

Epidemics, Infectious Diseases and Quarantines, 1844-1922

compiled by Bill Page

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Also see: Anderson, Frank, and Edith Anderson Wakefield, The History of Medicine in Brazos County

1844 / 1845: unknown disease marked by fever and lung congestion

See Anderson's history, page 14

1846 / 1847: pneumonia

See Anderson's history, pages 14-15

1858: Scarlet fever

... Mr. M. [Elliot M. Millican], in his capacity of neighborhood doctor, was out when we arrived, attending upon the cases of scarlet fever, which was raging in the neighborhood. Quite a number of children were down, and some had died, whilst others were not expected to live ... Galveston Weekly News, 26 January 1858, page 3

1863: Smallpox

1863: Dec. 26 – Saturday ... While lodging with Bro. Iglehart in Millican we heard that smallpox was in town, so we had our little daughter, Lidie, vaxinated by Dr. Sims. [See W.S. South Journal, in Hull Papers, Cushing Library, Texas A&M University, box 1-9]

1864: Yellow fever

Anderson, Tex., October 15, 1864

Lieutenant Brashear, Commanding Provost Guard, Millican:

The yellow fever having broken out amongst the prisoners, it is necessary in order to prevent its spreading to the guard and the prisoners to scatter them into the country at points not too far from the railroad. You will therefore divide the prisoners into squads of from eight to ten, sending a guard of sufficient strength (from fifteen to twenty-five) to guard the worst class of prisoners, and such as may be acclimated, at Millican. You will remain at Millican yourself, as I am told you have had the yellow fever, and do everything in your power to make the condition of the sick as comfortable as possible. To effect this, you are hereby authorized to impress cotton to make mattresses and beading for the sick, as well as anything else necessary for their comfort, observing the provisions of the impressment law. As soon as these different parties locate themselves, direct the officer in charge of each to inform you of their localities, so that you can communicate with them when necessary. Doctor Cade has been ordered to remain at Millican.

J.G. Walker,

Major-General, Commanding.

After the prisoners were sent to Millican, a few cases of yellow fever occurred there. The extent of that outbreak is not known, nor whether anyone died of the fever there. (Lisarelli, Daniel Francis, The Last Prison: The Untold Story of Camp Groce CSA, Parkland, FL: Universal Publishers, 1999, pages 107-109; also The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series II, volume 7, page 994; also Keating, John M., A History of the Yellow Fever, Memphis, TN: Printed for the Howard Association, 1879, page 91: 1864 ... Galveston ... mortality, 259; Houston, Tex.; Millican, Tex.).

1866: cholera

Millican, Nov. 19, 1866

Eds. News – To-day we have but one new cholera case reported. On yesterday, Sunday, five interments; to-day two. We have reason to hope that the epidemic has passed away, and that we shall once more be blessed with health – total whites have died six – Negroes 18 (?).

Yours, W.

P.S. – There is a fact connected with the progress of cholera here; that when one shall die in a house, nearly all the ... [illegible]. Galveston Tri-Weekly News, 21 November 1866, page 2, col.1

From Navasota ... We are informed that there are over one hundred wagons at Bryant's Station loaded with cotton bound for Millican, but in consequence of the cholera at that place the teamsters are afraid to venture into the town ... Galveston Tri-Weekly News, 28 November 1866, page 2, col.3

Nov. 30th, 1866

Millican, Texas

To Mr. E.M. Wheelock: ... We suspended school for 2 weeks, the cholera having made its appearance in town and people were afraid to send their children in consequence ... In my last report I spoke of two schools in town taught by Mrs. Mary McFadden and Octavia Carr; they have not taught for 3 weeks and I presume discontinued the business until next year.

Very Respectfully,

Mary T. Smith

(from Records of the Superintendent of Education for the State of Texas, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1870. National Archives and Records Service, microfilm publication M822, reel 11)

An account of the cholera written many years later says: "...The cholera epidemic struck in 1866. Residents in Millican today recall their parents talking about as many as 100 persons dying in the epidemic..." [from "Boom Era Ended for Millican After War, Yellow Fever, Riots," Houston Post, 20 July 1963, reproduced in F.L. Pool's, The Life and Times of F.L. Pool, Millican: The Juggery, 1990, page 372]

1867: Yellow fever

See Brazos County History: Rich Past, Bright Future

1867: Pneumonia

Colonel Holman, formerly President of the Pacific Railroad, and residing at Marshall, died yesterday at Bryan City, of pneumonia. Flake's Bulletin (Galveston), 10 December 1867, page 4

1870: Meningitis (extent unknown)

“In 1870, four of his [Harvey Mitchell's] young daughters between the ages of one and fourteen, as well as their first grandchild, died of spinal meningitis within one week.” Van Bavel, Margaret Lips, Birth and Death of Boonville; page 95. These deaths occurred from January 18th to January 25th, 1870. (Brazos County History, Rich Past – Bright Future, page 247).

