


# ◆ HISTORY OF NURSING NEWS ◆

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: TOUR OF WOODLANDS



**O**n September 9th, *Nina Rumen* and I went on a tour of Woodlands in New Westminster. The purpose was to view some of the heritage structures on the site. We were invited by the Heritage Working Group, through *Nina's* contact with one of our history member, *Deborah Rink*. It was a fascinating afternoon and both of us were amazed at the extent of the holdings. As most of you are aware, Woodlands has been downsizing for some years now and there are plans to close the institution completely. Although it was an informal event, we were asked for our ideas as to possible uses for the buildings. One of the buildings that caught the architect's eye was the 1922 Nurse's Residence, Lodge 85. *Nina* and I thought it would make a museum for History of Nursing! I have asked *Nina* to represent us on the Heritage Committee. We will keep you informed as events unfold. If any of you are interested in gathering information about the nurses and the care they gave at Woodlands, would you please contact *Nina*.

The executive held an all-day meeting in July and established the following priorities for the coming year:

⇒ International History of Nursing Conference in 1997

⇒ Biographies, including both biographical files and oral histories. (This includes development of the RNABC Memorial Book and nominations for the CNA Memorial Book)

⇒ Communication with members through the Newsletter

We certainly could use more help with these projects, so please give me a call at 538-5066 if you can assist.

By the time you read this we will have held our meeting in Victoria. Twelve Vancouver members are attending a meeting with the Victoria group on Saturday September 23rd at the Sisters of St. Ann. At last count there were 14 members attending from the Island. Look for a report in the next newsletter.

The RNABC Memorial Book is still on hold awaiting a decision by the Executive Committee of the RN-ABC Board on criteria for nominations and the nomination procedure.

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We have been informed that it is on the agenda for the October meeting.

Fall has arrived and it looks as though we will be having a busy and exciting year!

*Ethel Warbinek, President*

### Setting it Straight!

Location of Rare  
Nightingale  
Book

**I**n the last issue of the Newsletter, it was reported that a copy of a rare book by Florence Nightingale had been donated to the University of British Columbia's special collections. Dr. Lee Perry, reference librarian in the UBC Woodward Library, has notified us that the book, part of the collection of Dr. Claude Dolman, is not in the Library's special collections but is part of a special collection in the UBC Department of Microbiology and Immunology, and can be viewed there. It is recommended that you call the department to make an appointment if you wish to use this or other texts in the Dolman collection.

### MILITARY MUSEUM FACES UNSURE FUTURE

The impending closure of the Canadian Forces Base at Chilliwack, B.C. raises questions about the future of the military museum on that base. This military museum has been built for a local audience and contains historical materials highly relevant to a British Columbia audience. A considerable number of nursing artifacts are cared for in the museum such as nurses' photographs, portraits, uniforms, medals and documents.

The accompanying picture

shows a display of the uniform and medals belonging to Nursing Sister *Emily Edwardes*, 1875-1948. Sister *Edwardes* served during World War I in Greece, Egypt, England and Canada. She was rescued from the lifeboats of the torpedoed hospital ship, *Braemar Castle*. Sister *Edwardes* is a pioneer nurse in Vancouver and co-founder of the Vancouver City Archives.



At the 1995 B.C. Historical Federation Conference held in Chilliwack, members were requested to lobby each M.P. and the Minister of Defense to request that all exhibits remain in British Columbia, preferably in the present building, but if this is not possible that the contents be transferred to some other B.C. museum.

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History of Nursing Group members are urged to take action to save this museum by sending letters with a strong plea to federal officials. Let's keep B.C. history in B.C.!

*Story and photo submitted by Helen Shore, Past President.*

#### CLOSER TO HOME IN 19TH CENTURY LONDON, ENGLAND: THE CASE OF THE DISPENSARIES

Mary Chamard addressed the Vancouver Chapter of the History of Nursing Group at the May meeting, held at the University of British Columbia. Her lecture described a system of close to comprehensive health care which existed in London, England in 1770. In her talk, Mary described not only the evolution of the London dispensary but also the relevance of that institution to current health care initiatives in British Columbia.

The London dispensary emerged in 1770 as a response to the limitations of hospital care and medical services. Over the next 200 years, 130 dispensary sites evolved in and around London. From these locations about 5% of the population received medicines and medical advice, dispensed to community members who could not afford private health care. These individuals and families would be visited at home by qualified medical men. Although the concept of these visiting charities existed in other areas of the world, the origins of the dispensary can be

traced to London.

