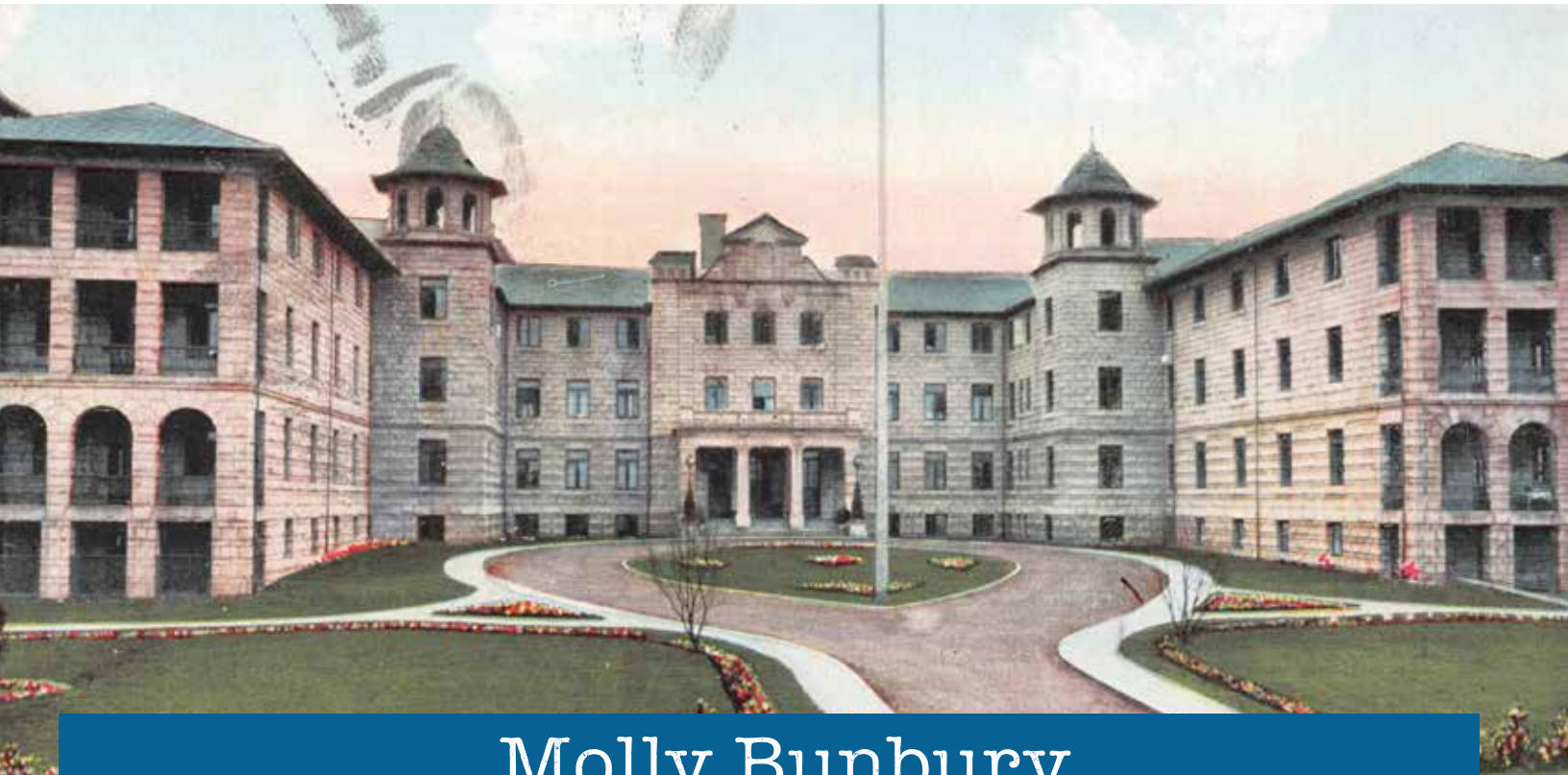




BC History of Nursing Society

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2022
VOLUME 33
ISSUE 3



Molly Bunbury

Later Molly Briggs, Vancouver General Hospital, School of Nursing,
Class of November 1917

By Irene Goldstone

One cannot guess Molly Bunbury's reasons for entering the School of Nursing at Vancouver General Hospital at the age of 21. The classic reasons might have been filling in time before marriage, a commitment to a career, or "something to fall back on" (as my father said to me). More likely, since she started training in November 1914 immediately following the outbreak of the First World War and she came from a British military family, her decision was influenced by a commitment of service to the Empire. Her brother, Claude, a forester, enlisted November 9, 1914.¹ Whatever the reason, she became a career nurse and worked to improve the health of British Columbians.

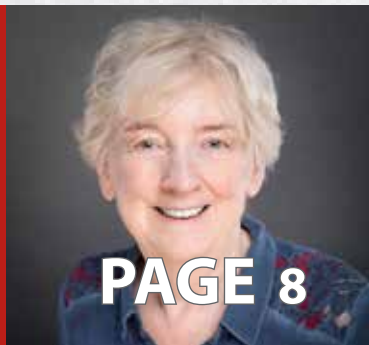
Molly's father, Walter Brooke Bunbury (1868-1960), was born in India of parents General Abraham Charles and Mary Waldron Bunbury. General Bunbury had served with the Bengal Staff Corps.² Walter Bunbury immigrated to Canada in 1885 and settled in Kamloops as a veterinary surgeon and farmer. Walter's brother, Charles John (1871- c1923), also settled in Kamloops. He had a career with the Northwest Mounted Police (NWMP) as Chief of Police in Kamloops and in several communities in BC. He served with the Canadian Expeditionary Force as a military policeman (1916-1918) in France and England and was a wartime poet.³ Molly's mother, Alice Maud Waters (1869-1949), was born in Jersey, Channel Islands

also in this issue

PAGE 8

PAGE 11

PAGE 13



IN THIS ISSUE:

Molly Burnbury	Cover, Pages 4-7
Archival Corner	Page 2
President's Message/Editor's Desk	Page 3
Angela Wignall/Marion Crook	Page 8
Tribute to Deanna McGookin	Page 9
Vietnam Women's Memorial	Pages 10
History of Jean Elizabeth Dorchester	Page 11
Nursing Sisters Dress and Military Uniforms	Page 12-14
News Information/Member News	Page 13

newsletter committee

Lynne Esson (chair), Beth Fitzpatrick, Ethel Warbinek, Sheila Zerr, Naomi Miller, Glennis Zilm, Lenore Radom. The BC History of Nursing Society Newsletter is published 3 times per year.

SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOME.

Deadline for the Spring Issue is February 15, 2023. Please send submissions to: esson1@shaw.ca



Archival Corner

Christine Charter (1913 – 2012) An Innovative Nurse in the Second World War and beyond!

NAN MARTIN, Archives Chair

Christine graduated from the Saint John General Hospital School of Nursing. Took a post graduate course in obstetrics at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal and received a diploma in Public Health Nursing at Toronto University. Well prepared, she moved to Vancouver and was Director of the Vancouver Branch of the Victorian Order of Nurses. Not sure how long she was in this position but when the Second World War broke out Christine returned to the East.

In Nova Scotia, Christine helped set up emergency treatment in the basement of a school for injured crew attacked by German U-boats. She was transferred to Toronto in 1942 and Vancouver in 1944.

Christine introduced many innovative Home Nursing programs; hiring the Order's first male nurse to enable eleven male quadriplegic patients to move from hospital to a home setting where she added physio and occupational therapy services. Christine also set up Vancouver's Meals on Wheels program! Find more fascinating stories of British Columbia's Nurses on our website: www.bcnursinghistory.ca



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KATHY MURPHY

As the leaves are turning from green to orange and red, we are supposed to be entering our Fall Season, but the members living in the lower mainland are still enjoying sunny warm days. The rains are really needed at this time due to this unusual drought.

Prior to our monthly meetings via Zoom, we have been blessed with a variety of speakers. In September, Angela Wignall, the Director of Professional Practice and Health Policy at the Nurse and Nurse Practitioners of BC, presented The CNO Movement: History and Future Possibilities for Nursing Leadership in Policy and Governance. Her description of the various models and global history of the position, as well as the challenges facing the newly appointed Canadian CNO, Dr. Leigh Chapman, led to questions and concerns in the discussion following the presentation.

In October, Marion Crook, the award-winning author of Always Pack a Candle, will join the group.

The Transitions Task Committee continues to examine the future of the society.

The website is regularly revised and always has the dates of the meetings which are on the second Tuesday of the month. On November 8/22, many of the members will be attending the UBC Nursing Symposium so the Society meeting has been moved to Nov. 15/22.



EDITOR'S DESK

LYNNE ESSON



Fall, is slowly around the corner, mornings are cooler, leaves are slowly starting to fall. It has been a glorious October; let us hope it last just a little longer. Feature article for this newsletter is a Article from Irene Goldstone on Molly Bunbury Graduate of the Vancouver General Hospital class of 1917. It is also the time of year when we pay tribute to our Veterans, with a focus on the Vietnam War.

I invite you to catch up on all the latest news and take a look at the BCHNS Website. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic all our meeting will continue to be held virtually, everyone is welcome to join us. See our website for details.

As always, we encourage you to submit your news items, stories, and historical photographs for inclusion in future newsletters. I want to thank all the members of the BCHNS for their ongoing submissions; their support makes the job of the newsletter editor an easy task. I trust you will enjoy this edition.

Please stay warm and safe this fall!



and immigrated in 1892. Walter aged 23 and Alice Maud aged 24 married in Kamloops in the summer of 1892.⁴

Early Years

Molly (Kathleen Mary Maud), the oldest of two surviving children, was born in 1893 in Kamloops⁵ as was her brother, Claude Douglas (1894).⁶ The family relocated initially to North Vancouver in 1904, and to the West End of Vancouver about 1910.⁷ As a widow, grandmother Mary Waldron Bunbury and an aunt visited in 1905 – likely from Fife, Scotland.⁸ Molly's father held a series of senior positions with BC Electric Railway Company. His work incurred high profile legal challenges when he and others operated a competing ferry service between North Vancouver and Vancouver. He was vindicated in court, became a broker, and held an executive position with North Vancouver Board of Trade.⁹

Molly's social life was reported when she attended several formal balls, wearing ninon (a lightweight sheer silk) over white satin at the military ball in North Vancouver (1912), the Brockton Point Lawn Tennis Club Ball (1913), and the Sixth Regimental Ball at Lester Hall (1914) in downtown Vancouver.¹⁰

Life as a Student - Vancouver General Hospital

At the time Molly entered training, Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) and its school of nursing were in transition. Helen Randal, later registrar of the Graduate Nurses Association of BC (GNABC), had been appointed matron in July 1912.¹¹ She immediately recommended to the hospital board that 17 new positions be created. This included an assistant superintendent of nurses, a dietitian, and one maid. A graduate nurse was put in charge of each ward. Prior to this, a senior student was in charge of each of the nine wards, with a graduate supervising each wing. With the exodus of nurses to serve in the First World War, senior students were once again in charge of wards. At the time, VGH was the second largest hospital in Canada, after the Toronto General Hospital, and had about 600 beds and 7 operating rooms. By 1917 VGH had expanded to 1,000 beds.¹²

Housing for students and graduates was an ongoing crisis when Molly entered the school. An extra house was rented, later a second house, and then a residence called the "New Home" was built. Historian Nora Kelly, writing the story of the school, cites Helen Randal's report of 1915:

*"The beautiful and comfortable home with its single bedrooms, quiet reading rooms and sitting rooms on each floor gives the nurses a chance to study quietly and live comfortably and should tend materially in improving their health both in body and mind."*¹³

The training school announcement of 1916-1917 described the Nurses' Home as equipped with classrooms, laboratories, and demonstration and examining rooms. Initially, students took classes for an hour in the morning six days a week and had classes two

afternoons a week. In the second year, nursing instructors gave classes in the afternoon and doctors gave lectures 7:30-9:00 pm. During the third year, 12 lectures in social services, community nursing, institutional work, purchasing, housekeeping, management, and private nursing were given. Nora Kelly describes the third year as almost entirely for "practice" – in fact it was service to the hospital. Staff included 25 graduate nurses and 180 pupils. Hours were long – 7:00 am to 7:00 pm for day nurses with 1-2 hours off during the day, a half-day off a week, and a few hours off on Sunday. Night nurses were on duty 7:00 pm to 7:00 am with a short break for a hot dinner. Three weeks of vacation were granted to students.¹⁴

Molly's brother, Claude, was reported missing in May 1916 at the battle of St.

