

## **Induction and Discharge Records-WWI and II**

In 2002 the General Assembly of Virginia enacted a law which decreed that as of midnight June 30, 2002 the Induction Books and Discharge Books of Virginia localities would no longer be available to public access. Prior to that date Mary Leigh Boisseau obtained permission from the Clerks of the Danville Circuit Court and the Pittsylvania County Circuit Court to copy the records before they became unavailable. The agreement stipulated that the copying had to be done before the accessibility deadline and at no expense to the Clerk's offices. The; VA/NC Piedmont Genealogical Society agreed to finance the copying and volunteers from the Society and the Dorothea Henry Chapter of DAR did the actual copying using a rented copier. They made one copy for the VA/NC Piedmont Genealogical Society and one for the proposed Pittsylvania County Veterans' Museum in Chatham. Since there were sixteen volumes averaging over 100 pages each in both court offices the work of copying was quite extensive and time consuming.

The copies were spiral bound and a data base of Danville's two-volume (647 page) record of inductions was prepared which also serves as an index to the discharges. Information which might be found in the induction records includes items regarding birth date, age, address at time of induction, marital status, race, employment, date and place of induction and branch of military service. In all, the data base contains 6975 entries from 647 pages of the three volumes of records. There were some problems with the copying and indexing which are discussed in the Preface to the index. In spite of some errors, omissions and illegible entries the copies of the records afford valuable information for genealogists which is not available to the public at any other place. The spiral bound copies of the records and their indices are available in the Search Room of the Va-NC Piedmont Genealogical Society and copies of individual pages can be made for a nominal fee, currently at \$0.15 per page.