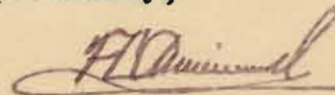


the Government of the United States on account of military services rendered that the applicant shall have in his or her possession a certificate of service or discharge, or any other evidence of service or of discharge therefrom. It is necessary only for the claimant to present to the proper accounting officer of the Government such a statement of the service of the soldier as will identify his record, when, upon the application of the officer having jurisdiction of the claim, that official will be promptly furnished by this office with all the evidence the records afford bearing upon the claim under consideration. Information from the official records is never furnished to the claimant or his attorney to aid in the preparation or prosecution of his claim.

I am further directed by the Secretary of War to inform you that the Chief of the Record and Pension Office is charged by law with the custody of the records of the volunteer forces, except those now in service, and the prosecution of the public business connected therewith, and that all correspondence relating thereto should be addressed to that official.

The certificates of discharge received with your letter of the 7th instant are returned herewith.

Very respectfully,



Chief, Record and Pension Office.