

Early Brantford/Brant County Doctors

Brantford

John Young Bown was born on December 30, 1821 in Dorsetshire, England. Although he studied law for several years in Toronto he was never called to the bar. After returning to England to study medicine Bown came to Brantford to begin his medical practice. In addition to his work as a physician, Dr. Bown was elected to the 7th Parliament of the Province of Canada for the riding of East Brant in 1861 and again in 1863 and served one term as a member of parliament for Brant North from 1867 to 1872. Dr. Bown died on September 26, 1890 at his home on the corner of George and Nelson streets in Brantford (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, October 3, 1890, p. 9) and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

Edwin Theodore Bown, the younger brother of John Young Bown, was born in London, England in 1830. He earned his Bachelor of Medicine degree at the University of Trinity College in Toronto in 1855. Dr. Bown opened his medical practice in Brantford in 1854 and spent his entire professional career there. He also served as the Corner of the County of Brant and as Surgeon of the 38th Battalion. Edwin Bown died on August 6, 1872 in Brantford (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, October 11, 1872, p. 3) and is buried in the family vault in Hamilton, Ontario.

Henry James Cole was born in June 1849 in Brantford Township. He attended Trinity College in Toronto to study medicine. Immediately after graduation Dr. Cole started his practice in Brantford and continued to treat patients for over half a century, a record in Brantford at that time. Henry Cole died on September 1, 1921 at his home at 21 Nelson Street (**Brantford Expositor**, September 1, 1921, p. 6) and is buried in Mount Hope Cemetery.

William C. Corson was born on March 7, 1829 in Darlington Township, Durham County, Ontario. He studied literature at Victoria College in Coburg, Ontario before pursuing medical studies with his brother, Dr. J. W. Corson, in New York City. After graduating with honours from the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1854, he was appointed as attending physician of the New York Dispensary where he worked for twelve years. Deciding to leave New York because of poor health, he moved to Brantford in 1866 to continue his medical career. Dr. Corson was named the doctor of the Ontario Institution for the Education of the Blind when it opened in 1872 and held this position until his death on August 5, 1888 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, August 10, 1888, p. 3). William Corson is buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Brantford. See Warner's 1883 History (p. 255 of PDF) for additional information.

Alfred Digby was born in January 1806 in Ireland. When he emigrated to Canada he lived in Montreal before moving to Hamilton and then Brantford. Dr. Digby succeeded Dr. A. Gilpin in 1835 and was the first physician in the town of Brantford. He was appointed as the surgeon to the Six Nations Indians, a position he held until his death. Elected to the first town council in 1847, he also served as the town's mayor in 1848 and 1849. Dr. Digby died on June 12, 1866 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, June 15, 1866, p. 3) and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery. See Warner's 1883 History (p. 256 of PDF) for additional information.

James Winniett Digby, son of Alfred Digby, was born in Brantford on March 13, 1842. After graduating from McGill Medical College in Montreal in 1862 he worked in New York City hospitals before being appointed as a surgeon during the American Civil War. He returned to Brantford in June 1866 to take over his father's medical practice and it wasn't long before he had the largest practice in town. Dr. James Digby served as the town's mayor in 1875, 1876, and 1877. He died on May 29, 1906 and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery (**Brantford Expositor**, May 29, 1906, p. 1). See Warner's 1883 History (p. 256 of PDF) for additional information.

Reginald Winniett Digby, son of James W. Digby, spent his entire fifty-year career as a physician in Brantford. He was born in the city on October 10, 1889. Digby graduated with a medical degree from Montreal's McGill University in 1912 and served in the army during World War I until 1919 when he returned to the city to practice medicine. Later, he was the medical officer of the Dufferin and Haldimand Rifles. Dr. Reginald Digby died suddenly at his home at 42 Wellington Street on October 16, 1962 and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery (**Brantford Expositor**, October 16, 1962, p. 1). His two sons, James R., in Brantford, and John W., in Toronto, continued the family tradition of practicing medicine.

Egerton Griffin was born in Waterdown, Ontario circa 1828. He graduated from Trinity Medical College in Toronto as well as the New York Medical College. After spending a year working in New York City he started his practice in Brantford in 1854. Shortly after he came to Brantford, Dr. Griffin was appointed as Surgeon of the Brantford Jail, a position he held until his death. He was also the Mohawk Institute's physician and Coroner for the County of Brant. As Medical Health Officer for the city he made sure that sewer and waterworks systems were set up. Egerton Griffin died at home on August 6, 1897 and is buried in the Mohawk burying ground (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, August 12, 1897, p. 10).

