

Pest Houses, Quarantine, and Smallpox: Utah Newspapers Reporting on Quarantine in the Early 1900s

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Smallpox

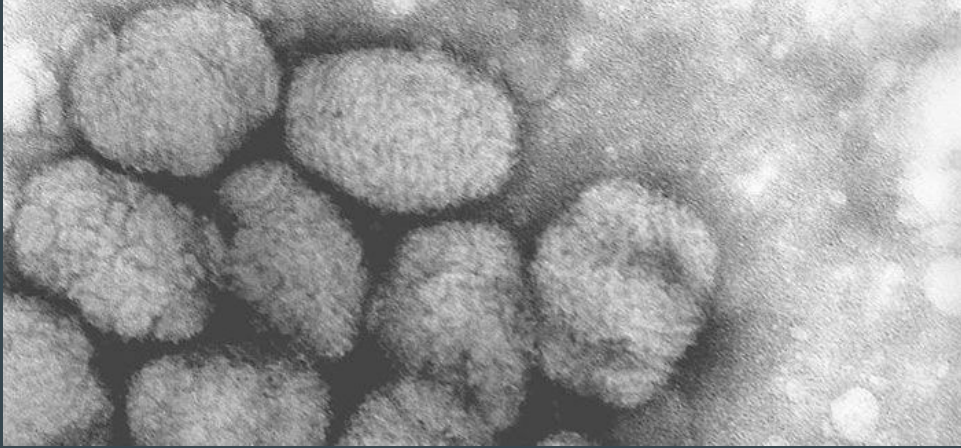
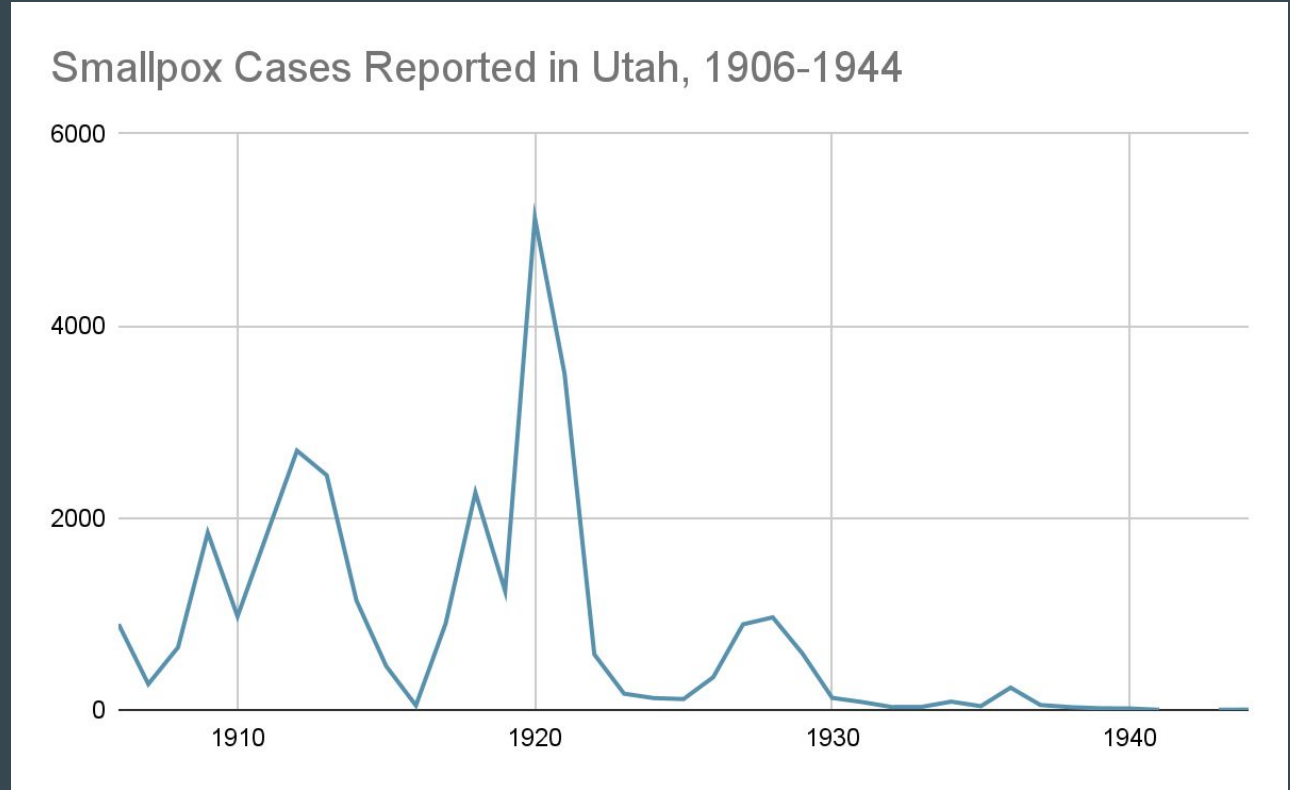


