



# 26TH ANNUAL HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR - DOCTORS AND NURSES

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Sunday, October 4, 2020



*History Told, Lives Celebrated*







Annie Chelsey



Jessie Jarman



Ella Bronson



Frederick Montizambert



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The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation presents:

# Doctors and Nurses

**T**his tour is held annually to acknowledge and applaud the contributions and accomplishments of the various people buried at Beechwood Cemetery.

Due to Covid, the Annual Historical Tour will be set up differently this year. You, the attendee, will lead yourself to each station. Only 25 people will be allowed close to the actors at a time. They are bilingual stations, so please let the actors know your language of preference. Each star on the map roughly shows where each station is located. The actors will be set up next or very close to where the person they are highlighting is buried. The grave will be marked with a Canadian flag.

Should you at any point get lost, the yellow and white lines on the road lead you to the St. Laurent gate (white) and the main building (yellow). If you are lost, you can call the office for directions 613-741-9530.

More notable people buried at Beechwood can be found in our Historical Portraits booklet, available both on our website and in hard copy at our main office. We welcome any suggestions you may have for additional people we can include there, and we're also always looking for suggestions for themes for future tours.

Thank you for joining us in 2020, and we hope you'll be back again next year.



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# ELLA H.W. BRONSON

Section 50, Lots 119, 120, 128

Ella Hobday Webster was born on September 1, 1846 in Portsmouth, Virginia to Nathan Burnham Webster a prominent Southern American educator. The family moved to Ottawa in 1862, where, at some point, Bronson met her future husband, Erskine Bronson.


The couple married in Virginia in 1874, before returning to the Canadian capital and starting a family. Bronson focused on her role as a mother, and began her public career in earnest only after her primary domestic and child-raising duties were behind her.

Between 1890 and 1892 Bronson served on several informal committees to furnish the new nurses' institute building. She was also treasurer for funds raised to provide Ottawa soldiers with comforts during the South African War. A staunch member of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, she was active in its women's

missionary society and sat on a number of committees.

In 1893 Ella Bronson answered a call from Lady Aberdeen to help establish the National Council of Women of Canada. Although she served as a delegate to several national conventions, she was more consistently involved at the local level, where most of the council's work was centred. Local councils were associated with the national one in a loose federation. These councils served to educate potential female leaders such as Bronson; through them, women learned about the economic and social needs of their community and acquired a network of female contacts; they also






provided a legitimate forum from which women could exercise authority and defend the Christian family as they saw it.

A vice-president of the Ottawa Local Council of Women from 1894 until 1911, Bronson served on committees to lobby for the teaching of domestic science in the city's high schools, the creation of a free library system, and the establishment of cottages for consumptives. In 1894 she pioneered the Associated Charities of Ottawa, a scheme intended to coordinate the efforts of various agencies, set standards for recipients of charity, and provide work-placement programs for the unemployed.

The culmination of Bronson's public projects was the foundation and successful operation of the Ottawa Maternity Hospital. With Bronson as president and an all-female board of directors, the hospital opened in 1895, and it functioned until the mid 1920s, when it was absorbed into the Civic Hospital. Much of its funding was raised by Bronson through her contacts in the elites of government and the lumber industry, and she served as its president for nearly 30 years. Fashioned on a new, medical, model of hospital, the Ottawa Maternity Hospital provided obstetrical services to women, most of whom paid a small fee. It eschewed any religious agenda, although it accepted support from church groups, and did not concern itself with its patients' moral purity as some institutions did. Professionalism was stressed, and from 1897 a three-month certification course was offered for nurses from other hospitals. They were educated in post-natal medical and nutritional care for new mothers as well as in pre-natal and obstetrical matters. By the hospital's 25th anniversary in 1920, it had trained 600 nurses, and by its closing it had served more than 10,000 patients. On 3 Feb. 1925 Ella Bronson signed over its property to the city; she took ill the next day and died a week later.

Ella Bronson's contribution to her community, in a private life of duty and kindness and a high-profile public career, was representative of that made by a legion of women who were intent on reshaping society. The Ottawa Journal commemorated her life of engagement when it praised her as "a notable figure, who had given her best in public service." Bronson died on February 11, 1925.



# ANNIE AMELIA CHESLEY

## Section 26, Lot 9 SW

Annie Amelia Chesley was born in 1857 or 1858 near Toronto. Nothing is known of Annie's early years. She trained as a nurse between 1893 and 1896 at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD, where she remained as a head nurse until early 1898.

In 1897, St Luke's Hospital was founded in Ottawa, along with an associated training-school for nurses. Chesley was named lady superintendent at St Luke's. Her role was a dual one. First, she administered the 30-bed institution, which included supervising health and dietary care. In the early years she was required personally to order the food and medical supplies and oversee the dietary kitchen. Second, she set and administered the curriculum for the three-year training program for nurses.

In its first three years, Chesley received 300 applications for admission and from these she selected 30; the initial class of seven graduated in 1901. Although the nurses' regimen emphasized a scientific approach, St Luke's blended this aspect of their training with traditional forms of health care. It was thus regarded as a "family hospital."

