



The Pages of History:

In Honour of Dorothy E. Nagle (nee McDougall), 1927 - 2022

Sponsored by Nagle Family

Following high school, Dorothy began a new adventure, studying for three years at the Providence Hospital in Moose Jaw, and graduating as a Registered Nurse in 1949. She loved her years of training where she met many of her close, life-long friends. Once again, Dorothy began a new pursuit. She moved to Vancouver to work at the Vancouver General Hospital in various areas of nursing, including the then new area

of open-heart surgery where she was thrilled to be part of the team.

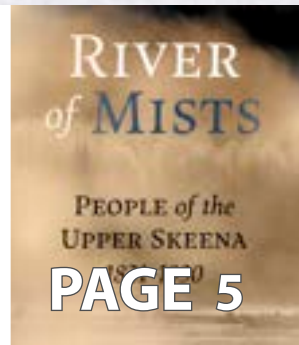
Dorothy married a childhood friend. The young couple married and moved back to Kincaid, Saskatchewan where she became the Matron of the local 20-bed hospital and her husband Clayton owned the local Rexall Pharmacy. Life on the Prairies gave them many friends and eventually, four children.

1964 the family moved to Coquitlam, BC. Dorothy continued nursing, working at the Valleyview Hospital as a Head Nurse

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newsletter committee

Geertje Boschma, Michelle Danda and Lenore Radom.
The BC History of Nursing Society Newsletter is published 2 times per year.

SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOME.

Deadline for the Spring Issue is March 15, 2024.
Please send submissions to: lenoremail@shaw.ca



Archival Corner

Another nurse's story! Trenna Hunter (1906 – 1996)

NAN MARTIN, Archives Chair

Trenna was born in Brandon, Manitoba, and taught in one room schools in Alberta for thirteen years before graduating with an RN diploma from Vancouver General Hospital and receiving a certificate in public health nursing from the UBC School of Nursing in 1940.

From September 1940 to March 1942, she oversaw health services for the Japanese Canadians interned at Hastings Park.

She received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1944 and was appointed Director of Nursing for the Metropolitan Health Services where she worked until her retirement in 1966. Trenna played a prominent role in the development of the industrial health consultant service in Vancouver. From 1948 to 1950 she chaired the National Committee on Public Health Nursing.

After serving in vice presidential positions for nine years, she became president of the Canadian Nurses Association in 1956, leading the Canadian delegation to the International Congress of Nursing in Rome in 1957.

We proudly tell many other nurses' stories in the Biographical files section of our website: www.bcnursinghistory.ca



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Geertje Boschma

Hello Everyone!

With an exciting outcome at our 2023 Annual General Meeting in April, to continue and move forward with the BCHNS as a vital and viable society dedicated to the history of nursing in BC, we are pleased to present to you the Fall 2023 BCHNS Newsletter. As longstanding member and chair of the Archives committee, Nan Martin, put it well: "there was a new awakening of interest in keeping the BC History of Nursing Society viable"! We presented the new board to you in our 2023 Summer Bulletin, formed by Lenore Radom, Michelle Danda, Geertje Boschma, Nan Martin, Linda Quiney, and Margaret Scaia. We are also pleased that Suzanne Nixon has joined Nan Martin on the Archives committee. They jointly look after the archives and the artifact collection, supporting its preservation and working with Linda Quiney on regular displays. Similarly, this newsletter is the result of joint work. Lenore, Michelle and Geertje gathered material and for the lay-out we drew on the expertise of graphic designer Cassidy Mantle.



We held our final meeting of the 2022-2023 season via zoom on June 13. Jasmine Yong presented an interesting talk on *The Accidental Hero: A Critical Analysis of Heroism in Nursing Practice*. She spoke about her nursing history project she had completed for her MSN degree with supervision of Dr. Lydia Wytenbroek. It generated a stimulating discussion on the way heroism is understood and taken up in nursing, in the past as well as in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. Our first fall meeting will be held on October 10, on zoom, and we look forward to a presentation by Ruth Derksen on her book, "Daughters in the City: Mennonite Maids in Vancouver, 1931-61" published by Fernwood Press. For more info on the book, please see: <https://abcbookworld.com/writer/ruth-derksen-siemens/>. Please be invited. Make sure to RSVP through 'Contact Us' on the website to receive the link to the meeting.

