records of both soldiers and sailors, such being carried on by this Bureau.

The careful and painstaking services of the compiler and his assistants should be acknowledged, and the compiler desires that the value of the intelligent investigation which accompanies the routine of the work of the assistants should be recognized. The clerks are not merely copyists of rolls, but where doubtful questions arise they exhibit marked interest in establishing the facts in every instance. They are men who were in every case selected for their experience and character, and have proved the fitness of their appointments.

The stenographer and typewriter is the only woman who has passed a civil service examination in the knowledge of military rolls, and has shown most satisfactory ability in the performance of the work entrusted to her, which is not only the listing of sailors in the navy from this Commonwealth, but will prove to be a valuable card index for future use in the department of the Adjutant-General.

JAMES A. FRYE.

WM. M. OLIN.

HENRY E. TURNER.













