

A Guide to World War I Records at the Delaware Public Archives

Political tensions in Europe that had been simmering since the late-nineteenth century came to a head when Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to Hapsburg Emperor Franz Josef, and his wife, Countess Sofia, were assassinated on June 28, 1914, in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. A month later, Austria-Hungary delivered a series of demands to Serbia and then declared war on them when Serbia refused to meet the demands. Soon thereafter, the Russian Army mobilized against Austria-Hungary. The German Army also mobilized against Russia, occupied Luxembourg, and then declared war on France. Diplomacy failed and World War I had begun.

Initially, President Woodrow Wilson and the United States intended to stay neutral in the war while maintaining an isolationist position. German U-boat activity off the North American and British coasts eventually drew the United States into the war.¹ In 1915, Germany declared waters around Great Britain a war zone and established submarine blockades.² The sinking of the passenger ship *Lusitania* traveling from New York to Liverpool on May 7, 1915, by a German submarine spurred the United States into action. 1201 passengers drowned, 128 of whom were Americans. American outrage following the event helped sway President Wilson into joining the war, even though it took another few years to declare war and raise enough troops to send to Europe as an Associated Power.³ Congress voted to declare war on April 6, 1917, but it was clear to the Allies that it would take nearly a year for the U.S. troops to have any impact on the battlefield. In order to have enough manpower to engage on the ground in Europe, the United States drafted 2.8 million men through the Selective Service Act of 1917.⁴

Even before the draft, Delawareans were involved in military action. In 1916, Delaware provided two battalions of infantry from the National Guard for defense service along the U.S.-Mexican border. When they returned home in 1917, the First Delaware defended utility and communication points in Delaware against German sabotage before being sent to Camp McClellan in Anniston, Alabama, for training in September of that year. Then the Regiment was reorganized as the 59th Pioneer Infantry Regiment and retrained at Fort Dix, New Jersey, in early 1918 for engineer and infantry combat duty.⁵ The 59th Pioneers were sent to France in September 1918 via the *Leviathan*, one of the largest ships in the world at the time, to support the Allies in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive on the western front of the war. They primarily served in a supportive role by building and maintaining roads, railroads, buildings, and operating the water supply, and also fighting when called upon. The 59th Pioneers remained in France on garrison duty after the Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918, until June 1919, when they were shipped back to Fort Dix and then were discharged.⁶

¹ Christina K. Schaeffer, *The Great War: A Guide to the Service Records of all the World's Fighting Men and Volunteers* (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc.), 123.

² H.P. Willmott, *World War I* (New York: Dorling Kindersley Limited, 2003), 197.

³ *Ibid.*, 197, 201.

⁴ Martin Gilbert, *The First World War: A Complete History* (New York: Owl Books, 1994), 328.

⁵ Brig. Gen. Kennard R. Wiggins Jr. (DE ANG Ret.), "Delaware National Guard in World War I, The 59th Pioneer Infantry Regiment. <http://www.militaryheritage.org/DARNGWWI.html>. Accessed 29 August 2013.

⁶ *Ibid.*

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All told, 270 Delawareans lost their lives in World War I.⁷ The war was often referred to as The Great War since it was unlike any conflict that had ever seen before. At least 8 million men died in the fighting, and countless others were injured or permanently disabled. Those who came of age during World War I became known as the “Lost Generation” because so many were killed or injured.⁸

The finding aid that follows highlights the collections in the Delaware Public Archives that contain records pertaining to World War I. For assistance in accessing any of the records please contact the Research Room staff at the Delaware Public Archives.

⁷ Joseph Hickey, “Race and War in Delaware: The Story of Delaware’s African American Veterans of World War I,” (MA thesis, University of Delaware, 2005), 41.

⁸ Willmott, 306-307.

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Military Records (RG 1800)

Title: Regional Transportation Accounts

Record Group: 1800.004

Span Dates: 1909-1918

Creator: Military

Bulk Dates: 1909-1911, 1917-1918

Extent 0.85 linear feet, 1 bound volume

Barcode: 390325

Summary: Record of financial accounts for transporting military personnel and tabulation of Delawareans drafted from various draft boards for World War I. First section shows date, name of officer, number of tickets for transportation issued, number returned, number used and remarks. Most transportation purchases were tickets for the Wilmington, New Castle and Southern Railway Company and the Wilmington and Philadelphia Traction Company.

The second section of the volume contains information on inductees that include the barcode/serial number of camp, local draft board number, date of entry, general number of inductees, number of deserters, number of physical rejections, number discharged for other reasons and total number credited for being inducted. Second section appears to be a completely different purpose from what the volume was initially intended for.

Arrangement: Chronological by date of entry.

Note: Volume shares box with RG 1800.005: Delaware National Guard Historical and Pictorial Review.

Title: World War I Inductee Record Books

Record Group: 1800.049

Span Dates: 1917-1919

Creator: Delaware National Guard

Extent: 4 volumes, 2-0.41 boxes, 1-0.24 box

Barcodes: 390446, 390459, 390330

Summary: Record of Delaware inductees during World War I. Shows order number, name of inductee, red ink (serial) number, reporting date, date forwarded to mobilization camp, entries of mobilization camp, occupation and draft classification

Arrangement: Arranged by county of residence and the City of Wilmington. Thereunder no apparent arrangement.

1. Box 1 (Barcode 390330): 2 folders, 1 volume:
 - Folder 1: Military-World War I Inductees, Sussex Co. 1917-1919.
 - Folder 2: Military-World War I Inductees, Kent Co. 1917-1919.
 - Bound volume: World War I Inductees into General Military Service (Voluntary and Individual Inductions). 1917-1919
2. Box 2 (Barcode 390446): Facsimiles of lists of inductions from Wilmington Draft Board numbers 1-4.
3. Box 3 (Barcode 390590): World War 1 Record of Inductions 1917-1919.

