

# US and NY State Military Medals and Decorations

## Reference Guide for Local and Family Historians

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Some of these publications are obscure and were published in limited quantities. In addition, many are not commonly found in area libraries. Therefore the ISBN numbers are provided where they are known. Those numbers should make most of these references easier to order, locate in databases, order from booksellers, or borrow through Interlibrary Loan. ISBN numbers are listed here exactly as they were printed in the original publication. These books are often kept in the reference sections of local libraries.

A few of these resources include information about badges, patches, and other awards and insignia. Other reference sources relating to uniform insignia alone are not included since this list is meant to be a guide to recognizing, researching, and understanding our federal and state medals and decorations.

Aldebol, Anthony. ***Decorations, Medals, Ribbons, Badges and Insignia of the United States Air Force. World War II to Present.*** 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Fountain Inn, SC. Medals of America Press. 1999. [ISBN# 1-884452-05-1]

Profusely illustrated in black & white and color, this book includes medals, ribbons and other types of awards. Brief statements of qualifications are included.

Borch, Fred L. ***The Bronze Star Medal.*** Monograph Series. Orders and Medals Society of America. n. p. 1994.

In depth coverage of the development of the Bronze Star Medal and associated documents since World War II.

This project is supported by Documentary Heritage Program (DHP) funds provided by the New York State Archives, State Education Department.

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Borch, Fred L. and Charles P. McDowell. **Sea Service Medals. Military Awards and Decorations of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.** Annapolis, Md. Naval Institute Press. 2009. [ISBN# 1-59114-089-4]

A good reference for background information on the development of the US system of medals for naval service, it has many color illustrations of awards.

Borthick, David and Jack Britton. **Medals, Military and Civilian of the United States.** Tulsa, Ok. McN Press. 1984. [ISBN# 0-912958-25-1 (hardcover); 0-912958-26-X (soft cover)]

Black & white line drawings illustrate this publication except for several color pages of ribbons. Medals of federal civilian agencies are included, however many new awards have been created since the date of this publication.

Boyce, Doug, Gary Hartman and Nick McDowell. **For Merit, Service, and Valor: A History of Some New York Military Decorations and Awards and their Recipients (1915 to 1983).** Monograph No. 23. 2 vols. San Ramon, CA. Orders and Medals Society of America. 2008. [Vol. I: ISBN# 978-1-890974-23-7; Vol II: ISBN# 978-1-890974-24-4]

Color illustrations of variations in New York State medals issued since 1898. Of greatest use are the lists of medal numbers identifying recipients of awards like the World War I service medal and the Conspicuous Service Cross. Authoritative coverage published by the respected Orders and Medals society of America.

Carroll, John M. (comp; ed). **The Indian Wars Campaign Medal: Its History and its Recipients.** Bryan, TX. Privately printed. [1979]

This book includes a short history of the award and an extensive list of originally issued medals by number and recipient.

Editors of the Boston Pub. Co. **Above and Beyond: A History of the Medal of Honor from the Civil War to Vietnam.** Boston, Ma. Boston Pub. Co. 1985. [ISBN# 0-939526-19-0]

A well-illustrated book, the majority of the coverage is coverage of the kind of actions that were recognized in each conflict. Specific recipients are cited as examples. At the end is the official Medal of Honor Roll as it was in 1985.

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Foster, Frank and Lawrence Borts. ***A Complete Guide to All United States Military Medals 1939 to Present. All Decorations, Service Medals, Ribbons and Commonly Awarded Allied Medals of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard.*** Fountain Inn, SC. Medals of America Press. 2002. [ISBN# 1-884452-18-3 (hardcover); 1-884452-19-1 (softcover)]

Profusely illustrated in black & white and color, this book includes medals, ribbons and other types of awards. Brief statements of qualifications are included.

Foster, Frank C. ***The Decorations, Medals, Ribbons, Badges and Insignia of the United States Army. World War II to Present.*** Fountain Inn, SC. Medals of America Press. 2001. [ISBN# 1-884452-56-6 (hardcover); 1-884452-57-4 (softcover)]

Profusely illustrated in black & white and color, this book includes medals, ribbons and other types of awards. Brief statements of qualifications are included.

Fowler, Will and Evans E. Kerrigan. ***American Military Insignia, Medals and Decorations.*** Edison, NJ. Chartwell Books. 1995. [ISBN# 0785804757]

This publication provides brief coverage of medals and many other types of insignia. Many color illustrations.

[Gleim, Albert F.] ***Reprinted Citation Orders. General Headquarters. American Expeditionary Forces.*** [Arlington, Va.] Privately printed. 1982.

Approximately 6000 men are named in these orders. The names are arranged in alphabetical order by each of ten citation orders dated 1919-1920. These orders authorize the wearing of a silver citation star on the Victory Medal. That award was later converted to the Silver Star Medal. This is a valuable guide to the recipients of the Silver Star in World War I.

Gleim, Albert F. ***The Certificate of Merit. US Army Distinguished Service Award 1847-1918.*** Arlington, Va. Privately printed. 1979.

