

# Midland Ancestors

*Bromsgrove Branch Briefing*

*Editor Mike Fisher*

*Tuesday 9th January 2018 at 7.45 p.m.*

*"History of the Lickey Hills"*

*George Gascoyne*



A general history of the Lickey Hills, events associated with the history and famous people who have lived there and how the hills are now being cared for.

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*The 1918 flu pandemic (January 1918 - December 1920)*

Was an unusually deadly influenza pandemic, the first of the two pandemics involving H1N1 influenza virus. It infected 500 million people around the world, including remote Pacific islands and the Arctic, and resulted in the deaths of 50 to 100 million (three to five percent of the world's population), making it one of the deadliest natural disasters in human history. Disease had already greatly limited life expectancy in the

early 20th century. A considerable spike occurred at the time of the pandemic, specifically the year 1918. Life expectancy in the United States alone dropped by about 12 years.

Most influenza outbreaks disproportionately kill juvenile, elderly, or already weakened patients; in contrast, the 1918 pandemic predominantly killed previously healthy young adults.

There are several possible explanations for the high mortality rate of the 1918 influenza pandemic. Some research suggests that the specific variant of the virus had an unusually aggressive nature. It was then postulated that the strong immune reactions of young adults ravaged the body, whereas the weaker immune systems of children and middle-aged adults resulted in fewer deaths among those groups.

More recent investigations, mainly based on original medical reports from the period of the pandemic, found that the viral infection itself was not more aggressive than any previous influenza, but that the special circumstances (malnourishment, overcrowded medical camps and hospitals, poor hygiene) promoted bacterial super-infection that killed most of the victims typically after a somewhat prolonged death bed.

30 Years ago I visit "Uncle Noah" Fisher's grave in Brandwood End Cemetery, Birmingham and there were two name on there I didn't know and there were two female names on there who both died in 1919. Further investigation revealed that they were Noah's second "wife" and daughter (no marriage) who died within a few days in each other of "The Flu".

*February meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> we have "Least we Forget"  
by Sandra Taylor*

*Happy New Year*

***Mike Fisher***

