

Ethel Johns' Plaque Unveiled

Ethel Johns, BCHNS's successful nominee as a "person of national historic significance" in 2011, now has been honoured by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, Parks Canada, with a bronze memorial plaque.

A recognition ceremony and unveiling of the plaque took place February 10, 2015, at the University of B.C. Dr. Harold Kalman of the Board made the presentation. The bronze plaque likely will be mounted in the patient park near Koerner Acute Care Hospital, which currently houses the UBC School of Nursing. Johns was first director (1919-1925) of the School, which was the first baccalaureate degree program for nurses in Canada.

The delightful ceremony was attended by 40 guests including representatives from the Society, UBC Nursing, which had supported the original nomination, and Parks Canada. BCHNS Member Margaret Scaia, who is president of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing, also a supporter of the nomination, attended from Victoria.

As BCHNS President Kathy Murphy pointed out in her remarks during the ceremony, Ethel Johns (1879-1968) was a national and international nurse leader who believed strongly in advanced nursing education as a key strategy for improving health. A 1902 graduate of Winnipeg General Hospital, she early became involved with the launching of two



important nursing organizations: the Alumnae Association of the Winnipeg General Hospital and the Manitoba Association of Graduate Nurses. She also began a life-long career as a writer by submitting articles to *The Canadian Nurse*. This was the beginning of a 50-year involvement with nursing associations at local, provincial, national, and international levels. In her writings and in an outstanding public address in Winnipeg in 1910, Ethel Johns stressed the need for standardization of nursing educational programs and for provincial nursing examinations. As well, she began to champion a move, already underway in eastern Canada, for provincial registration for nurses. As a result of the efforts of Johns and like-minded colleagues, Manitoba was, in 1913, the second province in Canada to achieve a Nurse Registration Act.

One year of degree work in nursing science at

continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE:

Ethel Johns Plague Unveiled	Cover
President's Message	Page 3
Editors' Desk	Page 4
Archival Corner	Page 4
Remembering	Page 5
Feature: Nellie Hrisook from St. Eugene Hospital	Page 6-7
Health Care in a Border Town	Page 8
Consortium: Nursing History Research is "Alive and Well"	Page 9
Member News	Page 9
Coming Events	Page 11



Newsletter Committee

Lynne Esson (chair) Beth Fitzpatrick, Naomi Miller,
Ethel Warbinek, & Sheila Zerr.

*The BC History of Nursing Society
Newsletter is published 4 times per year. Submissions are
welcome. Deadline for the Summer Issue is May 15, 2015.*

*Please send submissions to:
Ethel Warbinek at warbinek@telus.net*

continued from page 1 (Photos for this article by Don Erhardat, Courtesy UBC School of Nursing).



Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York, gave her a sound understanding of fundamentals of research. On her return to Winnipeg as superintendent of the Children's Hospital, she was also appointed to provincial government commissions looking into nursing standards and into labour unions.

She left UBC in 1925 to become field director of nursing programs in central Europe for the Rockefeller Foundation. Although primarily an educator and administrator before this appointment, during the Rockefeller years, she served mainly as what today would be called a researcher and powerful advocate for nursing education.

She returned to Canada in 1933 to be editor of *The Canadian Nurse*. During the next 12 years, she established the magazine on a secure foundation and it gained international stature and recognition. A life-long writer and influential speaker, she was author of three books, a series of 16 delightful pamphlets (later compiled into another book called *Just Plain Nursing*), several major reports, more than 100 articles and editorials, and numerous speeches and presentations. She retired from *The Canadian Nurse* in 1945 and returned permanently to Vancouver, but continued to write and was a frequent guest speaker

throughout Canada and the United States.

Among her many awards were medals of honour from Belgium and French health agencies, an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Mount Allison University, and the Mary Agnes Snively Memorial Medal, the highest award of the Canadian Nurses Association. She died in Vancouver in 1968. A biography of her life, *Watch-fires on the Mountains: The Life and Writings of Ethel Johns*, by former BCHNS life member Margaret M. Street, was published in 1973.

BCHNS members Glennis Zilm and Nan Martin and many, many others worked diligently with Parks Canada to see this recognition finally happen. BCHNS also arranged for displays on Ethel Johns to be set up during the ceremonies and Cheryl Entwistle, who is in charge of displays, wore a period nursing costume during the event – making her a favorite subject for the many photographers attending. For more information, see the BCHNS website blog and the UBC nursing website at <http://news.ubc.ca/2015/02/10/ubcs-first-nursing-school-director-celebrated-as-person-of-national-historic-significance>. You can access photos from the event at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/ubcschoolofnursing/sets/72157648558819033/>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY KATHY MURPHY



With flowers blooming and cherry blossoms bursting daily in the Lower Mainland, it seems hard to believe that Spring is several weeks away. February has been a momentous month for our Society as many of us took part in the Recognition Ceremony of Ethel Johns, the first Director of the UBC School of Nursing which commenced in 1919. This amazing woman overcame resistance from several groups to create the first nursing degree program in Canada and the British Empire.

