



## ANNUAL MEETING -- APRIL 8, 1992

Annual Meeting of the History of Nursing Group

Wednesday, April 8, 1992, at 7:30 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Vancouver  
(in conjunction with the RNABC Annual Meeting)

SPEAKER: SHEILA RANKIN ZERR

Topic: "Doll-ing Up Our History"

Members Free

Guests Welcome: \$2.00 at door

Once again, the time has come to get out your calendars and plan to attend the annual meeting of the RNABC History Group at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Vancouver. The meeting date is planned in conjunction with the RNABC annual meeting so that members outside the Lower Mainland can attend both meetings.

Speaker at the meeting will be Sheila Rankin Zerr, of Delta, who will present an overview of nursing history illustrated with displays from her collection of miniature porcelain dolls dressed in costumes of the various times.

Prof. Zerr taught history of nursing and for many years has dressed the dolls to illustrate her presentations. Those who have heard her speak report that this would be well worth a special trip to Vancouver. Her presentation will begin at approximately 8:45 p.m.

An informal get-together for coffee will be held at 7:00 p.m. so members can meet to exchange ideas and information. The annual meeting of the History Group will start at 7:30. Several important matters requiring membership decisions must be brought to floor, including minor changes in the constitution requested by the RNABC. Members may also bring forward business and ideas for the Group for the coming year.

The History Group will have a table and display in the RNABC Convention area during the RNABC annual meeting. This, too, offers members a chance to meet and discuss their individual history projects. If you wish to help "staff" the table, please get in touch with Nina Rumen at 733-7529 or Bev Du Gas at 327-0602.



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NEWS \* VIEWS \* NEWS \* VIEWS

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EXPERIENCES IN THE GULF WAR

Captain Kristiana Margit Stevens, platoon commander at the Canadian Forces Officer Candidates' School, Chilliwack, B.C., spoke at an informal get-together of The History Group on Saturday, February 15. She described her experiences as a nurse with the Canadian Field Hospital January 24 - March 22, 1991, and had slides showing the hospital site.

On display at the meeting were a few artifacts and books related to Military Nursing History from the 1886 Riel Rebellion to the present.

Those who attended also had the opportunity of seeing the Group's new display board, which will be used at the annual meeting and for the dis-

COPIES OF SURVEY AVAILABLE  
TO MEMBERS

Copies of the Survey of Nursing History Materials in British Columbia are available to History Group members free (but with a cost of \$2.50 for postage and handling). A form is enclosed with this newsletter to assist you to order your free copy. If you know of someone else who would like a copy, these are available through the RNABC Library for \$5. plus postage and handling.

play being taken in June to Saint John, New Brunswick, for the meeting of the Canadian Association of History of Nursing.

Seventeen members and guests attended the get-together. At the meeting, Sister Therese Carignan of St. Paul's Hospital, Vancouver, presented a portrait doll of a Sister of Charity of Providence for the Memorial Doll Collection.

NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE

Three executive positions must be filled by election at the Annual Meeting April 8. A nominations committee of Glennis Zilm and Sheila Zerr has been appointed to ensure that a full slate of names will be available at the meeting. As well, nominations may be made from the floor. Positions to be filled, for two-year terms, are president, vice-president, and (2nd) member-at-large.

The six executive members, the past-president, and the appointed committee chairs (e.g., oral history committee; newsletter editor) meet about 8 times a year to carry out the Group's business and to arrange Group meetings. If you are interested in having your name stand for one of these positions, please telephone Glennis (535-3238) or Sheila (943-3012) as soon as possible.



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**\* NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE \***

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Several of these projects from the Executive Committee will be discussed in more detail at the annual meeting in April.

\* Logo: The History Group has a logo at last -- and the Executive Committee hopes you like it! Letterhead paper and membership cards have been ordered with the new logo and it will be used to identify our group. The logo has been incorporated into the Masthead for this issue of the newsletter.

\* Finances: Treasurer Nina Rumen reports the finances of the Group are healthy. The Group's report to the RNABC at the end of 1991 showed a balance of \$2,100.38. A year-end report (to March 31, 1992) will be presented at the annual meeting.

\* Year-End and Constitutional Changes: The RNABC has asked all its Professional Practice Groups, including the History of Nursing Group, to review their constitutions and by-laws. The RNABC wishes to have them presented in a set form. Member-At-Large Ethel Warbinek has been assigned the task of reviewing these for presentation to the membership at the annual meeting in April. Most of the changes are minor, but one that members will be asked to consider is a change in the year end (from March 31 to December 31) so that this will be in keeping with the RNABC's year-end.

\* Fee Increase Proposed: The Executive Committee will recommend to the membership at the annual meeting that a fee increase be introduced for the 1993-94 year. (Or, if the constitution is amended to have the year end December 31, for the complete 1993 year.) Because any fee increase must be approved at an annual meeting, the fee increase cannot go into effect for the 1992-93 year. The proposal is to raise the fee for both full and associate members from \$10 to \$15. Student membership would remain at \$5.

