



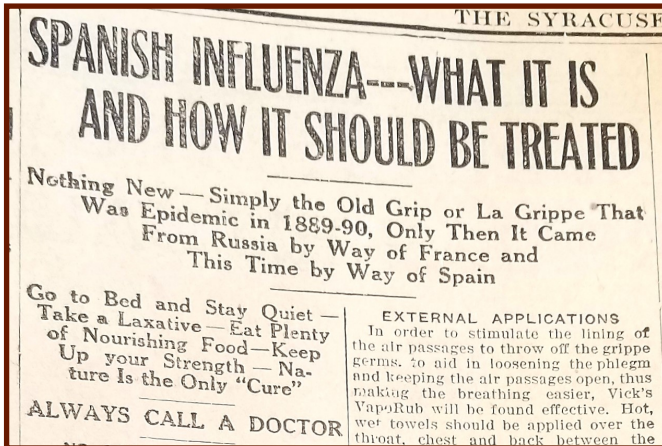
## Quarterly Newsletter

Volume VIII  
Issue II  
June 2020

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## 1918 Flu Pandemic By Jamie Clemons



From *The Syracuse Journal*

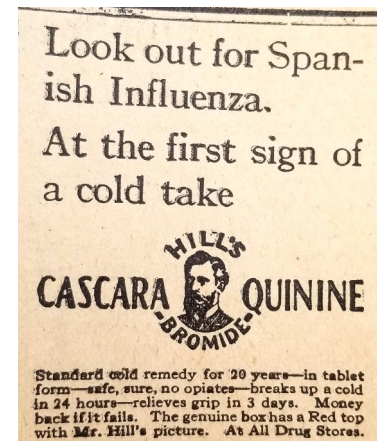
Over a century has passed since the entire world was in the grips of the pandemic commonly known as the “Spanish Flu.” The pandemic began in the spring of 1918 and grew more deadly during the fall and winter of that year. The last documented case occurred during December of 1920. The influenza strain caused people to develop severe pneumonia and, while people of all ages contracted the virus, the majority of people to die were between 20 and 40 years of age. Especially because of this, the

virus could not have hit the world’s population at a worse time because World War I was in full battle mode in Europe.

Through much research over the past century, it has been discovered that the 1918 flu version mutated somewhere in North America, though the particular location is debated. The virus infected 500 million people—about a quarter of the world’s population at the time and was second only to the Black Death pandemic of the mid-1300’s. The first observed illness was in Haskell County, Kansas, in January 1918. It quickly spread throughout the United States and then the world. It is estimated that 25-50 million people worldwide, and 675,000 in the United States, died due to the 1918 flu pandemic from secondary infections, massive hemorrhages, and fluid in the lungs.

By September 1918, Indiana had its first case of the 1918 influenza. On October 6, Indiana officials announced a statewide health crisis and ordered all schools, churches, and public amusement facilities to close. Public meetings were banned. There were notices in the Syracuse Journal advising the public to make necessary purchases as quickly as possible. Parents were advised to keep their children at home. In Syracuse, there was also the implementation of special sanitary officers, in addition to the regular peace officers in town.

By the time the flu pandemic ended, more than 150,000 Indiana residents had been afflicted with the virus, and 14,120 died. The flu was devastating to Indiana



Continues on page 2

## 1918 Flu Pandemic Continued

with over 9% of the residents that caught the virus dying. The majority of the people that died from the virus were in the prime of their lives, leaving behind young families. While the flu was not as deadly to the Syracuse area, it did claim many lives. The following is a list of obituaries (ages) found in the 1918-1920 *Syracuse Journal* listing the cause of death as flu complications:

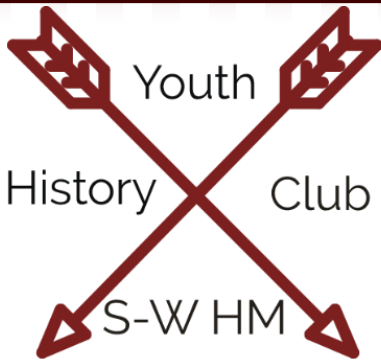


William Nyce (80)  
Solomon Sylvester Mullon (39)  
Ferne McElroy (23)  
Clarence F. Hoch (30)  
Velma Shock Hire (22)  
Robert Scott Hire (28 days)  
Mrs. Jonathan Cripe (53)  
Iva Cripe (16)  
Mary L. Culler (62)  
Iva Ethel Deardorff (23)  
Thomas Epert  
Roy Artist Garrison (31)  
Alonzo Frederick Garrison (20)  
Lucie Wood Gordy (27)  
Charles Orn  
Amanda J. Ritter (30)  
Winnie Gladys Robinson (31)  
Elva Rookstool (14)  
Jesse Rummell  
Lela Weaver (20)  
Mazie Plank (18)  
Ralph Wolfe (27)

## Recent Donations

***We value your donations. Please contact the museum to arrange a time to donate your family treasures. Thank you!***

- **James R. Miner**—Air Force dress uniform, grade-school primers
- **Cindy Brady**—Syracuse Middle School items: Track & Field jersey, Junior High boys Track & Field champion wall plaque, 6th grade boys Track & Field champion wall plaque, 7th and 8th grade girls Track & Field champion wall plaque
- **Dave & Diane Stell**—Anti-Government Movement in the Middle West, by Ron Sharp



The museum offers a variety of activities for the kids throughout June thru August.

**Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m., the Youth History Club will meet.**

This season's topics are:

June 18— Games: Inside or Out (depending on weather)

June 25—Know Your Knots w/Mike Clemons, Troop 5 Boy Scout Leader

July 2—Games: Inside or Out (depending on weather)

July 9—Farming: Wheat and other Grains

July 16—Breads

July 23—Native American and Settler Homes

July 30—Pinch Pots

August 6—Recycling Milk Jugs—Planters

Each session will last approximately an hour. Please note that some topics may run longer because they are hands-on activities.

Classes meet in the Celebration Hall of the community center.

### **Second Saturdays, 10a.m.-2p.m.**



New, hands-on family activities focused on historical crafts and the community. Each month's activity will take place on the second Saturday of the month inside the museum.

\*July 11—Board and Card Games

\*August 8—Milk Jug Planter

\*September 12—Archaeology





**July 25, 1:00p.m. “The Ties That Bind”**

Saturday, July 25th at 1:00 p.m. in the Community Center, the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum will present a Centennial Homes program featuring two Lake Wawasee Centennial families connected by marriage. Irv Deister will captivate you with stories of his family’s activities at the lake and their century old home. Interestingly, his father and twin brother



married sisters whose family summured at Lake Wawasee. Irv’s sister married into the Macomber family which is the connection to the second Centennial family – the Adams family. Marianne Salaymeh will share the fascinating history of Roy and Leona Adams down through the years as many generations have shared the two homes on the property.

Mark your calendar now for ““The Ties That Bind,” Saturday, July 25th at 1:00 p.m. in the Syracuse Community Center.

**August 15, 10:30a.m. “Ogden Island”**

Saturday, August 15th at 10:30 a.m. in the Community Center, the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum will present a Centennial Homes program featuring the Ogden Island area of Lake Wawasee. The owners of three century old homes will capture your imagination. As you turn onto the island past the Spink Condos, you’ll notice a



house on your left that has a varied history from being an eating establishment to a riding stable. The house renovation appears to be Chip and Joanna Gaines’ style. Further down Ogden Island (join us to find out the history of the name), Sue Wildman Rush and her brother, Bob, will share the history of their family home built in 1911. The old Anglers’ Cove property is also in their family, so its story will be shared along with references to other small groceries/eating establishments around Wawasee. Completing our Centennial homes on Ogden Island will be Pier #87 owned by Jim and Karen Tranter. Originally built by Claude and Blanche Mason, this home has seen a lot of lake activity over the years.