At a later meeting that week, plans were confirmed for the Annual General Meeting to be held Thursday, April 16, 2015 from at 4:30 pm at the CRNBC.

All members are invited to attend but should let us know as a light supper will be served.

Plans have also been confirmed for High Tea at Hycroft Manor on Sunday, September 20, 2015 in order for us to recognize the 25 year anniversary of this group. More details will be available on the website.

We are always looking forward to involving others in the work of the Society. If you are interested, please consider joining us at the annual meeting or contacting us through the website.

“... plans were confirmed for the Annual General Meeting to be held Thursday, April 16, 2015 from at 4:30 pm at the CRNBC.”

BOOK REVIEW:

REVIEWED BY GLENNIS ZILM

Canadian Nurses Association: One hundred years of service 1908-2008

Elliott, Jayne, Villeneuve, Michael, & Rutty, Christopher. (2013, December). *Canadian Nurses Association: One hundred years of service 1908-2008*. Ottawa: Canadian Nurses Association. 302 pp; illustrated. Available in boxed hardcover edition and online. ISBN 978-1-55719-395-3

The 100-year story of CNA is complex and intricate, involving as it does changing national and international issues and standards and the pressing needs for a nursing voice on health care. This beautiful coffee-table book does a fascinating job of unfolding the story in a compelling manner.

The lavishly illustrated work addresses pressing current issues and enhanced roles for nurses and nursing as well providing visions of how nurses have tackled the similar challenges throughout past decades. Much of the work deals with the CNA's lobbying role with governments.

The main body of the 302-page work runs for 134 pages and is followed by 21 appendices. The appendices provide valuable tables and lists, also illustrated, such as annotated lists of all presidents and the presidential issues, or Canadian nurses who have received the Order of Canada, and many, many more useful resources for educators and researchers. As well, a final, multi-page table provides Canadian nursing “milestones”



identifying pertinent nursing-related dates, within a national and global context, from 1617 to 2008.

The authors / compilers of this beautiful and thorough coffee-table book were exemplarily qualified to explore the involved history of CNA and it took them almost 10 years to see it into print. Nursing historian Dr. Jayne Elliott, who was research facilitator and administrator at the Associated Medical Services Nursing History Research Unit, University of Ottawa, was main writer and lead for the project. Dr. Mike Villeneuve, now with the Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, University of Toronto, and a former researcher for CNA, was, during a portion of the time for the writing of this book, scholar

in residence at CNA. Medical Historian Dr. Christopher Rutty is a researcher and founder of Health Heritage Services in Ottawa. The book was released at the 2014 CNA convention in June 2014.

A limited number of copies are available in a boxed hardcover edition from CNA for about \$160 plus shipping and handling. However, the book also is available in a free PDF download from the CNA website (cna-aiic.ca). The latter is an essential resource for all nursing history buffs, although the tables and appendices are easier to peruse in the hardcover edition, so urge your local nursing library to get a copy.

EDITORS' DESK

BY GLENNIS ZILM AND NAOMI MILLER



"Dressing up" is a favorite activity, and most people also like to see others clothed in historic attire. Over the years, BCHNS members have found this a good way to stimulate interest people in history of nursing as well as an excellent teaching tool. We are fortunate to access to some unique archival wardrobe treasures as well as to wonderful replicas of nursing outfits representing the profession over the years.

Clothing styles have changed frequently throughout recorded history. Sometimes a great deal of history can be learned from fashions tied in with politics, prosperity or poverty of each era. British Scholar Ulinka Rublack argues that "an appreciation of people's relationship to appearances and images is essential to an understanding of what it meant to live at [a particular] time - and ever since." (Dressing Up. Oxford University Press, 2011).

Even the editors dress up. Our photos show Naomi in her replica late 1800s outfit; she wears this throughout the summer as a volunteer docent at the Fort Steele Historic Park (on the Crowsnest Highway in Eastern BC). Glennis is pictured wearing a replica of a nursing uniform worn in 1885 by Nurse Kate Miller,

Canada's first official "military nursing sister"; she had the replica made as part of her research into early military nursing history.

