



Dr. Crawford came to Marmora to begin his medical practice at the end of 1912 after a short stay in Havelock, Ontario and immediately after completing his post graduate work in England. He later purchased the medical practice from Dr. William Graeme Mackechnie who had served the Village from 1907 until 1919. Dr. Mackechnie had moved his practice to the Port of Spain, Trinidad and was only visiting Marmora during the summer months to stay at his cottage on Crowe Lake with his wife Ada Maitland Squires.

On May 25, 1911 Dr. Hamilton Crawford married Helen Hay, a Registered Nurse from the Peterborough area. Helen died on May 20, 1919 at the age of 34. She left two daughters, Grace and Frances as well as a son, Thomas, who was only 16 months at the time. Dr. Crawford later remarried Mrs. Mary DeNike, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James McGlennon of Colborne, Ontario.

Mr. and Mrs. Crawford often socialized with Dr. David Thomson and his wife Mary Swan Riddell who had also arrived in Marmora in April, 1910. The Marmora Herald, dated September 25, 1919 and November 13, 1919 wrote;

'Drs Thomson and Crawford will conduct their office practice on a strictly cash basis after the 15th of the month. It will not apply to outside calls.'

'Dr. Mackechnie, assisted by Drs Thomson and Crawford set up a clinic in the Town Hall for the benefit of the Marmora and District School children. A total of 27 operations were performed for the removal of tonsils and adenoids.'

Dr. Crawford was a man who excelled in his profession. Even though he sometimes felt isolated living in a small community - he endeavoured to maintain his medical and surgical skills at the highest level possible. He often attended specialized courses in Toronto and once attended courses at the famous Mayo Brothers Clinic in the United States.

It was reported in the Marmora Herald that the CNR State Agent, Ernest Bell and Dr. Crawford were the very first ones in the Marmora area to have motorized cars. At one Village Council meeting, the Marmora Herald dated January 11, 1917 reported that Dr. Crawford made an appeal for the Council to provide some grant money to pay for recruiting Veterans for World War I in the Marmora vicinity. Council finally agreed to pay for three months rent for a recruiting office in the Village and to pay \$1 for each soldier that was recruited. Dr. Crawford also served on just about every position available on the rink committee. In 1929 he acted as Chairman when the committee again proposed that Marmora should have a covered arena.

Dr. Crawford announced his retirement effective April, 1947. Some of his closest friends arranged a surprise visit to his office and presented him with a gift of a diamond ring and Mary with a Royal Doulton figurine.

The Deloro Smelting & Refining Co. Ltd., where Dr. Crawford had attended most of the employees and their families for over 34 years, also decided to honour him. On June 26, 1947, the Marmora Herald reported that a two-storey wooden home located on Bursthall Street and belonging to Henry Reginald Pearce would be purchased by the plant and hopefully converted to a 12-bed hospital in Dr. Crawford's honour. The first floor would have a nursery, a delivery-room, office, kitchen, storage room and a dining room for the staff. The Deloro plant had set aside \$4,000 for the conversion but the Architect's estimate to complete the job was closer to \$8,000.

However, the Department of Health which was not encouraging small hospitals of this nature to be built, insisted that their strict regulations had to be met. When the final price for equipment and all Government requirements were factored in, the price soared to \$35,000. Arthur V. Yates, General Manager of the Deloro Plant, informed the Village Council that they felt the price was too prohibitive at this time. So, it was with pride that the Deloro S & R Co. Ltd. announced to the rink committee on May 11, 1948 that it would donate \$7,500 for the new covered arena with the single provision that it be called the "Crawford Arena".

The plaque inscription for the official opening held on October 15, 1948 read:

'The Dr. Hamilton Crawford Arena - This structure built as a community effort by the citizens of the Marmora District is dedicated to the thirty-five years of faithful and outstanding service given by Dr. Hamilton Crawford October, 1948.'

Mrs. Crawford died on June 16, 1950 and was buried at the cemetery in Colborne. After her death Dr. Crawford sold their residence in Brighton and returned to Marmora. Dr. Crawford died on September 11, 1951 at the age of 76.

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