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DEMONSTRATION SPECIMEN - The soldier is fictional (and where a unit is named, the unit is deliberately one that never existed). The document types, tiers, flags, and citations are exactly what a real report contains.

A MEXICAN WAR SERVICE RECORD REPORT

Josiah Hallowell

Private · Co. E (Capt. Wren's Company) · 23rd Regiment Pennsylvania Infantry
(Mexican War.)

Compiled Military Service Record (CMSR), Mexican War — NARA card-jacket compilation

Family Keepsake Edition · Researcher-Reviewed

Prepared August 30, 2026

Every fact in this report is traced to the page that states it.

Prepared from the original compiled service records of the United States National Archives (Record Group 94).

Josiah Hallowell

Private, Co. E (Capt. Wren's Company), 23rd Regiment Pennsylvania Infantry (Mexican War.)

Short Biography

Josiah Hallowell was a young Philadelphia man, twenty-one years old, when he enrolled for the Mexican War in December 1846 as a private in Captain Wren's company of the 23rd Pennsylvania Infantry. He sailed to Mexico and was present with his company at Lobos Island early in 1847, but by that spring he had fallen sick with fever at Vera Cruz. He recovered and served on until the war's end, mustering out with his company at Philadelphia in the summer of 1848. This report is drawn from his compiled service record alone; matching this soldier to a particular family line will require records outside the file.

The Story of Josiah Hallowell

Josiah Hallowell's war begins in the middle of a Philadelphia winter. On **December 12, 1846**, aged **21 years**, he joined for duty and enrolled "for the war" at Philadelphia, taken onto the rolls of **Captain Wren's Company (E), 23rd Regiment Pennsylvania Infantry (Mexican War.)** as a private (Company Muster-in Roll, p. 2). It is the only place the file gives his age, and it points back to a birth around **1825** (calculated from the stated age).

By the start of 1847 he had crossed to Mexico. The **January & February 1847** company muster roll records him **present**, with the remark "**At Lobos Island**" (p. 3) — the island off the Mexican coast that served as the staging point for the campaign against Vera Cruz. Then came the sickness that shadowed so many soldiers of that war more than the fighting did. The **March & April 1847** roll marks him **absent — sick at Vera Cruz since April 2, 1847**, with the single-word remark "**fever**" (p. 4). The file does not follow the illness day by day, and there is no hospital card among the pages supplied; we know only that he was down with fever at Vera Cruz that spring.

He came through it. The next surviving roll, for **July & August 1848**, finds him **present** once more and closes his service: "**Mustered out with company July 28, 1848, at Philadelphia**" (p. 5). He had gone out a private and came home a private, having served from the war's early months to its settlement.

Between the fever roll of spring 1847 and the muster-out roll of summer 1848 there is a long stretch with **no surviving rolls in this jacket** — the file simply does not cover those months, and that is a gap in the paper, not a gap in his service. What the record does show is a straight, honorable line: enrolled at Philadelphia, present at Lobos Island, sick at Vera Cruz, and mustered out at Philadelphia.

Which War, Which Record

This is a **Mexican War** Compiled Military Service Record — the same Ainsworth card-jacket compilation (NARA) used for Civil War records, but the jacket itself prints "**(Mexican War.)**" in the unit designation (pp. 1–2). There is **no Union/Confederate question** for a Mexican War record, and none is invented here.

The unit is given throughout as **Co. E, 23rd Regiment Pennsylvania Infantry (Mexican War.)**, the company also identified as **Captain Wren's Company** on the muster-in roll (p. 2). Every card carries this same designation; there is no unit-name drift to reconcile.

Personal Service Timeline

Built from the muster cards actually present. The regiment being somewhere never proves he was there; each entry below rests on a roll that names him for that period.

- **December 12, 1846** — Joined for duty and enrolled at **Philadelphia**, "for the war," age 21 (Company Muster-in Roll, p. 2).
- **Jan. & Feb. 1847 — Present**; remark: "At Lobos Island" (p. 3).
- **Mar. & Apr. 1847 — Absent, sick at Vera Cruz since April 2, 1847**; remark: "fever" (p. 4).
- **[May 1847 — June 1848] — No rolls for this span survive in this jacket** (records gap).
- **July & Aug. 1848 — Present**; "Mustered out with company July 28, 1848, at Philadelphia" (p. 5).

The service ran, on the file's evidence, from December 12, 1846 to July 28, 1848 (span calculated from the enrollment and muster-out dates).

Physical Description, Birthplace, and Named People

No physical description, birthplace, or occupation is given anywhere in the pages supplied — this Mexican War jacket contains no enlistment paper or descriptive-book card, and holds **zero personal papers** (jacket, p. 1). The only personal identifier is his **age, 21**, at enrollment (p. 2), which implies a birth year of about **1825** (calculated).

