



# The *Great* Canadian Catholic Hospital History Project

Documenting the legacy and contribution of the  
Congregations of Religious Women in Canada,  
their mission in health care, and the founding and operation of Catholic hospitals.

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# Projet de la *Grande* Histoire des hôpitaux catholiques au Canada

Retracer l'héritage et la contribution des  
congrégations de religieuses au Canada, leur mission en matière  
de soins de santé ainsi que la fondation et l'exploitation des hôpitaux catholiques.

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## St. Joseph's Hospital, Victoria 100 Years of Service - The Hospital Story (1876-1976)

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# 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

1876 - 1976



## THE HOSPITAL STORY



ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL      \*

1876

VICTORIA GENERAL HOSPITAL

1976

D E D I C A T I O N

We, the Members of the Centennial Publicity Committee, would like to dedicate this book to the Sisters of St. Ann who founded our Hospital, and to all others who walked these halls and played their role in this history, together with those serving today.

We would like to give special recognition to Sister Margaret Doris for her untiring efforts in making this book a reality.

\*\*\*\*\*

### SONNET FOR A HOSPITAL

A hundred years have gathered in this place,  
Collected hours of nursing and concern;  
Warm memories of tenderness and grace  
Fill up each room and hall and stairway turn;  
Dark nights of pain and days of helplessness,  
Here soothed by dedicated, gentle hands;  
Long hours of illness, sorrow, and distress,  
Healed by medicine's well-judged commands.  
If you listen to the past, perhaps you'll hear  
The ghostly swish of habit, uniform,  
Murmur of blessed words to quiet fear,  
A whisper of hope to ease the spirit's storm.  
Victoria hails a century of care  
Composed of work and medicine and prayer.

by Margaret Grahame Collins



## HISTORY OF ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL

by Sister Margaret Doris

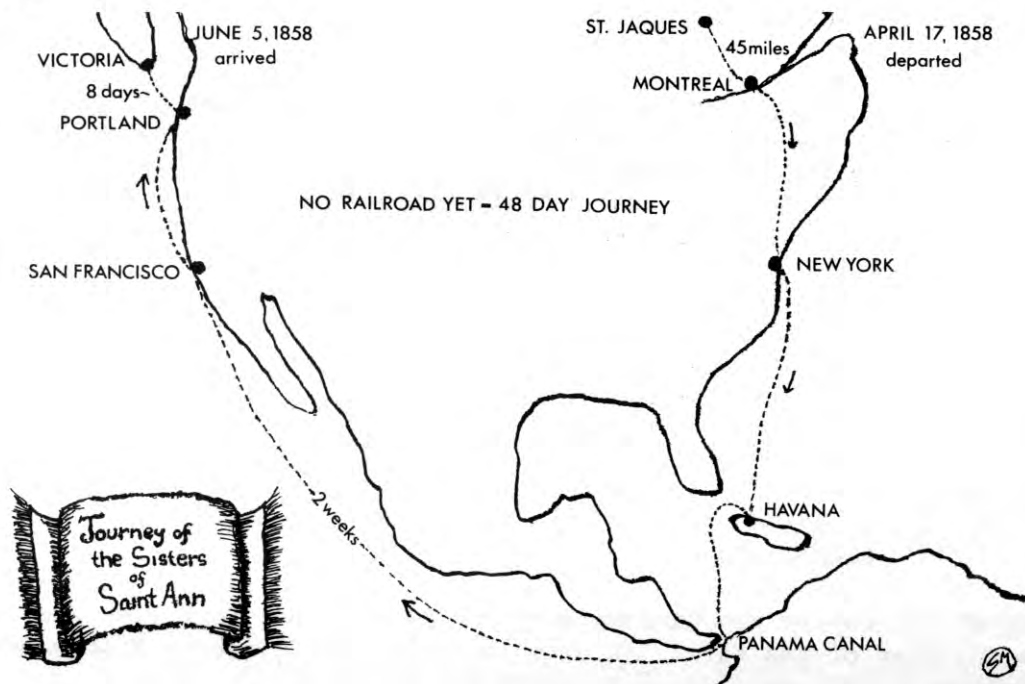
On June 25, 1976, Victoria General Hospital will celebrate a century of continuous service to the citizens of Victoria and Vancouver Island.

The hospital, founded in 1876 by the Sisters of St. Ann, is the tangible result of the interest and dedication of early pioneer Sisters to the health care needs of a growing colony. However, one must go back to a much earlier period to fully appreciate and understand how the original St. Joseph's Hospital came into being.

The year was 1857, five years before the City of Victoria was incorporated and even before British Columbia became a Crown Colony. The western and local community were still very young, but then as now, the population was growing rapidly. The first homes were being built outside the walls of the fort. Gold had been discovered in the Fraser River, bringing a rush of men and women seeking fame and fortune in the golden promise of this western wilderness.

Bishop Modeste Demers was the first Roman Catholic Bishop of the territory of Oregon as far north as, and including Alaska. He and the Factors of the Hudson Bay Company were concerned about Christian Education of the children of the fort. In order to solve this problem Bishop Demers

made the long and perilous journey to Eastern Canada to secure teachers for his western mission. It was not until after his arrival in Montreal that he heard of the new order of "Sisters of Saint Ann" which had been founded just seven years previously by Esther Sureau Blondin, later known as Sister Mary Ann. The response of the order to his request was overwhelming as all the 45 members of the young Order volunteered their services.



Four were chosen and they left Montreal for New York the following spring, leaving family and friends behind forever. From New York they sailed down the Atlantic Coast to Aspinwall where they crossed the Isthmus of Panama by the new railway.

"After crossing the newly made railroad the Sisters had to wait their chance to embark on one of the steamship tenders. Seventeen hundred passengers, all men, were waiting to board the steamer "John Ellis" then bound for San Francisco. It was found that to reach the boats they must be carried on the backs of Mulattoes .... one of the Sisters held on so gingerly that she was nearly dropped into the Pacific and an irate Mulatto scolded her soundly. Another one of them was very much more than average weight and her coloured steed demanded twice the fee of eight dollars." (1)

In San Francisco the Sisters had several days wait before finally obtaining passage on the "Seabird", bound for Victoria on its first and only Northern trip. A casual observer walking along Victoria's wooden inner harbour on Saturday, June 5, 1858, and looking seaward, would have noticed a tiny steamer making for port, her sails unfurled and her single smoke stack pouring out black smoke. The day was not unlike any other day to all outward appearances, yet on board that steamer were four young women whose personal lives would be forever changed by this venture, and whose arrival in Victoria would greatly influence the life of the small colony.

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(1)

N. de Bertrand Lugin, Pioneer Women of Vancouver Island (Victoria, The Womens' Canadian Club of Victoria, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, 1928) p. 138, 139.



