Access to **exceptional** Emergency Medicine, an important piece of your community and your health.
This past year, 80,000 people died from the influenza.

This virus, otherwise known as “flu,” stressed nearly every hospital in this country. Community members, too ill with the flu to stay at home, filled every available hospital bed. Staff members, including nurses, too ill to work, stayed home. Staff members who came to work helped in whatever way they could. Many jobs became more difficult due to the protective clothing they had to wear.

Midwest Medical Center, along with Galena Stauss Senior Care, felt the burden of the flu epidemic. For the first time since opening our new hospital in 2007, we found ourselves at full occupancy. Several times throughout the flu season, we had to place visitor restrictions at both campuses. Doctors and nurses in our emergency room and clinics served an influx of patients.

Last flu season, 172 children died from flu-related illnesses in the United States, a record for a flu season, according to the Center for Disease Control. About 80 percent of those who died had not received a shot. Nine Illinois children died, thus changing the course of life for their families.

This magazine shares the story of influenza today and in 1918, the year of the great flu pandemic which killed upwards of 100 million people around the world. This is a cooperative effort between Midwest Medical Center and The Galena Gazette and helps us fulfill a mandate to serve the health care needs of the community. In this, the centennial year of the great 1918 flu pandemic, we hope this project provides one takeaway thought for you: In 1918, flu vaccination wasn’t available to prevent a pandemic. Flu vaccination is available today and has the ability to prevent and/or diminish the impact of flu for you, your family and your community. We know this is your choice. Our job is to encourage you to make healthy choices.
The flu of 2017 was the Perfect Storm

It was the perfect storm. So says Dr. Ralph Losey, Midwest Medical Center chief medical officer. Deb Hoppman, the hospital’s chief nursing officer, agrees.

Influenza—a particularly virulent form of influenza—generated this storm. In its crescendo for a two-week period last February, the flu left the hospital inundated with patients while at the same time depleted of staff.

Patients occupied every single bed at Midwest Medical Center. That’s after staff placed a second bed in rooms designed to be doubles.

Losey keenly remembers trying to transfer a patient to one of the Dubuque, Iowa, hospitals. No beds were available.

Hospitals throughout the United States shared the same experiences during last year’s flu epidemic. Last year influenza killed 80,000 people, 172 of them children, in the United States.

Losey adds, “We never got to the point of opening gymnasiums” to house ill patients, just as happened in Galena during the 1918 flu pandemic when the YMCA, 214 S. Main St. was converted into a hospital.

Last February, so many people came to the hospital ill with the flu the hospital ran out of influenza testing kits. Losey remembers staff keeping track of the inventory. Soon, they quit testing and began diagnosing and treating the patient and family members based on the symptoms.

As patients came to the hospital ill with influenza, nurses and other staff, ill with the flu, stayed away from the hospital.

The hospital aims to have two to three nurses and a CNA (certified nursing assistant) on the patient floor at all times and one to two nurses in the emergency room. They work 12-hour shifts.

Hoppman remembers one particular weekend helping

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Q&A influenza

What is influenza?
Influenza is an acute respiratory disease caused by infection with influenza viruses.

What are flu symptoms?

What are the complications from influenza?
From the CDC: “Most people who get flu will recover in a few days to less than two weeks, but some people will develop complications (such as pneumonia) as a result of flu, some of which can be life-threatening and result in death.

“Sinus and ear infections are examples of moderate complications. Pneumonia is a serious flu complication that can result from either influenza virus infection alone or from co-infection of flu virus and bacteria. Other possible serious complications can include inflammation of the heart (myocarditis), brain (encephalitis) or muscle (myositis, rhabdomyolysis) tissues, and multi-organ failure (for example, respiratory and kidney failure). Flu virus infection of the respiratory tract can trigger an extreme inflammatory response in the body and can lead to sepsis, the body’s life-threatening response to infection. Flu also can make chronic medical problems worse.”

What are the emergency warning signs of flu?
Adults: Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath. Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen. Sudden dizziness. Confusion. Severe or persistent vomiting. Flu-like symptoms that improve but then return with fever and worse cough.

Children: Fast breathing or trouble breathing. Bluish skin color. Not drinking enough fluids. Not waking up or not
on the patient floor. Both nurses on duty went home sick with the flu.

Last year’s influenza epidemic impacted the hospital in several ways.

A small hospital becomes stressed when two to five of its nurses are unable to work when the hospital is full of patients.

Plus, caring for patients with influenza is more complicated and burdensome.

First, the hospital had to protect patients who were recovering from surgery or some other illness or going through physical therapy.

“Flu is contagious and passed from person to person, which was a concern,” Hoppman noted. Soon a limit was placed on visitors to the hospital and its senior care facility.

Second, helping influenza patients involves more work, Hoppman says. Nurses need to put on protective masks, gowns and gloves before going into a patient’s room.

“By the time you put on all that garb and take care of a small task, it all takes extra time for staff. It reduces your efficiencies,” Hoppman adds.

It all added more stress and burden for an already thinned staff.

Hoppman says the nursing staff was able to work its way through the situation, partly because interacting. Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held. Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough. Fever with a rash.

Infants: In addition to the signs above, get medical help right away for any infant who has any of these signs: Being unable to eat. Has trouble breathing. Has no tears when crying. Significantly fewer wet diapers than normal. Source: CDC

How is influenza spread?

Person to Person. People with flu can spread it to others up to about six feet away. Most experts think that flu viruses spread mainly by droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

What preventative actions can I take?

Try to avoid close contact with sick people. While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them. If you are sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone for 24 hours without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.)

Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. After using a tissue, throw it in the trash and wash your hands.

Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.

Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs like flu.

Outbreak? Pandemic? Epidemic? What are they?

The Centers for Disease Control defines an outbreak as the occurrence of more cases of a disease than would normally be expected. The CDC defines an epidemic as the occurrence of more cases of disease than expected in a given area or among a specific group of people over a particular period of time. A pandemic occurs when a new flu virus emerges that can infect people and spread globally.
One of influenza’s dangers is that you can pass along the virus before having symptoms. It can take up to 10 days for those symptoms to appear.

Midwest Medical Center Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ralph Losey. He’s never had the flu.

of the cross training they had. Other hospital staff helped out where they could.

Hoppman spent more time on the floor helping her nurses than she did in her office.

Staff didn’t worry about running out of protective clothing. The federal government had supplied the hospital with plenty of protective clothing in 2009 when the H1N1 flu virus—the same one that killed millions in 1918—threatened the population.

There was another issue.

Not only was this strain of influenza more virulent last flu season, that year’s flu vaccine proved to be 30-40 percent effective, Losey notes. “What resulted was way more people getting more sick than has happened in a long time,” said Losey, who has never had influenza and has been practicing medicine for 30 years.

What concerned Losey and other health care professionals was that this strain of flu killed otherwise healthy teens and young people.

“No one has a good explanation for it. In that sense there were some worrisome comparisons to (the flu pandemic of) 1918.

The flu virus, Losey says, attacks the respiratory system. When white blood cells go on a counter attack, the flu virus attaches to the white blood cells. The virus then begins the process of replicating itself onto each cell.

The white blood cell ruptures and the process repeats.

It’s this battle which causes the runny nose and eyes, shortness of breath, fever, cough and a feeling of general malaise.

The virus is so small, one needs an electron microscope to see it.

Losey notes, “With influenza there is always fever and a cough—they are always present. There is malaise. You feel sick. You have poor appetite. You are fatigued to the point where you can’t get up to get a glass of water.”

He adds that if you vomit or have diarrhea, but do not have a fever and a cough, you do not have influenza.

One of influenza’s dangers, Losey points out, is that you can pass along the virus before having symptoms and it can take up to 10 days for those symptoms to appear. That’s one of the things that makes influenza so dangerous and why it can spread so quickly.

He advises that if you have the flu, you should stay away from people until all symptoms, especially the fever and cough, are gone.

There is a way to treat flu patients, Tamiflu. It comes in three forms, according to Joshua Feldermann, Midwest Medical Center pharmacist.

It comes in liquid form for children. There’s another version for the general population and another for those with kidney issues.

Tamiflu, Losey notes, attaches itself to living cells. The virus can’t attach to Tamiflu laced cells.

The doctor warns that Tamiflu isn’t effective four days into symptoms. “There just aren’t enough cells for Tamiflu to block. That is why we recommend that you are treated after 48 hours.”

Losey also noted that Tamiflu doesn’t relieve your symptoms. It simply prevents the virus’ spread within your body.

Losey, Hoppman and medical professionals
today have a leg up on their colleagues from 1918. This was a time before anyone knew about a virus or had even seen one. Researchers thought bacteria might be the culprit in a pandemic that killed upwards of 100 million people.

The virus overwhelmed the health care system of that day.

Even though the 1918 virus was more virulent and widespread than the strain which killed 80,000 people in the United States 100 years later and covered a longer period of time, the 2017-18 virus “overwhelmed our health care system,” Losey says, “and nearly everyone simultaneously. We were really close to a horrible disaster.

In 1918, health care officials could quarantine people and provide supportive care. In 2018, there was a drug to constrain influenza.

The 1918 pandemic especially impacted young people. In 1918, life expectancy in the United States dropped 12 years.

Last year, Losey, who is certified in emergency medicine, treated his first flu case in November 2017. The person had flown here from California. He treated his last case five months later in April.

During a flu outbreak, epidemic or pandemic, there is a crescendo as it spreads through the population. But the virus soon burns out. Over time people develop a resistance and the virus can no longer spread.

Thus the storm ends. That’s what happened in 1918. That’s what happened in 2018.
In fact, his 18-year-old daughter reminds him frequently about how he held her down as a young girl for a flu shot. She didn’t enjoy the experience.

The annual flu shot is part of the ebb and flow of life for the Feldermann family.

It’s part of the ebb and flow of life for Dr. Ralph Losey, Midwest Medical Center’s chief medical officer. “I get a flu shot every year,” he says.

These two health professionals believe that everyone who can, should receive a flu shot. Elizabeth Townsend, Jo Daviess County Health Department administrator, says she can’t emphasize enough the importance of immunization.

The Centers for Disease Control recommends that everyone six months of age and older receive a flu vaccination.

It’s not 100 percent effective, they say. People need to remember that there is a protective value. At the most it protects you from the flu. At worst, it diminishes the impact of the flu.

Developing a flu vaccine—there is a new vaccine developed every year—is a series of best guesses by the Centers for Disease Control and World Health Organization.