William T. Harris was born in Onondaga Township, Brant County in January 1852. After being educated at Brantford public schools and Upper Canada College, he graduated from Trinity College in 1874 with a Bachelor of Medicine degree. Dr. Harris started his practice in Langford, Brant County in 1874 before moving to Brantford in the fall of 1875. He was surgeon for the Dufferin Rifles from 1877 until his death, one of the surgeons at the Brant County Jail, president of the Brant County Medical Association, and an alderman for many years. William T. Harris died at his home on the corner of Park Avenue and Colborne Street on August 26, 1896 in Brantford (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, August 28, 1896, p. 12) and is buried at the old Mohawk Church.

Alfred J. Henwood, the son of Reginald Henwood, was born on January 1, 1855. He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at McGill University in 1879. Dr. Henwood took over his father's medical practice after his father died in 1904. Alfred Henwood died on January 19, 1922 (**Brantford Expositor**, January 20, 1922, p. 14) and is buried at Greenwood Cemetery.

Reginald Henwood was born in Cornwall, England in 1828. He came to Canada with his brother, Dr. Edwin Henwood, and obtained his provincial license to practice medicine in Ontario. The brothers first took charge of a hospital in Toronto which handled the “Ship Fever” epidemic from 1847 to 1848. Edwin Henwood later moved to Hamilton while Reginald came to Brantford about 1852. He married Annie Digby, a daughter of Dr. Alfred Digby, and ran a very large medical practice for fifty years before retiring approximately four years before his death. Dr. Digby was also active in municipal politics as an alderman in 1879 and mayor of Brantford in 1880 and 1881. He died on May 22, 1904 at the age of 76 (**Brantford Expositor**, May 23, 1904, p. 1) and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

Michael J. Kelly was born in Quebec City in 1834. After going to elementary and secondary schools in Quebec City and Montreal he attended Normal School in Toronto as well as the Toronto University where he obtained both a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Laws degree. He continued his education with postgraduate studies in medicine in New York, London, Edinburgh, Paris, and Heidelberg. After finishing his international studies Dr. Kelly returned to Canada and taught high school before becoming a master at Upper Canada College. In 1855 he came to Brantford as principal of Central School, the youngest one in Brantford at the time. He was also the editor of the **Expositor** from 1856 until the spring of 1858 when he resigned to continue his education. About twelve years later he returned to Brantford to practice medicine but only did this for a few months before accepting the appointment as inspector of public schools for Brantford and Brant County after the Education Act was passed in 1871. Dr. Kelly continued working as county inspector until 1902 and city inspector until 1904. He was also on the library board for many years and was the chairman in 1899-1900. His reminiscences, written in 1891, were reproduced in F. Douglas Reville’s **History of the County of Brant** (p. 77-80 of PDF). Michael Kelly died on November 24, 1906 in Montreal (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, November 29, 1906, p. 13).

David Lowrey was born in the late 1840s. He attended the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto, graduating in 1879. An active member of the Brant Avenue Church and the Sydenham Street Church for many years, he was the first Sunday school superintendent at the Sydenham church. Health problems forced him to retire from the medical profession and he, John P. Hemphill, and Henry Shuler purchased the Welding Pottery Company from William Welding. When this company was incorporated as the Brantford Stoneware Manufacturing Company on August 11, 1894 Lowrey was named as president. Dr. Lowrey later became an insurance agent for Imperial Life in Toronto where he died on February 25, 1925 (**Brantford Expositor**, February 27, 1925, p. 6).

John James Mason was born circa 1810 in England. He was educated in England and graduated as a member of the Royal College of Surgeons. After living briefly in the United States, Dr. Mason came to Brantford in 1849. He later moved to Beachville and then Hamilton before returning to Brantford around 1868. He died on June 6, 1885 in Brantford (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, June 12, 1885, p. 8).

William Nichol was born circa 1837 in Westminster, Middlesex County, Ontario. He was a teacher in various cities, including Brantford, for about eight years after he first left school. He obtained his medical degree from Chicago University. Dr. Nichol had a medical practice in Brantford for over half a century. He was one of four men who first organized the Y.M.C.A. in Brantford and was also one of the founders of the Children's Shelter in the 1890s. Dr. Nichol died after a long illness at his home at 20 Wellington Street in Brantford on June 1, 1919 (**Brantford Expositor**, June 2, 1919, p. 9).

David L. Philip was born on January 2, 1839 in Richmond, Ontario. After graduating from McGill Medical College in Montreal in 1861 he moved to Woodstock, Ontario where he was in partnership with Dr. Turquand for three years before moving to Plattsville, Ontario where he lived for seven years. After moving to Brantford in 1872 he started a medical practice. He was a member of the Brant County Medical Association and was president for one year. He was also a Brantford Collegiate Institute trustee for six years. David Philip died on July 10, 1905 after a long illness at his home on Darling Street in Brantford (**Brantford Expositor**, July 10, 1905, p. 8) and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery. For more information see Warner's 1883 History (p. 268-269 of PDF).

