



Weekly News

Did you know...?

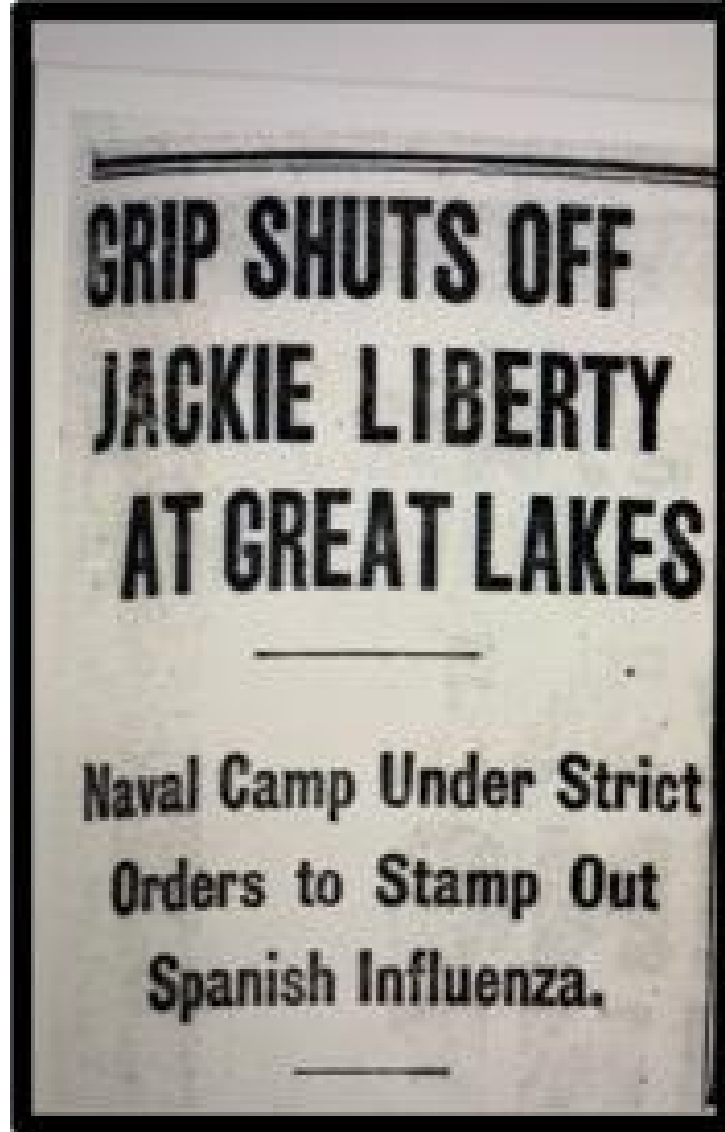
The Unwelcome Visitor - Part 2

Who was the “unwelcome visitor”? Navy personnel at the Great Lakes Naval Training Base north of Chicago gave a killer flu that moniker as it spread like wildfire through the base in the spring of 1918. The unwelcome visitor went on to infect most of the world.

Today it has been called the “forgotten pandemic,” because its spread took place during the deadly “War to end all wars,” (World War I), and it was often not reported or recorded properly. In addition to news of the terrible war, the heated rhetoric of prohibition and the suffragette movement, all overshadowed the pandemic.

As it spread through the United States and globally, it came to be called, “The Spanish flu.” In reality, Spain clearly reported the deadly new flu strain, while other countries did not. Wartime censors blocked the news to keep troop morale high. But because Spain was a neutral country, it was the only one that sounded the alarm, which unwittingly encouraged the impression that flu likely originated there.

Many researchers today agree that the devastating flu actually originated in the United States. One of the first recorded cases was on March 11, 1918, at Camp Funston in Fort Riley, Kansas. The overcrowding of the camp created a breeding ground for the virus. On that March day, a feverish soldier was admitted to the infirmary in the camp. By noon that same day, 107 soldiers were admitted with similar symptoms. Within one week, 522 men were admitted. Within five weeks, 1,127 of the 26,000 men in camp were sick. Soon, other military bases were infected. When soldiers from the camp arrived in France, they brought the virus with them, starting a whole new spread. Due to troop movements, the pandemic hit most of Europe, as well.



Everyday life was interrupted during the pandemic. A letter sent to a Tremont resident from family living in Colorado reveals what was happening in one part of Colorado:

"Just at present there is a dreadful lot of influenza around and all the churches and every-thing is closed. Even barber shops and ice cream parlors. & this week an order was issued that every-one wear a gauze mask over their nose & mouth. There have been quite a lot of deaths, among them (a store's) cashier and one of their clerks. There must be at least 500 cases now. & one just lives in constant fear, & don't know who will be next..."

Children jumped rope to new chant:

*I had a little bird
And its name was Enza
I opened a window
And in-flew-enza.*

Even though the Spanish flu killed more people than World War I itself, the "unwelcome guest" might have remained largely forgotten had the Covid 19 virus not crashed into our lives in the spring of 2020. 102 years after the Spanish flu pandemic, we had a similar experience we will never forget.