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- Folder 1: Alphabetical list of Draftees-Local Board #1. Wilmington, DE 1917-1918
- Folder 2: Alphabetical list of Draftees-Local Board #2. Wilmington, DE 1917-1918
- Folder 3: Alphabetical list of Draftees-Local Board #3. Wilmington, DE 1917-1918
- Folder 4: Alphabetical list of Draftees-Local Board #4. Wilmington, DE 1917-1918
- Folder 5: Alphabetical list of Draftees—New Castle Co., Delaware. 1917-1918
- Folder 6: Alphabetical list of Draftees—Sussex Co., Delaware. 1917-1918
- Folder 7: Alphabetical list of Draftees—Kent Co., Delaware. 1917-1918
- Folder 8: Alphabetical list of All Drafted Men from Delaware. 1917-1918

Title: World War I Servicemen Records

Record Group: 1800.050

Span Dates: 1917-1919

Creator: Military

Extent: 2.35 cubic feet. 5 boxes, 53 folders

Barcodes: 487186, 487187, 487188, 487189, 487190

Summary: War history records of Delaware veterans who served from 1917-1919. Records show name and address of serviceman, identification number, date and place of birth, parents' names and addresses, engagements or battles engaged in, citations of decorations conferred, particulars of death, if applicable, prior service information, current enlistment information, discharge date and identification number, overseas service dates, vital statistics concerning wife and children, if any. Numbers in lower right corner of page stands for medal number.

Arrangement: Alphabetical by last name of servicemen

- A through Dil (Barcode 487186)
- Dim through Ja (Barcode 487187)
- Je through N (Barcode 487188)
- O through Tat (Barcode 487189)
- Tay through Z (Barcode 487190)

Title: Muster-In Rolls

Record Group: RG 1800.051

Span Dates: 1917-1919

Creator: Delaware National Guard

Extent: 2 volumes, 0.08 cf

Barcode: 390326

Summary: Record of enlisted men mustered in the First Delaware Infantry under the Call of the President in World War I. One volume shows company, date span of muster, name and rank of enlistments, date of enlistment and remarks. Second volume shows names of

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inductees, rank, date of enlistment, date of drafting, company, and date of discharge when applicable.

Arrangement: Collection of manuscript rolls bound into volume form.

Title: Expense Account of the Delaware Draft Board

Record Group: 1800.053

Span Dates: 1917-1918

Creator: Delaware National Guard

Extent: 1 volume, 0.87 linear feet

Barcode: 390324

Summary: Record of financial accounts of the different local draft boards in New Castle, Kent and Sussex Counties. Shows local board division number, month, pay for members, pay for clerks, supplies, doctors, maintenance service, monthly totals, and categorical totals.

Arrangement: Numerical by local draft board division number.

Title: Record of Induction for General Military Service

Record Group: 1800.054

Span Dates: 1917-1918

Creator: Delaware National Guard

Extent: 1 volume, 1.04 linear feet

Barcode: 390324

Summary: Record of the inductions of servicemen for World War I. Shows the local draft boards, dates of enlistments, camp, number of white and colored inductees, daily totals, deserters, and total numbers of those inducted.

Arrangement: Chronological by date of induction

Title: Miscellaneous World War I Records

Record Group: 1800.055

Span Dates: 1917-1919

Creator: Delaware National Guard

Extent: 1 volume in 1-0.47 box, 1 oversize folder in 1-0.67 box

Barcode: 390455, 390456

Summary: Miscellaneous records of living and deceased service persons. A portion of the records were compiled by the Historical Records Survey as part of the Works Progress Administration. Records consist of paperwork associated with compiling a comprehensive list of Delawareans who died in World War I. Information includes: induction lists, tombstone information and lists of deceased, wounded, prisoners of war, and missing in action. Information shown on the records includes: Name of service person, age, rank, residence, date of birth, parents' names and residence, organizations, dates of enlistment, and duty assignments.

Arrangement: DE Deceased Servicemen and Women are listed alphabetically by last name

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1. Box 1 (Barcode 390456): WWI Deceased Servicemen, Lists of Veterans Buried in Various Cemeteries, VFW Post/GAR Post lists, Delaware Servicemen lists from various wars
 - Folder 1: WWI Delaware Deceased Servicemen and Women: A-G
 - Folder 2: WWI Delaware Deceased Servicemen and Women: H-P
 - Folder 3: WWI Delaware Deceased Servicemen and Women: Q-Z
 - Folder 4: Lists of veterans buried in various Delaware cemeteries
2. Oversize Folder (Barcode 390455): Miscellaneous records
 - a. undertaker reports, cemetery records of veteran burials, deceased members of VFW posts, copies of muster rolls from the Revolutionary War through World War I, Honor Roll of World War II Army and Navy Nurses, GAR post records

Title: Administrative Records

Record Group: 1800.059

Span Dates: 1917-1920

Creator: Delaware Adjutant General

Extent: 0.24 cubic feet. 6 folders

Barcode: 338824

Summary: Record of financial and administrative functions and activities in the office of the Adjutant General. Files contain correspondence relating to the draft, memos from the war department, financial statements showing yearly receipts and disbursements and salaries and annual reports. Annual reports show strength of battalions, completion dates, and mustering activities and duties of detachments and regiments. Files contain original letters from the Adjutant General to the Governor and copies of letters from the Governor.

Arrangement: Chronological by year of file.

Title: World War I Army Service Record Cards

Record Group: 1800.068

Span Dates: 1917-1921

Creator: Delaware National Guard

Extent: 3 rolls of 16 mm microfilm

Location: Microfilm Cabinet 3, Drawer 5 (1st Roll is shared with RG 1800.075: Navy Service Records)

Summary: Statements of service cards and applications for victory medals for servicemen who participated in the U.S. Army during World War I. Statements of service include: serviceperson's name, race, home address, place and date of birth, date and rank when drafted, rank and date of promotion, organizations and staff assignments, military bases stationed, military engagements participated in, wounds received, length of time served overseas, date of honorable discharge, percentage disabled and general remarks.

Applications for victory medals show name of serviceman, Army serial number, rank, organization, major operations participated in, defense sector service, service abroad not

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entitling to battle clasp, name and address of applicant, date of application, station or name of approving authorization, date of authorization, victory medal(s) approved, battle clasp approved, signature of approving officer with their rank and designation.

Arrangement: Alphabetical by surname of serviceperson.