\* RNF Affiliation: The Executive Committee has been exploring ways that the History Group might work with the Registered Nurses' Foundation of B.C. to arrange a History of Nursing Award. The idea was that individuals interested in promoting History of Nursing could make tax-deductible donations to the History Award through the RNF. Unfortunately, RNF regulations regarding 1) the size of the initial donation required (\$20,000 minimum) and 2) the criteria for awards mean that the History Group cannot make this commitment at this time. Vice-President Helen Shore and Newsletter Editor Glennis Zilm have been asked to explore the basic idea of tax-deductible donations further and will report to the Executive in the coming year.

(News from the Executive Committee continued on page 4)



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\* NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Continued) \*

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\* Proposed AAAA Committee:

The Executive Committee has proposed a Committee on Archives, Artifacts, and Assorted Articles to follow up two of the recommendations in Laura Coles' Report. The Report recommended that the History Group 1) develop a formal record-keeping system for collecting information on nursing or health-related archival or museum materials in B.C. and 2) work as liaison between donors and various repositories throughout the province. The Executive Committee needs your help. Would you be able to chair such a committee or to serve on the committee? Volunteers will be sought at the annual meeting, but those who cannot attend should get in touch with one of the members of the Executive.

\* Biographical Committee: Member-At-Large Ethel Warbinek has taken on the Chair of a new Biographical Committee that has been established to collect biographical data on past and present nursing leaders in the province. A form has been developed so information can be collected and kept in files and will be available when needed. For example, such information is needed when the History Group is asked to nominate B.C. nursing leaders for the Canadian Nurses Association's "In Memoriam" book. As well, information frequently is requested on past nursing lead-

ers by historians. Such files might eventually lead to a publication on B.C. nursing leaders. If you are interested in assisting with this committee, please get in touch with Ethel Warbinek (538-5066, evenings) before the annual meeting.

\* Nominations for CNA "In Memoriam" Book:

The Executive Committee has forwarded two names to the RNABC Board for its consideration as nominees for the "In Memoriam" Book kept by the Canadian Nurses Association. Each year, provincial associations are asked to put forward nominees for inclusion in the book, including nursing leaders who died during the preceding year. As well, because the Book is a recent innovation by CNA, the CNA Board was soliciting nominations for deaths that occurred during the 1920s and 1930s. Vice-President Helen Shore prepared nominations for Sister Frances Redmond and Isabelle Maud Hill, two nurses who were active in British Columbia in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

(News from the Executive Committee continued on page 5)

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1-F. 2-E. 3-C. 4-H. 5-J.  
6-A. 7-D. 8-I. 9-G. 10-B.



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\* NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Continued) \*

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\* Nurses' Window Card Project:

The Executive Committee is considering whether the History Group should take over printing and sale of the Nursing Memorial Window cards. The Vancouver Unit of the Nursing Sisters Association has decided that it will no longer print and sell the cards. The Unit took on the project three years ago to raise funds to restore the stained glass window in the Canadian Memorial Church; the window honors nursing sisters of World War I. Sale of the cards provided enough moneys to restore the window and to maintain it in good condition. Further sales of the cards then went to a \$4,000 nursing scholarship offered in 1992 through the Canadian Nurses Foundation. The History Group would have to use its existing funds to print the cards, but the resulting income from the cards would allow the Group to develop award funds more rapidly.

\* Poster Presentation at CAHN Meeting:

An illustrated poster presentation showing some of the projects being carried out by members of the B.C. Nursing History Group is planned for display during the meeting of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing in Saint John, New Brunswick, in June. The project is being co-ordinated by Sheila Zerr and will be displayed on our new display board during the meeting.

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE NEWS

The Oral History Volunteer Group has met several times during the year. Progress has been reported on preparation of a "Summary Book" that will serve as an on-going data base for the collection of oral history tapes in the RNABC Library.

Tapes recently completed by members of the Group and available in the RNABC Library include:

Joyce Currie, a head nurse in the maternity wards at Vancouver General before the move to the Grace Hospital, interviewed by Mary Nicol;

Dr. Marilyn Willman, director of the School of Nursing, University of B.C., interviewed by Glennis Zilm and taped by Sheila Zerr; and

Panel presentation on "Public Health Nursing in the 1930s" presented by Mary Richmond.

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NANB HISTORY AVAILABLE

A history of the Nurses Association of New Brunswick has recently been published. Written by Arlee Hoyt McGee, the magazine-size, bilingual, illustrated book is called Visionaries 1916-1991 and celebrates NANB's 75th anniversary.

