
◆ HISTORY OF NURSING NEWS ◆

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ANNUAL MEETING

The 5th Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 6, 1995 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Lord Byron Room, 4th floor of the Hyatt Hotel in Vancouver. Please note the change to an earlier time.

A series of displays including the Memorial Dolls, books, and recent photographs with History of Nursing themes will be set up for viewing. Coffee, tea, juices and refreshments will be served giving opportunity for members to network and have an informal gathering.

Elections for new officers will be held during the business meeting. In addition, other important issues (see the President's Report), will be discussed.

The Annual General Meeting of the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group is held in conjunction with the RNABC's annual meeting. History group members are welcome to attend the RNABC's annual meeting as an observer (no fee).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Plans are underway for our 5th Annual General Meeting. Please join us on April 6th at 9:00 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel for coffee and stimulating company. The business part of the meeting will be kept short, I promise, to allow time for presenta-

tions honoring members Mary Richmond and Verna and Dick Splane. Please plan to attend and celebrate this event.

One piece of business on the agenda is the need to clarify our position in relation to the International Nursing History Conference in June '97. CAHN (Canadian Association for the History of Nursing) asked us last June at the CAHN meeting if we would host this conference. We agreed. What needs to be clarified still is what was meant by "hosting". Does this imply co-sponsoring? or does it mean co-hosting? And if so, what are the financial commitments? The executive has been extremely supportive of this endeavour and passed a motion at the December 14th meeting "That the B.C. History of Nursing Group co-sponsor with CAHN the International History of Nursing Conference". This will have to be approved by the membership at the annual meeting. Another reason for clarifying our position



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*Victoria forms
History of
Nursing
Chapter*

is that we are an RNABC Professional Practice Group, and as such have a responsibility to the RNABC regarding our financial commitments.

I am pleased to inform you that the Victoria Group has been organized into a chapter and has elected Kari Moore as president. Meetings are held once a month and the group is anxious to get started with oral histories and biographies. This is indeed exciting news and we look forward to hearing from them. Congratulations to Kari for her enthusiasm and perseverance.

Another ongoing "history issue" is what to do with the many irreplaceable and precious "Archives, Artifacts And Associated Articles" that many of us have been given in good faith by nurses and families over the years. At the moment they are being lovingly guarded by an uncle; a permanent home can be found so that they can be properly preserved and displayed. The Archives Committee of the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association is in the process of cataloging their archival collection in preparing for the move to a new location. The VGH residence is to be demolished sometime within the next year. The VGH collection is presently located in 3 rooms in the basement of the residence. The impressive collection consists of uniforms, equipment, photographs and annuals. At a recent meeting we uncovered a wonderful collection of old pins and medals that had been tucked away in an old shoe box! As a Nursing History Group we may be asking for your help in carrying out an inventory of our nursing history

memorabilia. It seems like a good place to start—to list our collection first so we know what we have, and who has it. This would certainly make life easier when one of us is asked about uniforms needed for a display or slides for a presentation.

Looking forward to seeing you on April 6th!

Ethel Warbinek, President

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

The yellow forsythia, clumps of purple and white crocus, and the sweet smell of daphne are the unmistakable signs of Spring. This is a time for new beginnings and new challenges.

In the past 12 months I have learned a great deal about the History of Nursing Group's mission, dreams, hope and plans. Here are some of the recent highlights:

- International Nursing History Conference The first mailing of 200 letters was completed in January. The keynote speaker has been selected. An enthusiastic committee under the leadership of Sheila Zerr are progressing well with the planning for this event.

- B.C. Memorial Book The criteria for nomination to the book was presented at the March RN-ABC Board meeting. This project is under the able direction of Helen Niskala.

- The Scholarship Fund This fund has grown to almost \$7,000. A scholarship from the earned interest can be awarded in the near future.

- B.C. Archival Association The History of Nursing Group is now a member of this association.

- History of Nursing Group Committee Structure. The executive is actively evaluating the current committee structure to be sure that the goals and objectives of the group can be accomplished.

I have enjoyed getting to know the talented, knowledgeable, committed nurses who are your executive officers. I appreciate this opportunity to be guest editor of the Spring edition of your newsletter.

Beth Fitzpatrick, Vice-President

GUEST SPEAKER

Glennis Zilm of the B.C. HoN Group was guest speaker at the January meeting of the Manitoba Association for the History of Nursing (MAHN). Nurses in Manitoba who are interested in the History of Nursing have formed an interest group under the auspices of the Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses (MARN). They will function somewhat similar to the B.C. Group and hopes to begin a newsletter sometime in 1995. Glennis spoke on "Historical Research Methods and Issues."



NURSING LEADER DIES

Condolances are extended to the family of *Dorothy Logan* who passed away on February 16, 1995 at Lion's Gate Hospital. *Dorothy* was a respected member of the Saint John New Brunswick and Vancouver health care communities. A graduate of the UCB/VGH School of Nursing (1950) she held teaching posts at the schools of nursing at Saint John General and the Vancouver General Hospital. She was director of the VGH School from 1965 until her retirement in 1986. Since then *Dorothy* had been active in many alumni and professional organizations.

