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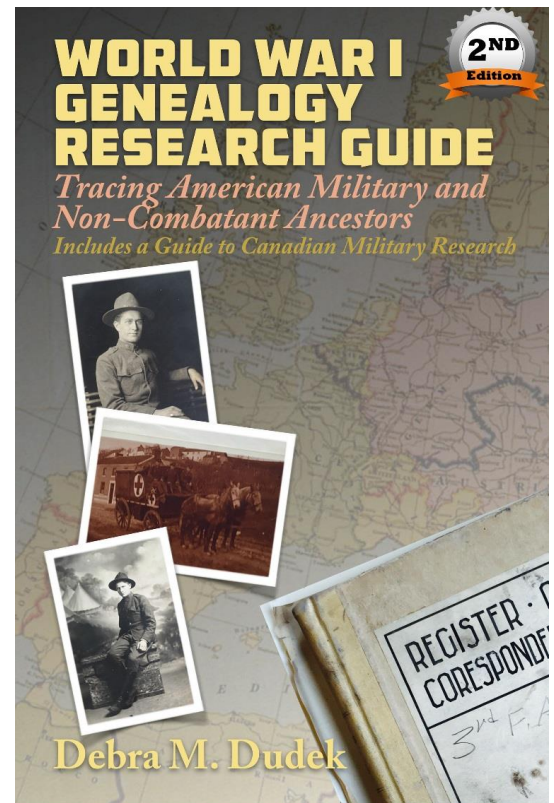
Genealogical Research Guidebook Released to Raise Funds for National World War I Monument

Publication includes finding aids for US and Canadian service people as well as non-combatants

Chicago, IL— May 20, 2019 — What do you really know about your World War I era ancestors? As American military men and women streamed into Europe around 100 years ago, it was with the hope their efforts would help win a war to end all other wars. Today, the story of those millions of military veterans as well as their loved ones contributing stateside are largely overlooked by genealogists and family historians.

The World War I Genealogy Research Guide: Tracing American Military and Non-Combatant Ancestors (2nd

Edition) has just been released by librarian and genealogist Debra M. Dudek. The book was originally released in 2018 to coincide with numerous World War I centennial commemorative events taking place throughout the country. The new edition includes updated information for



accessing state resources, newly digitized records, and best practices for conducting research at national depositories.

“Genealogists are often deterred by the absence of official Army military personnel service files due to a fire at the 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis,” states Dudek. “It wasn’t just World War I records which were lost in the fire. Military service records which were dated well into the 1960s were hit hard as well. Official federal military service files are only one part of a much larger assortment of records which are easily acquired by researchers.”

Dudek’s *World War I Genealogy Research Guide (2nd Edition)* provides a detailed plan to conduct and collect Great War military service information using a variety of online, archival, and printed resources. An entire chapter is dedicated to links and descriptions of digital and non-digitized resources for each US state, a rarity among other military research guides.

Additionally, the book documents extensive information for locating naturalization documents and investigative reports pertaining to non-citizens serving in the US military or residing in the country during the conflict.

“The Great War period generated an amazing amount of records for both men and women who had immigrated to the United States before 1914,” Dudek said. “While there are extensive federal military records on non-citizens serving in the US armed forces during the war, there are also civilian records which were collected on a local level. These types of documents aren’t particularly well-known or widely utilized by genealogists.”

The book also outlines solid strategies for tracing female ancestors who contributed to the war effort as enlisted military nurses and yeomenettes, as well as in non-combatant roles within social and charitable organizations such as the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, YWCA, Daughters of the American Revolution, labor unions, and more. The final chapter provides a quick guide to Canadian World War I military research, which would be useful for those who think their ancestors may have enlisted in units just across the border. A free research checklist is also available on the author's website at <http://www.debradudek.com>.

World War I Genealogy Research Guide (2nd Edition) draws on the wide network of records from the Great War era and beyond to introduce beginning and experienced genealogists to a vast collection of information available at their fingertips. “It was my goal to help move researchers past the myth that ‘all the WWI records burned’ and empower them to explore the amazing array of county, state, and federal records accessible to anyone. I’ve been helping people discover the hidden lives of their Great War ancestors for over five years, and I hope this book will help present and future genealogists uncover the experiences of both men and women during that important time in American history. It is not an overly complicated process, or something only attainable by experts. World War I research is accessible to everyone, and I wanted to do everything I could to help with that journey.”

A free digital edition of the *World War I Genealogy Research Guide* is available as a PDF download courtesy of the Doughboy Foundation and the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission online at <http://ww1cc.org/guide>. A print edition is available on Amazon.com for

\$12.99 USD. A portion of the proceeds from the print edition will be donated to building the national World War I Monument in Washington D.C.

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