

This article is protected by copyright, East Tennessee Historical Society. It is available online for study, scholarship, and research use only.

Suggested Citation:

Newman, John J. "Knox County and East Tennessee World War I Draft Registration Cards." *Tennessee Ancestors* 18, no. 3 (December 2002): 202-216.

Knox County and East Tennessee World War I Draft Registration Cards

by John J. Newman*

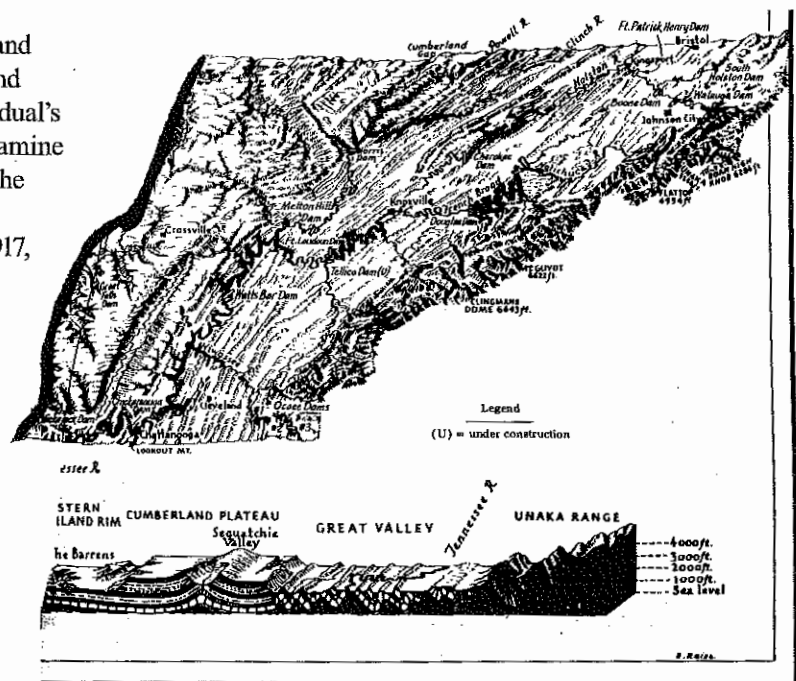
Over 24,000 civilian men, single or married, healthy or sick, employed or unemployed, who were born between 13 September 1872 and 12 September 1900 and considered Knoxville or Knox County their home, registered for the draft in 1917 or 1918. The resulting World War I draft registration cards not only provide information on individuals but link family members living at the beginning of the twentieth century with those of the nineteenth. The records document migration from the East Tennessee uplands to Knoxville by providing birthplaces for nearly half of the registrants, and for over 1,000, the birthplaces of the father. The researcher can discover an ancestor's occupation and for nearly 13,000 who registered, his nearest relative, as his wife or a parent. From the physical description, one may trace the family's tendency for baldness to that great grandfather. Understanding these registration cards fully is necessary to using them effectively.

Knoxville was the economic, transportation, and educational center of the Blue Ridge and Cumberland uplands communities. Therefore, to locate an individual's World War I draft registration card, one needs to examine the status of Knoxville at the eve of the war. It was the hub of northern East Tennessee. Its corporate limits expanded from 4.5 square miles to 26¹ on 6 April 1917, the day Congress declared war on Germany. The municipalities of Lincoln Park, Mountain View, Oakwood, and Park City, along with Beaumont, Island Home, Sequoyah Hills, South Knoxville, and part of Vestal, were incorporated into the city, to form "Greater Knoxville." The Knoxville *Sentinel* of 24 April reported on the first reading of an ordinance creating the new wards, twelve through twenty-six, and provided boundary descriptions. Understanding that registration occurred within wards is important to locating registration cards.

Knoxville, as the area's commercial, wholesale, and industrial center, drew men subject to the draft from surrounding counties.

The Knoxville *Journal and Tribune*, 6 April 1917, stated that Knoxville had 191 industries employing 15,193. The 1917 Knoxville *City Directory* observed that among these were forty marble quarries and nine finishing mills and further noted that 72 daily passenger trains, in and out of Knoxville, ran on the Southern and L & N railroads.

Geography controlled both the economy and its people. For decades farmers were self sufficient, supporting themselves and their communities. Upland farmers had to compete with good highways in the valley and a railroad system, relying more on rivers to move farm goods rather than roads subject to washouts. Such conditions materially affected them. Sevier County was representative of the region. Farm size decreased dramatically from 1880 to 1910. Large families, an asset providing cheap farm labor, became a debit as farms became smaller. By World War I, farmers no longer



Map of East TN showing land formations (mts, ridges, and the valley).
[Physiographic map, Tennessee Blue Book]

*John J. Newman is a fourth generation-removed Sevier Countian, whose great grandfather, John Cumberland Ellis, migrated from the Kodak area to southeast Indiana in 1850. Family documents, including Ellis' marriage license, dated May 2, 1852, and his future father-in-law's letter of permission, dated May 5th, spurred an interest in genealogy. Mr. Newman's first trip to East Tennessee was in 1963 and from then onward, nearly yearly treks to the visit the Great Smoky Mountains National Park for hiking and photography, allowed him to pursue family history research on rainy days. He holds a master's degree in American history and has given numerous talks to national, state, regional, and local genealogical societies, and has written on cemetery transcribing, researching court and naturalization records, and, most recently, on the genealogical value of the World War I draft registration cards. John J. Newman can be reached at P. O. Box 201, Brookville, IN 47012-0201.

could divide their land among sons and have each make a living, even by growing new crops, such as tobacco.

Poor economic conditions caused young families to move to Knoxville. From 1900 – 1930, rural population in the Tennessee Valley increased 14.7% while urban population grew 243.6%.² From 1910 to 1920, Knoxville's population increased 212% while the opposite occurred in the surrounding regions. The following quotations from *The Gentle Winds of Change: Sevier County, 1900-1930* support this conclusion. "The average family size in Sevier County in 1900 (5.5 persons) was the highest in Tennessee." "In 1900 most inhabitants did not think of themselves primarily as Sevier Countians. Rather, they usually considered themselves as members of one of a vast number of small communities." From 1900 – 1930, "it can be estimated that as many as 10,000 people left Sevier County during those economically troubling years."³ One can find men of draft age registering in Knoxville rather than in their native county. About 177 men who served in the war from Knox County were born in Sevier County while only approximately 62 were natives of Blount County, primarily a valley county.

Establishing the Draft

Knoxville's expansion occurred when the war in Europe truly became a World War with the entry of the United States. Four days after the declaration of war and corporate expansion of Knoxville, the Army had a draft plan in place. It became law 18 May 1917 when Congress passed the Selective Service Act. Life in the United States and in East Tennessee would change dramatically.

This act established a system of selecting males for military service, first by a series of three "censuses," or registrations, held 5 June 1917, 5 June 1918 (with a supplemental day, 24 August), and 12 September 1918. After registration, came selection through national lotteries, classification, induction, and entrainment, or delivery to army training camps. This article will examine the first process, registration, and its resulting records.

The federal government established a decentralized structure to implement the draft. The Provost Marshal General provided uniformity through forms, rules, and manuals. Next in line was each state's governor and adjutant general. The lowest level consisted of a



From The Knoxville Sentinel 4 June 1917.

registration, conscription, or "local" board for each county. If population exceeded 30,000, boards were established for each additional approximately 30,000, and cities with a population of over 30,000 had a separate board for each 30,000 – 45,000. The Census Bureau, in 1917, estimated Knoxville's population at 76,760 and Knox County's, exclusive of the city, at 30,933,⁴ many of whom lived in the suburbs and not the rural sections. Therefore, Knox County and Knoxville each had two local boards. This structure permitted registration to occur on a single day by requiring each man to register at his home precinct. Local control also meant registrars would be familiar with those who registered or those who should have but failed to do so.

