

1918-1920 Influenza Pandemic Research: Manitou Messenger

The Manitou Messenger is the newspaper published at St. Olaf. [A full archive can be found here](#). This archive includes both images of the physical pages and transcripts of the text.

Below is a summary of quotes and articles that reference or add to our understanding of how Northfield experienced the 1918-1920 influenza pandemic. To see a collection of all of our notes and access pdfs of some sources otherwise only available physically, [click here](#).

One other note not covered by the summarization below: the fall of 1918 saw less frequent publications than in a typical year because of WWI limiting extraneous student activities and then the arrival of the influenza pandemic further restricting student resources.

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Manitou Messenger

Layout of these Entries

Title: [title]

[Date of Publication]

“[Quotes of Interest]”

Notes: [when of interest, archivist commentary on either themes or images in the piece or misc]

[link to specific digital archive]

October 15, 1918

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/issue/2699751>

Title: ST. OLAF TO OFFER RED CROSS COURSES

October 15, 1918

“This course includes fifteen class periods of one and one-half hours each. It is of special practical value to the girls, as it deals with the principles of caring for the sick in the home. Because of the urgent demand for the course, it will be repeated the second semester.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45649527>

Title: The Prevailing Spirit at St. Olaf

October 15, 1918

“A new spirit permeates the atmosphere on the Heights of Manitou,—ushered in by this school year. It is the good old St. Olaf spirit with an additional quality,—that which steeps the nation as a whole. You may ask, "Has not this spirit prevailed before?" Yes, but this year brought with it a new movement, the S. A. T. C., an organization which up to this time has been unthought of and unknown. With the S. A. T. C. on the Hill, it inevitably follows that a military spirit should become prevalent...You are no longer individuals—you are members of one large unit. As such we expect you to retain the qualities which bring success to both college and nation.”

Notes: There's a carry-over of strict regulations and duty from the war across/into the flu. The sense of community here is very strong

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45649566>

Title: ST. OLAF STUDENTS UNDER TEMPORARY QUARANTINE

October 15, 1918

“All possible measures are being taken to prevent Spanish Influenza from entering into our midst.

All the students are under temporary quarantine, and are urged to take great care in preserving their own health. Every student should obey the following rules:

1. Take plenty exercise; be out in the fresh air as much as possible.
2. Avoid crowds and public gatherings.
3. Make use of your handkerchief when you cough or sneeze.
4. Always report the slightest illness to the nurse.
5. Keep regular hours for sleeping and eating.
6. Keep cool!"

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45649550>

October 22, 1918

Title: ALUMNI NEWS NOTES

October 22, 1918

"Second Lieutenant John B. Thompson of Earlville, Ill., a graduate of St. Olaf in 1909, died in camp, after a struggle with pneumonia for about nine days, the death occurring on Sunday, Oct. 13."

Notes: There are a handful of other deaths reported from outside the city. This one is the most likely to have been from influenza both because it is pneumonia and because it occurred in an army camp.

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45651206>

November 5, 1918

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45647972>

Title: HEALTH PROBLEM IS DISCUSSED BY DR. WILSON IN CHAPEL THURSDAY

November 05, 1918

"Dr. Wilson, the government doctor for the S. A. T. C. at St. Olaf College, addressed the student body...Already some of the doctors, nurses, and dietitians have died of the disease there. As strictest precautions were being observed. All influenza patients were kept isolated for ten days even after their temperature had again become normal. No visitors were allowed except in cases of most serious illness, and in such a case gas masks were worn...At the close of the address, influenza bulletins were distributed among the students. These bulletins gave very practical advice concerning preventative measures."

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45647968>

December 10, 1918

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/fullimage?issueId=2699677&pg=0>

Title: FLU CASES AMONG S. A. T. G. ARE WELL TAKEN CARE OF

December 10, 1918

“As was to be expected the influenza finally reached St. Olaf on Nov. 12, the first cases breaking out in the S. A. T. C.

...The sick boys were at once taken to the hospital where the best of care was given them. S. A. T. C. classes were at once discontinued and the men were confined to the quarantine zone so as to prevent the spread of the disease. With an increase in the number of cases of the flu however, it was found advisable to discontinue all classes and convert the chapel basement and the barracks into temporary hospitals...

No effort or expense was spared during the epidemic. Everyone joined nobly in one big effort to suppress the disease. The girls who had taken the course in Home Nursing last year cheerfully offered their aid.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45647467>

Title: MISS ANDERSON CALLED HOME

December 10, 1918

“Miss Minnie Anderson, head of the Domestic Science department, was called home last Tuesday due to the death of her brother. She was also informed that another brother was very ill with the influenza.