She was previously President of the VGH Alumnae Association and at the time of her death, was chairman of the Education Committee and a member of the Archives Committee. *Dorothy* also held the position of treasurer of the Nursing Division, U.B.C. Alumnae Association.

She was interested in nursing history and will be missed by her many nursing friends and colleagues. A memorial scholarship in her name has been created. Donations in her memory may be made to the *Dorothy J. Logan Memorial Scholarship in Nursing*, U.B.C. Development Office, 6253 North West Marine Drive, Vancouver, B.C. V6V 1Z1 or to the charity of your choice.

MUTINY AND MEDICINE

Planning a visit to Australia this summer? An international conference on the history of Medicine and Health will be held on Norfolk Island in the South Pacific Ocean July 2-9, 1995. Information available at 898-3156.

IN MEMORIUM

*Dorothy Jean
Logan*

*Monument
unveiled at St.
Vincent's
Hospital*



**DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
MEDICAL PERSONNEL FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA
WHO SERVED WITH THE CANADIAN FORCES
IN PEACE AND WAR
"MILITI SUCCURRIMUS"**

**THIS MONUMENT WAS ESTABLISHED BY
THE 12 (VANCOUVER) MEDICAL COMPANY UNIT
ASSOCIATION
DEDICATED THE 4TH OF FEBRUARY 1995
AND UNVEILED BY
THE COLONEL COMMANDANT
MEDICAL BRANCH, CANADIAN FORCES
MGEN J.W.B. BARR, CMM. CD, QHP**



*Nurses attend
dedication
ceremonies*

Pictured from Left to Right: Ruth McIlrath, Mariel Downs, Ethel Warbinek, Marnie MacLean and Tracey Robinson.

HISTORY OF NURSING MEMBERS ATTEND UNVEILING

The History of Nursing Profession Practice group was invited to attend ceremonies for the dedication of a memorial monument to honor medical personnel from British Columbia who served with the Canadian Forces in peace and war. The event took place on a spring-like day, February 4, 1995 outside the front entrance of St. Vincent's Hospital.

The dedication was attended by approximately 100 people, and participants included Major T.E. Speed, CD, The Reverend Harry Lennox, The Reverend Father Gorman and Major General J.W.B. Barr who unveiled the monument. Address-

ing the Chaplains and attendees Major General Barr said "I unveil this monument and bid you dedicate it to the Glory of God and in memory of all British Columbians who have served their Sovereign and Country in both Peace and War in the Military Medical Services".

Following the review of troops and dedication, refreshments were served in the Hospital and HoN members had the opportunity to meet many of the Nursing Sisters and others who attended (see picture above).

The monument is an impressive, tribute and well worth visiting.

Nurses' In/visible Practice

"The historical views of nursing are not a sound basis for contemporary nursing education"

Nursing textbooks are not necessarily a sound basis for analysis of who nurses are and what they do. Speaking at a January meeting of the History of Nursing Group in Vancouver, *Kim Macfarlane* said these "official versions" of nursing may even contribute to making real nursing care in everyday practice "in/visible."

She used the virgule or slash in the word in/visible to emphasize the way nurses and nursing has been and is portrayed.

Macfarlane analyzed historical and contemporary texts related to hospital-based nursing as part of the work for her thesis for a Master of Arts (Education) at the University of British Columbia. A main thrust of her thesis was to examine the disparity between nurses' actual practice and job descriptions and textbook representations of their practice.

In her presentation to an audience of 16 members and guests, *Macfarlane* identified four main themes from the literature that served as the foundations for the "contemporary in/visible practice" that she was studying. First, there is the theme that nurses are self-sacrificing and altruistic, always putting the patient first. Second, the nurse is portrayed as loyal, subservient, and unquestioningly obedient to doctor and hospital. Third, the nurse is frequently "de-intellectualized" and shown as a doer rather than a thinker. And, finally, nurses, because they were women, were portrayed as having an inferior character and as having to live down

promiscuity as a characteristic brought out in some historical versions.

She then provided a brief review of the history of Canadian nursing, showing how these themes were portrayed or prominent at various times. Given the controversial nature of these themes, *Macfarlane* occasionally sparked some lively discussion with various members of the audience who questioned the historical sources that had provided these insights.

The historical review and analysis represented only a small part of her research. During the second half of her presentation, she briefly described her research into the actual work that nurses do in various situations. Using observation and then detailed discussions and review of each situation with the observed nurses, she identifies the complex, interactional, and demanding "thinking-in-practice" that actually occurs as nurses carry out nursing care. A chief finding of her study is that the historical views of nursing are not a sound basis for contemporary nursing education.

Copies of her bibliography were handed out during the presentation. As well, *Macfarlane* has made a copy of the full 153-page thesis, *Exploring Historical and Contemporary Fragments of Nurses' In/Visible Practice*, available to the History Group. Anyone who wishes to borrow this can do so by getting in touch with Glennis Zilm (535-3288).

