



Compiled by Sheila J. Rankin Zerr

**B.C. History of Nursing Group
REGISTERED NURSES ASSOCIATION OF B.C.**

**VANCOUVER
2004**

**Elizabeth (Rankin) Bemrose
(1911 - 1990)**

**Sponsor: Sheila J. Rankin Zerr (niece)
Miniature: Vancouver General Hospital, 1944**

In 1899, the Vancouver City Hospital Training School admitted its first class of eight students. The School grew steadily, and in 1919 joined with U.B.C. to form the first University Nursing School in the British Commonwealth. In 1942, when Bessie trained, students worked long hours under difficult circumstances as many nurses were serving in W.W. II. Bessie had a great respect for Grace Fairley and appreciated her humorous side. The final class graduated from the three year diploma program of Vancouver General Hospital in 1998.



PORTRAIT #1
ELIZABETH (RANKIN) BEMROSE
1911 - 1990
Vancouver General Hospital - 1944



In 1927, Elizabeth Rankin Bemrose, at the age of 16, won the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in a High School essay contest. After teaching for several years, she entered the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing in 1942. World War II was underway. She met her soldier husband and married him. Because married nurses could not work, she left nursing and returned to primary school teaching until her retirement in 1976. This portrait honours a special aunt, whose interest and guidance influenced many lives.



**Emily Susan Patterson
(unknown - 1909)
Sponsor: Helen L.Shore
Miniature: Emily Susan Patterson, circa 1874**

Emily Susan Patterson arrived at Hastings Sawmill, Burrard Inlet, in April 1873, then moved to Moodyville Sawmill in 1874. She was a “Lady of Grace of St. John” in the wilderness; a “Dame Hospitaller” to Indians and white men alike before doctors and hospitals. Although she was not a trained nurse, stories abound of her willingness and success as a midwife and as a giver of first aid and treatments. She holds the distinction of being the first known nurse in the Vancouver area.



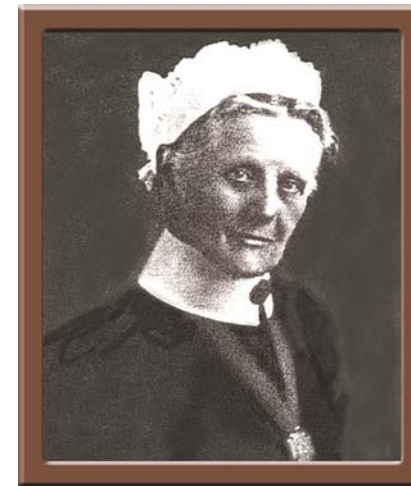
Moodyville was the biggest and most important industrial centre on Burrard Inlet from the mid 1870's to the 1890's. Its pre-eminence was short lived as an easy supply of lumber became more distant from the mill and because the Trans-Continental Railway arrived on the south shore. In 1901 the mill closed. Moodyville had a population of several hundred, all respected families, with tidy homes strung along well laid out streets up the hillside from Sue Moody's mill.

**Sister Frances Redmond
(1854 - 1932)**

Sponsor: Helen L. Shore

Miniature: Sister Frances Redmond, circa 1895

Sister Frances was an English woman married to Dr. William Charles Redmond, Royal Navy Reserve. The family immigrated to Canada and Mrs. Redmond trained as a nurse and midwife at Laval University and as an Anglican deaconess. In 1877, she was invited to Vancouver, where she became the first district nurse, practicing midwifery and nursing women and children in their homes. Sister Frances and Father Clinton built St. Luke's Hospital in 1888 (connected to St. James Anglican Church) and it then served as a base for nursing services to the community. Sister Frances opened the first training school for nurses in Vancouver, taught students and supervised their clinical work.



The Vancouver Daily News Advertiser, May 14, 1886, speculated on the future. "From all parts of the Dominion of Canada, and from many important points in the U.S.A., on this coast, and in the east, inquiries are made by every mail as to positions, prospects and surroundings of Vancouver, the terminal city of the Pacific Coast of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Churches were springing up or being planned by all major denominations. City planning was speculative and exciting. This is the city in need of Sister Frances."

**Isabelle Maud Hill
(1871 - 1936)
Sponsor Helen L. Shore
Miniature: Isabelle Maud Hill, circa 1901**

Maud Hill, in 1901, was specially chosen as the first Vancouver nurse for the Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada. Later, she was B.C.'s first occupational health nurse (although the title did not exist then); she was employed by the Britannia Mining Company, Howe Sound, to provide care to employees and their families. She opened the first private hospital in New Westminster, and about 1917 she helped open the Vancouver Military Hospital, later known as Shaughnessy.



The idea of a district visiting Nursing Service, based on the model practiced in the Prairie Provinces, was recommended to Countess Ishbel Aberdeen, wife of the Governor General of Canada in 1896. The two ladies from Vancouver were helping Lady Aberdeen organize the Vancouver Local Council of Women when they brought the idea of district nursing before her. They told her of the hardships suffered by sick women and children in isolated settlements and urged her to use her influence in bringing them help. The idea of the Cottage Hospital became part of the V.O.N. and Maud Hill's work in Vancouver and B.C.