The heartfelt sympathy of students and faculty go out to Miss Anderson in her bereavement.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45647497>

Title: FOUR ST. OLAF MEN SUCCUMB TO THE FLU

December 10, 1918

“When the influenza broke out among the members of the S. A. T. C., Oscar was one of the victims. His case became serious when it developed into complications with tonsilitis.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45647478>

Title: TO THE ST. OLAF STUDENTS

December 10, 1918

“Practically from the beginning of the year, not only members of the S. A. T. C., but the student body as a whole have been under rather strict quarantine regulations. For a while we considered ourselves exceedingly fortunate in comparison with many other schools and communities in not having a single case of influenza. But our turn came all of a sudden. All in all we have had about

one hundred cases and four deaths. It then seemed as if the epidemic was over and that it would be confined entirely to the members of the S. A. T. C., but after a few days we began to find a few cases here and there among the girls

The faculty took the matter up for consideration and decided to close on the 13th of December, instead of on the 19th, as advertised in the catalog. However, when we noticed the new cases coming on rather suddenly, it was decided on Friday night of the 6th to adjourn for the holidays in order not to have an epidemic come upon us, making it impossible, according to the regulations of the State Board of Health, to let the student body go home for the holidays...The difficulties coming from the reorganization on account of the S. A. T. C., gave the student body an opportunity to manifest its patriotism and the sickness and sorrow that came through the epidemic afforded a splendid opportunity to manifest the spirit of helpfulness in times of trouble. All in all, we have reason to be thankful. It is our hope that the students will come back strengthened in body and quickened in mind, ready for the best kind of work.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45647483>

Title: PRES. BOE ATTENDS MEETING IN NEW YORK, NOV. NINTH
December 10, 1918

“Personally it is my hope that the day will soon come when all the Lutherans will stand together in one body, so that our work may be more effective. I would have remained a few days longer, but I received a telegram, stating that the "flu" had finally come to St. Olaf. When I returned I certainly found enough of the boys sick.”

Notes: This shows that the idea of the flu traveling among a crowd wasn't REALLY understood/the news of the flu was limited.

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45647493>

Title: SCHOOL CLOSES DEC. 7
December 10, 1918

“In order not to endanger the students Christmas vacation, [sic] school was closed on Saturday morning for the holidays.

A few new cases of the "flu" developed among the girls on Friday, and it was considered advisable to send the students home in order to prevent a repetition of the epidemic.

Although the news of dismissal came suddenly, most of the students were out of the city in a very short time.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45647495>

January 14, 1919

Title: CAMPUS LOCALS

January 14, 1919

“Several students have not as yet returned after the holidays having been ill with the Influenza. Prof. Erik Hetle has been unable to meet his classes for a few days due to a siege of Influenza....Sister Anna Huseth, who assisted here during the Influenza epidemic was taken ill with the Influenza after leaving here. She was taken to the Fair-view Hospital at Minneapolis.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45647511>

Title: BAND AND CHOIR RESUME WORK

January 14, 1919

Notes: no band or choir in the fall

“Last year, due to the war, the band was military in character, this year it will be a Concert Band as in former years. The band is still open to new members.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45647441>

Title: HOLIDAY NEWS

January 14, 1918

“A few changes were made over vacation. Mohn Hall basement is no longer used as a dining hall but it has again been converted into a girls' gymnasium. The dining club is again located in the basement of Ytterboe Hall. **Everything was cleaned up and disinfected before the students came back** so that now we are in shape to begin the new year aright.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45647442>

Title: Athletics Will Regain Normal in College

January 14, 1918

“Athletics and in fact all college activities will be restored to their true position at Lawrence next term. With the return to normal college life after Christmas vacation, athletics will again take a leading part in the school activities. The basketball season will open with full schedule. Track, baseball, and tennis are included in the plans for the spring program.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45647459>

Title: More Changes

January 14, 1918

“Of course, the boys appear in their uniforms, but the military atmosphere is lacking. Many former students who responded to the country's call are returning from the various training

camps. With the removal of much of the restraint and the restrictions which war time conditions imposed on many college activities fresh pep and vigor should bring them to the front again.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45647456>

January 21, 1919

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/issue/2699696>

Title: No Final Examinations

January 21, 1919

“There will be no regular final examinations this year. Instead of having a week set aside for finals, as has been the custom in former years, it has been decided by the faculty to dispense with them entirely this semester.

As a substitute, however, several smaller quizzes will be given from time to time in all classes, covering the work that has been accomplished during the semester. The students' final grades will then be determined by their average grade in the quizzes. The first semester will end Feb. 1.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45648016>

Title: SO WHY WORRY

January 21, 1919

“(With apologies to the author)

You have two alternatives. Either you are exposed to the flu or you are not. If not, you have nothing to worry about.

