

# CROSSROADS

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## The Spanish Flu Outbreak in 1918-19 and How it Affected Your Ancestors

by Jane Neff Rollins, MSPH

### Also in this issue . . .

Fighting for the Vote: Researching British Suffragettes  
— Nathan Dylan Goodwin

Stories from the Pandemic  
— various authors





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- UTAH VALLEY
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Please check the UGA website homepage for more information.

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### DNA SIG

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## State of the Association

# President's Message

by Kelly Summers, AG® - UGA President

I just returned from a month-long business trip with my husband in Europe. We visited many countries and enjoyed the cuisine and architecture. Finally, in England, we spent time visiting family history sites of my husband's family. We enjoyed experiencing walking through the overgrown church cemeteries. Of course, I had to visit several archives looking for elusive family information. My idea of a great trip always includes genealogical research in an archive.

With summer comes warm weather, family gatherings, and picnics. My real-life summer this year includes a wedding for my son, a family reunion, and long visits with grandchildren. In other words, my summer this year will be a continuous celebration with my family. I look forward to the many new memories we will create together.


In this issue of Crossroads you will learn more about the 1918 flu epidemic and the research conducted by author Nathan Dylan Goodwin for his mystery novel, *The Suffragette's Secret*. In addition, you will find the regular Crossroad for Kids section where you can find great ideas for family time. I hope you enjoy this issue and learn something new that can help you in your research as well as strengthen your family ties.



*Kelly Summers, Accredited Genealogist® currently works as a part-time faculty member at Brigham Young University teaching Family History and History courses. She also teaches online Genealogy courses at Salt Lake Community College. Kelly has been involved in genealogical research and teaching for more than thirty years. Kelly researches in the US, Latin America, Southwestern European, Scandinavian and East Asian areas. Kelly's research interests lie in kinship research in primary source records and rural community reconstruction.*

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# The Spanish Flu Outbreak in 1918-19 and How it Affected Your Ancestors

by Jane Neff Rollins, MSPH

## INTRODUCTION

The year 2018 marks the 100th anniversary of an important series of events in public health history – the Spanish flu epidemic. It may be a footnote in the chapter of history overall, but if your grandparents or great-grandparents were affected – and whether directly or indirectly, they were – it was unforgettable. When you write up your family’s story, if you go beyond your direct lineage to include social history as well, you’ll want to include the impact of the Spanish flu epidemic, and here’s why.

You may think of the flu as a mild disease that is at worst a nuisance, but even today, it kills up to 56,000 people in the U.S. yearly.<sup>1</sup> In contrast, the Spanish flu epidemic is estimated to have infected one third of the world population and to have killed between 50 million and 100 million people worldwide.<sup>2</sup> The flu killed more U.S. civilians than all the U.S. soldiers killed in action “over there” fighting during World War I.<sup>3</sup> In fact, though these statistics have their limitations, they are accurate enough to confirm that the pandemic (a worldwide epidemic) killed more people than all of the major wars of the twentieth century combined.<sup>4</sup>

In the U.S., one of every four people developed the flu, and between 300,000 and 500,000 people died from it.<sup>5</sup> But the people who caught the Spanish flu weren’t the elderly or the very young who get seasonal flu most often. Spanish flu hit the young and seemingly fit members of the population, and death rates among those 15 to 34 years old were 20 times higher than usual.<sup>6</sup>

Like with a typical seasonal flu, patients with Spanish flu developed symptoms of high fever, muscular aches, sore throat, cough and fatigue. Approximately 95% of all Spanish flu cases were mild like this, and patients recovered.<sup>7</sup> In contrast with seasonal flu, however, some Spanish flu patients also developed a severe pneumonia: their lungs filled with so much fluid that they became short of breath, their skin turned blue, and they became delirious. Eventually, these patients also bled from their noses, mouths, eyes, and ears, and died.<sup>8</sup>

## TIMELINE

The Spanish flu pandemic occurred in three separate waves between 1918 and early 1919.

- 1 “Estimated Influenza Illnesses, Medical Visits, Hospitalizations, and Death Averted by Vaccination in the United States,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/2015-16.htm>. Accessed 20 December 2017.
- 2 Jeffery K. Taubenberger, David M. Morens. 1918 Influenza: the Mother of All Pandemics. *Emerg Infect Dis*. 2006 Jan; 12(1):15-22. Doi: 10.3201/eid1201.050979, p15/col1/para1.
- 3 “Flu Causes More Deaths Than Yank Casualties in War.” *Free Trader-Journal*. December 05, 1918, Image 3, Vol 3, No 19 P4, Col 5.
- 4 Roni K. Devlin, *Influenza*. Biographies of Disease. Julie K Silver MD, Series Editor. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press. 2008, 31.
- 5 Taubenberger, *1918 Influenza*, 19.
- 6 Taubenberger, *1918 Influenza*, 19.
- 7 Taubenberger, *1918 Influenza*, 20.
- 8 Virginia Aronson, *The Influenza Pandemic of 1918. Great Disasters: Reforms and Ramifications*. Philadelphia, PA: Chelsea House Publishers. 2000, 38.



## First Outbreak

The first wave developed in March 1918 in Riley, Kansas, and caused fairly mild symptoms among the civilian population, but with rapid spread.<sup>9</sup> Note that the months of March and April are very atypical for the rapid spread of influenza.<sup>10</sup> A few weeks later, the flu outbreak affected soldiers at Camp Funston, Kansas, where more than a thousand soldiers became ill within 5 weeks. Subsequently, higher than normal frequency of flu diagnoses occurred among the civilian and military population in several southern states, the Midwest, and at San Quentin Prison in California.<sup>11</sup> Many of the 220,000 men who shipped out to Europe in March and April to fight in World War I were incubating the flu, which then circulated among the military forces abroad.<sup>12</sup> During the first wave, many people became ill with influenza, but the proportion of people who died from it was not much higher than expected.<sup>13</sup> By May, 1918, this wave of influenza had ebbed in the U.S.

On May 16, 1918, Congress passed the Sedition Act. Section 3 made making certain statements that might negatively affect the war punishable by a fine up to \$10,000 and jail sentence of up to 20 years.<sup>14</sup> This effectively suspended the freedom of the press in the U.S., as many newspaper editors were afraid of printing news about the flu for fear of being punished under the Act.

The disease became known as the Spanish flu in the U.S., but not because it originated in Spain. Spain was neutral during the war and had not imposed censorship on its press, which the U.S., France, England, and Germany had.<sup>15</sup> Spain's King Alonso

developed the flu and it was publicized, unlike elsewhere, and the flu seemed to be occurring only in Spain as a result.<sup>16</sup> But the British called it "Flanders Grippe;" the Italians called it sand-fly fever; the Germans called it "Blitz Katarrh;" and the Poles called it the Bolshevik disease.<sup>17</sup> Not surprisingly, stateside, some Americans blamed the Germans for the epidemic; one wanted to change the name of the flu epidemic to "the German plague."<sup>18</sup>

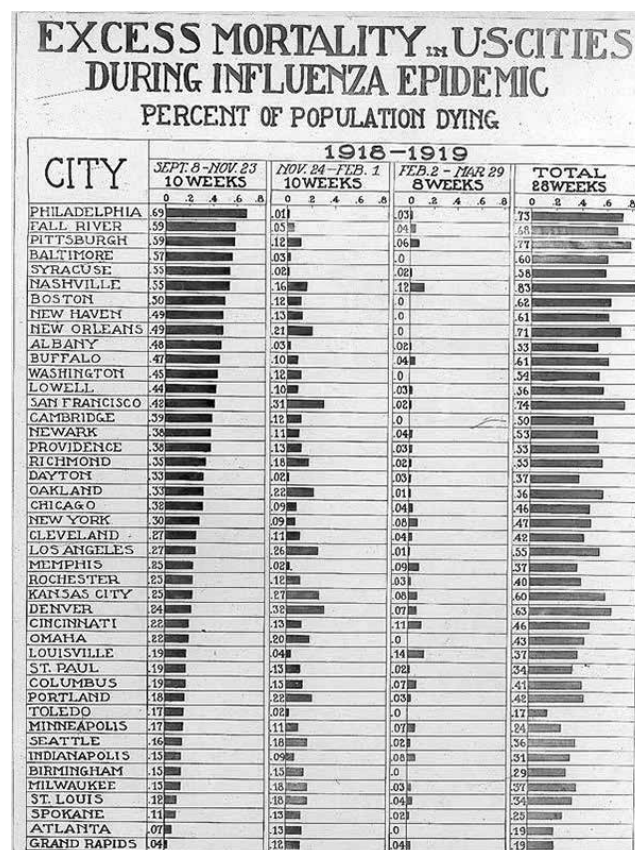


Figure 1 "Excess Mortality in U.S. Cities During Influenza Epidemic, 1918-19." *The Baltimore Sun*, <http://www.baltimoresun.com/health/bal-1918flu-citymapgraphic-graphic.html>. Accessed 30 December 2017.

9 John M. Barry, "Journal of the Plague Year," *Smithsonian*, November 2017, 36.

10 Taubenberger, *1918 Influenza*, 17.

11 Devlin, *Influenza*, 32; Aronson, *Influenza Pandemic*, 44.

12 Devlin, *Influenza*, 32.

13 Taubenberger, *1918 Influenza*, 17.

14 Adriane Ruggiero, *World War I*, Tarrytown, NY: Benchmark Books, 2003, 31.

15 Devlin, *Influenza*, 33.

16 Aronson, *Influenza Pandemic*, 46.

17 Aronson, *Influenza Pandemic*, 49 & 73; Richard Collier, *The Plague of the Spanish Lady: The Influenza Pandemic of 1918-1919*. New York, NY: Atheneum, 1974, 82.

18 "The German Plague. Give a New Name to the Prevalent Epidemic," *New York Times*, October 20, 1918, 34.



## Second Wave

The spring wave of flu subsided, but in August 1918, another wave of flu infections began, first hitting a military base in New York.<sup>19</sup> Then the epidemic hit Boston, from which it spread to the civilian population. The months of August through October are also atypical for the rapid spread of influenza,<sup>20</sup> but, by October 16 more than 3700 Bostonians had died of flu.<sup>21</sup> So many people came down with flu that the city hospitals couldn't accommodate them, so they put up tents in empty lots.<sup>22</sup> Similar patterns of disease were seen in other cities nationwide, e.g., in Philadelphia, where 12,162 people died between Sept 29 and Nov 2, 1918.<sup>23</sup> Figure 1 illustrates the impact of the Spanish flu in more than three dozen U.S. cities.

This wave of flu was more severe than the earlier one, with patients developing loss of eye movement and the ability to smell; respiratory failure and cyanosis; and hemorrhages from nose, mouth, ears, eye, and lungs.<sup>24</sup>

Figure 2 illustrates the second wave of the epidemic as experienced in Chicago, Illinois.<sup>25</sup> The number of deaths from influenza and pneumonia peaked by mid-October, when the death rate from flu in Chicago was 3.5 times normal (343 deaths compared to a normal of 100).<sup>26</sup>

## The Third Wave

When the American Public Health Association had their annual conference in Chicago during the

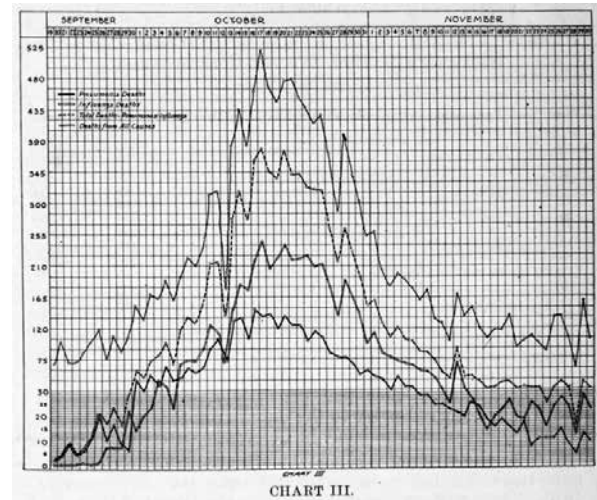


Figure 2. Daily deaths from acute respiratory diseases (i.e., influenza and pneumonia) compared with deaths from all causes in Chicago during the Spanish flu pandemic in 1918.

first week of December, headlines announced that another flu epidemic was expected to sweep the country in 1919 – and it did.<sup>27</sup>

The third wave of pandemic flu started in December 1918. This wave peaked in January, 1919.<sup>28</sup>

## WORLDWIDE IMPACT

The Spanish influenza was an equal-opportunity disease: ordinary people fell ill in droves but so did society's elite. President Wilson, Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin Delano Roosevelt, King Alonso of Spain and the German Kaiser Wilhelm, all developed the flu.<sup>29</sup>

19 Aronson, *Influenza Pandemic*, 54

20 Taubenberger 2006, 17

21 Aronson, *Influenza Pandemic*, 61

22 Aronson, *Influenza Pandemic*, 60.

23 Devlin, *Influenza*, 37.

24 Devlin, *Influenza*, 36.

25 John Dill Robertson. *Report and Handbook of the Department of Health of the City of Chicago for the Years 1911 to 1918 Inclusive*. Chicago, Illinois: House of Severinghaus, 1919, 16.

