SPRING 2019 VOLUME 30 ISSUE 1





Submitted by Geertje Boschma, Nan Martin, Kathy Murphy and Lenore Radom.

In celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the UBC School of Nursing, founded in 1919, the first event took place February 26, 2019 with the present Director, Elizabeth Saewyc unveiling the Ethel Johns Plaque in the garden adjacent to the UBC Hospital Urgent Care Centre, the third floor which is home to the School. Members of the BC History of Nursing Society joined faculty from the School of Nursing to recognize the first Director of the UBC School of Nursing which was the first to offer a university degree in Nursing in the whole of the Commonwealth.

The process to recognize Ethel Johns as a Person of National Historic Significance by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, was commenced in 2007 when the application was submitted by members of the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group, which has evolved into the BC History of Nursing Society in recent years. The recognition was attained in 2009 and the wording for the plaque in 2010. The plaque was formally presented by the

Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada at a ceremony at UBC in February 2015.

The inscription in both languages states:

"Through her prolific writings and editorship of The Canadian Nurse, this dynamic educator and administrator campaigned for the advancement of nursing as a profession for over fifty years. Serving as the director of the newly created Department of Nursing at the University of British Columbia, she laid the groundwork for nursing education in Canada by establishing the country's first university degree program. With her research and program development at home and abroad, this leader fostered a spirit of international cooperation in the filed while tirelessly promoting high standards or practice and education."

Sincere appreciation is extended to all who prepared the original submission and patiently waited for this occasion to take place.







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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 Summer Issue is May 15, 2019. Please send submissions to: lynne.esson@ubc.ca

Archival Corner



Charlotte England: A Profile by Francis Mansbridge

Charlotte England was born Charlotte Hind in 1921 in Weyburn, Saskatchewan and now lives in a retirement home in Ladner where she maintains a busy, active life. She can often be seen riding her scooter on the local roads. She has recently generously donated many of her personal records to the archives.

Charlotte attended St. Paul's School of Nursing from 1944-1947, where she took psychiatric training at Essondale Psychiatric Hospital and communicable diseases at Vancouver General. She was valedictorian for her 1947 class, but having nursed TB patients became tubercular herself and needed a year to recover.

After nursing briefly with the Victorian Order of Nurses, St. Paul's case room and eyes, ear, nose and throat departments, she moved with her husband Leslie England to Ottawa in 1948. Here she did general nursing at Ottawa Civic Hospital, the Royal Ottawa Psychiatric Hospital and the Ottawa General.

After leaving nursing to raise her six children, she rewrote her registered nursing exams and worked as a private duty nurse during the Aids outbreak. She retired at seventy and moved back to Vancouver.

"I bask in my memories of being part of a profession that cares for those in need."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KATHY MURPHY

The cold and white winter we experienced this past year is hopefully finished. However the sun shone brightly as many of us gathered to finally take part in the unveiling of the Ethel Johns Memorial Plaque at UBC at the end of February. This was a significant event to mark the beginning of the celebration of 100 years of Nursing at UBC.

At this time it would be wonderful if our society members celebrated this event by volunteering to take on the roles that need to be filled. Some of our dedicated members who have contributed for many years have retired or are looking forward to retirement. All it takes is a few hours/month. For some committees, such as the editorial, you do not have to live in the Lower Mainland. In order to sustain the viability of our group we do need your help with the following: archives working with our Archivist, editing the newsletter with the designer, preparing displays, identifying nurse leaders for nominations to provincial and national Memorial Books and working with the website. Please contact me through the website.



The BCHNS website is revised regularly so it is worth checking it to keep track of our activities. Please click on www.bcnursinghistory.ca.