B.C. Public Health Nurse
Sponsor: Monica M. Green
Miniature: B.C. Public Health Nurse, circa 1961

The story of public health nursing in B.C. is thoroughly documented in Monica M. Green's book *Through the Years with Public Health Nursing*. Monica Green states that public health nurses in B.C. have demonstrated leadership in developing preventive health services and in promoting health on a local or community level. This memorial portrait pays tribute to the many public health nurses who through the years built a solid foundation for the present day community health nursing service.



At the turn of the 20th century, practicing nurses in B.C. functioned independently in the community. Military service, public health nursing, private duty and home nursing comprised the most common types of nursing, giving nurses a high profile and a position of prominence in the community. The advent of hospitals changed this. Nurses lost their independent status to organized institutions. Early public health nurses were the forerunners of the current independent nurse practitioner role.



PORTRAIT #5
B.C. PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING
Uniform - circa 1961

**University College of the Cariboo
Sponsor: The C.V. Mosby Company
Miniature: University College of Cariboo
1973 Graduation Uniform**

The C.V. Mosby Company of Toronto was corporate sponsor for a memorial portrait prize to stimulate interest in the study of the history of nursing. Karen Abbott's September, 1992, class carried out a special history of nursing project. Gwen Kavanaugh assisted with the RNABC dinner honouring the student project. The students chose Cariboo College 1973 graduation uniform as the nursing costume for the miniature portrait. In 1904, the Royal Inland



PORTRAIT #6
CARIBOO COLLEGE - NURSING SCHOOL
Graduation Uniform - circa 1973



*Professor Karen Abbott with Students G.Kavanagh, R.McDonald,
G.Anton, M. Burkholder, S.Cumming, F.Alexander, M.St.Michael*

Hospital School of Nursing opened with one probationer. Kamloops and area kept pace with the 20th century developments in health care. The climate was dry and ideal for Tuberculosis patients. Tranquile Sanatorium was opened in 1907, growing from 16 patients to 330 in 1932, closing in 1958. In 1973, the Royal Inland School of Nursing transferred to Cariboo College. The first class graduated in the pantsuit costume depicted by the miniature portrait doll.

**Margaret M. Street
(1907 - 1993)**

**Sponsor: The Street Family
Miniature: Margaret M. Street, Professor,
University of B.C.**

Margaret Street's outstanding career as a nurse, scholar and professor is honoured in this memorial portrait. She began her career as a school teacher, then moved to nursing in 1933. Her exceptional contributions to nursing were recognized in 1982 when she was named a Member of the Order of Canada. She is best known for her biography of Ethel Johns, *Watch-fires on the mountains*. Margaret Street, a renowned nurse, administrator, professor, scholar, and historian, also saw the watch-fires and followed them throughout her career



PORTRAIT #7
MARGARET M. STREET
1907 - 1993
Professor and Historian

In 1919, Ethel Johns led the opening of the baccalaureate nursing program at U.B.C. The program combined hospital nursing (V.G.H.) with advanced university courses in leadership and public health. The U.B.C. School of Nursing has followed Ethel Johns' ideal to this day. She believed that nurses should be prepared at the university level in courses addressing leadership, health policy, teaching and prevention of diseases in order to provide vital nursing services to the community. Today, U.B.C. School of Nurses prepares nurses for practice at the masters and doctoral levels. Margaret Street's devotion to Ethel John's vision is exemplified in her career and writings.

Helen K. Mussallem
Sponsor: The Mussallem Family
Miniature: Royal Canadian Medical Corps
Nursing Uniform, 1943 - 1945

Dr. Helen K. Mussallem was Executive Director of the Canadian Nurses Association from 1963 - 1981. This followed her outstanding survey of nursing education, reported in *Spotlight on Nursing Education*. She has been recognized and honoured at home and abroad as an outstanding Canadian nurse. Companion of the Order of Canada, Dame of the Order of St. John Ambulance, the McManus award from Columbia University and six honorary doctorates are among her awards. This portrait pays tribute to her service (1943 - 1946) with the Royal Canadian Medical Corps during World War II.



Helen Mussallem has been at the forefront of changes in nursing practice and administration throughout her career. Following her military career she returned to V.G.H. and subsequently became Director of Education. In 1960, she directed the Pilot Project that resulted in changes in nursing education in Canada. After obtaining a doctorate from Columbia she joined the Canadian Nurses Association. In her role as Executive Director she influenced nursing in countless ways through her actions and writings. Her many honours are well deserved



**James William Rankin
(1911 - 1992)**

**Sponsor: Sheila J. Rankin Zerr (daughter)
Miniature: Salvation Army Nurse, circa 1915**

James William Rankin was a beloved husband, father and tireless worker for Christian charity. He devoted his life to promoting community programs that would make life easier for his family, friends and fellow men. This portrait honours a loving father, whose gift of love and joy touched all who knew him. He was born in Vernon, B.C., spent part of his childhood in Scotland, and settled in Powell River, B.C. in 1926. He married Josephine Dyer in 1933 and had five daughters. He worked for the Powell River Company for 47 years, retired in 1976, died February 25, 1992.