Edward Reginald Secord, son of Levi Secord, was born on May 27, 1879 in Bright, Ontario. He studied medicine at McGill University in Montreal and graduated in 1900. Dr. Secord spent two years on the staff of the Montreal General Hospital before starting his practice in Brantford. A charter member of the Canadian College of Physicians and Surgeons in Ottawa, he also served as president of the Ontario Medical Association at one time. Dr. Edward Secord died on September 24, 1936 in Brantford (**Brantford Expositor**, September 24, 1936, p. 1) and is buried in Mount Hope Cemetery.

Levi Secord was born on December 22, 1854 in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. He studied medicine at McGill University in Montreal and graduated with honours in 1876. Dr. Secord practiced medicine in the village of Bright in Oxford County before moving to Brantford where he opened a practice in 1884. An alderman for many years, he also served as mayor in 1892 and 1893. Dr. Secord supervised the medical work on the Six Nations Reserve for many years. He died on May 8, 1914 in Brantford (**Brantford Expositor**, May 8, 1914, p. 1) and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery. Wesley, another son of Levi Secord, was born in Brantford on August 2, 1882. Shortly after receiving his medical degree from McGill University in 1903 he moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba. Wesley Secord died there on May 13, 1936.

Robert Thompson was born in Montreal in 1832. He graduated from McGill College in 1852. Dr. Thompson practiced medicine in Montreal for twenty-nine years and was on the staff of that city's General Hospital for many years. He had a medical practice in Brantford for ten years before moving to Paris, Ontario. Robert Thompson died in Paris on October 10, 1897 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, October 14, 1897, p. 12).

William E. Winskel was born on June 22, 1853 in Windham Township, Norfolk County, Ontario. He spent one year with a county practitioner before attending and graduating from Trinity Medical College in 1877. Dr. Winskel spent two years in England in London hospitals and earned a degree from the Royal College of Surgeons. He returned to Canada in 1879 and moved to Brantford where he started his practice in October. Other duties included: serving as the Secretary and Treasurer of the Brant County Medical Association and as the Assistant-Surgeon to the Dufferin Rifles. Dr. Winskel later moved to Chicago, Illinois where he died on February 26, 1925. For more information see Warner's 1883 History (p. 278 of PDF).

Paris

William Burt was born on March 24, 1849 in South Dumfries Township in Brant County. He studied at the Toronto University and also took a post-graduate course at the Brooklyn Hospital in New York during the summer of 1869. From August 1870 to August 1871 he was on the staff of the Brooklyn City Hospital and from August 1871 to February 1872 he was the Acting Assistant Surgeon of the U.S. Army in Texas and saw active service on the Texas frontier. Dr. Burt came to Paris, Ontario to start his medical practice in June 1872. Besides being a practicing physician, he was also president of the Ontario Medical Association, chairman of the Paris Board of Education, and president of the Paris Children's Aid Society for a number of years. William Burt died on March 14, 1919 in Paris. For more information see Warner's 1883 History (p. 332 of PDF).

William Clarke was born in 1827 in Chatham, New Brunswick. He obtained his provincial license to practice medicine in Ontario in 1860. Dr. Clarke died on November 11, 1897 in Bracebridge, Ontario (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, November 18, 1897, p. 12) and is buried in the Paris Cemetery.

Silas W. Cooke was born in Hadley, Massachusetts in 1817. He pursued his medical studies in New York where he got his diploma before coming to Paris, Ontario to practice medicine. He obtained his provincial license to practice medicine in Ontario in 1843. His brother moved to Canada at the same time and had a medical practice in Norwich, Ontario. Dr. Cooke died on April 28, 1884 at his home in Paris (**Brantford Expositor**, May 1, 1884, p. 1). His only son, John, was a doctor in the state of New York.

James W. R. Dickson was born in England on July 3, 1815. He emigrated to Brant County with his family in 1837. He had taken a course in medicine in Edinburgh and obtained his diploma the year before he came to Canada. Dr. Dickson started a medical practice in York before moving to Woodstock, Ontario two years later. He stayed in Woodstock until 1848 when he moved to Paris, Ontario where he practiced medicine for more than thirty years. James Dickson died on December 29, 1890 in Paris (**Brantford Expositor**, December 31, 1890, p. 1). For more information see Warner's 1883 History (p. 333 of PDF).

Miles O'Reilly was born circa 1836 in Hamilton, Ontario. He received his medical degree from Victoria College in 1868. He died in Paris, Ontario on September 15, 1889.