Eloi Craters (Belgium) and was confirmed killed in August 1916, while "wrapping wounds of his fellow soldiers." He was 21 years old.¹⁵ The Battle of St. Eloi was the first major engagement for the Canadians and was a disaster for Canada and its Allies.¹⁶ Alice Maud was active in contributing to the prisoners of war fund.¹⁷

Life as a Graduate Nurse

In 1917 spring and fall graduations were inaugurated. Graduation in November 1917 was celebrated with entertainment hosted by the Board of Directors, a theatre party at the Orpheum, and supper in the "Blue Room" at the Hotel Vancouver. No identifiable graduation picture of Molly is available.¹⁸ Initially, Molly served on the staff of VGH. She had completed the St. John's Ambulance course in home nursing.¹⁹ During the influenza pandemic she served as a civilian nurse, October 1918 to February 1919, with the Canadian Army Military Corps (CAMC) at Willows Camp, Oak Bay, Victoria. Willows Camp, now Carnarvon Park, was a Canadian army training site.²⁰ The soldiers were conscripts training to go to Russia, a deployment aborted by the Russian Revolution.²¹ She was also reported as serving as a civilian nurse at the military hospital at Esquimalt.²²

In March 1919, Molly was appointed operating room nurse at Prince Rupert General Hospital at \$75/month.²³ The hospital was dramatically smaller than VGH - with 60 beds and a small school of nursing (1912-1938). The hospital had great difficulty recruiting and retaining matrons, staff nurses, and students. Molly seems to have been a self-confident person. There are few records of individual nurses asking for a raise in pay, but in January 1920, at her request, her salary was increased to \$85/month.²⁴

Molly resigned to marry Major (Dr.) John Alfred Briggs, who was described as "well known in the city [Vancouver]." The ceremony took place in July 1920 at St. Paul's Anglican Church, West End, Vancouver. Her parents were resident in London, England, at the time of the wedding.²⁵ Her nursing classmates hosted a miscellaneous shower in Victoria; their honeymoon was a road trip on

Vancouver Island.²⁶

John Alfred Briggs grew up in a prominent New Westminster family. Irving House, the family home, was built in 1865 and is a New Westminster heritage site. It may be the oldest house in the Lower Mainland.²⁷ John Briggs was a 1905 medical graduate of McGill University.²⁸ He had practiced in New Westminster until enlisting with CAMC in 1915 where he served in England and France as physician and surgeon with #10 Canadian Field Ambulance. He was awarded a Military Cross and returned to Vancouver May 1919 and continued service at the Esquimalt military hospital.²⁹ Following their marriage he practiced at the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria. Their daughter Claudine Mary was born in 1921.³⁰

The Armistice Did Not End the Tragedy of War

John Briggs was then appointed physician for the Masset Timber Company at Masset and later at Buckley Bay, Queen Charlotte Islands (Haida Gwaii), as well as medical health officer for the Queen Charlotte Islands in April 1922.³¹ The family were travelling from Buckley Bay to Vancouver by steamer April 14, 1924 when "...about 2 am Mrs. Briggs awoke to find her husband missing from the cabin. Evidently he had gone on deck in his pyjamas and had disappeared overboard." His military record describes his death as "drowned." No mention of shell shock or suicide is made in the newspaper accounts; no obituary was found.³²

A Career Nurse

Molly resumed her career as a staff nurse (1925-1928) at Bute Street Hospital, West End, Vancouver. She lived in the West End with her parents or on her own.³³ Undoubtedly her mother assisted with caring for Claudine as her parents continued to live in the West End until 1930/31. Bute Street Hospital was owned and operated by Mrs. Margaret Etta Johnson³⁴ and offered medical, surgical, and obstetrical services. Mrs. Johnson was a prominent nursing leader in Vancouver and in the province. The hospital, located on the northeast corner of Bute and Robson in Vancouver's West End, apparently had spacious gardens that hosted events sponsored by the GNABC.³⁵ In 1926, due to failing health, Mrs. Johnson turned over the role of matron to Miss Barbara Stott for a period of one year. Barbara Stott had resigned her position as matron of the Royal Columbian Hospital to support her friend and colleague.³⁶ Margaret Johnson returned to her position in 1927 but sold the hospital to private interests in 1928. Mrs. Johnson died at her home in Vancouver October 19, 1929.³⁷ By 1929, Molly Briggs had been appointed matron.

Molly Briggs became matron at an important juncture in the life of the hospital. In February 1931 the hospital was rented and seconded by Vancouver City Council so that VGH could use the beds for the care of "incurables."³⁸ The neighbours objected and wanted the conversion in services abandoned. City Council compromised by referring to the hospital as providing care for invalids.

Ultimately 19 patients were transferred.³⁹ Bute Street Hospital was to be staffed as if it were a regular ward of VGH and this may account for Molly's title in the 1931 City Directory as head nurse, VGH.⁴⁰ She was reported as supervisor, Vancouver General Hospital 1931-1933.⁴¹ Molly and Claudine then moved to Wells, a gold mining town near Barkerville, where Molly was matron of the local hospital until 1946.⁴² Molly is listed as nurse or head nurse at VGH 1947-1952; 1953-1955 her employer is listed as the Registered Nurses Association of BC. Note that 1955 is the last year the City Directory is available and tracing Molly's career then becomes impossible.

Claudine Mary died suddenly at home, age 38, in 1959 due to mitral stenosis. She was living with her mother near VGH. Claudine had been a switchboard operator for the BC Forestry Department for the previous 8 years.⁴³ Molly's father, Walter B. Bunbury, died in 1960. She served as informant on the registration of his death and erroneously attributed her uncle's, C.J. Bunbury, 25 years of service with the NWMP to her father. Molly retired aged 68 in 1961; she died in December 1962 and was living near VGH; she may have been working there until her retirement.⁴⁴ The informant on the registration of death was a friend.

