

# Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons – Tribute to our founders

The following biographies are abstracted from *History of the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons* by Dr Leith G. Douglas, published in 1983. They are presented as a tribute to our founders on the 50th anniversary of the Society.

## E. FULTON RISDON

If Sir Harold Gillies was the father of plastic and reconstructive surgery in the English-speaking world, one of his 'sons' in medical training, E. Fulton Risdon, was the father of the specialty in Canada. He was a graduate in dentistry (1907) and medicine (1914) from the University of Toronto. Risdon was the first Canadian surgeon to be invited to join Gillies' jaw and face unit during World War I. He was serving with the Canadian army, and he eventually formed the Canadian section of the unit at the Queen's Hospital at Sidcup.

As with some other prominent Canadian surgeons, Risdon was better known internationally than at home, being a founding member of two of the oldest plastic surgery organizations in the world, the American Association of Plastic Surgeons (AAPS) founded in 1921 and the American Board of Plastic Surgery founded in 1937. Risdon was Treasurer of the American Association of Plastic Surgeons for many years, investing the Association's finances in Canadian gold mining stocks. It is said that the finances of the Association flourished during his tenure. He was the third president of the AAPS and was made an honorary fellow in 1959.

He was imaginative, innovative, meticulous and dedicated to his craft. He was the first in Canada to devote himself exclusively to the practice of plastic surgery, at a time when general surgery opposed subspecialization. By doing so, he attracted a very large practice and showed the value of taking a closer look at one particular field: plastic and reconstructive surgery of the face.

Immediately following World War I, Risdon undertook postgraduate work at the Manhattan Infirmary and at St Joseph's Hospital, Chicago, with Truman Brophy. On his return

to Toronto he became a staff member at the Toronto Western Hospital in 1921, a post he was to hold for 45 years. He was also senior medical officer in the Toronto Regiment of the Canadian Militia.

Dr Hoyle Campbell said:

*I believe Dr Fulton Risdon's greatest contribution to plastic surgery was his new approach to fractures of the jaw in the Great War and thereafter. Being first a dentist, he naturally focused his work on the jaw, and is mainly remembered for his innovative approach to massive facial injuries.*

He bone grafted from the ileum to restore the mandible, and presented his work before the Royal Society of Medicine in London, in 1918. He reported his "Treatment of non-union of fractures of the mandible by free autogenous bone grafts" to the American Medical Association, and described 70 iliac crest grafts to the jaw that had met with a 90% success rate.

He became known for a number of techniques including the Risdon approach to the ascending ramus of the mandible and the Risdon cable arch bar method of intermaxillary fixation.

Risdon had no real contemporaries in his specialty in Canada. In the 1920s he practised plastic surgery while no other surgeon was specializing to the same extent. In many aspects he was ahead of his time. The most influential surgeon during that time was W.E. Gallie, Head of the Department of Surgery at the University of Toronto. Several surgeons who knew Risdon and Gallie have said there was little love lost between the two men. While Risdon was practising at the Toronto Western Hospital and becoming recognized around the world, Gallie was saying there was a great need for a plastic surgeon in Toronto and was arranging for Stuart Gordon and Alfred Farmer to study with Gillies in England.

Risdon's failure to secure a chair in plastic surgery at the University of Toronto was probably due to the political climate of the time and his relations with Gallie.

Thus the succession of knowledge in the field fell to Gordon and Farmer, who made the specialty secure in Toronto. Were years of effective work lost because of this disagreement between Risdon and Gallie? The question cannot be completely answered. In fairness it should be said that Gallie's role in this matter is offset by the general sympathy he showed toward the specialty of plastic surgery. Furthermore, his choice of two excellent and promising young surgeons – Gordon and Farmer – certainly showed his interest in devel-

