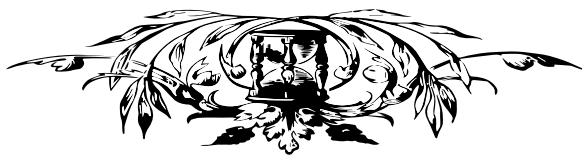


— The Hourglass —



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A family enjoying coffee and music in Uppland, Sweden, 1910 (John Alinder, courtesy of Upplandsmuseet).

HCSCC's Annual Meeting: Swedish Coffee & A Sweeter Year

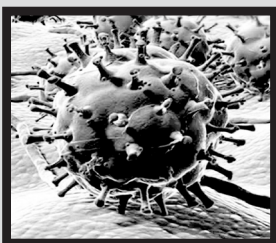
On Thursday, May 3, HCSCC is holding its annual meeting at the Hjemkomst Center and celebrating perhaps the most successful year in our history.

The meeting will begin at 6:00PM with a social and drinks. As in years past, we'll be offering a wine and beer cash bar. A 6:30PM dinner will pay homage to our community's notable Swedish roots and HCSCC business and elections will follow. At 8:00PM we'll be treated to Dr. Joy Lintelman's history of fika in America, "A Hot

Heritage: Swedish Americans and Coffee."

Please RSVP with your payment before **Friday, April 20**, by contacting HCSCC administrative assistant Lynelle Martin by phone at (218) 299-5511, ext. 6739, or email at lynelle.martin@hcsmuseum.org. You may also reserve your seats online via our website.

Tickets for the annual meeting are \$25 (\$20 for HCSCC members). We look forward to celebrating with you!



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Our thanks to the Moorhead City Council and the Clay County Commission for their continued support of local history and culture at HCSCC.

President's Message

from John Dobmeier



Greetings All,

I usually end with my heartfelt thank you for your support, but I feel compelled to begin with that sincere salutation based on the fact that 2017 was a record year for attendance. That is due, in no small part, to all of you and your generosity.

The fact that you find value in what we do here is greatly gratifying.

We are in the centennial years of "The Great War" and it's an exciting time to be a history teacher. 1918 was the last year of World War I and a year that saw large numbers of "Doughboys" serving in the United States Army with the American Expeditionary Forces. As with almost every county in every state in our country, young men and women answered the call of their nation and ultimately the world's security.

Our upcoming exhibition *War, Flu, & Fear: World War I and Clay County* will showcase our region during this epic war and pandemic. Join us Tuesday, March 13, from 4:00PM to 7:00PM at the Hjemkomst Center, for our opening reception.

We also will have another opening reception for the FMVA BIG Art Show in April and our great Clay County Get-Together will be Thursday, May 3. This year's Annual Meeting will feature Joy Lintelman sharing information about Swedish-American coffee culture.

I will leave you with this quote from President Woodrow Wilson:

The only use of an obstacle is to be overcome.
All that an obstacle does with brave men is,
not to frighten them, but to challenge them.

-John Dobmeier

Please Send Us Your Addresses!

Are you going away for the winter or coming back for the summer? Please send your alternate address to Lynelle.Martin@hscsmuseum.org to make sure you receive all the up-to-date information from us!



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HCSCC News & Events

***War, Flu, & Fear: World War I and Clay County* Set to Open March 13**

We've already parted ways with *Wet & Dry*. We're well into building the new exhibition, from info panels to a house and mock trench. By mid-March, we'll be ready to celebrate its completion and share a new round of research and stories with our community.

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, March 13**, when we open *War, Flu, & Fear: World War I and Clay County*. The reception will begin at 4:00PM and run to 7:00PM. We'll be sharing cake, WWI-era foods, wine and local beer, and talking about The Forgotten War, The Forgotten Flu, and The Lost Generation.

General admission is \$5 (HCSCC Members FREE) and the reception is open to the public.

Screening and Discussion of HCSCC Intern's Project, *The First Bloodstain*

New HCSCC intern Corinne Burrell will share a digital, cross-generational history of local experiences with menarche, the onset of menstruation. She completed the project for a digital history class at Concordia after a Smithsonian exhibition on historical feminine hygiene sparked her curiosity. The result is a short film called *The First Bloodstain* that features interviews with local women of varying ages about the subject.

Corinne will introduce the 30-minute film at the Hjemkomst Center on **Tuesday, March 6**, at 6:00PM, before it's screened shortly after. Discussion and Q&A will follow. General admission is \$5 (HCSCC Members and Students Free). Refreshments will be served.

History On Tap! Continues at Junkyard

HCSCC Programming Director Markus Krueger is continuing his popular lecture series **History On Tap!** at Moorhead's own Junkyard Brewing Company.

Join him in the taproom the first Monday of every month at 6:00PM. On **Monday, March 5**, the subject is the Cold War in 'Atomic Age: Declassified.' Congratulate the Junkyard crew on their win at the Winter Dabbler.

FMVA BIG Art Show Reception April 17

We're looking forward to another year highlighting local art with the Fargo-Moorhead Visual Artists' BIG Art Show. The exhibition opens Thursday, April 12, and we'll be celebrating our local artists and our two organizations' continued collaboration with an opening reception on **Tuesday, April 17**, from 5:00PM to 8:00PM, outside our offices near the Hjemkomst Center's 4th Floor Gallery.

