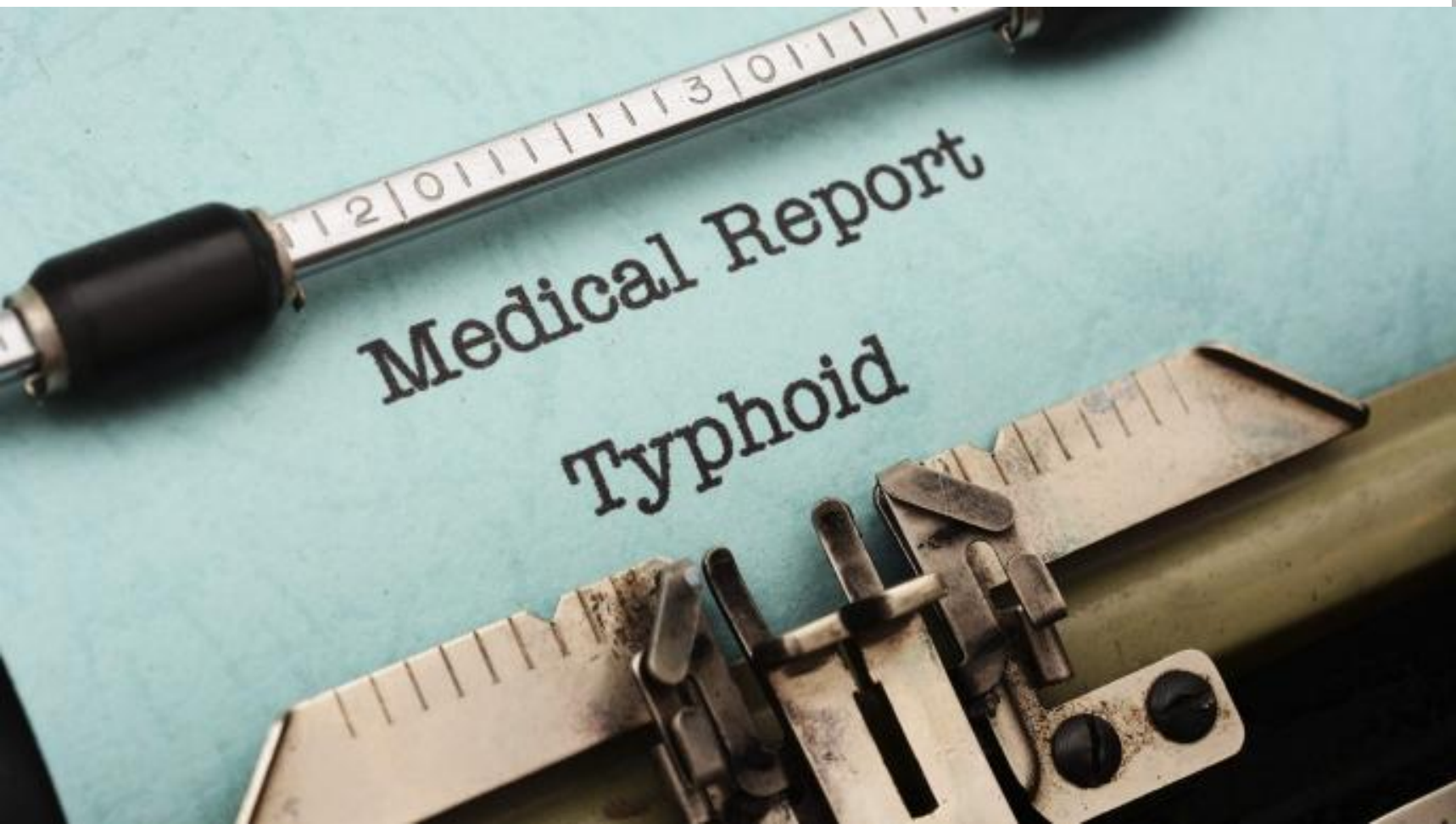


10 Things You May Not Know About “Typhoid Mary”



On March 27, 1915, New York City health officials quarantined the 45-year-old woman known as “Typhoid Mary” for the second time after linking her to another typhoid fever outbreak.