These women were the Sisters of Saint Ann who had left Montreal the previous April to cast their lot with the people of the West Coast and whose names will be forever linked with theirs in history. They were by name: Sister Mary Angele, Sister Mary of the Conception, Sister Mary Lumena, Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart.

Upon their arrival in Victoria the Sisters were conducted by Bishop Demers and members of the local clergy to their log cabin home at the edge of Beacon Hill Park - a log cabin that became the first convent school in the Canadian West and the centre from which would originate organized Health Care on Vancouver Island.



This log cabin convent was thirty by eighteen feet. Sister Mary Angele records their first impression: "The cabin is divided in two by rough lumber. It is in a forlorn condition, windows without

panes, doors unhinged and without locks." The Sisters set to to ready the building and classes commenced the following Monday morning.

Teaching, it was soon learned, was not to be their only task. Within a few days of their arrival, not only had their first pupil arrived, but their first patient also - in a log cabin convent that was hardly large enough for the Sisters themselves. During the day it was the school house and at night rough mattresses were laid on the bare floors for their sleeping accommodations. Since the sick could not be brought to them, each evening the Sisters spent many hours visiting the homes of those who had asked for help.

As the demands for their ministries increased, it became obvious that more help was needed. Two more Sisters of Saint Ann arrived the following year from the East to join the original four; their names were Sister Mary Providence and Sister Mary Bon Secours. It was Sister Mary Providence who, with the urging of Bishop Charles Seghers and the guidance of Dr. John Sebastian Helmcken, undertook to build a hospital for the care of the sick. The first hospital was placed under the patronage of St. Joseph and given his name.

Sister Mary Providence was born Mary Ellen McTucker in Sligo, Northern Ireland, in the year 1836, of a socially prominent and wealthy family. Her formal education exceeded that of other young ladies of her time, and she firmly believed that education should form strong character.

Her father moved to Canada after the death of her mother and the loss of his personal fortune through the dishonesty of one of his trusted employees. Once her father was settled in Montreal, Mary Ellen [7]

McTucker entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Ann. In 1859, at the age of twenty-three years, she came West to assume responsibility of this western mission. She remained in British Columbia for over fifty years and devoted her life to the education of youth and the care of the sick.

The chronicles of the Sisters of Saint Ann of this period give us a word picture of the appearance and character of Sister Mary Providence at the time of her arrival in Victoria. The description is that of Dr. John Sebastian Helmcken, who had his first contact with the Sisters of Saint Ann in October of 1859, when he was asked to see one of the Sisters who had recently arrived from Montreal and who was ill following the journey.

Many years later, while standing beside the bier of Sister Mary Providence, he reminisced of his first impression: "I trumped up courage enough to go to the little school after dinner one day in October, 1859. Timorously, I gave a knock at the door. You know the place, it was the log cabin of 1858. I had never spoken to nuns or treated one, so I was quite a stranger. The door was promptly opened by a person of medium height in a nun's garb. She bade me 'good evening' and invited me into the little parlour. She then moved toward the nearby chairs with striking grace and dignity. I looked at her as she unfolded the details of the sister-patient's condition. I saw a countenance strikingly beautiful; a skin as fresh as a child's in the nursery; intelligent, serious eyes; and a firm chin which afforded me a glimpse of her strong character. In all, she was a striking picture of innocence, gravity, and unmistakable youthfulness, despite her important position of Superior. I decided then and there to help her out in every way, and I



kept my word. She was a willing worker, and later she founded the first hospital with the Sisters under my direction and request for it."

That meeting was the beginning of a long and friendly association between the doctor and the Sisters. He constantly oversaw their dedicated work for the sick and saw too how very hard they had to work to run both the convent and to provide the sick care needed in the young and growing city. (2)

Dr. Sebastian Helmcken was a man of no particular religious persuasion. Sister Mary Providence was a woman of living faith. Every time they met, they held an argument: the doctor in a humorous spirit to draw out the reasoning of his religious opponent he so liked to hear; the sister setting forth her proofs with a sincere desire of showing the truth. These interviews are summed up characteristically by a daughter of the doctor, "Dad and Sister Mary Providence always argued when they met and always parted the best of friends." (3)

From the first, Sister Mary Providence showed a great love for children and an empathy for those in need or suffering. It is not suprising then that Dr. J. S. Helmcken and Bishop Seghers found a willing ally in Sister Mary Providence to begin a hospital to treat the ill of the ever growing community.

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(2) Quoted by Sister Mary Theodore in Archives of the Sisters of Saint Ann.

(3) Hand-written notes of Sister Mary Theodore in Archives of the Sisters of Saint Ann. "The Old Doctor's Word Picture of the Young Superior of '58."



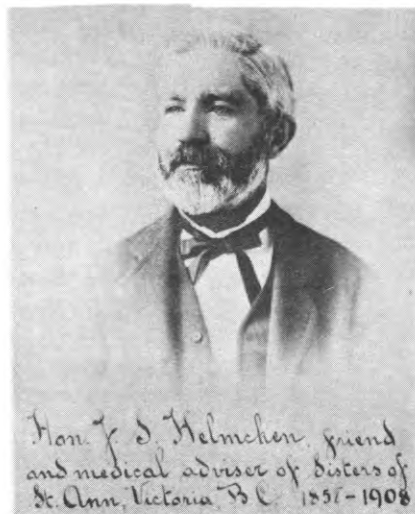
# OUR FOUNDERS

LEFT TO RIGHT  
BISHOP SEGHERS  
MOTHER M. PROVIDENCE  
SISTER M. GERTRUDE

J.S. HELMCKEN



**ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL 1876**



*Hon. J. S. Helmcken, friend  
and medical adviser of Sisters of  
St. Ann, Victoria, B.C. 1857-1908*