Admission is free, a variety of refreshments will be served, and the reception is open to the public.

Female Ambulance Drivers of WWI

On **Tuesday, April 24**, from 6:00PM to 7:30PM at the Hjemkomst Center, Minnesota author Ames Sheldon will share her research on the experiences of female ambulance drivers during World War I. She conducted the research for her historical novel, *Eleanor's Wars*, and the project won her the 2016 Independent Book Publisher's award for Best New Voice in Fiction.

Sheldon will read from her novel, discuss her research, and sign copies of her book. Visitors are encouraged to explore *War, Flu, & Fear* before or after. Refreshments will be provided.

General admission is \$10 (\$5 for HCSCC members).

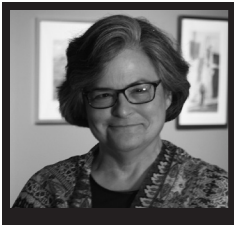
New HCSCC Staff: Emily Kulzer

Emily Kulzer, who previously worked as an intern with HCSCC Collections Manager Lisa Vedaa to digitize our collections in 3H, has joined our staff as the new Heritage Gift Shop Manager.

She's already making her mark on the gift shop's layout and inventory and she's also contributing her skills in history and design to our new exhibition, *War, Flu, & Fear*. Stop in and introduce yourself!

HCSCC Setting Sights for Big SHMVF

This spring is particularly busy at the Hjemkomst Center, but plans are well under way for a big Scandinavian Hjemkomst and Midwest Viking Festival. Mark your calendars for **June 22 and 23**. Skål!



Letter from the Executive Director

Maureen Kelly Jonason

A number of times in the past, I have written about gratitude, and that is because I always have so much to be grateful for in this work: an excellent team-oriented staff, a supportive board of directors, fascinating history and culture to share, members and donors willing to give so we can thrive.

At this moment, I am especially appreciative that HCSCC decided to take a big risk on our exhibition of *The Saint John's Bible: Illuminating the Word* AND that Volunteer Extraordinaire Anne Kaese organized over 90 community-wide programs to direct people to see the exhibition. She and the rest of our steering committee (Carol Knodle, Wendy Ward, Marti Simmons, Marcia Hardy, Mark Strobel, Mike Hagstrom, Mina Hall, Courtney Abel, Scott Mathern-Jacobson, and Tina Stanger) also recruited and trained over 40 docents to interpret the exhibition with visitors. The result was record attendance, record admissions and gift shop revenue, and record membership growth – 198 new memberships in 2017!

This issue of *The Hourglass* will, as you will see, focus on what is yet to come in 2018, but it will also look back and say a great big THANK YOU to the many people, businesses, and organizations that gave extra support this year to make so many of our dreams come true. Please see our long list of 2017 DONORS (NOT members – memberships were listed in the December 2017 newsletter).

August 1 will mark my tenth year with this auspicious organization, and I have seen a decade of growth and expansion: of the collection, of the mission, of the wide net of supporters, of the ever-more-awesome programming, of our audiences, and of our visibility in the state of MN and the upper Midwest.

Having recently completed another successful Giving Hearts Day campaign, we are also delighted to celebrate having reached our goal of \$10,000. Our board of directors raised \$5500 to match, and both generous members and donors answered the call.

Giving Hearts Day (which took place on February 8 this year) is an annual day of community giving that lights a fire of excitement under people who love to support non-profits with missions they appreciate. Organizations engaged in worthy charitable work – everything from dog care to historical conservation – are all listed under one website to make it easy to give to all one's favorites. Donations from \$10 to \$10,000 (and more!) are matched. For organizations with no medical connection, each organization has to raise its own match of at least \$4000 outside the Dakota Medical Foundation while medical-related organizations are matched up to \$4000 by DMF.

This year, 87 people made donations to HCSCC on Giving Hearts Day: 40 members, 35 non-members, and 12 anonymous donors. We heard from old friends out of state and many local supporters. Board members made calls to thank each donor personally, and all non-member donors will be invited to join HCSCC. We cannot say thank-you enough to all the people who made this one-day fundraiser such a big success for HCSCC!

Still, we'll try. Thank you so, so much.

If I had a bell, I would ring it.

-MKJ

Consider the Gift of Membership

Are you a member of the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County? Do you have family or friends who might be interested? Sign up or renew your membership today! We have several membership levels to choose from:

- Basic (Individual) – \$40
- Basic+ (Household) – \$60
- Booster – \$85
- Heritage – \$125
- Patron – \$250
- Benefactor – \$500

To sign up or to learn more about what each membership level offers, visit our website (www.hcscconline.org) and click on the "Join & Support" tab at the top menu or give us a call: (218) 299-5511.

HCSCC Exhibitions

Red River Masters:

The Birth of the Fargo-Moorhead Art Scene
Heritage Hall (through March 4, 2018)

Co-curated by HCSCC Programming Director Markus Krueger and The Rourke Art Museum's Jonathan Rutter, *Red River Masters* offers a retrospective of our region's art masters, including the gorgeous work of Jim O'Rourke, Orabel Thortvedt, Charles Beck, Cyrus Running, and Erik Ahlberg (as well as several more).

Join us to explore Fargo-Moorhead's first frontier painters, tri-college art departments, and art galleries.

