

PAULINE GRAHAM
Interview 112a
December, 1986
Gary Rector, Interviewer
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ABSTRACT: In this short interview with Gary Rector, Pauline Graham details some home remedies she remembers from her childhood. She remembers remedies for chicken pox, measles, constipation, colds, ringworm, and colic.

Gary Rector (hereafter GR): This is Gary Rector and I am interviewing Pauline Graham on home remedies. The date is December, 1986.

Pauline Graham (hereafter PG): Should I tell my name?

GR: Go ahead, talk.

PG: You can take children out to the chicken house who have had chicken pox and run the chickens out over them, that would cure children of chicken pox. Another thing is you take an iron and put it on the hot fire and you iron yourself a poltice, we called it, run it on the place where it is hurting and it would go away, it would cure the pain.

GR: Would it ever work?

PG: As far as I know it did. It went away, your pain went away. As for bad colds, chest colds, you would take a flannel cloth put a lot of Vicks salve on it, put it on your chest and it would cure your cold. Another thing for constipation, a long time ago you would take black draught, boil it and make a tea, you drank it and that was good for constipation.

GR: What is black draught?

PG: Well, it's a, I don't know really, they called it black draught, you buy it in little packages, boil it and make some tea and drink it. There is another remedy, if you have been exposed to measles, they would give them some whiskey and it would break the measles out real good, a real good case of measles. Then you would go out to work, you had already had the measles.

GR: Did you ever have them?

PG: Yes, I had them.

GR: Did they do this to you?

PG: Yes, they did. Now this is - move and let me sit over there. Out of a lick tablet and put it in a saucer and burn it and it would leave a yellow grease-like substance and take that and put it on your ringworms, that would kill it.

GR: Did that work on you?

PG: Yes, sure, used to do it all the time.

GR: What else do you know?

PG: What else do you want to know? Used to – if you had a cold or something. I told that. About putting turpentine and a spoon of sugar, or kerosene. That's for colic.

GR: Did your brothers ever have any of it?

PG: Yes.

GR: And they took it all the time?

PG: Yes, I did, too.

GR: Did it ever make you sick?

PG: No. Black draught tea is what I couldn't cut. But it was a good home remedy. My mama would hold my nose and pour that stuff down me. Oh, I swore if I ever got grown that would be one thing I would never take.

END OF INTERVIEW