

# Names of Old Time Illnesses

*Compiled by Daniel H. Burrows*

*Reprinted courtesy of Genealogy Records Service*

*More information available FREE online*

*<http://www.genrecords.com>*

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/Asphicsia	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 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 phthisis
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	Thrombosis	Blood clot inside blood vessel
	Lack of vitamin C. Symptoms of weakness, spongy gums and hemorrhages under skin	Thrush	Childhood disease characterized by spots on mouth, lips and throat
Septicemia	Blood poisoning	Tick fever	Rocky mountain spotted fever
Shakes	Delirium tremens	Toxemia	Eclampsia
Shaking	Chills, ague	Trench mouth	Painful ulcers found along gum line, Caused by poor nutrition and poor hygiene
Shingles	Viral disease with skin blisters		Whooping cough
Ship fever	Typhus	Tussis convulsiva	Infectious fever characterized high fever, headache, and dizziness
Siriasis	Inflammation of the brain due to sun exposure	Typhus	Smallpox
Sloes	Milk sickness	Variola	Bleeding
Small pox	Contagious disease with fever and blisters	Venesection	St. Vitus Dance
Softening of brain	Result of stroke or hemorrhage in the brain, with an end result of the tissue softening in that area	Viper's dance	Enlarged head
Sore throat distemper	Diphtheria or quinsy	Water on brain	Tuberculosis of the bone
Spanish influenza	Epidemic influenza	White swelling	Pneumonia
Spasms	Sudden involuntary contraction of muscle or group of muscles, like a convulsion	Winter fever	Infection of the uterus.
		Womb fever	Convulsions associated with teething, worms, elevated temperature or diarrhea
Spina bifida	Deformity of spine	Worm fit	
Spotted fever	Either typhus or meningitis		Yellow fever.
Sprue	Tropical disease characterized by intestinal disorders and sore throat	Yellowjacket	
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		