Even our BCHNS Archives, despite its lack of storage space, has a few original uniforms and other items of clothing and accessories that scholars can access. As well, Display Chair Cheryl Entwistle manages to store some gear donated to the Society that can be used in displays and at public events.

Sheila Rankin Zerr, in particular, has an exceptional collection of uniforms schools of nursing and frequently sets up "costume parades" for the public. One such event will be held on April 19, 2015, at the White Rock Museum and Archives (see "Mark your calendars"). BCHNS has been a partner with the Museum for its Spring exhibit on early health care in the area. Sheila is seeking members who will help with this public event, both as models to supplement models from the community and museum volunteers and as backstage "dressers." If you would like to help, please get in touch with us through "contact us" on the website or by phoning Glennis at 604-535-3238.



Archival Corner

The three medals pictured here are part of the "Dumpster Saga" – a pet project of one of our treasured members (Lois Blais) who, sadly, died before she could complete her research into this interesting story. Let me share with you how we acquired them.

They belonged to Madeline Harrower, a Tasmanian nurse who was born in 1869, served in the Boer War and World War 1, then in military hospitals in England before moving to Canada. She died in Vancouver in 1960. In 2004, boxes that had held the medals were found in a trash bin by a "dumpster diver," along with various other items and personal papers. The diver sold them to an auctioneer who gave us access to the materials. Madeline's grand-nephew had thrown the items out because he decided she was "only a nurse." Later, he donated the medals to the BC History of Nursing Society to complete our Madeline Harrower Fond.



REMEMBERING . . . BY ETHEL WARBINEK



Verna Huffman Splane (1914-2015)

Verna Huffman Splane, one of Canada's most noted nursing leaders and an honorary life member of BCHNS, died in January just weeks after her 100th birthday. She was a pioneer on behalf of nursing through extensive international health and development work with the World Health Organization, International Council of Nurses, and International Red Cross. She became a mentor to hundreds of nurses all over the world.

Born and raised in Ontario, she graduated during the depression years when a university education seemed out of reach. She opted for nursing and graduated from Peterborough Civic Hospital School of Nursing in 1937. She then joined the Victorian Order of Nurses, which was beginning to expand its capacity in public health and community based nursing. Over the years, she continued her education, obtaining a Certificate in Public Health Nursing from University of Toronto in 1939, and later a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Columbia University in New York and a Master of Public Health from the University of Michigan.

During her VON years, she took on short consultations for the World Health Organization. She joined Health and Welfare Canada in the 1960s and was appointed Canada's first federal principal nursing officer in 1968 and until 1981 was a key advisor to the deputy minister of health. During this time, she married Dr. Richard Splane, a social worker who was one of the architects of Canada's public social policies, such as the Canadian Social Assistance Plan.

Following Verna's retirement from Health Canada, the couple moved to Vancouver, where they became distinguished and influential academic advisors in the departments of social work and nursing. Their strong interests in international health and social welfare led to a number of senior appointments for Verna with WHO, ICN, and other non-governmental agencies, including UNICEF and the International Red Cross. She also became a strong supporter of history of nursing and for many years was an active participant in BCHNS.

Together with her husband, she wrote two books, including the internationally acclaimed *Focal Points for Nursing Leadership* (1994), a world-wide study of the role of senior nursing position in national ministries of health.

Verna's contributions have been recognized with the Award of Merit of the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia (1987), the Order of Canada (1996), Queen Elizabeth II Silver and Golden Jubilee medals (1977 and 2002), the Jeanne Mance Award, which is the Canadian Nurses' Association's highest honour (1982), the Canadian Red Cross Distinguished Service Award (1981), the Lil-

lian Carter Center for International Nursing Award (2001) and honorary doctorates from Queens (1980), St. Francis Xavier (1989), UBC (1996), and the University of Toronto (2007).

For more information, see the wonderful tribute to Verna by Michael Villeneuve on the ARNBC Website at www.arnbc.ca.

Kirstine (Adam) (Buckland) Griffith (1922 – 2014)

Kirstine Griffith, a long-standing History of Nursing member and loyal supporter of our group, died on December 5, 2014 following a brief illness. I will remember her wonderful smile and friendly greeting, always interested in others and nursing events.

Many will remember her hand-crafted cards with pressed flowers. Kirstine or "Kris" as she was known by her nursing friends, was a devoted wife, mother, and nurse.