Molly Briggs was part of an early generation of nurses who were born in BC, trained in BC, and served the province as career nurses. During much of her career, she was also caring for her daughter. The role of nurses raising families while working full time is under-recognized in our heritage and deserves attention and research. Although Molly was caught in difficult circumstances throughout her life, she had the resilience to give a lifetime of nursing service to British Columbians.

The life and times of Molly Bunbury/Briggs took place on the unceded traditional territory of the Tk'emlúpsmc (Kamloops and Wells), the traditional territory of the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples (Victoria), the unceded territory of the Tsimshian (Prince Rupert), and the unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples (Vancouver)

Acknowledgments

I am grateful to Naomi Constant, Archivist, Vancouver General Hospital, School of Nursing, Alumnae Association for her assistance accessing the archives. I am also grateful to Vicki Briggs, family historian, for insight into the Briggs family. As always, I am indebted to the editorial assistance of Glennis Zilm, with whom I am working on a History of BC Hospital Schools of Nursing.

Author Note

Irene Goldstone is a graduate of the Training School for Nurses, Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal (RN, 1966), McGill University (BN, 1972), and the University of British Columbia (MSc, 1981). She is a founding member of both BCHNS and CAHN. She can be reached at Irene.goldstone@gmail.com

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Cavers, Anne S. (1949). Our school of nursing 1899 to 1949. Vancouver: Vancouver General Hospital.

Kelly, Nora. (1973). Quest for a profession: The history of the Vancouver General Hospital. Vancouver: Vancouver General Hospital, School of Nursing Alumnae Association.

Photographs

1. Vancouver General Hospital c1905. (Postcard in private collection of Irene Goldstone.)
2. Claude Douglas Bunbury: Native son is missing, Vancouver Daily Province, May 2, 1916, p.18.
3. Vancouver General Hospital, "New Home". Courtesy Vancouver General Hospital, School of Nursing Alumnae Association Archives.

Endnotes

4. Library and Archives Canada. Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF), RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 1260 – 11 .
5. Item, Personals, (1905, June 21), The Daily Province, Vancouver, p. 3.
6. Henderson's BC Directory 1900; Library and Archives Canada, RG18, Volume 10041 and RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 1260 – 10 ; <https://www.canadianletters.ca/collections/all/collection/20819/doc/227>; Canada Census 1911 and 1921.
7. Royal BC Museum Genealogy; Canada Census 1911.
8. Royal BC Museum Genealogy. Two children died as 1 year olds in 1894 (unnamed) and 1900 (Kenneth Charles).
9. Library and Archives Canada. Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF), RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 1260 – 11 .
10. Henderson's Directory.
11. Item, Personals, (1905, June 21), The Daily Province, Vancouver, p. 3.
12. Promotion for Mr. A.H. Perry. (1908, November 13). Daily Province, Vancouver, p. 7; Davis and Martin cross swords. (1908, December 18), Vancouver Daily Province, p. 1; New ferry company for North Vancouver. (1909, January 24), Vancouver Daily Province, p. 1; Just what bylaw means. (1910, March 1), Vancouver Daily Province, p. 1; Asking for bridge over Second Narrows. (1908, October 7), Vancouver Daily Province, p. 2; Better ferry service. (1909, January 2), Vancouver Daily Province, p. 9; Opposition ferry to run pending trial. (1909, January 14), Victoria Daily Times, p. 2; Lengthy list for court of appeals. (1910, October 28), Vancouver Daily Province, p. 8; Why buy outside; (1909, May 15), Vancouver Daily Province, p. 34; Canada Census 1911.
13. Military ball was splendid success. (1912, December 14), Daily Province, Vancouver, p. 32; Courts forsaken for ballroom, wielders of racquets to attend dance. (1913, December 13), The Vancouver Sun, p. 8; Sixth Regimental Ball (1914, April 27), Vancouver Sun, p. 5. Lester Hall was a dance academy at various locations on Davie Street or on Burrard Street. See The Lesters and their dance schools/halls,
14. <https://vanasitwas.wordpress.com/2016/03/02/the-lesters-and-their-dance-school-halls/>
15. Helen Louisa Randal graduated from the Royal Victoria Hospital Training School for Nurses, Montreal, in 1903 and served as head nurse until 1905 when she was appointed matron of City Hospital, Rutland, Vermont (1905-1907), followed by several months of private nursing in Los Angeles. Before becoming Lady Superintendent of Vancouver General Hospital (1912-1916), she was Superintendent of St. Luke's Hospital, San Francisco (1908-1912) (deForest, 1994, p. 178). In 1909 she spent several months in Europe coinciding with the International Council of Nurses (ICN) meeting in London, July 1909. (Personals, Canadian Nurse 1908, 4(1), 42; see also Hospitals and Nurses, Canadian Nurse 1909, 5(8), 543 and <https://icntimeline.org/1899-1909/0018.html>); likely she attended the ICN. Once in Vancouver she was instrumental in advocating for the registration of nurses from approved schools of nursing. She was Registrar of the Graduate Nurses Association of British Columbia, later the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia 1918-1941. She was editor and business manager of The Canadian Nurse



Claude Douglas Bunbury: Native son is missing, Vancouver Daily Province, May 2, 1916, p.18.

