

May Salona Holmes (1872-1943)

Dr. May Salona Holmes came to Worcester in 1895, interned for a year at Memorial Hospital, then was appointed superintendent of the city's new isolation hospital off Belmont Street, which came to be known as the Belmont Hospital. In 1941 she retired after nearly 45 years at the Belmont, during which she had a major and very positive impact on the lives of patients afflicted with contagious diseases. By far the best way to learn about her career, and to gain a glimpse into her personal life, is to read the special feature on her by a reporter for the *Sunday Telegram* in April, 1941 just before her retirement, which was mandatory when she turned seventy. It is the first item below, and is followed by two other articles before obituary notices from the *Telegram* and the *Evening Gazette*.

The Belmont hospital was torn down in the early 2000s to make room for the new Vocational-Technical High School. Architectural historian Susan M. Ceccacci wrote about the hospital, with emphasis on the physical structures, but also with an account of the functions of the hospital and the influence of its leader, Dr. Holmes. This 2002 report assessed the buildings for their preservation value, and identified what would be lost as a result of a decision to demolish them. Such a review was required before demolition could proceed.

Two aspects of Dr. Holmes' career that were discussed by Ms Ceccacci are quoted here because they are significant and because the subjects were not treated in the newspaper materials shown below. The first pertains to some of the consequences of the doctor's management of the Belmont, the second to the matter of women doctors in Worcester and the welcoming attitude of the District Medical Society.

Evidence of Dr. Holmes' success in directing the improvement of the hospital campus can be seen in the buildings that are part of the complex today. None of the buildings survive that were standing here when she began her career as superintendent in 1896. Every building on the site was built under her leadership in an effort to provide the institution with better and more modern facilities. Although additions have been made to some of those buildings, their main portions were built under her aegis. It is to her credit that the tuberculosis ward was built at this site instead of at some other location in the city. It was due to her vision, planning, personal insistence, and political skill that this and other buildings in the complex came to be. The Belmont Hospital buildings are monuments to Dr. Holmes ability to make her case for the need for new facilities and to gain the political and economic support necessary for their construction.

Dr. Holmes was not Worcester's first woman physician. According to one source, the city's first female doctor was Dr. Mary Vincent O'Callahan, who began her practice in 1885 and who was instrumental in the founding of St. Vincent Hospital. She was also the first female member of the Worcester District Medical Society, which had much earlier, in 1873, passed a resolution that it had "no objection to" the admission of female members. Dr. Holmes became a member of the society in 1895 when she first came to Worcester. A 1930 newspaper article entitled "Women Doctors in Worcester Hospitals" reported that there were seventeen woman physicians working in the city's hospitals at that time. Of these the greatest number were on the staffs of Memorial Hospital and Belmont Hospital, both hospitals that treated large numbers of children. It is presumed that the greater number of woman physicians at these hospitals also depended upon the fact that a large number of their patients were children and that their superintendents were women. The 1931 annual report of Belmont Hospital listed several female physicians on staff, in addition to the superintendent. They were Dr. Lillian De Armit, assistant superintendent; Dr. Constance Kalisis, senior house physician in the isolation wards; and Dr. Laura Jacques. Dr. Emma Ardis, Assistant Physician, was replaced by Dr. Vera Weagle.

Ref.: Susan M. Ceccacci, *Historical Documentation Report: Belmont Hospital Complex*, 2002



The Woman Doctor Who "Did Everything" At Belmont Hospital

Sunday Telegram

Apr-20-1941

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The Story of Dr. May S. Holmes Who Retires After 44 Years As Head of the Institution She Has Directed From Its Beginning

By MARGARET BRANDENBURG

"LET'S HAVE a woman doctor; she can do everything," insisted a Worcester physician in 1896 when the executive officer of the board of health, James C. Coffey, was trying to find just the right person for the superintendent of the new hospital for contagious diseases, then being built on Belmont Hill. "It's away out in the country, and no man would stay there. There'll be a lot of diphtheria and scarlet fever, trained nurses will not fill the bill, and if we get a woman doctor, she can just do everything!"

It was, therefore, no accident that young Dr. May Salona Holmes, of Lee, Mass., 25 years of age, dark-eyed, capable and good-looking, with her doctor's diploma practically warm in her flexible hands, after a year's internship at Memorial Hospital, in which she distinguished herself by her work with typhoid and pneumonia, was asked to head the new little hospital, on the recommendation of Dr. Lois Nelson, superintendent of Memorial. She is now leaving Belmont after 44½ years of service.