26 *Free Trader-Journal*, October 23, 1918, Vol. 2, No. 228, 1.

27 "Doctors to Make Ready for 1919 'Flu' Epidemic," *The News Scimitar* (Memphis TN), December 06, 1918, [Vol. number illegible]/No. 292, 22; "Flu Increases; Feel No Alarm," *Rock Island Argus*, December 02, 1918, Vol. 68/No. 39, 4.

28 Aronson, *Influenza Pandemic*, 90.

29 Aronson, *Influenza Pandemic*, 91; Collier, *Spanish Lady*, 139; "Alphonso and His New Hair [sic] Apparent," *Rock island Argus*, 23 Dec 1918, Vol 68, No. 57, 12; "Today. The Kaiser is Ill, They Really Want Peace, The War Bill Signed, So Far So Good," *The Washington Times*, July 11, 1918. [No Vol. number]/No.10,586, 1.



## The Speculation as to Cause

Public health officials recognized that “Coughs and Sneezes Spread Diseases,” but they did not know what caused influenza.<sup>30,31</sup> Early on, scientists and physicians thought that Pfeiffer’s bacillus, pneumococcus, or other bacteria were the underlying cause of influenza.<sup>32</sup>

One doctor claimed that inadequate sugar in the diet, in combination with *Staphylococcus* bacteria, caused the flu.<sup>33</sup> Others blamed deliberate German contamination of aspirin supplies.<sup>34</sup>

One early experiment to identify the cause of influenza definitely involved exposing 100 human volunteers to known infectious agents via nostril, throat, or food. The scientists had clearly not identified the infection source, however, as none of the volunteers got sick.<sup>35</sup>

There were no electron microscopes then that would enable scientists to see the tiny virus that was the real culprit. It took until 1997 for Jeffrey Taubenberger and his team to analyze lung tissue preserved from six 1918 Spanish flu victims to identify the H1N1 influenza virus as the true cause of the pandemic.<sup>36</sup>

## NATIONWIDE IMPACT

Among U.S. residents, 675,000 died from Spanish Flu, including 43,000 servicemen.<sup>37</sup> A larger

proportion of some communities died, including one-quarter of the population in Samoa and Alaska.<sup>38</sup> The effect on women was particularly damaging: up to 71% of pregnant women who caught the flu died; of those who survived the flu, 26% had miscarriages.<sup>39</sup>

Providing care for this huge number of flu patients was a huge challenge, particularly because there were so few medical professionals available to care for them. By the start of the second wave of flu, there were 140,000 licensed physicians in the U.S., but 40,000 had enlisted to serve in the War.<sup>40</sup> In Chicago, for example, the number of doctors and nurses had declined by 40% due to leaving for military service; in addition, many doctors and nurses also developed the flu.<sup>41</sup>

In the absence of licensed physicians, other health professionals and students filled in as substitutes.<sup>42</sup> Nearly two hundred dentists volunteered to care for flu patients in New Orleans, as did 500 student volunteers from the American School of Osteopathy in Kirksville, Missouri.<sup>43</sup>

There was a particular shortage of nurses.<sup>44</sup> Rich families in New York kidnapped nurses from the Henry Street Settlement and paid them twice the usual rate for home nursing care.<sup>45</sup>

30 “Uncle Sam’s Advice,” *Roanoke Rapids Herald*. Vol. V/No. 30, October 18, 1918.

31 Taubenberger, *1918 Influenza*, 15.

32 Uncle Sam’s Advice on Flu. U.S. Public Health Service Issues Official Health Bulletin on Influenza. Latest Word on Subject. Epidemic Probably Not Spanish in Origin – Germ Still Unknown – People Should Guard Against “Droplet Infection” – Surgeon General Blue Makes Authoritative Announcement.” *Roanoke Rapids Herald*. Vol. V, No. 30, October 18, 1918, 7.

33 “Chicago Specialist Makes Study of Flu.” *The Seattle Star*, October 18, 1918, Vol. 20/ No. 199, 9.

34 Aronson, *Influenza Pandemic*, 73.

35 “These Chaps Wax Fat on Germs at Influenza Test,” *Rock Island Argus*, December 14, 1918 Image 1 Vol. 68/No. 50, 1.

36 Jeffery K. Taubenberger, Ann H. Reid, Amy E. Krafft, Karen E. Bijwaard, Thomas G. Fanning. Initial genetic characterization of the 1918 “Spanish” influenza virus. *Science*. 1997; 275:1793-6.

37 Taubenberger, *Science*, 1793.

38 Devlin, *Influenza*, 42.

39 Devlin, *Influenza*, 42.

40 Collier, *Spanish Lady*, 44.

41 “Chicago Powerless Against ‘Flu’ Spread,” *Free Trader-Journal*, October 02, 1918, Vol. [not legible]/No. 2103, 3.

42 Collier, *Spanish Lady*, 103.

43 Collier, *Spanish Lady*, 4.

44 John Dill Robertson. *Report and Handbook of the Department of Health of the City of Chicago for the Years 1911 to 1918 Inclusive*. Chicago, Illinois: House of Severinghaus, 1919, 66.

45 Collier, *Spanish Lady*, 120.



# Research

## Impact on the Military

Overall, 24 of 36 large military encampments in the U.S. experienced flu outbreaks in 1918.<sup>46</sup>

When the first soldier died of influenza at Camp Grant in Rockford, Illinois in 1918, base commander Colonel Charles Hagadorn deliberately flouted quarantine orders and sent 3,100 troops to Camp Hancock in Georgia by train – and 10% of them died *en route*.<sup>47</sup> By early October, thousands of soldiers at Camp Grant were infected and 500 had died – and General Hagadorn committed suicide.<sup>48</sup>

In September 1918, 7000 soldiers at Camp Zachary Taylor in Louisville, Kentucky, were hospitalized and 21 died of flu within less than two days.<sup>49</sup> On October 9, 1918, another 607 influenza cases were reported at Camp Taylor, a number which was dwarfed by the 1000 and 1430 cases reported at Camp Custer, Michigan and Camp Funston, Kansas, respectively.<sup>50</sup>

As a result of the massive impact of the epidemic on the number of men available to serve, the military postponed draft calls scheduled for October 7 and 11, 1918.<sup>51</sup>

The impact of the second wave of the flu on U.S. military forces abroad was profound. By the first week in October 1918, 16,000 U.S. soldiers stationed at the Argonne Forest had developed

influenza.<sup>52</sup> In some military units, 90% of soldiers, and 40% of U.S.s Navy sailors developed the flu.<sup>53</sup> Overall, one in 4 U.S. soldiers developed influenza, one in 24 contracted pneumonia, and one in sixty-seven died.<sup>54</sup>

The only military locations that avoided massive flu outbreaks were those that established strict quarantines early on. Yerba Buena Island in San Francisco Bay US Naval Training station was home to 4000 individuals. For 9 weeks in 1918 the Captain cancelled all leaves, sterilized all water fountains hourly with blow torches, and enforced a 20 foot distance rule with new recruits.<sup>55</sup>

## U.S. Government Response

The U.S. government recognized the need for an effective way to prevent the flu, and appropriated ten million dollars to the Army for that purpose, presumably to include development of a vaccine.<sup>56</sup> With that in mind, physicians named McGuire and Redden injected serum extracted from the blood of those who had survived the Spanish flu into 37 volunteers.<sup>57</sup> At the time of the submission of the article to the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, 30 patients had recovered completely, 6 were still being treated, and one had died.<sup>58</sup> Considering that the mortality rate in the untreated patients was between 30 and 50 percent, these outcomes were outstanding. On the same day

46 John M. Barry, "Journal of the Plague Year," *Smithsonian*, November 2017, Vol 48, No. 7, 36.

47 Devlin, *Influenza*, 45.

48 "Camp Grant leads in influenza toll," *Free Trader-Journal (Ottawa, Illinois)*, 10 Dec 1918, Vol. 3/No. 23, 2; Carol R. Byerly. The U.S. Military and the Influenza Pandemic of 1918–1919. *Public Health Rep.* 2010;125(Suppl 3): 88.

49 "21 Soldiers/Flu Victims/7,000 Men at Local Camp Are inmates of Base Hospital. More Nurses Needed," *The Courier-Journal (Louisville, Kentucky)*, October 4, 1918, 1 from Influenza Encyclopedia, <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/f/flu/1850flu.0005.581/1/--21-soldiers-flu-victims?page=root;size=100;view=pdf>. Accessed 29 November 2017.

50 "Flu Continues/Rapid Spread/Over Nation," *The Public Ledger (Maysville, KY)*, October 10, 1918, [No volume number/no issue number], 4.

51 "Influenza Stops Draft Call. Order for Entrainment of Registrants Between October 7 and 11 Cancelled. 6,139 New Cases in Camps. Massachusetts Reports 50,000 Cases of Spanish Influenza – Health Commissioner Appeals to U.S. Officials for Aid," *Fulton County Tribune (Wauseon, Ohio)*, 4 October 1918, Vol. XXXV, No. 26, 2.

52 Collier, *Spanish Lady*, 71.

53 Devlin, *Influenza*, 3 & 42.

54 Collier, *Spanish Lady*, 73.

55 Collier, *Spanish Lady*, 143.

56 "Ten Million to Fight the 'Flu'," *Centralia Evening Sentinel*, October 17, 1918, [No volume number] /No.10,224, 1.

57 "Cure for 'flu' arms Chicago against disease," *Chicago Tribune*. October 19, 1918, 13.

58 L. W. McGuire & W. R. Redden, Treatment of Influenza Pneumonia by the Use of Convalescent Human Serum: Preliminary Report. *JAMA*. October 19, 1918;71(16):1311-1312. doi:10.1001/jama.1918.26020420013013e.



# Research

the journal article was published, the Chicago health commissioner, Dr. John Dill Robertson, announced a program to vaccinate 100,000 Chicagoans a day against influenza-induced pneumonia.<sup>59</sup> By October 22, vaccine was being administered.<sup>60</sup>

## COMMUNITY RESPONSE

### Prevention Attempts

Influenza was not a nationally reportable disease prior to 1918. In Chicago, pneumonia had been reportable since the early part of 1910, but it wasn't until September 16, 1918 that the Commissioner of Health in Chicago declared influenza a reportable disease.<sup>61</sup>

New York made influenza reportable, too, and established fines or jail time for failing to cover a cough or sneeze -- and 500 people were arrested under the statute.<sup>62</sup>

### Masks

Public health officials disseminated the motto "Coughs and Sneezes Spread Diseases" in public health posters and newspaper articles published around the country, encouraging people to sneeze into their handkerchiefs.<sup>63</sup>

The public health establishment and the military started to recommend that people wear masks made of gauze or cheese-cloth, even though there was not yet any published proof that masks were effective in preventing the spread of the disease. For example, on 24 October 1918, the San Francisco City Health Officer declared that all residents must wear a mask.



Figure 3. Typist Working in New York Wearing mask to protect against Spanish flu.

Flouting the law could lead to fines as large as \$100 or 10 days in jail, and indeed, scofflaws in San Francisco were hauled into jail for failure to wear a mask.<sup>64</sup> New flu cases declined from 2,300 per day to 300 per day within 6 days of enacting the law, and public health officials ascribed the drop to the masks.<sup>65</sup> In Columbus, Ohio, police were assigned to remove unmasked passengers from trolley cars.<sup>66</sup>

The military also required masks for soldiers on transport ships heading from the U.S. to Europe, and ascribed their use to minimizing flu cases and deaths that occurred during those convoys.<sup>67</sup>

### Closures

Some communities did a better job than others in protecting their residents from the flu. A few focused on banning all public gatherings outdoors, others focused on closing specific businesses like

59 "Vaccinate everyone. Chicago Citizens, 100,000 a Day, To Receive Flu Prevention." *The Topeka State Journal*, October 19, 1918, Vol. XL/No. 251, 2.

60 Robertson, *Report and Handbook*, Chart XX, 81.

61 Taubenberger, *1918 Influenza*, 16; Robertson, *Report and Handbook*, 15 & 47.

62 Collier, *Spanish Lady*, 191.

63 "Uncle Sam's Advice on Flu," *Courier Democrat (Langdon, MD)*, October 17, 1918, Vol XXXIV, No. 13, 3.

64 Collier, *Spanish Lady*, 194.

65 "Tells How 'Frisco Drove Flu Away," *Bogalusa Enterprise and American*, December 12, 1918, Vol. 4/No. 50, 7.

