



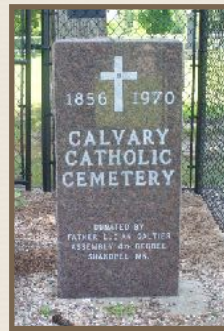
There were few physicians in the Minnesota Valley at that time, so Dr. Entrup's practice embraced a large territory. Lizette frequently was called to Glencoe, Jordan, Belle Plaine, and New Prague. Her fame travelled far and wide, and at the height of her career she was one of the most widely known physicians in the state.

Dr. Lizette Schmitz Entrup was a physician with a general practice, but she gave much attention to obstetric work. She "brought more babies into the world in this section of the state than any other physician in her time or since."



Dr. Martha George Rogers Ripley

Dr. Martha Ripley established Maternity Hospital in Minneapolis in 1886. At that time, unwed mothers were generally denied hospital admission. Ripley's hospital was open to any woman, regardless of her marital or financial status. As the hospital grew, so did its services. It housed destitute children and unwed mothers and their infants; it provided adoption services; and it provided training and job assistance for single mothers.



Elizabeth Lizette Schmitz Entrup died on March 13, 1895.

She was buried next to her husband, Anthony, at the Calvary Cemetery, 4200 Eagle Creek Boulevard in Shakopee.



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Dr. Elizabeth Lizette Schmitz Entrup 1823-1895

Compiled and written by David R. Schleper, Shakopee Heritage Society © 2021

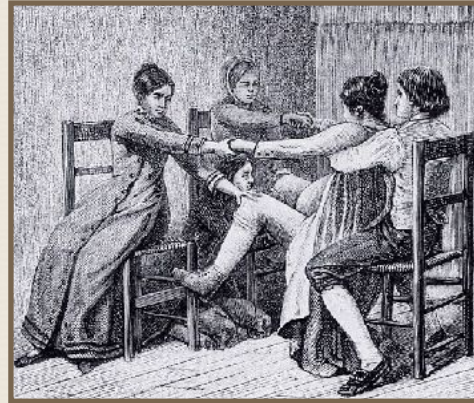


Elizabeth Lizette Schmitz was born on January 13, 1823 in Mönchengladbach, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Deutschland, daughter of Wilhelm and Anna Gertrud Schmitz.

Lizette was a keen student and was well grounded in her profession, although she never graduated from a medical school. She grew up in Westphalia, which is a region in Germany between the Rhine and Weser Rivers. As a girl she developed the ability to be a great soprano singer. A wealthy physician employed her as an instructor in singing for his only son. While there, Lizette studied with the German physician for a number of years, and supplemented her knowledge by reading medical books.

In the early 1850s, Lizette decided to seek her fortune in America. She first settled in St. Louis. She met Joannes Josephus Antonius Entrup there. Anthony, as he was called, was born on February 8, 1821 in Westphalia. They got married in St. Louis, and moved to Shakopee shortly after.

Anthony was a mason and bricklayer in Shakopee starting in 1855. He built a number of structures in and around Shakopee, including St. Mark's and St. Mary's, and the Argus Block.



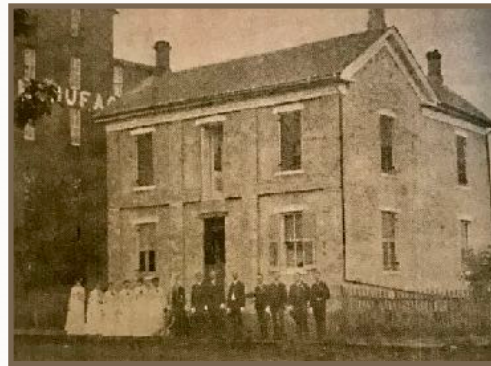
In Europe, midwifery care became established as part of the health care system early on in the 18th and 19th centuries. Lizette Schmitz Entrup learned about midwifery in Germany, and then applied it when her husband died. She "brought more babies into the world in this section of the state than any other physician in her time or since."



Anthony and Lizette had six children.

While working at a building in Jordan, Anthony fell from the building and died on June 19, 1876.

Lizette then found her practice of obstetrics, or midwifery, her sole means of livelihood, and from that year until a short time before her death in 1895, she practiced steadily and managed to maintain a comfortable home for her six children and get them well started in life.



Elizabeth Lizette Schmitz Entrup house in downtown Shakopee, with the Wampach Manufactory in the background to the left. This was at the wedding party of her daughter, Julia, who married Henry. Schumacher at St. Mark's on June 1, 1886.

When Dr. Lizette Entrup began practicing in Shakopee, the settlement was still just getting started. There was no railroad, and the only way of travel was the Minnesota River and the rude trails made by white settlers, following the Indian trails of the Dakota. The pioneer doctor drove over these trails behind a yoke of plodding oxen, summer and winter, day or night, and always greeted her patients with a cheery smile.

"No trip was too long or arduous for mother," said Antonia M. Entrup Strunk, one of her six children in article in the *Shakopee Tribune* in 1925, and in a book by the Shakopee Heritage Society called *Recollections of Early Pioneers 1925* compiled by Betty A. Dols.

"She never thought of herself, she was interested only in her patients. Many a night, she fought her way through a winter storm behind her ox-team to reach the bedside of a patient. Sometimes she suffered severely. I remember that on one occasion she came home early one winter morning. We children met her at the door. 'Oh, mother,' we shouted in chorus, 'Your face is frozen!' Sure enough, both cheeks and her nose and chin were white and numb. Mother simply went outside, rubbed snow on her face, and thought no more about it."