Mary Harris Thompson, MD, Chicago Medical College Class of 1870 was the only woman to graduate from Northwestern University’s medical school predecessor. In 1865, she established the Chicago Hospital for Women and Children; renamed the Mary Thompson Hospital after her death in 1895. Her degree from CMC was “ad eundem,” she, already having an MD from the New England Female Medical College in Boston 1863.

Dr. Thompson and Dr. William Byford established the Woman’s Hospital Medical College of Chicago in 1870. In 1879, the name was changed to Woman’s Medical College of Chicago. An affiliation with Northwestern University began in 1892 creating the Northwestern University Woman’s Medical School. That school and its predecessor(s) graduated nearly 600 female physicians before being unceremoniously closed in 1902.