OLD TIME DISEASES and
WHAT THEY WERE

Abscess: A localized collection of pus buried in tissues, organs, or confined spaces of the body, often accompanied by swelling and inflammation and frequently caused by bacteria

Apoplexy: Paralysis due to stroke

Atrophy: Wasting away (generally from lack of use, i.e. muscles)

Bad Blood: Syphilis

Bilious Fever: Typhoid, malaria, hepatitis

Blood Poisoning: Bacterial infection; septicemia

Brain Fever: Meningitis

Bright's Disease: Chronic inflammatory disease of kidneys

Childbirth: A cause given for many female deaths of the century. Almost all babies were born in homes and usually were delivered by a family member or a midwife; thus infection and lack of medical skill were often the actual causes of death.

Cholera: Acute severe contagious diarrhea with intestinal lining sloughing

Cholera Infantum: A common, non-contagious diarrhoea of young children, occurring in summer or autumn. In the nineteenth century it was considered indigenous to the United States; was prevalent during the hot weather in most of the towns of the middle and southern states, as well as many western areas; and was characterized by gastric pain, vomiting, purgation, fever, and prostration. It was common among the poor and in hand-fed babies. Death frequently occurred in three to five days. Synonyms summer complaint, weaning brash, water gripes, choleric fever of children, cholera morbus

Cholera Morbus: Characterized by nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, elevated temperature, etc. Could be appendicitis

Colic: An abdominal pain and cramping

Congestive Chills: Malaria with diarrhea

Congestive Fever: Malaria

Consumption: Tuberculosis; Wasting sickness

Corruption: Infection

Cramp Colic: Appendicitis

Croup: Laryngitis, diphtheria, or strep throat

Cystitis: Inflammation of the bladder

Day Fever: Fever lasting one day; sweating sickness

Debility: Lack of movement or staying in bed

Diphtheria: Contagious disease of the throat

Dropsy: Edema (swelling), often caused by kidney or heart disease
Dropsy of the Brain: Encephalitis
Dysentery: Inflammation of colon with frequent passage of mucous and blood
Enteric Fever: Typhoid fever
Enteritis: Inflations of the bowels
Falling Sickness: Epilepsy
Flux: An excessive flow or discharge of fluid like hemorrhage or diarrhea
Flux of Humour: Circulation
Heart Sickness: Condition caused by loss of salt from body
Heat Stroke: Body temperature elevates because of surrounding environment temperature and body does not perspire to reduce temperature. Coma and death result if not reversed
Hematemesis: Vomiting blood
Inanition: Physical condition resulting from lack of food
Infantile Paralysis: Polio
La Grippe: Flu, influenza
Lockjaw: Tetanus or infectious disease affecting the muscles of the neck and jaw. Untreated, it is fatal in 8 days
Long Sickness: Tuberculosis
Lung Fever: Pneumonia
Lung Sickness: Tuberculosis
Marasmus: Progressive wasting away of body, like malnutrition
Membranous: Croup Diphtheria
Meningitis: Inflations of brain or spinal cord
Metritis: Inflammation of uterus or purulent vaginal discharge
Miasma: Poisonous vapors thought to infect the air
Milk Fever: Disease from drinking contaminated milk, like undulant fever or brucellosis
Myocarditis: Inflammation of heart muscles
Necrosis: Mortification of bones or tissue
Nephrosis: Kidney degeneration
Nepritis: Inflammation of kidneys
Palsy: Paralysis or uncontrolled movement of controlled muscles. It was listed as "Cause of death"
Pleurisy: Any pain in the chest area with each breath
Rickets: Disease of skeletal system
Scarlet Fever: A disease characterized by red rash
Scurvy: Lack of vitamin C. Symptoms of weakness, spongy gums and hemorrhages under skin
Septicemia: Blood poisoning
Spasms: Sudden involuntary contraction of muscle or group of muscles, like a convulsion
Summer Complaint: Diarrhea, usually in infants caused by spoiled milk
Teething: Tooth infections with inflammation
Tetanus: Infectious fever characterized by high fever, headache and dizziness
Thrombosis: Blood clot inside blood vessel
Water on Brain: Enlarged head

Other causes of death
Affixation: During the time when natural gas was used to light houses or possibly heat them, carbone monoxide deaths were common
Killed by cars: The train would stop at a crossing and the person walking would climb between the cars to keep going to their destination, or they were taking coal off the train. The train started to move the person would be knocked either between the coupling or onto the track.