

# Wichita Stamp Club Newsletter



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Neal E. Danielson  
Editor



*"Go Fly A Stamp"*



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## **MONTGOMERY COUNTY PART 1 of 3** by Jeff Lough

A rich philatelic history documents the colorful Montgomery County of southeast Kansas. The County was organized between 1867 and 1869. It was named in honor of Richard Montgomery, an American Revolutionary War general killed in 1775 while attempting to capture Quebec City, in Canada, after successfully capturing two forts and the city of Montreal.

At first the Cherryvale and Coffeyville areas were the centers of white man activity with a fairly busy trail connecting those two communities leading into the Indian Territorial frontier and beyond to Texas following the Civil War. This was the same trail that the famous murderous Bender family did in about a dozen travelers a little north of Cherryvale. After railroads began to develop, the county rapidly developed numerous farming communities. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries some extraction of industrial minerals from the rivers and creeks occurred. Nowadays Montgomery County has a few fairly large industrial concerns owned by international companies using local raw materials and local labor. The smaller communities are primarily bedroom communities for these industries and locations for retired folks. Rivers have also played a role in the developing history of Montgomery County with the Elk River dominating the northwest corner of the County and the Verdigris in the southern part playing a key role in the early struggles between Native Americans and European Americans seizing their lands.

### **ELK CITY**

Railroad construction through the northwestern part of the county to other parts of Kansas was somewhat discouraged by the very deep, heavily forested gorges with creeks and the Elk River. These hollows and highlands are the lingering fingers of an east-southeastern portion of the Flint Hills. However the farmland is rich and Elk City was a thriving small town before the flooding Elk River resulted in the construction of the Elk City state reservoir.



**Figure 1**  
Elk City Main Street

Elk City was established in 1868. The post office was established November 5, 1869 in A. E. Baird's home/supply store and the first postmaster was William F. Baird. Elk City had sawmills; a bed spring factory; and a brick plant. Cattle drives came near the area. At one time 1,200 people lived in Elk City and it had numerous professionals, retail outlets and two newspapers. Nowadays Elk City is a diminished residential area with a retirement center, a Masonic lodge, and a tavern. See Figure 1 for a current picture of Main Street. Figure 2 illustrates an August 11, 1910 cover with a registration cancellation and barred oval killers on the Scott #332 2¢ carmine Washington and Scott #334 4¢ orange-brown Washington, both part of the Franklin-Washington series. Figure 3 shows a 9¢ Jefferson Fourth Bureau issue and the 3¢ Washington-Franklin issue. A registered return receipt cancellation completes the postal servicing for this cover. Figure 4 illustrates a very early 1870s cover with Scott #136 with a January 1<sup>st</sup> date and location postmark and a target killer. Figure 5 shows and April 2, 1893 cover with a circular postmark on the one cent Columbian and a postmaster made cork killer.



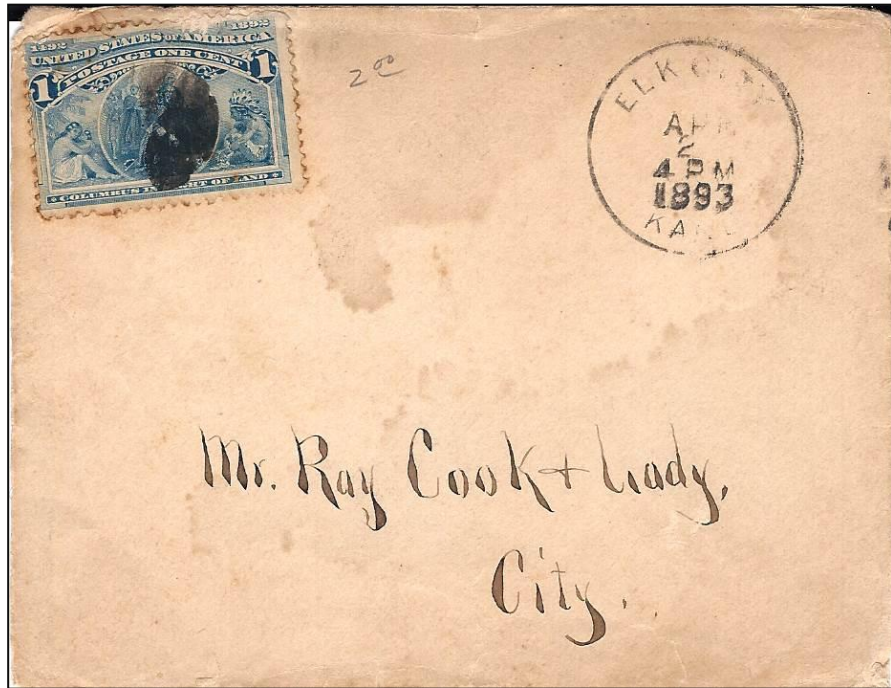
Figure 2  
Elk City Registered Cover of 1910



