

**LINCOLN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT GRANT
SUMMER 2026 FINAL REPORT
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The Lincoln University Alumni Memorial Arch: The Lincoln Men Who Served in the World War (WWI)

Over the Summer of 2025, I returned to my research on the Lincoln University Alumni Memorial Arch that began in 2020. My research is focused on Alumni for whom the Arch is dedicated "the Men from Lincoln University that served in the World War". (WWI)

The work during the months from May to July are provided below:

MAY

Having been unable to do any work on my research for the past two and a half years, one of my first task was to conduct a complete review of all information gathered to date on each of the 173 alumni names that have been discovered thus far. During the review, new information was gathered on family history including siblings and children. Also included was the start of reviewing all information previously gathered by students and myself. Fact checking was a top priority with the review by revisiting all the research resources that had been used. Research resources used are as follows:

- Lincoln University Archives
- Ancestry.com
- 4Fold (Ancestry-Military Service Records)
- Find-A-Grave
- FamilySearch.com
- MyHeritage. com
- Newspapers.com
- National Archives
 - College Park, MD
 - Troop Movements, Unit Reports
 - St Louis, MO
 - Individual Military Personnel Files

Digital files had been set up in the past which held all digital and paper files. Each file was checked for proper placement of work ensuring that there were no duplicate files/information. Reviewing and checking past student work is a large task and will take time. One of the reasons for the review to be ongoing, is due to the fact checking of bibliographies, research sources and overall writing of all papers written over a 3-year period.

During this first month of work, I met with Tiffany Davis, Director and Raquel Lightner Archivist and Records Manager of the Langston Hughes Memorial Library to discuss my research resources at LU, the US National Archives and other sources. Their support and encouragement are paramount in the scope of the work to be done toward the overall outcome of my research. The discussion also led to a realization of the need to break up the research into phases. A major concern of mine

is the possibility of missing names of those who served. Therefore, Phase I will be that of the completion of work on the current 173 alumni and Phase II will be that of conducting another search for alumni that served in WWI covering a 20 to 30-year span.

The month was also spent planning and finalizing my travel to the US National Archives (NARA) in St. Louis, MO. This location houses the Individual Military Personnel Files for all that have served from all branches of the military in the US. This trip has been a vision of mine since I started on this journey. The possibility of obtaining each individual record of the alumni was exciting. I worked closely with Holly Rivet an Archives Specialist at NARA who stepped me through the research procurement process prior to my arrival in June. She did prepare me for the possible lack of information of files due to damages that occurred in the 1973 fire that destroyed approximately 18 million Army and Air Force military personnel files from 1912-1964. This was concerning but hopeful in that there would be something that was salvaged.

([https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/fire-1973#:~:text=On%20July%2012%2C%201973%2C%20a,Official%20Military%20Personnel%20Files%20\(OMPF\)](https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/fire-1973#:~:text=On%20July%2012%2C%201973%2C%20a,Official%20Military%20Personnel%20Files%20(OMPF)))

JUNE

My husband Dwight (he is serving as my military expert as he is a Retired Sgt Maj US Army National Guard) and I, traveled to the NARA in St. Louis, MO to research individual military files. While there we were able to review approx. 20 records that were pulled for us to read. While this number was disheartening, the research specialists at NARA would continue to search for me and send digital copies of any information found. This is ongoing as the Archives are still sending information found and being documented on individuals, especially any that may have been retrieved from the fire.

Most of the information in the files from NARA are those concerning military pensions and pay. Several have letters from wives or mothers with only a handful being complete. While only one of the 173 was killed in action, I did find that several passed on their return while still enlisted.

My biggest find was about the one alumna that was killed in action, Thomas J. Bullock. I was able to read the letters exchanged between the military and his wife concerning returning his remains home. While I knew the story, it was bittersweet to read her letters and feel her grief and sometimes frustration.

Overall, I have over 100+ personnel records obtain from NARA. The trip was a success, and I look forward to visiting again during Phase II. I did have questions concerning the 20+ alumni that I have found that registered to serve but have found no further information of their service. I was informed that the National Archives in Atlanta houses that information.

On a personal note: I did put in a request for my father's records from WWII. He served as a Marine and in the US Army. I was very concerned that they would not have his records due to the fire. It was an extremely emotional moment when they presented me with his complete service record in the United States Marine Corp.

JULY

July was spent sorting and documenting the information gathered from NARA. I also continued the individual review of each alumnus. Available information since 2020 has grown. Documents and access to personal information from US Census Report updated in 2022 with the release of the 1960 Census. Also, more information was added and made accessible to all digital resource sites.

Ancestry.com grew with more genealogical information from 2020-2022 due to the lockdown during COVID.

I was able to complete my individual review of 160 of the 173 alumni names I have. I felt very comfortable about reaching a point at which to pause the research by the end of the month to prepare for school to start. Work will resume in the spring of 2025. As I wrapped up, I realize that I need more support and will be looking into a process of obtaining student involvement. I will be developing an outline of what they can do to support the research as I continue. My hope is to have students onboard by summer 2026.

Summary

The work over the summer of 2025 was instrumental in helping me to get back on track with the research on the Arch. The vision at the beginning of this journey was to help Lincoln University students know the history of the Lincoln University Alumni Memorial Arch and what it truly represents. Now I am committed to telling the story of these courageous men and their service to our country and their legacy to Lincoln University.

As for the completion of this project, it currently has many parts and needs more time. The list of next steps for Summer 2026 are:

- To firm up all final outcomes along with setting completion dates. This includes writing and organizing all documents for publication and submission to the Langston Hughes Memorial Library Archives.
- Securing student help for summer research.
- Two more trips are planned with one to NARA in Atlanta and the other to College Park, Maryland to complete the gathering of all military information.
- Update of website.
- Undertake the steps needed to have the arch listed as a state and national landmark.
- Exhibition Planning with outreach to family members to collect artifacts.
- Artworks will be started representing each of the 173 alumni.