



MCHS News

January 2015

Opening Doors to Madison County History

Vol. 3 No. 1

715 N Main Street
Edwardsville, IL
62025

Hours:

Wed-Fri 9 am - 4 pm
Sunday 1 pm - 4 pm
Group Tours Available

Free Admission

Museum Phone:

618-656-7562

Library Phone:

618-656-7569

Web Address:

madcohistory.org

E-mail:

info@madcohistory.org

About Us:

The MCHS museum complex, consisting of a modern archival library, a museum in the 1836 Weir House and the Helms Collection Center, is owned by the nonprofit Madison County Historical Society and operated jointly with Madison County.

The Madison County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

THE INFLUENZA PANDEMIC OF 1918

It was "only the flu." Or so they thought in the beginning, but in 1918 the influenza virus known today as H1N1 or "swine flu," mutated into a deadly strain. From 1918 to 1920 influenza and its deadly partner, pneumonia, would kill tens of millions worldwide. Here in Madison County, it was most deadly in Oct-Dec 1918 when the virus killed an estimated 500 people and made thousands more ill. It interrupted industry, closed schools and churches, and left a sorrowful legacy.

Despite being referred to as "Spanish Influenza," historians believe the epidemic probably began in Kansas, then, spread to a regional military camp during the early days of the WW I draft. The overcrowded conditions in these camps were the perfect breeding ground for the virus. And when soldiers were transferred from camp to camp for training, the virus moved with them. Eventually they carried it to Europe where thousands more died. In WW I, more men died of disease,

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The medical office of Dr. Adam Oliver in Glen Carbon, circa 1917. (Photo courtesy of Joan Evers)

JANUARY - MARCH CALENDAR

Exhibit Opening

Sunday, February 15

1 p. m. - 4 p. m.

FIRST DO NO HARM

MEDICINE AND MEDICAL PRACTICES

Madison County Historical Museum

Special Hours

Saturday, February 7

Saturday, March 7

1 p.m. - 4 p. m.

FIRST SATURDAYS

FAMILY HISTORY DAYS

Madison County Archival Library

New Exhibit Coming!

First Do No Harm

Medicine and Medical Practices

A new exhibit will open at the Madison County Historical Museum on Feb 15 focused on medicine and medical practices in Madison County.

Beginning in 1830 when Dr. John Weir began practicing in Edwardsville, the exhibit will explore the treatments and remedies for typical ailments as well as common medicines through the first half of the twentieth century.

The exhibit will also feature photographs of various medical offices from around the county. MCHS hopes that visitors will enjoy comparing past and current medical practices. The exhibit will be open during regular hours beginning Feb 15.

ABOUT US

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Archival Research Asst.
Jenn Walta
Curator

VOLUNTEERS

There are abundant and varied opportunities for volunteers at either the museum or the archival library. Please call if interested.

MEMBERSHIPS

Several membership levels are available to those interested in supporting the work of preserving Madison County history through an MCHS membership. Memberships run on the calendar year, Jan 1-Dec 31. Applications are available on our web site, at the MCHS Museum or at the Archival Library.

PUBLICATIONS

MCHS NEWS

6 issues annually
Cindy Reinhardt, Editor

WEB SITE

madcohistory.org

ARCHIVAL LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

By Mary Westerhold, Archival Research Manager

First Saturdays ♦ New Program Helps Your Family Tree Grow

Have you hit a brick wall in building your family tree? Do you have Aunt Martha's notes and need help fitting them together? Or maybe you are just beginning and are not sure where to start.

Whatever the reason, the staff at the Archival Library wants to help you with your research.

Beginning in February 2015, the Archival Library will be open on the first Saturday of the month from 1- 4 p.m. to offer genealogy help. Not only does the staff know the collection, they also spend a good deal of time researching their own family histories and have dealt with many of the same

problems you have and can offer sound advice even if your family extends beyond Madison County. The program will continue through June, and if it proves popular will be extended.

While our collection focuses on Madison County, it also includes information from many of the surrounding counties. Our collection includes books, photos and photo albums, family histories, cemetery inventories, maps, newspaper clippings, and much more. The service is free; the only charge is for copies.

So stop in and see how we can help you with your research!

MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT

By Jenn Walta, Curator

American Red Cross

In late October members of the museum and library staff were invited to collect items from the Southwestern Illinois Chapter of the American Red Cross in Alton. Recent restructuring of the organization resulted in the closure of the local chapter.

Added to collections at the museum were a variety of objects that tell the story of the Red Cross in Madison County including a number of antique patches, pins, and first aid supplies. The largest artifact the museum acquired was the white trunk with "EMERGENCY FIRST AID" painted on the side with the iconic red cross.

The Red Cross was founded when Henry Dunant realized the need for an international relief organization to help those injured during war after the Battle of Solferino (Northern Italy) in 1859. Clara Barton and associates founded the American Red Cross in Washington D.C. on May 21, 1881. She had first heard of the organization while touring

Europe after the American Civil War. During the war, Barton traveled throughout the country providing supplies to soldiers wounded in the field of battle.

Barton led the Red Cross through its first domestic and overseas disaster relief efforts as well as the organization's first effort to

help wounded U.S. military during the Spanish-American War during her 23 years of service. Since World War II, the Red Cross has expanded its scope to include services for CPR/AED training, HIV/AIDS education, and disaster relief.



Gift of Southwestern Illinois Chapter of the American Red Cross

According to the American Red Cross website, the organization introduced the first nationwide civilian blood program that now is responsible for more than forty percent of the U.S. blood supply.

The American Red Cross has provided aid in Madison County after tornados and during floods. The wooden trunk pictured above stored first aid supplies that took care of local residents during their times of need.

RECENT NEWS

VETERANS VOICES

Veteran's Voices kicked off in November and is an on-going program to collect the memories, photographs and memorabilia of Madison County veterans so their stories are preserved.

Free packets to help organize these recollections and documentation are available at the Archival Library and on our website. Please consider adding your military stories or those of your forefathers to the collections of the Madison County Historical Society. Our staff would be happy to guide you through the process so that you are able to provide a legacy of your memories for both the Society and your family.



The sounds of Christmas filled the Weir House at the annual open house on Sunday, Dec 7 thanks to (left to right) Joe and Caroline Catalano, Miriam Burns and Carol Harmon.

FAMILY HISTORY SATURDAYS

Mary Westerhold's article on page 2 gives information on this new program to help individuals with their family research, but she is far too modest to give you the real scoop! Our staff at the archival library are not "just" experienced. Mary is currently on the board of the Illinois State Genealogical Society and both Mary and LaVerne Bloemker are past board members of the Madison County Genealogical Society. All three staff members at the library have researched their own family trees for decades. These ladies know what they are doing and would like to help you explore your family history, too!

Whether just starting out, or in the process of expanding your family tree, stop by for genealogical assistance that only comes with years of experience. The museum will also be open for First Saturdays.



DINING IN HISTORY

MCHS members and other area residents enjoyed touring the Melvin Price Lock and Dam, an interesting program and an excellent meal at this year's Dining in History event. Thank you to all who helped make this event a success by coordinating the event or purchasing tickets.

Dining in History Chairman Jean Miller with one of the door prizes she created for the event.

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

October - Mid-December ♦ Thank you for supporting MCHS!

James Madison \$100

W. Scott and Marcia Delicate
Thomas Kelahan
Dan Marshall
Arnold and Jean Meyer
Mike and Cindy Reinhardt
Bob and Sandi Schwartz
Lisa Shashek

Family \$50

Norma and Eddie Asadorian
Miriam and Bill Burns
Gary and Pat Coffey
Gary and Benna Denué
Mike and Vicki Hellmann
Bruce and Nancy Hoffman
Larry and Betty Krapf
William and Elizabeth Krause
Gracie Koeller

Kathryn Scheibal
Allen and Margie Schmidt
Fredna Scroggins
Ed and Candy Wentz
Mary and Jessica Westerhold
Joyce and Robert Williams

Individual \$35

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Stella Smith
Meg Solon
Barbara Taliana
Mark Waldemer
Sharon Whitaker

INFLUENZA BY THE NUMBERS

Numbers for the flu epidemic are probably underestimated, but below are the reported deaths by influenza and pneumonia Oct-Dec 1918 as pulled from death certificates and compared to the 1910 census population. Deaths from rural areas of the county are not included. But overall the numbers provide a perspective on which communities had the most serious outbreaks of the disease.

