

HASSELQUIST, HOWARD ERNEST
March 4, 1893-January 6, 1919

HASSELQUIST, JOHN
1917-January 1, 1919

HASSELQUIST, LIZZIE LARUE TURPEN
1892-January 8, 1919

HASSELQUIST, STUARD M.
1900-January 4, 1919

The Wheatland Times, January 8, 1919

THREE MEMBERS OF FAMILY DEAD FROM MYSTERIOUS CAUSE
DEAD, WIFE AND MOTHER DYING WHILE DOCTORS ARE UNABLE TO NAME THE CAUSE

Three deaths in quick succession occurring in one family from mysterious cause has aroused the interest and apprehension of the entire community. The victims are Howard Hasselquist, his two year old son, John, and his brother, Stuard, aged 18 years.

The first death was the baby boy. He was playing about the house as usual on New Years day when he suddenly fell to the floor in a faint. It soon became evident that the child's legs were paralyzed and the parents started in a car to bring him to the hospital, but he died on the way to town.

The next morning Stuard complained at breakfast time that he could not eat—could not swallow his food. He then drove to the hospital where a very thoro examination was made, his blood, pulse and temperature being normal, and no evidence of illness discovered other than a thickening of the tongue and a slight weakness which, in the total absence of disease indications, was attributed to the nerve shock of the sudden death of the baby. A few hours later he returned to the hospital at which time his weakness had increased so that he had to be helped to a room by the nurses.

Soon a paralysis began to creep over his body, beginning at his feet and gradually extending upward, and breathing becoming difficult from the swelling and hardening of the tongue and throat. Saturday night he lost the power to breathe, altho the heart action continued normal. The doctors and nurses started artificial respiration and the use of oxygen which was continued for four hours before the heart stopped beating in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Friday morning, 24 hours after Stuard was taken ill, Howard was stricken in the same manner and Dr. Fish was called in attendance. He died early Monday morning.

Saturday, while the two brothers were still alive, Dr. Corry was called from Chugwater and Dr. Johnston from Cheyenne, but they, like the local physicians, were baffled by the strange affliction and could give no aid.

Sunday afternoon a post mortem examination was made upon the body of Stuard in the hope that some solution of the trouble might be found that would aid in saving the life of the older brother, but nothing tangible was discovered. Finding a few symptoms of arsenical poisoning parts of the body that might be effected by that or other poison were sent to Denver for a pathological examination.

Howard and Stuard Hasselquist were sons of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Hasselquist, who live on a farm south of Wheatland. Howard was nearly 26 years of age, having been born on March 4, 1893. His wife is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. Turpen of this city. For some time past they had been living on Mr. Turpin's ranch on Cottonwood creek. Besides the child that died they had a baby boy born in October last.

Stuard graduated from Wheatland high school last May and in September went to Laramie to enter the S. A.T. C. At the close of the war he returned home. At Christmas time he went to the ranch to

help his brother a few days, and it was there that he fell victim to the affliction that caused three deaths in rapid succession. Both the young men were well and strong—fine specimens of physical manhood, esteemed and respected by a wide circle of friends.

Wife and Mother Prostrated—May be Fourth Victim

Sunday Mrs. Hasselquist, wife of Howard, fell ill. At first her illness appeared to be a nervous collapse due to the sudden deaths of her son, husband and brother-in-law, but Monday she developed symptoms of the same mysterious affliction that had caused the other deaths. Mrs. Hasselquist has steadily failed since becoming ill and latest reports as this paper goes to press are that she is very low and little or no hope of recovery is entertained.

Dr. Kent advises that a report is promised today from the Denver scientists who are endeavoring to solve the mystery which has baffled the several physicians who have been called on these cases.

Four Deaths In One Family In Week
Deadly Poison Claims High Death Toll

Baffling medical science the grim reaper of death made a harvest of four members of the Hasselquist family in one weeks time, the victims of a strange malady that defied the efforts of the attending physicians.

The dead are Mr. and Mrs. Howard Hasselquist, their two year old son, John, and Stuard Hasselquist, an 18 year old brother of Howard.

On New Year's Day shortly after the family had dined, the little two year old boy was the first to be stricken with the strange malady, which appeared as a paralytic affection of the lower limbs. The child was at once started for Wheatland where medical aid could be secured, but died just before they reached town.

Thursday morning, Stuard Hasselquist complained of a numbness of the lower limbs that later developed in the same manner as in the child, and gradually extended upward affecting his breathing and throat, making it impossible for him to talk or eat, and he finally passed away on Sunday morning.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Hasselquist developed the same general symptoms as the brother and son. Mr. Hasselquist answered the call on Monday morning and Mrs. Hasselquist died Wednesday afternoon.

Dr. Johnston was called from Cheyenne Sunday and with the local physicians held an autopsy on the body of Stuard Hasselquist, after which a part of the organs were sent to Denver to be examined by specialists, who returned a report Thursday, pronouncing it a case of botulism, and poisoning that is sometimes found in canned fruits and meats. It is thot in this case that it was caused by eating canned peaches which were put up at home.

The Hasselquist boys were fine young men that had grown to manhood at the home of the parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Hasselquist, south of town. And Mrs. Hasselquist was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. Turpen, pioneers of this locality, and like her husband and his brother, had been reared here, going thru the schools, and all were beloved by a host of friends who extend their profound sympathy to the relatives, especially to the little two months old babe that will never know a father's protection or a mother's love.

The little son was buried last Sunday and the three others will be buried next Sunday in the Wheatland cemetery.