



WINDOWS IN TIME

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA SCHOOL OF NURSING ELEANOR CROWDER BJORING CENTER FOR NURSING HISTORICAL INQUIRY

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U. S. Army Camp Hospital No. 45, Aix-les-Bains, France: Influenza ward No. 1

FROM THE DIRECTOR

We Honor the Nurses

BARBRA MANN WALL, PHD, RN, FAAN

THE YEAR 2018 MARKS THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF TWO WORLD-WIDE events: the end of World War I, which left 116,000 American troops dead and millions more from Europe and parts of Asia; and the influenza pandemic, which resulted in the deaths of 50 million people worldwide (or more, depending on the source quoted). We honor the nurses and all who participated in these events. Our previous issue of *Windows in Time* announced our newest collection by World War I nurse Maury Schwarz Smith. When the country needed nurses during the war, thousands such as Smith volunteered. Similarly, nurses volunteered during the flu pandemic, and in this issue, we call attention to their work in Arlene Keeling's "When Place Matters: The 1918 Flu Pandemic in Small Towns and Villages in the United States."

As well, we hosted two seminars on the pandemic. Dr. Carol Byerly, our Albrecht winner, presented "Fever of War: The Influenza Epidemic in the U.S. Army During World War I; and Dr. Arlene Keeling and Addeane S. Calleigh (continued on page 2)

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(FROM THE DIRECTOR, continued from page 1)

presented “Historical Research and the 1918 Influenza Pandemic.” These presentations provided important counternarratives to the established myth that immigrants to America were to blame.

The ECBCNHI recently said goodbye to Dr. Tommy Dickinson, our Endowed Talbott Visiting Professor at the University of Virginia School of Nursing. Dr. Dickinson returned to his home school, King’s College London, where he is Senior Lecturer in Mental Health and the Deputy Head of the Department of Mental Health Nursing. Dr. Dickinson is completing his second book, on nursing people with HIV/AIDS. We have another visitor for the 2018–2019 academic year, however, as we welcome our first in-residence post-doctoral fellow, Lydia Wytenbroek, and I invite you see my introduction to her in this issue. Among other experiences, she will be preparing her manuscript on nurses in Iran.

I want to call your attention to a new book we have published in the Center: *Storefront Windows*. This includes beautiful photographs of our window scenes that have been featured in McLeod Hall, first floor, over the past several years. Special thanks go to Arlene Keeling, other Center directors, Linda Hanson, and Jennifer Byrne (photographer). Also we want to thank our many donors, including Lucille Kelly, for their generous funding of the project.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for your donations. There are many reasons people give to our Center: to advance cutting-edge research and scholarship undertaken by our faculty and students in nursing history; to contribute to our endowments; and to pass on to the next generation a love of historical scholarship. And that is just a beginning of our many options for giving! ■

Barbra Mann Wall



The Eleanor Crowder Bjoring Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry (ECBCNHI), established at the University of Virginia in 1991 to support historical scholarship in nursing, is dedicated to the preservation and study of nursing history. 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.

Welcome to Lydia Wytenbroek

The ECBCNHI welcomes Lydia Wytenbroek, PhD, MA, BSN, RN, to the University of Virginia as the inaugural recipient of the Rice Interdisciplinary Postdoctoral Fellowship in Nursing and Health Care History. This fellowship is cosponsored by the ECBCNHI and the UVA Consortium for Religion, Politics, and



Conflict. Lydia is finishing her work as a doctoral candidate in history at York University in Toronto, Canada. She is a practicing registered nurse, and this work has shaped her historical interest in nurses, their work, and their efforts to carve out spaces of autonomous practice in healthcare. Her historical research considers international and transnational nursing in twentieth-century Iran, with a focus on cross-cultural health encounters and the power dynamics at play in these encounters.

More specifically, Lydia's research explores the experiences of twenty-

nurses who worked in Iran between 1907 and 1945 as missionaries with the New York-based Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. Supported by a SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship, she looks at the intersection of gender, religion, medicine, and professional identity formation. She argues that American Presbyterian mission nurses carved out

spaces of autonomous practice in mission medicine in the fields of obstetrical care and nursing education. Between 1916 and 1936, they operated the only nursing schools in Iran. Although they faced tensions over the evangelizing thrust of the mission and their professional interests, they maintained a commitment to promoting professional nursing in Iran.

Lydia also posts a blog for Nursing Clio in partnership with the American Association for the History of Nursing, "Mission Nursing, Migration, and Mobility in Twentieth-Century Iran."

She has published her work in *Nursing History Review* and other venues, and she plans to complete a book.

Lydia's work with students in the ECBCNHI and Religion, Politics, and Conflict seminars will provide valuable contributions to UVA and our focus on an inclusive history of nursing and healthcare. As she considers religious, social, and political conflicts involved in mission work in Iran, she highlights the paths taken and not taken and how medicine and nursing can serve as sites of conflict and collaboration.

