



# History of Nursing News

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## Dumpster Diver helps with Nursing's History



Madeline Harrower in her nurse's uniform and Boer War decorations, circa 1920s.

An article written by Lisa Smedman – *The Vancouver Courier*, August 20, 2000, titled *Trashed 'treasure trove' tells story of life well lived*, is an account of the discovery of the mementos of

*"Dumpster Diving, a New Method for Historical Research" By Lois Blais*

It is exciting, almost romantic going through the papers and photographs of a nurse born in 1869. Madeline Harrower was a nursing sister during the Boer War and the First World War.

She was born in Hobart, Tasmania and may have taken her nursing in Britain, as she did work there. As far as I have discovered she did not work in British Columbia. She came to Vancouver to nurse her ailing mother and to live with her sister who was married with children.

Nina Rumen, Glennis Zilm and I met Ted Pappas the owner of West Coast Estates Inc. I called Ted to inquire about the find a dumpster diver acquired from a Kerrisdale dumpster after I read an article in the *Courier* describing the findings and showing a picture of Nurse Harrower in her nursing uniform from the Boer War. Ted, although he does not own the material, allowed me to go through the material and record information which might be relevant to our History of Nursing projects. I am in the process of do-

a nurse found by a dumpster diver in Vancouver. A revealing comment was made that the reason these items were being dumped was because "she was just a nurse." The Australian born nurse was Madeline Harrower, a nursing sister during the Boer War and World War 1. The collection contains photographs from the Boer War, and military nursing correspondence. West Coast Estates will auction the photographs and letters in November.

Lois Blais, wrote the following based on this news item.

(Continued on page 2)

ing this work at the present time. You might call it work in progress. In the meantime, the findings will be auctioned in early November. Ted Pappas will see that our wishes are known and perhaps the material we are interested in will be given to the History of Nursing Group. The collection consists mainly of photos and letters to Nurse Harrower from former soldier patients.

She was honoured and presented with the Royal Red Cross, an award and tribute equivalent to a high military honour. As there are several pictures of her at Remembrance Day functions in Vancouver, it can be assumed she participated in the military heritage here in Canada.

Glennis Zilm has been busy contacting people associated with museums in Canada and Britain. It may turn out that the letters and photographs will be more suited to military museums. Nonetheless, the process to get them to an appropriate site will prove of interest to our History of Nursing Group. This brings to mind the interconnectiveness of many of our nursing histories and the links we need to foster to make our heritage all that more interesting.

I know several of our History of Nursing members also clipped out the article and sent it to Sheila Zerr. Thank you for your keen eyes. I look forward to discovering more about Nursing Sister Harrower and will bring further news to you.

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## HoN Editorial Board

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The HoN Newsletter is published four times a year. Submissions for the next newsletter are welcome. Please submit articles to Lois Blais by November 15, 2000. Executive Meetings are held at the RNABC the first Thursday of every month at 4 p.m. All Members are welcome.



## President's Message

### by Sheila Zerr

The BC Nursing History Group met at Ethel and Rudi Warbinek's home on August 17<sup>th</sup> to map out our purpose and path for 2000 – 2001. The great hospitality, the warmth of the summer sun shining on us in the lovely garden helped buoy our spirits and arm our resolve. Members identified three functions most important for them for 2000 – 2001. Helen Shore suggested we draw on the guiding principles from our constitution: to discover, to disseminate, and to preserve. Using these principles, members grouped the various functions identified into three priorities.

### PRIORITIES

1. Newsletter
2. Program
3. Archives

The meeting continued and the group explored how we will meet the priorities identified. We determined:

1. Glennis Zilm and Beth Fitzpatrick will lead the team of guest editors for the next four editions. The issues and editors were appointed to June 2001. Beth will coordinate the web page.
2. Programs will include member/

educational programs, displays and outreach. Nina Rumen will plan and manage the educational programs and Jill Thompson will manage and plan the RNABC displays. Individual members will contribute to outreach and special exhibits. The programs and RNABC displays were planned to June 2001.

