



BC HISTORY OF

NURSING SOCIETY

VOLUME 22 | ISSUE 4 | WINTER 2011

## Discovering the Life of St Margaret Queen of Scotland

ADAPTED BY LYNNE ESSON  
FROM AN ARTICLE WRITTEN  
BY JILL THOMPSON IN 1999

The name Margaret means “the pearl”. There was once a princess called Margaret. She was born in exile in Hungary in 1045 the daughter of the English Prince Edward the exile. Upon return to the British Isles, and after being driven by a storm onto the shores of Scotland, she met Malcolm Canmore (Malcolm the Third), King of the Scots who fell in love with her and asked Margaret to become his Queen. Margaret longed for the peace and holy quiet of the cloisters so hesitated to marry the warrior king. On acceptance of his proposal they were married in Dunfermline in 1069 and Margaret became Queen Margaret of Scotland. From the beginning, Margaret opened her arms to the people. Orphans were taken into the Royal Palace, the sick and the suffering tended, prisoners of war released and the poor fed. She was considered an exemplar of a “just ruler” and was renowned for her moderating influence on her husband and also for her devout piety and religious observance. Queen Margaret died in Edinburgh in 1093 after a lifetime of caring for others in mind, body and spirit. In time Margaret became a saint (1250) and her own church in Scotland became a great abbey and place of pilgrimage. Three of Margaret’s sons (she had eight children 6 sons and 2 daughters) were among the greatest kings who ever ruled Scotland and Britain’s present royal family is descended from Margaret.

The oldest surviving building within the walls of Edinburgh Castle is St Margaret’s tiny chapel. If your name is Margaret and if you



*The chapel was built by her youngest son, King David I at the beginning of the 12th Century.*

have a particular interest in Scottish history, you may become a member of St Margaret’s Chapel Guild and the Fellowship (founded in 1942) Edinburgh, Scotland. All that is required is a small donation, which admits you to the fellowship for all time.

The St Margaret Chapel Fellowship has been created for people who are unable by distance or otherwise to be involved in the practical aspects of the Guild in Edinburgh. Guild members not only maintain the chapel in honour of St Margaret but also are expected to follow her example and practice the principles of St Margaret whenever and wherever possible. St. Margaret’s Day is celebrated November 16th in Scotland.

Historically, Edinburgh has been famous for its seven and eight story buildings at a time when such architecture was unusual. So Princes Street at the turn of the century housed not only businesses but families in its tall buildings. St Margaret is mentioned in nursing history texts as a fine example of care for and service to others at a time when nursing was almost nonexistent. Her tiny chapel is beautifully restored and is maintained by Guild members. It is a jewel and an inspiring reminder to us of our professions origins. If you visit Scotland it is not to be missed.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE



# IN THIS ISSUE:

DISCOVERING THE LIFE OF ST. MARGARET QUEEN OF SCOTLAND	COVER
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	PAGE 2
HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS	PAGE 3
NEW WEBSITE	PAGE 4
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL	PAGES 5-6
PASSING THOROUGH MISSING PAGES	PAGE 7



## Newsletter Committee

Barbara Bavinton, Beth Fitzpatrick, Naomi Miller, Ethel Warbinek, Lynne Esson & Sheila Zerr (co-chairs).

*The BC History of Nursing Society Newsletter is published 4 times per year. Submissions are welcome. Deadline for the Spring Issue is March 15.*

*Please send submissions to:  
Beth Fitzpatrick: [bethfitz32@shaw.ca](mailto:bethfitz32@shaw.ca)*



## President's Message

BY KATHY MURPHY, PRESIDENT

As we commence this new year, the BC History of Nursing Society continues to be a vibrant organization filling an important purpose. However, the dedicated individuals who carry out the various activities would certainly welcome some help. If you know of anyone who is looking for some interesting volunteer activity with a nursing focus, please have them contact us through the website.

The meeting dates have been set for the year and vary a bit from previous years due to the availability of space and the fact that the CNA will be meeting in Vancouver June 18-20. The History of Nursing Society Annual General Meeting is April 12/12 at 4pm and all are invited to attend. This year is also the 100th Anniversary of organized nursing in BC.

