The Spanish Influenza Epidemic that devastated the world in the aftermath of WWI claimed some of its last victims when it struck Bristol Bay in the spring of 1919. Despite desperate efforts by the region’s only doctor, Linus Hiram French, it was not possible to insulate Bristol Bay from the disease. The resulting devastation was a transformative event for the region.

Tim Troll will tell the story of this crises from the correspondence and photographs he obtained from the descendants of Dr. French, and from first-hand accounts of government officials and reports from the unexpected hero of the crisis – the salmon canning industry.

Tim Troll is currently the Executive Director for the Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust, a conservation non-profit serving Bristol Bay that he helped found in 2000. He has published two books of Bristol Bay history: Sailing for Salmon: The Early Years of Commercial Fishing in Alaska’s Bristol Bay - 1884 to 1951; and Our Story: Readings From Southwest, co-edited with John Branson.