Officials use their best judgement to determine which toxic strains the vaccines will cover. They look at “what is coming out of China and Southeast Asia,” Losey says, to help determine the recipe for the next year’s vaccine.

“Sometimes it’s like a shot in the dark,” Feldermann says, because this legwork is completed in February, nine or 10 months before the next flu season begins in late October or early November.

For the United States, the CDC determines which strains of virus will be covered by the vaccine and the pharmaceutical companies will then manufacture the vaccine using egg cultures.

There are two vaccines developed: a trivalent which protects against three strains and a quadrivalent which protects against four strains.

There is also a flu vaccine mist for children, but Feldermann cautions there can be issues with that form of vaccination depending on the health of the child.

Since the vaccine is developed so far ahead of time, the best the vaccine can be is 60 percent effective.

But it’s worth it, they add.

This past February, the hospital placed an order for 1,000 vials of flu vaccine for the 2018-19 flu season. The first order arrived on Sept. 10. Delivery continued 100 vials at a time.

The vaccine has a shelf life until June 30, 2019, if properly stored and refrigerated.

Taking the yearly ritual

Flu Vaccine

There is a fall ritual in the home of Midwest Medical Center pharmacist Joshua Feldermann. Everyone receives a flu shot.

It takes two weeks for the vaccine to build antibodies to provide protection from the flu. The shot will be effective for 152-180 days.

In fact, his 18-year-old daughter reminds him frequently about how he held her down as a young girl for a flu shot. She didn’t enjoy the experience.

The annual flu shot is part of the ebb and flow of life for the Feldermann family.

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The vaccine has a shelf life until June 30, 2019, if properly stored and refrigerated.
Vaccinating residents of the Galena-Stauss Senior Care Community is a high priority.

For a small hospital, the supply of vaccine can be tight, Felderman adds. It’s been tight for the past 10 years.

The impact of a flu vaccination isn’t immediate, Feldermann says. It takes two weeks for the vaccine to build antibodies to provide protection from the flu and will be effective for 152-180 days.

Gradually, the immunization loses its effectiveness.

There is also some discussion as to when is the best time to receive a flu shot. Some strains of the virus infect people early in the flu season, which can start in October or November and other strains infect later.

Losey recommends inoculation in late October or early November.

Last year’s influenza was a late variety impacting the population in February with a secondary impact in March.

New this year, Feldermann says, is a second flu shot for children under 9 years of age and who have had fewer than two flu shots. These will be administered four weeks apart. The purpose is to build up immunity.

Just as the CDC looks to China and Southeast Asia for strains of influenza emanating from there, Losey and Feldermann said flu enters this community from the outside.

It starts at one coast and moves to the other, Losey notes. He believes the virus comes to Galena mostly from the Chicago area.

Feldermann looks even closer to home. He monitors what is happening in the Dubuque, Iowa hospitals and knows that Galena will be impacted a week later.

Losey knows that there is push back against vaccinations.

“The common misconception,” he says, “is that the virus causes the flu or causes a low-level of flu that could get worse. It doesn’t!”

“People think about vaccines children get when a fever appears the next day. That’s just not the case with the flu vaccine. Other people are suspicious of vaccines. There isn’t much you can do to change their minds about that.”

Immunization, he believes is one of the most important ways to prevent a flu epidemic, a flu pandemic.

This past year, even at 30 percent effectiveness, it was the most important thing done to diminish the impact of flu, he adds.
The mandate nowadays

Be Prepared

The 1918 flu pandemic changed the world. It changed the course of World War I. In certain parts of the world it wiped out entire communities. It changed families. It changed public health.

What might happen if a virulent form of influenza struck the world today as it did 100 years ago?

Elizabeth Townsend, Jo Daviess County Health Department director, and Juanita Bielenberg, health department director of clinical services, have a partial answer to that question. The answer is: a lot!

Part of their mandate is to be prepared. They have played key roles helping the health department plan for such an emergency. They have a plan. It’s called the Pandemic Influenza Plan which is revised annually. It helps them be proactive at a time of crisis.

Actually, the health department has two other plans, one for Ebola and the other for bioterrorism.

According to Bielenberg, the plan can go into effect if there is a local, state-wide or nation-wide epidemic. It’s about activating the Strategic National Stockpiles (SNS) that can provide flu vaccine and antivirals such as Tamiflu for the health department to distribute.

The plan also puts a lot of local information at the fingertips of the health department if there are issues. The plan includes memorandum of understanding (MOU) with 50 different entities in Jo Daviess County.

These include Midwest Medical Center, drug stores, schools and fire and emergency medical services, to name a few. Each MOU lays out the responsibility of each organization during an emergency and includes contact information for those holding leadership positions.

The health department receives a Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant through the Illinois Department of Public Health to cover costs of drafting and revising the plan.

In a threat of an outbreak, Townsend said the health department has four basic roles: promote vaccination, monitor the community through the hospital, medical clinics and schools, provide community education and implement the SNS if there is an outbreak and there is a need for mass dispensing of vaccinations and antivirals.

To do the latter, the health department first contacts Chuck Pederson, Jo Daviess County Emergency Management Agency manager. He would then notify the Illinois Emergency Management Agency to begin the process of giving the health department access to the state’s stockpile of vaccine and antivirals.

One of the purposes of the plan is to provide support for the people who provide important public services. Vaccines and antivirals would be made available to employees and families of service providers such as the hospital, schools and emergency service providers.

Bielenberg noted, “The idea is to take care of individuals and their families so employees don’t need to worry so much about their families.”

The emergency plan includes a blanket prescription for vaccine and antivirals.

And, if need be, the health department’s Pandemic Influenza Plan, gives it legal authority to quarantine the ill.

The health department, according to Townsend, learned the importance of developing a plan and related MOUs when it conducted an influenza drill.

At that time, the department had no written plan and learned that it couldn’t provide all needed services if a pandemic or epidemic struck.

“From that, we initiated the plan and its MOUs,” Townsend noted.

The department is required to conduct a drill every three years. The next drill is scheduled for 2019.

Townsend also says the health department tries to be proactive and keep tabs on public health. Every Monday it sends out a survey to doctors and other service providers. It also monitors reports from the Illinois Department of Public Health which monitors the entire state and works with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Townsend also believes that curbing the impact of an epidemic or pandemic is the responsibility of everyone.

She noted, “I can’t emphasize enough the importance of vaccination, hand washing and respiratory precautions,” such as wearing a mask.

Voluntary home isolation also has an impact, she adds.

“You can die from the flu, but most likely you get a secondary illness such as pneumonia,” Townsend adds.

She ought to know. Last year, Townsend had the flu and ended up with walking pneumonia.
Influenza (flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. It can cause mild to severe illness. Serious outcomes of flu infection can result in hospitalization or death. Some people, such as older people, young children, and people with certain health conditions, are at high risk of serious flu complications.

The best way to prevent flu is by getting

**vaccinated each year.**

### Flu vs. Cold

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signs &amp; Symptoms</th>
<th>Influenza</th>
<th>Cold</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Onset of Symptoms</td>
<td>Abrupt</td>
<td>Gradual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>Usual &amp; lasts 3-4 days</td>
<td>Rare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aches</td>
<td>Usual; often severe</td>
<td>Slight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chills</td>
<td>Fairly common</td>
<td>Uncommon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue; weakness</td>
<td>Usual</td>
<td>sometimes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sneezing</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stuffy nose</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sore throat</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chest discomfort, cough</td>
<td>Common, can be severe</td>
<td>Mild to moderate, hacking cough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Rare</td>
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Flu vaccine prevents millions of illnesses and flu-related doctor’s visits each year. During 2016-2017, flu vaccination prevented an estimated **5.3 million** influenza illnesses, **2.6 million** influenza-associated medical visits, and 85,000 influenza-associated hospitalizations.

A 2018 study showed that from 2012 to 2015, flu vaccination among adults reduced the risk of being admitted to an intensive care unit with flu by **82 percent**.

**For the 2018-2019 season, manufacturers have projected they will provide as many as 163 to 168 million doses of injectable influenza vaccine for the U.S. market.**
In 1918, influenza killed indiscriminately. It didn’t matter whether the victim was black, white, Hispanic, English, French or German. During the 1918 flu pandemic, the life span of a U.S. citizen dropped 12 years. These stories share the impact of the pandemic on the world, the nation, the state, Jo Daviess County and Galena.

by P. Carter Newton, publisher

Janet Eggleston pointed to a gravestone at Greenwood Cemetery and said, “That’s someone I’d like to meet.”

The gravestone marks the burial plot of her uncle, Lyall Eggleston. She’d love to know his story.

Lyall died on Sept. 28, 1918, in service to his country in the midst of World War I, the Great War. He didn’t die on the battlefield. He lost his life in a different battle, a battle that didn’t distinguish between rich or poor, men or women, but instead impacted the youngest and strongest of the world.

Lyall’s remains are buried in the ground. His personal story is buried in time. No one is left to tell his story.

His is a story tied to Galena, the Army, the Navy, the nation and the world. It’s a story so horrific that it was purposefully buried in the recesses of the national psyche.

Lyall’s story is one of war, power, compassion, fear, censorship, faith, family and disease.

Its ramifications impact the actions of the world’s public health organizations. This story is taught in few history classes and is hardly mentioned in medical schools.

Lyall’s story is about influenza, the 1918 flu pandemic and how it played out in Galena, the nation, the world and in the pages of The Galena Gazette.

An estimated 100 million of the world’s 1.8 billion population died in the 1918 flu pandemic. In the last months of World War I, more soldiers died from the flu or flu-induced pneumonia than they did in combat. In the United States, some 675,000 people died from the flu; that’s 0.65 percent of the nation’s population.

Lyall was one of them. He was stationed at Great Lakes Naval Training Station near Chicago.

If the pandemic hit today, 1.5 million Americans would die.

Lyall was one of the first Galenians to die from the flu. He was one of many to have the flu. Not only did Galenians suffer, their neighbors in Apple River, Warren, Council Hill, Savanna, Elizabeth and Hanover suffered as well.

In 1918, this virulent flu progressed into pneumonia for many. And, this particular strain of flu attacked the strongest, the very people who would most likely survive such a struggle. In 1918, if you fell within the 21-30 age range, you had the highest mortality rate during the pandemic.

In 1918, the average life span of a United States citizen dropped 12 years to 39 years of age.