PORTRAIT #9
SALVATION ARMY NURSE - for
JAMES WILLIAM RANKIN
1911 - 1992



The Salvation Army, a movement started in England in 1878, extended Christian outreach services to Canada in 1882. The social wing of their mission became a distinct and independent branch of their work. This resulted in a chain of rescue homes and soup kitchens across Canada. Their dedication to women's needs resulted in the establishment of Grace Hospitals in major Canadian cities. Nursing training programs were established in some of these hospitals. This miniature portrait depicts the street uniform worn by the Salvationist member.

**Josephine Dyer (Whitson) Rankin
(1913-1999)**

**Sponsor: Sheila J. Rankin Zerr (daughter)
Miniature: Countess Ishbel Aberdeen**

Josephine was born on September 15, 1913, in Gorebridge, Scotland. She lost her parents in the 1915 flu epidemic, was adopted by the Whitson family and brought to Canada in 1926. Her family settled in the Fraser Valley where Josephine continued her education and helped on the family farm in Matsqui. In 1930 she set out for employment in Powell River, B.C. Eventually most of her family joined her. She married James W. Rankin in 1933 and raised a family of five daughters. She shared her love and devotion with her husband, family and church.



Countess Ishbel Aberdeen, wife of the Governor General of Canada from 1894 to 1898, was instrumental in establishing visiting nurse and health services. She is credited with establishing the first Training Home for district nurses in Montreal with centres in Toronto, Ottawa and Halifax. She is well known for her efforts to send a detachment of four Victorian Order nurses to the Klondike in 1898. The Victorian Order of Nurses and Cottage Hospitals provided vital services to the Canadian pioneers such as Josephine and her family in the Fraser Valley and Powell River.



PORTRAIT # 10
LADY ISHBEL ABERDEEN
Founder of V.O.N. Canada
for
JOSEPHINE DYER RANKIN
1913 - 1999

**Katherine Yarko Rumen
(1904 - 1994)**

Sponsor: Nina Rumen (daughter)

**Miniature: Sisters of Providence Nursing Habit,
circa 1894**

Katherine was born December 7, 1904, in Dawid Gorok, Russia. Her mother died of typhoid fever in 1922. Her father was a lumber merchant, and well off, which meant Katherine had the privilege of attending school. At age 21 she married Sam Rumen. Sam immigrated to Canada, and after working for 2 years, in 1930, he was able to send for Katherine and daughter Nina. They settled on a farm in Jaffrey and eventually had five daughters. Life was difficult during the 1939 depression, the family moved to Fernie in 1941 where Sam worked for the CPR. Katherine lived 53 years in the same house in Fernie. She devoted her life to her family and friends.



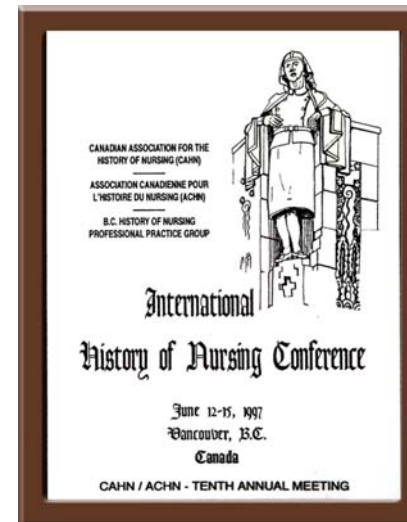
The Sisters of Providence had their roots in Montreal. Emile Tavernier-Camelin founded the Order as The Sisters of Charity and later called the Order The Sisters of Providence. They opened St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver in 1894. They built a 25 bed, 4 storey, wood structure designed by one of the Sisters. The hospital was financed by "begging tours". The Sisters would solicit \$10.00 per year from workers for the guarantee of care at St. Paul's. In 1907, the School of Nursing opened. Katherine's daughter Nina trained as a nurse at St. Paul's.



PORTRAIT #11
SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE
for
KATHERINE YARKO RUMEN
1904 - 1994

International History of Nursing Conference 1997
Sponsor: Nina Rumen
Miniature: Lady of the Court , Ile Royale, Louisbourg
(Acadia), circa 1720

The International History of Nursing Conference was co-sponsored by the B.C. History Group and the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing. One hundred and sixty participants gathered from around the world to share historical nursing history papers, panels, posters and historical exhibits. The conference closed with an interfaith church service. The conference social highlight was a grand dinner that featured a parade, led by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, with nurses in international costumes and historical nursing attire.



The ladies of the Acadian court served as lay nurses and midwives to the women of the early French settlement. Acadia is the original name of the region of Canada now known as Nova Scotia. The region was first colonized by the French in 1604. The area changed hands with the French and British conflicts over the years. In 1775 the British Colonial authorities removed the Acadians from their land and dispersed them among the British Colonies in America. Louisbourg stands as an example of the glory of Acadia, founded in 1713 with 149 soldiers, fishermen, women and children. The magnificence of the French Court is portrayed in this portrait.