Figure 3  
Elk City Registered Cover with 9¢ Jefferson 4th Bureau + 3¢ Washington of 1936



**Figure 4**  
Elk City 1870s Cover w/Scott #136



**Figure 5**  
Elk City Cover 1893 w/1¢ Columbian

## TABLEMOUND/TABLE MOUND RURAL STATION

Just to the west/northwest side of Elk City State Lake and southeast of Elk City lies Table Mound. Table Mound is a rise in the landscape that was approximately 200 feet above the Elk River. It covered about 600 acres and is made up of shale and Iola limestone. Nowadays it overlooks the state lake. Baughman lists no Table Mound post office. However there was a Tablemound Rural Station operating as a branch of the Independence post office on June 14<sup>th</sup> 1907 from which the cover of Figure 6 received a four bar postmark on its 2¢ Jamestown stamp.

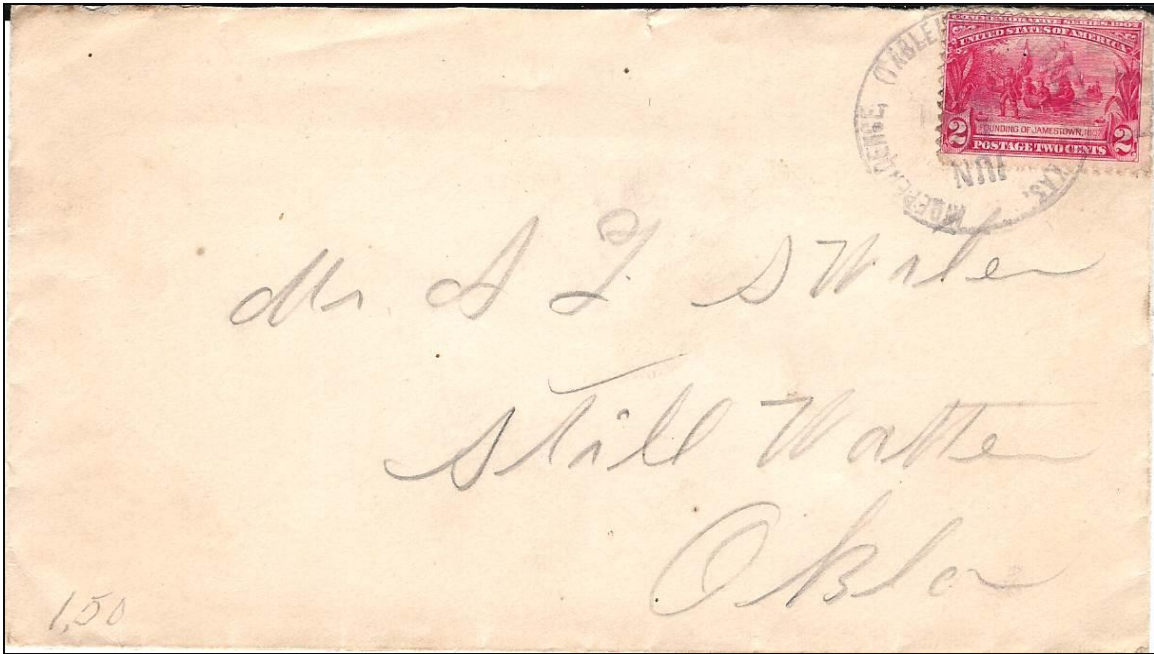
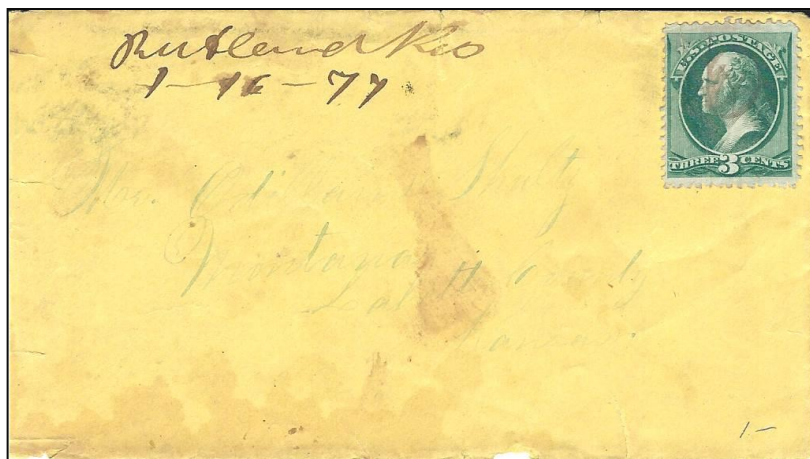