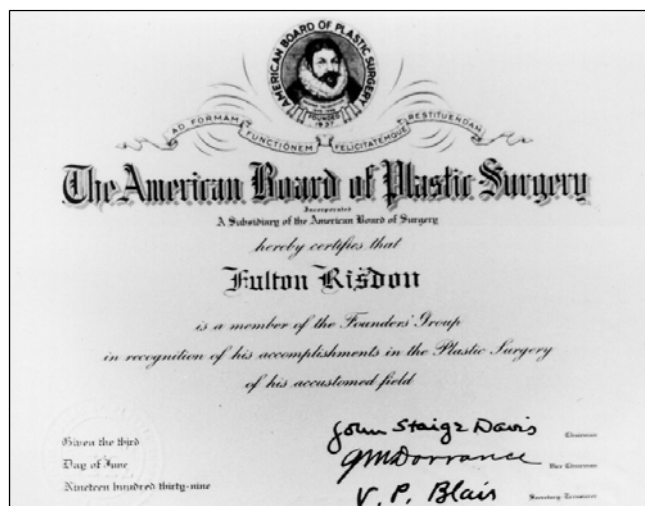
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*Correspondence: Dr J.R. Taylor, Medical Clinical Building, 114-89 Humber College Boulevard, Etobicoke, Ontario M9V 4B8. Telephone 416-746-2256, fax 416-746-2258*

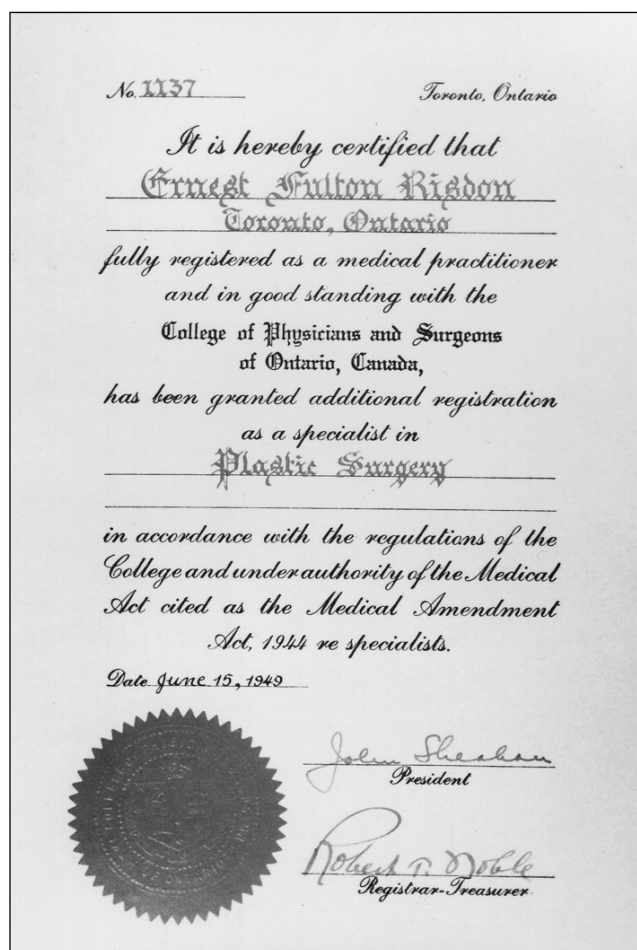


Wedding of E. Fulton Risdon and Sylvia Margaret Bosworth in Chislehurst, Kent, England in 1919



Fulton Risdon as a member of the founders' group of the American Board of Plastic Surgery

oping plastic surgery to the highest possible level. W.K. Lindsay, who was trained by Farmer, claims the Risdon-Gallie rivalry probably did not adversely affect the growth of Canadian plastic and reconstructive surgery. It is comparable to the development elsewhere in the world, particularly the



Fulton Risdon's license as a Specialist in Plastic Surgery from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, Canada, June 15, 1949, 30 years after he began plastic surgery practice in Ontario

**RISDON, Ernest Fulton, D.D.S., M.B., F.R.C.S. (C.);** surgeon; b. St. Thomas, Ont., 21 Mar. 1880; s. John Charles and Jeannie (Little) R.; e. Univ. of Toronto, D.D.S. 1907, M.B. 1914; m. Sylvia Margaret, d. A. E. Bosworth, London, Eng., Apl. 1919; children: Helen Jill, John L. B.; is Consultant to Dept. of Pensions, Nat. Health and Nat. Defence; Assoc. Prof., Oral Surgery, Univ. of Toronto; served in 1st World War as vol. Med. Offr., Toronto Regt., C.A.M.C.; retired as Major, C.A.M.C.; awarded King's Jubilee Medal; author of many articles on reconstruction of faces and jaws; mem., Am. Assn. of Oral and Plastic Surgs.; Nu Sigma Nu; Protestant; recreation: golf; Clubs: Badminton & Racquet; Lambton Golf; Home: 60 Chestnut Park Rd., Toronto, Ont.