On a final note, we welcome applications for the BCHNS Bursary: Application due dates: March 31 or November 30. See our website: <https://bcnursinghistory.ca/bursaries/> – spread the word! Contributions for future newsletters are also welcome. For example, please let us know if you identify a nurse who has passed away for nomination to the provincial and national Memorial Books for their leadership, or if you have a book review or event report, as you will find in this newsletter contributed by members Ethel Warbinek and Nan Martin. We much appreciate member input. Finally, yet importantly, the website and communications committee keeps the BCHNS website up to date, taking note of our activities and news of note in nursing history: <https://bcnursinghistory.ca/> Have a look!

Geertje

and Supervisor until her retirement in 1984. She enjoyed her patients and co-workers and made many close friends. Dorothy's nursing career was a central part of her life and identity.

Dorothy so Loved her nursing career! She always commented that "if she could choose any career and do it all over again, she would choose exactly the career she had!"

A special project was publishing a memoir describing the early years of medicine and nursing in the Kincaid area along with her nursing training experiences. The memoir was entitled: "For the Love of Nursing", T.L.C., Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow [Author Dorothy Nagle RN].

<https://bcnursinghistory.ca/dorothy-ellen-nagle-mcdougall/>



[photo of Dorothy Nagle]

In Honour of Joan Gallacher, 1939 - 2023

Sponsored by friend Sharron Higgins

Joan Gallacher was born in Kincaid, Saskatchewan, on May 31, 1939. Poor during the Depression, she rode bareback to school wearing a dress sewn from a flour sack. At the age of 18 years, she left the farm and moved to Winnipeg to attend the St. Boniface Hospital School of Nursing.

Within 3 years she was managing an 80-bed Medical-Surgical ward. Joan then moved to Comox, BC to practice Public Health Nursing. A field she remained in, throughout her 40-year career in Victoria, Ottawa, and Vancouver. During that time, she earned a BScN from the University of Victoria, and a Masters in Nursing Science from the University of Port-

land, Oregon.

Professionally, Joan was always interested in health promotion and prevention in a broader capacity rather than the curative model of health care. In 1983, The Registered Nurses Association of BC asked for volunteers to start up an interest group that would promote community health nursing. Joan stepped up and formed a small provincial group named the "Community Health Interest Group of BC."

In 1990, when they moved to Ottawa for Dan's career at the National Museum of Civilization, Joan continued her career path by proudly working for the Canadian Nurses Association actively leading a prominent research project promoting Community Health.

Joan and her husband Dan were married for 57 years. Together they raised children, built careers, owned their home, played bridge, enjoyed nature, travelled throughout Canada, U.S, Europe, surmounted challenges, and saw dreams come to fruition. Joan was proud of the fact that their marriage remained strong throughout their lives.

<https://bcnursinghistory.ca/joan-gallacher/>



[photo of Joan Gallacher]

BOOK REVIEW: RIVER OF MISTS

PEOPLE OF THE UPPER SKEENA 1821-1930

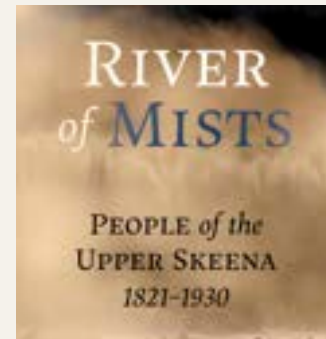
BY GEOFF MYNETT, (CAITLIN PRESS INC 2022)