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\* BOOK REVIEW \*

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Annie W. Goodrich, Her Journey to Yale, by Esther A. Werminghaus. (New York: Macmillan, 1950).

Reviewed by Helen Shore

A book on the life of Annie Goodrich published in 1950 (and sold then for \$1.50, new) recently came into my hands from Esther Paulson's soon-to-be-archival collection. The author went to visit Annie Goodrich to hear from her the story of how she had become the first woman Dean at Yale.

Annie Goodrich graduated from the New York Hospital Training School in 1892 at a time when apprenticeship was the order of the day. She entered at age 24 years, at a time when students were selected on the basis of their maturity. She was initiated into her ward work by a senior student named Lillian Wald. During her senior year she was sent to the Sloan Hospital for maternity experience and found herself facing intolerable working conditions. She knew she had to give up nursing entirely or battle to remedy the situation. She decided on the latter, drew up a list, and, with the backing of her classmates, presented their protests to the head. While the hospital was not revolutionized immediately, Annie Goodrich had taken the first step along a path that was to lead to change.

She was Nursing Superintendent of Post-Graduate Hospital, N.Y., from 1893 to 1900, and then went to St. Luke's Hospital to reorganize its training school. After two years, she returned to her own New York Hospital to serve as superintendent of nurses until 1907. During this time, she was elected Chair of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools (forerunner of the American Nurses Association), which was responsible for supplementing the financing of a course in hospital economics at Teachers College, Columbia University. The course, started in 1899, was recommended by Isabel Hampton Robb and M. Adelaide Nutting, others in the select group of early American nursing leaders. One of the illustrations in this wonderful book shows a portrait of "the Great Trio" -- Goodrich, Wald, and Nutting.

In 1907, Annie Goodrich took over a new position -- General Superintendent of Bellvue and Allied Training Schools for Nurses. In 1910, she became state inspector of nurse training schools, believing her 17 years of administrative experience gave her the practical insight and authority needed. New York and Illinois were the only two states with this office aimed at improvement in the quality

(Book Review continues page 7)



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\* BOOK REVIEW (Continued) \*

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of nursing education. Registration of nurses in the U.S. was only eight years old, and not every state had passed the necessary legislation.

Miss Goodrich was president of the International Council of Nurses from 1912-1915. In 1914, she returned to Teachers College as an assistant professor teaching administration of schools of nursing. A full schedule of teaching, serving as president of the American Nurses' Association, chairing a Mayor's Committee on National Defense, mentoring students, reading voluminously, and travelling on speaking engagements fully occupied these years.

The growing field of public health nursing was insistently asking Teachers College for special courses. Miss Goodrich, long fascinated by the educational implications of district nursing, immediately saw the value of this experience to broaden the horizons of the future nursing school administrators who were her students. When Lillian Wald approached her in 1916 with an invitation to administer visiting nursing at the Henry Street Settlement, Annie Goodrich took the idea to Adelaide Nutting, director of the Department of Nursing. Subsequently, Miss Goodrich combined a teaching position at Teachers College and Administrator of Visiting Nurse

Service at the Henry Street Settlement.

The book opens with a question: How was it that in the fall of 1923 Annie Goodrich became the first woman dean at Yale? Annie Goodrich replied that the answer was to be found in the story of the men and women who were with her in spirit, in inspiration, and in dreams of a future when society would accept university schools of nursing as liberally as other schools. She describes herself as being strongly supported by the University, the New Haven Hospital, and the city of New Haven.

Miss Goodrich elaborates on her idea of "the complete nurse" as one who possesses nurturing qualities, is matured by experience, and made wiser by a well-rounded social and scientific education.

Nurses today challenged to answer the question put by the author of this book would describe Annie Goodrich's qualities of a clear vision of nursing's mission, her recognition of essential educational requirements, her suffragist ideals coupled with a broad social vision, her strength and determination, and the support, inspiration, and certainty gained from association with outstanding colleagues.

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\*FROM THE EDITOR'S MAIL\*

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AN INTERVIEW WITH WINNIFRED  
(BELLHOUSE) SPALDING

by Sue Mouat

Sue Mouat, a History Group member living in Ganges, B.C., has been working on a history of the Lady Minto Hospital in Ganges. She sent the following report of an interview to share with our members.

I was fortunate enough to have a fascinating interview this week [October 1991] with a 1921 graduate of the Royal Jubilee Hospital (Victoria). What made the interview especially interesting was that the first year of her training took place at the Lady Minto Cottage Hospital, now the Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital here at Ganges.

Her sister-in-law saw an advertisement for student nurses in the paper at a time when the young Winnifred Bellhouse was unhappy at home. Winnifred jumped at the chance to leave Galiano Island where she lived, and saw this as a golden opportunity. Although she was only 16 years old, she said she was almost 18 and was accepted -- as was a Miss Florence Watson from Nanaimo -- and the two spent their first year at Lady Minto.