Fulton Risdon in The Canadian Who's Who

United States if one takes into account the difference in populations in the two countries. Furthermore, Canadians – notably Risdon and Farmer – were instrumental in forming plastic surgery associations in the United States and Canada.

Dr Risdon, known for his great love of his discipline and for his work, died in 1968 at the age of 88.



*Hoyle Campbell (left), Fred Woolhouse (centre) and Tom Brown (pathologist) at Basingstoke in June 1945*



*Basingstoke 1945. Left to right: Al Walters, Norm Delarue and Hoyle Campbell*

### **H. HOYLE CAMPBELL**

Dr Campbell graduated from the University of Toronto in 1936 and took postgraduate training in Toronto with Alfred Farmer and in Philadelphia with Robert Ivy.

Early in the war he went to England to join the Emergency Medical Services. He was stationed with the British forces at Glasgow, treating wounded soldiers from the Mediterranean area who had been sent home by the long route around South



*Lady Mountbatten and Hoyle Campbell at Basingstoke*



*Hoyle Campbell at Basingstoke*

Africa. He recalls that many wounds had been encased in plaster as a standard procedure, following the teaching of Trueta in the Spanish Civil War, and they were in deplorable condition upon reaching Glasgow.

Dr Campbell left the Emergency Medical Services and transferred to the Canadian Army when the Canadian forces arrived in the United Kingdom and set up their own units. He accomplished this by 'going to the top' and seeing the com-



*Hoyle Campbell operating, J. Russell Scott assisting at Basingstoke*



*Fred Woolhouse performing an operation*

manding general personally. The general was far from pleased with this approach, but Dr Campbell had his way and the transfer went through. He was sent to Basingstoke with Stuart Gordon where he did head and neck surgery and treated a large number of major burns and performed orthopedic surgery.

After the war Dr Campbell was asked to be Professor of the University of Toronto Department of Otolaryngology, but declined, preferring to practice within the broader plastic surgery field. He first worked at the Toronto General Hospital, then moved to St Michael's Hospital.

He has always been noted for his drive and enthusiasm. His students recall how ready he was to discuss ideas with anyone – whether the highest ranking professor or a junior medical student – who showed interest. He is also noted for his ability to get down to the basic principles in surgery and his assumption that if anything can be thought out, it can be done. He did toe to hand transfers in the late 1940s. He has had an interest in and has employed spinal manipulation in his practice. His theories on muscle balance in the face, back and extremities are one of his favourite topics. He is famous for his many 'Hoyle-isms' – "do what you know first", "always save something to sew to" and "never measure, the eye can be trained to be an accurate three dimensional ruler" are a few.

Dr Campbell is retired and runs his farm at Inglewood, Ontario near Brampton. He will be with us on our 50th anniversary.

### **FREDERICK M. WOOLHOUSE**

Dr Woolhouse graduated from McGill University in 1936. His initial plan was to specialize in gynecology, but eventually he trained in general surgery. He joined the RCNVR in 1940 and had a number of appointments at sea and ashore, including those of medical officer of HMCS *Assiniboine* and at the Royal Canadian Naval Hospital in Halifax.

He was seconded from the navy to undergo training in plastic surgery at the Hospital for Sick Children with A.W. Farmer in 1942. He also trained in St Louis and Philadelphia, and in the United Kingdom with Archibald MacIndoe, Rainsford Mowlem and Sir Harold Gillies.



*Fred Woolhouse in later years*

While in the navy he purposely avoided administrative positions so that he could stay close to the field of clinical practice as opposed to paper work. He is reputed to have used his fertile imagination to accomplish this on a number of occasions. His main interest at the time was the management of servicemen suffering from burns or injuries due to cold.

