



History of Nursing
News

Winter 2000

Volume 11, Issue 3

A Fourth Notecard Added to Our Collection

The stained glass window of Florence Nightingale at St. Mary's Anglican Church, Kerrisdale, Vancouver was chosen by the HNPPG Executive as our fourth notecard. The photograph was taken by Edward Trody who later had the image digitally enhanced to improve the colour of the dress. Nina Rumen collected information on Florence Nightingale for the back of the notecard. The inscription on the stained glass window reads "Given by Canon Robinson in loving memory of my beloved wife Dorie, 1986" It was thought that 'Dorie' might be a nurse. So I undertook to search for 'Dorie.' On April 30, 2000 Janet Gormick, Ada Butler, and myself attended St. Mary's for a tour of Stained Glass windows. Our tour guides were Garth Walker, retired archivist of the Anglican Archives and the Reverend John Firmston, Interim Assistant at St. Mary's Church. After the tour, we explained to

continued on page 2



FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

GIVEN BY CANON WHINFIELD
ROBINSON IN LOVING MEMORY
OF MY BELOVED WIFE DORIE
1986

Garth Walker our wish to discover background information on the woman to whom the Florence Nightingale window was dedicated. Mr. Walker kindly agreed to assist in the search. Information subsequently received revealed background on the donor of the window, Whinfield Robinson. Mr. Robinson came to Canada as a young boy from England. The family went to Ladysmith, BC where Whinfield went to school. He wanted to enter a theology school, but worked for several years in a general store as the advertising manager at the Safeway in Ladysmith before entering the Anglican Theological College in 1939, graduating in 1941 and being ordained in 1941. Mr. Robinson served as rector in several parishes in Vancouver including St. Augustine's and notably at St. Helen's in Point Grey from 1948 until he retired on February 1, 1974. The inscription on the back of the notecard gives tribute to Dorie, his wife, it reads: 'This stained glass window was dedicated in 1986 by Canon Whinfield Robinson, Anglican rector, Vancouver in memory of his wife "Dorie", Doris Comley Robinson, a nurse. Doris

Comley was born in Ladysmith on June 21, 1907 and later went to school there where her future husband, Whinfield Robinson was also a student. Doris entered the Ladysmith General Hospital as a student nurse and graduated in August 1929. Ladysmith General Hospital was a small hospital and their students were sent to Vancouver General Hospital Scholl of Nursing for affiliation in pediatrics and obstetrics. Whinfield and Doris were married on June 8, 1931. They had no family. No record of her work experience was available.'

The stained glass window was made by Maile and Son, Canterbury, England makers of other stained glass windows at St. Mary's church.

Report prepared by Helen Shore

Notecards are available for sale and the money goes toward "A Home of our Own," a 2012 project of the History of Nursing.



APPRECIATION: Sincere appreciation is extended to the following for their assistance in collecting information: at the Anglican Archives Garth Walker; at the VGH Archives Pam Stevens, Ethel Warbinek, Anne Williams; at the SPH Archives Don Ransom; at the RNABC Claire Kermacks.

HoN Editorial Board

Lois Blais Editor (224-5130)

Lynn Esson

Beth Fitzpatrick Co-Chair

Beverly Leipert

Naomi Miller

Jill Thompson

Ethel Warbinek

Sheila Zerr

Glennis Zilm Co-Chair

Design by Crone Ltd.

The HoN Newsletter is published 4 times a year. Submissions for the next newsletter are welcome. Please submit articles to Jill Thompson by January 30, 2001 (email: beaudreau@telus.net). Executive meetings held monthly, first Thursday of every month at 4pm at the RNABC. All Members welcome.

HISTORY OF NURSING

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Book Reviews	
Glennis Zilm	4
Jill Thompson	5
Coming Events 2000/2001	6
Peggy Sutherland Site	7
News Item	7
News About Members	8
Anatomy of a Nursing Portrait Doll	9
Program Nov. 18, 2000	9
President's Message	10
Editorial	11

HoN WEBSITE ADDRESS

<http://members.xoom.com/bchn/>

BOOK REVIEW



Review by
Glennis Zilm

Pritchard, Allan (Ed.) (1996) *Vancouver Island letters of Edmond Hope Verney, 1862-65*. Vancouver: UBC Press.
(Available UBC Library)

If you are interested in early BC History -especially of Victoria/Esquimalt or related to the family of Florence Nightingale - this is an "interesting read." Edmond Hope Verney (1838 - 1910) was the eldest son and heir of Sir Harry Verney, brother-in law of Nightingale. Her elder sister, Parthenope, was the second wife of Sir Harry, and Edmond's step-mother. Edmond had joined the British Navy in 1851 (age 12 years 10 months). He served in South American, Australia, the Mediterranean, the Crimean War, the Indian Mutiny, and the West Indies before being assigned to Esquimalt in Mar. 1862 (age 24). There he was given of one of the gun-boats (the Grappler). 4

This book, edited by a retired English professor of the University of Toronto contains his letters home to his father; these had been preserved in the library at Claydon House in England, which is still the home of the Verney family. Pritchard provides extensive and excellent notes on places and people mentioned and has written a splendid introduction.

