Script for today

1. Cover Slide
2. We will start with examining life in the country, Watauga County and ASU a hundred years ago
3. The pandemic began during the spring of 1918 and continued in waves for 24 months.   The first six months overlapped and were exacerbated by World War One.
4. People’s attention was split between the War, the pandemic, the struggle for women’s suffrage, the 1918 mid-term and then the 1920 Presidential election and, most importantly, their day to day lives.
5. In Watauga County in 1920 there were no paved roads The only electricity was in the 2 dorms and the administration building and in 6 adjoining homes (1915) of ASU administrators and faculty

There was no public water or sewer system in town .. ASU had some running water on campus and there were outhouses.

1. Read Slide - Lucky for us, the Watauga Democrat published numerous articles about the pandemic
2. Now we will look at health conditions in the county around 1920
3. There was no hospital, health department, or student infirmary so were no x-ray or imagine machines and no laboratory tests

There were no Registered Nurses in the county.  Approximately six doctors in the county – usually rode on horseback to see patients

At that time there were no antibiotics and few effective medications.

In 1916 the first vital records law was passed in NC – it was hard to enforce – so it is impossible to get accurate data about the 1918 flu experience, especially in rural areas.

1. Read slide
2. Dr. R.K. Bingham built what is now the Daniel Boone Inn in 1923 (just after the virus) to house his family of 6 children on the right side and overnight patients on the left side of the building
3. Lets get to the flu
4. Read Slide
5. These are graphs showing the course if the 1918 pandemic and today’s pandemic to date. The both started in the spring, lessened in the summer and had swells in the first fall. We will have to see how similar they are at the end of our current pandemic
6. Read slide
7. Due to the poor roads in our state, the flu traveling primarily by rail and water way, quickly spread across the state. Only 2 weeks after it first appeared in the state, Governor Bickel put out a press release: Read Slide
8. And a week later it reaches Watauga County
9. By October 10th, Appalachian Training School started considering a quarantine
10. And a week later, it was in fact shut down. Read slide highlights
11. The town of Boone was also under quarantine
12. A story in the W.D. on Oct. 24, 1918 reported that many of the boarding students at Appalachian Training School had fled for their homes because of the influenza risk, although some had “bravely remained and waited on those who were sick.”
13. The flu raged through Watauga County that fall
14. Read slide
15. One document we DO have is a journal written by A.J. Greene, and student and later a faculty member at ATS“Thanksgiving Day the 28th of November, 1918 will long be remembered by the faculty and students of the Appalachian Training School.  Perhaps the greatest cause of this is the conditions under which the services and festivities were held.  The greatest war of world history had just ended. The terrible epidemic, Spanish Influenza was raging throughout the nation and the country was still in a turmoil over the elections which had just taken place.
16. Read slide
17. CAN”T READ
18. Read Highlighted sections
19. Look familiar? We haven’t come too far in 100 years.
20. “Bogus” remedies were touted but none helped - similar to Presidents Trumps musings on drinking bleach and taking hydroxicloriquin
21. The flu and the App Training School quarantine lasted throughout the winter months and into 1919
22. ON Jan 13, the WD reported - read slide
23. By January 23 the faculty responded and sent their response to newspapers across the state

READ

1. By late February the flu had abated at ATS and a quiet year ensued
2. But it reared its ugly head again a year later
3. The WD reported in February 1920 (READ Slide)
4. 2 weeks later things were grim (read slide)
5. Thankfully no one in the campus community died from the pandemic
6. Things continued to worsen
7. Fortunately by the end of March the flu abated for the last time
8. Read slide
9. The pandemic highlighted how unprepared the country, and Watauga County and ATS were for a major health crisis. One result locally was that the Boone Chapter of the American Red Cross hired a Red Cross nurse to assist local families and students at ATS with the flu and other public health issues
10. Read article, explain Mr Linney
11. FROM THE journal of student A.J. Greene: February 11, 1920 - Today Miss McCartney,  was at Chapel and made a most sensible talk.  Also, it was announced that owing to influenza conditions the town authorities had quarantined the school; several cases of influenza in the school.

February 14, 1920 -  Miss McCartney has been giving a number of boys and girls instruction in caring for the sick.

February 27, 1920 – Miss McCartney who had gone to nurse Mr. Linney’s (Chair of the Board of Trustees) family, was sick with influenza was brought to Lovill Home tonight sick with the disease herself.  The quarantine still remains in force, as there are still some cases in school and several in town.

1. Here are some of the ways the flu was remembered at ATS
2. During the fall term [1919] the Calliopean Literary Society has accomplished much considering the fact that a great number have been kept out by the Spanish Influenza.  But regardless of this, the few remaining have kept the home fires burning  …”

45 Read slide

46 read slide

47 – There were 3 main consequences of the flu that are worth noting

48 Read slide

49. It took until 1937 and New Deal funding for Watauga County to get its first hospital – built to be a hospital. It is now Founders Hall near Durham Park

50. The building on the left was Grace Hospial on the campus of Lees McCrae. It was built around 1920 and started the first nursing school in the high country. It is now Tate Dorm ON the left is a picture of Amy louise Fisher, our first publicly paid public health nurse in Watauga County in 1935, again paid by new Deal monies.

Questions???