Civil War Genealogy and History: Selected Print Sources Available to the Researcher in the Western History and Genealogy Department of the Denver Public Library.

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This bibliography is intended to provide researchers with a guide to the unique Civil War books in the Western History and Genealogy collection. These include official records, multi-volume reference sets, and older books and periodicals that are essential sources for Civil War history and genealogy. The vast array of Civil War books in the circulating collection and the databases available online are not covered in this selection.

What separates the WHG collection from the online sources and the circulating collection is the depth of the material. Instead of grand battles you can get down to individual soldiers and individual regiments. A state Adjutant General's report can give a brief history of a regiment, run down the battles it fought, and show you name-by-name who was in each company, where they were from, the dates they served, and if they became casualties. A regimental history from the last quarter of the 19th century will give you a book-length treatment of a unit's activities, often written by participants. The Official Records (128 volumes) give you the actual reports from the officers in the field and on the ships. The Supplement to the Official Records (100 volumes) lets you trace a regiment's whereabouts week-by-week and nearly day-by-day.

A major strength of this collection is the large assortment of personal accounts, the reminiscences and recollections of the veterans themselves, of all ranks. On the Confederate side we have 52 volumes of the Southern Historical Papers, 6 volumes of the Southern Bivouac, and 38 years of the Confederate Veteran magazine. For the Union we have the massive Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States set, 62 volumes. Amazingly these are all properly indexed. Battles and Leaders of the Civil War and the Rebellion Record have articles and documents from participants on both sides. These are the actual stories of the war that you can only find snippets of in general histories.

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VI. African-American units (United States Colored Troops)
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Summary sheet of state sources (annotations for state sources to follow in subsequent bibliography)

I. GUIDEBOOKS

Groene, Bertram Hawthorne
   G973.7 Algro
   Outlines the process of writing to the National Archives and contacting state archives.
   Also discusses major sources like the *Official Records*, *Dyer's Compendium*, Dornbusch's
   military bibliography, and Heitman's Army register (these are all included in this bibliography).
   He also has a chapter on acquiring and identifying equipment and artifacts (what we used to call
   "relics" years ago). Dated, especially the contact information, but a good overview.

Harris, Sherry
   *Civil War Records, a Useful Tool: A Step by Step Guide to the Availability and
   Acquisition of Civil War Records.* 2 vols. Yorba Linda, Calif.: Shumway Family History
   Services, 1990-93.
   G929.1072 H243ci

Morebeck, Nancy Justus
   *Locating Union and Confederate Records: A Guide to the Most Commonly Used Civil
   War Records of the National Archives and the Family History Library.* North Salt Lake, Utah:
   G929.1072073 M813Lo
   Outstanding overview, both very thorough and to-the-point, and all in 159 pages.

Schweitzer, George K.
   *Civil War Genealogy: A Basic Research Guide for Tracing Your Civil War Ancestors ...*
   Knoxville, Tenn.: Schweitzer, 1980.
   G973.74 Alsch
   An excellent overview of the process, and of the types of records available at the National
   Archives, state archives, and local repositories. The reading lists and address information are
   now dated, but this book will get you thinking in an organized fashion of the different avenues to
   be explored.
Also see Robert K. Krick's essay "Suggestions on Identifying Confederate Soldiers and Finding Their Traces" which is contained in both the *Roster of Confederate Soldiers* (G973.742 R739) and *Confederate Military History* (G973.73 C76). It is the best overview of Confederate genealogical sources.

**II A. REFERENCE - General works**

Amann, William Frayne  
G973.74 A454pe  
This work is similar to Dyer's *Compendium* in that it is mostly concerned with the organization of the armies. Volume I covers the Confederate armies, volume 2 the Union. Contains lists of generals giving rank by date of commission, major generals first, then brigadier generals. Most useful is the thorough list of regimental synonyms, of "local designations." For example, you can find that the "Chicago Dragoons" were officially company C of the 16th Illinois Cavalry.

Bahn, Gilbert S.  
G973.73 B1481in  
The emphasis of this work is on place names. Foreword states that the work is intended for descendants of Union soldiers to pin down where their ancestors fought, and for descendants of Confederate civilians to learn what befell their ancestors' farms and villages. Gives the county for all the engagements listed. Includes a chronology, alphabetical index by state and county, and maps. It corrects and updates Frederick Phisterer's *Statistical Record of the Armies of the United States* (1883).