We Are Water, Minnesota

Heritage Hall (March 16 through June 17)

Drawing from a variety of academic fields and sources from early Native American and Fur Trader accounts to high-profile political battles today, *We Are Water MN* explores the connections between the humanities, the sciences, and water in the Land of 10,000 Lakes. As we include local supplements in the exhibition, visitors are encouraged to reflect on our local stories and their own personal experiences with water in Minnesota to better promote positive communities, sharing a common vision in water stewardship.

We Are Water was developed by the Minnesota Humanities Center, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and their statewide partners.

FMVA BIG Art Show

4th Floor Gallery (April 12 through June 16)

For two months each spring, the work of the Fargo-Moorhead Visual Artists (FMVA) fills our 4th Floor Gallery. The art comes from educators, emerging artists, and established artists, and together offers one of the most comprehensive (and largest) local art shows in the region. Each piece is identified with artist statements reflecting each artist's influences and goals and each year brings new themes, media, and artists.

Also join us for the opening reception on **Tuesday, April 17**, from 5:00PM to 8:00PM at the Hjemkomst Center. Admission is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

War, Flu, & Fear: World War I and Clay County *Heritage Hall (March 13 through January, 2020)*

In April 1917, Americans were thrust into the middle of a brutal global war only months after electing a president who campaigned on isolationism. The following year brought peace . . . and a global flu pandemic never before seen. In between and for several years after, residents in the Red River Valley responded with courage and patriotic fervor, fear and paranoia, political oppression and disillusionment.

War, Flu, and Fear gathers these stories to explore life in Clay County and the Red River Valley only 100 years ago, a time dominated by the War to End Wars, the ill-named Spanish Influenza, and the fear and paranoia that both reflected and produced a dark time at the dawn of the American 20th century.

Join us **Tuesday, March 13**, from 4:00PM to 7:00PM at the Hjemkomst Center for our opening reception. We'll be enjoying WWI-era refreshments and discussing what many historians have called a forgotten era in the United States of America.

Admission for the reception is \$5 (HCSCC Members Free).

Focus on the Process: The Art, History, and Science of Photographic Printing *4th Floor Gallery (through April 2, 2018)*

Supported in part by the Lake Region Arts Council through a Minnesota State Legislative appropriation and The Arts Partnership through an Individual Arts Partner grant, Dr. Ken Andersen and intern Louis Zurn's fascinating photography exhibition set attendance records when it opened at the Hjemkomst Center last winter. Now this History + Art (+ Science) exhibition is back in our 4th Floor Gallery.

Showcasing a collection of photographs using historical and alternative printing processes and juxtaposing both Andersen and Zurn's stunning images with photograph and narrative panels documenting and describing the history and scientific process of each method, *Focus On the Process: The Art, History, and Science of Photographic Printing* offers a crash course on this medium that you won't want to miss.



Nurses from Moorhead's Northwestern Hospital having some fun, circa 1916. While county nurses served around the world during the Great War, those that stayed were thrust into the front lines of our fight against Spanish Influenza. At a time before antibiotics and flu vaccines, they were many people's only defense (HCSCC, Cora Ahlberg Collection).

Unearthing The Forgotten Flu: Spanish Influenza in Clay County

By Davin Wait

There's something of a local legend here about Concordia College's fall quarantine in 1918. The story goes that Concordia's President J.A. Aasgaard closed the perimeter on October 8, and as a result Concordia's student body was largely spared from the horrifying pandemic that followed: Spanish Influenza.

A November issue of the campus newspaper *The Crescent* noted the success and observed the following: "It is evident that our students are so abnormally healthy that even the 'Flu' germ shuns them." The only recorded campus death also seemed to reinforce the wisdom of the decision. Apparently a female student broke quarantine and went home. She contracted the disease at some point during her trip and died shortly thereafter. Erling Rolfsrud included the story in his *Cobber Chronicle* (1966) without sharing his source and Carroll Englehardt repeated the story in *On Firm Foundation Grounded* (1991).

The consensus among Spanish Flu historians today would support Aasgaard's choice. Quarantine was about the best available recourse. But, assuming the quarantine was executed as ordered and recorded, it was still probably lifted too early to have made a significant impact on the community's overall health. The perimeter was opened the same day another Moorhead woman, Esther Anstrup (23), died from the flu. Three additional Moorhead residents, all in their 20s, would die from the flu that month and twenty-nine more people would die in the county after November 7 — when the quarantine was lifted — as the flu moved through smaller towns and rural areas. Twenty-six more would die in December. By the end of May 1919, Clay County had lost 151 people.

In other words, Concordia may have weathered the storm, but that was more likely due to the peculiarities of Spanish Influenza than an effective quarantine.

That is, Spanish Influenza found its most vulnerable hosts in people usually unscathed by influenza: healthy people in their 20s and 30s (just a little older than most college students). In fact, this was one of the clear and more horrifying markers of the disease. Recent work in flu genomics is beginning to explain this peculiarity, as well — but first some history.

* * * * *

Spanish Influenza had arrived in Minnesota at the end of September, just as the Meuse-Argonne offensive was taking form overseas. The US Surgeon General announced it on September 25 after several Army recruits temporarily housed on the University of Minnesota campus fell ill, but it had broken out at a military funeral in Wells, Minnesota, a week earlier. Walter Paulson was being buried. He'd died of pneumonia serving in the Navy. His brother, Private Raymond Paulson, was among the group watching him go in the ground. Within weeks Raymond, his sister Anna, and the presiding Reverend C.W. Gilman were also dead.

