

# Many succumb to 1918 influenza

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The Herald opined, "One of the war's real horrors is now coming right home to us here in Sewickley. Let us meet it with the Sewickley spirit! There are no public meetings, no community sings, voices are mute in speech and song, while a silent effort is being made to induce persons to subscribe to the Fourth Liberty Loan.

"The air is filled with suspicion and onion fumes, and woe to the person who sneezes in public — he is shunned like a German. At the bank customers have to do business through windows barred with cheesecloth, in addition to the traditional bronze bars and plate glass. The town was dead before this, unkind persons have said, but now it is dead."

Edgeworth Public School building was requisitioned by the Edgeworth Board of Health and fitted up with 50 beds and two nurses.

The Oct. 26 Herald reported that Cochran Hose was washing down all the streets which was thought to materially aid in combating the epidemic. By then, there were 589 cases in Sewickley alone with 11 deaths.

A week later, the beginning of November, the flu seemed on the wane. On Nov. 9, the State flu ban on assembly of Oct. 4 was rescinded, and although infections continued to occur and there were some closings at the end of November, a modicum of normal life began to return to the valley.

The Herald spoke for all: "Normal community life is to be resumed today with churches, library, schools, lectures, moving pictures and all the social occasions which have been so greatly missed in our lives these past weeks.

"Perhaps it is a good thing for many of us to realize how much all of these things mean to us after all. The ban has cost us much, both as a community and individually. We fervently trust that we will never again be placed under such a misfortune."

Dr. Walters addressed Sewickley Borough Council: "Sewickley got through the epidemic very well. Our hospitals answered the purpose admirably, and with the help of the Red Cross were able to give the patients the best of attention. The hospitals could have been filled to overflowing with patients had it not been for the splendid work of the ladies of Sewickley, who supplied soup and other food and lent a hand in caring for patients in their homes, thus making it unnecessary to bring them to the hospital.

"It was common to find whole families sick at once, so that none of them could nurse or care for the others. A good proportion of our population was infected, but our death rate has been remarkably low."

By December, there were 950 cases in Sewickley with more than 20 deaths, and Edgeworth recorded having treated 64 patients in their hospital with 8 deaths. Each municipality incurred expenses of about \$2,500 in defense of the public health.

Deaths occurred on into the winter, but the worst had passed. It had been frightful, especially as society itself was threatened for a time. One was encouraged not to make social calls, not to visit the sick, to send a card instead, and you can pity the poor postman who made his rounds



**THIS HEADSTONE marks the memory of Edgeworth's courageous physician, Dr. Robert Dickson.**

with a gauze mask on.

**Following are** the dates of decease, names, addresses, ages and locations of the victims of the Spanish Influenza buried throughout Sewickley Cemetery.

Note the distressingly large proportion that were struck down in the prime of life, although there are some young people and infants.

May the community be mindful of what happened then, and be spared a similar fate.