The Registration Process

Registration for the first military census, 5 June 1917, was under the mayor for Knoxville and the sheriff for the county. Registration was organized by ward for the city and by civil district for the county, both further subdivided into voting precincts. Registrars were appointed for each of the thirty precincts in Knoxville and the forty-one rural ones.⁵

Under the Selective Service Act registration boards were restructured as "local boards." The Knoxville *Sentinel*, 8 June 1917,⁶ reported that wards 1 – 11, the "old city," would be designated as Local Board 1 and the territory annexed 6 April, wards 12 – 26, as Local Board

REGISTRATION DATE	BIRTH DATE RANGES
Class of 5 June 1917	6 June 1886 – 5 June 1896
Class of 5 June 1918	6 June 1896 – 5 June 1897
Supplemental 24 August 1918	6 June 1897 – 24 August 1897
Class of 12 September 1918	13 September 1872 – 5 June 1886, and 25 August 1897 – 12 September 1900, along with those who failed to register previously, (born between 6 June 1886 and 24 August 1897).

Knox County and East Tennessee: World War I Draft Registration Cards

2. For Knox County, Board 1 consisted of civil districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 13, 15, and 17, or the eastern half of the rural part of the county. County Board 2 included civil districts 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, and 16, or the western half.⁷ The Provost Marshal General designated Knox County Local Board No. 1 as 41-1-21; Knox County Local Board No. 2 as 41-1-22, Knoxville Local Board No. 1 as 41-1-23 and Knoxville Local Board No. 2 as 41-1-24. To indicate when one registered, the letter "A" followed the board number for those registering 5 June 1917, "B," for 5 June (and 24 August) 1918, and "C," for 12 September 1918. A card stamped "41-1-22C" instantly identifies the board and registration date: Knox County 1, 12 September 1918. The microfilmed registration cards are organized under these board designations, so knowing the territory for each simplifies their use.

Upon formation of these local boards after 5 June, the cards from the wards and civil districts were consolidated under the proper local board, shuffled, and each assigned a "serial number." This number, ranging from one to the total number registered within each local board, served as the basis to assign an "order number" under the national lottery, 20 July. The board then arranged the cards alphabetically and created a master list, copies of which were given to the local newspapers. The Knoxville *Journal and Tribune*, on 14 June, started publishing these lists (still, however, alphabetically by wards), with the headline, "Is your Name on This Roll? Federal Officers Will Now Begin to Round Up The Non-

Registrants." One reason for publication was to solicit participation from the general public to provide names of those who failed to register.

Men away from Knoxville registered at a county or city clerk's office where they were temporarily, and those visiting Knoxville registered at city hall. These cards were mailed to the appropriate local board where the individual considered his permanent residence to be.

Upon assigning order numbers after the 20 July lottery, men were called to fill a quota assigned to each local board. For Knoxville, the first call was for 172 men and for the county 109.⁸ Double that number was required, should exemption or physical disability prevent one from serving. The process for choosing men for induction into the army began. With some modifications, these steps were repeated for the two registrations in 1918.

Registration Cards

The means to executing the military census was through use of registration cards. These were designed to determine who was eligible in meeting draft criteria, if occupation or family situation could be cause for exemption, and to determine general physical characteristics and conditions. The process also reflected a determination for fairness, this being the reason why one registered at the precinct level. Men were to be chosen for military service whose absence would least impact the family and society, while at the same time proportioning those eligible to the lowest jurisdiction possible. These

Form 1. **REGISTRATION CARD** No. 171

1 Name in full: Carl Mount (Given name) (Family name) Age in yrs. 27

2 Home address: 410 Webster Knoxville Tenn (St.) (City) (State)

3 Date of birth: 1890 (Month) (Day) (Year)

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? Natural-born

5 Where were you born? Sevier County Tenn U.S. (Town) (State) (Nation)

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject? Citizen

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? Machanic 21

8 By whom employed? Knox Knitting Mills Where employed? Knoxville

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? Wife, one child, one step child

10 Married or single (which)? Married Race (specify which)? Caucasian

11 What military service have you had? Rank _____; branch _____; years _____; Nation or State _____

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? Family

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

Signature of registrant: Carl Mount (Signature of name)

Signature of registrar: marks

41-1-24A REGISTRAR'S REPORT

1 Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? Medium Slender, medium, or stout (which)? Medium

2 Color of eyes? Blue Color of hair? Brown Bald? No

3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? Lost one eye

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Signature of registrar: J. W. Manning (Signature of registrar)

Precinct 21

City or County Knoxville

State Tenn Date of registration June 5, 1917

Carl Mount registered 5 June 1917 (41-1-24A). Mount was the 838th person to register in his precinct. His serial number was 286 and his order number 171.

Knox County and East Tennessee: World War I Draft Registration Cards

Serial No. **233** Registration No. **181**

1 Name in full **Robert Benton Wood** (City or town) **21**

2 Home address **1159 Broadway Knoxville Tenn** (No.) (City or town) (State)

3 Date of birth **September 3rd 1896** (Month) (Day) (Year)

4 Where were you born? **Manassasville Tenn U.S.A.** (City or town) (State) (Country)

5 I am ☒ 1. A native of the United States, (City or town) **U.S.A.**
☐ 2. A naturalized citizen.
☐ 3. In alien.
☐ 4. I have declared my intention.
☐ 5. ~~Immigrant~~ (Strike out lines or words not applicable)

6 If not a citizen, of what Nation are you a citizen or subject? **U.S.A.**

7 Father's birthplace **Manassasville Tenn U.S.A.** (City or town) (State or province) (Native)

8 Name of employer **College Student**
 Place of employment **Vanderbilt University Nashville Tenn** (No.) (Street) (City or town) (State)

9 Name of nearest relative **W.P. Wood**
 Address of nearest relative **1159 Broadway Knoxville Tenn** (City or town) (State or Nation)

10 Race - **White** (Strike out words not applicable)

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

P. M. G. O. Form 1 (blue)

R.B. Wood (Signature or Mark of Registrant.)

REGISTRATION CARD. 3-729

REGISTRAR'S REPORT **41-1-23B**

1 ☒ Tall ☒ Medium ☒ Short (Strike out words not applicable)

2 Color of eyes **Hazel** Color of hair **Brown**

3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, eye, or is he palpably physically disqualified (specify)? **No**

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge, are true, except as follows:

Bessie G. Riddick (Signature of Registrar.)
June 5 1918 (Date of Registration.)

(Stamp of Local Board)

(The stamp of the local board having jurisdiction of the area in which the registrant has his permanent home shall be placed in this box.)

Robert Benton Wood registered 5 June 1918 (41-1-24B). His card has a blue stripe on top, used for registering men exclusively for 24 August. Careful analysis indicates that his card is a copy, required by Selective Service Rules. Note the similarity in handwriting for his name at the top of the card and his signature.

REGISTRATION CARD

SERIAL NUMBER **1885** ORDER NUMBER **2492**

1 **Robert Rodgers Locke** (First name) (Last name)

2 PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS: **825 Ferry Knoxville Knox Tenn** (No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)

3 Age in Years **20** Date of Birth **Sept 6 1898** (Month) (Day) (Year)

RACE

White	Negro	Oriental	Indian	Citizen	Resident
yes					

U. S. CITIZEN

Native Born	Naturalized	Citizen by Father's Naturalization Before Registrant's Majority	Declarant	Non-declarant
yes				

15 I am a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject?

PRESENT OCCUPATION **Candy Baker Littlefield & Son Co.** EMPLOYER'S NAME

16 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: **911 E. Second Knoxville Knox Tenn** (No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)

17 NEAREST RELATIVE **Wife** Name **W.P. Rodgers Locke** Address **825 Ferry Knoxville Tenn** (No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE

P. M. G. O. FORM NO. 1 (Red)

Robert Rodgers Locke (Registrant's signature or mark) (OVER)

REGISTRAR'S REPORT **41-1-23C**

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

HEIGHT			BUILD			COLOR OF EYES	COLOR OF HAIR
Tall	Medium	Short	Slender	Medium	Stout		
no	yes	no	yes	no	no	Brown	Brown

3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, eye, or is he obviously physically disqualified? (specify)

no

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Joseph R. Ragsdale (Signature of Registrar.)
Sept 12 1918 (Date of Registration)

(Stamp of Local Board)

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the area in which the registrant has his permanent home shall be placed in this box.)