Please join us in welcoming her! ■



DR. ELIZABETH HUNDT: CO-EDITOR OF THE ELEANOR CROWDER BJORING CENTER FOR NURSING HISTORICAL INQUIRY NEWSLETTER

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Elizabeth Hundt to the ECBCNHI newsletter staff. Dr. Hundt completed her PhD at the University of Virginia in 2018. Her dissertation focused on the history of psychiatric care in the 19th century and is entitled: *A Noble Monument of Wisdom and Mercy: St. Elizabeth's Hospital, 1852-1899*. In addition to her current position as the Clinical Director of the Stroke Program at the UVA Health System, Dr. Hundt has also been an active associate of the ECBCNHI. We are pleased that she has joined the newsletter staff and look forward to the creative contributions she will be introducing to the newsletter. ■

Reception for the Maury Schwarz Smith Collection

THIS PAST APRIL, THE CENTER hosted a formal ceremony to receive the Maury Schwarz Collection, a group of papers and photos documenting Ms. Schwarz personal history as a nurse in the 1910s and 1920s. The papers, donated to the Center by her daughter, Beverly Williams, encompass an assortment of leather bound scrap-books, original photographs, graduation programs, posters, certificates, newspaper clippings, and letters.

Maury Margaret Schwarz was born in Smith County Kansas in 1891, the only daughter and youngest child of Franz and Annie Schwarz. After graduating high school and teaching in a rural school for several years, she responded to the call for young women to be trained as nurses during World War I. She enlisted and was sent to Camp Grant, Illinois in August 1918 to be trained as a nurse in the new “Army School of Nursing,” established only a few months earlier by Annie Goodrich, then chief inspecting nurse of the Army Nurse Corps. Thus, Maury was among the first 34 young women to arrive for training under the new program—and her collection includes a photograph and letters from Annie Goodrich herself, as she became the first dean of the Army School of Nursing.

On admission into the school, the student nurses were given light blue uniforms with white collars and cuffs, and soon became known as the “Blue Birds.” Meanwhile, their arrival coincided with the 1918 influenza pandemic that was rampaging the military base, and because of the urgent need for staff, the students were put to work immediately, receiving informal training as they cared for thousands of young soldiers dying of flu.

The war, of course, ended in November 1918, before Maury graduated from the Army School, and in June, she and her colleagues were sent to Fort Sheridan, Chicago, where she continued her training: this time

greatest experiences: the ceremony was held in the Glade, and Annie Goodrich herself was in attendance.

After graduation, Maury returned to Kansas to rest and prepare for State Board examinations. She joined the

American Red Cross, and began work as a public health nurse in the oil town of Tonkawa, Oklahoma. There she had her hands full, dealing with children of oil workers, many of whom had head lice, had never received vaccinations, nor learned to brush their teeth. Despite the challenges, Maury loved the town and the work, continuing in the job until after she married and gave birth to her daughter, Beverly, in 1926. During the years she was raising her child, Maury volunteered in the community and providing health

teaching in a local native American mission. Years later, after a tornado devastated Tonkawa, Oklahoma, she reported immediately to a local Catholic hospital where she was welcomed by the Sisters. She worked there for almost 20 years, admittedly “loving every minute of it.”

Maury died on July 2, 1989, at the age of 98 and was buried with her family in Kansas. We thank Beverly for donating this special collection, and both her and her family for joining us in celebrating her mother’s professional life in nursing. ■



Beverly Williams

PHOTO BY JENNIFER BYRNE

in Pediatrics at Children’s Memorial Hospital and in obstetrics at the Chicago Lying In Hospital—both famous for their histories. Following that, Maury continued her nurses’ training at Henry Street Settlement in New York City where she studied public health nursing.

Following her training at Henry Street, Maury and her colleagues were sent to Letterman General Hospital at the Presidio in San Francisco, arriving on February 5, 1921. A few months later, she and her friends would be graduated from the Army School of Nursing. According to Maury, that day was one of her life’s

Presentations, Publications & Awards

FACULTY

Cockerham, A.Z. (2019). The history of midwifery in the United States. In T. King, M. Brucker, K. Osborne, & C. Jevitt (Eds.), *Varney's midwifery* (6th ed.) (pp. 1–24). Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett.

Toro, M. and **Wall, B.M.** (2018). 'A complete meltdown of humanity: The Aleppo disaster of 2016. *Health Emergency and Disaster Nursing*, 5, No. 1, 60–64.

Wall, B.M. (2018). Preface to series, Disasters and geopolitics: Implications for nursing. *Health Emergency and Disaster Nursing*, 5, No. 1, 58–59.

Wall, B.M. Invited speaker, University of Texas at Austin, School of Nursing Commencement, Austin, Texas, May 2018.

STUDENT AWARDS & GRANTS

Capucao, R. Virginia Humanities Open Grant for “A Culture to Care: The History of Filipino Nurses in Virginia Oral History Project, Panel, and Photo Exhibit”, Virginia Humanities (June 2018) [\$6,500] (<https://www.virginiahumanities.org/2018/06/june-2018-grants/>)

Capucao, R. Student Assistantship Fund, Philippine Cultural Center of Virginia, Virginia Humanities Open Grant for “Content Academy: Born of Empires: Filipino Americans in the United States and Virginia, 1565 to the Present (May 2018) [\$500]

Tucker, V.N. 2018 Barbara Brodie Scholars Endowment Award, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia [\$16,676]

Tucker, V.N. 2018 American Association for the History of Nursing H-31 Pre-Doctoral Research Grant [\$2,000] for her “Moving Lines: Black Nurses’ Experiences in Virginia during Desegregation, 1950–1980”.

NOTEWORTHY

Congratulations to the following for election as officers in the American Association for the History of Nursing:

- to Center Director Emerita **Arlene W. Keeling** who was elected President
- to Center Associate **Gwyneth Milbrath** who was elected First Vice President
- to Center Associate **Rebecca Coffin** who was elected to the Nominating Committee

Congratulations to Center Affiliate **Pamela B. DeGuzman, PhD, MBA, RN**, who was awarded tenure at the School of Nursing.

