



# Genealogy Definitions

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# Names of Old Time Illnesses

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|                   |   |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| Ablepsy           | Blindness   | Canine madness    | Rabies, hydrophobia   |
| Ague              | Malarial Fever  | Canker            | Ulceration of mouth or lips or herpes simplex                                   |
| American plague   | Yellow fever  | Catalepsy         | Seizures/trances  |
| Anasarca          | Generalized massive edema   | Catarrhal         | Nose and throat discharge from cold or allergy                                  |
| Aphonia           | Laryngitis  | Cerebritis        | Inflammation of cerebrum or lead poisoning                                      |
| Aphtha            | The infant disease "thrush"   | Chilblain         | Swelling of extremities caused by exposure to cold                              |
| Apoplexy          | Paralysis due to stroke   | Child bed fever   | Infection following birth of a child  |
| Asphyxia/Asphixia | Cyanotic and lack of oxygen   | Chin cough        | Whooping cough  |
| Atrophy           | Wasting away or diminishing in size.  | Chlorosis         | Iron deficiency anemia  |
| Bad Blood         | Syphilis  | Cholera           | Acute severe contagious diarrhea with intestinal lining sloughing               |
| Bilious fever     | Typhoid, malaria, hepatitis or elevated temperature and bile emesis                     | Cholera morbus    | Characterized by nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, elevated temperature, etc. |
| Biliousness       | Jaundice associated with liver disease  | Cholecystitis     | Could be appendicitis   |
| Black plague      | Bubonic plague  | Cholelithiasis    | Inflammation of the gall bladder  |
| Black fever       | Acute infection with high temperature and dark red skin lesions and high mortality rate | Chorea            | Gall stones   |
| Black pox         | Black Small pox   | Cold plague       | Disease characterized by convulsions, contortions and dancing                   |
| Black vomit       | Vomiting old black blood due to ulcers or yellow fever                                  | Colic             | Ague which is characterized by chills   |
| Blackwater fever  | Dark urine associated with high temperature   | Congestive chills | An abdominal cramping   |
| Bladder in throat | Diphtheria (Seen on death certificates)   | Consumption       | Malaria   |
| Blood poisoning   | Bacterial infection; septicemia   | Congestion        | Tuberculosis  |
| Bloody flux       | Bloody stools   | Congestive chills | Any collection of fluid in an organ, like the lungs                             |
| Bloody sweat      | Sweating sickness   | Congestive fever  | Malaria with diarrhea   |
| Bone shave        | Sciatica  | Corruption        | Malaria   |
| Brain fever       | Meningitis  | Coryza            | Infection   |
| Breakbone         | Dengue fever  | Costiveness       | A cold  |
| Bright's disease  | Chronic inflammatory disease of kidneys   | Cramp colic       | Constipation  |
| Bronze John       | Yellow fever  | Crop sickness     | Appendicitis  |
| Bule              | Boil, tumor or swelling   | Croup             | Overextended stomach  |
| Cachexy           | Malnutrition  |                   | Laryngitis, diphtheria, or strep throat   |
| Cacogastric       | Upset stomach   |                   |   |
| Cacospysy         | Irregular pulse   |                   |   |
| Caduceus          | Subject to falling sickness or epilepsy   |                   |   |
| Camp fever        | Typhus; aka Camp diarrhea   |                   |   |