66 Aronson, *Influenza Pandemic*, 65.

67 "Gauze Masks for Men on Transport Keep Flu at Bay. Two Die of Pneumonia at Sea; 28,898 Land Safely in France," *Stars & Stripes*, 1 November 1918, Vol 1:No. 39, 1-2.



# Research

theaters, billiard rooms and bowling alleys.<sup>68</sup> In Chicago, dance halls, movie theaters, skating rinks, high schools, lodge and banquet halls were closed and outdoor sporting events and public funerals were prohibited in October, 1918.<sup>69</sup> A secondary gain from the closures in Chicago was a 43.5% drop in crime.<sup>70</sup> In New York and Chicago, the “better class of theaters” (as opposed to movie theaters) were sometimes kept open to provide venues for patient education.<sup>71</sup> Some towns closed saloons, while others let them stay open but restricted activities that would bring large groups of people in, like card or game playing.<sup>72</sup>

## Effects of the Epidemic on Businesses

Some businesses curtailed part of their operations. Bengtson’s Drug Store in Rock Island, Illinois voluntarily closed its soda fountain to minimize public gathering.<sup>73</sup> One in four telephone operators in New York came down with flu, and the phone company suspended service to half of the public phone booths citywide.<sup>74</sup>

Employees in Boston were often late to work because trains were delayed because train conductors were sick, and so many public laundries were inadequately staffed that retail stores noted an increase in sales of new clothing because customer’s existing clothes weren’t being cleaned by others.<sup>75</sup>

While those businesses cut back altruistically, and probably lost incomes as a result, some pharmacies

boosted profits, gouging customers by raising prices on aspirin and quinine.<sup>76</sup>

## Closures of Schools

Boston schools had to close in the fall of 1918 because so many teachers were sick. New York City did not close their public schools, but a doctor or nurse checked each child every morning for flu symptoms and sent them home if ill, and after-school activities were eliminated so children had to go home when dismissed for the day. With few exceptions, students and teachers all stayed healthy.<sup>77</sup>

## Attempts to Treat Influenza

One hundred years ago there was no effective treatment for the flu, much less a cure, but that didn’t stop consumers and doctors from trying treatments that we might consider bizarre today. There was one home remedy that modern readers will recognize – Vicks VapoRub was touted as a way to relieve flu symptoms.<sup>78</sup> Patent medicines with names like Peruna and Kondon’s Catarrhal Kelly were touted for flu, even though their proprietary ingredients were unlikely to have been either effective or safe.<sup>79</sup>

Other wacky techniques for preventing or treating Spanish flu included:<sup>80</sup>

- Drinking a mixture of beer and castor oil
- Being buried in, or eating, massive amounts of raw sliced onions, or drinking onion syrup

68 “Closing Order,” *The Watertown (WIS) News*, November 18, 1918, Vol. LVIII/No. 76, 3.

69 Robertson, *Report and Handbook*, 71 & 80.

70 Robertson, *Report and Handbook*, 77.

71 Proceedings of the Forty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association at Chicago, Ill., December 8-12, 1918. *American Journal of Public Health*, Vol IX, No.1, January 1, 1919, 135. <http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdf/10.2105/AJPH.9.2.130>. Accessed 15 December 2017.

72 “Official City Notices.” *The Watertown News*, October 21, 1918, 2.

73 “Our Fountain,” *Island Argus [Rock Island Illinois]*, October 17, 1918, Vol. 67/No. 312, 2.

74 “Flu Affects Phone Service in New York,” *Free Trader-Journal*, October 23, 1918, Vol. 2/No. 228, 1.

75 Aronson, *Influenza Pandemic*, 62; “Flu Hits Laundries,” *Rock Island Argus*, February 05, 1919, Vol 68, 12.

76 Aronson, *Influenza Pandemic*, 88.

77 Collier, *Spanish Lady*, 151.

78 “Druggists!! Please Note Vick’s VapoRub Oversold Due to Present Epidemic [advertisement],” *The Manitowoc Pilot.*, November 14, 1918, Vol LX/No. 20, 3.

79 “Spanish Influenza Resembles Old Fashioned Grip [advertisement],” *The Big Sandy News*, October 25 1918, 8. Kentucky Digital Library, [http://kdl.kyvl.org/catalog/xt76125q9b58\\_8](http://kdl.kyvl.org/catalog/xt76125q9b58_8); “A personal offer to those who fear Spanish Influenza [advertisement],” *Rock Island Argus*, October 17, 1918, Vol. 67/No. 312, 3.

80 [Collier, *Spanish Lady*, 113, 120, 243; “Hot Coffee Checks Flu at Saint Nazarre,” *Stars & Stripes*, 13 Dec 1918, Vol.1/45, 7; Aronson, *Influenza Pandemic*, 77; “Chiropractic for In’flu’enza. Quick Results [advertisement],” *Rock Island Argus*, December 02, 1918, Vol. 68/No. 39, 7.



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- Drinking massive doses of hot coffee to steam out the germs
- Eating a diet of four raw eggs, milk and a tot of whisky
- Removing both tonsils and teeth
- Undergoing chiropractic

All in all, preventive efforts were minimally effective and people continued to come down with flu.

## SPANISH FLU AND YOUR ANCESTORS

It is estimated that 28% of the U.S. population was infected with Spanish flu, so there was almost a one in three chance that someone in your family came down with it, even if no records exist to confirm it.<sup>81</sup> Approximately 95% of all cases were mild, and patients recovered, although some patients developed long-term complications such as heart, lung or kidney disease.<sup>82</sup> In addition, a large proportion of flu survivors developed Parkinson's disease much earlier than was usual.<sup>83</sup> You can be sure that your family was affected by the Spanish flu epidemic, whether or not anyone died from flu or pneumonia.

### Did Someone in Your Family Develop the Spanish Flu?

How would you explore whether a member of your family did come down with Spanish flu, whether stateside or while serving abroad in the military? And if so, did that individual die from it? One way is to start from the broadest possible viewpoint, and focus your research inward thereafter.

### Effect on Communities

First, determine how your ancestor's community was affected by the flu outbreak. Newspapers give a broad view of the impact of the flu nationwide, statewide, and locally. Even if no one in the family came down with the Spanish flu, everyone may have been affected by school or business closures,

## DIGITIZED NEWSPAPER WEBSITES

### Free sites

Chronicling America – search thousands of newspapers dated 1789-1949 and see the images of newspaper pages.

Fulton History ([fultonhistory.com](http://fultonhistory.com)) – millions of digitized pages with a concentration on New York State, but includes many others (including some from Canada)

TheAncestorHunt(<http://www.theancestorhunt.com/newspaper-research-links.html>) – contains links organized by U.S. state

Elephind ([elephind.com](http://elephind.com)) – searches thousands of historical newspaper archives in the U.S. and several other countries (Australia, Japan)

Your State's Digitized Newspaper Archive – Keywords: YOURSTATE + (Digital OR Historic) + Newspaper to find yours

Google News Archive – <https://news.google.com/newspapers>

### Fee Sites

Genealogybank.com – More than 2 billion articles, plus a separate collection for obituaries

Newspapers.com – More than 6,000 newspaper titles (1700-2017) from the U.S. and several other countries

Newspaperarchive.com – More than 8,000 newspaper titles 1607-2017 from the U.S. and 26 countries, plus a separate collection for obituaries

Hint: check your local public and academic libraries and genealogy societies – they may offer access from home to patrons/members.

<sup>81</sup> Taubenberger, *Science*, 1.

<sup>82</sup> Taubenberger, *1918 Influenza*, 20; Collier, *Spanish Lady*, 291.

<sup>83</sup> Collier, *Spanish Lady*, 291.



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limitations on phone usage, and other outcomes of the flu mentioned above.

Notices of individual civilian deaths from influenza appeared in newspapers, either as short notices of individual deaths, or as articles that listed multiple deaths with short mentions about each individual. Prominent members of the community, or situations where entire families died, might merit a long-form obituary. These can be found at many digitized newspaper websites [see sidebar] with a surname and keywords mentioned before.

The obituary for Mrs. George Farnsworth of Ottawa, Illinois, for example, details how long she was sick and genealogically useful items like her age, her father's name, marriage date, and the names of her child and her mother.<sup>84</sup>

The obituary in Figure 4 is particularly important genealogically, because it states that Boudon arrived in the U.S. in 1915, and therefore he would not show up in the 1910 U.S. Census, and he died in 1918, before the 1920 census.<sup>85</sup>

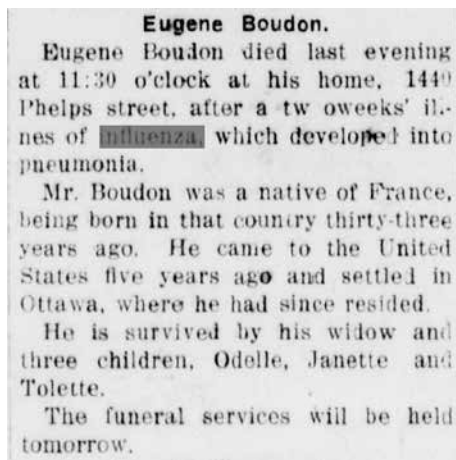


Figure 4. Obituary of Eugene Boudon of Ottawa, Illinois.

If your ancestor was in the military, Casualty lists published in newspapers may indicate a death from

influenza or pneumonia while serving. Search by name, using keywords like flu or pneumonia, or using the key phrases "Died in Camp," "Honor Roll" or "Roll of Honor." The 5-line death notice for Roscoe Parker (Figure 5) is dense with genealogically relevant data.<sup>86</sup>

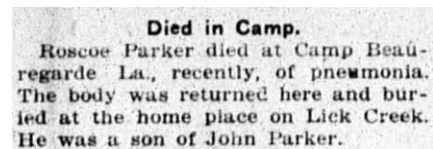


Figure 5. "Casualty list," *The Big Sandy News*, Louisa, KY XXXIV(8), 1. [http://kdl.kyvl.org/catalog/xt76125q9b58\\_1?](http://kdl.kyvl.org/catalog/xt76125q9b58_1?) Accessed 22 November 2017.

Soldiers who served and died from flu overseas might be memorialized in their hometown newspapers as a long-form obituary. For example, Swan E. Nelson's obituary mentioned not only the victim's date and place of death, but also the Division in which he served, his prior employer, the name and address of his mother, and the name of his brother who was also serving in the military.<sup>87</sup>

The Library of Congress has digitized Stars & Stripes <<https://www.loc.gov/collections/stars-and-stripes/about-this-collection/>>, a newspaper that was published by military camps nationwide. Some articles were shared among all the camps, others were targeted only to those stationed at a particular camp. The collection is searchable, and although your ancestor may not be listed by name, the articles can provide background on what life was like at a particular camp during the flu epidemic.

## Effect on Families

Spanish influenza could infect, and even wipe out, entire families.<sup>88</sup> And sometimes a soldier serving abroad survived military engagements and wounds

84 "Mrs. George Farnsworth," *Free Trader-Journal* (Ottawa, Ill.), October 31, 1918, Vol. 2/No. 235, 1.

85 "Eugene Boudon," *Free Trader-Journal* (Ottawa IL), 31 October 1918, Vol. 2/No. 235, 1.

86 "Died in Camp," "The Nation's Honor Roll," *The Sun* (New York), November 17, 1918, 10.

87 "Nelson Victim Spanish Influenza. Islander Succumbs While Overseas With Eighty-sixth Division, Mother Advised," *Rock Island Argus*, 25 Nov 1918, 2.

88 "Henry Tower and Children are Stricken by Influenza," *Free Trader-Journal*, October 17, 1918, Vol. 2/No. 223, 1.

89 "Three Gold Stars," *The Stars and Stripes*, January 24, 1919, Vol. 1/No. 51, 5.



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only to learn that his family at home died from the flu.<sup>89</sup>

One possible scenario was that the breadwinner of a household (who was usually a man) got the flu and recovered, but could have lost his job. In Cleveland, for example, 200 breadwinners could not return to work – either because they had post-influenza weakness, or their jobs had been filled by others, since laws protecting workers who fall ill did not exist then.<sup>90</sup>

If the breadwinner died from the flu and was a business owner, the business may have disintegrated as well. The surviving spouse may have had to declare bankruptcy, go to work outside the home for the first time, go to a work house, move to another town to find work, move in with relatives, or remarry in haste to support her children. If one or both parents died from the flu, older children may have had to go to work. Younger children may have been taken in by other family members, or ended up in an orphanage.

