

The Spanish Influenza Epidemic In Logan County, Illinois, 1918-1920

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With the advent of COVID-19 much interest has been shown in previous pandemics. The most famous is likely the Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918-1920. As it happens a book has been written about the effect that pandemic had on Logan County. The COVID-19 quarantine is keeping it at the printers. The book captures the history of the experience of the residents of Logan County, Illinois during the Spanish Flu epidemic.

The time-line for the Spanish Flu in Logan County was early October, 1918, through the end of April, 1920. Nationally the epidemic lasted somewhat longer, having started in February and March of 1918 and ending more towards summer of 1920.

The medical records for Lincoln document that the week of October 5, contained the first cases recorded and continued being recorded throughout the period mentioned above. Deaths from the Spanish Flu began that same week. A minimum of 3,100 confirmed cases were documented in the health records or in newspapers. This is an inaccurate count. Newspaper coverage from the northwest and south east regions of the county was nonexistent. There was no county level health department that recorded all of the cases. Four hundred thirty-six deaths were documented for Logan County residents, former residents and county residents in the military. A search of the death certificates, at the Logan County Clerk's office, identified more victims who were not mentioned in the newspapers.

Much information was available about the activities in the state and in the county to contain the flu and treat victims of the Spanish Flu. The book is divided into eight chapters, each dealing with a different aspect of the county residents' experience with the contagion.

Chapter 1: Spanish Influenza. The contagion is defined as a respiratory illness just as it is now defined. Difficulty breathing, the dangerous symptom, lead to pneumonia. In those years there was no medication to control pneumonia. Many of the fatalities were due to pneumonia, double-pneumonia, or a relapse into pneumonia when the patient was thought to be nearly recovered. Although people of every age died, the flu took many more people in their 20's, 30's and 40's. Stories of national and state level efforts to deal with the contagion are included here. We also learn that there were 30,000 deaths in Illinois alone. That is about the number of deaths nationally at this time from COVID-19. Then, as now, the arguments filled the papers about quarantine, how many would be affected and how many would die. But being able to see the total of that experience from an historical perspective tells us of the mistakes that were made and give today's societies the opportunity not to repeat those mistakes.

Chapter 2: Mothers of Newborn Children. The flu was particularly hard on mothers with newborn babies. Of the twenty-one instances of that found in the research, fourteen died. Three excerpts are presented here. Each victim story usually started with notice of an illness and articles through the obituary and funeral write-up were gathered for the book. Notice that the source of the information is included in each transcription. Sometimes photos are available. Note: Bolded names identify people who died.

"Charles McCue who has been ill for several days, is reported as having Spanish influenza and his wife and little daughter, May Katherine are also reported to be among the victims of the disease." (LSWS, 1918, 1008, 8)¹⁸

"Mrs. Charles McCue who has been ill with influenza is quite ill now with pneumonia at her home on Pulaski St." (LCH, 1918, 1012, 8)⁵; (LSWS, 1918, 1015, 2)¹⁸; (LSWS, 1918, 1018, 5)¹⁸

"Mrs. Charles McCue and members of the Michael Savage family on Pulaski Street are all improving rapidly." (LCH, 1918, 1016, 8)⁵

"Mrs. Charles McCue is seriously ill, having suffered a relapse and double pneumonia has set in." (LCH, 1918, 1017, 8)⁵

Mrs. Charles McCue Dies of Pneumonia



"The fifth recent death from pneumonia in Lincoln occurred shortly before midnight Saturday night when Mrs. **Catherine McCue**, wife of Charles McCue, died at their home,

718 Pulaski Street.

"The death is a particularly tragic one as Mrs. McCue leaves a week old baby in addition to four other children. She was suffering from Spanish influenza when the baby was born, and developed double pneumonia.

"Catherine P. Savage was born in Lincoln, March 21, 1886, the daughter of Michael and Catherine Savage, of 806 Pulaski Street. She was married to Charles McCue Sep. 5, 1906, and is survived by her husband and the following children: Helen, 11; Charles, 6; May Catherine, 4; Margaret, 2; and baby Robert one week old.

