

From the Archives

Lyman Spalding (1775 – 1821), a physician who practiced in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, compiled and distributed annual “Bills of Mortality” giving the causes of death, during the years 1800 – 1813, of residents of Portsmouth.

“To promote and encourage medical discoveries” was one of the specific purposes of the Academy, as stated in the 1780 Charter. One year later the founders set up a class of members to “examine the various diseases of the Country, that are most prevalent, the causes of disorders peculiar to the country, the longevity of the inhabitants, the ratio between births and deaths. . . .” The Academy’s archives contain manuscript and printed reports solicited for discussion at Stated Meetings and for possible publication in the *Memoirs*.

Bill of Mortality for Portsmouth, New Hampshire, 1808
 Donated to the Academy by the compiler, Dr. Lyman Spalding

COMPLAINT.	AGE.	MALES.	FEMALES.	JANUARY.	FEBRUARY.	MARCH.	APRIL.	MAY.	JUNE.	JULY.	AUGUST.	SEPTEMBER.	OCTOBER.	NOVEMBER.	DECEMBER.	TOTAL.
Abscess	14 years	1														1
Angina Pectoris	63 years	1													1	1
Aphtha	3w, 1, 7m, 2 weeks	2	2								1	1	1			4
Apoplexy	48 years	1						1								1
Atrophy	1w, 6oy, 59y, 6m, 6o, 1, 1, 66 years	6	2				2					2	1		1	8
Bleeding at the stomach	48 years	1							1							1
Cholera of Infants	2, 1, 2 years	2	1									2		1		3
Consumption	41 68 24 55 66 44 31 68 2 55 years	8	12	1	3	1	3	2	2	1	2	1		4		20
Convulsions 2, 2, 1w, 1m, 2, 1, 3w, 1, 4oy, 3w, 65y 1w		5	7		3			3		2	2					12
Croup	2 years	1													1	1
Dropsy	26, 46, 43, 58 years	2	2													4
Dropsy in the brain	9m, 1, 2, 9 years	4							1	1				2		4
Dysentery	1, 1 year	2									2					2
Erythema	6m, 1 week	2												2		2
Fever billious	6m, 76, 29 years	3				1					1			1		3
Fever puerperal	24 years	1											1			1
Fever pulmonic	8o, 68, 37, 35, 4 years	4	1				2	2	1							5
Fever typhus	19 years	1											1			1
Hooping Cough	1y, 2, 9, 2, 3 months	3	2	1						1				3		5
Intoxication	35 years	1														1
Malignant sore throat	2 years	1									1					1
Mortification	51, 8, 37 years	3	1							1				1		3
Nephritis	34 years	1		1												1
Nonclosure of the foramen ovale and canalis arteriosus	2 weeks	1								1						1
Old age	8o, 9o, 8o, 79, 87, 82, 75 years	3	4	1			2	2				1	1			7
Palsy	75 years	1												1		1
Phrenitis	63 years	1						1								1
Schirrous bladder	74 years	1												1		1
Schirrous liver	6o, 4o years	1	1					1						1		2
Sudden	53y, 2d, 77 years	2	1	1	1								1			3
Worms	2 years	1												1		1
CASUALTIES	Burnt	5 years	1											1		1
	Drowned	2o, 49, 5, 18 years	4		1			1	1					1		4
	Suicide	35 years	1				1									1
BIRTHS	{ Males 141 } { Females 134 } 275 still born 8															
MARRIAGES	56															
Total		57	51	6	8	1	11	12	10	7	12	9	7	21	4	108

PORTSMOUTH, the capital of the state of New Hampshire, situated 42° 5' north latitude, and 6° 26' east longitude from Washington, contains about 7000 inhabitants.