CONGRATULATIONS

Lewenson, S. Inaugural Lorraine Albrecht Lecture University of Virginia Eleanor Crowder Bjoring Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry: “Hidden and Forgotten: Being Black in the American Red Cross Town and Country Nursing Service, 1912–1948,” *Nursing History Review* 27 (2019): 15–28. ■

Barbra Mann Wall, invited speaker, with Dean **Alexa Stuijbergen** and **Debra Mann** at the University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing commencement.



IN MEMORY

*Dr. Shirley Fondiller:
Nursing Educator, Historian, Author, and Entrepreneur*

Dr. Shirley Fondiller, known to generations of nurses as an educator, historian, and nursing leader passed away on May 24, 2018. A native of Holyoke, Massachusetts, Dr. Fondiller received her baccalaureate in nursing from Teachers College, Columbia University. A firm believer in continued professional education, she went on to receive three more degrees from Teachers College, including a Doctor of Education in Nursing Education in 1980. She began her early career in Boston hospitals, a career that spanned decades and led to leadership positions in education and professional organizations. Her leadership positions included associate professor and Assistant to the Dean for Special Projects at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago and as Executive Director of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Nursing Association. Later in her career she founded Publishing in Health Dimensions, an editorial consulting service for health professionals.



Dr. Fondiller was a member of numerous nursing and professional organizations including: the American Association for the History of Nursing; Sigma Theta Tau; Kappa Delta Pi; the American Nurses Association; and the National League for Nursing. A certified archivist she was also a member of the Nursing Archive Associates at Boston University where her professional papers are housed.

Dr. Fondiller was a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and an inductee into the Teachers College Nursing Education Hall of Fame.

As a journalist Dr. Fondiller wrote extensively throughout her career and befitting her love of writing, in 1975 she became the first editor of *The American Nurse*—the American Nurses Association’s official news periodical. Topics including, America’s healthcare system, nursing leaders, nursing’s professional history, the quality of patient care and women’s rights were frequently addressed in her many editorials, monographs, journal articles and commentaries. Dedicated to recording the profession’s, she also presented her historical research at professional conferences and contributed to books on nursing history. A full and active career provided Dr. Fondiller with a unique and rich perspective of the profession’s history and the nursing profession in general.

Dr. Fondiller is survived by her son David Fondiller and his family. ■

A Fond Farewell ...

Our Center project coordinator, **Linda Hanson** has accepted a new position as the program coordinator for the School of Nursing Continuing Education program beginning October 1. Linda, who has been a valued member of the Center staff since 2005, has been instrumental in organizing the Center’s day-to-day business, as well as working diligently, often behind the scenes,

in planning many of its events. In addition, Linda has been the assistant editor of the Center’s newsletter working closely with its editors, graphic designers, and printers. Linda’s dedication to the Center will be missed and we wish her great success in her new position. ■



Reunion for School of Nursing Diploma Graduates

ON JUNE 1, 2018 THE Eleanor Crowder Bjoring Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry hosted a reunion for alumnae of the University of Virginia School of Nursing diploma program. The honored graduates represented graduation classes from the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. This year's reunion was particularly meaningful for those alumnae who belonged to the Class of 1968—it was the fiftieth anniversary of their graduation and also marked fifty years since the closing of the diploma program.

Many factors contributed to the decision to close the program. By 1968 graduate nurses were increasingly expected to have the knowledge and skills necessary to safely care for critically ill patients. Post-World War II federal funding fueled rapid advances

in biomedical science and research. New and innovative surgeries as well as treatments for heart disease, kidney disease, cancer, and other chronic diseases were being introduced. Throughout this time, standards for nursing education programs were also changing to better meet the needs of patients and families.

By the mid-century point, some of the hospital's administrators and nursing educators began to realize that UVA's nursing education program needed to be in a collegiate setting and away from the hospital-based training model used for decades. They proposed phasing out the diploma program and replacing it with an exclusively baccalaureate curriculum. However, after taking into consideration the post-World War II nursing shortage and the resulting need

for nursing students to provide patient care, the President of the University and other administrators approved the move to establish a baccalaureate program but also insisted that the diploma program continue. It was not until the mid-1960s that all University administrators agreed that the need for students to provide essential patient services was ending and that closing the diploma program could be considered. In the spring of 1968 the last class of diploma graduates received their University of Virginia Hospital diplomas, thus ending sixty-seven years of training diploma nurses. June's reunion provided all diploma graduates the opportunity, albeit bittersweet, to reminisce about their years in nursing school. ■

INFLUENZA

FREQUENTLY COMPLICATED WITH

PNEUMONIA

IS PREVALENT AT THIS TIME THROUGHOUT AMERICA.

THIS THEATRE IS CO-OPERATING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

YOU MUST DO THE SAME

**IF YOU HAVE A COLD AND ARE COUGHING AND
SNEEZING. DO NOT ENTER THIS THEATRE**

GO HOME AND GO TO BED UNTIL YOU ARE WELL

**Coughing, Sneezing or Spitting Will Not Be
Permitted In The Theatre. In case you
must cough or Sneeze, do so in your own hand-
kerchief, and if the Coughing or Sneezing
Persists Leave The Theatre At Once.**

**This Theatre has agreed to co-operate with
the Department Of Health in disseminating
the truth about Influenza, and thus serve
a great educational purpose.**

**HELP US TO KEEP CHICAGO THE
HEALTHIEST CITY IN THE WORLD**

**JOHN DILL ROBERTSON
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH**

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Flu placard.

