

FEMALE PHYSICIANS

*A directory of short character sketches
about female physicians who graduated
from the Women's Medical College at
Kingston.*

Dr. Donald Brearley

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Introduction

The Kingston Women's Medical College, affiliated with Queen's, was established in 1883 and ran until 1894. It was founded after disgruntled male students forced women out of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Kingston, an early incarnation of Queen's Faculty of Medicine.

The college was originally located in the west wing of Kingston City Hall and had a dissecting room just under the old building's dome. It moved to a house at 75 Union Street in 1890. The college folded for lack of students in 1894, as the small number of women studying medicine in Canada were increasingly attracted to medical schools in Toronto and Montreal.

Women were not re-admitted to medical studies at Queen's until 1943.¹

“With this collection of biographies of the 34 graduates of the Women’s Medical College in Kingston, Dr. Don Brearley has performed a great service for anyone interested in the history of medicine, of women, and of our region. The school operated only from 1883 to 1894, but it was the first college for higher education of women in Canada. Its graduates were true pioneers. Some became missionaries, several married and raised children while maintaining a practice, and all contributed to the well-being of their communities.” Jacalyn Duffin, Hannah Professor of the History of Medicine at Queen’s University

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¹ Queen’s University website. <http://www.queensu.ca/encyclopedia/w/womens-medical-college>

The Physicians

Atherton, Ella Blaylock Dr. 1860-1933

Ella Blaylock was born at Ulverston, Lancashire, England on Jan 4, 1860 daughter of William Blaylock and Margaret Schollick. She immigrated to Quebec with her parents in 1861, received her education in the common schools of Georgeville, Stanstead Township and at McGill College. She graduated from the Women's Medical College in 1887 and was the first woman in the Province of Quebec to get a Canadian diploma in medicine. Dr. Blaylock began practice at Newport, Vermont and after two years removed to Nashua, New Hampshire where she was the first female physician; she made a specialty of diseases of women and children and abdominal surgery. Dr. Blaylock was united in marriage to Henry Bridge Atherton on Sept 8, 1898. She favoured woman's suffrage, was a member of the New Hampshire Woman Suffrage Society, the Fortnightly Club and the Y.W.C.A. Dr. Ella Blaylock Atherton died at Nashua, New Hampshire on Sept 4, 1933 aged 73 years 8 months.

Beatty, Elizabeth Rabb Dr. 1856-1939

Elizabeth Rabb Beatty was born at Ballycanoe, Ontario in the Township of Front and Yonge, on Jan 4, 1856 daughter of William Beatty and Ella Armstrong. She was a member of the first class of women to graduate from Kingston's Women's Medical College, Queen's University, in 1884. She was licensed to practice in Ontario on Apr 24, 1884 and in the fall of that year left for Central India as a medical missionary of the Presbyterian Church. During her voyage, she met Lord and Lady Dufferin; Lord Dufferin had just completed his term as Governor-General of Canada and had been appointed Viceroy of India. They proved to be staunch allies and did much to further Dr. Beatty's work. In Indore, she lived in a mud house that also served as a dispensary and hospital; she learned Hindi, trained Indian women in nursing and built the first Woman's Hospital in Central India. She returned to Canada in 1891, an impairment of her health preventing her return to the mission fields. Since that time she resided at Lansdowne, Ontario spending winters with her sister in Utica, N.Y. Dr. Elizabeth Rabb Beatty died at Utica on Mar 4, 1939 aged 74 years 2 months.

Brown, Sarah Amelia Dr. 1863-1937

Sarah Amelia Brown was born at Consecon, Ontario on Sept 3, 1863 daughter of Rev George Brown and Mary Vivian. The father of our subject was a New Connexion Methodist Minister who served at various charges throughout southern Ontario including Shannonville and Consecon. Widely known as Minnie Brown she received her early education in London, Ontario, was a graduate of the Women's Medical College in 1890 and was licensed in Ontario on May 22, 1890. Dr. Brown began her professional career at Manhattan, New York and while there would often visit with the Drs Gillen in Mt Morris. She removed to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and then established herself at Greenwich, Connecticut. Here she served as a live-in private physician to the Holmes family, a position she held for 32 years. Dr.

