

# INFLUENZA AND THE GREAT WAR

Battling Influenza During WWI

Tina Beard

tinab@tamarackgenealogy.com

## THE INFLUENZA BEGINS: CAMP FUNSTON

- In early March, Haskell, Kansas is the first to record an unusually potent flu outbreak.
- Within the week, the first wave of Influenza cases is reported at Camp Funston.
- Between March 4<sup>th</sup> and march 11<sup>th</sup> over 500 soldiers become ill.
- By the end of March that number climbs to 1,100.



Kansas Memory Project:  
Ambulance at Camp Funston



**Recuperating Soldiers  
Camp Funston, Kansas  
March 1918**

## THE INFLUENZA BEGINS: OVER THERE

- The men of Camp Funston weren't the only ones who brought the flu over to Europe.
- Camp Dodge in Iowa also contracts the virus in early summer, just as their units are being called up to Europe. The 313<sup>th</sup> Engineers arrive in France August 2<sup>nd</sup> with several sick soldiers. Shortly upon arrival Captain Bruce R. Honeyman, of Co. A, dies of Influenza.

## THE INFLUENZA BEGINS: OVER THERE

- Influenza decimates the fighting armies of Europe. Germany and the U.K. combined have hundreds of thousands of cases of the flu by fall.
- Reports of Influenza cover the globe from New Zealand to Norway.
- The flu is rampant throughout U.S. troops. Roughly 30-40% of fighting men are sick.

<p>NAME : Herring, Dolphus, NO: 3493251            RANK: Pvt.            ORGAN: Co. B, 314th. Labor Bn.            CASUALTY: Died of disease, Influenza Broncho pneumonia at Camp Hosp. 21.            DATE : Sept. 28, 1918. 51920            LINE OF DUTY STATUS: OAK            AUTHORITY: Our 863, C.T.R. 9, Hq. Advance Sec. S.O.S., A.P.O. 757, Sept. 30, 1918. John Cromer, 2nd. Lt. A.G.D.</p> <p>867            @C 276            6 00719</p>	<p>NAME : Harris, Aaron, NO: 3493305 51919            RANK : Pvt.            ORGAN: Co. B, 314th. Labor Bn.            CASUALTY: Died of disease, Influenza and Broncho pneumonia, Camp Hosp. 21.            DATE : Sept. 28, 1918.            LINE OF DUTY STATUS: OAK            AUTHORITY: Our 863, C.T.R. 9, Hq. Advance Sec. S.O.S., A.P.O. 757, Sept. 30, 1918. John Cromer, 2nd. Lt. A.G.D.</p> <p>@C 275            6 00719</p>
<p>NAME : Edwards, Farly NO: 3493458 51952            RANK : Pvt.            ORGAN: Co. B, 314th. Labor Bn.            CASUALTY: Died of disease, Influenza broncho pneumonia at Camp Hosp. 21.            DATE : Sept. 29, 1918.            LINE OF DUTY STATUS: OAK            AUTHORITY: Our 8687, C.T.R. 9, Hq. Advance Sec. S.O.S., A.P.O. 757, Sept. 30, 1918. John Cromer, 2nd. Lt. A.G.D.</p> <p>@C 275            6</p>	<p>Davis William 3495764            Pvt Co B 314th Lab Bn            Sept 27 died influenza and Broncho Pneu            cc 274</p>

U.S. Name File of Dead and Severely Wounded Casualties AEF 1918

## THE INFLUENZA BOOMERANG

- August 17, 1918 an ocean liner arrives in the U.S. with several passengers ill from the flu.
- The first camp to report this new 'disease' is Camp Devens near Boston, MA.
- This new Flu strain is unlike any other! The mortality rate climbs to 2.5%. That is 25 times the normal fatality rate! No one is safe. President Wilson, Assistant Secretary to the Navy FDR, \*Bess Wallace all contract the flu.

### ***Four Die of Influenza on Liner Reaching U. S.***

New York, Aug. 17.—[Special.]—A passenger liner which arrived in an Atlantic port today reported that on the voyage twenty-one cases of Spanish influenza occurred among the passengers and crew. Four of the victims died.

