



WWI Genealogical Resources

[WWI Genealogical Research Resources](#) are described in this excellent article by the WWI Centennial Commission.

[WWI Service Records](#) are available free from FamilySearch.org (requires free registration). [More info about the Service Cards](#) and [how to interpret them](#). Service cards were created after the war. Originals of the service cards of North Carolina residents are maintained at the State Archives of North Carolina. A searchable online database has been created that is searchable by name, and includes place and date of induction, residence, and place and date of birth for officers, enlisted men, nurses, medics and chaplains who served in an official military capacity during World War I. Branches of service include the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. The actual service card is viewable through the database and contains additional information such as rank, unit, overseas service date and date of discharge from active military service.

[WWI Draft Cards](#) are available free from FamilySearch.org (requires free registration). The collection consists of an index and images of draft registration cards for WWI. Three registrations were conducted between 1917 and 1918. The registration includes cards for 24,000,000 men. Approximately 2,800,000 men were inducted into military service. The cards are arranged by state, by city or county, by local draft board, and then alphabetically by surname.

Local Newspapers are an excellent source of information on many who served in WWI. Chatham County's *Siler City Grit* and *Chatham Record* contain many mentions of men drafted, inducted, and news from soldiers, as well as women who worked with the Red Cross. The papers can be searched online—free—with a Chatham library card. [More info here.](#)

Need help? CCHA volunteers offer free genealogical assistance at the Chatham Community Library. Call the library at 919-545-8086 to set up an appointment.