

WINDOWS IN TIME

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

VOLUME 27, ISSUE 1 SPRING 2019



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Why History?

BARBRA MANN WALL, PHD, RN, FAAN

This editorial focuses on the shape that the discipline of nursing history is taking today. I asked several of our graduate students and recent graduates how they came to study history, not a specific topic, but why history?

I will respond about myself, first. I became interested in history when I realized that other areas of inquiry could not answer the questions I was asking about nursing: questions about gender, power, and social class within hospital hierarchies. Only later did I come to the subject of my research. As a graduate student at the University of Notre Dame, I studied Catholic sisters in nursing and hospital formation and came to the work not as a Catholic but as a secular. I found that sisters' entrepreneurial activities as vowed women revealed how they successfully built hospitals and influenced social and legislative issues related to hospitals and nursing in ways that were unusual for most women of their day. Using a gendered and religious analysis, my work aimed to tackle larger questions about power distribution within institutions.

Graduate student Reynaldo Capucan, Jr., writes, "Historical inquiry deepens knowledge of how people and places came to be and serves as a personal mindfulness technique to contextualize the world. I trace the past to better understand my identities as a second generation Filipino-American and professional nurse. This led to my studies in nursing history to venerate my mother and the stories of unknown Filipino nurses who forged the path that I am able to take. Through my lessons in history, I hope to impact the healthcare field by providing transcultural nursing care (continued on page 2)

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Henry K. Sharp

UVA was well-represented at the American Association for the History of Nursing conference in September 2018. Pictured above (left to right): Tori Tucker, Jonathan Yoder, Charemon Brooks, Barbra Mann Wall, Arlene Keeling, Simone Jaeckl, and Andre Rosario.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR, *continued from page 1*

and crafting health policy that addresses cultural and health disparities through a historical perspective.”

Graduate student Victoria Tucker notes, “History brings humanity back into research. I chose history because there were questions, gaps, and fragmented narratives on Black nurses’ identity, vast contributions and experiences that could not be answered, filled, or made whole without intentional inspection of the past. For my work, this involves considering the intricate interworking of American history (colonialization, slavery, Jim Crow laws) and acknowledging Virginia’s central lineage within this narrative. A detailed exploration of Black nurses in Virginia not only brings a new lens to an underexplored area of nursing history, but it can also help identify and dismantle discriminatory policies and practices from which health disparities arose.”

Charemon Brooks came to the University of Virginia School of Nursing PhD program with a goal to study domestic violence against Black women. She found that, to do so, she needed to understand how, within the dual burdens of racism and sexism, Black women have historically stood up to abusive partners during slavery and after Emancipation just as they fought against the violence that whites perpetrated. History provided a way to speak to the marginality of Black women in history and how they resisted injustices.

Others weighed in. Elizabeth Hundt is a graduate of our program, and she came with an interest in studying the establishment of St. Elizabeths Hospital in Washington, DC. History provided a means to ask questions about nature and the environment and their influences on hospital design. St. Elizabeths became a testimonial to the dream of a natural, healing place for people with mental disabilities. Graduate Franklin Hickey was interested in the “narrative turn” in the humanities and social sciences, and how history could provide a method of making sense of nurses’ stories after the September 11, 2001 (9/11), disaster. He also had a clearer understanding of his own response after 9/11 via his autobiography. Our Rice Interdisciplinary Post-Doctoral Fellow, Lydia Wytenbroek, said, “I had questions stemming from my practice, and history was the way I chose to answer them. History was liberating for me. It gave me the language and context to make sense of my experience as a new nurse.”

Mary Beth Norton, president of the American Historical Association, did a similar survey of some of her fellow historians. In their answers and those noted above, it is clear that choices to study history are deeply personal. Many have chosen history as a way to contribute to social justice. Most important, as Lillian Guerra responded, “We are historians out of a consciousness of our intellectual necessity and the belief that creating and sharing historical knowledge changes contemporary attitudes as well as human destiny.”¹

As historians, we all follow different pathways, unique and individual ones, as we try to answer larger questions about nursing migration, institutional hierarchies, racial issues, responses to disasters, and questions about social justice. This is a good thing. And we are all needed! ■