Ethel and Archibald McKenzie
Sponsor: Mary and Melvin Clark
Miniature: Ethel Ruth Flower MacGregor,
Columbia Mission Boat Nurse, circa 1920



PORTRAIT #13
ETHEL FLOWER MacGREGOR
B.C. Coast Mission Boat Service - for
Archie & Ethel MacKenzie

Archibald, born August 27, 1905 in Pincher Creek, Alberta, was the first of four sons of Scottish immigrants. His childhood was spent in Sapperton, B.C. Ethel May Jones was born in Pontypridd, Wales, immigrated to Canada, and moved to B.C. when she was in her early twenties. Archie and Ethel met in Vancouver and married in 1933. They moved to Powell River during the depression where Archie found work in the Powell River Mill. They had three children, Gordon, Allen and Mary. Archie served overseas from 1939 - 1945 while Ethel cared for the family and managed her women's apparel store. Their daughter, Mary, an accomplished pianist, took music lessons from Ethel MacGregor.



Ethel Ruth Flower was born in England in 1887, orphaned in Vancouver at age 6. She was raised by Sister Frances. Her strict religious life at St. Luke's Home included ballet and piano lessons. She graduated from V.G.H. School of Nursing in 1920. She served with the Columbia Missions in Rock Bay in the 1920's. Ethel's great admiration for John Antle influenced her decision to serve with the boat missions. She married Canada's most decorated WW I hero, Jock MacGregor. They settled in Powell River where they raised two sons. She was a loved piano teacher. Her portrait depicts her Rock Bay Mission nursing attire.

**Thurley Mary Duck
(1928 - 1997)**

Sponsor: Helen Niskala and friends

**Miniature: Royal Jubilee Hospital student uniform,
circa 1951**

Thurley, aged 68, passed away on September 26, 1997, at the Cowichan District Hospital in Duncan, B.C. She graduated from the Royal Jubilee Hospital School of Nursing in 1951. She completed post-graduate work in psychiatric nursing at Allen Memorial Institute in Montreal and earned her B.N. degree at McGill University. During her nursing career, Thurley held several positions at Vancouver General Hospital; Assistant Supervisor, Centennial Pavilion Building, Building Supervisor, Heather Pavilion and Director of Nursing Administration. After several years as an RNABC Board member and Vice-President, she became the twenty-fourth President of RNABC.



The Royal Jubilee Hospital School of Nursing opened its doors in 1891, during Queen Victoria's reign and remained in operation until 1982. Over 3,000 nurses took Royal Jubilee training. The graduating nurses went to many locations in Canada and around the world. Graduates served on the Canadian Nurses Association and in the World Health Organization and have provided leadership in nursing education. All graduates followed the school motto "uno amino", oneness of mind, in giving the best of themselves in the service of others.



**Alice Smith
(1910 - 1998)**

Sponsor: Sheila J. Rankin Zerr

**Miniature: Northern Nurse and Mounted Policeman,
circa 1898**

Alice Smith was a major force in the development of Canada's northern health services. She was the first Chief Nursing Consultant with Indian Health Services. Born in Cartwright, MB, in 1910, she graduated from the Winnipeg General Hospital, received a baccalaureate from Columbia in 1950, a Masters from Yale in 1957, an honorary doctorate from the University of Ottawa in 1975. In her 25 years with the Federal government she improved nursing and medical services to the Indian and Inuit people. In 1948 she was asked by the Canadian Nurses Association to go to Great Britain and study the effects on nursing of that country's new national health insurance plan. She died in White Rock, B.C. in 1998.



Nursing in Canada's north demanded bold courage and heroism. Nurses deal with disappointments, but in the end are challenged to be innovative, independent and practical. Northern nurses continue to demonstrate advanced knowledge and skills, as well as leadership in demonstrating primary health skill in action. Nurses in the north work toward empowering native groups to take responsibility for their own health. Northern nurses strive for acknowledgement of their unique contribution by establishing northern nursing as a recognized specialty.

**Odessa (Dolly) P. Shore
(1888 - 1972)**

Sponsor: Helen Shore (daughter)

**Miniature: Odessa in Jackson City Hospital
Student Uniform, circa 1910**

Odessa was born in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania. She grew up and attended school in Saginaw, Michigan. Odessa entered the Jackson City Hospital in Michigan where she graduated as a nurse in 1910. It was at Jackson City Hospital she met her future husband, Dr. A.E.Shore, who graduated in medicine from the University of Western Ontario. They were married in Calgary, moved to Bowden, Alberta and later to Alix. They both served overseas in WW I and on return settled in Calgary after Dr. Shore took his specialization in eye, ear, nose and throat. They had one daughter, Helen, who became a nurse.



