

Source 1a

Extracts from newspaper articles about the Typhoid epidemic in Worthing in 1893.

From a Worthing newspaper, early June 1893

FUNERAL AT THE CEMETERY

The remains of the late Mr. Abraham Duffield, whose sad death, after a short illness, occurred at the Worthing Infirmary on Saturday, were interred at the Broadwater Cemetery on Tuesday afternoon. The coffin was carried by members of Binstead's Band and was followed to the grave by the widow and relatives, and a large number of friends.....The greatest sympathy is felt for the widow, who is left unprovided for with six young children, the youngest not being three weeks old when its father died. A subscription has been started to enable the widow to open a little shop at the Ham Arch Post Office.

Pall Mall Gazette, July 24 1893

FEVER-STRICKEN WORTHING

A SUMMER HOLIDAY RESORT SHUT UP

.....Forty deaths, chiefly among the poorer classes, have occurred within the past fortnight alone, and one out of every sixteen of the population of 16,000 has been stricken with the fever.....The summer visitors have scampered away, and the front of the town is a desert. No pleasure boats put out to sea, for there are no holiday makers to use them.....The hotels and lodging-houses are empty, and many escape the fever merely to find ruin staring them in the face.....

Preparations for a new water supply and improved drainage are being pushed forward. Meanwhile, all fresh cases of fever are being isolated in the mission rooms and chapels which have been turned into temporary hospitals.

Sussex Daily News July 26 1893

THE FEVER AT WORTHING

.....A sick-poor fund started by the Mayor has already reached the total of over £300, and.....it may be noted that the employees of a builder in the town (Mr. J. G. King) have handed over £6 for the sick poor instead of going for their annual outing.

Sussex Daily News August 16 1893

DESOLATE WORTHING

There are five improvised hospitals.....all of these are full of patients.....The Richmond House Home, standing in a garden, is a beautiful place as looked at from the outside. Nearly all the windows stood open to the sun. All the rooms, upstairs and down, had been turned into wards, and every bed was occupied by a fever patient – by men and women, boys and girls, and little children.....

A little girl, convalescent, was amusing herself with dolls, and Sister Bothamley said that Mrs. Hooft had sent a large box of beautifully dressed dolls for the children.....

There are more children at the Travellers' Rest in Clifton Road, ten little ones being in one big room. Happily nearly all were recovering, some sitting up in bed with dolls and other toys. One little girl was dressed and sitting at an open window.....Mrs. Elmer said she would be able to go home in a day or two.

Morning Leader August 16 1893

THE TYPHOID AT WORTHING

The number of cases of typhoid in Worthing has exceeded 1,150. At a meeting of the Town Council last night it was decided to go to Shoreham for water for temporary purposes, and mains are to be laid at once. It is hoped that well within a month fresh water will be in the town.....

Pall Mall Gazette, August 18 1893

A STRICKEN TOWN

On returning to my home in Worthing last week I found the town almost deserted, the tradesmen depressed, ruin before many of them, and the typhoid still raging. I came by the London-bridge train that gets to Worthing at half-past one in the afternoon. It is a train which at ordinary times, and especially at this season of the year, brings crowds of visitors to the town. My friend and I were the only persons who alighted; our trunks the solitary luggage on the platform.

We went out into the once bright little town. There was panic in the air. Groups of persons stood here and there on the pavements talking of the fever and the water supply. Tanks filled with water from the West Worthing Waterworks were placed about the streets.....Many of the residents have fled, and there are no visitors.....

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Source 1b is an audio version of 1a