IN PRINT

Paulson, Esther, Zilm, Glennis, & Warbinek, Ethel. (2000). Profile of a Leader: Pioneer Government Advisor, Laura Holland, RN, RRC, CBE, LLD (1883-1956), *Canadian Journal of Leadership*, 13 (3), 36-39.

Esther Paulson knew Miss Holland, who hired Esther to work in the "Welfare Field Service" in 1934; this unique service combined the roles of nurse and social worker in rural BC areas during the Great Depression of the 1930's. Miss Holland was the first nurse in BC to hold a position as advisor and consultant to the provincial government. All three authors are members of the History of Nursing Group.

BOOK REVIEW



Review by

Jill Thompson

**Rees Aikens, Gwaldys M. (1998)
Nurses in Battledress. Nimbus
Publishing Limited, Halifax, Nova
Scotia.**

It seems fitting to read, in the month of November, a story of the military nursing career of a young British nurse who became a Canadian, but only after serving as Q.A. Reserve - Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service/Reserve - during World War II. Gwaldys Rees, Welsh-born qualified as a State Registered Nurse (S.R.N.) and as a State Certified Midwife (S.C.M.) following two years of college study and another two years training as a children's orthopaedic nurse, completing a total of eight and a half years of professional nursing education. The final months of Rees's studies were accomplished under bombardment during the Battle of Britain 1940-1941. From the opening page, which explains how and why Rees entered the armed services, until she meets and finally marries Major Robert L. Aikens, M.D., a native Nova Scotian, whom she met during her combat service, the story is a fascinating look at nurses in battle zones. Rees worked

among the military nursing and medical services that provided the initial care to wounded soldiers in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. Because "there is no memorial anywhere in the world to the Q.A.'s, though they served with skill, dedication and sometimes their lives" (back cover of book), it is to be hoped that Rees's account might make up somewhat for that omission. The book is well thought through, it is intriguing to read on the one hand, but sad on the other, as the descriptions of active service life hit home. Troop transport ships delivered the nursing sisters to their European destinations in hazardous conditions. Ambulance trains, always well marked with large red crosses on their sides and roofs, were not much safer.

There are many touching stories recounted by Rees. She was often in grave danger, she shared a lifeboat with famous photographer Margaret Bourke-White - and was (almost) court-martialled - for returning four days late from her honeymoon, due to missed messages. The new Mrs. Aikens came to Canada in 1946 as a war bride, had four children, and still resides in Nova Scotia. Sadly her husband passed away in 1972.

This is a touching story and is captivating to read. It is presented in paperback form (157 pages) costing a mere \$12.50 with several helpful maps and a number of interesting photos. We are fortunate to have Aikens book. Such books are few and far between.

COMING EVENTS 2000 - 2001



Memories of Christmas
3 nurses recall their Christmas' past
December 9, 2000 Saturday
from 1130 to 1530
Vancouver
Lawn, Tennis & Badminton Club
15th and Fir
Please book by December 1, 2000
Call Nina Rumen for reservations
733-7529

Sat - February 17, 2001
13:30 5:30
Nursing Jobs

Sat - March 10, 2001
13:30 15:30
Nursing Ethics Part 2
Lois Blair

June, 2001

Fund Raiser

"Home of Our Own"
Featuring Joan Sayers
on "Ladies in Waiting"

HISTORY OF NURSING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION

THURSDAY APRIL 5, 2001
AT THE HYATT REGENCY

(in conjunction with the RNABC
Annual Meeting)

See you there for important
decisions to be made

"THE PEGGY SUTHERLAND SITE"

The computerized library services at the University of BC Library have a new "Nursing and Allied Health Resources Site." This was made possible by the **Peggy Sutherland** Foundation. Mrs. Sutherland, who died in 1999, was a nursing graduate of **St. Paul's Hospital**. The site provides access to rich databases, with links to continuing education opportunities and to professional associations. More information on the nurse who provided this site will be available in the next issue of the newsletter, *Meantime*, for those who wish to access this interesting library site, the address is:
<http://www.library.ubc.ca/sutherland>

NEWS ITEM

The Senate of the University of BC has established in perpetuity the **Harriet Evelyn Mallory Memorial Scholarship** for graduate students in the School of Nursing. Approval was given at the Senate's May 2000 session. Miss Mallory was a former director of the

UBC School of Nursing (1941-1967); she died in July 1993. **Rose Murakami** scholarship soon after the death, and with the support of family, friends, and colleagues, a \$1000 scholarship for a MSN or PhD student in nursing has finally been approved.