One of his original papers published shortly after the war



Stuart Gordon

is a classic on the management of osteomyelitis through radical debridement and immediate skin grafting.

In 1946 Dr Woolhouse was appointed to the staff of the Queen Mary Veterans Hospital. He was also appointed to the Montreal General and the Montreal Children's Hospital. He rose to become Chief of the Plastic Surgery Service at the latter two hospitals and Director of the Trauma Service at the Montreal General. He also became Professor of Plastic Surgery at McGill University.

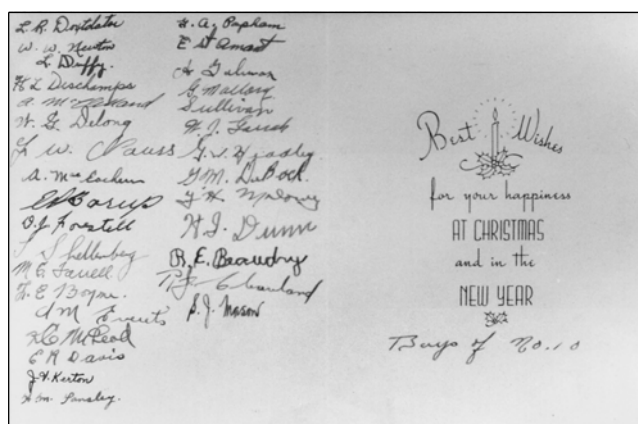
Dr Woolhouse was known as a great teacher who insisted on clinical excellence as well as sound academic knowledge. While at McGill he held weekly meetings at his home with the residents, at which he took a very personal interest in each trainee's problems.

Dr Woolhouse died in 1992.

### STUART D. GORDON

After training under Sir Harold Gillies, Stuart Gordon returned to Toronto in 1932 to practise plastic surgery at the Toronto General Hospital.

Dr Gordon graduated from the University of Toronto in 1926 and trained in surgery in Toronto. He joined the Royal



Christmas card signed "Boys of No. 10" (patients at Basingstoke). Note: R.B. Beaudry, third signature from bottom, right column, signed with a toe to thumb transfer



Mess at Basingstoke. Second row, right to left: #2 – Hoyle Campbell, #5 – Stuart Gordon, #7 – Lyman Barclay

Canadian Army Medical Corps early in World War II and served overseas. He established a specialty unit at Basingstoke in England before returning to Christie Street Hospital near the end of the war.

One Toronto plastic surgeon remembers Stuart Gordon during his days at the Toronto General Hospital as a:

*dynamic, driving sort of man who rushed about the hospital as if the devil were after him wherever he went. When he made rounds in the hospital he used to start at the bottom floor and work up rather than the other way around which everyone else would do. He always wore a flower in his lapel. Gordon was an intense, sometimes short tempered-man, with a contagious enthusiasm.*

Although he may have occasionally rubbed some of his associates and students the wrong way, it was perhaps his very energy and intensity that helped him establish plastic surgery as a specialty in a strategic location for the future of the discipline in Canada, the Toronto General Hospital, with its important ties to the University of Toronto. As Chief of Plastic Surgery at the hospital and the first Head of the University of Toronto Post Graduate Training Program in Plastic



and Reconstructive Surgery (subsequently called the Inter-Hospital Coordinating Committee for Plastic Surgery), Gordon became widely known for his innovations and clinical research. He did research into the problems of the temporomandibular joint and devised a method of prosthetic replacement. He did extensive work in the area of hand surgery of all types, particularly in the research and clinical management of Dupuytren's disease.

He worked closely with Dr A.W. Ham of the Department of Histology of the University of Toronto on the fate of free cancellous and compact bone.

He was instrumental in establishing the Fellowship in Plastic Surgery in 1951 and served as the first President of the Plastic Surgery Committee of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. He was also the first examiner in plastic surgery for the Royal College, serving from 1947 to 1957.

