

A Different Source for World War I Texas Soldiers and Volunteers: *History of Texas World War Heroes*

By Suzan Younger



American Red Cross-Canteen work at Houston, Texas (1917-1918) NARA

The *History of Texas World War Heroes* by John McCrae, published by the Army & Navy History Company in 1919, is one of those unexpected gems that can provide a researcher with an answer long sought after. It seeks to identify and honor the people who served directly in the war effort or through service in non-governmental organizations (NGOs) providing support to military service members.

Genealogists love to hunt for names, and this book contains hundreds of names. Names of men who served in the US military, women who served as nurses or doctors, and the men and women of Texas communities who worked for or volunteered with the NGOs providing support to the military personnel.

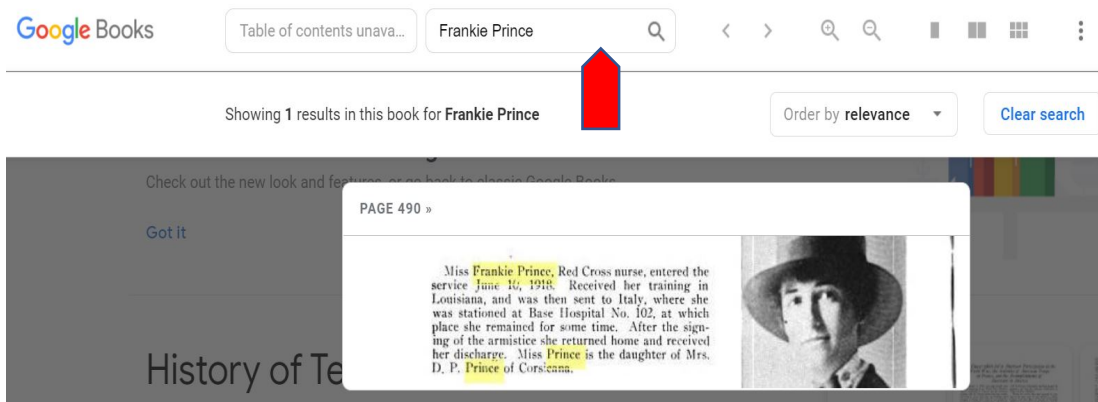
The names are not just lists. After some detailed sections on the war's background and the NGOs, most of the book contains short biographical information and pictures of the men and women from Texas who served in World War I. That information may include any or all of the following:

1. Name and rank
2. Parent's name and address, spouse, or other family members
3. Date of birth and birthplace
4. Education
5. Enlistment date
6. Military unit in which he/she served
7. Training location
8. Date they left for overseas service and the location
9. Promotions
10. Date of discharge or death
11. Cause of death if applicable
12. AND a picture

Even though the book organizes the short biographies as “The Boys of (Dallas) County,” it includes some women's biographies (almost exclusively serving in medical roles.) The introduction does not explain how the publishers solicited the information. Since the details of the information vary, it appears there was a public appeal for the biographical information, and that information came in at different times. It also appears that the publishers did not identify the county for some of the service personnel. Neither does the book contain people from all Texas counties. The majority of the entries are for Dallas County.

Do not skip over the background information. Like the YMCA, War Camp Community Service, and the Salvation Army, the NGOs include the names of staff and volunteers from the community. The first article – “The Causes which led to American Participation in the World War, the Activities of American Troops in France, and the Accomplishment of Americans in America” – includes information about European military campaigns and battles that may be referenced in a soldier's biography. You can refer back to this section to understand some of the soldier's experiences.

The book is not indexed. The best way to search within the book is to open it in Google Books. You can access the book free of charge [here](#). The resulting page includes a blue button – Read for Free. Click on the button to open the PDF file. A search field is at the top of the open file page. Use this to search for a specific name or place.



There is one last tip about using this book. The end of the book contains Honor Rolls provided by companies from various cities. The Roll of Honor is a list of employees working at that company before the war, giving you added information about a person's life. Some of the names have no biography in the book and are only on the company's Roll of Honor.

You can also access the book free of charge at FamilySearch.org.

Inside *History of Texas World War Heroes*

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St. Mihiel Offensive (pages 50-53)

[The publishers roughly group information about individual service members by county. However, some groupings do not appear to be county-specific or may be intermingled with miscellaneous counties.]

The Boys of Dallas County	56-409 and 560-565
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Rolls of Honor listing employees from various companies who served in the war.

Examples of the information recorded in the book:

Page 61. (picture provided)

Pvt. John Tigert, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. T. Tigert, was born at Ferris, Texas, July 14, 1894. Was educated at the Ferris High School. Entered the service October 17, 1917, and was assigned to Co. F, 359th Infantry, 90th Division. Went overseas in June, 1918. Participated in the St. Mihiel and on September 26, 1918, when an attack was being made upon Premy, he attempted to come out of a shell hole after being wounded twice, and it is supposed he was taken prisoner, since for several months he was unaccounted for. His identification papers were sent from Berlin through the Red Cross Headquarters in Switzerland to the War Department at Washington, and to his mother.

Page 91. (picture provided on page 90)

1 – Tom H. Hart, son of Mrs. B. E. Hart, of 3105 Live Oak, Dallas. Entered service December 15, 1917, and was assigned to the Great Lakes Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Illinois. Promoted from Seaman to Storekeeper. Discharged in December, 1918.

Page 95. (picture provided on page 94)

17 – Pvt. Roy V. Meason, son of Frank and Nannie Meason, of Richardson. Entered service May 20, 1917, and was assigned to Air Service Band of the 144th Regiment, at Kelly Field. He contracted pneumonia, and died December 19, 1918.

Page 490 (picture provided)

Miss Frankie Prince, Red Cross nurse, entered the service June 10, 1918. Received her training in Louisiana, and was then sent to Italy, where she was stationed at Base Hospital No. 102, at which place she remained for some time. After the signing of the armistice she returned home and received her discharge. Miss Prince is the daughter of Mrs. D. P. Prince of Corsicana.



Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas. Instruction in trench digging. NARA

Additional Resources for World War I research.

World War I Genealogy Research Guide by Debra M. Dudek is provided courtesy of the Doughboy Foundation and the US World War One Centennial Commission. You can request the free download [here](#).

The Doughboy Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization that “supports and encourages planning and execution of programs, projects, and activities commemorating and educating the public on America’s role in World War I, The War that Changed the World.” You can access their material and programs at [The Doughboy Foundation](#).

World War I Centennial – Commemorating the Great War at the [National Archives](#).

Resources for Genealogists – Researching Individuals in [WWI Records](#) at the National Archives.

“An Overview of Records at the National Archives Relating to Military Service” – Prologue Magazine, Fall 2002, Vol. 34, No. 3, [Genealogy Notes](#) published by the National Archives.

FamilySearch.org wiki page titled “[Texas Military Records](#).”

Image credits:

American Red Cross – Refreshments – Canteen work at Houston, Texas. Red Cross girls serving lunch to overseas soldiers passing through Houston, Texas. RG: 165. American Unofficial Collection of World War I Photographs. File Unit: American Red Cross – Refreshments, 1917-1918. National Archives Identifier: 20802634, Local Identifier: 165-WW-37C-46. Creator: War Department. 1789-9/18/1947

Drills-Trench Warfare-Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas. Instruction in trench digging. RG: 165. American Unofficial Collection of World War I Photographs, 1917-1918. File Unit: Drills-Trench Warfare, 1917-1918. National Archives Identifier: 31476781. Local Identifier: 165-WW-152B-21. Creator: War Department. 1789-9/18/1947

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