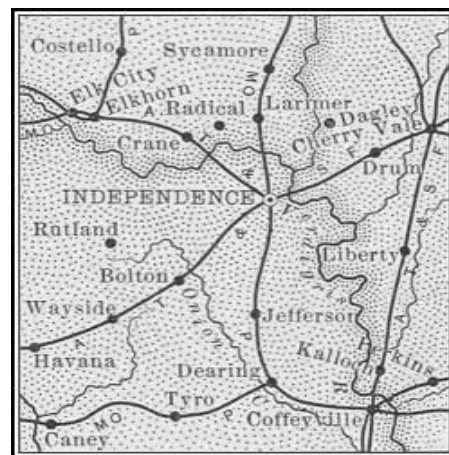
Figure 6  
Tablemound Rural Station 1907

## RUTLAND

All that remains of Rutland is a small well-manicured cemetery. The town of Rutledge was established because of a mineral water well in a nearby orchard. The post office's original name was Atlanta with Samuel Simmons the first postmaster. After a nearby rural post office at Sunnyside moved to Atlanta the name of the town and eventually the post office was changed to Rutland. The January 16, 1877 cover illustrated by Figure 7 was mailed during the Simmons era. This cover has an interesting cancellation appearing to be a ghost challenging a miscreant husband. The stamp is Scott #136, the green Washington 3¢ stamp so commonly used until the repeal of the Civil War era extra penny postage. Later Sam Logan appointed himself postmaster and the Rutland Post Office was in the corner of his store. Mr. Logan sold barrels of bulk soda crackers, beans and cornmeal. Gunny sacks held green coffee beans to be roasted by housewives and ground in the old coffee mill. Other items were aging cheese and salt pork hung from rafters. Back of the counter was a tobacco cutter for those who used tobacco. Logan also offered cigars, smoking tobacco, pitchforks, hoes, brooms, washtubs, horse collars and for the ladies there was a selection of buttons, ribbons and bows. In Rutland Township there was also a post office at Hosford from 1883—1889 with Lewis Hosford as postmaster and at Truman with Peter Huling postmaster from 1876—1884. Nearby Grass had a post office from 1880—1886 with John E. Greer as postmaster. Many of these post offices were in the homes of residents in this isolated area of northwestern Montgomery County.



**Figure 7**  
Rutland, Kans. 1877 Cover



**Figure 8**  
Montgomery County Railroad Map ca1899

Figure 8 is an old Montgomery County Railroad Map around the year 1899 that provides a good view of the railroad lines in and out of Cherryvale as well as several other small towns discussed in the Montgomery County stories. This map will appear at the end of each part of the Stories along with References. Figures will appear in numerical sequence beginning with Figure 1 in each part. Parts 2 and 3 will appear in future issues of this Newsletter.

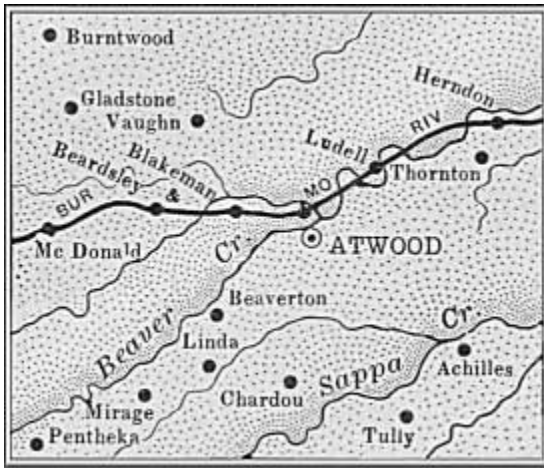
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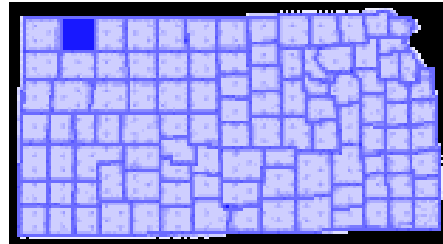
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**TRAVEL KANSAS—NORTH TO SOUTH—EAST TO WEST** by Neal E. Danielson



