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A GLIMPSE INTO THE DORA CLINE FECHTMANN COLLECTION: NAVY NURSING IN THE SOUTH SEAS

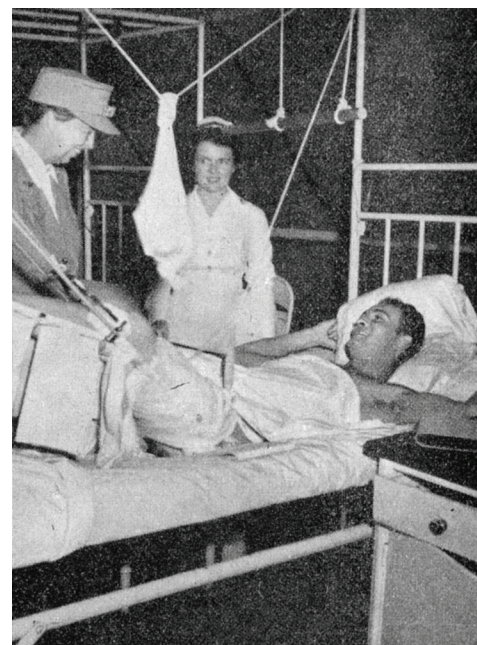
This collection is a well rounded representation of the experiences of a nurse in the Navy Nurse Corps serving in the South Seas during World War II. The collection contains four scrapbooks of photographs, postcards, and correspondence documenting Dora Cline's training in 1942 at Bethesda National Naval Medical Center in Maryland, and concludes with the end of her military nursing service in Base Hospital No. 2 in New Hebrides, New Zealand in 1944.

Dora Cline was born in 1913 on a farm near Broadway, Virginia. She graduated from high school in 1933. Family illnesses in her large family and the influence of two nurses in her childhood inspired her to pursue a career in nursing. She was trained at Rockingham County Memorial Hospital Nurses Training School in 1934 and worked for two and a half years as a neuro-psychiatric nurse at a Veterans Hospital and later, as a public health nurse for the state of Virginia. She joined the Navy Nurse Corps in 1942. After seven weeks of military training at Bethesda National Naval Medical Center in Maryland, she was stationed at National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland in 1942 and then immediately sent to the South Seas in the Pacific. She served briefly as a nurse at the U. S. Navy Mobile Hospital No. 4 in New Zealand, and then at Base Hospital No. 2 in Efate, New Hebrides.

One excerpt from Dora's scrapbook provides a glimpse into the contrasts she experienced during her South Seas tour:

Mobile Hospital No. 4 was built in a cricket field fenced in by a thicket hedge, and while making rounds one night, I was amused to find that the corpsmen and some sleepless patients were being entertained by a confiscated little porcupine rolled up on the nurse's desk. . . .

While in the process of



CNHI Dora Cline Fechtmann Collection

The
CENTER for
NURSING
HISTORICAL
INQUIRY

The Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry (CNHI), established at the University of Virginia in 1991 to support historical scholarship in nursing, is dedicated to the preservation and study of nursing history in the United States. The development of advanced clinical nursing practice, and the clinical specialty organizations that represent the various practices, is a major focus of the Center. The goals of the Center include the collection of materials, the promotion of scholarship, and the dissemination of historical research findings.

(Continued from page 1)

being transferred to Base Hospital No. 2 on Efate in the New Hebrides, I enjoyed a fort-night holiday cruising on a refrigerator ship among the South Sea Islands, the most beautiful of which I found to be the Fijian group. . . . At last we went ashore at Port Villa in the New Hebrides and I found the work there most gratifying and exciting, but quite depressing at times, for the heat, body casts, mangled bodies and even jungle rot seemed easier for these gallant souls to accept than the news reports of industrial strikes at home. . . .

Our patients came from the Solomon Islands and the most seriously injured seemed to have no time for complaining. They were too glad for a second chance at life. Dull moments were rare on Efate. If it were not a coconut falling on the Quonset huts, it was the roar of a reconnaissance plane or the rumbling and rattling of the huts caused by an earth quake, and all seemed to be timed for night activity. . . . Another impressive sight was one I saw on my first Christmas Eve on foreign soil, of a little group of Americans huddled together in a tiny shack in Noumea, singing Christmas carols.¹

Dora met and married her husband, Fred Fechtmann, in Auckland, New Zealand in 1944. In May of that year, she returned to the United States where she continued to practice in Harrisonburg, Virginia as a public health, private duty nurse, and a physical therapist. She retired in 1977 and lived in Ocala, Florida until her death in 2006.