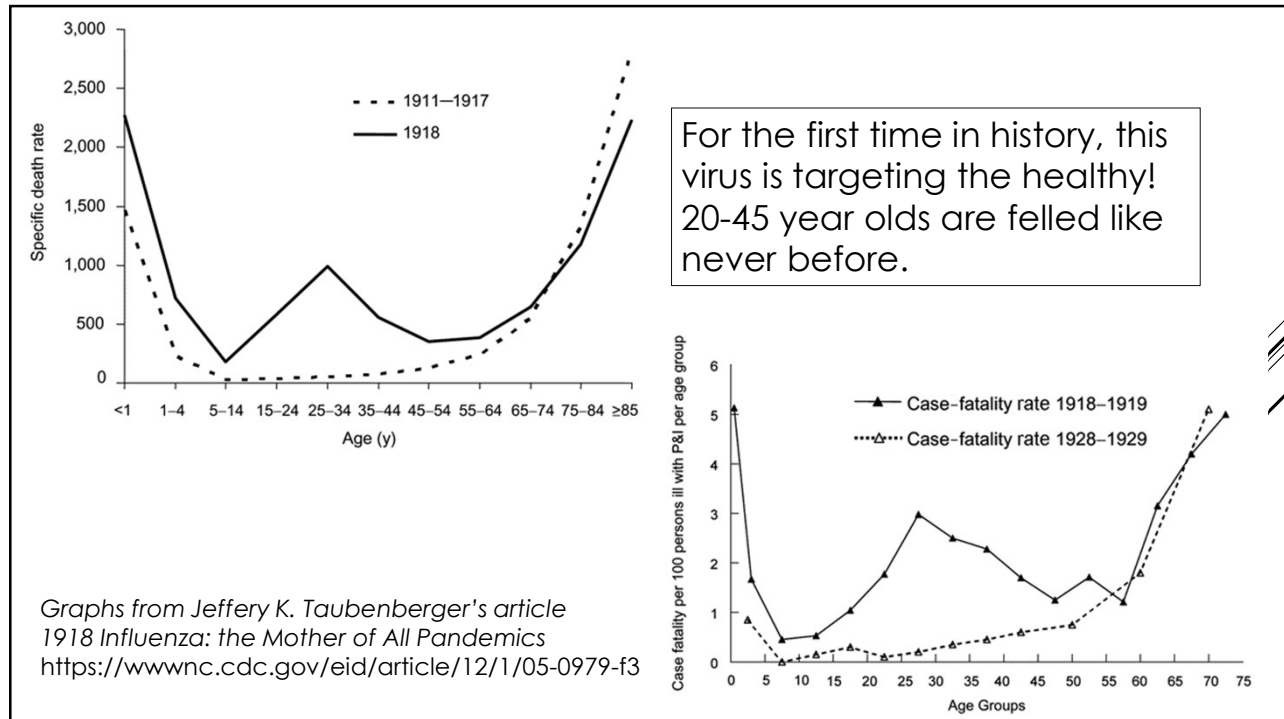
Chicago Tribune August 19, 1918

## THE INFLUENZA BOOMERANG

- Rich or poor, celebrity or student; all are felled equally. President Wilson, Assistant Secretary to the Navy FDR, Walt Disney, Mary Pickford, \*Bess Wallace all contract the flu.
- The Flu took a tremendous toll on U.S. life expectancy. In 1917 the average life expectancy was 51 years old. In 1918 that drop an astounding 12 years to 39 years old!