• Oct. 1, Rini P. K. Vas, Sewickley Township, 7 months, Lot 76, Sec. F

• Oct. 7, Joseph Staunton Craig, Sewickley, 23, Lot 79, Sec. G

• Oct. 11, Louis W. Sheets, Shields, 32, Lot 143, Sec. G

• Oct. 12, Charles Ross Featherstone, Leetsdale, 2, Lot 9, Sec. F

• Oct. 15, Fletcher G. Brown, Aleppo, 28, Lot 141, Sec. E

• Oct. 16, Harry Mercer, Leetsdale, 3 months, Lot 129, Sec. E

• Oct. 16, Ralph Rine, Leetsdale, 25, Lot 146, Sec. G

• Oct. 17, Verner Nichols, Sewickley, 37, Lot 128 1/2, Sec. B

• Oct. 18, Josephine McDonald, Sewickley, 8, Lot 53, Sec. B

• Oct. 18, Robert W. Kellog, not living locally, 33, Lot 113, Sec. C

• Oct. 19, Robert W. Rine, Leetsdale, 18, Lot 147, Sec. G

• Oct. 23, Ruth Anna Peters, Ambridge, 22, Lot 140 1/2, Sec. F

• Oct. 23, Agniss Annabell Wharton, Sewickley, 12, Lot 96, Sec. E

• Oct. 25, Herman Devenney, Edgeworth, 8, Lot 213a, Sec. F

• Oct. 25, Anna Wickler, Leet Township, 28, Lot 128 1/2, Sec. F

• Oct. 25, Anna Ford, Sewickley, 30, Lot 137, Sec. D

• Oct. 25, Gertrude Weber, Glenfield, 27, Lot

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152, Sec. G

• Oct. 26, Audley N. Marlatt, Sewickley, 35, Lot 6 1/2, Sec. B

• Oct. 28, James E. Parks, Ambridge, 34, Lot 155, Sec. G

• Oct. 29, Ella Morris, Leetsdale, 34, Lot 157, Sec. G

• Oct. 30, Tony Robella, Osborne, 3, Lot 537, Sec. E

• Nov. 5, Eleanor Johnson, Aleppo, 2, Lot 118, Sec. E

• Nov. 9, Norman Rucker, Edgeworth, 8, Lot 14, Sec. F

• Nov. 10, Edward McClelland, Edgeworth, 16, Lot 154, Sec. G

• Nov. 11, Daniel Brotherly, Glenfield, 28, Lot 161, Sec. G

• Nov. 12, Frances H. Gibson, Sewickley, 20, Lot 160 1/2, Sec. F

• Nov. 15, Laura D. Hawkins, Sewickley, 40, Lot 90, Sec. E

• Nov. 16, Dittman J. Luty, Sewickley, 20, Lot 90, Sec. E

• Nov. 16, Tucker Henderson, not living locally, 40, Lot 299, Sec. E

• Nov. 17, Minnie Tucker, Sewickley, 38, Lot 156, Sec. G

• Nov. 17, Mrs. Ward Gibb, Sewickley, 27, Lot 111, Sec. C

• Nov. 19, Buehla Featherstone, Leetsdale, 15, Lot 162, Sec. G

• Nov. 21, Wharton F. Gibb, Sewickley Heights, 28, Lot 111, Sec. C

• Nov. 22, Mary A. Langley, not living locally, 42, Lot 25, Sec. B

• Nov. 23, Gertrude Marie Kaelin, Shields, 25, Lot 18, Sec. C

• Nov. 26, Earling R. Brush, Sewickley, 32, Lot 150, Sec. C

• Nov. 26, Georgie A. Parker, not living locally, 40, Lot 80, Sec. C

• Nov. 27, Alice L. Wallace, Leetsdale, 31, Lot 164, Sec. G

• Dec. 1, Mary E. Jones, Sewickley, 46, Lot 92, Sec. E

• Dec. 1, Mary Esther Brown, Glenfield, 7, Lot 15, Sec. F

• Dec. 4, Anna C. Sickler, not living locally, 44, Lot 124, Sec. C

• Dec. 7, William H. Best, Osborne, 21, Lot 107 1/2, Sec. F

• Dec. 11, William H. Parrish, Sewickley, 39, Lot 165, Sec. G

• Dec. 12, Charles W. Woodward, Sewickley, 23, Lot 169, Sec. G

• Dec. 15, Mary Louise McElwain, Sewickley, 21 months, Lot 103, Sec. D

• Dec. 18, George O. Pardes, Haysville, 12, Lot 16, Sec. F

• Dec. 18, Walter J. Kaelin, not living locally, 16, Lot 124, Sec. C

• Dec. 22, Benjamin Tate, Leetsdale, 35, Lot 20b, Sec. F

1919

• Jan. 7, Marion W. Griffin, Shields, 15, Lot 160 1/2, Sec. F

• Jan. 8, Mary Edgar, not living locally, 40, Lot 14b, Sec. G

• Jan. 20, Mary Louise McElwain, Sewickley, 32, Lot 103, Sec. D

• Jan. 27, William Clarner, Haysville, 48, Lot 296, Sec. E

• Feb. 15, John B. Reno, Jr., Sewickley, 31, Lot 22, Sec. B

• Feb. 15, Walter Moore, not living locally, 42, Lot 26, Sec. G