Kirstine was born in Vancouver and from an early age always knew she would become a nurse. Most of her childhood was spent in Chemanius and later the family moved to Vancouver where she attended high school. She enrolled in the UBC School of Nursing program in 1940 graduating from the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing portion of her course in 1944 and from UBC with a BASc(N) in 1945. During her university years she met her future husband, Dr. Don Buckland, who later became a well known and highly respected Forestry Professor.

The following anecdote will amuse our members: "I had an interview with Miss Grey, Head of the UBC nursing program, as I had failed an exam in the History of Nursing. I was informed History of Nursing was quite romantic enough without my efforts to rewrite it. Later when I was teaching nursing, one course I refused to teach was the History of Nursing." (From Don's Story, page 86)

Following graduation, Kirstine and Don married, and she worked for the Saanich Health Department for two years. The family moved back to Vancouver and Kirstine spent the next several years looking after Don and their three children Elizabeth, Dorothy, and David. Don's eyesight began to fail as a complication of diabetes and Kirstine assisted him with reading, writing, and just getting around as a visually impaired person. Tragically, Don died in 1956 at age 38 and Kirstine returned to her nursing career, becoming the VGH Student Health Clinic nurse. Later she taught various courses in the School, taking time off to earn a MA degree from UBC. She married Braham Griffith in 1969 and remained at VGH until her retirement in 1982. Braham died in 1998.

In retirement she remained active with several projects



(continued on page 9)

A ST. EUGENE HOSPITAL NURSE:

Nellie Huscroft Hrisook

BY NAOMI MILLER, BCHNS

Nellie Huscroft grew up at Huscroft near the Kootenay River, where her father had established a logging and sawmill operation in 1927. She attended Huscroft Elementary School then Creston High. She graduated in 1943 and decided she needed to work to pay for her future education. World War II was raging and formerly male jobs were being given to girls. Nellie and her classmate Stella Beard took the train to Trail. Arrangements had been made for the two to have room and board with a nice family. Once their luggage was settled they applied for work at the Cominco mining and smelting company. Each found a job doing “war work” reading meters in different buildings.

Nellie applied to start training at St. Eugene Hospital in Cranbrook in January 1945 but when she arrived the Sisters informed her that no classes were to be held that month. The nuns, however, took compassion on this young lady. They offered her a job as a Nursing Aide with pay and room and board. She became a student (with a nest egg of money!) in September. Students were issued long-sleeved white dresses, buttons down the front, and the fullness controlled with a wide cotton belt. Probies wore white shoes and stockings (cotton stockings in that era). Six out of eight girls received the coveted cap after three months and continued through to graduation in 1948.

Among her memories of student days were meal times. Patients’ meals had to be served on warm plates as quickly as possible once the food arrived via dumbwaiter. Student nurses were always hungry and even the routine, mediocre quality meals disappeared quickly. Because crabapple trees grew in a garden behind the hospital, the fruit was a frequent item on the St. Eugene’s menu – served stewed or as jelly or pickles. In those days, patients were



kept in hospital for longer periods than in recent years. Individuals who particularly appreciated the care given by students showed their gratitude by treating them to a restaurant meal. Nell has happy memories of going, usually with another student, two blocks to the Cranbrook Hotel, scanning the menu and ordering good food at the insistence of her host or hostess.

Memories of the old St. Eugene’s include many practices that were “the norm” in those years. Things like folding diapers fresh from the laundry, applying binders and fixing flowers.

Maternity patients, in hospital from 7 to 10 days, enjoyed volunteering for diaper folding – making it a social occasion as they chatted with other new mothers. Both mother and baby wore a firm, many-tailed binder over the abdomen. If a mother did not plan to nurse her newborn, the breasts, too, were supported in a tight binder and stilbesterol given orally to dry up the mammary glands. Most patients were issued a cardboard sputum cup, folded and set in a metal holder. Bags made of folded newspaper were pinned on every bed to catch waste. Every student learned how to make these bags and the smart ones would teach a convalescent patient the trick, then supply him/her with a few newspapers so a stack of bags could be created. Visitors insisted on bringing in flowers. It fell to the nurse to set the bouquet in a vase, move the flowers out in the hall overnight, clip stems and change the water then return them to a place in the room. Linen was rationed. Each morning nurses and students stood in line, declared what items they needed, then would receive it from a Sister who had the key to the linen cupboard.

Nellie recalls with chagrin one night when she was a senior student. A preoperative enema was ordered for a newly admitted gentleman. This would be her



first experience with a male patient. She completed the assignment and returned to chart the results, only to discover she had made a mistake. Quickly she mixed up another batch of soapsuds and returned to the ward, ordering the man in the bed next to the first victim to roll over. Nellie quietly admitted to the oncoming day shift that she had given an enema to the wrong man but her conscience still pricks when she recalls that night.