Sarah Amelia "Minnie" Brown died at Greenwich, Ct on Aug 19, 1937 aged 73 years 11 months 16 days.

**Corlis, Margaret Amelia
Walker Dr.
1839-1925**

Margaret Amelia Walker was born at Villa Nova, Townsend Township, Norfolk County, Ontario in 1839 daughter of Adam Walker and Hannah Coulter. She was united in marriage to Josiah Corlis on Sept 22, 1862; the husband of our subject went on to study medicine at McGill where he graduated in 1869. Margaret Corlis entered into the study of medicine at the Women's Medical College, graduated in 1885 and joined her husband in practice at St Thomas, Ontario. In 1891 Josiah and Margaret Corlis went to Bellingen, New South Wales, Australia and then removed to Menzies to care for the prospectors in the goldfields. In June 1895 she became the first female physician in the Western Australian Goldfield where she was often away from home attending patients and travelling by camel hundreds of miles in different directions. The Drs Corlis returned to New South Wales in Dec 1903; in the time they spent in Menzies, Australia they lost two houses to fire. Dr. Margaret Amelia Corlis was predeceased by her husband in 1922 and she died at Grafton, Australia on Jan 6, 1925 aged 85.

**Craine, Agnes Douglas Dr.
1861-1937**

Agnes Douglas Craine was born at Smith's Falls, Ontario on Oct 9, 1861 daughter of John Craine and Agnes Muir. She was educated at the public and high schools of that place, taught school for a few years and then entered Queen's University graduating from the Women's Medical College in 1888. She took post graduate work in Britain and obtained Licentiate from Edinburgh and Glasgow. Dr. Craine returned to Smith's Falls where she remained for the duration. In 1936 she made a donation of \$350,000 to Queen's in memory of her family and as a tribute to the late Very Reverend George Monroe Grant, Principal of the University, who had opened the door to women for the study of medicine. The money funded the Craine Biochemistry building and the Craine Chair in Biochemistry. Dr. Agnes Douglas Craine died at Smith's Falls on Feb 26, 1937 aged 75 years 4 months 17 days.

**Davis, Harriet Amelia
Walker Dr.
1858-1901**

Harriet Amelia Walker was born at the farmhouse on Wolfe Island, Ontario on Dec 25, 1858 daughter of John Davis and Louisa Howard. Widely known as Hattie, she was united in marriage to Adoniram Walker on Jan 4, 1876 and later entered into the study of medicine at Kingston. Having suffered the death of her son while engaged in the study of her life's work, Dr. Davis was a graduate of the Women's Medical College in 1890. She established herself at Toledo, Ohio, was a Licentiate of the Ohio State Medical Society, carried on a medical practice and had operating privileges at the St. Vincent Hospital. Dr. Davis returned to Kingston to practice for about 5 years after which, widowed, she removed to Kent, Ohio for about a year and finally to Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Harriet Amelia Walker Davis died of pneumonia at Cleveland, Ohio on Mar 12, 1901 aged 42 years 2 months 17 days.

**Demorest, Clara Jane Dr.
1863-1912**

Clara Jane Demorest was born at the farmhouse at Empey Hill, 4th Concession of Richmond Township, Lennox and Addington County on Mar 7, 1862, daughter of George Demorest and Jane Scott. She was educated locally and began her professional career as a teacher of the Tyendinaga Mohawk students of the Bay of Quinte area. After she graduated from the Women's Medical College in 1890, Dr. Demorest established her medical practice at Napanee, Ontario where she remained until 1905 when she removed to Calgary, Alberta. Here, once again, she was a pioneer in the medical frontier. Dr. Demorest returned to Ontario some years later and was admitted to the Toronto Asylum. This facility was opened in 1850, was named the Provincial Lunatic Asylum and was the first permanent mental health facility in Upper Canada. Dr. Clara Jane Demorest died at Toronto of dementia on Jan 20, 1912 aged 49 years 10 months 13 days.