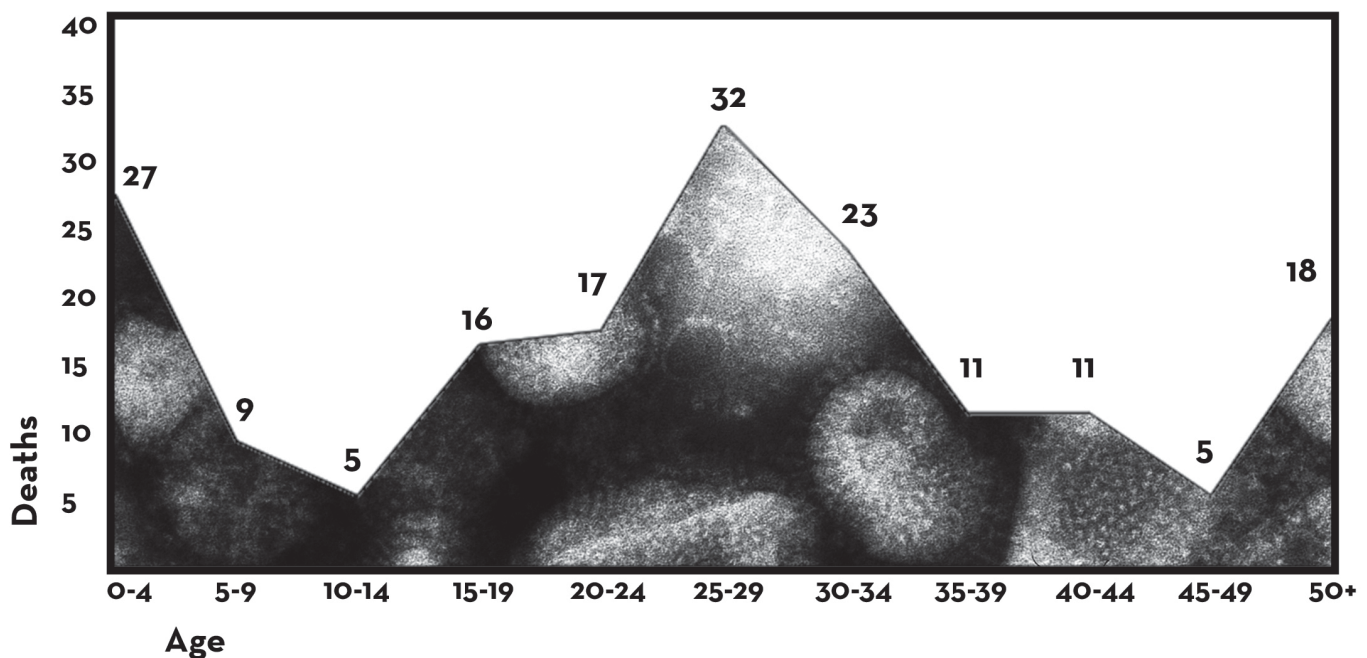
Locals here would have first heard about the flu in news reports about military casualties. When it was apparent the disease was moving through America, some of our area newspapers would note its westward path as it moved toward us in Minnesota. This allowed people in the Red River Valley some time to prepare,

but these stories were also lost in war headlines, a mid-term election, a Minnesota wildfire, and yet another liberty loan drive. Even so, not long after its presence was announced in Minnesota, Moorhead Normal School postponed the fall semester.

Then the first cases in Fargo-Moorhead were reported Friday, October 4. On Monday, October 7, infant Selma Johanna Hanson died in Moorhead. She was the first flu casualty in the county. The following day three more women joined her – Maria Letigia Altobelli (28), Ella Anderson (45), and Annie Jane Schilling (25). Moorhead's city council banned public gatherings and closed schools. On Wednesday, with 2,500 cases reported in Fargo-Moorhead-Dilworth, Concordia closed its perimeter and continued with business as usual – the best they could – within the confines. When they opened those perimeters a month later, they had no idea that the disease would eat at our community for another 15 months.

In Clay County, 174 people died from the flu or flu-related diseases. The population at the time numbered about 21,000 (0.8% of the population died from the flu or flu-related disease). Moorhead lost 68 people (1.2% of the population), Hawley lost 12 people (2.8%), Barnesville and Dilworth lost 10 people (.66%

Clay County Spanish Influenza Deaths by Age (Oct. 1918 - Feb. 1920)



A mortality chart visualizing Spanish Influenza deaths in Clay County by age and frequency. Whereas seasonal flu deaths typically occur among the very young and old, giving most influenza mortality charts a U-shape, Spanish Influenza hit 20- and 30-year-olds hardest, as the W-shape here shows. Recent work in flu genomics is explaining the anomaly.

and 1.25%, respectively), and Ulen lost 8 people (1.3%). Outside of the transportation and population centers of Moorhead and Dilworth, the communities of Goose Prairie, Ulen, and Highland Grove townships were particularly hit hard (24 deaths total), but Hawley Township wasn't far behind (16 deaths). Barnesville's flu deaths were evenly scattered throughout the pandemic and didn't begin until October 16.

