ABSTRACT - Many communities find unity in honoring their veterans. The Mahwah Museum Veterans Project was created to honor the many veterans from Mahwah who served over the years. The project compiles information on veterans who served as far back as the American Revolution to present-day conflicts and in peacetime. The goal of the Mahwah Museum Veterans Project is to create a publicly accessible resource about the lives and service of Mahwah's veterans. Through genealogy resources, newspaper resources, and contact with families of veterans, the profiles are created. For this process, I use Ancestry Library for public resources like birth, marriage, death, addresses, and military information such as enlistment records. I also use Newspapers.com, a website that provides access to newspapers that have previously been published. Contact with families as well as veterans themselves also provides a multitude of information. When interviewed, families often provide military and personal information. The family members include children of veterans, siblings, and other relatives. I conduct these interviews by phone or through online correspondence. Veterans are also able to complete and mail in a questionnaire. These interviews give insight as to who these veterans were as people. Contacting families also expands the database as they can provide information about family members who were not previously included. These resources give access to images, information, and stories that are compiled in a profile. A typical profile contains biographical information such as when and where they were born, their occupation, and their family. It also provides military information such as the start and end date of their service, their serial number, and unit. The compiled research is supported by a bibliography. As a result, the residents of Mahwah as well as other people who have an interest in history can learn more about Mahwah and the people who have lived in the city and served their country.

Mahwah Museum

The Mahwah Museum, which was founded in 2001, is located on 201 Franklin Turnpike in Mahwah, NJ. The Mahwah Museum Veterans Project was started in 2020. Since its start, volunteers have input the names of over four hundred veterans in the project. This project is led by museum vice president Dr. Cathy Moran Hajo and board trustee Diane Mateo.

Ancestry Library

Ancestry Library is used for a multitude of indexes and other resources. These include records such as: US Census, birth, marriage, death, draft, enlistment, service, casualties, city directories and more. The draft card (third picture from top), and the picture of the gravestone (bottom) were found through Ancestry Library. The birth date, birthplace, death date, burial place, unit, rank, serial number, service start date were all entries that were able to be completed with this site.

Newspapers.com

Newspapers.com is another resource that provides information that may not be found through Ancestry Library. Obituaries, a veteran’s involvement in their community, and information about their time in service can be found.

Family Interviews and Questionnaires

Family interviews and questionnaires are other ways of gaining information about a veteran. Questionnaires can be completed by the veteran themselves or family. In addition to information, family often provides personal pictures and effects.