The family constellation may have shifted because a family member developed influenza, even if there is no proof that they died from it. To determine if any of these scenarios might apply to your ancestors, examine your family's make up between 1910 and 1920 using the U.S. Census. If a person is listed with the nuclear family in 1910 but not in 1920, and you can't find them in a separate household with a spouse and children, consider the possibility of a death from flu. If a child is apparently living with new family, and you can't find court

documents to indicate that an adoption took place, there may have been shadow adoption. If the family had assets, you should also check court records for guardianship records.

## Orphanage Inmate Records

To find records relating to a possible adoption, formal or informal, use the following search terms: orphan, "children's aid", asylum, "children's court." For example, Irene Mickle's mother Hazel Davis Mickle died of the flu in Dayton, Ohio on October 25, 1918.<sup>91</sup> Irene's father applied to Juvenile Court to have her and her brother, Clarence, placed in the Green County Ohio Children's home because he could not get anyone else to care for them. The entry from the "Record of Inmates" lists the children's dates of birth, their parents' names, and names and locations of paternal and maternal relatives.<sup>92</sup>

Search on Google Books <<https://books.google.com/>> to identify reports that may list the agencies



Figure 3. Typist Working in New York Wearing mask to protect against Spanish flu.

90 Collier, *Spanish Lady*, 289.

91 "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9PJ1-36X1?cc=1307272&wc=MD9F-R29%3A287600101%2C294688001> : 21 May 2014), 1918 > 68101-71100 > image 69 of 3299 for Hazel Davis Mickle, File No. 68159 (1918).

92 Indenture and inmate records, 1896-1924 Green County Children's Home, Dayton, 1918, 31. OH, Microfilm of original records in the Wright State University Archives. Film #102913.



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that handled the placement of orphaned children in your state of interest. One such search yielded a report that listed “placing agencies” and their addresses in Indiana.<sup>93</sup> Such reports can provide clues to institutions that might have provided services to orphan children or widows. Most of these records are unlikely to be online, although Ancestry.com has several sets of orphan’s home records, including one from Nevada that lists two children who died of the Spanish flu: Edward Turner from Wyoming, and Pauline Christenson from Nevada.<sup>94</sup> This dataset is an index only; the original records are at the Nevada State Library and Archives in Carson City, Nevada.

## Effect on Individuals

Narrowing your focus, next determine if anyone in your extended family died in 1918 or 1919, especially March/April, August-December or early 1919. If you only keep your genealogical data on paper, identifying those individuals will be a daunting task. If you’re an experienced researcher with a database on a computer, you can probably generate a custom report in your software that lists everyone who died in a particular year. For example, in Legacy Family Tree software you click on the Search icon, and set your primary condition to Individual/Death Date/After/1917 and the secondary condition as Individual/Death Date/Before/1920. Then click “Create List.”

If your genealogy database is incomplete, you’ll need to look for death information for each person who was alive during this era. Pay particular attention to men who were between 18 and 45 years old and who might have been subject to the draft and served in the military during this period.<sup>95</sup> There may also have been infants about whom you do not know, because they died from Spanish flu as newborns, and were

never spoken of afterwards. Search online databases for deaths of infants who have your surnames of interest and who died during this period – you may identify a previously unknown relative.

If you don’t already have proof of death for everyone that fits these criteria, there are several obstacles to obtaining them for this period. Firstly, not all U.S. states mandated statewide collection of death certificates even in 1918-1919, although counties within that state may have.<sup>96</sup> But even in those counties and states that did generate death certificates, there may not be one for your individual of interest. Some cities, like Chicago, were so overwhelmed with patients who died of flu that there were not enough doctors to certify a death.<sup>97</sup> In addition, there were not enough gravediggers (hand-digging a grave took about 8 hours in the era before backhoes), caskets, or hearses so some patients were buried in mass graves.<sup>98</sup> Luckily, there are other sources that confirm a death from influenza or pneumonia that aren’t death certificates.

## Death Certificates

On 7 December 1918, at the tail end of the 2nd wave of the flu epidemic, Nathan Manning died from bronchopneumonia in Chicago, IL.<sup>99</sup> His

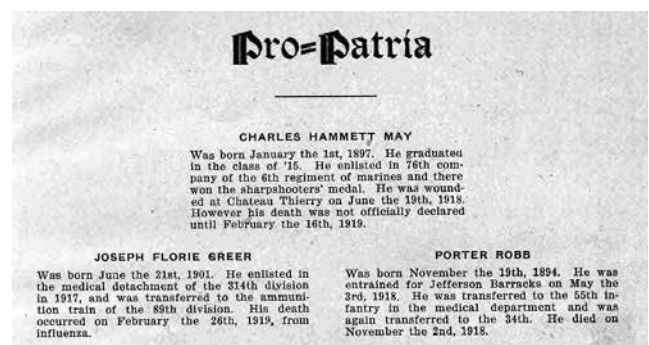


Figure 6. Obituary of Joseph Florie Greer, *Sedalia High School Annual* – 1919, *Sedalia Missouri*, 7.

93 Thirty-First Annual report of the Board of State Charities of Indiana. For the Fiscal year Ending September 30, 1920. Fort Wayne, Indiana: Fort Wayne Printing Company. 1921, 174.

94 Robinson, Doreen. *Nevada, Orphan's Home Records, 1870-1920* [database on-line. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 1998.

95 “Selective Service Act of 1917,” *Wikipedia*. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Selective\\_Service\\_Act\\_of\\_1917](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Selective_Service_Act_of_1917). Accessed 21 December 2017.

96 “Georgia Vital Records,” *FamilySearch Wiki*. [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Georgia\\_Vital\\_Records](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Georgia_Vital_Records). Accessed 21 December 2017.

97 Collier, *Spanish Lady*, 251.

98 Collier, *Spanish Lady*, 249; Robertson, *Report and Handbook*, 80.

99 State of Illinois, Bureau of Vital Statistics, death certificate no. 40607, Nathan Manning (1918), Springfield, IL.



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death certificate revealed that he died at 437 E 60th St, just south of Washington Park. Today, the address is a luxury condo, but in 1918 it was the Washington Park Hospital.<sup>100</sup> The average incubation period of flu is 2 days after exposure, so he and the other Chicagoans who died from pneumonia that week were likely exposed during the previous week.<sup>101</sup>

## Coroner's Reports

By law, the death of anyone who dies without a physician in attendance becomes a coroner's case. Therefore, you can find evidence of some deaths from Spanish influenza in coroner's records. In one list of 29 coroner's cases during December, 1918 in Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, twenty deaths were caused by pneumonia, and one by influenza.<sup>102</sup>

## School Yearbooks

One surprising source for notifications of deaths from flu are school yearbooks. Alumni who died during World War I, whether in action or from disease, may be memorialized within yearbooks published between 1918 and 1920. Joseph Florie Greer died of influenza during the third wave of the epidemic, and was mentioned on a page entitled "Pro Patria," Latin phrase meaning "For Country (Figure 6)."<sup>103</sup>

## Effect on Members of the Military

### WWI Officer Experience Reports

The WWI Officer Experience Reports (available at Fold3.com) are an especially good source for first-hand accounts about life in the military

WAR DEPARTMENT  
O. G. M. G. FORM NO. 623  
Approved Aug. 12, 1911  
Revised July 18, 1929

### APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE

(PLEASE MAKE OUT AND RETURN IN DUPLICATE)

Name <b>Englesperger, Mame C.</b>	Rank <b>Private</b>	Company <b>Battery-H</b>	U. S. Regiment <b>First Regiment of Lt. Artillery, Ohio Volunteers.</b>	Date of Death <b>December-24-1918</b>
Name of Cemetery <b>Mount Calvary</b>	Located in or near— City <b>West Jefferson</b> State <b>Ohio</b>		If World War Veteran— Division <b></b> State <b></b> Emblem <b>Christian</b>	
TO BE SHIPPED TO— <b>Mame Englesperger</b> (Name of consignee) at <b>West Jefferson, Madison County, Ohio.</b> (Give town, county, and State)				
POST OFFICE ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE <b>West Jefferson, Ohio. Box-217</b>				
DO NOT WRITE HERE				
I hereby agree to accept the headstone at above destination, freight prepaid, and properly place same at decedent's grave.				
This application is for the UNMARKED grave of a <b>soldier</b> . It is understood the stone will be furnished and delivered at the nearest station or disembark landing above indicated, at Government expense, freight prepaid, and agreed will be promptly removed and set up at private expense.				
Verified <b>DEC 29 1918</b>	From <b>Mame Englesperger</b> Applicant.			
Shipped <b>DEC 31 1918</b>	Address <b>West Jefferson, Madison Co/Ohio</b> Date <b>December 3, 1930</b>			

\*Stones must not be requested for any grave at which a private stone, monument, or other permanent marker is already erected or is to be erected.  
†Indicate whether soldier, sailor, marine, Army nurse, etc.

Figure 7. Application for Military Headstone submitted by Mame Englesperger on behalf of J. C. Englesperger who died of influenza in December, 1918.

during the flu pandemic. These reports are first person narratives written by officers serving in the American Expeditionary Forces, generally starting with the voyage from the U.S. to Europe. Key words like *influenza* or *Spanish flu* generates about 200 hits, some of which mention the names of specific soldiers who came down with the flu, such as this paragraph about Lieutenant Stanton S. Hertz.

On Sept, 29th, Lieut. Hertz was sent to Base Hospital # 17 at Dijon where he remained as a patient for about four weeks on account of the "Spanish Influenza", much prevalent at that time. Following a sick leave at Nice, France, Lieut. Hertz rejoined his Platoon and Company at Is-sur-tille about the middle of November.<sup>104</sup>

## Military Headstone Applications

Applications for headstones specifically for deceased veterans of the U.S. military were accepted starting in 1925, seven years after the Armistice. They do not show cause of death, but they do show date of death.

100 Walter R. McDonough, Compiler. *Chicago Medical Blue Book 1922-1923*. Chicago, IL: McDonough & Company. 1922-1923, 59.

101 Clinical Signs and Symptoms of Influenza. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/acip/clinical.htm>. Accessed 22 December 2017.

102 1918 Douglas AZ. Ancestry.com. *Arizona, County Coroner and Death Records, 1881-1971* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2016. Original data: County Coroner Records. Arizona History and Archives Division, Phoenix, Arizona. County Death Records. Arizona History and Archives Division, Phoenix, Arizona.

103 "Sedalia High School Annual – 1919," Sedalia Missouri, 7.

104 World War I Officer Experience Reports American Expeditionary Forces for Stanton S. Hertz, Headquarters Company D, 56th Engineers, December 24, 1918, 2. Database and images: Fold3.com. Accessed 26 December 2017.



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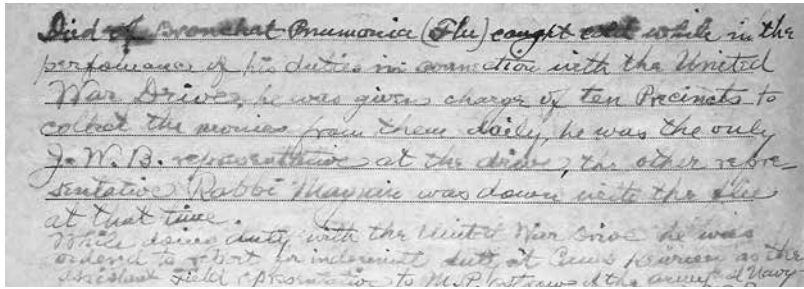


Figure 8. Snippet from Jewish Servicemen Questionnaire submitted by the father of Julian Jay Cohn, a civilian who may have caught the flu from his boss, Rabbi Edgar Magnin.

The headstones were carved at a central location and shipped to the town where the veteran was buried.

J. C. Englesperger of West Jefferson Ohio died on December 24, 1918 at the start of the 3rd wave of Spanish influenza.<sup>105</sup> His mother, Mame, applied for a military headstone more than 10 years later.<sup>106</sup> The application (Figure 7) doesn't reveal that he died of flu, but the date of death falls within the 3rd wave of the epidemic, and additional research led to his death certificate, which lists influenza as the cause of death with pneumonia as the contributory cause.