|                     |   |                      |  |
|---------------------|---|----------------------|--|
| Cyanosis            | Dark skin color from lack of oxygen in blood                                  | Extravasted blood    | bulbous lesions  |
| Cynanche            | Diseases of throat  | Falling sickness     | Rupture of a blood vessel  |
| Cystitis            | Inflammation of the bladder   | Fatty Liver          | Epilepsy   |
| Day fever           | Fever lasting one day; sweating sickness                                      | Fits                 | Cirrhosis of liver   |
| Debility            | Lack of movement or staying in bed  | Flux                 | Sudden attack or seizure of muscle activity  |
| Decrepitude         | Feebleness due to old age   | Flux of humour       | An excessive flow or discharge of fluid like hemorrhage or diarrhea  |
| Delirium tremens    | Hallucination due to alcoholism   | French pox           | Circulation  |
| Dengue              | Infectious fever endemic to East Africa                                       | Gathering            | Syphilis   |
| Dentition           | Cutting of teeth  | Glandular fever      | A collection of pus  |
| Deplumation         | Tumor of the eyelids which causes hair loss                                   | Great pox            | Mononucleosis  |
| Diary fever         | A fever that lasts one day  | Green fever/sickness | Syphilis   |
| Diphtheria          | Contagious disease of the throat  | Grippe/grip          | Anemia   |
| Distemper           | Usually animal disease with malaise, discharge from nose and throat, anorexia | Grocer's itch        | Influenza like symptoms  |
| Dock fever          | Yellow fever  | Heart sickness       | Skin disease caused by mites in sugar or flour   |
| Dropsy              | Edema (swelling), often caused by kidney or heart disease                     | Heat stroke          | Condition caused by loss of salt from body   |
| Dropsy of the Brain | Encephalitis  |                      | Body temperature elevates because of surrounding environment temperature and body does not perspire to reduce temperature. Coma and death result if not reversed |
| Dry Bellyache       | Lead poisoning  | Hectical complaint   | Recurrent fever  |
| Dyscrasy            | An abnormal body condition  | Hematemesis          | Vomiting blood   |
| Dysentery           | Inflammation of colon with frequent passage of mucous and blood               | Hematuria            | Bloody urine   |
| Dysorexy            | Reduced appetite  | Hemiplegy            | Paralysis of one side of body  |
| Dyspepsia           | Indigestion and heartburn. Heart attack symptoms                              | Hip gout             | Osteomyelitis  |
| Dysury              | Difficulty in urination   | Horrors              | Delirium tremens   |
| Eclampsy            | Symptoms of epilepsy or convulsions during labor                              | Hydrocephalus        | Enlarged head, water on the brain  |
| Ecstasy             | A form of catalepsy   | Hydropericardium     | Heart dropsy   |
| Edema               | Nephrosis; swelling of tissues  | Hydrophobia          | Rabies   |
| Edema of lungs      | Congestive heart failure, a form of dropsy                                    | Hydrothroax          | Dropsy in chest  |
| Eel thing           | Erysipelas  | Hypertrophic         | Enlargement of organ, like the heart   |
| Elephantiasis       | A form of leprosy   | Impetigo             | Contagious skin disease characterized by pustules  |
| Encephalitis        | Swelling of brain; aka sleeping sickness                                      | Inanition            | Physical condition resulting from lack of food   |
| Enteric fever       | Typhoid fever   | Infantile paralysis  | Polio  |
| Enterocolitis       | Inflammation of the intestines  | Intestinal colic     | Abdominal pain due to bad diet   |
| Enteritis           | Inflations of the bowels  | Jail fever           | Typhus   |
| Epitaxis            | Nose bleed  | Jaundice             | Condition caused by blockage of intestines   |
| Erysipelas          | Contagious skin disease, due to Streptococci with vesicular                   | King's evil          | Tuberculosis of neck and lymph   |

|                       |   |                      |  |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------|--|
| Kruchhusten           | glands<br>Whooping cough  | Pemphigus            | Skin disease of watery blisters                                      |
| Lagrippe              | Influenza   | Pericarditis         | Inflammation of heart  |
| Lockjaw               | Tetanus or infectious disease affecting the muscles of the neck and jaw. Untreated, it is fatal in 8 days | Peripneumonia        | Inflammation of lungs  |
|                       |   | Peritonitis          | Inflammation of abdominal area                                       |
| Long sickness         | Tuberculosis  | Petechial Fever      | Fever characterized by skin spotting                                 |
| Lues disease          | Syphilis  | Phthiriasis          | Lice infestation   |
| Lues venera           | Venereal disease  | Phthisis             | Chronic wasting away or a name for tuberculosis                      |
| Lumbago               | Back pain   | Plague               | An acute febrile highly infectious disease with a high fatality rate |
| Lung fever            | Pneumonia   |                      |  |
| Lung sickness         | Tuberculosis  | Pleurisy             | Any pain in the chest area with each breath                          |
| Lying in              | Time of delivery of infant  |                      |  |
| Malignant sore throat | Diphtheria  | Podagra              | Gout   |
| Mania                 | Insanity  | PolioPotter's asthma | Fibroid pthisis  |
| Marasmus              | Progressive wasting away of body, like malnutrition   | Pott's disease       | Tuberculosis of spine  |
| Membranous Croup      | Diphtheria  | Puerperal exhaustion | Death due to child birth   |
| Meningitis            | Inflations of brain or spinal cord  | Puerperal fever      | Elevated temperature after giving birth to an infant                 |
| Metritis              | Inflammation of uterus or purulent vaginal discharge  |                      |  |
| Miasma                | Poisonous vapors thought to infect the air  | Puking fever         | Milk sickness  |
| Milk fever            | Disease from drinking contaminated milk   | Putrid fever         | Diphtheria.  |
| Milk leg              | Post partum thrombophlebitis  | Quinsy               | Tonsillitis.   |
| Milk sickness         | Disease from milk of cattle which had eaten poisonous weeds   | Remitting fever      | Malaria  |
|                       |   | Rheumatism           | Any disorder associated with pain in joints                          |
| Mormal                | Gangrene  | Rickets              | Disease of skeletal system   |
| Morphew               | Scurvy blisters on the body   | Rose cold            | Hay fever or nasal symptoms of an allergy                            |
| Mortification         | Gangrene of necrotic tissue   | Rotanny fever        | (Child's disease) ???  |
| Myelitis              | Inflammation of the spine   | Rubeola              | German measles   |
| Myocarditis           | Inflammation of heart muscles   | Sanguineous crust    | Scab   |
| Necrosis              | Mortification of bones or tissue  | Scarlatina           | Scarlet fever  |
| Nephrosis             | Kidney degeneration   | Scarlet fever        | A disease characterized by red rash                                  |
| Nepritis              | Inflammation of kidneys   | Scarlet rash         | Roseola  |
| Nervous prostration   | Extreme exhaustion from inability to control physical and mental activities                               | Sciatica             | Rheumatism in the hips   |
| Neuralgia             | Described as discomfort, such as "Headache" was neuralgia in head   | Scirrhus             | Cancerous tumors   |
|                       |   | Scotomy              | Dizziness, nausea and dimness of sight                               |
| Nostalgia             | Homesickness  | Scrivener's palsy    | Writer's cramp   |
| Palsy                 | Paralysis or uncontrolled movement of controlled muscles. It was listed as "Cause of death"               | Screws               | Rheumatism   |
|                       |   | Scrofula             | Tuberculosis of neck lymph glands.                                   |
| Paroxysm              | Convulsion  |                      | Progresses slowly with abscesses and pistulas                        |