EDITOR'S DESK

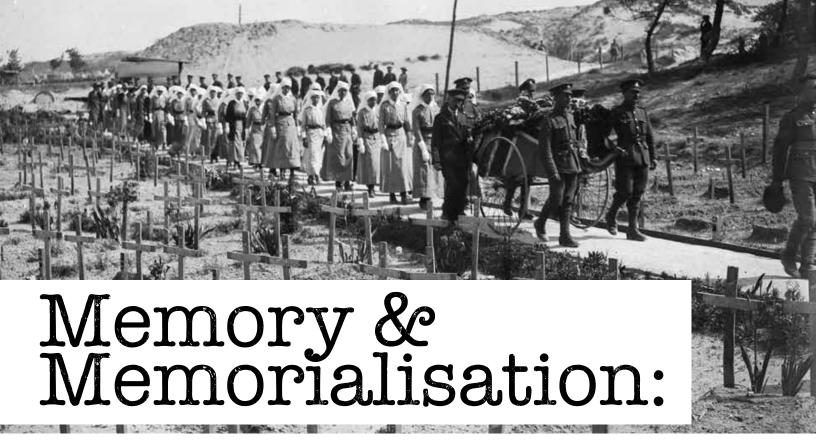
ETHEL WARBINEK

We are pleased to announce the long awaited Ethel John plaque has finally found a home at UBC. The ceremony attended by our Society members was held in February. Information on this dedication and photos can be viewed in this issue. A special thank you to our members for their persistence in ensuring this project was finally completed. Linda Quiney's article on the Fallen Sisters of the Great War looks at the memorials and commendations of nurses who lost their lives. She describes an elaborate service held in London England April 1918. Long time member – Genelle Leifso who has volunteered for years with the Red Cross, describes a 5-day trip to Israel where she helped facilitate a workshop – High Dependency Care in Austere Environments. She states: "I took the opportunity to sing the praises of nurses".

The following are honored for their contributions to nursing: Patricia Whalen, June Newton, Charlotte England and Helen Niskaka. It is important to sing the praises of our nursing colleagues, so please continue to submit information on them.

Important events are planned for May and June 2019: The UBC School of Nursing 100thAnniversary Gala, BC Historical Federation Annual Conference and the 2019 joint meeting of the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine and the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing. Look for information on these in this issue.





THE FALLEN SISTERS OF THE GREAT WAR

By Linda Quiney

The First World War and influenza pandemic had taken a terrible toll by late 1918. Overseas, the endless military funerals for fallen soldiers, and far too many nursing personnel, had almost become routine. Throughout the war, and long after the Armistice, memorial services and commemorative tributes continued across Canada and other western allied nations. With the centenary of the war, historians began to consider the meaning of these early memorial rituals, including Jonathan Vance, in Death So Noble: Memory, Meaning, and the First World War, and Jay Winter, in Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning: The Great War in European Cultural History. These analyses give deep consideration to the many memorials for fallen soldiers, but make only passing reference to the fallen nurse, yet in the waning months of war and early postwar years, there was significant public remembrance of nurses' sacrifice. Commemorative events and permanent memorials were regularly dedicated to fallen nursing personnel, professional and volunteer, in recognition of their sacrifice. Kathryn McPherson observes that, with the exception of nurses, "images of non-elite women are almost non-existent" in public commemorations from the 19th and early 20th centuries. In this era, she argues, women existed mainly in the private, domestic realm, but nurses were the exception. Nurses often undertook the inherently feminine work of caring in public spaces, recognizable by their uniforms when visiting homes, community clinics, and with the military during war. As a result, the inclusion of nurses in public memorials was legitimized by the same acceptance that allowed them a place in the public realm.

Parades have long served as community rallying points for civic events, sports, and politics. Early in the war, smartly uniformed new recruits regularly paraded through the streets as they marched off to war, cheered on by crowds of onlookers. Newly commissioned nursing sisters, in equally smart dress uniforms, received the same public enthusiasm. In his history of wartime Toronto, Ian Miller found that the order of placement for women in local parades evolved from Empire Day, 1 July 1916, when nurses and other women workers marched behind the soldiers' wives and mothers. In the August 1918 Women's Day parade, nurses and women Red Cross workers now led the way, signalling a new appreciation of their contribution to the war effort.

Early in the war, one notable nursing casualty served as a template for the memorialisation of future wartime nursing casualties. The German government's execution of nurse Edith Cavell sent shock waves through the western allies, reverberating most forcefully in Britain and the Dominions. Cavell treated soldiers on both sides while working with the Red Cross in Belgium, but she also helped hundreds of Allied soldiers to escape to the Netherlands. Arrested and charged with harbouring prisoners of war, Edith Cavell confessed to her crimes and was executed by firing squad on 12 October, 1915. Her death instantly generated a wave of propaganda, rendering the nurse the most prominent casualty of the war to date, and immediately boosting recruitment for military service. A memorial service was held in St. Paul's Cathedral on 29 October, 1915, attended by hundreds of nurses and other mourners, but it was another four years before her body could be returned to Eng-

land. Prior to the exhumation and transportation back to England, the King and Queen visited the original burial site. Crowds waited outside Victoria Station for the arrival of the casket, but only two women waited on the platform, Mrs. Beattie, Commandant of the Edinburgh Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) nurses, and Mary Clark of the London Hospital, who had nursed Cavell in her last illness. Following the state funeral in Westminster Abbey on 19 May, 1919, the body of Edith Cavell was taken to its final resting place in Norwich Cathedral for another service, where a graveside service is still held every year on 12 October. One of the most memorialised women in western society, there are monuments, statues, plaques, paintings, a patriotic song, and a mountain in Jasper National Park named in Cavell's honour, there is even a Google Doodle dedicated to her memory. One of the more ac-

cessible memorials stands in central London, opposite the National Portrait Gallery, and just a few metres to the left of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields.