The collection is fascinating and includes a diary, c. 1935-1937, that contains the specific details of Dora's training as a nurse at Rockingham County Memorial Hospital Nurses School. Other documents of particular interest include correspondence between Dora and the mother of a slain soldier that she cared for when dying. There is also a photograph from the Feb. 1944 issue of the Ladies Home Journal of Eleanor Roosevelt and Dora at the bedside of a wounded soldier.

I invite you to contact the CNHI for access to this interesting and informative collection !

Allen W. Kubiak

1. Dora C. Fechtmann , "My Scrapbook: An album of memories," p. 8.

A special thanks to Maureen Spokes, Center archivist, for information related to this collection.

CENTER NEWS

FALL 2007 HISTORY FORUMS

**McLeod Hall Room 5044
12:00-1:00 PM**

SEPTEMBER 18, 2007

*"Licks the joints but bites the heart" of children:
Rheumatic Fever.*

Barbara Brodie, RN, PhD, FAAN
Madge Jones Professor Emerita

OCTOBER 16, 2007

*History Matters: Reclaiming and Reframing
China's Missionary Nursing Past*

Sonya Grypma, RN, PhD
Assistant Professor, School of Health Sciences
University of Lethbridge
2006 Brodie Research Fellow

2007 BICE MEMORIAL LECTURE

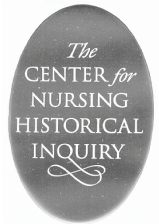
12:30-1:30
November 7, 2007
Jordan Hall Auditorium

Nursing's Ambivalent Relationship with Money

Ellen D. Baer RN, PhD, FAAN
Noted nurse historian
Professor Emerita of Nursing University of
Pennsylvania
Visiting Professor of Nursing Florida Atlantic
University

Reception to follow.

CENTER'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY



The year 2007 marks the fifteenth anniversary of the Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry. Established in 1991 by Barbara Brodie, Arlene Keeling and Sylvia Rinker, the Center began its life in one room with several boxes of historical papers, photographs and books. Over the years it has grown into a national and internationally known Center that is recognized for its preservation of nursing history and on-going scholarship. The Center's collections include approximately 250 linear feet of primary materials and 18000 historical images. The Center serves as a repository for almost a dozen professional organizations that represent the advancement of nursing practice in the 20th century. These diverse collections include the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties and the Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing. The Center also has many personal collections from nurses who served as hospital and public health staff, administrators, consultants and educators.

To encourage nursing scholarship the Center offers an annual \$3,000 post-doctoral research fellowship and sponsors a series of nursing history lectures throughout the academic year. Since 1994 the Center bestows its prestigious Agnes Randolph Award on a distinguished historian of nursing that has significantly shaped the field of nursing history.

In celebration of its anniversary the Center is co-sponsoring, with the School of Nursing Alumni, the Zula Mae Bice Lecture. Dr. Ellen Baer, a renowned nurse historian and recipient of the 1998 Agnes Randolph Award, will present "Nursing's Ambivalent Relationship with Money" on November 7, 2007. A publication, *A Good Beginning: Fifteen Years of Preserving Nursing's Past*, is being developed to mark the occasion.

CENTER NEWS

NEW BOOK BY ARLENE KEELING



In March of 2007 Ohio State University Press published Arlene Keeling's study on the history of nurses' ability to write legal prescriptions for medications for their patients. Titled *Nursing and the Privilege of Prescription, 1893 - 2000* the book traces the rather tortuous path that nurses traveled to earn the necessary prescriptive authority to be able to order medications. Beginning with the experiences of nurses in the Henry Street Visiting Nurse Association in the late 1800's and ending with the expansion of nurses' roles as nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists, Dr. Keeling shares an interesting tale of nursing's advancement in its ability to provide effective and efficient care to their patients.

NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVIST

Each collection that I process in the Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry has a unique story to tell. Some are of individual nurses and characterize how multifaceted each person is. Through the papers of Myra Clark there emerges a young woman who served as a Navy Nurse during World War II. She trained at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station in Illinois and served at Aiea Naval Hospital, Hawaii. Later, she received special training as a medical illustrator at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. (I was surprised to see some of Clark's signed illustrations appear in the papers of another nurse who, as an instructor in Michigan, used them as teaching aids.) Myra Clark was an avid photographer and through her pictures it is easy to see what life was like at Pearl Harbor in the 1940s. Much of her photography focuses on her nursing career as a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy. A highlight of Myra's collection is the set of navy photographs of liberated military nurses arriving in Hawaii after being held for 3 years in a Japanese internment camp in Manila in the Philippines. The expressive joy on their faces contrasts to their frail bodies. A book chronicling this historical event, *We Band of Angels* by Elizabeth Norman, is in the CNHI collection. After the war, Clark attained her B. S. degree in nursing education and became the educational director of the Blue Ridge Sanatorium Nursing School. Her collection is interesting for it tells the story of her life and nursing career during a passage of American history that unfolded around her.

