

SOMME AMERICAN CEMETERY

This World War I cemetery in France contains the graves of nearly 1,850 war dead, and more than 330 names on the Walls of the Missing. The beautiful Somme district in Northern France was the scene of some of the bloodiest fighting in World War I. Somme American Cemetery sits in the place where the 107th Infantry Regiment suffered nearly 1,000 casualties during the first day's attack, the largest one-day American regimental loss of the entire war. The land was once part of the German Hindenberg Line. Among the more than 1,800 Americans buried here are Three Medal of Honor recipients.

---Two brothers, James and Harmon Vedder, are buried side by side. Their deaths inspired the creation of the Gold Star Mothers, a nonprofit organization of mothers who lost sons or daughters in service of the US Armed Forces, formed in 1928.

---Nurse Helen Fairchild died as a result of lending her gas mask to a wounded soldier.

Four bronze World War I trench helmets capping bronze wreaths are mounted on the base of the cemetery flagpole. At one end of the cemetery is a small memorial Chapel. Above the altar a crystal glass cross captures the light and illuminates walls carved with the names of the missing. An inscription above the chapel honors those who died for their country.

Most of those buried at this 14.3 acre cemetery lost their lives while serving in American units attached to British armies, or in operations near Cantigny. The headstones, set in regular rows, are separated into four plots by paths that intersect at the flagpole near the top of the slope.

Dedicated: 1937



BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG JULY 1-3, 1863



At the dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg on November 19, 1863 the main address was a two-hour speech delivered by Edward Everett, a well-known orator of the time. Everett's speech was some 13,000 words long, delivered without notes. Abraham Lincoln's speech was a mere 272 words long. The following day Everett wrote a note to Lincoln saying "I wish that I could flatter myself that I had come as near to the central idea of the occasion in two hours as you did in two minutes."

"The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.---we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain---that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom---"



Take some home or to a neighbor!



LES BRAVES MEMORIAL OF OMAHA BEACH

The monument is composed of three elements---

- *The Wings of Hope
- *Rise Freedom
- *The Wings of Fraternity

French sculptor Anilore Banon created the monument in 2004 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the D-Day invasion of Normandy, France.



Baby bluebirds near the Hanson Home



Western Oriole came for a visit



NEW/SOON-TO-BE RESIDENTS

Sherry Morse
Nancy Wright
Jeffrey & Marilyn Riehl

James & Betty Kasson
Martin (Marty) & Karen Wiskoff
Sandy Storm

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

5/25
5/27
5/28

Laura P.
Shirley R.
Madeleine W.

IN MEMORIAM

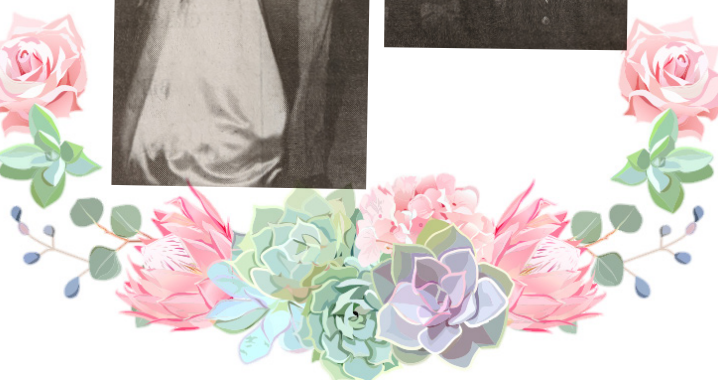
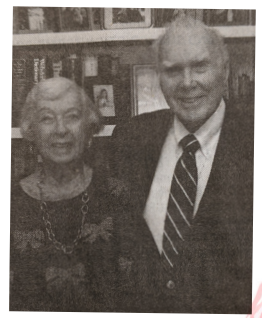
5/5 Dolly Albright



You Must Have Been a Beautiful Mama...