A very useful book, this publication provides a list of recipients of the original Certificate as well as the later Certificate of Merit Medal. The names are listed chronologically with a brief citation. There is an alphabetical index. Of particular use is the citation of orders authorizing the award in each case.

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Gleim, Albert F. "**Unclaimed Sampson Medals.**" Arlington, Va. Planchet Press. 1985.

A brief publication, this is a list of Sampson Medals unclaimed after the Spanish-American War. It is basically a reproduction of a Navy Department publication. The names of the sailors and marines are organized by ship.

Harris, Bill. **The Congressional Medal of Honor.** New York. Portland House. 1990. [ISBN# 0-517-69323-2]

Profusely illustrated with examples of recipients from each conflict, the book includes the official Medal of Honor Roll at the back.

Harris, George B. III and Daniel F. Collins (ed). **United States Decorations, Awards & Medals...** Part II. Margate, Fl. Norlon Pub. nd. [ISBN# 1-871710-02-2]

A small publication, it includes many black & white illustrations of awards dating from the Civil War to World War II. Only medals of the Navy and Marine Corps are covered in this part of the total publication.

Kerrigan, Evans E. **American Medals and Decorations.** New York. Mallard Press. An imprint of BDD Promotional Book Co. 1990. [ISBN# 0-792-45082-5]

Profusely illustrated in color. An update of Kerrigan's 1971 book. An excellent general reference.

Kerrigan, Evans E. **American War Medals and Decorations.** New York. Viking Press. 1971. [ISBN# 0670121010]

Revision of 1964 edition illustrated with mostly line drawings.

Kerrigan, Evans E. **American War Medals and Decorations.** New York. Viking Press. 1964.

Illustrated with mostly line drawings. Authorizing documents are cited.

Kerrigan, Evans E. ***The Sea Shall Not Have Them. A Complete Illustrated Record of the Life-Saving Medals of the United States.*** Noroton Heights, Ct. Medallie Pub. Co. 1971.

This complete list (to 1971) of recipients of the Gold and Silver Life Saving Medals is a very useful reference since it lists the names by date and location of action. While the medal was originally presented primarily to members of the US Lifesaving Service, it is now presented to many civilians now. Awards of the medal are now made by the Coast Guard. The medal is recognized by all services as a *defacto* military award. Many medals were made for rescues along the Great Lakes, including several at or near Rochester.

Lelle, John E. ***The Brevet Medal.*** Springfield, Va. Quest Pub. Co. 1998. [ISBN# 0-915779-02-1]

The Brevet Medal was used only by the Marine Corps and has been obsolete for many years. Only 21 men received it. The Brevet Medal was the only medal recognizing the brevet commissions all services used in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century to recognize bravery and distinguished service. Brevet commissions were engraved documents presented to the individual. This book includes many black & white illustrations of people, events, and associated documents.

Ogletree, Gregory W. ***Awards & Decorations of U.S. State Military Forces.*** VanDenberg AFB, CA. Patriot Press. 1988. [ISBN 0-9620091-0-5]

A comprehensive reference, this book is illustrated with line drawings and black & white images. It includes information on most known medals and decorations of all 50 states. It includes many obscure awards from the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries.

Riley, David L. ***Uncommon Valor...Decorations, badges and service Medals of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps.*** Hopkinsville, Ky. Eagle Print Shop. 1980.

This small book includes color illustrations of all medals and decorations made to the Navy and Marine Corps to the date of publication. There is also information on the development of medallic awards in the naval services.

Robles, Philip K. ***United States Military Medals & Ribbons.*** Rutland, Vt. Charles E. Tuttle Co. 1971. [ISBN# 0-8048-0048-0]

A dated book, it nevertheless has 139 color plates. It includes information on foreign awards commonly received by Americans.

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Stevens, Paul Drew (ed). ***The Navy Cross Vietnam. Citations of Awards to Men of the United States Navy and the United States Marine Corps 1964-1973.*** Forest Ranch, Ca. Sharp & Dunnigan. 1987. [ISBN# 0-918495-15-6]

Short summaries of the official citations of 483 recipients of the Navy Cross are included in this. The book has no illustrations.

Stringer, Harry R. (ed). ***The Navy Book of Distinguished Service.*** [Arlington, Va.] Planchet Press. 1984. [Reprint Fassett Pub. Co. 1921.]

As the extended title indicates, this is "an official compendium of the names and citations of the men of the United States Navy, Marine Corps, Army and foreign governments who were decorated by the Navy Department for extraordinary gallantry and conspicuous service above and beyond the call of duty in the World War [World War I]." Each of the hundreds of individuals named is specifically identified and has a brief citation. An alphabetical index is included. The original publication was printed by DuBois Press, Rochester, NY.

Thompson, James G. ***Decorations, Medals, Ribbons, Badges and Insignia of the United States Marine Corps. World War II to Present.*** 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Fountain Inn, SC. Medals of America Press. 2000. [ISBN# 1-884452-39-6 (hardcover); 1-884452-38-8 (softcover)]

Profusely illustrated in black & white and color, this book includes medals, ribbons and other types of awards. Brief statements of qualifications are included.