Town	Pop	D
Alhambra	433	3
Alton	17,528	36
Collinsville	7,478	30
East Alton	534	4
Edwardsville	5,014	30
Glen Carbon	1,220	9
Granite City	9,903	98
Hamel Twp	1,078	2
Highland	2,675	19
Livingston	1,092	4
Madison	5,046	21
New Douglas	499	2
St. Jacob	534	2
Saline	112	1
Troy	1,447	7
Venice	3,718	35
Wood River	689	30
Williamson	648	1
Worden	1,062	5

THE INFLUENZA PANDEMIC OF 1918

primarily influenza and pneumonia, than were killed on the battlefield.

Lighter cases of influenza began with symptoms similar to a cold, with cough and respiratory distress, then progressed rapidly to include aches, pain, nausea, and exhaustion. Those who survived had temperature of 100-103 degrees and were bedfast on average nearly a week.

For those who suffered a severe attack, there was incredible pain and extreme chills and fever that sometimes resulted in an initial misdiagnosis of malaria or typhoid. But advanced symptoms could also include delusions, excruciating pain and cyanosis so extreme it turned the patient's skin a dark blue, almost black color.



St. Joseph's Hospital in Alton could not handle all the patients arriving with influenza, nor was it safe to have them among their general population. The Red Cross established an emergency isolation hospital in Alton and other communities. (MCHS)

Patients often bled from their eyes, nose or other orifices, air leaked from ruptured lungs causing the body to crackle as the patient was moved from side to side and their ear drums often ruptured. Some died within 24 hours, others lingered before developing pneumonia. In any case, it was a terrible death and although the epidemic was less severe here than in other places, fear was rampant in Madison County.

In addition to the fact that this virus turned deadly, what distinguished it from other strains is that it hit young men and women in their prime harder than children or the aged as most viruses had done in the past. Those aged 20-40 were more likely to have the most severe cases.

There are many statistics available regarding the 1918 flu, but from the outset it should be said that most are estimates.

Death certificates for Oct-Dec 1918 were checked for cause of death, but these are sometimes incorrect. Doctors, especially in the early days of the epidemic, either misdiagnosed or were reluctant to confirm cases of influenza because of the ramifications for the family. As per the Illinois and local health boards, homes with influenza were quarantined. A yellow sign was placed on the door, and no one was allowed to leave or enter, which meant that the breadwinner of the family could not work.

Before those terrible months at the end of 1918, Madison County had already been touched by the epidemic as dozens of young men from the county died at military camps and been sent home for burial. In Illinois the disease spread south from the Great Lakes Naval Station near Chicago, then to Camp Grant at Rockford, Illinois. Cases began showing up in Madison County in September, with the Alton Evening Telegraph (AET) reporting what they called the first local victim of "Spanish influenza" as that of 3-year-old Dorothy Louise Osborn, daughter of Professor and Mrs. George Osborn of Upper Alton on Sep 26.

The first wave of the disease struck in early October, at the same time that it arrived in St. Louis. Communities with denser populations were hit first, but even the smallest villages did not escape the deadly virus.

Having witnessed the spread of the disease across the country, local officials moved quickly to shut down their Madison County towns. Public gatherings were banned, including church services, schools and theaters. Only necessary meetings were held, but as per regulations from the Board of Health, attendees sat in every other chair to avoid close contact with others. Grocery stores remained open but the number of customers in the store at one time was limited. Saloons remained open and many thought alcohol would help battle the flu. This was perhaps a case of wishful thinking as it was later announced that whisky aggravated symptoms of the disease.

THE INFLUENZA PANDEMIC OF 1918

One Alton area man visiting Edwardsville in mid-October said there wasn't a place to buy a soft drink in all of Edwardsville, but the saloons were "wide open."



The military drafted America's best doctors for WW I which then left many communities with a shortage of medical help. Dr. Eugene Wahl, Edwardsville, served for a year at Michigan's Camp Custer where at the height of the epidemic there were over 6,000 patients ill with the disease.

As with the military, any place with large numbers of people living together were at the most risk. In Madison County, this included schools as well as the Alton State Hospital and Catholic Orphanage. As a precaution, the hospital, Shurtleff College, the orphanage and Monticello College were quarantined with no one allowed to enter or leave. The orphanage escaped the flu with a very strict quarantine, and Monticello avoided the first wave of the epidemic, but was caught in the second. Fortunately, they experienced only minor cases. Alton State Hospital, with a population of 650 people, had 40 deaths which was considered a low mortality rate for that kind of facility.