The girls lived upstairs in the old hospital. The rooms, she remembers, were hot in summer, cold in winter, and

always noisy. Often there were few or no patients in the 12 beds, and then the girls were given lectures by Dr. Eva Sutherland, the only doctor on Saltspring Island at the time.

The matron, and only registered nurse, was a Miss Fulton, who also lectured and demonstrated procedures. The workload was varied, to say the least: the girls did all the cooking, tended the furnace, and cleaned the lamps. (Electricity did not come to the Island until the mid-1930s.) If there were a maternity case, the girls assisted. They also helped in the operating room. Winnifred could not recall any serious accidents; usually the operations were of a minor nature, such as tonsillectomies.

Looking back on her year, Winnifred felt she would have had a better training if she had had all three years at Victoria.

After graduation, Winnifred worked in Victoria, Cumberland, Seattle, Mt. Vernon, and Anacortes before her marriage, and with the Columbia Coast Mission at Rock Bay and at Ladysmith Hospital after her marriage.

She does not remember why Florence Watson did not graduate with her from the Jubilee, but I hope to track that down.

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**\*\* GAME: "NAME THE NURSE" \*\***

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The following is based on a quiz prepared by Glennis Zilm for a "tea break" at one of the Executive Committee meetings. The winner only got 50% on this quiz about famous nurses. First try your skill at identifying the nurses without any names. Then, if you need more help, try matching with the list of names given on page 10. Then, if you still need assistance, the answers are on page 4.

1. British nurse born 1820 in Italy. Served in a famous war with a hand-picked band of nurses. A possible romantic interest links this famous woman with Canada. Died 1910 in England.
2. Born 1606 in France. Considered a co-founder of the city of Montreal, where she established the first hospital (Hotel Dieu) and became its administrator. Died 1673.
3. Born 1870s in England. Trained at the London Hospital, but is best known as a Matron of a Surgical and Medical Home in Brussels at the beginning of World War I. Died 1915 in Belgium.
4. Born 1847 in Ontario. A graduate of Bellevue Training School, New York. Was first president of what is now the Canadian Nurses Association. Died 1933.
5. Born 1701 in Varennes, Quebec, she is the founder of the Grey Nuns. Died 1771. Canonized 1990.
6. Born 1832 in Germantown, Pennsylvania, she was a popular and well-known author when she signed on as a nurse and worked in an army hospital during the U.S. Civil War. Wrote Hospital Sketches and Little Women. Died in Boston in 1888.
7. Born 1879 in Meonstoke, Southampton, England, she trained at the Winnipeg General Hospital. She was the director of the first university school of nursing in the British Empire and later editor of The Canadian Nurse and author of Just Plain Nursing. She died in Vancouver in 1968.
8. Born 1929 in Arlee, Sask., she is best associated with another province but is a nationally-known nursing leader in Canada. A former president of the Canadian Nurses Association (1980-1982), she was the first nurse to sit on the Medical Research Council. Still living.
9. Born (1860) and raised in Welland, Ontario, she took her teacher's certificate

(Quiz continued on page 10)



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**\*\* GAME: "NAME THE NURSE" (Continued) \*\***

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there before taking her nursing education at Bellevue Hospital in New York. She was first president of the American Nurses Association (originally the Nurses' Alumnae of the United States and Canada) and was a member of the founding committee of the American Journal of Nursing as well as the author of several nursing texts. Initiator of a grading policy for nursing studies, she taught many Canadian nurses at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. Died in a street-car accident at age 50 in 1910.

**FAMOUS NAMES**

If you could not name the nurses "from scratch," try matching these 10 famous names with the descriptions above.

- A. Louisa May Alcott
- B. Sharley Bryce Brown
- C. Edith Cavell
- D. Ethel Johns
- E. Jeanne Mance
- F. Florence Nightingale
- G. Isabel Hampton Robb
- H. Mary Agnes Snively
- I. Shirley Stinson
- J. Marguerite D'Youville

Answers are on page 4.

10. Born in 1879 in Toronto, she was instrumental in organizing the Graduate Nurses Association of B.C., the forerunner of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C., and was its first president. She was the first nurse to be registered in B.C. under the Act of 1918 and was also a president (the third, from 1914-1917) of the Canadian Nurses Association. Died 1944 in New Westminster.

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**THE HISTORY GROUP NEWSLETTER**

The History Group's Newsletter is published irregularly four times a year by the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. Unsolicited material welcome, but the editor reserves the right to reject, shorten, or edit materials in consultation with the author(s). APA Style preferred.

Thanks for assistance with this issue go to Diana Ritchie and Helen Shore.

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\* If you know of someone who might be interested in joining the History Group, please call Diana Ritchie, Membership Chair, at 732-6248.

Please send items of interest to share through the newsletter!

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