In the final year of the war, military nurses and VADs were much in demand in Britain. Many were forced to leave military service due to fatigue, illness, or to care for a convalescent soldier at home. An increasing appreciation of the value of wartime nursing gave impetus to a special memorial service on April 10th, 1918, in London's St. Paul's Cathedral, dedicated to "all the nurses who have fallen during the war". It was an elaborate service, punctuated by the heavy presence of royalty and other dignitaries, including Queen Alexandra, namesake of the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps (QAIMNS), accompanied by

funeral for Nursing Sister Margaret Lowe Etaples 1918. Credit William Rider-Rider

Princess Louise and Princess Beatrice. The Lord Mayor attended, along with representatives of the Naval and Military Medical Services, High Commissioners of the Dominions, Councils of the Nursing Services, and the band of the Coldstream Guards. The Archdeacon of London conducted the service commemorating the 340 names on the Roll of Honour, including colonial nurses and VADs. At the time, seven Canadian Army Medical Corps (CAMC) nursing sisters were listed among the fallen, but more were to come in 1918 with the influenza epidemic, heavy aerial attacks on the hospitals on the coast of France, and in June, the torpedoing of the hospital ship, Llandovery Castle. Although 1918 recorded the highest toll on nursing personnel, there were many more who succumbed much later, due to war-related injuries, lingering illness, and emotional trauma.

More public commemorations followed the Armistice, honouring both fallen and veteran nurses. On July 19, 1919, nurses and VADs joined a Victory Parade in London for all military personnel who had returned from the war. For two hours they marched in a circuit from Kensington Gardens, passing Buckingham Palace where they took a royal salute from King George V, Queen Mary and Queen Alexandra. A few years later, York Minster's "Five Sisters Window" would become the only memorial dedicated to all women in the British Empire, nurses included, who gave their lives during the war. Dating from the thirteenth century, the window was removed to protect it from wartime Zeppelin raids, then between 1923 and 1925 it was restored and rededicated, funded by £3,500 raised through a public appeal. Helen Little, one of the

women fundraisers, explained the motivation, arguing that "memorials on all sides were being erected to our brothers..... our sisters who made the same sacrifice appeared to have been forgotten." The window was unveiled on June 24, 1925 by the Duchess of York, in the presence of 800 relatives of the 1,513 women it commemorates. The stone inscription reads: "Sacred to the memory of the women of the Empire who gave their lives in the European War of 1914-1918." Nearby, the Royal Air Force Chapel contains an array of 10 wooden doors, fashioned in the style of a rood screen. Each door displays the insignia of the Corps in which the fallen women served, and the names of all women known to have perished in the service of the British Empire, including the CAMC nursing sisters, are

inscribed behind the appropriate door

Not all postwar memorials for fallen allied nurses are found in Britain. One of the most impressive is located in Centre Block on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. The cost was funded entirely by Canadian nurses by subscription through the Canadian Nurses' Association (CNA). Carved from carrara marble, the sculptured panel was mounted in the Hall of Honour and unveiled 24 August, 1926, by wartime Matron-in-Chief, Margaret Macdonald, in a ceremony attended by 800 nurses from across Canada. The design encompasses the history of Canadian nurses, including on the left the religious sisters who arrived from France during the ancient regime, and on the right two nursing sisters of the recent war, with a central draped figure of "Humanity" holding the caduceus, emblem of healing. More than just the tradition of women's healing as a contribution to Canadian nationhood,

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Trip to Israel

By Genelle Leifso

In mid-November 2018, I was in Jerusalem for 5 days representing the Canadian Red Cross, helping to facilitate a workshop titled "High Dependency Care in Austere Environments". The workshop was organized by Magen David Adom in Israel, which is the Israeli counterpart in the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement. The workshop was organized under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and supported by the Canadian and Norwegian Red Cross National Societies.