Image of smallpox virus taken from CDC website.



Unnamed, undated photo of man with smallpox taken from CDC website.

Smallpox in Utah



Graph made by Ericka Stone. Data taken from Utah Department of Health.

Quarantine in Northern Utah

- In Practice
- Negligence
- In the Media
- Officials
- Children

EPIDEMIC OF SMALLPOX RAGING IN NORTHERN UTAH

Authorities in Affected District Appeal
to State Board of Health to Estab-
lish a Quarantine.

SALT LAKE, Dec. 22.—An epidemic of smallpox is raging in Cache and Boxelder counties in the northern portion of this State and the medical authorities in the affected districts have appealed to the State Board of Health to establish a quarantine. The rapid spread of the disease is said to be the result of numerous dances held recently which were attended by persons suffering from the contagion.

Quarantine in Practice

- Cancellation of community events and schools
- Case reporting
- Quarantine flags
- Pest houses



Quarantine house and unnamed people, ca. 1908, Logan, UT.
Photo from USU Historical Photo Collection.

Quarantine Negligence

- Fines for concealment
- Quarantine breaking
- Law enforcement

PEST HOUSE NEGLIGENCE.

Agent of County Commissioners Finds
Bad Condition of Affairs.

At the instigation of the board of

1 Apr. 1901, *Deseret Evening News*, p. 1.

STOP QUARANTINE BREAKING.

WHAT IS THE HEALTH department going to do in the case of the west side family that is said to have openly, notoriously and flagrantly violated the quarantine regulations? This family was quarantined for small-pox. It is reported that the people composing it, adults and children, mingled freely with outsiders; that they came and went exactly as they pleased and that, when they were remonstrated with by neighbors, they said with emphasis, that they would do exactly as they pleased.

If the statements made and published

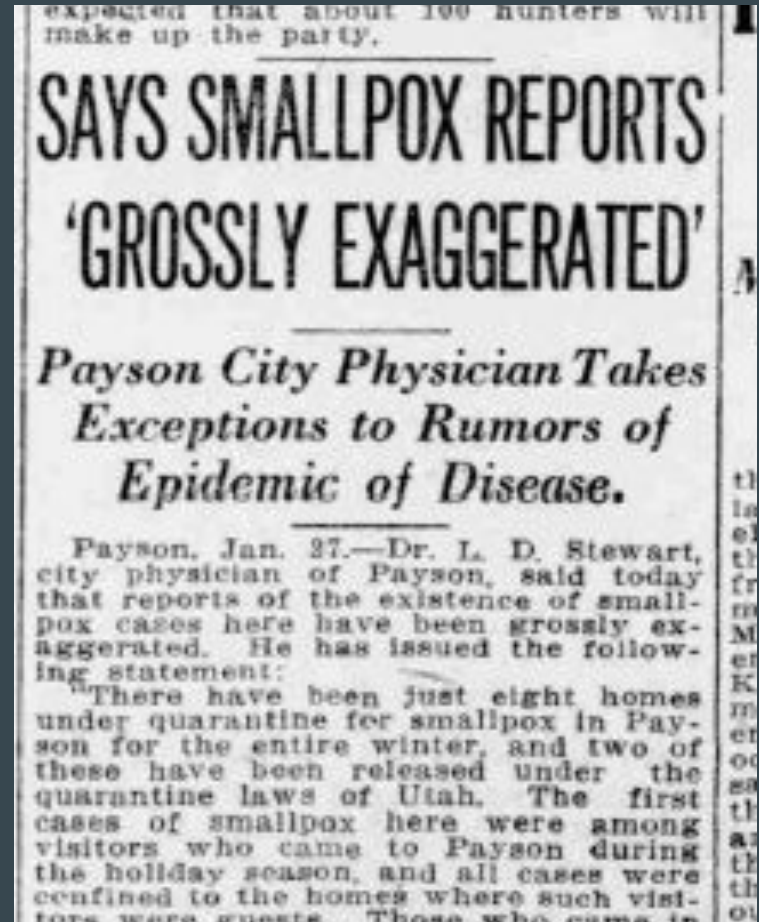
21 Jun. 1903, *Salt Lake Herald-Republican*, p. 12.