World War I Jewish Servicemen Questionnaires, 1918-1921

If your ancestor was Jewish and served in the military or as a civilian during World War I, he may have filled out a questionnaire distributed by the American Jewish Committee to document the service of Jews in the U.S. armed forces.<sup>107</sup> These 16,000 questionnaires include information about where the individual served, and whether they died of wounds or disease. Ellis Cohn submitted such a questionnaire (Figure 8) on behalf of his son, Julian Jay Cohn of Los Angeles, a civilian who died

Behnenfel dt, Arthur C.F.	Pvt	125551	Hospital
Shelarsky, Leo	Cpl	125401	
Shoenuck, Paul	Cook	125413	
Sibrel, Percy J	Pvt	346104	
Sinoff, Bernard	Sgt. G	125396	
Sisk, Jasper	Pvt	125552	Hospital
Smith, Arthur W	Pvt	2595072	
Soukup, John	Bagler	125417	
Sperchino, Peter	Pvt	125554	Hospital
Staab, Frank	Pvt	344070	
Stephenson, Arthur	Pvt	125386	
Stillwell, Frank	Sgt	125397	
Stevens, William	Pvt	125555	Hospital
Stivers, Lloyd E	Pvt	2821471	Hospital
S. Sorey, Carl J	Pvt	125556	
Swanson, Alfred Jr	Mac h	125557	Hospital
Sushecki, Stanley F	Cpl	125558	Hospital
7			
Tordiff, Ylouis J.	Pvt 101	125450	Hospital
Tinkle, Roy	Pvt	174513	Hospital
Thurman, Winfred M.	Pvt 101	125559	Hospital
Van Pelt, John C	Pvt	125562	
Vershey, John J	Pvt	125563	Hospital
Vincenzi, Peter	Pvt	125564	
Voitek, Steve L	Pvt	125565	
Vollmer, Hanson L	Sgt	125373	
Werner, Russell G	Cpl.	125359	
Whittaker, James C	Pvt 10 1	125567	Hospital
Walls, Jacob	Ch. Mech.	125551	
Willens, Edmund	Pvt 101	125459	Hospital
Wilson, Edward	Pvt 10 1	125461	
Wynn, Christopher	Pvt	1296414	

Figure 9. Muster roll for Battery A, 6th Field Artillery Brigade showing soldiers who are hospitalized in October 1918, possibly because of the Spanish Flu.

from the flu while working for the Jewish Welfare Board.<sup>108</sup>

## Unit Histories

If your ancestor served in the military during World War I, look for the unit histories to see how it was affected by the flu. Unit histories will not usually include biographical information about your specific ancestor (unless he was an officer or earned a medal), but there may be a roster.<sup>109</sup> A good starting-point to find unit histories is "US Military Unit Histories" at the FamilySearch Wiki: [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/US\\_Military\\_Unit\\_Histories](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/US_Military_Unit_Histories). But don't forget to Google the name of the unit – an amateur

<sup>105</sup> Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X8K9-ZL4> : 8 December 2014), Jacob C Englesperger, 24 Dec 1918; citing W Jefferson, Madison, Ohio, reference fn 96691; FHL microfilm 1,984,543.

<sup>106</sup> Ancestry.com. *U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012. Original data: *Applications for Headstones for U.S. Military Veterans, 1925-1941*. Microfilm publication M1916, 134 rolls. ARC ID: 596118. Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Record Group 92. National Archives at Washington, D.C. *Applications for Headstones, compiled 01/01/1925 - 06/30/1970, documenting the period ca. 1776 - 1970* ARC: 596118. Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, 1774-1985, Record Group 92. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

<sup>107</sup> Ancestry.com. *U.S., WWI Jewish Servicemen Questionnaires, 1918-1921* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. *Records of the American Jewish Committee—Office of Jewish War Records, undated, 1918-1921; I-9; boxes 1-22*. Newton Centre, MA and New York, NY: American Jewish Historical Society. <https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1765>. Accessed 21 December 2017.

<sup>108</sup> Ancestry.com. *U.S., WWI Jewish Servicemen Questionnaires, Officers, Civilians, Servicemen (Box 17) Civilian War Workers*, Image 1/41.

<sup>109</sup> Ken Nelson, "Over There: World War I Over Here," presented via live streaming from Family History Library, U.S. and Canada 2017 seminar, 17 October 2017.



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military historian may have digitized selected unit histories and put them online.<sup>110</sup>

If you know what unit your ancestor served in, you can obtain muster rolls for that unit from the National Archives in Washington DC. Muster rolls are lists of the officers and men in a military unit, who are present and able to work on a specific day. The rosters may indicate if an individual was hospitalized, although it may or may not indicate whether influenza was the reason. Several men in Figure 9 are listed as hospitalized on this list.<sup>111</sup>

## Websites to Visit

The National WWI Museum and Memorial in Kansas City <[www.theworldwar.org](http://www.theworldwar.org)> has digitized some of its collections, including letters and newspapers clippings that mention influenza. From the home page, click Explore and choose Collections/Online Collections Database.

Check the Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Online Catalog <<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/>>. Entering “influenza” as a search term yields nearly four dozen hits. Photographs include military influenza wards and individuals who died of the flu. There are several oral history interviews (with transcripts) done with subjects who mention the Spanish flu outbreak <[www.loc.gov/collections](http://www.loc.gov/collections)>. One unidentified speaker who was interviewed talked about slathering himself with Vicks VapoRub and helping families who had flu by feeding their livestock and chopping wood so the patients wouldn’t have to come outside to do the work and risk catching pneumonia.<sup>112</sup>

The Exhibition included a letter written by Dorothy Kitchen O’Neill about catching the flu on the troop

ship heading to Europe. Several of the nurses who accompanied her died, and three were transferred to a hospital ship.<sup>113</sup>

The Veterans History Project also has materials pertaining to the flu epidemic in their files, a few of which are available online <<https://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/html/search/search.html>>. You can click a check box to limit your search for online materials specific to the World War I era. But a visit to the Folk Life Center at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. will yield many more files of letters written by soldiers or sailors as they convalesced from the Spanish flu, and other items.

Check out your State or local Historical Society or Historical Museum for books, photos, or artifacts pertinent to the Spanish Flu epidemic. As an example, see the North Carolina Museum of History page: <https://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org/blog/flu-pandemic-during-ww1>.

## Impact on Your Ancestor’s Community

Even if you don’t identify anyone who died of influenza or pneumonia, the town in which your ancestors lived would have been affected. When you tell your family’s story, you will want to include some information about the impact the epidemic had on the town in which they lived.

Even though the names of your ancestors may not be mentioned in a newspaper story or local history book, it may have value to give you vivid descriptions of what life was like during the epidemic. When did your town require that influenza be a reportable disease? Did your town require the population to wear masks while in public? Were the schools closed,

110 Col. Robert R. McCormick Research Center Digital Collection, <http://firstdivisionmuseum.nmtvault.com>. Accessed 24 September 2017.

111 Battery A Muster Rolls & Rosters, Battery A, 6th Field Artillery Brigade, Regiment of Field Artillery. Col. Robert R. McCormick Research Center Digital Collection, Muster Rolls & Rosters; Nov. 1912-Dec.1920, [http://firstdivisionmuseum.nmtvault.com/jsp/viewer.jsp?doc\\_id=iwfd0000%2F20170720%2F00000226&query1=&recOffset=0&collection\\_filter=All&collection\\_name=56386d36-a49e-4b1d-b93d-2b6019867d4d&sort\\_col=relevance&cnt=0&CurSearchNum=5&recOffset=0](http://firstdivisionmuseum.nmtvault.com/jsp/viewer.jsp?doc_id=iwfd0000%2F20170720%2F00000226&query1=&recOffset=0&collection_filter=All&collection_name=56386d36-a49e-4b1d-b93d-2b6019867d4d&sort_col=relevance&cnt=0&CurSearchNum=5&recOffset=0), Image 291 of 680 (October 31, 1918), Accessed 24 September 2017.

112 Oral history interview with 77 unidentified year old white male, Pettigrew, Arkansas (Transcript); AFC 1986/022: AFS 24,335, folder 45; Center for Applied Linguistics Collection (AFC 1986/022); American Folklife Center; digital ID <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/afc1986022.ms4505>. Location of pdf [https://cdn.loc.gov/service/afc/afc1986022/afc1986022\\_ms4505/afc1986022\\_ms4505.pdf](https://cdn.loc.gov/service/afc/afc1986022/afc1986022_ms4505/afc1986022_ms4505.pdf).

113 Dorothy Kitchen O’Neill to “Dearest Family,” October 10, 1918. Miscellaneous Manuscript Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress (154.00.00); <https://www.loc.gov/exhibitions/world-war-i-american-experiences/online-exhibition/over-there/saving-lives/i-was-down-for-a-week/> 19 December 2017.



# Research

or just the bars and pool halls? To gauge the severity of the epidemic in your ancestor's home town, use key words that go beyond influenza, pneumonia, and epidemic: coffins, mass grave, bulldoze.

These key words/phrases for online searches will yield the best results: influenza, flu, "Spanish flu", "Spanish lady", pneumonia, influenza-pneumonia, Grippe, grip, epidemic; lingering illness; quarantine, isolation, outbreak; fatal, mortal, succumbed, died, death, death toll, Spanish Influenza Victims List; "Died of disease"; "Roll of Honor"; closed/closure; cancel/cancelled/postponed.

If you want to develop a sense of the impact of the flu on an entire town, try an Ancestry.com search. Click Search/Card Catalog with STATE and death as keywords. When you identify a specific data collection that might include your ancestors, enter 1918 in the death date box, click Exact and the +/-

1 yr option, and include the name of a town in the keyword box.

If your ancestor owned a business before 1918, is it still listed in the city directories after that? Perhaps the owner died and the business went bankrupt. Check newspapers for the bankruptcy notice, and follow up with the court records. If your ancestor was a doctor, nurse or pharmacist, check local medical directories from that era and newspaper stories to see whether your ancestor is mentioned as providing services during the epidemic.

Check the Periodical Source Index (PERSI; available through FindMyPast) with the town name and influenza as keywords and see if any journal articles have been written about your geographic area of interest.

## ***WANT TO LEARN MORE?***

- University of Michigan has created an Influenza Encyclopedia (available online) with some 16,000 documents, <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/f/flu/>.
- Barry, John M., *The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History*. Viking Penguin, 2005.
- Kolata, Gina Bari, *Flu: The Story of the Great Influenza Pandemic of 1918 and the Search for the Virus That Caused It*, Simon and Schuster, 2001.
- America during the 1918 Influenza Pandemic <https://dp.la/exhibitions/exhibits/show/1918-influenza/flu-strikes/spread>.
- 50 U.S. Cities & Their Stories. Influenza Encyclopedia. The American influenza Epidemic of 1918-1919: A Digital Encyclopedia. University of Michigan Center for the History of Medicine and University of Michigan Library. <https://www.influenzaarchive.org/index.html>.
- Controvich, John T., comp. *United States Army Unit Histories: A Reference and Bibliography*. Manhattan, Kansas: Military Affairs/Aerospace Historian, Eisenhower Hall, Kansas State University, 1983. (FHL book 973 M23cj.) Also includes brief lineages, campaign participation credits, order of battles, and commanding generals.
- Pappas, George S., et al., comp. *United States Army Unit Histories. 2 vols. Rev. ed.* Carlisle Barracks, Pa.: U.S. Army Military History Institute, 1971-78. (FHL book 973 B4ua no. 4.) Bibliography of unit histories from 1914 to 1971 for regular Army, National Guard, and Reserve organizations. Regular Army histories of units active prior to 1914 are also included. Entries give title, author, publication information, number of pages, and are arranged by military unit.



## Research

### Challenges of Researching Spanish Influenza

Researching the impact that the Spanish flu epidemic had on your family involves multiple challenges. Since influenza was not a reportable disease at the start of the outbreak in the U.S., teasing out whether an ancestor died of flu during this period is challenging. Many communities were so overwhelmed with the number of cases needing medical care that record keeping was not a priority. When pertinent documents do exist, they will not be easy to access. Very little hyper-local material related to the Spanish flu is online, other than digitized newspapers.

### Conclusion

Some things we take for granted today as we travel owe their origins to the 1918 flu pandemic. If you ever stay in a hotel where the toilets are clean and

you get clean towels each day, you can thank the flu pandemic for establishing sanitary codes that require this.<sup>114</sup>

As a result of the 1918-19 Spanish flu epidemic, public health agencies today monitor influenza patterns, and report shifts in influenza patterns worldwide, so we can be prepared for another influenza pandemic, which some scientists regard as inevitable.



*Jane Neff Rollins, MSPH is an infectious disease epidemiologist, medical writer, and professional genealogist. Jane has completed ProGen Study Group 29, and has attended the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy and the Forensic Genealogy Institute. She speaks at regional, national and international conferences. When she is not genealogizing, Jane enjoys reading, swimming, and assembling jigsaw puzzles.*

114 Collier, *Spanish Lady*, 288.



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# Fighting for the Vote: Researching British Suffragettes

by Nathan Dylan Goodwin

Having decided to write a story about a suffragette and her struggle in helping women to achieve the right to a vote, I made several trips to archives, libraries and repositories in England in order to access archival records from the period concerned. I was moved, inspired and deeply interested in the variety of materials and recorded histories through which I was able to search, awakening a real respect for the people contained within; stories that all ought to know. Although my story, *The Suffragette's Secret* features a fictional character, Grace Emmerson, many of the supporting characters and the story's events, which took place in Brighton and London where the story is set, are real. As part of the 2018 centenary of the Representation of the People's Act, which, with certain caveats, gave women the right to vote, many of these records (over 55,000) have now become available from subscription sites online. This article will set out some of the useful, informative and interesting documents which have been newly released, as well as suggesting further areas of research for this fascinating and crucial moment in women's history.

