

Gertrude Snyder: Death of baby Anna and D. W. Snyder's tript Home to see Baby Laurence

3 Articles

[go back...](#) - or - [Download a pdf](#) - or - [Next Article](#)

Brookland Daily Eagle

Date: May 31, 1901; Page 3

BURNING WITH CONGO FEVER, MRS. SNYDER IS HOME AGAIN

Wife of Rev. Dr. Snyder, African
Missionary, Returns, Broken
in Health, and in Grief.

HER CHILD DIED ON THE JOURNEY

Father of the Babe Is on Dark Conti-
nent and Is in Ignorance of the
Child's Death.

Brave in heart and loyal to her chosen field of missionary work, in grief over the loss of her only child, who died just as the African trading ship bearing her into Antwerp from the hot coasts of the dark continent touched at that port; suffering herself from great loss of strength and from the burning Congo fever contracted in the swamps of that sickly clime in West Central Africa, Mrs. DeWitt W. Snyder, formerly Miss Gertrude Wood, now the wife of the missionary, is at the home of her mother, Mrs. E. B. Wood, at 305 Stuyvesant avenue, in the care of physicians and loving relatives, who hope to fan the color of health to her cheeks and bring strength to her body by careful nursing and the best of treatment.

Brookland Daily Eagle

Date: MAY 21, 1901; Page 5

MRS. SNYDER'S SAD LOSS.

Her Daughter Dies on the Way Here
From Africa.

The many Brooklyn friends of Mrs. Gertrude Wood Snyder, wife of the Rev. Dr. E. W. C. Snyder, who is located at Leopoldville, Africa, at the Mission Station there, will be pained to learn the sad news of the death of their little daughter which occurred at Antwerp on the evening of April 24, immediately upon the arrival of Mrs. Snyder at that port.

Mrs. Snyder was on her way home via London, which trip she had undertaken with the hope of improving the health of her little daughter, who seemed to be suffering from the effects of the African climate.

One of the painful features of the incident is that the father cannot receive information of his child's death much before the 1st of June.

Mrs. Snyder was confined to her bed at London with prostration, but had recovered enough to sail from there via the Teutonic on May 15. She will arrive here during this week.

Mrs. Snyder was formerly Miss Gertrude Wood, daughter of the late Ebenezer Wood, one of the best known and respected citizens of this borough, long identified with the Twenty-third Regiment, the Children's Aid Society and well known in insurance circles in this section.

Picture: Mama Rosa with grandchildren; (L to R) Laurence, Clinton, Bob. Allen, the artist, is not yet born

Mrs. Snyder returned from West Central Africa yesterday, arriving on the steamship Germanic, from Antwerp, where she went in October, 1899, as a bride, to work side by side with her husband, who, for eight years before had been in charge of the missionary station at Luebo, on the Kassai River, Congo Free State, one thousand miles from the western coast of Africa. She was ill throughout the long and tedious journey homeward and had not sufficient strength left to offer her hand in greeting to her mother and her brother, M. H. Wood, and other relatives who met her at the Germanic dock. Indeed, she was so ill she did not recognize her relatives at first. To-day she is slightly better, the joy of being again under her mother's roof and surrounded by those who are giving her tender care having given her courage and power to resist the terrible grasp of the dread fever which has clung to her since she left the swamps of the Congo State.

Mrs. Snyder's little baby, Anna Gertrude Snyder, 8 months old, contracted the fever in Luebo, Congo state, and suffered during the long journey to the coast and from Boma, where they took passage for Antwerp. The little one was the first white child ever born in the Kassai River country and the natives made much of her. They danced and brought word by Mrs. Wood that she is happy to be back among friends and relatives in Brooklyn and hopes in the near future she will regain her health and strength and be able to greet her friends. It was decided before she left Africa that the Kassai River country is not fit for white women to live in and it is doubtful if Mrs. Snyder will return there. The climate is such that white women and, indeed, few men, even those of great strength, can thrive, and, while the heat is not excessive, there is something impure in the air which saps the strength from the body and eats away flesh and life.

Mrs. Snyder and her husband and baby left Luebo on February 18 last and arrived at Leopoldville on March 1. The Rev. Dr. Snyder had business there and after a few days they started for Boma, on the coast, which was reached after a month's journey down the Congo River. At Boma the Rev. Dr. Snyder turned back up the river bound for Luebo, while his wife and baby started for America. Mrs. Snyder intended to leave Antwerp on the Teutonic on May 15, but was too ill and delayed her trip until the 22d, sailing on the Germanic. Mrs. Wood, her mother, desires to publicly thank through the Eagle the captain and officers of the Germanic who were kind and attentive in their treatment of her daughter on the voyage. She also wishes to thank the passengers and others on the ship who helped Mrs. Snyder.