Maureen Spokes

CENTER NEWS



American Association of Colleges of Nursing Grant

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing selected Drs. Arlene Keeling, John Kirchgessner and Barbara Brodie to write a comprehensive history of the organization, and its service to the profession. Dr. Keeling is the Principal Investigator of the project which is scheduled for completion in time for the association's 40th anniversary in 2009.

2007 BRODIE RESEARCH FELLOW

Dr. Joy Buck, PhD, RN, Post-Doctoral Fellow in Nursing History and Health Policy at the Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania, is the 2007 recipient of the Brodie Research Fellowship.



Her research is entitled "Nursing the Borderlands of Life: Reconstructing Care for the Dying, 1945-2006." This project builds on her previous work on the history of the American hospice movement. It is part of a larger study examining the public/private investments in the health professions and transitions in care for the dying during the latter half of the 20th century. She is drawing on resources of several archival collections, including the Rita Chow Collection at CNHI.

BARBARA BRODIE NURSING HISTORY FELLOW 2008

The Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry Barbara Brodie Nursing History Fellowship, a postdoctoral award, is open to nurses engaged in historical scholarship that advances the field of nursing history. Applications for the \$3000 award are due October 15, 2007, and the recipient will be announced in December, 2007. The selected Barbara Brodie Nursing History Fellow will present a paper from their research in the Center's History Forum series.

Selection of the fellow will be based on the scholarly quality of the investigator's project including: the clarity of the project's purpose, its rationale and significance, the rigor of its methodology and questions posed, and its potential contributions to the field of nursing.

The application and a curriculum vitae should be sent to Dr. Arlene Keeling, Director, Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry, University of Virginia School of Nursing, PO Box 800782, McLeod Hall, Charlottesville, Virginia 22908. Applications are available on the Center's Web site, at:

www.nursing.virginia.edu/research/cnhi/fellowship.

CENTER ACTIVITIES

STAFF ACTIVITIES

Publications:

Book

Keeling, A, (March, 2007) *Nursing and the Privilege of Prescription, 1893-2000*. Ohio State University Press.

Rose, K and **Keeling, A** (December, 2006). Richmond Instructive Visiting Nurse Association: A glimpse into the care of older adults, 1900-1929. *Journal of Gerontological Nursing* 32 (12) 37-42.

Synder, A, **Keeling, A** and Razionale, C (September, 2006). "From 'First Aid Rooms' to Advanced Nursing Practice: A glimpse into the history of emergence nursing." *Advanced Emergency Nursing Journal* 28 (3): 193-204

Presentations:

Keeling, A (September, 2006) "Between the Medicine Man and the Contract Doctor: Field Nursing on the Navajo Reservation, 1924- 1955." American Association for the History of Nursing Conference, Rochester, Minnesota.

Kirchgessner, J (September, 2006) "Does Nursing Service Receive Proper Credit?": A Reappraisal of UVA Hospital Nursing Services. Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry Nursing History Forums, Charlottesville, VA.

Kirchgessner, J (March, 2007) "A Financial Reappraisal of Nursing Services: A Case Study of the University of Virginia Hospital, 1945-1965." Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science Conference, Charlottesville, VA.

DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Publications:

Rose, K, and Keeling, A (December, 2006) Richmond Instructive Visiting Nurse Association: A glimpse into the care of older adults, 1900-1929. *Journal of Gerontological Nursing* 32 (12) 37-42.

Snyder, A, Keeling, A, and Razionale, C (September, 2006) 'From First Aid Rooms' to Advanced Nursing Practice: A glimpse into the history of emergency nursing. *Advanced Emergency Nursing Journal* 28 (3) 193-204.

Presentations:

Alexander, G (February, 2007) "Entering the Full Circle: Field Nursing among the 'Five Civilized Tribes', 1917-1943." Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry Nursing History Forums, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Casavant, J (September, 2006) "'You Forgot all about Etiquette': The Working Relationships between Physicians and Nurses during World War I." American Association for the History of Nursing Conference, Rochester, Minnesota.

Cockerham, A (November, 2006) "Sisters Devoted to Mothers: Nurse Midwives at the Catholic Maternity Institute in Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1944-1967." Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry Nursing History Forums, Charlottesville, Virginia.

The following students presented papers at the Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science Conference in March 2007 in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Alexander, G, "Cross-Cultural Experiences: Field Nursing Among the 'Five Civilized Tribes': 1917-1943."

Cockerham, A, "'The Nurse-Midwife-Sisters' Medical Mission at the Catholic Maternity Institute."