Archibald James Sinclair was born near St. Thomas in Elgin County, Ontario and received his medical degree from Trinity College in 1875. He had taught school for several years before studying medicine in Dr. McLarty's office in St. Thomas. Dr. Sinclair started his medical practice in Paris the same year that he graduated. He was also the Grand Trunk Railway surgeon at Paris for twenty-five years and the medical attendant at the Ontario School for the Blind in Brantford for many years. Dr. Sinclair was appointed as the collector of customs at Paris in 1904 but resigned after four years due to health issues resulting from an earlier bicycle accident. He had been a resident of Paris for thirty-six years when he died on March 22, 1914 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, March 26, 1914, p. 10). He is buried in St. Thomas.

Burford

Charles M. Aikman was born circa 1834. He graduated from Victoria College and obtained his provincial medical license in 1862. Dr. Aikman was a resident of Burford, Ontario for many years and later lived in Cathcart. He moved to Woodstock, Ontario approximately two years before his death in November 1886 (**Brantford Daily Courier**, November 29, 1886, p. 4).

William H. Chrysler was born circa 1833. He graduated from Toronto University and received his license to practice medicine in 1865. Dr. Chrysler practiced medicine in Burford, Ontario for almost forty years. At the time of his death in April 1903 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, April 9, 1903, p. 13) he was living with his sister in Waterford, Ontario. He is buried in the Waterford Cemetery.

George W. Clendenon obtained his license to practice medicine in Ontario in 1882.

Robert Harbottle graduated from Toronto University and obtained his licence to practice medicine in 1867. He practiced in Burford for a while before moving to Dogpound, Alberta where he died in September 1916.

Mount Pleasant

Duncan Marquis was born on December 6, 1842 in Argyleshire, Scotland. Dr. Marquis moved to Mount Pleasant after graduating from Victoria College in the 1860s to start his medical practice. In later years he had a practice in Brantford. He was a physician to the Mohawks, and a member of the Brant County Medical Association, including one year as the Association's president. His son, Dr. John A. Marquis, was a partner in his father's practice. Dr. Duncan Marquis died on October 11, 1899 in Brantford (**Brantford Expositor**, October 12, 1899, p. 1). For more information see Warner's 1883 History (p. 294 of PDF).

Tuscarora

Robert Hill Dee was born on July 24, 1829 in Welland County, Ontario. He earned his medical degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Medicine in 1852. Dr. Dee started a medical practice in the village of Selkirk, Haldimand County in June 1852 before moving to Brant County in December 1853 where he was a doctor on the Six Nations Reserve

until his retirement in 1889. Robert Dee died on January 26, 1908 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, February 6, 1908, p. 7). For more information see Warner's 1883 History (p. 109, 686 of PDF).

St. George

Edward E. Kitchen, son of a well known local farmer, was born on May 22, 1841 in South Dumfries, Ontario. After graduating from the Toronto School of Medicine in 1865 he opened a practice in St. George, Ontario. He was also chairman of the Provincial Board of Health and a doctor for the Grand Trunk Railway. Edward Kitchen died after a long illness on February 19, 1913 in St. George, Ontario (**Brantford Expositor**, February 19, 1913, p. 1) and is buried in the local Methodist Cemetery.

Edward C. Kitchen was born on January 4, 1855. He obtained his licence to practice medicine in Ontario in 1877. Dr. Kitchen died on January 1, 1941 at the home of his daughter in St. George, Ontario (**Brantford Expositor**, January 2, 1941, p. 2) and is buried in the family plot at the St. George United Cemetery.

Nathaniel E. Mainwaring was born in 1813 in Connecticut, United States. He received his education in the state of New York and graduated from Dartmouth College in 1839. Dr. Mainwaring obtained his licence to practice medicine in Ontario in 1842, one of the first seven practitioners licenced under the old medical government board of Canada. He was a physician in St. George for forty-four years until his death on November 18, 1883 in South Dumfries Township (**Brantford Expositor**, November 19, 1883, p. 4). He is buried in the old family burial ground at St. George. For more information see Warner's 1883 History (p. 338 of PDF).

Franklin J. Patton graduated from Victoria College and received his licence to practice medicine in 1868.

Scotland

William C. Freeman obtained his licence to practice medicine in 1877.

J. R. Malcolm graduated from McGill College and received his licence to practice medicine in 1861.

James Weir Renwick was born circa 1847 in Scotland. He attended Victoria University Medical Department in Coburg and graduated in 1875. Dr. Renwick died on July 8, 1914 in Courtland, Ontario (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, July 16, 1914, p. 3).

Edwin W. Tegart was born on December 21, 1835 in the Huron Tract, Ontario. He graduated from the Medical Departments at Toronto and Coburg (Victoria College) in 1860. He taught school before practicing medicine. Dr. Tegart had practices in Culloden, Scotland, and Waterford before moving to Brantford. He died on September 9, 1905 in Brantford (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, September 14, 1905, p. 8)