- 1916-1924. In 1944 she was awarded the Mary Agnes Snively Memorial Medal (<https://bcnursinghistory.ca/dvteam/randal-helen-louisa-1872-1963/>). She died in Winnipeg, in 1963 (Ex registrar of nurses dies at 91, (1963, August 9), The Province, p. 6; see also BC nursing leader dies, (1963, August 9), The Sun, p. 44).
16. Cavers, 1949, pp. 23-28; Kelly, 1973, pp. 27-31.
17. Kelly, 1973, p. 31.
18. Kelly, (1973), pp. 34-35 provides considerably more detail.
19. Native son is among missing. (1916, May 2), Daily Province, Vancouver, p. 18. Dies while helping wounded. (1916, August 10), Daily Province, Vancouver, p. 3.
20. See: Battle of St. Eloi Craters | The Canadian Encyclopedia .
21. For example, Prisoners of War Fund. (1916, May 15), The Sun, Vancouver, p. 2.
22. Social and Personal, Fragments from VGH. 1918, January, 1(4), 26. See also photographs of the graduates with no names attached.
23. For home nursing – certificates for successful completion of St John's Ambulance Association arrive. (1918, November 14), Victoria Daily Times, p. 9.
24. Society and Personal, Item, (1918, October 16), Victoria Daily Times, p. 6.; Social, Woman's Work, Item. (1918, October 21), Daily Province, Vancouver, p. 8; Society and Personal, Item, (1919, February 18), Victoria Daily Times, p. 6; <http://spanishfluvictoriabc.com/october-attack/> .
25. <http://spanishfluvictoriabc.com/october-attack/>

26. Weddings, Briggs-Bunbury. (1920, July 9), Daily Province, Vancouver, p. 11.
27. Vancouver nurses at Rupert. (1919, March 19), Vancouver Daily Province, p. 11; Hospitals and Nurses, British Columbia, Canadian Nurse, 1919 15 (4), 1709. See also, Local News Notes. (1919, December 27), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 6.
28. Local News Notes. (1919, December 27), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 6.
29. Social and Personal, Item. (1920, July 10), Victoria Daily Times, p. 6.
30. Weddings: Briggs-Bunbury. (1920, July 9), Daily Province, Vancouver, p. 11. Social and Personal, Shower for graduate. (1920, July 6), Daily Province, Vancouver, p. 10; For Women and Home, Social and Personal, Item. (1920, July 9), Victoria Daily Times, p. 6.
31. <https://newwestheritage.org/m-irving-house/>
32. Cornhill, C.R. (1909). Graduates of McGill University, Corrected to July 1909. Montreal: Printed for the University, 1909, p. 57.
33. Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF), RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 1064 – 48 .
34. Royal BC Museum Genealogy.
35. New appointments announced. (1922, April 29), Victoria Daily Times, p. 25.
36. Dr. Briggs of Buckley Bay disappears, (1924, April 14), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 1.; see also Dr. John Briggs missing from ship, disappeared when Prince John bound from Queen Charlottes to Vancouver, (1924, April 15), Victoria Daily Times, p. 1. Canada Census, 1921; Dr. Briggs was born in Victoria in 1879 (Royal BC Museum Genealogy) he was one of 8 siblings (5 brothers and 2 sisters). Three brothers also served in the First World
37. War. At the time of his death he was 45 years old; his parents and younger siblings lived in New Westminster. No new details of disappearance. (1924, April 17), Daily Province, Vancouver, p. 26. No death certificate or obituary for John Briggs was found. See also <https://wearefamilybriggs.ca/category/briggs/> . Coroner's reports are closed for 100 years following the inquest. (Royal BC Museum Archives)
38. Henderson's Directory.
39. Margaret Etta Johnson was born in Truro, Nova Scotia (1871), trained at Boston City Hospital, School of Nursing graduating in 1891, and took over the Bute Street Hospital in 1912. She was active in the Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses and held executive positions in the Vancouver Graduate Nurses Association and Graduate Nurses Association of British Columbia and was a founding member of the British Columbia Hospital Association. She helped lay the foundation for Dr. G. M. Weir's Survey of Nursing Education in Canada. News Notes, British Columbia, Canadian Nurse 1929, 25(12), 736, and BC History of Nursing Society biographical files. <https://bcnursinghistory.ca/biographical-files-i-j-k/> and at Rare Books and Special Collections, BCHNS fonds, University of British Columbia.
40. Social and Personal, Garden Social is held by nurses to aid the crèche. (1923, July 12), Vancouver Daily Province, p. 18.
41. News Notes, British Columbia, Vancouver, Canadian Nurse 1926, 22(9), 489; News Notes, British Columbia, Vancouver, Canadian Nurse 1926, November 23 (11), 597; News Notes, British Columbia, Vancouver, Canadian Nurse, 1927, October 23 (10), 544; K. B. Stott was born in Kirkwall, Orkney Islands, Scotland in 1889; she was matron of Royal Columbian Hospital, New Westminster 1921-1926; she was superintendent or director of a number of American hospitals. She died in California aged 80 in 1969; a photograph can be seen on Ancestry.com Find a Grave.
42. Deaths. (1929, October, 21), Vancouver Daily Province, p. 17.
43. Suggest lease of Bute Street hospital, Vancouver General directors to ask government to arrange deal. (1931, February 22), Vancouver Daily Province, p. 11.
44. What is your opinion? Property owners protest incurables on Bute Street, (1931, March 5), Vancouver Sun, p. 6; Invalids for hospital on Bute Street, (1931, March 3), Vancouver Sun, p. 18;
45. Hospital branch ready this week. (1931, March 4), Vancouver Sun, p. 2; "accepted a position at VGH", News Notes, British Columbia, Canadian Nurse, 1931, 27(1), 36.
46. BC Directories.
47. Vancouver General Hospital, School of Nursing Alumnae Association Newsletters, 1938-1949. News from your Alumnae, Personals, 1938, 1(1) p 6. See also BC Directories, 1935-1947.
48. Royal BC Museum Genealogy.
49. Royal BC Museum Genealogy.



Vancouver General Hospital, "New Home". Courtesy Vancouver General Hospital, School of Nursing Alumnae Association Archives.

Angela Wignall

RN, BSN, BA, MA, Director, Professional Practice & Health Policy
Implementation (Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of BC).

We were pleased to welcome Angela Wignall at our BCHNS Board meeting on September 13th, Angela's presentation, accompanied by a very engaging and informative slide presentation, centred around her PhD (UVic) work: The CNO Movement: History and Future Possibilities for Nursing Leadership in Policy and Governance. Drawing on her experience in policy development, Angela discovered gaps in her nursing education and practice which stimulated her examination of the factors affecting the role of the Chief Nursing Officer. Her description of the various models and global history of the position, as well as the challenges facing the newly appointed Canadian CNO, Dr. Leigh Chapman, led to lively questions and concerns in the discussion following the presentation. Thank you, Angela, for this excellent presentation!