Maling, B, "Soaring Beyond Conventional Modesty: Chronicles of Phoebe Pember Yates during the Civil War, 1861-1865."

Patterson, N, "Caring for the Suitcase Wives: Public Health Nurses and the Emergency Maternal and Infant Care Program, 1943-1945."

Telford Casavant, J, "Nursing Etiquette: Working Relationships between Physicians and Nurses during World War I."

Zerull L, "Nursing Out of the Parish: Lutheran Deaconess History in America, 1849-1900."

Poster:

Cockerham, AZ, Keeling, A, and Parker, B (February, 2007) "Seeking refuge at Monticello: Domestic Violence in Thomas Jefferson's Family." Southern Nursing Research Society, Galveston, Texas

WOMEN PROVIDING NURSING CARE IN CHARLOTTESVILLE DURING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR, 1861-1865

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Much of what has been written about women nursing in the Civil War centers on extensive battles and activities in large cities.¹ However, the work of numerous women in smaller towns throughout the Confederacy has not been well documented, particularly those in which few battles were fought. This was true for women giving nursing care in Charlottesville, Virginia. Charlottesville, although not a site of any major battles, served as a hospital area for approximately 22,000 Confederate and Union soldiers from 1861 to 1865.²

In preparation for war, the first surgeon general of the Confederacy, David DeLeon, acquired buildings in Richmond that could be used as hospitals. His plan was that the wounded would be transported from battles to these central hospitals for care.³ Unfortunately, many hospital beds were filled by soldiers with measles or other camp diseases, stricken during military training before the start of any major conflict.⁴ In the first major battle of the war, (The Battle of Manassas - 21 July 1861), Union and Confederate armies faced each other in the small town of Manassas, Virginia. The South won this battle but the cost was great, and although injured and sick troops were sent by train to Richmond as planned, the new hospital buildings were soon filled.⁵ Hospital beds that had been so carefully prepared were soon unavailable for the incoming wounded, but still the trains bearing hundreds of wounded Confederates kept arriving.

Overwhelmed with patients, hospitals

transferred many debilitated soldiers from Richmond to other cities. The nearby university town of Charlottesville, with its medical school, became a major medical center to which patient over-flow could be sent throughout the war.

Several hospitals were created in Charlottesville to handle incoming wounded. The largest was the Charlottesville General Hospital. It was actually an amalgamation of rented buildings throughout Charlottesville. In the first month of its existence, the hospital admitted 2608 patients.⁶ Pressed for space the University of Virginia's facilities were also used for the troops. On 8 June 1862 Socrates Maupin, Chairman of the Faculty, noted in his diary:

....about 300 soldiers wounded in the battle of the 8th near Port Republic arrived at the University on the evening of the 9th June and were placed in the Chapel, Public Hall and Moot Court Room. On the 14th, the number of the sick and wounded at the University had increased to 600 and on the 24th, to about 1400. They were provided for in Dawson Row, East and West Ranges of dormitories and in tents in the Gymnasium field and elsewhere.⁷

The military hospitals in Charlottesville were similar to Confederate hospitals throughout the South in that little preparation had been made for the nursing care of mass casualties. The South believed the war would be short and the soldiers assigned to serve as hospital personnel, plus the slaves, should provide

whatever nursing care that was needed.⁸ Southern women quickly recognized that more nurses were needed, and they became involved in caring for the soldiers.

Many of the women who gave nursing care in Charlottesville were well educated middle and upper class women who had never been inside a hospital, worked for wages, or been responsible for the physical care of strangers outside of their homes. This was true for most Southern women who nursed soldiers throughout the war.⁹ However, issues of race, class and gender complicated the nursing care they delivered. Americans, in general, did not consider hospitals healthy or respectable. They did not think of them as places where respectable women would care for strangers.¹⁰ Southern women had been caring for relatives in their homes and black slaves on their plantations for years. However, a heated debate among men and women erupted about whether white southern ladies should be allowed to nurse soldiers outside the home and in hospitals. Despite the debates, numerous southern women braved the frowns of father, brother, or sister to nurse soldiers.