Chamard focused her attention on the following four areas of the London dispensary:

##### **Dispensary Types**

Between 1770 and 1950 there were two types of dispensaries operating in London. The general dispensary, founded by John Lettsom, was built on the concept of subscriber democracy. Affluent members of each community contributed funds to support the running of the local dispensary. In return for financial assistance, the donor was given the power to select "deserving" patients, manage the overall operation of the dispensary, and choose the medical staff.

The general dispensary was open six days a week and served 2,000 to 3,000 patients a year. Individuals with surgical, venereal, and psychiatric problems were excluded from dispensary care. The salary medical staff received ranged from nothing to a small gratuity.

The provident dispensary emerged as a response to the issue of unpaid medical staff in the general dispensary. In 1823 Henry Lilley Smith established the concept of a pre-paid medical care system, believing that those individuals who could pay for their health care should pay. Funding for the provident dispensary came from the patient who pre-paid a penny a day and from wealthy members of the community. The provident dispensary never really took hold. They were unable to overcome competition from general dispensaries and local general practitioners. In addition there was strong disapproval

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from the powerful British Medical Association.

#### **Dispensary Patients**

Although patient records are scattered and incomplete, a general patient profile reveals that the majority of dispensary patients were children and women of childbearing years, and dispensary patients came from middle and lower ranks of the working class. Coughs, stomach-aches, headaches, leg ulcers, skin disorders, and fractures were the most commonly treated conditions.

#### **Dispensary Work**

Statistics on the work of the London dispensary are sporadic. It is believed that the district nurses and medical staff who worked from this dispensary were successful in disseminating knowledge to local communities about personal and household cleanliness and providing health care as good as any available in the city. In addition they provided quick and effective health care when an epidemic threatened a local community and offered almost comprehensive services to local communities, a characteristic which set dispensaries apart from other health care institutions.

#### **Decline and Disappearance**

Although dispensary attendance increased until 1910, the institution began to decline and disappear as early as 1860. As the London transportation system improved, affluent people moved away from the inner city and those individuals who had provided funding for the dispensaries began to disappear.

Hospital outpatient clinics became more accessible and effective with the exclusion of dispensaries from the British National Insurance Bill. Finally, the medical profession organized itself around the hospital. Thus the practice of home care eroded and the dispensaries became marginal institutions within the London medical world.

*Chamard* concluded her talk by pointing to the relevance of the London dispensaries to current health care initiatives in B.C. The principle of care for the sick in local communities on which the original London dispensary was created is in fact the same principle on which the government of B.C. is developing its own 1991 "Closer to Home" initiative. *Mary* drew a graphic picture of the London dispensary. For those who take the time to study it thoughtfully, the picture offers an anchor and a compass for the journey on which the health care providers of British Columbia are now embarked.

*Submitted by Rhondda Morrison,  
Member-at-Large*



## THE EDITOR'S CORNER

A slight dusting of snow on the mountains, bright colored autumn maple leaves, and the noisy, hungry bluejays are the sights and sounds that distract me as I sit at my computer putting the finishing touches on the Fall edition of the Newsletter. First, important items from recent executive meetings, followed by news about members and history makers.

## From the Executive

President *Ethel Warbinek* announced that the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing Archival Committee is hosting a meeting on **November 22, 1995** from 10 am to 2 pm. Representatives from a variety of interested groups have been invited to meet with the archivists and share ideas. The History of Nursing Group can send two and possibly more members. Please contact *Ethel* at 538-5066 if you are interested in attending.

The Oral History Committee and the Biographical Committee **urgently** need new members. These committees will be working closely together in the near future and have many interesting projects. New committee members are well oriented to their responsibilities. *Rhonda Morrison*, Member at Large has joined the Oral History committee and *Brooke Richardson* is now a member of the Biographical Committee. Information from the oral histories and the biographies is available to historical researchers and historians. If you can help please contact *Sheila Zerr* at 943-3012 or *Helen Niskala* at 263-7344.

