

In 1845 the General Hospital was established by the Grey Nuns, a number of the members of this sisterhood coming from the Hôtel-Dieu, Montreal, for this purpose. The first hospital was a frame building on the north side of St. Patrick Street, near Sussex Street. This building is still to be seen as Nos. 163, 165, 167 and 169. It was occupied until 1847, when the epidemic of typhoid fever necessitated greater accommodation. A new building was then erected on the property of the present hospital on Water Street. This consisted of large frame buildings, which were situated near the present hospital. They were occupied until 1862, when part of the present stone building was erected, that part which we have known as the hospital until the recent large wing was added. No regular staff was organized until 1859. Dr. Van Courtlandt was in charge until 1850; he was succeeded by a Dr. Robillchaud; then followed in 1851 Dr. Lacroix, in 1852 Dr. Lang, and later in the same year Dr. Beaubien. The first regular staff was organized a year or two later, and consisted of Dr. H. Hill, consulting physician, and Drs. Beaubien and Dr. St. Jean, attending physicians.

The County of Carleton General Protestant Hospital was the outcome of the fever epidemic of 1847. The necessity of providing adequate accommodation for the sick poor had been most evident. Many desired a hospital to be supported by public subscriptions and under the control of the public, and their efforts resulted in the establishment of this hospital. The charter was obtained in 1851, and the hospital was opened in the same year. The incorporators were as follows:—John McKinnon, Geo. Patterson, Wm. Stewart, Hamnett Hill, Arch. Foster, Roderick Ross, Robert Hervey, Jr.; Jno. McCracken, Sen.; Francis Abbott, Thos. Langrell, Thos. Hunton, Rich. Stethem, Geo. B. Lyon, Wm. Hart Thompson, Hon. Thos. McKay, John Thomson, Ed. Malloch, James Peacock, Geo. Hay, Alex. McP. Grant, Wm. Paton, Henry McCormac, John Forgie, Ed. Armstrong, Jas. Rochester, Carter H. Burpee, Ed. Sherwood, Dawson Kerr, Thos. G. Burns. The old stone building recently occupied for contagious diseases was the original hospital, and was retained until 1875.

The earliest staff consisted of Drs. Hill and Van Courtlandt, to which Dr. Sewell and Dr., now Sir James Grant, were shortly added, and they constituted the staff in the closing days of Bytown.

The doctors of those days—what do we know of them? They, who on foot or on horseback trod the paths we now so comfortably follow, have passed away, and, with the exception of one or two who reached our generation, are long since forgotten.