In the 1950s, the Suffragette Fellowship compiled a Roll of Honour of Suffragette Prisoners 1905-1914. This was based on the recollections of former suffragettes and, therefore, is neither an exhaustive nor comprehensive list. It is, however, a good starting point if you are searching for a specific person. This list of names with no additional information is found on the National Archives website <[http://](http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/ee5a777f-1d7c-416b-a249-c7cb64fcc0a8)

[discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/ee5a777f-1d7c-416b-a249-c7cb64fcc0a8](http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/ee5a777f-1d7c-416b-a249-c7cb64fcc0a8)> (by typing 'Roll of Honour of Suffragette Prisoners 1905-1914' into the 'search our records' box).

Another good place to begin searching for people (female and male), who might have been involved in the suffrage cause, is the Suffragette Amnesty register, which is available at both Ancestry and Findmypast. In August 1914, with war an inevitability, most of the leading suffragette organisations in Britain, including the largest and most influential, the WSPU (Women's Social and Political Union) suspended all militant activity. In response, the British government agreed to an amnesty for the women (and some men) who had been arrested in their pursuit of the cause. This file contains the names of more than 1,000 people. Taking the example of one of those featured in the register, Sarah Carwin, the information is presented thus:

## **Carwin, Sarah**

Bow Street 25/2/09	176.114
Bow Street 12/7/09	180.782
Bow Street 19/11/10	200.455
Bow Street 7/3/12	220.196
London Sessions 19/3/12	221.828

At first viewing, with no extra detail of age, occupation, address, etc., these records would



## Research

appear to be less informative than they actually are with a little further exploration. Taking the second reference as an example of where these records can lead, this shows that Sarah Carwin appeared before Bow Street Magistrate's Court on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 1909. Searching for these criteria in the Findmypast newspaper collection < <https://search.findmypast.com/search/us-and-world-newspapers>> or the British Newspaper Archive <<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>> reveals that she had been arrested alongside fourteen other women for breaking windows in London. For most of the records referred to in the Amnesty register, further information exists at the National Archives. Prefixing the reference numbers stated above with HO (for Home Office) and typing it into the document search box on the National Archives website (in this example, HO 180782) brings up a link to a document which details Sarah Carwin's arrest and time in prison. Unfortunately, these records are not yet digitised, but can be ordered online and the results returned by email. In this particular case, her record sheet from prison gives a handwritten account by Sarah, where she demonstrates her ardent beliefs in a petition to the Secretary of State for the Home Department. So strongly did I feel Sarah's character coming through the form that I quoted from it in *The Suffragette's Secret*.

*The petition demand [Sarah had crossed out the word 'petition', replacing it with 'demand'] of the above-named prisoner humbly sheweth: [again, her strike through]*

*That I am a political prisoner and demand to be placed in the 1<sup>st</sup> Division. Men, when they are convicted of political acts are allowed to wear their own clothes and various other privileges and I claim the right to the same treatment. I shall decline to keep the rules of the prison until this claim is granted, no matter what the punishment might be.*

As part of their new Suffragette Collection <<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/suffragette-collection>>,

Findmypast have added the Calendar of Prisoners records, which cover the London courts and, delving further into this one event, show supplementary information about both Sarah Carwin and the specific act of militancy in which she took part on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 1909:

*Sarah Carwin, 46, a nurse, found guilty and given six months in prison for '...maliciously damaging two plate glass windows, the property of J. Collard Vickery to the amount of £20; two plate glass windows, the property of the Butterick Publishing Firm, to the amount of £16; two plate glass windows, the property of Kodak Limited, to the amount of £20; and one plate glass window, the property of the American Shoe Company Limited, to the amount of £25.'*

Importantly, this record includes the identifying information absent from the Amnesty register, including age, occupation and sometimes address. Others to be found in the Calendar of Prisoners are some of the prominent figures from the movement, including the Pankhurst women and notable suffragette, Emily Wilding Davison. Among several interesting files within the Calendar of Prisoners (Crim 9/58) is a document pertaining to her arrest in December 1911:

*Emily Wilding Davison, 36, a tutor, arrested for '...unlawfully and maliciously placing in a Post Office letter box a dangerous substance likely to injure the same and its contents and attempt to commit like offence.' She was jailed at Holloway for six months.*

This type of militancy, placing dye or some other kind of corrosive liquid into a letter box in order to render the letters inside illegible, was common among suffragettes and an act which, again, was often featured in local and national newspapers. Further records for Emily Wilding Davison exist in the Findmypast collection, including HO 144/1150/210696, which was only opened to the public in 2013. This series of papers refers to when Davison famously threw herself under the king's



## Research

horse at Epsom on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1913. A memorandum contained within the file from the Home Office states: ‘5<sup>th</sup> June 1913, *The Director of Public Prosecutions says that if Davison recovers, it will be possible to charge her with doing an act calculated to cause grievous bodily harm...*’ Davison died four days later from her injuries. Newspaper reports from the time are included within this document, as are memoranda describing Davison’s previous time in Holloway Prison in 1912 when she, along with many other women was force-fed after taking part in a hunger strike.

For some of the more militant suffragettes, the 1911 census (available on several subscription websites) was another potential avenue to publicise the suffrage cause. One of the real-life characters which I used in my story, Minnie Turner ran a boarding house for suffragettes in the Sussex coastal town of Brighton. She had been imprisoned several times for militant acts and, on the 1911 census she continued with her civil disobedience, refusing to give the enumerator details of the occupants of her house. Her entry simply says, ‘Miss Turner, 40? And probably 11 others. Further information refused.’ Further interesting examples can be found by leaving the name boxes blank and searching the census using the keyword search box. Some women opposed to the suffrage movement also used the opportunity to express their feelings. Seventy-two-year-old Jane Mosey gave her occupation as “Ex-teacher and anti-suffragette.” One of the most famous protests on the 1911 census was Emily Wilding Davison, who hid herself in the crypt of the Houses of Parliament on the night of 2<sup>nd</sup> April when the census was to be taken. The census transcript gives her address as: “Found Hiding in Crypt of Westminster Hall, Westminster.”

One of the most fascinating series of documents newly released by Findmypast are the Metropolitan Police files, which offer official statements from the police officers involved in various skirmishes surrounding the suffragettes, with very contrasting accounts from the suffragettes themselves. In

MEPO 3/203, which I consulted in its original form at the National Archives when researching *The Suffragette’s Secret*, more than two hundred pages of conflicting testimonials are given about one of the many attempts by suffragettes to gain access to Number 10 Downing Street. The file includes several accounts from the perspective of the police involved, in which they all strenuously deny any harsh treatment of the women whom they encountered there. In contradiction to this are the numerous and varied statements from men and women involved in the altercation in which physical abuse and violence by the policemen was described as widespread, as this statement from Una Dugdale attests:

*My sister, Joan and I walked out of Caxton Hall [where a suffragette meeting had been taking place] on Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> 1910. We linked arms and carried muffs. On reaching Downing Street we suddenly found ourselves in the midst of a street fight. My sister cried out and I saw an Inspector of the ‘Y’ Division had caught her by the throat and was forcing her head back, and with the other hand was banging her head. All this, without the slightest provocation from her, as she had not pushed or struck out... We were banged, pushed, pinched and of course witnessed other women being badly treated, arms twisted and wrenched and being taken by the throat. At a later stage a constable got hold of my sister again by the throat and hit her unmercifully. This was done because she called out and protested against the way in which he was treating another woman of whom he immediately let go to attack my sister.*

Among the many women’s statements in these files is the above-mentioned Sarah Carwin who said the following of the incident:

*On the 18<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November I am glad to say that I did not sustain any serious injury, though my arms were twisted backwards and I was crushed and banged about. I also heard remarks passed by policemen which should only be applied to brood*



## Research

*mares. Mrs Cobden Sanderson was knocked down and trampled on by the police near me.*

As the militancy of the suffragettes increased and their actions spread out from cities, the Metropolitan Police began to compile photographs of those women who were considered dangerous to public buildings. Most of the photographs taken were without the women's knowledge, some of them captured appearing emaciated whilst on hunger strike at Holloway Prison. A small selection of these, found in AR 1/528 in the Suffragette Collection are online and include name, year of birth, height, eye and hair colour, criminal record number and the crime for which they had been convicted. Other similar documents, oftentimes more comprehensive, are housed in regional archives in England. In the 'advanced search option' of the National Archives website, specific repositories may be selected to ascertain their individual suffragette collections. Many of the records have so far unfortunately not been indexed. For example, among East Sussex Archive's suffragette holdings is a booklet sent out from Scotland Yard to provincial police forces containing over eighty photographs and illuminating information on some of the most notorious suffragettes in 1913. Here is an example of the typical level of detail given in these records:

*Catherine Wilson (alias Clara Lambert, and Mary Stuart) age 31, height 5ft 1 in., complexion pale, hair brown, eyes grey. Has been twice convicted of wilfully damaging plate glass windows and once for being found on enclosed premises for an unlawful purpose, i.e. she was found in the House of Commons in male attire with a riding whip in her coat pocket. Her last offence was for damaging, with a chopper, valuable china in the British Museum. She was committed for trial but failed to appear. Her arrest is sought under the Prisoners' Temporary Discharge for Ill-Health Act, 1913.*

Like Catherine Wilson, a large number of suffragist prisoners were refusing food and drink in prison and becoming dangerously ill. The initial, barbaric

response had been to force-feed prisoners by inserting an oesophageal tube twice daily and a mixture of "...milk, eggs, valentine juice and Benger's food" being poured down. Some of these cases are included in the Suffragette Collection (HO 144/1194/220196) and make for disturbing reading. In a letter from Holloway Prison, dated 18<sup>th</sup> April 1912, the governor writes of suffragette Sarah Bennett:

*This prisoner has refused all food to-day and yesterday, and is beginning to show signs of suffering from her voluntary starvation. Her tongue is coated, her breath cold, features pinched, and pulse small and frequent. I do not think that she ought to remain any longer without nourishment. Owing to her age – she states that she is 63, but she is probably older – and to the indications which she presents of arterial degeneration, I do not consider that she is fit for forcible feeding.*

This case and several others like it, when coupled with an outcry from the public about these medieval force-feeding methods, led to the introduction of the above-mentioned legislation (Prisoners' Discharge for Ill-Health Act, 1913), which was quickly nicknamed The Cat and Mouse Act, owing to the fact that prisoners were rearrested as soon as their health had improved, then released again if they began to refuse food.

Most, if not all of the unfair issues against which the suffragettes campaigned, have since been rectified and amended in law. In 1918 the Representation of the People Act enfranchised women over the age of 30 who owned property, meaning that around 8.4 million women became eligible to vote. Later that year women would become eligible to be elected to Parliament. The Act was amended again in 1928, extending the vote to all men and women over the age of 21, regardless of property-holding.

The array of suffragette records now available online (hopefully with more to follow) contains a wealth of information useful to genealogists, social historians and those interested in women's



## Research

history. Even if you do not find evidence of your relatives within the records, it is worth browsing the collection to understand this pivotal moment in history.



Born in the famed battle town of Hastings, England, I have always had a passion for writing in one form or another. Having gained a 2:1 degree in Radio, Film and Television studies, I went on to gain a Masters degree in Creative Writing, from Canterbury Christ Church University. For my final assessment on the MA course I wrote the opening chapters to *The Forensic Genealogist*, which would (after much editing and redrafting!) later become *Hiding the Past*, the first book in the Forensic Genealogist series.

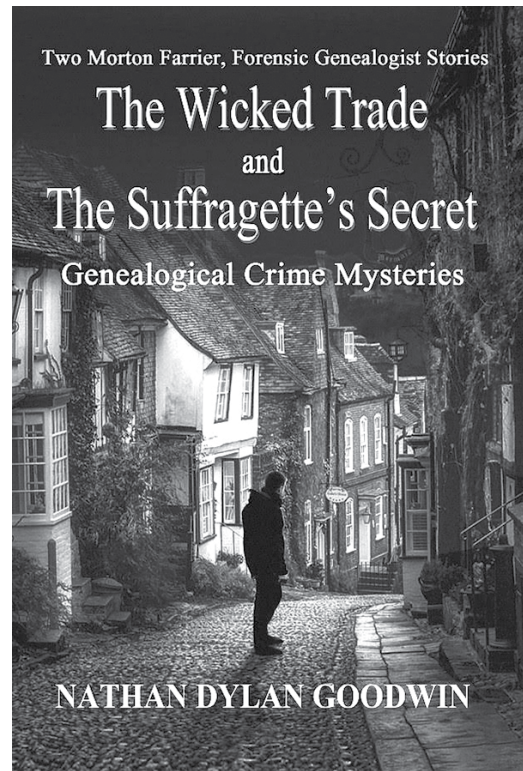
I am a member of the Society of Authors, the Guild of One Name Studies, the Society of Genealogists, as well as being a member of the Sussex Family History Group, the Kent Family History Society, the Norfolk Family History Society and the Hastings and Rother Family History Society. As you can see, my own family history keeps me very busy and provides lots of research material for my books! I am currently working on the next instalment in the Forensic Genealogist series.