BY ETHEL WARBINEK

River of Mists is a Gitksan word for the Skeena River and is the title of Geoff Mynett's fourth book. The Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en people have lived in the Upper Skeena area for eons. This well researched book portrays the lives of early settlers who lived in Hazelton, or who merely passed through, from the early 1800s to the 1930s. Hazelton - originally called "The Forks"- is one of the oldest settlements in BC. The town, founded in 1871, is situated at the merging of the Skeena and Bulkley Rivers. Its name may be derived from the profusion of Hazel bushes in the area. The first non-Indigenous people arrived in the early 1800s, and traded with Indigenous people, often exchanging furs for guns and tools. These initial contacts were amicable and remained until the lure of gold brought an influx of prospectors seeking fame and fortune at the Omineca gold fields- 1863-1873. Some miners made their fortunes, but most met with disappointment, hunger, and despair. The accounts in this book are heart wrenching. Hazelton was a rough, lawless town where alcoholism was rampant. Illegal sale of alcohol, especially on the reserves, was a serious problem. Although a provincial police officer was assigned to the area, little improved, and overnight the local goal was usually full. Medical care was non-existent - no doctors nor nurses for miles. Settlers had limited medical knowledge, hoping someone would have access to a medical chest with rudimental supplies. Help was also sought from the Indigenous people who had knowledge of local remedies.

Travel was impossible during the winter months as the rivers were frozen over. This all changed when Dr Harold Wrinch and his wife, Alice, arrived in 1900. A chapter is devoted to their work. He was the first resident doctor and Alice the first qualified nurse. Their mission was to provide medical services for the people on the Upper Skeena. They settled in Hazelton and started raising money to build a 22-bed hospital. Completed in 1904, it was the first hospital in Northern BC. Due to challenges recruiting and maintaining qualified nurses, the couple opened a school of nursing in 1904. It closed in 1936. Dr Wrinch was described as doctor, Methodist minister, magistrate, community leader, and politician (BC Government). The chapter describes Wrinch's work, information on the School, curriculum, and early graduates. The couple had five children. Unfortunately, Alice died in 1923 and in 1927 Wrinch married May Hogan. May was a qualified nurse as well, who in 1912 became superintendent of nurses until enlisting as a nursing sister during World War One. Upon her return to Hazelton she became secretary to the Hospital. Dr

Wrinch retired in 1936 and the couple moved to Vancouver. He died there in 1939, and May, after moving to New Westminster, died there in 1945. In 1939 the Hazelton Hospital was renamed the Wrinch Memorial Hospital.



The book includes 26 chapters featuring stories of those who lived/worked in Hazelton. The following chapters may be of interest to our members: Constance Cox and the Nurses of Hazelton Hospital, Emily Carr and the Totem Poles of the Skeena, and May Hogan, the Woman From Hazelton Who Went To War. I found the chapter on Emily Carr especially interesting. She arrived in 1912 and was enchanted with the beauty of the forests. She drew and painted totem poles and the villages of the Gitksan people. In 1928 Carr returned and continued painting the forests and totem poles. In this way she preserved the Gitksan culture in and around Hazelton, honouring its rich identity. An intriguing account is the construction of the famous Indigenous bridges which spanned the rivers and creeks. They were built of logs – only fastened with strings of bark and roots. Included is a story of a missionary who attempted to cross one of these bridges and was terrified. He crawled part way across thinking he would plunge to his death in the raging river below. Indigenous bystanders encouraged him even offering to carry him across. He opted for another route. None of these creative bridges remain – a pity.

Summary- if you are interested in small town local histories then this book fits the bill. For information on women who traveled to remote towns such as Hazelton and Dawson City during this time and were major figures in establishing these towns, you may enjoy reading *Good Time Girls of the Alaska-Yukon Gold Rush* by Lael Morgan (Epicenter Press 2017), 351 pages, illustrated. --
Ethel Warbinek

Joint Conference of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN-ACHN) and the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine (CSHM-SCHM)

May 27-29, 2023 at the Congress in Toronto!

In May, the CAHN-ACHN and CSHM-SCHM met jointly at the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences held at York University in Toronto. It was the first time the two societies met again in-person after several years of meeting online due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It was a great opportunity to reconnect, meet members, colleagues, friends, and students. Lively and diverse presentations and symposia given by a wide range of medical and nursing history scholars and students generated an inspiring conference in health history. For a peak at the full program and booklet of abstracts, visit the CAHN-ACHN website: <https://cahn-achn.ca/tag/cshmschm/>

The conference theme was “Reckoning and Re-Imagining Health Histories”, inviting papers to address new work that would go beyond accepted segmentations in the field of health history and consider new topics and perspectives.

