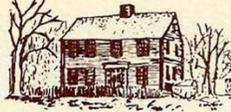


Warwick

JOHN WATERMAN ARNOLD HOUSE



Historical Society

ROGER WILLIAMS CIRCLE • WARWICK, RI 02888 • Phone: 401/467-7647

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021

As this year of COVID-19 reaches it's one year anniversary it seems appropriate to place it in historical perspective with earlier epidemics/pandemics.

What most people don't realize is the earliest epidemic is perhaps three million years old. Evidence of the illness has been found in the study of mummified remains dating back to 2400-3400 BC and is still around to the present day. It is Tuberculosis or what has been referred to as Consumption. In 1882 in the United States alone it killed 1 in 7 people. In 2018 there were 10 million cases with 1.5 million deaths worldwide. Fortunately due to testing and the BCG vaccine introduced in 1989, the US is largely spared. However, as recently as the 1950's and 60's Tb hospitals were still in existence. There was Wallum Lake, the Crawford Allen Unit in the Potter Building of RI Hospital, as well as the Russell building during this time as well.

HILLSGROVE

St. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL ANNEX (1905): For advanced cases. *Capacity:—80. Rates:—\$14 per week. Many patients are admitted free. Superintendent:—Sister Bergunda. Application should be made to the superintendent.*

HOWARD

STATE ALMSHOUSE TUBERCULOSIS WARDS (1897): For all classes of cases. *Capacity:—46. Rates:—There are no charges. Superintendent and Medical Director:—Dr. Henry A. Jones. Application should be made to Overseer of the Poor in each city or town.*

HOXBIE

LAKE SIDE PREVENTORIUM OF THE PROVIDENCE TUBERCULOSIS LEAGUE (1910): For debilitated children and those predisposed to tuberculosis. *Capacity:—50. Rates:—There are no charges. Director:—Miss Mary Murray, R. N., 109 Washington St., Providence. Medical Director:—Dr. Prescott T. Hill. Application should be made to the medical director.*

PROVIDENCE

PROVIDENCE CITY HOSPITAL TUBERCULOSIS WARD (May, 1910): For advanced cases. *Capacity:—60. Rates:—There are no charges. Superintendent and Medical Director:—Dr. D. L. Richardson. Application should be made to the superintendent.*

For lists of boarding houses and further information write to Mr. Willis E. Chandler, Secretary of the Rhode Island Anti-Tuberculosis Association, 109 Washington St., Providence, R. I.



Currently in the US there are a number of diseases that date back in history but are still around.

Leprosy [Hansen's Disease] 20,000/cases per year globally, down from 5.2 million per year in the 1980's. 200/cases per year in US. Now treatable with antibiotics.

Cholera 1000/cases per year

Malaria 20,000/cases per year

Diphtheria 20,000/cases per year

Mumps 20,000/cases per year

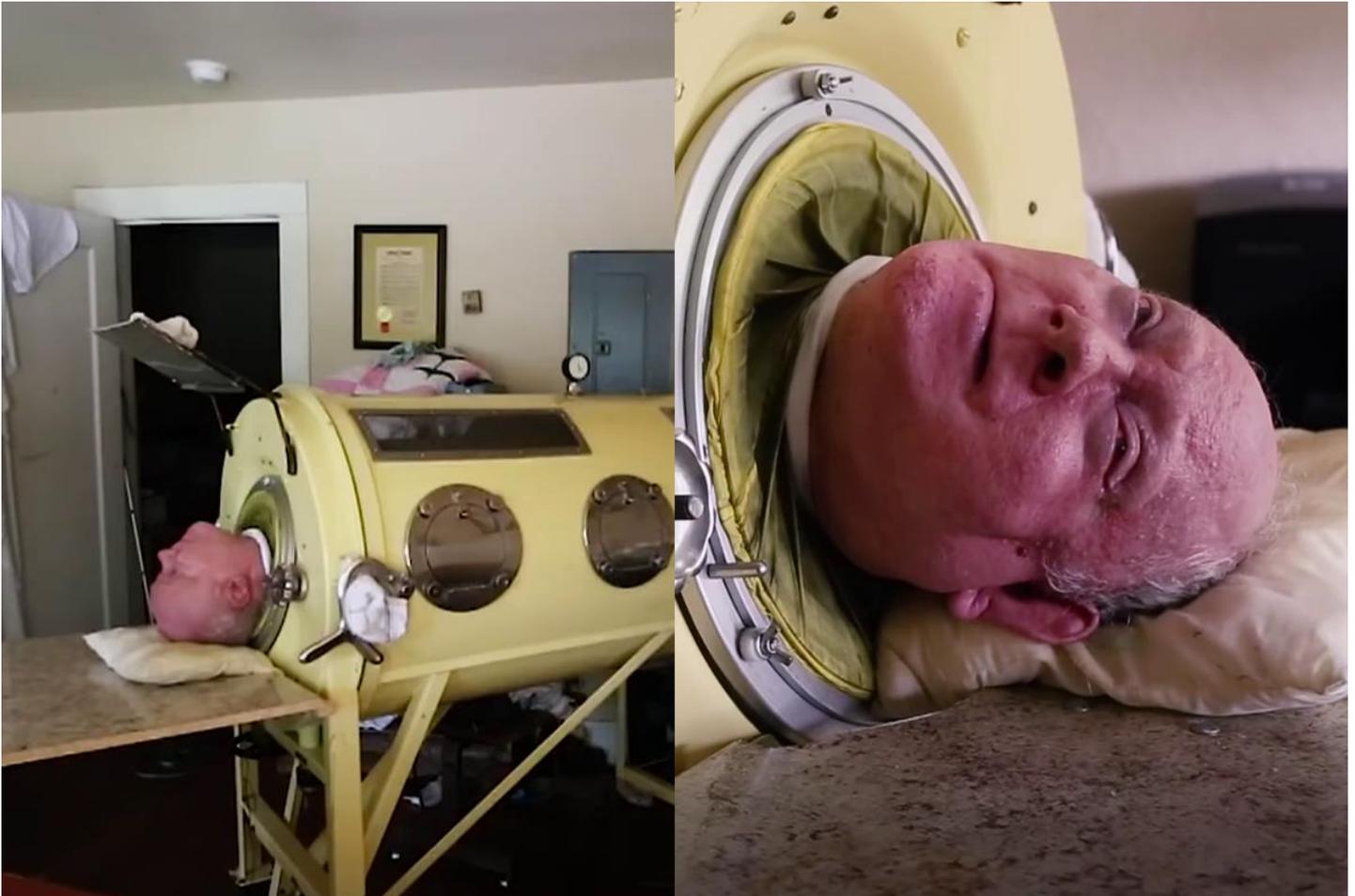
Another early disease that devastated the world until a vaccine was developed in 1862 was Smallpox. Fortunately in 2015 it was declared eradicated thanks to the vaccine.

