Hilda Stuart (1890-1956)

Hilda Muir Stuart was born in 1890 in London to George White Stuart and Charlotte Thompson Muir Stuart. George was a bookkeeper and an accountant. Censuses list her as Baptist and Scottish. Her father was Scottish and her mother Irish, but both were born in Ontario.

Hilda had a sister born in 1891 who died in 1895. Her father died at age 43 of heart trouble. Her mother moved to Woodstock where she was the Superintendent at a boy's school.

Hilda graduated from nursing in 1913 at Victoria Hospital. At that time, it would have been called the Faculty of Public Health or its original name, the Hygienic Institute. She signed up for overseas service in 1914 and during WWI, served in France and Egypt as part of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. She received three medals for her service: the Mons Medal, General Service and Victory Medal, and King George V Jubilee Medal.

She joined the Canadian Army Medical Corps after the war in 1919 and was still in service in 1920.

In 1929, Hilda graduated with a post-graduate qualification and by 1931 was the Superintendent of Nurses at Victoria Hospital on South Street. She retired in 1948, after 17 years of service, the longest of any Superintendent. On her retirement, she became a liaison officer between the hospital and its graduates.

Hilda died in 1956. She is buried with her nuclear family in the Woodstock Baptist Cemetery. Her funeral was at First Baptist Church in London. She left no survivors, according to her obituary.

In the 75th anniversary of the School of Nursing, published in 1958, Hilda was remembered in this way:

> "Miss Stuart's prime interest was the nurses, always willing to help in any difficulties and continually concerned about their welfare. The capping ceremony with invited friends and relatives was inaugurated by Miss Stuart."

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