BC History of Nursing Presentation

by Marion McKinnon Crook
October 11th, 2022

Nursing in the Cariboo

Marion McKinnon Crook was our guest speaker at the Oct. 11th BCHNS Board meeting. Marion gave a lively presentation of her time working as a public health nurse in the Cariboo-Chilcotin area of British Columbia in the 1960's.

Her award-winning book *Always Pack a Candle: A Nurse in the Cariboo-Chilcotin* (2021) formed the focus of her presentation which included two very entertaining excerpts from her book, one about administering an infant vaccine through a very large syringe, and another about the mis-placement of an outhouse on a creek in a very small town in the Chilcotin.

The last reading gave us all a vivid sense of the tensions arising and the interpersonal skills required of a nurse in some of these isolated places. Marion let us know that there will be a sequel to *Always Pack a Candle*.

The discussion about nursing in this decade brought back memories from others attending. Marion also shared a power point with photos and maps of the region she worked in and pictures of Williams Lake. We all really enjoyed sharing similar experiences from our varied nursing careers. Thank you, Marion!

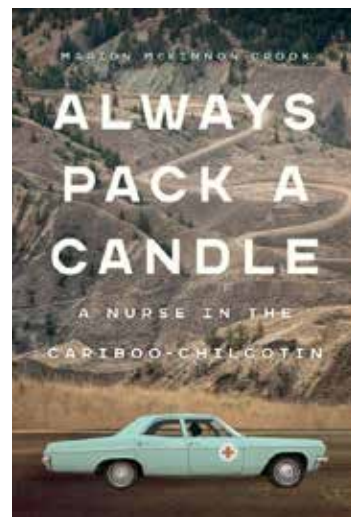


Photo: Duke Morse

Deanna McGookin

February 1, 1941-September 24, 2013

Deanna McGookin was born on February 1st, 1941 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada to Samuel and Violet McGookin. She was the oldest of three girls, which included Violet and Judith.

The family immigrated to the United States through Detroit, Michigan in June 1950.

They settled in Phoenix, Arizona where she went to West Phoenix High School, graduating in 1958.

By 1965, Deanna had become an Assistant Head Nurse in the local Phoenix hospital emergency room. This experience helped her learn how to take care of traumatic injuries and assist with the associated shock.

She joined the Army Nurse Corps (ANC) in 1968 and was given an assignment to Vietnam because of her Emergency Room experience.

Deanna, like many women during the Vietnam War era, felt an obligation to serve others who may not have had a choice as to whether to go to war or not.

The Vietnam War had more than 5,000 American nurses who served during its entirety. For the first time, 21% of them were men serving as officers in the ANC. Of these more than 5,000, most had less than 2 years of practice in their profession. The average age of a nurse during the war was 23.6 years.

The horrors of war must have compounded the already difficult task at hand, especially for those who hadn't experienced traumatic injuries.

Deanna's experience was the exception: "... I spent my year in Vietnam at the 67th evac in Qui Nhon, which was the headquarters of II Corps. The conditions were pretty much what I expected - but not the bulk, the quantity of the wounded. In Phoenix [Arizona, hospital emergency room], we were used to seeing one or two come in at a time. Now you were talking 50 or 60 at a time, with a wide variety of traumatic wounds. I had seen traumatic amputations of extremities from cotton-picking combines in Arizona. So that was not a horrendous sight for me, as it was for some others. The bulk ... that there were just so many of them coming in at once ... that was the issue for me. You had these helicopters land and there could be 60-70 casualties with various stages of injuries. Some of them might not have been as serious as others. It depended on the season. In Tet of '69 we were getting 200-300 patients coming in a day."

As her tour progressed, Deanna, like so many others had before, began to question the sanity and morality of the Vietnam War: "We all had questions as to what we were doing in Vietnam, why we were there. We didn't seem to be getting anywhere. Day after day, things seemed to be pretty much the same ... they'd take a hill, lose a hill, take a hill, lose a hill. Being in the age group where motherhood and children were a big factor, I think you do think: "What are we doing to the future generations of this country? What sort of genius would this blond young man have been had he been allowed to go about his life and do his own thing?" Most of the time

you were so busy, just literally, physically busy that--although these thoughts stayed with you for awhile--you soon forgot about them, because it always seemed like there was someone else coming in to take the previous patient's place."

In salute to the 'Nightingales'

American nurses found different ways to deal with their pain and the emotional wear and tear they experienced. Some found solace in sex, drugs, or alcohol. Most of them just suppressed the pain until they could deal with it later.

One of the more positive ways of dealing with pain was the way Deanna handled it: "It wasn't so depressing all the time, I must admit. We went on medcaps, medical missions to remote villages, places where there was no regular medical care. We did reconstructive surgery on children, gave them false limbs, and taught them how to get around. These kinds of things helped relieve some of the frustrations I was feeling."

After her tour had ended, Deanna came back to the states and settled back in Phoenix, Arizona. As with all veterans of war, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) haunted her.

She describes the affects PTSD had on her: "the young boy down the block had a car that backfired all the time. Every time it backfired, I was on the floor and under the bed."

Deanna would go on to serve in Afghanistan and attain the rank of Colonel in the Army Nurse Corps. There's no evidence that she ever married, a common thread with the other nurses researched for these articles.

Colonel Deanna McGookin passed away on September 14th, 2013 at the age of 72, having served her country for many years.

She represents the best of what America has to offer and her life is a tribute to the sacrifices that so many made to help the men and women who've faithfully served our country. May they never be forgotten

Taken from <http://www.historyisnowmagazine.com/blog/2019/3/10/nurses-in-the-vietnam-war-trauma-nurse-deanna-mcgookin#.Y086bHbMKUk>



THE VIETNAM WOMEN'S MEMORIAL

The Vietnam Women's Memorial opened in 1993 as the first monument on the National Mall dedicated to women's military service. The memorial project began in 1984 to honor more than 7,500 American women Vietnam veterans. The memorial was established not only to honor those women who served, but also for the families who lost loved ones in the war, so they would know about the women who provided comfort, care, and a human touch for those who were suffering and dying.

The memorial features 3 uniformed female nurses caring for a wounded male soldier. Each nurse is named for a virtue: Charity tends to the soldier, Faith prays for him, and Hope looks upwards for inspiration. The memorial reminds visitors that women have always served in times of war.