What do we know about Lyall Eggleston?

The Sept. 30, 1918 Gazette carried two stories about Lyall. Under the headline, “Galena sailor boy is called by death,” appeared this story: “Lyall G. Eggleston dies at Great Lakes Naval Training Station. He was a member of the Galena Supply Co., and was in the service in Houston, Texas, and elsewhere. Death due to grip pneumonia.”

Another story noted, “Another of Galena’s Service Stars turned from blue to gold when Lyall G. Eggleston passed into eternal rest. “Son of Mr. and Mrs. W.F. Eggleston, Seminario Hill. Born Jan 23, 1897 at Marcellus, Mich. President of senior class in 1915. Special work (drawing) at the Art Institute in Chicago. He served in the Army in 1917, but was discharged on Feb. 18, 1918 with pneumonia. He reenlisted in June 1918 at Great Lakes.

“Lyall is a pleasant cheerful young man and his record in service speaks clearly and forcefully of his standing as a soldier and sailor.”

By the time of Lyall’s death, Gazette readers knew something ominous was happening around the world.

On Sept. 10, The Gazette reported, “100 sailors in the merchant marine are suffering from influenza.”

On Monday, Sept. 23, the newspaper noted, “There are 4,599 cases of Spanish Flu at Great Lakes Naval Training Station.” Out of those, 1,000 cases were serious and 100 soldiers died.

There were 45,000 sailors and officers stationed at Great Lakes.

The next day, The Gazette reported...
In Greenwood Cemetery in Galena, Janet Eggleston sits at the grave of her uncle Lyall Eggleston. Lyall, who died in 1918, didn't die in a World War I battle; instead, he is one of the many who died in the flu pandemic. She would have liked to meet her uncle. P. Carter Newton photo
that “Spanish Influenza” had broken out at Camp Grant in Rockford, with 400 cases. The camp was now under quarantine.

On Sept. 25, The Gazette reprinted a letter from Private Henry E. Schubert of Woodbine. From France, he wrote, “Bill Reich was sick and gave out in the first mile. Russell Kevern and Herbert Posey from our neighborhood were left back.” Elmer Gass and Raymond Pickard were also left in the hospital.

Troops on both sides of this great conflict suffered from influenza. Flu impacted the outcome of World War I.

The news kept getting worse.

The next day, The Gazette reported that Illinois would be imposing a new set of regulations “to prevent the spread of Spanish influenza in Illinois which while not of a serious nature as in the East Coast is appearing to be spreading here.”

These regulations required health providers to notify local health authorities about flu cases, that theaters should “refuse admittance to persons suffering from so-called colds” and that an “afflicted person must be isolated and no one except the doctor or nurse will be allowed to come in contact with them.”

That seems to be pretty heavy handed for something that is “not of a serious nature.”

Camp Grant experienced 390 new cases of flu on Sept. 24 and its first deaths.

The Sept. 27 Gazette reported that Great Lakes had experienced 8,745 cases of the flu with 77 deaths and 5,318 cures. “The rate of sickness is dropping,” Capt. Wm. Moffat, commandant noted.

Moffat probably meant to reassure, but Great Lakes received so many telegrams from concerned and fearful parents that staff couldn’t handle all the requests for information. Moffat ordered his sailors to write home. Almost 19 percent of the sailors at Great Lakes suffered with the flu.

Even more shocking was news that Provost Marshall Enoch Crowder temporarily cancelled the draft. This was a time of war and the U.S. needed troops.

And then came the newspaper of Monday, Sept. 30.

With news of Lyall’s death came other news. Camp Grant admitted 788 new cases to the hospital and recorded 10 deaths in the last 24 hours. The Gazette noted, “There are 2,546 influenza patients in the hospital. Motor trucks, military police, patrols and private automobiles are used as ambulances. All civilian visitors are barred.”

In the coming weeks, Camp Grant news worsened.

Another headline stated, “Influenza will attack millions,” and added, “We’re confronted by an epidemic of influenza which will affect more than half our population in all probability. There is a shortage of physicians, nurses and hospital accommodations.”

Illinois residents were asked to “hurl its might” to stop influenza. The press release noted, “The health and efficiency of the civilian populations must be maintained. It is the patriotic duty of every citizen to check the continued spread of the disease...”

“Orders were issued, however, that managers of all amusement and other similar places eject all persons detected coughing or sneezing in crowds and cause the arrest of those spitting.”

Chicago reported 125 cases in 24 hours with 19 deaths. Waukegan reported 2,500 cases and 10 deaths; Highland Park, 400 cases and four deaths; and Wilmette, 1,200 cases.

Influenza had come to the civilian population in Illinois and it was of a serious nature.

Life changed for the Eggleston family, just as it did for scores of other Galena families and millions of families around the world.

Lyall Eggleston in Navy uniform

Editor’s Note: This story and the following stories first appeared in The Galena Gazette in October, November and December 2009 and have been edited for this project. Two resource books are: “The Great Influenza of 1918,” by John Barry; and “Flu: The Story of the Great Influenza Pandemic of 1918 and the Search for the Virus That Caused It” by Gina Kolata.
At Great Lakes Naval Training Station, 6,000 hospitalized in Flu Pandemic

What was Lyall Eggleston, the Galena Navy sailor doing when he fell ill with the flu in September 1918? He might have been training, but that seems unlikely. Ten percent of the sailors, officers and doctors at Great Lakes Naval Training Station had the flu.

Chances are he was confined to quarters with other sailors in order to curb the spread of the disease. While confined, he may have played cards. He might have doodled or hung out with newly made friends.

But when the flu virus hit, Lyall knew it immediately. He felt well one minute. The next minute, he probably thought he’d die. He did.

The symptoms? Body ache, headache, chills, fever, nausea, cough and congestion struck with a vengeance. Some dealt with intense pain. In others, including Lyall, influenza progressed to pneumonia.

Author John Barry shares, “Symptoms were terrifying. Blood poured from noses, ears, eye sockets; some victims lay in agony; delirium took others away while living.”

Great Lakes must have been chaotic.

On Sept. 24, four days before Lyall’s death, over 8,800 of the 45,000 soldiers at Camp Devens, northwest of Boston, Mass., suffered from the flu.

The armed forces needed nurses. The Red Cross needed nurses. Whenever they found a nurse, they latched onto her.

That September, nurse Josie Brown lived in St. Louis, Mo., and while sitting in a movie theater, officials found her and told her to “proceed to Great Lakes, Illinois. Keep strict account of your expenses. Do not pay over $1.50 for your meals or 50 cents for tips. You will be reimbursed.”

On the train, she saw this headline, “6,000 in the hospital.”

On Sept. 28, 1918. At Camp Devens, observers described a similar scene: dead stacked like cords of wood.

“The morgues were packed almost to the ceiling with bodies stacked one on top of another. The morticians worked day and night. You could never turn around without seeing a big red truck being loaded with caskets for the train station so the bodies could be sent home.”

This is where Lyall died on Sept. 28, 1918. At Camp Devens, observers described a similar scene: dead stacked like cords of wood.

“Some were delirious and some had their lungs punctured. Then their bodies would fill with air. You would feel somebody and he would be bubbles. You would see them with bubbles all through their arms.”

Oh, it was a horrid thing. We had to wear operating masks and gowns all the time. We worked eight hours on a ward sometimes. If nobody had a nurse on another ward, we would go back to our quarters for an hour and then work another eight hours. It was 16 hours a day until the epidemic was over.”

-Josie Brown, nurse at Great Lakes Naval Training Station in 1918

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In a seven-month period ending March 1918, 30,784 soldiers stationed in the United States came down with pneumonia, killing 5,741.

enza often. He diagnosed the disease as influenza. But he had never seen influenza like this. This was violent, rapid in its progress through the body, and sometimes lethal. This influenza killed. Soon dozens of his patients—the strongest, the healthiest, the most robust people in the county—were being struck down as suddenly as if they had been shot.”

At that same time, a young Army man, Dean Nilson, came home on leave from Camp Funston, part of the Ft. Riley complex some 300 miles away. The Monitor noted, “Dean looks like a soldier’s life agrees with him.” He then returned.

Two others from Haskell County ventured to Camp Funston. Ernest Elliot left Haskell County to visit his brother on the same day his child fell ill with the flu. And, John Bottom left on Feb. 28 to report for duty.

On March 4, a Camp Funston private fell ill with influenza.

During one of the coldest winters on record, Camp Funston commanders crowded more and more soldiers into living quarters to keep them warm. They ignored Army regulations on overcrowding, regulations designed to avoid disease in the camps.

Influenza spread through the camp like a wild fire. Over 1,100 soldiers made their way to the camp hospital within the next three weeks. Thousands more suffered from the flu, while 237 men developed pneumonia. Thirty-eight soldiers died.

From Haskell County to Camp Funston, the influenza virus mutated and became more severe. The virus then mutated into an even more virulent form. It struck with even more vengeance.

Army officers had other concerns.

With so many men in close quarters, they feared an epidemic of some sort. Measles, which had no vaccine at the time, spread through the Army. In late 1917, 30,067 men were stationed at Camp Travis near San Antonio, Texas. By Christmas, 4,571 of those soldiers had contracted measles.

Pneumonia proved more lethal. In a seven-month period ending March 1918, 30,784 soldiers stationed in the United States came down with pneumonia, killing 5,741.

That winter pneumonia struck a Galena Army man, Lyall Eggleston. This time, he was lucky. He lived. But the Army felt his services were no longer needed and discharged him on Feb. 18. However, Lyall wasn’t out of danger.

Nature had found the perfect path to spread the influenza virus, the military, and Lyall was in its crosshairs.

1918 Pandemic creates havoc at Rockford’s Camp Grant

Chan Pitts, the grandfather of Galena Gazette Publisher P. Carter Newton, lay on his cot consumed with the flu, the strain today known as H1N1. The young man from northwest Iowa shivered. Stationed in France, this Army man was too ill to take up arms in World War I, one of the many soldiers impacted by the 1918 flu pandemic.

A buddy, who also hailed from northwest Iowa, took notice of his condition and found extra blankets. Chan never forgot this act of kindness and believed it saved his life.

Chan wasn’t alone. Hundreds of thousands of other soldiers suffered from influenza. The flu impacted war efforts on both sides and stalled a German offensive.

From overcrowded quarters at Camp Funston, the Army moved soldiers, some of them contagious, to other camps and then to Europe to take up the fight. Influenza spread as the soldiers moved from camp to camp, cantonment to cantonment and finally from country to country.

