

HALE COLUMBIA

Columbia, Pa. Medical Record, 1893-1905

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Introduction

Lena Agle, age 2½, died of diphtheria on October 9, 1893. Just one week earlier, Dr. William Taylor had reported her illness to the Columbia Board of Health—a newly formed agency within the government of Columbia borough. Lena was just one of 153 cases of diphtheria recorded in the log of “Infectious and Contagious Diseases” between September 1893 and December 1894. The Borough of Columbia kept this written record, the “Ledger,” from the start of the diphtheria outbreak until September 1905 (Infectious and Contagious). The same volume also contains records of births and deaths in Columbia from 1893 to 1900. This book, stored at the Lancaster County Archives and also available on microfilm, provides valuable insight into the relationship between government, public health, medical personnel, medical institutions, and society from the end of the nineteenth century and into the beginning of the twentieth century.



Columbia Hospital, COLUMBIA, Pa.

The new Columbia Hospital opened on Thanksgiving day, 1903. It was located at 7th and Poplar Streets in Columbia.

Photo from a post card (No. _22103) Souvenir Post Card Co., New York, with 1 cent postage

The Ledger

INFECTIOUS AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

Date.	NAME.	AGE.		SEX.		COLOR.		NO.	STREET.	DISEASE.	DIED.			PHYSICIAN.
		Yrs.	Mo.	MALE.	FEM.	WHITE.	BLACK.				MONTH.	DATE.	YEAR.	
1893														
Sept 22	Mary Good	16		F		W		138	South 8 th	Diphtheria				G. W. Brunkhild. Md.
" 28	Musson	6		F		W			N. 3 rd	"				J. A. Lincowaves. Md.
Oct 2	Lena Agle	2	6	F		W		242	South 8 th	"				G. G. Taylor. Md.
" 4	Annie M. Good	3		F		W		138	South 8 th	"				G. W. Brunkhild. Md.
" 5	Mary Neiburger	6		F		W		144	N. 7 th	"				J. A. Lincowaves. Md.
" 7	Edw. J. Jerga	16		M		W		202	S. 6 th	"				W. S. Brunkhild. Md.
" 8	Albert Reech	7		M		W			Walnut 14 th 6	"				Alex. Craig. Md.
" 9	Ellie Kern	10		F		W		35	1 st St. St.	"				J. M. Livingston. Md.
" 9	Isabel C. Lutz	1		F		W		369	Chestnut	Scarlet Rash				W. G. Taylor. Md.
" 9	Madame Lutz	3	6	F		W		369	Chestnut	"				W. G. Taylor. Md.
" 9	Ruth M. Stowick	"		F		W		227	Union	"				W. G. Taylor. Md.
" 9	Gertrude Lehman	6		F		W		242	Union	"				W. G. Taylor. Md.
" 8	Bennett							243	Perry	Diphtheria				S. A. Sever. Md.
" 12	Gertrude Parsons	4		F		W		21	N. 5 th	Scarlatina				W. G. Taylor. Md.
" 13	Sophie Willert	9		F		W		715	B. Florence	Diphtheria				W. G. Taylor. Md.
" 13	Nancy Munich	3		M		W		160	S. 5 th	Diphtheria Compd.				A. S. Sever. Md.
" 13	Michael	3		M		W			Scout bet. 5 th	Scarlatina				Alex. Craig. Md.
" 14	Howard Schall	7		M		W		124	N. 3 rd	Scarlet Fever				J. M. Livingston. Md.
" 14	Edith Bremer	4		F		W		33	N. 5 th	"				J. M. Livingston. Md.
" 14	Henry	4		M		W			Manor 8 th 5 th	Diphtheria				A. S. Sever. Md.
" 15	Anna Minick	5		M		W		160	S. 5 th	"				G. W. Brunkhild. Md.
" 15	Marton			M		W		327	Cherry	Scarlet Fever				S. A. Sever. Md.
" 16	Cornshaw	10		M		W			4 th & Mill	Diphtheria				C. P. Markel. Md.
" 16	Nagouglor	9		M		W		141	N. 7 th	"				C. P. Markel. Md.
" 17	Norman Schrell	6		M		W		22	N. 6 th	"				J. M. Livingston. Md.
" 17	Frank Howard	10		M		W		53	N. Broad	"				J. A. Lincowaves. Md.
" 21	Charles Minick	3		F		W		277	Union	Scarlet Rash				W. G. Taylor. Md.
" 22	Minnie Metz	9		F		W		728	Chestnut	Diphtheria				J. A. Lincowaves. Md.
" 23	Nata M. Sliver	"		F		W		239	Walnut	"				J. M. Livingston. Md.
" 23	J. H. Mittenberger	4		M		W		366	Cherry	Scarlet Fever				J. A. Lincowaves. Md.
" 25	Wm. Rorr	12		M		W		545	Newton	Diphtheria				G. W. Brunkhild. Md.
" 26	Sam. Matson	9		F		W		127	S. Broad	"				W. G. Taylor. Md.
" 26	Nancy Bondle	7		M		W		711	Walnut	"				J. M. Livingston. Md.
" 27	Maggie Von Statten	3		F		W			8 th Union	"				W. S. Brunkhild. Md.
" 27	Maud Haasfelder	13		F		W		124	N. 7 th	Scarlet Fever				W. S. Brunkhild. Md.
" 27	Miles Haasfelder	8		M		W		124	N. 7 th	"				W. S. Brunkhild. Md.

Smallpox

Despite the efforts and warnings of the Board of Health, smallpox arrived in Columbia on March 10, 1902, in the person of a “tramp” named George Anderson whose address was recorded as “earth” in the infectious disease ledger. He had a mild case of smallpox and was promptly transported to the infectious disease building of the county hospital in Lancaster. The board initiated efforts to identify and vaccinate any contacts. However, on March 28, Harry Shackenbach, a resident of Columbia, developed smallpox. The epidemic progressed slowly through April, spread rapidly in May, peaked in early June, tapered off in July, and was over in August. The course of the outbreak and the response to it are nicely detailed in an article written by Dr. Alex R. Craig, published in the report of the State Board of Health in 1904. He stated that there were 161 cases and two deaths in a population of 12,316, an incidence of one and six-tenths percent (Craig).



Needle used for “variolation” or “inoculation.” In variolation or inoculation, the patient was exposed to material from a pustule of someone infected with smallpox. Unfortunately, this method allowed other diseases to be transmitted as well and was eventually replaced by vaccination. Made in Europe, 1701-1800, maker unknown. *Credit: Science Museum, London, No. A615199*