Quarantine and the Media

- Publicity
- Misinformation

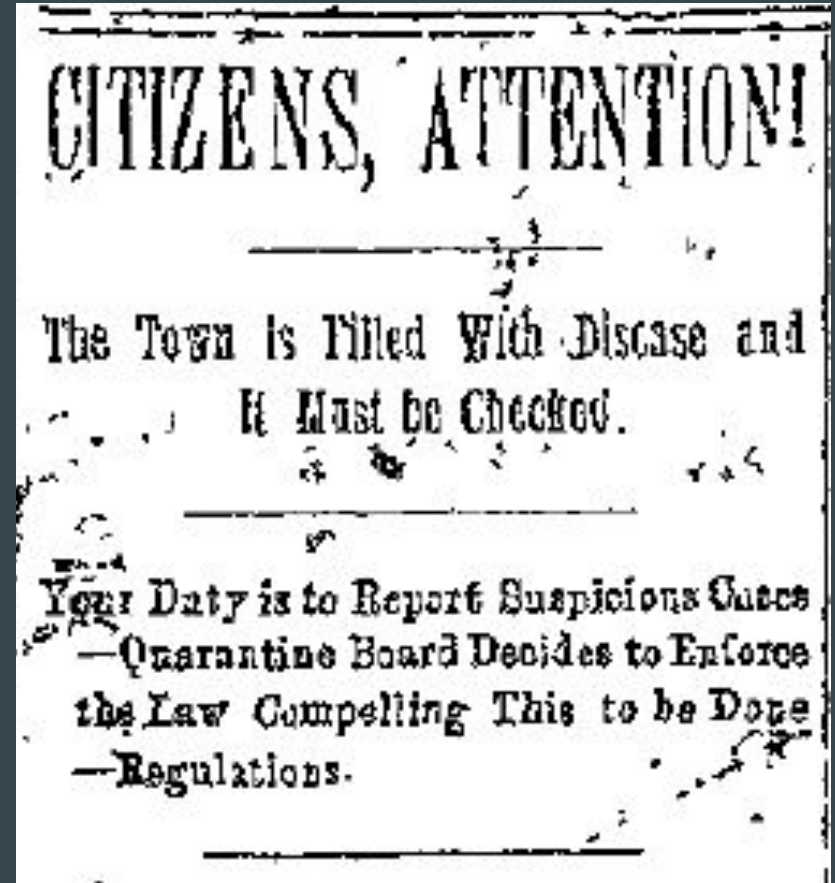


3 May 1905, *Logan Republican*, p. 8.



Conclusion

- Newspapers as sources of mass communication.
- Case reporting in 1900s vs today.
- Reports of misinformation and rumors.



30 Jan. 1896. *Logan Journal*, p. 1.

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- “Notice.” 22 Aug. 1900, *Logan Nation*, p. 1.
- “One Death Occurs.” 22 Aug. 1900, *Logan Nation*, p. 1.
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