Dyer, Frederick H.  
*A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion, compiled and arranged from Official Records of the Federal and Confederate Armies, Reports of the Adjutant Generals of the Several States, the Army Registers, and Other Reliable Documents and Sources.* 3 vols. Des Moines, Ia.: Dyer Publishing Co., 1908. [library also has one-volume reprint edition]  
G973.7 D98c  
Volume one of this classic reference work gives the organizational history of the various Union military units, i.e. which units served in the various brigades and divisions of each army. Volume two contains a name index of all the battles, engagements, and skirmishes, with dates. There is also a chronological list of battles in each state which gives the location and the forces engaged, down to the regimental level. Volume three contains the regimental histories. These are arranged by state, and are a good place to start for brief information on Union regiments' dates of service and where they served.
Fox, William F.

G973.7419 F83r

Still the starting point for statistics on casualties. The bulk of the book features the "300 Fighting Regiments," who all lost over 130 killed or wounded in battle. For each of these Fox gives a unit history and a table showing losses by company. Also includes notes on famous brigades and summary tables for each regiment arranged by state.

G973.741 U5811 1997

First four volumes go state-by-state. For each state there is an account of "military affairs" in the state, then regimental histories about as long as those in the adjutant generals' reports. Volume 5 and 6 are the "cyclopedia of battles;" an alphabetical list that gives the date, a brief description of the action, and usually the Union troops engaged. Volume 7 covers the navy; volume 8 has biographical sketches and photos. Volume 9 is the new Broadfoot index, which includes an introduction that describes the set.

II B. REFERENCE - Bibliographies

G973.7 A1civ 1996

A work by three heavy hitters of the Civil War Centennial era. Arranged in seven sections: military administration, campaigns, soldier life, prisoners, African-Americans, navies, diplomacy. Very short annotations, often one sentence.

G973.74 A1do

The title says it all, and this is the premier source for finding published works relating to specific regiments. Volume 1 covers Union regiments; Volume 2 covers Confederate and border states units, Regular Army and territorial regiments, and biographies of both sides; Volume 3 covers general reference works and campaigns and battles. Regiments are listed by state, and within that listing the artillery comes first, then the cavalry, then the infantry.
Volume 4 is the long-awaited update to Dornbusch's original set. This outstanding 2003 work compiled by Silas Fenton is over 1000 pages, updates many parts of Dornbusch's original work, and adds new categories and a comprehensive author index for all volumes.

Wright, John H., comp.  
G973.7 A1wri  
A compilation of books, pamphlets and serials relating to the Confederacy, generated mostly from dealer catalogs, arranged by author. Has a broader scope than Dornbusch as it is not just military. The serials listing is a notable strength.

II C. REFERENCE - Rosters, registers

_Appomattox Roster_ A List of the Paroles of the Army of Northern Virginia Issued at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. N.Y.: Antiquarian Press, 1962. Originally published in 1887 as v. 15 of the _Southern Historical Society Papers_ under the title: _Paroles of the Army of Northern Virginia._  
G973.738 C76ap  
Organized by unit. Lee's staff is first, then the order is cavalry, artillery, and infantry by corps and division. There is a name index.

Hurst, Gwen J.  
G973.76 H944unm  
Generated from the Official Records, includes the Kearney Cross and other medals in addition to the Medal of Honor.

G973.7 U582of  
Arranged by state, then by regiment. Cavalry regiments are listed first, then the artillery and infantry. Lists the battles fought in and gives the officers' names from the colonel to the 2nd lieutenants, and surgeons. Also gives dispositions for the officers, whether casualties, resigned, promoted, discharged, or reduced to the ranks. Index in each volume.

G973.76 I52 1994
Arranged by prison or city. Gives rank, regiment, company, and death date. Index.

G973.757 R263 1983
Alphabetical list. Annotations give state of birth, death date, rank and postings.