Nellie was still a student when she met George Hrisook and started dating him. At that time the favorite haunt on Saturday evenings was the Bluebird Inn, a dance hall two miles away from the Hospital. George and Nellie enjoyed dancing to '40s music. Other girls from the hospital went periodically and looked for rides to and from the hall. George had a car that allowed him (in the days before seatbelts) to accommodate several passengers. After a little while it became a tradition for those hoping to go dancing on Saturday night to watch for George's car and line up for a ride. George enjoyed helping those other "kids" and even when Nellie was on 3- 11 shift he appeared at the door of the residence about 8 pm and returned to the Bluebird at 11:30 so the girls could meet their Cinderella deadline of midnight back at the dormitory.

Miss Huscroft passed her Registered Nurse exams with honours and graduated in 1948. She stayed on at St. Eugene's and was assigned daily to where the need was greatest. It might be to serve as circulating nurse in the Operating Room. There she remembers that the surgeons needed the big spotlight adjusted once or twice during each procedure.

One dramatic case she worked with was an elderly Ktunaxa lady who had suffered extensive burns but refused hospitalization for several days. When admitted her decaying flesh was crawling with maggots. Dr. Sullivan gleefully noted that maggots were a common treatment a century earlier. They consumed dead tissue. It was decided, however, that the lady should be transferred to Vancouver. The airline would only transport a "clean" patient, so she was gently lowered into a tub of warm water. The maggots floated free. The newly washed patient was placed aboard

a plane with a Catholic Sister to care for her en route. When the plane set down at Penticton she was no longer breathing. Sister and the deceased were gently transferred from the westbound plane to a flight back to Cranbrook. Staff at St. Eugene's had done a very thorough cleaning job to make sure bed, bedding, bathtub and room were free of maggots. Nellie swears that if she had witnessed this in her student days it would have been "Goodbye to Nursing" instantly.

Nellie married George Hrisook in 1950 and kept on working until their first child arrived in 1952. A second daughter was born in 1955 and their only son in 1960. Nellie did part time work, often specializing seriously ill cases. She spent many hours at the bedside of a logger who was seriously injured by a falling tree. Months later when his bruises were healed and bandages removed they met in the Post Office. He greeted her, "Hi, Nursey!" She stared and suddenly blurted, "I didn't recognize you with your clothes on!" Both blushed mightily and scuttled away.

When St. Eugene's was closing down in 1968 Nellie was the last person on duty there. She transferred to the new Cranbrook Hospital where she primarily worked in the Recovery Room as the hours on duty permitted her to be home after school with her children. In 1971, George became very ill. Nellie worked fewer and fewer hours so she could care for him. He died early in 1973. Darleen Mennie, head nurse at the expanding Green Clinic, invited Nell to work there. She teased, coaxed and pleaded. Finally when Darleen said, "I need you for three months" Nellie went to work there feeling sure that she would turn her back on the job once those months were up. But getting back into the hustle and bustle of everyday life was good for her. She enjoyed working at the clinic till 1979. Then, with her youngest child launched, she left to travel and try other things. She returned to nursing in 1985 when she started working in the Creston Medical Clinic. Many nurses quit wearing a cap but Nell felt it was part of her nursing uniform all her working days. A small boy saw this and asked his mother, "Is that nurse going to church?"

In 1989, she was able to retire and return to the old house in Cranbrook. Once here she threw her energy into reunions of St. Eugene's Alumnae. Gradually the reunions had to be modified from a two day affair to luncheons only. The final luncheon was in 2006. Nell decided to sell her big, memory-filled home. She moved to a pleasant little house not far away and looked for volunteer works to keep herself busy. If she is not at the Hospital Thrift Shop it may be Wellness Day at the Seniors Center or a retirement home. She keeps so busy that it was hard to arrange a time to interview her and learn a bit about her life.

History of healthcare in a border town

Photos by Lenore Radom, BCHNS

Do try to get out to visit the display, called “Critical Care: History of Hospitals in a Border Town,” at the White Rock Museum; it will be on until May 31, 2015. The BC History of Nursing Society was one of the groups to assist Amanda Sittrop, Collections, Exhibits, and Programming Coordinator, with ideas and artifacts for the display.

Members Lenore Radom and Glennis Zilm attended the official opening ceremonies on January 17 along with many White Rock dignitaries, museum volunteers, guests, and visitors. Mayor Wayne Baldwin and White Rock’s Member of the Legislative Assembly Gordon Hogg officially opened the display.