"I've seen typhoid fever wiped off the map, diphtheria wiped off the map, and scarlet fever is on the go," declared Dr. Holmes enthusiastically. "We used to have many cases. Now we have only a few. At Memorial, my chief work was with typhoid fever, and pneumonia. Typhoid baths and pneumonia jackets were my

care night and day. I chose to go into a hospital because I liked bedside work, and I liked people. I think they chose me for Belmont because I was a bird in the hand, and they had none in the bush. Then, I could be housekeeper, and 'do everything,' as the doctor said. And I did, and liked it."

To have expanded Belmont Hospital from three small wooden buildings, to nine buildings of modern fireproof construction, with modern equipment, and worth more than a million and a quarter dollars; from 3½ acres of land to 47½; to have expanded a staff of one physician, herself, to a staff of seven, including herself; to have saved many lives in a diphtheria epidemic which filled the hospital and overflowed into tents on the grounds; to have helped a thousand people in Lee, Mass., to recover from a siege of septic sore throat—these are only a few of the achievements of Dr. Holmes, whose resignation after these 44½ years, goes into effect May 19. And perhaps one should add, serving under sixteen mayors, and Boards of Health, and for the last two years, under a Board of Trustees. For that also, must be an accomplishment.

To Dr. Holmes, who left yesterday for a well-merited leave of absence before her resignation becomes effective, the highlight of her long career must have been the placing of the bronze plaque in the Holmes building, in 1936,

by the employes of the hospital, "in appreciation of her devotion and service to all."

SHE IS NOT going to remain in the city, among her many friends, or among many who would like to know her better, but with her niece, Miss May Sargent, she will conduct a herb farm, at Orleans, on Cape Cod. She will not be a "herb doctor," or raise herbs commercially, but since she and Miss Sargent have been studying the culinary uses of herbs for several years, they expect to provide housewives with small jars of herbs of dozens of kinds, including original and delicious herb jellies. She will probably continue "doing everything."

Dr. Holmes, who declares merrily that she is a "hill town Yankee," is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Morrison A. Holmes of Lee. Mr. Holmes was connected with the American Missionary Association, engaged in Southern work, and was stationed at Charleston, S. C., the last 20 years of his life.

She was a student at Smith College, of the class of '94. After two years, she left Smith, to fulfill her desire to study medicine. In those days, relates Dr. Holmes, it was considered "not quite nice," for young ladies to enter the medical profession. But she persevered, and registered at the Woman's Medical College of the New York City Infirmary, founded by the Blackwell sis-

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ters and their brother Henry, all famous feminists, which made it possible for women to have medical careers and internships in hospitals. It was here that she obtained her degree of doctor of medicine.

"Dr. Richard Cabot once said," tells Dr. Holmes, "that people would rather be treated by an inferior man doctor than by the best woman physician. This is a prejudice that has never been overcome."

Having obtained her degree, she came to Worcester for a year's internship at Memorial Hospital under Dr. Lois Nelson. Dr. Nelson was one of the great influences in her life, as they were intimate friends for years, keeping up their intimacy through correspondence when Dr. Nelson moved to California in 1926, until her death in 1939.

After the year at Memorial, she returned to Lee, where people stopped her on the street to exclaim, "Why, May! How you have surprised us," and "Do you really think a woman can succeed in medicine?" To which she flashed back that she certainly did.

IN THE middle of August, 1896, James C. Coffey, first paid executive of the Board of Health, who served the city from 1884 to his death in 1921, began looking for someone to

take charge of the isolation hospital then being built on Belmont Hill, by the Board of Health, to be opened in the Fall. Warmly recommended by Dr. Nelson, Dr. Holmes was selected as Belmont Hospital's first superintendent. She has been there, and "done everything," ever since.

"Every time I've tried to break away," says Dr. Holmes whimsically, "something has always brought me back. Few cared for the isolation hospital in those days, beside Mr. Coffey, who visited it every day all through his life. Belmont was the apple of his eye. He conceived it, and he worked for it. He did a great deal for the health of the city, also. In the '80's his first duty as health officer was to drive the pigs from Main street. In an early report, he says: "The pigs have now been driven from Main street. Now the cows must sedately follow the pigs." Another idea of Mr. Coffey's was that Worcester must have sewer connections. We have always had a progressive Board of Health here.

