

The
Hancock Historian

Newsletter of the
Hancock County Genealogical Society

Volume 6, No. 1
January 2000

Happy 2000!

Web Gleanings

WWI Draft Cards Available from NARA

Prior to the US's entry into WW1 (approx. 1917-1918) every male between the age of 18 and 40 was required to register for the draft. The information found on the registration card was provided by the individual himself. The cards vary in information depending on the individual draft board, but by and large the cards include: The full name of the person (this means first, full middle name, any additional middle names and last name); the current address of the man; his age; his birthdate (some include his place of birth); whether he is a US citizen or a naturalized citizen (some ask if his father was a naturalized citizen and his father's race); his race; his occupation; where he is employed (name of employer); address or location of employment; name and address of his next of kin; some cards ask if the man is married or single and how many people he supports. The card is signed by the draftee. On the back of the card his physical description is noted: Height is broken down by short, medium, tall although some cards give the actual height in feet and inches; Build by slim, medium, stout although some cards list actual weight along with the build; color of eyes and hair; any deformities or injuries are listed (such as one arm missing, blind in one eye, etc); the name and address of the draft board and the date.

When these original cards were transferred to the East Pointe NARA branch, the LDS spent

about 3 years microfilming these cards. There are hundreds and hundreds of boxes and the LDS opened one box at a time and filmed them - in state order. However, within each state the cards were filed by draft board, not by county or by draftee. This makes the searching of the microfilm difficult to say the least.

The good news is that the Friends of the National Archives took each box after it was filmed (and checked) and sorted all of these thousands and thousands of cards into state and then COUNTY order and then in alphabetical order by surname and put them in new boxes. The Friends deserve all the kudos we can give them for this monstrous task.

So, rather than spending hours and hours searching the LDS microfilm you can order copies of the original cards from NARA if you know the county your ancestor lived in between 1917-1918.

And by the way, Ancestry.com lists WW1 Draft cards in their searchable data bases, however I know for a fact that there are 22 cards for the surname WHITE found in McIntosh Co, OK and Ancestry only gave me 4 of them so don't depend on that site. I was told yesterday that some reps from Ancestry had visited the archives a couple of weeks ago to talk about filming the cards, took one look at the hundreds and hundreds of boxes and simply left.

For copies: Send a letter requesting copy(s) to:

NARA
Southeast Region

1557 St. Joseph Ave
East Point, GA 30344

In your letter be sure to say you want copy(s) of the WWI Draft application Cards. Include the name of your ancestor and his race, the state and the county. If you want copies of ALL of the cards with a given surname, ask them the cost of the copies and send a SASE for them to let you know the copying cost. In your letter be sure and say you want a copy of the FRONT and BACK of the card. Be sure to send a SASE for the return of you copies.

The cost for the copy is 50 cents - 25 cents for the back and 25 cents for the front. If you only want one copy send a buck and say the difference is to be given to the Friends of the Archives, because after all they did all this wonderful hard work for you.

If you have any other questions about the cards please write to me and I'll try to help. I've been "delving" into these cards for the past few years. But PLEASE don't ask me to get the copies for you. It is difficult for me to take the time off from work to visit the archive to do my own research.

- Linda

Home Page: <http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~haas/>

Note: During WW1 there were 3 registrations for the draft. The first, on June 5, 1917 was for all men between the ages of 21 and 31. The second, on June 5, 1918 registered those who attained age 21 after June 5, 1917. (A supplemental registration was held on August 24, 1918 for those becoming 21 after June 5, 1918. This was included in the second registration.) The third registration was held on September 12, 1918 for men 18 through 45.

There are 24 million cards for men who registered for the draft, and this comprised about 23% of the U.S. population. However, it's important to note that not all of the men who registered actually served in the military, and not all those in the military had registered for the draft.

For the City of St. Louis, these records are arraigned by Ward number, and can be found

locally in the Genealogy Society collection housed at the main St. Louis County Library.

– passed on by Richard Spinney

HANCOCK

Upcoming Events

Scheduled Meetings and Programs for 2000

JANUARY 15, 2000 meeting:

Planning a Family Reunion - Joyce Barr & Jim Bartlett, Speakers.

FEBRUARY 19, 2000 meeting:

Election of Officers. In addition, we will have as guest speaker, Edward Pierpont, of Mailboxes, Inc. who will speak on "REPRODUCING YOUR OLD PHOTOGRAPHS". He will have some before and after pictures there and will explain about reproducing old, faded, torn, etc. pictures.

MARCH 18, 2000 meeting:

What is It and What is it Worth? - Al Sale, Jr. of Eastern Antiques, Ellsworth, Speaker. Each member is asked to bring only one item from the attic, cellar or the what-not shelf that you are unsure of its purpose, its value, or its age. This item could be a family heirloom or a flea market purchase but only one per member and Mr. Sale will identify it, appraise it and tell you its purpose.

COUNTY

GENEALOGICAL

New Members!