3. Archives will include a home of our own, inventory and fund raising. Lois Blais will continue to chair this group. The Archive committee was urged to concentrate on establishing an inventory of our holdings.

Finally, it was determined that the functions of the Memorial Book, Biographies, Oral History, Memorial Nursing Portrait Collection, Pages of History will be grouped together with members taking responsibilities for their area of interest.

Congratulations to the members for their dedication and determination. We have a clear path before us for 2000 – 20001, and remember fellowship is the glue that binds us together.

# Announcements

## Obituaries

**Heather Kilpatrick** passed away on July 9, 2000 at age 92. She graduated from VGH School of Nursing in 1930 and from UBC in 1931 with a BASc (N). In 1940 she was appointed the first Director of the Division of Public Health Nursing in BC.

**Mary Chamard** – long time History of Nursing member died recently. Nina Rummen, a classmate of Mary's in the 1960's at the University of Toronto, described her as bright with an inquiring mind. Members may recall Mary's presentation in 1995 on *Dispensaries in London, England in the 1880s*, based on her doctoral work.

## Scholarship

The History of Nursing Group is pleased to offer a \$500.00 scholarship to RNABC members interested in the study of nursing history. The criteria have been revised to encourage more participation. The study can be a written essay, the preparation of nursing biographies, collection and documentation of oral histories of nurses or preparation of historical materials for display or educational purposes. Members are encouraged to apply for these funds. Deadline dates are March and November. For information and application forms contact Sheila Zerr, President at (604) 736 - 7331 or e-mail her at [przerr@portal.ca](mailto:przerr@portal.ca)



## 2000 Scholarship winner

**Cheryl Hobson** of Sydney, BC, a graduate of Royal Jubilee School of Nursing, and a full-time graduate student at the University of Victoria, has received a \$500 Scholarship from the BC History of Nursing Group. She plans to do a qualitative research project (using grounded theory) involving interviews with eight to twelve retired graduates of the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria. The proposed title of the thesis will be Retired Graduates of the Royal Jubilee Hospital: "Once a nurse always a nurse"?

## Canadian Women's History Month

In October Canada will celebrate *Women's History Month* with the highlight being *Person's Day* on October 18. Bronze sculptures of the "Famous Five" women will be unveiled on parliament hill. The theme for this year's events is *"Making History, Building Futures: Women of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century"*. The Status of Women Canada has produced an excellent information kit which includes key dates in the history of Canadian women, statistics, film list, readings and many more items of interest. The kits are free and can be ordered from Status of Women Canada, Ottawa, ON K1A 1C3 or at their website: [www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/whm/index.html](http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/whm/index.html)



**Note These  
Dates**

# Calendar of Events 2000-2001

Sat, October 7, 2000  
13:30-15:30

## *Asthma: Past, Present & Future*

With Speaker Kelly Abrog-Morant- Director of the BC Lung Association

Place: BC Lung Association  
Oak Street and 11th Avenue (Parking at Rear - off 11th Avenue) Please Call 733-7529 to let us know you are coming

Sat, November 18, 2000  
13:30 to 15:30

## *Encore 2*

Place: VGH Nurses Residence, 12th and Heather Papers presented at CAUSN and CAHN meetings by:

Ethel: A Lesson From the Past

Sheila: Education for Nursing Practice 1905 - 2000

Glennis: Uniforms Without Uniformity 1874-1895

Co-sponsored by V G H School of Nursing Alumnae Association Archives Committee

Sat December 9, 2000  
11:30 - 15:30

## *Memories of Christmas Luncheon*

No Host Bar - Lunch at 12:15

Place: Vancouver Lawn, Tennis and Badminton Club, 15th and Fir

Three Nurses will present their memories of Christmas

Cost: \$50.00 (includes a \$20.00 Tax Receipt)  
Book by Dec.1, 2000 - for

reservations, call 733-7529

Sat - February 17, 2001  
13:30 - 15:30

## *Nursing Jobs*

Saturday - March 10,  
2001, 13:30 - 15:30

## *Nursing Ethics Part 2*

by Lois Blais.  
Presentations at the Nursing Academic International Congress, Washington DC and Canadian Bioethics Society Conference, Quebec City.