1860

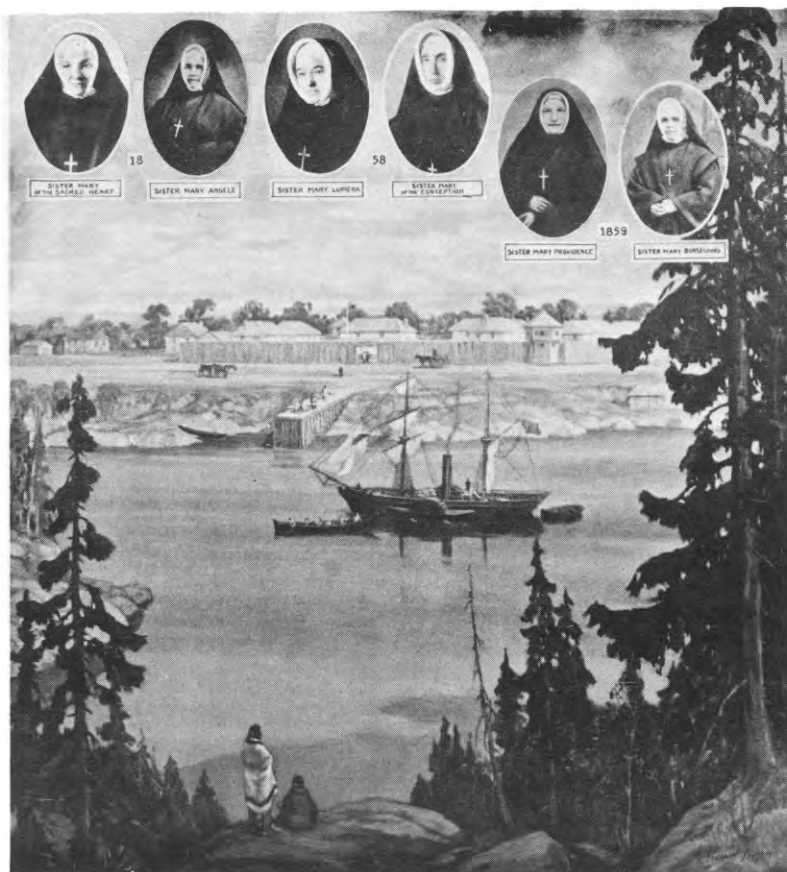
VIEW OF VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND.



[11]

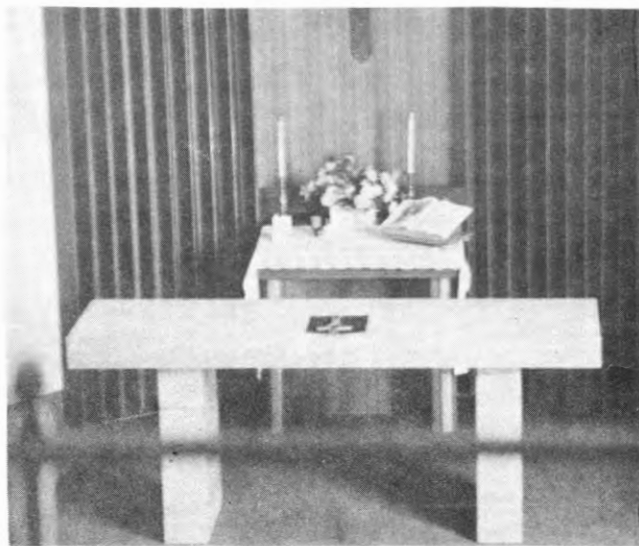
*Victoria B.C. 1858*







HOSPITAL CHAPEL - 1908



HOSPITAL CHAPEL - 1976

On November 10, 1874, the British Daily Colonist announced: "Messrs. F. Mctiernan, T. J. Barnes, Wm. Tierney and F. McGill have been requested by Bishop Seghers to solicit subscriptions for the erection of a hospital to be called St. Joseph's, and which will be entrusted to the Sisters of Charity. (4) All, who, like the writer, arrived from California in the very early days, and saw the noble devotion of the Sisters of Charity ministering to the wants of the poor and the friendless sick will rejoice to know that his institution is projected here."

An architect, James Symes, was found to design the hospital, and building commenced.

The first hospital, a two-storied brick building, was erected on the site of the present hospital, and which would be built onto in the coming years. The cost of the original building was \$13,900 (present day replacement value would be \$3,500,000.) and it would not be ready for its official opening until June 25, 1876.

Meanwhile, the Sisters were indeed very busy. The money would not stretch to cover everything, and where they could, they did everything to cut costs. Notes from the old diary tell us a little of their work: "In preparation for the home manufacture of hospital mattresses, all hands are at work picking wool from sheep-skins - thirty-

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(4) The congregation of the Sisters of St. Ann was formerly known as the Sisters of Charity.

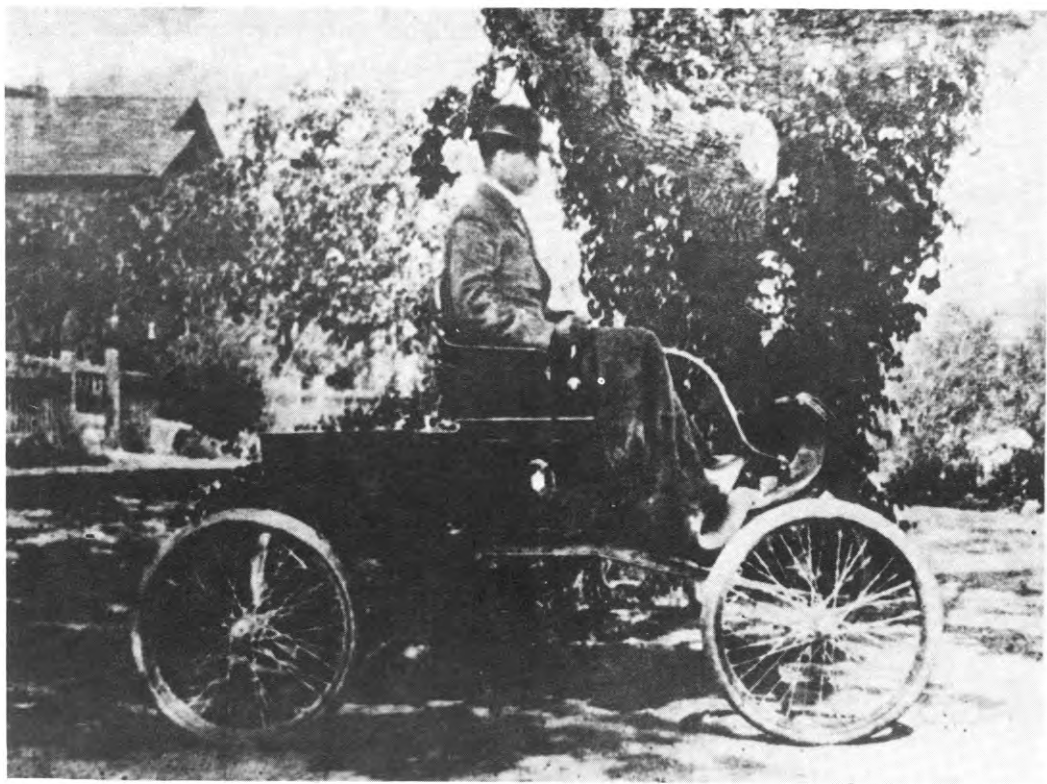
six picked today - seventy-five still remain to be done. The wool must first be pulled, and then washed several times. The work is repugnant to touch and smell but motivation is proof against objection. Sixty-five among us, including the Sisters, orphans and boarders, sat courageously before the task of picking two hundred and fifty pounds of wool while two Sisters made the mattresses."

There being, as yet, no Canadian or American manufacturer of Hospital equipment, Bishop Seghers ordered the thirty-five beds to be sent out from Belgium.

