



THE
SUNFLOWER
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
RENO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 42 ISSUE 1 - February 2020 - ISSN 1048-048X

1918 Flu Pandemic

Reno County has faced epidemics and pandemics on several occasions throughout history. The 1918 influenza pandemic brought concerns and quarantines to our ancestors across the world.

EPIDEMIC OF INFLUENZA THREATENS TO SPREAD OVER THE WHOLE WORLD

July 10, 1918. Kansas is preparing to face another international epidemic of influenza, commonly known in America as “the grippe.” The obnoxious disease first became epidemic in Spain a few months ago. Even King Alfonso fell a victim to it. Hardly a city or town in Spain escaped. Then it spread to Germany, and the German army became infected. So widespread was the epidemic in Hunland that the delay in resuming the German drive on the western front has been ascribed to it.

The present prevalence of the disease is the most widespread since the world-wide epidemic of 1889, when every country on the globe was affected. There were recurring epidemics in 1893, 1894, and 1895, but they were viewed as recrudescences of the persisting epidemic of several years before. The grippe plague seems to have no system in spreading itself. It jumps from one country to another, even seas and mountains.

Influenza is extremely infectious and is caused by a microbe known to scientists as “Pfeiffer’s bascillus.” The fact that it has a German name is no guaranty that its present spread is due to a German plot to make the whole world sick, for Germany was one of the first nations attacked. *The Hutchinson Gazette, July 11, 1918. Page 1.*

LATEST IN PARADES. July 10, 1918. “Gargle Parade” has been added to the numerous medical parades which American soldiers have to submit to in camp. This has become necessary owing to the prevalent wave of influenza. About 5:45 each morning the men are required to cleanse their throats with an antiseptic solution. *The Hutchinson News, August 16, 1918. Page 4.*

GERMAN GERMS ARE BUSY

September 25, 1918. The acting surgeon general of the army announced tonight that 5,324 new cases of Spanish influenza in the army camps in the United States were reported today. 644 new cases of pneumonia also were reported. Deaths from all causes in the camp reports today totalled 153, the greater part of them being from pneumonia. Spanish influenza cases reported to date total 20,002, total pneumonia cases to date 2,313. *The Hutchinson Gazette, September 26, 1918. Page 1.*

SENATE ADOPTS 12% TAX ON INCOMES

The Senate finance committee adopted a normal rate of 12% on individual incomes. The rate of 6% will apply to incomes up to \$4,000. *The Hutchinson Gazette, September 26, 1918. Page 1.*

KANSAS TO COMBAT DISEASE

The Kansas Board of Health is planning rigid quarantine rules to combat and prevent any epidemic of Spanish influenza. *The Hutchinson Gazette, Hutchinson, Kansas. September 26, 1918. Page 1.*

THIS ISSUE: THE SPANISH FLU IN RENO COUNTY

**SMOTHER COUGH
BREATHE THRU NOSE
KEEP CLEAN
IS THE ADVICE TO ESCAPE "FLU"**

So high has become the death toll of Spanish influenza in the army and navy and citizenry of this country that the surgeon general of the army Saturday afternoon issued rules to observe in avoiding the disease.

President Wilson urges that the directions be distributed widely throughout the country. The president later will order the directions placarded and posted in all government departments and army and navy posts. The directions follow.

**Look well to your cough and
smother your sneeze!
For the Kaiser laughs when you
spread disease.**

**How to strengthen our personal defence
against Spanish influenza:**

- 1 - Avoid needless crowding - influenza is a crowd disease.
- 2 - Smother your coughs and sneezes - others do not want the germs which you would throw away.
- 3 - Your nose, not your mouth, was made to breathe thru - get the habit.
- 4 - Remember the three C's - a clean mouth, a clean heart, and clean clothes.
- 5 - Try to keep cool when you walk and warm when you ride and sleep.
- 6 - Open the windows at home and at the office.
- 7 - Your fate may be in your hands - wash your hands before eating.
- 8 - Don't let the waste product of digestion accumulate - drink a glass or two of water on getting up.
- 9 - Don't use a napkin, towel, spoon, fork, glass, or cup which has been used by another person and not washed.
- 10 - Avoid tight clothes, tight shoes, tight gloves. Seek to make nature your ally, not your prisoner.
- 11 - When the air is pure, breathe all of it you can - breathe deeply.
- 12 - Food will win the war - chew yours well.

The Hutchinson Gazette, Hutchinson, Kansas. Thursday, September 26, 1918. Page 5.

