

## **EPIDEMICS & PANDEMICS**

In case you ever wondered why a large number of your ancestors disappeared during a certain period in history, this might help.

Epidemics have always had a great influence on people - and thus influencing as well, the genealogists trying to trace them. Many cases of people disappearing from records can be traced to a probable death during a major contagious outbreak, or moving away from the affected area. Some of the major epidemics (in the United States) are charted below:

YEAR	LOCATION	AILMENTS				
1657	Boston	Measles				
1687	Boston	Measles				
1690	New York		Yellow Fever			
1713	Boston	Measles				
1729	Boston	Measles				
1732-3	WORLDWIDE			Influenza		
1738	South Carolina				Small Pox	
1739-40	Boston	Measles				
1747	CT, NY, PA, SC	Measles				
1759	North America	Measles				Caucasian settlements
1761	North America & West Indies			Influenza		
1772	North America	Measles				
1775	North America				UNKNOWN	especially hard in NE
1775-6	WORLDWIDE			Influenza		one of worst pandemics
1783	Dover, DE				Bilious Disorder	EXTREMELY FATAL
1788	New York & Philadelphia	Measles				
1793	Vermont			Influenza		"a putrid fever"
	Virginia			Influenza		500 from 5 counties
	Philadelphia		Yellow Fever			one of worst epidemics
	Harrisburg, PA					UNKNOWN
	Middletown, PA					UNKNOWN
1794						
1796-7	Philadelphia		Yellow Fever			
1798						one of worst epidemics
1803	New York City		Yellow Fever			
1820-3	USA nationwide				"Fever"	starts Schuylkill River & spreads
1831-32	USA nationwide				Cholera	brought by English emigrants
1832	New York City				Cholera	and other major cities
1833	Columbus, OH				Cholera	
1834	New York City				Cholera	

1837	Philadelphia			Typhus			
1841	USA nationwide		Yellow Fever				severe in southern states
1847	New Orleans, LA		Yellow Fever				
1847-8	WORLDWIDE			Influenza			
1848-9	North America				Cholera		
1849	New York City				Cholera		
1850	USA nationwide		Yellow Fever				
1850-1	North America			Influenza			
1851	Coles Co, IL, Missouri & The Great Plains				Cholera		
1852	USA nationwide		Yellow Fever				8000 die in New Orleans during summer
1855	USA nationwide		Yellow Fever				many parts
1857-9	WORLDWIDE			Influenza			one of worst pandemics
1860-1	Pennsylvania				Small Pox		
1865-73	New York, Boston, New Orleans & Philadelphia				Small Pox		
1865-73	Baltimore, Memphis & Washington, DC	Typhoid	Yellow Fever	Typhus	Cholera	Scarlet Fever	
1873-75	North America & Europe			Influenza			
1878	New Orleans		Yellow Fever				Last major epidemic
1885	Plymouth, PA	Typhoid					
1886	Jacksonville, FL		Yellow Fever				
1918	WORLDWIDE			Influenza			See note
2003	WORLDWIDE					SARS	8000 die in Toronto, ON

**NOTE:**

1918 Influenza - worldwide

Worldwide more people were hospitalized in WWI from this pandemic than wounded. US Army training camps became death camps, with death rates in excess of 80% in some locations.

2003 Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome – worldwide

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