When Place Matters

The 1918 Flu Pandemic in Small Towns and Villages in the United States

ARLENE W. KEELING, PHD, RN, PROFESSOR EMERITA

THE INFLUENZA PANDEMIC OF 1918 KILLED MORE than 50 million people worldwide; 675,000 in the United States alone. The highest mortality occurred in young adults, aged 20–30, including pregnant women. The flu devastated the country in three waves, beginning as a mild virus in the spring of 1918 and mutating to its deadly form in late summer. World War I exacerbated its spread, as thousands of soldiers, carrying the flu with them, moved across the country to military bases at home and abroad. Beginning in a military camp in Kansas, the deadly virus first hit Boston, and then struck New York and Philadelphia in rapid succession. Within weeks it spread down the East coast and to the South, Midwest, and West. By early November, the epidemic reached small towns and villages throughout the country. Among these were the island of Nantucket off of Cape Cod, Massachusetts; coal-mining towns in Appalachia; rural towns in the South; and remote outposts in Alaska.¹

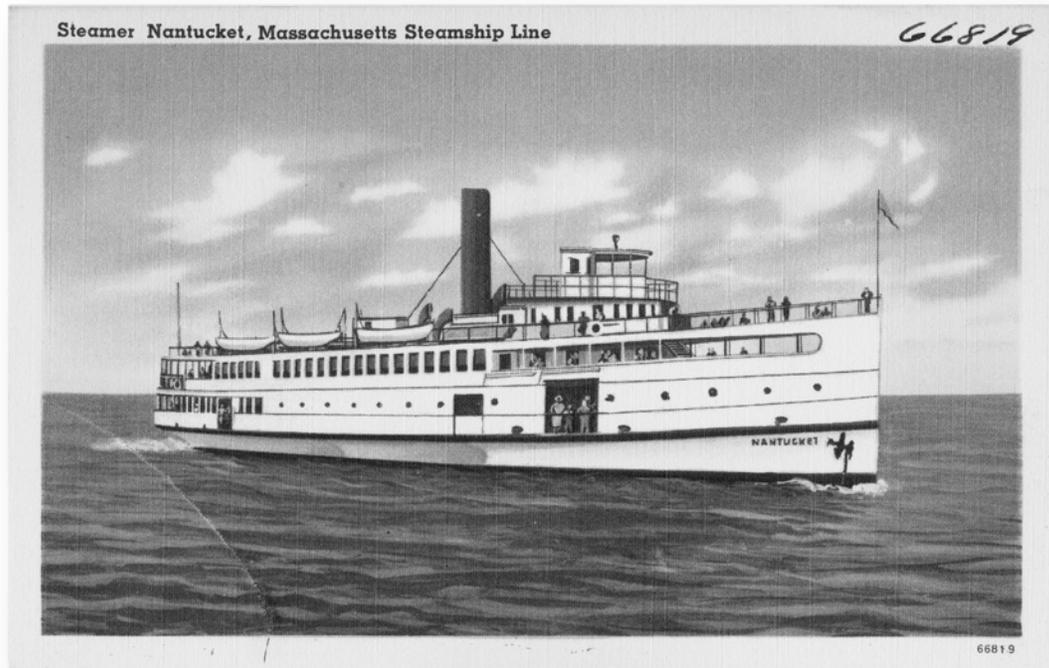
Sometimes isolation in small towns afforded a natural protection from the spread of disease, but just as often, once the disease entered a village or town, that same isolation—along with a lack of manpower and medical resources—hindered the community’s ability to respond. This article examines how

several U.S. towns dealt with the epidemic, briefly contrasting their response to that which occurred in the cities of Philadelphia, Boston, and New York. Indeed, during the epidemic, “place” mattered.

In both small towns and large cities, the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) and the American Red Cross were central to the response: The USPHS provided direction, written materials and physicians, while the American Red Cross coordinated nursing care, working in collaboration with churches, social service agencies, and volunteers. Large cities, of course, had numerous agencies to help; while small towns had far fewer resources. In New York, Boston, and Philadelphia for example, the Salvation Army, churches and synagogues, day nurseries, the Urban League, school nurses, and Visiting Nurse Associations all cooperated in the response. In addition, society debutantes and their mothers volunteered as nurses’ aides, staffed soup kitchens, and drove their own automobiles to transport nurses.² Small towns had few such organizations and fewer people to help. What they *did* have was the natural protection afforded by their geographic locations. They also had forewarning that the epidemic was coming, and in some instances, initiated quarantine procedures to further protect their communities.

¹ Arlene Keeling, Chapter 8: “Nurses in the News: The Great War and Pandemic Influenza, 1914-1919,” in Keeling, Hehman and Kirchgessner, *History of Professional Nursing in the United States*, (New York: Springer Publishing, 2018): 198–209

² IBID



Postcard depicting the *Steamer Nantucket*, Massachusetts Steamship Line.

Nantucket

After learning in September that Boston was being devastated by flu, leaders on the small island of Nantucket took preventive measures to keep the disease off the island. One of their first acts was to order doctors and nurses to board steamships traveling to the island from New Bedford, charging them to observe passengers for any sign of illness and to ensure that each had a physician's note attesting to his good health.