**Dickson, Annie Evelyn Dr.
1851-1896**

Annie Evelyn Dickson was born at Kingston, Ontario in Apr 1851 daughter of Dr. John Robinson Dickson and Anne Benson. The father of our subject, a native of Belfast, Ireland, received his medical degree from the University of New York in 1842 and was one of the founders of the medical school in Kingston where he was appointed as professor of surgery. Annie Dickson was a graduate of the Women's Medical College in 1886, took post graduate work in New York and after a short time in Brockville, established herself in Kingston. Dr. Dickson worked in association with Dr. Betts and at the same location as her brother, Dr. Charles Rea Dickson, a graduate of Queen's in 1880 and a specialist in electro-therapy. She served as treasurer of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society in Kingston. Although in failing health she continued her labours till the last. Dr. Annie Evelyn Dickson died at Kingston of pneumonia on Aug 15, 1896 aged 45 years 4 months.

**Embury, Elizabeth Dr.
1866-1945**

Elizabeth Embury was born at Napanee, Ontario on July 25, 1866 daughter of George Embury and Mary Ann Empey. After some years in the teaching profession she graduated from the Women's Medical College in 1888 taking scholarships and honours in obstetrics, surgery and medicine. Dr. Embury established herself at Belleville in 1888, specialized in diseases of women and children and was the only female physician in this section of Ontario. In 1906 she removed to Ottawa and followed her profession for another 37 years. In 1924 she was one of a group of women physicians who, while attending the C.M.A. annual meeting, met to found the Federation of Medical Women of Canada, an organization acting as a powerful voice in dealing with issues that concern women physicians and women's health. Dr. Elizabeth Embury, a prominent Canadian physician for 55 years, died at Kingston on Feb 4, 1945 aged 78 years 6 months 9 days.

**Funnell, Ada Alfaretta Dr.
1864-1904**

Ada Alferetta Funnell was born at Portsmouth, Ontario on Dec 4, 1864 daughter of Jesse Funnell and Jane Kemp. She matriculated in Arts at Queen's University in 1882; during her time at Queen's she was awarded scholarships every year. After graduation from the Women's Medical College in 1887 she went to New York for one year to pursue post graduate

work and upon her return to Canada she went into practice in Hamilton, Ontario. Within two years she returned to establish herself at Trenton, served as physician to the Woodlawn Home and cared for her ailing parents. Her brother Jessie Jr. was a businessman and entrepreneur in Trenton, served as town councillor and was elected Mayor of Trenton by acclamation. Her father had operated a merchant tailoring business in Portsmouth until 1877 when he removed to the Trenton area. Dr. Ada Alfaretta Funnell died of pneumonia at Trenton, Ontario on Dec 21, 1904 aged 40 years 17 days.

**Funnell, Rozelle Victoria
Myers Dr.
1852-1913**

Rozelle Victoria Myers was born at Martville, New York on Sept 4, 1852 daughter of Philander Myers and Sarah Lockwood. She worked for a time in the early 1870s as a school mistress in Portland, Oregon and was united in marriage to Robert Funnell, brother of Dr. Ada A Funnell, on June 2, 1877 at Harrowsmith, Ontario. She was a graduate of the Women's Medical College in 1890, was for two years professor of electro-therapeutics at Queen's University following which Dr. Funnell was resident physician with the Deer Park Sanatorium in Ottawa; she made the scientific application of electricity a specialty. Dr. Funnell composed a booklet of verse, A Jubilee Offering (1897) and wrote the words to a song about Sir John A Macdonald, Quinte. Dr. Rozelle Victoria Myers Funnell died at Fall River, Massachusetts on Dec 13, 1913 aged 61 years 3 months 9 days.