On March 22, 2012 our group will be hosting High Tea at Hycroft with a special guest, Cathie Borrie, who will present the topic Alzheimer's -You Say Goodbye and I Say Hello. This local author and international speaker will share her experiences with the spiritual, emotional and intellectual revelations made possible by a transforming mind, and show how the care giving relationship can be transformed from one solely of despair and frustration into a time of profound meaning, beauty and understanding. She will bring copies of her book and will be available to sign them. This event is open to the public and registration is described in another space in this newsletter. Plan to attend and invite your friends and colleagues.

The website, [www.bcnursinghistory.ca](http://www.bcnursinghistory.ca) is undergoing several revisions so you are encouraged to view it regularly.

I wish you much health and happiness in this year of the Dragon.

**IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO IS LOOKING FOR SOME INTERESTING VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY WITH A NURSING FOCUS, PLEASE HAVE THEM CONTACT US THROUGH THE WEBSITE.**

# HISTORICAL B.C. NEWSPAPERS AVAILABLE ONLINE

WRITTEN BY: GLENNIS ZILM  
WITH INFORMATION FROM A UBC MEDIA RELEASE, NOV. 7,  
2011, AND INFORMATION RETRIEVED DECEMBER 7, 2011

For the first time, 24 historical newspapers from around the province are available online following completion of a British Columbia Historical Newspapers Project. The newspapers, which range from the Abbotsford Post to the Phoenix Pioneer, date from 1865 to 1924. In all, more than 45,000 pages chronicling B.C.'s past are available for free online viewing at <http://historicalnewspapers.library.ubc.ca>.

The publications, mainly from smaller BC cities and districts, are easily searchable and simple to browse. Single pages may be downloaded in the JPEG format, while entire issues can be downloaded as PDFs.

Nursing historians and researchers will find the easy access to these newspapers helpful in looking for information about early BC hospitals and nurses. For example, one can search the pages of *The Prospector*, a weekly newspaper published in Fort Steele, BC, from 1985 to 1905, during its early boom years as a mining town. The town had a hospital and, using the search term "matron," one can discover that a Miss C.M. Hearle was matron from 1899 to 1901, followed by Miss Thomas, a "certified nurse from London, Eng." One can also learn that Miss Thomas was "relieved for a much needed vacation" by Miss M. Fritton of Fernie.

The project, led by the UBC Library's Digital Initiatives unit, is generously supported by a private family foundation. The project involved the scanning of microfilm from BC Archives. Publications were then separated into single pages and sent to UBC Library on DVDs, where they were uploaded. A student from the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies wrote descriptions of the newspapers, while members of the Library's IT team developed an innovative and user-friendly viewer that can be used for future projects.

More titles may be added to the historical newspapers site in the future.

FROM [HTTP://HISTORICALNEWSPAPERS.LIBRARY.UBC.CA](http://HISTORICALNEWSPAPERS.LIBRARY.UBC.CA)

## THE BCHN SOCIETY INVITES YOU FOR HIGH TEA AT HYCROFT MANSION

GUEST SPEAKER CATHIE BORRIE RN, BSN, MPH, LLB  
ALZHEIMER'S: YOU SAY GOODBYE ----AND I SAY HELLO



- DATE: MARCH 22, 2012
- RSVP: MARCH 16
- TIME: 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm
- ADDRESS: HYCROFT MANSION 1489 McRae Ave. Vancouver
- COST: \$40 Make cheque payable to BCHNS
- Send RSVP with cheque to 10095 No.5 Road, Richmond, BC, V7A 4E4
- Ph 604-277-6782 or email [lenoremail@shaw.ca](mailto:lenoremail@shaw.ca) if you have any questions.

*Books will be available for sale and signing by author*

## MEMBERSHIP NEEDS HELP!

As we start this New Year, I am hoping that I can interest someone in assisting me with Membership. In this role, as Membership Chair, I keep logs and spreadsheets of members, maintain their contact information and attend bi-monthly meetings with the History of Nursing group. For a nurse interested in 'history', this is an excellent way to discover and appreciate all the wonderful nurses we have in Canada.