The military packed soldiers on transport ships. Soldiers became ill with the flu and many were buried at sea.

Of the two million U.S. soldiers stationed in France, almost 800,000 were stationed in Brest, France, where the deep-water port made it possible to handle many ships and soldiers. The U.S. soldiers mixed with the French and English soldiers and by early August so many French soldiers came down with the flu they overwhelmed the naval hospital.

From the military population, influenza spread to the civilian population.

To observe the spread of influenza in 1918, one need only look at the major transportation routes around the world. Flu came to Freetown, Sierra Leone, along the West African coast on Aug. 15 when the HMS Mantua arrived for re-coaling. Many in the Mantua’s crew of 200 suffered with influenza. Some assisted the laborers who replenished the ship’s coal supply.

When the HMS Africa arrived on Aug. 27 in need of coal, 500 of the 600 laborers didn’t report to work, because they were too ill with the flu. About that same time, the influenza-free HMS Chepstow Castle docked with 1,150 men on board. Upon leaving port, 900 crew members came down with the flu. Thirty-seven died.

That August, while influenza raged in Sierra Leone, Brest and other places overseas, the U.S. remained relatively calm. That was about to change.

In August 1917, the Army opened Camp Devens just northwest of Boston, Mass. By September 1918, the Army crammed 45,000 soldiers into the sprawling camp.

No one knows how influenza came to Camp Devens, but by the third week of August, Boston health officials expressed concern with the growing number of
the base hospital. The camp may be placed under

are in the base hospital. Although quite a number

yet, no deaths have been reported although some

Grant, the first case developing last Saturday. As

ported, "Spanish influenza has broken out at Camp

International Airport is now located. The Gazette re-

the flu pandemic was a bit closer to home: Camp

Grand at Rockford, where the Chicago Rockford

cases of Spanish Flu at Great Lakes Naval Training

Station. One thousand cases are serious. There

quarantined. They mixed with the Great Lakes

Training Station from Camp Devens. None were

they wondered if humanity might become extinct.

This was no new disease. It was the flu.

On Sept. 7, soldiers arrived at Great Lakes Naval

Training Station from Camp Devens. None were

quarantined. They mixed with the Great Lakes

soldiers. That’s how the flu came to Great Lakes.

That’s how Lyall Eggleston came down with the flu.

The Monday, Sept. 23, 1918, Galena Daily

Gazette shared this news item, “There are 4,599

cases of Spanish Flu at Great Lakes Naval Training

Station. One thousand cases are serious. There

have been 100 deaths since Sept. 9.”

This was five days before 22-year-old Lyall died.

The very next day, Gazette readers learned that

the flu pandemic was a bit closer to home: Camp

Grant at Rockford, where the Chicago Rockford

International Airport is now located. The Gazette re-

ported, “Spanish influenza has broken out at Camp

Grant, the first case developing last Saturday. As

yet, no deaths have been reported although some

of the patients are said to be seriously ill. About

400 cases of the disease are reported. Nearly all

are in the base hospital. Although quite a number

are still in the infirmaries, waiting for removal to

the base hospital. The camp may be placed under

quarantine.”

Soldiers waited in infirmaries because there

was no room in the base hospital.

On Aug. 8, 1918, Col. Charles Hagadorn, a

career military officer and West Point graduate,

took command of Camp Grant, his last command.

With 40,000 soldiers crammed into a camp

designed for 30,000, Hagadorn ignored medical

staff advice. With winter approaching and the nights

getting cooler, Hagadorn ordered the soldiers from

tents into the barracks.

There was no flu at the camp, but officers

had just arrived from Camp Devens. Hagadorn’s

medical staff was nervous. On Sept. 20, he issued

several orders protecting camp health as well as a

quarantine and the necessary crowding of troops.

The next day, men from the Infantry Central

Officers Training School—the group receiving the

Devens officers—were admitted to and isolated in

the camp hospital. By that evening, the hospital

had admitted 108 soldiers and officers.

The next day hospital admission rose to 194

and 371 the next. By the fourth day, the first soldier

died and by the sixth day, there were over 4,000

soldiers in the hospital.

On Sept. 25, 1918, the day of the first Camp

Grant influenza death, Hagadorn sent 3,108 sol-
diers and officers to Camp Hancock, near Augusta,

Ga., by train. The soldiers cramped themselves

onto the train. Five days later, they arrived at Camp

Hancock. Seven hundred were taken directly to the

camp hospital. In all, 2,000 of the 3,108 soldiers

spent time in the hospital. The death toll may have

exceeded 10 percent.

On Oct. 4, 100 Camp Grant soldiers died on a

single day. There were over 5,000 ill.

In early October, The Gazette shared several

stories on Camp Grant.

The Monday, Oct. 7 Gazette reported Clayton

Combelleck’s death. The Gazette said he made

friends easily and his nickname was “Bud.” He

died of pneumonia on Oct. 5 at the Camp Grant

hospital. He left Galena on Sept. 4, 1918, and died

a month later, leaving behind a father, sister and

brother.

That same day, The Gazette carried another

headline, “Epidemic is broken at Camp Grant,”

along with the story, “While the line of more than

500 silent visitors watched and waited on the hos-
pital veranda. . .a small army of expert workers...battled the pneumonia epidemic in Camp Grant to a standstill.

“Seventy deaths occurred among the pneu-

monia patients but more than 100 fighting men

pulled through the crisis. . .At 6 p.m., the casualty

total of the epidemic had climbed to 452 deaths,

but only 130 new patients had been received—less

than half the number recorded Saturday, and 12

patients had been released after winning the fight.

“Reports from every ward showed encourag-
ing improvement and surgeons who have worked

without sleep for two days at a time, knew that the

backbone of the epidemic was broken.”

There wasn’t one mention of the flu and the

epidemic hadn’t abated. The day would come

when 1,810 Camp Grant soldiers would report

ill—in one single day.

On Oct. 8 came an even more bizarre story,

“Camp Grant officer commits suicide. Col. C.B.

Hagadorn, acting commander, was found dead

in his quarters this morning. Rumors of suicide

are unconfirmed. A breakdown as the result of

overwork and worry over influenza conditions is

believed the cause. He shot himself with a pistol.”

That morning, after hearing the latest medical

report, Hagadorn asked his staff to leave the office

and stand for inspection. As the staff waited, they

heard a lone pistol shot. Hagadorn, a man who

loved the Army and who loved his soldiers, took

his own life.

Hagadorn didn’t die from the flu. He died

because of the flu.

And while all hoped the flu pandemic might be

“broken” in early October 1918, there was plenty

of suffering yet to come.
Local soldiers dealing with
Influenza outbreak

The Eggleston family laid to rest their beloved “soldier-sailor boy,” Lyall, in the family plot at Greenwood Cemetery on the outskirts of Galena.

The Oct. 1 Gazette reported, “Military funeral held: Most fitting tribute is paid to Lyall G. Eggleston, dead soldier-sailor boy.”

His body passed through a long cortege. “With the most fitting military honors, the body . . . was laid to rest.” Afterward, relatives and friends filled the Eggleston house on Seminary Hill, as well as the block in front of the house.

It was a scene that would not often be repeated. Soon, public funerals were banned.

The Eggleston family belonged to the Galena United Methodist Church, or the Methodist Episcopal Church as it was called during Lyall’s day.

In that same edition, Lyall’s Baraca class at the church published this resolution: “Whereas, It has pleased Providence to remove from among our fellow classmate, Lyall Eggleston: and whereas, It is but just that a fitting recognition of his many virtues should be had; therefore be it, resolved, by the Baraca class, that we bow with humble submission to the will of the Most High, we do not the less mourn for our fellow class-mate who has been taken from us.

“Resolved, That the heartfelt sympathy of the Baraca class be extended to his family in their affliction. C.B. Venable, W.M. Ford, Fred Seubert, E.B. Heron, committee.”

E.B. Heron worked at The Gazette in those days. He later started Heron Insurance Service. The company, now known as McCoy Insurance Service, is in its fourth generation of family ownership.

As the days of October rolled along, Gazette readers quickly realized the threat of influenza about them.

Friday, Oct. 18: Two residents of Cuba City are dead as the result of influenza developing into pneumonia. The victims are Miles Fush, 20, and Ed Gahart, who left a wife and one child.

Tuesday, Oct. 22: Frank Bryson of Woodbine was in Galena today accompanying his daughter, Florence, R.N., as far as this city. The young nurse leaving on the noon train for Rockford to resume her work after a several weeks furlough on account of the influenza.

Friday, Oct. 25: Report from Apple River: No “flu” case is reported in our village and only a very few in the country. However, the board of health closed the schools on Monday for a short time. We hope the danger line will soon be past all over the country.

Council Hill report: The schools here have been closed for two weeks and there have been no church services for the past two Sundays on account of the epidemic of grippe and influenza. Council Hill has had its share. Whole families have been sick with the grippe in some homes.

Monday, Oct. 28: New Diggings: Our village is very quiet these days as the church, school, movies and all public places are closed to guard against influenza. The influenza has

A few weeks later, Heron came down with the flu.

This flu pandemic sucked the life out of the young and vigorous and paved the way for some horrific and sad stories.

One of these sad stories involves Clayton Combellick. The Army lost his body.

On Tuesday, Oct. 8, The Gazette reported, “...no word had been received concerning the location of the body of Clayton Combellick which has evidently been mis-sent to some other town than Galena, consequently the date of the funeral cannot be announced this evening.”

With soldiers dying at rapid rates, it’s understandable how a body might be “mis-sent.”

Two days later, The Gazette carried this warning, “Rumors in Galena must be stopped at once or Federal action will be taken, so said a government agent this morning. Yesterday rumors were flying thick and fast concerning the reason why Clayton Combellick’s body had not arrived. In fact, the air was full of false reports of all kinds concerning all manner of subjects. If you hear a rumor, kill it.”

The Gazette shared horror stories of this scourge from outside Galena. On Friday, Nov. 8, Gazette readers learned that in Nome, Alaska, Eskimos were dying by “the score.” Actually, 176 out of a population of 300 died.

On Dec. 6, The Gazette carried news that 65-75 percent of the “Eskimos of the far Northwest have died of the influenza epidemic.”

One doctor visited 10 Eskimo communities. In three, he found not one person living. Other Eskimo communities suffered 85-percent casualties. In some villages, only the children survived.

