

Major American Epidemics

reprinted from the [Gallia County, Ohio mailing list](#) and taken from the Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County, CA Newsletter Vol. 22 No. 7; July 2000

1657 - Boston - Measles
1687 - Boston - Measles
1690 - New York - Yellow Fever
1713 - Boston - Measles
1729 - Boston - Measles
1732-33 Worldwide - Influenza
1738 - South Carolina - Smallpox
1739-40 - Boston - Measles
1747- Connecticut, New York, South Carolina and Pennsylvania - Smallpox
1759 - North America - Measles
1761 - North America - Influenza
1772 - North America - Measles
1775 - North America- Unknown
1775-76 - Worldwide - Influenza
1783 - Dover, DE - Bilious Disorder
1788 - Philadelphia and New York - Measles
1793- Vermont - Putrid Fever and Influenza
1793- Virginia - Influenza (500 in 4 weeks)
1793 - Philadelphia - Yellow Fever
1793 - Harrisburg, PA - Unknown
1793 - Middletown, PA - Yellow Fever
1794 - Philadelphia - Yellow Fever
1796 - 97 - Philadelphia - Yellow Fever
1798 - Philadelphia - Yellow Fever
1803 - New York - Yellow Fever
1820 & 1823 - Nationwide - "Fever"
1831-1832 - Nationwide - Asiatic Cholera
1832- New York & other big cities - Cholera
1833 - Columbus, OH - Cholera
1833-1834 - Kentucky - Cholera
1834- New York City, NY - Cholera
1837 - Philadelphia - Typhus
1841- Nationwide - (bad in South) - Yellow Fever
1847 - New Orleans - Yellow Fever
1847-1848 - Worldwide - Influenza
1848-1849 - North America - Cholera
1849 - New York - Cholera

1850- Nationwide- Yellow Fever

1851- Coles Co., Great Plains, MO. - Cholera

1852 - Nationwide - Yellow Fever

1855 - Nationwide - Yellow Fever

1857-59 - Worldwide - Influenza

1860-61 - Pennsylvania - Smallpox

1865-73 - Philadelphia, New York, Boston, New Orleans, Baltimore, Memphis, Washington, DC. A series of recurring epidemics of Smallpox, Cholera, Typhus, Typhoid, Scarlet Fever, Yellow Fever and Influenza.

1873-75 - North America + Europe - Influenza

1878- New Orleans - Yellow Fever

1885 - Plymouth, PA - Typhoid

1886 - Jacksonville, FL - Yellow Fever

1918 - Worldwide (high point year) more people were hospitalized in World War I from this epidemic than wounds. U S Army training camps became death camps; some with an 80% death rate. - Influenza or Spanish Flu.

New Additions: Addison County Transcription Boards

Special thanks to those of you who have been posting Addison County Records on the transcription boards. It only takes a couple of more minutes to share your newly transcribed records on one of the transcription boards. Please consider doing so. New postings include:

- Bennett-Hayward Deed - Joan Hayward Helm
- Clark, Bill, Wright-Strong Deed - Norman Scofield
- Hayward-Eldredge Deed - Joan Hayward Helm
- Haywards-Fletcher Deed - Joan Hayward Helm
- Haywards-Hayward Deed - Joan Hayward Helm
- Haywards-Kingsland Deed - Joan Hayward Helm
- Hayward-Smith Deed - Joan Hayward Helm
- Marriage record of George B. Wright and Margaret Parsons - Joan Humphreys Bixby
- Meacham-Wright Deed - Norman Scofield
- Obituary of Helen Wilson Arthur - Joan Humpheys Bixby
- Obituary of Mrs. Martin Wright - Joan Humphreys Bixby
- Smith-Hayward Deed - Joan Hayward Helm
- Smith-Hayward Deed - Joan Hayward Helm

- Sperry-Corys Deed - Joan Hayward Helm
- Valance-Wright Deed - Norman Scofield
- Wright-Halsey Deed - Norman Scofield
- Wright-Wright Deed - Norman Scofield
- Wright-Wright Deed - Norman Scofield

Salem Witch Trials Readings

For those of you with an ancestor involved in the Salem Witch Trials, the following books are must reads. This list of books and a brief description of each was compiled and written by [Rick Turner](#) and posted on SALEM-WITCH-L@rootsweb.com.

Marion L. Starkley, "[The Devil In Massachusetts](#)" Gives a accounting of the events as they happened.

Carol F. Karlson, "[The Devil In The Shape Of A Woman](#)" Proposes the theory that the social standing of the women who were accused of witchcraft were victims of the social attitudes of the times.

Paul Boyer and Stephen Nissenbaum, "[Salem Possessed](#)" Proposes the theory that the trials were the result of a *family feud* between the Putnams and the Porters.