43-171 (OVER)

Robert Rogers Locke registered 12 September 1918 (41-1-23C). Note the number of questions asked and the change from 'nearest relative' from father to wife.

cards gathered the necessary information and, as needs changed, so did the questions. One benefactor of this military census has been the genealogist.

To understand the information found on the draft registration cards, and more importantly, to evaluate the quality of the data given for accuracy and completeness, a summary of the questions is helpful. Each of the three registrations used different forms with slightly different questions. The first registration asked twelve, the second, ten and the final census, thirty. All cards, in some form or another, asked:

- Name (in full; the latter two registration cards requiring middle name)
- Registrant's permanent home address
- Age in years and full date of birth
- Race and citizenship
- Occupation and employer's name and address (The second registration did not ask for occupation but only the employer's name and address.)
- Physical description and major handicaps

The first registration also asked for place of birth, if married or single, if he supported family dependents, if he had past military experience, and if he claimed an exemption. It did not ask the registrant for his nearest relative. The second registration required the birthplace of both the registrant and his father. The totals for Knoxville and Knox County combined were: 9,999 men registered 5 June 1917; 1,091 on 5 June 1918 (and 24 August), and 12,952 on 12 September 1918.

The cards for those who registered 5 June 1917 were pre-numbered by precincts. They, and the cards for the other registrations, had two official sets of members. The first was the serial number assigned randomly by the local board shortly after registration. The second was the order number, which was determined by national lottery and which controlled the registrant's order of induction.

Accuracy of the Information

The researcher should not accept all information appearing on the cards at face value. The registrant's signature was the only data entered by him; all other was transcribed. There are inconsistencies in spelling.

The registrant signed his name as his descendants would recognize it while the registrar's interpretation could be much different.¹⁰ Other errors occurred, especially in the age category. Many registrars were volunteer clerks and teachers in cities and election precinct officials in counties. Communication was oral, and the record reflected what the registrar heard. The literacy level of both the registrar and the registrant also affected the quality of the information. Men often were too intimidated to challenge what they had just provided before signing the card, even if they knew it was wrong.

For some, however, being unknown in Knoxville permitted them to lie about their age. For those twenty-one or twenty-two, or twenty-nine or thirty, it was easy to claim to be younger or older. When Congress required those registering 5 June 1918 to be placed on the bottom of the list of those to be drafted, some may have come forward, as others did when the requirement for registration was increased to include those aged 18 through 45.¹¹ Data found in census, marriage, birth and death records more likely is accurate. If the data conflict, perhaps the registration card's birth date is in error. Also contributing to possible errors was the time it took to register a person. The Provost Marshal General estimated that one registrar could register eighty men during the fourteen-hour day. Long lines both early in the day and near closing may have made data entry subject to error due to haste. If information found on the card is inconsistent with other family data, consider the preponderance of the evidence.

Research Strategy

What if one cannot find a draft registration card for a person sought? The solution depends upon a number of situations. First, the person could have been in the military, having enlisted before registration of his age group was required:

- Enlisted prior to 4 June 1917, for those born between 6 June 1886 – 5 June 1896;
 - Enlisted between 5 June 1917 and 4 June 1918, for those born between 6 June 1896 – 5 June 1897; and
 - Enlisted between 5 June 1918 and 8 August 1918, for those born between 6 June 1897 – 24 August 1897.
- "Enlistment in the Army, as to registrants, was

REGISTRATION STATISTICS¹²

Local Board	# 6/17	# 6 & 8/18	# 9/18	Total	# Inducted	# at Camp
Knox County # 1	1,697	192	2,334	4,223	554	511
Knox County # 2	1,098	139	1,339	2,576	271	249
Knoxville # 1	4,182	415	5,194	9,761	1359	1,246
Knoxville # 2	<u>3,052</u>	<u>345</u>	<u>4,085</u>	<u>7,482</u>	<u>765</u>	<u>702</u>
	9,999	1,091	12,952	24,042	2,949	2,548

[See Appendix III for similar statistics for the other East Tennessee counties.]

discontinued on December 15, 1917, but recruiting in the Navy and Marine Corps, as to registrants and in the army, as to non registrants, continued until August 8, 1918, when all voluntary enlistments were ordered discontinued."¹² A large number from Knox County enlisted in the Navy (589) and in the Marines (101). Federal legislation, effective 1 October 1918, permitted the president to allot draftees to the Army, Navy or Marines. There would be a card for those who enlisted after registering for the draft as required for that age group.

Second, each registrant had to register at his home precinct in the county where he considered his permanent residence to be: "the place of registration is the voting precinct at your domicile. Your domicile is your *permanent* home."¹³ This could be in a county surrounding Knox, even though he worked in Knoxville. Students at University of Tennessee most likely would have registered in their home counties. The *Registration Regulations* stated,

"they are to be treated as other absentees. However, for their convenience, a local board is authorized to deputize a competent person to certify to the registration cards of nonresidents in such institutions."¹⁴ There is no record of this occurring with University of Tennessee students.

Third, the Provost Marshal General noted that a group of men, called the "floating population," had no permanent addresses, either working as railroad laborers or moving from community to community seeking employment. For the first registration, local boards were reluctant to register these, but later they did. Of three slackers arrested 15 June 1917 in Knoxville, two were "floaters." One claimed he registered at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia while working as a cook, and the other was a laborer on a railroad contractor gang, whose home was Columbus, Georgia.¹⁵ If one has personal knowledge that an ancestor was living in Knoxville but finds no card, he may have been part of the floating population.

Registration Figures For Greater Knoxville And Knox County Show That Men Of This Section Are Enthused With Spirit Of Patriotism; Complete Data On All Ages Goes To Uncle Sam

Figures on the military registration in Greater Knoxville and Knox county have just been tabulated and will be sent to the war department. The report gives complete information about the number who claim exemption, dependent relatives indicated, those who on account of their occupations will be exempt, number of legislative, judicial and executive officers, the number who do not ask to be exempt, and other data. The figures are given for each age between the years designated for conscription into the army. The total white, colored and aliens, also had to be worked out. With almost eight thousand cards from which to compile the city report and almost three thousand for the county, it was a big task, a hard one, and the diligent effort and many hours which Mayor John E. McMillan for the city and Sheriff John L. Callaway and County Court Clerk Jesse L. Henson for the county patriotically gave to the work make them deserving of the highest commendation. The two tabulated tables follow:

CITY OF KNOXVILLE

Citizens and Declarants from Countries with Which United States is Not at War.														Aliens and Alien Enemies.			
Column No.	WHITE							COLORED									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Ages.	Legislative, judicial or executive officers.	Persons totally disabled.	Dependent relatives indicated.	Occupational exemptions indicated.	Totals of columns 1, 2, 3 and 4.	Cards indicating no exemptions.	Total of columns 5 and 6.	Legislative, judicial, or executive officers.	Persons totally disabled.	Dependent relatives indicated.	Occupational exemptions indicated.	Totals of columns 8, 9, 10 and 11.	Cards indicating no exemptions.	Total of columns 12 and 13.	Aliens.	Alien enemies.	Total of columns 15 and 16.
21	0	12	228	42	282	306	588	0	3	96	3	102	84	186	1	0	1
22	0	8	241	48	297	290	587	0	3	79	1	83	89	172	3	0	3
23	0	7	327	41	375	248	625	0	1	84	7	92	52	144	5	0	5
24	0	8	344	46	398	207	605	0	0	70	1	71	51	122	3	0	3
25	1	6	314	35	356	194	550	0	1	72	2	75	41	116	2	0	2
26	0	5	328	45	378	177	555	0	1	86	1	88	40	128	13	0	13
27	0	9	411	47	467	165	632	0	0	73	3	76	31	107	7	0	7
28	1	13	346	41	401	129	530	0	1	83	2	86	30	116	5	0	5
29	0	7	343	35	386	124	510	0	0	74	0	74	27	101	5	0	5
30	0	10	389	35	434	125	559	0	1	89	2	92	21	113	6	0	6
Totals	2	85	3271	416	3774	1965	5739	0	11	806	22	839	466	1305	50	0	50

KNOX COUNTY, OUTSIDE CITY OF KNOXVILLE

Ages.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	0	17	125	14	156	161	317	0	1	24	2	27	31	58	0	0	0
22	0	14	143	11	168	143	311	0	0	17	0	17	22	39	2	0	2
23	0	17	143	9	169	123	292	0	1	33	0	34	23	57	0	0	0
24	0	9	145	6	160	98	258	0	2	26	2	30	14	44	0	0	0
25	0	16	128	6	150	103	253	0	0	20	0	20	14	34	0	0	0
26	0	8	158	7	163	75	238	0	1	19	0	20	14	34	0	0	0
27	0	17	159	4	180	64	244	0	0	7	2	9	7	16	1	0	1
28	0	12	136	2	150	62	212	0	1	14	0	15	7	22	0	0	0
29	0	6	155	2	163	47	210	0	2	12	0	14	6	20	0	0	0
30	1	7	170	3	181	28	209	0	1	12	0	13	0	13	0	0	0
Totals	1	123	1462	64	1640	904	2544	0	9	184	6	199	138	336	3	0	3

Registration Statistics for 5 June 1917. The Knoxville Sentinel, 12 June 1917.

