

## SHINDORF, Gertrude Theresia (ENGEMANN)

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Death Takes Mother From Large Family

Rare Malady Seizes Patient and Summons Comes Unexpectedly.

One of the saddest death ever to be recorded in this community took place on last Wednesday night, when Mrs. Leo Shindorf, well known Miriam resident, mother of fourteen children, passed away following a short illness at Blodgett hospital, at Grand Rapids.

Mrs. Shindorf had been afflicted with an attack of what is called "trench mouth" and had been treated by local physicians for several weeks. The disease seemed to baffle local medical treatment and on Thursday, February 27th, the editor, who is a brother, took Mr. and Mrs. Shindorf to Grand Rapids, where she was placed in the hospital for treatment with the statement from specialists that she would be all right within a few days and that within a week at the most she would be able to be brought home.

The family made frequent visits to see Mrs. Shindorf at the hospital and on Tuesday night of last week her mother, brothers and others were to see her. Mr. Shindorf and some of the children were with her again on Wednesday noon and her condition was supposed to be good with the mouth disease clearing nicely. Shortly after Mr. Shindorf left the hospital, a change was noted and when he reached home, in response to a telephone call from the hospital, he immediately returned to the bedside of his wife.

The editor was notified of our sister's condition, by the physician in charge and he left immediately for the hospital, where we learned that the chances were practically hopeless against either temporary relief or recovery. Despite the fact that a specialist gave us no hope, blood, radium and X-Ray specialists were called in for consultation, but their verdict was the same – hopeless – and that death could not be warded off for more than three or four days at the most, even at the sacrifice of blood transfusions and other drastic measures.

The disease was diagnosed as Acute Myelogenous Leukemia, a very rare disease and one which might not show up again among the patients at the hospital in ten years. A more common name for the disease would be "cancer of the blood."

After doing all that was possible in the way of determining if anything more could be done for our sister, the editor brought the children of the family back home and notified relatives of Mrs. Shindorf's serious condition. Death came quietly at about 11:15 o'clock. With her at the time of her death was Mr. Shindorf and her brother, George H. Engemann and family, of Kalamazoo who reached the bedside of the sufferer about twenty minutes before she died.

Undertaker Bruce G. Fales was notified and he went to Grand Rapids and brought the body home the next day. It was taken to her home south of the city where hundreds of friends called to pay their respects and show their esteem for the good woman who had passed on in the prime of life after having enriched the community with a contribution of fourteen children thirteen of them still living.

Funeral services were held Saturday morning at nine o'clock from St. Joseph's Catholic church in this city, with Rev. Fr. Lawrence L. Dorr officiating and delivering a beautiful sermon on the life of the deceased. The church was crowded to capacity and extra chairs were pressed into service in order to seat the large number of people attending the services and whose presence gave manifestation of the fact that it does not necessarily take great wealth or high social position to hold the love and esteem of the people of the community in which one lives. Burial was in the Engemann family lot in the Catholic cemetery in this city with the six brothers acting as bearers and carrying their sister to her last resting place beside the body of Tom, a small son, who met death by burning about two years ago.

Gertrude Theresia Engemann was born in Chicago, on September 16, 1888, the fourth child in a family of eight born to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Engemann. She came to Belding with her parents when but a small child and her entire life was spent in this city and community. On November 22, 1910, she was united in marriage to Leo A. Shindorf, of Miriam, and to this union fourteen children were born, thirteen of them surviving to mourn the loss of a big hearted, sympathetic mother. The children are Eva, Richard, Arnold, Rita, Paul, Madeline, Earl, Hubert, Bernard, Elizabeth, Sarah, Henry and Beverly. Other survivors are the husband, her mother, Mrs. Lena Engemann, of this city, and a sister, Mrs. Nugent Byrne, of Parnell. Mrs. Shindorf is the first of the family of eight children to pass to her eternal reward.

Although he realizes that it is going to be some job for a man to tackle, Mr. Shindorf has decided that he will keep the family of children together.

The family is very grateful to the great number of people in the community who have aided them in any way during the time of their great sorrow and they are very appreciative of all that has been done for them.

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