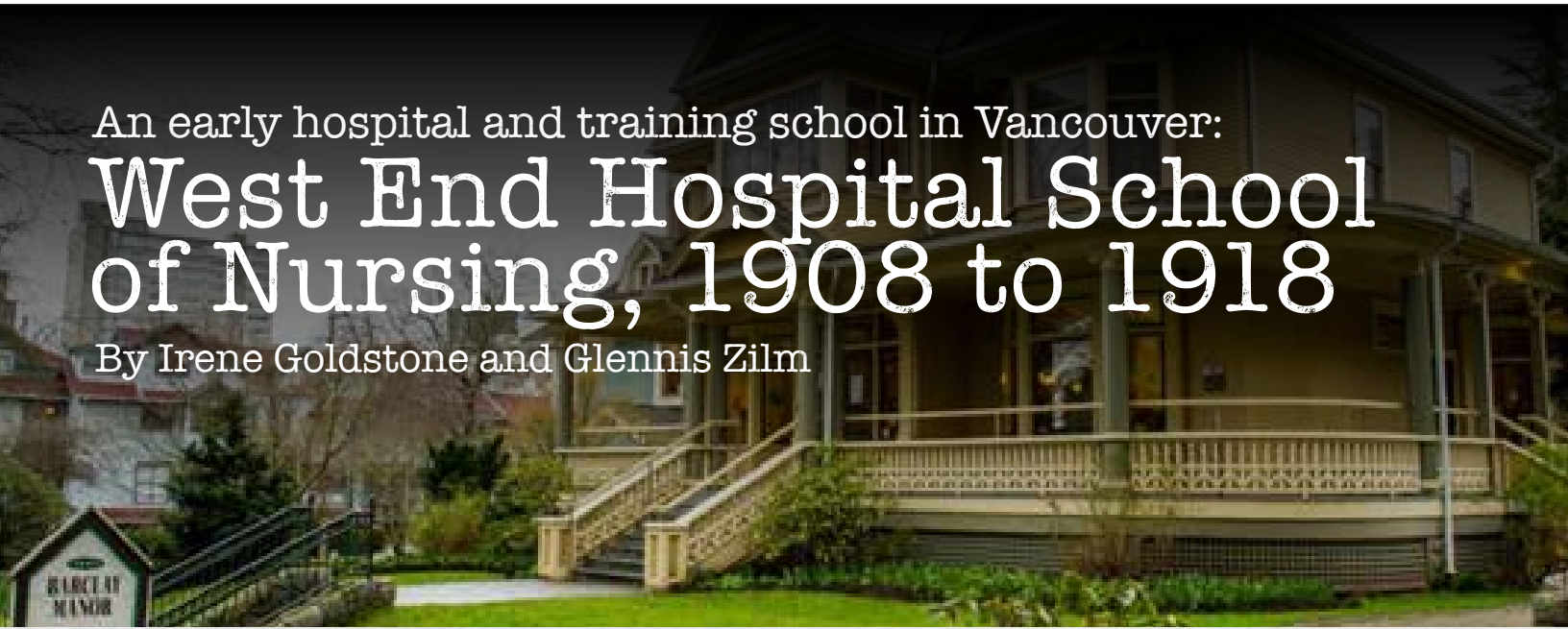




An early hospital and training school in Vancouver:

West End Hospital School of Nursing, 1908 to 1918

By Irene Goldstone and Glennis Zilm



In 1886, Vancouver became the terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway. By 1916, the rapidly-growing, boom-or-bust city had 31 “hospitals” listed in the City Directory. These included the larger public and private hospitals: Vancouver General Hospital (established 1886 as the City Hospital) and St. Paul’s Hospital (established 1894). As well there were St. Luke’s Anglican Home, Mount Saint Joseph Chinese Hospital, and various small private hospitals and nursing / maternity care homes. The proliferation of small hospitals was part of the entrepreneurial spirit of nurses and physicians¹ and what Gagnon and Gagnon² have described as the “wholesale transfer of the sick from the home to the hospital.”

Five of these hospitals offered nurse training. The earliest program had been at St. Luke’s Home (1891-1910), run by Sister Frances. She discontinued her program when the VGH school opened in 1899. This was well before registration was established in 1918, but we recognize it as a “school” meeting the standards of late-1800 programs because its graduates went to other areas of the province as nurses and worked in hospitals in the United States. While the schools at Burrard Sanitarium (c1905-c1913) and the West End Hospital (1908-1918) were

relatively short-lived, the graduates from both institutions registered with the Graduate Nurses Association of BC.