In the meanwhile, as the hospital was being constructed, the Sisters were preparing themselves for their new responsibility of caring for the sick. Sister Mary Bridget and Sister Mary Virginia spent some time at St. Vincent's Hospital in Portland, Oregon, to acquire nursing experience to prepare themselves and others to treat the nursing problems which would come to them.

"The first nursing undertaken by the Sisters of Saint Ann began in 1855 when Sister Mary Angele, one of the first four Sisters to come to Victoria, was appointed to care for the sick in their homes after school hours. The dual activity continued until June 25, 1876, when Bishop Seghers handed to Mother Mary Providence the keys which opened the doors of the new hospital. This action officially added nursing to the works of the Sisters of Saint Ann on Vancouver Island." (5)

And thus began the first day of a century of public community service in health care.



1902





DOCTORS IN 1912



SOME EARLY PATIENTS

The Sisters introduced a type of Hospital Insurance Plan administered by a society called St. Joseph's Hospital Society. The benefits outlined by this organization were that:

"All persons in good health, without distinction of age, sex, creed or colour, can become members on payment of one dollar a month." A fee of five dollars was requested of any new member joining after September 30, 1876, and \$100 purchased a life membership. Members were entitled to free admission to the hospital; visits of the hospital doctor at a reduced rate; and medicines free of charge. Any surplus funds were earmarked for the free treatment of patients devoid of means. (6)

Among the first doctors to practice in the new hospital were, in addition to Dr. Helmcken, Drs. Trimble, Jackson and Barnard. The first visiting physician was Dr. Ash. The first patient to be admitted was a Mr. Bowden, a charity case without friends or means.

Despite the fact that the hospital was constantly harassed by financial problems, the records of 1886 showed that expansion was necessary to meet the growing demand for services. There were forty-four patients now being treated in an accommodation built to service thirty-five. There was no operating room and surgery was being performed in any available room. Thus, in 1888 the addition of a third storey to the original hospital permitted an increase in bed capacity and much needed

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(6) Chronicles of St. Joseph's Hospital, 1876.

facilities as an operating room, laundry, dynamo for electricity, and a hot water heating system.

Expansions continued over the succeeding years. Each one increasing the bed capacity and the clinical facilities, in keeping with advances in medical and nursing technology.

The year 1900 saw the realization of a hope that had existed in the minds of the founders of the hospital as far back as 1875, when Dr. J. S. Helmcken alluded to the founding of a School of Nursing during the ceremony of the laying of the cornerstone of the original hospital. On that occasion the Daily British Colonist newspaper of August 22, 1875, quoted him: "He thought it a great point in favour of this particular institution that it would be under the care of the Sisters of Saint Ann, as this would guarantee good nursing, which was more important than medicine, and it would be valuable if only for a school of nursing." (7)

The founder and first superintendent of nurses was Sister Mary Gertrude of Jesus. "These were the days of beginnings. Text-books on the science and practice of nursing were not to be had. Neither had any general programme been determined. Sister Mary Gertrude planned both and took upon herself, as well, the office of Instructor." (8) Sister believed strongly that nurses needed to combine skill and efficiency with science and knowledge. Sister Mary Gertrude maintained

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(7) Daily British Colonist, November 10, 1874.

(8) Sister Mary Gertrude, a profile in the Fiftieth Year Book  
Souvenir, 1900 - 1950.

her standard of nursing education amid great difficulties and opposition and always believed that sound theory must precede good nursing practice.

The first student to graduate from the School was a Mr. Anthony Williams, and since that time to the present year, 2,404 student nurses have graduated from St. Joseph's School of Nursing. Many graduates of the School of Nursing have served in the Armed Services during two World Wars and their names are listed in Appendix B. Other graduates have carried their nursing knowledge and skills to almost every corner of the world and the School is proud of their achievements and contribution to world health.

And so St. Joseph's, the oldest public hospital in Victoria, grew in size and complexity. The original hospital of 1875, with its 35 beds, has been replaced through renovation and construction down through the years to its present bed complement of 428. Its modern clinical facilities, now stretching east and west from Rupert to Blanshard, and north and south from Fairfield to Humboldt Streets.

In 1967 the Sisters of Saint Ann announced their decision to withdraw from the direction of the hospital and the administration passed into lay hands. Thus ending a long line of capable Sister-Administrators which had begun 91 years earlier with Mother Mary Providence.

"The year 1972 was a significant milestone in the history

of St. Joseph's Hospital, for it marked the virtual end of an era. The Sisters of Saint Ann, who had founded the institution 96 years ago, completed their withdrawal from the direction of the hospital and transferred its ownership to the public community represented by the Southern Vancouver Island Hospital Society.

"The gift that the Sisters of Saint Ann donate to the people of this area is more than land, buildings or equipment. It is a living institution with a long tradition of service to the sick and the injured, irrespective of race, colour or creed in every condition or standing in Society." (9)

This was the legacy and the responsibility assumed by the new administration which has continued without interruption to the citizens of Greater Victoria.

A hospital, with all it encompasses, remains only a building without the determination and dedication of all its staff: administrative, medical, para-medical, auxiliary, and without the love and support of the people it serves.

The Hospital Ladies Auxiliary has worked continuously for the good of the hospital and the welfare of the patients since the very beginning, and has had a procession of interested, tireless workers support its cause.

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(9) Address of Sister Eileen Kelly, Provincial Superior, Sisters of Saint Ann, Annual Report, St. Joseph's Hospital, 1971.

The Alumnae Association of the School of Nursing, founded in 1920, has provided bursaries for nurse education, teaching equipment and a hundred and one other niceties to make student life a break from the demands and pressure of the daily routines.

Tribute is here given to these groups who have made this hospital great and helped to make the dream of Mother Mary Providence and Dr. J. S. Helmcken a living reality.

At the right side of the main entrance of the Victoria General Hospital is a small bronze plaque which reads:



[22]

No greater promise could be made to the Sisters of Saint Ann and the people of Victoria.



### Acknowledgement of References

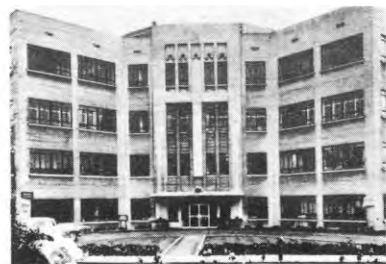
- (1) N. de Bertrand Lugin, Pioneer Women of Vancouver Island (Victoria, The Womens' Canadian Club of Victoria, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, 1928) p. 138, 139.
- (2) Quoted by Sister Mary Theodore in Archives of the Sisters of Saint Ann.
- (3) Hand written notes of Sister Mary Theodore in Archives of the Sisters of Saint Ann. "The old Doctor's Word Picture Book of the young Superior of 1858."
- (4) The congregation of the Sisters of Saint Ann was formerly known as the Sisters of Charity.
- (5) Catholic Sentinel, June 26, 1876.
- (6) Chronicles of St. Joseph's Hospital, 1876.
- (7) Daily British Colonist, November 10, 1874.
- (8) Sister Mary Gertrude, a profile in the Fiftieth Year Souvenir Book, 1900 - 1950.
- (9) Address of Sister Eileen Kelly, Provincial Supervisor, Sisters of Saint Ann, Annual Report, St. Joseph's Hospital, 1971.