G973.76 R646
Lists 175,764 names for the 316,233 Civil War-era burials in the national cemeteries (which means an astonishing 45% remain unknown). The modern index volume has a very useful foreword that describes the chaos in the Quartermaster's Department and the difficulties of keeping accurate records. It also states that this source may be the only record of a Union soldier's burial.

G973.7 S896ro
Gives dates of service for Union surgeons only, arranged by state and regiment, no index. Annotations surprisingly include: "bad," "doubtful," "good," "intemperate," and "unsound mind."

G973.742 R739
One grand alphabetical listing of all Confederate soldiers. The best place to start the search for an ancestor's regiment. Don't miss Robert K. Krick's introduction on Confederate records. Broadfoot later issued rosters for each Confederate state as separate volumes; these are shelved with the regimental histories and other state-specific items.

G973.741 H493ro**
Unlike Broadfoot's Roster of Confederate Soldiers that is one large alphabetical run, this set is arranged by state in separate volumes. Gives name, regiment, and company. DPL
catalogers have assigned these volumes very similar call numbers so they are shelved together rather than having them go with the state-specific material. The last two letters of the call number indicate the state. (For example, the Illinois rosters are under G973.741 H498roil, while the majority of the Illinois material is under G973.7473.) Importantly includes two volumes on the United States Colored Troops.

II D. REFERENCE - Biographical works

Heitman, Francis B.

G973 H365h

Biographical dictionary for Army officers. Wide coverage.

Hoar, Jay

G973.74 H651ne

Good biographical sketches and some photos; index.

Krick, Robert E. L.

G973.742092 K891st

Short entries, no photos, alphabetically arranged. Introduction defines what staff officers were and what duties they performed, from the assistant adjutant general to the engineer officer to the commissary of subsistence. The appendix lists the staff officers for each general in the A.N.V.

Krick, Robert K.

G973.742 K891Le

Alphabetical entries based on the compiled service records in the National Archives. Includes height, education, occupation, age. Appendix lists the colonels for each regiment, organized by state.

G973.7 P87o
Nice, long biographical sketches of prominent figures, each with a portrait. Index volume is barely hanging together, so use carefully. This has fewer, but better, entries than Sifakis's similar modern work when it comes to officers (see below).

Peterson, Clarence Stewart

_Last Civil War Veteran in Fifty States_. Typescript, 1961.
G973.7 P442La

Biographical sketches, fairly lengthy, for the last Civil War veteran to pass away in each state. Great source if you are interested in one of these fifty men.

Sifakis, Stewart.

G973.7 S573wh

Brief to moderate biographical entries on all types of people, not just military. He does list each command held by generals in great detail. Many entries give source notes. Good starting point to get a quick handle on someone.

Warner, Ezra.

G973.741 W243ge

Biographical entries for 583 generals, often with a small photo. Good notes and bibliography. Has list of brevetted major and brigadier generals.

Warner, Ezra.

G973.742 W243ge

Entries for 425 Confederate generals in one alphabetical run.

**III. OFFICIAL RECORDS**

United States. War Department

G973.73 W195

W45.8 (4th floor with government documents); reprint: G911.737 U58of (atlas shelves in WHG)
Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. 100 vols.
G973.73 W195

This giant set, commonly referred to as "the O.R.," is the wellspring of Civil War military research. It is arranged into four series. Series I contains the reports and correspondence of the armies in the field. These document the movements, activities, and sometimes casualties of thousands of units, from the largest armies and corps down to individual regiments. Series II relates to military prisons and prisoners. Series III is Union correspondence and records concerning the organization of the war effort. Series IV contains Confederate correspondence and records, including acts passed by the confederate government and records concerning conscription and blockade running. Each volume can be several actual books, so each physical book has been given a serial number, 1-129. (For example, Gettysburg is Volume 27, serial numbers 43, 44, 45.) The index is serial number 130, and numbers 113 or 114 were never published. Using this index is a two-step process. The overall index gives only the overall volume number, not the serial number, nor a page number. You consult the index in the back of the volume indicated, which will finally give you page numbers. The overall index includes prominent figures, officers and such, as well as state and federal organizations. It will not usually yield the name of rank-and-file soldiers, but it is worth a try if you are seeking an officer. I had one case where we were looking for a particular lieutenant. He was in the overall index, we went to the specific volume, and we found an account of his death in action written by his commanding officer in a report headed up the chain of command. Most of us will never find an eyewitness account of the death of an ancestor, but these books contain the raw material, the primary documentary evidence, for real Civil War history.