"Mrs. McCue is also survived by her parents, one brother and five sisters, John L. Savage, U.S. Artillery, stationed at Fort Washington; Mrs. Jas. Sassenberger, and Anna, Agnes, Colletta and Margaret Savage, all of Lincoln." (LCH, 1918, 1021, 5)⁵; (LCC, 7, 424)⁷; (Find A Grave ID: 93621822)¹⁴; (LSWS, 1918, 1022, 5)¹⁸

Bride of 17 Dies While Husband Is In Camp

"Dan O'Dea, who lives in Corwin Township, received a telegram this morning telling of the death of his daughter, **Mrs. Willis Cluck** at Louisville. Mrs. Cluck is seventeen years of age and was married last spring. She went to Louisville to be near her husband who is in training there. She died of pneumonia." (LCH, 1918, 1016, 5)⁵

"Funeral services were held at 11 o'clock from the Ryan & Purinton undertaking rooms this morning for the late **Thelma O'Dea Cluck** who died in Louisville, Ky. Thelma O'Dea was born Sep. 4, 1901 in Logan Co. She was 17 years, 1 month and 12 days of age. She is survived by her husband, Willis C.; baby, Donald Everett Cluck and her father, Dan O'Dea. Burial took place in

Union cemetery." (LCH, 1918, 1018, 8)⁵; (LSWS, 1918, 1018, 1)¹⁸

"Mr. and Mrs. William Maxwell, who have been visiting in Bloomington, are reported to have contracted influenza and are both ill there." (LCH, 1918, 1228, 8)⁵

"Word was received this morning regarding the condition of Mr. and Mrs. William K. Maxwell who are ill with influenza in Bloomington. Mrs. Maxwell was reported as not being quite so well. Mr. Maxwell is greatly improved. Mrs. Hugh Hunter and Mrs. Wm. Bates went to Bloomington today to spend the day with Mrs. Maxwell." (LCH, 1918, 1231, 5)⁵

Baby Born While Mother Ill With Pneumonia

"A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Maxwell of Lincoln at the hospital in Bloomington yesterday morning at 5 o'clock. Both Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell are ill in the hospital, Mrs. Maxwell with double pneumonia and Mr. Maxwell with a severe case of influenza. Mr. Maxwell was reported as slightly better this morning. Mrs. Maxwell is in a serious condition, and her many friends here are anxious regarding her welfare." (LCH, 1919, 0102, 1)⁵

"A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. William Maxwell on the last day of the year, December 31st at the hospital in Bloomington, and on Thursday morning Mrs. Maxwell and the baby were reported as doing fairly well. Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell have both been ill in Bloomington with influenza and grave concern is had for Mrs. Maxwell, This is their third child." (LSWS, 1919, 0103, 5)¹⁸

Mrs. W. K. Maxwell Dies in Bloomington

"The entire community was shocked this morning to learn of the death in Bloomington of **Mrs. W. K. Maxwell** at Brokaw hospital, where she has been seriously ill for the past week with influenza which developed into double pneumonia. An infant son was born on New Year's Day since which time Mrs. Maxwell gradually

become worse. Death occurred this morning. Mr. Maxwell is still in the same hospital with influenza. The baby is doing nicely.

"Mrs. Maxwell has always lived in Lincoln and was prominent socially and has hosts of friends who are deeply shocked at the news of her death.

"Eva Blossom Blinn was born in Lincoln, the oldest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Blinn, Sept. 2, 1881. During her early life she was educated by a private tutor and later attended the seminary at Monticello, Godfrey, Ill.

"On the second of June, 1903, she was married to William K. Maxwell, who has been a prominent insurance man in the city and Illinois for a number

of years. Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell were the parents of three children, Edward Creighton, 15; William K., Jr., 10; and the infant son born on New Year's Day.

"Mrs. Maxwell was a member of the Christian church. She is survived by her husband, three children, one brother, E. D. Blinn, Jr., and a sister Mrs. Will Bates, all of Lincoln: also by a foster sister, Mrs. William Young of Bloomington.