OCTOBER CALL SUSPENDED

September 28, 1918. The Reno County Draft Board received orders today to recall the entrainment orders already received for men to fill the call for October. 18 men were to go the first of October but this order makes their going indefinite. The suspension of the order was caused by the wide spread of Spanish influenza in the camps over the country. *The Hutchinson News, September 18, 1918. Page 11.*

**GO TO BED IF YOU GET "FLU"
SAYS CITY M.D.**

Don't monkey with Spanish influenza, but make a bee line for bed the minute you're sure you have it - or it has you - is the advice of the city physician, Dr. H.M. Stewart. No causes of "flu" had appeared in Hutchinson up to last night, altho one suspected case had been reported and investigated. Since it has invaded Camp Funston, however, Reno county may expect to get its share sooner or later.

The present epidemic is nothing new, says Dr. Stewart, similar ones having prevailed within recent years, but the influenza is easy to catch and is very painful and distressing, not to say dangerous in itself and in its propensity to run into pneumonia.

There is no way to avoid it - except to avoid the human race - and about the only precautionary measure possible is for victims of colds to smother their coughs and sneezes with handkerchiefs. Avoiding crowds is always a good idea in such a case, but is seldom advised because it seems to affect Church attendance exclusively.

"It is easy to tell when one has this disease," says Dr. Stewart, "because it is much more severe than even a very bad cold, and is accompanied by backache, headache - in fact aches all over. It may come on very suddenly with bodily weakness, and the victim's one best bet is to jump into bed and send for the doctor. One is liable to be attacked a very short time after being exposed." *The Hutchinson Gazette, Hutchinson, Kansas. Wednesday, October 2, 1918. Page 5.*

"FLU" IS ON THE WAY

Spanish "flu" has not reached Hutchinson, City Physician Stewart stated yesterday, altho four or five people are afraid they have it. - *The Hutchinson Gazette, Hutchinson, Kansas. Tuesday, October 1, 1918. Page 5.*

THREE CASES OF "FLU" REPORTED IN HUTCHINSON

October 3, 1918. **The worst has come!** Influenza, or "Spanish fleas" as it is facetiously known to those who have not fallen into its clutches, descended yesterday upon three victims in Hutchinson. It appears to have been carried by type-lice, as the victims are all printers. They are George Straley, Gene Cotterman, and Edward R. Allen.

A graduate of the course arrived yesterday in the person of Jim Wilson, who was a victim at Great Lakes, and testifies that the "flu" is all its worst enemies have said of it, and worse. He is home to recuperate and convalesce and otherwise improve in his native Kansas air. Charlie McNaghten is another victim, but is getting along first rate, Wilson reports.

Fort Riley and Camp Funston are under strict quarantine to prevent the spread of the disease, and no draft contingents are being sent this week. In fact, nobody can get in or out except mothers and wives of soldiers, who may visit their invalids if the doctor says so.

The disease spreads rapidly, and Hutchinson will probably have its share, but doctors say there's no system in going to bed, scared to death, the minute you begin to sneeze. Influenza is much more severe than even the worst cold, and may be identified by the accompanying pains in the head, back, arms, legs, and disposition. There is no drug that will help it, the main treatment being to go to bed and keep warm. Victims are reminded that after-effects may be worse than the disease itself, and that carelessness may let one in for a spell of pneumonia. *The Hutchinson Gazette, October 3, 1918. Page 8.*

A. L. WILSON

Mr. Jim Wilson is here from the Great Lakes on a short furlough visiting his brother, Mr. A.L. Wilson. Mr. Wilson has just recovered from an attack of the Spanish influenza. *The Hutchinson Gazette, October 3, 1918. Page 3.*

ERROL McDERMED

Corp. Errol McDermed of Hutchinson, who is stationed at Fort Hayes, and who has been seriously ill with Spanish influenza, is reported to be getting along better now. *The Hutchinson News, October 3, 1911.*

HENRY SCHRADER

Soldier Dies At Camp

Another victim to the epidemic of Spanish influenza was Henry Schrader who died Saturday evening at Camp Grant, Illinois. Young Schrader had only been in the army five weeks when his death occurred. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry P. Schrader of 733 First avenue east.

His parents had been called to his bedside last week and the mother and son, Phillip, thinking he was recovering were enroute home when the end came. Mr. Schrader, father of the young man, was with him to the last.

He is survived by his parents and the following brothers and sisters: Mary, Bertha, William, Phillip, Emma, Nellie, Anna, Pearl, George, and Robert. Funeral services will be held tomorrow from the home.