Rose also was instrumental in establishing an endowed **Pauline Capelle Prize** in Nursing, also approved at the Senate's May 2000 session. This \$300 annual prize will go to the top graduating student in the Master's in Nursing Program, Pauline Capelle taught in the UBC School of Nursing from 1946 to 1971; she died in April 1991.

Descriptions of these awards will be published in the *University Guide to Awards*, and the first awards will be made for the 2000/2001 academic year. Donations may still be made to these funds, with the hope that future years awards may be increased. Donations should be made to the University, but clearly marked for the specific fund.



NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS



Brenda Flynn gave a monumental slide show. Her project on Vancouver's Monuments to Nurses

during Nursing Week (May 7-13, 2000 at the Royal Columbia Hospital and in June, 2000 to the North Shore Sea to Sky Chapter is a work in progress. Brenda describes the research for all monuments as on going. Brenda is also pursuing information about another monument, this one in Victoria on the Legislative Grounds. It is to be dedicated to all those Canadians who volunteered in the Spanish Civil War.

Beverly Leipert presented a paper "A History of Early Public Health Nursing in BC and Alberta" - at the Prince George Chapter of the RNABC in May. The presentation, based on her doctoral studies, compared and contrasted public health nursing work, organization of service, and education in BC and Alberta during the years 1918 to 1939. Bev described some of the socio-political, economic, and geographic forces that existed in both

provinces during these inter-war years. Pictures and books, and other documents were included in the presentation to highlight the nature and importance of public health nursing during this period. **Sheila Zerr** and **Glennis Zilm** spoke about the BC History of Nursing Group and its aims and objectives at the Oct. meeting of the Royal Columbia Hospital Nurses' Alumnae. This Alumnae is extremely active and, among other program events for its members, puts up regular displays in the main lobby of the Hospital and gives \$2000 a year in scholarships. RCH Alumnae members who joined our group that night were **Violet Dragan** of Burnaby and **Thelma Botting** of South Surrey. Welcome!

Also, **Sheila** and **Glennis** sponsored a display, called "Pageant of Nursing History," a collection of **Sheila Zerr's** 15 inch dolls dressed as nursing figures from Ancient Times to Modern Day. **Glennis** prepared and mounted the display in the Kwantlen University College's library's large main display case. This display will also be shown in the main lobby of the Vancouver General Hospital for a few weeks starting in December. **Margaret Klinger**, Nursing Faculty, library staff and students showed a real interest.

"ANATOMY OF A NURSING PORTRAIT DOLL"

By Jill Thompson

During the month of Aug., Sept., Oct. 2000, the BCHN Group presented an outstanding display in the glass display case in the RNABC boardroom. BCHN President, **Sheila Zerr** placed a fascinating three-dimensional overview of her detailed work in creating historically accurate costumed dolls in nursing uniforms. The title, "Anatomy of a Nursing Portrait Doll," sums up the intent of Sheila's display. By showing us the making of these historical miniatures from the very beginning, we were able to better understand the amount of attention to detail required to produce the final costumes. Sheila arranged examples of her dolls with all their various parts alongside tiny sections of patterns and fabrics which would eventually result in the costumed historical figures. Sheila's tools of the trade, tiny scissors, doll sized wigs, glue and pattern books were only a small part of this detail-display.

I would seem important for us to show this special display again, either at RNABC or at other venues. Sheila's work is outstanding and needs a further audience to appreciate the dedication and scholarship behind her work. Thank you Sheila Zerr for an intriguing display.

44 MEMBERS ENJOY NOV. 18TH PROGRAM

History of Nursing PPG and VGH School of Nrsng Alumnae Association co-sponsored an informative program on Nov. 18th at VGH. **Glennis Zilm**, dressed in period uniform presented "Uniforms without Uniformity 1874-1895," a peer-review paper presented at CAHN in New Brunswick, June 2000. **Sheila Zerr**, also dressed in period costume, presented "Education for Nursing Practice 1905-2000," a peer-review paper presented at CAHN, New Brunswick, June 2000. **Ethel Warbinek**, presented "A Lesson from the Past," a peer-reviewed paper presented at CAUSN, Vancouver Feb. 2000. All presentations informed us, Glennis' account of the progression of nursing uniforms Sheila's comparison of nursing education at the turn of century and the present RNABC standards of practice and Ethel's presentation outlining the incidence and impact of TB on student nurses during the 30's and 40's. All enjoyed the presentations and the excitement of a raffle with **Nina Rumen** and **Lynn Esson** presiding.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FROM SHEILA ZERR

The BC Nursing History Group mapped our purpose and goals for 2000-2001 at our summer workshop in August. With the continued dedication and determination of our members we are carrying out the mandate set for 2000-2001. The vitality of the October meeting at the BC Lung Association and the November meeting at the Vancouver General Hospital has encouraged all of us.