Now we come to some of the more "modern" epidemics.

The Spanish Flu of 1917-18 killed more than 50 million people.

The Swine Flu in 2009 affected 60.8 million people worldwide and 1 million in the United States. Yellow Fever, Typhoid and Anthrax have been mostly eradicated in the US thanks to vaccines.

Poliomyelitis [infantile paralysis] was first identified in 1789 but became a pandemic in 1947-1952 although it was recognized in 1916 in New York.



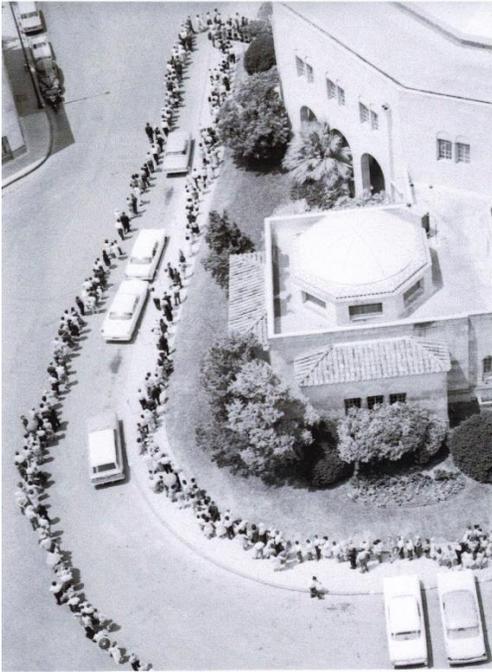
It wasn't until Jonas Salk developed the vaccine in 1954 that it was finally brought under control. Even in 1958 at RI Hospital we dusted off the iron lung and brought it out of storage to care for a woman who came in about once a year due to pneumonia. Every year there are occasional cases in unvaccinated people.

In the 60's we began treating HIV/AIDS patients. In spite of new treatments there were 1 million cases in the US in 2017.

We now have vaccines for the common children's illnesses Mumps, Measles, Rubella and Diphtheria although adults can get these diseases as well. We also have

vaccines for Tetanus, Meningitis, HPV [Human Papillonavirus], Hepatitis, Shingles, Pneumococcal Pneumonia and Malaria.

And then there is the yearly flu. Ordinarily there are around 3 million cases a year in the US. Amazingly this year due to Covid there has been very little due to isolation restrictions. Hopefully next year at this time Covid will be more like a “yearly” flu.



To the left is the line for the sugar cubes of the 60's to combat Polio. To the right is the line at Sockanosset Corner Rd on 2-20-2021 for the Covid vaccine. The fact that vaccines took less than a year to develop and begin distribution is a miracle of modern technology as well as lots of money.

As of 3-3-2021 there were 28,755,407 cases in the US with 518,265 deaths

In RI there were 127,285 cases with 2534 deaths

Kent County had 15,508 cases and 325 deaths

In the US 8.2% of people are fully vaccinated and 16.1% have received one dose. Get vaccinated and continue to wear a mask, wash your hands, and keep your distance.

The Present is the sum total of the whole Past. ---Thomas Carlyle