The first wave of the epidemic began in early October and was just ending about the time World War I came to an end. Whether the celebrations of peace with parades and armistice parties contributed to a second wave or it would have come

anyway may never be known, but in any case, even though some communities were still under a ban of public gatherings, everyone who was able went out to celebrate and a few days later bans were lifted in many communities and schools told they could reopen, only to close again a few days later as the number of new influenza cases started to climb again.

Additional medical facilities and personnel were desperately needed. The Red Cross opened an emergency hospital in Alton at the corner of Langdon and Broadway on Oct 28. The hospital took patients until Nov 20 when cases slowed and the facility was fumigated. Of the 90



Dr. Roy Barnsback, at the request of Edwardsville Mayor Henry Hotz, was given a 15-day deferment from military service due to the epidemic. When he left for service in early November, it was thought that the worst was over, but then the second wave of the epidemic struck.

patients treated at the hospital, seventy were discharged as cured, 16 died, one was transferred to St. Joseph's and two others taken home by relatives. In Wood River, James Chesson donated the use of a new house on Whitehall Avenue for an emergency hospital. The house could accommodate 12 patients and remained open from October through December. After the Alton hospital closed, they sent their patients to Wood River. In Granite City the Masonic Temple was converted into an emergency hospital.

MORE INFLUENZA STATS

From the Blue Book of the State of Illinois 1919:

There were 17,879 Illinois deaths from influenza/pneumonia in 1918. Deaths from the same cause in 1917 were only 1,062.

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From the American Public Health Association, Dec 12, 1918:

"Of those afflicted during the first Illinois epidemic, 65% were between the ages of 20 and 40 years. Statistics on the new outbreak show it is ravaging that portion of the population under 16.

The death rate of the first outbreak was two in every one hundred cases while the new epidemic is only slightly more than one half of each one hundred cases."

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In 1918 there were roughly 150 deaths from influenza/pneumonia in Madison County in October, over 200 in November, and about 100 in December. The total number of deaths from influenza/pneumonia for the three-month period was just over 500 fatalities in a county with an estimated population of 100,000.

By comparison, deaths in Madison County due to influenza/pneumonia in Oct-Dec in 1917 were just 28 and in 1919 there were 29. These numbers do not take into consideration 45 deaths in Jan 1919 as the epidemic lingered here for a few months beyond 1918, but with far fewer fatal cases.

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Continued on page 8

Curing Influenza

There were many promoted treatments for influenza, but none were effective. Vick's VapoRub claimed that "when VapoRub is applied over the throat and chest, medicated vapors loosen the phlegm, open air passages and stimulate the mucous membrane to throw off the germs." Vick's VapoRub placed large advertisements that looked like legitimate advice regarding symptoms, steps to take when you become ill and how to avoid the disease. They appeared regularly in every Madison County newspaper during those critical months.

A laxative ad told readers to "Be safe from influenza! Keep your bowels open, wholly free of accumulated food waste!"

An advertisement for Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery said "Do not fear when fighting a German or a germ!" All you needed was to keep your mouth, skin and bowels clean, and of course they had the product that would do the job.

Others speculated that a good strong frost would kill the virus. But they were all wrong.

Local units of the Red Cross made thousands of "influenza masks" for soldiers and many also wore them locally, but they were not very effective.

The best cure was prevention, and the best way to prevent it was by not coming in contact with someone who had the flu.

MADISON COUNTY SOLDIERS

Dozens of Madison County soldiers died while in service, many before they left America's shores. Below are just a few of their stories.



August Hellmann, 1895-1918

The Hellmann Brothers

After Heinrich Hellmann Sr. died in 1911, his widow, Emma, and her six children moved to a house in Worden. The two oldest boys, Henry (Heinrich Jr), 25, and August, 23, joined the U. S. Army in World War I and were sent to camps in different parts of the country.

In Oct 1918 Emma received a telegram advising her that Henry was critically ill with "the Spanish influenza and pneumonia." Emma left at once for Camp Custer in Michigan so she could be by his side.