Dr Gordon resembled his mentor Gillies in his energy, drive and sense of pride in his work. He and Sir Harold were good friends. Both of them are remembered as avid fishermen. Dr Gordon loved to catch fish but didn't like to eat what he caught, and gently released them back into the water or gave his catch to friends.

Dr Gordon died in 1989.

#### LYMAN T. BARCLAY

Dr Barclay graduated in 1925 from the University of Toronto. He then took postgraduate training at Edinburgh University before returning to Toronto in 1929 to begin a surgical practice at the Grace Hospital, the Ontario Hospital and the Toronto Hospital for Incurables.

When the Toronto Western Hospital and the Grace Hospital amalgamated in 1935, he became a member of the teaching staff of the University of Toronto. He entered the RCAMC early in World War II and served at No 18 General Hospital in England before being transferred to Basingstoke in 1942 to undergo training in plastic surgery and to work in the unit commanded by Stuart Gordon.

Dr Barclay returned to Canada in 1944 as a lieutenant colonel. He joined the staff of Christie Street Hospital at that time and continued there until the end of 1945. He was appointed Plastic Surgeon in Chief at the Toronto Western Hospital, a position he held until his retirement in 1960, building a reputation as an excellent technician and a kindly teacher.

Dr Barclay died in 1972.

#### HAMILTON A. BAXTER

The second plastic surgeon to arrive on the Montreal scene was Hamilton Baxter. He was born and raised in Montreal. He graduated from McGill University Dental School in 1925 but was not content to pursue dentistry as a career. He began postgraduate work in physiology and gained his MSc in 1932. He then enrolled in the faculty of medicine at McGill, graduating in 1936. After internship at the Royal Victoria Hospital he trained in plastic surgery at the Cook County Hospital in Chicago and at Vilray Blair's clinic in St Louis.



*Hamilton Baxter (centre, front row) at Victoria General Hospital in Montreal in 1947. John Drummond (centre, back row) and Martin Entin (left, back row) also appear*

'Happy' Baxter, as he was affectionately known to his friends, joined the staff of the Royal Victoria Hospital in 1940. He became Director of the Sub-Department of Plastic Surgery in 1948. His primary interest, reflecting his dental background, was in cleft lip and palate surgery. He established the Royal Victoria cleft palate clinic, where patients were assessed by a multidisciplinary team of plastic surgeons and consultants in dentistry and otolaryngology, as well as by speech pathologists and social workers. He joined the McGill teaching faculty in 1942 and became Assistant Professor of Surgery in 1961.

Dr Baxter also treated burned and wounded servicemen who had returned from overseas and been hospitalized at the Royal Victoria Hospital. Under the Defense Research Board he directed a series of experimental projects in the treatment of burn injuries.

He was a tireless worker who often began his day early by issuing instructions to the resident staff by telephone from his home. He is remembered as a man with a stubborn sense of persuasion that defied opposition. He was President of the American Society of Maxillofacial Surgeons in 1955, having been a founding member of the Society. He was also a founding member of the Quebec Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

Dr Baxter died in 1979.



*A. Ross Tilley at East Grinstead*



*A. Ross Tilley in later years*

### **A. ROSS TILLEY**

Dr Tilley was born in Bowmanville, Ontario, the son of a local general practitioner. In his youth he was an excellent student and an outstanding athlete. He attended medical school at the University of Toronto, graduating in 1929 as a silver medalist. He trained in surgery in Toronto, New York and Edinburgh, and also with Sternberg, the great Vienna pathologist. In 1935 he opened a private practice in Toronto at the Toronto Western and Wellesley hospitals. He became interested in plastic surgery, which was a young specialty then, with only three qualified plastic surgeons in Canada. He trained with Dr E. Fulton Risdon in Toronto, completing his plastic training just before the outbreak of the Second World War.

Dr Tilley was a member of the Canadian Army Medical Corps Militia and went on active service immediately on the outbreak of war, transferring to the new RCAF Medical Branch shortly after its formation. He was posted at RCAF Headquarters in the United Kingdom in 1941 as Principal Medical Officer.