Mark your calendar now for “Ogden Island Centennial Homes,” Saturday, August 15th at 10:30 a.m. in the Syracuse Community Center.

## ***Wawasee Yacht Club history highlighted this summer in pictures***

Years ago in 1985, Paul E. Hess wrote a 61-page book which he dedicated to the memory of two wonderful friends, Edward Dodez and Joseph Plasket, whose efforts in the early years of the Wawasee Yacht Club made it possible for today's existence. The book was printed in Fort Wayne and has no copyright but only personal observations and opinions. Hess said the book was the first and the last edition.

I now have that book on loan from my fellow WYC members Brad and Daphne Wagnon and I have read it from cover to cover several times as I prepare to design a display at the museum commemorating the eighty-fifth summer of the club.

The beginnings of this sailing club were indeed austere. In 1935, four sailors, Joseph Plasket, Ed Dodez, Byron McCammon, and Henry Wahl, approached Charles Bishop at his boat livery and asked if they could use his porch as a headquarters for their sailing group. He said yes and the start of a love affair with sailing at Lake Wawasee began.

1938 was the first milestone for the club as they hosted the three-day Snipe Class International Regatta. Eli Lilly paid for all rooms and meals for the sailors headquartered at the Spink Wawasee Hotel.

In May of 1939, club members with the help of Eli Lilly were able to buy a clubhouse from the D.J. Brunjes estate located east of the Tavern Hotel. The purchase price was \$1,500. Within a few years, club members gutted the bedrooms on the main level to create a large living room space with a fireplace for club meetings. They added a sleeping area, an outdoor grill, and a well. In 1950, club members purchased and assembled a prefabricated building from Sears-Roebuck to serve as a dormitory for men and women staying overnight during the racing season.

Eli Lilly presented the Wawasee Yacht Club with its most prestigious trophy in 1949 to keep and award yearly to the skipper winning the highest number of points in the regatta series. Today, it is the club's most coveted award.

When the Tavern Hotel burned down and the land was put up for sale in 1955, the club was able to buy fifty feet of lakefront giving them a boatyard space to keep and prepare their boats for weekly races.

Today, the Lightning, E-Scow, Sunfish, and I-20 classes race weekly. Many regattas are held during the summer along with monthly parties. This September the club will host the Sunfish US Masters Championship. Active memberships at the club are \$550; junior memberships, \$275; social memberships, \$200. Junior sailing instruction is offered each summer through the month of July for ages 8-13 in the basic sailing classes and for sailors ages 13-16 in the advanced sailing classes. The cost for junior sailing classes are \$145 for club members and \$160 for non-members. Registration is available on the Wawasee Yacht Club website.

The mission of the club is to foster, promote, and encourage the sport of sailboat racing and the science of seamanship.



## Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum

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Website: [www.syracusemuseum.org](http://www.syracusemuseum.org)

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

### Have you seen our online "Donate" button?



This link allows you to securely donate using your credit card or PayPal account.



## Missing You By Jamie Clemons

Throughout the past several months, the entire nation and world has been caught in the grips of the novel coronavirus COVID-19. Despite closing our doors to visitors and our board sending me home to work, I have made a point to do everything I can get done from my home. Prior to closing, I disinfected every surface. I also have disinfected surfaces each time I stop by the museum.

I want all of you to know that I strive to keep the museum a safe place for all of our visitors. The museum will adhere to the state and federal guidelines for disinfecting as many artifacts as possible. We ask that you help us by not visiting if you are ill or have recently been ill and that you not touch any artifacts on display when you do visit. Please call or email ahead to arrange a time if you have items to donate.

The museum is part of Stage 4 governmental reopening plan. Currently, **the museum is slated to reopen on Tuesday, June 16**, provided the timeline is not set back during Stage 3 of the reopening plan. I hope to see you soon!