When the flu fatalities are mapped, it's fairly clear that the disease made its landing in Fargo-Moorhead-Dilworth, and probably by rail. Many in these communities worked on or with the railroads, including the heavily trafficked Northern Pacific Railway station in Dilworth. The first 15 flu-related deaths of Clay County occurred in Moorhead and Dilworth. The Italian population of Moorhead and Dilworth suffered early and disproportionately, too. Five of the first fifteen deaths appear to have struck Italians. Ethnic and class isolation at the time may explain it. Sex didn't appear to be a factor. Death rates among men and women were about equal.

However, pregnancy was markedly more dangerous than usual. A definitive number doesn't exist, but medical historian John Barry cites studies that put the global fatality rate among pregnant women between 23-71%. About 40% of Clay County's deaths were young adult women, miscarriages, and stillbirths. Little Selma Hanson, the first influenza casualty here, was followed four days later by her mother Rachel (21). At the end of November, Agnes Wilinski was stillborn in Moorhead. Two days later her mother Hattie (26) followed. In March of 1919, Medalia Stockwell (25) died of flu and pneumonia along with the child she was carrying.

Dilworth suffered its 10 fatalities all in the last three weeks of October – though it should be noted that deaths after those first two weeks, even among people in rural areas, were more likely to occur in Fargo-Moorhead hospitals. Dilworth only had one Red Cross nurse, Louise Christensen, and a few volunteers. On October 19, Christensen wrote to her supervisor, "We are very, very busy, have 24 patients in hospital now. Have dismissed about 15, two have died, and perhaps one or two died last night." Her estimate would have included Louise Rae (45), who had died October 18. Dilworth counted four more deaths in the following ten days.

Though Ulen, Barnesville, Hitterdal, Hawley, and Glyndon closed their schools and banned or limited

public gatherings from early October through early November, the disease still spread to more isolated, rural areas. The first rural deaths began in Morken Township on October 14 and Barnesville and Skree Township on October 16. Like the northeastern corner of the county near Ulen, southeastern Skree and Parke townships near Rollag suffered a disproportionate number of flu-related deaths (6 and 4, respectively). Ulen registered its first death on October 18 – even though J.T. Johnson reported that same day from Ulen to the *Moorhead Daily News* that there was little illness there. Another Ulen death followed on Halloween. The Ulen-Hitterdal area would see 20 more that year.

Hawley held out for a while. Perry Pederson (30) lost his battle on October 25 and an infant, Clarice Aune, died on November 25. There were several deaths in neighboring rural townships, suggesting attempts at quarantine and home care, but December would bring a deadly winter for Hawley. Twelve villagers would die from the flu by May 18, 1919. Ten others would die in the four townships surrounding it (Hawley, Cromwell, Highland Grove, and Eglon). The region was spared from the second wave that began late December, 1919.

The southwestern corner of the county suffered several losses as well, beginning in Holy Cross Township on October 29 with Lynn Peterson (25). Another followed there on November 6, bringing a relatively high concentration of November deaths. Overall, Holy Cross registered 5 deaths during the pandemic, Alliance 3, Elmwood 2, and Kurtz 1. That region suffered during both waves, ending with Valine Larson's death on February 19, 1920, at the age of 29.

Georgetown appears to have fared well. Though the village reported infection, and census records show a notable population dip in 1920 (likely attributed to war displacement and Prohibition-inspired urban migration), only one death was registered there during the pandemic: Wells Bristol (56), near the very end, on February 24, 1920. The four townships surrounding Georgetown registered only three deaths (2 in Morken and 1 in Kragnes). The old trading post seems to have been isolated enough to withstand the disease.

The final flu casualty in the county occurred on February 29. Leap Day. A child born in Parke Township died only several hours later.

* * * * *

The result of the prolonged tragedy has been measured in a few sobering ways. There were probably more than 500 million global infections in just under two years (between 25-35% of the population). Though a large majority of those infected experienced nothing more than a few sleepy days of cough and fever, there were probably 50-100 million global deaths (compare this to the 17 million casualties of World War I). This amounted to 2.5-5% of the global population. Much of the developed world lost around 2% of their populations. Fatality rates in underdeveloped countries, particularly those in Asia, were much higher, near 10%.

Despite similar infection rates, Americans were relatively immune at 675,000 deaths (0.655% of the population), with some wide disparities. A Metropolitan Life Insurance Company study of Americans aged 25 to 45 found that 3.26% of industrial workers and 6% of coal miners died. Life expectancy in the U.S. dropped 12 years in 1918.

In Minnesota, an estimated 250,000 were infected and nearly 12,000 died (0.5% of the state population). More than half of Minnesota's 3,700 war casualties suffered flu-related deaths (2,300, or 62%). In November of 1918, deaths in the state outnumbered births for the first time.

Clay County endured at least 174 deaths in a population of 21,000 (some were undoubtedly uncounted and/or unreported). The average age of those who died in Clay County was 26.3 years. Using the life expectancy in the U.S. before the war (about 51 years), that means we lost about 4,333 years in Clay County. Of the 64 Clay County residents who died in the military, 29 died from flu-related illnesses – bringing Clay County's total flu casualties to 203 people. Our total years lost in the county was closer to 5,000. We lost a lot of life.

