

HALE COLUMBIA

Columbia, Pa. Medical Record, 1893-1905

Joseph W. Lahr M. D.



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.



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. Bronckhorst M.D.
" 28	Musson	6		F		W			N. 3 rd	"				J. A. Lincoway M.D.
Oct 2	Lena Agle	2	6	F		W		242	South 8 th	"				G. G. Taylor M.D.
" 4	Annie M. Good	3		F		W		138	South 8 th	"				G. W. Bronckhorst M.D.
" 5	Mary Neiburger	6		F		W		144	N. 7 th	"				J. A. Lincoway M.D.
" 7	Edw. J. Jergan	16		M		W		202	S. 6 th	"				W. S. Bronckhorst M.D.
" 8	Albert Reech	7		M		W			Walnut 14 th 6	"				Alex. Craig M.D.
" 9	Ellie Kern	10		F		W		35	1 st St Paul	"				J. M. Livingston M.D.
" 9	Isabel C. Lutz	1		F		W		369	Chestnut	Scarlet Rash				W. G. Taylor M.D.
" 9	Madame Lutz	3	6	F		W		369	Chestnut	"				W. G. Taylor M.D.
" 9	Julia Stenrich	"		F		W		227	Vermont	"				W. G. Taylor M.D.
" 9	Gertrude Lehman	6		F		W		242	Vermont	"				W. G. Taylor M.D.
" 8	Bennett							243	Perry	Diphtheria				S. A. Amon M.D.
" 12	Gertrude Parsons	4		F		W		21	N. 5 th	Scarlatina				W. G. Taylor M.D.
" 13	Sophie Willert	9		F		W		715	B. Florence	Diphtheria				W. G. Taylor M.D.
" 13	Nancy Munich	3		M		W		160	S. 5 th	Diphtheria Compd				A. S. Lerow M.D.
" 13	Michael	3		M		W			Scout bet. 5 th	Scarlatina				Alex. Craig M.D.
" 14	Howard Schall	7		M		W		124	N. 3 rd	Scarlet Fever				J. M. Livingston M.D.
" 14	Edith Bremer	4		F		W		33	N. 5 th	"				J. M. Livingston M.D.
" 14	Henry	4		M		W			Manor 8 th 5 th	Diphtheria				A. S. Lerow M.D.
" 15	Anna Minick	5		M		W		160	S. 5 th	"				G. W. Bronckhorst M.D.
" 15	Marton			M		W		327	Cherry	Scarlet Fever				S. A. Amon M.D.
" 16	Caroline	10		M		W			4 th & Mill	Diphtheria				C. P. Markel M.D.
" 16	Nagantogler	9		M		W		141	N. 7 th	"				C. P. Markel M.D.
" 17	Norman Schrell	6		M		W		22	N. 6 th	"				J. M. Livingston M.D.
" 17	Frank Howard	10		M		W		53	N. Broad	"				J. A. Lincoway M.D.
" 21	Charles Minick	3		F		W		277	Vermont	Scarlet Rash				W. G. Taylor M.D.
" 22	Minnie Metz	9		F		W		728	Chestnut	Diphtheria				J. A. Lincoway M.D.
" 23	Nata M. Sliver	"		F		W		239	Walnut	"				J. M. Livingston M.D.
" 23	J. H. Mittenberger	4		M		W		366	Cherry	Scarlet Fever				J. A. Lincoway M.D.
" 25	Wm. Rorr	12		M		W		545	Newton	Diphtheria				G. W. Bronckhorst M.D.
" 26	Sam. Matson	9		F		W		127	S. Broad	"				W. G. Taylor M.D.
" 26	Nancy Bondle	7		M		W		711	Walnut	"				J. M. Livingston M.D.
" 27	Maggie Von Statten	3		F		W			8 th Vermont	"				W. S. Bronckhorst M.D.
" 27	Maud Haefelber	13		F		W		124	N. 7 th	Scarlet Fever				W. S. Bronckhorst M.D.
" 27	Wm. Haefelber	8		M		W		124	N. 7 th	"				W. S. Bronckhorst M.D.

Typhoid Fever

Unlike diphtheria and scarlet fever, typhoid fever was a disease of young adults. In the largest outbreak in 1900, the average age was twenty-five years. In several smaller outbreaks, the average was closer to twenty-one. While it is not clear why children, relatively, were spared, the pattern was very consistent. The largest outbreak occurred from May to December 1900 during which there were fifty cases and six recorded deaths from typhoid fever. Smaller outbreaks, ranging from eleven cases in 1901 to twenty cases in each of 1903 and 1905 also were recorded. They almost always began in the early spring and lasted for several months.



This illustration depicts a three-dimensional (3D) computer-generated image of a number of *Salmonella* serotype Typhi bacteria. The artistic recreation was based upon scanning electron microscopic (SEM) imagery. Note the presence of numerous thin, short fimbriae emanating from the organisms' cell wall, imparting a furry appearance to these bacteria, and the multiple peritrichous flagella, i.e., flagella protruding in all directions from the cell wall, which provide the bacteria with a mode of motility.

Image and caption credit: Centers for Disease Control, James Archer, PHIL 21918