If you are, you have two alternatives. Either you worry about it or you do not. If you do not worry about it you have nothing to worry about.

If you worry about it, you have two alternatives. Either you catch the flu or you do not. If you do not, you have nothing to worry about.

If you do, you have two alternatives. Either you get over it or you get pneumonia. If you get over it, you have nothing to worry about.

If you get pneumonia, you have two alternatives. Either you recover or you do not. If you recover, you have nothing to worry about. If you do not, and have followed this advice clear through, you have done with worry forever.—Ex.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45648044>

Title: Mildred Mauseth Dies of Pneumonia

January 21, 1919

“Mildred Mauseth died of pneumonia Friday, Jan. 3, at the Swedish Hospital in Minneapolis... “
<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45648046>

Title: Freshman become better acquainted

January 21, 1919

a disregard of quarantine

“Professor Schmidt Gives Spicy Speech of Advice to the Class of '22.—Freshies Enjoy a Very Pleasant Evening.

"Girls, join hands and form an outside ring! Boys, form a ring inside!" To the lively piano accompaniment the 250 Freshmen walked around, gaily singing until the music stopped.

"Boys, you are surrounded by, the enemy. In order to make peace, use diplomacy. Diplomacy means talk!" Everyone followed instructions and talked to the one opposite, until the music began anew. In this novel way the Freshmen made their acquaintance bow.”

Notes: There is a real sense that everything is okay now and everything is back to normal.

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45648004>

January 28, 1919

HENRY B. HAMRE

DRUGS

PRESCRIPTIONS CAREFULLY
COMPOUNDED

<p>HAGAN'S DRUG STORE THAT'S THE PLACE</p> <p>Society Brand Clothes Civilian Clothes for Army Officers and Men. CHAS. STERN</p> <p>THE QUESTION OF SERVICE TO SUBSCRIBERS The high standard of our news is what we offer our readers. When you see headlines for...</p>	<p>GAY VIGNESS WRITES INTERESTING LETTER</p> <p>Her Vigness, 75, writes of his experience abroad.</p> <p>While on a visit at my Alma Mater last week, the Abbot asked me to write a little story about one of the incidents in the story system. When I got ready to leave my brother Martin and I. He said I was together during my vacation they wrote each other letters together.</p> <p>It is not possible to get much of the story of the life in France, the interesting people, the customs, the business places, the places of the "Y" in the history books, anything to me of the A. R. F. or the "Hammes" etc. I have a message about coming home of my letter from your store, which I have now in my possession as to keep it in my store, the following story which I will send you as soon as I have had your story about my trip across the Atlantic. Now, in this issue, the...</p>	<p>Your business will be appreciated.</p> <p>A. O. NEELAND, President. F. A. BIRD, Vice President. R. S. WELLS, Cashier. P. J. BIRD, Asst. Cashier. ARTHUR M. PETERSON, Asst. Cashier.</p> <p>LET US DO YOUR TAILORING</p> <p>We make MILITARY UNIFORMS and Men's Clothes.</p> <p>Dry Cleaning, Pressing, Shoe Cleaning and Dyeing</p> <p>Olberg Tailory J. Olberg Phone 140 Northfield</p> <p>THE 2 MILLION DOLLAR National Bank Roll of Honor NORTHFIELD NATIONAL BANK Strongest Bank in Rice County</p> <p>You will find our LIGHT LUNCHEES</p>	<p>Finkelson's Drug Store</p> <p>FOR IMPORTED TALCUMS, TOILET WATERS, ETC. DRUGS AND DRUG SUNDRIES</p> <p>JEWELRY AND OPTICAL GOODS GOLDEN JEWELRY - REPAIRING AND REFINISHING - EYE EXAMINATION WE HAVE A LINE OF BRILLIANT WARE WATERS A. C. HAUER 403 STATE STREET</p> <p>FRESH AND SALTED MEATS H. J. BECKER</p> <p>THE BOSTON SHOE STORE 101, Broadway St., Wrentham, J. M. TIS and NORTHFIELD NATIONAL BANK P. G. REYNARD</p> <p>LADIES' AND GENTLEMEN'S CLOTHING Check, Dress, and Suits. We receive Ladies and Men's Clothing also Military U. S. Army and perfect work. If you are different construction, please give us a chance to make you.</p> <p>WE GUARANTEE SATISFACTION In your laundry work, that only we can give you and that we will guarantee it. Our laundry is equipped with the latest machinery with which we have the most perfect construction. Please give us a chance to make you.</p>
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Notes: good among of drug stores advertising themselves (Martin's Drug Store, Finkelson's Drug Store, Hagan's Drug Store, Henry B Hamre Drugs), although these are the same as throughout the entire semester.