Ada Bacot, a 27 year old widow from an elite southern family who served as a nurse in Charlottesville during the conflict, recalled in her diary that a local doctor told her father to try to dissuade her from nursing because "Twas scarcely a place for a lady." She made the decision to serve as a nurse when a reverend assured her that it was a "noble and suitable job for a woman of the Confederacy."¹¹

The continuing war created a need to deploy every available man to the military effort and led the Confederate Congress to create "An act to better provide for the sick and wounded of the army in hospitals."¹² This act, enacted 18 months after the onset of the war, allowed each hospital to employ two matrons, "and as many nurses as might be needed for each

ward." Because women were an available workforce, and there was an increasing appreciation for women's talents for nursing, those in charge of hiring personnel were instructed to "(give) preference in all cases to females where their services may best serve the purpose."¹³

When white women in the Confederate States of America served as nurses they practiced as they did in their homes. They used slaves to assist them with their nursing duties. Slaves were used as "work extenders." So much a part of the southern culture and everyday lives, slaves were taken for granted and rarely mentioned in the women's diaries or letters. This was true for the Charlottesville women for, although they had slaves in their households, they made no comments that indicated that they used their slaves in the care of the wounded soldiers. Charlottesville women did speak of their slaves but only in respect to household activities or disruptions in day to day life.¹⁴

Some women visitors served as nurses for a few days and then departed. Nevertheless, many women volunteers were devoted caretakers and their contributions were significant. Many Civil War histories refer to women visiting hospitals but do not classify them as nursing staff. These women



Women of the Antebellum South, Courtesy of the Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond Virginia

performed limited nursing activities such as feeding soldiers too weak to feed themselves, writing letters for soldiers, and preparing food.¹⁵ Louisa H. A. Minor, a Charlottesville matron, never professed to perform nursing activities. However, she occasionally visited wounded troops in Charlottesville military hospitals and helped as she could. She left a valuable diary recording the nursing activities of her sister and fellow Charlottesville ladies. In her diary from 21-27 December 1862, Minor describes women cooking dinner at the Charlottesville Delevan Hospital:

Mary L (Mary Lewis) has been all excitement about the dinner given to the soldiers at "the Delevan Hospital" on Xmas - contributions were sent by almost everyone in the County and they had the nicest kind of dinner -- over 1200 soldiers here dined - then the darkies of the establishment were treated- Friday evening the surgeons of the Delevan gave a supper to the ladies who had assisted in nursing and cooking for the hospital during the last year - Mary L was there and had a gay time - the nicest kind of a supper and plenty of beaux it seems so little like X-mas - but I am not wishing for a merry one.¹⁶

Minor also wrote of her sister Betty Lewis Minor caring for two convalescent soldiers in her Charlottesville home:

August 18th and 24th 1861- Find sister Betty has two convalescent soldiers staying with her - Dr Lewis and Mr Taylor - both of them belong to the 11th Miss. Regiment ... poor fellows my heart aches for them, when they talk of their far off homes and kindred and how they hope and watch for the time when they can return.

In August of 1862 Lucy Davis, a prominent Charlottesville woman, was very occupied with nursing sick and wounded soldiers on the Lawn at the University of Virginia. In a letter to her brother Eugene who was serving in the

army, she described the horrors in Charlottesville:

Most of our immediate neighbors are getting on well but just across the lawn there are some of the worst cases and the sight and sounds we have to encounter daily are most distressing. I am mightily afraid we shall have some sort of infectious fever here for it is impossible to keep the place clean and there is a bad smell everywhere....¹⁷

Several themes emerge from memoirs and accounts of Charlottesville women as to why they offered their nursing services. Of these, three seem to appear repeatedly: (1) a strong sense of patriotism, (2) social and economic independence, (3) and a sincere wish to help those in need.

Hospital work allowed women to show their patriotism by helping to maintain soldiers' morale and thus, contribute to the Confederate war effort. Bacot reported she was motivated to enter the ranks of Confederate nursing, in part, by her fierce patriotism:

Now I can give myself up to my State, the very thought elevates me... The South at last seems to be aware of her danger. My only fear is she will listen to some compromise. It is said woman has no business with such matters, but what woman ... does not have the interest of her state at heart.¹⁸

Frances Clarke, who also gave nursing care in Charlottesville, wrote of her deep felt patriotism. She spoke of visiting Union prisoners at the train depot:

Monday 9th ... heard that there were Yankee officers Prisoners at the depot Mrs. Rion and Self went down to see them had a conversation with two of them, they were quite gentlemanly, they gave us each a button off their coats, I spoke very plain my sentiments and told them that we would

never surrender that we could whip them five to one... very glad I went down.¹⁹

Undoubtedly the desire for economic and social independence during a war-stricken economy left many families, especially those whose male wage earners were away or lost, a powerful incentive for some women to seek out nursing positions. Nurses in Confederate hospitals were largely paid the same salary as soldiers.²⁰ Clarke wrote in her diary of sending money home to her family on two occasions²¹ and Ada Bacot addressed the wish for financial independence several times:

March 15th 1861... I have no one to depend upon if I am deprived of my little property, I must perish, dependence is something my proud nature revolts against.²²