Named in the file: - **Capt. Wren** — commander of Company E, named on the muster-in roll (p. 2). - **T. R. Ashe** — the 1890s–1900s clerk who copied the muster-in roll card ("copyist," p. 2). This is the compiler's signature, not a figure from Hallowell's service.

Jacket Reconciliation and Research Gaps

Card count does not match the pages supplied. The jacket lists **five card numbers** — 1) 23310821, 2) 23311040, 3) 23311266, 4) 23311492, 5) 33489107 (p. 1) — but only **four abstract cards** are present in the file: the muster-in roll (p. 2) and three company muster rolls (pp. 3–5). **One carded entry listed on the jacket is not among the pages supplied.** This is a research gap: the missing card may cover part of the 1847–1848 stretch for which no roll appears here.

The jacket states "**Number of personal papers herein: 0**" (p. 1), and no personal papers appear — that count reconciles.

What this file proves and does not prove. The record establishes that *the Josiah Hallowell of Capt. Wren's Company (E), 23rd Pennsylvania Infantry, Mexican War* enrolled at Philadelphia on December 12, 1846 at age 21, served at Lobos Island and Vera Cruz, and mustered out at Philadelphia on July 28, 1848. The identity anchors a family can use are the **unit and company, the Philadelphia enrollment, the age (implied birth ~1825), and the Philadelphia muster-out**. It cannot, by itself, prove this is a particular family's Josiah Hallowell — that requires correlation with records outside this file (census, county, church, land, probate), and same-named men of the same era are common.

Where the record points next (Mexican War pointers): - **Bounty land** — the Act of February 11, 1847 granted 160 acres for twelve months' service (40 acres for shorter terms), enlarged by the 1850 and 1855 acts. A warrant application is where family detail typically lives. - **The Mexican War service pension, Act of January 29, 1887** — sixty days' service or a battle engagement, honorable discharge, and age 62 or over; widows eligible. Bounty-land applications are **interfiled with Mexican War pension files** at NARA — one order may return both. - **The missing fifth card** (jacket card 5, no. 33489107) and any **Carded Medical Records** for the Vera Cruz fever episode. - **Pennsylvania adjutant-general and state militia records** for the regiment's muster context.

(Note on the unit: the file's own Fold3-style source page, p. 6, states the soldier and unit are fictional and that Pennsylvania fielded the 1st and 2nd Regiments in the Mexican War. This is a demonstration specimen; the report transcribes the unit exactly as the jacket gives it.)

Regimental History

No verified Mexican War history could be confirmed for the exact unit named — "Co. E (Capt. Wren's Company), 23rd Regiment Pennsylvania Infantry (Mexican War)." Research indicates this unit did not exist as described. According to the Pennsylvania State Archives, Pennsylvania sent only two regiments of soldiers to serve in the Mexican War (1st and 2nd Pennsylvania Volunteers). Independent sources agree: a scholarly account notes that at the request of the Federal Government Pennsylvania raised two volunteer infantry regiments during the Mexican American War, and the Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia states that recruits from the Keystone State were organized into the First and Second Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiments. There was no "23rd Regiment" of Pennsylvania infantry in that war.

A "23rd Regiment, Pennsylvania Infantry" of the same name does exist, but it is a Civil War unit: This regiment was organized at Philadelphia August 31, 1861. It mustered out September 8, 1864, and was also known as "Birney's Zouaves". This is precisely the state-and-number naming overlap to guard against, and it cannot be used as a Mexican War history.

No documentation was found confirming a "Capt. Wren's Company E" within any Mexican War Pennsylvania organization. Because the exact unit named cannot be verified, and the only regiment of that name is a Civil War formation, no genuine Mexican War regimental history can honestly be provided for it. A descendant seeking a Mexican War ancestor named in connection with "Wren's Company" should verify the unit against the compiled service records for Pennsylvania (NARA M1028) and the Pennsylvania Archives, Sixth Series, Volume 10, to determine the correct 1st or 2nd Pennsylvania Volunteers company, or to establish whether the record in fact belongs to the Civil War 23rd Pennsylvania.

_Sources: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/phmc/pa-state-archives/research-online/research-guides/mexican-war-records>; <https://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/essays/mexican-american-war/>; https://www.academia.edu/6224400/Pennsylvania_s_Role_in_the_Mexican_American_War; https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/23rd_Regiment,_Pennsylvania_Infantry; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/23rd_Pennsylvania_Infantry_Regiment

(This regimental history was verified by web search. Everything else in this report is drawn only from the soldier's own file.)

