

## Genealogy Rocks!

### Military Draft Registration Cards

The use of draft registration cards is one more way to discover birth information, residence and occupation as we track down some of our elusive ancestors. In 1917 and 1918, the United States held three registrations for the WWI draft. The first one was on June 5, 1917 for men aged 21 to 31. The second registration on June 5, 1918 was for men who had turned 21 in the previous year. The final one on September 12, 1918 was for men 18 to 21 and 31 to 45.



**Kathy Patrick**

Each of the three separate registrations used a slightly different version of the card but generally included full name, address, date and place of birth, age, race, occupation, physical description, nearest relative, marital status and signature. Physical description was hair and eye color, height and any disabilities. Because each man had to sign his card, it is exciting to see the actual signature. However, some illiterate men might not have signed their own card. Non-citizens were also required to register but were not subject to induction into the American military. The complete registration included men between the ages

of 18 and 45 (males born between 1873 and 1900) who were not already in the military.

There is also a collection of almost 6 million WWII draft cards filled out by men between the ages of 42 and 64 in 1942, recording name, age, date and place of birth, residence, employer, name of person who would always know the registrant's whereabouts and more. This is referred to as the fourth registration or the "old man's registration" as the men were born between April 28, 1877 and February 16, 1897 and were not already in the military. These draft registration cards are available on microfilm at the National Archives in Denver or online at [www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com).

Our next society presentations are What's In A Name on April 15 at 6:30 pm in the Harmony Public Library at Fort Collins, Genealogy on the Internet workshop on April 17 at 9 am in the Harmony Public Library, Identifying Church Records workshop on April 24 at 9 am in the Loveland Public Library, and Intro to Genealogy on May 1 at 1 pm in the Windsor Public Library.

❖ *Kathy Patrick is the Publicity Chair at the Larimer County Genealogical Society. Visit our website at [www.lcgsc.org](http://www.lcgsc.org) for all events and other helpful information.*