While patriotism and financial incentives were key to women seeking nursing positions, it is also evident that many women truly felt sorrow and sympathy for the sick and injured and wanted to help those in need. Women throughout the South did not just nurse Confederate soldiers they also cared for Union troops. In a letter to his mother, a Confederate soldier wrote of a woman caring for Union prisoners at the Charlottesville General Hospital in July of 1861:



Prints and Photographs Division, The Library of Congress

Next door above Dr. Davis' office are two prisoners, one of the 11th Mass. Regt, badly wounded in the leg, the other of the 14th Regt of Brooklyn Chasseurs with a bullet through his lungs. To them Cousin Betsy pays particular attention, as I do myself. Their gratitude is very touching...²³

Throughout the writings of these women there are numerous accounts of the overwhelming feelings they felt concerning the injured and ill. Frances Clarke recorded her thoughts of devotion and sadness on several occasions:

August 1862 ... the car's [train] were engaged in bringing up the wounded, how sad, sad I could not keep from weeping when I saw them just here from the battle field...²⁴

Women, like Cole and Clarke, who were from affluent southern families and helped to run plantations, were often hired into the role of hospital matron. Matrons were important managers and supervisors in the hospitals. Unlike matrons, nurses' responsibilities centered more on carrying out physician's orders, feeding patients, and many general cleaning duties. Historian James H. Brewer speaking about nurses:

"The nurses were required to change the straw in the bed sacks at least once a month, and the beds had to be well beaten and thoroughly aired daily. Scouring the floor space occupied by the beds under one's care was also a responsibility of the nurse."²⁵

Frances Clarke described her regular responsibilities that included the administration of medications, cleaning beds, assisting other women with their duties, writing letters for soldiers, writing family members of the death of their loved ones, and making nutritional supplements:

...baked all of the morning for the soldiers, Dr Mc came down here when we were

working, he has promised me a stove. I am very fond of preparing nourishment for the poor sick soldier.²⁶

Nursing however, was not just about hard work. There were definite personal risks involved. The totality of warfare for the South was significant because most of the conflict and destruction of the Civil War occurred on Southern Soil. Even though Charlottesville experienced few battles during the war, Louisa Minor mentioned several encounters she had with Union troops during skirmishes around Charlottesville:

This was a day of terror! the army were coming in all day long. Searched Mammy E's room - broke up and carried off the guns and other arms in the house - stole mostly Daddy's clothes went through every drawer in the room - carried off Bonds, and other papers of value were mean enough to open papers of needles and scatter them with spools of cotton about the yard.²⁷

Some Charlottesville women visited these war areas to provide nursing care. In a December, 1864 letter from J. C. Preston of Lewisburg, to Eliza Carrington of Charlottesville, Mrs. Preston thanked Carrington for crossing enemy lines to nurse her wounded son:

unfeigned thanks for your noble mission through the lines and my high appreciation of the benevolence and goodness of heart which prompted it.²⁸

Caregivers also faced infections and communicable diseases. The fear of contagious disease became a reality for the women of Charlottesville when they lost a fellow matron, Margaret Rion, on 1 January 1863 to small pox. Both Clarke and Bacot recorded Rion's death in their diaries. According to Clarke:

30 January 1863 - Mrs R worse and the Dr has very little hope ...Miss Carington and Miss Gilmer is to set up to night , it is impossible for me to give her much of my

attention having the whole house to attend to....²⁹

Bacot wrote:

We have just returned from Mrs. Rions funeral. It was sad, sad sight to see the Hurse moving slowly along followed by all the men from our hospitals who were able to be out... the friends of the lady and some of the soldiers filled in the grave. As I turn my steps homeward I could but think who of us would next be taken.³⁰

In conclusion, many brave women during the Civil War, including those in Charlottesville, defied initial objections against "refined ladies" taking care of strangers and nursing in military hospitals. They braved the frowns of those around them to volunteer their nursing services despite risk of disease and physical harm to themselves. Some, like Mrs. Rion died while performing her nursing duties. Southern nurses worked hard to render valuable services to the needy soldiers. In doing this they overcame prejudices of many who initially opposed their presence among the wounded and ill. Women who did not nurse in hospitals also contributed in crucial ways, such as Betty Lewis who took injured soldiers into her home for care.

Through their persistence and continued efforts, women were officially recognized as part of the Confederate Army medical service eighteen months after the onset of the conflict. The introduction of female personnel into responsible roles in traditionally male military environments, was not just an example of the involvement of southern (and northern) women into the nation's Civil War, they also significantly changed the role of women in American society.