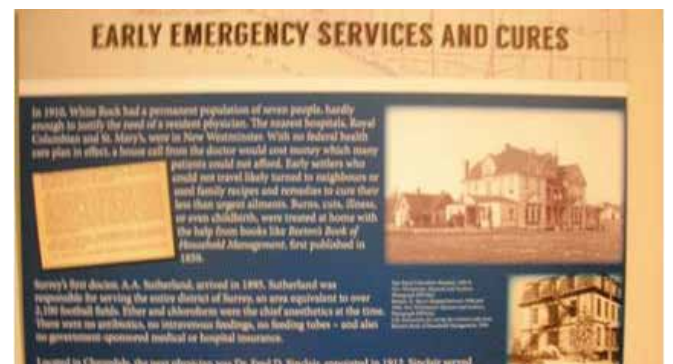
The display tells the story of health care in the White Rock area from the late 1890s, when the non-native area population was 70 people, until the late 1950s and early 1960s when the Peace Arch Hospital opened. The political upheaval over a location for the hospital for the whole Surrey municipality was cause for separation of the tiny city of White Rock from the huge Surrey municipality.

Featured in the display are mannequins dressed in nursing uniforms, including two loaned by BCHNS Member Sheila Zerr and one loaned by the Vancouver General Hospital Nurses Alumnae Association, courtesy of Ethel Warbinek and Kathy Murphy. Also on display are artifacts from the Royal Columbian Hospital Nurses Alumni Archives. Many of the early medical artifacts were donated by the late Dr. Allan Hogg, father of the current MLA.

Until the 1920s, White Rock residents were dependent on the one area doctor in Surrey, or emergency trips over mainly dirt roads and the railway bridge to the Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster or by train to VGH. The earliest resident nursing care and

the first hospital in White Rock was provided by nurse Gertrude McMillan (1883-1966) in her home. As with most small “home hospitals” or “cottage hospitals,” she likely would have had one or two rooms adapted for patients. She regularly offered maternity and midwifery care and a number of babies were born there over the years. She continued to do home nursing and ran her home hospital until she retired in 1951. She and her husband were active in community organizations and she was a strong advocate to establish a Surrey branch of the Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada in the 1930s.

The Museum is located in the old Train Station on Marine Drive on the White Rock Beach Front. Admission is by donation. If BCHNS members would like a “guide” to the event, please get in touch with Glennis Zilm (phone 604-535-3238 or email gzilm@telus.net), and she will accompany you and show you around. For more information about the Museum and its displays and the hours it is open, see the website at www.whiterock.museum.bc.ca.



NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS

PRESIDENT KATHY MURPHY set up and staffed a Display Table at UBC Nursing's Marion Woodward Lecture in early November. She had an interesting display about Ethel Johns as well as photos, newsletters, and bookmarks related to the BCHNS. She thinks we may have attracted some new members because of this.

LYDIA WYTENBROEK spent two weeks in Pennsylvania in November 2014 looking at archival documents that pertain to her PhD research on American mission health care in Iran. She reports that one of the most interesting things she found was a photograph album that details the 42-year medical career of an American missionary physician in Iran.

SUSAN ARMSTRONG-REID, associate member and author of the recent biography on BC nursing leader Lyle Creelman, had a month-long trip to New Zealand at the end of January. She called this an R&R&R trip (rest / relaxation / research). She was doing background research related to her forthcoming book about the humanitarian work of nurses with the China Convoy (Friends' Ambulance Units in China) in the 1940s. She recently was reappointed an adjunct professor in the University of Guelph history department.

serves UBC's unique intellectual output and makes it freely available to anyone, anywhere via the web. Catherine is a PhD student in the UBC School of Nursing and received the award for her work, "Considering oral history: Methodological questions and reflections"; you can review this work at <http://hdl.handle.net/2429/46680>. Recently, with other UBC Nursing colleagues, staff, and faculty, Haney helped organize a successful graduate student research symposium held at UBC's Irving K. Barber Learning Centre; it featured innovative nursing research and drew presenters from Canada, Washington State and as far away as Brazil.

JAN ROBERTSON, a former member of BCHNS now living in Quesnel, was recently in touch with us to order Note Cards and brought us up to date on her news. A veteran of the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, she received the Nurse of the Year award from the British Armed Forces in 1966, before emigrating to Canada in 1974. She received her master's degree from Simon Fraser University and taught in the School of Nursing at Kwantlen. In December 2012, she was one of 13 BC citizens honored with a Minister of Veterans Affairs' Commendation for her work on behalf of veterans to ensure their contributions are never forgotten. She now is working on her doctorate in history, especially related to the military in the World Wars including involvement of Indian troops in the first World War. She has written many articles about the Sikhs in war and the local Sikh community has honored her with a membership in the Indian Ex-Servicemen Society of BC; she is the only non-Sikh and the only woman with membership.

