



***The East Falls Historical Society
invites you to a meeting and lecture.***

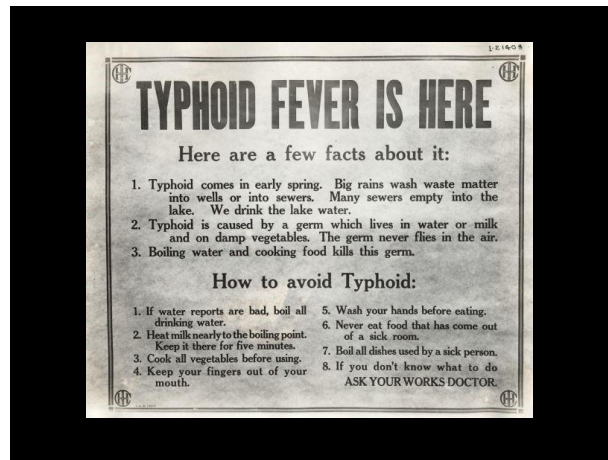
Thursday, December 5, 2024, 7:00 PM

(With a short business meeting at 6:45 PM for EFHS members to vote on officers and by-laws changes. But all are welcome.)

“The Typhoid Fever Menace and the Queen Lane Reservoir”

By Steven J. Peitzman, MD
President of the EFHS, Historian of Medicine

**At the Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd
3820 The Oak Road**



As the 20th century approached, Philadelphia was not done with epidemic diseases. But typhoid fever seemed always present, though more lethal in some years than others. It was known to be transmitted through water or milk contaminated with a particular bacterium. In the 1890s, no antibiotics existed. Water supplies in American cities were polluted with industrial and human waste. Scientists and engineers knew that a basically simple process – sand filtration – worked, but to apply this remedy to a whole city’s water supply would prove costly. East Falls at least already had a reservoir built in 1894-5. All we needed was some sand and a lot of money from city councils.

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