For weeks, Nantucket's town leaders also followed state protocols designed to mitigate the epidemic; they closed the island's churches and its one theater, and required soda fountains to use paper cups. However, Nantucket could not completely escape the epidemic, and when flu struck in late October 1918, the Nantucket Cottage Hospital became the center of the response. Located on West Chester Street, the tiny hospital was a hub of activity, admitting 337 patients in November of that year.³ With a staff of only six nurses and a few physicians, the hospital was understaffed to deal with the emergency, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts sent three doctors and three nurses to help. In this case, early warnings from Boston, the natural isolation afforded by a sparsely populated island 30 miles out to sea, and preparedness on the part of town leaders, all helped the small community respond to the epidemic.

³ Joshua Balling, "Nantucket Cottage Hospital: 100 years strong," (July 2011). www.nantuckettodayonline.com. (Accessed July 1, 2018)

Denio, Oregon

In remote areas of the West, townspeople were often left on their own to cope with the epidemic. In Denio, Oregon, a few Red Cross nurses worked with minimal help, often serving in makeshift hospitals with few supplies, inadequate facilities, and a population illiterate in areas of health and hygiene. One nurse documented her experience, writing:

Our patients are ... shepherders who live in miserable cabins scattered in most inaccessible places ... There is no food, no bedding, and absolutely no conception of the first principles of hygiene and sanitation, or of nursing care. I have taken over the hotel as a hospital and the Big Boss, who employs the sheep-herders, is having all who are not too ill to be moved, brought in here ... Our greatest need is for feeding cups and drinking tubes.⁴

In Denio, "place" included a lack of the most basic necessities, the absence of community support through churches and hospitals, and a male sheep-herding culture in which women caregivers were largely absent.

⁴ N/A. "Some side lights on the influenza epidemic," *Public Health Nurse* 1, 4 (April 1919): 300-304.

Kentucky coal towns

As the flu epidemic spread, hundreds of miners in small coal towns and villages scattered throughout Appalachia were also affected. By November 1, conditions were so serious in certain mountain communities that the Red Cross begged for extra help.⁵ Extreme poverty and the war-time shortage of nurses complicated the response. In one Kentucky town where almost half of the 2500 inhabitants were ill, one nurse cared for the sickest patients in an emergency hospital set up in the YMCA building. There “everyone was busy helping.”⁶ The miners went out to bring in patients while the town’s teachers scrubbed the kitchen. According to a later report: “Neighbors

Conditions were so serious in certain mountain communities that the Red Cross begged for extra help.

helped each other ... and to several homes where there was no one to assist, Miss S, the “Y” secretary, sent soup she had made.”⁷ In this tight-knit mountain community, “place” mattered as the entire town banded together to respond to the devastating illness.

⁵ Berry E., “Summary of the Influenza epidemic, 1918–1919.” *Epi Flu*, 803.08 National Archives and Record Administration – College Park (NARA-CP): 1–22 (Quote, p. 15)
⁶ Beulah Gribble, “Experiences during the epidemic: Influenza in a Kentucky coal-mining camp,” *American Journal of Nursing*, 19, 8 (1919): 609–611

⁷ IBID

Appalachian mining town.



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Alaska

I rolled up my sleeves and killed chickens and began to cook I milked the cow, gave medicine, and did everything I could to help.

Segregation and place

As was true in other towns, in the South, “place” was not only geographic but also cultural. In the South Jim Crow laws enforced racial segregation—even in the middle of a pandemic. Adhering to laws refusing blacks admission to hospitals for whites, local Red Cross chapters set up separate emergency hospitals for African Americans. In Greenville, Mississippi, where over 1800 African Americans succumbed to the flu during the month of October, the Red Cross opened an emergency hospital and put out a special call for black nurses.⁸ In backwoods areas where there was no hospital and white nurses refused to care for blacks, the situation was dire. African American nurse, Bessie B. Hawse, recounted her experience in Alabama, writing:

Eight miles from Talladega in the back woods, a colored [sic] family of ten was in bed and dying for the want of attention. No one would come near. I was asked by the health officer if I would go ... As I entered the little country cabin I found the mother dead in bed. Three children buried the week before. The father and remainder of the family [were] running temperatures of 102–104. Some had influenza; others had pneumonia I rolled up my sleeves and killed chickens and began to cook I milked the cow, gave medicine, and did everything I could to help...⁹

Working without support from the local white community, and without help from the outside, nurse Hawse turned to her own resilience and compassion to address one family’s needs. Indeed, “place” mattered in the rural South in 1918.

Indigenous peoples suffered inordinately in the 1918 pandemic, and in the Territory of Alaska, an estimated 5000 Natives died, compared to only 500 white people. This disproportionate effect on Native Alaskans was the result of the complex interplay of environmental factors, subsistence living conditions, and Native cultural beliefs. Preventive measures, including travel restrictions and quarantine, were marginally effective in the setting of this highly contagious virus.

Reporting on the problem in his 1919 appeal to Congress for funds, Alaska’s Governor Thomas Riggs, Jr. described the situation:

The influenza epidemic reached Alaska through the regular channels of transportation and affected practically all of the coast Those most affected were the natives We have at one place alone 90 orphans ... I have authorized the sending of relief expeditions for the gathering up of these orphans ... I have authorized the purchase of provisions for the indigent natives because they are not allowed to travel and trap ... as a matter of fact, most of them are dead. We cannot handle it ourselves; it has gone beyond our control.¹⁰

What ensued was a lengthy debate about the role of local versus federal government during an epidemic. In the end, after Riggs had argued successfully that the native Alaskans were “our own American people,” Congress agreed to appropriate \$100,000 for the Alaskan territory.¹¹

That help was sorely needed. Early in the fall of 1918, having been warned of the seriousness of the epidemic from health officials in Seattle, Riggs had stationed U.S. Marshals at all ports, trail heads, and the mouths of Alaska’s rivers. His goal was to ensure that travelers did not bring the disease into any of the Territory’s remote communities. Riggs also imposed a marine quarantine of fourteen days.¹² So, when the steamship *Victoria* docked in Nome after being at sea for nine days, members of her crew were quarantined in a hospital for an additional five days.