|                       |  |                   |  |  |
|-----------------------|--|-------------------|--|--|
| Scruppox              | develop. Young person's disease  |                   |  | by high fever, headache and dizziness  |
| Scurvy                | Skin disease, impetigo   |                   |  |  |
|                       | Lack of vitamin C. Symptoms of weakness, spongy gums and hemorrhages under skin  | Thrombosis        |  | Blood clot inside blood vessel   |
|                       |  | Thrush            |  | Childhood disease characterized by spots on mouth, lips and throat             |
| Septicemia            | Blood poisoning  |                   |  |  |
| Shakes                | Delirium tremens   | Tick fever        |  | Rocky mountain spotted fever   |
| Shaking               | Chills, ague   | Toxemia           |  | Eclampsia  |
| Shingles              | Viral disease with skin blisters   | Trench mouth      |  | Painful ulcers found along gum line, Caused by poor nutrition and poor hygiene |
| Ship fever            | Typhus   |                   |  |  |
| Siriasis              | Inflammation of the brain due to sun exposure  | Tussis convulsiva |  | Whooping cough   |
| Sloes                 | Milk sickness  | Typhus            |  | Infectious fever characterized high fever, headache, and dizziness             |
| Small pox             | Contagious disease with fever and blisters   |                   |  |  |
|                       |  | Variola           |  | Smallpox   |
| Softening of brain    | Result of stroke or hemorrhage in the brain, with an end result of the tissue softening in that area                   | Venesection       |  | Bleeding   |
|                       |  | Viper's dance     |  | St. Vitus Dance  |
| Sore throat distemper | Diphtheria or quinsy   | Water on brain    |  | Enlarged head  |
| Spanish influenza     | Epidemic influenza   | White swelling    |  | Tuberculosis of the bone   |
| Spasms                | Sudden involuntary contraction of muscle or group of muscles, like a convulsion  | Winter fever      |  | Pneumonia  |
|                       |  | Womb fever        |  | Infection of the uterus.   |
|                       |  | Worm fit          |  | Convulsions associated with teething, worms, elevated temperature or diarrhea  |
| Spina bifida          | Deformity of spine   |                   |  |  |
| Spotted fever         | Either typhus or meningitis  | Yellowjacket      |  | Yellow fever.  |
| Sprue                 | Tropical disease characterized by intestinal disorders and sore throat   |                   |  |  |
| St. Anthony's fire    | Also erysipelas, but named so because of affected skin areas are bright red in appearance                              |                   |  |  |
| St. Vitas dance       | Ceaseless occurrence of rapid complex jerking movements performed involuntary  |                   |  |  |
| Stomatitis            | Inflammation of the mouth  |                   |  |  |
| Stranger's fever      | Yellow fever   |                   |  |  |
| Strangery             | Rupture  |                   |  |  |
| Sudor anglicus        | Sweating sickness  |                   |  |  |
| Summer complaint      | Diarrhea, usually in infants caused by spoiled milk  |                   |  |  |
| Sunstroke             | Uncontrolled elevation of body temperature due to environment heat. Lack of sodium in the body is a predisposing cause |                   |  |  |
| Swamp sickness        | Could be malaria, typhoid or encephalitis  |                   |  |  |
| Sweating sickness     | Infectious and fatal disease common to UK in 15th century  |                   |  |  |
| Tetanus               | Infectious fever characterized   |                   |  |  |