February 4, 1919

Title: Y. M. P. C. RESUMES MEETINGS

February 04, 1919

Notes: implies that many clubs shut down in the previous months

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45649174>

Title: PROF. FRED B. HILL OF CARLETON DIES

February 04, 1919

“Public Spirited Community Leader is Victim of Influenza-Pneumonia; Active Worker in Many War Measures....As professor of Biblical Literature at Carleton, Prof. Hill was much loved and highly esteemed. On July 11, 1918, he left for England and France on a special commission of the War Work Council of the Y. M. C. A. He visited the training camps in those countries getting first hand information of the needs and conditions of the soldiers in the fighting lines of the great war. He returned to this country early in October and has been engaged in a series of speeches thruout the Northwest, especially in the educational institutions of Minnesota.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45649165>

Title: To Carleton

February 04, 1919

“To the students and faculty of Carleton College we wish to express our sincerest sympathy in this their hour of sorrow. The death of Prof. Hill is indeed a great loss to the entire community. To you, Prof. Hill was a friend and teacher, as well as a noble example of true manhood. The lesson of his worthy, unselfish life should be an inspiration to us all.

St. Olaf and Carleton have always been closely affiliated. This year the bonds of friendship have been strengthened. The troubles we have experienced in common during this time of war and illness have done a great deal in bringing the two colleges into closer friendship. Our sympathies are deepened by the sorrow that we at St. Olaf have also experienced.

It means a great deal to a college to lose an esteemed professor—one who has won the love and respect of all with whom he has come in contact. Again we express our most heartfelt sympathy to you in this your loss.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45649175>

February 11, 1919

Title: INTERCOLLEGIATE FORENSICS SUSPENDED

February 11, 1919

as a result of the loss of academic time due to the pandemic and war last fall

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45649876>

Sidebar: debate about having an ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps)

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45649901>

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45649920>

Title: Red Cross to Resume Work

February 11, 1919

“Red Cross activities at St. Olaf, which have been hindered by various circumstances will be resumed in the near future. The membership drive which should have taken place before the holidays will be held at the earliest convenience.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45649905>

[Notes: mentions the flu in the army and despairs of it, but these letters are outside of Northfield

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45649924>]

February 18, 1919

Title: PROMINENT NORTH FIELD CITIZEN PASSES AWAY

February 18, 1919

“John Eltun...died at the Northfield hospital Wednesday night, Feb. 12. The cause of his death was bronchial pneumonia which had developed from heart failure, an ailment with which he had been afflicted for some time.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45648208>

February 25, 1919

Title: COLLEGE MEN DECIDE TO ESTABLISH R. O. T. C. AT ST. OLAF

February 25, 1918

ROTC “decided by a vote of 115 to 51 in favor”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45647536>

March 4, 1919

Title: Condolence

March 4, 1919

“Whereas it has pleased God in His infinite wisdom to take away the mother of our friend and classmate, Oscar Fylling.

Be it resolved that the Junior Class extend to him its heartfelt sympathy,

Be it further resolved that a copy of these condolences be sent to the bereaved family and that it be printed in the Manitou Messenger.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45647215>

March 11, 1919

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45649907>

Title: SISTER OVIDIA LEAVES ST. OLAF

March 11, 1919

“Sister Ovidia Olson, who for about a year has been the able nurse and sincere friend of the St. Olaf girls, has had to leave her work here to take care of her aged parents at her home in Northwood, North Dakota.... She, however; became one of the first victims of the awful pestilence, and was greatly missed by the many patients. Since Christmas she has devoted her time to "looking after" the girls.... While here, Sister Ovidia had charge of the Home Nursing classes. Now these classes have had to be discontinued since only a Registered Nurse appointed by the Red Cross can conduct them.” <https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45649858>

according to the Manitou Analecta “Sr. Ovidia looked very much the Deaconess. Her neat habit, white for work and black for dress topped by her white starched cap became her well. She was tall, dignified, calm, and serene in speech and manner, interested in community and public affairs as well as in her immediate field of Christain and professional services. She had a delightful sense of humor.” (13-14)

March 18, 1919

nothing in particular

March 24, 1919

Title Alumni News Notes

March 24, 1919

“Arthur Torgeson Dies of the "Flu."

