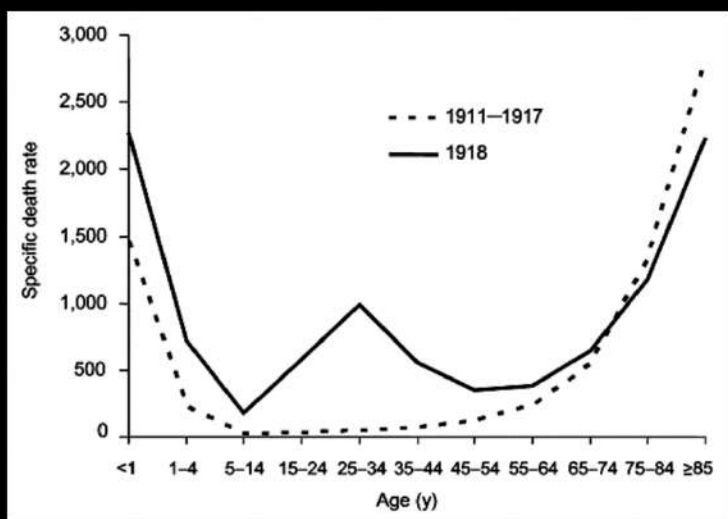


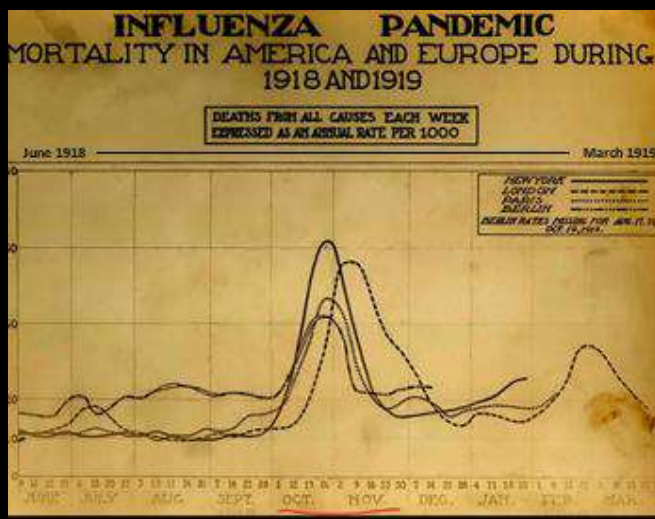
Smith & Lawrence Families impacted by the 1918 Pandemic.

We were always told that the 1918 killer Flu (see below) took many Lawrence & Smith family members. Most influenza outbreaks disproportionately kill juvenile, elderly, or already weakened patients; in contrast, the 1918-1919 pandemic killed previously healthy young 15 to 30-year-old adults. It is believed to have caused an overreaction of the body's immune system, thus younger healthy people were more at risk.

The global mortality rate from the 1918/1919 pandemic is not known, but an estimated 10% to 20% of those who were infected died. With about a third of the world population infected, this case-fatality ratio means 3% to 6% of the entire global population perished. Influenza was initially thought to have killed as many as twenty-five million people in its first 25 weeks. Later estimates say it killed 40–50 million people, while current estimates say 50 million people worldwide were victims and died of this pandemic.



1918 Age Groups Death Rate compared to 1911 thru 1917.



Major Cities Death Rate -- June 1918 through March 1919

In the U.S., about 28% of the population became infected, and 500,000 to 675,000 died. It came in two waves with the first being exceptionally light and might have helped protect some of the people. Then it mutated...

The second wave of the 1918 pandemic was much deadlier than the first. The first wave resembled typical flu epidemics; those most at risk were the sick and elderly, while younger, healthier people recovered easily. But in August, when the second wave began in France, Sierra Leone and the United States, the virus had mutated to a much deadlier form. See charts above.

Pius Smith's two older daughters both died within weeks of each other in 1918 from the flu. Louisa's husband John Smith Passed earlier due to Tuberculosis, so the newlyweds Joanna Smith and Ben Lawrence moved in with Louisa (neighbors to Pius in Mt. Rock / Centennial) right after the wedding to help with her two children (Harold and Florence). They now raised them as their own along with having five children of their own.



Louisa & Mary Smith

Louisa's younger sister Mary and her husband William Noel both passed due to the flu in November 1918 and left four children as orphans. These children went to her husband's family (Noel's) in the Conewago area.

The USA had approximately 103 million people in 1918 with 675,000 influenza deaths. With 350 million Americans today, this would equate to having 2.3 million deaths...