Slackers

Finally, there were the “slackers”—those who failed to register. (Men who refused to return military questionnaires to their local board were called delinquents and those who were drafted and did not report to the local board for induction were deemed deserters.)

Did everyone register for the draft? Probably not, but how to reduce uncertainty for one of registration age whose card cannot be located? Estimates for those expected to register were based upon population projections. Actual numbers frequently fell short, especially for the first and second registrations. The 1920 census provides detailed population breakdowns for males in specific age groups. While the draft occurred from 16 to 31 months previous to 1920, the census profile closely parallels that in 1917 and 1918. 24,042 men registered, aged 18 through 45. The 1920 census lists 22,903 men aged 18 through 44. Considering also that several hundred men enlisted without registering, population data confirm Knoxville police chief Haynes’s conclusion that “very few men in Knoxville failed to register.”¹⁶

Several other reasons support this conclusion. The registration of 5 June 1917 was preceded by much publicity, patriotic speeches and parades, and the public’s lack of appreciating the realities of war. Registration notices in 1918 sometimes were published alongside lists of war casualties. The lack of time between the issuing of the Presidential proclamation and 5 June 1918 allowed for little publicity. Because “the schools of the rural districts are now out and we have had no way of advising the people of those sections of the date and place of the registration, except through the newspapers,” the government “asked all ministers in Knoxville and Knox county to announce the time and place of the registration from their pulpits at both morning and night services today.”¹⁷

Paralleling patriotism was intimidation. Posting of names and publishing them permitted the public to report slackers. One Will Webber, aged 22, was arrested 14 June 1917. On 6 June 1918 federal, state, and local law enforcement officers began a “slacker raid” to arrest those who had not registered, who failed to have their draft classification card, or who were deserters. Between 4,000–5,000 men were questioned and fifty arrested, but few had failed to register. On 12 September 1918 the Knoxville *Sentinel* announced, “It is likely that an intensive campaign will be waged in Knox County within the next week or two to round up any possible slackers.”¹⁸ While the actual number found probably was few, widespread publicity may have motivated many to register.

A number of other factors affecting the decision to register included: the likelihood of military service, marriage exemption, and special groups as aliens and African Americans. The largest number of inductees were drawn from the registration of 5 June 1917. The last call

for these men came 28 April 1918. Congress required that those registering 5 June 1918 be placed at the end of the draft list. Men aged 18 or over 36, for all practical purposes, would not be drafted, and options, like the Student Army Training Corps, offered more favorable conditions for registering.

“Not Slackers, But in Love”

The above headline is from the Knoxville *Journal and Tribune*, 3 June 1917. Many men were under the mistaken idea that if they were married they would be exempt. The paper noted, “twenty-four marriage licenses were issued yesterday...the largest part of these twenty-four licenses were men between the ages of 21 and 31, but upon leaving the clerk’s counter, all expressed their desire to help their country, and from the expressions given none were ‘slackers.’” Tennessee local boards, given discretion to allow exemptions for married men, granted few, unless there were children. The paper later commented upon the 5 June 1918 registration, “While a number of the men enrolled Wednesday—probably 50 per cent in one or two divisions—are married, it is believed possibly 75 per cent, probably more, of the total number of registrants will be placed in class one, subject to call for active service if physically qualified.”¹⁹ The Selective Service Act may have motivated a family member to marry.

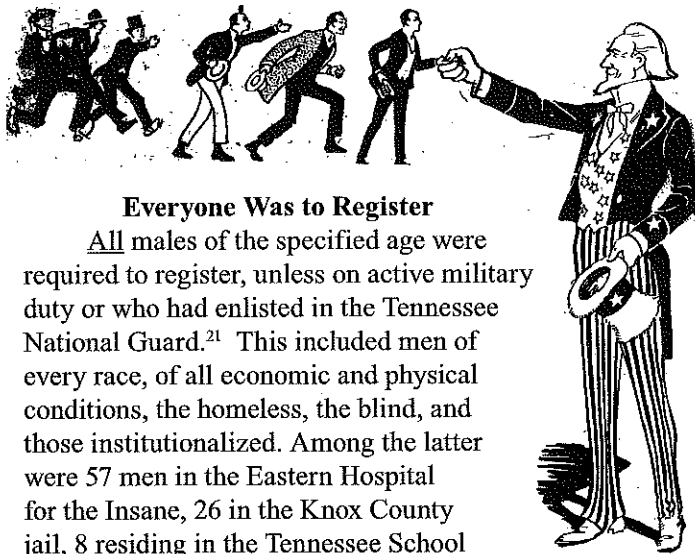
Foreign Born Registrants

Few aliens registered, reflecting their small percentage of Tennessee’s population. Fifty-three aliens registered 5 June 1917 and only three a year later. Seven men, perhaps feeling patriotic zeal, were naturalized 4 June 1917 in the federal court at Knoxville. One was Frank Josef Braxmaier, a German; another was Joseph Zuger, of Switzerland, who registered the next day and was one of approximately sixteen foreign born soldiers to serve from Knox County. Some were from Italy, drawn to the marble mills; they lived mainly in the sixth ward of Knoxville. The city also had a number of Russians who resided primarily in the fifth and seventh wards, and there were even a few from Mexico, who worked in the zinc mine at Mascot. More than 80% of the county’s foreign born registered in Knox County Local Board 1. However, one will find more immigrants registering having filed “first papers,” or Declarations of Intention, than actual aliens.

African American Registrants

About 14% of Knoxville’s population was African American, a majority of whom lived in the fifth, seventh and ninth wards. 1,305 registered from Knoxville 5 June 1917. While a number resided in the third ward, 252 of a total of 331 who registered in the fifth ward were African American. The *Tribune* commented, “This attests greater than words, the fact that Negro population of Knoxville

obeyed the federal law and registered for military duty.”²⁰ An additional 336 registered in Knox County, many in Civil District 13, where they worked at the American Zinc Company’s mine at Mascot. The *Journal and Tribune*, 7 June 1918, gave the total African Americans who registered in all four local boards as 128. From an examination of the registration cards, one can speculate that a number of African Americans came from rural areas to Knoxville seeking work. Beginning during World War I and continuing after World War II, many of them moved to northern cities, including Chicago, Cincinnati, Detroit, Milwaukee, and Gary, Indiana. This is described as the “Great Migration.” Use of the World War I draft registration cards can aid in documenting this migration, and in locating individuals who stopped in Knoxville for a time or a generation before moving northward.



Everyone Was to Register

All males of the specified age were required to register, unless on active military duty or who had enlisted in the Tennessee National Guard.²¹ This included men of every race, of all economic and physical conditions, the homeless, the blind, and those institutionalized. Among the latter were 57 men in the Eastern Hospital for the Insane, 26 in the Knox County jail, 8 residing in the Tennessee School for the Deaf and Dumb, and 4 at the Knox county poor asylum, all of whom registered 5 June 1917.²² The Washington D. C. *Post* for 2 June 1917 commented: “The registration law is so all-embracing that the male patients of military age in hospitals, including those who may be unconscious on June 5, will be compelled to register by proxy.”