David D. Hall, "[Witch-Hunting in Seventeenth-Century New England](#)" This book is a collection of witchcraft documents of New England covering (roughly) the period of 1640-1690.

Leo Bonfanti, "The Witchcraft Hysteria of 1692" This pamphlet, if you can call it that, focuses on the following individuals: Dorcas Good, Elizabeth Parris, the Hobbs family of Topsfield, Susannah Martin, Sarah Wildes, Elizabeth How, John and Elizabeth Proctor, John Williard, George Burroughs, Martha Carrier, and Mary Easty. Just a general re-counting of the events surrounding them.

Laurie Winn Carlson, "[A Fever in Salem](#)" Proposes the theory that the events in Salem was the result of an encephalitis epidemic. An excellent rebuttal (IMHO) was posted on the list in (I believe) November 1999. I recommend that you check the archives.

Chadwick Hansen, "[Witchcraft At Salem](#)" Proposes the theory (as I understand it) that the events in Salem were the result of sexual/social repression. The text, to me, was all very...Freudian.

Paul Boyer and Stephen Nissenbaum, "The Salem Witchcraft Papers" This is a three volume set with transcripts of the original documents. Out of print. I also think that the entire work is now on-line, but I regret that I do not know the web address. Perhaps some kind soul will provide.

Enders A. Robinson, "[Salem Witchcraft and Hawthorne's House of the Seven Gables](#)" proposes a "family feud" reason for the trials, but this time it covers the Andover phase of events. Has a lot of genealogical info, but I cannot swear to its accuracy. Available from Heritage Books.

George Malcolm Yool, "[1692 Witch Hunt](#)" The Layman's Guide To The Salem Witchcraft Trials" A general, basic, re-counting of the events with modernized spelling on quotes. I suspect it was written as sort of a "Cliff Notes" type of introduction to the events. No notes or references cited. Also available from Heritage.

Other Interesting Books

Frances Hill, "[A Delusion of Satan](#)"

Peter Charles Hoffer, "[The Devil's Disciples: Makers of the Salem Witchcraft Trails](#)"

Elizabeth Reis, "[Damned Women: Sinners and Witches in Puritan New England](#)"

Rose Earhart, "[The Diary of Dorcas Good, Child Witch of Salem](#)"

Writing Your Family History

One of the hardest parts of writing your family history is finding all the little anecdotes that make your story rich and full and which give character to the names on your charts. Ann Kerr's interview questions were shared on a recent NORCAL-L@rootsweb.com post. Perhaps they'll give you some ideas for your next family interview. Here are the first 50 questions. I'll be glad to send the other 78 to anyone who'd like them. Remember though that sometimes the answer you expect won't be the one you get. Have fun!

1. How many children do you have? How many grandkids? What are their names? How old are they?
2. Do you have brothers and sisters? What are their names? How old were you when they were born?
3. Did you have definite goals? Did you achieve them?
4. What behavior can you simply not abide?
5. What is the most important date in your personal history?
6. What was your favorite age?
7. Are you patient or impatient?
8. What are you like when you're sick? Do you like to be taken care of or left alone?
9. Was there someone your family was particularly proud of? Was there anyone of whom your family was not so proud?
10. Do you like rainy days? What do you do on them?
11. What did your dad do for a living? Your mom? Your grandparents?
12. Did your family take vacations? Where?
13. Do you remember any special stories your grandmother or grandfather told you?
14. Do you remember ever playing a trick on your brother or sister? What pictures come to mind when you think about playing together?
15. Were you considered rich, poor, or middle class? Were times ever tough for all of you, or was it always smooth sailing?
16. When you think of your parents, what do you remember them wearing?
17. Do you have a piece of furniture or family heirloom that

belonged to your parents or grandparents?

18. When you think back on your mother and father now, what do you realize about their lives that you didn't understand when you were growing up?

19. Did your father have a favorite saying you can remember him repeating. How about your mother? Do you sometimes find their words coming out of your mouth?

20. What did your home look like?

21. What was your bedroom like? Did you share it with your siblings, or did you have it to yourself?

22. Did your family eat in the kitchen or in the dining room?

What did the table settings look like?

23. Who was your best friend in your neighborhood?

24. What chores did you have around the house?

25. Were you ever seriously ill as a child? How did your mother take care of you?

26. Where did you go swimming?

27. Do you remember your favorite bedtime story or poem?

28. What was a perfect day when you were a child?

29. What were the neighborhood landmarks. The ice cream shop? Drugstore? Grocery store? What do you remember most vividly about them?