Barbra Mann Wall

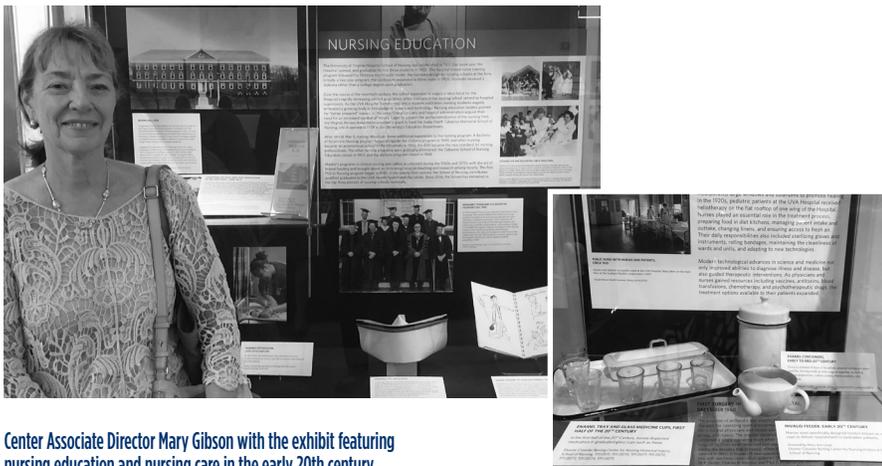
¹ Mary Beth Norton, “How Did You Choose Your Field?” *Perspectives on History* 56, no. 6 (September 2018): 5–6.

Re-examining “White Spaces”

The University of Virginia Alumni Association’s Jefferson Trust has funded Drs. **Barbra Mann Wall**, **Susan Kools**, **Ivory Hinton**, **Randy Jones**, and PhD student **Victoria Tucker** for their project on “Reshaping Public and Archival Spaces at the University of Virginia School of Nursing.” The aim is to reshape traditionally “white spaces” in the nursing school, including archives and public spaces such as classrooms, hallways, dining areas, and meeting rooms, in order to reimagine a more inclusive past. It involves taking oral histories of Black nurse alumni; celebrating their accomplishments during Black Alumni Weekend; and displaying visual and textual artifacts of Black nurses and other nurses of color throughout the school’s buildings. ■

Two Centuries of Care

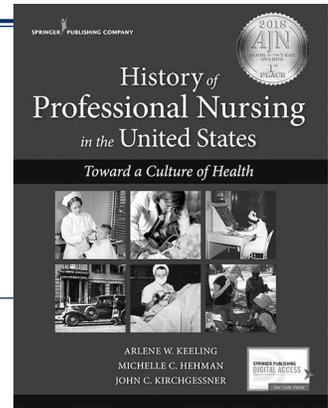
“UVA Health System: 200 Years of Learning, Research, and Care” was on display in the main gallery of the Special Collections Library from July 26, 2018—January 4, 2019. The exhibit included items from the Eleanor Crowder Bjoring Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry, the Claude Moore Health Sciences Library, and the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library. ■



Center Associate Director Mary Gibson with the exhibit featuring nursing education and nursing care in the early 20th century



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.



BOOK OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to **Arlene Keeling**, **Michelle Hehman**, and **John Kirchgessner** for receiving the 2018 American Journal of Nursing Book of the Year Award for their history textbook, *History of Professional Nursing in the United States: Toward a Culture of Health* (Springer, 2018) in the category for “History and Policy.” ■

New Program Manager



Please join us in welcoming **Maura Singleton** as our new program manager for the Eleanor Crowder Bjoring Center

for Nursing Historical Inquiry. Maura comes to us with great experience in writing, editing, managing programs, and graphic design. She has won seven awards for excellence in feature writing for magazines, and received several Virginia Press Association awards during her time as a newspaper reporter. She will be guiding us in our many programs, including our *Windows in Time* newsletter, our display window, our seminars, and our gifts and grants. ■

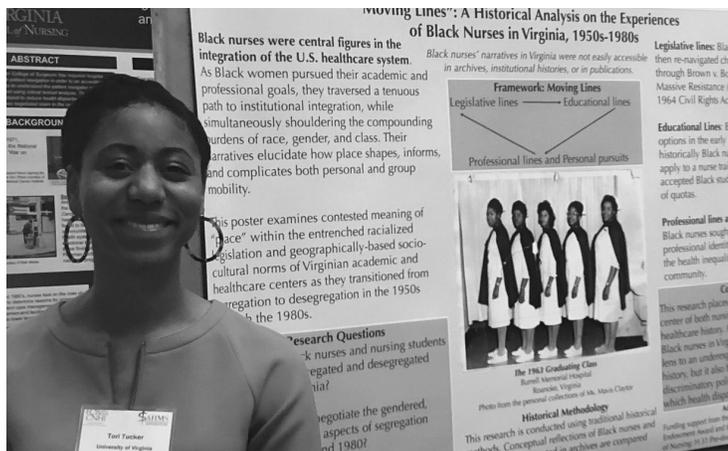
Exploring the Experiences of Black Nurses During Desegregation

