

Feb. 6, 2001

Deadly Flu of 1918 being reviewed by Students
University of Wis. - Ashkosh - 54901
800 Algona Blvd.

Re: Flu Epidemic of 1918 Study

Although I live in Outagamie County, I decided to let you know what happened here in 1918 - it may give you a different outlook on the Flu. My Dad was 33, I was 7.

My Dad & I had the Flu for a month & were just able to go outside to hear all the bells & whistles announcing the end of the war. Dad, [REDACTED], never fully recovered & died Nov. 10, 1926. I checked the many records & found, altho he did go back to work at the time, he never fully recovered. A dear friend, Mrs. Ben Radomacher, & close neighbor, died in 1918, & probably was our contact. Several years & one more baby girl later, he contracted Diabetes. He never was overweight, & insulin was not heard of too much. They, Mom & Dad, went to a Diabetic Clinic at West Bend to get the insulin & learn how to use it, & the very strict diet that was necessary. I always thought the Diabetes came as a result of the Flu. Dad was home 4-5 years before his death & Mom took care of him. He lost a lot of weight. He died just barely 41 - Mom was 36 & 5 children 5 to 14 yrs. Only with our good Lord's help, wonderful neighbors & friends, did we survive.

[REDACTED]

January 17, 2001

Teri Shors, Professor
U. Wisconsin - Oshkosh
800 Algoma Blvd,
Oshkosh, WI. 54901

Dear Professor Shors,

The enclosed article appeared in our Arizona Republic. It was of great importance to me as I remember vividly the stories of the World War I flu told to me by my father.

My father, [REDACTED] of Oshkosh, was a corpsman at Camp Grant when the flu struck. He relayed how he helped stack the dead bodies up like cord wood.

When he felt himself becoming ill, he went to the Camp kitchen and brought back to his bunk a crate of oranges.

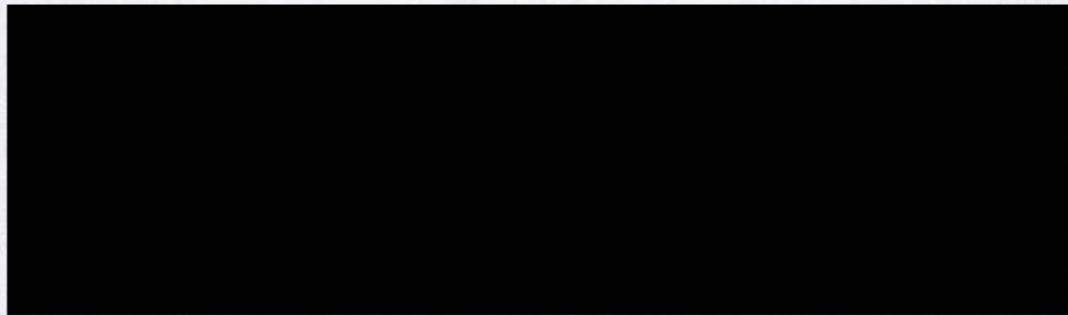
He ate oranges constantly, until he felt his illness abating. A great story for Vitamin C, don't you think.

About age 65 my father was diagnosed with Parkinsons disease. Some doctors have said it could have been a result of the World War I flu.

He did live on until approximately age 84.

I hope you find this story of interest, and I would be most interested in your findings.

Most sincerely,



P.S. It might also interest you to know that my mother, who will be 100 in August did not contract the flu, even though she lived in Oshkosh at the time of the pandemic.

■ OSHKOSH, WIS.

Study will look into 1918 flu pandemic

University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh students will review death certificates and interview survivors to study how Winnebago County survived the deadly flu pandemic of 1918.

"This is an opportunity for the community to learn how the flu impacted the area at that time," said Teri Shors, a UW-Oshkosh biology professor.

The flu killed more than 20 million people worldwide and at least 200 Winnebago County residents, she said.

PROFESSOR TERI SHORS
UW-OSHKOSH - BIOLOGY

DEAR PROFESSOR:

I READ THE ARTICLE IN THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL PAPER ABOUT THE DEADLY FLU PANDEMIC OF 1918.

I WAS BORN IN JUNE OF 1918, JUST WEST OF GRAND DAS BLUFF IN LACROSSE, WI. THEREFOR IN DECEMBER OF 1918 I WAS SIX MONTHS OLD.

I HAVE BEEN TOLD BY MY PARENTS THAT IT WAS A VERY TERIFING TIME BECAUSE OF THE FLU.

ENTIRE FAMILY WERE DYING BECAUSE OF IT.

YOUNG MOTHERS AND INFANTS WERE EXTREMELY SUSCEPTIBLE OF GETTING THIS DEASE. NO VACCINES AS WE HAVE TODAY.

BUT OUR FAMILY WAS EXTREMELY LUCKEY AS OUR DOCTOR HAD MY FATHER TO PURCHASE "BLACKBERRY BRANDY".

AT THAT TIME ONE HAD TO GET A PERSCRPTION FROM THE DOCTOR; AS THERE WAS PROBITIOM IN THE U.S.

THE DOCTOR HAD INSTRUCTED TO TAKE A GLASS OF HOT WATER, ADD 1 TEASPOON OF SUGAR, AND A TABLESPOON OF "BLACK BERRY BRANDY," AND TO GIVE IT TO EACH ONE THAT HAD THE FLU.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT BUT THAT COMBINATION WAS ABLE TO STOP THE VOMITING AND THE DIARHEA.

IT DID WORK AS MY MOTHER LIVED UNTIL SHE WAS 94 YEARS, OLD AND MY FATHER 96YE.

THE "BLACK BERRY BRANDY" IS VERY EFFECTED EFFECTIVE FOR DIARHEA OR ALSO CONSTIPATION.

IT MAY SOUND THAT THIS MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN THE ANSWER TO THE FLU.

BUT MY MOTHER ALWAYS SAID THAT IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR THE "BLACK BERRY BRANDY" WE WOULD NOT HAVE SURVIVED AT THAT TIME.

SHE ALWAYS SAID THE DOCTOR SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW OF ANYTHING ELSE THAT COULD BE TAKEN TO HELP THE PEOPLE

THEREFORE I HAVE ALWAYS KEPT SOME "BLACK BERRY BRANDY" IN MY HOUSE FOR OCCASION LIKE THAT.

PLEASE EXCUSE MY PENMANSHIP AND ANY MISSPELLED WORDS.

I AM 82 YEARS OLD AND NOW AM LIVING ALONE AS MY WIFE OF 59 YEARS PASSED AWAY LAST SEPTEMBER OF A HEART ATTACK.

I HOPE THE ITEM I HAVE WRITTEN ABOUT WILL BE OF SOME HELP TO YOU.

THANK YOU VERY KINDLY