Henry died on Oct 11, 1918. While Emma was in Michigan another telegram arrived in Worden with news that August, a mess sergeant in New York's First Base Hospital, was also seriously ill. By the time Emma arrived home, a second New York telegram was waiting. It informed them that the illness had also proved fatal for August.

He died on the same day as his brother.

Heinrich and August Hellmann are buried together in a single grave at St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery near Hamel.

Influenza Death in France

Edward Stille was a young man of 24 when he joined the Army in 1918. Born in Staunton, his family moved to Fruit when he was a young man. He was working as a farm laborer for William Bardelmeier near Hamel when he joined the service.

He arrived in France on Sep 9, 1918 and died 10 days later of influenza. The ships bringing troops to France also brought influenza to Europe, so it is likely he had the beginnings of the disease before reaching foreign soil.

Initially buried in France, his body was brought home two years later where it was reinterred on Nov 21, 1920, more than two years after his death.



*Edward Stille, 1892-1918
(Courtesy of Doug Garbs)*

News of Influenza

Man Dies After Nursing Wife

Oct 15 - August Meyer, 32, of Upper Alton, died after an illness of only two days. His wife had been slightly ill with influenza the week before and Mr. Meyer had stayed up late nursing her for several nights.

Collinsville Saloons Closed

Oct 16 - Although in most towns the saloons remained opened, on Oct 16, it was reported that for the first time in 35 years the saloons in Collinsville were dark.

Mother and Son Die within 24 Hours

Oct 18 - Two-year-old Delbert Rogers' death by influenza was followed less than 24 hours later by the death of his mother, Irma, who had nursed him.

Brief Wedding

Oct 19 - Marie Smola of Glen Carbon married Thomas Meyer of Alton in an abbreviated ceremony at the Catholic Church. Only immediate family members were allowed to attend because of the epidemic.

NEWS OF INFLUENZA

Private Funerals Emphasized

Oct 21 - Alton Mayor Sauvage warns residents against public gatherings, including for social events, funerals, weddings, school and church. Only saloons and business houses remain open.

Prisoner Released

Oct 28 - Prisoner Bernard Purvis was unable to make bail, but when he came down with influenza, the sheriff sent him home anyway. The Chief of Police said he would release any prisoners that contracted the disease.

Woman Advertises for Patients

Nov 5 - Mrs. Hattie Diefenbach on B Street in Granite City opened her home as a sanitarium for influenza patients.

Illness on Chouteau Island

Nov 6 - The Alton Evening Telegraph reported that every family living on Chouteau and Gaberet Islands between Alton and Venice, were ill with the flu. Farmers wives and daughters were volunteering to help nurse their sick neighbors, but some deaths had occurred on the islands.

Overseer of the Poor

Nov - Numerous articles in the Alton newspaper discussed the burden for Joe Hermann, Overseer for the Poor. Because quarantines for influenza often cut off all



George Lewis Werner was one of 13 Madison County residents who died on Nov 13, 1918 of influenza with pneumonia. A resident of Madison, Illinois, the 32 year old machinist was the father of five young children. After his death, his widow, Nora Spears Werner, and her children moved in with her parents.

(Courtesy of Kelly Scott Johnson)

INFLUENZA

An Appeal to the Public:

THE local board of health is striving to stamp out the epidemic of influenza, and it needs the co-operation of every person in this community to bring about the best results.

IF every person will remember that this is a very contagious disease and is spread by SPITTERS' COUGHERS and SNEEZERS, and will avoid everybody that spits, sneezes or coughs, they will go a long way toward avoiding the disease.

Keep out of crowds, keep in the fresh air, avoid chilling the body, dress comfortably, keep dry, keep mouth, body and clothes clean, do not visit the sick or dead, avoid alcoholic drinks and patent medicines, and at the first symptoms of a cold, go home, go to bed and call your doctor.

In this way you will do much to prevent the spreading of this disease. Do not infect others and do not allow others to infect you. If you have no business up town, STAY AT HOME!

Clean up, Clean Out and Stay Clean. Do Not Visit or Have Visitors. AVOID CROWDS!

The Collinsville Chapter of the American Red Cross

sources of revenue for a family, there were many appeals for assistance. Mr. Hermann investigated each case and made many appeals for additional donations.