"The remains will be brought to Lincoln tonight for burial. Funeral arrangements have not been made yet." (LCH, 1919, 0103, 4)⁵; (LSWS, 1919 0103, 2)¹⁸

Chapter 3: The Doctors of Logan County. The doctors were not immune to the disease either. Most of them caught the flu themselves. Two doctors, Paine, of New Holland and Brock of Atlanta, died of Spanish Influenza with complications. To compound the problem, about half of the doctors in the county were called to the army camps to help stem the suffering of the soldiers, putting a heavy load on the remaining doctors. When Hartsburg's doctor came down with the flu, his 65 flu patients had no one to call for help.

"Hit hard in Mt. Pulaski, too - Harry Van Hook writes in his book, 'Three Miles From Salt Creek', that his dad, Dr. Forrest Van Hook, was absent from his house for days going about the countryside treating the sick and dying. Harry writes that his dad told him he'd go into a farm house and most or all of the family would be sick in bed, with the dead children on the kitchen floor." (Phil Bertoni - Facebook, Logan County Genealogical & Historical Society, Oct 1, 2018)¹¹; (Van Hook, 2005, 10)¹³

Chapter 4: Families That Experienced Multiple Deaths. All chapters contain tragic events as we saw in Chapter 2. This chapter records the experiences of families where more than one death occurred. This happened more than one might think. Here are a few excerpts from the multitude included in Chapter 4.

"One of the few deaths reported here from influenza is that of little **Harley Francis Shehorn** aged 6 years, 1 month and 15 days who died at the family home, 329 Sherman Street Thursday Oct. 24. The decedent is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William R. Shehorn. He was born here November 9, 1911. He is survived by his parents, four brothers of four sisters. The entire family excepting one son is now or recently has been ill." (LSWS, 1918, 1029, 4)¹⁸

"**Raymond Shehorn**, 1, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Shehorn, died of influenza at his parent's home, 329 Sherman Street at 4 p. m. Sunday.

"A brother, 7, was buried only last Friday. The entire family has been ill with influenza, but the parents and the remaining seven children are improved." (LCH, 1918, 1028, 5)⁵; (LSWS, 1918, 1029, 4)¹⁸

"**Sarah Bailey**, 26, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James J. Bailey died at the family home at 121 Monroe Street, at 2 o'clock this afternoon of influenza pneumonia. She is a sister of **George**

Bailey, U. S. Navy, who died in the east last spring.

"Surviving are the parents, and following brothers and sisters: Mrs. George Tutwiler, Streator; Mrs. John O'Dea, Springfield; Mrs. Thomas Fulk, Harry, Earl, Ruby, Mildred and Irene, of Lincoln. Mrs. Fulk and her baby are ill with influenza." (LCH, 1918, 1028, 8)⁵; (LCC, 7, 335)⁷

"Sarah Jane Bailey of 121 Monroe died at her home Monday at the age of 30 years, 7 months and 21 days. She was born in Lincoln July 7, 1888, the daughter of James M. and Olive Thompson Bailey. The decedent is survived by the following brothers and sisters: Ira B., in Colorado; Nellie Tutwiler, Streator; Flora O'Dea, Springfield; Mrs. Pauline Folk, Earl E., Ruby V., Olive F., and Blanche M., of this city." (LSWS, 1918, 1101, 4)¹⁸

"Isadore Burnstine went to Springfield this afternoon to attend the funeral of his brother, **Michael Burnstine**, who died Sunday morning at St. John's hospital of pneumonia.

"Mr. Burnstine was removed to the hospital only Saturday suffering from pneumonia, and his decline was most rapid." (LCH, 1918, 1021, 1)⁵; (LSWS, 1918, 1022, 4)¹⁸

Another Brother of I. Burnstine is Dead

"Isadore Burnstine has received word of the death of another brother **Benjamin Burnstine**, aged 42, at Springfield. Another brother **Michael Burnstine**, had only been buried a day or two before Benjamin Burnstine died. Pneumonia was the cause. Isador Burnstine was ill today, suffering from a nervous breakdown and could not go to Springfield for the funeral." (LCH, 1918, 1024, 1)⁵; (LSWS, 1918, 1025, 5)¹⁸

"Leo Burnstine, formerly of the Star theatre for a number of months in training at Ft. Washington, Md. has arrived in Lincoln, coming to attend the funeral services for his brother, Benjamin Burnstine at Springfield. Isadore Burnstine, who has been ill, is better." (LSWS, 1918, 1029, 3)¹⁸