Victoria Tucker, RN is the 2019 recipient of the Barbara Brodie Nursing History Scholarship. Tucker is a graduate of the University of Virginia School of Nursing. Her doctoral research is entitled “Moving Lines: Black Nurses’ Experiences in Virginia during Desegregation, 1950–1980.” Discriminatory and segregationist practices in the United States perpetuated disparate health outcomes in the Black community during the Jim Crow era. National mortality and morbidity statistical comparisons between Black and white citizens in the 1950s exposed the falsehood of “separate but equal.” It was actually “separate but deadly.” This study examines the educational and professional

lives of Black nurses in the context of entrenched racialized legislation and geographically-based socio-cultural norms in Virginia between 1950 and 1980. At the same time, this study places Black women at the center of both nursing and the United States healthcare history. Tucker examines Black nurses lived experiences of segregation and desegregation in schools of nursing and hospitals. Using the “moving lines” framework to conceptualize their experiences, she explores how the nurses maneuvered segregated and desegregated places in Virginia. The “moving lines” framework is used to analyze three areas: 1) legislative lines or barriers of Jim Crow laws; 2) educational lines or barriers for entry into practice; and 3) professional lines and personal pursuits.

Using oral histories, public, private, and personal archives, this work will add to the understanding of Black nurses’ history and the intricate interworking of American history. At the same time, it illustrates how Virginia embodied the advances, resistance, and setbacks of segregation and desegregation that were happening across the nation. A detailed exploration of Black nurses in Virginia brings a new lens to an underexplored area of nursing history, while at the same time helping to identify and dismantle discriminatory policies and practices from which health disparities arose. ■

Doctoral candidate Victoria Tucker, the 2019 Barbara Brodie Nursing History Scholar



International Scholarship: Introducing the Newest Brodie Fellows

We are pleased to announce the newest ECBCNHI Brodie fellows.

Madonna Grehan, PhD is an honorary fellow at the University of Melbourne, Australia, Department of Nursing, School of Health Sciences. The title of her work is: *The American Connection: Recruiting Australian Nurses as ‘Citizens of World Nursing’, c.1885–1902.*

Gwyneth Milbrath PhD, RN, MPH, is a faculty member at the University of Illinois Chicago College of Nursing.

She is examining The Army School of Nursing in World War I.

Jane Brooks, PhD, works in the Division of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work, University of Manchester, England. The title of her work is: *Understanding ‘the Other’: The Nursing Profession and Jewish Refugees from Nazi Europe.*

We look forward to hearing more about their scholarship at a future history forum. ■

NURSING HISTORY FORUMS

McLeod Hall, Rm 5060, 12 p.m.-1 p.m.

October 17 “Service and Training: The Army School of Nursing 1917-1921”
Gwyneth Milbrath, PhD, RN, MPH

November 12 “Nursing on Ellis Island: Caring for the Huddled Masses”
Michelle C. Hehman, PhD, RN

Presentations, Publications & Awards

FACULTY/ASSOCIATES

Wall, B.M. (2019). "The Christian Commission Also Brought a Wagon Today: Dr. Fulton, Voluntary Relief Associations, and Women in Hospitals." In R. Hicks (Ed.), *Civil War Medicine: A Surgeon's Diary* (pp. 313–329). Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

Wall, B.M. (2019). Review of *A History of Global Health: Interventions into the Lives of Other Peoples*, by Randall M. Packard. *Nursing History Review*, vol. 27, 156–158.

Brodie, B. "Role of American Nurses in the Professionalization of Japanese Nurses: 1945–1950." American Association for the History of Nursing Annual Conference. September 2018, San Diego, CA.

Matthias, A., Keeling, A., Wall, B.M., and Lusk, B. "Engaging Students with Nursing History through Intentional Course Design and Delivery." American Association for the History of Nursing Annual Conference. September 2018, San Diego, CA.

