

Abstract and/or Background

I share a glimpse into my exciting research journey. I am creating a factual background to develop a mystery plot set during the 1918 Spanish Flu in Northern New England. I want to reach devotees of a clean, cozy mystery story so they can enjoy with their spouse, grandchildren, or even grandmother. I also want to teach about American history, share my beloved Northern New England culture, and minister Jesus.

Introduction and/or Research Question

During a snowstorm in 1999, the Heavenly Father inspired me to write a mystery series. As I leaned on my shovel looking up at a house, I wondered what was in the locked attic. Inspiration flowed; I thought, hey, an answer to a historical mystery could be in a box in that attic. During what historical event? What would be a plausible mystery? How could it be solved today? How would the Heavenly Father be glorified, and how would the Lord Jesus minister in the story. A mystery series was born

The research question is the following scenario.

What would be the fallout if an honorable community member entrusted with a sizeable collection of donations was to die at the outset of the 1918 Spanish Influenza without telling where the treasure was?

Methods

Historiography: To develop an authentic backstory to the historical-fiction.

Judeo-Christian Theology: To understand how the Holy Trinity could be involved in the story. The theology research is the miracle of reconciliation.

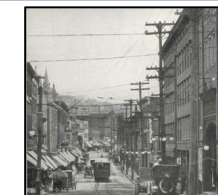
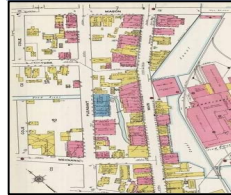
Natural Sciences: Androscoggin River, weather, the four seasons of the year, wildlife, forest, and a medical look at the 1918 influenza.

The Study of the Human Experience: To understand people as they travel through life so that their legacies can live on in my story. Key elements are emotions, thoughts, reactions, and the lasting effects of consequences.

Research Building Blocks



1918 St. Anne's Outside and Inside
1920 Downtown Berlin, NH Map and Photo



Influenza Epidemic of 1918 captures millions.

Historiography Sources

- Liberty's library online research history guide.
- Encyclopedias, dictionaries, and secondary sources' bibliography.
- Research librarians.
- Historical societies and museums.
- Films, media, podcasts, literature, stories, traditions, myths, and music.
- Databases, depositories, collections, Archives, newspapers, government Websites.
- Historical photos, maps, and artwork.
- Product knowledge experts.
- Oral and video recordings, court Records, personal letters, diaries, Medical and dental records, and military records.
- My personal experience.
- *My favorite, the Elderly of Society!*

The Human Experience



During the 1918 influenza pandemic a young mother sleeps while child stands by.

Ministry of Reconciliation 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

Results and/or Conclusion

In 1918 the Spanish Influenza killed between 50 million people. No one knows its origin. Ground zero for New England was Camp Devens, MA. Doughboys were exposed to the Flu on troopships while returning to America. From Camp Devens, the soldiers spread the disease across New England, where Berlin, NH, was one of the hardest-hit cities in NH. The *grippe* was most dangerous for healthy young adults, many dying within 24 hours. In 1918, St. Anne's had 8,000 parishioners. The conclusion. Could I create a plausible mystery plot of having a young, healthy community leader of die from the Spanish Flu within 36 hours? *Yes*. Could there have been a substantial collection of donations from 8,000 parishioners? *Yes*. Could someone get away with a crime during the 1918 Influenza Pandemic? *Yes*, the police would have been overwhelmed. Could it be solved 100 years later? *Yes*, with historiography. Will Jesus minister? *Yes*.

Future Work

Future Historical Fiction Mysteries Planned are:

1. Hampton Beach, NH > 1929 Stock Market Crash > Missing daddy > Flounder fishing > NH TBI fund raising > God will never leave you.
2. Bethel NH > Salem witchcraft trials > White Mnts hiking > left for dead man > witchcraft > miracle of Salvation.
3. Tamworth, NH > American Wars > hornpout fishing > eerie wails > Jesus came to minister to the broken hearted.
4. A Maine fishing community > Civil War > stone rubbing > an extra tombstone that did not belong > darkness of this world > Miracle of God's protection, rescue, and restoration.

References and/or Acknowledgments

I want to acknowledge the following educators for their mentorship: Dr. Tess Stockslager for Methods and Materials Research. Deans Dr. Roger Schultz and Dr. Carey Roberts in Historiography. Dean Dr. Delron Shirley for Ministry and Theology (Teach all Nations). Proofer readers: Mr. Mark Eddy Smith and Mrs. Mary L. Lawton. Research Librarian Mr. Randy Miller (Jerry Falwell Library). Photographs are courtesy of: Moffett House: Berlin & Coos County Historical Society. Library of Congress Spanish Flu Photos (1918).