

Harriet Clark (1894 – 1997) wrote up stories from her life for members of her family and for friends. Here's an excerpt from one of them, but no date unfortunately:

YES, IT CAN BE CURED

by

Harriet L. Clark and Esther C. Nicholson

You asked me if in our family background we have had any cancer. I had my mouth open to say no when I remembered my mother's cancer which was cured. Yes, it can happen. This is the way it was.

In the summer of 1936 Mother at age 79, admitted that for some time she had bleeding from the rectum. For some reason she did not want to go to a local doctor. She thought she would like to go privately to Aunt Hattie's doctor in Winsted. That was arranged. That doctor gave her ointment, patted her on the shoulder and told her that she was all right and not to worry.

She was not all right and finally agreed to see our Doctor Brad Walker. Sarah [another sister] took her down to Cornwall for an examination. On the way out of the office Dr. Brad handed Sarah a slip saying, "I believe it is a cancer of the rectum. Come back to see me." Sarah went to see him the next day, and he told her that he was not equipped to treat cancer and neither was the hospital in Torrington, and that he could not take Mother as a patient.

(She went down to Baltimore for several months and was successfully treated for her cancer by Drs. Walter and Edmund Kelley, and lived to be 97.)