Houlahan, B. "Those were not Schoolrooms we Inspected: They were Contagious Wards with all the Different Diseases so mingled it was a wonder that each child not have them all. Many of them did ... all at once." American Association for the History of Nursing Annual Conference. September 2018, San Diego, CA.

Hickey, F. "Oral Narratives of Nurses' Experiences of the September 11, 2001 Disaster." The 21st annual meeting of the Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science, and the ECBCNHI 4th Agnes Dillon Randolph

Conference. March, 2019. Joint meeting at the University of Virginia.

Houlahan, B. "The Personal and Professional Become Political: The Emergence of School Nursing through Policy Change in Virginia, 1900–1925." The 21st annual meeting of the Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science, and the ECBCNHI 4th Agnes Dillon Randolph Conference. March, 2019. Joint meeting at the University of Virginia.

Hundt, B. "Many thanks for your kind, good letter': Letters of Caroline Burghardt to Dorothea Dix, 1867–1887." The 21st annual meeting of the Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science, and the ECBCNHI 4th Agnes Dillon Randolph Conference. March, 2019. Joint meeting at the University of Virginia.

Milbrath, G. "American Nurses in WWI." The 21st annual meeting of the Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science, and the ECBCNHI 4th Agnes Dillon Randolph Conference. March, 2019. Joint meeting at the University of Virginia.

STUDENT AND FELLOW PRESENTATIONS

Capucao, R. "Practical Implications for Historical Inquiry in the CNL." Clinical Nurse Leader Summit. February 2019. Tampa, FL.

Capucao, R. "The Filipino Nurse Diaspora in Virginia." The 21st annual meeting of the Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science, and the ECBCNHI 4th Agnes Dillon Randolph Conference. March, 2019. Joint meeting at the University of Virginia.

Jaekl, S. "Hygiene and morality from the Progressive Era to the 21st Century: Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Adolescent Girls in the United States." American Association for the History of Nursing Annual Conference. September 2018, San Diego, CA.

Tucker, V. "The Meaning of Place: A Historical Analysis on the Experiences of Black nurses in Virginia, 1950s–1980s." American Association for the History of Nursing Annual Conference. September 2018, San Diego, CA.

Tucker, V. "Moving Lines: Black Nurses' Experiences in Virginia during Segregation, 1950–1980s." The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), October 2018, Indianapolis, IN.

Tucker, V. Co-moderator and presenter. 2019 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., UVA Health System Program: Women in the Movement. January 2019, Charlottesville, VA.

Tucker, V. Presenter. Black History Month Program at Zion Hill Baptist Church. February 2019. Keswick, VA.

Wytenbroek, L. "Nurses Negotiate a Place in the Mission: The Politics of Application, Assignment, and Resignation." American Association for the History of Nursing Annual Conference. September 2018, San Diego, CA.

Wytenbroek, L. "Nursing (Inter) Nationalism in Iran, 1907–1947." History Forum ECBCNHI, January 2019, Charlottesville VA.

(continued on page 6)

Wytenbroek, L. “Making Nurses Visible: Image and Propaganda in Iranian Nursing.” The 21st annual meeting of the Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science, and the ECBCNHI 4th Agnes Dillon Randolph Conference. March, 2019. Joint meeting at the University of Virginia.

STUDENT AWARDS & GRANTS

Capucao, R. appeared on Radio IQ’s “Virginia Man Documents the History of Filipino Nurses in America” to share the story of his Virginia Humanities project, “A Culture to Care: The History of Filipino Nurses Oral History Project, Panel, and Photo Exhibit” at the Philippine Cultural Center, Virginia Beach, August 10, 2019.

Capucao, R. became an executive board member of the Philippine Nurses Association of Virginia, acting as its Public Relations Officer. He also serves as editor for their newsletter, “The Filipino Nurse.”

Capucao, R. received the Philippine Nurses Association 2018 Scholarship for \$1000 as its first graduate student recipient.

NOTEWORTHY

Mary Gibson completed her term as President of the American Association for the History of Nursing and turned over the reins to **Arlene Keeling** at the meeting in September, 2018 in San Diego, CA.

After many years of excellent editing of *Nursing History Review*, the official journal of the American Association for the History of Nursing, Dr. Patricia D’Antonio has decided to step down from that position. The new editor is **Arlene Keeling**. ■

Center Associate Director Mary Gibson Retires

Mary Gibson, a nurse historian and obstetrics and public health nurse, retired this spring. Prior to joining the School of Nursing faculty in 1998, she worked in labor and delivery and outpatient obstetrics at UVA and in the local community.