"Isadore Burnstine, who has been numbered among the sick patients for several days, was

reported on Tuesday as feeling much improved but he still remains pretty close at home." (LSWS, 1918, 1101, 2)¹⁸

Loses Entire Family by Spanish Influenza

"Benjamin **Winkelmeyer**, for seven years an employee of the Lincoln Collar Co., is seriously ill with influenza at the St. Margaret's hospital in Kansas City. His **wife and daughter** both died at the same hospital. His son, **Edward**, also a harness-maker and a former employee of the Lincoln firm died in St. Joseph, Mo. and another son, **Joe**, died in the Navy, all from influenza." (LCH, 1918, 1107, 1)⁵

Three Influenza Deaths Occur at Mt. Pulaski

"Three deaths from influenza have occurred here in the last two days. Two of them were **children** of Mr. and Mrs. **Groetski**; one died Monday morning and was buried that evening. Another passed away today, as did also a **child** of Mr. and Mrs. David **Connoly**. The parents and ten children in the Groetski family were ill at the same time. Mrs. Groetski is in a serious condition. The neighbors, church people, Red Cross women, and others are helping them and seven children have been taken into homes of sympathizing friends." (LCH, 1918, 1203, 8)⁵

Margaret Gertrude Groetski, age 3, of Mt. Pulaski, died of influenza on December 2, 1918. (LCC, 7, 376)⁷

Bertha Irene Groetski, age 2, of Mt. Pulaski, died of influenza on December 3, 1918. (LCC, 7, 376)⁷

Third Groetski Child Dies at Mt. Pulaski

"Mr. and Mrs. **Groetski** of Mt. Pulaski have **lost three children** within the past week with influenza. The death of the first one occurred on Dec. 3 and the second on the day following. Yesterday morning the third child passed away after a two weeks illness. Both Mr. and Mrs. Groetski and their ten children were ill at the same time and friends and neighbors and Red Cross women took care of them." (LCH, 1918, 1211, 2)⁵

"**Dean Groetski**, age 6, the third child of Mr. and Mrs. George Groetski, to die of the influenza,

died Tuesday morning. The other seven are getting better." (LCH, 1918, 1212, 3)⁵; (LSWS, 1918, 1213, 4)¹⁸; (LCC, 7, 378)⁸

Chapter 5: Deaths of Caregivers. Caregivers include trained nurses and family members taking care of each other. One report from the U.S. Army told of at least 200 nurses who died of Spanish Influenza while treating soldiers in the camps in the U.S. and overseas. Two young women from Logan County died during nurses training when they were learning to take care of influenza patients. Locally, there were two stories where grown children, with children of their own, died while caring for parents with Spanish Influenza. Some victims survived for a time. Spanish Influenza damaged internal organs that caused death months or years later.



"Miss Josie Herberger, a well known former trained nurse of this city now of the Cook County Hospital force, is seriously ill with Spanish influenza and her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. George Herberger, were summoned to her bedside on Saturday evening. Word received from them Sunday stated she was slightly better but still seriously ill." (LSWS, 1918, 1001, 1)¹⁸

Miss **Josephine Herberger**, formerly of 566 Eighth Street, died Wednesday, October 1, 1918, in the Cook County Hospital of Spanish Influenza and heart trouble. She was taken ill Saturday. Miss Herberger has been for the past three years in the Illinois Training School of Nurses. She would have finished her course in two months.

Mary Josephine Herberger was born March 12, 1890 and was 28 years of age. She was born in Lincoln and has many friends and relatives here. She attended the public schools and took a nurses training course at the Lincoln State School and Colony and was a member of the Presbyterian

Church where she was a teacher in the primary department for several years.

She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Herberger, and had the following brothers and sisters: George, Raymond and Herbert and Leo and Lexie, the latter two deceased.