**Figure 1**  
Rawlins Co. Railroad Map ca 1899



**Figure 2**  
Rawlins County

**Travel Kansas—Achilles** located in Rawlins County in northwest Kansas (Figures 1 & 2). Rawlins County was established in 1873 by the Kansas Legislature and organized May 25, 1881. The County was named in honor of General John A. Rawlins, a staff officer under General Ulysses S. Grant and was selected by President Grant as Secretary of War on 11 March 1869 and passed away during his tenure as Secretary of War on 6 September 1879.

About 96 percent of the land is prairie, but only 4% timber land that consists of ash, box elder, cottonwood, elm, walnut and willow. The soil is rich, black loam. The land receives moisture from the numerous springs in the area. High quality clay provides for making bricks and yellow magnesium limestone exists in several areas. The County is also watered by the North and South Forks of the Sappa, rising out of Sherman County along with Beaver, Little Beaver, and North Beaver Creeks.

The first settlers arriving in the area establishing a settlement in April 1875 had to contend with roving band of Cheyenne Indians. Some settlers decided not to remain and returned back East. Wives were often left alone while their husbands were out working for food for the family. This resulted in Indian attacks that murdered the settlers.

The town of Atwood along with Danube (now Ludell) contested for the honor of being the County Seat of Rawlins County and Atwood was the victor with the seat permanently located in July, 1881.

There are a couple of Historic structures in Atwood, one being the Rawlins County Courthouse (Figure 3) and the Shirley Opera House built in 1907. The House is a two story brick located between a lawyers' office and the Post Office. Over the years it served as a theater and as a department store.



**Figure 3**  
Rawlins County Courthouse

Achilles is located in the southeastern part of the County along Sappa Creek. The village was considered a Populated Place, that is a place with a clustered or scattered buildings and permanent humans reside.

It was not incorporated and had no legal boundaries. It is by all definitions a Ghost Town. In its heyday of the 1870's to around 1915 when the railroad bypassed the settlement and the automobile come into existence. Achilles became defunct when businesses moved out of town. The Post Office opened October 23, 1879 and remained open until June 30, 1951. The time span of Achilles supported two general stores; a variety store; a blacksmith shop; a barbershop; a mechanics garage; and a creamery. The blacksmith shop was destroyed by fire in 1922; the hardware store moved to Atwood and became an antique shop; a Methodist Church was just off Mail Street, but eventually moved to Atwood and used as a residence. The one-room schoolhouse is about the only structure still standing and is used for community functions. The Main Street has become part of a family garden, crop field, weeds and overgrowth.

Achilles must of generated an interest of a J. Jerome Schlessor of Newark, New Jersey, as he communicated with the Postmaster in Achilles asking for information on the Post Office. He apparently sent a self-addressed 1¢ Thomas Jefferson Postal Card (Scott #UX27) which was used by the Achilles Postmaster to respond (Figure 4). The Postal Card received a four-bar balloon cancel postmarked from Achilles, Kans Nov 24 1943. The reverse side (Figure 5) notes:

“This office was established in April the year 1880 by Armstead Morris, coming here from Ill.  
He named it after his father Achilles Morris.  
Pardon delay, information dated back to early settlers and they are scattered and few”  
Yours truly  
Hazelle E. Pearson, P.M.

The postal card is noted as being written 11/23/43

The recipient, Mr. Schlessor, may have been a collector of “Dead Post Offices” or “Ghost Towns”.