In early October, Gazette readers learned of local soldiers dealing with influenza. Clifford A. Bastian, stationed at Camp Hancock, Ga., spent time in the base hospital with the “flue.”

Gazette readers learned that Private P.L. Strong, another Jo Daviess County boy gives up life in France. Died of ‘lobar pneumonia.’

If you died of pneumonia during the pandemic, you most likely had influenza first.

Readers did get mixed messages. A Tuesday, Oct. 22 headline noted, “Camp Grant health is steadily improving,” but the article noted that there were 19 new cases of influenza the preceding Sunday and 6 on Saturday while there were 12 cases of pneumonia reported...
for the weekend.

What does steadily improving really mean? It meant that service personnel weren’t falling ill by the hundreds each day as they did a few weeks earlier.

Galena’s soldiers still died from the flu. The very next week came news that William F. Weber, made “the ultimate sacrifice,” the first member of the Galena Elks Club to do so.

The Gazette reported, “The news of the misfortune spread through the city in a short time causing a shock and sadness to the young man’s host of friends.”

Weber was a “natural born musician, specializing in the violin and clarinet.”

After leaving the Platteville Mining College, he continued his musical interests, managed a smelter near Galena and later several mines near New Diggins, Wis. That’s before he enlisted in the Army.

Private George E. Kohlbauer, 29, also died of influenza in France. The Galena man left behind a widow in Galena, who fretted for days whether he was dead or alive. In mid-November she received a letter, which referred to the death of another man and had since anxiously awaited news “that her husband had been spared.”

Then she learned her husband’s unit was being shipped back home. She hung onto that news with great hope until a fateful telegram arrived at 5 p.m., the very next day.

In December came more news of Jo Daviess County soldiers cut down by the flu.: Shelby McFadden from Apple River; Antone Scharpf, Rice Township; Freeman Samuel Parker from Stockton; and Henry F. Peters, Rice Township.

While the military struggled to manage this crisis, public health officials sought appropriate courses of action. Before the first reported local case of the flu, The Gazette warned readers of the “serious nature” of this disease. On Thursday, Sept. 26, four days before announcing Lyall’s death, the newspaper carried an article on “Stringent regulations to prevent the spread of Spanish influenza in Illinois which while not of a serious nature as in the East Coast is appearing to spread here.”

This new regulation made influenza a reportable disease. Local health authorities had to be notified within 24 hours and in turn had to notify the state.

As Galenians read all about this in their local newspaper, they also had to come to terms with the impact of this pandemic—the worst epidemic in this country’s history—in their own community.

not got a good hold on our village although we have several cases. Two who have died: Joe Miller and Mrs. L. Lype.

Wednesday, Nov. 6: Council Hill: The epidemic of influenza that has swept over our community as well as others has subsided, we believe.

Saturday, Nov. 16: Galena is not the only town that lifted the “flu” ban too soon. The Mineral Point schools have been closed. At Mt. Carroll the ban was lifted and there are now 20 cases at the Academy. In Fulton there are also a number of cases and other places may be mentioned.

Tuesday, Nov. 19: Our neighboring village of Hanover is reported to be using every effort to check the spread of “flu” in that burg and the merchants are said to be keeping their stores open one hour every morning and afternoon.

Wednesday, Nov. 20: Stockton authorities Monday closed everything except the stores, on account of the flu, there being 18 cases of it reported Monday. No schools, churches, lodges, billiard halls or shows can operate. In fact nothing but the stores are open and they are limited to the number of people who can be in them at the same time.

Tuesday, Dec. 3: Mrs. Charles Roberts, 25, Woodbine, dies. Leaves husband and 2 sons.

Thursday, Dec. 5: Herman Schnieder, Menominee dies Dec. 4 at 6:20 a.m. He’s 68.

Monday, Dec. 9: Miss Bertha Grimm of this city who teaches at Mt. Sumner School near Apple River has returned to her duties after a few weeks during which time her school was closed owing to the flu.

Tuesday, Dec. 10: Menominee young man succumbs to pneumonia. Raymond Tranel, 25, of Menominee, died Monday, Dec. 9 at 3 a.m. at Mercy after a week’s illness with influenza followed by pneumonia. Born, Oct. 27, 1893, he leaves his mother and 6 brothers.
The flu pandemic

Hits home

Just as Lyall Eggleston, Galena’s soldier-sailor boy, found himself in the cross hairs of the influenza epidemic, so too did the Bender family at 614 S. Bench St., in Galena. Many other Galena families, the number of which is lost in time, found themselves in a similar situation.

Although The Gazette began carrying news stories of the pandemic’s spread in mid-September, it made no mention of influenza here until Friday, Oct. 11, when Mayor John H. Billingsley announced that the “influenza lid is clamped on Galena.”

Galena’s physicians offered this advice, “Avoid persons who have the slightest sign of a cold, either a sneeze or a cough. Do not congregate. Do not get close enough to get to a person to get their breath. Beware of any exposure that may cause a cold. Keep your children on their own premises. Do not let your children visit neighboring children or let neighboring children come to your house. Everybody avoid visiting. Get plenty of fresh air. Sleep in well-ventilated rooms.”

The Gazette warned, “The outlook is serious and must be met with every safeguard or else Galena will suffer as other cities have been, and are suffering.”

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In Philadelpbia, Penn., patients ill with the flu tried bribing their way into already full hospitals. So many died so fast, authorities couldn’t take care of the bodies.

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Billingsley issued this proclamation, “Our community is threatened with an epidemic of influenza. Several new cases have developed within the last 24 hours. By virtue of our authority, We, hereby order Public Schools, Churches, Public Library, Lodges and similar organizations, Theaters, Parochial Schools, Pool and Billiard Halls, closed at once until further notice.

“We also order all students to remain on their own premises. All chairs must be removed from saloons and not over five people congregate at one time in saloons. Our citizens are requested not to visit other towns, and to avoid crowds and all meetings.”

Thus started what might be considered the longest, most aggravating, most heartbreaking, most depressing and maybe most inspirational 11 weeks in Galena’s history.

By the time of Harriet Bender’s death, Galena’s community-wide quarantine had ended and started again. One couldn’t pick up a Gazette without reading something about the flu or the community’s attempts to curtail this disease and the dis-ease it created within the community.

Just days into the quarantine, The Gazette moaned in its Monday, Oct. 14 edition, “Sunday in Galena was a gasless, churchless, visitless and amusementless day owing to the various requests and restrictions placed by the government and city officials. However, a more delightful day could not be desired as far as the weather was concerned and many were the “hikes” and out in the country trips enjoyed.”

The same edition included notices of cancelled church meetings and the next Friday’s football game at Bellevue, Iowa.

Through the succeeding weeks, The Gazette served the role of community cheerleader, chastiser and information dispenser, sometimes playing all three roles at once.

The next day, The Gazette told its readers in a story headlined, “Influenza is well in hand,” that “Not one case reported by physicians since yesterday. The city health officer said that up to 3 o’clock this afternoon he has not had a case of influenza reported to him by a Galena physician since yesterday. The fact is encouraging and from all appearances Galena took preventative measures just in time. However it is not time to brag then become careless, for if every precaution is not observed for some little time yet, then an epidemic may break out with renewed vigor.”

On the very same page came a grim reminder, 18-year-old Charles LaVerne Buchan, of Benton,
In the 1918 papers

**INFLUENZA IS WELL IN HAND**

Not One Case Reported by Physicians Since Yesterday.

The City Health Officer said that up to three o'clock this afternoon he has not had a case of influenza reported to him by the Galena physicians since yesterday. This fact is encouraging and from all appearances the epidemic is declining.

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**INCREASED QUARANTINE ON**

We find conditions today most serious. The influenza epidemic is knocking at every door.

We therefore order all saloons and pool halls closed at once.

Public and Parochial schools will close and all children must remain off streets and on their own premises. All stores and shops of every description are limited to three customers in one aisle or room at one time. There are to be no church funerals and only the body of the deceased is to be allowed out.

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**HOSPITAL OPENED IN Y. M. C. A. BUILDING**

Several days ago the Gazette stated that the Y. M. C. A. building was about to be transformed by the local Red Cross Chapter into a hospital which is so badly needed in Galena at this time, and with the usual vim displayed by the ladies of this organization this has now been accomplish-

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Wis., editor of his school newspaper, succumbed to the flu.

During the flu crisis, Richard Dwyer served as city marshal and health officer. Quashing hopes of parents eager to get their kids out of the house and back to school, Dwyer told the community on Oct. 18 that it would be at least another week until schools re-opened.

He also used The Gazette to scold the community, “Furthermore, I’m not satisfied with the way children have been let run at large and congregate on the streets during the week. If parents don’t keep their children at home, we’ll surely make them keep them in the yards of their own home and not let them out, the same as we did this past summer. There are now 75 cases of influenza in Galena and more cases to be reported. We mean business and will enforce the quarantine to the letter.”

This was just the beginning.

Although a rural community surrounded by miles of rolling farmland, Galena didn’t operate in a vacuum. The economic and political forces of the day buffeted and nurtured the community just as they did in Elizabeth, Chicago or Philadelphia.

In the preceding months, the United States consumed itself with World War I. Galenians observed gasless Sundays, meatless Mondays and wheatless Wednesdays in an effort to commit basic resources to the war effort in Europe. Galena’s young men, including Lyall Eggleston and Clayton Combellick, were willing to put their lives on the line for the war effort, even though they never ventured forth to Europe.

The war effort consumed one other precious commodity: its doctors and nurses.

Just as the pandemic caught Galena in its cross hairs, the Army latched onto one of its doctors.

In the same edition which Dwyer scolded the community, Dr. F.H. Fleege announced that he was “required to report for immediate service to Europe. I am assigned to Ft. Riley, the first Army camp to experience an influenza outbreak six months earlier.

All this meant that four already overworked physicians covered for a doctor joining the war effort.

On Oct. 19 came another terse warning, “It is doubtful that Galena people actually realize the seriousness of the influenza epidemic in Galena but the health authorities and the doctors do. They say it is serious without a doubt and every precaution must be taken...

“Nurses are very scarce but the local Red Cross is doing all it can to find nurses. There are about 95 cases in Galena today and 15 of those are very serious, the others may become serious at any time. Now do you wonder, Galena people, that the health department is alarmed.