In 1942 Dr Tilley was transferred to the Queen Victoria Hospital in East Grinstead in Sussex which was the centre for

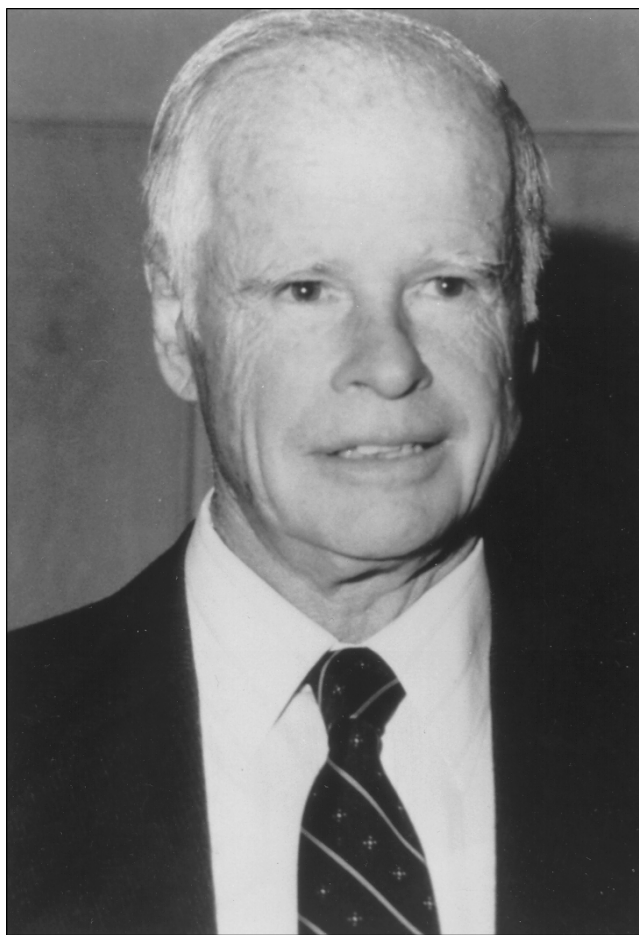
the treatment of burned Commonwealth airmen. As the number of Canadian casualties increased it became necessary to build a purely Canadian wing of the hospital. Dr Tilley was the leader in planning this wing, which was built by the Royal Canadian Engineers. He and his colleagues treated hundreds of airmen, mostly Canadians, during the war and for a period afterward.

His work, along with that of the other surgeons at East Grinstead, on wartime burn casualties was monumental, not only from the point of view of individual patient treatment, but also from the principles of treatment they developed at that time. Many of these remain valid to the present day. The burned airmen who were patients at East Grinstead formed a group which, with sardonic humour, they called 'The Guinea Pig Club'. The club has flourished and has remained active in the United Kingdom and in Canada. Its members regarded Dr Tilley with adulation. He was president of the club until his death.

Dr Tilley was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1944. He was promoted to group captain that year and he held this rank on discharge from the service in 1945. On his return to Canada he carried on a very busy practice in



*John Ord in uniform*



*John Ord in later years*

Toronto and Kingston, Ontario. He was the first to teach plastic surgery at Queen's University. Dr Tilley was a charter member and a past president of the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons.

He campaigned for many years for the development of burn treatment facilities in the Toronto area. His dream was fulfilled when the Ross Tilley Burn Centre opened at The Wellesley Hospital in 1984.

Dr Tilley was a quiet, mild-mannered man. He was a meticulous surgeon who was noted for both his technical ability and his excellent judgement. He loved to teach young doctors the art of plastic surgery, teaching by example and gentle coercion, and with great patience.

He travelled extensively, and operated and lectured in many foreign countries including India, Nepal and Turkey.

In recognition of his many contributions to Canadian plastic surgery, Dr Tilley was made a Member of the Order of Canada in 1982. Dr Tilley had friends in virtually every corner of the world and was loved and respected by all who knew him. He is remembered as a man of skill, humour, wisdom and compassion. As one of Canada's first plastic surgeons he played a major part in the development of the specialty in this country.

Ross Tilley died in 1988.