- Roll 7: Aaron Andrew through Harvey Day (Roll is shared with RG 1800.075: Navy Service Records)
- Roll 8: Robert W. Day through Henry Morris
- Roll 9: Homer S. Morris through Joseph C. Zynch

Title: National Guard Enlistment Papers

Record Group: RG 1800.069

Span Dates: 1915-1917, 1921

Creator: Delaware National Guard

Extent: 5 rolls of 16 mm microfilm

Location: Cabinet 5, Drawer 3

Summary: Entry forms and descriptive sheets of enlistees entering the Delaware National Guard. Enlistment forms show state, name of enlistee, place, date and by whom enlisted, company assigned to and dates. Occasionally a descriptive list giving personal, medical, and service history is included with the enlistment papers.

Prior service forms show dates and organizations served. Declarations of Applicants to serve show name of applicant, state, place and date of declaration, and signatures of applicant and witness. Oaths of Enlistment show place oath taken, name of applicant giving oath, place of birth, date of enlistment, signature of applicant, date of oath and signature rank of recruiting officer. Certificate of Inspection and Enlistment for acceptance for service duty shows date, inspector and place of inspection, state, physical description of enlistee, residence, name and relationship and address of next of kin, and signature and rank of recruiting officer. Endorsement for U.S. Mustering shows rank, organization, state, place and date reported, remarks, signature and rank of U.S. Mustering Officer, and place and date of endorsement.

Arrangement: Arranged by company, thereunder alphabetically by last name.

Title: Service Record Cards

Record Group: RG 1800.074

Span Dates: 1898-1917

Creator: Delaware National Guard

Extent: 1 roll, 16 mm microfilm

Location: Microfilm Cabinet 5, Drawer 3. Shares roll with RG 1800.035 (198th Coast Artillery Records)

Summary: Statements of service records for members of the DE National Guard prior to US entry into World War I (1917). Shows name of serviceperson, home address, place and date of birth, duration of enlistment, date and by whom enlisted, company and date of assignment, physical description, occupation, next-of-kin contact information, re-

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enlistment information, dates and position of promotion, dates of dates of re-enlistments; dates and positions of promotion; dates of discharge and general remarks.

For the service persons whose terms of service continued through World War I, additional service records can be found on the World War I Army Service Record Cards, 1917-1921. Series: 1800.068.

Arrangement: On 3x5 index cards arranged alphabetically by surname of serviceperson

Title: Naval Service Record Cards

Record Group: RG 1800.075

Span Dates: 1917-1919

Creator: Delaware National Guard

Extent: 2 rolls of 16mm microfilm

Location: Microfilm Cabinet 5, Drawer 3

Summary: Statement of service of military personnel in the naval branch of the armed forces.

Includes name, service number, place and date of enlistment, age, rank, home address, place/ship where stationed, dates of service, ranks attained, number of days served under each rank, remarks, date, place of discharge and last rank held of servicemen. Date of death and place of burial are noted on most cards where applicable.

Arrangement: On 5x8 index cards arranged alphabetically by surname of service person

- Roll 6: Abrams, Harry R. through Lyons, Lester J. (Shares roll with RG 1800.085: 198th Coast Artillery Service Record Cards and RG 1800.072: Spanish American War Service Record Cards)
- Roll 7: MacSherry, Hillen through Zuchowski, Anthony J. (Shares roll with RG 1800.068: World War I Service Record Cards)

Title: World War I Scrapbooks

Record Group: 1800.079

Extent: 13 volumes, 4.33 cf,

Barcode: 455263, 455296, 455298, 455295, 346505

Summary: Newspaper clippings relating primarily to military actions and political activities.

Scrapbooks mostly cover the period before America's entrance into the war. One scrapbook relates entirely to the Fifth Liberty Loan Campaign in 1919. Delaware's role in the war is not highlighted.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically by date of clipping.

Title: World War I posters

Record Group: 1800.091

Span Dates: 1917-1918

Extent: 1.08 cubic foot box (oversized)

Barcode: 508356

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Summary: World War I-era posters promoting Liberty Loans, the War Garden Commission, the American Red Cross, and the Food Administration,

Title: Administrative Records

Record Group: 1800.097

Span Dates: 1917-1919

Creator: Selective Service

Extent: .86 cubic feet

Barcode: 390471, 390472

Summary: Rules and Regulations, blank forms, report of the Provost Marshal General to the Secretary of War and copy of the Presidential Proclamation creating the Selective Service to draft soldiers into service for World War I. Also included are arm bands worn by local board members and a Victory Liberty Loan banner.

Arrangement: Alphabetical by subject heading.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Extension Service (RG 0725)

Title: U.S. Department of Agriculture Extension Service Reports

Record Group: 0725.001

Span Dates: 1914-1944

Creator: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Extent: 13 Rolls, 16 mm film

Barcode: Delaware Public Archives, Self-Service Microfilm [Cabinet 1, Drawer 4]

Summary: Annual, semi-annual, and monthly narrative and statistical reports from state offices and county agents in Delaware. The reports describe programs held, meetings attended, projects in progress and accomplished, agricultural problems and needs, Boys and Girls Club (later became the 4-H) activities, and the Extension Service's influence on Delaware's agricultural community. These reports also mention the impact of World War I and II on farming and production needs. Local publications, newsletters, newspaper clippings, and photos were attached to some of the reports.

Arrangement: Chronological by date of report

Note: These rolls cannot be reproduced for sale.

Governor's Papers (RG 1302):

The records consist of proclamations, oaths of office, official's bonds, commissions, extradition requests, appointments, resignations, accounts, pardons and other general inquiries. Files relating to World War I have been noted below.

