

JPL Genealogy News

Jacksonville Public Library Genealogy Collection Newsletter

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JUNE 2007

303 N. Laura Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202
(904)630-2409
<http://jpl.coj.net>

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & CLASSES

6/2: Heritage Quest

LIBRARY HOURS

Mon: 9am-8pm
Tues: 9am-8pm
Wed: 9am-8pm
Thurs: 9am-8pm
Fri: 9am-6pm
Sat: 9am-6pm
Sun: 1pm-6pm

We will be closed:

Wednesday, 7/4 for Independence Day

World War I Records

by Barbara Kiersh

Was grandpa a slacker? While he wasn't the out-of-work Game Boy playing obsessed young dude we call slackers today, he could have been that "unpatriotic" slacker of the WWI era. What did it take to be a slacker in 1917? During this period of high patriotic fervor, failing to register for the draft, or even claiming exemption from the draft, earned you the reviled sobriquet of slacker.

Newspaper headlines declared, "The Slackers Will Not Escape Service", and "Net Out For Slackers". Local authorities working with the Federal Government and the Department of Justice conducted "slacker raids" in many cities. The only men not required to register for the draft were those already in military service, and those aliens who entered the United States for the first time after the date set for registration, unless they declared their intention to become a citizen.

But, in general, this was not a wide spread problem among the eligible men of the day. In 1917 and 1918, approximately 24 million men living in the United States completed a draft registration card, citizens and non-citizens alike; men born between 13 September 1872 and 12 Sep-

tember 1900. There were three registrations. The first registration on 5 June 1917, was for men between the ages of twenty-one to thirty-one – men born between 6 June 1886 and 5 June 1896. The second registration on 5 June 1918 was for men who



had turned twenty-one since the previous registration – men born between 6 June 1896 and June 1897. The third registration on 12 September 1918, was for men ages eighteen to twenty-one and thirty-one to forty-five – men born between 11 September 1872 and 12 September 1900.

Because there were three separate registrations, there are slightly different versions of the draft registration card. Just by examining the format of the card, the date of registration can be determined. But in general, all cards included, full name, home address, date and place of birth, age, race, and country of citizenship, occupation and employer, physical description, additional information such as

address of nearest relative, dependent relatives, marital status, father's birthplace, or previous exemption from service, and a signature or mark.

The original records are at the National Archives – Southeast Region in Atlanta, Georgia. Microfilm copies at regional Archives serve their respective states. Some large libraries have film of these cards for their own state. The Jacksonville Public Library has the microfilm for the state of Florida. The Family History Center has also filmed these cards. When in the Family History Library Catalog search under the heading: UNITED STATES, Military Records – World War, 1914-1918. Ancestry has now digitized images of these registration cards as well. They can be researched in the Jacksonville Public Library on Ancestry LE or at home on Ancestry.com.

For further reading and research:

Uncle, We are Ready!; Registering America's Men, 1917-1918 by John J. Newman

Tracing Your First World War Ancestors by Simon Fowler

Soldiers of the Great War, 3 vols. by W.M. Hauslee, et al

Upcoming Events

June 2:

HeritageQuest is here! Learn how to use the powerful searching tools HeritageQuest provides in all its databases. You can bookmark, add notations, limit, and expand a search. View digitized images of entire books and records. The HeritageQuest database is an exciting addition to your family research through the Jacksonville Public

Library. A class about how to use this valuable resource will be Saturday, June 2, 10:00-12:00 in the Electronic Classroom on the 1st floor of the Main Library. To register, please call (904) 630-2409.

June 16:

The Jacksonville Genealogical Society will hold their monthly meeting Saturday,

June 16, 2007, at 1:30 p.m., at the Webb-Wesconnett Library, 6887 103rd street, Jacksonville, FL. We are delighted to have as our guest speaker, Melody K. Porter, a computer software business analyst and genealogy researcher for 15 years. She will be presenting information on research sites in Georgia and elsewhere. For additional information please contact Mary Chauncey at (904) 781-9300.

New Resources

Lineage Book of the National Society of Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America, Volume XXXX

The Refugees of 1776 from Long Island to Connecticut

A Gazetteer of Indian Territory

Orderly Book of the Three Battalions of Loyalists Commanded by Brigadier-General Oliver De Lancey, 1776-1778

The Cymry of '76 Or Welshmen and Their Descendants of the American Revolution, Second Edition

Names of Persons Who Took The Oath of Allegiance to the State of Pennsylvania

Revolutionary Patriots of Caroline Co., Maryland 1775 – 1783

Revolutionary Patriots of Harford Co., Maryland 1775 – 1783

Revolutionary Patriots of Talbot Co., Maryland 1775 – 1783

Revolutionary Patriots of Dorchester Co., MD, 1775 – 1783

Revolutionary Patriots of Washington Co., MD, 1776 – 1783

Revolutionary Patriots of Montgomery Co., MD, 1776-1783

Some of the Earliest Oaths of Allegiance To the United States of America

Genealogical Abstracts Revolutionary War Veterans Scrip Act 1852

Spotlight on the Collection: Florida School Census

The first appearance in census records pertaining to school attendance and illiteracy was in the 1840 Federal Population Census. Formal counting of Florida's school children have existed in various forms since 1845. Instruction of all children between the ages of six and twenty-one years was free in the State's public schools, and as in the Federal Census, in addition to the standard name, age, and, sex, those who were considered idiotic, insane, or deaf were to be reported. Responsibility for counting the school population fell to the county superintendent of public instruction. This was to be done by the fifteenth day of May in every year exactly divisible by ten and reported to the school board of the county and the state superintendent on or before the

first day of June of that year. In addition, there was required an accurate census of all the children between seven and eighteen years of age, to be taken in triplicate, by the school attendance officer(s) during the month of June every year. The data for each child included: name, age and date of birth, sex, distance from the nearest school, school grade completed, and name of parent, guardian, or other responsible person, with post office address. Schools were segregated by race, although the same census information was required to be reported for both.

Few of these census records survive today. Some have been found in county courthouses or other repositories. Various genealogical societies have published select census data. There are school cen-

sus records on microfilm at the Florida State Archives in Tallahassee. The Jacksonville Public Library also has two rolls of microfilmed records of the Census for School Age Children in the State of Florida. These surviving records are from District One: 1896 Dade and Pasco Counties; 1900 Baker, Duval, Polk, and Volusia Counties; 1910 Escambia County; 1916 Palm Beach County; and 1919-1924 for St. Lucie County. They are located in the microfilm drawers in the Genealogy Collection.



Start Here. Go Anywhere.