### JOHN V.R. ORD

John Ord was born in Quebec City and then spent his early years in Barrie, Ontario. He graduated from the University of Toronto in medicine in 1938 and interned at the Toronto General Hospital. He was a surgical assistant at the Weston Sanitarium in urology, general surgery and orthopedics. He did a residency at the Hospital for Sick Children with Stuart Thomson and A.B. Le Mesurier, then with A.W. Farmer.

He joined the Air Force and was stationed at the Christie Street DVA Hospital where he did plastic and orthopedic surgery for two years. He treated the patients in the Knights of Columbus fire sent from Newfoundland to the Christie Street Hospital.

In 1944 he was transferred to the St Thomas Combined Unit to supervise the 50-bed unit there, and in 1946 to the RCAF base at Trenton. Upon his discharge in 1946 he worked with Fulton Risdon and A.W. Farmer in Toronto.

In 1947 he joined the staff of St Joseph's Hospital, practising plastic and pediatric surgery there, and at the Hospital for Sick Children, repairing many cases of cleft palate that had accumulated during the war. He was known for pediatric surgery and thumb reconstruction.

John Ord retired from practice in 1987 and spends his time in Toronto and at his cottage on Georgian Bay.





*Georges Cloutier in uniform*

### **GEORGES E. CLOUTIER**

Dr Cloutier graduated from the University of Montreal in 1938 and underwent postgraduate training in the United States and in England. His main practice was at Notre Dame Hospital and Queen Mary Veterans Hospital in Montreal, and he was consultant at a number of other centres in the city. He was interested in all fields of reconstructive surgery but was particularly well known for his expertise in hand surgery.

As well as being a founding member of the Canadian Society, he was also a charter member of the Quebec Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

Dr Cloutier was known as a very quiet, unassuming man and a born teacher. He was instrumental in establishing the first formal residency program in plastic surgery at the University of Montreal. More than 40 of his trainees over the years are practising plastic surgery at the present time.

Dr Cloutier is retired and living in Montreal.

### **ALFRED W. FARMER**

Dr A.W. Farmer (called 'Farm' by almost everyone) was one of the most broadly trained of the early plastic surgeons. He was born in the United States, but as a child moved to England and then to St Catharines, Ontario. He graduated



*Alfred Farmer in later years*

from the University of Toronto in 1927. He completed his internship at the Hospital for Sick Children and Toronto General Hospital, and began a surgical residency in 1930. He trained under Sir Harold Gillies in England and returned to Toronto to open a practice in plastic surgery in 1932. Dr Farmer was certified by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in three specialties: plastic surgery, orthopedic surgery and general surgery.

With the outbreak of World War II he was appointed Chief Surgeon for the RCAF. The care and treatment of burn patients had always been one of his special concerns, and before the war he had drawn attention to the blood and fluid requirement of such patients. Many of the insights he achieved during the war have contributed to the survival of burn patients since then. He introduced the use of aluminum powder to protect the burn wound. Dr Farmer is largely responsible for the establishment of the Christie Street Combined Services Unit in Toronto, an event that had far reaching consequences in the development of plastic surgery in Canada.

He was discharged from the RCAF with the rank of group captain, and was made a member of the Order of the British Empire. While he returned to the Hospital for Sick Children as an assistant surgeon, he remained Chief Surgical Consultant to the RCAF and Orthopedic Consultant to the Canadian

Forces Medical Council. He became Chief of Surgery at the Hospital for Sick Children in 1956, and in the same year was honoured by being designated a Queen's Honourary Surgeon. He also became Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee of the Ontario Society for Crippled Children. In the early post-war years Dr Farmer held surgical privileges at several Toronto hospitals. He became one of the busiest surgeons in the city, and is remembered for his boundless energy and enthusiasm for work. He would finish an operation in one hospital and then be seen running to his car to get to the next hospital and the next operation. After his first retirement (he had several), he set up the surgical services at Sunnybrook Hospital and became chief surgeon there in 1966.

Dr Farmer is remembered as an idea man. He made original contributions in the care of avulsion injuries and devised a method of transferring a living bone graft in a cross leg pedicle for the treatment of pseudoarthrosis of the tibia. He also devised a method of using cartilage grafts to reconstruct a deformed trachea. He was deeply involved in burn treatment and research, and added greatly to our knowledge of the treatment of children with congenital deformities. He has been described as the father of Canadian hand surgery.