1870: Measles

The measles are prevailing in Bryan. Mrs. Capt. Henderson died there on Tuesday last. Galveston Tri-Weekly News, 18 March 1870, page 3

Jo Goodwin, died, aged 1; girl; died Feb.1870, measles; born TX. 1870 Mortality Schedule, family no. 285.

Rob. Hall died, aged 22; died Feb.1870, measles; born TX. 1870 Mortality Schedule, family no. 539.

Susan McCullough died, African American; aged 3 months; died Feb.1870, measles; born TX. 1870 Mortality Schedule, family no.548.

H. Morrison died, aged 1; boy; died Feb.1870, measles; born TX. 1870 Mortality Schedule, family no.285

John Newton died, aged 4; died Feb.1870, measles; born TX. 1870 Mortality Schedule, family no.558

Amanda Thrasher died, aged 19; married; died Jan.1870, measles; keeping house; born TX. 1870 Mortality Schedule, family no.?

1873: Yellow fever

See document on Bryan's "Yellow Fever Cemetery"

1877: Scarlet fever

Scarlet fever is reported prevailing in Bryan. Brenham Daily Banner, 10 March 1877, page 2

1878: unknown

Brazos County ... There is a great deal of sickness in the country at present, produced by the great amount of wet weather we have been having for five or six weeks past ... Galveston Weekly News, 5 August 1878, page 2, col.9

Bryan has revoked her quarantine ordinance and Columbus has passed one. Brenham Weekly Banner, 2 Aug. 1878, p. 2.

1880: unknown

The *Brazos Pilot* says the doctors are all getting rich this season. "An ill wind," etc. Houston Post, 12 October 1880, page 2

Bryan, Dec. 1 – Napoleon B. Davis died in the Brazos bottom Sunday morning. Dr. J.B. McLelland is lying dangerously ill and is expected to die. More deaths in Bryan this past summer than ever before for the same length of time. Houston Post, 2 December 1880, page 1

1881: measles

Bryan, April 13 – A strong norther is blowing to-night. A number of cases of measles in the city and two or three deaths from the same. Dallas Weekly Herald, 21 April 1881, page 7

Bryan, April 14 ... The measles, mumps and whooping cough have caused a falling off in the attendance at the public schools, of about thirty-five per cent. Dallas Weekly Herald, 21 April 1881, page 7

1881 / 1882? - Smallpox. I have not seen any indication of a smallpox epidemic around this time, except for the following reference to a Bryan city ordinance, perhaps indicating some recent concern about that disease?

Bryan ... The time given by the small-pox ordinance passed some time since by the City Council expired to-day. Every citizen subject to the contagion who has not been vaccinated, is liable to be fined \$25. Galveston Daily News, 18 January 1882, page 1.

1883: pneumonia

Brazos ... Mrs. A.H. Wilkerson, wife of Mr. John E. Wilkerson, hospital steward of the Agricultural and Mechanical College, died of pneumonia Wednesday morning. The remains were conveyed to Millican for interment. Galveston Daily News, 3 February 1883, page 3.

Bryan ... Several deaths have occurred recently at the Agricultural and Mechanical College from pneumonia. Among the number: Mr. John Wilkerman, the drummer,

and also his wife. Several more are seriously sick. Galveston Daily News, 6 Feb. 1883, page 1, col.6; also Waco Daily Examiner, 7 February 1883, page 1

Bryan, February 8 – Professor Gardner, of the Agricultural and Mechanical College, is very sick with pneumonia, and is said to be in quite a critical condition. Galveston Daily News, 9 February 1883, page 1

Bryan, February 13 ... Mr. Calvert, cadet at the Agricultural and Mechanical College, died to-day. Also, Professor Gardner, instructor in modern languages, died and was buried in our city cemetery. Galveston Daily News, 16 February 1883, page 1

1884: Pneumonia

Bryan Enterprise: Three deaths occurred during the past week in the McFail family, near the college. Mr. McFail died and was buried on Saturday at old Boonville. On Sunday his wife died, and on Monday Mrs. Higgins, his daughter, died, all from pneumonia. The son, eighteen years old, is not expected to live. Galveston Daily News, 24 March 1884, page 4

Bryan, April 3 – S.N. Blatherwick died to-day from pneumonia. Galveston Daily News, 4 April 1884, page 1

1884: unknown

Allen Farm ... A great deal of sickness prevails, owing to the hot weather and scarcity of good water. Galveston Daily News, 22 September 1884, page 1.

