

Birth Story - Sidney Byrd - OSEU #3

I was able to follow in the footsteps of my grandfather. So I'm now the oldest member of this tribe...I'll be 96 in December. When I was born, there was no sign of life. There was a flu epidemic all over the world. That epidemic killed more people than all of the casualties of the first world war. My grandmother acted as a midwife and delivered me. Can't do that anymore. You have to be certified. But in those days, we did what we had to do. She told grandfather, "We have a new grandson, but there is no sign of life. Pray for him."

He took this little bottle and held it up and he prayed...made an impassioned plea. There was a pitiful cry. Grandmother got all excited, "He's alive. He's alive." They took that little blanket...receiving blanket...and saw a skinny little boy. They knew I wasn't going to make it. So she said, "At least he ought to have a name." So again, grandfather held me up and he baptized me.

Grandfather's prayers were answered. I've outlived all of my relatives. I've followed in his footsteps.