

**THE HISTORY OF NURSING GROUP NEWSLETTER***Volume 5, Number 3, Fall 1994**** * SPECIAL MEMORIAL NURSING PORTRAIT COLLECTION ISSUE 1994 * ***

The Memorial Nursing Portrait Collection of the British Columbia History of Nursing Group has grown significantly during 1994 and now contains a base collection of nine sponsored portraits. This collection provides an opportunity for individuals to contribute \$500 to the History of Nursing Scholarship Fund and provide a special tribute to a friend or family member. A memorial portrait consists of a individually designed, hand-crafted, miniature, porcelain doll, a framed photo, and an inscribed plaque. The collection is housed in a glass cabinet and displayed by the History Group at nursing and/or public functions and for educational sessions.

The purpose is twofold: first, to raise moneys for the History of Nursing Scholarship Fund and, second, to provide a visual, lasting tribute to a friend or family member or a special nursing project. A portrait can be sponsored by anyone and can be a tribute to a person living or dead or to a project of choice, but the doll must honour a nurse or nursing history event.



Sponsors wishing to add a portrait to the collection, select the costume design. Corporate or individual sponsors receive a tax receipt for a charitable donation that may be used on their income tax return. Donations of any amount can be made to the scholarship fund, but a minimum donation of \$500.00 is needed to sponsor a memorial nursing portrait into the collection.

Memorial Nursing Portrait Collection

SPONSORED PORTRAITS IN THE COLLECTION

<u>Portrait</u>	<u>Costume</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
1. Elizabeth (Rankin) Bemrose	Vancouver General Hospital	Sheila J. Rankin Zerr
2. Emily Susan Patterson	Pioneer Lay Nurse	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 Nurse	Uniform P.H.N., circa 1961	Monica M. Green
6. University College of of the Cariboo	First Cariboo College Graduation, 1973	C.V. Mosby Company, Toronto
7. Margaret M. Street	Nursing Professor	Street Family
8. Helen K. Mussallem	Canadian Army Nurse 1943-46	Mussallem Family
9. Salvation Army Nurse for James William Rankin	Street Costume, Salvation Army Nurse, circa 1927	Sheila J. Rankin Zerr

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

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Committee Members:
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Diane McKellar, Ladner

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Photography/Cabinet Design/Frames:
Ben Gwaltney
David Zerr
Jim Caldwell and Terry Parkin

Portrait #1: Elizabeth (Rankin) Bemrose
1911-1990

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.



Portrait #2: 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 white men 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 #4: Isabelle Maud Hill
1871-1936

Sponsor: Helen L. Shore

Maud Hill, in 1901, was specially chosen as the first Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada nurse in Vancouver. Later, she was B.C.'s first 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. She also served as matron of several small community hospitals. She opened the first private hospital in New Westminster, and about 1917 she helped open the Vancouver Military Hospital, later known as Shaughnessy Hospital.

Portrait #3: Sister Frances Redmond
1854-1932

Sponsor: Helen L. Shore

Sister Frances was an English woman first married to Dr. William Charles Redmond, Royal Naval Reserve. The family emigrated to Canada and Mrs. Redmond trained as a nurse and midwife at Laval University and 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 opened the first training school for nurses in Vancouver, taught the students, and supervised their clinical work.



Portrait #5: B.C. Public Health Nurse
circa 1961

Sponsor: Monica M. Green

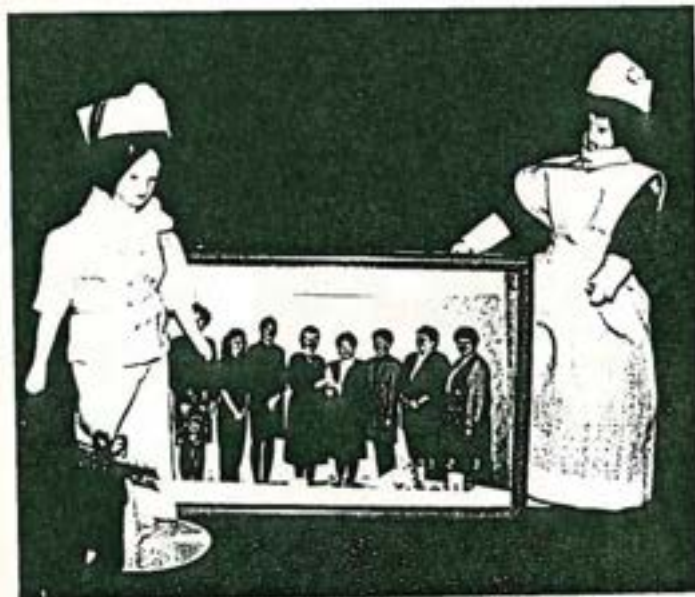
The story of public health nursing in British Columbia is thoroughly documented in Monica M. Green's book *Through the Years with Public Health Nursing*. Monica Green states that public health nurses in British Columbia have demonstrated leadership in developing preventive health services and in promoting 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.