1885: unknown

Millican ... The weather has caused a great deal of sickness in and around here. Cattle are dying very fast from the want of food and excessively cold weather. Galveston Daily News, 12 February 1885, page 2

1885: Dengue fever

Bryan, Tex. ... Rev. Mr. Canfield, rector of the Epsicopal Church, has been down with a very severe attack of dengue fever, but is now up and will be able to occupy the pulpit on Sunday. Dallas Morning News, 24 October 1885, page 2

1886: Pneumonia

Bryan, Feb. 7 ... Mr. Buck Halter, one of the first settlers of the Wellborn neighborhood, died Friday of pneumonia. Dallas Morning News, 8 February 1886, page 2

1888: Measles

Robie “Finley”, aged 4 months, a native of College Station, died; the cause of his death was “measles”; he was buried in the Freedman’s Section of the Bryan City Cemetery on 17 June 1888. Tommie “Finlee”, perhaps a twin brother, aged 6 months, also a native of College Station, died from the “effects of measles”; he was buried in the same place on 16 August 1888. (Bryan City Sexton’s Records).

1890: Influenza

Millican, Tex., Jan. 13 ... Several cases of la grippe have developed in this community. Dallas Morning News, 14 January 1890, page 1

1890: Smallpox

Bryan, Tex., Dec. 27 – This evening the city council of Bryan quarantined against refugees from Houston. This order shall continue until the smallpox trouble is over at Houston. We have no cases here, and the city council is determined to do all they can to prevent a beginning of the disease here. No scare or panic exists, but vaccination is going on and all care is exercised by the people to keep free from the disease. Fort Worth Daily Gazette, 28 December 1890, part 2, page 12

1891: Smallpox

Bryan, Tex., Jan. 6 – By order of the city council the quarantine at this place was raised this morning and freedom of travel from Houston and other points allowed. Dallas Morning News, 17 January 1891, page 4

Bryan, Tex., Jan. 18 – A well defined case of small-pox in confluent form was discovered here this morning. The patient is a Negro boy about 18 years of age who came up from Houston about fifteen days ago. Dr. Hall, county health officer, ordered the house in which he is strictly quarantined. The case is outside the city and well isolated and ever precaution is exercised to prevent (illegible). Dallas Morning News, 19 January 1891, page 4

Bryan, Tex., Jan. 21 – No new cases of small-pox have been found. The Negro found on the 18th instant is doing very well under the care of a local nurse. A pesthouse has been built and things are arranged to take care of any cases that may be found. Dallas Morning News, 22 January 1891, page 4

Bryan, Tex., Jan. 25 – The Negro confined at the pesthouse outside this city died last night. This is the only case of small-pox that Bryan has had. The News correspondent saw Dr. F.M. Hall, city health officer, this morning and was informed by that gentleman that there was no more small-pox in or near Bryan; never had been any except the case mentioned above, and that he had no fear of there being any more. He added: “Though we are now free from the disease, yet I am not going to

let up on a strict quarantine until matters assume a different aspect over the state.”
Dallas Morning News, 26 January 1891, page 8

1893: Not identified

“A. and M. College of Texas,” Galveston Daily News, 15 May 1893, p.3. Sickness among cadets

1895: Unknown

1895: February – “... a massive snowball fight took place on the A&M College campus in February 1895. A heavy snowfall had occurred, always an unusual event in Brazos County, and the college cadets engaged in a huge snowball fight. At one point in the fight the students mounted a sustained attack against Gathright Hall, and during the struggle the stairway and galleries “were much battered.’ The next day, there were sixty-one names on the sick list at the College.” (See: Burgess, Austin E., A Local History of Texas A.& M. College, 1915, p.14, as described in Brazos County History – Rich Past, Bright Future, p.350)

1896: Pneumonia

*W.F. Savage, student at A&M, died at A&M from pneumonia; body shipped to his home in Coleman, Texas for burial. Bryan Daily Eagle, 5 Feb. 1896, p.1, col.6

1897: Local area quarantined against yellow fever occurring elsewhere

Bryan, Tex., Sept. 16 – Late this afternoon Mayor Adams issued a quarantine against New Orleans and all other points where yellow fever has been reported. Officers will meet all trains and parties who desire to get off here will be required to show where they came from and produce a clean bill of health. The quarantine also applies to freight and express from infected points. Dallas Morning News, 17 September 1897, page 2

Bryan, Tex., Sept. 22 – Upon receipt of the news of a death from yellow fever at Beaumont to-day Health Officer Tabor issued orders taking effect at 12 o’clock tonight that no freight or passenger train will be allowed to stop anywhere in Brazos County until further notice. Health officers have been appointed at College, Wellborn and Millican to enforce quarantine regulations ... (article continues) ...
Dallas Morning News, 23 September 1897, page 2

Jewish citizens here and elsewhere throughout the country observed New Year 5657 yesterday, with the usual customs. The Jews of this city had engaged a Rabbi to conduct services here but he could not come on account of the quarantine. Bryan Daily Eagle, 28 Sept. 1897, p.4, col.1