The Memorial Nursing Portrait Collection committee has had a busy year with showings of the dolls and speaking engagements at the Royal Jubilee Hospital Alumnae dinner in Victoria and at the annual RNABC meeting in Vancouver. In addition, the collection was on display at the RNABC library during Nurses Week. *Sheila Zerr* is completing a miniature of *Lady Aberdeen*, in honour of Josephine Dyer Rankin. The collection, established in 1991

raises funds for the History of Nursing Scholarship Fund. If you are interested in honouring a nurse or nursing history event by sponsoring a doll, please contact *Sheila Zerr* at 943-3012.

The Membership committee has compiled the enclosed 1995 membership list using a new computer program and format. Currently we have 76 members. We hope that you will find it useful for networking. The committee, under the direction of *Aime Karl*, is formulating plans for a membership drive.

The Newsletter committee held its first meeting in July. Members are *Glennis Zilm* and *Janet Gormick*. The purpose of the committee is to act in an advisory capacity to the Editor to ensure that the newsletters of the History of Nursing Group are professional and of high quality. The committee is chaired by the editor. Items being considered by the committee include improving the quality of the photographs and mailing costs. The committee is considering accepting historical or nursing history related articles for publication in the Newsletter and will be exploring this further.

## About History Makers

Malcolm Parry's "Town Talk" column in the Vancouver Sun newspaper recently mentioned *Beverly Du Gas* noting that "Appleton & Lange Canada published her and Emily Knor's Nursing Foundations: A Canadian Perspective in a field ruled by U.S. and Commonwealth writers".

*Sheila J. Rankin Zerr* has an article entitled History of Nursing in British Columbia Captured on Tape in The Canadian Journal of Nursing Research (Volume 26, No. 4).

*Sara Taylor*, a Vancouver nurse on a six-month assignment with the Canadian Red Cross in **Croatia**, was featured in a recent article in the Vancouver Sun. *Taylor*, who at one time was at the center of two days of shellfire, says she does the work because the people there need and deserve help. "Human rights and humanitarianism is the bottom line and that has to be respected. Without that, we're lost."



## HISTORY OF NURSING CONFERENCE REPORT

**C**olleagues, friends and fellow nursing history buffs met in Toronto June 23-25th, 1995 to share insights and good times.

The Ontario organization committee planned a full program of outstanding keynote sessions, national and international research papers, topped off with an entertaining social program.

The international content of the conference began with *Ann Marie Rafferty's* Hannah lecture "Founders of Nursing: Travel and Travail in Nursing Reform". I found the relationship drawn between the International Council of Women and the International Council of Nursing most informative. *Rafferty* also explored the role nurses played in the power structure that imperialism represented throughout the world. Much food for thought that could be applied to my work when looking at nurses' stories from Canada's north.

There were paper presentations from Canada, England, and the United States. The papers dealt with the historical, cultural and social factors of the foundations of nursing history and nursing reform. Of particular interest to me, *Malia Johnson's* presentation, addressing Margaret Sanger's influence on Senator Kato's work for birth control in Japan. *Barbara Keddy's* study of black female nurses in Nova Scotia caught my attention with the incorporation of oral history methodologies. *Ina Bramadat's* study (with *Janet Beaton*), explored the missionary influence of Canadian Caroline Wellwood in China. *Sharon*

*Richardson* presented the unique Canadian perspective of Jessie Turnbull Robinson's Lethbridge Nursing Mission from 1909 to 1921. These are a few of the highlights from the many excellent papers. We all hated to miss any of the ten to twelve papers presented in the concurrent sessions. We had to make some tough choices in choosing one session over the other.

*Kathryn McPherson's* luncheon workshop was a stand out for me. Her lecture provided stimulating questions and lessons to be learned from feminist theory and women's history. She inspired conference participants to consider the ethical and methodological factors inherent in historical research. I came away with many things to think about, particularly to question my approach to analysis of the stories gathered from nurses in Canada's north. *McPherson* stimulated me to question my sources, question the origins of the sources and question how to interpret the data gathered. She also made me think about the silences and think about seeking out added viewpoints such as the patient or client's perspective. The content of this workshop is applicable to the course I am teaching at the University of Victoria. I will share the lecture content pertaining to feminist methodologies for the study of women's history with my students.

The fun and social side of the conference was enjoyable and productive. Continental breakfasts provided informal time to discuss nursing history and network. Lunch

**Sheila Zerr**  
*reports on the  
8th Annual  
Canadian  
Association for  
History of  
Nursing  
Conference*

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and dinners were planned to allow participants to mingle or to catch a little Toronto fun. The hotel location placed us next to the sounds and delights of downtown Toronto, to say nothing of the fabulous shipping within a block or two.