Arthur W. Torgeson, '16, died Tuesday, Mar. 18, from Pneumonia which had followed a second attack of Influenza. Funeral services were held at Luther Seminary on Thursday, March 20. Final interment was made at Grafton, North Dakota, his wife's former home. Mr. Torgeson was a graduate of Waldorf College. He then enrolled as a student of St. Olaf College, from which he graduated in 1916. This was his third year at Luther Seminary. Mr. Torgeson was preparing to become a minister, and had already accepted a call from a congregation in Minneapolis. The announcement of Mr. Torgeson 's death comes as sad news to St. Olaf friends and alumni. He had been a foremost student in the various college activities. To Mrs. Torgeson, who is just recovering from a serious attack of Influenza, and to Mr. Torgeson's relatives and friends, St. Olaf alumni wish to express a heartfelt sympathy.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45649750>

April 1, 1919

Title: ALUMNI NEWS NOTES

April 1, 1919

“Miss Anna Rahn, '18, recently had the sorrow of losing her brother, Carlyle, whose death was caused by an attack of pneumonia resulting from influenza. About two years ago Miss Rahn also lost her father. We wish to express our heartfelt sympathy with her in her sorrow.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45650426>

April 8, 1919

Title: Rejuvenation

April 8, 1919

“Possibly never in the history of St. Olaf College has the spirit of rejuvenation so permeated her very life and existence, as at the present time. Long pent up forces are about to be let loose. Energy that has been latent for many years is now beginning to display its vigor. The executive, the faculty and the friends of the college seem to fairly bristle with new ideas, projects, schemes, plans and designs for the future of St. Olaf. The new gymnasium, the plans for other buildings, the new reorganization of the college, and especially the extensive donations of her friends do indeed furnish an optimistic future.

The realization of the fact that someone is watching us, that some one is appreciating the things for which St. Olaf is working, that the greater St. Olaf is to become an actuality, has placed a new confidence in the students. It has helped them to realize what St. Olaf really stands for, and to venerate to a greater extent her institutions, her traditions and her ideals. It cannot help but tend toward the making of a better and stronger student sentiment for the grander and the nobler things in college life.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45650585>

April 15, 1919

nothing in particular

April 29, 1919

nothing in particular

May 6, 1919

Title: Prof. John E. Granrud III

May 6, 1919

“Prof. John E. Granrud of the University of Minnesota, and member of the Board of Education at St. Olaf College, as seriously ill at the Swedish hospital, Minneapolis. Hopes for his recovery are entertained. Numerous friends are anxiously awaiting tidings of his progress.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45648590>

May 13, 1919

Title: Concolence

May 13, 1919

“Whereas God in His mercy has deemed it necessary to take away the mother of Misses Julia and Bertha Herlickson and also the sister of Jordan O. Paulsrud, be it resolved that we, the Freshman class extend our sincere sympathy to these our classmates in their bereavements.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45651417>

Title: Campus Locals

May 13, 1919

“Miss Alice Brack left for Red Wing Thursday on account of the illness of her brother, Irving, who attends the academy there.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45651436>

May 20, 1919

nothing in particular

May 27, 1919

Title: Voice of the People

May 27, 1919

“This is the time for gathering up the odds and ends of the school year. The questions have recently been asked: "What has become of the Dramatic Club?" and "What has become of the R. O. T. C.?" The next question we may expect to hear is "What has become of the St. Olaf Elm?"”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45648497>

June 3, 1919

nothing in particular

June 9, 1919

Title: Executive's First Year Eventful in History of College

June 9, 1919

“As the commencement season draws to a close the attention of the students and friends of St. Olaf is apt to turn to the man who has so successfully guided St. Olaf College through perhaps the most precarious and delicate period in her history...He encountered at the outset the problem

of making the college pay under the war conditions which then existed. The S. A. T. C. being established, the great difficulty arose of harmonizing college and army ideals and methods. Later, when the terrible influenza epidemic sprang up among the army boys, the greatest problem of all had to be faced—that of adequately providing for a hundred or more sick men, so as to preserve the lives of as many as possible.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45648918>

79 Seniors (receive a diploma) this year

Title: An Eventful Year

June 9, 1919

“This issue marks the termination of the most eventful year in the history of St. Olaf College—a year opening under the oppressive and uncertain atmosphere of warfare, closing with a most brilliant and optimistic outlook for the future...Then came the ravages of influenza, turning the entire college into a hospital to care for the sick and suffering. The I. D. R. and the rifle gave way to the flue mask and the stretcher. Four soldiers paid the supreme price. St. Olaf realized then what war meant....The coming of peace sees the college launched upon a new era. Brilliant minds have planned. Generous hearts have given. Busy hands are at work. St. Olaf is on the verge of a great expansion.

