



Pandemic of 1918: Local History

You're on a Quest!

Explore how your town might have been affected by the Influenza Pandemic of 1918 discussed in QUEST *Pandemic*. Remember many individuals died in New England during that pandemic.

1. Ask members of your family if anyone in your family died during the 1918 Pandemic. You can also ask friends of your family who might remember.
2. Ask older members of your family and/or community if they remember how your town was impacted. For example, theaters were closed, people were arrested for spitting, and some people wore masks during the pandemic.
3. One of the best sets of historic records in any community is in the local cemetery. Family histories can be traced and disasters are recorded through multiple deaths in the same year. If you can, visit one of your local cemeteries. If you are unfamiliar with where it is located, ask at your historic society or town hall. When going, you may want to record the names and dates from the headstones. Take some note paper and perhaps a camera. You may also want to make a charcoal rubbing of some of the headstones you see.

Walk through the cemetery looking for gravestones dated October 1918. These individuals (along with some dated September 1918 and November 1918) are likely to be flu victims, not the fallen of World War I. Do you recognize any names?

**QUEST: Investigating Our World is a regional public television series
seen on Maine Public Broadcasting Network, Vermont Public Television, and New Hampshire Public Television**



Major funding for Quest is provided by the National Science Foundation. Additional support is provided by Irving Woodlands, by gifts to More Connected, More Maine. The Campaign for Maine Public Broadcasting Network's Programming, and Desiree Carlson, M.D.