30. What did your elementary school building look like?

31. Did you ride a bus to school? Do you remember anything that happened on that bus?

32. What was the playground like at your school?

33. Did you used to get excited thinking what you were going to wear on the first day of school?

34. What did you do in the summertime when there was no school?

35. Did you have a hobby during your school days?

36. Do you remember being dropped off for your first day of kindergarten?

37. Do you like your birthday or do you dread it? What birthday do you remember the most from your youth?

38. Where was the Christmas tree in your house when you were growing up? Where did you hang your stockings? Where do you put your tree and hang your stockings now?

39. Did you and your schoolmates exchange valentines in elementary school? Did you make them yourselves?

40. As a child where did you watch fireworks on the Fourth of July?

41. Which was the best holiday of your life? The worst?

42. What was the name of your high school? What kind of neighborhood was it in?

43. Who were your friends? What did you like about them?

44. What teachers do you remember? Why?

45. What kind of extra-curricular activities did you do in high school?

46. What did you keep in your locker? Whose locker was your locker near? Whom did you want to see in the halls? Whom did you want to avoid?

47. Who did you go to your prom with? What did you wear?

48. What were the clothing trends when you were in high school?

49. What did you discover about yourself in high school?

50. If you went to college, where did you go? Why did you choose that school?

Some Common Abbreviations

AF&AM Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

AOF Ancient Order Of Foresters

AOH Ancient Order Of Hibernians

AOKMC Ancient Order Of Knights of Mystic Chain

AOUW Ancient Order Of United Workmen

ALOH American Legion of Honor

AUM Ancient Order of Mysteries- Masonic Order

BPOE Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

BPOEW Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World

CK of A Catholic Knights of America

COOF Catholic Order of Foresters

CTAS Catholic Total Abstinence Society

CBKA Commander Benevolent Knights Association

CCTAS Crusaders-Catholic Total Abstinence Society

CSA Confederate States Army

DAR Daughters of American Revolution

EBA Emerald Beneficial Association

FAA Free and Accepted Americans

F&AM Free and Accepted Masons.

FOE Fraternal Order of Eagles

GALSTPTR German American Legion of St. Peter

GAR Grand Army of the Republic

GLAUM Grand Lodge Ancient Order of Mysteries-Masonic order

GUOOF Grand United Order of Odd Fellows

IHSV Red Cross of Constantine

IOI Independent Order of Immaculates

IOKP Independent Order of Knights of Pythias

IOOF Independent Order of Odd Fellows

ISH Independent Sons of Honor

IORM Improved Order of Redmen

IWW Industrial Workers of the World

JAOUW Junior Order-Ancient Order of United Workmen

JOUAM Junior Order-Order of United American Mechanics

KGL Knight Grand Legion

KM Knights Militant

KC Knights of Columbus

K of C Knights of Columbus

K of FM Knights of Father Matthew
KFM Knights of Father Matthew
K of H Knights of Honor
K of L Knights of Loyola
K M Knights of Malta (Masonic)
KMC Knights of the Mystic Chain
KPC Knights of Peter Claver
KP or K of P Knights of Pythias
KSC Knights of St. Columbkille
KG Knights of St. George
KSTG Knights of St. George
KSTI Knights of St. Ignatius
K of SJKnights of St. John
KSTJ Knights of St. Joseph
KSL Knights of St. Lawrence
KSTM Knights of St. Martin
K of STP Knights of St. Patrick
KSTP Knights of St. Paul or Knights of St. Peter
KSTT Knights of St. Thomas
K of STW Knights of St. Wenceslas
KT or K of T Knights of Tabor
KWM Knights of Wise Men
KGE Knights of Golden Eagle
KHC Knights of Holy Cross
KKK Knights of Klu-Klux Klan
KOTM Knights of Macabees
SF Knights of Sherwood Forest
KT Knights Templars (Masonic)
LAOH Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians
LK of A Loyal Knights of America
LOM Loyal Order of the M.O.O.S.E.
MOLLUS Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the UnitedStates
RA Royal Arcanum
MWA Modern Woodsmen of America
NOK New Order Knights (see KKK)
OES Order of the Eastern Star
OUAM Order of United American Mechanics
PM Patriarchs Militant (Independent Order of Odd Fellows)
POSA Patriotic Order of the Sons of America
RMOKHSJ The Religious and Military Order of Knights of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem
RSTV Rite of St. Vaclara or Rite of ST. Vita
RK Roman Knights

SR Scottish Rite(Masonic Order)
RAM Royal Arch Masons
RO-AUM Rosicrucian Order (Masonic)
SBCL St. Bonifazius Catholic Union
SBL Society B. Lafayette
SCV Sons of the Confederate Veterans
SAR Sons of the American Revolution
SNA-AUM Shrine of North America (Masonic)
SV Sons of Veterans
TH Temple of Honor-Independent Order of Odd Fellows
UCV United Confederate Veterans
UDC United Daughters of the Confederacy
VFW Veterans of Foreign Wars
WOW Woodsmen of the World