Title: Governor Charles R. Miller's Papers

RG: 1302.M02.007

Extent: 2-0.47 boxes

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Span Dates: 1913-1917

Barcode: 087703, 087704

Arrangement: Chronologically by year, thereunder by subject. Folders relating to World War I include:

- **1913**
 - Barcode: 087703
 - Adjutant General-National Guard
- **1914**
 - Barcode: 087704
 - Adjutant General

Title: Governor John G. Townsend, Jr.'s Papers

RG: 1302.T02.007

Extent: 15-0.47 boxes

Span Dates: 1917-1921

Barcodes: 087708, 087709, 087710, 087712, 087713, 087714, 087715, 087716, 087717, 087720, 087723, 087724, 087726, 087727

Arrangement: Chronologically by year, thereunder alphabetically by subject. Folders relating to World War I include:

- **1917**
 - Box: A-R Barcode: 087708
 - Adjutant General
 - Applications-Military Service
 - National Defense
 - National Guard and Drafted Men
 - Recruiting for Delaware Militia
 - Box: R-Z Barcode: 088709
 - Secretary of State-Correspondence, Adjutant General-War
- **1918**
 - Box: A Barcode: 087710
 - Adjutant General
 - Agricultural-Peace-War Department
 - Applications for Discharge from Service
 - Applications for Military Duty
 - Armistice and conditions in Germany-11/8/1919
 - Box: C-E Barcode: 087712
 - Commission for Erection of a Monument to Delaware Soldiers
 - Commission to take Soldier's Vote
 - Council of Defense
 - Council of Defense-Health
 - Council of Defense-Women's Committee
 - Draft, etc. (Delaware Regiment)
 - Draft-War, etc.-Red Cross

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- Box: E-N Barcode: 087713
 - Elections – Votes of Military
 - Health-Flu Epidemic and Men in Service
 - Investigation (War-Germany)
 - Labor (War-Germany)
 - Map of France-War Zones
 - Military-War Trade Bonds
 - Military-National Guard
- Box: P-Y Barcode: 087714
 - Red Cross
 - Returning Veterans Ceremony at New York
 - Selective Service
 - Service Citizens of Delaware
 - Soldiers' Votes
 - Veterans
 - Sympathy Letters-Soldiers Fallen in War
 - War Dept.-Police for Protection of Plants
- **1919**
 - Box: A Barcode: 087715
 - Adjutant General
 - Adjutant General-Bible Students for Military Service
 - Air Service Board-U.S. Army (landing fields)
 - Allies-Debt
 - American Legion
 - Applications-Discharge-Military Duties
 - Box: B-E Barcode: 087716
 - Bureau of War Risk Insurance
 - Council of National Defense
 - Delaware Wreath at Public Library, New York City
 - Discharges from Service
 - Discharged Soldiers Benefits & Applications for Discharge for Educational Purposes
 - Draft-War-Red Cross
 - Box: E-F Barcode: 087717
 - 59th Pioneer Infantry
 - Food for Army and Navy from Delaware
 - Box: General Correspondence: Military Barcode: 087719
 - League of Nations
 - Box: M-R Barcode: 087720
 - Map of France
 - Memorial to Soldiers and Sailors
 - Military and Returning Soldiers
 - National Guard
 - Reception Committee for Returning Soldiers
 - Red Cross

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- Returning Officers and Soldiers
- Box: S-Y Barcode: 087723
 - Selective Service
 - Soldiers-Missing or Not Heard From
 - Soldier-Settlement Legislation
 - Servicemen-General
 - Soldiers' Reception Committee
 - Surplus Property Division-Quarter Master General, War Dept.
 - Veterans
 - Victory Loan
 - Victory Loan Committee-Flags
- **1920**
 - Box: A-E Barcode: 087724
 - Adjutant General
 - America's Gift to France
 - Application for Release from Active Service
 - Box: M-R Barcode: 087726
 - Memorial to Soldiers and Sailors
 - Military-Doctors Serving
 - National Guard
 - Box: S-Z Barcode: 087727
 - Soldiers' Reception Commission

Delaware Department of State Records (RG 1325)

Title: Newspaper Clipping Collection

Record Group: 1325.003.008

Creator: Delaware Public Archives

Extent: 1919-present

Barcode: 404997, 515029, 386197

Summary: Collection of newspaper clippings concerning people and topics of historical interest. This is a "convenience collection" created for Research Room and Delaware Public Archives staff use.

Arrangement: Alphabetically by subject. Of particular interest for World War I researchers are:

- General: Wars (Box 16, Barcode: 404997)
- World War I (Box 16, Barcode: 404997)
- Oversized World War I clippings. (Barcode: 515029)
- National Guard (Box 13, Barcode: 386197)

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Title: State Reports: “Men & Women of Wilmington Who Died in World War I”

Record Group: 1325.003.147

Span Dates: 1923

Creator: City of Wilmington (RG 5100)

Extent: 1 0.47 box, 1 pamphlet

Barcode: 131628 (Box 31)

Summary: Program from a dedication ceremony for a monument created in memory of men and women of Wilmington, Delaware, who died in World War I. The monument was unveiled on Armistice Day—November 11, 1923. The program lists members of the honorary memorial committee and includes an image of the memorial, but does not list the names of the deceased.

Title: State Reports: Laws of Delaware

Record Group: 1325.003.147

Span Dates: 1917-1956

Creator: General Assembly (RG 1111)

Extent: Laws of Delaware have been digitized and are available online through the E-Books section on the Delaware Public Archives website.

Summary: The Laws of Delaware are compiled and published by the Delaware General Assembly for each year the legislature is in session. Between 1917 and 1956, the legislature included resolutions, laws, appropriations, and proclamations relating to World War I. These include:

General Assembly Number	Volume Number	Year	Chapter(s)
96	29	1917	271
96	30	1918-1919	261
97	32	1921	23, 243
99	33	1923	Proclamation
100	34	1925	250, 251, Proclamations
101	35	1927	33
103	37	1931	198
104	38	1932	133
104	39	1932	133
105	40	1935	190, 293
106	41	1937	39, 232
107	42	1939	24, 66
108	43	1941	27, 68
109	44	1943	17, 253, 272
114	46	1947	24, 188
115	47	1949	11, 469
116	48	1951	7
117	49	1953	52, 454
118	50	1955	675

Delaware Division of Health and Social Services (RG 1500)

Title: Delaware State Hospital: Articles and Speeches by Dr. Tarumianz

Record Group: RG 1500.013.246

Span Dates: 1924-1965

Creator: Delaware Division of Health and Social Services

Extent: 1 folder

Barcode: 405079

Summary: Articles and speeches given by Dr. Mesrop Alexis Tarumianz, superintendent of the Delaware State Hospital for 35 years. Subjects include various mental health issues, diseases and treatments. File contains one typed speech given by Dr. Tarumianz on his service in the Russian Army during World War I.