Let me tell you about the banquet and play! *Isolde O'Neill* in "The Lady with the Hammer" provided a most entertaining evening and gave Nightingale scholars much to reflect on. The play, a one person show, was written and acted by *O'Neill*. Her portrayal of each stage of Florence Nightingale's life and work held our attention as she portrayed the many faces and moods of Nightingale. *O'Neill's* play is an excellent medium to inform the public of Nightingale's work. It was tough to play before nurse historians but I think the final critique was a great evening enjoyed by all.

*Meryn Stuart's* summary pulled the major conference ideas together. She left us with some important questions. The one that stands out in my mind is "should history become a guide for the present, or do we wait to see what is around the corner"? We can ponder and reflect on this, and the many other ideas shared, as we pursue our interpretations of nursing history in the future.

This was an outstanding conference. Rich in sharing and abundant in food for thought and future reflection. The planning committee did a great job. The most memorable moment of the

conference for me was a buffet supper shared with three of my former baccalaureate, University of Ottawa, students. Here I was, ten to fifteen years later, hearing about the student's plans for masters studies and theses around history of nursing themes, a truly golden moment!

(Readers can contact *Sheila J. Rankin Zerr*, 1-604-943-3012 for further information about the conference or for review of the paper abstracts).

#### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Included in this issue of History of Nursing News is a call for abstracts for the *International History of Nursing Conference*, jointly sponsored by the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN) and the B.C. History of Nursing Professional Practice group. The theme of the conference is **Sharing Nursing History**. Dates for the conference are June 12-15, 1997 to be held in conjunction with the International Congress of Nurses. Please note the submission deadlines. If you have already received a copy pass this one along to others who might be interested. Look for more information on the program and invited speakers in the next issue of History of Nursing News.

The Xi Eta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing is sponsoring the *First Annual Ethel Johns Nursing Research Forum*, to be held Friday, February 9, 1996

"Should history be a guide for the present or do we wait to see what is around the corner?"

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in Vancouver. The theme of this conference is **Challenges, Choices and Change**. Abstracts are invited for paper or poster presentations related to on-going or completed research, research utilization projects, innovations in nursing research or issues in the conduct and utilization of nursing research.

The Department of Nursing and Midwifery Studies at the University of Nottingham, England announces a conference to be held at the University, September 18-20, 1996. The theme of the conference that brings history and policy together is **Nursing, Women's History and the Politics of Welfare**. Papers are invited for submission on a variety of themes.

For more information on these conferences and abstract forms, contact the *Editor*.

#### **VICTORIAN ORDER OF NURSES PLANS BOOK PUBLICATION**

The Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada (VON), a national health organization and a registered charity, has profoundly influenced the evolution of health care in Canada since 1897. Many of the services first demonstrated as effective by the VON are mainstays of the Canadian health care system of today. In honor and recognition of this proud history, VON is writing a book to be titled **"A Century of Caring"**. Financial donations in support of the VON history book can be sent to: VON Canada, 5 Blackburn Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 8A2. A tax receipt will be issued for all donations received.

#### **HISTORY OF THE (B.C.) ARTHRITIS SOCIETY**

The history of the British Columbia and Yukon Division of The Arthritis Society has been brought up-to-date in a new book, *Building on a Dream 1969-1994*. This lively, well-written, highly readable book was written by Danda Humphreys, a former communications coordinator for the Society, and it picks up the story of the Society's activities from the time of the opening of the Arthritis Centre in 1969.

The story thus continues from a wonderful earlier book, *Never Surrender* by Mary Pack, published in 1974. Mary Pack was the prime mover in the founding of the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society and of the B.C. division. Her book told the story of the early fight against arthritis through to her retirement as the Executive Director in 1969. At that time, she had achieved a major dream—the opening of the Arthritis Centre in Vancouver.

The new history picks up with opening of the Centre and follows the Association's story through the next 25 years. It chronicles many further advances against arthritis, some of them also dreams of the indomitable Mary Pack, and closes with the renaming of the building in 1994 as the Mary Pack Arthritis Centre.