There were four facilitators – two from ICRC, one from Norway, and myself. While the other facilitators presented higher level content, my role was to "ground" that information. Unlike Nepal and Bangladesh where I have worked with the Canadian Red Cross Emergency Response Unit, Israel has first-world medical care and does "mass casualty" response very well. And so, the workshop was designed to help participants begin to realize how different the situation is when a natural disaster occurs.

There were around 40 participants – primarily Ministry of Health personnel, as well as several Medical Directors of Hospitals and Emergency Departments. There were a number of participants from the Israeli Nursing Directorate and some who were also involved in curriculum development for their nursing education programs.

Israel is riddled with faults, and like the West Coast of Canada, is long overdue for a major earthquake. Unlike many other natural disasters, given that earthquakes occur with virtually no warning, workshop participants were invited to consider the implications of care in an environment where infrastructure, electricity, water, etc were potentially disrupted.

My topics included:

- Setting the Scene highlighting that in disaster response, "one size does not fit all". The opportunity to respond to wildfires, floods, hurricanes, and tornadoes is different from that in an earthquake scenario.
- Postoperative Management of the Patient highlighting the
 difference between usual postoperative care in a unit with
 critical care trained nurses and an abundance of technology,
 and care in a disaster aftermath where these resources might
 not be readily available. Basic nursing assessment and man-

agement skills are so important in a disaster scenario where we do not have access to the equipment we are used to using. **Wound Care** – review of wound care and management in disaster settings. Wounds are a major source of morbidity and mortality and consideration needs to be given to how many people might seek help in a disaster aftermath, and the basic supplies that might be needed.

- Sterilization and Sterile Supplies review of the sterilization process and the many issues related to processing and storing sterile instruments and supplies in a disaster response situation. The Canadian Red Cross is preparing videos to accompany a recently revised ICRC Sterilization Guide which will be very helpful to personnel who may have to take on this task with little or no background or education around this subject.
- Running an Outpatient Clinic highlighting the fact that
 "walking wounded" can overwhelm basic resources before
 critically injured disaster victims arrive for treatment. On matters where care is being provided, the 3R's of Disaster Care
 apply rationing, restrictions, and added responsibilities.

I took this opportunity to sing the praises of nurses, who are by far the most numerous and available health care professionals. Whether or not they are specialty trained, the help they provide will be beneficial because they are:

- critical thinkers able to assess and prioritize injuries
- effective and savvy communicators they know to whom to direct questions
- demonstrate empathy while remaining calm, confident, and authoritative
- collaborative team members with organizational ability
- comfortable with uncertainty, for the most part.

Disaster nursing education in nursing schools would be helpful in preparing for disaster response. In addition, cross-training of staff might also be considered.

 Working in a Multinational Environment – highlighting the challenges and opportunities that are present when collaborating in a multinational care setting. I attempted to reframe the challenges as opportunities, citing Winston Churchill – "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity, an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty." Clear communication, team-building, and attitude were stressed.



Genelle on left with nurses from Norway & Israel

At the beginning of the workshop, the participants expressed lots of confidence that they were in pretty good shape in the event of an earthquake.....and at the end, the response was "we have a lot of work to do." So....mission accomplished.

My presentation slides, along with speaking notes, were provided to the nurses so that they could share the content with colleagues and students. More recently, I have also been providing the nurse educators with some links to additional resources as they begin to

UPCOMING EVENTS

UBC School of Nursing One Hundred Years- Centenary Gala

Thursday May 2, 2019 5-9 PM at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver where the gifts and talents of colleagues and partners will be celebrated. 100 individuals who have contributed to health, wellness and nursing education will be recognized. To purchase tickets on line or for further information visit: nursing.ubc.ca/gala.100

BC Historical Federation Annual Conference June 7-9, 2019

Planning on attending this conference June 7-9 in Courtenay, Comox, and Cumberland? Registration, programs, list of guest speakers and planned events are all available on their website. www. bchistory.ca/conference.

UBC has been selected to play host to the 2019 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences: June 1 and June 7, 2019.