**Gillen, Marion Livingston
Dr.
1861-1900**

Marion Livingston was born at Kingston, Ontario in Mar 1861 daughter of James and Hannah Livingston. She was a graduate of the Women's Medical College in 1887 and for a time served as demonstrator of Anatomy at the College. Dr. Livingston was granted an appointment as assistant physician at the Blackwell Island Asylum in New York City in 1889. She was united in marriage on Oct 13, 1894 to Dr. Erastus Gillen, a Queen's graduate in 1894. The Drs Gillen removed to Mt Morris, New York in 1895 when Dr. Albert La Du Campbell, a Queen's graduate of 1889, relocated to Ohio; she specialized in diseases of women and children. Dr. Marion Livingston Gillen died of apoplexy while on a visit to her mother in law in Belleville, Ontario on July 11, 1900 aged 39 years 4 months.

**Green, Minnie Grace
Leavitt Dr.
1866-1933**

Minnie Grace Leavitt was born at Hatley, Stanstead County, Quebec on Oct 22, 1866 daughter of Dr. Julius Leavitt and Lucinda Tilden. She was a graduate of the Women's Medical College in 1893 and was committed to the temperance movement, delivering lectures for the Methodist Church. "Dr. Leavitt is a very industrious lecturer and organizer. Although youthful, she has accomplished a vast amount of work, principally in the Canadian Provinces. Dr. Leavitt will give a scientific lecture illustrated by numerous charts showing the effects of alcohol and tobacco on the human system". Dr. Minnie Leavitt was united in marriage to Dr. Edward Mountain on Jan 10, 1898 at St Johnsbury, Vermont and, divorced, married Charles Green on Sept 3, 1915 at Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Dr. Minnie Grace Leavitt Green died at Tampa, Florida on Dec 30, 1933 aged 67 years 2 months 8 days.

**Henderson, Elizabeth
Mabel Dr.
1864-1911**

Elizabeth Mabel Henderson was born at Brockville, Ontario on Mar 22, 1864 daughter of James Henderson and Elizabeth Mabel Hunter. She was a graduate of Queen's University in Arts and in 1892 of the Women's Medical College, taking the gold medal and honours of the year. Dr. Henderson established herself at Hamilton, Ontario where she was most successful in her work and highly esteemed by those who knew her. She was one of the founding members of the Hamilton Medical Society and an important resource for other women doctors settling in the city; she was the one who helped Dr. Elizabeth Bagshaw get started in Hamilton. In Nov 1909, Dr. Henderson was badly injured when her buggy collided with a street car and she was thrown to the ground sustaining injuries from which she never recovered. Dr. Elizabeth Mabel Henderson died at Hamilton on Mar 26, 1911 aged 47 years 4 days.

**Jamieson, Alison Dr.
1870-1947**

Alison Jamieson was born at the farm house at Wicklow, Northumberland County, Ontario on Oct 15, 1870 daughter of Alexander Jamieson and Sarah Crosby. She was educated locally and entered into the study of her life's work at Queen's University, graduating from the Women's Medical College in 1892; she was registered to practice in Ontario on May 31, 1892. Dr. Jamieson soon established herself at London, Ontario where in 1902, among her other accomplishments, on June 19, 1902 she delivered Guy Lombardo of dance-band fame. She continued her professional work in London for several decades afterwards removing to the land of her birth where she worked for the duration. Buried at Saint Andrew's United Presbyterian Church in Grafton, Ontario, Dr. Alison Jamieson died at Wicklow on May 2, 1947 aged 76 years 6 months 17 days.

**Lawyer, Sarah Ann
Amanda Dr.
1854-1938**

Annie Lawyer was born at Morrisburgh, Ontario on Sept 20, 1854 daughter of John Lawyer and Catharine Weagant. She was a graduate of the Women's Medical College in 1888 and on Sept 12, 1888 this Ottawa lady practitioner attended the afternoon session of the Medical Council and was probably the first lady in Canada to attend as a member. Dr. Lawyer took post graduate study in the Hospitals and Schools in N.Y. and practiced medicine in Ottawa, Victoria, B.C. and Nassau, Bahamas. In 1899 she volunteered to accompany the Canadian contingent and provide medical assistance at the front for the Transvaal Campaign in South Africa. While in England in 1916, Dr. Lawyer signed on with the War Office for medical duty in Malta; she returned to Ottawa from Malta in 1917 with a token of remembrance from a dying soldier for his mother who had also died while he fought overseas. Dr. Annie Lawyer died at London, Ontario on Nov 19, 1938 aged 84 years 1 month 29 days.

