

NAME \_\_\_\_\_



## CITY OF SUNSHINE ACTIVITY

- **Prepare:** Bring the following with you to the June 10 session: glass of milk (or any beverage of your choice), piece of bread (or something similar to eat), a thermometer, a piece of paper and something to write with.
- **Read:** [Week 2 – “City of Sunshine”](#) (On JD Resources Website) & “ABOUT IDA GWYNN GARVIN” (below)
- **Transcribe:** Do your best to transcribe (type out what you can read) ONE PAGE of Ida’s letter (open [“Ida Gwynn Garvin Letter”](#) on JD Resources page)
  - Having trouble? Click [HERE](#) for tips on transcription.
  - All documents are unique and may contain various aspects such as stamps, tables, or charts. Type what you see and follow the order and layout as best you can. Type words exactly as they are written in the document. This includes capitalization, abbreviations, names, dates, and even misspelled words.
- **OPTIONAL:** If you’d like, watch the PBS documentary [“The Forgotten Plague”](#) to learn more! This is optional. It’s a great film, so be sure to watch if you are curious. You may be able to access the whole film, or just enjoy the short clips to learn more.

### ABOUT IDA GWYNN GARVIN

In the fall of 1915, Ida Gwynn Garvin was a reluctant patient “chasing the cure” at Nob Hill Lodge. Originally from Ohio, Ida had left her seven children in the care of her parents as she sought sanatorium treatment. Letters home document her constant concern over living expenses and the health threat she posed to her children. Writing her mother in December Ida states, “I think her (daughter Irma’s) lungs and sputum had better be examined at once, as we don’t want to take any chances...I think the home has better be disinfected ...I thought I was careful but I did not exercise the care that we are obliged to here...They are very strict about it in Colorado, but I suppose they have to be when the state is so full of lungers.”

When Ida Gwynn Garvin first arrived at Nob Hill Lodge she was a woman broken in health and spirit, weighing just 104 ½ lbs. Although she later described herself as a widow, evidence suggests that Ida’s husband Norman had abandoned the family. As a result, Ida relied on her parents to pay for her care. Having grown tired of the rigid rules and endless talk about TB that were common in sanatorium life, Ida wrote to her mother, “I really feel that at present I have my bugs (TB) on the run and that when I get where I won’t hear so much about it I’ll improve even faster.” By April 1916, Ida decided that the expense was simply too much. She nervously traveled by train to visit her brother John and his wife Ethel, hoping to regain her health in the dry air of eastern Montana.

In November 1916, Ida Gwynn Garvin filed a homestead claim in Chouteau County, Montana. Able to walk only short distances and often bedridden for weeks at a time, Ida needed help to “prove up” her homestead in order to gain title. Ida’s brother John and her oldest children Gwynn and Nita worked together to provide some semblance of economic security and potential inheritance for Ida and her family. In December 1916 she returned to Nob Hill Lodge with young son Amer to “chase the cure” during

the harsh Montana winter. She left Colorado Springs and sanatorium life for good in early spring 1917. As weeks turned into months, Ida became a permanent invalid and watched the world go by from her sleeping porch in Montana. Ida received her homestead patent in June 1920. Seven months later, on January 29, 1921, Ida Gwynn Garvin died of tuberculosis.

### **TRANSCRIPTION CHALLENGE**

Read as much of Ida's letter as you can. We know this is challenging! Choose one of the five pages to transcribe. Transcription is simply typing up the words you read from a handwritten primary source document like a letter. This way we can keep record of this source and make it easier for others to review. We can also make the source searchable once it is typed for keywords like "Tuberculosis". Please type your transcription below or in a separate document. Be sure to list which page you are transcribing.

At the June 10 session we will discuss what we learned about Ida's experience as a Tuberculosis patient from this letter. Please make a list of anything you found interesting, anything you have questions about, and more. Be prepared to share your ideas!