June, 2001

## *Fund Raiser*

for "Home of Our Own" featuring Ivan Sayers on "Ladies in Waiting."

# HoN Finances

We thought you might be interested in having an update on our finances. Lois Blais submitted this report for your information.

Treasurer's Financial Report for September 2000

Revenue continues to be gained from sales of Notecards, Pages of History, donations and fund raising events. The History of Nursing Professional Practice Group has three accounts – General Account, Archival Development Fund and Scholarship Fund. Operating costs come from the General Account.

As fund raising activities have increased for Archival Development the Executive decided that costs accrued for these activities should

come from the Archival Fund and not from the General Account.

Expenditures from the third account, the Scholarship Fund, are mainly the issuing of the \$500.00 Scholarship Award.



## Balances as of September 7th, 2000

General Account PPG	Cash	\$3444.01	<i>-1900.00 for FN cards</i>
	GIC	\$2000.00	
Archival Development Fund	Cash	\$7782.22	
	GIC	\$5746.93	
Scholarship Account	Cash	\$1348.76	
	GIC	\$12,000.00	

## Member Activities

**Betty Robertson** of the B.C. History Group was one of the guest speakers at a seminar of the Women's History Network held Sept. 30, 2000 at Douglas College in New Westminster. Her topic, part of a whole morning on early B.C. women's history, dealt with early health care in the Mission area.

**Jill Thompson** taught a class on Florence Nightingale to nursing students enrolled at Okanagan University College in Kelowna on September 21, 2000.

**Anna Tremere** reports the Riverview Hospital Museum opened on Sunday September



17, 2000. She is happy to make arrangements for members who wish to view it. Please contact Anna at 660 - 8626 or 524 - 7521 or you can e-mail her

at tremere@direct.ca. Congratulations Anna for your years of hard work and dedication to preserving the history of psychiatric nursing in BC.

## Our Membership is growing

As of September, we had a total membership of 101. This includes 13 students. Thanks to Jill Thompson and husband Bruce for keeping the list current and providing us with labels for newsletters and other mailouts.

### CURRENT MEMBER NUMBERS:

HONORARY	6	FULL	53
AFFILIATE	29	STUDENT	13
TOTAL	101		

### Oops!

#### Correction

Esther Paulson brought the following to our attention. In the article she wrote on Alice Wright it should have stated that: "She negotiated the first contract for the Royal Columbian Hospital. The Chairman of the Board, himself an industrialist, described Alice as an astute and fair-minded negotiator."

## Nurses in the News

Some of you may have seen the story on Aug 25th, 2000, in the Vancouver Sun, "The Best BC Thinkers." One of these "full-time academics" ... with impeccable, even incredible, scholastic credentials was a nurse – Jan Storch, Director of the School of Nursing at UVIC. She was 21 out of the 50 named and was described as a "prominent nursing expert."

New member **Cathy Ebbehøj** was featured in an article in the *UBC Chronicle's* Fall 2000 issue. Cathy is an Instructor in the UBC School of Nursing and this year was one of the winners of the RNABC's Award of Excellence. Among other activities, she heads the "Centering Pregnancy Drop-In," that offers pregnancy counseling and care for students and student wives on campus. She is president of the Nursing Division, UBC Alumnae Association and due to her efforts, the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations were a resounding success. Congratulations Cathy



### Special Event & Conference

#### Marion Woodward Lecture

Speaker Dr. Lesley Degner will be speaking on *Personal Meanings of Breast Cancer and Health Outcomes: A Three-Year Followup*

October 19, 2000, 7 p.m.  
Lecture Hall 2, Instructional  
Resources Centre at UBC

For more information please call  
822-7453

#### Cinderella Services: Exploring Issues in Nursing History

The South Bank University, Faculty of Health, London England, has issued a call for Abstracts

Submissions due October 31, 2000

For more information please call  
44 (0)20 7815 6908  
Email: [dixona@sbu.ac.uk](mailto:dixona@sbu.ac.uk)

## BOOK REVIEWS

### *100 years of American nursing: Celebrating a century of caring*



ing, edited by Thelma M. Schorr, with Maureen Shaw Kennedy, (1999), Philadelphia: Lippincott, and

*Nursing reflections: A century of caring*, (2000), St. Louis: Mosby Books.