Bryan, Brazos Co., Tex., Sept. 29 – Upon receipt of information from Houston today, Health Officer Tabor posted a bulletin that he did not believe the case there was yellow fever. To-night the shotgun quarantine was raised. Papers and other mail will be received and fumigated tomorrow. Passengers from the north know to the health officer, and not from any infected point, will be permitted to get off at the fumigating stations. Dallas Morning News, 30 September 1897, page 2

College Station, Texas, October 12 – The Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College is completely isolated from the rest of the earth. A very rigid quarantine has been established. No mail since Saturday, and none expected until frost. Houston Daily Post, 13 October 1897, page 2

Bryan, Tex., Oct. 13 – Millican has furnished the principal incident of the quarantine in this county. This afternoon Health Officer Tabor received the following from that place: “People from Navasota coming on us. Guards letting them pass. Arrington not in town. Appoint health officer to take charge at once. We recommend T.B. White. Appoint and give instructions. If you don’t act will have to use extreme measures. Citizens of Millican.” Dr. Tabor replied by appointing two assistants to Health Officer Arrington, who was here to-day and left this afternoon for the scene of excitement. News reached here to-day that the bridge on the Millican and Navasota Road had been torn up on this end to prevent Navasota people from crossing. Dallas Morning News, 14 October 1897, page 2

1897: Dengue fever

City Council ... The health officer states that while dengue fever prevails throughout the state and epidemic at many points, not a single case has been reported in Bryan. Bryan Daily Eagle, 9 October 1897, page 4

Capt. S.M. Derden, Samuel Levy and Jack Buchanan are among the dengue victims this week. Bryan Daily Eagle, 29 October 1897, page 4

Capt. S.M. Derden, who has been sick for a week, was able to be on the streets yesterday, and says he had a terrible tussle with the dengue. Bryan Daily Eagle, 4 November 1897, page 4

Mayor Adams was able to be up awhile yesterday after a hard tussle with the dengue which he says nearly got the best of him. Bryan Daily Eagle, 13 November 1897, page 4

1897: “Congestion”

Mike, Jacob Leon; aged 19, Texas A&M student; died at his parents' home in Bryan from congestion & meningitis; was Methodist. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 28 Oct. 1897, p.3, col.3; 28 Oct. 1897, p.6, col.1.

Allison, Will; aged about 18 or 19; Texas A&M student; died from "congestion"; body sent to his home at Sonora, Sutton Co., Texas; left a brother John S. ALLISON of Sonora. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 28 Oct. 1897, p.3, col.3; 28 Oct. 1897, p.6, col.5

1899: Smallpox

Bryan, Tex., Jan. 30 – Two cases of smallpox having been discovered here by the city health officer, Dr. George R. Tabor, he immediately reported the matter to the city council which gave him full authority to take the necessary steps to effectually isolate the cases. This has been done and Dr. Tabor says there is no occasion for alarm and no danger of a spread of the disease. No excitement prevails. The state health officer has been notified by Dr. Tabor. Dallas Morning News, 31 January 1899, page 4

Bryan, Tex., Feb. 14 – The county commissioners and city council held a meeting here to-day to which Dr. George R. Tabor, health officer, reported the development of one case of smallpox and five cases of varioloid since last Friday. Dr. Tabor says the cases are exceedingly mild. The meeting was held for the purpose of building a pesthouse and other incidentals necessary to isolating and treating the cases, all of which are being properly looked after. Dallas Morning News, 16 February 1899, page 9

“Dr. Blunt at Bryan,” Dallas Morning News, 28 March 1899, page 3

Bryan, Brazos Co., Tex., April 2 – Health Officer Tabor reports one mild case of smallpox discovered in Freedmantown and immediately removed to the pesthouse. The patient is a Negro. The health officer also reports one case discharged cured, and he states that all the patients are improving satisfactorily. Dallas Morning News, 4 April 1899, page 4

1899: Texas A&M quarantined against disease occurring elsewhere

Bryan, Tex., March 4 – The Agricultural and Mechanical College quarantine against outside points has been raised. Dallas Morning News, 5 March 1899, page 3

1899: Measles

Pearl Drew, Edge, Tex. – Mr. Big Hat: I have written but once before and that was many years ago. I like to read and have read a good many nice books... I like to go to school, but have had to stop now on account of the measles.... Dallas Morning News, 26 March 1899, page 20

1899: Pneumonia

Ronald McDONALD, aged 16; Texas A&M student; died from pneumonia; son of Mr. & Mrs. R. McDONALD; buried at his home at Trinity. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 28 Dec. 1899, p.6, col.4. Calvert Courier, 5 Jan. 1900, p.2, col.5