1904: "Mama" Rose Hardenberg with her grand children: (L-R) Laurence, Clinton, Bob Allen, the artist, is not yet born

The second little one born to her was Laurence H. Snyder, the Father of Genetics

Note on Leopoldville: In 1966 the city's name was changed from Leopoldville to Kinshasa, the name of one of the African villages that occupied the site in 1881.

History on Leopoldville:

In 1881 Henry M. Stanley, the Anglo-American explorer, renamed Kinshasa Leopoldville after his patron, Leopold II, king of the Belgians. In 1898 the rail link with Matadi was completed, and in 1926 the city succeeded Boma as the capital of the Belgian Congo. Its main growth occurred after 1945. A major anti-Belgian rebellion that took place there in Jan., 1959, started the country on the road to independence (June, 1960). In 1966 the city's name was changed from Leopoldville to Kinshasa, the name of one of the African villages that occupied the site in 1881.



REV. AND MRS. DeW. C. SNYDER

Writers—Lecturers—Travellers

Mr. Snyder is a member National Geographical Society; Lecturer for New York Board of Education for 14 Years; Medical Missionary for 19 Years in Belgian Congo Africa.

Mrs. Snyder assisted her husband in his Missionary and Medical Work.

Brookland Daily Eagle

Date: MAR 17, 1902; Page 3

DR. SNYDER WILL STAY HERE

Physician and Missionary Will Not Return to the Congo, but Will Practice in Brooklyn.

The Rev. Dr. DeWitt Clinton Snyder, physician and missionary, whose arrival had been anxiously awaited by a wife who had been nigh unto death with African fever, and separated from him for nearly a year, and by a baby boy whom he had never seen, got into port yesterday, on the American liner St. Louis. Mrs. Snyder was at the pier with the bright-eyed child and the reunion was a most affecting one.

Brookland Daily Eagle

Date: MAR 15, 1902; Page 20

Dr. Snyder and his wife and boy went out early this morning, from their home, at 376 Grand street, to visit some friends. It is known that Dr. Snyder will not again return to the Congo, but will, after a two weeks' rest, which he says he will devote to getting acquainted with Mrs. Snyder and the boy, settle down to practice in Brooklyn. He was ill with African fever, but is now in good health. His work was in the Upper Kassa district of the Congo Free State, one thousand miles from the coast, reached by the Congo River and one of its tributaries.

Dr. Snyder brought with him a number of native curios, which filled nine trunks. Among the curios are native headdresses made of beads and shells, and of great value, worn by chiefs at their dances; battleaxes, drinking cups of wood, quaintly carved; native daggers and swords, and bowls used for crushing corn; also spears and two gray African parrots which talk fluently. Dr. Snyder also brought three elephant tusks which are said to be worth \$25, of which he became possessed in exchange for about 75 cents worth of salt.

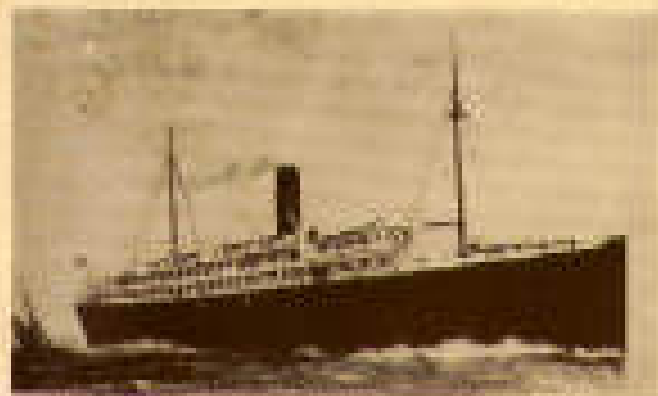
Mrs. Snyder has recovered her health in great measure. Before her marriage to Dr. Snyder she was Mrs. Gertrude Wood, and was known as an active worker at the Wycokoff Street Mission.

MET HIM WITH THEIR BABY.

Missionary Snyder Greeted by His Wife, Recovered From African Fever.

On the American Line steamer St. Louis, which is due to arrive to-day, the Rev. DeWitt C. Snyder, physician and missionary, returns from the Congo Free State, where he has been for nearly three years. In October he married Miss Gertrude Wood of Brooklyn and two weeks later they sailed to do missionary work in Africa. After about a year of work together Mrs. Snyder was taken with the African fever. She was the only white woman within a thousand miles, but she partly recovered and resumed work at the mission.

Early in 1901 Mrs. Snyder again broke down and, with her little baby, was sent to Europe. The little one died in Brussels and is buried there. After a short stay in England Mrs. Snyder returned to this country, reaching here in June last so ill and worn that her own mother scarcely knew her. She recovered after a sojourn in the Jersey pines, and while still an invalid a little one was born to her, and she carried it to the pier to greet her husband. Dr. Snyder will not return to Africa, but practice in Brooklyn.



The American Line steamer Saint Louis

Would you like to [go back...](#)
or return to home page? [click here.](#)