Cost about \$65-\$75 depending on how you order. UBC Health Sciences Bookstore at VGH is not carrying them, and you likely will have to special order.

Two new coffee-table picture books have been released by American nursing publishers to help celebrate the turn of the century and 100 years of organized nursing in the United States. Although both are U.S. oriented, they would make pleasant gifts or prizes for students or graduate nurses. Those with an interest in history of nursing will find them interesting and useful secondary references. Of the two, the Lippincott book is more appealing, especially for Canadians.

*100 Years of American Nursing* celebrates the 100th anniversary of the *American Journal of Nursing*; Schorr was a former *Journal* editor in the 1970s, and Shaw is an editor with Lippincott. The foreword states clearly that the book is not a history book. A harsh critic can find a few nits over which to quibble, but on the whole, it does

provide an absorbing social and cultural chronicle of American nursing and its relationship with society. The photographs, most in color, are excellent. As well, the book contains contributed "articles" from well-known American nurse authors; for example, Nettie Birnbach writes insightfully on early registration (pp. 17-19), and Ellen D. Baer on private duty nursing in the early part of the century (pp. 5-6).

*Nursing Reflections* was produced by the editors at Mosby. Basically it is a picture book, but its wonderful black-and-white photographs give an enjoyable review of the 1900s. It is organized by decades, and the beginning of each section has an excellent brief time-line of relevant dates in U.S. nursing history.

*Wright, Harold M. (1999). Salute to the Air Force Medical Branch on the 75th Anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force.* Ottawa: Author [1834 Louisiana Ave., Ottawa K1H 6V1 -- \$34]

This collection of biographies was put together by a retired Lieutenant-Colonel to recognize some of the contributions of the Medical Branch of the RCAF. While it contains mainly the reminiscences of officers, it highlights many of the innovations and research developments developed by the RCAF (such as the antigravity suit and high altitude research). A section on "the Nightingales" contains 10 biographies of Air Force nurses.

by Glennis Zilm

# The Collected Works of Florence Nightingale

The following information may be of particular interest to our members and has been written by Lynn McDonald, Project Director, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Guelph, Ontario

The purpose of this project is to prepare a collected works of the writing, published and unpublished, of Florence Nightingale. No such collection exists (although there have been many samplings of her writings) and most of what Nightingale herself published is now long out of print and is difficult to access. There is an enormous unpublished correspondence, including exchanges with royalty, viceroys, prime ministers, sanitary experts and intellectual leaders like John Stuart Mill, Edwin Chadwick, William Farr and Benjamin Jowett. The scope, breadth and quality of this writing is outstanding. The Collected Works will be published electronically (in a form that will be "computer searchable") as well as in book form, by Wilfrid Laurier University Press, beginning in 2001. Sixteen print volumes are planned including two in the nursing profession, one on public health care, and one on hospital reform. Altogether, the Collected Works of Florence Nightingale will create a unique, easily accessible database for academics, health care professionals

and all inquiring minds.

There are openings in the project for editors of full volumes as well as editors of smaller pieces of work. There are opportunities for PhD theses and post-doctoral research. Volunteer consultants, transcribers, verifiers and research assistants are also needed. Persons with experience in editing, data management and electronic publication would especially be welcomed.

For further information contact:

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Website: [www.sociology.uoguelph.ca/fenightingale](http://www.sociology.uoguelph.ca/fenightingale)

## In Print

Shore, Helen. (2000). Cottage Hospitals in British Columbia. *British Columbia Historical News*, 33 (4), 14-17, cover.

Excellent article, be sure to read it. This issue also contains another article about Victorian Order of Nurses and the Klondike Goldrush. For information about subscriptions to this journal, call Glennis Zilm (604) 535-3238 or [Glennis1@aol.com](mailto:Glennis1@aol.com).

