



Chatham County's WWI Story

Chatham County's experience in World War I was highlighted in 2018, with several events, exhibits, and articles. Look for the Chatham County WWI image (at left) on our home page to link to all WWI activities and information.

~ Bells for Peace – Armistice Commemoration

Chatham County participated in the nationwide program, which was designed to honor American men and women who served 100 years ago during World War I. On Nov. 11, 2018 at 11:00 am, the chimes in the bell tower of the Historic Chatham County Courthouse rang out. The Chatham County Historical Association encouraged other groups, churches, and individuals to participate. [Learn more.](#)

~ Veterans' Photo Collection

On First Sunday, November 4, 2018, CCHA volunteers scanned photos of Chatham County veterans for addition to the museum's valor collection. [Learn more.](#)

~ Exhibits

A WWI exhibit was on display in the Genealogy and Local History area of the Chatham Community Library through January 2019. The joint library-CCHA effort highlighted resources available to learn more about the local WWI experience, along with photos of Chatham WWI veterans and local news clippings.

WWI was also the focus of a temporary exhibit on display in the historic Chatham County Courthouse during the month of November 2018. The Chatham Historical Museum's permanent exhibits also include several interesting WWI items, including a uniform and gas mask.

~ Articles

Several articles on our website provide information about the WWI experience in Chatham County. The following articles are currently posted:

[The WWI Draft in Chatham](#) Gives the history of the WWI draft registrations and how these were reported in Chatham newspapers, along with information about WWI draft cards for Chatham men.

[Chatham County WWI – Who Served?](#) Describes the draft process (lotteries and exemptions) and sources of information about who actually served in the military during WWI from Chatham. Displays images from Chatham County newspapers, reproduces a Chatham County draft board list and links to a list published in the CCHA *Historical Journal*, which was created from several sources.

[WWI the Chatham Homefront](#) Reproduces a number of clippings from the *Chatham Record* and *Siler City Grit* showing how civilians in Chatham were being asked to contribute to the war effort and the nature of the war news that was reaching them.

[Letters from Chatham County WWI Soldiers](#) Letters from Chatham soldiers published in local newspapers were an important source of war news for Chatham residents, describing camp life, training, and their impressions of far-away places.

[WWI Genealogical Resources](#) Gives links to general and Chatham-specific resources for genealogical research on WWI participants.

For more Chatham County WWI information, keep up with us here on our website and follow us on Facebook: [Chatham Historical Museum!](#)