All this we have seen during the year 1918-19.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45648940>

September 18, 1919

Title: Condolences

September 18, 1919

“Whereas God in His great mercy seen fit to take from our midst dear friend and classmate, Olson, be it resolved that we class of 1921 extend to the family our sincere sympathy.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45648808>

September 23, 1919

Title: CARLETON OPENS YEAR WITH 542 STUDENTS

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45649432>

September 30, 1919

Title; Registration Complete Enrollment Totals 738; Many Service Men Return

September 30, 1919

“At the close of registration last Friday the total number of students at St. Olaf reached 738. This enrollment shows an increase of 232 students over last year and places St. Olaf at a considerable margin above other Minnesota colleges in enrollment, with exception of the university.

A large number of students who have been absent a year or more while in the service have returned to resume academic work this year. The large enrollment is, however, chiefly due To the large Freshman class which numbers 304 students.”

	Men		Women		Total	
	'18-'19	'19-'20	'18-'19	'19-'20	'18-'19	'19-'20
Seniors -----	31	60	39	41	70	101
Juniors -----	31	53	44	53	75	106
Sophomores -----	51	80	52	82	103	162
Freshman -----	107	154	95	150	202	304
Sub-Fresh. -----	5	4	2	2	7	6
Music -----	2	2	47	57	49	59
-----	227	353	279	385	506	738
Minus music and sub-fresh.	7	6	49	59	56	65
-----	220	347	230	326	450	673

25% men of last year's freshman class did not return.
18% women of last year's freshman class did not return.
20% of last year's freshman class did not return.
Gained 126 men and 106 women over last year. Total 232.
Seniors .150. Juniors .157. Sophomores .240. Freshmen .451.

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45646978>

Title: WISCONSIN U. TO FIGHT THE FLU

September 30, 1919

“Madison, Wis., Sept. 27. (United Press.—The University of Wisconsin is perhaps the first to take the lead among education institutions to aid the nation in its fight against recurrence of the influenza epidemic this fall and winter. This work will be done through the extension division of the university.

to equip the women of the state with the primary essentials of disease prevention and care of the sick, since a return of the "flu" is predicted by medical authorities, a course is offered on "Prevention of Disease and Home Care of the Sick." The slogan in the course is that "Somebody" in every home should know how to care for a person showing the earliest symptoms of influenza. A text book of 300 pages is furnished free with the course which is in charge of a physician and a trained nurse. When twenty or more persons in one community enroll for the course, provision is made for co-operation with the local physician in teaching the course. The

course is divided into eight sub-topics; disease prevention, cause, transmission and care; colds and their dangers, preventive treatment; personal hygiene; first aid, and home nursing”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45647023>

January 20, 1920

Title: CAMPUS LOCALS

January 20, 1920

“Martin Agre has recovered from a short illness.
Prof. Carsten Woll was ill a few days last week.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45648103>

January 27, 1920

nothing in particular

February 3, 1920

Title: RALPH SIVERSON SUCCUMBS TO INFLUENZA AT ST. OLAF HOSPITAL

February 3, 1920

“Class President Gives Tribute.

On behalf of the Freshman class, Mr. Theodore Jorgenson gave a fitting tribute to their departed brother. "He came to us and we learned to know him as the kind hearted fellow that he was. Now he is gone to the great beyond and we can only bow our heads in submission, acknowledging that God's way is the best.

Pres. Boe Gives Closing Remarks.

President L. W. Boe closed the services with a few remarks. "Not many graduate from college, as it were, and finish their life's work. We had hoped that Mr. Siverson might have graduated from St. Olaf in preparation for his life's work, we had hoped to send him home to his parents but instead his parents had to come for him before he had finished. Still it is sometimes fortunate that a man dies in the days of his youth." Addressing the relatives of the deceased he said, "We want to thank you for the opportunity which you gave us to know your son and brother. May he, who alone can give comfort, give it to you sorrowing ones. Amen."...

Ralph Siverson was born at Milan, Minn., Oct. 2, 1900. He attended the Milan high school from which he graduated in 1919. Ralph has always been healthy and vigorous, playing guard on the high school basketball team, and center on the Freshman football team at St. Olaf. He was a very likable fellow and took an active part in all church and young people activities. Three brothers, Sibert, John, and Godfrey, have attended St. Olaf, the first mentioned graduating in 1910.

Ralph Siverson was ill about eleven days. He had been in the hospital but three days when he was released He complained, however, of a headache and of not feeling well and was returned to the infirmary. Influenza and pneumonia set in and finally overcame the lad, who put up a stiff fight under the terrible pain and fever. The entire school unites with the parents, brothers and sister, in mourning the loss of the young man.