The formal course of study included lectures during the day from Chesley and her four assistants and in the evening from local doctors. The "continuous course of practical demonstrations" involved hourly examinations of patients' vital statistics and the keeping of detailed records. Students also took practical studies and were responsible for much of the cleaning and upkeep of the facility. The student nurses also number performed practical work for periods of a few months in other local hospitals.

Regarding her position as one of senior management, Chesley stressed the separation of her administrative team from the group of student nurses. Thus, while she yearly awarded a personal medal to her most outstanding pupil, there is little evidence of a less formal, or warm, relationship between Chesley and the students.

In addition to her responsibilities at St Luke's, Annie Chesley was active in the wider nursing profession. She served as first president of the Ottawa Graduate Nurses Association. With several nursing associates, she established the first

central registry for professional nurses in Ottawa; it probably attempted to identify certified nurses in the area and perhaps suggest appropriate names to private households in need of nursing care.

In 1910, a long illness necessitated Chesley's retirement, and she died on November 6, 1910, less than eight months later in the hospital that had become her home. She was mourned by her "graduates." Although she had seen herself primarily as an administrator of students rather than as their counsellor, she had been, the Canadian Nurse recalled, "ever ready to advise and encourage, ever interested in their sorrows and joys and ready to lend a sympathetic ear."



First Lady Superintendent—Miss Annie Chesley taken when in training at Johns Hopkins Hospital, in Baltimore. Miss Chesley was Ottawa born, in 1857, and was the first lady superintendent of St. Luke's Hospital. After twelve years of hard and conscientious service, she passed away, attended by one of the nurses she, herself, had trained.

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# JESSIE K. A. (FISHER) JARMAN

## Section 50, Lot 36 N

Jessie Katherine Argue was born in Carp, Ontario on February 16, 1881. She was the sister of Dr. John Fenton Argue of Ottawa, and also had a career in the field of medicine.

Argue was the Lady Superintendent of the Lady Grey Hospital, later called the Royal Ottawa Sanatorium. She also established a Training School of Nurses in the Sanatorium and was part of the group that organized the Emergency Hospital during the influenza epidemic in 1918. It was during this time that Mayor Harold Fisher visited the Hospital and met Argue. By the next year, they were married. After Fisher's death in 1924, she married again, to a Mr. Frank Jarman. She passed away May 30, 1970.

# FREDERICK MONTIZAMBERT

## Section 41 - Lot 40

Born in Quebec on February 3, 1843 into a family belonging to the administrative and judicial elite of Quebec City, Montizambert graduated from the Faculty of Medicine of the Laval University in 1863. Dr. Montizambert then travelled to Edinburgh, Scotland for post-graduate training at the prestigious Faculty of Medicine of the University of Edinburgh.

In 1866, he assumed the duties of medical inspector at the Grosse-Ile Quarantine station. Three years later, in 1869, he took up the post of medical superintendant, a post he held for thirty years. At the time, the Quarantine station was the main point of entry for all immigrants coming to Canada from Europe, and a long history of deadly cholera epidemics. His role as superintendant gave him the opportunity to turn the station into a model of its type whose influence extended throughout the country, even to the United States and Europe.

When he took up this position, the scientific concepts and principles which

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would revolutionize the struggle against infectious diseases during the last two decades of the 19th century, and herald the introduction of modern public health programs. Dr. Montizambert's innovative quarantine methods, based on the knowledge of the newly discovered «microbes» and their relationship to contagion (Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch), succeeded in reducing morbidity and mortality among the vulnerable newcomers.

In 1899, Dr. Montizambert was appointed to the prestigious post of the first federal Director General of Public Health in Canada. He became responsible for the administration of quarantine stations throughout the Dominion. While pursuing his passion for scientific and technical advances, he participated in the development of a revolutionary treatment for leprosy. As a representative of the Canadian Medical Association, Dr. Montizambert succeeded in 1919 in convincing the Federal Government to establish the Canadian Department of Health. Dr. Montizambert died on November 2, 1929 at the age of 86.



# SPECIAL THANKS

The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation would like to extend a very warm and heartfelt thanks to director and producer Kathi Langston and script writer Susan Flemming for their long-standing commitment to making this event truly spectacular. All the actors also do a fantastic job, and we are grateful for their involvement!

**Presented by:** Ottawa School of Theatre

**Directed by:** Kathi Langston

**Vignettes written and research by:** Susan Flemming

**Costumes:** Ottawa School of Theatre

**Translation by:** Jean-Luc Malherbe

**Bios written and researched by:** Erika Wagner

## **ACTORS:**

**Honouring Ella Bronson:**

Gisèle Rivest and Ashley Lawrence

**Honouring Annie Chesley:**

Brooke Ross-Jensen

**Honouring Jessie Jarman**

Elizabeth MacDonald and Erin MacDonald

**Honouring Frederick Montizambert:**

Scott Stewart

Make a donation to the Beechwood Cemetery Foundation today at:

[www.beechwoodottawa.ca/en/donation](http://www.beechwoodottawa.ca/en/donation)

As a registered Canadian charity, Beechwood issues an income tax receipt for donations of \$20 or more. Our charitable registration number is 88811 2018 RR0001