"In those days, many people would not even drive up Belmont hill, fearing contagious disease. Often, when I went places, people looked at me askance, and asked me whether it was perfectly safe for me to be there. Now, of course, it is quite different."

When Dr. Holmes arrived, the furniture was just being moved into the largest of three wooden buildings, where her office is located at present. On each side of this building there was a small pavilion; these pavilions were planned to have scarlet fever and diphtheria wards, and kitchen and bath.

The nurses were obliged to sleep in the same ward with their patients. In the rear, there was a laundry and sterilizing section; there was also a little morgue, as patients cannot by law be taken immediately home from the hospital for burial.

In 1907, small changes began. More land was bought by the Board of Health, to prevent further encroachment of buildings not connected with the hospital. Five acres in an apple orchard were mapped out into streets and lots. Mayor James B. Logan saw that the land was bought for the hospital. It belonged to Henry Putnam, who still lived in the old Putnam home at the corner of Adams and Belmont. The Consolidated Railway now extended the line from Shrewsbury to Merrifield street and later to Bell Road. Gradually gas and other improvements came their way.

"Mr. Putnam," says Dr. Holmes, "was a dear soul, a real neighbor, like those in the country. He wished to give land of his own to the city for a tuberculosis ward, though many did not want it.

"You have asked me about my political experiences. I will tell you how we got this beautiful building.

"Mr. Putnam offered the land to the city through the Board of Health. The city did nothing about it. Eventually, Mr. Putnam put a time limit to his offer.

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"Finally the meeting of the council was to be held, when if the offer were not accepted, the land would be lost to the city. At nine o'clock that Monday morning, I sat down at the telephone, called every physician in the city, urged them to call their friends, and call the councilmen, asking them to vote for the land's acceptance. I called every minister, and every civic-minded person I could think of.

"The Council passed the order. Now we have our fine Putnam tuberculosis ward, with its splendid addition."

IT WAS during Mayor George

H. Wright's administration that the Putnam tuberculosis ward was opened, in December, 1914. Then came World War No. 1, and the ward was immediately used for the great influenza epidemic. When Mayor Pehr G. Holmes was in office, he led the campaign for more room for Belmont, which resulted in the Coffey Ward. He also saw that an ambulance was purchased for Belmont which up to that time had transferred its patients in horse-drawn vehicles kept in downtown livery stables.

In 1921, the Coffey Ward for contagious diseases was opened. Mr. Coffey performed his last duty for the hospital in inspecting this ward, before its acceptance by the city. That very night, he was found dead in his chair at home, after a long and most conscientious period of service to Worcester. The Coffey ward is used as an emergency ward, since there are fewer contagious diseases than there used to be.

It is Dr. Holmes's earnest desire to use it for terminal cancer cases, for she says Worcester and Belmont can give it. However, they have not been able to do it for lack of funds.

Through 1929, the Coffey building was the only one for are 100 single rooms in Holmes.

Going into this splendid building, entirely fireproof, one sees through the great glass windows along the corridor, tiny children, some playing with dolls and tops, or looking at scrapbooks which will later be burned if necessary; some one or two may be under an oxygen tent; perhaps a child is being given a tasty meal; some look out and smile at passers-by; or there may be pale little faces of those whose suffering is being relieved as rapidly as possible.

The most modern equipment for spinal infections and their various complications is in this building, including the Drinker respirator. The sterilizers are interesting, and there is a beautiful little chapel on the first floor, given by Mrs. George S. Barton, in memory of Helen Blake Lincoln, her mother, and George Winslow Lincoln, her brother.

The newest building and the last under Dr. Holmes's administration is a recreation building for the ambulant tubercular men.

"They like to play pool, and they ought to do it," twinkled Dr. Holmes. "They are pretty loud talkers, and they like to smoke. They like to smoke, too, and since the pool tables are

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quite noisy, we tried to find a place where they could talk, and laugh, and play pool, and such as septic sore throat, and the same condition extending into the lungs. There are more meningeal diseases, than there used to be. Meningitis of various bacterial origins begins to come in.

"During our early years, malaria was very prevalent in Worcester as well as along the Blackstone Valley. The Spanish War veterans brought back a great deal more, yet as soon as the mosquito was known to be the carrier, the disease was soon brought under control, and now it is almost unknown.

