

ADAMS COUNTY GREAT WAR VETERANS DATABASE

USERS GUIDE

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Our goal is to provide accurate data on Adams County's veterans who served in the Great War, now known as World War I. This spreadsheet provides a starting point for researchers wishing to build a story of a veteran's life and service. Our data can verify key dates of birth and death, home towns, burial sites, and sources for further exploration.

We did not intend to write each veteran's biography, but to show which sources provide a veteran's vital records. This is a tool to guide your own research, without spending endless hours reading through online lists of people with similar names.

1. **Primary source:** We built our list from the book, *Adams County in the World War*, by Paul L. Foulk and Percy S. Eichelberger (1921). Written just after the end of the war, this book was compiled through interviews with veterans and their families. It is an invaluable research tool, with many listings including parents' names, street addresses, enlistment dates, military assignments and engagements. With this information, we were able to add details from current online resources for burial sites, service records, and even family trees. For a few veterans, the authors did not have any information, other than a name, and our searches were difficult to verify.

Note: Where we found information (like middle names or spelling of first or last names) that did not match the Foulk/Eichelberger book, we have noted the discrepancies in the Notes column.

The book, itself, is available in PDF form [HERE](#).

2. **Online databases.** The researchers on this project focused on easily accessible online sources to verify key information on each veteran.
 - a. **Family Search**
 - b. **Ancestry**
 - c. **Find A Grave**

For each veteran, the column called Other Ref shows on which sources we relied for our data. The acronyms used in this column are explained at the end of the spreadsheet. Where there was conflicting information (date of birth, for example), the Notes column briefly describes the issue.

It has been our goal to cross-check and corroborate all key data with at least 3 sources, if possible.

3. **Secondary sources,** such as **Newspapers.com** and **fold3**, require paid subscriptions, and we felt that every researcher might not have access to these tools. When our standard sources did not produce verifiable data, we sought out the paid subscription services. For instance, when there was no cemetery listing in our 3 primary sources, we searched newspaper obituaries to find a veteran's date of death and cemetery.
4. **Veterans Affairs.** The Adams County Veterans Affairs staff has graciously shared its own data on veterans buried in Adams County. This list was incorporated into our database.

5. **What is included in this WWI database?**

- a. **Last Name**
- b. **First Name, Middle Name**
- c. **Hometown or Residence.** The 1921 book organizes the surviving veterans by town, so we assumed that it was the veteran's residence at the time of enlistment. Where we found a location of birth different from the book, we listed that information in the Notes column.
- d. **War.** The majority of veterans only served in WWI, and this is so noted in this column. However, we did find some that also served in WWII and Korea, and we note their service in these wars.
- e. **Cemetery (where buried)**
- f. **Date of Birth (DOB)**
- g. **Date of Death (DOD)**
- h. **Military Branch** (with additional notation for cavalry, medical, nurses, aero squadron, Student Army Training Corps, etc.)
- i. **Reference 1.** Ref-1 is the Foulk/Eichelberger book. This column includes the page number for the veteran.
- j. **ACHS Reference.** GSS refers to the ACHS journal article on Gold Star Soldiers (*Adams County History, Volume 24, 2018*), which includes details of each Gold Star soldier's life. This article is available online [HERE](#). Other documents in the ACHS collections will be noted in this column, as they are discovered.
- k. **Other References** includes FS, ANC, FG, NWS, f3—abbreviations for online resources that provided the details we needed for this spreadsheet. We hope this list saves time for researchers, who will know where we located credible source material.
- l. **Notes.** This is the most interesting column, allowing us to list such things as:
 - i. Brothers who served together
 - ii. Mis-spellings of names (different from the Foulk/Eichelberger book)
 - iii. Differing DOB and DOD from various sources
 - iv. Birthplace (if different from hometown listed in Foulk/Eichelberger book)
 - v. Whether a soldier is Black (colored was the term used in WWI, so we have used that term in the listing)
 - vi. Interesting career (we found authors, military leaders, Adams County notable citizens, etc.)
 - vii. Statements showing "No military records found" or similar statements about lack of information
- m. **Documents in File** identifies by number code the electronic documents found for each veteran. [The folders are accessible HERE](#). The number codes are found at the end of the spreadsheet and are also listed below:
 1. WWI Draft Registration Card
 2. VA Index Card
 3. Grave marker photograph
 4. Veteran photograph
 5. Obituary
 6. Death certificate
 7. Military headstone application
 8. WWI PA Veterans Compensation Application
 9. PA Veterans burial card
 10. WWI service record
 11. Miscellaneous records/documents

DATABASE ABBREVIATIONS	
Ref-1 WWI Bk	Book, <i>Adams County in the World War</i> , by Paul L. Foulk & Percy S. Eichelberger (1921)
Ref-2 ACHS	Resource materials from the collections of the Adams County Historical Society
GSS	"Gold Star Soldiers from Adams County," by Valerie J. Young, <i>Adams County History</i> (2018)
Other Ref	Online sources which contain listings for the veteran named (see list of Websites below)
Nurse	Army, Navy, and American Red Cross
CAC	Coast Artillery Corps
SATC	Students Army Training Corps
ANC tree	Family tree posted in Ancestry. May contain parents, spouse, sibling names, & photos.
FG tree	Family tree posted in Find A Grave.
DOCUMENTS FOUND - NUMBERING SYSTEM BELOW (documents available in electronic folder)	
1	WWI Draft Registration Card
2	VA Index Card
3	Grave marker photograph
4	Veteran photograph
5	Obituary
6	Death certificate
7	Military headstone application
8	WWI PA Veterans Compensation Application
9	PA Veterans burial card
10	WWI service record
11	Miscellaneous record/document
WEBSITES USED FOR THIS PROJECT	
ANC	Ancestry.com
f3	Fold3
FG	Find A Grave
FS	Family Search
NWS	Newspapers.com