“From the ashes of that first hope there rose yet a second hope that this new remnant of the Old First Vermont might yet become the nucleus of a new regiment, which should get at least one real Green Mountain punch at the face of Prussianism...”
- Colonel Fred B. Thomas, October 23, 1919, from series PRA-416
Governor’s Records, 1916 – 1918

Governor Horace F. Graham’s Official Correspondence, A-163
These records consist of telegrams and letters from officials, enlisted men, constituents and local businesses and document a wide range of concerns facing Vermonters at home and abroad. Series also includes correspondence from the Legal Advisory Board, the Medical Advisory Board and Appeals Agents and Oaths of Office.

Governors’ Inaugural & Farewell Addresses
The inaugurals and farewells are useful for examining the executive response to the Great War long before America entered the war and long after the last soldier came home. Transcripts of these speeches can be searched online.

Vermont Governors’ Executive Records, A-189
These records contain appointments, executive orders, pardons, and proclamations, some of which relate to World War I. Volume 12 covers the war years, 1917—1919.

“In passing let me say that now is the time when Vermont’s part in the great struggle should be written by competent minds. I hope you will see to it that provision is made for this before you adjourn. It can best be done now by those who have lived what they would write. “
Governor Horace Graham’s farewell address, January 9, 1919

From series A-163: Letter from the “boys of Rutland County” to Governor Graham requesting to join the “boys from Washington County” in the First Vermont Infantry, March 20, 1918.
From series A-163: A bill of sale to Governor Graham from Nichols and Barney for shoes supplied to Company A, December 1, 1917.

Telegram expressing strong opposition to the war dated February 17, 1917 from Reverend Otto Engel of the American Liberty League to Governor Graham from box A163-00002.
Original Acts & Resolves of the Vermont General Assembly, **SE-005**
This series consists of manuscript original acts and resolutions of the legislature. The original act consists of the bill as introduced and the changes that were made before the bill passed. From the acts and resolves of 1917, the following acts and joint resolutions concern the war efforts: Act No. 168, 172, 225, and 236; Joint Resolution No. 356, 357, 360 and 360. Other pertinent laws of 1917 pertain to the militia, National Guard, and treason (see index terms “militia” and “war” in the Laws of Vermont, 1917). From the acts and resolves of 1919, the following acts concern the war: Act No. 101, 165, 232, 233 and 224.

**From series SE-005: Act No. 168, An Act to Establish the Militia, approved March 3, 1917, states that “all able-bodied male citizens of the state, between ages of 18 and 45 years, shall be enrolled in the militia.” This act was passed prior to the federal passage of the Selective Service Act in anticipation of compulsory enlistment.**

**Legislative Journals, Online**
The Vermont State Archives holds a complete collection of Senate and House Journals which record the formal actions taken on a bill in the House and Senate. Each chamber maintains its own journal and can be used to find out when a bill was introduced; who sponsored it; which committees it was sent to; and when it may have been amended. Physical copies are available in the reference room.

“The Legislature which began with a conscious effort to keep its mind on domestic matters found itself considering, previous to the Federal government itself, the question of national defense and taking the steps necessary to enable Vermont to do its share in support of the government, a task which it performed so thoroughly that a special session of the General Assembly was not found necessary during the process of hostilities.” - John T. Cushing, Vermont in the World War, 1928
On March 22, 1917, Governor Graham appointed a Committee of Public Safety for the purpose of cooperating with the Federal government, recruiting soldiers, stimulating production, encouraging conservation and protecting property. Committee members included active service members, former Colonels, legislators, attorneys and judges who frequently consulted with state legislators. Records of the Committee of Public Safety can be found in series A-163, Governor Horace Graham records (1917—1919) and A-164, Governor Percival Clement records (1919—1921).