¹⁰ Thomas Riggs, “Influenza in Alaska and Puerto Rico,” *Hearings before the Subcommittee of House Committee on Appropriations*, 65th Congress (Washington: Government Printing Services, 1919): 3–18 (quote, p. 3–4).

¹¹ *IBID*

¹² “Alaska,” *The Great Pandemic*, http://www.flu.gov/pandemic/history/1918/your_state/pacific/alaska/index.html. (p. 1-2) 1/21/13

⁸ N/A, “Help for the Colored People,” *The Weekly Democrat-Times*, (October 22, 1918): 1

⁹ Darlene Clark Hine, *Black Women in the Nursing Profession: A Documentary History*, (New York: Garland Publishing, 1992): 18–19.

In addition, postal workers fumigated the mail before it was delivered by dogsled to outlying communities.¹³

Despite the precautions, the mailman spread the deadly influenza to Native Alaskans as he traveled from village to village. By the end of the year, 35–40% of the Native population was dead.¹⁴ Meanwhile, the remote village of Shishmaref—having been effectively quarantined—escaped the epidemic altogether.

In Alaska, the geographic conditions of “place” coincided with race, ethnicity, and the lack of political status that came with its being a Territory rather than a state. When entire

communities were sick, no one was available to ice-fish, start fires, or care for others in the community. When the seaports were frozen, no help could arrive.

As was true in Alaska, during the 1918 flu pandemic “place” mattered in every city, town, and village in America. “Place” encompassed not only geographic realities, but also racial and social inequities, the resilience of a community and its access to outside support. All of these factors played a part in determining how a community responded to the epidemic. They also played a part in determining who would survive. ■

¹³ Matt Ganley, “The Dispersal of the 1918 Influenza,” www.arctichealth.org/media/pubs/2878/96-06-03.pdf (Accessed July 1, 2018): 248

¹⁴ *IBID*, 249



COURTESY THE FRANK AND FRANCES CARPENTER COLLECTION, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

United States Public School for Eskimos in Alaska around the time of the 1918 influenza pandemic.

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES

IN NURSING AND MEDICAL HISTORY

Call for Submissions

2018 Spurgeon Neel Annual Award

The Army Medical Department Museum Foundation is pleased to sponsor the 2018 Spurgeon Neel Annual Award competition for the article of 5000 words or less that best exemplifies the history, legacy, and traditions of the Army Medical Department.

Named in honor of Major General (Retired) Spurgeon H. Neel, first Commanding General of Health Services Command (now U.S. Army Medical Command), the award competition is open to all federal employees, military and civilian, as well as non-governmental

civilian authors who submit manuscripts for publishing consideration.

The AMEDD Museum Foundation will present a special medallion award and a \$1000 monetary prize to the winner, who will be notified in advance, at a Foundation-sponsored event early in 2019.

All manuscripts must be submitted to the AMEDD Museum Foundation, Amedd.Foundation@ameddmuseum.org, by November 30, 2018. At the time of submission, a manuscript must be original work and not pending publication in any other periodical.

It must conform to the Writing and Submission Guidance of the *AMEDD Journal*, and must relate to the history, legacy and/or traditions of the Army Medical Department. Manuscripts will be reviewed and evaluated by a six-member committee appointed by the President of the AMEDD Museum Foundation. The winning manuscript will be selected in December 2018.

Additional detail concerning the Spurgeon Neel Annual Award may be obtained by contacting Mrs. Sue McMasters at the AMEDD Museum Foundation, 210-226-0265. ■

Conferences

■ Barriers Without Borders: Global and transdisciplinary perspectives on sanitary cordons throughout history

2nd International Conference of the Quarantine Studies Network
University of Balearic Islands,
Palma de Mallorca
November 7–8, 2018

Additional information: <http://gihs.eu/index.php/sanitary-cordons>

■ American Association of the History of Medicine

Columbus, Ohio
April 25–29, 2019

Additional information: <http://www.histmed.org/columbus-2019>

Call for Applications

The American Association for the History of Nursing (AAHN) offers four awards for completed research, each presented annually at the Fall Nursing History Conference. Only AAHN members are eligible to apply for these awards. Deadline for award submissions is May 15 of each year.

Teresa E. Christy Award—to encourage new nursing history investigators, and to recognize excellence of historical research and writing done while the researcher was in a student status.

Lavinia L. Dock Award—to recognize outstanding research and writing produced by an experienced scholar in nursing history who submits a book.

Mary Adelaide Nutting Award—to recognize outstanding research and writing produced by an experienced scholar in nursing history who submits, most often, a post-doctoral research manuscript or article.

Mary M. Roberts Award—to recognize outstanding original research and writing in an edited book of nursing history.

Additional information: www.aahn.org/awards.html

MARCH 13–16, 2019

The Fourth Agnes Dillon Randolph International Nursing History Conference

In recognition of the diversity and quality of historical scholarship globally in nursing, medicine, and science, the University of Virginia School of Nursing Eleanor Crowder Bjoring Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry is hosting the 21st annual meeting of the Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science

(SAHMS) with the fourth Agnes Dillon Randolph International Nursing History Conference. The joint conference will be held at the University of Virginia School of Nursing.