Gibson earned a B.S.N. and an M.S.N. from the University of Virginia, and after earning a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania, where she focused her doctoral work on nursing history, returned to UVA School of Nursing as an assistant professor and in 2013 was promoted to associate professor.

Over nearly two decades at the School of Nursing, Gibson taught a wide range of nursing courses to both undergraduates and graduate students, and served on numerous Ph.D. committees of students who focused their scholarship on nursing history, Gibson’s specialty area, as well as several D.N.P. committees relating to public health or obstetrics. Of all the nursing classes Gibson led, it was the obstetrics course she loved teaching the best—watching students recognize the monumental changes that birth imposes and mentoring them to provide competent and compassionate care to women and their families. For the past four years, Gibson followed her other passion, healthcare history, and taught a History of Medicine class to 4th-year School of Medicine students, an elective she will continue to teach following her retirement. She has developed another elective course for the School of Nursing called “Hidden Origins: Viewing Today’s Nursing Through the Lens of History,” which she plans to teach this fall.

Throughout her career, Gibson regularly presented her scholarship at national and international healthcare history conferences, and published a variety of work in clinical and

historical journals and texts. As assistant, then associate director of UVA School of Nursing’s Eleanor Bjoring Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry, Gibson actively promoted and engaged in historical research and dissemination, successfully securing funding for several digitization projects. Most recently

she participated in preparing the bicentennial exhibit on the History of Healthcare at UVA.

Gibson served as chair and assistant chair of the school’s Family Community Mental Health Systems Department for a total of eight years, was a two-term faculty senator, and chaired the school’s faculty organization. Throughout her career, she was active in the community, serving as chapter and Virginia section chair of the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses, as president of the Beta Kappa Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, and as a long-time volunteer, board member and chair of Jefferson Area CHiP. Immediate past-president of the American Association for the History of Nursing (2016–2018), Gibson will continue her engagement in historical research after retirement.

Mary’s husband, Bob Gibson, is the Lockhart B. McGuire Chair in Internal Medicine Emeritus, and continues to practice cardiology part-time at UVA. The Gibsons plan to travel, enjoy time with their children and grandchild, and pursue historical scholarship. ■



Mary Gibson, PhD, RN

FEATURE



COURTESY PRESBYTERIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES

American Mission Nursing in Iran, 1907–1947

LYDIA WYTENBROEK, PHD, MA, BSN, RN

Lydia is finishing her term as the Rice Interdisciplinary Postdoctoral Fellow in Nursing and Health Care History, co-sponsored by the ECBCNHI and the UVA Consortium for Religion, Politics, and Conflict. We wish her the best and look forward to her future publications.

My research explores American missionary nurses' contributions to mission medicine and healthcare in Iran. The Presbyterian Church of the United States of America's Board of Foreign Missions (BFM) established a "Mission to Persia" in 1871, and medicine was integral to the mission enterprise from the beginning. Missionaries initially undertook social service projects because they hoped that these endeavours would advance the religious aims of the mission, but they came to value medical care as a tangible act of Christian service with intrinsic value. As modern hospitals were built to replace provisional medical services, like makeshift clinics, nursing emerged as a valuable component of mission medicine. Missionary nurses were part of a new era of mission medicine in

Iran characterized by the delivery of modern scientific medicine and innovative surgery via hospital-centric care. They played a significant role in the work of the mission hospital, obstetrical work and nursing education in Iran.

The hospital was the primary site of mission medicine in the twentieth century. By 1915, Presbyterian missionaries were operating seven mission hospitals in Iran and the mission as a whole had acquired a prestigious reputation for its surgical work. Although the mission hospitals were fairly small institutions, ranging in size from ten to seventy inpatient beds, they treated a fairly large number of patients. In 1925, the mission treated a combined 1,836 inpatients

Above, Cochran Memorial Hospital, Urmia, Iran, c. 1930s



COURTESY/PRESBYTERIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES

Missionary nurse with a class of nursing students

and 49,277 outpatients. The hospital was the hub of missionary nurses' work and activities. They spent the majority of their time managing hospital services, organizing and educating staff and students and delivering direct patient care. There was typically only one American missionary nurse assigned to a hospital, and mission nurses reported that their hospital work kept them very busy. One nurse commented that she was at the hospital every day by seven in the morning to get the night shift report and plan for the day. For some nurses, the "pressure of the work" was "too great,"¹ and they resigned before they completed their assignment.