Small Manuscript Collection (RG 9200)

Title: Banning-Sammons Collection

Record Group: RG 9200.B21.001

Span Dates: 1792-1955; 1 folder from 1917, 1 folder from 1918

Creator: Banning and Sammons families

Extent: 2 folders

Barcode: 536902

Summary: Miscellaneous records from the Banning and Sammons families who lived near Ellendale, Delaware. One folder contains a letter from Henry C. Lank to his Aunt Sarah Messick in 1917, describing his Christmas in France during World War I. The other folder contains a postcard sent by James Sammons, a member of the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I, to inform his father that he arrived safely in Europe.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by folder heading.

Title: Beers Papers

Record Group: RG 9200.B09

Span Dates: 1917-1918

Creator: May Anderson Beers

Extent: 3-0.47 cubic foot boxes, 30 folders

Barcodes: 391204, 391205, 391206

Summary: Correspondence of Mrs. May Anderson Beers of Dover, 1917-1920, about World War I, including letters to and from France from Dover-area soldiers thanking her for care packages and notes. Mrs. Beers was the chairman of the Soldiers' Comforts Committee of the Dover Red Cross. Also includes newspaper clippings showcasing

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printed letters to Mrs. Beers and miscellany including Liberty Loan and Red Cross papers as well as sheet music for period songs like “Keep the Homefires Burning.”

Arrangement: Arranged by subject (Correspondence, Liberty Loans, Newspaper Clippings, Miscellaneous) and hereunder chronologically

- Box I (Barcode 391204)
 - Folder 1: Correspondence: To May Anderson Beers. 1917
 - Folder 2: Correspondence: To May Anderson Beers. January 1918
 - Folder 3: Correspondence. February 1918
 - Folder 4: Correspondence: March 1918
 - Folder 5: Correspondence: April 1918
 - Folder 6: Correspondence: May 1918
 - Folder 7: Correspondence: June 1918
 - Folder 8: Correspondence: July 1918
 - Folder 9: Correspondence: August 1918
 - Folder 10A: Correspondence: September 1918
 - Folder 10B: Correspondence: September 1918
 - Folder 11A: Correspondence: October 1918
 - Folder 11B: Correspondence: October 1918
- Box II (Barcode 391205):
 - Folder 12: Correspondence: November 1918
 - Folder 13A: Correspondence: December 1918
 - Folder 13B: Correspondence: December 1918
 - Folder 14: Correspondence: 1919
 - Folder 15: Correspondence: 1920
 - Folder 16: Liberty Loans
 - Folder 16A: Liberty Loans
 - Folder 16B: Liberty Loans
 - Folder 17: List of Men Enlisted in 114 Infantry, Co. I
 - Folder 18: Miscellaneous WWI-Related Pamphlets
- Box III (Barcode 391206):
 - Folder 19: Newspaper Clippings
 - Folder 20: Artifacts
 - Folder 21A: Miscellaneous Papers
 - Folder 21B: Miscellaneous Papers
 - Folder 22: Miscellaneous (newspapers, sheet music, pamphlets)
 - Folder 23A: Newspapers A
 - Folder 23B: Newspapers B

Title: Daniel J. Farren Papers

Record Group: RG 9200.F07.001

Span Dates: 1917-1918

Extent: 0.01 cubic feet (1 folder)

Barcode: 391239 (shares box with several other collections)

Summary: Three documents relating to Farren’s draft registration service in Wilmington during

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World War I. Documents include an appointment certificate to the local draft exemptions board, a newspaper clipping featuring the chairmen of the Wilmington exemption boards, and a photocopy of his draft registration card. The newspaper clipping has images of Farren, Dr. Harrison W. Howell, Captain Horace Wilson, and Joseph Wigglesworth.

Arrangement: No apparent arrangement.

Title: LeFevre Papers

Record Group: 9200.L01

Span Dates: 1866-1918

Extent: 3-0.47 cubic foot boxes

Barcode: 391264, 391265, 391266 (WWI-era correspondence are in boxes 391265 and 391266)

Summary: Correspondence to and from members of the LeFevre family of Dover and Smyrna.

Boxes 2 and 3 contain letters written and received by Capt. John P. LeFevre while he was stationed in Deming, New Mexico with the First Delaware Infantry in 1916 defending the U.S.-Mexico Border, at Camp McClellan in Anniston, Alabama, at Camp Dix, New Jersey in training, and as he served in the War with the 59th Pioneer Infantry of the American Expedition Forces.

Of interest to World War I researchers is a list of unmarried men living in Dover between the ages of 18 and 45 from 1917 (found in Box 3, Barcode 391266). List includes their names and the streets where they reside. Also included in the collection is some recruiting paperwork from 1917 from after the U.S. created the Selective Service Act. Major LeFevre was a recruiting officer for the Delaware National Guard.

Arrangement: Chronologically by year, thereunder by month, thereunder by subject

- Box 1 (Barcode 391264).
 - Correspondence 1866-1911 (no World War I-related materials in this box)
- Box 2 (Barcode 391265);
 - Correspondence 1912-1916
 - Folder 1: 1912
 - Folder 2: 1913
 - Folder 3: 1913
 - Folder 4: 1913
 - Folder 5: 1914
 - Folder 6: 1915
 - Folder 7: 1915
 - Folder 8: 1916
 - Folder 9: 1916
 - Folder 10: 1916
- Box 3 (Barcode 391266)
 - Correspondence 1916-1918
 - Folder 1: 1916
 - Folder 2: 1916
 - Folder 3: 1916

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- Folder 4: 1917 (Miscellaneous)
- Folder 5: 1917 (Miscellaneous)
- Folder 6: 1917
- Folder 7: 1917
- Folder 8: 1918
- Folder 9: 1918
- Folder 10: 1918
- Folder 11: 1918

Title: Speakman Papers

Record Group: 9200.S12

Span Dates: 1915-1930

Extent: 2.12 cubic feet (3-.47 cubic foot boxes, 1 oversized .71 flat box)

Barcode: 391490, 391491, 391492, 319498

Summary: Scrapbooks and albums of correspondence, photographs, postcards, and newspaper clippings relating to Dr. William C. Speakman's service as a dental surgeon at the American Hospital in Paris in the early part of World War I and then later as part of the American Expeditionary Forces' Mobile Hospital in 1917-1918. Dr. William C. Speakman was an 1891 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's Dental School. After graduating, he established a successful private practice in Wilmington, Delaware, where he worked until volunteering for the American Ambulance Service in Neuilly-Sur-Seine, Paris in 1915, and the Ambulance Service in Arc-en-Barrois, Haute Marne, France in 1916. Once the United States entered the war, Speakman was commissioned as a Major in the U.S. Army Dental Corps and in 1918 was assigned to the Maxillo-Facial Surgery Section of the American Expeditionary Forces, serving with the Mobile Hospital #39. Following the war he was recommissioned in the Dental Reserve Corps as a Lieutenant-Colonel. He died in 1930 of pneumonia and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Collection also includes correspondence to Mrs. Speakman, who was quite involved with the Delaware chapter of the American Red Cross, the War Relief Association, and other aid groups.