From series SE-005: Joint Resolution 361, Urgently Requesting the Immediate Enactment of a Federal Universal Military Training Law, signed April 5, 1917; this resolution was largely a response to the sinking of three American ships—the City of Memphis, the Illinois and the Vigilancia—by German submarines between March 16—18, 1917, all but ensuring American entry into the Great War.
Accounting Records, 1917 – 1924

Report of Examination of Military Account, PRA-422
This report was submitted to the Auditor of Accounts by the Revenue Clerk, examining the State’s military account from May 1917 to August 1920. The account consists of disbursement to soldiers for state pay and the $120.00 bonus provided to soldiers.

Account of State Pay to Soldiers, PRA-421
This volume contains a listing of disbursements of state pay to World War I soldiers. This state pay was authorized by Act No.168, Section 53, General Laws of Vermont, 1917.

From series PRA-158: A fraudulent claim for state pay submitted by Francis Fox in the name of Francis Button in 1921.

Francis E. Fox Mug Shot, 1921, from summary card from the Vermont State Prison series STPRI-002.

“*The State has under arrest at Burlington, Vermont, one Francis Fox, charged with forging names of soldiers on checks issued by the State on account of ‘State pay to Vermont soldiers’ in the late world war. He has made verbal confession to the officers and in my presence.*”

-Walter Scott, State Treasurer
December 2, 1921
from PRA-158
Francis E. Fox’s “State pay to Vermont soldiers”

Forgery Case Records, **PRA-158**

During World War I, Vermont paid an extra ten dollars a month bonus to soldiers in addition to their federal pay. Francis E. Fox sent out applications where he forged not only the application contents but also the notary’s certification and endorsement of the checks (1921). Fox was caught because he used his own handwriting in the forgeries. He pled guilty to avoid a longer sentence and was committed to the State Prison for two to five years. This series was created to calculate the cost of the forgeries and included the documentation needed for the insurance company to pay the claim. The mugshots come from the State Prison records on microfilm. (F-05234 in series STPRI-002)
Military Records, 1917 – 1919

Records of the Adjutant & Inspector General:
World War I Historical Files, PRA-416

These records document the 26th Division, American Expeditionary Force in World War I. Known as the "Yankee Division" because it was primarily comprised of units from New England, the 26th Division saw combat in the Chemin des Dames sector; La Reine and Boucq sectors; during the Aisne-Marne offensive; at the battle of St. Mihiel; and during the Meuse-Argonne offensive. The series contains speeches, correspondence, news clippings, printed material, maps of troop movement (see below) and unit histories documenting the entire 26th Division, and includes records specifically related to the 1st Infantry Regiment, Vermont National Guard.

From series PRA-416: Plan of counter-preparation in Château-Thierry, France, Sheet No. III of plan of employment for the artillery U.S. Second Division entitled “Annex A” circa July 1918. The Battle of Château-Thierry was one of the first actions of the AEF as part of the Second Battle of the Marne, prompted by a German offensive launched on 15 July against the AEF and the newest troops on the front.
Records of the Adjutant & Inspector General:
World War I Selective Service Records, **PRA-417**
The Selective Service System was active during the conflict from 1917 to 1920. These records includes listing of soldiers selected and trained as well as men rejected from service. The administrative records of Captain Stephen Cushing, the Disbursement Officer and Agent of the United States in Vermont includes pamphlets, posters, orders and bulletins.

“My friends, if ever again the time comes when you need the services of the men who fought and served with the First Vermont, those who went into the 26th Division, or those who served with the 57th Pioneer Infantry, when they are needed again they will come forward to serve the state and the nation with as great fidelity, devotion, courage and patriotism as they served during the time of the great war “
-Captain Ernest W. Gibson’s Address, October 23, 1919
Other Resources at VSARA

Eugenics Survey of Vermont &
The Vermont Commission on Country Life Records, PRA-005
This series consists of records from the Eugenics Survey of Vermont (1925-1936), a privately funded organization organized and directed by Henry F. Perkins, former chairman of the University of Vermont’s Zoology Department. The Eugenics Survey of Vermont led to the formation of the Vermont Commission on Country Life and its survey work. Box PRA-00007 contains records related to “draft defects” found in men drafted in WWI (see images right).

