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# Genealogy Notes from Emily November 2016

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## Genealogy Notes from Emily



### Websites to Remember

- MSL Genealogy – [www.maine.gov/msl/services/genealogy/index.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/msl/services/genealogy/index.shtml)
- Vital Records Researcher Card- [www.maine.gov/dhhs/forms.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/forms.shtml)
- MSL Classes- [www.maine.gov/msl/services/classes.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/msl/services/classes.shtml)
- Maine Genealogical Society- [www.maineroots.org](http://www.maineroots.org)
- Maine State Archives- [www.maine.gov/sos/arc](http://www.maine.gov/sos/arc)

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## World War I

### Locating Records of Those Who Served-or Registered

This country's 100th anniversary of entrance into the Great War will be marked in April 2017. Over 4,700,000 Americans served when all was said and done.; more than 115,000 died. Most of us can claim relationship to a veteran or two, from any conflict. This time we're looking at WWI.

A number of records are available through the National Archives ([www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)). Most of the personnel files for the Army-those persons discharged between November 1, 1917 and January 1, 1960-were destroyed by fire in 1973; but, records for the Marines and Navy were unaffected. (FYI: National Guard unit records are within state repositories, not at the federal level.) Other types of records offered are Army transport passenger lists, casualty lists and burial case files. If your person of interest was an officer, he or she will be easier to find data on.

Discharge/separation papers may be requested through the state veteran's office, if active duty was at least 90 consecutive days. These documents can include job specialty, last rank, any

decorations or medals and home address.

Other sources include CyndisList ([www.cyndislist.com/ww1/records](http://www.cyndislist.com/ww1/records)) which includes links to the American Battle Monuments Commission, Ancestry.com and Fold3, to name a few. One may access "Online World War I Indexes and Records-USA" by going to : [www.militaryindexes.com/worldwarone](http://www.militaryindexes.com/worldwarone). Links here include "Prisoners of the First World War 1914-1918", compiled by the International Committee of the Red Cross; Army Medal of Honor and Purple Heart recipients, and numerous links by state. FamilySearch also has a wiki that's helpful: "World War I United States Military Records, 1917 to 1918".

One of the best records available is the draft registration card, and they're online! There were 3 registrations: June 5, 1917, for men aged 21 to 31; June 5, 1918, those who turned 21 since the year before; a supplemental on August 24 of the same year for more 21 year-olds; and the last, on September 12, for those born between September 11, 1872 and September 12, 1900. The cards for each vary slightly, but all contain valuable

facts supplied from the individual: name, current address, date and place of birth, occupation, race and physical description. A bit disturbing is the appearance of the instruction to clip a corner of the form off if the person is of African descent. This is on the first two forms, but not the third.

I did a search for both my grandfathers; one was too old since he was born prior to 1872. My mother's father was born in 1880, so he showed up. I was disappointed that some of the details were left out, such as place of birth, and his relationship to the relative listed. Luckily I knew it was my grandmother. There was a serial and order number, so those could be tracked further for any record of service.

The State Library has a number of books to assist in your WWI research: [Soldiers of the Great War](#) (lists of the deceased by state); [U.S. Military Records: a Guide to Federal and State Sources](#); more can be found through URSUS!

### Put April 26, 2017 on Your Calendar!

The stage is set for the 14th New England Regional Genealogical Conference to be held on April 26th through the 29th, 2017 at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, Mass. Entitled "Using the Tools of Today and Tomorrow to Understand the Past", there will be 94 open sessions, 8 workshops, 3 luncheons and 2 dinner ban-

quets. Emphasis will be on finding new ways to do research; ethnic genealogy; social history; and general skills. Other highlights: a society fair, ancestors road show, genealogical research tour, entire days on April 26th for beginning DNA, professional genealogists, librarians, society management, and technol-

ogy. Featured speakers are: F. Warren Bittner, Kenyatta D. Berry and Thomas MacEntee. For more information, check out the website: [www.NERGC.org](http://www.NERGC.org), and/or see Emily for a copy of the conference program.



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um, Inc.