World War I Draft Registration Cards

5-Minute Genealogical Hint
JGSCV
August 10, 2014
Jan Meisels Allen
100th Anniversary of Beginning of WWI

- War started in Europe July 28, 1914
- Known as “Great War”
- US entered WWI 1917
Requirements

- May 18, 1917, the Selective Service Act authorized the President to temporarily increase the U.S. military.

- All males in the United States between the ages of 18 and 45 were required by law to register for the draft throughout 1917 and 1918.

- American males born between about 1872 and 1900.
Establishment of Selective Service

• Under the office of the Provost Marshal General, the Selective Service System was established to draft men into military service.

• Local boards were created for each county or similar state subdivision, and for each 30,000 people in cities and counties with a population greater than 30,000. Established to draft men into military service.
During World War I: Three Draft Registrations—All Using Different Forms:

• 5 June 1917 - all men between the ages of 21 and 31 residing in the U.S. - whether native born, naturalized, or alien

• 5 June 1918 - men who reached age 21 after 5 June 1917. (A supplemental registration, included in the second registration, was held on 24 August 1918, for men who turned 21 years old after 5 June 1918.)

• 12 September 1918 - all men between age 18 and 45. (Old man’s draft)
What the Draft Registration Cards Include

- Registrant’s Full Name
- Address and Phone Number
- Age
- Dates and Place of Birth for more than 24 million men
- Occupation and Employer
- Next of Kin or Nearest Contact
- Signature of Registrant
Other Information Included on Draft Registration Form

- Race
- Height
- Weight
- Eye and hair color
- Other physical characteristics
If You Can’t Find Your Person

• Not all of the men who registered for the draft actually served in the military, and not all men who served in the military registered for the draft.
Where to Find The Draft Registration Card

- Ancestry.com
- FamilySearch.org
- FindMyPast.com
- National Archives
- Fold3.com
Joseph Goldberg 1917 WWI Draft
Registration Card-First Registration

Name
Birthdate
Citizenship
Birthplace
Occupation
Harry Perlo WWI Draft Reg Card 1917

Name: Harry Perlo
Birth date: 6-5-1917
Occupation: Cutter
Dependents: None
Signature: [Signature]

[Image of the draft registration card]
William Goldberg WWI Reg Card

- Age: 21
- Birthdate: June 5, 1918
- Citizenship: No Occupation
- Fathers Birth Place: N.Y. City
- No

June 5, 1918
Jacob Flower WWI Draft Reg. Card - 1918

Name and Address
Jacob Flower
1027 Hoe Ave. N.Y. Bronx N.Y.

Race
White

BD and Age
44
June 25, 1874

Citizenship
U.S. Citizen

Occupation

Nearest Relative
Pauline Flower
1027 Hoe Ave. Bronx N.Y.

Signature
Jacob Flower

If not a citizen of the U.S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject?

Employer's Name

Signature
Jacob Flower WWI Draft Reg. Card - 1918

Disabilities