Odessa practiced in rural Alberta from 1910 - 1915. She assisted with her husband's rural practice in Bowden and later in Alix. As pioneers, they managed a medical and nursing practice, ran a small drugstore and Odessa managed patient care to those admitted to the second floor of their home. Odessa's role was one of nurse practitioner and physician assistant. She acted as assistant to the surgeon by administering ether during surgeries. She provided patient information to patients throughout all age ranges with a vast array of medical conditions. Odessa was a courageous and resourceful nurse.



**Luella Catherine (Entwistle) Zilm
(1911 - 1998)**

**Sponsor: Glennis Zilm (daughter) and friends
Miniature: Ship Boy/Naval Sick Berth Attendant,
circa 1850**

Luella was born June 30, 1911 near Parkman, Saskatchewan. She was one of a large, close, happy family and lived all her early life in Parkman. Following her school years, her twin sister Ida entered nursing, and Lou took over the management of a store. In 1933, she married Dwight Merrit Zilm of Wawota and in 1937 moved with him to New Westminster, B.C. and later to Haney where they raised two daughters. Widowed in 1960, she continued to manage the family business affairs and remained the focal point of her family. She spent her retirement years in Crescent Beach and White Rock, close to her family and wide circle of friends.



Adherence to military law brought health care to early Victoria. The laws stated that if a mariner fell sick or became incapable of working the Master is to put ashore and lodgings are to be sought. One of the ships boys was to tend him. Historical records show that buildings were erected in the Naval Yard, Esquimalt, in 1855, to accommodate expected wounded from British naval engagements with the Russians. No wounded were treated but the huts erected, known as Crimea Huts, became part of the early health care in British Columbia.



PORTRAIT #17

**SHIP BOY/NAVAL SICK BERTH
ATTENDANT - circa 1840 - for
Luella (Entwistle) Zilm - 1911 - 1998**

Sheila J. Rankin Zerr

Sponsor: Mary Clark, the Zerr Family and friends
Miniature: Royal Jubilee Hospital Graduate Uniform, circa 1957

Sheila Josephine Rankin was born and raised in Powell River, B.C. She began her nursing career with training at the Royal Jubilee Hospital where she graduated in 1957. After graduation, while nursing in Vancouver, she met her husband Ray. Marriage and careers took them to Fredericton, N.B., Ottawa, then back to B.C. Sheila completed her B.Sc.P.H.N. and M.Ed at the University of Ottawa. Her teaching career spanned the Ottawa General Hospital, University of Ottawa, University of Victoria and University of B.C. She combined raising a family of two sons, teaching and a passion for history of nursing. One result: this memorial miniature collection.



The nurse's uniform was established in North America in the early 1870's. In 1873 nurses at Bellevue Hospital in New York City, wore the traditional nurse costume of housedress and large apron. The students in the first nursing class wanted a uniform. They chose a uniform and cap based on the style of nurses in Britain. The Bellevue Hospital in St. Catherine's, Ontario established the first student uniforms in Canada in 1875. The uniform became a badge of honour, a source of great pride and was associated with the institution and professional image. The uniform followed fashion trends and by 1975 traditional nurses uniforms and caps were a thing of the past.



PORTRAIT #18

SHEILA J. RANKIN ZERR
Royal Jubilee Hospital Graduate - 1957

Sisters of St. Ann

Sponsor: Nina Rumen

Miniature: Sisters of St. Ann habit, circa 1858

The Sisters of St. Ann, from their convent home in Quebec, answered the call from Bishop Demers to establish a school at Fort Victoria. They believed their mission was to establish a school in a foreign country occupied by Indians and Protestants. It took courage to survive the trip through the Isthmus of Panama. The 8000 mile journey took 54 days. They arrived at Fort Victoria June 5, 1858. The Sisters took possession of a clapboard cabin at the edge of a swamp. School opened two days later. Within a few days they were visiting the sick in their homes.



The pioneering Catholic Sisters of St. Ann faced daunting tasks. They were expected to provide education and health care. Only one of the four original Sisters spoke English. Victoria was growing and the Sisters were facing many challenges. They appealed to the Mother House for a new Superior to help their mission. Sister Mary Providence, a 22 year old Irish Canadian, and a well qualified academic, was sent out to help. She immediately took charge and established a school system, St. Ann's Academy, then undertook to build St. Joseph's Hospital in 1876.

Rob Calnan

Sponsor: RNABC Chapters and Members Miniature: Male Nurse Nursing Uniform, circa 1990

Rob Calnan was elected President-elect of the Canadian Nurses Association in June, 2000. His election platform was based on 25 years of outstanding nursing practice. He graduated from St. Joseph's School of Nursing, then completed a B.Sc.N. and M.Ed. He maintains an active clinical practice in ICU along with his teaching and administrative career. He served on the RNABC Board as District Director, President-elect, and as President from 1997 - 1999. He was the first male to serve in that position. His wife, also a nurse, shares his career and professional goals. They enjoy their family and many interests.