Mayor Frank Vincent ordered that all flags on city buildings be placed at half mast today honoring a Hutchinson soldier, Henry Schrader, who died of influenza at Camp Grant and who was laid to rest **at Fairlawn Burial Park today.** *The Hutchinson News, October 9, 1911. Page 9.*

NO SERIOUS CASES OF INFLUENZA

No alarming developments have come to light on the matter of the quarantine of the city against an epidemic of the prevalent Spanish Influenza. Yesterday about 55 cases were reported and up until 2 o'clock today the doctors have reported 30 new cases. Quarantine cards are getting out as fast as possible. At six o'clock all public gatherings were called off, no clubs, lodges, Church, or other meetings where people congregate either in public or in the homes will be allowed. It is only with the help of the people that a wave of the influenza can be stopped. *The Hutchinson News, October 9, 1918. Page 9.*

ELKS ARE TO ASSIST

"It has come to our knowledge that on account of the wide spread increase of influenza epidemic, that our hospitals may not be able to care for all patients who must have careful attention. If it should be necessary to provide further emergency hospital room, the Elks lodge will turn over their Elks Home to be used as an emergency hospital. We will furnish the Building Administration, a trained nurse, matron, all heat, light, kitchen utensils, and janitors free of charge for such emergency hospital." *The Hutchinson News, Saturday, November 30, 1918. Page 8.*

SCHOOLS, MOVIES, AND CHURCHES CLOSED BY “FLU”

Alarming Spread of Epidemic Causes Drastic Order by Health Board. NO PUBLIC MEETINGS

All school pupils of the city, movie fans, and Church goers are to have a vacation. They must take one whether they will enjoy it much or not because the order issued yesterday by Dr. H.M. Stewart, secretary of the Board of Health, as a precaution against the spread of Spanish influenza, forbids the holding of public meetings of any description where more than 15 people may gather.

The order was issued following a conference attended by members of the city and county health board, the mayor and Red Cross representatives. Similar action is being taken by other cities of the state and is being urged by Dr. Crumline, secretary of the state board of health.

All Public Meetings Hit. Besides the schools, theatres, and Churches the quarantine will affect lodges, Riverside party, Liberty Loan meetings, parties, dances, the meetings of the Home Guard and assemblies of every other description. No action has yet been taken with regard to the county schools. It is urged by the health board that people refrain as far as possible from traveling as this is one of the most likely ways in which to contract the disease. Parents are also cautioned not to let their children gather or visit at homes, but it is not considered advisable to keep them confined indoors.

Gatherings of any kind in the open air are not prohibited.

The order with regard to the theatres went into effect at 6 o'clock last night and every movie in town was dark. The schools held their last session yesterday afternoon. Many club meetings and other social affairs planned some time ago are being cancelled, and no little inconvenience caused, but there was no complaint from any source. The general opinion seemed to be that the action was the proper thing and everyone is anxious to co-operate if by so doing the spread of the plague can in any measure be checked. So far there are but few cases here, and none very serious, but the object is to prevent the epidemic getting a start as in a number of other cities.

Cause And Cure Of Disease. In most cases a person taken sick with influenza feels sick rather suddenly. He feels sick and has pains in the eyes, ears, head, or back, and may be sore all over. Many patients feel dizzy, some vomit. Most of the patients complain of feeling chilly, and with this comes a fever in which the temperature rises to 100 to 104. In most cases the pulse remains relatively slow. In appearance one is struck by the fact that the patient looks sick. His eyes and the inner side of his eyelids may be slightly bloodshot or congested, as the doctors say. There may be running from the nose, or there may be some cough. These signs of a cold may not be marked; nevertheless the patient looks and feels very sick. Ordinarily, the fever lasts from three to four days and the patient recovers. But while the proportion of deaths in the present epidemic has generally been low in some places the outbreak has been severe and deaths have been numerous. *The Hutchinson Gazette. October 9, 1918. Page 2.*

VICTIMS OF THE EPIDEMIC

MARY THOMPSON Word came yesterday of the death of Mrs. Mary Thompson who died after an attack of the Spanish influenza while on a visit with a sister at Ravia, Okla. Mrs. Thompson was about 40 years of age. She was born in Missouri, but had lived practically all her life in Hutchinson where she was well known for the sterling qualities of her character. She is survived by her only child, Mrs. Willard E. Davis of Avenue A west who gather together with her little son were visiting in Oklahoma and all three were taken ill with the epidemic and the later two are still very ill. *The News, October 10, 1918. Page 8.*

ORVILLE HUNT Yesterday afternoon at the hospital occurred the death of young Orville Hunt, a well known piano tuner. Mr. Hunt was taken quite ill last week at Turon and was brought home. About 3 o'clock yesterday he was rushed to the hospital for further aid but it was beyond checking and he died there. He leaves a young wife and baby 10 months old, and his parents who live at Lawrence. Burial will take place in the Eastside cemetery. *The Hutchinson News, October 10, 1918. Page 8.*

SPANISH INFLUENZA - JUST GRIP CAMOUFLAGED UNDER A NEW NAME

Most Authorities Now Agree That This Disease Is Simply The Old-Fashioned Grip - the Same That Has Swept Over the World Times Without Number. Since 1831 the United States Has Had Five Epidemics.