**Macarow, Mary Emily
Bermingham Dr.
1859-1942**

Mary Emily Bermingham was born at Port Hope, Ontario daughter of James Bermingham and Mary Ann O'Connor. The father of our subject was born in Ireland and worked as an auctioneer and commission merchant; the family moved from Port Hope to Ottawa and finally to Kingston. Dr. Bermingham was a graduate of the Women's Medical College in 1892 and

was united in marriage to Philip Henry Macarow on June 27, 1892 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Kingston. Their son, Philip Daniel Macarow was born in 1896 and her husband, a post office inspector of the Kingston Postal Division, died in 1912. Dr. Macarow removed to Ottawa where she remained for about three decades before returning to Kingston. Buried in St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery in Kingston, Dr. Mary Emily Macarow died on Oct 4, 1942 aged 82 years 10 months 5 days.

**MacKellar, Margaret Dr.
1861-1941**

Margaret MacKellar was born at Mull, Scotland on Oct 23, 1861 daughter of Captain Peter MacKellar. She immigrated with her family to Canada at age 2, received her early education in the public schools of Bruce County and the Ingersoll Collegiate Institute. Dr. MacKellar graduated from the Women's Medical College in 1890, was class valedictorian, and was licensed to practice in Ontario on May 22, 1890. Following post graduate work in London and Edinburgh, Dr. MacKellar went to India under the Canadian Presbyterian Mission and spent 40 years as a medical missionary in Central India. As a pioneer physician at Neemuch, she was responsible for building a 52 bed Hospital and for the training of Indian women doctors and nurses. In 1929 Queen's University bestowed on her the degree of LL.D and she was also awarded the Kaiser-i-Hind Medal in recognition of her services in India. Dr. Margaret MacKellar died at Toronto, Ontario on Aug 24, 1941 aged 79 years 10 months 1 day.

**McConville, Isabel Dr.
1863-1947**

Isabel McConville was born at Kingston, Ontario on Jan 22, 1863 daughter of Bernard McConville and Jane McGuiness. She began her professional career as a teacher, entered into the study of medicine at the Women's Medical College and graduated in 1889; her brother, Dr. Andrew McConville, was a noted half-back on championship Queen's rugby teams in the nineties. Dr. Isabel McConville was licensed in Ontario on May 22, 1889, was physician to the Sisters of Notre Dame Convent and Hotel Dieu Hospital and served the Kingston community for 57 years. She willed \$40,000 to the University and directed that the fund be used to encourage medical study and research and student education. Dr. Isabel McConville died at Kingston, Ontario on Jan 3, 1947 aged 83 years 11 months 11 days.

**McGillivray, Alice Skimin
Dr.
1861-1912**

Alice Skimin was born at St. George, Ontario on Sept 21, 1861 daughter of James Skimin and Margaret Renwick. She was united in marriage to Thomas Shannon McGillivray on Dec 24, 1879; the husband of our subject would go on to become a barrister and an 1888 graduate of Queen's medical school. Alice McGillivray was a graduate of medicine from the Women's Medical College in 1884 and was a medalist in both the Arts and Medical programmes. She began her professional career at Kingston where 'diseases of women and children were a specialty'; later she became the vice-dean of the College, a title she held for 5 years. Dr. McGillivray then took up professional work in Chicago afterwards removing to Hamilton where she resided for 15 years. In 1912, while driving a patient in her motor car, she was taken ill and lost control of the car which swerved to the curb.