"IT USED to be thought that every year we had to have epidemics of cholera infantum and cholera morbus. In the old Board of Health reports, we are always being warned that there is cholera in Boston, and in New York Harbor, and 'We must be prepared for a siege of cholera.' These diseases are extremely rare today.

"We used to see many, many undernourished children. I always wanted to do something for them. When I saw the farms where the milk used to be prepared, my heart sickened. I wondered how people drank it and lived. I belonged to the first society to have milk stations in Worcester, in the Summer, to which Dr. R. G. Ward, Dr. Charles Nichols, and many other interested people belonged. Now milk is so well-cared-for that we do not need the stations.

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* * *

"But it has not been so long ago that people did not think it necessary to sterilize or pasteurize milk. One of the worst epidemics in the state happened only 13 years ago.

"A milk-borne siege of septic sore throat broke out in Lee, Mass., my own home town. Of the four thousand inhabitants, nearly one thousand were ill with it. On a peaceful Sunday afternoon, an old friend called me, saying, 'May, come at once. Bring all the nurses you can get, and instruments. People are dying. It is septic sore throat.' At 4 o'clock she telephoned, and the nurses and I met her in Springfield at 6. We were in Lee by 9 at night."

As Dr. Holmes was about to go on her holidays, and there were few patients at the hospital, she gathered together about 20 nurses all from this city. A hospital, with beds and cots, blankets, sheets, all the equipment that the stricken town could collect hastily, was organized by Dr. Holmes, in the high school building, with boilers for sterilizing secured from some source.

Her nurses were trained for contagious and infectious diseases, and were not afraid of them. As for Dr. Holmes, this was one of the emergencies for which her life, character, and training had prepared her. And Lee is most grateful to Worcester, her nurses, and especially to Dr. Holmes, who saved hundreds of lives there, just as she has saved them here, especially at

the time of the diphtheria scourge.

"IN THE early days, we had diphtheria and scarlet fever at the hospital. We began taking measles, and we found, as the need arose, that we had to break our rules and take mumps and whooping cough. Now since we have modern equipment for the care of such troubles, and proper quarantine for disease, we take erysipelas, septic sore throat, and all streptococcus infections, as well as a few infantile cases. That our iron lung, the Drinker respirator, has saved at least one life, we are certain," continued Dr. Holmes.

"Though contagious diseases are so evidently dropping in number, we always have something hanging over our heads. Pestilence eternally follows war. In the present world war, both England and Germany have been most successful in avoiding diseases that might have been expected. And we ourselves have got to be prepared for any future emergency. It is a satisfaction to know that Belmont is ready."

Dr. Holmes is a member of the Worcester Woman's Club, which organized the Belmont Aid Society, of which Mrs. Eugene W. Esten, 6 Monterey road, is president. She is also a member of the Worcester Women's Republican Club.

Among her interests, beside the hospital and the herbs, are books

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of all kinds. She has collected many first editions and rare books, including a fore-edge edition of Byron's poems. This book, when the thumb is run over the fore-edge, shows an exquisite tiny painting of Venice. She has also enthusiastically collected early American glass, and many miniature figures and objects. Much of this will go to the Cape, where she and Miss Sargent will busy themselves with growing herbs for culinary purposes.

What the hospital will do without Dr. Holmes, no one knows. Under the government of the Board of Health up to 1939, it now has a Board of Trustees, with Dr. Samuel C. Gwynne as president. This board is made up of three members from the Board of Health, three from the city government, and three members-at-large.

Dr. Holmes has had a long, brilliant, and sometimes difficult, career. Working with sixteen different mayors, adjusting herself to many personalities, and finally building up a plant worth more than a million and a quarter dollars, one could say, with the early doctor, "Here is a woman who has done everything."

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Not mentioned in the foregoing article is the major and important role she played in the influenza epidemic in Worcester in 1918-19. A good example of her dedication and readiness to go the extra mile is reflected in the following article pertaining to an epidemic of septic sore throat in 1926 in the town of Lee, Mass., which happens to have been the town in which she grew up. Dr. Holmes and a group of local nurses responded to a call for help from the town. The story was followed in the column by a note on the role of the Red Cross in the same crisis.

Apologies are due for the poor quality of the "video." Sometimes newsprint captured electronically from microfilm and emailed to one's home PC doesn't quite work out, but usually it does and the product is good.