The 2019 joint meeting of the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine and the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing will take place June 1-3, 2019 at the University of British Columbia,

Vancouver, unceded x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam) territory. This year, in conjunction with the Congress theme "Circles of Conversation," scholars will present research on the broadly-defined histories of medicine, healing, health, and disease that explores conversations, debates, and dialogues on these themes at the local, provincial, national, and global levels. Papers and discussions will critically and creatively explore the relationships between historians of health, medicine, and nursing and the communities they influence and are influenced by. This year, CSHM and CAHN are pleased to announce that two internationally-renowned historians will deliver keynote addresses: Professor Warwick Anderson (The University of Sydney) will present the AMS Paterson Lecture in the history of medicine, and Professor Karen Nolte (University of Heidelberg) will deliver the AMS Hannah Lecture in the history of nursing. Researchers, practitioners, policy-makers, students, and the public are welcome to register and attend. We hope to see you at UBC. For information visit: www,congress2019.ca/associations/70

Special congratulations to Gloria Stephens who was largely responsible for the new website for the Halifax Victoria General Hospital School of Nursing Alumni. Will be of interest for those connected to that Alumni or who may be from that corner of Canada. Enjoy a browse www.halifaxvghnursesalumni.ca



June (Plummer) Newton's bicycle by her daughter Joanne Whitelaw

The photograph is of an English made bicycle purchased secondhand in England by June in 1944. She had arrived at the end of January and was stationed at No. 1 Neurological and Plastic Surgery Hospital at Basingstoke, situated on an estate in Hampshire—named Hackwood House.

During this time June enjoyed many happy hours exploring the surrounding area on her bicycle providing fond memories of her trips. In July that year she was assigned to No. 15 CGH (Canadian General Hospital) at Caserta, Italy and had the bicycle shipped home to Vancouver, BC to her parent's home at 20th & Oak Street.

The bicycle remained there for a number of years and was used by her father, William Plummer, who served in WWI & WWII. He then used the bike to travel to work at Shaughnessy Hospital until he retired. He returned the bicycle to June and it remained in her home until she gave it to her son, Wayne Newton. Wayne stripped the bicycle and restored it to good working order. The children and grandchildren have pictures of the bicycle in their homes and are hoping to donate the bicycle to the Vancouver Military Museum in the future.

We thank June's daughter, Joanne Whitelaw for this newsletter item.

Tribute to Patricia Whalen, Nephew





Patricia Ann Whalen was born on November 30th, 1930, in Vancouver, B.C. She was the first born of Kathleen Rose and William Joseph Whalen.

She attended school at little Flower Academy in Vancouver until the family moved to Woodfibre, B.C. in 1941. Patsy graduated from High School there then moved to the Nursing Student's residence at St Paul's Hospital in Vancouver. She graduated on August 14th, 1954. Not long after she moved to Los Angeles, California to work as a registered nurse. In the late 1950s she moved back to Vancouver, as her father was suffering from Hodgkin's disease and her mother needed the help. Patsy joined the Victorian Order of Nurses, driving throughout the Vancouver area in her VON provided Austin and Volkswagen Beetle.

She moved to San Diego, California in 1971 and completed her Bachelor of Nursing at San Diego State University in 1975. She then completed her Masters of Nursing there in 1984 with a thesis on Family Health Nursing and Geriatrics.

She was then employed as a Nurse Practitioner specializing in Geriatrics and working for the County of San Diego as a public health nurse. She subsequently held various positions including instructing at both Point Loma College and San Diego State University and as the Director of Nursing for Hartson Home Care in the San Diego area. She retired in 1995 and stayed living in San Diego. She passed away in Kamloops, B.C. on December 6th. 2018.

Memory & Memorialisation: Continued from page 5

McPherson argues the inscription and dedication speeches emphasized how the carving "distinguished nurses from other women", demonstrating their "occupationally specific uniforms" as nuns and nurses. The carving also signifies the differentiation of nurses from other women through their relationship to their patients. Until the Second World War, nurses were the only women permitted within the male military establishment, and the "only females permitted close to the front lines of battle". Thus the memorial stresses the nurses' unique role in caring for Canada's armed forces. Frozen in its historical moment, the carving reflects the evolution of nursing from an era when only white women wore a nursing uniform, a reality echoed in the collective nursing memorials of the time.

The memorials and commemorations of First World War nursing offer a unique window through which we can observe and reflect on the dimensions of nursing's historical development, particularly in times of crisis. As Kathryn McPherson underscores, the fact that nurses were celebrated at all was a significant development, setting them apart from the larger population of non-nursing women who also made substantial contributions to the war effort. Continuing to recover and honour nurses who lost their lives through imperial and national service helps to preserve and promote the inclusion of nursing in the broader mainstream historical narratives.