The remains will be brought to Lincoln this evening and taken to the family home, 566 Eighth St." (LCH, 1918, 1002, 1)⁵; (ISWDI)⁹; (LSWS, 1918, 1004, 2)¹⁸

Miss Minnie Conklin Dies in Tacoma, Wash

"Mt. Pulaski, Oct 25 - "Word was received here of the death of Miss **Minnie Conklin**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Conklin of Wichita, Kans. Her mother was formerly Miss Laura Capps, daughter of Ebenezer Capps of this city and her father, in the seventies, published a newspaper in Mt. Pulaski. The news came in a letter to her aunt, Mrs. W. H. Stafford from Mrs. Katie Seyfer, wife of Jacob Seyfer, one time a sheriff of Logan County, but now a resident of Arkansas City. Miss Conklin died at Tacoma, Washington where she was completing a month of special training in the Red Cross hospital when she contracted influenza followed by pneumonia, which led to her death, after an illness of only a few days. Miss Conklin was for two years a teacher in the Wichita public schools." (LCH, 1918, 1025, 1)⁵

"The death of **Conrad P. Janssen**, 31, occurred this morning after the briefest illness with influenza and pneumonia. Word of his death was received with deep regret by his many friends in the city. Mr. Janssen recently went to Emden

where his parents live and with them two of his little children to nurse them thru an attack of influenza. Just a week ago he returned and at once became very ill with influenza which developed from the start into a serious case of pneumonia. A nurse from Peoria had charge of his case. His housekeeper and little daughter Florence also are ill with the disease. He passed away at his home at the northwest edge of the city. Mr. Janssen is survived by four children. Conrad P. Janssen was born in Tazwell county, May 16, 1887, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ubbe Janssen now of Emden. On Nov. 24, 1908, he was married to Miss Pearl Coogan of Lincoln. To them were born four children: Willie aged 8; Florence, aged 6; James, aged 5; and Phillip, aged 3. At the time of the birth

of the youngest child, the mother passed away. The baby Philip was taken by Mrs. Janssen's mother, Mrs. Michael Coogan, with whom he has always lived. Willie and James have made their home with Mr. and Mrs. Janssen at Emden, and the little girl lived with her father.

"Deceased is survived by the following brothers and sisters; John and Fred, of Emden and Tena Burlingame, of Lincoln, besides his parents and children." (LCH, 1918, 1214, 8)⁵; (LSWS, 1918, 1217, 3)¹⁸

"Over 200 American Red Cross nurses died of influenza contracted while administering to flu stricken soldiers both here and abroad, the Red Cross revealed today." (LCH, 1919, 0128, 3)⁵

Chapter 6: WW I. The last year of the war coincided with the advent of the Spanish Influenza Pandemic. Of the 76 Logan County soldiers, sailors and war workers who died during the war thirty-four died of Spanish Influenza. These deaths are not only documented in this book but also in the book, *Generosity, The Story of Logan County, Illinois, During The Great War, 1917-1919*, completed in 2016. Of course more had suffered the flu but never had their stories recorded. Here are a few:

Two Lincoln Boys Have the Spanish Influenza

"Raymond Steininger and Herman Shelfeffer of Lincoln, at Great Lakes Naval Training Station, are both ill with Spanish Influenza having been ill with the malady for about two weeks. They are reported to be improving slowly. Leslie Downing, at the ensign school, writes that over 100 men of his company have influenza, and he has been assisting with the hospital duties." (Donath, 2016, 289)²; (LCH, 1918, 0925, 8)⁵

Great Lakes Epidemic on the Decline

"Great Lakes, Ill., Sep. 25. - "Each of the 45,000 sailors has been ordered to write anxious relatives that he is still alive. Rumors of the influenza epidemic, spread broadcast brought in a flood of telegrams of inquiry and the authorities have found it impossible to answer all. Latest figures emphasize that the epidemic is not severe. Of 8,475 cases reported there have been 77 deaths and 5,318 cures. The death rate has been less than

1 percent, and is declining. The epidemic has reached 26 states." (LCH, 1918, 0926, 1)⁵

Discharged Soldier, Home, Spreads the Influenza

"John Sweeny, Jr., of Mt. Pulaski, returned recently from Camp Taylor, has been found to be suffering from Spanish Influenza, and a number of residents of Mt. Pulaski have been exposed to the disease. Sweeny was sent in a recent draft contingent and became ill a short time after he arrived home, after he was rejected because of physical weaknesses. Five other members of the family have also been suffering from the disease." (LCH, 1918, 0926, 2)⁵; (LSWS, 1918, 0927, 8)¹⁸