The West End Hospital, about which little is known, was originally located at 1357 Barclay Street and moved to 1447 Barclay in 1910; this address still exists as Barclay Manor, a Vancouver Heritage site. Originally it was a prestigious private home built in 1890 by Lucy and Charles Tetley, a mining engineer and chief accountant for the city. The house was sold in 1902 and again in 1903, when owners Francis (Frank) Baynes, manager of the Dominion Hotel in Gastown, and his wife Emily (nee Sherdahls) carried out extensive renovations making it into a large three-storey building that served briefly as a hotel. Further renovations allowed it to be converted into a hospital; these renovations in 1909 cost \$10,000.³

The West End Hospital was listed in the City Directories from 1908 through 1918. The building was rented by Lena M. Clermont, who was listed as superintendent (or, occasionally, matron) from 1909 to 1916. The directories sometimes referred to it as “Miss Clermont’s Private Hospital.” We were unable to find much information about Lena Clermont. She is not listed in the BC Birth, Marriages, and Deaths registry and she did not

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newsletter committee

Lynne Esson (chair), Beth Fitzpatrick, Ethel Warbinek, Sheila Zerr, Naomi Miller, Glennis Zilm, Lenore Radom. The BC History of Nursing Society Newsletter is published 3 times per year.

SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOME.

Deadline for the Spring Issue is Feb 15, 2020. Please send submissions to: lynne.esson@ubc.ca

Archival Corner



To read more about Kathleen and other nurses, please visit our website

Remembering Kathleen Wilhelmina Ellis (1887 – 1968)

For this Remembrance Day Archival Corner article, I searched for nurses who worked in both major world wars and came upon Kathleen Wilhelmina Ellis. During WW1, she was matron of the Vancouver Island Military Hospital in Victoria. During WW2, she was secretary-treasurer and national advisor for the Canadian Nurses Association. Her story is particularly interesting in that she worked in collaboration with Ethel Johns. This year has included many celebrations of Ethel Johns and the centenary of UBC School of Nursing.

Kathleen became Superintendent of Nurses at the Vancouver General Hospital and Principal of the School from 1921 to 1929. In collaboration with Ethel Johns, she helped develop the five-year baccalaureate nursing course at UBC and VGH!

SAVE the DATE! APRIL 30, 2020 Nursing History Symposium

“Nursing Artifacts and Nurses’ Uniforms: Preserving Nurses’ Cultural History - A Symposium in Honor of the BC History of Nursing Society’s 30th Anniversary”

- The BCHNS and the Consortium for Nursing History Inquiry
- Presented by: Keynote Speaker: Christina Bates, former curator of the Canadian Museum of History and author of “A Cultural History of the Nurse’s Uniform”
- Room: Cecil Green Park House
- Address: 6251 Green Park Road, UBC Vancouver BC V6T 1Z1
- Program: 9:30 am - 2 pm
- Registration information and program details to follow.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KATHY MURPHY

The leaves are turning beautiful colours, the days are getting shorter, and the work of the BC History of Nursing Society continues. In 2020, the 30th Anniversary of this group will be recognized at the Nursing History Symposium being held on April 30, 2020 at Cecil Green Park at UBC. Tina Bates, the well-known curator, historian and editor will be the Keynote Speaker.

As required by the Canada Revenue Agency, the Bylaws of our group were revised to include two clauses acceptable to the CRA regarding dissolution of the group and the not for profit aspect. The certified copies from the BC Registry have been forwarded to CRA. The Pages of History Committee is pleased to announce that there are now 100 pages of history in the collection with 80 in hard copy and 20 posted on the website. All members are encouraged to consider recognizing a nurse in our midst. The information on how to proceed can be found on the website.

Lenore Radom and Margaret Scaia have completed the addition of several monuments and revision to the Monuments document which should be posted soon on the website. We were pleased to learn that Helen Shore, one of our Honorary Life Members, has completed her family history and the publication, *Shore to Shore*, will be available at the end of October.

Recently the group learned that Shirley Ridalls, an enthusiastic and supportive member of this group for many years, passed away in late September.

For those looking ahead to the New Year, WHO has declared 2020 to be the "Year of the Nurse and Midwife". The Duchess of Cambridge is the Ambassador for this recognition. Also in 2020, the Canadian Association of History of Nursing will be meeting in Ottawa from June 10-12. The call for papers to address the theme, "Care in Conflict: Healthcare Under Tension" is posted with a deadline of December 1, 2019. Information can be obtained on the CAHN website.