The keynote address, “Playing Nurse: Exploring Material Culture for a Non-Subject Centered History of Nursing,” will be presented by Sioban

Nelson, PhD, RN, FAAN, FCAHS, University of Toronto.

Further information is available on the conference website: <https://www.nursing.virginia.edu/nursing-history/events-cnhi/randolph-sahms-conference-2019/>

The call for papers is open until November 2. ■

Barbara Brodie Nursing History Fellowship

The Eleanor Crowder Bjoring 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, 2018, and the recipient will be announced in December, 2018. The selected Barbara Brodie Nursing History Fellow will present a paper from their research in the Center’s Nursing 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 by email to the Center’s Director, Dr. Barbra Mann Wall, bmw8y@virginia.edu. Applications are available on the Center’s Web site: www.nursing.virginia.edu/Research/CNHI/Fellowship. ■

2018–19 NURSING HISTORY FORUMS MCLEOD HALL #5060 NOON–1 P.M.

September 11 *Fever of War: the Influenza Epidemic in the U.S. Army during World War I*

Carol R. Byerly, PhD
2nd Annual Lorraine Bowers Albrecht Lecture
McLeod Hall #1004

October 16 *Historical Research and the 1918 Influenza Pandemic: a Panel Presentation*

Panel Presentation: Addeane S. Calleigh, Instructional Faculty Lecturer, Office of Educational Affairs, University of Virginia School of Medicine and Arlene W. Keeling, PhD, RN, FAAN, ECBCNHI Director Emerita

November 13 *When Mannequins Didn’t Talk Back: The History of Simulation and Debriefing in Nursing Training*

Sarah Craig, PhD, RN, CCNS, CCRN and Bethany Cieslowski, MSN, RN

January 29 *Nursing Iranian Nationalism*

Lydia Wytenbroek, PhD, MA, BSN, RN

April 2 *Nursing on Ellis Island: Caring for the Huddled Masses*

Michelle C. Hehman, PhD, RN ■

SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST



PHOTO BY REBECCA COFFIN



COURTESY LILJENQUIST FAMILY COLLECTION, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Clara Barton and the Missing Soldiers Office

REBECCA COFFIN, PHD, RN

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, and National Library of Medicine are among some of the well-known resources that are readily accessible to historians. But the lesser-known historical sites are equally as important for providing the mood and feel of a particular place, event, or moment in time. One of these sites is the Missing Soldiers Office Museum, in Washington, DC.

The discovery of the office at 437 7th Street, NW, is quite fascinating. The United States General Services Administration (GSA) owned this building, and slated it for demolition. While inspecting the building prior to demolition in 1996, Richard Lyons, a GSA employee, discovered an old envelope hanging from the ceiling. He climbed into the attic and found over 1,000 artifacts, including a sign that read “Missing Soldiers Office, 3rd Story, Room 9, Miss Clara Barton.” This discovery became the catalyst in the preservation of the building. Because the third story had not been in use for decades, the physical layout, floorboards, and door to Room 9, remained intact.

It was there that Barton and a number of volunteers gathered to compile and publish a “Roll of Missing Men,” in an effort to locate them, their remains, or their burial grounds. In May 1865, she appealed directly to President Johnson for assistance:

My rolls are now ready for the press; but their size exceeds the capacity of any private establishment in this city, no printer in Washington having forms of sufficient size, or a sufficient number of capitals to print so many names.

... I am constrained to ask our Honored President, when he shall approve my work, as I must believe he will, to direct that the printing may be done at the U.S. Government Printing Office.¹

The President promptly replied, “Let this printing be done as speedily as possible consistently with the public interests.”²

The missing men’s names were organized by state. She appealed to soldiers and friends of soldiers to

give such facts relative to the fate of these men as you may recollect or can ascertain. They have been your comrades

¹ Clara Barton Papers: Subject File, ~1952; Civil War; Office of Correspondence with the Friends of the Missing Men of the U.S. Army; Correspondence, 1865 to 1880, May 31, 1865. Manuscript/Mixed Material. <https://www.loc.gov/item/mss119730444/>.

² Clara Barton Papers: Subject File, ~1952; Civil War; Office of Correspondence with the Friends of the Missing Men of the U.S. Army; Correspondence, 1865 to 1880, June 3, 1865. Manuscript/Mixed Material. <https://www.loc.gov/item/mss119730444/>.

*on march, picket, or raid, or in battle, hospital, or prison; and, falling there, the fact and manner of their death may be known only to you.*³

Barton sometimes reflected upon her days on the battlefields, where she nursed so many soldiers. She wrote of these experiences when corresponding with parents, siblings, or spouses of missing soldiers, to bring them comfort.

But your letter draws upon my recollection for a few words more. Not that I remember your son, I wish I did, but I remember the charge on Wagner, that terrible night of the 18th of July 1863. Only those whose eyes too in that scene will ever realize it. During four long hours preceding that charge I watched those doomed men marching and countermarching or fixed in solid phalanx waiting that charge of death, then four other hours of carnage such as God grant you may never realize, where the rolling volleys of destruction alone lit up the misty blackness of the night, then they bore the wounded back along the wave washed beach, and the surging ocean sang its solemn requiem for the dead.