Dr. Alice McGillivray died at Hamilton, Ontario on Oct 30, 1912 aged 51 years 1 month 9 days.

**Mitchell, Elizabeth
Simpson Dr.
1864-1912**

Elizabeth Simpson Mitchell was born at Montreal, Quebec on May 28, 1864 daughter of Alexander Mitchell and Isabella Smith. From an early age she was keenly interested in medicine; she was educated in Montreal and graduated with high honours from the Women's Medical College in 1888. She then received Diplomas from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Edinburgh, Glasgow and London and in June 1889 began the practice of her profession in her native city and was the first lady to practice the profession of medicine in Lower Canada. Dr. Mitchell is deserving of particular honour for her courage and determination in the face of many difficulties as even women hesitated about employing a woman doctor; many obstacles, traditional and otherwise had to be overcome. Of note, she was present at Delhi when King Edward was proclaimed Emperor of India, 1902-1906. Dr. Elizabeth Simpson Mitchell died at Nashua, New Hampshire on Nov 30, 1912 aged 48 years 6 months 2 days.

**Murray, Janet Dr.
1856-1940**

Janet Murray was born at Peebles, Scotland on July 22, 1856 daughter of Ralph Murray and Isabelle Kerr; at the age of 10 she moved with her family to Ontario. Her father being a mining engineer, the family followed his vocation in numerous small towns across the province and she had been in Rossmore, Ameliasburgh Township for at least a decade by the time she graduated from the Women's Medical College in 1891. Dr. Murray established herself in Schenectady, N.Y. and was licensed in that state on Aug 31, 1891. She was truly a doctor of the horse and buggy era; there was no hospital there and this was before the advent of the X-Ray machine. She was in general practice for 46 years, was a prominent member of the Schenectady Business and Professional Women's Club, served as Vice President of the Queen's University Alumni Association and a board member of the Women's Medical Society of N.Y. Dr. Janet Murray died at Schenectady on Feb 20, 1940 aged 83 years 6 months 28 days.

**O'Hara, Margaret Dr.
1855-1940**

Margaret O'Hara was born at Port Elmsley, Ontario on Apr 11, 1855 daughter of William O'Hara and Mary McTavish. She received her early education there and graduated from the Women's Medical College in 1891. Dr. O'Hara was designated for missionary work to India and arrived in Bombay in Dec of 1891; she spent 36 years in Hospital work, chiefly at Dhar, and rendered exceptional service during the great famine, her skill and devotion resulting in saving many lives. The Maharajah was deeply interested in her work and presented a fine site for a hospital. Dr. O'Hara was decorated with the Kaiser-i-Hind Medal and received the honorary degree of LL.D. from her alma mater. She was the author of the book Leaf of the Lotus which achieved considerable fame in Canada. Dr. Margaret O'Hara died at Smith's Falls on Aug 28, 1940 aged 85 years 4 months 17 days.

**Ogilvie Oughton, Nettie
Marjorie Dr.
1866-1927**

Nettie Marjorie Ogilvie was born at Glasgow, Scotland in Feb 1866 daughter of Dr. James Ogilvie and Janet MacDonald. She was a graduate of the Women's Medical College in 1888 and took post graduate work overseas attaining her Licentiate with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of London, Edinburgh and Glasgow. She then joined her parents in Jamaica and was united in marriage to Thomas Bancroft Oughton in June 1889. Her father served as Mayor of Kingston, Jamaica and her husband, a Barrister, was a member of the Legislative Council and Chief Justice of Jamaica from 1904 until his death in 1909. After his death, the result of a riding accident, Dr. Oughton returned to Canada and lived in Toronto, Vancouver and southern California. Dr. Nettie Marjorie Ogilvie Oughton died at Pomona, California on Nov 20, 1927 aged 61 years 9 months.