“One thing that must be stopped is the spitting. Do not spit at all unless into a cloth or paper napkin that can be destroyed. Spitting on the sidewalks will be stopped at once. Arrests will be made of any person reported spitting on the sidewalk. Galena people save yourselves. Do everything to help stamp out the epidemic.”

Billingsley issued one additional order, “Restaurants, ice cream parlors and saloons are hereby ordered to scald every glass, dish and other utensil after usage.”

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While Galena’s Red Cross sought nurses, so too did every other Red Cross organization in the United States. Because of the war, Red Cross chapters grew from 107 to 3,864. The prospect of finding nurses wasn’t great.

During World War I, the American Red Cross focused on one mission—recruiting nurses and assembling necessary medical supplies for the war effort. With the flu, the Red Cross was the perfect organization to marshal forces to do battle.

In Galena, the Red Cross sprang into action “making arrangements, if necessary” to open a Main Street building for the care of influenza patients unable to care for themselves.

On Oct. 12 came this announcement, “Red Cross Committee on influenza appointed. The following committee on influenza has been appointed by the executive committee of Jo Daviess County Chapter A.R.C. (American Red Cross). This committee will co-operate with the mayor, local board of health and local physicians in dealing with any situation which might arise due to the threatened influenza epidemic: H.T. Priestley, Dr. J.F. Dolamore, Mrs. E.M. Bench, F.H. Rieckman, Anna E. Felt, Mrs. George T Millhouse, M.J. Dillon.”

Every single Red Cross chapter received orders to form an influenza committee.

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Death calls a little boy. Home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Koepeke is bereaved.

Charles Koepeke died at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Koepeke, on Ridge Street Saturday afternoon Oct. 19th at 4 o’clock. His death being caused by pneumonia following influenza. The lad was seven years of age and was born in Galena where he has attended the public schools. The funeral was held this afternoon interment being made in Greenwood Cemetery. Galena Daily Gazette, Oct. 21, 1918

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The local Red Cross influenza committee
The euphoria was short lived.
Influenza hit the community again, this time with a vengeance.

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wasted little time. By Oct. 21, it planned to open “headquarters in the office of Mr. McKee in the Wallace Building over Guggenheim’s store,” now home to Galena’s Kandy Kitchen, 100 N. Main St. The phone number: 17.

A committee member staffed the office each day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., to keep track of families impacted by the epidemic and coordinate community members willing to prepare food and help the “afflicted.”

In addition, the Red Cross announced, “It is asked that any family who needs assistance on account of sickness will please report to headquarters, as it is appreciated that in many cases the entire family is laid up and no one in the home is capable of preparing food or doing the necessary housework....”

In most cases, this flu left the victim incapable of caring for anyone. Because of the immune system response, victims hurt all over. And, when cyanosis set in—when the victim began turning blue—there was nothing anyone could do.

As the Red Cross geared itself up, Galenians—most likely parents tired of having their children home every day—began gossiping and spreading rumors about the possibility of school resuming.

On Oct. 24, The Gazette attempted to stomp out that rumor, “Some people have been spreading a report about the city that the schools and theatres would be reopened next week. The mayor and health officer said when asked concerning the report that there was nothing to it. As far as they know, no word has been received from the state authorizing them to reopen any public place. This is now a state law and the local authorities cannot take anything into their own hands. If there had been any word received from the state surely the city health department would know about it.

The quarantine is to exist in Galena just as long as there is any danger in the spread of influenza. Now is no time to get careless. Now is the time to use common sense and take care.”

Galena’s teachers must have breathed a sigh of relief when they learned that they would still receive their salaries even though there was no school.

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Death for the third time in a week has entered the home of Mrs. Arthur Evans of Savanna. On Monday her five-year-old son Howard succumbed to influenza and Friday night the two remaining children James aged three and Eliza aged 12 passed away from the same trouble.

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Galena Daily Gazette, Oct. 28, 1918

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For the remainder of October, Galena’s doctors reported six to nine new cases of flu a day. But this may be low, because most experts today believe that doctors didn’t have the time to report every single case to health authorities. They were just too busy.

On Friday, Nov. 1, The Gazette noted the “flu situation” improved, because there were just four new cases reported and one doctor’s report included flu victims over the past two days. This announcement must have caught the attention of parents, “From all indications, schools will be reopened on Monday of next week,” The Gazette noted.

There must have been a lot of happy parents as well as church-going folks, because the Saturday Gazette included numerous announcements of church services the very next day and schools opening on Monday.

The euphoria was short lived. Influenza hit the community again, this time with a vengeance. The next Friday, The Gazette reported 11 new cases. “Some of the cases are mild, others severe. If the disease continues to spread no doubt another quarantine will be imposed upon the city for it is certain something will have to be done for better conditions. For a few days the plague appeared to be dying out in this city but now a fresh start seems to have been gained.”

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Succumbs to pneumonia. Mrs. Dorothy Connelly dies at home near Graham Mine.

Mrs. Dorothy Connelly passed away at her home near the Graham mine yesterday after several days illness with pneumonia. Mrs. Connelly was born Jan. 6th, 1890, and was united in marriage with John Connelly on July 23rd, 1918. Her husband and one son, also her mother, Mrs. Frank Shellborn, and one brother, James Shellborn, survive her. Galena Gazette, Saturday, Nov: 9

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That next Monday, Nov. 11, came word the Great War was over. Galenians celebrated the occasion with a parade. They also learned that doctors reported 49 new cases of influenza.

The Red Cross swung into action, “Owing to the alarming increase in the number of cases of influenza the Red Cross committee...has decided to open the YMCA building as a hospital. The building is being thoroughly renovated and will be in charge of competent help at all times and any one afflicted with the disease will be welcome. It is appreciated that it is not always convenient to take care of patients suffering with contagious diseases in the home and it is hoped the hospital will be used by any one who feels that they need hospital attention.”

The Red Cross also put out a call for “Iron beds and cots and springs.”

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Today, At Home In Galena, 114 S. Main St., occupies the “YMCA” building. On the third floor, one can still see remnants of a basketball court.

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Influenza tightened its grip on Galena and according to The Gazette, the situation was “very grave and alarming.” The Red Cross put out a call for “any woman in the city who can go to a sick home and render any assistance whatever...It seems that if the public could only understand the dreadful conditions which exist in so many homes where the entire family is down with this terrible disease that this appeal for help would receive ready response. Your help for a few hours each day may save several lives.”

So how bad was the situation in Galena? The mayor relieved City Marshal Dwyer of “all other duties and give his entire time to placing quarantine flags where the disease is found and compelling people having this disease in their homes to give proper care and respect to the quarantine regulations.”

This was becoming a battle.

Once again, the mayor closed “theatres, moving picture houses and public gatherings of any kind. Saloons and pool halls will be open only from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. with a positive limit of 5 customers in same room at one time. Barber shops must not have over one waiting for each chair in the shop, in use. All stores must exercise utmost diligence in serving their customers, not to permit crowds of over 5 in any one part of the store at one time.”

Schools would remain open, but under very rigid inspection by teachers and school officials.” But not for long.

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Death of Harry Koempel. Young man dies this morning after short illness with pneumonia

Harry Koempel died at his home on School Section at 8 o’clock this morning after a short illness with plural pneumonia. He was born in Galena on November 23, 1892. He was united in marriage several years ago with Irene Sincock, who survives. He is also survived by his father,
Galena needed help. Galena’s doctors worked “day and night making from 25 to 50 calls outside of office patients,” The Gazette reported.

These doctors found “some pitiful cases. Families of four to six members are all down with the ‘flu’ and neighbors and friends are afraid to come to their assistance. There is great need of a strong organization quickly to go to the relief of those unfortunates, many of whom are poor and unprepared to fight any trouble.”

The Rev. Jerome R. McGlade, Westminster Presbyterian Church—then known as South Presbyterian Church—suggested seeking help from a higher authority and “that earnest prayer be offered in the homes for Galena and its afflicted homes and for the removal of the plague from our midst.”

He also asked the congregation to “lend what aid it can toward relief of any in distress.”

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Montgomery, three children and Mr. Montgomery’s father who had been ill with the influenza the past week at their home on North Dewey Avenue, are now reported improving. Galena Daily Gazette, Nov. 14, 1918

The United States Public Health Department also sent a doctor to Galena.

Two weeks from today is Thanksgiving. Now that the war is over and with the passing of the ‘flu’ epidemic, this will be the greatest Thanksgiving day in the history of the nation. The Galena Gazette, Nov. 14, 1918

On Thanksgiving Day 1918, the Bender household mourned the passing of Harriet Bender. And like many Galena households, two other family members, Anna, the mother, and Edna, a sister, were regaining strength from their bout with the flu.

In a letter to her brother and sister dated Nov. 21, 1918, Anna wrote, “I still have an awful cough. Of course Edna never had any fever, but she was sick in bed for a day. Harriet was an awful sick girl all through her illness and her temperature was always 103 and over until the day she passed away.

“She was unconscious from 7 o’clock in the morning until she died at 10:30 p.m. Poor girl. Her heart was too weak and her stomach too weak so she couldn’t eat anything...”

“The state doctor (from the U.S. Public Health Service) just looked at her and said she is beyond all hope. Maybe if I could get a real good nurse for her to keep her temperature down by bathing she may have pulled through.

“If I could have done something for her myself probably her fever would not take such affects on her. For two days I had an awful high temperature myself. But the Lord gave me strength that I could wait on Harriet the last day and a half.

“Just before she got unconscious, she just beg me to let her come in my bed. Because she trembled so and her back ache her so I told her I was afraid she may get cold coming to my bed. When she said ‘Oh Momma please come and get in with me,’ and I wanted to. But she turn over and got more easy so I did not get in bed with her.

“But I dressed myself and that was the last words she said...that we understood. Poor girl. It was so hard to make her understand as she lost her hearing and she look at us so pitiful.”

There was one more lament from this bereaved mother, “When we see each other I can tell you better for it makes my heart ache so. I was unable to go to the funeral so I asked some of Harriet’s dear friends to go and see her laid to rest. She certainly had beautiful flowers. Two of Harriet’s best friends, school mates, died at the same time.”

In Galena that day, Anna Bender told her brother and sister that the health board received news of 400 new cases of influenza.

As Thanksgiving 1918 approached, the world must have looked pretty gloomy in Galena. However, the storm’s end was soon approaching.

James H. Billingsley served as Galena’s mayor during a difficult time in his life and most likely was in mourning during the flu pandemic here. On Oct. 5, 1918, his wife, Nellie Hutchinson Billingsley, died after an illness of several weeks.