Men who practice nursing share a history of males caring for fellow human beings that dates back to ancient civilization. Men were involved with the care of the sick in ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome, as well as in India. The Christian era and the Crusades saw the rise of orders of monks and brothers. The 19th century resulted in the prominence of male nursing in psychiatric institutions. In the post-Nightingale century, schools of nursing were slow to open their programs to male nurses and when they did there were restrictions in areas such as obstetrics and female urology. By the 1980's most barriers to male nurses had disappeared. Although the profession remains mainly female, males are enrolling in nursing programs in greater numbers.

**Mary Lois (Eastabrook) Black
(1912 - 2000)**

**Sponsor: David and Debbie Black
(son and daughter-in-law)**

**Miniature: Eudora Black, Lay Midwife,
Ladner, B.C., circa 1910**

Lois was born Mary Lois Eastabrook in Edmonton, Alberta, November 19, 1912. She attended Lord Nelson Elementary School and Britannia School in Vancouver. Her great interest and passion was music. She played the violin and performed with the Vancouver Orchestra. She became part of the Ladner community in the mid 1930's when she married Bill Black. They had one son, David. Her life was filled with her endless interests in family, community, lodge, music, dolls and miniatures. She left lasting memories and a valuable collection of miniature musical instruments and porcelain dolls when she died in June, 2000.



Eudora Lewis was born in Salsbury, N.B. in 1872. Her parents were Empire Loyalists. She worked as a seamstress in Boston before coming to Ladner, B.C. in 1898. It was there she met David Black who had come to Ladner from Aberfort, Ontario in 1886. The Black family preempted land on 41B Street and began a line of family farming. Lois Black (daughter-in-law) re-counted Eudora stories of early life in Ladner. The women relied on each other at childbirth. Eudora was called on to draw on the skills learned in New Brunswick from her mother. It was with reluctance that Eudora assisted at childbirth but early women settlers of Ladner had no other alternatives.



**Ethel MacGregor (1887 - 1965) and Great
Granddaughters Ashley and Megan
Sponsor: Don MacGregor
Miniature: Vancouver General Hospital
student uniform, circa 1920**



PORTRAIT #22
Student - 1918 - Vancouver General Hospital
for Ethel MacGregor
and granddaughters Ashley & Megan

Life in early Vancouver was cruel and kind to Ethel Ruth Flower. She was born in England in 1887, and was orphaned at age 6 in 1893 after her parents immigrated to Vancouver. She was taken in by Sister Frances at St. Luke's Home and raised in the orphanage established by the Anglican ministry of Christ Church. Her strict religious life included ballet and piano lessons. She graduated as a registered nurse from the Vancouver General Hospital in 1920. Ethel's great admiration for John Antle influenced her decision to join the mission boats. She worked in the Rock Bay Hospital in the 1920's. She married Jock MacGregor, Canada's most decorated WW I foot soldier, and settled in Powell River where she raised their two sons. She was best known and loved as a piano teacher.



This portrait honours Ethel MacGregor and her two great granddaughters. Ashley Rotor was born to mother, Jayeanne (MacGregor), at the Vancouver Grace Hospital in 1988. Megan Rotor was born in Langley Memorial Hospital on Valentine's Day, 1991. Megan and Ashley spent their childhood with their mother and dog, Rufus, in Edmonton. They loved soccer, swimming, triathlon, Brownies and highland dancing. Their great grandmother's career as a nurse and music teacher left a heritage to be proud of.

**Alice Lillian Wright
(1894 - 2000)**

**Sponsor: Family and friends
Miniature: Alice Wright, circa 1915**



Alice Wright initiated trail blazing efforts to establish bargaining for nurses in British Columbia and Canada. She presented a Charter of Rights for nurses at the 1946 RNABC Annual General Meeting and, after approval by the membership, she proceeded to put words into action. She subtly assisted St. Paul's Hospital nurses when they formed the first bargaining unit in the province the same year. She continued to assist local staff associations to set up bargaining units to seek improved working conditions. By 1959, the RNABC and the provincial hospital association began a move toward province wide bargaining.



Alice Wright was born in Charlottetown, P.E.I. in 1894 but moved with her family to British Columbia as a young child. She graduated from the Vancouver General Hospital in 1918 and began her nursing career in pediatric nursing and nursing education. On completion of her B.Sc. at Teacher's College, Columbia University in 1941, she returned to British Columbia as Registrar and Executive Director, RNABC, serving from 1943 to 1960. She was responsible for introducing labour reforms and in improving nursing education in British Columbia. She died March 15, 2000 at the age of 105 years.

Lenore (Evans) Radom
Sponsor: Richmond/Delta Chapter RNABC
and Margaret H. Evans
Miniature: Amelia Douglas (1812 - 1890) for
Aboriginal Nursing

Early pioneers depended on the skill and knowledge of the aboriginal healers. Amelia Douglas, whose mother was Cree and father fur trader John Connolly, married James Douglas and accompanied her husband when the Hudson Bay Company asked them to establish Fort Victoria in 1843. She provided the skills of native healing and midwifery to the women of the Fort. In 1858, the new colony of British Columbia was established and James Douglas was appointed as governor. Amelia continued to offer native healing and she contributed to the development of health care in the new colony.