Thompson, James G. ***Decorations, Medals, Ribbons, Badges and Insignia of the United States Navy. World War II to Present.*** 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Fountain Inn, SC. Medals of America Press. 2000. [ISBN# 978-1-884452-50-7 (hardcover); 978-1-884452-51-5 (softcover)]

Profusely illustrated in black & white and color, this book includes medals, ribbons and other types of awards. Brief statements of qualifications are included.

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Till, Paul H. ***The Military Awards of the Empire State.*** Ft. Myer, Va. Planchet Press. 1989.

This publication provides extensive coverage of the history of the New York State military medals. Of particular interest is the detailed list of bars for the Duty in Aid of Civil Authority medal. It also provides information on the little-known Civil War plaques and medals authorized by the state. Illustrated with black & white images, the book also includes detailed chronologies of the development of awards and examples of associated documents.

United States. Congress. Senate. **“General Staff Corps and Medals of Honor.”** [Arlington, Va. Privately printed. 1983. [Reprint USGPO Senate Doc. 58, 66<sup>th</sup> Congress (1<sup>st</sup> Session) 1919.

As the publisher (Albert F. Gleim) indicates on the cover, “this publication is a reprint of pages 108-478 of...the report of the 1916 Army Medal of Honor board. This reprint of the original government document includes case-by-case information of the review of Medal of Honor awards together with information on those that were revoked. A good reference for the case of Dr. Mary Walker and many others who are no longer on the Medal of Honor Roll.



### **Presentation of the first Badges of Military Merit, Newburgh, NY 1783.**

Only three badges were ever presented. One recipient was Sgt. Daniel Bissell of East Windson, Ct. He later pioneered the Town of Richmond, Ontario County, and is buried at Allen’s Hill Cemetery near Honeoye, NY. (Image courtesy US Army Center of Military History. Available on the Internet at: <http://www.history.army.mil/html/reference/purhrt.html>)

The Badge of Military Merit became the Purple Heart Medal in 1932.

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## Civil War Special Interest

Belden, Bauman L. **“War Medals of the Confederacy.”** Glendale, NY. Benchmark Pub. Co. [Reprint 1915]

Belden's 13 page booklet includes line drawings and brief information on the Davis Guard Medal, the New Market Cross of Honor, and the Southern Cross of Honor presented by the Daughters of the Confederacy.

Johnson, Kenneth R. and Jeffrey B. Floyd. **Membership and National Encampment Badges of the Grand Army of the Republic 1866-1949.** Orders and Medals Society of America monograph #11. Glassboro, NJ. Orders and Medals Society of America. 1997. [ISBN# 1-890974-00-5]

A complete guide to the “medals” and badges frequently seen on the uniforms of Union Civil War veterans, these items were not government authorized awards. However, many of them look like military medals. Illustrated with black & white images, the book provides statistics on each encampment.

## Internet Resources

"Awards and Decorations of the National Guard." Available on the Internet at:  
[http://www.enotes.com/topic/Awards\\_and\\_decorations\\_of\\_the\\_National\\_Guard](http://www.enotes.com/topic/Awards_and_decorations_of_the_National_Guard)

This site has links to the state awards sites of each state and Puerto Rico.

"Decorations and Medals." US Army. Institute of heraldry. Available on the Internet at:  
[http://www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/Awards/dec\\_awards\\_military.aspx](http://www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/Awards/dec_awards_military.aspx)

"Medals and Awards Manual." Dept. of Homeland Security. US Coast Guard. Available on the internet at:  
[http://www.uscg.mil/directives/cim/1000-1999/CIM\\_1650\\_25D.pdf](http://www.uscg.mil/directives/cim/1000-1999/CIM_1650_25D.pdf)

Merchant Marine Emblem, Medals and Ribbons. Available on the Internet at:  
<http://www.usmm.org/medals.html>

"Military Awards and Decorations." National Archives. Veterans Service Records. Available on the Internet at:  
<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/replace-medals.html>

This site has instructions for accessing old military records as well as how to request replacement medals.

"New York State Military Awards and Decorations." New York State. Division of Military and Naval Affairs. Available on the Internet at:  
<http://dmna.state.ny.us/awards/awards.php>

Orders and Medals Society of America. Available on the Internet at: <http://www.omsa.org/>

The OMSA site includes a searchable visual database of US and worldwide medals.

"US Merchant Marine Medals and Decorations." US Dept. of Transportation. Maritime Administration. Available on the Internet at:  
[http://www.marad.dot.gov/mariners\\_landing\\_page/mariner\\_medals/mariner\\_medals.htm](http://www.marad.dot.gov/mariners_landing_page/mariner_medals/mariner_medals.htm).

"US Navy Awards." Available on the Internet at:  
[https://awards.navy.mil/awards/webbas01.nsf/\(vwWebPage\)/home.htm?OpenDocument](https://awards.navy.mil/awards/webbas01.nsf/(vwWebPage)/home.htm?OpenDocument)

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