... your son was a soldier, his regiment well known to me and you who have suffered so much will be still strong enough to listen while I who stood among and saw, and knew them all, relate the scenes which to him I fear, were the last of earth, true he may have been captured and a prisoner after this, this I will endeavor by all means in my power to ascertain for you, and I will write to his surgeon, who is my friend and one of the noblest men in the world, for any clue which he may give me, and if I can get a trace however small, I will send it at once to you. Pardon my long letter, and believe me

*Truly your friend,
Clara Barton⁴*



PHOTO BY KELLY KOLLAR, C-VILLE WEEKLY

Holly Edwards

Hidden Nurses

HENRY K. SHARP

THE BJORING CENTER'S "HIDDEN NURSES" initiative, introduced in last spring's newsletter, continues to grow. Professor Phoebe Pollitt has sent another group of papers to fill out her original donation concerning African-American clinics, hospitals, and health care personnel in North Carolina. In addition, we have received a small memorial collection tracing the life and research interests of Holly Marie Kerr Edwards.

Edwards received a BS in Nursing from Hampton University in 1990 and joined the University of Virginia Hospital Nursing Division shortly thereafter. She was a strong community advocate, especially for the residents of the city's public housing complexes, where she also practiced nursing. Edwards was elected to the Charlottesville City Council in 2008, holding a seat there until 2011; she served as vice-mayor in 2010 and 2011. At the time of her decease, she was a doctoral student in the UVa School of Nursing, and was awarded an honorary Ph.D. posthumously. Her collection includes a seminar paper documenting the professional life of Imogene Morgan Bunn, a Virginia public health nurse—and another trailblazing African American (continued on page 16)

³ Clara Barton Papers: Subject File, ~1952; Civil War; Office of Correspondence with the Friends of the Missing Men of the U.S. Army; Miscellany, 1864 to 1888, undated. 1864. Manuscript/Mixed Material. <https://www.loc.gov/item/mss119730445/>.

⁴ Clara Barton Papers: Subject File, ~1952; Civil War; Office of Correspondence with the Friends of the Missing Men of the U.S. Army; Correspondence, 1865 to 1880, December 8, 1865. Manuscript/Mixed Material. <https://www.loc.gov/item/mss119730444/>.

(continued from page 16)

woman—who ably served the local community from the 1930s to the 1970s.

Finally, one more important collection tracing the story of nursing work with an underserved community has been given by Professor Linda Bullock. These remarkably detailed papers concern the cultural and public health environments of the population centered in the Ozarks region of Missouri. They offer our students and scholars a significant new area of study.



Claire E. Fearn

Many of you know that military nursing has long been an area of particular interest for the Bjoring Center collections. The papers of First Lieutenant Claire E. Fearn trace her career with the Second U.S. Field Hospital from 1941 to 1946. Lieutenant Fearn was a general duty nurse who served in New Guinea and the Southern Philippines. She received the Bronze Star in addition to four other medals and citations for her involvement in the Asia-Pacific Theatre of World War Two. Her papers and rare photographs are a significant addition to our holdings. ■

Recent Acquisitions

Jesse Andrews additions to the Juanita Easley Papers

Pamela J. Brink Mount St. Mary's College nursing student scrapbook, 1952–1956

Barbara Brodie photographs of UVA School of Nursing nurse practitioners students, c. 1978, and other documents pertaining to nursing history

Mary Jeremy Buckman vintage nursing and nursing history books

Linda Bullock documents pertaining to her research on smoking cessation interventions during pregnancy for low income women

June Echols additions to the June Welsh Echols Papers

Karen Fankhauser *The Red Cross*, by Clara Barton

Laura Henderson documents, photographs, and ephemera pertaining to the World War II nursing experience of her Great Aunt, Claire Fearn

Betsy Kirby photographs and documents pertaining to Mildred Fitzgerald's professional and student nursing experience

Rebecca B. Harmon Red Cross Training Manuals, c. 1980s

Roberta Sibold Hunt photographs and documents pertaining to her student nursing experience

Catherine Kane vintage nursing texts

Lucie S. Kelly nursing history poster

Pamela Kulbok vintage nursing texts, World War II poster

B. Jeanette Lancaster nursing books

Jeanne Novotny material pertaining to her student experience at St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing, Toledo, Ohio

Patricia Odend'hal photos and documents pertaining to her student nurse experience and that of her mother, Dorothy Jean Dickson

Patricia M. Quill additions to the Patricia M. Quill Collection

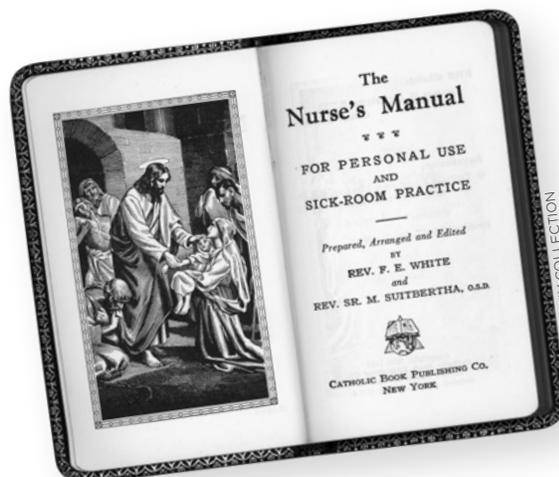
Elizabeth Sergio vintage nursing books

Loretta Spittle vintage nursing and nursing history texts

UVA School of Nursing BSN Class of 1988 extensive collection of photographs pertaining to their student experience ■



CLAIRE E. FEARN COLLECTION



JEANNE NOVOTNY COLLECTION



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We would like to extend sincere thanks to each of our contributors.

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