**Oliver, Marion Dr.
1853-1913**

Marion Oliver was born at Downie, Perth County, Ontario in Apr 1853 daughter of Adam Oliver and Marion Elliot. She received her early education in the rural school near her home, going later to the high school at St Mary's. On taking out a certificate she began teaching and did excellent work for a number of years as a public school teacher in rural sections in the County of Perth. She entered into the study of medicine at the Women's Medical College and graduated in 1886. Dr. Marion Oliver then undertook the medical missionary work of the Presbyterian Church in Indore, India; she resolved that her life be spent in the service for others and the uplift of womankind. In 1911, when returning from her missionary work in India, she was a survivor of the wreckage of the steamer Asia when the vessel went down off the coast of China. Dr. Marion Oliver died of nephritis at Avonbank, Perth County on May 23, 1913 aged 60 years 1 month.

**Rideout, Annie Grant Hill
Dr.
1871-1965**

Annie Grant Hill was born in Calcutta, India in Nov 1871 daughter of John Hill and Jessie Grant. The father of our subject was an engineer, married in England on Feb 28, 1863, and employed in India. "Annie Grant Hill, a student at the Women's Medical College and in the office of Dr. R E Sparks (dentist), Kingston, has the honour to be the first lady dentist in Canada, having successfully passed the recent examinations of the Quebec Dental Association. Miss Hill intends entering into partnership with Dr. Samuel J Andres, an old and respected practitioner (dentist) of Montreal". Dr. Hill passed her dental examinations with high honours, graduated from the Women's Medical College in 1893, was united in marriage to Dr. John Byron Rideout (dentist) on Feb 28, 1894 in Montreal and established herself at Roseville, Minnesota. Dr. Annie Grant Hill Rideout died at St Paul, Minnesota on May 4, 1965 aged 93 years 6 months.

**Ryan, Clara Dr.
1859-1946**

Clara Ryan was born at Barriefield, Ontario in 1859 daughter of John Ryan, postmaster, and Amelia Clement, postmistress. She began her professional career as a school teacher and graduated from the Women's Medical College in 1893. After a short time in Sherman, Texas, Dr. Ryan spent 13 years as the superintendent of a Hospital in Arizona; Arizona's sunshine and dry desert air attracted many people (called lungers) suffering from

Tuberculosis. Later for 10 years she was on staff of the Loomis Hospital in Liberty, New York, an early Sanatorium and an architectural masterpiece, conceived by Dr. Alfred Lebbeus Loomis. Dr. Ryan returned to Canada, spent some time in Ernestown, Ontario and about 1931 removed to Toronto. The oldest woman in active medical practice in Toronto, Dr. Clara Ryan died on Oct 1, 1946 aged 87.

**Ryan, Helen Elizabeth
Reynolds Dr.
1860-1947**

Helen Elizabeth Reynolds was born at Mt Forest, Ontario on June 7, 1860 daughter of John Reynolds and Margaret Lackey. She attended the public schools there and the Ottawa Normal School before enrolling in the medical class at Queen's where she graduated in 1885; she was the first woman doctor to be granted membership by the Canadian Medical Association. For four years she struggled to become established in Toronto following which she joined her brother in Mt Forest. Dr. Reynolds was united in marriage to Thomas John Ryan on Sept 10, 1890, moved to Sudbury where she carried on an extensive medical practice and raised five children. She retired in 1907, removed to Victoria, B.C. and turned her attention to public matters. She took part in early efforts to achieve the women's franchise, joined the Local Council of Women, travelled extensively addressing Women's Institutes, was a charter member of the University Women's Club and served as their fourth president. Dr. Helen Elizabeth Reynolds Ryan died at Victoria, B.C. on July 6, 1947 aged 87 years 29 days.

**Skimin, Nellie St. George
Dr.
1863-1906**

Nellie St. George Skimin was born at St. George, Brant County, Ontario on July 26, 1863 daughter of James Skimin and Margaret Renwick and sister of the previously documented Dr. Alice Skimin McGillivray. Nellie held a Master of Arts from Queen's University and was a graduate of the Women's Medical College in 1892. Dr. Nellie Skimin soon established herself in practice in association with her sister in Hamilton, Ontario where she remained for the duration. The father of our subject was an immigrant from Scotland, a foundry man by trade and in the 1901 census, the parents and sisters were living together in Hamilton. In failing health for some time brought on by chronic nephritis, Dr. Nellie St. George Skimin died on July 6, 1906 aged 42 years 11 months 10 days.