The Atlas contains 821 maps, 106 engravings, and 209 drawings grouped onto 175 "plates." Most were re-drawn from the maps that originally accompanied the officers' reports, and about two-thirds are from the Union side. The color maps cover campaigns, battles, naval actions, and fortifications. Plates 136 to 161 are nicely detailed regional topographical maps from the period. Plates 172 to 175 show color illustrations of both side's uniforms, insignia and flags, the Union corps badges, and line drawings of artillery, wagons and small arms.

The Supplement consists of 100 volumes. It adds seven volumes of material that correspond directly to Series I of the original set. These seven volumes plus some lengthy court martial records make up Part 1 of the supplement. The remainder, Part 2, is the "record of events," really narrative unit histories compiled from National Archives microfilm publications M594 and M861. These include detailed regimental and company records, and provide very complete coverage of a regiment's status and activity. You can track regiments on a nearly week-by-week basis. A five-volume index rounds out the supplement.
Published in two series. Series I consists of 27 volumes of reports and correspondence relative to the naval operations on both sides. They are organized geographically, i.e. Atlantic Blockading Squadron, Gulf Coast Squadron, inland waters, etc. Also covers commerce raiders and privateers. Series II has three volumes. The first is the statistical rundown on the vessels; cost, tonnage, armament and the like. The remainder of the series is a remarkable source for Confederate history. These are the "Pickett Papers," the correspondence of the Confederate State Department with agents abroad. There is a one-volume index.


This set is based on official reports from surgeons to the Army's Medical Department and the Surgeon General's office. Not for the squeamish. Lists wounded, injured, and diseased Union soldiers and often describes the cases and treatment in detail, complete with drawing. The first index volume is by unit, so you can find cases by regiment. The other 2 index volumes are the typical name-subject index. The Broadfoot introduction notes that 30% of amputations resulted in death, and that "more men died from looseness of the bowels than were killed in battle." (p. viii) Might be a mixed blessing to find an ancestor in this set.


Testimony from many leading officers on strategy and policy. The committee investigated many of the Union's battlefield failures, incidents like the Sand Creek Massacre, and more mundane matters like fraudulent ice contracts. This reprint edition has an index volume. (Bruce Tap's 1998 *Over Lincoln's Shoulder* is an excellent history of the committee.)

Mills, Gary B.


Alphabetical guide to the case files of the U.S. Commission of Claims, 1871-1880, held in the National Archives. Southern citizens who claimed to be Unionist applied for compensation for the destruction or confiscation of their property by the Union Army. A wealth of information was gathered to assess the claims, so this is a southern genealogical goldmine. The original documents are on 14 rolls of microfilm; the book will lead you to the right microfilm roll.

**IV. GENERAL HISTORIES**

Cist, Henry M.

Cist was a staff officer under Generals Rosecrans and Thomas. Broad operational history.

Dodge, William Sumner

*History of the Old Second Division, Army of the Cumberland.* Chicago: Church & Goodman, 1864.

Traditional military history; nice maps.

Eliot, Ellsworth Jr.

*Yale in the Civil War.* New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1932.

Gives a history of Yale during the war years and a roll of service arranged by class year. The roll has brief annotations, more for famous alumni, and has an index. A surprising number served with the Confederacy.

Logan, John A.


The southern Illinois Union general and U.S. Senator's history of the war. Logan was a bigwig in the Grand Army of the Republic and largely responsible for the Memorial Day holiday. Logan Street in Denver is named for him.

Long, Armistead L.


Long was a West Pointer and artillery officer on Lee's staff. This work is really a biography of Lee with extensive documentation in the text. Often letters are reprinted in full. The 200-page appendix contains official reports from the Army of Northern Virginia and the strength of units on the April 9, 1865 parole list.