1899: Miscellaneous (at Green's Prairie)

Green's Prairie ... Mr. Editor – As I haven't seen anything from our little community, I shall endeavor to give you a few dots... The health of our neighborhood is generally good, but at this writing there is some sickness, such as la grippe, roseola and colds. We are glad to note that Miss Bernice Goodyear is able to be among her friends and neighbors again after having a severe attack of roseola.... (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 23 March 1899, page 3

From Green's Prairie. Farmers seem to be very busy preparing the ground for cotton. There seems to be a great deal of sickness in this community but not very serious. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 13 April 1899, page 3

1900: Black jaundice (Wiel's Disease)

"Black jaundice" usually referred to what is now known as Wiel's Disease. This disease is caused by a germ found in rat urine, and not transmitted directly from human to human, so it is not clear why so many people died from the disease in 1900. The disease began appearing in Brazos County prior to the Galveston hurricane, which took place in September, so the resulting flooding in Brazos County (which perhaps drove rats into closer proximity with humans) could not have been the only cause for this disease's unusual virulence that year.

Frank Wagner, aged 23; died at his home near the Brazos River; Catholic. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 30 August 1900, page 6, col.1. Aged 23; died 22 August 1900, black jaundice; buried 23 August 1900, Calvary Cemetery. St. Joseph Catholic Church Death Records.

John Berger, aged 48 years, native of Germany; died from "black jaundice," buried 23 Aug. 1900, Bryan City Cemetery (sexton's records)

Victoria Kalinec, name given as "Kalnec"; aged 10; died at her home on the Little Brazos River; buried at Smetana; Catholic. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 30 Aug. 1900, p.6, col.4. Aged 10; died 26 August 1900, black jaundice; buried 26 Aug. 1900, Smetana Cemetery. St. Joseph Catholic Church Death Records.

Paul Kalinec, died at his home near Little Brazos River; buried at Smetana; left wife & children. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 6 September 1900, page 6, col.4. Aged 38 years; died 1 September 1900, black jaundice; buried 2 September 1900, Smetana Cemetery. St. Joseph Catholic Church Death Records.

Jos. Kalinec, aged 16 years; died 17 Sept. 1900, black jaundice; buried 17 September 1900, Smetana Cemetery. St. Joseph Catholic Church Death Records.

Joseph Penanzek, aged 10 years, 6 months; died 14 October 1900, black jaundice; buried 15 October 1900, Calvary Cemetery. St. Joseph Catholic Church Death Records.

Floyd Moore, died at home of his brother Pat Moore at Edge from "black jaundice"; Baptist; buried Presbyterian cemetery near Edge. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 7 November 1900, page 1, col.2; 7 November 1900, page 3, col.1

Agnes J. Maher, name might be “Mayer”; aged 20 years; died 7 November 1900, black jaundice; buried 8 November 1900, Calvary Cemetery. St. Joseph Catholic Church Death Records.

Arch McCallum, died at Cameron ranch from “black jaundice”; buried at Alexander Chapel; left family. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 15 November 1900, page 6, col.3

1901: Varioloid (a mild form of smallpox) at Texas A&M

Bryan, Tex., Dec. 10 – Two cases of varioloid have developed at College Station. They were seen today by State Health Officer Tabor, who pronounced them very mild. Dr. Tabor says that are isolated a quarter of a mile from the college buildings under the care of an experienced trained nurse. They are not sick and have no fever and no alarm whatever is felt among the students who have not been exposed at a contagious stage of the disease. Dallas Morning News, 11 December 1901, page 10

Bryan, Tex., Dec. 30 – Prof. R.H. Whitlock, acting president of the Agricultural and Mechanical College, makes the following announcement relative to the varioloid cases at the college:

College Station, Tex., Dec. 30 – To Parents of Cadets: I wish to inform you fully about the three cases of varioloid we had here before the holidays. One of the young men left for his home before we knew what his trouble was, and the other two were placed in our hospital as soon as we knew they were sick. The State Health Officer, who was sent for at once, pronounced the two cases as a very mild form of varioloid, but all of the precautions were taken which would have been adopted had it been the most virulent form of the disease. The consequence has been that we have had no more cases, and I am glad to say that the two young men were pronounced entirely recovered in time to spend the holidays at home. All the rooms have been thoroughly fumigated, and we feel convinced that there is no further danger. Yours very truly, R.H. Whitlock, President Pro Tem. Dallas Morning News, 31 December 1901, page 8

1903: Smallpox

Bryan, Tex., Feb. 17 – County Health Officer R.H. Harrison has just returned from Millican, where he went to investigate a smallpox report. He found five cases of a very bad type and one death last week. The disease is confined to Negroes. The Daily Express (San Antonio), 18 February 1903, page 6