Notes

1. George Rable, *A Southern Woman's Story - Phoebe Yates Pember* (Columbia SC: USC Press, 2002), C. Woodward (Ed), *Mary Chestnut's Civil War* (New Haven CT: Yale

- University Press,1981), & Keppel Hagerman (Ed), *Dearest of Captains: A Biography of Sally Louisa Tompkins* (White Stone, VA: Brandylane Publishers, 1996).
2. Register of Patients, General Hospital at Charlottesville. 1861-1865. 2 vols. (ch. VI, vols. 214, 215) and index vol. (ch. VI, vol. 216). National Archives in Washington, D.C.
 3. Joseph Jones Papers, "Cases and Deaths from Typhoid Fever, Malarial Fever, Pneumonia, Measles, Diarrhea and Dysentery, and Gun Shot Wounds, General Hospital, Charlottesville, VA," Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA.
 4. Frank R. Freeman, *Gangrene and Glory - Medical Care during the American Civil War* (Chicago IL: University of Illinois Press, 2001), 27-30, 339-345., & K. D. Dickson, *The Civil War for dummies*, 87-96.
 5. Freeman, *Gangrene and Glory*, 30- 31.
 6. Chalmers L. Gemmill, "The Charlottesville General Hospital -- 1861-1865", *The Magazine of Albemarle County History- Civil War Issue*, Albemarle County Historical Society: The Michie Co. Vol. 22 (1964), 91-160.
 7. Diary of Socrates Maupin, Chairman of the Faculty at the University of Virginia, 8 June 1862. Located at the Albert and Shirley Small Museum, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.
 8. McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom*, (1988). The Civil War lasted four long years and was responsible for the deaths of almost 620,000 Americans (360,000 Union and 260,000 Confederate). The medical departments of both the Union and Confederate armies were small, poorly funded, and had very little authority.
 9. Frank R. Freeman, *Gangrene and Glory - Medical Care during the American Civil War* (Chicago IL: University of Illinois Press, 2001).
 10. Guenter B. Risse, *Mending Bodies, Saving Souls - A History of Hospitals* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999).
 11. Bacot Diary, November 11 and 14, 1861
 12. Horace H. Cunningham, *Doctors in Gray: the Confederate Medical Service* (Baton Rouge LA: Louisiana State University Press,1958), 72 - 73., W. B. Blanton, *Medicine in Virginia in the Nineteenth Century* (Richmond, VA: Garrett and Massie,1933).
 13. Cunningham (1958), 72-23.
 14. Bacot Diary, December, 17, 1861; May 13, 1862; July 18, 1862; September 9, 1862; October 31, 1862; November, 9, 1862; December 25, 1862; & December 26, 1862
 15. James McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom*, 477- 480.
 16. Louisa H. A. Minor Diary, December 25, 1862. Located at the Albert and Shirley Small Library at University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.
 17. Eugene Davis Papers # 2483. August 1862 Letter from Lucy Davis to her brother Eugene. Located at the Albert and Shirley Smith Museum, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.
 18. Bacot Diary, 12 December 1860.
 19. William McCutcheon Papers "the Frances Clarke Diary" Monday the 9th, 1862. Located at Duke University, Durham, NC.
 20. Carol C. Green, *Chimborazo* (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 2004), 41-46.
 21. Clarke Diary, 1862-1863.
 22. Bacot Diary, 15 March 1861, & 2 September 1862.
 23. Gemmill, "*The Magazine of Albemarle County*", 113. Letter of Mr. L M. Blackford to his mother written on 26 July 1861. According to Dr. L. Minor Blackford of Atlanta, this letter was written by his father.
 24. Clarke Diary, August 1862.
 25. James H. Brewer, *The Confederate Negro: Virginia's Craftsmen and Military Laborers, 1861-1865* (Durham, NC.: Duke University Press, 1969).
 26. Clarke Diary, 1863.
 27. Minor Diary, March 5, 1864.
 28. Micajah Woods Papers, # 10279, Box #1. Four page letter of thanks for Eliza Carrington of Charlottesville from Mrs. Preston in Lewisburg, Virginia. Mrs. Preston thanked Mrs. Carrington for caring for her son while he was wounded.
 29. Clarke Diary, 30 January 1863.
 30. Bacot Diary, January 8, 1863.

— CONGRATULATIONS —
DR. JENNIFER CASAVANT TELFORD

Congratulations to Jennifer Casavant Telford who successfully defended her dissertation: "American Red Cross Nursing during World War I: Opportunities and Obstacles," on April 19, 2007. Jennifer's research, based on data from archives in the United States, France and Britain, included a case study of Camille L. Wills whose documents are housed at our Center.

Dr. Telford is currently employed on the faculty of George Mason University, where she teaches acute care nursing.

SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST

The use of heavy metals, such as arsenic and mercury, were often used in the treatment of diseases in the early 20th century. It is interesting to read how nurses were instructed to use these compounds and to note that there is a complete lack of any explanation as to how the drugs acted upon the syphilis spirochete.

“**Mercury** has long been employed in the treatment of syphilis and is administered ... by mouth, injection and by inunction (by skin). It is injected into the gluteal muscles at intervals of two or three days. Headaches may follow the injection. ... When given by inunction, in the form of a mercury ointment ... after a cleansing bath a small nut size amount is slowly rubbed into the skin in the axillae, groins, back, abdomen and chest areas. On the sixth day the treatment may be omitted and a full bath given and treatments are resumed. The nurse should wear rubber gloves when applying the ointment ... because sufficient absorption may cause toxic symptoms. Overdose symptoms include tenderness of the teeth ... gums become sore, saliva is increased, a metallic taste appears in the mouth, and small ulcers may appear on lips, tongue, or gums.”

“**Arsphenamine**, formerly known as **salvarsan**, an arsenic compound, has been successfully use in the treatment of active and cerebral forms of syphilis. It comes in a yellow powder form

that is mixed in saline solution ... with the addition of sodium hydroxide and injected intravenously. For the treatment of cerebral [syphilis] one hour after the solution has entered the circulation a definite amount of blood is withdrawn. It is kept on ice and allowed to clot. The next day the serum is diluted, heated and injected into the spinal canal after an equal amount of spinal fluid has been withdrawn. Following the injection of blood serum a reaction may occur consisting of dizziness, headache, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes severe chill, followed by ... a temperature. The patient must be kept quietly in bed and watched for unfavorable symptoms. Diet should be liquid. An ice bag may be applied to relieve the headache and heat applied during the chill.

Mercury is used in connection with arsphenamine and during treatment the function of the kidneys must be watched, and weekly urine sent for examination as both drugs have an irritating effect.”

Bailey, Harriet R.N. (1924) *Nursing Mental Diseases*, New York: The Macmillan Company, 104-105.

Barbara Brodie RN, PhD, FAAN
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NURSING AND MEDICAL HISTORY OPPORTUNITIES

NURSING HISTORY CONFERENCES

Canadian Association for the History of Nursing
International Conference
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
May 31-June 2, 2007
Seeking abstracts for 2008 conference.
Deadline: November 15, 2007
Contact: <geertje.boschma@nursing.ubc.ca>

Sigma Theta Tau, Inc.
International Nursing Research Congress
July 11-14, 2007
Contact: viennacongress@stti.org

American Association for the History of Nursing
Annual Conference and Pace University
Pleasantville, New York
September 28-30, 2007
Seeking abstracts for 2008 conference.
Deadline: January 15, 2008.
Contact: <AAHN@aahn.org>

First Danish History of Nursing Conference
Danish Museum of Nursing History
September 28-29, 2007
Contact: Anne Marie Overgaard
Contact: <museum@dshn.dk>

European Social History Association
Lisbon, Portugal
February 27-March 1, 2008
Conference focuses on diverse subjects pertinent
to the social history of health.
Contact: <esshc@iisg.nl> www.iisg.nl/esshc

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The *New York Academy of Medicine* offers
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Contact: <history@nyam.org>

The DeWitt Stetten, Jr., Fellowship at the *National
Institutes of Health* (NIH) provides a postdoctoral
history fellowship for a year's residence at the
Office of NIH History. Using the NIH's history
resources and other repositories in the
Washington, D.C. area the fellow works under the
supervision of the Director of NIH History
Department. Contact: Dr. Buhm Soon Park,
<park@mail.nih.gov>

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Jane Bales - SON uniforms, scrapbook, nursing text
Nancy Breeden - bandage scissors
Barbara Brodie - books, photos
Leah Fechtmann - WWII Navy nurse uniforms and
memorabilia [Fechtman Collection]
Mary E. Fisher - public health and other nursing
books
Michael Foreman, in memory of his mother Hazel
Frances Evans Foreman - 1958 Jefferson School
of Nursing Yearbook, photos
Rosemary Hayes - paper:s
Catherine Kane & Carol Gleit - Applied Psychology
for Nurses, 1921

Lucie S. Kelly - National Student Nurses' Associa-
tion documentary video
Jean F. Mitchell - Class of 1942 photo
JoAnne Peach - 5 boxes of nurse practitioner files
Patricia Quill - Macintyre, Nancy with Anne Decker
(2006) *A Few Strong Women: A Short History of
Nurse Practitioners in New York State*
Margaret Skaggs Estate - UVA nursing student cape,
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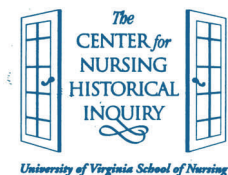
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