## AUTHOR SUBMISSIONS

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For more information on submitting an article for UGA's Crossroads, contact Gena Philibert-Ortega at [genaortega@gmail.com](mailto:genaortega@gmail.com).



All of my genealogical crime mystery books are available in paperback form or on Kindle. *Hiding the Past* and *The Spyglass File* are available in audiobook (and the former in paperback translated into Spanish and German).

- *Hiding the Past*
- *The Lost Ancestor*
- *The Orange Lilies* – a Morton Farrier novella
- *The America Ground*
- *The Spyglass File*
- *The Missing Man* - a Morton Farrier novella
- *The Suffragette's Secret* – A Morton Farrier story
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# Crossroads for Kids

FAMILY HISTORY FUN FOR YOUNG GENEALOGISTS

## VISITING A CEMETERY!

By Jana Greenhalgh

Not everyone thinks of going to a cemetery when they picture a fun afternoon. But family historians know that cemeteries are amazing places to visit! Kids can enjoy visiting cemeteries just like adults can. The grave markers (headstones or tombstones) in cemeteries provide information about the people who are buried there. Some grave markers can even tell us stories about the people they honor. You may find names of family members, birthdates and ages, memorials of war service, or other notable information about ancestors as you look at their stones. And since cemeteries are designed to honor the people buried there, they are usually beautiful, peaceful places ... like really nice parks. Try taking our "cemetery scavenger hunt" (on the next page) with you next time you visit a cemetery with your family, and you'll see how fun and interesting cemeteries can be!

Jana Greenhalgh blogs with her kids at [www.thegenealogykids.com](http://www.thegenealogykids.com)



Contribute to this section!

We would love to hear about your fun family history ideas for young people. For information about contributing, contact the "Crossroads for Kids" compiler:

[jana.greenhalgh@gmail.com](mailto:jana.greenhalgh@gmail.com)



Check out this webpage for lots more about cemeteries:

[www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/educators/technique-guide/cemetery-information/](http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/educators/technique-guide/cemetery-information/)

## Activities by Age Group

ages  
0-3

### COLOR

Print a black & white photo of an ancestor, and let your little one add some color with crayons!

ages  
4-7

### PICNIC

Plan a family picnic to a nearby town that your ancestor was from.

ages  
8-12

### FIELD TRIP

Visit a nearby ancestral home or important historic site.




 ages  
8-18

# Hey, DETECTIVES! Can you find your ancestor's ...

## DEATH CERTIFICATE?

It may not sound cheerful, but reading the death certificates of your ancestors can teach you a lot about them! Many governments require a death certificate to be created when a person passes away. Death certificates may include details about when, where, and how your ancestor died, where they're buried, and many other details about them.



**Try finding one of your ancestor's death certificates** by using the resources at [familysearch.org/wiki](https://familysearch.org/wiki) to search for the state where your ancestor passed away. Some states' certificates are free to view online. *Share your amazing discoveries with your friends and family on social media using this hashtag!*  
**#UGATREASUREHUNT**



Owen

## SPOTLIGHT!!

Owen is a 10-year-old genealogist-in-training. He enjoys exploring his family tree online. He also enjoys inventing and building. He really likes science, and he talks with his grandfathers about it all the time (one is an earth science teacher and the other is an engineer). He's also named after his great-great grandfather, who was an optometrist.

*"Crossroads for Kids" is looking for young genealogists to spotlight! If you love family history or have a family history activity to share, we would love to hear about it! E-mail submissions to the address below.*

## POINTERS FOR PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, TEACHERS

Because cemeteries are special places deserving of our utmost respect, it's important to teach children to show respect as well. Before you go, help kids to understand that they should never walk on or climb on grave markers. Teach them how old and fragile some of the stones are, but also teach them how wonderful it is that we can visit and read these pieces of history. It's a great idea to have fun with kids in cemeteries, searching for stones, looking for interesting things, and maybe even bringing flowers. But always help children to understand the importance of picking up litter and using a respectful tone of voice. Always follow cemetery rules and teach by your own example.







## Cemetery Scavenger Hunt



*Instructions: Copy this sheet for each person participating in the hunt. Bring pencils! Have a prize ready for the scavenger who fills in all the answers first, or for the scavengers who find the earliest year, oldest person, most interesting discovery, etc.*

Find someone who lived a LONG time. What was their age at death? \_\_\_\_\_

Find someone who served in a war. Which war was it?

\_\_\_\_\_

Find someone who shared a name with you (first, middle, or last). What was their full name?

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Find a piece of trash and throw it away.

If you have an ancestor in this cemetery, write their name here and check the box when you find their grave. ☐

\_\_\_\_\_

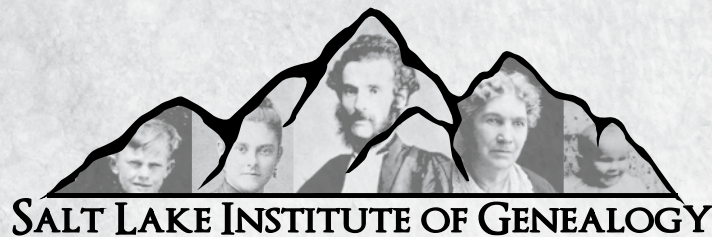
What was the earliest birth year you read on a stone in the cemetery? \_\_\_\_\_

Name one interesting thing you found as you were looking at stones \_\_\_\_\_

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# Virtual Advanced Evidence Analysis Practicum

13 October - 17 November 2018



Angela McGhie, CG  
Course Coordinator

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Karen Matheson



Angela McGhie, CG

Registration opens 16 June 2018 at 11:00 am MDT  
with early access at 9:00 am for SLIG 2018 participants

[www.SLIGVirtual.ugagenealogy.org](http://www.SLIGVirtual.ugagenealogy.org)



# Stories from the Pandemic

Have you documented your family history during the 1917-1918 Influenza Pandemic? Some questions to consider include:

- Which family member/s became ill?
- Did any family members die due to the flu or side effects of the flu?
- What do newspapers report about the flu in the town where your family lived?
- Did the flu have an impact on where your ancestor worked, went to school, or worshipped?
- Were there any family stories about the flu that were passed down through the family?

We asked some of our *Crossroads* readers about the flu and their family history. A few of their stories follow.

### THE SMEDLEY FAMILY

by Kimberly Nelson Savage

Leona Smedley Johnson, great-grandmother of Kimberly Nelson Savage, wrote:

*My Father and Mother, John and Janet Smedley, lived happily together. They were very kind people. Their ups and downs were only what most couples encounter until tragedy struck in 1917. My sister Nellie was ready to graduate from Kemmerer Hospital as a nurse when she was stricken with appendicitis in September of 1917. She appeared to be doing well after the crisis so my Mother and Father came home to Almy. They had just arrived in Evanston in our Oldsmobile car when a message came that Nellie had died. We moved to Reliance, Wyoming in September 1918. Mother (Janet) had not recovered from the shock of Nellie's Death when the terrible flu epidemic of 1918 killed*

*my sister, Henrietta on November 30, 1918. She lived in Mountain View, Wyoming and Mother and Father went to be with her family. Mother helped with those who had contracted the flu. The dead were laid on the floor of the school and it bothered Mother for this to happen to her daughter. Ettie had an 18 month old girl Cecil, who was sent to her Grandmother Gorley. In December 1918 my mother contracted the flu and was dead in 3 days. (December 31, 1918) She was brought to Evanston, Wyoming by train from Reliance on her Birthday January 1, 1919 and was buried on January 3, 1919. It was a heartbreaking time for us all. I was only 11 years old and it seemed unreal like a bad dream to lose two of my sisters and my dear Mother in such a short time.*



Top left to right: Henrietta Maria Smedley, Nellie Smedley. Bottom left to right: Thomas and Direnda Smedley.



Leona Smedley Johnson age 11 when her Mom and sister died.

### THE KIAH FAMILY

by Courtney LaPointe

My 2<sup>nd</sup> great-aunt Alice and her husband Arthur Kiah lived in Ogdensburg, New York at the time of the influenza pandemic. Arthur was a teamster and in early October was feeling ill as he returned



## Research

from a trip. He and his co-workers had contracted the flu from a southern town called Watertown. It is speculated that they had possibly been one of the first groups of people to introduce the flu into the area, as Arthur was one of the first in the area to die as a result of the flu. Arthur collapsed on his porch, and died shortly thereafter. It had only taken a week for the flu to claim his life on 17 October 1918. His pregnant wife, Alice, ran to his aid and helped him into the house - miscarrying her child in doing so. I can only imagine the turmoil she felt losing a child and her husband and then becoming ill all within such a short time. She had contracted the flu from her husband and died in the hospital only a week later on 23 October 1918. Arthur and Alice left behind one son, Joseph Harold, who was 1 ½ yrs old at the time. He was sent to live with relatives and luckily never became sick with the flu.



*The pictures here are of Arthur Kiah and Alice Kiah - both taken very shortly before they died.*

### MARIE SCHNEIDER ILLIG AND MICHAEL JOSEPH GATLIN

by Elizabeth Gatlin

My great-grandfather's sister Marie (Schneider) Illig died during the 1918 flu pandemic. She was born in Remagen, Germany on 11 April 1890 and immigrated to St. Louis, Missouri with her family in 1892. She married William Frederick "Bill" Illig on 12 June 1912 in St. Louis. Their son William Philip Carl Illig was born on 20 December 1913. When



*photo taken from Anna (Schneider) Wegman's wedding photo.*

Marie became ill with influenza, most of her family was afraid to go near her. Her sister-in-law, my great-grandmother Paulina (Gersbacher) Schneider, brought her food. I'm sure that Marie appreciated this gesture. Marie was ill for ten days. Her doctor attended her from 24 November to 28 November 1918. Marie died on 28 November 1918 at her home, 1812 South 18th St., St. Louis, Missouri, from broncho pneumonia as a result of influenza. She was buried in St. Peter & Paul Catholic Cemetery in St. Louis on 2 December 1918.

My great-grandfather's brother, Michael Joseph Gatlin, also died during the pandemic. He was born on 9 April 1896 in Nashville, Tennessee. By 1911, he and his family had moved to Chicago, Illinois. He worked as a printing pressman. Many members of his family worked in the bookbinding and printing industry; his father was a bookbinder. Michael died of broncho pneumonia on 10 October 1918 at Augustana Hospital in Chicago, Illinois. His doctor had attended him for two days. He was buried in Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Hillside, Cook County, Illinois.

### DAKIN FAMILY

by Erica Dakin Voolich

Marion Elizabeth Evans and Robert Edward (Rob) Dakin married in 1913. Marion was born in Sherman, Connecticut on 11 February 1886 and Rob in the next town over, Gaylordsville, on



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2 July 1888. Marion's family had moved away when she was young but returned to her Helsten grandparents' home in Gaylordsville after they died and when she had graduated from high school. That was the home where she returned to when not attending Pratt Institute (1906-1908) or teaching home economics in Saginaw, Michigan, or working for the philanthropist Helen Gould.

Rob grew up on his family's horse-driven farm in Gaylordsville. There was a politician with a vision for harnessing the power of the Housatonic River to power Connecticut. He convinced farmers bordering the Housatonic River to sell pieces of their farms for the canal or power plant. Rob grew up with the canal hand-dug across their farm, going across their fields and right past their home. When the Bulls Bridge Power Plant was finished in 1902, there was no power brought to the surrounding communities! After high school Rob wanted to be an engineer, not a farmer, and he went to Yale to train as a civil engineer, graduating in 1909 — probably the land sold to the power company paid the tuition bills. Rob worked on

numerous projects around the state having to do with trolleys, roadways, steam power.

In 1912, Rob was back living on the farm, and working as one of the engineers for the addition to the power plant which brought electricity to the neighboring towns.

Rob and Marion were both back in town in 1912, there must have been some courting going on, because they married on 13 September 1913. Marion now joined his peripatetic life of moving every few months, wherever the work brought him — making a home wherever they moved. They had three children: Robert Edward Jr. born in 1915 in Danbury, Connecticut — he only lived one day — Theodore Robert born in New Haven in November 1916, and Edward Evans born in Derby in January 1918. By December 1918, they were back in Danbury because Rob was working on the dam on the Housatonic at Stevenson, Connecticut.