Most in Knoxville complied. William H. Long, born 24 December 1889, registered 30 May 1917 and asked for an exemption—“not abel (consumption).” He died 28 June. A few, like Samuel Franklin Tinsley, also born in 1889, did not register. He was living with his father at 814 Maple Street, Knoxville, when he died 16 June 1917.

The researcher should assume that everyone did register, then establish where. If the person sought is not found, then determine why. One will likely find, however, one relative, perhaps more, who failed to register. From research previously done, using the Provost Marshal General’s *Reports*, and evaluating a study by John Whiteclay Chambers,²³ I conclude that from 1% to 2%, or

about 250 – 500, of those who should have registered in Knoxville or Knox County failed to do so.

It is difficult to prove a negative, but one can employ strategies to reduce uncertainty. First, a person may have already been in the military and was not required to register. The Tennessee State Library and Archives maintains an index on the Internet to those who served in World War I. The one for Knox County has approximately 5,245 names, found at www.state.tn.us/sos/statelib/pubs/vs/ww1intro.htm. The actual service abstract for these men is available on microfilm at the McClung Historical Collection.

Second, he may have considered home elsewhere. This is especially true for African Americans who migrated from rural southern counties to cities to find employment. Third, while the draft registration cards were to be in strict alphabetical order, handling and misfiling before microfilming may have placed a card out of order. Check all cards for that letter of the alphabet. Cards for “Hodge” could be misfiled with “Hodges.” Finally, expect to find a slacker or several among your family. Remember that registration occurred on a single day and reflected a snap shot of where a person was on that day and where he considered his home to be. With 72 daily passenger trains through Knoxville, society was quite fluid.

The following strategy may prove helpful:

- ◆ Verify the person’s permanent residence:
 - If married, where was his wife living?
 - If single, where did his parents live?
 - If not at the assumed residence, where did other members of his wife’s or parents’ family register, especially if working away from home?
 - Check the Knoxville city directories.
- ◆ Try alternative spelling of names:
 - What was the accepted spelling or the way he wrote his name?
 - Spell the name phonetically (remember that the registrant spoke his name to the registrar).
 - Truncate the name.
 - Substitute similar sounding letters for others for the first letter of the last name, as “C” for “K,” or “S” for “Z.” The handwritten “T” could look like an “I” or “L.” Someone could mistake a “M” for a “W” or vice versa. There are many variances between how the registrar spelled the name and how the person signed the card.
 - Search under the person’s middle name. In East Tennessee, especially, many used their middle names, much to the sorrow of descendants trying to locate them. John Henry Hodge signed his name as “Henry Hodge.” One can only wonder which of the following given names Edward Joseph James Mulligan used. More difficult are those who merely used initials. Search under the entire surname and truncated or alternative spellings.

- Did the person have a nickname? Family members, even newspaper obituaries, can offer suggestions on alternate names to search.
- ♦ Determine if his occupation might have caused his registration card to be retained by another board. Men working in the quarries also might have worked at the zinc mines in Jefferson County, Tennessee and several registrants were working in the Crimora, Virginia quarries.
- ♦ Check an alternative source:
 - Consult the Knoxville city directories for 1917 and 1919.
 - The Knoxville newspapers published lists of registrants.

Citing the record

The unique numbers on virtually all draft registration cards are the key to citing them. This consists of the local board number combined with the serial and order numbers. Since men had to register in their home precincts, even though they may have worked elsewhere or were traveling, this information is critical not only to find the card efficiently but to locate additional records, as the individual completed the questionnaire, filed for exemption, appealed an order of the local board, or was inducted into the Army. Advice to registrants published 12 September 1918 apply equally well to the researcher: "Watch for publication of your serial number and order number, and remember the numbers, as local board records are kept by those numbers as well as your name."²⁴ One needs all this information to research further Selective Service records, which, for Tennessee,

are located at the National Archives in Atlanta (NARA Southeast Region—Atlanta).

Role of Women in the Registration Process

While women were limited to serving as nurses in the military (eighteen were credited to Knox County), they participated equally in the patriotic zeal for registering. First, "women played a large part in almost every registration place. They volunteered their services and assisted nobly in expediting the work during the day. In some wards more than twenty women took part in the registration." "One of the lady registrars in a downtown ward is a lady getting well along towards middle age. She seemed to enjoy the work very much, and late Thursday afternoon remarked to the chief registrar—'I have certainly enjoyed the day—It has been a great deal of pleasure to register for the army some old bachelors who gave me the 'go by' in the past years.'" Second, the Provost Marshal General required a duplicate set of the cards. Several days after the first registration, "A group of women seated at the long table of the city commission in the city hall was busily engaged throughout Friday in copying the registration cards."²⁵

Finally, as the war reduced the available male workforce, the *Sentinel* reported that "The only solution of the problem seems at present to be the use of women in the place of the men who will be called. It is probable that the near future will see all women clerks in most of the downtown stores, women bell hops in the hotels, lady ushers in the theaters, and—who knows?—perhaps lady cops on the streets. Many factories are now employing

REGISTER THURSDAY

Every male who is 18 years old and not yet 46 years old must register under the selective service act, Thursday, Sept. 12, which is tomorrow.

The only exceptions are men who have registered previously under this act or those already in military or naval service of the United States. All others, citizens or aliens, must register. Members of the Fourth Tennessee must register. DO NOT TAKE ANY CHANCES. If uncertain, go to the registration place and ask.

Persons so sick they cannot register in person must have someone register for them. Persons away from home should apply to a local board TODAY and mail their card to their home board in time to reach there Thursday.

If you are 18 years old Thursday, you must register. If you are 46 years old Thursday, you do not have to register. Remember these ages—all those who are 18 years old on or before Sept. 12 and who have not reached 46 years of age by Thursday, must register.

DO YOUR DUTY!

The Knoxville Journal and Tribune, 11 September 1918.

women and it is said that they do just as well as the men for most of the work."²⁶

The Bigger Picture

Neither Knoxville nor the registration cards existed in a vacuum. Knoxville was the hub of those northern of the thirty-five counties that constituted East Tennessee. Chattanooga was its sister center for the southern region. Railways and highways permitted for easy access to both. Where transportation was more limited, cities such as Bristol, Johnson City, and Greeneville also drew men from neighboring rural areas. The Southern and L & N railroads made it easy for African Americans to move to Knoxville from Alabama and Georgia and whites from Kentucky. One can find Knoxville residents working on the L & N in Etowah and then be transferred back home. One registrant, Fred Goddard Howard, of 609 Walnut Street, Knoxville, was a clerk for the LaFollette Coal and Iron Company, working in LaFollette, who gave as his nearest relative, W. T. Howard, Route 5, Sevierville. The researcher must place Knoxville in the context of the region, and if examination of its draft cards is negative, use family information to search the rest of East Tennessee, based upon railroad routes, location of natural resources, such as coal, and occupation.

While it might require some imaginative strategy to find someone registering elsewhere, mining the data found within the cards is easier. Oscar E. Shanks, born in Rogersville, Tennessee 12 September 1900 (the last birth date for required registration), served in the Student Training Corps, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tennessee. The registration card not only provides his middle name, Eugene, but the full name of his father, Isaac Edward Shanks. Did he remain in Jefferson County? There, in 1923, he married Margaret Cate. Using the Social Security Index, one finds an Oscar Shanks, born 12 September 1900 dying in Miami, Florida in October 1979. His social security number was issued in New York prior to 1951. A search of the Florida Death Index reveals one Oscar Eugene Shanks, born 12 September 1900, dying 6 October 1979. The registration card provides family relationships. Using data from it, one can use modern research aids to acquire additional information.

