

# **Genealogy Basics – US Military Records, Using Ancestry to Find Canadians in WW II US Army Enlistment Records**

**By Joe Petrie**

## **BACKGROUND**

Ancestry.org has 530 databases in the Military Category. The following is a breakdown by subcategory:

- Draft, Enlistment and Service 160
- Casualties 114
- Soldier, Veteran & Prisoner Rolls & Lists 218
- Pension Records 76
- Histories 100
- Awards & Decorations of Honor 29
- News 16
- Disciplinary Actions 9
- Photos 56

Nearly 80% of the 530 databases are for the USA – 401 of the 530. The following are the 530 databases arranged by country:

- Australia 4
- Canada 22
- Europe 102
- Mexico 1
- USA 401
- Africa 1
- Asia 8
- Oceania 12
- South America 3

A small number, 17 of the 530, are in languages other than English.

- French 13
- German 23
- Spanish 1

## **SUMMARY**

My goal is to write a few articles on using US Military records to find Canadians. Because both of my parents were Boutiliers (although Dad never knew it), my focus is on Boutiliers.

Specifically, I searched for a World War II US Army enlistment where the surname was Boutilier. Why? I wanted a Boutilier who was a Canadian and maybe even still a citizen of Canada. I hoped for a Boutilier who was already in my database and better than that, a Boutilier from Cape Breton. I found a Boutilier who met nearly all my criteria. I found a record for Weston Archibald Boutilier from Halifax, son of Oscar Josiah “Josiah” Boutilier and Rosanna May McFetridge (also from Halifax). Josiah descended from John James Boutilier from Etoban, Montbeliard, France. John James Boutilier was a very successful businessman in shipping and fishing. He moved most of his family from the St Margaret’s Bay area south of Halifax to Coxheath, Cape Breton in 1808 on his own cargo ships – used to transport Cape Breton coal to Halifax.

Josiah's Canadian family records except for the two children born in the USA are contained in Bob Hegerich's World Connect database. (I believe that Bob's database is the world's largest collection of Boutilier records.) Until I started researching the family, Bob's information especially on Josiah's ancestry was all that I had. It was a lot to build on. There were trails through Boutilier, Jollimores, Slauenwhites, and Westhavers to Lunenburg's founding families. It looks like I am related to Josiah's family through both of my parents..

Weston and his brother Ernest (Earnest) were born in Halifax in 1923 and 1925 before the family migrated to Massachusetts in 1926. When he enlisted in the US Army Weston was not a citizen (yet). Ernest also joined the US Army and was married in 1946. (Their youngest brother Norman was also in the Military because he is buried in the Bourne MA National Cemetery - the cemetery is reserved for veterans and their spouses.) I can't find an enlistment record for Ernest. He could have joined after WW II.

The Family Group Sheet for Oscar Josiah (Josiah) Boutilier's family follows on the next page. The marriage record for Josiah and Rosanna indicates that they were from Jollimore Village. Weston, Linda and Norman all had 3 children. I can't determine whether Ernest and his wife Charlotte (maiden name is unknown) had children.

# Family Group Record

<b>Husband Oscar Josiah Boutilier "Josiah"</b>					
	Born	15 Oct 1903	Place Northwest Arm, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada	LDS ordinance dates	
				Temple	
	Died	15 Mar 1987	Place Quincy, Norfolk, Massachusetts, USA	Baptized	
				Endowed	
				Sealed to parents	
	Married	14 Mar 1923	Place Halifax, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada	Sealed to spouse	
	Husband's father Josiah Samuel Boutilier				
	Husband's mother Lucy Ann Jollimore				
<b>Wife Rosanna May McFetridge</b>					
	Born	19 Nov 1900	Place Halifax County, Nova Scotia, Canada	LDS ordinance dates	
				Temple	
	Died	Aug 1987	Place Quincy, Norfolk, Massachusetts, USA	Baptized	
				Endowed	
				Sealed to parents	
	Wife's father				
	Wife's mother				
<b>Children</b> List each child in order of birth.				LDS ordinance dates	Temple
<b>1</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Weston Archibald Boutilier</b>			
	Born	25 Sep 1923	Place Northwest Arm, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada	Baptized	
	Died	3 Aug 2010	Place Sacramento, Sacramento, California, USA	Endowed	
	Buried	9 Aug 2010	Place East Lawn Memorial Park, Sacramento, S, California, USA	Sealed to parents	
	Spouse Roxie Pauline Swafford				
	Married		Place	Sealed to spouse	
<b>2</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Earnest James Boutilier</b>			
	Born	8 Jan 1925	Place Northwest Arm, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada	Baptized	
				Endowed	
				Sealed to parents	
<b>3</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Linda Boutilier</b>			
	Born	8 Nov 1926	Place Waltham, Middlesex, Massachusetts, USA	Baptized	
	Died	24 Apr 2011	Place Anaheim, Orange, California, USA	Endowed	
				Sealed to parents	
<b>4</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Norman Oscar Boutilier</b>			
	Born	9 Jan 1929	Place Massachusetts, USA	Baptized	
	Died	23 Jan 2013	Place Plymouth, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA	Endowed	
	Buried		Place Bourne National Cemetery, Bourne, B, Massachusetts, USA	Sealed to parents	
	Spouse Alice Danielson				
	Married		Place	Sealed to spouse	