1903: Bryan quarantined because of yellow fever elsewhere

Bryan, Tex., Oct. 23 – The City Council met this morning and quarantined against all points infected with yellow fever. The quarantine is against all points, persons, mail, express baggage and freight from such points. Citizens of Bryan who have been away are permitted to come in provided they isolate themselves for six days. Officers meet all trains and persons without health certificates are required to sign sworn statements to the effect that they did not come from infected points. There is no excitement, and indications are good for a frost tonight. A cleaning up

campaign has been inaugurated by the authorities. Dallas Morning News, 24 October 1903, page 2

1905: Yellow fever scare (statewide in Texas); quarantine measures implemented locally

“Yellow Fever Situation,” (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 3 August 1905, page 4

“No Fever in Texas,” (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 10 August 1905, page 1

“Dr. Tabor Addresses City Council,” (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 17 August 1905, page 1.

“Effective yesterday inspectors were placed on the trains on both railroads passing Bryan.”

“Italians Were Watched,” (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 17 August 1905, page 2

1906: Pneumonia

“College Station Notes,” Dallas Morning News, 26 February 1906, page 6. One student has pneumonia.

1907: Typhoid

“Typhoid at College; Total Twenty-Five Cases,” Dallas Morning News, 25 May 1907, page 9. The semester was ended early because of the outbreak; “it is believed that the source of infection is the water of an underground cistern, probably contaminated during the recent heavy rains ... distilled water is now being used at the barracks and boiled water at the mess hall”

“Agricultural and Mechanical College,” Dallas Morning News, 28 May 1907, page 10

1908: Influenza

“College Station,” Houston Chronicle, 19 January 1908, section 2, p.11. Mrs. C.W. Hutson and Miss Ethel Hutson had “the grip” but are now better.

Misses Marion Foote and Hettie Smith, who have been ill with La Grippe the past few days, are improving. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 23 January 1908, page 8

R.S. Webb who has been confined to his home by an attack of grip, is able to be out again. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 13 February 1908, page 5

J.H. White of Wixon was in the city yesterday. Mr. White is tusseling with a spell of the grip. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 13 February 1908, page 7

1908: Pneumonia

"College Station," Houston Chronicle, 2 February 1908, section 2, page 2. "Mrs. Murphy of Dallas is here to be with her son, who is in the hospital with pneumonia. Mrs. Jahn of New Braunfels is staying with Prof. and Mrs. Geisecke. Mrs. Jahn is here to be near her son, who has been very ill with pneumonia for the past two weeks."

1908: Measles on campus

"College Station," Houston Chronicle, 1 March 1908, section 2, page 10. "Little Misses Virginia and Bess Spence are confined to the house with measles. The fancy dress masquerade ball which the little Misses Geisecke expected to give to their friends has been postponed indefinitely on account of the contagious diseases among the children on the campus."

1908: whooping cough on campus

A quarantine was imposed which was a factor in the 1908 student strike at A&M.

"Charges Against Harrington," Dallas Morning News, 13 February 1908, page 1. "Prof. C.W. Hutson's allegations charge that a smallpox quarantine was maintained at his home instead of a whooping cough quarantine, which latter disease was prevalent in his home; that President Harrington was responsible for this quarantine without proper authority, and that it was enforced with undue rigidity; that he interfered with his son's duties as a cadet by similarly confining him to the premises; that Dr. Hutson's cook's children were restricted from the campus, although it was demonstrated that they came in no contact with the whooping cough, and that he refused to quarantine whooping cough from another source."

"Resume Inquiry at A.& M. College," Dallas Morning News, 18 June 1908, page 4. "The only reference to the Hutson incident was that there was a case of whooping cough at his house and Prof. Harrington ordered a strict quarantine against the Hutson home."

"No Knowledge as To Some Charges," Dallas Morning News, 20 June 1908, page 1. Earlier in the academic year, A&M president Harrington had demanded that the two Negro children of the Hutson family's cook leave their house, because a quarantine was in effect; Harrington said, in part, "it was impossible to effectively quarantine Negroes."

1912: Meningitis in Bryan, rural Brazos County and on campus

Bryan, Tex., Jan. 12 – A public meeting was held here this morning, composed of the city and county health officers, physicians, members of the City Council and citizens, to discuss the meningitis situation. After discussing the situation a resolution was passed that it is not necessary now to declare a quarantine nor to close

the schools, places of amusement, etc. The whole situation was placed in the power of the health officers, physicians and City Council. Both the A.& M. College and Allen Academy are quarantined against Bryan for the protection of both the city and the schools in event a case should appear in either. Dallas Morning News, 13 January 1912, page 3

“The Quarantine is On,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 15 January 1912, page 1. At Bryan and College Station.