The most frequent victims of the Spanish Influenza pandemic were those between 25-35 years old. Many medical researchers have attributed this peculiarity to the strong immune systems of the inflicted. Apparently too strong, some write. When cells in the human body are threatened by pathogens like the Spanish Influenza virus, their first defenses are interferons, cytokine proteins that communicate the need for defense to nearby cells. White blood cells (or leukocytes) follow, disarming/killing/consuming these invaders and infected or dead cells. As you can imagine, all of this activity wreaks havoc on tissues, leaving them

inflamed and the host fevered. Inflammation is even part of the defense: if more blood is delivered to the site of infection, more leukocytes are available to fight.

But when that defense is moving too strong in too concentrated of an area, it damages necessary human tissues in what's called a 'cytokine storm' (the war analogy here would be friendly fire or total annihilation). Spanish Influenza likely triggered these cytokine storms and left a battlefield in the lungs, spaces now filled with liquid and dead tissues and offering little available defense. In fatal cases, the flu killed by hypoxia. In other words, people drowned to death in their own fluids. This is why several fatalities were marked by what was called "heliotrope cyanosis," a bluing of the skin from oxygen deprivation.

However, dangers lay ahead even for those who were able to shake the flu virus. When other pathogens — like *Streptococcus Pneumoniae* — that would otherwise be routinely destroyed in the upper respiratory system came upon this battlefield, they were able to stroll right through it to the deeper tissues of the lower lungs. The secondary infections that followed flu infection, typically viral and bacterial pneumonia, are widely believed to have killed more people than the flu itself.

* * * * *

Given the impact of the pandemic and the continued threat we face from influenza, scientists are still searching for answers. Consensus is out on the question of locating the outbreak's "spill-over event" or "patient zero." There was so much movement on this planet at the time, it's an almost impossible task. Some point to a 1916 English outbreak of "Purulent Bronchitis." Others to a 1917 outbreak in France, possibly carried to the Western Front by the Chinese Labor Corps. The strongest case seems to point to Haskell County, Kansas, where a rural outbreak moved to the Army's nearby Camp Funston and filled the hospital and barracks with sick soldiers in March, 1918. As historian Laura Spinney, puts it, about the only real consensus is that this was a deadly pandemic that picked up its name because neutral Spain was the only place journalists were willing to report on it.

However, the abandoned Ph.D. of a Swedish virology student at the University of Iowa in 1951 has recently become a touchstone in unearthing the truth of Spanish Influenza. Johan Hultin was looking for a dissertation idea when a guest lecturer offhandedly remarked that

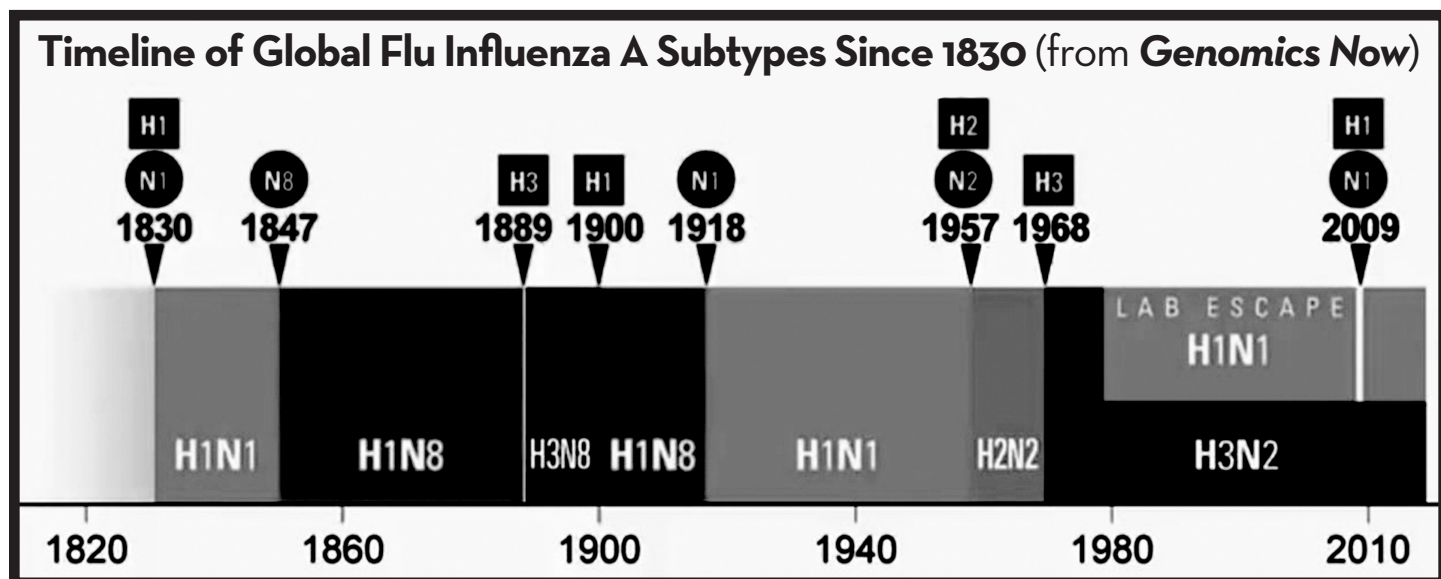
someone should travel north and find a frozen (preserved) sample of Spanish Influenza in the North American permafrost. Hultin accepted the challenge, flew to Alaska, found two destroyed graveyards, trekked 6 miles through soggy tundra and came to Brevig Mission. The flu had killed 72 people there. All but three children. But the graveyard looked promising.

