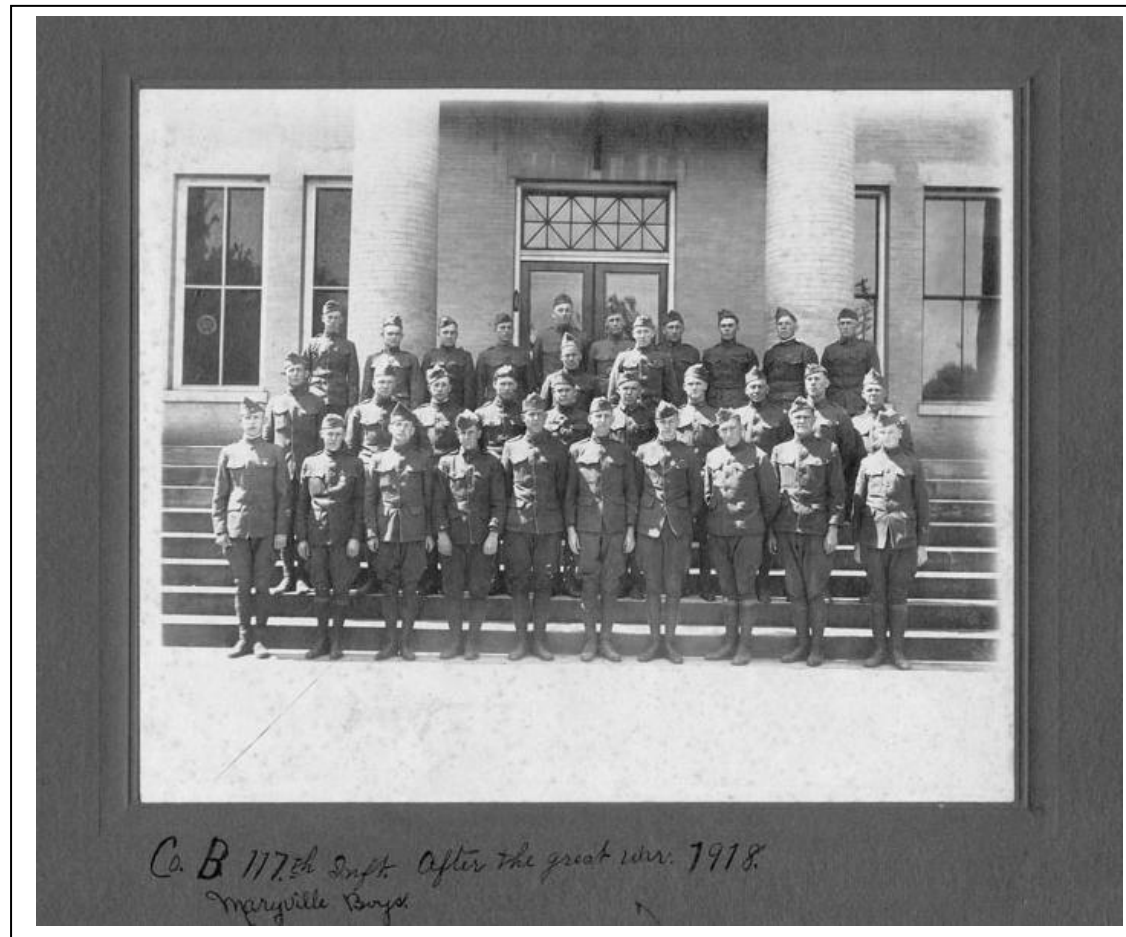


# WORLD WAR I SOLDIERS WITH CONNECTIONS TO BLOUNT COUNTY, TENNESSEE

BY TIMOTHY C. WALKER



## Forward

On April 6, 1917, the United States of America officially entered into World War I after President Woodrow Wilson requested and received approval from the House of Representatives and the Senate. The war continued until the Allies' victory over Germany was declared on November 11, 1918, which later came to be known as Armistice Day then later, Veterans Day. During this 19 month period of war, hundreds of men and at least one woman with ties to Blount County, Tennessee served in various branches of the United States Military.

With 2017 – 2018 being the one hundredth anniversary of World War I, a project was started in spring 2017 to identify as many soldiers as possible with ties to Blount County. Historically, past efforts to identify all those that served were not comprehensive and this project was an attempt to consolidate all the information into one list of soldiers. The list includes, when possible, the soldiers' dates and places of birth, dates and places of death, cemeteries where buried, their race, and any pertinent information about their military service. The primary criterion for this listing of Blount County soldiers requires at least one of the following items to apply for inclusion; born in the county, resided in the county, registered for military service in the county, inducted into military service by the county, died in the county, and/or buried in the county. The soldiers on the list must also have served in some branch of the military during the period the United States was officially at war (April 6, 1917 - November 11, 1918) including the months immediately following during the military demobilization. It should be noted that their inclusion on the list does not necessarily mean they served overseas during this time frame.

After hundreds of hours of research in assembling a listing of soldiers, the most surprising thing discovered was the larger than expected number of soldiers with ties to Blount County. It was anticipated that 500 to 700 soldiers would have been in the military, but it turned out that there were almost 1900. One reason for the large numbers can be attributed to ALCOA, which at the start of the war employed a large number of men who had recently relocated to the area for higher paying jobs at the aluminum plant and the associated construction jobs involved in the building of their hydroelectric dams. Among these new residents, were a significant number of African-American families that had been recruited by ALCOA from the states of Georgia and Alabama.

The largest number of soldiers on the list came from a microfilm series from the Tennessee State Library and Archives which documented Tennessee's World War I Veterans. The microfilm reels were titled, "Record Group #36, Tennessee Counties, WWI Ex-Soldiers, 1917-1919". According to the state archives, these records were compiled pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution No. 76, Public Acts of 1919, and were received and stored by the Tennessee State Library and Archives in accordance with Chapter No. 301, Public Acts of 1937. This project included a listing of their place of birth, their place of residence at the time of their induction, their military ranks, their branch and dates of service, their military units, their military service numbers, etc.

The second large source of information was contained in a document titled, *Blount County in the World War, Work of the Local Board in the Selective Service*. This document was assembled in Blount County shortly after the war under the direction of Judge Will A. McTeer and includes the names of about 600 men who were sent to training camps by the local selective service board.

The third large source of information came from *Form 1029, United States Lists of Men Ordered to Report to Local Board for Military Duty, 1917 - 1918*. These documents include the soldiers' dates of induction into military service and where they were sent for training.

Several other sources were utilized when compiling the information on the Blount County World War I soldiers. The sources are referenced in brackets "[ ]" with a corresponding source list at the end of the document. While the list was made as accurate as possible, errors may have been made in transcription and additional errors may have been made in the source documents. Where conflicts were found in source documents, the compiler chose the information that was deemed "most likely". Please report any exclusions, corrections, or additional information to the Blount County Genealogical and Historical Society so that a "living" document can be maintained for historical purposes.

Timothy C. Walker

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