



Dr. Minerva Margaret Greenaway 1873 - 1906

¹ Photograph, Minerva Greenaway, City of Vancouver Archives

HERstory



Minerva Margaret Greenaway was born on June 21, 1873, to prominent settlers and residents of Tottenham, New Tecumseth: Thomas Greenaway, and Matilda (Totten) Greenaway.

Prior to entering the medical field, she taught in Tecumseth Township for a short while. She entered the Ontario Medical College for Women in Toronto in 1894. This period was most difficult for women, as gender discrimination within the profession prevented women from being appointed in most positions within most medical institutions.

In May 1899, she received her MD with first-class honours at Trinity University. The following year, she completed her postgraduate at the West Philadelphia Hospital for Women.²

She returned to Toronto to practice medicine at her residence and in 1902 she began to lecture in the *diseases of children* at the Ontario Medical College for Women, until 1906, when women were finally allowed to attend to the University of Toronto in the faculty of medicine.

Unfortunately, her life was cut far too short, when she died of Typhoid after contracting it from her father and two sisters in 1906 while treating them. The Canadian Journal of Medicine and Surgery noted that her passing “removes one of the most accomplished and beloved lady doctors of the Dominion”.³

She is buried in Mount Tegart Cemetery, Tottenham, New Tecumseth.⁴

² Minerva Greenaway, MD, Dictionary of Canadian Biography;
http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/greenaway_minerva_margaret_13E.html

³ Canadian Journal of Medicine and Surgery (Toronto), 20 (July–December 1906): 359

⁴ Cemetery Inscriptions, Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury Townships, Simcoe County, Ontario, 1983