A century later, the name “Typhoid Mary” remains well known, but the details about her life are not. On the 100th anniversary of the start of her 23-year exile, learn 10 surprising facts about one of history’s most famous infectious disease carriers.

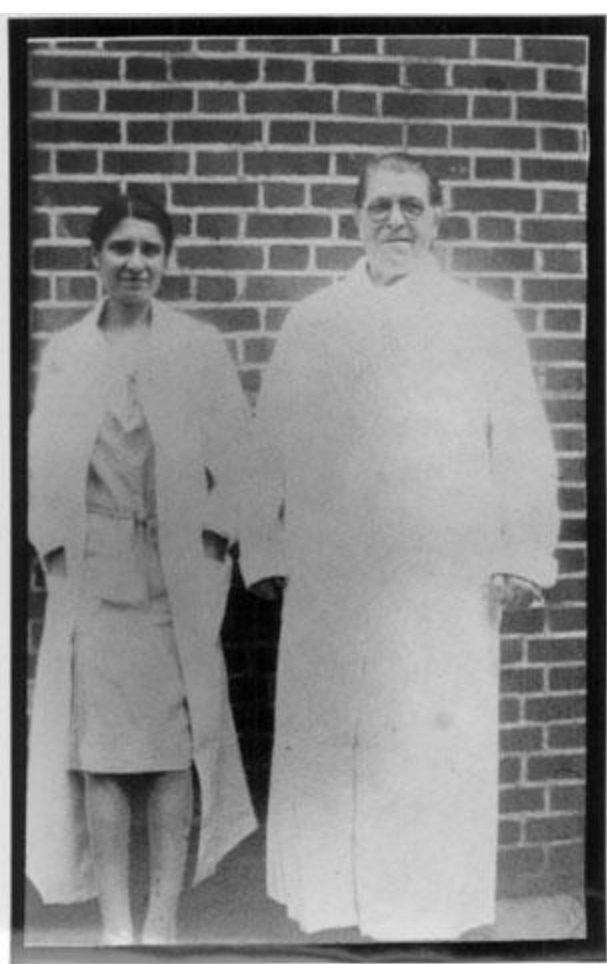
1. HER REAL NAME WAS MARY MALLON.

She was born on September 23, 1869, in Cookstown, a small village in the north of Ireland. Mallon's hometown in County Tyrone was among one of Ireland's poorest areas.



2. ONLY THREE CONFIRMED DEATHS WERE LINKED TO TYPHOID MARY.

Mallon was presumed to have infected 51 people, and three of those illnesses resulted in death. Since she changes names, it's possible there are more victims. However, Typhoid Mary was not the worst lethal carrier of the typhoid germ in New York City's history. In 1922, New Yorker Tony Labella reportedly caused two outbreaks that combined for more than 100 cases and five deaths.