If you are interested or would like to find out more information, please email me at:  
[julielapinsky@dccnet.com](mailto:julielapinsky@dccnet.com)

## NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON

Our exciting new website is "soon" to be launched!! You will be notified when it goes live for you to visit. Our new website is colorful, easy to use and full of information!!





# FALL LUNCHEON

The lovely Luncheon Nov 12 th at the Vancouver Lawn Tennis Club was enjoyed by 33 guests. The Speaker, Doroletta Wolfs gave a very interesting presentation on her study of a Historical Inquiry to Nurses commencing their career in WW11 and Post WW11, and Charlene Ronquillo presented The History of Filipino Nurses Immigrating to Canada. These studies revealed the value of our Oral History Program.



## THORNE INDUCTED AS BC'S FIRST FAAN

Dr. Sally Thorne has become the first BC nurse to be inducted as an International Fellow into the American Academy of Nursing. Sally has been a long standing member of the BCHONS and we congratulate her on this significant honour





# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR JAN-DEC 2012

## DEAR HISTORY OF NURSING MEMBER:

In order to be a member of the B.C. History of Nursing Society an annual membership fee is required. You will receive four newsletters a year, access to scholarship funds, invitations to special events and an opportunity to network with others interested in preserving nursing history. All members are welcome to attend Executive meetings and participate in committee work. Membership fees are needed to support the Society's many activities.

Select the type of membership that applies:

Membership fees are due by March 1st, 2012. Check the type of membership that applies:

- Full (a current or former who was registered in BC) \$30.00
- Affiliate (a person who supports the constitution & bylaws) \$30.00
- Student Nurse \$ 5.00

***Please print your name and address as you wish it to appear on our Membership Information List. Be assured that at no time will any information about you be released without your permission.***

Publish in Directory:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (This will be published)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Province \_\_\_\_\_ (This will be published)

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (home) \_\_\_\_\_

(work) \_\_\_\_\_

(cell) \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive the Newsletter by:  Email  Canada Post

Please note: In order to reduce mailing costs newsletters are sent via email attachment to majority of our History of Nursing Members. ALL Students receive newsletters via email.

Please cut out this form and send with a cheque payable to the BC History of Nursing Society

Forward by March 1, 2012

Make cheque payable to the BC History of Nursing Society  
BC History of Nursing Society (Attn: Sheila Oxholm, Treasurer)  
P.O. Box 72082, RPO Sasamat, Vancouver, BC, V6R 4P2

# DONATE TODAY

*The British Columbia History of Nursing Society (BCHNS) welcomes your donation!*

Since its founding in 1989, the Society has produced and collected a substantial quantity of archives, artifacts and materials related to the history of nursing in B.C. Members give countless unpaid volunteer hours to the activities of the Society but funding is needed to support

- Scholarships for students who undertake historical research
- A part-time archivist who catalogues and preserves archival materials
- The ongoing maintenance and development of our website with its `virtual museum`` which show-cases our collections and research work.

All donations will receive a charitable tax receipt and are gratefully received. Thank you!



## **I would like to make a donation to the BC History of Nursing Society. (You will receive a tax receipt for the donation.)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## **In Memoriam Donation**

This donation is made In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

A card will be sent noting this "In Memoriam Gift" to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate relationship, if applicable. \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## **Make cheque payable to the BC History of Nursing Society**

BC History of Nursing Society

P.O. Box 72082, RPO Sasamat, Vancouver, BC, V6R 4P2

**I give consent for my name to be listed in the Newsletter with the Society's Annual List of Donors.** Yes  No

# PASSING THROUGH MISSING PAGES

THE INTRIGUING STORY OF ANNIE GARLAND FOSTER

BY FRANCES WELWOOD, 253 PAGES, CAITLIN PRESS 2011, \$24.95

This biography of the first woman on city council in Nelson, BC is a fascinating story that required years of challenging research and considerable sorting of pieces of a puzzle. Geographically the story takes the reader from New Brunswick in 1875 to White Rock, BC in 1974. Born Ann Harvie Ross, she was known as Nan during her years as a student in the University of New Brunswick, Annie when she was very formal, and Ann when a retiree in White Rock. When completing studies at university she concluded that the only vocations open to her were teaching or nursing. She finished Normal School when there were almost no openings for a grammar school teacher in her province so she applied to enter several schools of nursing. In the fall of 1896 she went to Boston where her training started in a small Asylum for the Insane. That training ceased after six months so Annie worked for a grocery speciality house.