After consulting the village's matriarch and council, Hultin was given permission to dig through the mass grave that had been filled thirty-three years prior. He promised that the villagers' sacrifice would help prevent the tragedy again. He found his sample six feet down, frozen, and took it back to Iowa. Then, after several tests, he ran out of tissues. The sample was gone and he abandoned his Ph.D. After some time off he returned to earn an M.D.

Forty five years later, Jeffrey Taubenberger at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology was making waves in the world of virology. He'd sequenced segments of Spanish Influenza that had been preserved in the National Tissue Repository, but he'd encountered the same problem: not enough tissues. Fortunately, Hultin was still cued into the medical world and he reached out to Taubenberger. With the Institute's funding, Hultin returned to Brevig Mission in August, 1997, to conduct a second excavation. The village had known of his previous attempt and the village matriarch was the granddaughter of the woman he'd appealed to in 1951. Once again, the council gave him permission; and, once again, Hultin found his sample. He took a larger piece.

In 2005, the full genome was sequenced, including that of the virus's important surface H- and N- proteins (these are the flu's primary weapons in both entering and leaving human cells; the different strains are identified with numbers). Taubenberger and his team determined that Spanish Influenza, an H1N1 virus, was likely the progenitor of current human and swine influenza A strains (H1N1 and H3N2), as well as the extinct H2N2 virus that circulated in the 1950s and '60s. They also hypothesized that the pathogen likely hadn't evolved from an immediate human strain. That is, most of the flu's evolution had occurred in a separate host and spilled over to humans shortly thereafter.

This was valuable information, of course, but many didn't see a smoking gun. Still not much to explain the pandemic's origin or virulence. Then, in 2014, Dr. Michael Worobey took the problem from a different perspective. Instead of searching within the flu's genome, he set it beside other flu genomes to determine its rate of mutation and isolate the divergences or branches on its phylogenetic tree. His process, using "molecular clocks" and thousands of flu gene sequences, is resulting in a new understanding of the flu. Namely, Spanish Influenza's lethal force likely arose from its markedly alien surface and the adult human body's tendency to produce antibodies designed for its childhood infections. That is, 20- and 30-year-olds had little defense against the 1918 flu. Their bodies were armed for completely different strains. Other demographics, like teens and older adults, had some defense. The elderly had already fought the battle.



This chart from Dr. Michael Worobey at the University of Arizona shows the evolution of flu viruses circulating during the last two centuries. Those born in the 1890s would have been exposed to H3N8 – two completely different surface proteins. Older adults, teenagers, and children would have some defense against the H-proteins of Spanish Influenza. The elderly would have had capable defenses for Spanish Influenza (*Genomics Now*, courtesy of Michael Worobey).

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We are such human beings; please forgive us if we have made a mistake – and thank you for your support!



News from the Comstock House

Concordia Music in the Parlor

In a partnership with Concordia College, we're hosting classical music recitals at the Historic Comstock house. Our performers, students of Concordia Music, will change each month. The music will always be great.

On **Thursday, March 8**, we welcome Koronis Woodwind Quintet. They will perform the Carl Nielsen Quintet after introducing the work with a short history.

Concerts begin at 7:00PM, but doors open at 6:00PM for light refreshments and tours. Seating is limited to 25, so we encourage you to reserve your seats. The next concert will be held **Thursday, April 12**.

General admission is \$5, but admission is free for HCSCC/MNHS members and college students.

Victorian Science Kids' Day

On **Saturday, April 28**, from 1:00PM to 4:00PM we're collaborating with Inspire Innovation Lab to survey Victorian science and inventions with a day of fun hands-on activities surveying Victorian female scientists. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Admission is \$5, but adults with kids get in free.

Two Lectures on Progressive Era Women

In addition to our Drache Lectures, our efforts to better promote both local history and local historians will bring even more great programming to the house.

On **Tuesday, March 20**, NDSU History professor Ashley Baggett will deliver her lecture, "Progressive Era Women: Public Housekeeping and Beyond," about some of the female reformers of the Progressive Era.

On **Thursday, March 22**, NDSU History graduate student Kate Savageau delivers a lecture surveying the work of Sarah Comstock and the Moorhead Women's Club.

Each talk begins at 6:30PM. General admission is \$5, but admission is free for HCSCC/MNHS members and college students. Light refreshments are included.

Drache Lectures

On, **Thursday, March 15**, NDSU History graduate student and MSUM librarian Angela Beaton will deliver a Drache Lecture with a presentation on the history of Algona Branch Camp 1. This POW camp housed German POWs from 1944-46 in Moorhead, Minnesota, and provided labor to local farmers. Angela will share their stories and explain the developments that brought the POW camp into the community.

On **Thursday, April 5**, NDSU graduate assistant Lauren Wiese will deliver a Drache Lecture sharing her research on the role of ice, from industry to entertainment, in the Red River Valley.

Both lectures begin at 6:30PM. General admission for each lecture is \$5, but admission is free for HCSCC/MNHS members and college students. Stay to chat, enjoy refreshments, and tour the historic home.

Comstock Book Talks

On **Wednesday, March 21**, we host our first book talk of spring with Laetitia Mizero Helerud. She'll read excerpts of her work, *Being At Home in the World*, and lead a discussion/Q&A session afterward.

On **Tuesday, April 3**, NDSU History professor Angela Smith will discuss the research and drafting of her biography of poet and Civil Rights activist John Beecher, *Here I Stand: The Life and Legacy of John Beecher*.