Jesse Hoyle Clack also was a member of the Student Training Corps, but at the University of Tennessee. His registration card shows him born in Kentucky. His service record narrows that to Oakville. He lists his father as P. V. Clack. Below his card is that of a Presley Vernon Clack, born 26 April 1875, also living at the same address, a traveling salesman, who lists his wife as Mary Sidney Clack. In the 1920 census, he is him still living with his father but is married. The Knox County marriage records reveal that he married Lennis Tinsley 19 November 1919. City directories document that this family remained in Knoxville. One finds him in the Highland Memorial

Cemetery Index, on the same lot with his wife, her parents and siblings. Use of the registration cards in context with city directories, census records, marriage and cemetery indices, and modern tools, like the Social Security Index, can link generations and document a person to an event at a certain time in a certain place. These are the building blocks of family history.

Helpful Hints

There are two major sources a researcher should use to help determine if one registered, and two additional ones that provide information on World War I soldiers from Knox County. Finally, comments regarding the microfilmed draft registration cards are in order.

The first hint involves the Knoxville city directories for 1917, 1919, and 1920. They list all residents aged 17 and older for both Knoxville and its suburbs, with the exception of wives not engaged in an occupation outside of the home. African Americans are noted with "(c)" following the name, both in this section and in the street directory listing. The directories provide the names of nearly all who lived there at the time of the canvas, which usually occurred about three months before the stated publication date. Thus, the 1917 directory, dated August, canvassed citizens most likely in May. While none was published for 1918, the 1919 directory was dated November 1918, so its canvas occurred about August. Those in service usually were noted, as being "U S A" or "U S N." Both canvas periods were just before major registration days. The 1920 directory, dated 1 March, reflects citizens living in Knoxville and its suburbs in December 1919, about the time veterans returned home.

The alphabetical listing of names of citizens and firms of those living in Knoxville and its suburbs helps determine the spelling of names accepted at the time. Often there are cross-references to alternative spellings. These city directories did not define or list the suburbs so it is important to note that if one finds a person in the directory and does not find him on the registration microfilm for Knoxville, the suburb was outside corporate limits. Therefore, check the microfilm for the two county boards.

Also inspect the alphabetical listing of "streets, avenues and suburbs." In 1917, for example, the first three are: "A—(Fountain City); Adair AV—(Edgewood); and Adams—(Marble Hill)." Generally speaking, those communities which were incorporatd into Knoxville on 6 April 1917 will be listed without reference, indicating the street was part of corporate Knoxville. If a community is listed, as illustrated above, part of, or all, of that street was located in a suburb. Therefore, consult the county board as a first option.

The 1920 *City Directory* was the first to list the ward or wards for each street. Since these did not change from 1917 to 1920, one can use the 1920 directory to help determine if one registered in Knoxville Local Board 1

(wards 1 – 11) or 2 (wards 12 - 26). Following each street listing, arranged under the address, is the name of the principal resident; borders or family members would not be listed here. These printed names are helpful when examining the cards to decipher illegible handwritten names, especially if a parent is given as “nearest relative.” Use the registrant’s address, or that of his nearest relative, to determine the actual spelling by consulting this “street directory” section.

Newspapers have two-fold values. First, they permit the researcher to gauge the level of publicity given to the draft process, so the researcher can determine the likelihood that all those who should have registered knew about it; and second, newspapers provide lists of registrants. Whether a relative lived in East Tennessee or East St. Louis, Illinois, or anywhere else in the United States, Alaska, Hawaii, or Puerto Rico, the research strategy is the same. For daily newspapers, examine the issues beginning Saturday, June 2, 1917 through about 23 June. Thereafter, scan issues to see if any lists were published, through the first week of July. Read the newspapers for 20-24 July to examine the lists of men organized under “order numbers.” For 1918, begin the search with the 1 June issue and continue for the next two or three weeks: first, to determine the level of publicity (since call for the registration came shortly before registration day), and then for lists. Examine the issues printed 27 - 30 June for the second drawing of order number. Newspapers starting 20 August provide publicity for the supplemental registration; lists may appear for several days after the actual registration day, 24 August. Finally, for the 12 September registration, newspaper search should begin 8 September through the following Sunday, and again 30 September through 6 October for any lists of men, under their order number.

For weekly newspapers, such as those found, for example, in Maryville or Sevierville, begin the research one week before each registration day and continue through the two weeks following the drawing of the order numbers. Weekly newspapers were more likely to publish lists of registrants than some daily papers.

For Knoxville, both the *Journal and Tribune* and the *Sentinel*²⁷ constitute the second source to locate registrants’ names, and give the researcher a better understanding of Knoxville’s response to the war effort and the draft. Both papers published names.²⁸ The *Journal and Tribune* began publishing its list, by wards, 14 June 1917. Each newspaper later printed each registrant’s name arranged under his order number 20, 21, and 22 July 1917. The *Journal and Tribune* provides names only; The *Sentinel* lists full names and addresses. The *Sentinel* also published names of registrants 6 June 1918.

These printed lists help by providing names to assist in deciphering handwriting and determining accepted spellings. Except for the 14 June 1917 list, the names are not in alphabetical order. Use them as a last resort. If one

cannot find the card on the microfilm, these enumerations can indicate if one did register and under what spelling.

Both newspapers provide additional listings: National Guard volunteers, those serving in the “The Fighting Mechanics,” and some who served in the Student Army Training Corp. The *Sentinel*, 24 April 1917, announced 150 vacancies in the Third Regiment, Tennessee National Guard, and in its issue of 21 May 1917 stated that the Marine Corps would be in Knoxville recruiting the week of 10-17 June. The *Journal and Tribune*, 16 June 1917, noted formation of the Second Regiment, Tennessee National Guard, and that fifty men from Knoxville enlisted. More intriguing is the list of those serving in Companies A, B, and C of the “First 700 Fighting Mechanics” Army Training Detachment, 26 August 1918.²⁹ These men trained at the University of Tennessee to acquire a variety of skills, ranging from carpentry to truck driving.

The *Sunday Journal and Tribune*, 2 June 1918, announced the beginning of what would become the Student Army Training Corps, formally organized in September of that year. “A large number of youth 18 years of age and over and who registered Thursday will attend the University of Tennessee this year. They will be voluntarily inducted into the student army training corps. . . . All students of 18 and above will be given board, lodging, uniforms, tuition and \$30 a month. In other words, men who come within the ages 18 and 21 are regularly inducted into the army and receive pay, etc., as if they were in the regular camp.”³⁰ They continued their academic education. Many took advantage of this program; each will have a registration card.

Newspapers can assist in developing a research strategy by providing spellings of names and in offering the reader a better understanding of the environment, fears, and level of patriotism exhibited in Knoxville and Knox County.

If one did serve in World War I from Knox County, two additional sources are valuable. The first is *Knox County in the World War 1917-1918-1919* (Knoxville: Knoxville Lithography Co., 1919) Capt. Reece T. Amis, editor, [McClung: 976.87 KNOX. UT D570.85 T21k5]. Pages 194 – 396 enumerate “men of Knox County in the service,” with man’s record on one page and his picture on another. The list is not alphabetical; one must examine the entire approximately 3,000 names. Pages 397-403, provide an alphabetical list of over 2,000 “Others in the Service” credited to the county. Some listed served elsewhere, such as (Ira) Burton Spraker, from Loudon County. The second source consists of ten rolls of microfilm available at McClung, “Record of Ex-Soldiers in World War I: Tennessee Counties, 1917 – 1919,” a Tennessee State Library and Archives publication. Roll 6 contains Knox County. Its index, referenced earlier, provides the page number. Be imaginative with spelling. Both show those who enlisted or were inducted, having first registered.

Finally, if one wishes to learn more, or to review sources for counties surrounding Knox, Tennessee, or the rest of the nation, consult John J. Newman, *Uncle! We are Ready: A Guide to Researching World War I Draft Registration Cards* (North Salt Lake City, Utah: Heritage Quest, 2001) [McClung 355.22].

Tennessee Draft Registration Microfilm

These 81 rolls of microfilm, available at McClung, are titled "World War I Selective Service Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," NARA Publication M1509.³¹ [See Appendix II for a detailed list of the five rolls for Knoxville and Knox County.] The original cards are at the NARA's Southeast Region—Atlanta and were microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah. The reduction ratio is a high 32X, requiring a reader with enlargement capability to read properly. The cards are printed in different colors of ink, black for June 1917, blue for June and August 1918, and red for September 1918; and most serial numbers are in red ink. Many have darkened. The front and back are on the same exposure.