## ANCESTRY RECORDS FOR WESTON ARCHIBALD BOUTILIER (1923 – 2010)

Ancestry records for Weston Archibald Boutilier is the principal subject of this document. All the information that follows is from Ancestry. It tells us pieces of Weston's 87 years. Specifically, I gathered information from: US Census of 1930; U.S. World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946; Find a Grave index; and U.S. Cemetery and Funeral Home Collection.

### 1930 Census

Name:	Weston Boutilier	
Gender:	Male	
Birth Year:	abt 1924	
Birthplace:	Canada	
Race:	White	
Home in 1930:	Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts	
Marital Status:	Single	
Immigration Year:	1926	
Relation to Head of House:	Son	
Father's Name:	Josiah Boutilier	
Father's Birthplace:	Canada	
Mother's name:	Rosanna Boutilier	
Mother's Birthplace:	Canada	
Household Members:	Name	Age
	Josiah Boutilier	26
	Rosanna Boutilier	29
	Weston Boutilier	[6, 3/12]
	Earnest Boutilier	5
	Linda Boutilier	[3, 2/12]
	Norman Boutilier	[1, 2/12]

### Enlistment Record:

Name: Weston A Boutilier  
Birth Year: 1923  
Race: White, not yet a citizen (White)  
State of Residence: Massachusetts  
County or City: Suffolk  
Enlistment Date: 11 Feb 1943  
Enlistment State: Massachusetts  
Enlistment City: Boston  
Branch: Branch Immaterial - Warrant Officers, USA  
Branch Code: Branch Immaterial - Warrant Officers, USA  
Grade: Private

Grade Code: Private

Term of Enlistment: Enlistment for the duration of the War or other emergency, plus six months, subject to the discretion of the President or otherwise according to law

Component: Selectees (Enlisted Men)

Source: Civil Life

Education: 2 years of college

Civil Occupation: Checkers

Marital Status: Single, without dependents

Height: 71

Weight: 143

## Find a Grave

Name: Weston Archibald Boutilier

Birth Date: 25 Sep 1923

Death Date: 3 Aug 2010

Cemetery: East Lawn Memorial Park

Burial or Cremation Place: Sacramento, Sacramento County, California

URL: <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-...>

## Obituary:

Name: Weston Boutilier

Date of Birth: 25 Sep 1923

Birth Place: Sacramento, California, USA

Source Location: Sacramento, California, USA

Spouse: Roxie Boutilier

Children: Diane McDonald, Rick Boutilier, and Nancy Boutilier

Full Obituary: Memorial for Weston Boutilier Born on Sep. 25, 1923 Departed on Aug. 3, 2010 and resided in Sacramento, CA. Visitation: Sunday, Aug. 8, 2010 Service: Monday, Aug. 9, 2010 Cemetery: East Lawn Memorial Park Please click on the links above for locations, times, maps, and directions. BOUTILIER, Weston A. "Wes" In Sacramento, August 3, 2010. Beloved husband of the late Roxie Boutilier. Loving father of Diane McDonald, Rick Boutilier, and Nancy Boutilier. Survived also by 6 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. A native of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, aged 86 years. A member of the Rotary Club of Sacramento, Sutter Club, and Ben Ali Shrine. Friends are welcome to attend visitation 10AM-5PM Sunday, Aug. 8th at ANDREWS & GREILICH MORTUARY, 3939 Fruitridge Road, and are invited to attend funeral services 10:00AM Monday, Aug. 9th at EAST LAWN MEMORIAL PARK CHAPEL, 43rd & Folsom. Memorials to Shriners' Children's Hospital or Breast Cancer Society.

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Your comments and suggestions are appreciated. Please Email me at [joe-apg@norwoodlight.com](mailto:joe-apg@norwoodlight.com) .

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