Admission is free for both book talks and includes light refreshments. Books will be available for purchase.

Comstock House Game Night

On **Wednesday, March 7**, we're hosting a classic game night from 6:00PM - 8:00PM. Two versions of Life, Pictionary, Clue, and Sorry! will be available. You bring family and friends; we'll provide games and snacks. Water and Pepsi products will be available for \$1 each.

In between the games, explore one of the Fargo-Moorhead area's most historic homes. Admission is \$5 (HCSCC/MNHS Members & College Students: Free).

HCSCC Calendar: March 1 - May 31

HC = Hjemkomst Center, CH = Comstock House

The First Bloodstain **Screening & Discussion**

Tuesday, March 6, 6:00PM - 7:00PM, HC

Comstock Game Night: **Classic Board Games**

Wednesday, March 7, 7:00PM - 9:00PM, CH

Music in the Parlor w/ Concordia

Thursday, March 8, 6:00PM - 8:00PM, CH

Opening Reception

War, Flu, & Fear:

World War I and Clay County

Tuesday, March 13, 4:00PM - 7:00PM, HC

Moorhead's WWII POW Camp

Thursday, March 15, 6:30PM - 8:00PM, CH

Progressive Era Women:

Public Housekeeping and Beyond

Tuesday, March 20, 6:30PM - 8:00PM, CH

Book Talk: Laetitia Mizero Helerud's

Being at Home in the World

Wednesday, March 21, 6:30PM - 8:00PM, CH

Sarah Comstock and the **Moorhead Women's Club**

Thursday, March 22, 6:30PM - 8:00PM, CH

Book Talk: Angela Smith's *Here I Stand:* ***The Life and Legacy of John Beecher***

Tuesday, April 3, 6:00PM - 7:00PM, CH

Frozen Existence: Red River Ice

Thursday, April 5, 6:30PM - 8:00PM, CH

Music in the Parlor w/ Concordia

Thursday, April 12, 6:00PM - 8:00PM, CH

Opening Reception

FMVA's BIG Art Show

Tuesday, April 17, 5:00PM - 8:00PM, HC

Book Talk: Ames Sheldon's *Eleanor's Wars*

Tuesday, April 24, 6:00PM - 7:30PM, HC

Victorian Inventors Day w/ Inspire Lab

Saturday, April 28, 1:00PM - 4:00PM, CH

HCSCC Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 3, 6:00PM - 9:00PM, HC

Want to Reserve Seats for HCSCC Events?

Perfect! Go to www.hscconline.org and click on the 'Visit Us' tab on the top drop menu. The calendar on the page will bring you what you need. Of course, we'll still reserve seats by phone or email (we love reservations).

Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County

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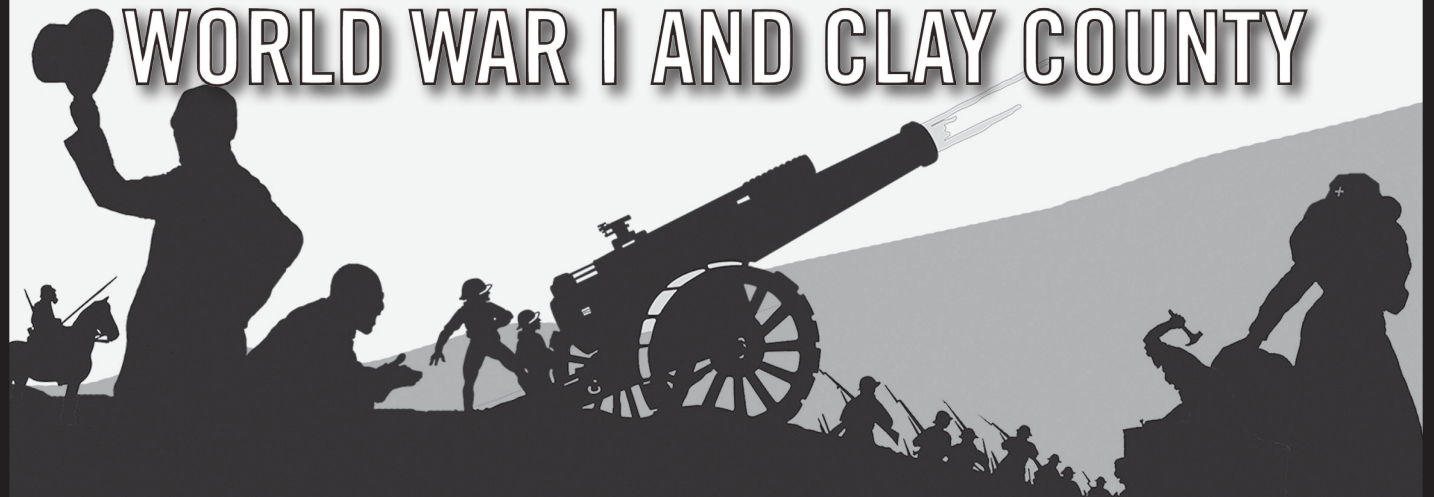


To collect, preserve, interpret, and share the history and culture of Clay County, Minnesota.

WAR, FLU, AND FEAR



WORLD WAR I AND CLAY COUNTY



Opening Reception: Tuesday, March 13, 4:00PM - 7:00PM