



## MEMORIAL NURSING PORTRAIT COLLECTION

The Memorial Nursing Portrait Collection of the British Columbia History of Nursing Group provides an opportunity to contribute to the History of Nursing Scholarship Fund. The purpose is twofold. First, to raise moneys for the History of Nursing Scholarship Fund. Second, to provide a visual, lasting portrait to honour a friend or family member.

Sponsors wishing to add a memorial portrait to the collection, select the portrait costume design of their choice. Corporate or individual sponsors receive a tax receipt to claim a charitable donation on their income tax return. Donations of any amount can be made to the scholarship fund. A donation of \$500.00 will sponsor a memorial nursing portrait into the collection.

The collection is growing. This special newsletter portrays the six memorial portraits presently in the collection. A memorial portrait consists of a individually designed, hand crafted, miniature, porcelain doll, a miniature framed photo, and an inscribed brass plaque. The collection is housed in glass enclosed display cabinets. The Memorial Portrait Collection is being developed as a mobile historical tribute to the history of nursing. The collection is available for display at nursing and/or public functions, and for educational purposes.

### Terms of Reference - Memorial Nursing Portrait Committee

1. Committee members to be members of the B.C. History Group
2. Duties and responsibilities:
  - a. Planning
    - research and design of portrait and costume
    - design of display and print materials
    - design of accompanying memorial portrait picture cards
    - promotion of displays and speaking engagements
  - b. Promoting
    - sponsorship, fund raising
    - revising fund raising and sponsorship with executive direction
    - special, supplemental sections for collection and displays
  - c. Maintaining accurate records and inventories
  - d. Future planning
    - for permanent museum/home.

If you are interested in learning more about the collection please contact:  
Sheila J. Rankin Zerr, committee chair, 943-3012

## Memorial Nursing Portrait Collection

## SPONSORED PORTRAITS IN THE COLLECTION

Portrait	Costume	Sponsor
1. Elizabeth (Rankin) Bemrose	Vancouver General Hospital	Sheila Rankin Zerr
2. Emily Susan Patterson	Pioneer Lay Nurse 1835-1909	Helen L. Shore
3. Sister Frances Redmond	St. Luke's Hospital, Vancouver 1888	Helen L. Shore
4. Isabelle Maud Hill	First Victorian Order Nurse, Vancouver, 1901	Helen L. Shore
5. B.C. Public Health	Uniform P.H.N. 1961	Monica M. Green
6. University College of the Cariboo	First Cariboo College Graduation 1973	C.V. Mosby
7. Special Collections		



**Portrait: Elizabeth (Rankin) Bemrose**  
1911-1970

Sponsor: Sheila J. Rankin Zerr

Elizabeth Rankin Bemrose entered the Vancouver General School of Nursing in 1942. World War II was underway. Bessie's nursing career was brief. She met her Soldier husband Frank Bemrose, married, and, because married nurses could not work, left nursing. She returned to primary school teaching until her retirement in 1976. This portrait honours a special aunt, and a special person, whose interest, and guidance influenced many lives.



*Three of the dolls sponsored by Helen Shore in tribute to the early nursing pioneers of Vancouver*

**Portrait: Emily Susan Patterson  
1873-1909**

**Sponsor: Helen L. Shore**



Emily Susan Patterson arrived at Hastings sawmill, Burrard Inlet, in April, 1873, then moved to Moodyville sawmill in 1874. She was a "Lady of Grace of St. John" in the wilderness; a "Dame Hospitaller" to Indians and to whitemen alike before there were doctors or hospitals. Although she was not a trained nurse, stories abound of her willingness and success as a midwife and as a giver of first aid and treatments. She holds the distinction of being the first known nurse in the Vancouver area.



**Portrait: Sister Frances Redmond  
1854-1932**

**Sponsor: Helen L. Shore**

### **Sister Frances Redmond**

Sister Frances was an English woman married to Dr. William Charles Redmond, Royal Naval Reserve. The family emigrated to Canada and, when the children were old enough, Mrs. Redmond trained as a nurse and midwife at Laval University. She also trained as an Anglican deaconess.

In 1887, she was invited to come to Vancouver, where she became the first district nurse, practicing midwifery and nursing women and children in their homes. Sister Frances and Father Clinton built St. Luke's Hospital in 1888 (connected to St. James Anglican Church) and it then served as a base for nursing services to the community. Sister Frances commenced the first training school for nurses in Vancouver, taught the students, and supervised their clinical work.

Before long, St. Luke's provided not only nursing in the hospital but also in a district that extended to Hope and Lilloet, 100 miles away.



**Portrait: Isabelle Maud Hill**  
1871-1936

Sponsor: Helen L. Shore

### **Isabelle Maud Hill**

Maud Hill was born in Hillsborough, Ontario. She graduated from the Hamilton (Ontario) General Hospital in 1900, then took training with the Victorian Order of Nurses in Montreal. She was specially chosen by Charlotte Macleod, first VON Chief Superintendent, for a politically delicate situation as VON nurse in Vancouver (where two earlier VON candidates had been rejected by the local Board); Maud Hill proved to be an outstanding success and was highly lauded by Board and physicians.

Later, Maud Hill was B.C.'s earliest occupational health nurse (although the title did not exist then). She was employed by the Britannia Mining Company, Howe Sound, to provide care to employees and their families.

