FINDING CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS ON THE INTERNET
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STEP 1 - FIND A SPECIFIC PERSON AND UNIT:

Findagrave (free site):
    go to findagrave.com
    use the search panel that dominates their home page

Ancestry (pay site, but may be available free at libraries or LDS Church's Family History Centers):
    go to ancestry.com
    hover over "Search"
    select "Card Catalog"
    set keyword = civil war soldier [singular; not plural] then click "Search"
    select "U.S. Civil War Soldiers 1861-1865"
    later select "U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles"
    later select "American Civil War Soldiers" (database lost in 2013 or 2014 and might not have been recovered yet)

    also set keyword = civil war pension [singular; not plural] then click "Search"
    select "Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, ..." and search that data
    if you have a Confederate soldier select "U.S. Confederate Pensions, 1884-1958" and search that data

    also set keyword = civil war with a descriptor of special interest to you, or just civil war

Fold3 (pay site, but may be available free at libraries or LDS Church's Family History Centers):
    go to fold3.com
    select "Civil War"
    select "Civil War Service Records"
    select "Confederate" or "Union"
    select the state
    select the unit (listed alphabetically as unit numbers are spelled out; not numerically)
    select the last initial of the surname that interests you
    select the person
    select each page of the service file

    later select "Civil War and Later Veterans Pension Index"
    type a name or surname then click "Search"
    click each reasonable item on the hit list

Alexander Street (pay site, but may be available free at libraries or LDS Church's Family History Centers):
    ask a librarian how to go to alexanderstreet.com
    ask a librarian how to find their American Civil War Research Database
    (their tech support says each facility might access this item differently from other facilities)
    on that database's main menu choose "Soldiers"

STEP 2 - FIND DETAILS, BACKGROUND, AND CONTEXT:

    use my lists of links (about 1,500 in both sets)

PRESENTATION'S EXAMPLES:

    pension file from Library of Virginia
    unit roster from Pennsylvania in the Civil War
    flag from Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
    photos and videos