HELEN VANDENBERG, who received our scholarship award in 2010 and who now lives in Regina, will defend for her PhD (N) at the University of British Columbia on March 2, 2015. Her dissertation is titled *Race, Hospital Development and the Power of Community: The History of Chinese and Japanese Hospitals in British Columbia from 1880 to 1920.*

CATHERINE HANEY recently received a \$500 GSS cIRcle Open Scholar award for 2014. cIRcle is University of BC's open access digital repository for published and unpublished material created by the UBC community and its partners. Its pre-



Kirstine (Adam) (Buckland) Griffith (1922 – 2014) ... continued from page 5

such as dressing VGH dolls in uniforms from 1896-1975. These are now part of the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Archives. Never idle, in 1996 she wrote the "The Religious Aspects of Nursing Care" which outlines the practices of 34 religions. Proceeds from the sales have been directed to nursing scholarships. Kirstine was an active member of the UBC School of Nursing Alumnae Division and over the years, graciously hosted many meetings at her home. I fondly remember visiting her and was amazed at her ability to knit, read, and talk all at the same time – obviously a master at multitasking. She will be missed.

To learn more about the Adam and Buckland families you can come to our BCHNS Archives at UBC and view the CD "Don's Story" compiled by Kirstine Griffith in 2005 in memory of her husband.

Nursing History Research “Alive and Well”



In November 2014, the University of B.C. Consortium for Nursing History Inquiry held its second annual symposium, led by **Professor Geertje Boschma** under the generous patronage of **Helen Shore**. Major papers by two highly-respected researchers were the focus of the day-long event. Major presentations by Dr. Mona Gleason and **Dr. Linda Quiney** were each followed by comments from a panel of scholars in related areas. The Symposium was well attended, including a good representation of BCHNS members, UBC graduate students, and UBC Nursing faculty.

two years' experience. This excluded VADs and any other casually trained practitioners, and it offered new, more independent options for veteran nurses beyond private practice.

BCHNS member **Glennis Zilm**, an honorary professor in the School of Nursing, and Dr. Susan Duncan, associate professor, Thompson Rivers University School of Nursing, responded to this paper. The panel responses were intended to add depth and breadth to the relationships with nursing.

The morning speaker was Dr. Mona Gleason, professor, Educational and Child Studies at UBC, who reported on how health professionals contributed to conceptions of “the healthy child” in early twentieth century Canada. Dr. Gleason is author of a recently published book, *Small Matters: Canadian Children in Sickness and Health, 1900 to 1940* (McGill-Queens, 2013) on this area. Dr. Judith Lynam, professor, UBC Nursing, and Dr. Gladys McPherson, assistant professor, responded to this work.

More information, including copies of the panel responses, is available on the Consortium’s website at <http://blogs.ubc.ca/nursinghistory/current-activities/nursing-history-symposium-2014> and on the UBC Nursing website at <http://www.nursing.ubc.ca/News/NewsItem.aspx?id=370>.

In the afternoon, BCHNS member **Linda Quiney**, an historian now doing independent research and working on a book, shared her insights into Canadian women who worked as Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) nurses, mainly during World War I and immediately after. The VAD nurses were volunteers who, under the aegis of the Red Cross and St. John Ambulance, went overseas to act as support workers, mainly in hospitals and as assistants to nurses. Some 2,000 women from Canada and Newfoundland joined the ranks and, despite opposition from Canadian nursing leaders, about 500 saw duty overseas. This compares with about 2,860 Canadian Nursing Sisters (RNs) who saw service in WW1, most of them serving overseas.

Through the Canadian Nurses Association, nursing leaders expressed fears that these women would capitalize on their wartime experiences to obtain a back door entry into nursing work, without full accreditation, Quiney explained. One solution to this concern, as well as providing new opportunities for veteran military nurses, was to develop new graduate programs in public health nursing, such as the one started at the newly-formed UBC School of Nursing, beginning in 1919. Nurses applying for PHN were required to have an RN diploma, and at least



Two students at the Symposium: Catherine Haney (left) and Charlene Ronquillo. Both have previously received BCHNS scholarships. Photo by Lenore Radom, BCHNS

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS

Miller, Naomi.
(2014, Winter). Quesnel’s Gertrude Fraser.
British Columbia History, 47 (4), 19-24.