Arrangement: Collection is arranged in scrapbooks by subject. Some of the scrapbooks have been taken apart, but the files retain original order.

- Box 1 (Barcode 391490):
 - Scrapbook of letters: Correspondence of Delaware Chapter, American Red Cross, War Relief Committee
 - Framed photograph of an American Red Cross Ambulance
- Box 2 (Barcode 391491):
 - Scrapbook of letters: Record of Dr. Speakman's service in France from 1915-1917.
 - Scrapbook of letters: Letters of congratulations and correspondence relating to the Legion of Honor and Speakman's service in the U.S. Reserve Corps following the war.

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- Scrapbook of Mrs. Speakman's activities including event invitations, menus, and newspaper clippings related to her activities with the American Red Cross.
- Framed certificate issued to Dr. Speakman for his service in the ambulance for the American Hospital in Paris between July 7 and September 30, 1915
- Box 3 (Barcode 391492):
 - Miscellaneous letters and a scrapbook relating to activities of the Delaware chapter of the American Red Cross, War Relief Committee
- Box 4 (Barcode 391418) [oversized]:
 - Scrapbook of newspaper clippings relating to activities of the American Ambulance/American Hospital of Paris beginning in 1914
 - Scrapbook of personal correspondence to Dr. Speakman
 - Scrapbook of photographs from Dr. Speakman's voluntary services with the American Ambulance, Wilmington Ambulance, and the U.S. Mobile Hospital, 1915-1918. Also includes some peacetime activities and testimonials
 - Scrapbook of published World War I post cards.

Title: Summers Papers

Record Group: 9200.S10

Span Dates: 1918-1919, 1922

Extent: 0.22 cubic feet

Barcode: 391336

Summary: Primarily records relating to Sergeant Anthony Summers' military service in the 59th Pioneer Infantry during World War I. Records include a diary (kept August through December 1918) and two letters describing his trips to France, impressions of France, the war, and sight-seeing in Paris. Included are photos of Sgt. Summers and the U.S.S. *Leviathan*, the ship he travelled to and from Europe in, printed "Camp Songs for the United States Army and Navy," his draft notice, a company order of recognition of service, manual for the American Expeditionary Forces, and a History of the 59th Pioneer Infantry, 1918-1919.

Arrangement: By subject and thereunder chronologically.

Title: Women's Liberty Loan Committee

Record Group: 9200.R09.001

Span Dates: 1918-1919

Creator: Delaware National Guard Women's Liberty Loan Committee

Extent: 0.24 cubic feet, 1 bound volume

Barcode: 390320

Summary: Mabel Lloyd Ridgely was the State Chairman of the Woman's Liberty Loan Committee of Delaware. This organization sold bonds to support the war effort during

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World War I. These records include a book and miscellaneous documents of the Committee.

The 1919 book, *The Story of the Liberty Loans* by Labert St. Clair, is a history of the Liberty Loan campaigns. It is heavily illustrated with color reproductions of many of the posters used to advertise the effort. In the book is a handwritten statement of the amount of money raised in Delaware for the third, fourth, and fifth loan drives and the names of the women who were on the executive committee. Documents include a letter from Mrs. Ridgely to Liberty Loan workers in Delaware, "Delaware's Victory Loan Song," donation forms, "Report of the Woman's Liberty Loan Committee of Delaware," and two small posters.

Delaware Agricultural Museum Collection (RG 9050.002)

Title: Bennett and Carey Brothers Cannery Correspondence

Record Group: RG 9050.002.002

Extent: 0.24 ft, 1-0.24 box (3 folders)

Barcodes: 535240

Summary: Asa Bennett operated a cannery in Frankford, Delaware, primarily canning tomatoes, pears, and other fruits and vegetables. In 1918 the business name was changed to Bennett Canning Company. The correspondence is with customers, suppliers, investors, and equipment manufacturers.

Many of the letters deal with customer orders. Some of the correspondence is with the Army and Navy relating to the purchase of canned food for World War I troops. Coal, sugar, and tin shortages due to the war, drafting exemptions for employees, and war related fund raising are also discussed.

Arrangement: Primarily arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.

- Folder 1: A-G, 1917-1918
- Folder 2: H-R, 1917-1918
- Folder 3: S-Z, 1917-1918

General Reference (RG 9270.001)

The General Reference collection is a convenience collection that contains materials collected by or deposited with the Delaware Public Archives concerning any topic or person that could be useful for the interpretation of Delaware history. The series does not contain official state records.

Title: Delawareans in World War I (General Reference #456 and #456A)

Record Group: RG 9270.001

Extent: 3 folders

Barcodes: 392377 and 486520 (oversized)

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Summary: Miscellaneous newspaper articles, “Letters from the Front: Edward and Mary Hodgson in World War I,” “History of the 59th Pioneers—Delaware’s Own Regiment,” list of Delaware Soldiers buried in permanent American Cemeteries in Europe. Contains newspapers, posters, pamphlets, and postcards relating to the 59th Pioneer Infantry.

Pamphlet Collection (RG 9270.004)

A collection of non-state or local governmental publications, including pamphlets, brochures, booklets, magazines, and similar published material that contain information about Delaware.