Sculpted by Glenna Goodacre, the 2,000 pound, 6-foot 8-inch sculpture portrays three women, one of whom is caring for a wounded male soldier. In the surrounding site, eight yellowwood trees were planted to symbolize the eight women whose names are on The Wall.

Adapted From <http://mallhistory.org/items/show/65> and <https://www.vvmf.org/topics/Women-in-Vietnam/>



JEAN ELIZABETH DORCHESTER

(NEE WILSON) BAsC

Honoured by: Frank R.C. Dorchester, Edmund G. Dorchester, and Gillian E. Schine



Jean Elizabeth Dorchester (nee Wilson) was born in Vancouver, B.C., on July 4, 1913. Her mother had come to Vancouver the year before from Greenock, Scotland, to marry Jean's father, who had been the organist in the same church in Greenock where her mother was a member of the choir. Jean always valued her Scottish heritage.

Their first family home was on 7th Street in North Vancouver, from where Jean attended Ridgeway Elementary. When they later moved to Angus Drive in Kerrisdale, she and her younger brother went to Magee High. Jean then continued on to UBC where she made life-long friends as a member of the Alpha Gamma Sorority, and where she graduated from the UBC School of Nursing in 1935. Jean always said that her best marks were in the operating room, but it was in public health and the schools that she received the most satisfaction.

Jean's father was employed by the Pacific Great Eastern Railway and would later become its General Manager. In 1931, when Jean was 18 years old, she and her mother rode the train to West Vancouver and stayed at the Clachan Hotel on the beach in Dundarave. It was at West Bay Beach nearby, that she met the man she would marry, Frank Dorchester, and together they spent the rest of their lives in West Vancouver where they raised three children. Jean gave up her nursing when she married but continued her interest in public health by assisting with vaccinations in local schools. She also regularly volunteered as a driver for the B.C. Cancer Clinic. Jean Dorchester died on October 28, 1999, at the age of 86. She had said more than once that she knew how lucky she was to have lived such a wonderful life.

Erratum by Irene Goldstone

Kate McTavish: Lady Superintendent and the formative years of the School for Nurses, Prince Rupert General Hospital

BC History of Nursing Newsletter, Summer 2022, Volume 33, Issue 2, Page 9.

Gremlins interfered with the correct image of the graduation pin for the School for Nurses, Prince Rupert General Hospital:

Graduation pin, Ida Giraud (later Gordon), 1938, BC History of Nursing Society Collection, Rare Books and Special Collections, University of British Columbia, Photograph by Dave Robertson Inc. (Private collection Irene Goldstone.)

The image shown in error was Esther Paulson's Dr. E Walker Memorial Medal awarded in 1928 (Royal Columbian Hospital, New Westminster).

M. E. Kidd, Canadian Nurse, 1908, 4, (11), pp. 536-538.



WWII Military Dress Uniform

Circa 1940s

The dress uniforms and the working dress of the Nursing Sisters of World War I had been blue leading to the nickname for the Canadian nurses “bluebirds.” Many wounded soldiers have said “the most beautiful sight, when you realized you were still alive, was the sight of those ‘bluebirds’.” Dress uniforms in World War II and those worn in the hospitals away from the battlefield areas continued to be basic blue skirts, blouses with brass buttons and insignia, and white apron and bib, plus the white veil, and a navy and red cape when needed. Of course the fabric for working uniform was cotton, not the fine fabric of this “dress” uniform.

The BC History of Nursing Society Archives has a number of Nursing Sister uniforms, some of them irreplaceable and too fragile to use in our costume parades.



*Nursing Sisters
Medal Set*

World War II Nursing Sister Uniform

Circa 1940s.

This authentic WWII uniform, of khaki trousers & battlefield jacket, introduced a much more practical uniform in the field hospitals.

A turban fashioned from a WWII Khaki [ka-ki] sling was also worn by Nurses in the front-line, who found these much more practical than the veil. The use of trousers and turbans by military nurses was soon followed “at home” reflecting and reflective of society’s attitudes to nurses and their roles in changing fashions.

As you see in the photo of Royal Jubilee Graduate Maxine Bredt, the Beret completes this uniform.



Public Health Nurses

Circa 1960s

In the early 1920s, provincial governments started hiring Public Health Nurses who could provide health care services in remote areas often those without hospitals or doctors, and in areas where a single medical health officer served several remote communities. It is interesting to note here that, with the first class of the UBC baccalaureate program, AND First in the British Empire under leadership of Ethel Johns, there were 3 students, and in their final year, they had 3 choices to focus on administration, teaching or Public Health they all chose Public Health

After the War, many of the returning military nurses took further education, either through the new post-RN public health courses offered at five Canadian universities or through VON or Red Cross programs for graduate nurses.

They provided post-natal visits for mothers and new-born babies, did school nursing, arranged for immunization to prevent contagious diseases, and supervised isolation of infectious disease patients, or often giving care to patients who could not be in hospital. Public health nurses often had the first cars in the community but many travelled by foot or by horseback or even by dogsled.

This 1920's costume represents heavy blue cotton, and could be worn with a cape or, in some colder areas of Canada, with a heavy blue coat. VON & PHN uniforms were similar with their PHN or VON badge marking the difference. They looked Professional from head to toe!!

Fast Forward to the 1960's and we still see a "professional" uniform, but easy care fabric, much shorter hemline and of course "The Hat" still making its Public Health Nurse appearance. This uniform was worn by the late Norma Morrison in the north and donated by BCHNS member Carol Harrison.