Sherrill Amero (*samero@aol.com*): Butter (ME, Hancock Cty), Springer (ME, Hancock Cty), Scammon (ME, Hancock Cty), Tracy (ME, Hancock Cty);

Margaret Bronson;

Roberta Gallison Cunningham: Abbott, Ball, Crowley, Doyle, Gallison, Grass, Gordon, Lufkin, Sargent, Welch;

Paul I. & Patricia A. Firlette: Hopkins;

Carolyn Key Hazen: Barstow, Hedrick, Hazen, Key;

Beverly C. F. Henry (*erhenryjr@aol.com*): Simmons, Cora Etta (Sedgwick, ME, 1850);

Zuzanne Tully Lawton;

Cynthia McCausland;

Jennifer M. Monant (*jen@acadia.net*): Info on old records;

David Murch, Jr. (*dmurch3022@aol.com*): Brickett, Closson, Dunham, Emerton, Gushes, Jordan, Joy, Jackson, LaCroix, Murch, Reed, Stanley, Tozier, Thompson, Wardwell;

Rosalie Rechtholtz (*rosier@acadia.net*): Arey (MA & ME), Bean (MA & ME), Bearse (MA), Bunker (MA & ME), Bangs (MA), Black (MA & ME), Brewater (MA), Cobb (MA), Cole (MA & ME), Cousins (MA & ME), Cross (MA & ME), Davis (MA & ME), Huff (MA), Hilton (MA), Hopkins (MA), Hamor (MA & ME), Hadley (MA & ME), Higgins (MA & ME), Larrabee (MA & ME), Prence (MA), Proctor (MA), Rich (MA & ME), Sparrow (MA), Shaw (MA & ME), Snow (MA), Young (MA & ME);

Harold Robbins (*sowester@aol.com*): Billings, King, Kaler, Robbins;

Liz Weishaar: Remick.

Society

Happy

Brooklyn Naturalization Index On-line

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 1999 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of New York has begun an effort to create an online searchable database of the index to Brooklyn Naturalizations from 1907 to 1924. These records are located in the Kings County Clerk's Office. This project is being done in partnership with the Italian Genealogy Group and the German Genealogy Group. Phase I of this ongoing project is complete and may be accessed and searched. The database already contains more than 65,000 names already available in this database.

The Jewish Genealogical Society does caution everyone that the online database is brand-new and they are still tuning it a bit. If everyone logs on at the same time the system may become slow or cease to function entirely. If you have problems accessing the site, they recommend that you log off and try again a few hours later.

The Brooklyn Naturalization Index On-line database is available through the JGS (NY) homepage located at <http://www.jgsny.org>

Ancestor

GENEALOGY POX

Symptoms: Continual complaint as to need for names, dates and places. Patient has blank expression, sometimes deaf to spouse and children. Has no taste for work of any kind, except feverishly looking through records at libraries and courthouses. Has compulsion to write letters.

Swears at mailman when he doesn't leave mail. Frequents strange places such as cemeteries. Makes secret night calls and hides phone bills from spouse. Mumbles to self and has strange, faraway look in eyes.

Treatment: Medication is useless. Disease is not fatal but gets progressively worse. Patient should attend genealogy workshops, subscribe to genealogical magazines and be given a quiet corner in the house where he or she can be alone.

Remarks: The nature of this disease is, the sicker the patient gets, the more he enjoys it.

Hunting

YOU KNOW YOU'RE TAKING GENEALOGY TOO SERIOUSLY IF...

You are the only person to show up at the cemetery research party with a shovel.

To put the "final touches" on your genealogical research, you've asked all of your closest relatives to provide DNA samples.

You were instrumental in having "non-genealogical use of the genealogy room copy machine" classified as a federal hate crime.

Your house leans slightly toward the side where your genealogical records are stored.

You decided to take a two-week break from genealogy, and the U.S. Postal Office immediately laid off 1,500 employees.

Out of respect for your best friend's unquestioned reputation for honesty and integrity, you are willing to turn off that noisy surveillance camera while she reviews your 57 genealogical research notebooks in your home. The armed security guard, however, will remain.

You plod merrily along "refining" your recently published family history, blissfully unaware that the number of errata pages now far exceeds the number of pages in your original publication.

During an ice storm and power outage, you ignore the pleas of your shivering spouse and place your last quilt around that 1886 photograph of dear Uncle George.

The most recent document in your "Missing Ancestors" file is a 36-page contract between you and Johnson Billboard Advertising Company.

Ed McMahon, several t.v. cameras and an envelope from Publishers Clearing House arrive at your front door on Super Bowl Sunday, and the first thing you say is, "Are you related to the McMahons of Ohio?"

"A Loving Family" and "Financial Security" have moved up to second and third, respectively, on your list of life's goals, but still lag far behind "Owning My Own Microfilm Reader."

A magical genie appears and agrees to grant your any one wish, and you ask that the 1890 census be restored.

Hancock County Genealogical Society
c/o Wayne Patton, Treasurer
P. O. Box 243
Bass Harbor, ME 04653