16 year old ambulance driver, Walt Disney

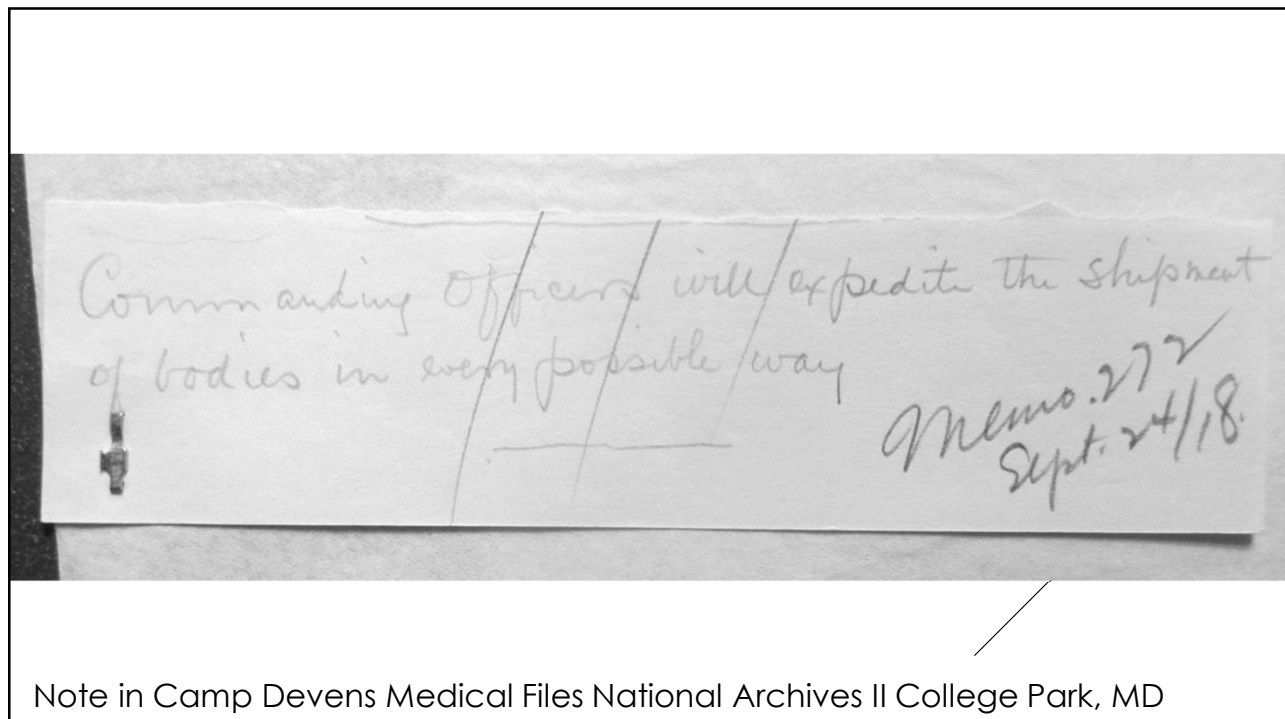


## CAMP DEVENS, MASSACHUSETTS: THE WAR COMES HOME

- Camp Devens Just 35 miles from Boston is ground zero for 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of the influenza outbreak.
- The first soldier came into the hospital on September 7<sup>th</sup> and was misdiagnosed with Spinal Meningitis.
- Murmurs of other sick men traveled through the base, but no one arrived at the hospital. Then...

## CAMP DEVENS, MASSACHUSETTS

- BOOM! On September 22<sup>nd</sup> 1,543 men reported sick. 19.6 % of the Entire camp (45,000 strong).
- The base hospital is equipped to handle 1200 men with with 25 doctors on staff, but thousands of men begin pouring in.
- Overwhelmed, and ill themselves, the medical staff closed the hospital on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Red Cross sent 12 more nurses- 8 of whom became ill and 2 died, including Ms. Margaret Sullivan.



Note in Camp Devens Medical Files National Archives II College Park, MD

## CAMP DEVENS, MASSACHUSETTS

- By the start of October, 100 men a day are dying. 6,000 men were ill.
- The U.S. Army immediately sends officers to investigate, sending Cols. William Welch, Rufus Cole and Victor Vaughn.
- Welch who had worked in the Canal Zone with Malaria outbreak is visibly shaken by what he sees.

“Blood was everywhere, on linens, clothes. Pouring out of some men’s nostrils and even ears while others coughed it up. Many of the soldiers, boys in their teens, men in their twenties- healthy, normally ruddy men- were turning blue. Their color would prove a deadly indicator.”

- John M. Barry, *The Great Influenza*



## PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

- Philadelphia ignored all public health warnings, continuing with their liberty bond parade.
- September 20<sup>th</sup> over 200,000 people took to the streets to celebrate. Within 72 hours flu cases began reporting to local hospitals.
- Within one month over 12,000 people were dead from the flu. On October 10, 1918 alone 759 people perished from the epidemic!

### DAY'S INFLUENZA DEATH TOLL 289

Churches Closed Here on  
'Sunday for First Time Since  
Epidemic in 1890

200,000 Cases in City, Says  
Krusen—Emergency Hos-  
pital No. 2 Organized

Although the Fourth Naval District reported an abatement in the epidemic of influenza, the mortality in the city for the past twenty-four hours has established a new high-record mark. Dr. Wilmer Krusen, Director of Public Health and Charities, stated yesterday that there were now approximately 200,000 cases in the city. The death toll for the twenty-four hours ending yesterday at noon was 289. Of this number 201 were due to influenza proper and 88 to pneumonia. The churches of the city were closed all day yesterday, the first Sunday closing since an epidemic in 1890.



"At the city morgue, bodies were piled 3 and 4 deep, in the corridors and in almost every room. They were covered only with dirty and often bloodstained sheets. Most were unembalmed and without ice. Some were mortifying and emitting a nauseating stench."

-Alfred W. Crosby

[www.upenn.edu/gazette/1198/lynch.html](http://www.upenn.edu/gazette/1198/lynch.html)



## ILLINOIS

- Governor Frank O. Lowden acted quickly forming the Illinois Influenza Advisory Commission.
- September 25<sup>th</sup> he requires cities and counties to report flu totals to the emergency committee.
- September 26<sup>th</sup> he orders the closing of all political assemblages and then all public buildings- schools, churches, etc.

### INFLUENZA

The epidemic of influenza of the autumn of 1918 and the winter of 1918-1919 stands out as the most devastating, widespread and spectacular invasion of communicable disease the State has even seen. While over 200,000 cases were reported, it may be safely assumed that this represents only a part of the total incidence of the disease. The total number of deaths from influenza and complicating pneumonia amounted to 32,324 as compared with 103,138, the total number of deaths throughout the State due to all other causes.