Portrait #6: University College of the Cariboo 1973 Graduation Uniform

Sponsor: The C.V. Mosby Company

The C.V. Mosby Company of Toronto was corporate sponsor for a portrait donated as a prize to stimulate interest in history of nursing. Karen Abbott's September 1992 class carried out a special history of nursing project and Gwen Kavanaugh helped organize the RNABC dinner to honour the work of the students. The 1973 graduation uniform was chosen by the students as the dress for the portrait. The History Group hopes that this will be the first of many student projects on history of nursing that would attract corporate sponsors.





Portrait #7: Margaret M. Street
1907-1993

Sponsor: The Street Family

Margaret Street's outstanding career as nurse scholar and professor is honoured in this memorial portrait. She began her career as a school teacher, then moved to nursing in 1933. Her exceptional contributions to nursing were recognized in 1982 when she was named a Member of the Order of Canada. She is best known for her biography of Ethel Johns, *Watch-fires on the Mountains*. Margaret Street, a renowned nurse, administrator, professor, scholar, and historian, also saw the watch-fires and followed them throughout her distinguished life.

Portrait #8: Helen K. Mussallem
Canadian Army Nurse 1943-1946

Sponsor: The Mussallem Family

Dr. Helen K. Mussallem was Executive Director of the Canadian Nurses Association from 1963-1981. This followed her outstanding survey of nursing education, reported in *Spotlight on Nursing Education*. She has been recognized and honoured at home and abroad as an outstanding Canadian nurse. Among her honours is the Order of Canada, Dame of the Order of St. John Ambulance, and five honorary doctorates. This portrait pays tribute to her service (1943-1946) with the Royal Canadian Medical Corps during World War II.



**Portrait #9: Salvation Army Nurse
for James William Rankin
1911-1992**

Sponsor: Sheila J. Rankin Zerr

James William Rankin was a beloved father and tireless worker for Christian charity. He devoted his life to promoting community programs that would make life easier for his family, friends, and fellowmen. This portrait honours a loving father, whose gift of love and joy of life touched all who knew him. He was born in Vernon, B.C., spent part of his childhood in Scotland, then settled in Powell River in 1926. He married Josephine Dyer in 1933 and had five daughters, Louise, Sheila, Joy, Beth, and Gloria. He worked for the Powell River Company for 47 years and retired in 1976.



**Application
MEMORIAL NURSING PORTRAIT COLLECTION**

I would like to sponsor a Memorial Nursing Portrait of:

Name _____

Address _____

City/Postal Code _____

Telephone _____

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

(Make cheques payable to B.C. History of Nursing -- Scholarship Fund)

(Mail application to B.C. History Group, c/o Sheila Zerr, 5333 Upland Drive, Delta, B.C. V4M 2G3)

*** * BITS AND PIECES * ***

This special edition of the History Group *Newsletter* was prepared by Guest Editor Sheila Rankin Zerr. Last year's edition on the Memorial Nursing Portrait Collection was well received and attracted a lot of interest across Canada as well as in B.C. The edition remained in use throughout the year and acts as a resource for those interested in sponsoring a portrait for the collection.

This edition was prepared early so that Sheila Zerr could take it with her to the display being shown at the Canadian Women's History Showcase at the Royal B.C. Museum on October 1 and 2, 1994. The display is part of a major two-day display to launch Women's History Month. In 1992, the federal government declared October would be "Women's History Month" when Canadians could recognize women who helped form the nation. October was chosen because this was the month in 1929 when the British Privy Council over-ruled the Supreme Court of Canada and declared that women could indeed be classified as "persons" under the British North America Act -- and therefore were eligible to hold federal office and to sit as representatives in the Senate.

LETTERS

Several issues ago, I commented on the lack of information about the first males in modern nursing in B.C. I had a wonderful reply from HoN Group member Mary Nicol, who first organized the RNABC's Oral History Collection. She wrote:

In response to your June '93 *Newsletter*, I was in the September '51 St. Paul's School of

Nursing class with James Bullen, the first male nurse graduate in B.C.

I have enclosed a summary of an interview done by the RNABC Oral History Project. The tape would be available ... at the RNABC Library.

James was often called Hamish, but never Frank [as was reported in the June 1993 *Newsletter*]. There was another male in the class, but he switched after first year to X-ray.

-- Mary Nicol

The History Group's *Newsletter*

The *Newsletter* is published irregularly four times a year by the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C.

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Unsolicited submissions are welcomed, but the Editor reserves the right to shorten, reject, or edit materials.