Title: “American Red Cross War Fund Campaign”

Subject: Health and Welfare

Barcode: 390507 (Box 2)

Date: 1917

Title: “Complimentary Dinner to the Officers and Men of the Delaware Infantry”

Subject: Delawareana General

Barcode: 484186 (Box 5)

Date: 1917

Title: “Win the War – Health Number September”

Subject: Health and Welfare

Barcode: 390506 (Box 1)

Date: 1918

Title: “Treasury Dept. Report of National Women’s Liberty Loan Committee”

Subject: Societies and Clubs

Barcode: 391677 (Box 1)

Date: 1918

Title: “59th Pioneer Infantry, American Expeditionary Forces”

Subject: Societies and Clubs

Barcode: 405618 (Box 2)

Date: 1919

Title: “Library and War Memorial for the State of Delaware”

Subject: Education

Barcode: 390498 (Box 10)

Date: 1922

Audio Recordings

Title: Address of John G. Townsend, Jr., Governor of Delaware, during World War I

Record Group: 9014.001

Span Dates: Recorded 1947

Extent: 1-78 RPM record

Barcode: 503455

Summary: Recording of the Message of Hon. John G. Townsend, Jr. to the Delaware General Assembly Requesting Emergency Powers during World War I.

Note: Advanced notice is required to access this record.

Title: Recording of F. H. Brinkley

Record Group: 9014.001

Span Dates: no date

Extent: 1-16" record

Barcode: 409444

Summary: Recording relating to World War I

Note: Advanced notice is required to access this record.

Motion Pictures

Title: "Civil War's End to World War II—Delaware Shifts into Gear:

Record Group: 8005.046

Span Dates: circa 1965

Extent: 9.5" Reel

Barcode: 472861

Summary: Motion picture film used within the Delaware school system and/or created by the Department of Education for educational purposes

Note: Advanced notice is required to access this record.

Prints

Title: Prints and Engravings: War

Record Group: 9026.001

Span Dates: 1787-1974

Extent: 1.08 cubic feet, 2 folders

Barcode: 508339

Summary: The Prints and Engravings Collection includes a diversity of formats from pen and ink to woodcuts, from lithographs to watercolors and covers a variety of topics. Of interest to this finding aid are two prints from World War I:

- Mexican Border Conflict (Soldier's Memorial on the Mexican Border, 1916)

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- Roster of men in Co. F of the First Delaware Infantry, National Guard, USA
- Roll of Honor-Service in the World War
 - Roster of men in Co. G of the First Delaware Infantry who were stationed at Camp McClellan in Anniston, Alabama in October 1917. Includes color images from around camp.

Arrangement: Chronologically by subject.

Photographs

Title: General Photograph Collection

Record Group: 1325.003.036

Span Dates: 1860-2006

Extent: 33.51 cubic feet

Barcodes: 346170, 346197, 346205, 346228, 346230, 346231, 346232, 338871, 491663, 516492, 517418, 517176, 523491

Summary: The General Photograph Collection is primarily the result of small donations by individuals or organizations. Due to the nature of the collection, a wide range of subjects and time periods are represented. Subject categories of particular interest for World War I researchers include: Flags/Seals/Symbols, Military, Portraits, Historic Markers, Monuments and Scenes, Business and Industry, Schools. See the photograph index in the Research Room for more detailed descriptions.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by subject. Items of particular interest for those researching World War I include:

- Flags, Seals, Symbols:
 - Box 1 (346205), Folder 3
- Military:
 - Box 1 (346228), Folder 4
 - Box 1 (346228), Folder 6
 - Map Drawer, Oversized folder Barcode: 516492
- Business and Industry:
 - Box 2 (346197), Folder 2
- Portraits:
 - Box 2 (346230), Folder 2
 - Box 3 (346231), Folder 2
 - Box 3 (346231), Folder 10
 - Box 4 (346232), Folder 8

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Title: Delaware in World War II Photograph Collection

Record Group: 1325.003.206

Span Dates: 1938-1945

Extent: 4.4 cubic feet. 3 photographs relate to World War I

Barcodes: 346170, 338871, 523491

Summary: Governor Walter W. Bacon authorized the Public Archives Commission to collect historical materials that would document Delaware's participation in World War II. The photographs obtained document the military bases, servicemen, National Guard activities, and various civilian war efforts. A small portion of the collection relates to World War I, mostly images of servicemen who served in that war.

Arrangement: The collection is divided into three subgroups and arranged by subject: Military Home Front; Civilian Home Front; and Delaware Life, 1938-43. Prints and negatives, although filed separately, are numbered No. 1 through 3298. Items of particular interest to World War I researchers include:

- Historic Markers, Monuments, and Scenes
 - Box 15 (Barcode: 338871), Folder 13
 - Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jester compile names of 59th Pioneer Regiment Veterans
- Delawareans in China, Burma and Indian
 - Box 1 (Barcode: 346170), Folder 9
 - Dr. Carl Rees of Newark, Civilian technical advisor, 14th Air Force, China, WWI Veteran, University of Delaware professor
- Servicemen's Portraits—Skelly through Snyder
 - Box 5 (Barcode: 523491), Folder 14
 - Dyersburg Army Air Base, TN; fighting crew member of the army's powerful and best known airplane is Second Lt. Robert Skerry of Wilmington; aboard Flying Fortress; Commanding officer is Col. E. Kennedy, WWI pilot

Title: Delaware's Role in World War II

Record Group: 1325.003.205

Span Dates: 1938-1945

Extent: 4.4 cubic feet, 2 boxes relate to World War I

Barcode: 346170 and 523491

Summary: Photographs collected for use in the book, *Delaware's Role in World War II*, written by William H. Conner and Leon deValinger, Jr. It was published by the Public Archives Commission in 1955. The book photos include views of the Delaware National Guard, military bases in the state, Delaware servicemen and servicewomen in various theaters of war, and civilian efforts on the home front.

Arrangement: Photos used in the book arranged numerically by photo number and military personnel arranged alphabetically by name. Items of particular interest to World War I researchers include:

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- Delawareans in China, Burma and India
 - Box 1 (Barcode 346170), Folder 9
 - Dr. Carl Rees, Newark, civilian technical advisor, 14th Air Force, China, WWI veteran, University of Delaware professor (Official Air Force photo)
- Servicemen's Portraits: Skelly-Snyder
 - Box 5 (Barcode 523491), Folder 14
 - Dyersburg Army Air Base, TN; fighting crew member of the army's powerful and best known airplane is Second Lt. Robert Skerry of Wilmington; aboard Flying Fortress; Commanding officer is Col. E. Kennedy, WWI pilot

Title: Board of Agriculture Glass Negative Collection

Record Group: 1380.006

Span Dates: 1922-1936

Extent: 3 reels of microfilm

Location: Cabinet 3, Drawer 9. The glass negatives have also been digitized and are available online through the Delaware Heritage Collection.