Lonn, Ella


Good overview of the topic. Appendices have population figures for 7 cities, a list of prominent foreigners by rank that gives ethnicity and command, and a list of "foreign companies" (parts of regiments) by state.
Lonn, Ella
G973.743 L868fo
Companion volume to her Foreigners in the Confederacy. General history of the different ethnic regiments (German, Irish, Scottish, etc.) and the foreign-born generals, colonels, and naval officers.

Pollard, Edward A.
G973.742 P762Lo
Pollard was the editor of the Richmond Examiner. The subtitle says it all.

Stevens, George T.
Three Years in the Sixth Corps: A Concise Narrative of Events in the Army of the Potomac from 1861 to the Close of the Rebellion, April 1865. N.Y.: D. Van Nostrand, 1867.
G973.7416 S844t
Not exactly concise at 441 pages, but a thorough history of the Corps done by a surgeon of the 77th New York.

Swinton, William
G973.7416 S979c
Swinton was a New York Times war correspondent who had run-ins with Grant, Burnside, and other Union authorities until he was banned from the front in July 1864. The first edition of this book was published in 1866 and is still a major work in the historiography of the Army of the Potomac. Follow this with Bruce Catton's trilogy and Jeffery Wert's recent The Sword of Lincoln: The Army of the Potomac.

Walker, Francis A.
History of the Second Army Corps in the Army of the Potomac. N.Y.: C. Scribner's Sons, 1886.
G973.7416 W153hi
Walker was the Assistant Adjutant General of the Second Corps. Broad history; index in several parts.
V. COMPILATIONS AND SERIALS: PERSONAL ACCOUNTS, HISTORICAL ARTICLES


G973.742 J718arp

Speeches and recollections of A.N.V. veterans, some of them famous like Fitzhugh Lee, from the 1870s. Similar to the MOLLUS volumes on the Union side. No index.


G973.73 C76

First volume has general Confederate history, then succeeding volumes treat each state one-by-one, often up to 1870. The final volume treats the Confederate Navy and a separate volume contains the "biographical supplement." Broadfoot's typically excellent two-volume index has a nice list of units by local designation as well as the usual introduction describing the set and its place in historiography. It also contains historian Robert K. Krick's essay "Suggestions on Identifying Confederate Soldiers and Finding Their Traces," the best overview on how to do Confederate genealogy that you will every find.


G973.74 B32

Only the first three volumes are located on the 5th floor, two parts to each volume. A set of the four-volume edition is on the 3rd floor in the circulating collection. This is an outstanding collection of personal accounts and reminiscences, often by major participants like Grant, Bragg, etc. The engravings give it a great period feel.

Confederate Veteran. Monthly. 40 volumes, 1894-1932. (library doesn't have volume 1)

G973.742 C762

Reminiscences, reports of reunions and meeting, poems, songs, "scholarly treatises," illustrations, and obituaries under the heading "Last Roll," all published by editor Sumner Archibald Cunningham in Nashville until his death in 1913. The magazine was "officially recognized" by the United Confederate Veterans, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and was owned by these organizations after 1913. The library has the modern Broadfoot-published three-volume index. Together these are a tremendous source for Southern history.

Usually referred to as MOLLUS, these volumes contain the reminiscences and presentations given before the organization's various state "commanderies." These are primarily first-person accounts by the famous and not-so-famous. The volumes are arranged by state. Volume 61 has biographical sketches of the contributors, and volume 62 contains "portraits of the companions." The reprint edition adds a four-volume cumulative index.

Rebellion Record: A Diary of American Events, with Documents, Narratives, Illustrative Incidents, Poetry, etc. Edited by Frank Moore. 8 volumes plus supplement. N.Y.: G.P. Putnam, D. Van Nostrand, 1861-8. Maps from the set in STXVL (ask at the desk for these) G973.7 R241

Basically a bound ephemera collection filled to the brim with different types of materials, along with wonderful engravings. These include press reports, chronologies, speeches, prayers, poems, proclamations, and resolutions.

Society of the Army of the Potomac.
Report. 1887; 1893. G973.7 P842

Two volumes concerning the Society's reunions of 1887 and 1893; speeches make up the bulk of the contents.