Telephone Exchange

Nov 21 - Wood River's telephone exchange had so many operators ill with influenza they were having trouble keeping it open. "Girls" were borrowed from Alton and recruited from local offices.

Need for Day Nursery

Nov 26 - A group in Granite City organized for the purpose of forming a day care facility. The epidemic has increased the number of mothers who needed to work outside their homes, but many had no place to take their young children.

At that time, when the one parent died or otherwise left the family, young children often had to be placed in an orphanage if there was no family to assist. Otherwise the remaining parent could not work. The children were often later retrieved when their surviving parent remarried.

Funds Needed for Orphanage

Jan 19, 1919 - A campaign opened to raise funds for the Catholic Orphanage at Alton. Already crowded, the new orphans brought about by the influenza epidemic made the need for an additional building all the more urgent.

Local Coverage

Local newspapers during the epidemic were full of news, warnings and chastisements.

Reports on the number of new cases, and lists of the dead were on the front page along with reports on the latest bulletins from the Illinois State Board of Health regarding public gatherings and sanitation.

Editorials scolded doctors for not reporting all cases of the flu as required by the Board of Health and praised the Red Cross for the life-saving work they were doing in the community.

Sometimes they could be blunt in their criticisms. A Granite City editorial said "you men folk, don't be a dirty, filthy, beastly hog of a human being and spit on the sidewalk every time you step out of doors. Remember, that is the easiest way in the world to scatter influenza germs."

Some articles were conflicting with one saying the epidemic appears to be decreasing while another, in the same edition, recorded an increase in the number of new cases.

According to John Barry in *The Great Influenza*, nation-wide there was initially a reluctance to create a panic by reporting the full extent of the danger of the epidemic, but before it reached Madison County, the folly of not informing the public was realized.



Madison County Historical Society

Opening Doors to Madison County History

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Christmas 1918

In Dec 1918, the ban was still in effect in Edwardsville at Christmas, but was lifted for adult services only.

The custom at that time was for the Sunday School children to get bags of treats following their service. Since the children's service was cancelled, most churches made arrangements for children to get their treats at home.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church sent Santa Claus accompanied by Sunday School Superintendent Louise Travous to deliver the treats, although they arrived by automobile and not by sleigh.



Have you renewed your MCHS membership for 2015 yet? If not please do so today and save us the stamp needed for a renewal notice!

THE INFLUENZA PANDEMIC OF 1918 (CONT. FROM PAGE 5)

Nurses, most of them trained by the Red Cross, were critical. Many Madison County doctors, including Dr. Eugene Wahl and Dr. Roy Barnsback (pictured on page 5) were drafted for service. All the area doctors and nurses were overworked.

Joan Evers remembers hearing stories of how her uncle, Dr. Adam Oliver, took precautions so his family wouldn't be exposed when he was treating infectious patients. After visiting these patients, he did not stay in his home, but rather in a building behind the house and took precautions like burning clothing that he wore to houses under quarantine.

On Oct 24 the Madison County Coroner, Rob Lowe, died of influenza. As was the custom at that time, the coroner was also an undertaker. It was believed that he was exposed to the disease while working on the

bodies of Madison County soldiers who were sent home for burial.

The ban on public gatherings included weddings and funerals, especially funerals. The Board of Health required that services be held quickly and attended by only immediate family members.

By January one can imagine that students were eager to return to school. In most county towns, students lost 10-12 weeks of school. Usually the teachers were paid for the lost time, then volunteered extra hours to make up the work with students.

The flu epidemic of 1918 left hundreds of families in mourning and affected the livelihood of hundreds more. It was the deadliest epidemic in history, but Madison County residents survived under the leadership of local officials.

MARY'S RESEARCH TIP

Online Genealogy - Websites and More

You are probably familiar with many of the genealogy websites such as Ancestry.com, Familysearch.org, cyberdriveillinois.com, findagrave.com, etc. Do you also know that many of these companies also have a presence on social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest? In addition, there are many individuals who have created genealogy Facebook groups, Pinterest boards, blogs, etc.

For example, a search for "genealogy" on Pinterest results in enough hints to last you through any winter storm. On Facebook, some great hints and discussions occur in the groups. And don't forget to search for your favorite genealogy society or other research facility on social media.

So choose a few of your favorite social media options and start searching. You never know when a winter storm will hit, so it's best to be prepared with a fun indoor activity!