**Smith-Shortt, Elizabeth
Dr.
1859-1949**

Elizabeth Smith was born at Winona, Wentworth County, Ontario on Jan 18, 1859 daughter of Sylvester Smith and Isabella McGee, a prosperous Loyalist family that founded the E.D. Smith preserves company. She first sought a career as a teacher but left teaching to attend medical school at Queen's University graduating in 1884 after a sometimes stormy student career. Dr. Smith entered general practice in Hamilton and on Dec 24, 1886 was united in marriage to Queen's University politics professor Dr. Adam Shortt. She returned to Kingston as a lecturer and later professor in medical jurisprudence in the Women's Medical College, a teaching position which she held until 1893. Thereafter she became an enthusiastic champion of women's rights; when her husband became Canada's first civil service commissioner in Ottawa, Elizabeth battled for numerous women's causes

which led to her election as VP of the National Council of Women. Dr. Elizabeth Smith-Shortt died at Ottawa on Jan 14, 1949 aged 89 years 11 months 26 days.

**Stait, Wilhelmina Grant
Fraser Dr.
1862-1928**

Wilhelmina Grant Fraser was born at St. Thomas, Ontario in 1862 daughter of Rev John Fraser and Charlotte Mackie. She attained her high school education at Kincardine and graduated from the Women's Medical College in Apr 1890. Widely known as "Minnie", Dr. Fraser was a Canadian missionary of the Presbyterian Church and served at Mhow, Indore State, Central India. She was united in marriage to Frederick Stait in 1896 and the couple were appointed as missionaries to India by the American Baptist Missionary Union, their designation being Udayagiri in South India. Here, for the final thirty years of her life, Dr. Stait laboured at hospital work and religious instruction. In 1925 she was awarded the Kaiser-i-Hind Medal, one of the prestigious decorations of British India. Suffering from malaria, Dr. Wilhelmina Grant Fraser Stait died at Coonoor, India on June 26, 1928 aged 66 years.

**Turnbull, Agnes Maria Dr.
1866-1907**

Agnes Maria Turnbull was born at Melrose, Ontario on Aug 29, 1866 daughter of Rev John Turnbull and Agnes Maltman. She received her primary education locally and after her family moved to Quebec she obtained a diploma from McGill Normal School and began teaching. Intent on becoming a medical missionary, she entered the Women's Medical College, graduated in 1892, took post graduate training in New York and in Nov 1892 arrived at Indore, India. In 1895 Dr. Turnbull was transferred to the mission station in Neemuch where she combined evangelistic activities with medical work. India was struck by famine and plague at the turn of the century and by her "service in the advancement of the public interest in India", she was recognized by the Imperial Government with the Kaiser-i-Hind Medal. Dr. Agnes Maria Turnbull died at Neemuch, India on Jan 5, 1907 aged 40 years 4 months 6 days.

**Weir, Janet Marshall Dr.
1860-1932**

Janet Marshall Weir was born at Merrickville, Ontario on June 18, 1860 daughter of Dr. William Weir and Martha Marshall. The father of our subject was a native of Stone Haven, Scotland and a Licentiate of King's College, Aberdeen and also of Queen's Medical College at Kingston, Ontario in 1861; he died at Merrickville on Feb 22, 1882 from burns received in a fire. Dr. Janet Weir was a graduate of the Women's Medical College in 1891 and soon established herself at Hartford, Connecticut which was the native land of her maternal grandfather and where she still had relatives. Dr. Janet Weir, a successful professional and an astute business woman, followed the practice of her profession at Hartford, Ct and died there, the last of her family, on Mar 29, 1932 aged 71 years 9 months 11 days.