*~ Tremont Museum and Historical Society
Lori Fuoss, 2023*

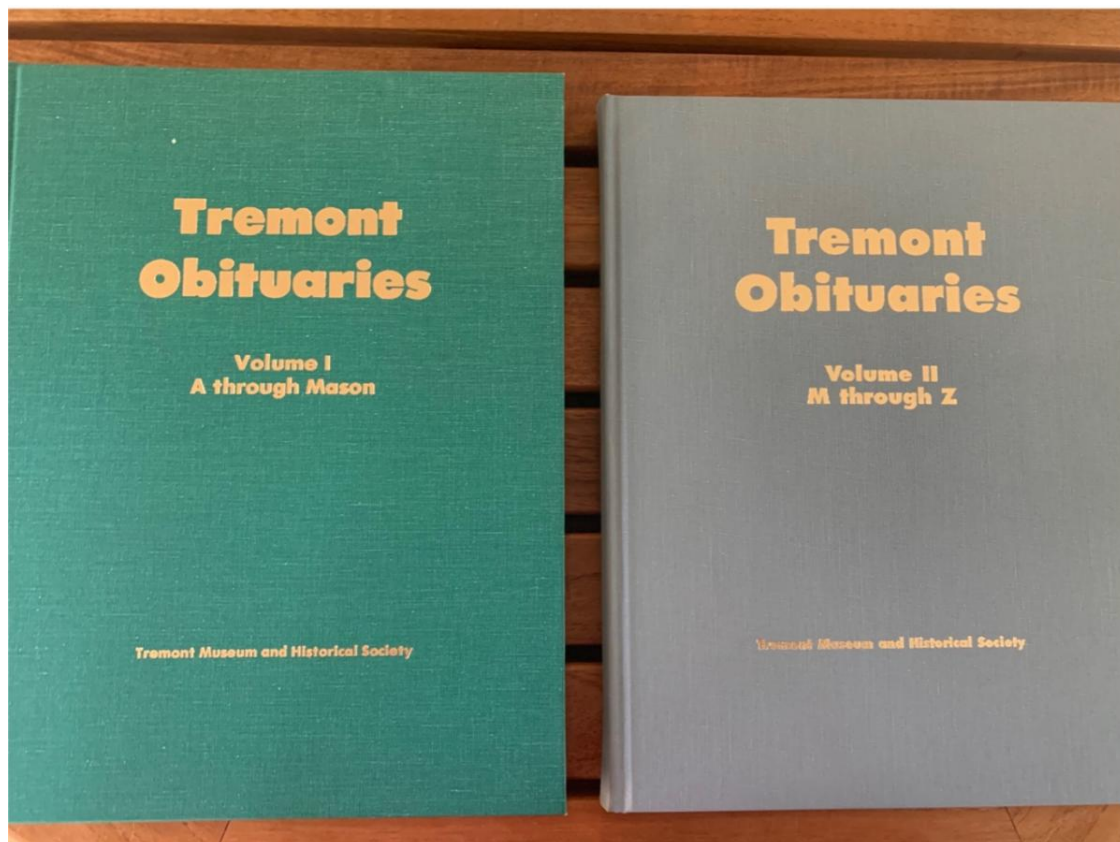
Tremont Museum

HURRY! JUST 3 MORE DAYS!

The Tremont Museum will be open on Sunday July 9 and 23 from 2-4 PM with the Fab 50's Exhibit. A new "We Will Not Forget" memorial display can also be seen. A special exhibit admission will be charged - CASH or CHECK only!

*The Tremont Museum has obituary books for sale. Volume I is "A through Mason" and Volume II is "M through Z." The obituaries that are included range from some of the earliest settlers in Tremont to those who died in 1988.

The price for each volume is \$10.00. Please contact Lori at 309-840-0094 or Kay at 419-296-2323 if you wish to buy a book.



Tremont District Library News

Booksale Changes 2024

Thank you to all the volunteers who worked at the Turkey Festival, especially those who worked the Book Sale! Perhaps you heard that in 2024, the Book Sale will be held indoors at the Library, on Merchant's Day only (Thursday). There will also be a sale during Fall garage sales starting in 2024.

The main reason for this change is to prevent the books from being damaged. I've set up and torn down the booksale for 9 years and have observed that the books that go into the festival are nice, and the leftover books are... no longer quite so nice! Books are like sponges, and after four days of being outdoors, even under a tent, they tend to absorb humidity and pages warp. Rainy years are especially bad on books and can result in severe damage. Changing to an indoor book sale will prevent our used books from damage.

As a bonus, this change will also help redirect volunteers to other areas of the Turkey Festival where help is needed.

Thank you so much for supporting and volunteering at the Book Sale! We'll see you in 2024!

Maria Ford

Tremont Library Director

Crafternoons (ages 6+)

Mondays: June 19, June 26, July 10 July 17, July 24, & July 31, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

This week we're making Suncatchers! Perfect for ages 6+! Please plan on staying in the room if your child needs help with materials. No registration required.

Baby & Me Group (ages 0-3)

Wednesdays, 10:30 -11:30 am

A support group for new and experienced parents.

Story Hour (ages 3-6)

Thursdays, June 22nd, 10:30 -11:15 am

Stories, rhymes, activities, and a craft. Prepare your child for lifelong learning! No registration.

Minecraft Days (ages 7+)

Thursdays, June 22 - Aug. 3, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Play Minecraft with friends! No registration, participants must provide their own device. Learn more on our website.

Tremont Community Senior Meals



We have loved seeing new folks continue to join us for Senior Meals and we have already served over 20 individuals in one gathering! If you want to be a part of the group, call 309-674-1131 Ext. 231 and leave a message saying you will be coming. Don't worry if you don't get a call back - if you have left a message then you have done all you need!

Also, we are still looking for people who would enjoy leading activities at these events. if you are interested, email Braden at scsoulmanager@gmail.com.

Community Calendar

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Saturday

Around Town



Please send us your news stories and they will be included in upcoming emails. Deadline to include information is Friday, 6:00PM for the following Monday.

We accept information from official Tremont, IL businesses, organizations, and advertisers. We will also post Public Auctions and Open Houses.

Tremont Winning Communities | P.O. Box 76, Tremont, IL 61568

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