All three registrations are together in rough alphabetical order under each local board. Since these cards have had a nearly seventy-year use before microfilming, some are out of order, a few are upside down, and others may have never been refiled. The latter may appear on NARA roll MX15 (FHL #2022635) under title of "Late Registrations." If one cannot find the person on the Knox rolls, consult this film as well.

World War I draft registration cards provide new research tools. The better one understands the nature of these records, the more effective one's research can be. Proceed with caution and be thorough. Spell the name phonically as well as the acceptable way and attempt to incorporate all versions of given and nick names. With five rolls of film to examine, one can easily research all, including a review of all surnames. In addition to increasing the odds of finding the person sought, one can locate brothers, uncles, even fathers of the registrants. If unsuccessful, and it is likely such will occur for one or several family members, this article may explain why and offer alternative research strategies.

¹ The Knoxville city directories for 1917 and 1919 list Knoxville's area at "36 square miles." Lucile Deaderick, editor, *Heart of the Valley* (Knoxville, 1976), 171, and Mary U. Rothrock, editor, *The French Broad—Holston County* (Knoxville, 1946), 19, state that the area was 26 square miles. Rothrock cites as her source, *Industrial and Commercial Survey of Knoxville, Tennessee* (Knoxville Chamber of Commerce, 1944), 15. Deaderick has a map of Knoxville, third illustration following page 50. The 1930 Census has duplicated city engineering department ward maps of Knoxville, available on NARA M1930 Roll 31, with various dates in 1924.

² See William Bruce Wheeler and Michael J. McDonald, "The Communities of East Tennessee, 1850—1940: An Interpretative Overview," (East Tennessee Historical Society *Publications*, 58-59, 1988), 27. Anyone wishing to place an East Tennessee ancestor in historical context and to understand the economic, social, and value systems of the region should read this article.

³ See *The Gentle Winds of Change: A History of Sevier County, Tennessee, 1900—1930* (second edit., Sevierville, TN, 1989), 3, 5, 97.

⁴ The 1920 census listed Knoxville's population as 77,818 and Knox County, outside of the city, at 35,108. The 1917 Census Bureau's estimates appear to be the most accurate. The 6 April 1917 issue of the Knoxville Journal and Tribune gave Knoxville's population at "in excess of 80,000," and the 1917 Knoxville City Director at 94,289 for "Greater Knoxville and all its Suburbs." An accurate calculation is important since the Provost Marshal General based the first registration numbers at 9.32% of the total estimated population. These figures are needed to calculate the number of slackers.

⁵ The Knoxville Journal and Tribune, 13 September 1918, 7:4. There were 26 precincts in County Board 1 and 15 in County Board 2.

⁶ Page 6, column 8. See also The Knoxville Sentinel, 20 July 1917, 1:7.

⁷ Most of Civil District 1 was within the city limits of Knoxville, and Civil District 12 was wholly within the city.

⁸ Report of the Provost Marshal General to the Secretary of War on the First Draft Under the Selective Service Act, 1917 (Washington,

1918), Table 45, 147 "Local Board Statistics." Knox County had 338 men in active service and Knoxville, 666.

⁹ Second Report of the Provost Marshal General to the Secretary of War on the Operation of the Selective Service System to December 20, 1918 (Washington, 1919), Appendix Table 100-A, 583-5. Final Report of the Provost Marshal General to the Secretary of War on the Operations of the Selective Service System to July 15, 1919 (Washington, 1920), Table 20, "Calls, Inductions," 109-110. The Final Report provides the corrected list of those inducted and the smaller number of those accepted at camp. For a reproduction of these pages, see John J. Newman, *Uncle! We Are Ready*, CD-ROM.

¹⁰ In examining the registration cards, I am surprised at the many inconsistencies between the spelling of the name by the registrar and the way the registrant signed his card. The cards are alphabetical under the registrar's spelling.

¹¹ As of 20 July 1917, 9,945 had registered; the Provost Marshal General lists 9,999, suggesting that 54 men registered in 1918.

¹² Second Report of the Provost Marshal General to the Secretary of War on the Operation of the Selective Service System to December 20, 1918 (Washington, 1919), 6.

¹³ Registration Regulations Issued May 18, 1917, Form 6 (Washington, 1917), 24.

¹⁴ Ibid, 24—27.

¹⁵ The Knoxville Sentinel, 16 June 1917, 9:2.

¹⁶ See the 1920 Census, Population Volume 3, Table 9, 965. The Knoxville Sentinel, 16 June 1917, 9:2.

¹⁷ The Knoxville Journal and Tribune, 1 June 1918, 7:5; Ibid, 2 June 1918, 7:6.

¹⁸ The Knoxville Sentinel, 12 September 1918, 7:3.

¹⁹ The Knoxville Journal and Tribune, 7 June 1918, 7:3.

²⁰ The Knoxville Journal and Tribune, 14 June 1917, 13:3.

²¹ The Knoxville Sentinel, 6 June 1917, 7:3 stated that enlisted men of the Artillery Regiment of the National Guard had to register. The Tennessee National Guard was not nationalized until 25 July 1917.

²² The Knoxville Sentinel, 8 June 1917, 7:3.

²³ John Whiteclay Chambers, *To Raise an Army The Draft Comes to Modern America* (New York, 1987), 211.

²⁴ The Knoxville *Journal and Tribune*, 12 September 1918, 5:4.

²⁵ The Knoxville *Sentinel*, 13 September 1918, 7:2; The Knoxville *Journal and Tribune*, 13 September 1918, 7:5; and The Knoxville *Sentinel*, 8 June 1917, 12:1.

²⁶ The Knoxville *Sentinel*, 12 September 1918, 7:3.

²⁷ Microfilm copies are available at the Periodicals Section, Lawson-McGhee Library, Knox Co., TN, and at the Hodges Library, University of Tennessee. The *Journal* is located in the Periodicals Department and the *Sentinel* is in the Documents/ Microforms Department.

²⁸ The Knoxville *Journal and Tribune*, 14 June 1917, 7:5,6; 15 June 1917, 7:6,7 & 8:1-3. The Knoxville *Journal and Tribune*, 21 July 1917, beginning page 1 and throughout the issue. Additional names appeared 22 July. The Knoxville *Sentinel*, 20 July 1917, beginning page 1, then pages 12-15. More names appeared in subsequent issues. Both lists are arranged under each local board. The

Knoxville *Sentinel* 6 June 1918 and 7 July 1918.

²⁹ The Knoxville *Journal and Tribune*, 26 August 1918, 7:3-5. The paper provides the names of the 700 men who completed the eight-week course on 24 August, with names listed under each skill. It is not clear if this is due to the "Work or Fight" order effective 1 July 1918, or registrants with limited military service due to physical defects. These limited service men could volunteer until 6 June 1918. See The Knoxville *Journal and Tribune*, 4 June 1918, 7:4 and also *Ibid*, 5 June 1918, 4:2. There would be registration cards for both groups.

³⁰ The Knoxville *Sentinel*, 12 September 1918, 7:3.

³¹ Microfilm rolls are available for purchase from the National Archives at \$34 each and from Heritage Quest, www.HeritageQuest.com, for \$24.95 per roll for non-members. I have used the reproductions from Heritage Quest quite satisfactorily.

Appendix I Definitions

Enlistment: The voluntary entering into the armed services for military service. In World War I enlistment was under the Adjutant General of the Army, with terms prescribed by statute, Army regulation, and General Orders.

Induction: The process by which a man selected by the draft enters into military service. Induction occurred under the Provost Marshal General upon terms prescribed by the Selective Service Act and its regulations. It could be either voluntary, (upon application of the registrant), or involuntary, (upon order of the local board).

Appendix II MICROFILM

KNOX COUNTY AND KNOXVILLE WORLD WAR I DRAFT REGISTRATION CARDS

Each local board on a roll of film is designated with an item number, as "Roll 35 Item 2, Knox County Board No 1 Code No. 41-1-21." Cards are arranged under last name as written by the register and not as the registrant signed the card.