Haney, Catherine.
(2014, fall). Article in *Canadian Society for the History of Medicine Bulletin*.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

APRIL 16, 2015 – BC History of Nursing Association Annual General Meeting will be held in the CRNBC Board Room at 2855 Arbutus St., Vancouver, from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. A light meal will be served, so please RSVP through “contact us” on the webpage or phone Lenore Radom at 604-277-6782. Annual reports will be presented and a few bits of general business. If you wish to volunteer for to serve on the executive or on committees, please get in touch with Julie Lapinsky through “contact us” on the website or by phone at 604-940-0040.

MARCH 11, 2015 – Dr. Lesley McBain, the 2015 Visiting Associate Professor to the UBC Consortium on Nursing History Inquiry, will present a talk entitled “A Place and Nursing in Remote Northern Communities.” Dr. McBain has a PhD in Geography from the University of Saskatchewan and is currently an Associate Professor in Indigenous Studies at the First Nations University of Canada (a unique Canadian institution located at three campuses in Saskatchewan and specializing in Indigenous knowledge and providing post-secondary education for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students alike within a culturally supportive environment). Her research focuses on health care delivery in rural and remote regions of Saskatchewan, in both the historical and contemporary contexts. Dr. McBain is involved in a number of on-going research projects, one of which examines the delivery of dementia care services in First Nation reserve communities and non First Nation communities to determine if there are areas of collaboration between the different jurisdictions. For more information on this presentations visit <http://blogs.ubc.ca/nursinghistory>.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2015, 1-3 PM – Historical Nursing Costume Parade at the White Rock Museum and Archives on the Beachfront in White Rock. A collection of nursing uniforms over the centuries will be presented by Sheila Rankin Zerr, with assistance from Ethel Warbinek and Glennis Zilm. The costumes will be mainly from Sheila’s own collection of historic uniforms and replicas but will include some of the Society’s display uniforms. This “fashion parade” is being held in conjunction with the BC History of Nursing Society as part of the Museum’s Spring exhibit on early health care in this community. Models will include members of the White Rock Youth Ambassadors, Museum volunteers, and Society members. The show is modelled on those previously given by Sheila Zerr in Ottawa and Victoria.

MAY 11-17, 2015 – National Nursing Week, sponsored across Canada by the Canadian Nurses Association. The theme for National Nursing Week 2015 and 2016 is “Nurses: With you every step of the way.” The BCHNS

already is being approached to provide displays or speakers for events in May to help celebrate nursing history. We are always looking for volunteers to help set up and staff display tables. If you would like to help at any of these events, please get in touch with us through “contact us” on the BCHNS Website or phone one of the members of the executive.

JUNE 11, 2015 – BCHNS Executive Meeting. Check time and location on the website.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2015 – BC History of Nursing Society Special “High Tea at Hycroft.” This special event will recognize our 25th Anniversary as a Society dedicated to history of nursing. The event will be at Hycroft and will feature a speaker. Watch for more information in the next issue and on our Website Blog page.

MEMBERSHIP FEES WERE DUE IN JANUARY.
IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID, PLEASE DO SO NOW!

Join us at the White Rock Museum & Archives for:

BORDER TOWN HEALTH CARE Historical Presentations



**Sunday March 1st:
1pm-3pm**

Peace Arch Hospital &
Auxiliary History with
Ellen Kennett &
Vin Coyne



**Sunday April 19th:
1pm-3pm**

History of Nursing in
Canada Presentation &
Fashion Show by
BC History of
Nursing Society



Admission by donation at:
White Rock Museum & Archives
14970 Marine Drive, White Rock
p. 604.541.2221 | f. 604.541.2223
www.whiterockmuseum.bc.ca



Hospital construction photo courtesy of Peace Arch Hospital Auxiliary Society

Remember When...



..... newborn babies were kept in a large, glass-fronted nursery and most were bottle-fed by the student nurses during their maternity rotation.

(Photo, c1940s, from the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association Archives, courtesy of Ethel Warbinek. Used with permission.)

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE
BC HISTORY OF NURSING SOCIETY

PO BOX 72082, RPO SASAMAT, VANCOUVER
BRITISH COLUMBIA V6R 4P2

CANADA POST, CANADIAN PUBLICATIONS MAIL SALES
PRODUCT AGREEMENT 40622042

Articles, news, and ideas for items to be included in the Summer 2015 issue should be sent to Ethel Warbinek, preferably by email, at warbinek@telus.net by May 15, 2015.