- 1. Jonathan Vance, Memory, Meaning, and the First World War. UBC Press, 1997; Jay Winter, Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning: The Great War in European Cultural History. Cambridge University Press, 1995.
- 2. Kathryn McPherson, "Carving Out a Past: The Canadian Nurses' Association War Memorial", Histoire Sociale/Social History, 29:58(Nov.1996):418-19.
- 3. Ian H.M. Miller, Our Glory and Our Grief: Torontonians and the Great War. University of Toronto Press, 2002, 184.
- 4. "Funeral of Edith Cavell", Canadian Nurse, 15:7, (July 1919):1852-53; "Nurse Edith Cavell" Norwich Cathedral. https://www.cathedral.org.uk/about/news/detail/2018/10/10/memorial-service-at-graveside-of-edith-cavell,. Retrieved 26 February 2019.
- 5. "Court Circular", The Times. London, 14 October 1918; "Edith Cavell Doodle", https://www.google.com/doodles/edith-cavells-153rd-birthday, 4 December 2018. Retrieved 26 February, 2019;
- 6. Imperial War Museum (IWM), Women at Work Collection, British Red Cross Society (BRCS) 25.5.4/26, "Memorial Service for Nurses Who have Fallen in the War".

 The names of the CAMC nurses cited on the Roll of Honour were: L.A. Davis, S.E. Garbutt, J.B. Jaggard, I. Kealey, M.F.E. Monroe, E. Sparks, & A.A. Tupper.
- 7. Yvonne McEwen, In the Company of Nurses: the History of the British Army Nursing Service in the Great War. Edinburgh University Press, 2014, 180-81.
- 8. QAIMNS World War I Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service QAIMNS Nurses. https://www.qaranc.co.uk/qaimns.php. Retrieved 26 February 2019.
- 9. Mistakenly included among the CAMC nurses is the name of Dorothy Pearson Twist, a VAD from Vancouver, who died of influenza while serving in a British military hospital. Her gravestone in the Aldershot Military Cemetery correctly cites her affiliation as a Canadian St. John Ambulance VAD. "The Sisters' Window for the Sisters", York Minster, https://yorkminster.org/discover/stories/story/the-sisters-window-for-the-sisters/; Vivien Newman, We Also Served: The Forgotten Women of the First World War. Pen & Sword History, 2014, 132-33.
- 10. Veterans' Affairs Canada, "Nurses' Memorial", https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/national-inventory-canadian-memorials/details/9363; McPherson, "Carving Out a Past", 422-25. Unfortunately the memorial will not be available to view for at least a decade while Centre Block is undergoing a major restoration.





Royal Air force Chapel York Minster memorail panels. courtesy Rod Quiney

Ethel Dickinson monument courtesy Linda Quiney

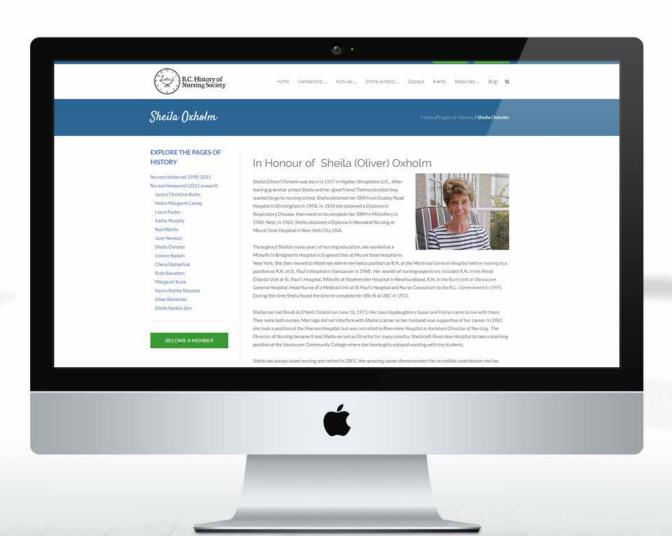
Recognize a Nurse WITH A PAGE OF HISTORY

The "Pages of History" project was established in 1998 as a means to honour individual nurses and their careers. Recognize a nurse with a Page of History.

Tribute can be paid to any nurse (living or 'in memory of') by placing a Page of History on the BCHNS Website.

You can recognize a colleague, remember a friend, establish a memorial, give a graduation present, or honour yourself by developing a one page tribute to the nurse of your choosing.

By making a \$50 donation, and with signed permission, your page will be placed on our website. The application & consent will be preserved in the archives at the BCHNS UBC Office



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