Kathy

EDITOR'S DESK

LYNNE ESSON



Fall is well and truly upon us, with the autumn leaves crunching underfoot, and the sun peeking through the thinning trees, it is time to make a cup of tea, stay warm and cozy, and enjoy this fall edition of the BCHNS newsletter. Our feature article by Glennis Zilm and Irene Goldstone present a fascinating article about an Early hospital and training school and in Vancouver Circa 1908.

I invite you to catch up on all the latest news and take a look at the BCHNS archives. As always, we encourage you to submit your news items, stories, and historical photographs for inclusion in future newsletters. I trust you will enjoy this edition, and stay warm this fall!

Lynne

graduate from one of the more established BC hospital schools of nursing of the time (VGH, SPH, RJH, RCH, RIH). She did not serve with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in World War 1.⁴

For the final two years, Helen G. Tolmie was listed in the Directories as matron. In the first annual report of the newly-established British Columbia Hospital Association (BCHA) in 1918, Mrs. Tolmie is listed as matron. She also attended BCHA meetings in 1919 and 1920 as a delegate but no affiliation is listed and the hospital is not mentioned after 1918. Again, little information could be found about Mrs. Tolmie; she is not listed in the BC Births, Marriages, and Deaths registry and she did not graduate from one of the more established BC hospital schools of nursing of time (VGH, SPH, RJH, RCH, RIH). She did not serve with Canadian forces in World War 1.

That the hospital offered nurses' training is evident because Blanche Bristow registered with the GNABC in November 1918 (Registration #134) and Anna Jeannette Bahme registered (#292) in February 1919 as graduates of the West End Hospital. The BC Births, Marriages, and Deaths Registry shows that Anna Jeannetta McLeod married John Clinton Bahme in 1917. The 1917 Vancouver City Directory shows Anna McLeod was working as a nurse at the West End Hospital; it also lists a Mary Bahme, who may have become a sister-in-law. Mary Bahme is listed in the 1918 Vancouver City Directory, this time as a nurse. A 1986 obituary for Jessie Maud Grant noted that she was a graduate of the West End Hospital; we are also pursuing this possible lead.

Little other information could be found, although two pieces of monogrammed china -- a dinner plate and a teapot -- for use in the hospital are held by the Museum of Vancouver.⁵ Many hospitals of the time used monogrammed dishes, although such collectibles now are fairly hard to find.

No pin or image of a pin or of graduates has been located. We would appreciate any further information about the school. Please get in touch with the authors at irene.goldstone@gmail.com.

After 1918, the building became a residence, Rosary Hall, run by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, for young Catholic working women. Between 1919 and 1923, there were no listings. In 1925, it was again listed, but as Barclay Manor. Over the years, this magnificent Queen Anne style house became a home for the elderly, a boarding house, and it now is a seniors' centre in Barclay Heritage Square in Vancouver's West End. It is listed with the Vancouver Heritage Foundation and is maintained as one of nine existing Vancouver homes of the early 1900s. It has elegant public rooms that can be rented for weddings and other functions.

Photo credit: Barclay Manor - Alex Ramon for Vancouver Heritage Foundation. <https://www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org/location/1447-barclay-st-vancouver-bc/>

Used with permission.

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AUTHOR NOTE:

Irene Goldstone and Glennis Zilm are founding members of BCHNS and of CAHN, and are working on a history of early BC schools of nursing. We gratefully acknowledge assistance from Wendy Nichols, curator, Museum of Vancouver.

FOOTNOTES

- 1 Goldstone, 1989, pp. 6-14.
- 2 Gagnon and Gagnon, 2002, p. 3.
- 3 West End Seniors Network. (2019). Barclay Manor [website]. Available <http://wesn.ca/barclay-manor/> ; Personal communication (email) Wendy Nichols, curator, Museum of Vancouver, to G. Zilm from notes available in VOM archives, September 5, 2019 (the cost would be more than \$280,000 in 2019 dollars); "Public Notice," The Province, Nov. 26, 1908 (no page number).
- 4 We could find no mentions of Clermont except for a brief "Notice" in the Okanagan Commoner, an Enderby, BC, newspaper, Feb 12, 1920, p. 4, where a Lena Clermont is cited in a lawsuit in the Vernon area; see <https://open.library.ubc.ca/collections/bcnewspapers/xenderby/items/1.0179226#p3z-5r0f:Lena%20Clermont>
- 5 Museum of Vancouver. (2019). Collections. Photographs available <https://museumofvancouver.ca> . Search using keywords "West End Hospital."