NARA roll # 35, (FHL #1853026), Item # 2: **Knox County Local Board No. 1, 41-1-21**

Fred Monroe Abee — Mike Zoski/Zocka

Item # 3: **Knox County Local Board No. 2, 41-1-22**

Charles Louis Abernatha/Abernathy — Edward Raymond Frily

NARA roll # 36, (FHL #1877142), Item # 1: **Knox County Local Board No. 2, 41-1-22**

Alvin Bennett — Horace Whitney Zimmerman

Note that roll 36 repeats the cards for Alvin Bennett through Edward Frily.

Item # 2: **Knoxville, Local Board No. 41-1-23**

Joseph Abbab — William W. Ayres

NARA roll # 37, (FHL #1877372), Item # 1: **Knoxville Local Board No. 1, 41-1-23**

Laurence Franklin Babb — Pat Joseph Millett

NARA roll # 38, (FHL #1877373), Item # 1: **Knoxville, Local Board No. 1, 41-1-23**

Charley Millhouse — Adolph W. Zuast

Item # 2: **Knoxville, Local Board No. 2, 41-1-24**

Hugh Edgar Abbott — Thomas William Fulton

NARA roll # 39, (FHL #1877374), Item # 1: **Knoxville, Local Board No. 2, 41-1-24**

William Joseph Gadd — Joseph Martin Zuger

(For a list of Tennessee World War I Draft Registration cards, arranged by county, see *Uncle! We are Ready: A Guide to Researching World War I Draft Registration Cards*, pages 251 – 254.) [McClung 355.22].

Appendix III REGISTRATION STATISTICS EAST TENNESSEE COUNTIES

The following statistical data is provided so that the researcher can compare registrations in Knoxville with those in other East Tennessee counties

The counties listed below reflect those whose natural features are attributed to the "great division" of East Tennessee. Such features directed its citizens to migrate to East Tennessee's major cities. Counties are grouped arbitrarily to reflect Knoxville and Chattanooga, those counties surrounding them, and the remaining ones. For those adjoining Knoxville and Hamilton, the likelihood is greater for migration to these industrial centers of young men required to register for the draft. The remaining counties include the Appalachian and Blue Ridge uplands, the Cumberland plateau, and the valley floor. County boundaries make classification difficult. Blount County, for example, includes Cades Cove as well as rolling valley lands. Economic conditions and transportation influenced mobility.

James County was abolished in 1919, with 26 square miles being added to Bradley County and 139 square miles to Hamilton County.

The area, in square miles, is taken from the 1910 Census. The areas for Hamilton and Bradley reflect pre-1919 conditions.

The population figures are from the 1910, 1917 estimates¹, and 1920 censuses. The number used to calculate those men who were expected to register was taken from the 1917 figures. With the exception of Knox and Hamilton Counties, most estimates were below the actual population.

The registration statistics are from the *Second Report of the Provost Marshal General*, Table 100-A, 582 – 586; total inductee figures are from the *Final Report*, Table 20, 109 – 110. This data can be used to compare the percentage of males of draft age, especially for the 1917 and June and August 1918 registrations, to the overall population to determine if there was a likelihood that the youth of a county moved to Knoxville or Chattanooga. Blount County had a high number of men registering in June and August 1918, showing perhaps that few moved to Knoxville.

Few city directories exist for East Tennessee cities; both the Gale Group and the Tennessee State Library have the 1917 City Directory for Johnson City. McClung has a period directory for Maryville/Alcoa. "Y" means that a known city directory exists for a city or cities in the county for the period, 1915 – 1920.

More communities have extant newspapers. "Y" means that available issues of local newspapers for 1917-1918 probably exist for a community within the county. The list is based upon the holdings of the Tennessee State Library and Archives and the newspaper holdings survey of the Tennessee Newspaper Project. Given the nature of the listings, newspapers may not be available for Carter, Johnson, Scott and Unicoi Counties. The McClung Historical Collection has a number of East Tennessee newspapers for the period. **Check with the local library in the county for additional information.** Hodges Library, Periodical Division, has microfilm copies of *The Chattanooga Times*. The *Sunday Times*, 24 June 1917, beginning on page 28, lists registrants alphabetical by wards, with whites separate from African Americans.

¹ *Estimates of Population Made by the Bureau of the Census July 1, 1917*, Form 18 (Washington, 1917), 20.

KNOX COUNTY

County	Area	Population			Registration Statistics			Total	Induct	City	
		1910C	1917C	1920C	6/17	6/18	9/18			Dir	Paper
Knox	504	94187	107693	112926	9999	1091	12952	24042	2949	Y	Y

COUNTIES SURROUNDING KNOX

County	Area	Population			Registration Statistics			Total	Induct	Paper
		1910C	1917C	1920C	6/17	6/18	9/18			
Anderson	337	17717	12414	18298	1323	149	1769	3241	445	Y
Blount	571	20809	25783	28800	2425	400	3433	6258	618	Y
Grainger	307	13888	10494	13369	984	137	1511	2632	292	Y
Jefferson	312	17755	13991	17677	1309	182	1936	3427	376	N
Loudon	219	13612	14152	16275	1331	176	1661	3168	407	Y
Roane	388	22860	19056	24624	1776	217	2578	4571	481	Y
Sevier	587	22296	17672	22384	1653	237	2293	4183	447	Y
Union	235	11414	8219	11615	771	96	1197	2064	180	N

HAMILTON COUNTY

County	Area	Population			Registration Statistics			Total	Induct	City	
		1910C	1917C	1920C	6/17	6/18	9/18			Dir	Paper
Hamilton	409	89267	118401	115954	11130	1090	14401	26621	4551	Y	Y

COUNTIES SURROUNDING HAMILTON

County	Area	Population			Registration Statistics			Total	Induct	Paper
		1910C	1917C	1920C	6/17	6/18	9/18			
Bledsoe	391	6329	5161	7218	516	47	757	1320	142	N
Bradley	336	16336	14067	18652	1323	131	1867	3321	441	Y
James	165	5210	4324	-----	405	42	598	1045	114	N
Marion	504	18820	15558	17402	1470	160	1721	3351	564	Y
Meigs	199	6131	4968	6077	466	55	611	1132	183	N
Rhea	365	15410	9592	13812	909	146	1342	2397	327	Y
Sequatchie	264	4202	3326	3632	311	54	505	870	87	Y

REMAINING EAST TENNESSEE COUNTIES

County	Area	Population			Registration Statistics			Total	Induct	Paper
		1910C	1917C	1920C	6/17	6/18	9/18			
Campbell	464	27387	22436	28265	2102	290	3034	5426	651	Y
Carter	353	19838	16094	21488	1507	178	2139	3824	481	Y
Claiborne	468	23504	18144	23286	1954	241	2454	4649	370	Y
Cocke	427	19399	16717	20782	1581	183	2228	3992	504	Y
Cumberland	655	9327	7521	10094	704	97	1038	1839	209	Y
Fentress*	486	7446	7682	10435	724	77	1047	1848	184	N
Greene	613	31083	26341	32824	2468	333	3358	6159	918	Y
Hamblen	158	13650	11277	15056	1185	134	1566	2885	332	Y
Hancock	228	10778	8326	10454	765	83	1070	1918	192	Y
Hawkins	482	23587	18069	22918	1700	228	2548	4476	636	Y
Johnson	294	13191	8766	12230	820	118	1226	2164	305	N
McMinn	432	21046	19453	25133	1818	271	2587	4676	435	Y
Monroe	673	20716	18573	22060	1739	200	2194	4133	450	Y
Morgan	529	11458	9850	13285	928	114	1432	2474	293	Y
Polk	432	14116	13712	14243	1288	122	1428	2838	380	Y
Scott	550	12947	9657	13411	914	111	1366	2391	407	Y
Sullivan	436	28120	30944	36259	2900	318	3647	6865	907	Y
Unicoi	201	7201	8208	10120	773	90	1044	1907	259	Y
Washington	325	28968	25536	34052	2324	274	3365	5963	721	Y

*Author's Note: Although technically not a part of the geographical region of East Tennessee, similar data on Fentress County, home of Sergeant Alvin York, may be of interest to readers, to compare its population and registration statistics with those given above.