Lenore (Evans) Radom was an active member of the Richmond/Delta Chapter of RNABC over a period of 25 years. She was the President of the chapter for more than 12 years. Lenore's aboriginal heritage is linked to her Cree origins. She began her nursing career as a licensed practical nurse before graduating as a registered nurse from the Royal Jubilee Hospital in 1972. Lenore practiced nursing for several years. She promoted professional nursing practice over the years of her active involvement with RNABC. This portrait honours Lenore and her dedication to the Richmond/Delta Chapter as well as Amelia Douglas and all the nurses of aboriginal heritage who have contributed to nursing practice.



PORTRAIT #24
LENORE (EVANS) RADOM
Amelia Douglas - 1812 - 1890
for Aboriginal Nursing

Nina Rumen

Sponsor: Nina Rumen

Miniature: Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps (RCAMC) and Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps (QARANC), circa 1917

Canadian nurses have joined forces with British nurses on military assignments on numerous occasions throughout the years, notably the Boer War, WW I, WW II and in post war periods. In WW I, the Canadian government called for 200 nurses to serve with the British Army overseas. Twenty five nurses from British Columbia were selected for this assignment. Jessie McKenzie, lady superintendent of the Royal Jubilee Hospital was authorised to select 10 applicants for this assignment. Miss Snyder, lady superintendent of the Vancouver General Hospital, was authorized to select the other 15 mainland nurses. The selected Canadian nurses served with the QARANC. They were issued the uniform of the QARANC and many served in the British Military hospitals at the front lines of the war.



Nina Rumen, a graduate of St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver was a nursing sister with RCAMC 1951 - 1959, and a nursing officer (Canadian Forces military Service) 1959 - 1974. She had many roles and positions in many environments and assignments across Canada, including two postings to Europe. She served in Iserholm, Germany in a British Military Hospital where she worked in partnership with British Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps nurses. In 1970 - 1972, she served in Lahr, Germany at a Canadian Forces Military Hospital as part of NATO. She retired from military service in 1974.

Beverly Witter Du Gas, Ed.D.

**Sponsor: B. Du Gas's children - Bud, Barbara,
David and Danny**

**Miniature: Vancouver General Hospital/University
of B.C. graduate, circa 1945**

University education for nurses was introduced in Canada in 1919 when the University of B.C. opened the first nursing degree program. Ethel Johns, a nursing pioneer of international stature, was the first director of the nursing school. In 1897, in the United States, attempts were made to introduce university hospital nursing courses at the University of Texas. In 1909 the University of Minnesota became the first nursing school organized as an integral part of the university. Nurses in Canada made continuous efforts to adopt the baccalaureate as the basis of entry to nursing practice. In the 1990's and early 2000's many provinces reached this goal.



Dr. Beverly Du Gas was born in Vancouver, completed her basic nursing studies at U.B.C. and her R.N. from Vancouver General Hospital in 1945. She obtained a Masters in Nursing from the University of Washington and Education Doctorate from UBC in 1969. Beverly has made a valuable contribution to nursing in B.C., Canada, and in many countries as a nurse educator as well as author. Her outstanding career and contribution to the education of thousands of nurses around the world has been honoured with an Honourary Doctor of Laws from the University of Windsor, The Order of B.C and The Order of Canada. Her children honoured her career by placing this portrait doll in the RNABC Memorial Collection for her 80th birthday.



PORTRAIT #26
Dr. BEVERLY WITTER Du GAS
**Vancouver General Hospital/
University of B.C. Graduate**
circa 1945

**Margaret Stewart Gilmour Esson
(1932 - 1985)**

Sponsor: Robert Esson and family

**Miniature: Royal Columbian Hospital/Essondale
Psychiatric Nursing Partnership, circa 1935**

The City of New Westminster established two of British Columbia's major training hospitals for nurses. The Royal Columbian Hospital (RCH) School of Nursing was established in 1901. In 1903, the first graduate joined the hospital nursing staff of 11 (a superintendent of nursing, 2 head nurses and 8 pupil nurses). In 1897, Psychiatric care was established in New Westminster when the Hospital for the Insane was opened. It later became Essondale. In 1930, Essondale opened the Provincial Mental Hospital School of Psychiatric Nursing with the last class graduating in 1973 when the program was transferred to the colleges. Close affiliation for nursing education existed between the two hospitals until the close of the RCH Nursing School in 1978.



Margaret was born November 10, 1932 in Old Kilpatrick, Scotland. She immigrated with her husband Bob and four children to Richmond, B.C. in 1966. From 1972 until her passing Margaret was actively involved with the Richmond Hospital Auxiliary, serving in various executive positions. Margaret took great pride in her position as Custodian of the Minoru Chapel - "The Chapel in the Park", Richmond, B.C. From 1975 to 1984 she oversaw hundreds of weddings in this lovely old historic chapel. This portrait honours a special and loving wife, mother and a friend to many.