Reminiscences, battle reports, correspondence, poetry, book reviews, queries, etc. This publication focused on high-level officers and was under the influence of Confederate General Jubal Early. Much ink was spilt on defending Lee's actions at Gettysburg, criticizing Longstreet, and discussing actions in the eastern theater. Last 9 volumes reprint the proceedings of the Confederate Congress. Modern three-volume index makes the set very useful. The first volume of the index also contains biographical sketches of the founding members of the Southern Historical Society and a useful list of Confederate unit local designations; ex. Emmett Guards were Co. D of the 1st Louisiana Infantry.


The original editors of this magazine were soldiers in the Kentucky Orphan Brigade. This publication focused on the common soldiers' experience rather than controversies between generals or grand strategy, to preserve for history "the stories and incidents of the war that never
appear in army reports." Some poetry and short stories but mostly recollections from the western theater.

VI. AFRICAN-AMERICAN

Califf, Joseph Mark
*Record of the 7th Regiment, U.S. Colored Troops, from September 1863 to November 1866, by an Officer of the Regiment.* Providence: E.L. Freeman, 1878.
G973.7415 B892on
Regimental history covering its organization and service in Florida, South Carolina, Virginia, and Texas.

G973.7415 B561
Treats several topics with an introductory essay followed by illustrative documents. Topics include recruitment, officer, pay, combat, prisoners, camp life, and postwar duty in black units. Great for primary sources.

G973.7415 G742on
Not a traditional regimental history, but a collection of biographical sketches and excerpts from pension files. Often these are first person accounts of answers given to the pension authorities. The background questions and answers are similar to the slave narratives.

Williams, George W.
G973.7415 W672hi
General history of African-American troops. Includes combat achievements, incidents like the Fort Pillow massacre, and several testimonials from prominent figures about the fighting abilities of blacks.

VII. GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

The following are examples of the G.A.R. material available. Many of the publications of the Denver posts and others in the Department of Colorado and Wyoming are on the Western History side in STX2 under the call number 364.15.
Dearing, Mary R.  
G929.06 G762de  
Overall history of the organization and its activities as a lobbying group. See also Stuart McConnell's 1992 *Glorious Contentment.*

*Soldiers' and Patriots' Biographical Album [Illinois] Containing Biographies and Portraits of Soldiers and Loyal Citizens in the American Conflict, Together with the Great Commanders of the Union Army; also a History of the Organizations Growing Out of the War: the Grand Army of the Republic, the Loyal Legion, the Sons of Veterans, and the Woman's Relief Corps.* Chicago: Union Veteran Publishing Company, 1892.  
G929.1773 S684  
This huge volume is very similar to the biographical volumes that accompanied county histories in this era. Biographical sketches are fairly long. This volume is for Illinois, but the library has similar works concerning other states. (The G.A.R. was founded in Illinois.)

G369.15 M552t oversize shelving  
Transcription of selected records of the post c. 1879-1911. Includes photocopies of newspaper articles.

Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Colorado and Wyoming.  
Records, 1864-1942  
C MSS WH732  
This is manuscript collection consisting of six boxes of roll books, financial ledgers, meeting minutes, and documents from the various posts.
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Civil War Dewey call numbers

973.7  overall number for administration of Abraham Lincoln
973.71  social, political, economic history
973.711  causes of the war
973.713  South and secession
973.72  diplomatic history
973.73  operations
973.7349  Gettysburg
973.7371  Atlanta campaign
973.74  military units
973.741  Union troops
973.742  Confederate troops
973.75  naval history
973.76  celebrations, commemorations, memorials
973.77  prisoners of war; health and social services
973.78  other military topics and personal narratives
973.781  Union personal narratives
973.782  Confederate personal narratives
973.785  Union spies
973.786  Confederate spies
The rapid expansion of the field of public history since the 1970s has led many to believe that it is a relatively new profession. In this book, Denise D. Merin... The Civil War accelerated changes already taking shape in the nation’s economy, politics, and social life. Nonetheless, for many Americans the dissolution of the union and the end of slavery created a sense of sudden disruption. In the remaining decades of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the new one, a cult of novelty emerged as Americans sought to move beyond sectional hostilities and the war. Public History and the Question of Authority. CHAPTER 6 Park Service Diggers Public Historians and the Problem of Status. CHAPTER 6 Park Service Diggers Public Historians and the Problem of Status.