INTERVIEW WAS BY SIMON NAKONECHNY, CBC JOURNALIST

BCHNS past member & Royal Jubilee Graduate featured as 2019 Poster Veteran

“I wanted to be right in the action”

Maxine Bredt, 99, is the face of Veterans Week

When one of Maxine Llewellyn’s patients fell in love with her and proposed, the young nurse turned him down, for “selfish” reasons, she says. “He had lost a leg,” said Llewellyn who’s known today by her married name Maxine Bredt. “I loved dancing, my music was in my feet, so I turned him down.” Amputations, bullet wounds and disfigurement were just part of Bredt’s daily reality as a Nursing Sister, the title given to Canadian women who served as nurses during the Second World War.

The Sisters were commissioned officers, not nuns, but for the injured men who filled the army hospitals by the hundreds, they were a godsend. Their goal was to make the soldiers’ lives as comfortable as possible. “They were our boys, and we loved them,” said Bredt.

That contribution is being honoured by Veterans Affairs Canada as it prepares for Veterans’ Week, a series of events and ceremonies to be held across the country from Nov. 5 to 11. This year’s poster highlights the 75th anniversary of the Italian campaign, and for the first time a Nursing Sister will be the face of its promotional efforts. “It’s a pretty nice feeling,” said Bredt, who turns 100 in September and still fits into the khaki green Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps uniform she was issued 75 years ago. After the war, she says, male veterans would march front and centre in Remembrance Day parades with the women relegated to the rear. “We were never given any honours or any showing what we did in the war,” she said. What they did was work long hours to relieve the suffering of Canadian, British and even enemy soldiers badly hurt in battle, under difficult conditions, in makeshift hospitals.

It was a far cry from the idyllic northern Canadian setting where Bredt grew up, in Terrace, B.C., where she dreamed of being a nurse. But the war gave her the chance to follow her calling. “I wanted to be right in the action,” Bredt said. “I had finished my training, and nurses were very scarce.”

She signed up for the medical corps in January 1944 and was soon on her way to Europe by sea, “dodging the U-boats,” German submarines whose goal was to sink Allied ships. After a brief stint in England Bredt was posted to the 14th Canadian General Hospital in Perugia, Italy, about 150 kilometres north of Rome.

The unit had set up shop in a tobacco factory. “The medical ward alone would be 234 more beds, in one ward,” said Bredt, “You just had to make do, and you never complained about it.” That included making the best of some macabre situations. Bredt recalls drawing a smiley face on the stump of a soldier whose leg had been freshly amputated. “You pull the skin one way and the face would smile, pull it the other way it would frown. The patients loved it,” she said.

But hardest of all, says Bredt, was her time in England working in a burn unit at Basingstoke, after the Italian campaign had wrapped up. “You just never forget, those boys and the burns, and



how they suffered,” said Bredt, still visibly emotional, as she described how young soldiers trapped in burning tanks would be rescued and brought to the ward for treatment. “I had to fight back the tears,” she said.

“I think she’s a symbol of strength,” said Robert Loken, manager for honours, awards and commemoration at Veterans Affairs Canada, who produced the poster. He says the department chose Bredt as part of their strategy of moving away from generic battlefield photos in favour of more personal stories. “It’s really to put a face to that person who was there to defend our freedoms,” he said. Loken says it’s important to highlight Canada’s participation in the Allied Italian campaign, which ran from the summer of 1943 until the beginning of 1945 and in which 25,000 Canadian soldiers were killed or wounded.

He says featuring Bredt was a way to underline the importance of the battle for Italy and the role of women in the war. “More often than not, any soldier who was injured during a battle, their first line of contact with a medical professional was a Nursing Sister,”

One place that’s eager to put up their copy of the poster is Bredt’s local Royal Canadian Legion Branch 115 in Hudson. President Rod Hodgson says they’ve chosen a place of honour for the image of the retired lieutenant, known around the legion as Maxine. “She’s an icon here, a real icon, and we’re so, so proud,” said Hodgson, who has known Bredt for about 60 years.

After the war, the young military nurse put down roots in Hudson after marrying a former RCAF flyer named Bill Bredt. The couple raised four children there, and both worked for Trans-Canada Airlines, the precursor to Air Canada, Bill as a pilot and Maxine as a flight attendant. Bill died in 2000, but Maxine is still a fixture at the Legion, especially on hamburger night. And in her 100th year she hasn’t lost her spark or the music in her feet. “She can dance circles around you,” said Hodgson.

For more photos & interview click on link <https://www.cbc.ca/>

Care B.C. Gala Dinner

Published: October 26, 2019 in the Vancouver Sun, by Fred Lee.

