

OPERATION OF THE DRAFT: EXEMPTION BOARD, LOCAL BOARD, LEGAL ADVISORY BOARD, ETC.

The board of Registry for Worcester County, appointed to arrange for the registration for the selective draft on June 5th, 1917, was composed of Sheriff George W. Truitt, Oliver D. Collins, Clerk of the Court, and Dr. Paul Jones. The following persons, the regular registration judges of election in the county, were appointed to conduct the registration:

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| (1) | Pocomoke District, | Prec. | 1: | Chauncey A. Turner, chief; Homer L. Hughes, Pocomoke City. |
| | " | " | 2: | S. E. McMaster, chief; Allen Robinson, Pocomoke City. |
| (2) | Snow Hill | " | | William H. Pettitt, chief, Ernest Mills, Snow Hill. |
| (3) | East Berlin | " | 1: | Harry E. Palmer, chief, Berlin; John W. Mumford, Showell. |
| | " | " | 2: | Irving S. Mumford, chief, Ocean City; Horace E. Richardson, Ocean City. |
| (4) | Newark | " | | F. E. Collins, chief; Harry W. Bowen, Newark. |
| (5) | St. Martins | " | | J. L. Davidson, chief; E. A. Collins Bishopville. |
| (6) | Coulbourn's | " | | Willard S. Carmean, chief; Chester R. Parsons, Snow Hill. |
| (7) | Atkinson's | " | | W. W. Wonnell, chief; A. P. Shockle Snow Hill. |
| (8) | Stockton | " | 1: | Leon Clifton, chief; J. W. Payton, Stockton. |
| (9) | " | " | 2: | C. W. Pilchard, chief, C. E. Onley, Girdletree. |
| (10) | West Berlin | " | | Alger H. Abbott, chief, Berlin; Harry P. Dale, Whaleyville. |

In June, 1917, the following men were appointed members of the Exemption Board for Worcester County, by Governor Harrington: E. B. Showell, Myers, Ocean City; Oliver D. Collins, Snow Hill; Dr. R. Lee Hall, Pocomoke City. James B. Whaley of Snow Hill was selected as Chief Clerk to the Board.

Physical examinations of draftees were begun in August, 1917. Dr. R. Lee Hall, member of the Board, and Dr. John L. Riley of Snow Hill, conducted the examinations; Dr. A. E. Landers of Snow Hill, was consulting physician, and passed on rejections by the examining physicians.

William G. Kerbin, by virtue of being State's Attorney for Worcester County, was appointed by the Provost Marshal General Government Appeal Agent for the county, in August, 1917.

The first contingent of white draftees from Worcester County reported for induction September 25th, 1917. The first contingent of colored draftees for the county, reported for induction Oct. 30th, 1917. Suppers for these contingents were provided by the Red Cross.

Worcester County's quota for the first draft was 152.

In December, 1917 Governor Harrington appointed the following as a Legal Advisory Board to render assistance to the registrants in making out their questionnaires: William F. Johnson, chairman; George M. Upshur, John W. Staton.

Chairman Wm/ F. Johnson appointed the following associate members of the Legal Advisory Board:

Snow Hill:

All the members of the bar *and*,
J. Clifton Nock
W. E. Bratten
Eben Hearne.

Pocomoke City:

James M. Crockett
L. Paul Ewell
Eugene S. Maddox
Edgar Fontaine
John W. Ennis
Colmore E. Byrd
Edgar Child.

Berlin:

Franklin Upshur
John D. Henry
Calvin B. Taylor
C. F. Matthews
Guy R. Ayers.

Whaleyville:

James P. Dale.

Stockton:

Thomas P. Wharton
John S. Hill.

Newark:

Harry W. Bowen
A. P. Smack.

Girdletree:

Prof. W. A. P. Strang

Bishopville:

George L. Barnes, Jr.
Everett M. Layton.

Questionnaires were sent out to registrants beginning December 15th, 1917.

Mr. Johnson resigned as chairman of the Legal Advisory Board in September, 1918. L. Paul Ewell of Pocomoke City was appointed chairman. Mr. Ewell organized the Board in the different districts and effectively conducted the work of the Board.

At the time of its discharge, the Legal Advisory Board consisted of L. Paul Ewell, chairman, Charles O. Melvin, and John W. Staton.

During January, 1918, the Local Board was rushed with work. Questionnaires were being returned and passed on; orders had been issued to the sheriff to arrest slackers. (There were very few men in the county who could be regarded as slackers) Physical examinations were again in progress in February, 1918.

In February, 1918, under instructions from the Provost Marshal General to commandeer the public school teachers to assist the Local Boards in the work of classifying registrants in the selective draft, the teachers of the Snow Hill High School engaged in the work at the Court House. The work consisted in making a card index of all registrants and their classification according to occupational vocation. The teachers completed the task in one day. They also rendered assistance in other work for the Board.

Upon the resignation of James B. Whaley as Chief Clerk to the Board, which was accepted in October, 1917, John P. Moore, Jr., of Snow Hill, was appointed to that position. Rev. George M. Gatarneau of Snow Hill was employed as assistant clerk until March of 1918.

John P. Moore, Jr., resigned as Chief Clerk to the Board in March, 1918, his resignation to be effective as soon as his successor was appointed. On April 2nd, 1918, Miss Lelia B. Vincent of Snow Hill was appointed Chief Clerk. Miss Vincent served as Chief Clerk until the closing of the Board office, April 1st, 1919.