Cases of influenza were reported early in September, 1918, at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station, situated on the shores of Lake Michigan about thirty-five miles north of Chicago and close to the cities of North Chicago and Waukegan. At the time of the first invasion of the disease, there were approximately 5,000 young men housed in the Training Station.

About ten days later, a number of cases of influenza were reported in the extreme southern part of the State, at Elco in Alexander County. Elco is a village of 236 inhabitants and investigation proved that the disease was brought to this isolated community by a returned soldier from Camp Forest near Oglethorpe, Georgia. The history of the outbreak at Elco is interesting. On September 17, this soldier suffering from a "cold" and complaining of "not feeling well" returned from the military camp. He visited the village of Elco, spending much of his time in the post-office and in the stores of the village. On September 20, he visited his fiancée at Cache, Illinois, but returned to Cairo the same day.

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Report of the Illinois  
Dept. of Public Health 1919

On September 25, the State Department of Public Health promulgated rules and regulations for the control of influenza making all cases of the disease or suspected disease reportable by physicians, nurses, parents, school authorities, and hospital and institutional authorities and requiring isolation of the patient and other precautionary measures. On September 28, the Council of National Defense created an Illinois Influenza Commission, made up of representatives of the army, the navy, the United States Public Health Service, the American Red Cross and the State Department of Public Health and the Chicago health department this commission holding conferences in Chicago almost daily until the more severe stage of the epidemic had passed in northern Illinois.

Simultaneously with the creation of the Illinois Influenza Commission, the State Department of Public Health opened offices in Chicago through which its representatives could be kept in close touch with the situation in the Great Lakes district and in northern Illinois, and the director would be enabled to attend the daily conferences of the commission.

Early in the epidemic, appeals were received from stricken communities, particularly for physicians and nurses. On account of the fact that large numbers of Illinois physicians had engaged in military service,

**LESTER SCHNITZER DIES**

Lester Schnitzer, known to most of us as a jovial young man, imitator of George M. Cohan, full of life, charm, radiating good fellowship, has fallen a victim to influenza. He died last Monday morning at Lima, O., where he has resided since he left Chicago, some six years ago.



His work for the Liberty Loan campaign of which he was chairman for Lima, O., taxed his energies to such

**DEATH'S HAND FELT IN EVERY COMMUNITY**

**WINAKOR DIES THURSDAY AT GREAT LAKES**

**Well Known Springfield Man Succumbs to Dreaded Spanish Influenza**

Abe Winakor, sailor in the United States navy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Winakor, 812 East Jackson street, died at Camp Logan, near Chicago, Thursday, September 26, from Spanish influenza.

A telegram to his parents Thursday was the first information received that the Springfield sailor was ill. His sister, Sadie Winakor, hurried to his bedside, but did not arrive until after his death.

Sailor Winakor is well known in Springfield, having served for four years in the advertising department of the News-Record in this city. "Abe," as he was known, placed himself in the front rank among the patriots of Springfield when he advertised the fact that he would not ask the other boys to "go" into the service, but said he would enlist in service and ask the boys to

**DIES AT CAMP GRANT**

Rockford, April 5.—Peter Hagey private in Company C, 344th infantry died at the Camp Grant base hospital this morning of pneumonia. His home was in Polo, Ill. Thomas Lynch, of Pardeeville, Wis., a private in the 318 field artillery, succumbed to pneumonia yesterday afternoon. Henry Christianson, private in Company A 32nd engineers, died at the camp hospital this forenoon. His home was in Carlisle, Ill.

**Influenza Again Rages in Mt. Carmel**

Influenza again became epidemic in Mt. Carmel the latter part of last week and the lid was clamped down tight by the board of health. All lines of business not absolutely essential have been closed and a strict ban placed on all social gatherings.—Grayville Independent.

Chicago, Springfield, Mt. Carmel, Aurora

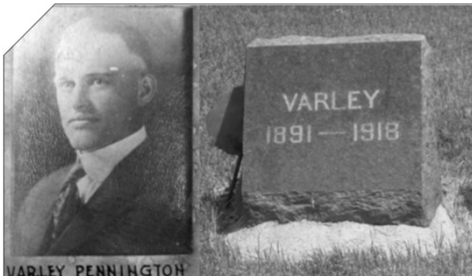
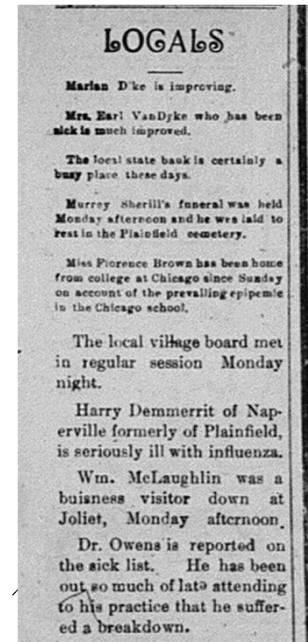
[www.eiu.edu/historia/2010Shidler.pdf](http://www.eiu.edu/historia/2010Shidler.pdf)