“Since its inception in 1967, Health and Home Care Society of B.C.’s Meals on Wheels program has been providing meals to seniors and others who are housebound due to chronic conditions, illness, injury or surgery”. The 11th annual fundraising dinner and auction was fronted by Care B.C. executive director Inge Schamborzki and president Tom Chambers at Vancouver’s Kirin Restaurant.

“Helen Shore a longtime volunteer, donor and now a Meals on Wheels client made her way to the stage. Shore shared news she had to leave the gala dinner early to make the curfew at her seniors residence, but not before endorsing the services provided by Care B.C. and dropping of a \$50,000 cheque. Shore’s good humour, timing and generous donation brought everyone to their feet, sending Shore home in grand style. The surprise gift announcement punctuated a delicious and memorable night”.



Photo by Fred Lee

MEMBER NEWS Shirley Ridalls



**BCHNS member
Shirley Ridalls
passes late
September.**

Service to be Saturday, Dec. 7/19 at 2pm at All Saints Anglican Church, 7405 Royal Oak, Burnaby.

WELCOME STUDENT MEMBER Chelsea Reimer



Back in the summer while visiting a garage sale I came across a box of nursing memorabilia belonging to a woman who had graduated from the St. Joseph’s School of Nursing, including a yearbook looking back on 81 years of graduating classes of nurses. This seemed especially serendipitous as I won a scholarship from the alumni of the same school back in 2017 and for several years a dear friend of mine lived in the building that once was St. Joseph’s, across from St. Ann’s Academy. My interest was immediately piqued and I’ve been researching nursing history here in Victoria ever since. I’m also interested in how nurses have shaped the discipline and philosophy of biomedical ethics, both in Canada and abroad.

CAHN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 10-12, 2020, Ottawa

“Care in Conflict: Healthcare under Tension”

Call for Abstracts: The history of nursing is deeply marked by conflicts. Whether it is the struggle for professional identity, engagement in military conflicts as medical staff, or the various sociopolitical barriers as nurses sought to carry out their nursing practice. It is this tension, inherent in the history of nursing, that we wish to explore during this conference. Papers touching on the broadly defined themes of tension and conflict within nursing and healthcare are welcome. The aim will be to highlight the different facets of conflicts in the history of health care. **MORE INFO >>** <https://cahn-achn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/CAHN-2020-Ottawa-Call-for-Abstracts-final.pdf>

WW1

Bradshaw Nursing Sisters Remembered



This Plaque stands on a pedestal at the Intersection of Cedar Hill X road and Shelbourne St., Saanich, BC

Beatrice [Trixie] Bradshaw 1892 - 1945

Beatrice [Trixie] Eugene Bradshaw is listed in the Saanich honour roll and her photo is on the plaque above page. She was the daughter of Sarah Payne Windsor and William George Bradshaw, born in Newfoundland and named after Queen Victoria's youngest daughter. A few years after her father's death, her mother, uncle and siblings moved to Victoria. The mother allegedly believed the girls would have to earn their own living, believing Victoria would provide them the best opportunity. Trixie enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1918, a year after her graduation from The Royal Jubilee Hospital School of Nursing, from a class of 13. She served at the #11 Canadian General Hospital at Shorncliffe, England. Trixie did not marry or have children, she lost her fiancée in the war. Following the war, she worked at Resthaven Veterans' hospital, Later she was the school nurse at Oak Bay for many years. She died of cancer and is buried with two other sisters in St. Luke's churchyard. A framed oval sepia portrait of Trixie Bradshaw is held by the Royal Jubilee School of Nursing Archives. A portrait of Trixie in uniform is held by the Craigdarroch Castle Archives.

Hannah Jennings Bradshaw 1891 -1984

Hannah "Nance" Jennings Bradshaw was the second daughter of Sarah Payne Windsor and William George Bradshaw. She was born in 1891 in Placentia, Newfoundland. Nance, was a stenographer, but later graduated from The Royal Jubilee Hospital School of Nursing in 1915 and went overseas with the #5 Canadian General Hospital that same year. On September 14th, 1915, Nance enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in London, England. She was stationed in Shorncliffe, England, Heliopolis, Egypt and Salonika, Greece, and Gallipoli. While overseas, Nance secretly married Major James Thomas Wall, a physician and surgeon born in Nanaimo, but from Vancouver, who also was with #5 Canadian General Hospital. After the war they lived in Vancouver and had 3 children. Hannah is also mentioned in the Saanich honour roll from the Great War.

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