CITY PHYSICIANS, NURSES FIGHTING EPIDEMIC AT LEE

JUL 11 1926

Ten From Worcester Heed
Call For Aid From
Stricken Village

DEATH TOLL NOW 16

Workers Rapidly Getting
Situation Under Control.
Latest Reports Say

In answer to the call for assistance sent by officials doctors in Lee, two physicians from the Belmont Isolation hospital, four of its nurses, and four other private nurses in the city, have gone to the little Massachusetts community which has been stricken with an epidemic of septic sore throat. Sixteen deaths were reported up to yesterday, and 600 in the town are ill.

Dr. Salome Holmes, superintendent of the Isolation hospital received an urgent plea for assistance on Sunday and went immediately with Dr. Anna De Armit. Two nurses accompanied them, Miss Catherine McCann, and Miss Bessie Bourdelaise. On Monday, in response to a telephone call from Dr. Holmes, the quartet were joined by Miss Margaret Prendergast and Miss Sylvia Lyons.

Monday night the Worcester physician telephoned again, requesting her staff to find more nurses from the Worcester registry. Yesterday, Miss Ella Dickinson and Miss Esther Dickinson, sisters, graduates of City hospital; Miss A. Aceby and Miss Mary Sullivan, graduates of St. Vincent hospital, answered the call.

Dr. Holmes did not telephone the hospital up to a late hour last night. She reported on Monday night that

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Dr. Holmes did not telephone the hospital up to a late hour last night. She reported on Monday night that they were rapidly getting the situation into control, but that the nurses were extremely busy.

Health authorities under whom the Worcester nurses and physicians are working, reported that the spread of the disease, whose origin has not yet been definitely ascertained, has been checked. The death of William Benton, 68, president of the Lee Savings bank, brought the total of fatalities up to 16.

Virtually no new cases were reported today. The quarantine which was put into effect the first of the week has been continued, and will not be lifted until all danger from the disease has passed.

Benton was the fourth victim of the disease yesterday. Three others died in the morning. The majority of those who succumbed have been over 60 years of age.

Red Cross Offers To Aid in Lee Epidemic

WASHINGTON, July 10 (AP)—An offer to supply additional nurses, if needed, to help in the septic sore throat epidemic raging in Lee, Mass., was made today by the American Red Cross.

The organization announced that 34 nurses and a number of doctors had been recruited by the Berkshire county chapter and were assisting the sick, now totaling 500, in a temporary hospital in the high school and in home nursing.

Miss Mildred Whiting, national nursing representative for the county, arrived at Lee last night and reported to headquarters today that the number of cases was decreasing.

Dr. May S. Holmes To Resign May 19

Successor to Belmont Superintendent Sought

Belmont Hospital trustees announced yesterday they are seeking a successor, preferably a man to assume the duties of Dr. May S. Holmes, superintendent for 44 years, who will retire May 19 upon reaching the age limit of 70.

Dr. Samuel C. Gwynne, president of the board, said the trustees have asked the superintendents of hospitals in Worcester and the heads of various medical organizations and journals to post notices of the impending vacancy.

Should Apply by March 15

Applications should be addressed to the president of the Board of Trustees, Belmont Hospital, and should be sent not later than March 15, Dr. Gwynne said. The board, he added, will meet March 20 to begin consideration of candidates.

Only those who have held a position of responsibility in the field of hospital administration and who can furnish a reference from an official of the American College of Surgeons or the American Hospital Association as to competence to be superintendent of Belmont Hospital will be eligible, Dr. Gwynne declared.

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The board will be inclined to give preference to male applicants, since members said it probably would be difficult to find another woman with the combined medical and administrative background of Dr. Holmes.

The position pays \$4000 a year, and maintenance.

Dr. Holmes, in her long administration, has seen the hospital grow from an institution of two pavilions for scarlet fever and diphtheria and an administrative building to a group of 10 buildings.

Fine Tuberculosis Ward

Its tuberculosis ward, when added in 1914, was described as one of the finest municipal-supported institutions of its kind in the country.

Dr. Holmes, a native of Lee, attended Smith College for two years and then went to Blackwell Sisters College from which she received her degree. The Blackwell Sisters were the first women physicians in New York. They later closed their college when Cornell moved its medical school to New York.