The last epidemic in 1889-90 came from Russia by way of France and was given a French name, La Grippe. This time it comes by way of Spain.

Origin Of The Disease. Spanish Influenza, which appeared in Spain in May, has swept over the world in numerous epidemics as far back as history runs. Hippocrates refers to an epidemic in 412 B.C. which is regarded to have been influenza. Every century has had its attacks.

The Symptoms. Grip, or influenza as it is now called, usually begins with a chill followed by aching, feverishness, and sometimes nausea and dizziness, and a general feeling of weakness and depression. The temperature is from 100 to 104 and the fever usually lasts from three to five days. The germs attack the mucous membrane, or lining of the air passages - nose, throat, and bronchial tubes - there is usually a hard cough, especially bad at night, often times a sore throat or tonsillitis, and frequently all the appearances of a severe head cold.

The Treatment. Go to bed at the first symptoms - take a purgative, eat plenty of nourishing food, remain perfectly quiet and don't worry. Nature herself is the only "cure" for influenza and will throw off the attack if only you conserve your strength. A little Quinine, Aspirin, or Dover's Powder may be given by the physicians directions to allay the aching. Stay in bed at least two days or more after the fever has left you, or if you are over 50 or not strong, stay in bed four days or more, according to the severity of the attack.

No Occasion For Panic. There is no occasion for panic - influenza or grip has a very low percentage of fatalities - not over one death out of every 400 cases. The chief danger lies in complications arising, attacking principally patients in a run down condition - those who don't go to bed soon enough, or those who get up too early. *The Hutchinson News, October 25, 1918. Page 7.*

SCHOOLS TO OPEN MONDAY

After two days in which the reports of influenza patients seemed to be on the increase, Saturday and Monday, the local situation had a decided turn for the better in the past two days, according to Dr. Henry M. Stewart, the City Health officer. "If things keep on the mend as they have the past two days I feel sure that we can open up the schools next Monday. After the schools have been running several days we will extend our opening orders for the public gathering places. The Churches will be able to have services on November 10th." *The Hutchinson News, October 30, 1918. Page 9.*

MRS. RACHEL MUSSELMAN

Yesterday at Preston occurred the death of Mrs. Rachel Musselman due to Typhoid fever. Mrs. Musselman is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Musselman is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Smith of 506 Avenue C east. She was 27 years old. No particulars were learned concerning her death nor the funeral arrangements, which will be announced later.

JOSEPH GOLDBERG

Joseph Goldberg, a traveling salesman from Detroit, Michigan, who was taken ill with pneumonia Saturday at a local hotel, died this morning. He was 29 years old and is survived by his wife who came yesterday. She will take his body tomorrow to Fort Wayne, Ind. for burial.

MISS EVA McELWAIN

The second victim of the pneumonia was Miss Eva McElwain who died last evening at her home at 327 Eleventh avenue east. Miss McElwain is a registered nurse and had been in Hoisington caring for a pneumonia patient when she also contracted the disease. She returned home ill a week ago today and the end came last evening at 11 o'clock. Miss McElwain had offered her services to the government and had been accepted. She had received her orders to report for duty December 1. She is survived by her parents, Mr. & Mrs. Charles McElwain of Valley township, and 10 brothers and sisters. On account of the quarantine restrictions no funeral services can be held here. Burial will take place in the Burrton cemetery. *The Hutchinson News, October 10, 1918. Page 8.*