"**Omar M. Skelton** enlisted in the Navy Mar. 1918. Omar died of Pneumonia Sep. 28, 1918, at Camp Logan. His body was taken to Seldon, IN, for burial. He is buried at Selvin Cemetery, Selvin, IN." (Donath, 2016, 282)²; (LSWS, 1918, 1008, 3)¹⁸



"Armin Carl Rembe enlisted in the Navy Dec. 14, 1917, at Great Lakes, IL. He was a Hospital Apprentice 1st Class. Armin suffered an attack of the Spanish Influenza." (Donath, 2016, 261)²

"Armin Rembe, who has been suffering from Spanish influenza at Great Lakes, wrote his mother, Mrs. Alvina Rembe, that he is improving although he is still very weak. The letter was received on Tuesday and was the first that the young man was able to write since his illness because as he stated, he had no stationery and the attendants at his bedside were too busy with other sick that he could not expect attention along this line. The young man wrote of the pity he felt for the many men who were ill with the epidemic. Many of the healthiest looking specimens of young manhood with which Armin was acquainted have died from the ailment." (LSWS, 1918, 1004, 2)¹⁸

"**James E. Taylor** died in France of disease Oct. 1918." (Donath, 2016, 294)²



Bailey, George Ezikiel¹ (DIS) George was born Jan. 6, 1896.⁴ His parents were James N. and Ollive (Thompson) Bailey.⁴ George enlisted in the Navy on Apr. 19, 1917, as a 2nd Class Fireman.⁴ He was assigned to the

Battleship Petapsco.⁴ (1918 0312 p5 LCH)² George died of pneumonia at Portsmouth, NH on March 25, 1918 and is buried in Union Cemetery, Lincoln, IL.^{4,5} George was the first Logan County man in the Navy to die during WWI. (LCH, 1918, 0326, 5)²; (Find a Grave # 126797901)¹¹ Photo courtesy of Lincoln Public Library – LCWHC WWI History Collection



"**Edward Fred Krotz** of Lincoln, IL, was born Feb. 20, 1897, in Austria. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Krotz. He had been working as a ship builder at Newport News, VA. Edward died Oct. 14, 1918, at Newport News, VA. The cause of his death was influenza induced pneumonia. He is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Lincoln, IL." (Donath, 2016, 209)²

"The body of **Edward Krotz** reached Lincoln this afternoon, accompanied by the father, Frank Krotz and brother, Frank Krotz, Jr. Deceased passed away at New Port News, Va. on Monday. His death was due to pneumonia following influenza." (LCH, 1918, 1017, 5; 1018, 5)⁵; (LSWS, 1918, 1018, 8)¹⁸

"Funeral services for **Edward Fred Krotz** who died of pneumonia following influenza at Newport News, Va., Oct. 14, will be held at the home of the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Krotz, 1404 Ottawa street, Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

"Edward Fred Krotz was born in Germany, Feb. 20, 1897, and was brought to this country by his parents in 1902. They came directly to Lincoln where the father has since worked in the mines.

"Deceased is survived by his parents, and two brothers, Frank and Andy; two uncles, John and Joe Krotz and an aunt, Mrs. Frank Lengye, live in Lincoln; also twelve cousins. He was a member of the local tribe of Red Men and of the Martin society. Both organizations will march in the funeral procession.

"Services will be in charge of Father Koppes of the St. Mary's church and burial will be in St. Mary's cemetery." (LCH, 1918, 1018, 5)⁵

Harriet Simon Dies at Capital of Pneumonia

"**Harriet Johanna Simon**, the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Simon, worthy and well known residents of this community, died on Saturday evening, Oct. 12, at 11 o'clock at the Casualty hospital, at Washington, D. C. Death was due to bronchial pneumonia. Which followed a rather light attack of Spanish influenza and her condition was deemed serious since Thursday. Her mother, Mrs. Daniel Simon, left Friday night for her bedside, but did not reach Washington until Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. She wired her that she was leaving with the body, but no particulars as to the arrival in this city have been received.

"When the news of the death was received the many friends of the family were shocked to learn of their sudden bereavement, which occurred on the first trip of the daughter away from home. A brother, Sidney Simon, who has been in training at the Great Lakes recently recovered from a severe

attack of Spanish influenza and pneumonia, but was able to be at the home of his aunt in Chicago Sunday.