The modern reader will marvel at the explicit statement, in the fifth paragraph, of the trustees' preference for male applicants to replace the woman who held the position its first 44 ½ years. They were successful in finding a man thought to be suitable. The next superintendent was Dr. Huston K. Spangler.

Dr. May S. Holmes Taken by Death

Was Superintendent of Belmont
Hospital for 44 Years

Dr. May Salona Holmes, 73, who retired in 1941 after serving as superintendent of Belmont Hospital for 44 years, died in City Hospital at 2 o'clock this morning. She entered the hospital Monday for treatment for a heart condition.



Dr. May S. Holmes who died early this morning.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

Born at Lee, Dr. Holmes received her early education there and then attended Smith College. She left Smith after completing two years work, to attend the Women's Medical College of the New York City Infirmary, founded by the Blackwell sisters.

The Blackwell sisters were New York's first women physicians. They closed their college when Cornell moved its medical school to New York.

Dr. Holmes served her internship at Memorial Hospital.

It was in 1896 when Dr. Holmes, a girl of 25, dark eyed, capable, and good looking, made application to head the small Belmont Hospital which the city was building for contagious cases "way out in the country."

Dr. Holmes wanted the place because she had achieved considerable success with the contagious cases, the typhoids and the pneumonias at Memorial.

She became its first head. It had three small wooden buildings on three and one-half acres of land. She guided its growth until she left in 1941, when it had nine modern fireproof buildings, modern equipment, and stood on forty-seven and one-half acres of land.

Turn to DR. HOLMES, Page Thirteen

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Dr. Holmes served under 16 mayors, under a number of boards of health, and for her last two years under a Board of Trustees.

In 1936 employes of the hospital placed a bronze plaque dedicated to her in the Holmes building in the hospital group.

Dr. Holmes was a member of the Worcester Woman's Club and of the Worcester Women's Republican Club.

But her chief interest through her life was the hospital and its patients.

Fought Epidemic in '07

She was eminently successful in combating a terrible epidemic of diphtheria which swept Worcester in 1907. She also had remarkable success with membranous croup, a type of diphtheria formerly much more common and more often fatal than now.

Since her retirement she has spent more time with her beloved collection of rare books and first editions, and in the Summer cultivating herbs.

Rites Wednesday For Dr. Holmes

The funeral of Dr. May Salona Holmes, 73, former superintendent of Belmont Hospital, who died in City Hospital early yesterday, will be in Sessions Chapel Wednesday at 10 o'clock. Rev. William Smith, rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, will officiate. Burial will be in Fairmount Cemetery in Lee. Calling hours at the chapel are tonight and all day Tuesday.

Dr. Holmes was superintendent of Belmont Hospital from its inception in 1896 until her retirement May 12, 1941. She served under 16 mayors and boards of health and, for the last two years of her administration, under a board of trustees. Early in 1938, when the three hundred thousand dollar three-story isolation wing was completed at the hospital, the structure was named the May Salona Holmes Building, and the hospital employes honored Dr. Holmes by placing a tablet in the building's library "in appreciation of her devotion and service to all."

She was born in Lee, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Morrison A. Holmes. Her father was connected with the American Missionary Association and was stationed in Charleston, S. C., for the last 20 years of his life.

Dr. Holmes was a student at Smith College in the class of 1894, but she left Smith after two years to fulfill an early ambition to make medicine her career. Although it was considered "not quite nice" for a

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young woman to enter the medical profession in those days, she persevered and entered the Woman's Medical College of the New York City Infirmity, founded by the Blackwell sisters, early feminists, who made it possible for women to have medical careers. It was here that she obtained her M. D.

After receiving her degree she came to Worcester to serve a year's internship at Memorial Hospital under Dr. Lois Nelson. In the fall of 1896, James C. Coffey, first paid executive of the Board of Health, looked for somebody to head the city's isolation hospital then being built on Belmont Hill, considered in those days, "away out in the country."

Dr. Holmes, who had achieved success at Memorial Hospital in the treatment of contagious diseases, made application for the position. She was warmly recommended by Dr. Nelson and was appointed the first superintendent. She was then 25.

She was a member of the Worcester Woman's Club and the Worcester Women's Republican Club.

Since her retirement, she had made her home in Orleans on Cape Cod with a niece, Miss May Sargent. Besides Miss Sargent, she leaves a nephew, Richard Sargent of Tonasket, Wash.