In April, 1918, Wm. G. Kerbin resigned as Government Appeal Agent, and John W. Staton, of Snow Hill, was appointed to act in this capacity.

In April, 1918, Mr. E. B. Showell Myers, who had been Chairman of the Local Board, resigned as a member of the Board. Col. George M. Upshur an associate member, was designated as Chairman. This left a vacancy in the membership of the Board. The Governor named Mr. Thomas P. Wharton to succeed Mr. Myers, but Mr. Wharton was unable to accept the position. John P. Moore, Jr., of Snow Hill, was then appointed member of the Board, May 25th, 1918, and was made Secretary of the Board. The personnel of the Board then was, Col. George M. Upshur, chairman; John P. Moore, Jr., secretary; Dr. R. Lee Hall, examining physician.

The Registration of June 5th, 1918, was held at the Court House in Snow Hill. The members of the Board and the Chief Clerk acted as registrars for this registration.

The Registration of August 24th, 1918 was held at the office of The Local Board in Snow Hill. The members of the Board and the Chief Clerk acted as registrars for this registration.

The calls for men during August, 1918, practically exhausted Class 1, white men.

The following persons were appointed by the Local Board to serve as registrars at the Registration of men from 18 to 45, on September 12th, 1918:

Pocomoke,	Dist. 1, Prec. 1:	John W. Ennis, Chief Registrar; Homer L. Hughes, C. W. Maddox.
"	" " " 2:	James M. Crockett, Chief Registrar; W. U. Schoolfield, Allen P. Schoolfield
Snow Hill,	" 2,	Edwin H. Guthrie, Chief Registrar; James M. Wilson, J. O. Byrd, Charles L. Boehm.
East Berlin	" 3, " 1:	Harry E. Palmer, Chief Registrar; Charles C. Mumford, James M. Bratten.
"	" " " 2:	Irving S. Mumford, Chief Registrar; H. H. Richardson.
Newark,	" 4,	Francis E. Collins, Chief Registrar; Charles W. Mumford.
St. Martins	" 5,	Edward A. Collins, Chief Registrar; Harry P. Law.
Coulbourn's	" 6,	William M. Sirman, Chief Registrar; Handy B. Truitt.
Atkinson's	" 7,	Edgar W. McMaster, Chief Registrar; Edward M. Conley.
Stockton	" 8, " 1:	J. W. Payton, Chief Registrar; Leon Clifton.
"	" " " 2:	Arthur T. Hudson, Chief Registrar; W. Miller McCann.
West Berlin,	" 9,	Alger H. Abbott, Chief Registrar; Milton M. Dale, Harry F. Fooks, E. S. Furbush, Jr.

The Second Report of the Provost Marshal General to the Secretary of War, gives the registrations in Worcester County as follows:

Registration of June 5, 1917: 1650

" June 5, 1918

and Aug. 24, 1918: 165

" Sept. 12, 1918: 2337

Total registrations in Worcester County 4152.

The above mentioned report also gives the number of men accepted at camp, 528.

Miss Marie A. Tilghman of Snow Hill was appointed Assistant Clerk to the Local Board in September 1918. She served in this capacity until February of 1919.

Mrs Margaret M. Wilson and Miss Mary Wilson Hargis, both of Snow Hill, served as volunteer clerks to the Local Board during a great part of 1918, without compensation.

In October, 1918, Dr. R. Lee Hall was allowed to resign as member of the Local Board, to enter the Medical Reserve Corps. Dr. John L. Riley of Snow Hill, who had served as assistant examining physician, was appointed to succeed Dr. Hall, as member of the Local Board.

At the time of its discharge, the Local Board was composed of Col. George M. Upshur, chairman; John B. Moore, Jr., and Dr. John L. Riley.

Dr. Albert A. Parker, of Pocomoke City, served as a member of Medical Advisory Board No. 9 of the State of Maryland.

"W. H. Cassell, Inspector of Local Boards of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, inspected the Local Board of Worcester County Thursday. He complimented Miss Vincent, the Chief Clerk, and said that he found the affairs of her office in better shape than those of any office on the Shore." The Messenger, 3/1/19.

Very little difficulty was experienced in enforcing the Selective Service Regulations.

MILITARY CENSUS.

In April, 1917, Governor Harrington directed that a census of all male citizens between the ages of eighteen and forty-five be taken. The work in Snow Hill and vicinity was done under the direction of Marion T. Hargis, and Charles W. Corddry, with the following assistants: James B. Whaley, John P. Moore, Jr., John A. Selby, J. Clifton Nick, H. H. Payne, C. L. Boehm, Harris S. Corddry. In Pocomoke and Stockton districts Mr. E. M. Ross was in charge of the work, with the following assistants: Frank P. Bratten, Edwin S. Hargis, Quince Ashburn, Rome L. Barnes, Donald Duncan, Hugh E. McMichael, Dr. William A. Taylor, Charles E. Taylor and Newell M. Corddry. Mr. E. S. Furbush had charge of the work in the upper end of the county, Berlin and vicinity. (Wrote Mr. Furbush for list of assistants in his districts, but received no reply.)

LEAGUE TO ENFORCE PEACE.

March, 1919/ a committee for Worcester County, consisting of Col. George W. Upshur, chairman, Mrs. John L. Robins, and Messrs. Oliver D. Collins, Marion T. Hargis and Edward C. Furbush, was appointed by the Maryland Branch of the League to Enforce Peace.

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