“Quarantine Modified,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 15 January 1912, page 6

“Two New Cases Near Reliance,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 16 January 1912, page 1

Col. R.T. Milner, president of A.& M. College, was in the city for a short while today and during the time paid The Eagle office an appreciated call. Discussing the quarantine situation Colonel Milner stated that a strict quarantine was being maintained at College. That student guards were stationed at every entrance and the vigilance was maintained both day and night. Wood had been hauled to every post so the guards could have fires and there was no relaxation whatever. No person from anywhere on earth was allowed to enter the college grounds except from Bryan, and then only when provided with a pass from the Bryan health officer. He stated the further precaution had been taken requiring every person who remained on the campus to have a card bearing all the necessary information, and an inspection was made very day, and if any person should be found without the necessary card he would be forced to leave at once. The president stated that this sleepless vigilance would be maintained until every semblance of danger was over. That the college authorities were leaving nothing undone, and the students and campus residents would be protected at all hazards. Bryan Daily Eagle, 17 January 1912, page 5.

“The Local Quarantine Has Been Raised,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 23 January 1912, page 1

“Meningitis in Bryan,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 27 January 1912, page 1

“Health Conditions at A.& M.,” Dallas Morning News, 26 February 1912, page 9. When the students came back to school in January, there were several cases of measles and mumps, “but by judicious isolation and disinfection we were soon able to control the measles, but the mumps, being in some cases so extremely mild, cadets would not in all instances let us know of the fact that they had mumps and, therefore, would not be isolated, and naturally we now and then had a case of mumps.” Also gives information on one case of meningitis.

1913: Meningitis on campus

“A. & M. Cadet Dies; F.Y. Rawlins is Second Victim of Meningitis at College Station,” Dallas Morning News, 16 January 1913, page 15. A.W. Koons had died previously.

College Station, Tex., Jan. 16 – A statement issued here by D.R. Hartman, State Bacteriologist, of Austin, said that the A. & M. College was better fortified against an epidemic of meningitis than any institution or city of which he knew. No new cases developed today and there is no sickness of a serious nature on the college grounds. Dr. Hartman said the precautions taken to prevent a spread of the disease here were all that could be asked. About 200 students have gone home. Dallas Morning News, 17 January 1913, page 3

“A.& M. President Refutes Charges,” Dallas Morning News, 22 February 1913, page 3. In January and February 1913, there were two cases of meningitis and five cases of measles. “During this period we gave nearly 400 cadets the meningitis vaccine...”

1917: Smallpox; extent of outbreak not determined.

“Smallpox Death Occurs Here Sunday,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 30 April 1917, p.1, col.4. Roy Haley, an African American, resident of Candy Hill in Bryan, died.

“Negroes Submit to Vaccination,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 1 May 1917, page 1. At Candy Hill

“Smallpox Reported,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 30 June 1917, page 1

“Smallpox Meeting,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 13 July 1917, page 3

“Free Vaccination,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 13 July 1917, page 3

“Smallpox Situation Officially Reviewed,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 14 July 1917, page 1

“Doubt Created About Smallpox Situation,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 14 July 1917, page 4

“No New Smallpox Cases are Developed,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 18 July 1917, page 1

“Smallpox Patient Died,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 13 November 1917, p.1, col.4. Ed Luck.

1918: Women risk their lives to care for Aggies and soldiers during the influenza epidemic. Miss Clara Bell Hollyfield, a campus nurse, becomes the first known woman (at least to me) to give her life aiding students on campus, when she dies from pneumonia contracted from the sick. See:

"Eight Deaths Bryan Record for Day from Pneumonia," Bryan Weekly Eagle, 10 October 1918, p.1, col.1. Miss Clara Bell Hollyfield dies; had only worked on campus since 7 Sept. 1918. Gives lots of biographical information about her.

"Thomas W. Rambold and Prof. Brawis Die of Pneumonia," Bryan Weekly Eagle, 17 October 1918, page 1, col.6. Rambold was attended by his mother & 2 sisters (which seems to have been a common practice during the epidemic); the Professor was taken to a Bryan home by a woman who cared for him.

There are, of course, numerous articles about the epidemic ... these are just two examples. Here's another source:

Walker, Shirlireed, "Living on South Bryan Avenue During World War I," in Bryan Legends and Legacies (1996), ed. Betty Foster, pp.80+. Briefly tells about Miss Nannie Berryman, a music teacher in Bryan, going to campus to nurse the sick & one patient whose mother came to take care of him.

And, of course, the newspapers were full of articles about the disease. For example:

Four Negroes succumbed to the disease [influenza] last night and early this morning. Their bodies were taken in charge by the People's Undertaking company and prepared for burial. Their names are Albina Laudey, 25, Arthur Williams, 27, Tuni Jackson, 17, and George Malcolm, 20. Bryan Daily Eagle, 9 October 1918, page 1.