For those with an interest in arthritis or in history of health care in B.C., this book will be a welcome addition to your library. It can be purchased through the

Victorian  
Order of  
Nurses Plans  
Book  
Publication: A  
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Caring



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Arthritis Society (895 West 10th Ave., Vancouver, V5Z 1L7, phone (604) 879-7511) for \$10 (plus \$1.50 postage and handling if it must be mailed to you). As a special offer, the Society is also selling off its few extra copies of the earlier book (while they last) as part of a "package deal"; that cost is \$15 (plus \$2.25 postage and handling) for the two books. Pre-payment is required; make cheques to: The Arthritis Society, B.C. and Yukon Division.

*Submitted by Glennis Zilm*

## AS I RECALL...GLIMPSES FROM THE PAST

*Glennis Zilm* sends this advice, found in a 1910 *Canadian Nurse*: "It is not known to all nurses, says a writer in the Hospital Review, that flies and mosquitoes hate the smell of lavender. In my nursing I managed to secure sleep for a fly-tormented patient in the following simple way: Pour into a atomizer a teaspoonful of oil of lavender, add to this as much alcohol as will make a saturated solution. Lightly spray a pillow with this, and place it under the patient's head. If the flies are very bad, cover the eyes and nose and spray hair, night dress and bed clothes. Not a fly will come around while the odor is perceptible."

*Beth Fitzpatrick* found this advice for the home nurse in a 1920 textbook of home nursing: "Do not allow a visitor to enter the sick-room straight from the open air on a cold or wet day. Ask him to wait in an adjoining room for a few moments until his clothes lose their dampness and become warm. Visitors should be warned to put aside all depressing news, and be as bright and cheery as possible, bringing in with them a little sunshine and news of the outside world, instead of retailing to the patient the sorrows, sickness, or death of mutual friends."

*Mary Richmond* sends several interesting recollections, originally published in the Spring 1995 issue of *Interaction*, the newsletter of the Greater Victoria Hospital Society.

### Changes in communicable diseases

In the 1940's students in nursing were required to have experience (usually four weeks) in the care of patients with communicable diseases. Tuberculosis was common among student nurses and required long hospitalization. Poliomyelitis was a scourge. One young man, admitted when he was 21, spent ten years in an iron lung at the Vancouver General Hospital before he died in 1949.

The development of antibiotics and expanded immunization programs changed the course of these diseases and made the experience requirement obsolete. (It was appropriately replaced by a requirement in psychiatric nursing—for B.C. students this was an experience at Riverview, formerly Essondale.)

### Who should take blood pressures?

In the mid-1950's, as Director of Nursing at Royal Jubilee Hospital, I was confronted one morning by an irate general practitioner who objected very much to nurses taking blood pressures, wearing stethoscope, and therefore, acting as if they were physicians. "Taking blood pressures is for physicians." I was also confronted by a neurosurgeon who was equally irate because no nurse had reported to him a change in the patient's blood pressure! The development of neurosurgery and of cardiology helped answer the debate! As has the development of non-human monitors.

### In a lighter vein

In the 1950's TV was still something of a novelty. 3rd North has a 20 bed ward with a majority of male orthopedic patients. Money was collected for the rental of a TV set for the finals of the World Series Baseball Games and a pool (10 cents per entry) was conducted. Coke and peanuts available! I never won the pool but enjoyed the fun!

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*Beverly DuGas* and others review and comment on *Legacy: History of Nursing Education at the University of British Columbia, 1919-1994* on page 11. Authors *Glennis Zilm* and *Ethel Warbinek* are shown in the photograph on the right.



Nurse's stories are fascinating, unique and often humorous. We hope you enjoyed the new column "As I Recall...Glimpses from the Past. Please share your stories with our readers. *Beth Fitzpatrick*, editor, shown in the photo on the right, can now be reached by e-mail: [fitzpat@mountain.inter-net](mailto:fitzpat@mountain.inter-net)



A moving tribute to *Frances McQuarrie, 1914-1995*, written by *Esther Paulson*, begins on page 14. The photo on the right shows History of Nursing members *Joan Doree*(left) *Esther Paulson* (right) and *Keri Moore* in the background.



## BOOK REVIEW

*Legacy: History of Nursing Education at the University of British Columbia, 1919-1994* by Glennis Zilm and Ethel Warbinek. Vancouver: UBC Press, 1994. (Illustrated, 314 pages.)

Reviewed by Dr. Beverly DuGas

This book traces the history of nursing education at the University of British Columbia from 1919 to 1994. Commissioned for the 75th Anniversary of the School of Nursing, the book makes a significant contribution to the growing body of literature about our Canadian nursing heritage.