FEAR AND PANIC ARE THE WORST FOES TO HUMANITY

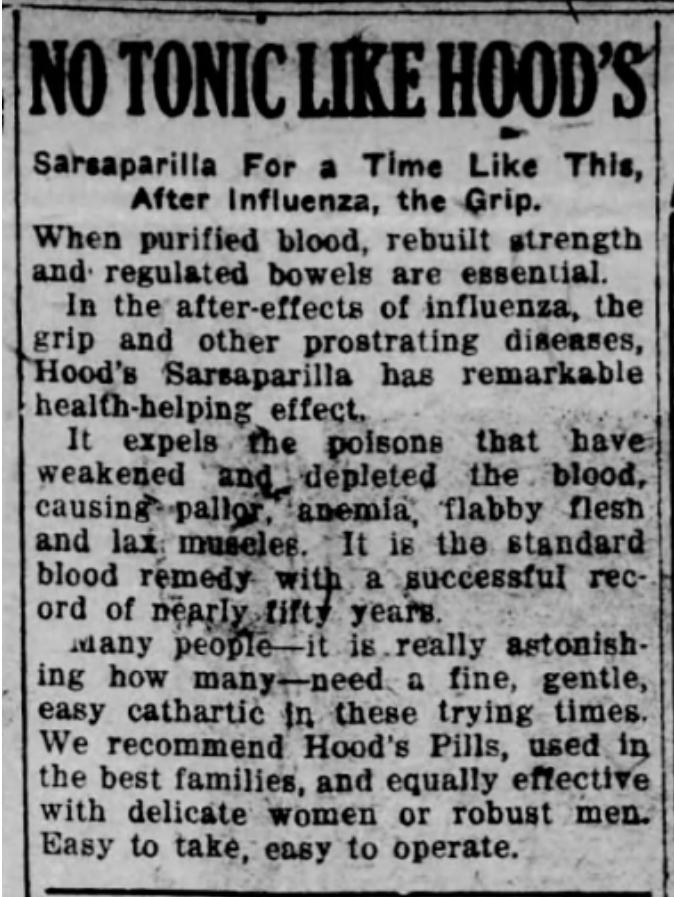
Panic is the worst thing that can happen to an individual or a community. Panic is exaggerated fear, and fear is the most deadly word in any language. The fear of influenza is creating a panic, an unreasonable panic that will be promoted, we suspect, by the drastic commands of the authorities.

Let a person become excited over the daily reports of new cases; let him brood over them; let him shake his head in dismay and with every little ache or pain that may be harmless in itself, giving himself over to dismal imaginings, and he is providing a fertile field for attack. His mind fears it, becomes receptive to it, invites it.

Not all medical men have been caught up in the panic by any means. Dr. Thomas Eldridge is convinced that if this message could be placed in the hands of every afflicted one, "it would do more to stop the spread and ravages of the epidemic than all the treatments and medicine combined." He says, "Within the last ten days I have seen scores of women and many men who were suffering from influenza fear and not a symptom of the real disease, and I know many other physicians who have similar experiences."

There is a need in this city, not to shut up well ventilated Churches, not to turn the ordinary ways of life topsy-turvy, but to impress upon the individual citizen the desirability of keeping a clean mind and to live a clean life, which he should do in any event, influenza or no influenza. Let the individual be cautioned to be sensible; to look upon the influenza as an incident which will be removed far quicker if he is sensible than will be the case if he gives himself over to abject fear. Men and women who stop on street corners and make the influenza the chief topic of conversation are issuing direct invitations to it to seize upon them.

And above all, repudiate fear. Cast it out of the mind. Remove to become panic-stricken. The chances are 99 in 100 that the man or woman who does this will be passed by, while the fearful and the panicky will be the victims. *The Hutchinson News, November 30, 1918. Page 10.*



NO TONIC LIKE HOOD'S
Sarsaparilla For a Time Like This,
After Influenza, the Grip.
When purified blood, rebuilt strength
and regulated bowels are essential.
In the after-effects of influenza, the
grip and other prostrating diseases,
Hood's Sarsaparilla has remarkable
health-helping effect.
It expels the poisons that have
weakened and depleted the blood,
causing pallor, anemia, flabby flesh
and lax muscles. It is the standard
blood remedy with a successful rec-
ord of nearly fifty years.
Many people—it is really astonish-
ing how many—need a fine, gentle,
easy cathartic in these trying times.
We recommend Hood's Pills, used in
the best families, and equally effective
with delicate women or robust men.
Easy to take, easy to operate.

The *Sunflower* is published quarterly by the Reno County (Kansas) Genealogical Society, PO Box 5, Hutchinson, Kansas 67504. To be added to the mailing list, submit materials, or for more information about the content listed in this issue, contact **Darren McMannis**, at djmcmanis@cox.net. RCGS reserves the right to edit submissions and other material for space, content, clarity, grammar, and spelling. This newsletter may be freely photocopied and distributed, in its entirety, as long as it is not reproduced for profit or personal gain.

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AS ALWAYS, YOUR RENO CO. SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOMED & ENCOURAGED