

ARKANSAS HISTORY COMMISSION

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ARKANSAS WORLD WAR I RECORDS

Arkansas Draft Registration Records 1917-1918

Between 1917 and 1918 the United States held three successive draft registrations in preparation for its entry into World War I. These registrations required that every able-bodied man (African-American, White, Native American, or non-citizen) between the ages of 21 and 45 report to his local draft board and complete a registration card giving detailed personal information. Some twenty-three million men complied. The records of this registration were microfilmed several years ago. The collection for Arkansas, composed of 69 rolls of 16-mm microfilm, is now available for use here at the History Commission.

The individual Registration Cards for Arkansas men are filed with the records of that man's local draft board and then in alphabetical order by the man's last name. Because most counties had only one draft board, the name of the draft board and the name of the county are the same. However, in Pulaski, Jefferson, and Sebastian counties there were two different draft boards for each county. In addition, the city of Little Rock had two draft boards that were separate from the two for Pulaski County. Each card contains the man's name, age, address, date of birth, citizenship status, place of birth, etc. The cards also contain a brief physical description and the registrant's signature. When used in conjunction with the 1920 U. S. Census these records constitute an important source for state history and genealogy.

Arkansas World War I Discharge Records

This collection of 117 rolls of 35 mm microfilm contain discharge information for the men and women from Arkansas who served in the Mexican Expedition of 1916 and World War I (1918-1919). The cards are roughly in alphabetical order by the soldier's last name. Besides information about military service, each card contains the veteran's age, place of birth, place of residence etc. If a soldier died during the war, the cards contain information on his date of death and place of burial. The first roll in the series contains similar information for nurses who saw service during this conflict. See *The Great War: A Guide*, by C. K. Schaefer.