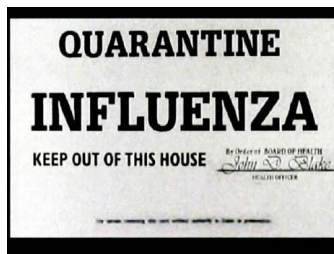
"Harriet Johanna Simon, better known as Hattie Simon, was born in Elkhart Dec. 8, 1898 and shortly afterwards came to Lincoln with her parents, where she resided. At the time of her death she was aged 18 years, 10 months and 4 days.

"She attended the Lincoln public schools, graduated from High school and Lincoln Business College, and was always progressive in her studies. Recently receiving an appointment in the war department, she left June 19, for Washington D. C., where she held a stenographic position. She sent her family a telegram eight days ago saying she was ill with influenza, but the case was nothing serious.

"She is survived by her parents and the following sisters and brothers: Sidney, Fritz, Irma and Martha." (LSWS, 1918, 1015, 1)¹⁸

Chapter 7: The Epidemic In Logan County – This is the largest chapter in the book and is divided into three sections: 1918, 1919, and 1920. Each section is filled with information from the Lincoln City Health Department Records, the county newspapers and the Death Records from the Logan County Clerk's Office. Each entry has a source. The samples below and those in previous sections show these sources. The short hand letters are explained in the End Notes: eg: LSWS is the Lincoln Semi-Weekly Star; LCH is Lincoln Courier Herald; and LCC is Logan County Clerk. Most of the photos, as seen below, are stock photos from on-line sites about the Spanish Influenza. There are thousands of names of Logan County residents in the book. The book has 261 pages. It is intended as a research tool and will be in all the libraries and historical societies in Logan County. It is in these sections that we see the attempts to contain the flu by closing schools, theatres, churches and limiting hours that businesses could be open. Then when the numbers of cases dropped and they thought it was safe, the lifting of those restrictions only to have the flu increase. That sequence was repeated at least three times late in 1918. More people were infected, damaged, recovered or died.

1918



"Mrs. Edward Maher, residing on N. McLean Street, is ill with grip and has been confined to her bed for the past few days." (LSWS, 1918, 1001, 2)¹⁸

More Women Needed to Make Influenza Masks

"Lincoln women are extremely slow in going to the Red Cross rooms to help with the contagion

ward masks which are worn by patients, nurses and doctors in combating Spanish Influenza. It should not be necessary to send out appeals every day for workers in the Red Cross rooms for this work, as the disease is becoming a menace to the country and every woman should make it her duty to at once report for work. There were only forty women working yesterday and two hundred could have been used. The Logan County Red Cross has never failed to fill a quota. Friday and Saturday will have to be record breaking days if this week's mask quota is to be filled. 'Do not wait for someone to phone you; those who could phone are busy doing your work.' said an officer today." (LCH, 1918, 1004, 1)⁵

"Miss Helen McCay, teacher of our school, still remains in the same condition, so Mrs. Harry Schoth, of Beason, formerly teacher at Mt. Zion, is teaching at her school." (LSWS, 1918, 1004, 5)¹⁸



75 Women Sew to Make Influenza Masks

"There were seventy-five women in the Red Cross work rooms yesterday sewing on the influenza contagion masks. That is a very good

showing but with the need so great, with scores of men and women dying daily and thousands ill all over the country, every woman in Lincoln, who is capable of sewing a straight seam should spend one afternoon this week at the work. The most urgent need of the country right now is thousands of these masks. This duty should be placed before every other duty of home and society for the next few days. Logan County's quota is for 5,000 masks and they should be shipped by Saturday, at the present rate of turning them, out this will be entirely impossible. Bring needles, thread and thimble. The rooms will be open every afternoon this week." (LCH, 1918, 1003, 5)⁵

"Mrs. Lemuel Anderson and daughter, Miss Bess, of Middletown, have been ill with influenza for several days." (ML, 1918, 1003, 1)⁴

"Russell, the little son of William Higgins of Pulaski Street, is quite ill with pneumonia at St. Clara's hospital. He was somewhat improved Tuesday." (LSWS, 1918, 1004, 8)¹⁸

October 5, 1918: Lincoln City Health Department Records, p344¹ - Leigh Wright, 802 Kickapoo.