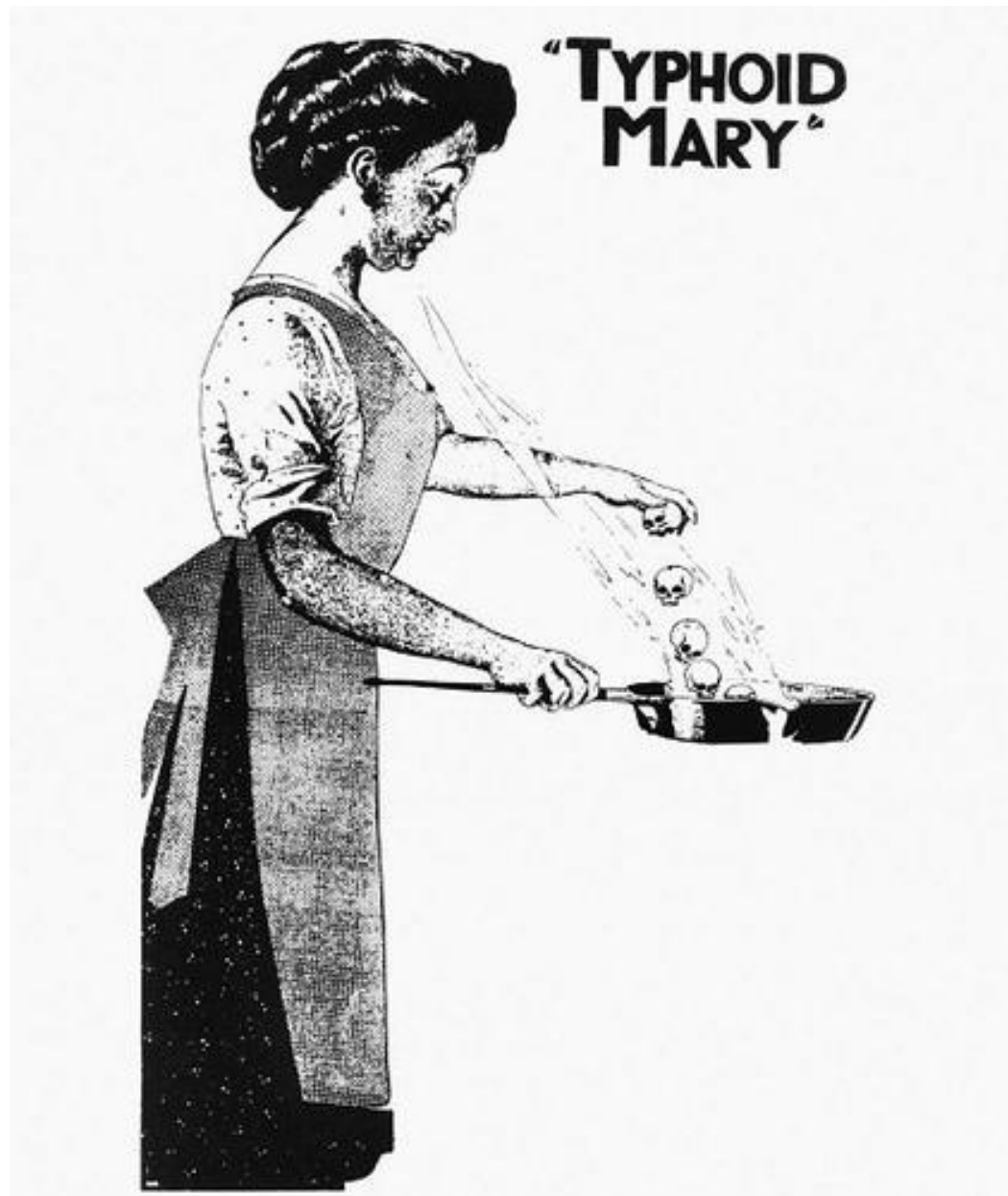


3. SHE EMIGRATED FROM IRELAND AS A TEENAGER.

Mallon traveled by herself to start a new life in the United States in 1883. The teenager moved in with her aunt and uncle in New York City, and even as an adult Mallon never lost her Irish accent.



4. TYPHOID MARY WAS THE PICTURE OF HEALTH.



- Although she harbored the extremely contagious typhoid bacteria, Mallon never demonstrated any of its symptoms.
- Immune to the disease herself, Mallon was the first person in the US identified as an asymptomatic carrier of the pathogen
- She denied ever having been sick with the disease, and it is likely she never knew she had it, suffering only a mild flu-like episode

5. SHE SPREAD DISEASE AS A COOK FOR AFFLUENT FAMILIES.

Like many single women who emigrated from Ireland, Mallon found work in America as a domestic servant. Perhaps fitting given her birth in a hamlet named Cookstown, she proved adept in the kitchen and cooked for some of New York City's most elite families.



6. A SANITARY ENGINEER TRACKED DOWN TYPHOID MARY.

In summer of 1906 members of a wealthy banker household contracted typhoid fever, while vacationing in Long Island's Oyster Bay, a prestigious playground of New York's rich and famous—and home to Theodore Roosevelt's Summer White House.

Typhoid fever was viewed as a disease of the crowded slums, associated with poverty and the lack of basic sanitation.