**Janet Marie Gormick
1940-2006**

**Sponsor: Nina Rumen and B.C. History of Nursing Group
Miniature Portrait: University School of Nursing Uniform circa
1960s**



Born Janet Whellahan in Oswego NY, her professional career began in 1958 with nurses training at Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse NY. In 1971, after completing a Master of Nursing at UCLA she joined the Faculty of UBC School of Nursing. During her 26 years at UBC she made numerous contributions to educational and community endeavours. This memorial doll portrays the UBC School of Nursing uniform to honour her long tenure at UBC and her love of history.

BC History of Nursing Society

Janet Gormick was a dedicated member of the B.C. History of Nursing Group. This History Group was organized in 1989 under the umbrella of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. "to discover, disseminate, and preserve nursing history in British Columbia." The Group has about 60 active members plus 60 or more affiliate and student members. The Group members are active in promoting group activities, as well as working on various history projects of their own. In 2008, under the new terms of provincial legislation, the Group separated from the College of Nurses of B.C. and became the B.C. History of Nursing Society. Janet Gormick was a founding member of the Group in 1989.

**Lois Blais
1938-2008**

**Sponsor: Nina Rumen
Miniature Portrait: Helen Randal**



Lois began nursing at St. Michael's Hospital Toronto. She joined the staff of Vancouver General Hospital, Vancouver Cancer Clinic, and St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver. She was a passionate friend and nurse, a history buff, a sailor, a teacher and a news paper columnist.

Helen Randal, Nursing Leader

The portrait doll chosen to represent Lois Blais was Helen Randal as both were outstanding nursing leaders. Helen Randal's leadership resulted in legislation in British Columbia that secured registration for practicing nurses. In 1916, Helen Randal, a graduate of the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal, was business manager on a part time basis for the Canadian Nurse Journal. In 1919, she presented a paper on the *Standardization of Training Schools in British Columbia* to the 2nd Annual Convention of the Hospitals of British Columbia. Her title at that time was Registrar, Graduate Nurses Association of British Columbia and Editor of the Canadian Nurse. Lois Blais was also an innovative leader and she made remarkable contributions to various fields of nursing, as well as a newspaper columnist on health care.

Dianna L.H. Ritchie
1925-2007
Sponsor: Nina Rumen
Miniature Portrait: St. John Ambulance



Dianna graduated from St. Paul's Hospital in 1950. Her distinguished career included Director of Nursing & Patient Care at Mount Saint Joseph Hospital. She served many dedicated nursing service hours with St. John Ambulance.

St. John Ambulance

Currently in British Columbia, St. John Ambulance teaches over 11,000 classes and trains over 102,000 students in first aid and health care. St. John teaches everything from occupational first aid to what every babysitter should know to earthquake preparedness and standard first aid for the wilderness. British Columbia nurses have been involved in teaching these courses and in providing services to the public. Dianna Ritchie gave many years of service St. John Ambulance in British Columbia to assist in their delivery of community services.

Faye Meuser

1938-2007

Sponsor: Nina Rumen

**Miniature Portrait: 1963 Student, Victoria Hospital,
London ON**



Faye obtained her B.Sc.N. in 1963 at the Victoria Hospital in London Ontario and her M.Sc.N. in 1974 at U. of Western Ontario. She nursed in London Ontario then came to BC in 1963 for a position at Vancouver General Hospital. In 1974 she began her long tenure at St. Paul's Hospital, from Head Nurse to Director, Nursing Surgical Suite. She retired in 2001.

Operating Room Nursing

The development of modern operating room nursing began with the reforms of the 19th century. In British Columbia, Lister's antiseptic techniques were instituted at the Provincial Royal Jubilee Hospital in 1896. Lister visited British Columbia in 1897 to share his work and influence operating antiseptic techniques. Operating Room Nurses are credited with the early application of the principles of antiseptic and asepsis. Nurses have played a critical role in the safe care of the patient in the operating room. Faye Meuser dedicated many years to developing efficient safe care of the patient in the operating room.

**Margaret (Prowse) Neylan
1924-2005**

**Sponsor: Board of Registered Nurses Association of B.C.
Miniature Portrait: Student Nurse Brandon Manitoba circa 1940s**



Margaret was born in Brandon Hills Manitoba in 1924. Her long and distinguished career began in Brandon Manitoba and included work in Montreal, White Plains (New York) and Vancouver. She and husband Craig had 3 children. Her life was dedicated to family, health care and education where she pioneered the development of numerous nursing programs. She served as President of the Registered Nurses Assoc. of B.C. from 1971-73 and again from 1989-91. She served as Vice-President of The Canadian Nurses Association from 1992-94. In retirement she dedicated her time to improving care for seniors.

Advances in Nursing Education

Nursing education in British Columbia followed the gradual trend in the 1960s and 1970s, to move nursing education from hospital based programs to the developing colleges of applied arts and technology. As nursing education moved into educational institutions students were able to focus on the care of the patient rather than policies and practices of one specific hospital. Margaret Neylan was a leader in this movement as Department Head of Psychiatric Nursing, then as Associate Dean of Nursing at the British Columbia Institute of Technology.