A year later she resumed nursing training in Philadelphia. She struggled through a typhoid epidemic and an influx of American volunteers injured in 1898 skirmishes.

She graduated in 1901 and became a private duty nurse until she was invited to become matron of a new hospital in her hometown of Woodstock, NB. After two years in this cottage hospital, with no salary, Annie went back to Philadelphia. There she became head nurse at a private hospital with superior doctors. Staff quarters were damp and poorly heated so she frequently suffered from bronchitis. One of the specialists recommended "a complete change of air" so Annie took his advice literally and applied for a teaching job in a small school in Saskatchewan!

From September 1905 Miss Ross taught in several schools for only a few months each. In September 1907 she took on a class of sixty Grade Seven students in Victoria School in Saskatoon. After meeting that challenge for a full year she applied for a position in British Columbia. In Nelson she began with a contract to teach the sixth division at Central School at \$70 per month. The first year her class was in a very old building but by 1909 transferred to a modern brick building. Annie found a convenient boarding house just two blocks from the school. Also at that boarding house was Garland Foster, a young Ottawa graduate who came to town hired as editor of the Nelson Daily News.

Miss Ross joined the University Club and soon served as secretary. That club assisted with the hosting of a Teacher's Convention. A delegate from Golden, Mr. Landells, discovered that Annie was a fellow alumnus from New Brunswick and invited her to join his staff. After a year in Golden she went to teach in Cascade, a one roomed school east of Grand Forks, then in 1912 returned to Nelson as principal of Hume School .....with a pay in-

crease of \$15 per month.

WW I started and dozens of local "boys" joined the army. Garland Foster joined and was sent to Victoria for officer training. He returned to Nelson for Christmas, proposed, then returned to marry Annie on January 16th, 1915. Later that year Captain Foster was assigned to Vernon. Annie moved to Vernon and accepted the occasional day of substitute teaching. When the 54th Regiment moved east Annie went to Ottawa to be introduced to Garland's family, then she went to visit her family in New Brunswick. Next she followed her husband to England, volunteered as a nurse at a Red Cross hospital, was repatriated in 1917, miscarried twins, became a widow, visited family in New Brunswick and Maine, and finally returned to the Kootenays to teach, to try farming, and to run for city council.

The chapters on Annie's role in civic affairs are very detailed. Newspaper reporters enjoyed their assignments on those meetings and program changes attributed to the alderwoman. Her main supporters were members of the Great War Veterans Association, and women with their newly acquired right to vote. The widowed Mrs. Garland Foster became president of the Kootenay chapter of GWWA and even attended a national convention to represent them. But when the next election was held, she was nominated for Mayor, and failed, largely because her entry was announced at the very last minute.

From civic politics she entered the race for a seat in the provincial legislature, lost and turned her abilities to become a leading figure in the Women's Institute. She left teaching behind and augmented her widow's pension by writing articles for magazines. She became a charter member of the Canadian Authors Association. For a few years she lived in Vancouver then opted to move to White Rock where bit by bit she typed memoirs of her first 63 years. She called those memoirs "Passing Through". When those memoirs were deposited in the University of New Brunswick archives six pages had been deliberately clipped out. Those pages for 1925-26 must have been her thoughts on a very horrible affair.

The author ferreted out a drama which had a most unexpected ending. Let's just say that Annie Garland Foster seemed to slow down to comfortable retirement in White Rock. The peripatetic progress of the central figure was augmented by appropriate details of history in each locale. The author had Kootenay history at her fingertips but undertook years of research to tell of New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and the places in USA. Thank you to Frances Welwood for this intriguing story of an energetic pioneer lady.

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE  
BC HISTORY OF NURSING SOCIETY

PO BOX 72082, RPO SASAMAT, BRITISH COLUMBIA V6R 4P2

CANADA POST, CANADIAN PUBLICATIONS MAIL SALES  
PRODUCT AGREEMENT 40622042