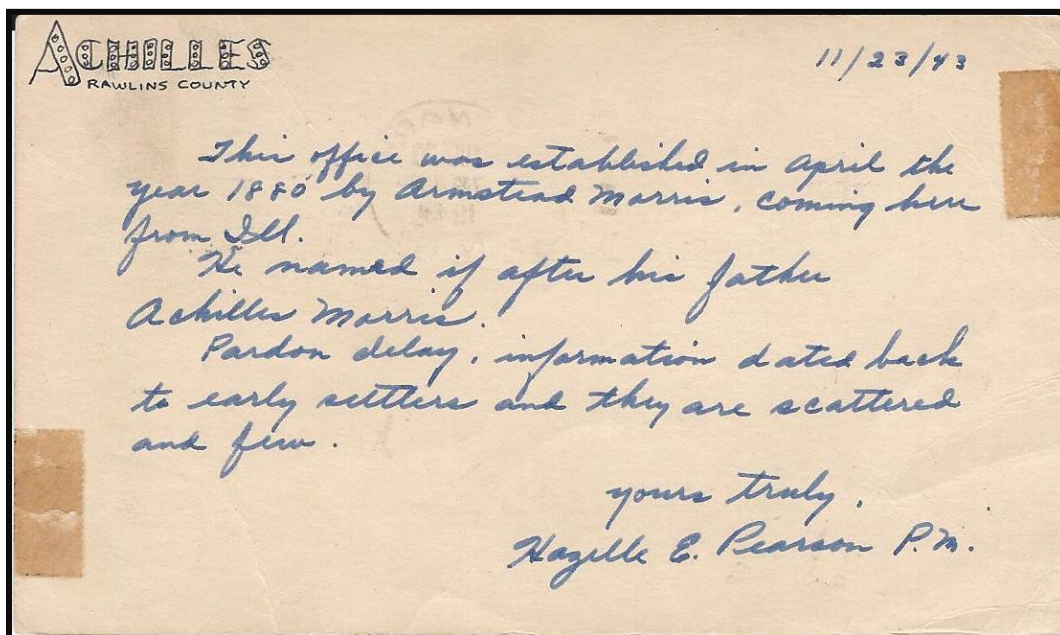
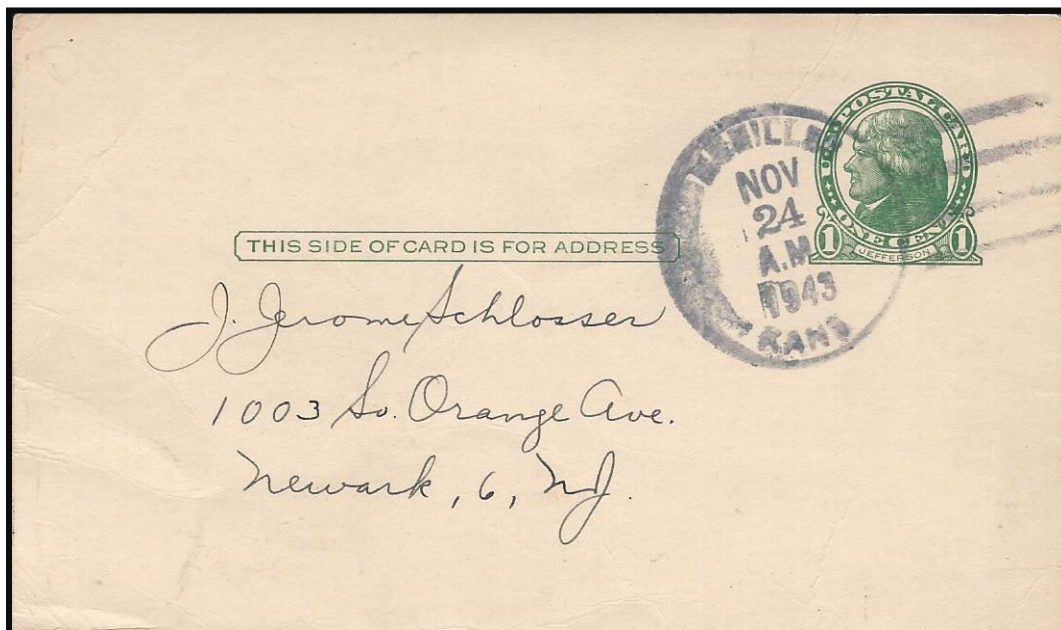


Figure 4  
Postal Card - Achilles, Kansas 1943



**Figure 5**  
Reverse Side of Achilles Card

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## MALARIA by Louis Forster



**Figure 1**  
Female Anopheles Mosquito  
Mozambique



**Figure 2**  
WHO-Official Malaria  
Eradication Emblem



**Figure 3**  
Mosquito on Flowering Portion  
Cinchona Plant  
Poland

This past summer (and for the past several summers), our local Wichita newspaper has contained articles about vacationers returning home with rare diseases after having been bitten by a mosquito. Sensationalism usually enters each piece of writing and interviewed local authorities warn of the dangers of wide-spread epidemics. A few days later the articles (and the dangers) are forgotten.