Vermont in the World War: 1917-1919.
Edited by John T. Cushing and Arthur F. Stone
https://archive.org/stream/vermontinworldwa00john#page/302/mode/2up
This book was published by an act of the legislature in 1919 and covers military and civilian government. It also examines the response of community groups such as the Red Cross and home-front activities such liberty bond drives. The book also includes a list of casualties.

General Collection—Agency Reports
Agency reports were submitted biannually and were provided by many agencies and departments within state government. Examining the war years and the years following the war are helpful to see how the military and civilian departments dealt with the war and aftermath.

Rosters and Casualty Lists
https://archive.org/details/rosterofvermontm00herb
A complete roster and casualty list is also available in our reference room covering WWI.

From series PRA-417: Telegram sent to Captain Stephen Cushing in Montpelier from the front lines complaining about requests for battle statistics and reports to be sent to the legislature.
From series PRA-005, box PRA-00007: Notebook containing notes on “draft defects found in men drafted into the World War” with a comparison chart of defects found in draft men from Vermont versus other U.S. States.

THE EUGENICS SURVEY OF VERMONT

The inception of this undertaking is due to interest in Vermont's position amongst the states in the Draft Board examinations. A number of small problems in heredity had been previously undertaken by members of the class in Heredity at the University, and so much interest was aroused in studying inheritance problems amongst families in Vermont that a rather careful study of Davenport's tables of drafted men was made by the entire class.

In connection with the last mentioned investigation, some members of the class as well as the instructor carried on a somewhat lively correspondence with the Eugenics Record Office at Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, and with its Director, Dr. Davenport. The Record Office, and especially Dr. D., were very emphatic in urging a study of conditions in Vermont having to do with the excessive number of defective men as found by the Draft Boards. The accompanying chart gives a brief summary of some of the worst conditions. It serves to explain

FAMILY HISTORY & GENEALOGY

If you are researching the life of your World War I veteran who lived in Vermont, see our Genealogy and Family History Guide for records that may be helpful for family history research. These include court, institution and vital records.
Other Vermont Archival Resources

Vermont National Guard Library and Museum:

World War I Vermont Draft Registration Cards, NARA:
https://www.archives.gov/research/military/ww1/draft-registration/vermont.html

Camp Vail, Green Mountain Chronicles,
Vermont Historical Society:
http://vermonthistory.org/research/research-resources-online/green-mountain-chronicles/world-war-i-camp-vail-1916

Middlebury College, World War I Correspondence:
http://archivesspace.middlebury.edu/repositories/2/archival_objects/4493

Norwich University, World War I Collections, 1914 – 1918:
http://archives.norwich.edu/cdm/search/searchterm/World%20War,%201914-1918(mode/exact

Norwich University, World War I Collection, 1916 – 1919:
http://archives.norwich.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/p16663coll5/id/142/rec/7

Norwich University, U.S. and Allied War Exposition Photographs, 1917 – 1918:
http://archives.norwich.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/p16663coll5/id/113/rec/12

University of Vermont, General William I. Westervelt Papers, 1910—1960:
http://cdi.uvm.edu/findingaids/viewEAD.xql?pid=westerveltwilliam.ead.xml
National Archival Resources

YMCA Armed Services Department records, 1863 – 1987:  
http://special.lib.umn.edu/findaid/html/ymca/yusa0004a.phtml

NARA:  
https://www.archives.gov/research/military/ww1

The National World War I Museum and Memorial:  
https://www.theworldwar.org/

The World War I Document Archive:  
https://wwi.lib.byu.edu/index.php/Main_Page

Europeana 1914-1918:  

From series A-004 Vermont Industrial School and Weeks School Scrapbook and Photographs: Children at the Vermont industrial School working in the “Victory Garden” to support the war efforts circa 1918.
Contact Us: If you are interested in doing research using these or any other records in the State Archives, please visit or contact our Reference Room at (802) 828-2308 or at archives@sec.state.vt.us. We are open Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 4 PM.

From PRA-416, Records of the Adjutant and Inspector General, World War I Historical Files: Secret codes for designation organizations, commanders, and staff officers in letters, telegrams, or telephone conversations.