Notes: the most complete funeral/condolences in the St Olaf paper for a flu death

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45647477>

Title: Several Nurses Added to Force During Flu

February 3, 1920

"The girls who have been confined to the hospital ward, one corridor of the third floor of Mohn Hall, are improving and will soon be able to return to their work. The nurses, Miss Haug from Badger, Ia., Miss Worrell from Montevideo, Minn., and Miss Osgard from Minneapolis, Minn., were secured to take care of those who were sick, under the supervision of Dr. Babcock and Dr. Lee. Miss Hilleboe and Nina Solum, the house presidents, have not spared any effort to see that every need was taken care of."

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45647490>

Title: STUDENTS ACT AS AIDES DURING FLU EPIDEMIC

February 3, 1920

"Twenty-six experienced men have volunteered to act as aides in assistinf Dean Thompson with the sick men. These are: Arthur Solum, Oscar Olsrud, William Heiam, Elmer Osher, Alf Houkom, Bjarne Houkom, Elmer Moe, Jordan Paulsrud, Leonard Elstad, Arthur Odden, Lawrence Nelson, Harold Anderson, Beaumont Hagebak, Earl Abrahamson, Leonard Havig, Clifford Rudie, Otis Marvik, Paul Overboe, Einar Hammer, Philip Wagner, Allen Retzloff, Lawrence Stavig, Elmer Gilbertson, Edwin Anderson, Clarence Jacobson, Roland Westman."

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45647479>

Title: THE ST. OLAF ASSOCIATION HOSPITAL

February 3, 1920

The St. Olaf Association Hospital receives its name from the fact that it is a gift to the school from the St. Olaf Association, an organization consisting of former students. At present the hospital is under the supervision of Sister Ovidia Olson, who is the school nurse.

During the onslaught of the flu the hospital is the busy headquarters of nurses, orderlies, and aides in fighting the epidemic.

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45647501>

Title: WHILE THE FLU RAGES

February 3, 1920

“St. Olaf is again threatened by the old enemy, the flu. What the ultimate consequences will be no man can know. Some students are manifesting considerable anxiety, others are keeping cool and look upon the onslaught of the epidemic with seeming indifference. Viewed from the standpoint of pure reason the danger is almost negligible if every person will exercise caution and care in keeping himself in a healthy condition. A healthy system can defy any flu germ that ever dared climb Manitou Heights. A man that "keeps his head cool and his feet warm" will have nothing to worry about. At any rate worry is dangerous. The flu germ seeks out the person that worries. The one who is afraid of catching the disease will be the first to catch it. So while the flu lasts exercise care and keep cool.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45647507>

Title: Campus Locals

February 3, 1920

“Mr. S. H. Holstad has been confined to his bed with a slight case of Influenza.

Fourteen girls and ten boys are under-going attacks of Influenza or LaGrippe. None are serious as yet.

...Professors Christianson and Rolvaag and the Misses Solum, Iverson, and Hagan have been confined to their homes because of illness.

Miss Osgord, who has been at St. Olaf three weeks in the capacity of a nurse left last Friday for Minneapolis, as she has not been feeling well.

...Enrollment is practically completed So far 733 students have registered. This does not include those who are sick. The total enrollment for the year is now about 785.

The annual band meeting which was to have been held at Prof. Christiansen's last Thursday has been postponed on account of Prof. Christiansen's illness.”

Notes: there have not previously been reassurances of the “slight” illness

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45647517>

Title: Condolence

February 3, 1920

“We, the Sophomore class, unanimously tender our heartfelt sympathy to our friend and classmate, Guy Fardahl, in the loss of his brother. Committee.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45647523>

February 10, 1920

Title: Flu Under Control

February 10, 1920

“FLIT GERM IS "NIPPED IN BUD" BY EFFICIENT ORGANIZATION OF STUDENTS. MEN HELP FIGHT THE FLU IN NORTHFIELD.

The ravages of the Influenza which is at present sweeping over the country with a heavy hand, not passing Northfield community where many people are seriously ill, has dealt gently so far with St. Olaf.

Few Cases Have Been Serious.

The list of those who are sick, with the Flu or some other ill, is rather long, but few of these have been at all in danger. Many have been out of sorts for a few days, probably with just a touch of the Flu, have been taken to the hospital, then discharged and replaced with others.

Deans Line Up Forces.

Last year's experience with the dread epidemic taught the college the value of being well prepared. Deans Thompson and Hilleboe lined up their forces as soon as indications appeared. Men and women who had had experience in work of this kind immediately volunteered their services, and provisions were made for the efficient care of the patients. Extra nurses were secured as well as the services of downtown doctors, who made daily calls.