Concerned that the outbreak would prevent him from leasing out his summer house again, the landlord hired a freelance sanitary engineer for investigation.

The investigator found the cause—Mallon, the cook who had worked there weeks before the outbreak.

He researched Mallon's employment history and found that seven families for whom she had cooked since 1900 had reported cases of typhoid fever.

NAME Mallon, Mary ADDRESS Riverside Hospital CARRIER NO. #36
 AGE 45 yrs. SEX Female COLOR W ONSET not given BOROUGHS Island No. Bro.
 CASE NO. YEAR-1907

HISTORY - IF ANY - Discovered as carrier by Dr. Soper in 1907 as cause of typhoid infection in families where engaged as cook - Sent to Riverside - later paroled. Upon agreement would report periodically to H.D. & not engage in foodhandling. Broke her parole and rediscovered at Sloan Hosp. March 1915. Outbreak of typhoid involving 25 persons Jan. 1915 - traced to pudding prepared by cook Mrs. Brown who proved to be Mary Mallon. Emp. at above since Oct. 1914. Was apprehended and sent to Riverside March 1915, where she is 2/15/16. Stools from her periodically are positive. Denies ever having typhoid to Dr. McAdam- 11/5 to notify River. to send specimen. Dr. McAdam inf. 12/10/16. Refused to give stools doctor inf. 1/3/19. Dr. West says he will try again 3/12/17. To B.H. 8/8/22- Chronic Carrier. 5/24/23 Made Chronic Carrier.

SPECIMENS				COMMENTS
Widal + DATE & RESULT	Stools + DATE & RESULT	Stools + DATE & RESULT	Stools - DATE & RESULT	
12/11/23 12/14/23	80 positive		4/7/19 no growth	Board Action
12/18/23 12/20/23	stools from 3/16/16		7/7/20 neg.	5/24/23
12/27/23	to 12/7/23		12/21/21 neg.	(over)
			12/8/20 No growth	
			neg. 9/12 9/6 too	
			old 9/28- 9/8 &	
			9/11 incomplete	
			inc. 8/16/24 over-	
			grown 8/19 -10/10/24	

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7. A COMBINATION OF PEACH ICE CREAM AND MALLON'S POOR HAND WASHING LIKELY SPARKED TYPHOID FEVER OUTBREAKS.



Mallon likely passed along typhoid germs by failing to vigorously scrub her hands before handling food.

However, the high temperatures necessary to cook food would have killed the bacteria, so how could Mallon have transferred the germs?

The answer is in one of Mallon's most popular desserts—ice cream with raw peaches cut up and frozen in it.

8. WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST MAY HAVE BANKROLLED TYPHOID MARY'S SUIT FOR FREEDOM.

In 1907 the New York City Health Department took Mallon into custody and placed her into forced confinement.

“I never had typhoid in my life and have always been healthy,” Mallon wrote. “Why should I be banished like a leper and compelled to live in solitary confinement with only a dog for a companion?”

Armed with test results from a private laboratory that came up negative, Mallon in 1909 sued the health department for her freedom, but the New York Supreme Court denied her petition.

In 1910, new health commissioner agreed to release Mallon if she pledged never to work as a cook again.

9. SHE BROKE HER PROMISE TO STAY OUT OF THE KITCHEN.



In 1915, another outbreak struck at Manhattan's Sloane Maternity Hospital.

The epidemic was traced to the hospital's cook, whom the staff had nicknamed "Typhoid Mary."

Little did they know that it actually was Mallon, who had taken the assumed name of "Mary Brown."

The health department had lost track of Mallon after her release, during which time she cooked in hotels, restaurants and institutions.

After her capture, Mallon was once again confined to North Brother Island.

10. TYPHOID MARY SPENT 26 YEARS IN FORCED ISOLATION.

After her second apprehension, Mallon spent the last 23 years of her life in forced isolation.

Although hundreds, if not thousands, of asymptomatic carriers who had been identified walked the sidewalks of New York freely, Typhoid Mary was the only one exiled.

She was fated to cook only for herself until her death on November 11, 1938.

