

## The Grignon House

At the end of the eighteenth century, the practice of medicine was not unlike medicine practised in the Middle Ages, in spite of fabulous scientific discoveries. Most of the time, people tended to their own illnesses...with the help of a grandmother or a midwife for childbirth. Recourse to a physician, who also acted as dentist and optometrist, was only undertaken in extreme cases.

Nonetheless, in 1881, Saint-Jovite<sup>1</sup> welcomed its first doctor: Dr. Aurèle Bigonnesse. He was followed by doctors Wilfrid Prévost (1887), Eugène Gervais (1893) and Henri Grignon (1915). This latter moved into this red brick building where he both lived and practised medicine.

In those days, the doctor's office included, in addition to his consulting office, a place for preparing remedies, because he was also an apothecary.

What's more, a country doctor spent a lot of time on the road because a great deal of his work consisted of visiting and taking care of people who were ill in their homes. The rare hospitalizations that took place were at the Hôtel-Dieu hospital in Saint-Jérôme. Sick people had to make their way there by train.

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Legend: Dr. Eugène Gervais and his wife Anna Archambault.  
*Source: collection of Francine Gervais*

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<sup>1</sup> Saint-Jovite is the name of one of the former municipalities which merged to form what is today the Ville de Mont-Tremblant



Legend: Dr. Henri Grignon and his wife Mary Locas.  
*Source: collection of Solange Grignon*