1	Bronchial Pneumonia	1	Alfred H. Newton MD	1	Nov 1 - 1918	1
2	years months days	2		2	Mrs. John Robinson	2
3	Influenza	3	11-10-1918	3	215 Grand Ave	3
4	years months days	4	Wendell Harris Denton	4	Nov 1 - 1918	4
5	Diagnosed cemetery	5	Spuit	5	H B Newton	5
1	Bronchial Pneumonia	1	Hermin Green MD	1	Set 22 - 1918	1
2	years months days	2	Volina St	2	W. H. H. H. H.	2
3	Influenza	3	Set 25 - 1918	3	214 Branch	3
4	years months days	4	Wendell Harris Denton	4	10-20-1918	4
5	Diagnosed cemetery	5	Spuit	5	H B Newton	5
1	Bronchial Pneumonia	1	Alfred H. Newton MD	1	Set - 1918	1
2	years months days	2	Wendell Harris Denton	2	Anna Nagala	2
3	Influenza	3	10-20-1918	3	145 Park Ave	3
4	years months days	4	Wendell Harris Denton	4	Set 24 - 1918	4
5	Diagnosed cemetery	5	Spuit	5	H B Newton	5
1	Pneumonia	1	W. H. H. H. H.	1	Set 14 - 1918	1
2	years months days	2	Spuit	2	Wm Romanik	2
3	Influenza	3	Set 14 - 1918	3	Spuit	3
4	years months days	4	Wendell Harris Denton	4	10-10-1918	4
5	Diagnosed cemetery	5	Spuit	5	H B Newton	5
1	Influenza	1	Wendell Harris Denton MD	1	Set 27 - 1918	1
2	years months days	2		2	Wendell Harris Denton	2
3	Pneumonia	3	10-25-1918	3	Spuit	3
4	years months days	4	Wendell Harris Denton	4	10-25-1918	4
5	Diagnosed cemetery	5	Spuit	5	H B Newton	5

Will County Death Register Fall 1918

## PLAINFIELD, ILLINOIS

- 42 people were buried in Plainfield Township Cemetery in 1918. From March to December, 12 people (30%) had died of the flu or pneumonia.
- All but 2 of these were between the ages of 20-45.
- Plainfield *mostly* followed the rules, canceling activities, but worship services continued as normal.



VARLEY PENNINGTON

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver P. Mather, residing seven miles north of Plainfield, received word the first of the week that their son, Sherman Mather, 24 years old, had died of Spanish Influenza at Great Lakes. They left immediately for the station where their son had been stationed since July 29, when he enlisted. In addition to his parents, he is survived by four sisters and two brothers. The boy had been sick for several days and his parents had been kept acquainted with his condition.



SHERMAN MATTER

## FLU CLAIMS PLAINFIELD SOLDIERS

Sherman Matter, a recent enlistee at Great Lakes Naval Training Center dies of the Flu September 1918.

Varley Pennington dies October 3<sup>rd</sup> at his parent's home, after going AWOL from Camp Grant to avoid the epidemic.



DAY, OCTOBER 19, 1

# U. S. WILL PAY ALL BILLS OF GREAT MORGUE

## GOVERNMENT AGENTS TO SETTLE ACCOUNTS FOR CONTRACTING UNDERTAKERS

That the government will take over and settle all accounts and obligations incurred by reasons of opening up and maintaining the big morgue on Church street, was made known yesterday when H. A. Lampke, an accountant of the Quartermaster Department, was sent to the city to go over all accounts and check up the cost of shipment of approximately 1,000 soldier victims of the influenza plague.

The announcement of the government's intentions was of much interest to the officials of the Chamber of Commerce and others who of their own initiative went ahead and incurred the necessary expenses for fitting up the great morgue, depending upon the future to devise means of taking care of these obligations.

# CAMP GRANT, ROCKFORD

- Comdr. Charles Hagadorn arrives August 8<sup>th</sup>. With winter approaching, he over-rules his medical staff, and orders the overcrowding of barracks. September 15<sup>th</sup> several officers arrive from Camp Devens. Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> it begins. 108 cases by midnight.
- Comdr. Hagadorn commits suicide on October 8<sup>th</sup>, the same day the 500<sup>th</sup> soldier dies from the flu.

# COL. HAGADORN, CAMP'S COMMANDER, A SUICIDE

## BULLET WOUND IN HEAD

"Death From Nervous Collapse", Official Statement Issued From Camp Grant.

## HUNS PLOT WRECK OF BIG PLANT?

Government Workers Find Letter Probing Explosives at Morgan, N. J.