# as we



**AERIAL VIEW 1960**

# grew...



# ADMINISTRATORS

SISTER MARY ZIMMER



1859-n.a.

SISTER MARY BRIDGET

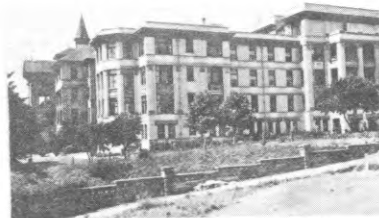


1895-1898 1904-1917

SISTER MARGARET



1917-1919



ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL 1929

REV. MOTHER MARK



1919-1925

SISTER MARY JUDITH



1925-1931

SISTER MARY LUDOVIC



1931-1935

# ADMINISTRATORS

SISTER M. ALFREDA



1935-1941

SISTER M. KATHLEEN



1941-1947

SISTER M. ROSEMARY

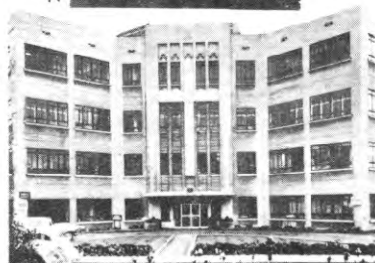


1947-1953

SISTER M. ANGELUS



1953-1959



ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL - VICTORIA GENERAL HOSPITAL

SISTER M. CELESTA



1961-1964

SISTER M. LUCITA



1965-1966

D. R. VAN TILBURG



1967-1971

M. R. J. FAIR



1973-

# MEDICAL

# DIRECTORS



DR. A. BRUNET  
1953-1956



DR. R. ADAMS  
1962-1966



DR. D. CARLOW  
1975-present



DR. VANTILBURG  
1966-1967



DR. BOETTCHER  
1956-1961



DR. THOMPSON  
1967-1969



# DIRECTORS OF NURSING

SISTER M. GERTRUDE



1900-1913

SISTER M. ANNA



1913-1924

Free Home - 1918



OSBORNE COURT 1918

SISTER M. ALFREDA



1924-1926

SISTER M. GREGORY



1926-1932 1935-1936  
1937-1948 1950-1954

SISTER M. GABRIELLA



1933-1934

SISTER M. BEATRICE



1936-1937

# DIRECTORS OF NURSING

SISTER M. CLARE

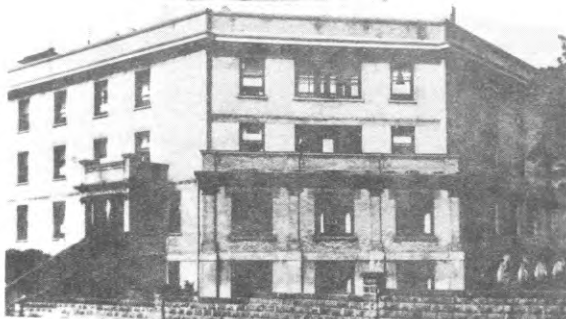


1949-1950

SISTER M. LUCITA



1954-1957



NURSES RESIDENCE 1929

SISTER M. JUSTINIAN



1957-1959 SCHOOL  
1959-1962 NURSING

SISTER M. RONALDA



1959-1962  
SCHOOL

1966-1968  
NURSING

SISTER M. DORIS



1962-1966  
SCHOOL

1968-1972  
NURSING

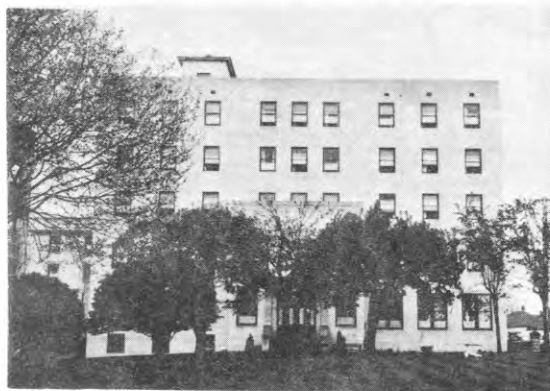
MISS L. KNIGHTON



1969-1974

# DIRECTORS OF NURSING

SISTER M LAURIENE 1964-1965



NURSES RESIDENCE 1942

SISTER M ANNE



1962-1964

MISS B. BURKE



1973-?

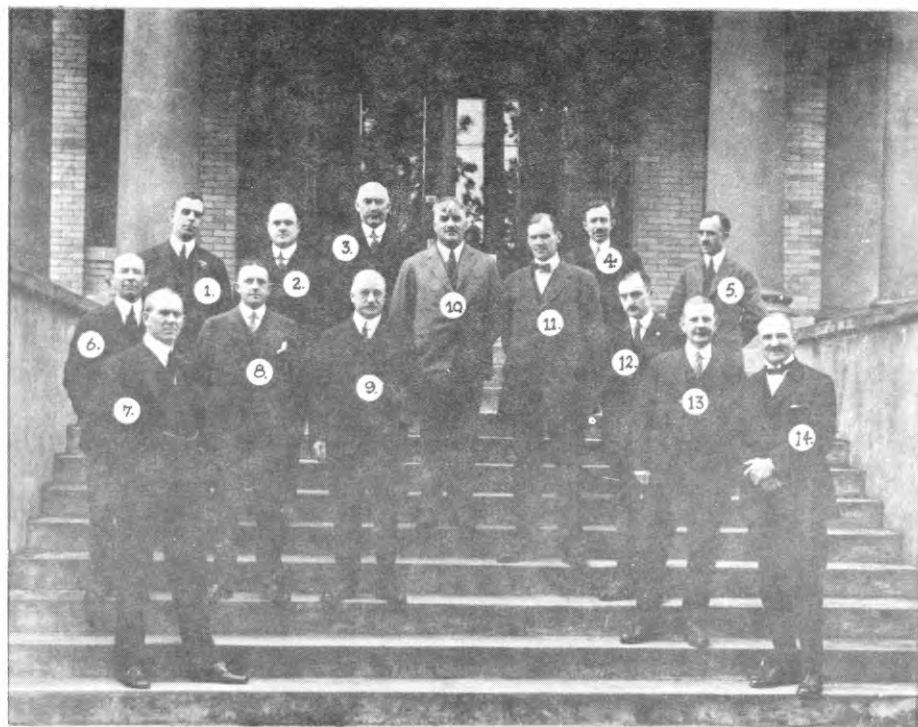
MRS. SIMPSON



1965-1968

[31]