1923: Influenza

"Fort Worth Man Dies at A.& M.; Ellsworth B. Pumphrey is Victim of Heart Failure in College Hospital," Dallas Morning News, 11 Feb. 1923, sect.1, p.2. Had influenza; body taken to Fort Worth for burial.

"A.& M. Mourns Death of Sophomore Student," Dallas Morning News, 3 March 1923, page 6. Student had pneumonia brought on by influenza.

1924: Diphtheria occurred on campus

See Anderson's history, page 36

1925: Influenza

Bryan, Texas, Jan. 27 – Dear Cinderella: I have been planning to write for some time but have been sick with the flu. It sleeted hard last night. Here is a riddle. How is a nation like a baby? Answer – When it is in arms. Your friend, Shirley Johnson (Age 11). Dallas Morning News, 11 February 1925, section 2, page 13

1928: Pneumonia

"Logan Varley, A.& M. Student, Succumbs," Dallas Morning News, 6 November 1928, p.4. Died from pneumonia; "a firing squad of A.& M. cadets accompanied the body and will perform military rites at the funeral."

1932: Influenza

College Notes ... Mr. and Mrs. N.M. McGinnis both are suffering from attacks of influenza and are confined to their apartment at the Aggieland Inn. Bryan Daily Eagle, 2 December 1932, page 5

“Basketball Game Saturday Night at A-M Now Off,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 7 December 1932, page 2. 125 students in campus hospital; substantial decrease from the number the day before.

College Notes ... Ralph Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. L.D. Smith, has been suffering from an attack of the flu since Friday, and still is quite sick. Bryan Daily Eagle, 7 December 1932, page 6

“Aggie Game Postponed Because of Flu Epidemic,” Dallas Morning News, 8 December 1932, page 10. The college discontinued all extracurricular activities because of the flu.

College Notes ... H.G. Johnson is back at his place in the entomology department after recovering from a case of the flu. Bryan Daily Eagle, 9 December 1932, page 6

“College Professor’s Son Dies of Pneumonia,” Dallas Morning News, 25 December 1932, page 3. Dean Merwin Bilsing.

1940: Influenza

“College Hospital Taxed to Capacity as Bad Weather Causes Hundreds of Flu Cases; ‘Epidemic is Not Unusual’,” Battalion, 12 December 1940, page 5. This is the 5th consecutive day with more than 200 patients in the hospital; “plans are being made to utilize Post Graduate hall in case the number of cases increases abnormally.”

“A.& M. Closing Advanced as Flu Spreads,” Dallas Morning News, 14 December 1940, page 1. Classes were dismissed early for Christmas because of the flu.

“Christmas Holidays Begin at Noon Today; Early Dismissal Result of Widespread Flu Epidemic,” Battalion, 14 December 1940, page 1

“Flu Epidemic Reaches Alarming Proportions With 300 Men on Sick List,” Battalion, 14 December 1940, page 1

1950: Meningitis

“Spiral Meningitis Blamed for Death of A&M Freshman,” Dallas Morning News, 2 February 1950, section 1, page 5.

1957: Influenza

“Flu Epidemic Hits Colleges,” Dallas Morning News, 21 September 1957, section 1, page 11. “... about 75 per cent of the 325 cases of flu and upper respiratory on the campus were among freshmen. He said it has not been determined if any of the cases are Asian flu.”

“Texas A&M Reports 600 on Flu List,” Dallas Morning News, 23 September 1957, page 9. At least 600 cases among the school’s 7400 students.

College Station, Tex., Sept. 23 – Texas’ flu outbreak spread today to 1,500 students at Texas A. & M. College ... Six hundred cases were reported by A. & M. yesterday among its 7,400 students Chicago Daily Tribune, 24 September 1957, page 21

“Texas Notes 9,151 Cases As Suspected Asian Flu,” Dallas Morning News, 25 September 1957, section 1, page 2. “At A&M, where 1,600 students have been taken ill, college officials said none of the Aggie football team members were ill.”

1964: Meningitis on campus (just one case?)

“Aggies Taking Shots in Meningitis Scare,” Dallas Morning News, 3 December 1964, section 1, page 19. One student diagnosed with disease. “Classes were not called off, and the fact that a student was standing in line to receive a shot was not a valid excuse for missing classes.”

College Station, Tex., Dec. 2 – Texas Aggies were inoculated at the rate of 150 per hour today after it was determined a freshman student was ill with meningitis Chicago Tribune, 3 December 1964, page 20

“Inoculations End at A&M,” Dallas Morning News, 5 December 1964, page 8. 4,500 students were inoculated.

1968: Influenza

“No Hong Kong Flu Reported as Influenza Lashes B-CS Area,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 16 December 1968, page 1

“Aggies Resist Flu Bugs,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 18 December 1968, page 4