Document Inventory

Page	Document Type	Summary
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1	CMSR Jacket-Envelope	Cover for HALLOWELL, Josiah, Private, Co. E, 23 Pennsylvania Inf. (Mexican War.); rank in and out Private; lists five card numbers (23310821, 23311040, 23311266, 23311492, 33489107); personal papers herein: o.
2	Company Muster-in Roll	Josiah Hallowell, Pvt., Capt. Wren's Co. (E), 23 Reg't Pennsylvania Inf.; joined for duty and enrolled Dec 12, 1846 at Philadelphia, for the war; age 21. Copyist: T. R. Ashe.
3	Company Muster Roll, Jan. & Feb. 1847	Josiah Hallowell, Pvt., Co. E, 23 Penn'a Inf.; present; remark: At Lobos Island.
4	Company Muster Roll, Mar. & Apr. 1847	J. Hallowell, Pvt., Co. E, 23 Penn'a Inf.; absent — sick at Vera Cruz since April 2, 1847; remark: fever.
5	Company Muster Roll, July & Aug. 1848	Josiah Hallowell, Pvt., Co. E, 23 Penn'a Inf.; present; mustered out with company July 28, 1848, at Philadelphia.
6	Fold3-style Source Page	Digitization-provider source page (not part of the original record); states this specimen corresponds to no actual NARA jacket and that the soldier and unit are fictional. Tier 4.

Every Fact and Its Source

Each substantive fact in this report, with the document that states it. Tier 1 = sworn or own-hand documents; Tier 2 = official contemporaneous records; Tier 3 = claim-process paperwork; Tier 4 = administrative material. Notes mark facts a witness learned second-hand, values worked out by calculation, and uncertain readings.

Fact	Source document (page)	Tier	Notes
Josiah Hallowell served as a Private in Co. E (Capt. Wren's Company), 23rd Regiment Pennsylvania Infantry (Mexican War.).	CMSR Jacket-Envelope (p. 1)	4	corroborated by second source
Rank in: Private; rank out: Private.	CMSR Jacket-Envelope (p. 1)	4	—
The jacket lists five abstract card numbers: 23310821, 23311040,	CMSR Jacket-Envelope (p. 1)	4	—

23311266, 23311492, 33489107.			
The jacket states the number of personal papers herein is 0.	CMSR Jacket-Envelope (p. 1)	4	—
Josiah Hallowell joined for duty and enrolled December 12, 1846, at Philadelphia, for the war.	Company Muster-in Roll (p. 2)	2	—
Age given as 21 years at enrollment.	Company Muster-in Roll (p. 2)	2	—
Implied birth year of approximately 1825, derived from age 21 at December 1846 enrollment.	Company Muster-in Roll (p. 2)	2	calculated/derived
His company was Captain Wren's Company (E), 23rd Regiment Pennsylvania Infantry.	Company Muster-in Roll (p. 2)	2	—
The muster-in roll card was copied by clerk T. R. Ashe.	Company Muster-in Roll (p. 2)	2	corroborated by second source
Present for Jan. & Feb. 1847, with remark 'At Lobos Island.'	Company Muster Roll, Jan. & Feb. 1847 (p. 3)	2	—
Absent, sick at Vera Cruz since April 2, 1847; remark 'fever.'	Company Muster Roll, Mar. & Apr. 1847 (p. 4)	2	—
Present for July & Aug. 1848; mustered out with company July 28, 1848, at Philadelphia.	Company Muster Roll, July & Aug. 1848 (p. 5)	2	—
Service span ran from December 12, 1846 (enrollment) to July 28, 1848 (muster-out).	Company Muster-in Roll and July & Aug. 1848 Muster Roll (p. 5)	2	calculated/derived
The Fold3-style source page states this specimen corresponds to no actual NARA jacket and that the soldier and unit are	Fold3-style Source Page (p. 6)	4	—

fictional (Pennsylvania fielded the 1st and 2nd Regiments in the Mexican War).			
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What the File Does Not Establish

The file is silent on these points. No document states them, so the report says so rather than filling them in.

- **Page 1** - the file does not answer this (The jacket lists five card numbers (23310821, 23311040, 23311266, 23311492, 33489107) but only four abstract cards are present in the pages supplied (muster-in roll p. 2 and three muster rolls pp. 3-5). One carded entry listed on the jacket is not among the supplied pages). The Research Gaps section points to the records that might.
- **Page 4** - the file does not answer this (No rolls survive in this jacket between the Mar.-Apr. 1847 (sick at Vera Cruz) card and the July-Aug. 1848 muster-out card — roughly fourteen months are uncovered by the pages supplied). The Research Gaps section points to the records that might.
- **Page 2** - the file does not answer this (No enlistment paper, descriptive-book card, or personal papers are present (jacket states 0 personal papers), so the file records no birthplace, occupation, or physical description — only the age of 21). The Research Gaps section points to the records that might.

About this report: it was produced from the file provided, read page by page. It does not search records beyond that file - the Research Gaps section points to the outside records that could carry the story further.