**FIRST MEDICAL STAFF EXECUTIVE OF ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL, VICTORIA, B.C.-1919.**



1. Dr. F.M. BRYANT.  
2. Dr. L.K. POYNTZ.  
3. Dr. R.L. FRASER.  
4. Dr. J.M. FOWLER.  
5. Dr. H.J. WASSON.

6. Dr. J.W. LENNOX.  
7. Dr. M.J. KEYS.  
8. Dr. A.E. McMICKING.  
9. Dr. A.W. KENNING.  
10. Dr. W.T. BARRETT.

11. Dr. H.M. ROBERTSON  
12. Dr. J.H. MOORE.  
13. Dr. D.B. HOLDEN.  
14. Dr. GEO. HALL.

# INTERNES



T. BRIGGS 1914-1915



F. BRYANT 1911-1912



J. FOWLER 1912-1913



FIRST AID

FIRST



M. RAYNOR 1910-1911



[34]

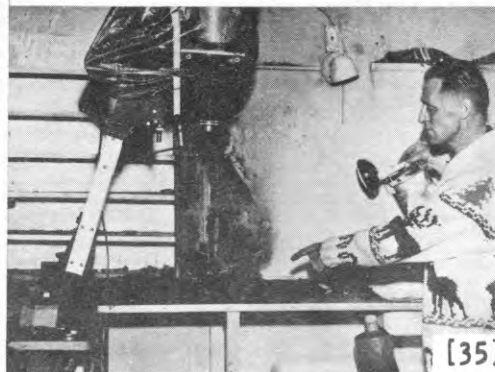
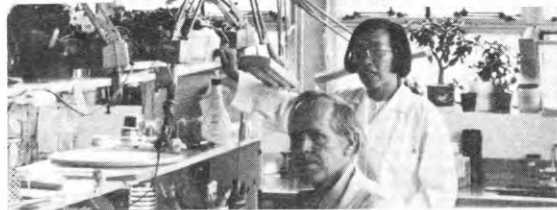
TRANSFER OF HOSPITAL FEBRUARY 1972  
FROM THE SISTERS OF ST. ANN TO THE COMMUNITY



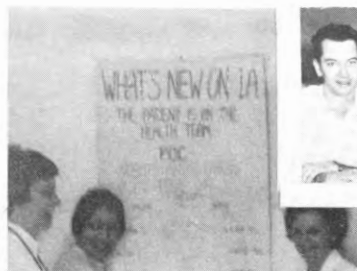
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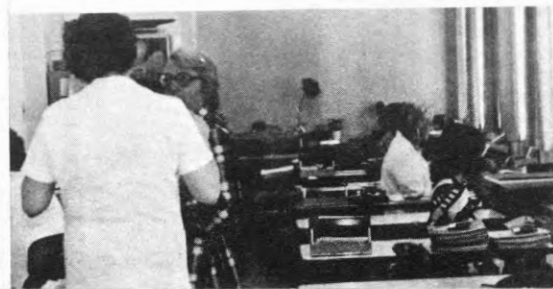
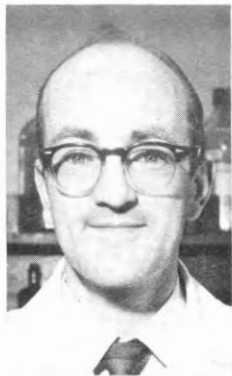
← WRITE NAMES IN WHITE SPACES →

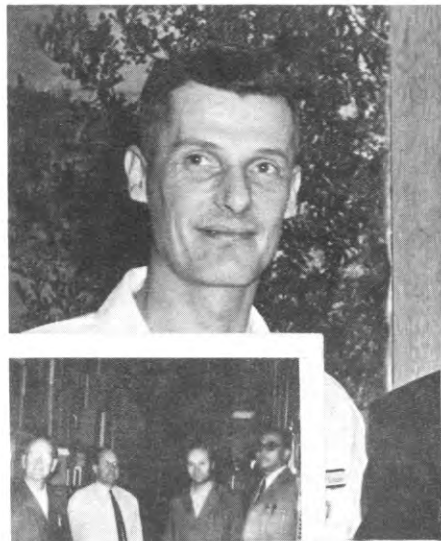
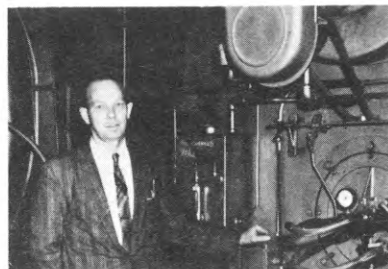
ROOM FOR NAMES



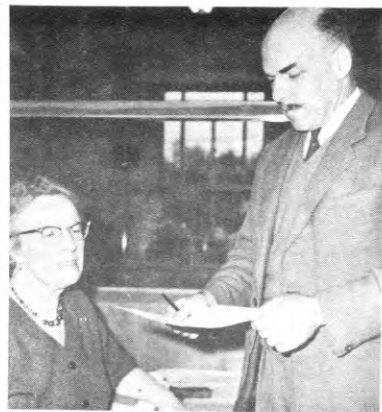
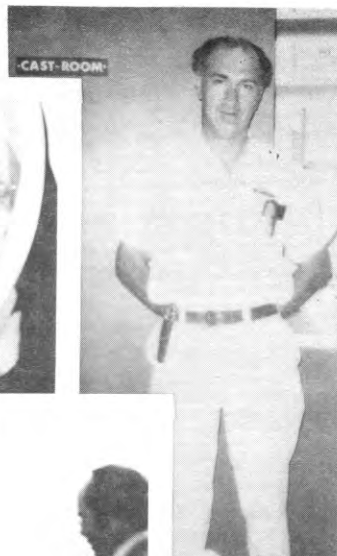






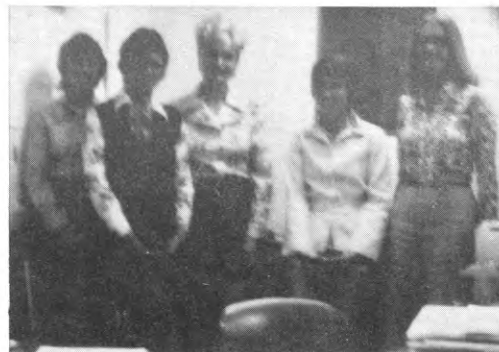
















### THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

STANDING, LEFT TO RIGHT: MR. G.A. GLOECHLER, MISS B E. BURKE, DR.D.R. CARLOW, MR. L. RYAN, MAJOR C.E. GOODMAN, MR. J B. MURRAY  
 SITTING, LEFT TO RIGHT: SISTER M. DORIS, MR. G.R. HUTCHISON, MR. A.S. SAUNDERS, DR.H.L. LEWIS, MR. C.E. HORWOOD, MR. J.S. FAIR  
 MR. J. D. WATTS, DR.W. BILLUNG-MEYER, MRS. C.M. PICKUP, MR. A.N. PATTERSON, MRS. D. E. KENNEDY, DR. M.J. ASHWOOD-SMITH, MR. P.M. O'BRIEN