Dr W.K. Lindsay, who succeeded him at the Hospital for Sick Children, stated:

*the greatest responsibility of a chief surgeon is to supply the conditions for superlative work, to stimulate those working under him and to hope they will 'produce'. In the opinion of some of us, this was the greatest contribution of Alfred Wells Farmer. His teaching ability has developed many capable plastic surgeons who are the teachers of today.*

Dr Farmer was respected for his power of clinical observation and his enquiring mind. It has been observed often that only the occasional doctor can be truly said to have become part of the process by which science moves forward. Dr Farmer is one of those few.

Dr Farmer was a founding member of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand. In 1971 he was made an honorary fellow of the American Association of Plastic Surgeons. The A.W. Farmer Lecture was established by the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons in 1979.

Dr Farmer is retired and lives in Toronto.

### JOHN W. GERRIE

In the 1930s a tradition of plastic surgery was developing in Quebec. Jack Gerrie was the first qualified plastic surgeon in the province. He was also fully qualified in otolaryngology. Dr Gerrie graduated from McGill University in dentistry in the late 1920s and then in medicine in 1931. He studied at plastic surgery centres in St Louis with Vilray Blair and James Barrett Brown, and with Archibald MacIndoe and Sir Harold Gillies in the United Kingdom. He also studied for a short time in Vienna.

He started practice in 1936 at the Montreal General Hospi-



John Gerrie

tal and held appointments at St Mary's Hospital and the Montreal Children's Hospital. He had a very active practice at Queen Mary Veterans Hospital as well. Dr Gerrie was a very active advocate of a Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons. Here is an excerpt from a letter he wrote to Fulton Risdon on December 3, 1941:

*Another idea! Do you not think the time is about ripe for a Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons? It could be helpful in so many ways such as offering services or advice to the Army, Air Force, and Navy; dealing with the College in the certification of specialties; and considering national health insurance schemes. Besides it might be damn good fun.*

*My suggestion is that you, Farmer, Baxter and myself meet; that we elect you president and send Gordon a cable, that he has been elected vice president. We could have an annual weekend meeting, for example in the skiing season at the Alpine Inn, St Margaret's.*

One can feel the enthusiasm in his words.

Dr Gerrie developed a fine residency training program at the Montreal General Hospital. There was an excellent liaison with the dental department and great work was done in

the sophisticated management of injuries and tumours of the jaw. For a number of years trainees were cross appointed for one year each in Toronto and at the Montreal General Hospital. Dr Gerrie was a founding member of the American Society of Maxillofacial Surgeons and of the Quebec Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

Dr Gerrie died in 1983.

#### **WALLACE McNICHOL**

Dr McNichol graduated from medicine in 1937 from the University of Toronto and obtained a master's degree in surgery in 1942. He interned at the Toronto General Hospital and at the Hospital for Sick Children. He received training as a resident at the Hamilton General Hospital and later was a resident in plastic surgery at the Presbyterian Hospital and Vanderbilt Clinic in New York City.

Dr McNichol was appointed in 1943 to the Christie Street

Unit as an officer in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. The following year he was sent overseas as a member of the plastic surgery unit at No 1 Canadian Neurological Hospital in Basingstoke, England. When the war ended he was posted as Chief of Plastic Surgery to the Canadian Red Cross Tri-Service Hospital in Taplow, England. He was discharged from the Canadian Army with the rank of major one year later.

In 1947 Dr McNichol became the first plastic surgeon in his native city of Hamilton to confine his practice to plastic surgery, becoming, in 1948, the Chief of Plastic Surgery at the Hamilton General Hospital and, in 1949, Chief of the Service at St Joseph's Hospital, Hamilton.

He had an interest in all aspects of plastic surgery and was the author of articles on ear reconstruction, mandibular asymmetry and the use of homografts in burn patients.

He was forced into retirement in the late 1960s by Parkinson's disease which led to his death in 1975.