UBC offered the first baccalaureate program for nurses in Canada and, in fact, in the Commonwealth. *Legacy* provides us with an insight into the societal forces that contributed to the program's launching and have helped to shape its direction through the ensuing decades. Using the tenure of the school's directors as the organizing framework for the book, the authors tell the story of the School of Nursing. The historical data is brought to life with anecdotes from former students and faculty members and with numerous well-chosen photographs.

The book is well presented. The material has been carefully researched and the writing style makes it an interesting and enjoyable "read". In addition to being an excellent reference on the UBC School of Nursing, this is a book you will want to pick up and browse through from time to time just to enjoy the pho-

tographs—many will contain pictures of people you know or whose names you recognize—or to reread some of the delightful anecdotes.

.....  
*Sheila Zerr* comments:

"In my opinion, the outstanding feature of *Legacy*, that sets it apart from other works, lies in the unique organization of content. By using the tenure of each of the school's six directors to divide historical content, the authors succeed in capturing reader interest and in establishing historical events in the reader's mind. There are many other fine features to this work, but this innovative approach stands out most vividly in my view".

.....  
*Helen Shore* writes:

"*Legacy* is a treasure-house for learning of UBC School of Nursing's past. It is fun, and enlightening, to read of the early days, the first directors, the problems facing the School at every stage, and to browse through the wonderful photographs. I especially liked to learn of the approaches taken to solve the myriad challenges facing each director".

.....  
*Beth Fitzpatrick* states:

"The photographs in *Legacy* are awesome. They show not only individual people and groups of people, but also buildings of significance to the School and its students. The thoughtful analysis throughout the book helps us to understand the changing role of women and the struggles and challenges faced by our nursing leaders in the past 75 years."

**"Legacy makes a significant contribution to the growing body of literature about our Canadian nursing heritage".**

## MORE ON THE CHEMAINUS HOSPITAL

In the last issue, a brief note alerted HoN Group Members to watch for the mural of the Hospital if you visit the small Vancouver Island town of Chemainus, B.C., which is noted for murals on the walls of many of the town's buildings. Shirley Stinson and Glennis Zilm visited in June; Shirley took the excellent photograph and Glennis tried to do a bit of digging to obtain information on the hospital.

A lovely little history of the Chemainus Hospital was written in 1978 by Grace McLaughlin for a book published by the Chemainus Valley Historical Society.<sup>1</sup> Excellent thought the McLaughlin chapter is, it also reveals the pressing need for more historical research into early nursing in B.C. For example, Mrs. McLaughlin did not include the information on her maiden name. She graduated from St. Joseph's Hospital in Victoria and, with a group of classmates, sat the first examination for registered nurses in B.C. It seems probable that this exam was in 1918 and that she was, therefore, one of two "Graces" who graduated that year. (More could be found by some judicious digging if someone wants a project!)

McLaughlin's reminiscences offer some excellent insights into nursing in the 1920's. The information below comes from the article.

Mrs. McLaughlin was invited to join the hospital's staff as a second graduate nurse by a former classmate. This classmate was identified as a Miss Byrd (although I could find no one of that name in the St. Joseph's lists).

Mrs. McLaughlin came to the hospital in 1921 and remained on staff until 1926 when she married. As she lived in Chemainus, she continued to do occasional shifts of work when there were exceptionally busy times or shortages of nurses. When World War II broke out in 1939, she took a refresher

course at the Vancouver General so that she could help during the shortage of nurses. She took calls at both the Chemainus and Duncan hospitals throughout the war years and headed a Red Cross group of volunteers to make and pack dressings for shipment overseas.



Nurses *Graham* and *Johnson* with the hospital's cook

The hospital, typical of the times, was a training school from the time it opened in 1900 until 1925. Students took two years' training there, under the tutelage of the two or three resident graduate nurses and the resident doctor. For the third year, they transferred to a larger hospital (usually the Vancouver General).

The wooden frame hospital was built in 1900 by volunteers. The land, overlooking the ocean, was donated by the town's largest employer, the Victoria Lumber Company. Chemainus was a reasonably wealthy mill town of about 400 people in the early years of the 1900's, with about another 500, mainly Chinese and Japanese, living on the outskirts and working for the mill. Situated on the rail line between Victoria and Nanaimo, the town also

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has a snug, deep-water harbor suitable for shipping the lumber. Thanks to financial support from the mill, the hospital sounds as if it were a model institution of its time—but with all the interesting historical trivia related to hospital nursing of the time.