## WILSON SAYS NO ARMISTICE UNTIL HUNS QUIT INVADIED TERRITORY

BULLETIN 335. Washington, Oct. 8.—President Wilson today informed the German government that before the United States can discuss an armistice, German troops must withdraw from all invaded territory.

## FRENCH FORCES LAND IN BEIRUT

Hold Stocks of Navy Will Have Great Effect on Constantinople.

## WILSON IS NOW READY TO REPLY

Will Be Sent Tonight, If Not Already on the Chalk.

## YANKEES RESUME ATTACK

With English in Big Operations From the Marne to North Sea.

## LIBERTY LOAN DRIVE IS SLOW

Campaign Officials Again Warn Public Against Key Going Unpaid.

## 93 SOLDIERS DIE AT CAMP SHERMAN

Continued on Page Three

Full Length Associated Press Wire Service

# The Rockford Daily Register-Gazette

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS—ESTABLISHED 1840. TEN PAGES. (PUBLISHED WEEKLY) TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1918. PRICE THREE CENTS

THE WEATHER: Clear, Cool, Pleasant, with a few showers.

## CAMP GRANT, ROCKFORD

- Camp Grant was one of the most heavily impacted Army bases in the fall of 1918.
- 45,000 men were stationed at Camp Grant. By October 31<sup>st</sup> over 12,000 soldiers and staff had caught the flu and 1,068 perished.

### **INFLUENZA TOLL 10 DEATHS IN DAY AT CAMP GRANT**

Camp Grant, Ill., Sept. 29.—[Special.] —Three thousand five hundred and forty-six soldiers in hospital and ten deaths made up the influenza casualty list in Camp Grant today. With every emergency provided for and strict quarantine in force, the medical officers believe they have the epidemic stopped.

### **85,000 Influenza Cases in Massachusetts Alone**

Boston, Mass., Sept. 29.—At least 85,000 persons are ill from Spanish influenza in Massachusetts and the death list is growing heavily. State Health Commissioner Keley tonight wired Surgeon Gen. Blue of the public health service that the situation "continues serious."

## GREAT LAKES NAVAL TRAINING STATION

- September 8<sup>th</sup> the first group of men report to the base hospital with the flu. Newspapers report meningitis.
- Camp Commander acts quickly, refuses liberty leave to all and quarantines 1,000 symptomatic men.
- Within a week 5,000 more men are quarantined for suspected contact with the ill.
- All 50,000 sailors given daily throat sprays.

## GREAT LAKES NAVAL TRAINING STATION

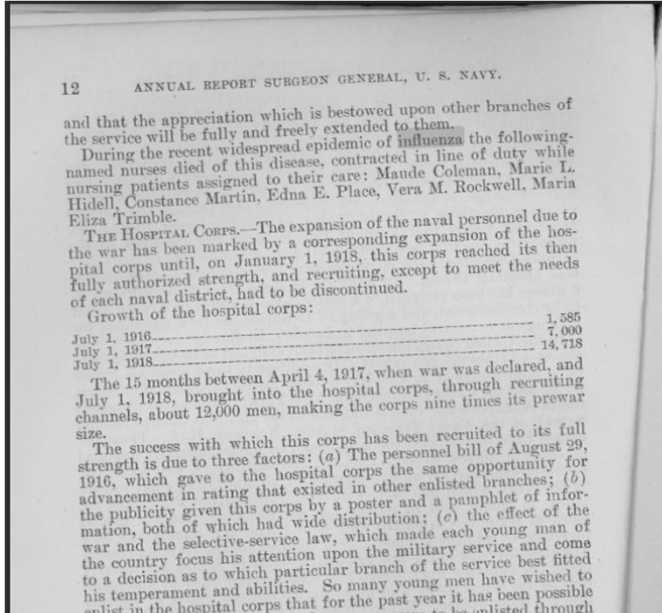
- The total registered flu cases on September 26<sup>th</sup> is 8,475 with 257 new cases the previous day.
- Men are dying at an alarming rate. Great Lakes buys up all winding sheets in Chicago.
- The morgue is stacked to capacity. Ambulances leave around the clock to take bodies to the train station.



Josie Mabel Brown, a Navy Nurse recalls, "As the boys were brought in we would put winding sheets on them even if they weren't dead. You would always leave the left big toe exposed and tag it with the boy's name, rank, and next of kin." As one boy lay dying in bed, one waited on the stretcher on the floor for the bed to empty. Each morning as the Ambulance drivers would bring in more sick boys they would carry the dead bodies out. The morgue was stacked to the ceiling with bodies Because the casket makers could not make Boxes fast enough." Josie often said she felt sorry for the poor boy on the bottom.

U.S. Navy Medicine May-June 1986 pg 15.