Blair & Marilyn Hyde
Celebrate their 75th Wedding Anniversary
May 12



"Some thoughts on the Covid-19 Epidemic"
Mel Britton, MD

We read every day in the papers and hear every day on TV about the destruction which the Covid-19 virus is causing to our communities and our economy. I thought that it might be helpful for the Residents at the Manor if I tried to explain my understanding of why this virus is such a threat and to explore some of the ways that might be used to attack its effects.

Viruses do not have much life span until they can insinuate themselves into the cells of a living host. Apparently for a long time, the hosts were bats and then nearby animals that were exposed to the viruses in the bats. When and how the viruses escaped from the compatible infected animals and were able to infect human beings became the subject of much discussion and research.

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Corona viruses have long been a part of the viruses which attack human beings. Most of the time these viruses concentrated themselves in the upper respiratory organs, causing a productive cough, sniffles, occasional sneezing, and their presence in our bodies became known collectively, as “the common cold.” Most of us have experienced one or two of these each winter, as viruses attacked us.

Viruses evolve along with all of the rest of nature. The Coronavirus, known as “Covid-19,” found new mechanisms by which to attack the new organisms or affected hosts. The symptoms of Covid-19 are: a dry cough, an increase in temperature, and very early on in affected hosts, a decrease in the oxygenation of the blood. The virus also had a unique effect in that one of the ways in which it entered the cells of the body and in particular, the cells of the kidneys used a unique form of entry into the body through the lungs, into other organs, particularly the kidneys and, through metabolism in the kidneys, throughout the vascular system.

The kidney is important in the regulation of blood pressure. The enzyme to which the Covid-19 virus attached itself was one of the crucial enzymes in the control of blood pressure. How this virus chose that method of entry into the cells in the body and, particularly the kidneys, is beyond my comprehension but is known to be true by the investigators of this virus.

Another enzyme that the virus seems to attack and which had rather devastating results in the lungs of the host was a system which functioned to control the expression of mucus by the lungs and the constriction of the small bronchial tubes leading into the lung tissue. The effect of the virus in this part of the body seems to be the cause of the dry, non-mucus-secreting part of the bronchial tube, causing the dry cough that is characteristic of the early infection and also the later development of a decrease in the volume of the bronchial tubes which causes the tubes effectively to close off and not allow the oxygen in the lung to reach the blood vessels. These same cells later cause the problem of excess production of mucus, which seems to be the major mechanism, along with a decrease in oxygen, which causes the death of the people who die

from the virus. Why older people, such as ourselves, are more susceptible to the virus than younger people is to me, still, very much a mystery. The increased ability of the virus to cause this deadly effect is increased in people with diabetes and with high blood pressure.

The association of the virus with an enzyme which controlled blood pressure was noted, and there was some early concern that people who were taking the very common blood pressure pills called ACE Inhibitors (Angiotensin-Converting 0Enzymes) might be more susceptible to the virus. Other very common blood pressure medicines are the ARBs (Angio-Receptor Blockers). When these facts became known, concern was expressed that people who were on these medicines might have increased susceptibility to the virus.

The clinical studies that have been done so far suggest that the use of neither one of these classes of drugs makes the infection worse, and there are some early suggestions that the ACE Inhibitors may even be partially protective. This idea was supported by a recent country-wide study in the New England Journal of Medicine which showed decreased mortality in people who took the drugs. The longer they had been on them, the better! Next up will be to see how the failing hearts of patients on these drugs are protected.

In the meantime people who are on these medications do not need to consider decreasing or stopping them. They should continue to be used to control blood pressure in affected people.

In conclusion, we see that the Covid-19 virus has somehow managed to get into the body and to cause symptoms that are akin to the autoimmune diseases. The association of certain viruses with autoimmune disease is becoming increasingly clear, and however scientific study works out the details of the association may eventually provide benefit to people who have autoimmune diseases because the agents which we use to fight viruses may in the long run give us weapons to fight against inflammatory autoimmune diseases.

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