Flu "Nipped In The Bud."

Thus the epidemic at St. Olaf was "nipped in the bud" and according to present indications is being held under control.

Several students have volunteered their services for work in the town district, as several families are in dire need of help.

Dr. Spohn Directs Northfield Forces.

Dr. Geo. W. Spohn has been working indefatigably the past few days in the interests of the Red Cross at Northfield which is doing all it can to aid during the present crisis. He returned to college work last Saturday and asked for the aid of as many men as could be obtained to work in the city.

The Sick List.

A list of those who have been and are still sick has been prepared. Some of the students have pneumonia, some Influenza, others appendicitis, La Grippe, Mumps, indigestion, brain congestion, broken limbs and so on. The following are on the list: Raymond Gerhalt, Hans Finstad, Ednor Heggerston, Helmer Blegen, Julian Mathieson, Harold Hansen, Harvey Rushfeldt, Owen Norem, Isaac Gesme, Paul Dalager, Rudolph Mickelson Hjalmar Hansen, George Belsheim, Lawrence Mickelson, Oral Hegg, Prof's Christiansen, Rolvaag, Mellby, Thormodsgaard, Palma Iverson, Ida Hagen, and Miss Solum, Ellen Kjos, Miss Larsen, Miss Saevig, Isabel Ede, Alice Syrdahy, Marion Ringstad, Harriet Ostgulen, Selma Lindem, Ruth Engebretson, Viola Ruste, Inga Anderson, Laura Byre, Martha Byholt, Anna Otterson, Marie Isberg, Ruth Lima, Julia Kolbensvick, Ruth Vaaler, Norma Hanson, Pauline Sonneyson, Miss Myhre, Miss Hemmingson, Laura Alness, Cora Glesne, and Mildred Holstad.

Only Six Per Cent Sick.

Less than six per cent of the entire student body thus far have been sick, representing a small proportion, when the total number of students is considered.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45650975>

Title: Campus Locals

February 10, 1920

“Norris Glasoe, Dr. P. M. Glasoe's son, a senior in high school, has had an aggravating case of Influenza, his temperature having remained high for several days.

The annual meeting of the St. Olaf Concert Band at Prof. Christiansen which was to have been held week, has been postponed on account of the "flu" epidemic.

The ban is on: The chief of police called up Dean Thompson and requested that no students leave the city, and that they stay out of public places as much as possible.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45651000>

Title: Condolences

“The members of the Senior Class hereby express their heartfelt sympathy to our classmate Josephine Vaagen in her recent bereavement.

Secretary.

The MuOmega Society extends its heartfelt sympathy to Oscar and Philip Olsrud at the loss of their father;

The society further expresses its most sincere sympathy with William Johnson at the death of his sister.

—Committee

Whereas it has pleased our Heavenly Father in His infinite wisdom to summon the father of our friend and co-worker, Henry Nykelmoe.

Be it hereby resolved that the Sigma Delta Literary Society extend its sincere and deep-felt sympathy to the bereaved family.

—Committee

Whereas it has pleased God to call to His heavenly home the sister of our classmate William Johnson.

Be it resolved by the Freshman Class that we express to him our deep sympathy in his bereavement.

Be it further resolved that a copy of these resolutions be printed in the "Manitou Messenger." Committee.

Whereas it has pleased God in His infinite mercy to call to His heavenly home the father of our Classmate Henry Nycklemoe.

Be it resolved that we the members of the Freshman Class exxpress to him our heartfelt sympathy in this hour of berevement. May God graciously comfort and console him.

Be it resolved that a copy of these resolutions be printed in "The Manitou Messenger." Committee.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45651012>

February 17, 1920

Title: Condolences

February 17, 1920

“The members of the Sophomore Class hereby sincerely express their sympathy to their friend and classmate, Oscar Olsrud, in his late bereavement.—Committee.

We, the members of the Freshman Class, hereby express our heartfelt sympathy to our classmate Gerhard Mathre in the loss of his father. We further express our sincere sympathy with Philip Olsrud, our classmate, in his recent bereavement.—Secretary”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45646827>

Title: Campus Locals

February 17, 1920

“Oscar Eide is among the list of those suffering from Influenza...Alice Brack, '21 was called home to Meridean, Wis., last Thursday on account of illness.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45646844>

March 2, 1920

Title: ST. OLAF FLU FIGHTER LIKES VICTORY VIKING

March 2, 1920

“I am sorry that you have again had a visit from genuine old 'Flu' and hope that you will now be free for the rest of the school year and, indeed for all time. Glad you got off so lightly.”

<https://stolaf.eastview.com/browse/doc/45649371>