U.S. Navy Surgeon General's Annual Report for 1918

## COOK COUNTY & CHICAGO

- Public Health Commissioner John Dill Robertson seeing what is happening at Great Lakes, makes Flu a reportable illness on September 16<sup>th</sup>.
- A marked uptick in flu cases is reported September 21<sup>st</sup>.
- September 23<sup>rd</sup> Robertson declares "We have the Spanish Influenza situation well in hand"
- September 30<sup>th</sup> there are 260 verified cases.

Commissioner Robertson  
National Institute of Health





## COOK COUNTY & CHICAGO

- Public activities are not curtailed until October 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The Chicago Tribune and other papers report, at its peak, 1200 new cases are being reported each day.
- Those within poorer neighborhoods were dying at a faster rate.
- Cook County Hospital had one of the highest mortality rates for flu victims in the country at 39.8%

Diagnosis	Date	Name	Outcome
Influenza	10 15 18	Loeb	Recovered
Influenza	10 16 18	Loeb	To Wd 24
Diphtheria	10 15 18	Loeb	Death
Influenza	10 16 18	Loeb	Same To Wd 24
Bronchitis Pneumonia	10 28 18	Loeb	Recovered
Influenza	10 16 18	Loeb	Recovered
Influenza	10 18 18	Loeb	Recovered
Influenza	10 24 18	Loeb	To Wd 30
Influenza	10 14 18	Loeb	Death
Organic Heart Disease	10 16 18	Loeb	Improved
Influenza	10 15 18	Loeb	Death
Influenza	10 15 18	Loeb	Death

Page 31

### COOK COUNTY HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS BOOK 1918

IRAD at North Eastern Illinois University Library has the Cook County Hospital admission books covering this period.

TABLE I—SHOWING THE PREVALENCE OF FIFTEEN PRINCIPAL COMMUNICABLE DISEASES BY COUNTIES AND PRINCIPAL MUNICIPALITIES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 1918, TO JUNE 30, 1919

County.	Diphtheria.	Gonorrhoea.	Influenza.	Malaria.	Measles.	Epidemic Meningitis.	Poliomyelitis.	Pneumonia.	Scarlet fever.	Smallpox.	Syphilis.	Tuberculosis of lungs.	Whooping Cough.	Typhoid Fever.	Chancroid.
Adams.....	12		933					7	3	4	1		26	1	
Quincy.....	27	79	1,647					40	63	14	14	9	111	14	3
Alexander.....	2		534			8			1	3		2	11		
Carro.....			391												
Bond.....	4		418		1			15		3		1	130	2	
Boone.....	8		466		13		1	4	4			3	36		
Brown.....	1	1	973		1			2	54	18	2		7	1	
Bureau.....	7		2,931		1	1	3	8	13	4	1		110		
Calhoun.....	3		763		17			2	2				15		
Carroll.....		2	479			1			18			3	69		1
Cass.....	8		674		1				3	1	5		5	2	
Champaign.....	16	4	1,445		8		2	5	2	12	1	4	60	2	
<i>Champaign</i> .....	21	26	7,333						1	34	6	6			3
<i>Urbana</i> .....	47	6	536					1	1	23				5	
Christian.....	1	2	1,768	2	29	1		9	18	24	1	7	50	2	
Clark.....	1	1	559		4	1			18	1			2	2	
Clay.....		2	954					3	4	1			130	1	
Clinton.....			687			3							12		
Coles.....	1	1	1,290		5		1		18				41		
<i>Mattoon</i> .....	16		1,314		27			14	7				9		
Cook.....	400	1	15,413		181	8	9	103	104	40	1	133	758	4	7
<i>Chicago</i> .....	6,163	4,738	43,371		13,339	113	71	21,424	2,174	111	2,637	14,904	2,695	277	372
<i>Evanston</i> .....	39		162		1,020	4	6	1	21						
<i>Oak Park</i> .....	27		170				26		18			13		5	
Crawford.....	2		1,427					4				1	15	2	
Cumberland.....			198		1			6					7	9	
DeKalb.....	13		553		7		14	10	6				29		
<i>DeKalb</i> .....	22		683		3		18	26	40		3				
DeWitt.....	5		1,350		4			10	3	12		77	21	2	
Douglas.....	3		968		1			1		2	1		61	1	
DuPage.....	10		720		8		2	3	10	10	2	5	43	21	
Edgar.....	47		844					3	1				2		
Edwards.....			949		7			1	3				1	2	
Effingham.....	2	1	1,120		1				19	2		2	11	10	2
Efayette.....	1		1,374		4			1	10	18		6	11	7	
Ford.....	3		618	1	1		3		15				2	1	
Franklin.....		3	2,281			1		22	2	1		2	116	11	

DIVISION OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES 19

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Report of the Illinois Dept. of Public Health 1919

## THE AFTERMATH

- Global estimates range from 20-100 million infected
- Reportedly 25-30% Americans contracted the virus between 1918-1919
- An estimated 650,000 succumbed to the disease
- In the end over 43,000 soldiers would die from Influenza and the Pneumonia that often followed

## TOLL OF INFLUENZA IN 46 LARGE CITIES REACHES 111,688

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 5.—The influenza epidemic which swept the country last year caused 111,688 deaths in the forty-six largest cities, and increased the combined death rate for those communities in 1918 to 19.6 per thousand. Baltimore, with 26.8 per thousand, and Nashville, with 26.4, had the highest rates of the registration cities, while St. Paul, with 13.3 and Minneapolis and Grand Rapids, with 14 each, had the lowest.

