

## Pandemic Influenza Storybook

I have a story to tell about my grandmother. Her name is Mary Agnes Tyrrell Glover. And she was born in 1900 in Manayunk, it's a neighborhood in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. And my grandmother (*pause*) was the first generation born in the United States from Ireland, from County Mayo. And she had 39 first cousins on this street. And she was 18 years old in 1918 in Manayunk which was mainly a mill area. And she was the only person in the family to contract the Spanish influenza that went through Philadelphia taking 14,000 lives in October of 1918. And she (*pause*) worked at an office in downtown Philadelphia and participated in the effort to raise money for World War I. They had a big parade for raising funds for bonds and so many people were together in the streets in Philly. And it is thought that that is why the Spanish influenza spread so quickly in Philly. And so she caught the flu and the family was Catholic and had a priest come and gave her last rites, they did not expect her to make it through the night. And they tried to administer pills. Well, my grandmother was never able to take pills. So she refused and I'm not sure what medication they tried to administer to her to help her through it, but (*pause*) in the morning she managed to recover. And at that time, there was a, this was in Ward 21 and there was a wagon that came through and people were bringing out the dead and loading them in a wagon that went down Cotton Street. They happened to live in Cotton Street. And so (*pause*) the story is that she was the only person that they knew of to recover from it on that street. And her brothers loss many friends. Their friends had cousins that succumbed to it. And, so, my aunt happened to own a hotel in Atlantic City. And they took her when she recovered a little more to Atlantic City, to the shore, to recover fully. And that is where she met my grandfather. And so they dated and were married in 1920. And (*pause*) she lived to 95 years old. There are 59 descendants of hers

currently alive from her marriage to my grandfather, John Glover. And no one is left living in Manayunk, they've all moved away from Philadelphia.