Ethel Warbinek, Vice-President, planned and chaired the November 2nd executive meeting. Reports from the committee members give evidence of progress toward our purpose and goals.

My absence was due to a visit to England to accompany the tour of concerts by The Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir and to visit Portugal to enjoy sun and relaxation. While in London, I visited the Florence Nightingale Museum. It was a great experience even although the museum was full of tired mothers with cranky children visiting the museum to do school projects during school break. I would like to share this experience by walking you through the major areas and exhibits of the museum.

First, you begin the historical journey with the story of Florence Nightingale's early life. Pictures and memorabilia of her early years in the country, summers at Lea Hurst and winters at Embley are depicted. Her 1837-39 travels to France, Italy and Switzerland are described along with her 1949-50 travels to Egypt, Greece and Germany. Her 1850-51 visit to Kaiserworth is illustrated by her writings and with memorabilia of her three month training period at Kaiserworth. Furniture and case notes from her 1953-54 period as Superintendent at Harley Street are on display.

The section of the museum devoted to the Crimean War was my favourite. Here you find life sized figures of the nurses making their rounds. The figures are

EDITORIAL

BY LOIS BLAIS

While away in October I attended both an International Nursing Conference in Washington DC and a the Canadian Bioethics Society conference in Quebec City. Both were different but informative.

During the concurrent sessions of the Bioethics Conference I chose genetics as an area for my learning. One thing which I thought might be interesting for my fellow history members is an analogy taken from the home. David C. Page of the Whitehead Institute of Biomedical Research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology views today's terms for genetics structures

as the following: the cell is the kitchen, the genome is a shelf in the kitchen, the chromosome is a cookbook on the shelf, the gene is a recipe in the cookbook, and the base-pair is either a single letter in the recipe. As complex as the genetic questions are becoming, it remains, at this point, that genetic issues still are under the framework of informed consent, and disclosure in medical care and research.

The nursing conference was fabulous for me. I met nursing scholars who I have only known by their writings. To meet them and to have them discuss my work was a highlight of my nursing career. I presented my work I did on "Moral Agency for Health Care Providers." The conference spotlighted and honoured Margaret Mead. Margaret Mead's daughter, Mary Catherine Bateson, was the Keynote speaker. Bateson spoke of Anthropology as a discovery science and wove in how Anthropology parallels nursing. Of course the atmosphere of an International conference always joins various nurses together from many lands and makes for wonderful reunions.

NEW EDITORIAL BOARD UP AND RUNNING

The "newly created" editorial board has accepted the challenge of continuing to produce quality newsletters for the History of Nursing members and is off to a good start. Two productive Board meetings have taken place and the enthusiastic members are full of new ideas & suggestions. A warm welcome to Naomi Miller, Wasa, BC and Beverly Leipert, Prince George, BC, now members-at-large

continued from page 10 (president's message)

cast in white materials that result in a spectacular effect that bring the horror of war to life. Florence Nightingale's notes are displayed and add authenticity to the illustrations. The next section of the museum displays Nightingale's work after the war. Her relentless efforts to collect statistics to influence reforms in the British Army are displayed by her writings and by illustrations of her pioneering statistical charts. Depictions of her work to influence public health practices around the world are included in this section. The final section is devoted to the Nightingale Training Schools and Nightingale efforts to set a standard for training schools around the world. There is a large map that identifies the locations around the world where Nightingale scholars influenced the establishment of schools of nursing based on the Nightingale model. Only Montreal and Sault St. Marie are identified in Canada as Nightingale influenced schools. I was concerned that this information was not accurate and that many more locations in Canada need to be identified. I expressed my concerns to Alex Attewell, curator of the museum. He assured me that he would be happy to receive documentation that would support identification of other locations in Canada. A great research project. Anyone interested? My visit to the museum concluded with a review of the many books and items for sale in the museum shop. If you are interested in an annual membership of the Friends of the Florence Nightingale Museum, I have the forms. Just give me a call.



*SEASON'S GREETINGS
TO ALL OUR
MEMBERS*