

Summary of the Story of Essiac from:
The Essiac Report: Canada's Remarkable Unknown Cancer Remedy by Richard Thomas

Essiac, which is a combination of 4 to 5 herbs, is a simple, inexpensive, highly effective and natural tea with no side effects. It is available to everyone. Treatment with this tea has restored health to thousands of cancer patients.

Rene Caisse (1889 -1978) was the Canadian nurse responsible for Essiac (Caisse spelled backward) being used as treatment for cancer, although it was never made legal in her lifetime. At age 33, Rene Caisse was the head nurse at the Sisters of Providence Hospital in Ontario, Canada. A patient revealed to her that more than 20 years previous she discovered large hard masses in her breast. She and her husband were camped by Ojibwa Indians. They befriended the Medicine Man who said that he had a remedy, a "Holy drink that would purify the body and put it back in balance with the Great Spirit". The patient shared the recipe for the holy drink with Rene who used the formula on her favorite aunt who was diagnosed with terminal cancer in her liver and stomach. After 2 months of treatment, her aunt was better, and lived for another 20 years.

Doctors heard about Rene's work and began sending her their hopeless cases. Many of their terminal patients made miraculous recoveries after being treated with Essiac. In 1932, Rene opened a clinic. She was offered money by the Canadian medical establishment for her tea recipe. But, she knew her formula would be buried as a cure, so she didn't let them have her recipe. The Cancer Commission tried to close her clinic even though Chicago doctors had researched Essiac and concluded that it did prolong life, break down tumors, and relieve pain. She was threatened with prosecution and imprisonment, so in 1942, at age 53, she closed her clinic as she was bordering on a nervous breakdown.

In 1959, at age 70, Rene began the most important phase in the development of Essiac. US President John F. Kennedy's personal physician, Dr. Charles Brusch, was interested in working with the humble Canadian nurse. He was already interested in forms of natural treatments. Rene went to the Brusch Clinic, and through careful studies, it was proven that Essiac cured cancer. However, the American Medical Association forbade its members to transfer patients to Rene and Dr. Brusch. Rather than get into another battle with the cancer industry, Rene went home to Canada. She had been able to prove and demonstrate that Essiac cured cancer with one of the most prestigious doctors in the US. Dr. Brusch wrote, "I endorse Essiac therapy for I have cured by own bowel cancer through Essiac alone". He observed it benefiting diabetes and conditions due to high levels of toxicity. Essiac proved to be a phenomenal detoxifier. Rene and Dr. Brusch became co-owners of the tea formula.

Rene continued to help as many people as she could. In 1977, Homemaker Magazine ran a story about Essiac. There was tremendous pressure to get Essiac into the hands of suffering humanity. Rene fought for over 50 years to bring Essiac to the public, all the time resisting the temptation to capitalize. In 1982, the Department of Health and Welfare shut down all clinical testing for Essiac.

In 1984, Dr. Brusch got a call from Elaine Alexander who was interested in doing a radio series on Essiac. Her program was called Staying Alive. She had previously presented information about credible alternative therapies which had been banned or oppressed by the Medical Establishment. Elaine interviewed many people who had recovered from terminal cancer by using Essiac alone. Elaine asked Dr. Brusch what he knew about Essiac and he said, "Essiac is a cure for cancer. I've seen it reverse and eliminate cancers at such a progressive state that nothing medical science currently has could accomplish similar results. I wouldn't have believed it myself had I not seen it with my own eyes. I believe Essiac is the single most beneficial treatment for cancer today".

Together, in 1988, Elaine and Dr. Brusch realized they had to forget about the medical industry legitimizing Essiac. They decided to get Essiac out to the public as a harmless detoxifying tea. Drugs are designed to block or change some function of the body. Essiac is a natural substance that was always meant to detoxify the body, not block or change its function in some unnatural way. Thus, the body, once it cleansed of toxic disease producing impurities, has the power to heal itself. In 1992, the first Essiac tea was available to the public. Essi Plus Tea is Essiac tea with red clover (the Plus) to help with the taste. Elaine Rylin added the red clover to the recipe. She cured herself of breast cancer in 1995 from Essi Plus tea alone.