There were 442,374 deaths from all causes in the forty-six cities, the estimated population of forty-two of which aggregated 20,514,520. There was no estimate of population for the other four.

The year's total death rate in New York City was 18.8 per thousand, compared with 15.2 in 1917. In Chicago it was 17.1, against 14.9 the year before, and in Philadelphia, where the influenza epidemic was very severe, it was 24.2, compared with 17.1 in 1917.

TABLE 10.—INFLUENZA, PNEUMONIA AND DEATHS IN THE LARGE CAMPS, PERIOD SEPT. 12 TO OCT. 31, 1918, INCLUSIVE

	Cases Infl.	Cases Pneu.	Total Deaths	Per Cent. At-tacked Infl.	Per Cent. Pneu. to Infl.	Per Cent. Deaths Pneu.	Duration Epl-demic in Days
<b>Group 1</b>							
Cody.....	2,337	252	46	49.8	10.8	18.2	28
Beaugard.....	5,232	1,007	422	39.6	19.2	41.9	36
Wadsworth.....	5,505	357	60	38.6	6.5	16.9	20
Bowie.....	4,052	119	104	38.1	2.9	89.8	32
Hoboken.....	13,563	2,280	794	30.5	16.9	34.9	42
Devens.....	13,398	2,288	794	30.1	17.1	34.9	49
<b>Group 2</b>							
Dodge.....	9,398	1,847	570	29.0	19.7	30.8	32
Custer.....	11,626	2,437	669	29.0	20.9	27.8	31
MacArthur.....	6,010	352	168	28.1	14.1	20.4	24
Meade.....	11,449	2,013	793	27.8	25.3	27.4	41
Pike.....	13,273	1,379	455	26.7	10.3	32.7	37
Grant.....	10,717	2,335	1,068	25.8	21.8	45.7	39
Greene.....	4,200	626	258	25.8	14.9	41.8	30
Funston.....	13,526	2,328	888	24.9	17.2	37.4	41
Forrest.....	2,307	33	22	24.9	1.1	66.6	25
Travis.....	8,470	1,742	168	24.7	20.5	9.0	30
Logan.....	3,137	393	16	24.6	12.4	3.8	41
Lee.....	11,298	1,919	672	22.9	17.0	34.3	43
Hancock.....	7,715	1,299	462	22.2	15.8	37.4	31
Sheridan.....	4,758	521	132	20.4	10.3	24.6	28
Greenleaf.....	4,747	343	263	20.3	7.2	75.2	20
<b>Group 3</b>							
Taylor.....	11,587	2,800	830	19.2	24.2	29.0	39
Dix.....	9,283	1,673	829	19.0	17.9	49.8	44
Jackson.....	7,500	1,114	362	18.9	14.9	31.3	43
Shelby.....	1,561	94	19	18.8	5.3	24.8	28
Syracuse.....	2,031	401	164	18.4	19.8	40.6	42
Newport.....	4,526	896	319	16.3	19.7	35.7	38
McClellan.....	4,718	993	218	16.1	20.2	21.3	28
Eustis.....	1,745	67	10	14.8	4.0	16.2	36
Newport News..	3,897	601	195	14.2	15.5	30.5	34
Upton.....	5,690	974	343	13.9	19.2	34.9	48
Sherman.....	4,789	1,717	1,058	13.5	35.7	61.3	32
Kearney.....	2,459	186	37	13.5	7.9	19.8	34
Gordon.....	4,155	626	192	11.3	14.8	30.4	42
Johnston.....	2,117	383	161	11.1	18.2	40.9	30
<b>Group 4</b>							
Fremont.....	2,347	392	132	9.8	16.1	31.2	23
Lewis.....	3,141	994	148	9.7	31.6	14.8	33
Wheeler.....	70	361	61	0.8	516.0	17.8	



Journal of the American Medical Association December 19, 1918

## THE AFTERMATH

- Several Doctors and Scientists spent their lives getting to the bottom of the pandemic.
- Alfred W. Crosby      Paul Lewis
- Richard Shope      Kristy Duncan
- Johan Hultin      Jeffery K. Taubenberger
  
- Their continued efforts finally discovered the DNA and RNA strands creating the virus- Avian AND Swine flu!