Glennis Zilm

BOOK REVIEW

North to Share, by M. Cantwell and M.G. Edmond. Victoria: Sisters of St. Ann, 1994. (soft cover, 308 pp., index; ISBN 0-9696563-0-0); available from the authors: 1550 Begbie Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1K8. \$24.95 Canadian plus \$4.00 shipping and handling.

Reviewed by Sheila Zerr

Sister Cantwell states this is a women-wise story of leaving, of reaching out and letting go, of recognizing times and needs, and of lighting fires and emptying the ashes. The Sisters of St. Ann went north to share their humanity. *Sister Cantwell* faced the challenge, served in the north for 43 years, then let go. Her story also portrays a scholar's attention to historical detail.

The book begins with the historical background of Alaska, the Yukon and northern Canada. The history of the missionary work of the Catholic Church and the Sisters of St. Ann (S.S.A.) in Alaska and the Yukon is outlined with the attention to historical detail that *Sister Cantwell* follows throughout the book. The chapters build on this format and set out to cover a section of the historical journey. At the end of each chapter, the significant time lines are summarized in table form. Present and future historians can thank *Sister Cantwell* for her attention to historical dates and detail. Primary and secondary sources of historical materials are meticulously referenced.

The chapters follow an interesting pattern. First, the introduction sets a colourful stage to each historical saga. Events are recounted in a writing style that captures the reader's imagination.

Interesting descriptions of people, surroundings, hardships and accomplishments are described. The reader is taken along on a journey in a most absorbing, entertaining manner. Numerous illustrations, maps, and pictures portray the unique environment, the people, native dress and custom, and the many Sisters of St. Ann and priests who served in the north. The chapters close with *Sister Cantwell's* descriptive narrative around a colour that best describes the particular part of the north.

Sister Cantwell has not only shared her extensive knowledge and experience of the north, but she has provided historians with a detailed, documented record of northern religious life. The book is a tribute to the immense dedication and courage of the women who met the challenge to go north to share and to provide education and health care to those they were called to serve, the people of the north.

MORE INFORMATION ON THE VICTORIA HoN CHAPTER

The Victoria "Chapter" of the B.C. History of Nursing Group has been re-established and plans to meet monthly for networking on history projects and to promote history of nursing goals. *Kari Moore* reports that Victoria members now have a regular meeting time of 10 am on the last Monday of every month. Meetings are held in the Alumnae Room of the Begbie Building of the old Royal Jubilee Hospital. For further information, call *Kari Moore* at 361-9746 in Victoria.

A women-wise story of lighting fires and emptying the ashes

SAVE THESE DATES!

May 7, 1995 2:00-4:00 pm

Spring Tea, sponsored by the Vancouver General Hospital Alumnae Association. Held in the Nurses' Residence.

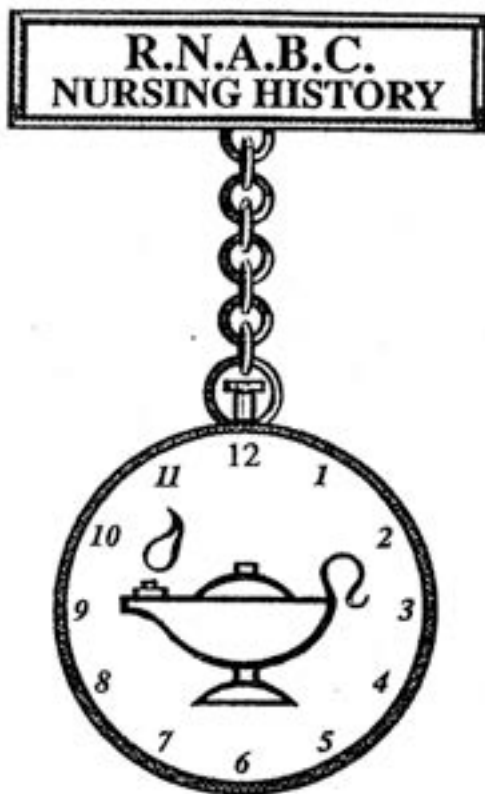
May 27, 1995 2:00-4:00 pm

Mary Chamard, guest speaker, History Of Nursing Group Meeting. Held at the U.B.C. School of Nursing

**History of Nursing Professional Practice
Group of the Registered Nurses Association
of British Columbia**

The History of Nursing Professional Practice Group provides a forum for those interested in the history of nursing to exchange ideas and information. The Group, formed in 1990, strives to stimulate interest in history of nursing and promotes study of and research into history of nursing in British Columbia. The Group also encourages the teaching of nursing history in educational programs and can assist in the preservation of historical nursing materials.

Membership categories are honorary, full, affiliate and student. For information about membership please contact Brenda Flynn at 939-1856.



THE HISTORY GROUP'S NEWSLETTER

The History of Nursing News is published irregularly four times a year by the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group of the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia.

Unsolicited material is welcome, but the Editor reserves the right to shorten, reject, or edit materials in consultation with the author(s). A-Z style preferred.

Guest Editor Beth Fitzpatrick

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