For example, when Grace McLaughlin arrived in 1921, the hospital did not have electricity and relied on coal oil and gas lamps. This meant the hospital had to limit its surgery to relatively minor operations such as appendectomies. Electricity was brought in through an auxiliary plant in 1923 and this was kept for emergencies after the town itself installed electricity in 1924.

The Chemainus Museum provides a bit of information on nursing care before the opening of the hospital. For example, Eliza Smith, wife of a deceased sea captain, came to Chemainus from England in 1889. She brought four younger children with her to live with her eldest son, who had come to the town a year or two before. The Museum's information indicates that she was a midwife, the first nurse/midwife for the district, as the nearest physicians were in Nanaimo and Duncan.

All this just goes to show that there are hundreds of history of nursing projects out there—and a pressing need to find, record, save, and index these resources so that others can find and use them.

1. McLaughlin, Grace. (1978). The Chemainus General Hospital in the early days (pp.305-317). In Chemainus Valley Historical Society, *Memories of the Chemainus Valley*. Chemainus, BC: Author.

*Story submitted by Glennis Zilm.  
Photo taken by Shirley Stinson.*

## MILITARY NURSES OF CANADA EXHIBITION VISITS KAMLOOPS

From November 4, 1995 to January 2, 1996

an exhibit which tells the story of Canadian military women will be on display at the Kamloops museum in Kamloops B.C. The display was prepared by the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses (AARN) Museum and Archives following a request from the Edmonton Unit of the Nursing Sisters of Canada, and was first seen at the biannual national conference held in Edmonton in June 1994.

The exhibition was on display at the AARN provincial building from June, 1994 to February, 1995. It will now be traveling to smaller centers across western Canada so that veterans, nurses, and the public will have the chance to enjoy the story of women who served with the soldiers, sailors and airmen of Canada. Many individuals and groups provided funding for the production and crating of the exhibit, including the B.C. History of Nursing group and several of our members.

Twelve Canadian nursing sisters who served with field hospitals in the North-west Rebellion of 1885 received campaign medals which recognized them as members of a military force engaged in a theater of active operations. Two groups of nurses from Canada served in the South African War and their outstanding work led to the establishment in 1901 of a Canadian Nursing service as part of Canada's military forces. Since that time Canadian nursing sisters have served in two world wars and the Korean conflict and have contributed to the health of Canada's armed forces in times of peace.

History of Nursing members living nearby are encouraged to visit the exhibit, take some photographs and send your impressions to the Editor, HoN News. Consideration is being given to having the exhibit on display in Vancouver during the ICN Conference.

*Information taken from the July/August 1995 AARN Newsletter and supplied by C. Lorraine Mychajlukow, Curator/Archivist*



**IN MEMORIAM Frances Ulva McQuarrie 1914-1995**

The following tribute was submitted to the History of Nursing News by **Esther Paulson**, Honorary Member.

Few nursing associates and friends of *Frances McQuarrie* were aware of her death on May 13, 1995. A brief obituary made no reference to her nursing career, stating only that she was the daughter of Dr. A.L. McQuarrie and sister of the late Laughlan McQuarrie and that a memorial service was to be held on May 24, 1995 at the Kearney Funeral Chapel.

The RNABC was also unaware until I phoned to ask if a representative would be attending the memorial service. This was not possible at such short notice and I was requested and agreed to do so. This preliminary notice was fortunate as a short time later a relative phoned the RNABC office for information on her nursing career. He was a cousin, Colin McQuarrie from Victoria and was advised to contact me as I would be attending the service. We had a mutual connection with New Westminster where he and other members of the McQuarrie family were members of the legal profession. Mr. McQuarrie was the closest surviving member of the family.

My association with *Frances* was through the 1940-1960's, our last contact being at my retirement dinner in 1966 which *Frances* attended as the representative of the RNABC—a strange coincidence as Mr. McQuarrie asked me to speak about *Frances'* nursing career at her

memorial service. Only seven people were present: Mr. McQuarrie and his son and daughter, and two staff members from the hospital who had been her care givers and two nurses—myself and Zoe Chang Wong. Zoe had seen the obituary and although unable to confirm identity with the nursing profession, she came to the service on the chance that *Frances McQuarrie* was the instructor so well remembered by her class at V.G.H. in June 1943. A small gathering to bid farewell to one who had made a notable contribution of nursing throughout her career from 1936-1970, when a major stroke left her incapacitated and dependent on hospital care until her death in 1995.