John William Smith, of Mt. Pulaski, died Oct. 3, 1918 of pneumonia. (LCH, 1918, 1005, 3)⁵; (LCC, 7, 477)⁷

October 8, 1918: Lincoln City Health Department Records, p344¹ - William Berger, 197 Fourth street; Thomas Gaffney, City Hall; Thomas Watson, 312 Hamilton.

Chapter 8: Lincoln State School and Colony. Although a separate population, the residents of LSS&C were residents of Logan County. Their experience with Spanish Flu should not be overlooked. They had a separate set of doctors. Their experiences and deaths were not reported in the newspapers. However their Death Certificates are on file at the Logan County Clerk's office. The doctors and administrators worked with the city by inviting city doctors and officials to workshops held at LSS&C in regard to dealing with Spanish Flu and training nurses.

Charles Laubaugh, of L.S.S.&C., died Oct. 8, 1918, of influenza. (LCC, 7, 411)⁷

Frank Voight, a 1-year old, inmate of the L.S.S. &C., died of Spanish Influenza, on Nov. 7, 1918. (LCC, 7, 483)⁷

George Heintz, aged 31, a resident at L.S.S. &C., died of influenza on November 15, 1918. M. M. Heintz of Chenoa, a brother of deceased was here Saturday and arranged to take the body to Chenoa for interment.”(LCC, 7, 383)⁷; (LSWS, 1918, 1119, 4)¹⁸

Francis Sheridan, aged 21, a resident of L.S.S.&C., died of pneumonia on November 20, 1918. (LCC, 7, 473)⁷

Edith Ely, a resident of the L.S.S.&C., died of influenza on Dec. 7, 1918. (ISWD, LCC, 7, 363)⁸

Esbert Gabrael, of Lincoln died of influenza on December 9, 1918. (LCC, 7, 374)⁷

Jennie Konbenes, a resident of L.S.S.&C., died of influenza, December 9, 1918. (LCC, 7, 500)⁷

Anna Sarkosky, a resident of L.S.S.&C., died of influenza, December 9, 1918. (LCC, 7, 460)⁷

Mabel Richendollor, a resident of L.S.S.&C., died of influenza on December 10, 1918. (LCC, 7, 358)⁷

Elise Logan, a resident of L.S.S.&C., died of influenza on December 11, 1918. (LCC, 7, 409)⁷

Influenza Situation at the L. S. S. &C

"The influenza epidemic at the L.S.S.&C. does not show signs of subsiding to any great extent, altho the situation appears to be well in hand.

"About thirty-five of the employees have had or now have the influenza, and all are either recovering satisfactorily, or have been returned to duty after illness.

"Of the inmates, about fifteen percent have had the influenza. At present there are approximately 200 cases among the inmates.

"Deaths among the inmates, however, have been remarkably few due to influenza. Only a few of the smaller children, including several babies, have died from influenza." (LCH, 1918, 1211, 1)⁵

Adeline Ardisone, a resident of the L.S.S.&C., died of influenza on December 12, 1918. (LCC, 7, 320)⁷

Janice Waugh, a resident of L.S.S.&C., died of influenza on December 13, 1918. (LCC, 7, 493)⁷

Dr. Leonard Gives Statement of Flu at L. S. S. & Colony

"Dr. T. H. Leonard of the Lincoln State School and Colony gave out a statement Wednesday in regard to the prevailing epidemic which has invaded Lincoln State School and Colony and caused considerable extra work and shortage of help as the result of the prevalence of the same. When the epidemic first started the institution was quarantined and at present a rigid quarantine is in force which allows no coming or going from the institution. However the conditions are now under control. Thirty-five employees are ill at the colony, with twenty-five ill at their homes. Some two hundred children have the disease, and the majority of them have been mild cases, although some of the cases were rather severe. The fatalities have not been heavy and were mostly among the babies, and the more feeble and infirm patients. However the new cases are fewer and Dr. Leonard, who has been very much harassed from a shortage of help and physicians, feels that the worst is over and many of the cases are now convalescing." (LSWS, 1918, 1213, 3)¹⁸