Rob was the first to get sick on Saturday. Marion was caring for Rob and taking care of 9-month-



*Marion Elizabeth Evans and Robert Edward (Rob) Dakin married in 1913.*



*Edward Evans Dakin (son) who died, age 9 months*



## Research

old Edward, and two-year-old Teddy. Her hands were full, so her mother, Caroline (Carrie) Helsten Evans came to help and Teddy was sent to visit Aunt Mary Helsten Pomeroy back in Gaylordsville. By Wednesday, both Carrie and baby Edward were sick. Marion was now caring for three sick family members. The next week, Tuesday, her mother Carrie died, then her son Edward on Wednesday, Thursday was their joint funeral. Then Monday, her husband died. In 17 days, three people got sick, and over six days, three of them died.

Marion was left a widow with a two-year old. Her father was left a widower. She and her father



*Theodore Robert Dakin (Teddy) son who survived, age 2*



*Carrie and Charles Evans with Teddy (10 months).*

were both mourning. She was mourning the loss of her son, her husband and mother — but she couldn't take too long to mourn because she had a son to raise and support. When this happened, her sister Clarice Theodora Evans was teaching at the University of Chicago Lab School. Marion knew it was time to freshen up her skills and look for a job. She enrolled in nutrition classes in the spring 1919 quarter at the University of Chicago — Marion, Teddy and her father Charles moved into Clarice's apartment in Chicago. Charles went along as "Baby Tender."

She started teaching at Pratt Institute School of Home Economics in the fall of 1919, and left there in 1921 to become the first Extension Nutritionist for the State of Connecticut in Storrs at Connecticut Agricultural College (now University of Connecticut). She traveled the state teaching nutrition and food preparation, and wrote the countless Bulletins with recipes and food preparation for the Farm Bureau. She even had a radio show at WTIC in Hartford for a couple of years featuring food from various countries (and you could send for the recipes), "What's Cooking in Your Neighbors' Pot." She took a sabbatical from her work to take classes at University of Connecticut to finish her bachelor's degree; she graduated in June 1930. At first, her father Charles lived with her to care for her son Teddy, then she would trade room and board with college students for child care as he grew older and then died in 1928. She retired in 1946.

### **RECOLLECTIONS OF THE 1918 FLU EPIDEMIC: IDA STEVENS CLEMENS**

by Peggy Clemens Lauritzen

Ida Stevens Clemens' Personal Journal Writings

Written by her own hand during the later years of her life – probably 1970s

*My mother was borned in Elliott Co. at Cann Ky and my father was also borned at Cann in Elliott Co. they*



## Research



*was married in April 9 of 1913 and moved to a place called Leatherwood P.O. Lawton Ky and there where I was born lived there about 3 years and moved to a place near the post office at Lawton Ky where we lived for a few years. And my brother was born there Thearl Stevens. He was born 28 May 1918 and we lived there when the flu killed so many people in 1918 and 1919. And my brothers Zearl and Charles Edward died there during the flu.*

And, another entry:

*Then came the war of 1918 that took a lot of young boys. Flour & meal was hard to get. But ever one survived. And then come the Flu (FLU) that killed so many people. My mother & Father told us this with I can remember also in November of 1918 on a Sunday afternoon a warm day in the fall. There come a haze over the land it looked blue and smokey and a smell of burnt leaves people thought there was a Forrest fire. But forrest Fire to be found in the whole country. The same week the flu broke out and people was dieing like flies a lot of family all died and no one was able to bury them for day. Sure was a dreadful time the Dr. was just wore out the had went so long without rest. My father took the flu First it didn't Hurt him very bad. My Bro Zerl it didn't Hurt him it never stop going he*

*got all writ. And then one night he become Ill about 10 00 PM and died about 4 AM in the morning on Dec 1918 & was beaurd at the Stevens Graveyard on a place my Father had bought & Started his own Graveyard. He was the First child to die & be buried there. My mother & me Ida Stevens took the flu and all most died no one thought we make it we were so bad. One winter 1918 we lived on the knowl over looking Lawton we could over look the place & see caskets set a long time be for any one could come & get them.*

Some background information on Ida Stevens Clemens:

- Her family was from northeast Kentucky.
- She was born in 1913.
- She was the oldest in a family of eight children.
  - She and the youngest boys (#7) were the only ones who lived to adulthood.
- The photo below is with her brother Thearl, who was born during the 1918 flu epidemic. Two brothers died between her birth and Thearl's.
- Through conversations with Mom, she stated that her dad was working steadily to build caskets for those who had died, including the two boys they had lost. Eventually, she and her mother both came down with the flu, and though she was only five years old, she wasn't sure she was going to live. Her mother was even sicker.
- Both she and her mom had been involved in cleaning and dressing the bodies of those who had passed.
- When she began to revive, she remembered that her bed was beside a window, and she raised up on one elbow to look outside. Their house was up on a hill, and she could look down into the holler (hollow) and see caskets lined up. People were too sick to bury the dead, so they lined them up a distance from the houses until someone could bury them.



# Meet the UGA DNA Special Interest Group Presenters

We are excited to hear from a variety of presenters who will be showing their skills over the next six months. Presentations are chosen based on the needs and requests of the UGA membership and availability of presenters willing and able to teach the topics requested. If you are interested in hearing from a specific presenter or would like to give a webinar for the UGA DNA Special Interest Group, please go to [UGAgenealogy.org](http://UGAgenealogy.org) and let us know!

### STEPHANIE LYNN SAYLOR

Stephanie Saylor is a UGA Board Member, and the UGA DNA Special Interest Group Chair, where she acts as a presenter and moderates presentations by leaders in the field of genetic genealogy. She currently works as a professional genetic genealogist and enjoys assisting clients with finding missing ancestors using Y-DNA, mitochondrial DNA, X-DNA, and autosomal DNA research.



Prior to starting her career as a Genetic Genealogist, Stephanie worked as a lab manager and assistant. She holds a degree in Biology with an emphasis in Neuroscience and particularly loves to help people feel comfortable using genetic genealogy to crack open even the hardest cases. You can find her short articles, images and handouts posted on [FoundingFamilyLines.com](http://FoundingFamilyLines.com).

### BLAINE BETTINGER

Blaine Bettinger, Ph.D., J.D., has been a genealogist for more than 25 years, and took his first DNA test in 2003. He is the author of the long-running blog *The Genetic Genealogist* <<https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/>> which provides updates on happenings in the genetic genealogy community, instructions on performing different techniques for analyzing your data and research he has compiled and performed to assist genetic genealogists.



He is a Rockstar Genetic Genealogist, published author and frequently gives presentations and webinars to educate others about the use of DNA to explore their ancestry. His clear and organized teaching method makes even the most challenging of topics easier to understand.

### PAUL WOODBURY

Paul Woodbury is a DNA team lead at Legacy Tree Genealogists. In addition to genetic genealogy, Paul specializes in French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and Scandinavian research and regularly presents on research topics related to these fields. He has extensive experience in client research and has solved hundreds of genetic genealogy and traditional genealogy research cases for clients. He is pursuing a Master's Degree from the University of Utah in Instructional Design and Educational Technology.



### ERIC WELLS

Eric Wells has been active in genealogical research since 2008. He focuses on assisting clients in research, DNA, organizing and presenting research into a coherent, publishable format. He is the Education Coordinator of the NextGen Genealogy Network and the host of their YouTube show "Faces of NextGen Live"



### MAURICE GLEESON

Maurice Gleeson was born in Dublin where he trained as a medical doctor. He is currently a psychiatrist, a pharmaceutical physician, a part-time actor and a genetic genealogist. His father had been researching the family tree on and off for 30 years and in 2006 Maurice decided to join in the fun, quickly becoming addicted. Together they have toured Ireland, found a variety of ancestral homelands, and reconnected with cousins. Maurice is an international speaker on genetic genealogy, runs several specific DNA projects, publishes videos about DNA on his YouTube Channel: DNA and Family Tree Research at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcPhbETNSaXAb0I\\_yMGqHYg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcPhbETNSaXAb0I_yMGqHYg), is currently the chair of Genetic Genealogy Ireland and assists with the DNA lectures from *Who Do You Think You Are* in the UK. He is passionate about helping adoptees and unknown soldiers who have died without being reunited with their families.





# Utah Genealogical Association

## UGA DNA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP SCHEDULE

The UGA DNA Special Interest Group meets monthly online through GoToWebinar on the 3rd Tuesday of the month for its members. Most of our webinars are recorded and available to our membership for at least 3 months after the webinar is given. Guests are encouraged to attend our free quarterly webinar open to the public, join our mailing list to receive updates on our schedule and other happenings in the genetic genealogy community as well as contribute to the UGA – DNA Special Interest Group's Facebook Group along with UGA members.

### JULY

Come and cruise some chromosome browsers to take a drive to a smoother ride through your genetic genealogy research. Tour multiple chromosome browsers to see how they can expand your horizons. Discover what different results mean. Get hints on how to use this tool in your research by working along with the class through activities designed to help participants understand how to use different aspects of chromosome browsers in their personal research. Stephanie Saylor will cover the

chromosome browsers offered at 23andMe and Family Tree DNA, as well as how the GEDmatch chromosome browsers work with all 3 major testing companies.

### AUGUST

Autosomal DNA can be used to discover relatives and ancestors on any family line. There are two alternative DNA tests that could possibly clarify your genetic genealogy. "Obtaining and Using mtDNA and Y-DNA Evidence" is a straightforward presentation explaining the use of these DNA tests and how you can use them in your genealogical research followed by a question and answer session with the presenter, Blaine Bettinger.

### SEPTEMBER

You have your DNA test results, but how do you interpret them? How do you use them in the resolution of your research questions? In "Introduction to Genetic Networks," Paul Woodbury discusses efficient and effective organization of your DNA test results through network analysis. Reviews of elements and examples of networks will be followed by a live demonstration of network construction.

## British Institute

15–19 October 2018

Salt Lake Plaza Hotel  
Salt Lake City, Utah

- **English Ancestors 17<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> Centuries: Finding Sources and Resolving Problems**  
Else Churchill and Alec Tritton
- **Tracing Your Welsh Ancestors**  
Beryl Evans
- **Scottish Research: The Fundamentals and Beyond**  
Paul Milner
- **Researching Your Irish and Scots-Irish Ancestors**  
Fintan Mullan and Gillian Hunt



*For full British Institute details visit: [www.isbgfh.org](http://www.isbgfh.org)*



# UTAH GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Education • Networking • Resources

- DNA Special Interest Group webinars
- Virtual Chapter webinars
- Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG)
- SLIG Academy for Professionals
- SLIG Virtual Advanced Evidence Practicum
- First Families of Utah certificate program
- Regional family history conferences
- Research links

## *Members-only benefits:*

- *Crossroads* quarterly journal
- Institute and Conference discounts
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Utah Genealogical Association  
*is pleased to present our*

# *Virtual Chapter*



*Free family history  
presentations by the  
best researchers!  
Presented monthly.*

The Utah Genealogical Association is pleased to invite you to attend our monthly virtual chapter meetings. These presentations are easily accessible with a computer—no special equipment is necessary. Each month UGA brings the best researchers in the U.S. into your living room to teach you how to find your ancestors. It can often be expensive or impossible to attend national conferences. Let UGA bring national-level speakers to you.

Third Thursday of each month @  
[www.virtual.ugagenealogy.org](http://www.virtual.ugagenealogy.org)



These presentations are free live and available at any time to members. When entering, click the UGA logo and enter as a “guest.”





# Utah Genealogical Association

P.O. Box 1144

Salt Lake City, Utah 84110

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The Utah Genealogical Association (UGA) was formally organized September 25, 1971, by the State of Utah as a nonprofit educational organization. The Association's interests are worldwide: it is not affiliated with any religious or political organization.

**Mission Statement:** UGA provides genealogical information, sources and education through personal instruction and published media on state, national and international family history topics, while promoting high standards and ethical practices.

## OBJECTIVES:

1. Provide education, instruction, and training that will raise the standards of genealogical and family history research through publications, classes, lectures, local workshops and seminars, and an annual statewide conference.
2. Publish instructional information of value to genealogists everywhere.
3. Provide information to the genealogical public relative to Family History Library collections.
4. Recognize the diverse genealogical interests in Utah and the Intermountain West by providing a worldwide focus when publishing or teaching information of interest to genealogists through vehicles such as Crossroads, other periodicals, and special monographs, as well as seminars, conferences, and institutions.
5. Locate, copy, index, publish, and otherwise make available to the public, genealogical records of Utah, including original records, compiled family genealogies, and similar records of the Intermountain West useful for Utah lineages.
6. Support the work of local, state, and national genealogical and historical organizations to promote and foster the active interest in and scholarly reputation of genealogy. Work cooperatively with these and other organizations to achieve mutual goals.
7. Foster both expertise and ethical practices among genealogists worldwide.