*Frances McQuarrie* was born in New Westminster in 1914 and attended school there and later in Mission, B.C. where her father had a medical practice. She graduated from UBC with a degree in nursing in 1936. She held several responsible positions at VGH where she progressed from head nurse to clinical supervisor and then as science instructor in the School of Nursing. In 1944 *Frances* joined the United Relief and Rehabilitation Agency (a resource organization to help with health and social problems in the war zone countries of Europe and North Africa).

She returned to B.C. in 1946 and became involved with the Canadian Vocational Training plan—

(continued from page 14)

a program to prepare ex-service personnel for return to civilian jobs. Many ex-service women who had worked in the medical-hospital field wished to continue in similar employment but no opportunity for training was available. The RNABC became involved and Frances McQuarrie was appointed to organize and develop a training program. A one year course was begun, based on three months classroom instruction and eight months practical experience in various hospitals. Frances taught all the classes and arranged for the placement of students in hospitals. The courses continued on an unbroken schedule from 1946-1948 until all the ex-service applicants had been accommodated.

The need for similar preparation for civilian services had been demonstrated by the Vocational training project and a joint planning committee was appointed with representation from the medical and nursing professions and from the education system. The chair was Lyle Croelman, back in B.C. after service with UNRRA and prior to her appointment as Chief Nurse for the World Health Organization (WHO). A one year course modeled on the Vocational course was developed and began early in 1948 at the Vancouver Technical School until construction of the Vancouver Vocational School (VVI) on Pender Street was completed.

Frances's career after 1948 included appointment with the School of Nursing at the University of Alberta until 1952 when she joined the staff of the Canadian Nurses Association National office as Assistant Secretary. She returned to B.C. in 1957 and was on the staff of RNABC first as

assistant Registrar, then as Registrar until 1968. A stroke at the age of 57 left her incapacitated and dependent on hospital care until her death in 1995.

*Frances McQuarrie's contribution to the nursing profession at international, national and local levels merits our remembrance and recognition. That thought is expressed in a letter to Esther Paulson from Pat Cutshall, executive director of RNABC, in which she states:*

*"I understand that the family members were unaware of Ms. McQuarrie's many contributions to our profession and were most grateful for the information that you were able to provide on that very important aspect of her life. I understand that you will be working with the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group to put together information on Ms. McQuarrie's contribution to nursing".*



**SAVE THESE DATES!**

November 4, 1995 to January 2, 1996  
**Military Nurses of Canada Exhibition,**  
 Kamloops Museum, Kamloops, B.C.

November 9, 1995 4-6 pm **History of**  
**Nursing Executive Meeting, RNABC,**  
 Vancouver. All members welcome.

**MARK YOUR 1996 CALENDARS**

February 9, 1996, First Annual Ethel Johns  
 Nursing Research Forum, **Challenges, Choices,**  
**and Change,** Vancouver, B.C.

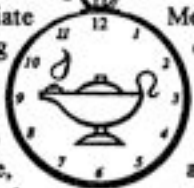
**HISTORY OF NURSING PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE GROUP OF  
 THE REGISTERED NURSES ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH  
 COLUMBIA**

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.

**R.N.A.B.C.  
 NURSING HISTORY**

Membership categories are honorary, full, affiliate and student. If you would be interested in joining us, please get in touch with any member of the executive. Full (voting) Members must be paid-up practicing or non-practicing members of RNABC. Non-nurses may join as Affiliate Members. Student Members must be enrolled in a nursing education program or be Registered Nurses enrolled in a graduate program.

Dues for 1995 are: Full and Affiliate \$20; Students \$5. Membership year is January 1 to December 31. Send name, address, telephone number, and RNABC registration number or name of the educational program. Make cheques to "History of Nursing Group" and send to: Anne Karl, Membership Coordinator, #1-2880 West 33rd Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V2C 1N7.

**THE HISTORY GROUP'S NEWSLETTER**

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E-mail address: [fitzpat@mountain-inter.net](mailto:fitzpat@mountain-inter.net)