Businesses and schools were closed for her funeral. In 1907, the Billingsleys— they had two children, Betty and Clifford—moved to Galena, where James took over management of Frontier Mining Co., which operated mines in Benton, Wis. He worked there until his death on June 16, 1921, after a long illness.

In his early years, he worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad and then started the J.H. Billingsley Cut Stone Co., in Indianapolis, Ind. During those years he served as an alderman and president of the Indianapolis City Council and served in the Indiana State Legislature. Of his years as Galena mayor, 1917-1921, The Gazette noted that “all times (he) had the progressive interest of the city and its citizens of heart.”

The Gazette also noted, “During the World War Mr. Billingsley was chairman of the Jo Daviess County Liberty Loan Committee in addition took an energetic part in all activities that helped win the war. At the time of his death he was a member of the American Zinc Institute. the deceased was a member of Oriental Lodge No 500 A.F. & A. M. Valley of Indianapolis, Scottish Rite, Murial Temple Shrine and Galena Lodge No. 882 B.P.O. Elks.”

During the final days of his illness, James requested “The Home Over There” be sung at his funeral, and was.
The story of Galena’s experience during the 1918 flu pandemic is similar to one of those Midwest thunderstorms. As the clouds gathered, Galenians learned about the flu spreading in the military ranks.

As the wind whipped dust from the road and it began to sprinkle, Galenians learned of the flu’s spread to the civilian population. That’s when Lyall G. Eggleston died.

As the storm grew ever nearer, the news grew gloomy. The flu hit on Oct. 11 and Galena was directly in its cross hairs.

By the time of Harriett Bender’s death on Nov. 19, the storm wreaked havoc on Galena as the lightning and thunder of this disease collided with its human victims.
ing the streets."
The flu pandemic also stripped adults of their social outlets. Health officials told them to steer clear of people. All Galena organizations, including the Rebekahs, Elks, volunteer fire department and churches cancelled meetings, as their members focused on survival.

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Says 'flu' killed more Americans than the war.
Nov. 21, 1918 Galena Daily Gazette

When Winner, the Illinois Department of Public Health physician, arrived in Galena, he first met with local health authorities. In addition to inspecting public places, including hotels, developing a clear picture of the situation in Galena must have been a top priority.

Soliciting help of teachers and other volunteers, he organized a house-to-house canvass throughout Galena, for the following Monday, Nov. 25, 1918.

In its Saturday, Nov. 23 edition, The Gazette shared highlights of the upcoming canvass noting that every street within the city would be canvassed and that volunteers would leave literature plus "secure data" about each household.

Officials asked residents to "facilitate the volunteers' work" and added that the canvass should be completed the afternoon of Nov. 26.

In addition, The Gazette stated, "they (volunteers) should be treated with the utmost respect, for they are giving their time and services voluntarily and at the same time are taking chances on contracting the disease themselves and they are doing all this for you and yours."

Thirty citizens volunteered for duty.

Nineteen patients were reported at the Red Cross hospital in the YMCA building this morning. Monday, Nov. 25 Galena Daily Gazette

On the day of the canvass, The Gazette played its role of community cheerleader: "Credit to whom credit is due. Tireless work of Galena physicians commended—others great aid in 'Flu' epidemic."

"It is against medical ethics for members of the fraternity to advertise themselves, but it is not against newspaper ethics to say that Galena is to be congratulated on its physicians, all of whom, including the physician sent by the government, have been on the constant jump both day and night, attending calls all over Galena and in the surrounding country, and that the death rate has not been higher is due to the great care given by them and it must also be mentioned in this connection that Officer Dwyer has been untiring in his efforts to do all in his power, and coupled with the Red Cross under the watchful eye of its president and a band of noble women, have done much to alleviate the sufferings of many who otherwise might have fared very badly.

And our worthy mayor has stood back of every move required and his car has at all times been at the disposal of the medical fraternity when their own was busy.

"Taken as a whole the Galenian officials, medical fraternity, Red Cross and others have shown such a spirit of humanitarianism as is hard to equal and will go far in the years to come in cementing the warmest kind of friendships."

The Gazette never published the survey's findings.

Richard Dwyer, the city's health officer, knew the community needed even more help. Just before Thanksgiving, he turned to the women of Galena and pleaded, "Do you know that a little band of women is working night and day to attempt to combat with the influenza scourge which is sweeping our city? Do you know that some of them have worked as long as 72 hours without rest and that those stationed in the hospital frequently put in 24 hours in constant attendance of the patients there?"

"Do you know that today entire families are down with the disease and with no attention whatever, children and mothers without either sufficient food or beddin?"

"We have exhausted every means of securing nurses, the National Headquarters of the Red Cross cannot help us, the State Board of Health can do nothing so the women of Galena must respond."

"What we want is women to help. You do not have to be a nurse. We can use any able bodied woman who will offer her services but you must go into these afflicted homes and render such assistance as you can."

"We have arranged for the feeding of the sick both in the hospital and most of the homes, but is it fair to let this awful responsibility rest on these few noble women who have left their homes and families while there are many in the city even better equipped to help us?"

"If you are willing to assist...call...and leave your name and we will send a car for you."

In 1918, the pandemic must have given Thanksgiving an entirely new dimension. Church services and social functions were cancelled.
‘Attorney J.M. Nack was able to be downtown today after an attack with the flu.’

Dec. 2, 1918 Galena Daily Gazette

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This will be the first night in many years that a Thanksgiving eve ball has not been given at Turner Hall. Relief Hose Co. No. 4 always had this date for their annual dance and "befo' de wab" (before the war) it was the big event, drew a large crowd and turkeys were given away. When will those good old times come again? Wednesday, Nov. 27, 1918 Galena Daily Gazette

Authorities cancelled the annual Thanksgiving football game. The Nov. 27 Gazette noted, “Several of the crack quarterbacks and halfbacks are now tussling with “flu” it is said.”

The Gazette also noted, “There will be many happy Thanksgiving gatherings in Galena tomorrow but in many more there will be sickness and distress so share your happiness with those in need at this time and you will be doubly happy.”

Boy is called by death. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Holland, dies this morning. Elroy Holland, the 11-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Holland died at the home of his parents on Clay Street at 2:30 o’clock this morning. Saturday, Nov. 30 Galena Daily Gazette

Finding a silver lining in these storm clouds must have been difficult unless one was grateful to have been spared. However, hints were all about that the crescendo of this thunderstorm had reached its zenith.

On Nov. 15, The Gazette reported on a number of people recovering. “Fred Heinecke is recovering from an attack of the ‘flu’ at his home on Dewey Avenue. Mr. Heinecke is only one of the many who suffered with the disease on this thoroughfare. W. A. Bancroft is out again after a slight attack. Glen Montgomery and family are reported improving. The family of John Patters have an attack. Mrs. J.C. Maeders is recovering. Mr. and Mrs. Jos. C. Trautwein are reported improving. Mrs. John Kuchemann is also considerably improved. Victor Maeders is much better and E.B. Heron is also reported much better.”

Some people took weeks to recover, because this was no ordinary flu. Six days later, The Gazette reported: “E.B. Heron, city editor of The Gazette, is reported considerably improved. Although still confined to his bed, he was able to sit up yesterday for a short time.”

Attorney Joseph M. Nack, who lived at 416 Broadway St., also fell ill with the flu in late November. His father, John A. Nack, owned a shoe store near Broadway St., also fell ill with the flu in late November. When will those good old times come again? Wednesday, Nov. 27, 1918 Galena Daily Gazette

where the Paradise is located today On Dec. 2, The Gazette told readers, “Attorney J.M. Nack was able to be downtown today after an attack with the flu."

This was big news and welcome news. Today two of his grandchildren, Jim and Louis Nack, are third generation family members to practice law in Galena, along with two fourth-generation family members, great-grandsons, Joe and Tom Nack.

They have all worked out of the same building at 106 N. Main St.

Notice—Contributors of the First Presbyterian church are requested to have their weekly offerings at C.A. Asmus’ store. Wednesday, Dec. 4 Galena Daily Gazette

In December, the downpour gradually subsided. It didn’t come too soon. For weeks, regulations limited merchants to having a handful of people in their shops, as consumers focused on their own lives rather than buying commodities.

With Christmas approaching, Galena businesses needed holiday trade. Whether the local economy was in a crisis situation due to the pandemic is hard to determine 100 years later, but merchants must have felt the pinch of slow sales and larger-than-normal inventories.

On Wednesday, Dec. 4, The Gazette hinted at challenges within the local economy. “The situation now looks good in Galena so that health officials announced that they believe it perfectly safe for persons to come to Galena to shop. There have been only five new cases reported each day for several days and this is very small for a town the size of this town.”

The Gazette added, “Galena merchants this year have large and fine stocks equaling any year in the past and are ready now to supply a liberal amount of Christmas needs so the public outside of town can come to Galena, find what they want all with utmost safety for no matter where you go a person is bound to find a few cases of the ‘flu.’”

There must have been plenty of talk—rumors throughout the county.

The next day, The Gazette reported just four new cases of the flu, and urged its readers to be cautious. Ever mindful of merchants, The Gazette added, “The quarantine does not keep people from coming into the city nor leaving the city and all stores are open. Also stated in last evening’s issue of The Gazette, there is no more danger in coming to Galena to trade than in going to any nearby cities.”

On that day, Galena business people met with health authorities. Lifting the quarantine must have been utmost in their minds.

The Dec. 6 Gazette reported, “For and against lifting ‘flu’ ban. Board of Health and citizens discuss perplexing questions—situation improved. Board of Health met Dec. 5. Large number of businessmen present. A lot of discussion but no agreement.”

One could easily imagine this meeting. Merchants desperate for business pleaded to have the quarantine lifted. Health officials fearful that the storm might return argued to keep the quarantine in place for a little bit longer. The Gazette noted, “Today conditions were very good and Galena is practically free from the epidemic. One question rising was that if the quarantine was lifted now and the disease should run riot again then the town would be “shut up” the last few days before Christmas just when the holiday rush was on.”

The health department pledged to meet Dec. 6 to “work out a plan of action.”

Most flus victims under 50 years. NEW YORK--The epidemic of influenza “stole” millions of the best years of life, Henry Moir, insurance authority said.

Economic loss of active life: 25 years. Epidemic dislocated the standard mortality experience of insurance companies. Two percent of deaths were over 50. Eighty percent were under 40. Sixty percent under 35.