In relation to this theme, a group of four, doctoral student Ismalia De Sousa, MSN student Kyra Philbert, both of the School of Nursing at UBC (Vancouver), and Dr. Lydia Wytenbroek and Dr. Geertje Boschma, also from UBC-Vancouver, delivered the annual Hannah Lecture in the form of a panel and conversation. In the panel, entitled, “What Got Us Here Won’t Get Us There: Reckoning & Re-Imagining Black Canadian Nursing Histories”, they presented new work and possibilities related to histories of Blackness and Black nurses in Canadian nursing history. It generated a lively discussion with the audience. Dr. Sanjoy Bhattacharya, Professor of Medical and Global Health Histories within the School of History at the University of Leeds in the UK, gave the annual Patterson lecture drawing on his research of national, international and global health policy history across South Asia. His lecture was entitled, “Ideas, Adaptive Implementation

and Smallpox Eradication: Reorienting notions of value and worth in global health.”

Of note were two student prizes for best student paper and presentation. Emily Kaliel, graduate student from the University of Guelph won the Segall Prize for her paper: “Rather Isolated Communities Remote from Medical Aid”: Changing Public Health Landscapes in Alberta at Mid-20th century.” Ugurgul Tunc, graduate student from Koç University in Turkey won the Vicky Bach prize for her paper: “From Montreal to Istanbul: Nurses’ Residential Architecture across Diverse Geographies.” Great papers among many valuable student contributions.



[photo of Hannah Panel presenters – Ismalia De Sousa joined virtually, and is on the screen in the photo. Standing from left to right, Geertje, Kyra and Lydia]

BC Historical Federation Annual Conference

By Nan Martin

BC Historical Federation Annual Conference & AGM

Each year local historians, academics, history buffs, Knowledge Keepers, museum professionals and members of the public gather together in a BC community to share, learn and connect with one another on topics of British Columbia history.

Princeton, July 20 – 23, 2023

Hosted by the Princeton and District Museum, the 2023 BCHF Conference was held in beautiful Princeton, which is located on the territory of the Syilx and Nte?kepmx Tmix communities.

As the contact for our society, I was pleased to represent the BC History of Nursing Society at the AGM (which was held separately on June 3, 2023, via Zoom) where I presented our society's report. It was my pleasure to also attend the conference filled with an excellent selection of unique presentations. All presentations were recorded and will be available for viewing on BCHF's You Tube channel. There was also a bus trip to the historic Grist Mill and Hedley Museum as well as an optional visit to the ghost town of Granite Creek Site.



The Gala and book auction evening was held in the Legion Hall on the unceded territory of the Upper Similkameen people. The former Lieutenant Governor, Judith Guichon, presented the Lieutenant Governor's Medal for historical writing to Robin Fisher, author of *Wilson Duff: Coming Back, A Life* (Harbour Publishing). Chief Bonnie Jacobsen was also present on stage for a photograph. The warm welcome by the Mayor, Spencer Coyne, and the hosts at the museum as well as the kindness and music of the hosts, Jon Bartlett and Rika Ruebsaat, made this a most friendly, enjoyable, and memorable conference!

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Martin

Learn more about the event: <https://www.bchistory.ca/conference/> and see photos from the event at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/143721629@N03/sets/72177720310241833/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 10:

Presentation by Ruth Derksen on her book "Daughters in the City: Mennonite Maids in Vancouver, 1931-61."

November 21:

Nursing History Webinar, organized by the UBC Consortium for Nursing History Inquiry with the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing and the European Association for the History of Nursing, "Examining the history of nursing through photo analysis."

January 2024 (date TBA):

Presentation by Guest Speaker (TBA)

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www.bcnursinghistory.ca
www.facebook.com/BCHistoryofNursing

Special thanks to all who contributed to this issue of the BCHNS newsletter
Next Meeting: October 10, 2023

Articles, news, and ideas for items to be included in the Spring 2024 issue should be sent to
Lenore Radom: lenoremail@shaw.ca