Our local newspaper does not, however, carry news about the major, on-going, never-ending mosquito-borne disease. This article is about that disease: **Malaria**.

Why an article on malaria in a philatelic newsletter? Postal services issued very few malaria-related stamps until the pivotal year of 1962. The World Health Organization (Who) declared 1962 as Malaria Eradication Year. Almost every country issued a stamp, set of stamps and/or souvenir sheets advocating the education, treatment and eradication of malaria, ... many of these stamps and souvenir sheets were issued in perforated and in imperforate formats. The number of different philatelic items amounted to many hundreds. Since 1962, many countries have issued additional stamps. A large collection of malaria-related stamps, souvenir sheets, covers, cards and cinderellas will contain several thousand items. Any collector of worldwide stamps with a modest-sized collection will have hundreds of malaria stamps.

Every 30 seconds, someone dies with malaria, ... that is over a million people yearly. Currently 600 million human beings have the disease, ... about 8% of our planet's population.

We get malaria from the bite of a mosquito. Here is how it occurs; an infected female Anopheles mosquito has parasites in her salivary gland. There are five species of the parasites (*Plasmodium falciparum* is the most common and most serious). These parasites do not harm the mosquito, but cause malaria in humans.

The infected mosquito hungers for a meal of blood. She bites you on the arm and injects the parasites into your bloodstream. The parasites travel to your liver (where they change form and multiple), then move back into your bloodstream and enter your red blood cells (where they further multiple). Your infected red blood cells rupture and a swarm of parasites is released. If you are lucky, at this time, you will spike a high fever and have severe chills for several hours.

The freed parasites then return to your liver, then into your blood and red blood cells, then you will have another episode of fever/chills. The cycle repeats every 48 hours. Over time, the period between cycles of recurrent symptoms lengthens and lessens in severity. Eventually you will probably become symptom free. In the less fortunate, worse symptoms occur and death may result.

Diagnosis of the disease is fairly simple: microscopic examination of the blood smear reveals the parasites and observation that the fever/chills recur on a 48-hour basis.

Here is the other half of the mosquito/human cycle; a non-infected female *Anopheles* bites an infected human and takes the parasites into her body. The *Plasmodium* enters her intestinal tract, grow and develop, then travel to the salivary gland. She is not infected and with the next bite, another human may be infected.

Figure one shows a female *Anopheles* mosquito on a Mozambique stamp. This stamp is one of an omnibus series issued by (former) Portuguese colonies. The stamp of Niger (one an omnibus series of French stamps) displays the official malaria eradication emblem used by the World Health Organization.

Malaria is very old disease. In the 1700's, it was documented that chewing the bark of the large bush/small tree known as the *Cinchona* helped relieve the symptoms of malaria. Later, the responsible compound was found to be quinine. Quinine remained the standard treatment until the 1940's. The polish stamp pictures the flowering portion of the *Cinchona* (quinine) plant,

Then the drug story takes a big turn. During the early years of World War II, most of countries able to grow the *Cinchona* plant became occupied by the Japanese and Germans. Many soldiers were returning to Europe and to the U. S. infected with malaria parasites. The urgent hunt for new synthetic malaria drugs commenced. Today, we have better, safer drugs. A vaccine is still not available.

Current efforts to eradicate malaria are mostly preventative; attempting to kill the mosquito or prevent the bite. The mosquito eggs grow and hatch in stagnant, non-flowing water. Efforts to drain the water and spray the area with insecticides have met with limited success. Mosquito netting in dwellings, light-weight net clothing, screened windows and doors and similar techniques are useful, but expensive. Attempts to be proactive include finding a living organism that will attack and kill the mosquito, ... currently a fungus that infests the mosquito is being tried on a restricted basis, ... the fungus' effect on the surrounding environment and on humans is uncertain.

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