## PROGRESS THROUGH THE YEARS

by Mary Dumas

### Looking Back:

- |      |   |           |   |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------|---|-----------|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1874 | - | November  | - | Approval given for a new hospital under the direction of the Sisters of St. Anne.                                                                                                                           |
| 1875 | - | March     | - | Appointment of building Committee:<br>Mr. Francis Ganseshe<br>Mr. James Lenihan<br>Mr. Edgar Marsun<br>Mr. Patrick McTiernan                                                                                |
| 1875 | - | April     | - | Plans of Architect Mr. James Syme, approved.                                                                                                                                                                |
| 1875 | - | June 16   | - | Blessing of new hospital site by Bishop Seghers.                                                                                                                                                            |
| 1875 | - | July 28   | - | Construction began.                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1875 | - | August 21 | - | Laying of the corner stone by Dr. John Sebastian Helmcken.                                                                                                                                                  |
| 1876 | - | April 17  | - | New hospital ..... doors to ..... patient                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 1876 | - | June 7    | - | The holy sacrifice of the mass was offered for the first time in the hospital chapel by Bishop C. Seghers, assisted by Rev. J. J. Jonckau. The hospital was blessed at this time by Bishop [45] C. Seghers. |

- 1876 - June 25 - First official opening and dedication ceremonies of the St. Joseph's Hospital.  
35 beds ... two storey brick structure, serving a population of 6000  
Cost: \$13,900  
Staff of four Sisters and one handyman  
  
The first patient was a Chinese workman who was admitted during the opening festivities. The workman, also, had the distinction of being the first emergency. Government statistics (1876) show 139 births and 79 deaths in the City of Victoria.
- 1876 - Ladies Auxiliary to St. Joseph's Hospital formed.
- 1877 - The Colonist newspaper dated July 18, 1877, reported on a great surgical operation performed May 31, 1877, by Dr. Davie and Dr. Helmcken and staff at St. Joseph's. The operation, an "ovariotomy", in those days had a mortality rate of 50%. The patient fully recovered.
- 1888 - Third storey - 13 private rooms increased bed capacity to 48  
First operating room  
Laundry  
Dynamo for electricity  
Cost: \$42, 622.

- 1897
  - 24 additional beds for patients
  - 3 operating rooms
  - X-Ray
  - Passenger elevator
  - Cost: \$38,000.
  
- 1900
  - School of Nursing opened.
  - Victoria population: 23,700.
  
- 1908
  - Five storey unit containing private and semi-private rooms.
  - Maternity
  - Dormitory for students
  - Combination recreation and classroom
  - Dining Room
  - Opened by Premier McBride and Dr. Helmcken
  - Bed capacity of hospital: 150 patients
  - Cost: \$135,000.
  
- 1918
  - Hospital staffed by: 1 Chaplain
  - 2 Resident Doctors
  - 24 Sisters
  - 50 nurses-in-training
  - plus stewarts
  
- 1919
  - Osborne Court rented for a Nurses' Residence.
  
- 1920
  - St. Joseph's School of Nursing Alumnae formed.
  
- 1921
  - School of Medical Technology started
  - Average cost of ward bed: \$3.72 daily
  - Patients admitted: 2,376

Newborns: 117

1926

- Vernon Villa purchased for tuberculosis patients.

Cost: \$15,00

Victoria population: 59,000

Number of patients treated: 4,793

Staff: 3 Doctors

11 Graduate nurses

74 non-graduate nurses

1 orderly

40 other

1928

- Admissions: 2,662

Births: 262

Deaths: 117

Major Surgery performed: 345

Minor Surgery performed: 800

X-Ray examinations and treatments: 4,742

1929

- 40 maternity beds

Case Rooms

Nursery

Paediatric Department

X-Ray and Physiotherapy

Seven suite operating rooms

40 surgical beds

Students' dining room

New Nurses' Residence with accommodation for 120



- students. Cost: \$150,000  
Auditorium  
Classroom and library
- 1934 - 260 beds  
Patients admitted: 2,908  
Total staff: 189  
Weekly charge for ward beds: \$14-17
- 1940 - St. Joseph's Villa  
Cost: \$49,800  
40 bed Tuberculosis Unit
- 1942 - Annex to Nurses' Residence  
Cost: \$71,000  
Two classrooms  
Instructors' offices  
Tea Room
- 1945 - St. Joseph's Hospital became the first hospital  
in Canada to accept Red Cross Blood Transfusion  
Service.
- 1946 - 269 beds (includes St. Joseph's Villa)  
45 bassinets  
Patients admitted: 6,951  
Newborns: 857  
Total paid employees: 395
- 1950 - Four storey ward-bed accommodation for medical  
and surgical nursing. Cost: \$324,450

Piped-in oxygen  
Diet Kitchen  
Eye Department  
Gynaecology Units  
Rooming-in maternity service  
Record Room  
Cost: \$287,800

- 1952 - 70 bed Paediatric Unit. Cost: \$1,104,600  
Admitting Office  
Emergency and Out Patient  
Laboratory  
Central Supply  
New Operating Room Theatre
- 1954 - Total patients admitted: 10,540  
Newborns: 1,279  
Radiology patients examined  
Emergency visits: 8,930  
Total personnel: 740
- 1955 - St. Joseph's Villa closed for tuberculosis patients.
- 1956 - The Annex (formerly St. Joseph's Villa) reopened with 32 beds for medical services.  
Total patients admitted: 11,992  
Newborns: 1,671
- 1960 - The Tonography Laboratory was established,

- providing the only ophthalmology laboratory services on Vancouver Island.
- 1962 - May - A four bed Intensive Care Unit was opened.
  - 1965 - The Annex changed into an "Isolation Unit" serving the needs of all adult patients in the Greater Victoria area with communicable diseases (35 beds).
  - 1966 - Total patient admissions: 12,653  
Newborns: 968  
Total operations (in and out-patients): 9,726  
Emergencies: 10,659  
Total full-time staff: 542  
Total medical (doctors and interns): 12
  - 1968 - February 12 - A new Coronary Care Unit officially opened.
  - 1971 - The A. W. Toone Burns Care Unit opened with all specialized facilities required for the care of acute burn patients.
  - 1972 - On February 11, the Sisters of Saint Anne turned the hospital over to the South Vancouver Island Hospital Society. Name was changed to Queen Victoria General Hospital and finally to Victoria General Hospital.
- The Ambulatory Care Unit officially opened on March 6, treating and serving 9,052 patients in its first nine months of operations.