World War I Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) Nurse with Veil Head Covering

World War I Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) Nurse with Veil Head Covering

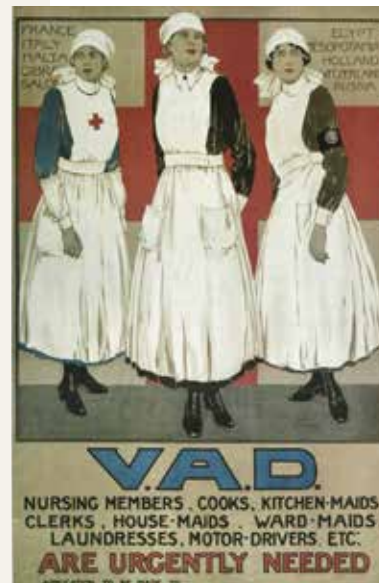
In World War I (1914-1918), nearly two-thousand Canadian and Newfoundland women volunteered to go overseas to help care for the wounded with the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD). In addition, about 25-hundred Canadian nurses signed up for military service with the Overseas Military Expeditionary Services of Canada later the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. The St. John Ambulance Brigade/Red Cross also sent nurse volunteers overseas. The bravery and dedication of all these nurses and volunteers established them as heroines and helped change society's perceptions about the roles of women.

Red Cross nurses and VAD nurses wore the distinctive Red Cross on the veil. Our uniform is a reproduction of the authentic and distinctive uniform worn by a Canadian nurse serving with the Red Cross in a British hospital station; the original is in the BC History of Nursing Society Archives, it is too fragile and precious to be worn. The apron, veil, and one cuff are archived other cuff was too bloodstained to be kept.

Most nurses who served overseas whether volunteer or military medical corps wore the veil-type head covering that completely covered the hair a British Style fashion derived from Florence Nightingale's "mantle."

Nurses of World War I were influential in causing women's hemlines to be raised; floor-length skirts were simply unworkable in the mud of battlefields. So nurses hiked up their skirts to just above the ankle, although that was modestly encased in a high leather boot, this bold move helped set fashion trends around the world and paved the way for the flapper look of the 1920s. Their roles and bravery overseas set the stage for a more liberated and independent woman, and helped Canadian women get the vote.

Note that our little cape has a "rose of Sharon" decoration on the back; the rose has various symbolic meanings associated with healing and God's love for mankind.



VAD Poster

MEMBER NEWS & INFORMATION

CAHN-ACHN Vera Roberts' Research Award/Bourse de recherche Call for Applications/ Appel à Candidatures

Submission Deadline: Nov 30, 2022

The Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN-ACHN) invites applications for the Vera Roberts' Endowment (VRE). The purpose of the VRE is to fund research, publication, or other forms of knowledge dissemination on the history of outpost nursing, broadly understood. Eligible project proposals may include a wide range of topics relevant to the history of nursing and health care in rural, remote, or northern communities in any geographical area.

More>> <https://cahn-achn.ca/vera-rob-erts-endowment-le-fonds-vera-roberts/>

2022 NURSING HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

Public Health and Pandemic Caring in Context
Speaker: Dr. Esyllt Jones, University of Manitoba

November 8, 2022 at 9:30 am PT at the Cecil Green Park House
(\$10 admission - lunch will be served) and online via Zoom (free)*

More>> <https://nursing.ubc.ca/events/2022/nursing-history-symposium>

CAHN-ACHN-Margaret .M. Allemang Scholarship- ACHN/ CAHN Bourse d'étudiant(e) Margaret M. Allemang Call for Applications/ Appel à Candidatures

Submission Deadline: March 31, 2023

The Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN-ACHN) invites applications for the Dr. Margaret Allemang Scholarship for Nursing History.

The purpose of the Dr. Allemang Scholarship is to promote the study of Canadian nursing history among students.

More>> <https://cahn-achn.ca/margaret-m-allemang-scholarship-bourse-detudiante-margaret-m-allemang/>

Ethel Warbinek Gives Two Presentations

Member Ethel Warbinek gave a Brown Bag lecture at the Penticton Museum on October 18, 2022.

Ethel Warbinek, "Fashion Shows, Dinners, Dances, and Raffles", British Columbia History, Fall 2022, 55 (3), 32-34. The article describes the dedicated work of the women who were members of Penticton's Hospital Auxiliary for the years 1950- 1980.



Presented by Ethel Warbinek

Ethel Warbinek will talk about her trips to Japan in 2015 and 2020. Join Ethel as she shares her adventures in Tokyo, Kyoto and Nikko, including a stay at a historic Japanese Inn. She experienced a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, visited peaceful gardens and temples, viewed graceful cherry trees, and enjoyed fabulous food. Ethel is a cherished volunteer with the Penticton Museum & Archives.

The Brown Bag Lecture Series is an opportunity to spice up your lunch hour with interesting presentations and discussions on a variety of heritage and culture topics.

Tuesdays from noon - 1pm Museum Auditorium (785 Main St). Admission is by donation. Suggested donation is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children. For more information contact: 250-490-3431 or chandra.wong@penticton.ca



Book: River of Mists: People of the Upper Skeena, 1821-1930 By Geoff Mynett LLB

A collection of extraordinary stories about ordinary people from BC's wild frontier.

In *River of Mists*, best-selling author and award-winning historian Geoff Mynett returns to the Skeena River community of Hazelton to shed new light on the wide spectrum of characters who left their mark on the area. Delving as far back in time as the early 1820s, Mynett covers over a century of change in the small community which, due to its location at the forks of the Skeena and Bulkley rivers and proximity to mountain ranges, seems destined to be a hub of activity—always industrious, often prosperous, and occasionally scandalous—while maintaining the charming nature of a small town.

The characters in *River of Mists* may not be those traditionally associated with the written history of the region now known as Hazelton, BC. Here are the stories of those whose lives left some mark on the community—visitors like Hudson's Bay Company trader Simon McGillivray, Western Union Telegraph medical officer George Chismore, and famed painter Emily Carr; and the lesser known pioneers, prospectors, and longtime residents like HBC agent turned local business owner Thomas Hankin, and Bishop William Ridley and Jane Ridley, founders of the Hazelton Queek, named after the whistling mountain marmot.

Combining folksy, small-town charm and meticulous research, Mynett's *River of Mists: People of the Upper Skeena, 1821-1930* is a whimsical and informative chronicle of a century in the heart of Northern BC.

Taken from this source <https://caitlin-press.com/our-books/river-of-mists/>

PUBLISHED THREE TIMES A YEAR
BC History of Nursing Society

Special thanks to all who contributed to this issue of the BCHNS newsletter
Next Meeting: November 15, 2022

Articles, news, and ideas for items to be included in the Spring 2023 Feb 15th issue should be sent to
Lynne Esson: esson1@shaw.ca