Summary: Although the State Board of Agriculture was mainly responsible for the protection and promotion of agriculture in the state, its Bureau of Markets was also involved with promoting the economic development of Delaware. The staff photographer, Roydon L. Hammond, traveled the state between 1922 and 1938 to photograph local scenes, buildings, and agricultural subjects that were later used in promotional materials. The majority of the photographs are agriculture-related, and there are only a few World War I-related images.

Arrangement: Original numerical arrangement of the collection has been retained. Images relating to World War I are:

- Walter L. Fox: Image numbers 120-123.

Note: Images in the glass negative collection must be viewed on microfilm or online through the Delaware Heritage Collection.

Title: Delaware State News Photograph Collection

Record Group: 9210.001.013

Span Dates: 1965-1998, Photos from 1993.

Barcode: 508707 and 508712

Summary: Photographs taken by staff photographers for use in Delaware's daily down-state newspaper. Images relating to World War I are:

- Image of Dr. Winston F. Lumsden walking near a memorial plaque for Private Clarence Vinson, a World War I soldier killed on November 3, 1918 in France. Photo by Kevin Heslin. (Barcode: 508707)
- Image of World War I veteran Dana J. Pyle speaking to Dover High School Students. Photo by Kevin Heslin (Barcode: 508712)

Arrangement: Alphabetically by name.

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Title: Frank R. Zebley General Photograph Collection (unprocessed)

Record Group: 9015.001.003

Span Dates: 1908-1954

Extent: 2.08 cubic feet

Barcode: 346274

Summary: Contains images of Wilmington draft boards and draftees (including African-American draftees), trains of draftees departing Wilmington, a wartime parade sponsored by the Harlan Company, and of the 1918 Peace Parade (Armistice celebration parade held in Wilmington).

Arrangement: Collection is unprocessed. Contact photo archivist for access.

Title: Jackson and Sharp Photograph Collection

Record Group: 9015.002.001

Span Dates: 1869-1946

Extent: 31.68 cf

Location: Images have been digitized and can be accessed through the Delaware Heritage Collection online.

Summary: The Jackson and Sharp Photograph Collection was founded in January 1863 by Job H. Jackson and Jacob F. Sharpe to manufacture railroad cars. The company soon became one of the leading employers in Wilmington and one of the leading car manufacturers in the world. Although known primarily for luxury cars, Jackson and Sharp also constructed streetcars and ships. They photographed each car and ship for documentation purposes. A few of the images relate to World War I:

- Naval Craft-World War I and II
 - Sub Chaser (8 images)
- Equipment-Export:
 - Industrial flat car, French or English War Department. Narrow gauge trench service for carrying large shells in World War I
- Equipment-Domestic:
 - Truck with carrier. French artillery gun truck for narrow gauge trench service, used to carry heavy guns to emplacements near the front in World War I.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by type of car, ship or item, and thereunder, generally but not always, chronologically by date of manufacture.

Title: Howard W. T. Purnell Photograph Collection (Military)

Record Group: 9015.003.001

Span Dates: 1860-1963

Extent: 2 boxes of photos

Barcode: 346141 (Box 65: Subject: Local Events to Military, World War I) and 346109 (Box 16: Places: Laurel-Local Events to Schools)

Summary: Harold W.T. Purnell (1896-1965) was born and lived most of his life in Georgetown, Delaware. After taking over his father's hardware store, he became a prominent merchant and civil leader. He was involved in many local and state organizations. Most notably, he served as a state senator from 1938 to 1946 and was president pro tem from 1942-

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1946. Mr. Purnell's love of history was also manifested by his collecting hobbies, especially his efforts to save historical photographs. Over thirty Delaware photographers and many from out of state are represented in the collection.

Arrangement: Photographs have been arranged by subject. Subject photos represent unidentified locations and have been arranged under broad subject headings such as agriculture, organizations, business and industries, houses, local events, military, recreation, schools, and transportation.

Geographical location subject headings are arranged alphabetically by the name of the town and thereunder alphabetically by subject. Portraits are divided into families, groups, individuals, and weddings and subdivided into identified, arranged alphabetically, and unidentified, arranged by broad time periods. Subjects are arranged alphabetically by subject heading. The albums and family photos are arranged alphabetically by family name with unidentified albums and photos at the end.

Title: *The Whale* Photograph Collection

Record Group: 9210.042

Span Dates: 1975-1996

Extent: 16.34 cubic feet (43 - 0.38 boxes), 1 box relates to World War I

Barcode: 517176

Summary: Photographs taken for use in *The Whale*, a weekly Lewes newspaper. Major subjects include beaches, Big Thursday, birds, boardwalk, boats, Christmas, Halloween, fires, local sports, houses, lifeguard olympics, lighthouses, Nanticoke Indians, parades, Punkin Chunkin, Lewes, Rehoboth, Rehoboth Art League, restaurants, Return Day, sand castle contest, schools, Delaware State Fair, and surfing.

Arrangement: Partly arranged chronologically by date of newspaper, 1975-1978, 1980-1982, 1984, 1994. Part arranged alphabetically by subject or name of person, 1975-1996.

- People: Steen through Voshell (Barcode 517176)
 - Louis Szymanski of Pot Nets – Post State Commander of VFW 1945-1946, a World War I veteran

Newspapers from the World War I Era

(available on microfilm in the Mabel Lloyd Ridgely Research Room):

Delaware State News. 1912-1956. (RG 9210.003)

Middletown Transcript. 1915-1916, 1917, 1918, 1919-1920. (RG 9211.07)

Milford Chronicle. 1915-1916, 1917-1918. (RG 9210.001)

Milton Times. 1914. (RG 9210)

Smyrna Times. 1913-1916, 1916-1919. (RG 9210.014)

Wilmington Lokal Anzeiger & Freie Presse. 1914. (RG 9211.071)

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Books relating to World War I may be found in the Mabel Lloyd Ridgely Research Room at the Delaware Public Archives. For the most updated listing of books in the collection, please refer to the online Delaware Library Card Catalog.

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