# Five Nurses Added to RNABC Memorial Book



Five new names have been added to the RNABC's growing *Memorial Book*. The book was started in 1996 as "an historical document that honours deceased RNABC members who deserve

recognition for their contributions to nursing in British Columbia." The intention was to honour nurses who had died in the previous year, but as well to include B.C. nursing leaders from the past. So far, most, but not all, the names have been nominated by the History of Nursing Group.

This year, our nominees (listed by date of birth) were:

Jessie MacKenzie	(1867-1960)
Laura Holland	(1883-1956)
Margaret Duffield	(1884-1969)
Kathleen Ellis	(1887-1968)
Eleanor Graham	(1914-1978)
Pauline Siddons	(1919-1999)

Nominations are sent to the RNABC Awards Committee, which then makes rec-

ommendations to the RNABC Board for final approval. This year the awards committee recommended that additional information be provided for Pauline Siddons and her name will be re-submitted next year.

Names of those approved were to be announced at the RNABC Annual General Meeting in May. Because of a "glitch" this year, the RNABC staff failed to make the announcement. Additional information is given in the alphabetical list below.

**Margaret Duffield** was a RNABC president from 1938-1943. Born in Ireland, she emigrated to Canada in 1913, then served as a Nursing Sister in World War I from 1914 to 1919. She served in a variety of nursing leadership positions across Canada before joining the Victoria Order of Nurses, eventually being appointed the VON Superintendent of the Vancouver office. Many of her ideas were visionary and well ahead of her time. She was among the first to lobby for the admission of Chinese and Japanese students to B.C. schools of nursing.

**Kathleen Ellis** also served on the national scene. Born in Penticton, she was Superintendent of Nurses and Principal of the School of Nursing at the Vancouver General Hospital from 1921 to 1929 during which time she was the sixth president of the RNABC. After she left B.C., she was a vice-president of the Canadian Nurses Association, director of nursing at the Winnipeg General Hospital, Registrar of the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association, and the

founding director of the School of Nursing at the University of Saskatchewan.

**Eleanor Graham** had an interesting and varied career in Canada and in Asia. Born in New Westminster, she began her nursing career in public health and served in leadership positions in several B.C. communities. After she obtained her masters degree, she joined the Victorian Order of Nurses in Ottawa, then returned to B.C. as director of nursing at the Royal Columbia Hospital, then working with the World Health Organization in South-East Asia before joining the staff at RNABC, where she filled the Executive Director position from 1960 to 1970.

**Laura Holland** graduated in nursing in Montreal and served with distinction as a Nursing Sister during World War I. She then took additional education in Social Work and served in a variety of public health appointments in Ontario. She was named Commander of the British Empire in 1923 for her work in bringing Red Cross Outpost Hospitals and generally improved health care to remote areas of Ontario. She was invited to come to Vancouver to reorganize and improve the Vancouver Children's Aid Society and she revolutionized child care in this province. In 1932, she was appointed an advisor in the B.C. Ministry of Health and Welfare and throughout the Great Depression of the 1930s reorganized the department. She was instrumental in bringing in an integrated "field service" of nurses and social workers to deal with the inter-related problems of poverty and ill-health, including tuberculosis, venereal disease, and mental illness. She had an outstanding influence on

health and social policies throughout Canada.

**Jessie MacKenzie** was the third president (1919-1921) of the Graduate Nurses Association of B.C.'s (later named RNABC) and was one of B.C. more controversial nursing leaders of the 1910s and 1920s. Born in Toronto, she took her nursing education in California and worked there before moving to Victoria in 1914 to be Lady Superintendent and Principal of the School of Nursing at the Royal Jubilee. A strong and outspoken advocate for improvements in hospitals and in nursing education, she served on a variety of nursing and hospital association committees to improve standards. Her outspoken demands for improved nursing education at the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria finally led to her forced retirement by the Board in 1927, but she was strongly supported and vindicated by the Victoria newspapers.

More information, and photographs, are in the *Memorial Book*, which is kept in the Helen Randal Library at the RNABC. Individuals who wish to assist with nominations for January 2001 should get in touch with Glennis Zilm.

