

Post # 21 John P. Wire's Experience with the Selective Service



In Post #19, I mentioned finding Raymond Smith's graduation picture in a scrapbook made by Louise Wire. Louise Wire was married to John E. Wire. Their son, John P. Wire, was born on May 16, 1892 and was in the same 1912 Kinsley High School graduating class as Raymond.

Another item I found in Louise's scrapbook was John P.'s draft classification card.

Thirty-Nine Called.
Following is the list of the men in the draft who are called to the colors for the week commencing May 25th, 1918:

Albert W. Aderhoid, Youngstown, Mo.
Henry Albert Plummer, Offerle.
John Hinderliter, Belpre.
William James Partridge, Lewis.
John P. Wire, Kinsley.
Lloyd L. Carr, Kinsley.
George E. Hildenbrand, Kinsley.
Alvin A. Watson, Oil Hill, Kans.
Paris France, Grand Island, Neb.
Henry Feldhuess, Kinsley.
Homer L. Israel, Lewis.
Louis Frank Wilson, Lewis.
Martin D. Kirkbride, Kinsley.
Charlie R. Harrison, Kinsley.
Harry M. Parsons, Dodge City.
Kenneth B. Keener, Kinsley.
Hubert E. Warren, Kinsley.
Walter H. Hancy, Wichita.
Ray Etherton, Spearville.
Clifford Shaw, Kinsley.
Samuel R. Deen, Lewis.
Albert C. Graham, Pochontas, Arkansas.
Jesse C. Beals, Eldorado, Kans.
Waldo Earl Wade, Columbia, Mo.
Hugh B. Oliphant, Kinsley, Kans.
Aloysius Bockhorst, Offerle.
Burgess E. Goldman, Cosmopolis, Washington.
Guy Davis, Offerle.
Wesley Weaver Peoples, Versailles, Mo.
George Edward Bolay, Emporia.
Cecil A. Nixon, Sterling, Kans.
Edward L. Kerns, Kinsley.
Jim Panting, Kinsley.
Roy Wilson, Springfield, Mo.
Carl G. Elling, Belpre.
Joseph E. Graff, Belpre.
Noah Luther Green, Wenita.
Erastus McCaleb, Cookville, Tenn.
Edward C. Gordley, Kinsley.
The following are named as alternates:
Floyd N. Evans, Belpre.
Robert C. Lolmaugh, Belpre.
Edward Koehn, Garfield.
David Gugins, Trousdale.
Armie John Brenneisen, Offerle.

LOCAL BOARD FOR
Edwards County Kans.

This Certifies that *John Pomeroy Wire*
Order No. *241*, Serial No. *393*, has been finally
classified and recorded in Class *One*
G. D. Hoffman
Member of Local Board.

FORM 1007.—PMGO
(See Sec. 110, S. S. R.)

Local Board for *Edwards Co. Kans.*
Feb. 26 1918
(Date)

You are hereby notified that, as a result of your physical examination, you have been found by the { Local } Board
{ District }
disqualified for military service
disqualified for military service and placed in Class V
qualified for special and limited military service as a

which leaves you in Class *1* subject to call in your order of call when the Government may have need of your services.

G. D. Hoffman
Member of Local Board.

Form 1011.—P. M. G. O.
(See Sec. 124, S. S. R.)

Local Board for *Edwards County Kans.*
NOTICE OF CLASSIFICATION

I	II	III	IV	V
A				

Order No. *241* Serial No. *393* has been classified by the { Local } Board { on appeal } in the classes under which letters are placed on the above schedule, and on the grounds indicated by such letters (see Form 1001-A for key to meaning of letters). This entitles him to a place in Class *1* and he has been so recorded on the Classification List of this Local Board. Appeals may be taken from classification by a Local Board, within five days from the date of this notice, by any person who filed a claim with this Local Board. Appeals may be taken from classification by a District Board within five days from the date of this notice only in certain cases specified in section _____ of Selective Service Regulations and when claimed by a person who filed a claim of classification with the District Board. To file an appeal it is only necessary to go to the office of the Local Board and write your claim of appeal in the place provided on the registrant's questionnaire.

G. D. Hoffman
Member of Local Board.

FORM 1065.—PMGO. (See Sec. 103, S. S. R.)

It appears that on January 2, 1917, John, age 25, received a 1 classification. According to the *Graphic*, John was one of 54 men who filled out a required questionnaire with the local exemption board. These men would be the first on the selective service list. They would be sent to training camps when the next call was made provided they passed the physical examinations and were not aliens. John was notified to appear with 31 others for a physical examination on January 28, 1917.

In the next week's paper (January 31, 1918 *Graphic*), it was reported that 10 of these men passed their physical examinations and were fit for military service. However, five men were rejected by the board. John P. was one of those five. That is where I find it a little confusing, as the card above dated February 26, still has John classified as 1 and "*qualified for military service.*"

The newspaper clipping accompanying the draft notification in the scrapbook is from the May 16 *Graphic* where it appears John was called to report to Camp Funston for training. However, he would not be there long. The June 13 *Graphic* stated, "*John Wire and Walter Haney, who were among the last bunch of boys to go to Camp Funston, were rejected for general military service and came back here Saturday.*" It seems that John P. had not passed his physical at Camp Funston. John Wire, Jr. suggested to me that his father was rejected due to flat feet.

I imagine that this six month time span might have been a very unsettling time for the Wire family. I did find another item reported in the *Graphic* during this time when John P.'s military fate was being decided (February 14, 1917). John P.'s mother, Louise, was a member of the Country Women's Club. The *Graphic* reported that at the club's February 28 meeting, "Mrs. John E. Wire would deliver a paper entitled "What lasting benefits will be derived from this war." It is too bad that we do not know what she wrote in her paper.