Her nursing and organizational abilities were recognized and she was sought as matron of community hospitals in Sumas, Washington, and Port Alberni, B.C. She opened the first private hospital in New Westminster, and about 1917 she helped open the Vancouver Military Hospital, later known as Shaughnessy Hospital, as her last nursing contribution in B.C.



**Portrait: Public Health Nursing in  
British Columbia (1961 uniform)**

Sponsor: Monica M. Green

The story of public health nursing in British Columbia is thoroughly documented in Monica M. Green's book *Through the Years with Public Health Nursing*. Monica Green states that public health nurses in British Columbia have demonstrated leadership in developing preventive health services and in promoting health on a local or community level. This memorial portrait pays tribute to the many public health nurses who through the years built a solid foundation for the present day community health nursing service.

For further information about the Memorial Nursing Portrait Collection, please contact:

Sheila J. Rankin Zerr, committee chair, 943-3012

Mary Clark, committee member, Campbell River

Diane McKellar, committee member, Ladner

Nina Rumen, Treasurer, 733-7529

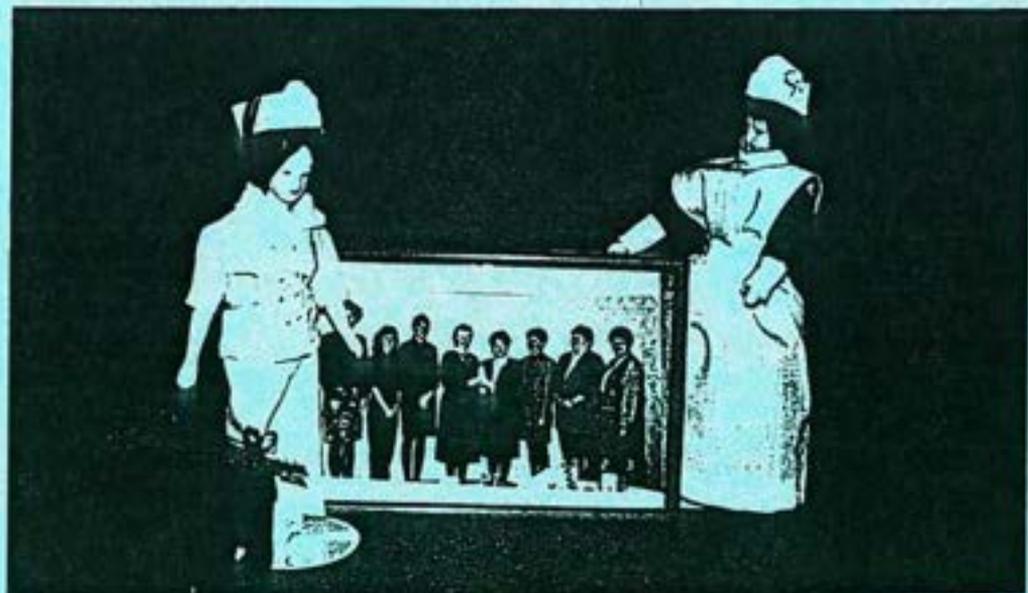
**Special Edition of the History Group Newsletter: Guest Editor Sheila Rankin Zerr**

This special edition of the *Newsletter* was delayed in preparation and released in December 1993. A special thank you goes to *Ben Gwaltney* for assistance with photographs. The *History Group Newsletter* is

published irregularly four times a year by the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group. Editorial Address: c/o Editor Glennis Zilm, 2606 Bayview Street, Surrey, B.C.V4A 2Z4 Phone: (604) 535-3238.

### The University College of the Cariboo

This photograph conveys several images. On the left, the graduation costume of the first class to graduate from Cariboo College in 1973. Next, a photo of Gwen Kavanaugh, Karen Abbott, and some of the students participating in the "Mosby Project" that led to the sponsorship of the Cariboo College memorial portrait. On the right, the 1915 student uniform of the Royal Inland Hospital.



The C.V. Mosby Company of Toronto sponsored a portrait as a prize for the B.C. History Group's project to stimulate interest in the history of nursing. Thirteen University College of the Cariboo students participated. They were part of Karen Abbott's "Trends and Issues" class, September 1992. The students worked in groups for one of their assignments, went out into the community to research local nursing history, then presented their findings to their classmates. The four topics researched were: Nursing History at Tranquille; Historical Review of Public Health Nursing in Kamloops; Nursing Power: Past, Present, and Future; and Transition of Nursing Education from Hospital to College in Kamloops.

Gwen Kavanaugh helped organize the RNABC dinner that honoured the students. The 1973 graduation portrait doll, chosen by the students, was presented, then placed in the memorial collection. The \$500.00 prize was designated to the History of Nursing Scholarship Fund. It is hoped that this is the first of many future projects to stimulate the study of history of nursing in B.C. schools of nursing throughout the province.

**THE SPECIAL COLLECTION**



This selection of portraits represents dolls that are part of the display collection but do not as yet have \$500.00 sponsorship. The Memorial Nursing Portrait Committee is working out a plan to incorporate these portraits into the collection. These portraits represent some examples of the outstanding nursing and community leaders. Included in this photo from left to right:

- Ethel Johns, Winnipeg General student uniform 1897
- Lady Aberdeen, founder of VON, 1897
- Ethel Johns, Winnipeg General graduation uniform 1902
- Salvation Army, street uniform, 1911

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**APPLICATION**  
**Memorial Nursing Portrait Collection**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial Nursing Portrait of:

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**\$500.00 (Tax deductible - receipt will be issued)**