Four beds on the Paediatric Unit were made into an Intensive Care Unit.

Patients admitted: 15,381

Newborns: 956

Emergency Department patients: 26,428

Surgical operations performed: 11,210

1973 - June

- The City of Victoria started the Ambulance Service, operating from the Victoria General's Emergency Department.

1974

- This saw the opening of a new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit with a capacity for 6-7 patients.

1975

- The Ambulance Service was taken over by the Provincial Government on January 1.  
A new 8-bed Intensive Care Unit was opened January 27. This was designed to provide optimal care for seriously ill patients.  
Acupuncture Clinic opened on October 1.

422 beds

48 bassinets

Patients admitted: 13,709

Newborns: 1,212

Emergency Department patients: 40,817

Surgical operations - in-patients: 12,613  
out-patients: 5,548

Total full-time personnel: 1,041  
Victoria population approximately 225,000

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Sources of Information

1. The Colonist Newspaper, 1876 onward.
2. Report on Hospital Statistics Administration of Hospital Act (1921, 24, 26, 28, 34, 36, 46).
3. Hospital's Annual Report (1954, 56, 66, 72 and 75).
4. Archives of the Sisters of Saint Anne.

NURSES IN THE ARMED FORCESTwenty-Eight Nurses with the Expeditionary Forces in  
World War I

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year of Graduation</u>
Anderson, Edith . . . . .	1915
Butler, Evelyn . . . . .	1915
Backadder, Christina . . . . .	1915
*Bloomquist, Thora . . . . .	1911
Craihead, Mina . . . . .	1913
Duffy, Agnes . . . . .	1915
Garrard, Lillian . . . . .	1913
Gray, Edna . . . . .	1916
Green, Monica . . . . .	1906
Hall, Emily . . . . .	1913
Howard, Winnifred . . . . .	1915
Hutchison, Gwendolyn . . . . .	1916
Keene, Dorothy . . . . .	1915
Kirk, May . . . . .	1913
Middleton, Joanne . . . . .	1915
Morris, Jane . . . . .	1913

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year of Graduation</u>
Morrison, Beatrice . . . . .	1916
McBride, Martha . . . . .	1911
McDonald, Hazel . . . . .	1913
McKenzie, Jessie . . . . .	1913
Pugh, Fanny . . . . .	1913
*Saunders, Ethel . . . . .	1906
Sennet, Anna . . . . .	1905
Spinks, Eva . . . . .	1911
**Starrat, Myrtle . . . . .	1917
Thomas, Elizabeth . . . . .	1912
Thompson, Louise . . . . .	1910
Walker, Violet . . . . .	1917

\* Honoured for outstanding service and awarded the Royal Red Cross

\*\* On active service in both World Wars



Six Nurses with the Royal Canadian Navy, World War II

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year of Graduation</u>
Cameron, Ellen . . . . .	1928
Graham, Marjorie . . . . .	1933
Laturnus, Monica . . . . .	1941
Stewart, Diane . . . . .	1937
Stibbard, Evelyn . . . . .	1922
Rawson, Dorothy . . . . .	1936

Six Nurses with the Royal Canadian Air Force, World War II

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year of Graduation</u>
Blackwood, Nathalie . . . . .	1940
Bowen, Doris . . . . .	1940
Greenwood, Joyce . . . . .	1940
Herchmer, Betty . . . . .	1929
McTavish, Ruth . . . . .	1936
Nelson, Kerstin . . . . .	1941

Five Nurses with the South African Medical Army Nursing  
Service, World War II

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year of Graduation</u>
Ahier, Muriel . . . . .	1934
Bischlager, Doris . . . . .	1937
Dopson, Frances . . . . .	1935
Meagher, Ellen . . . . .	1927
Thompson, Mavis . . . . .	1935

Two Nurses with the British Imperial Army, World War II

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year of Graduation</u>
Hardy, Molly . . . . .	1927
Scott, Barbara . . . . .	1938

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year of Graduation</u>
*Leahy, Nora . . . . .	1939
Macbean, Marjorie . . . . .	1943
Martin, Nellie . . . . .	1930
Matterson, Frances . . . . .	1944
McCallum, Maureen . . . . .	1943
Murphy, Marie . . . . .	1934
O'Leary, Myrtle . . . . .	1917
Peatt, Ellen . . . . .	1940
Purves, Jean . . . . .	1930
Pollock, Helen . . . . .	1938
Prat, Mary . . . . .	1940
Riley, Kathleen . . . . .	1939
*Robinson, Eileen . . . . .	1936
Sarsons, Phyllis . . . . .	1940
Thomas, Jean . . . . .	1940
Turner, Jane . . . . .	1940
Watson, Grace . . . . .	1943
Weber, Marion . . . . .	1942
[58] Wilson, Ruth . . . . .	1935

\* Received Honour mention in Dispatches and awarded  
the Royal Red Cross

Thirty-Seven Nurses with the Royal Canadian Army Medical  
Corps, World War II

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<u>Name</u>	<u>Year of Graduation</u>
Aitken, Catherine . . . . .	1938
Anderson, Helen . . . . .	1941
Anderson, Louise . . . . .	1942
Beveridge, Margaret . . . . .	1949
Burnes, Muriel . . . . .	1932
Cairnes, Jean . . . . .	1940
Ciceri, Jean . . . . .	1942
Collyer, Catherine . . . . .	1943
Cooney, Jean . . . . .	1939
Crampton, Frances . . . . .	1932
Curell, Eileen . . . . .	1942
Devereaux, Catherine . . . . .	1925
Drabinasty, Marie . . . . .	1941
Fontana, Jean . . . . .	1932
Fraser, Mona Neff . . . . .	1926
Gowans, Geraldine . . . . .	1938
Grant, Margaret . . . . .	1933
Higgins, Mildred . . . . .	1942

# Eighteen Nurses with the United States Army and the American Air Force in World War II ---

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year of Graduation</u>
Balcaen, Cecilia . . . . .	1940
Boyce, Catherine . . . . .	1934
Campbell, Urith . . . . .	1939
Charlebois, Lillian . . . . .	1925
*Drummond, Margaret . . . . .	1940
Dumont, Adele . . . . .	1940
Dynes, Irene . . . . .	1928
Hartley, Mabel . . . . .	1924
Jones, Etta . . . . .	1941
Mayer, Sylvia . . . . .	1940
McCaffrey, Mary . . . . .	1934
McCaig, Ruth . . . . .	1937
Perry, Helen . . . . .	1940
Raper, Muriel . . . . .	1941
Severse, Virginia . . . . .	1940
Smedley, Margaret . . . . .	1936
Spurr, Geneva . . . . .	1928
Teto, Helen . . . . .	1933

[60]      \* Only nurse with the American Air Force

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