From the figures, the actuary said, it was apparent that the age of maximum virulence of the epidemic had been under 30, taking the young and vigorous. Saturday, Dec. 7 Galena Daily Gazette

The health board agreed to ease the quarantine. The Saturday, Dec. 7 Gazette announced these new regulations, “Churches may open to small meetings but they are requested not to have Sunday School or any meetings where the entire congregation will be present at one time, for at least another week.

‘Lodges may have business meetings, but no general meetings of all members for work. Groceries, meat markets and all other places of business, must limit trade to five customers in the same room at one time. All other stores, having more than one trading aisle, must limit to five customers in one aisle at one time. ‘Saloons may have five customers at one time. Schools may open if rigid inspection is made at
Attorney Joseph M. Nack works at his desk while talking to a client in his law office at 106 N. Main St. The third and fourth generation of the Nack family occupies this building. According to his grandson, Jim Nack, Joseph had little formal education. At one time, he served as clerk of the court and learned his trade by reading the law.

The assembly every morning and any pupil indisposed in any manner must be sent home.

"Beginning Dec. 9, houses will be placarded and influenza patients quarantined in their home.

"It is our desire to prevent any assemblage of over 30 people and those having meetings in charge are requested to use special effort in keeping persons with a cold and cough out."

The schools, however, didn’t open.

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Margaret Sander, 57, dies Dec. 6 at the Red Cross Hospital. She was a resident of Seminary Hill leaves husband and daughter Saturday, Dec. 7 Galena Daily Gazette

That same Saturday, The Gazette used its news columns to promote a “large Christmas trade” in Galena, adding, “Merchants hard hit past several months.”

The Gazette stated, “Galena businessmen cannot stop the ‘flu’ from attacking the city. They could not check the apparent infantile paralysis that threatened the town last summer. Both of these diseases hurt business to a great extent. The merchants could not stop the war that drew dollars and dollars out of their pockets for contributions, etc., consequently they need a good Christmas trade to make up for the past slump. It is indeed fortunate that Galena is so free from the ‘flu’ compared to other towns surrounding, but the problem is to keep it free...

“However, quarantine or no quarantine all wide-awake Galena merchants have to sell goods, they have to have money to keep going—the public needs the things the merchant sells. Sick or well, people are going to buy Christmas gifts if just small ones.”

The Gazette didn’t shy from a bit of self promotion, “Now here is a panacea for business—one that has been tried and proved helpful at once. That panacea is Gazette advertising. Regular advertisers realizing they have to fight harder for business this year have increased their customary space. They have recommended advertising to non-advertisers and these in turn have tried Gazette advertisements with profitable results. Surely if advertising will help the merchants who use it regularly, it will help tide others over the unfortunate conditions prevailing.”

The Gazette was a business as well. Its financial life blood was advertising.

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The Red Cross knew the pandemic was subsiding. It published a notice on Tuesday, Dec. 10 asking “ladies who have been doing nursing under the direction of the Red Cross in the influenza epidemic kindly send the bills for their services to the undersigned? Please show on your statement the name of the families you have waited on and the time spent with each family.”

The Red Cross asked merchants to submit statements.

And on Monday, Dec. 16 came this announcement, “The Red Cross Hospital has been closed. The building has been thoroughly fumigated and all persons having dishes there will kindly call Tuesday afternoon between the hours of 2 and 5 and get same.”

The worst was over, although parents would have to wait until Dec. 30 to send their children off to school. To make up for missed time, the

Jeanine Steinle holds a precious family heirloom associated with her uncle, Henry F. Peters, who died of the flu on Dec. 21, 1918 at Camp Travis in Texas. The only boy in a family of nine children, Jeanine says his death “took the life out” of his mother.

**Henry F. Peters died in the service of his country**

When Henry F. Peters of rural Galena fell ill with the flu at Camp Travis in Texas, Army Chaplain K. Schleede tended to his spiritual needs. When Peters died on Dec. 21, 1918, Schleede sent this message to the family.

“On Dec. 20 when I was called in to see Pvt. Henry Peters, 54th F.A., I found him in good spirits. He had sent for a Lutheran Pastor, and when I asked him why, he told me that he knew that he was quite sick. I asked him if he had been confirmed in the Lutheran Church, and he said that he had. I asked him then if he wanted me to pray with him, and when he answered in the affirmative, I asked him if he placed all his hope in his Savior? He answered that he did. I forgave him all his sins, on his confession that he knew himself to be a sinner, in the stead and place of the Savior. We then prayed the Lord’s Prayer together. On my request, he told me what he wanted written to his parents. This I did.

I am sure that he died as a Christian and a Lutheran. May the Almighty, who has never forgotten the afflicted, comfort the parents and family of this soldier, who died not only in the service of his country, but also in that of his Savior.

CHAPLAIN K. SCHLEIDE
Headquarters 164 D. B.
Camp Travis, Texas

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about the city in groups as usual, which would indicate that their parents are evidently indifferent about their health. Monday, Dec. 9 Galena Daily Gazette

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The Red Cross knew the pandemic was subsiding. It published a notice on Tuesday, Dec. 10 asking “ladies who have been doing nursing under
The newspaper also reported, “Galena merchants have been complimented by the city health department. For the cheerful manner in which they observed the quarantine laws while the ‘flu’ epidemic was on in this city. Not a merchant disobeys the orders and all were agreeable about it, realizing that they were only too willing to make financial sacrifices where health was concerned.

“Now that Galena is in good condition again, the merchants are entitled to a liberal patronage from local people and shoppers from the country and nearby towns. The local dealers certainly without exception have wonderful stocks this year, their stores are most attractively arranged to display the goods and the windows are dressed so temptingly that it is almost impossible to pass by without being imbued with the Christmas Spirit.

“For the benefit of the merchants the Health Department assures the public that Galena is in excellent condition, there being only two new cases reported today and those two in one family on the outskirts of town.

“Should the disease threaten to spread at any time the Health Department will immediately quarantine the town in plenty of time to check another epidemic. So shoppers can feel free to come to Galena to trade. If there is any danger of epidemic, the public will be warned at once through The Gazette.”

The next day, the health department ran a half-page ad announcing that “Galena is entirely clear of the flu epidemic.”

There were still a few tragic reminders of this storm.

On Tuesday, Dec. 17, The Gazette published another resolution honoring Lyall G. Eggleston. The resolution noted, “Whereas, It has pleased our great Commander to remove by death our esteemed comrade and brother Mr. L.G. Eggleston, who was one of our charter members and had always maintained an untarnished character and a reputation above reproach.

“Therefore resolved, That in the death of comrade Eggleston we have sustained the loss of a member whose fellowship it was an honor and pleasure to enjoy; that we bear willing testimony to his unquestioned loyalty and stainless life; that we offer to his bereaved family and mourning friends, over whom sorrow has hung her sable mantle, our heartfelt condolence, and pray that infinite Goodness may bring speedy relief to their burdened hearts and inspire them with the consolation that faith in God gives even the shadow of the tomb.

“Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread on the records of our camp and a copy be presented to the family of our deceased comrade. H.T. Priestley, Tonie P. Bahwell, J.B. Ginn, Committee, S.H. Kitooe, senior vice commander, U.S. Grant Camp No. 45, Sons of Veterans, Galena, Illinois. T. Sherman Golden, secretary.”

Galena will again brighten up tonight when the two moving picture theatres will reopen after being closed for many weeks on account of the ‘flu’ epidemic. Both the play houses have been thoroughly cleaned and fumigated and will be aglow tonight with special programs. Thursday, Dec. 19, 1918 Galena Daily Gazette

As Christmas drew near, another one of Galena’s soldiers, Private Henry F. Peters found himself in the flu pandemic’s crosshairs.

Peters grew up on a Rice Township farm with eight sisters and was the only son of Christian and Christina Peters. The Army drafted him on May 24, 1918, and shipped him to a cavalry unit at Camp Stanley in Texas. On Aug. 19, the Army
transferred him to Battery E, 54th Field Artillery at Camp Travis.

The family received word of Henry’s illness on Saturday, Dec. 21. Christian and his son-in-law, Joe Gerlich, left as soon as possible for Camp Travis. They arrived too late. Henry died.

The Gazette noted in its Monday, Dec. 23 edition that the body would be arriving that next Wednesday, Christmas Day.

The flu pandemic of 1918 devastated many families and in turn changed the course of history. Even in the midst of loss, came a yearning to get things back to normal.

Part of the process involved getting children back to school. Public schools opened Dec. 30, when The Gazette reported, “The public schools opened today after a long enforced vacation due to the ‘flu.’ The attendance was large and both the teachers and pupils seemed glad to resume their school duties. Some doubt seemed to prevail as to whether the sessions would be held on New Years Day.”

It seems that Galenians threw out the old when 1918 ended and brought in the new on Jan. 1, 1919. After weeks and weeks of news about flu, one would be hard pressed to see any mention of this dreaded disease in The Gazette in January 1919.

It was as if a bad dream—a bad storm—ended and no one wanted to remember it. A new day had begun.

Lyall Eggleston was skilled in the arts and even attended the Chicago Institute of Art. Above is one of his music books, which is still a treasured family heirloom.

Lyall’s brother sends a letter home

“How is Lyall getting along? Did he get home?”

These questions appeared in the Oct. 31, 1918 Galena Weekly Gazette, in a letter home from Harold Eggleston to his parents. Harold was asking about his brother, Lyall.

Harold was at a YMCA in Paris, immersed in the war effort in Europe. His letter continues, “I am now settled permanently and have a good job at a warehouse or rather five warehouses, for I am doing the entire shipping for five of the big warehouses here in Paris.

“How is Lyall getting along? Did he get home? How soon will he get on a ship? I hope he gets on a subchaser or a cruiser because they lay up here in France often and the sailors get leave for Paris. If he ever does tell him to inquire for the Quartermaster’s Hotel and he will probably find me. My old chum at Washington is at Nevers. I wish I could get down to see him but I don’t see how I can, I don’t even get Saturdays off.”

Harold wrote the letter Sept. 19. His brother Lyall never got a chance to see it. The two men never had a chance to meet in Paris, two brothers enjoying Europe together as the tide of war receded.

In the time it took the letter to travel from Paris to Galena, Lyall had died at the Great Lakes Naval Hospital on Sept. 28, 1918, from pneumonia as a result of influenza.
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