Although their numbers were small, American mission nurses managed to carry out an impressive amount of medical work. They oversaw all inpatient services. One nurse wrote: "Our hospital being small, it fell to my lot not only to care for the patients, wards and operating room, but also to oversee the serving of trays and the work in the kitchen and laundry."² Sometimes they also kept track of hospital statistics and kept a record of the hospital finances.³ They were involved in various facets of the mission medical work, but surgery often took precedence over their other work. All missionary nurses assigned to Iran had to function as perioperative nurses and be versed in surgical skills. They prepared the operating room, set up surgical tools, scrubbed into surgery, handled surgical instruments, gave anesthetics,

disinfected and sterilized surgical equipment, cared for postoperative patients and monitored patients for signs of postoperative complications. Yet their important role in surgery was rarely documented in annual hospital reports written by physicians. In 1925, missionary nurse Mabel Nelson, the sole missionary nurse assigned to the mission hospital in Mashhad, wrote that she had assisted in "nearly all major and some minor operations."⁴ The hospital statistics revealed that there were 181 major and 898 minor surgeries that year. Missionary nurses' reports revealed that nursing skills, therapies and manpower were vital to the implementation of mission medicine.

Gendered notions about women's work simultaneously restricted

and expanded missionary nurses' activities and influence within the mission. Missionary nurses primarily practiced under the leadership of male missionary physicians, but they were able to carve out a unique and largely independent role in childbirth in the first half of the twentieth century.

They argued that they should be granted greater access to women patients because social stigma prevented some women from seeking birth assistance from male physicians. Their ability to play a role in obstetrical work was aided by Iranian physicians' public criticism of unskilled midwives and rising expectations for maternal and infant health.⁵ Historian Myra Rutherford argues that "domesticity and maternalism were not always limiting ideologies for women; rather, they could be used as deliberate strategic identities to extend women's influence."⁶ Mission nurses in Iran used the idea of "women's work" to validate the importance of their contributions to mission medicine. They often wrote that they delivered babies alone as "mothers ... would not hear of calling in a man doctor."⁷ Obstetrical work also allowed some nurses to generate revenue for the mission medical project through their independent nursing work. Grace Taillie started a private obstetrical practice in Tehran in 1930. The income she generated from her practice provided "material benefit in helping

¹ "Recommendations and Actions of Nurses' Conferences," July 17–18, 1944, Presbyterian Historical Society Archives (PHS), Record Group (RG) 91, box 8, folder 3.

² Mira Sutherland, "Personal Report, 1914–1915," PHS RG 91-1-6.

³ Ellen Nicholson to Supporters, January 21, 1937, PHS RG 360: Ellen Nicholson.

⁴ Mabel Nelson, "Personal Report, July 1924–1925," PHS RG 91-1-9.

⁵ Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet, *Conceiving Citizens: Women and the Politics of Motherhood in Iran* (Oxford University Press, 2011), 104.

⁶ Myra Rutherford, *Women and the White Man's God: Gender and Race in the Canadian Mission Field* (Vancouver, BC: UBC Press, 2002), 15.

⁷ Mabel Nelson, "Personal Report, July 1924–1925," PHS RG 91-1-9.

the hospital to weather its financial storms.”⁸ Without the revenue she generated from her obstetrical work, the mission hospital in Tehran would have struggled to subsist.

Nurses pointed out the effectiveness of their work in a number of ways. They documented the success of mission medicine in curing patients, and they used specific cases to demonstrate the value of nursing care. In their letters to home churches, nurses wrote about specific cases that highlighted their skill and resourcefulness. In one instance, when twin boys were delivered at the hospital in Tehran and the entire supply of infant apparel was in use, missionary nurse Jean Wells wrote that she went “flying to remedy it” and “hastily searched the neighborhood for clothing” for the babies.⁹ In her retelling of the scenario, she emphasized her ability to make do with limited resources and her capabilities as a missionary nurse to overcome the challenging situation.

Once missionary nurses established nursing schools, their educational endeavours became the focal point of their mission work. Between 1916 and 1936, American mission nurses operated the only nursing schools in the country. Since there were no other formal training programs for nurses, mission nurses were faced with the question of how to define the trained nurse in a context where ideas of professional nursing were not widely acknowledged or accepted. They used the recruitment, selection and training of students to cultivate their vision of nursing and set high standards for the profession. Their goal was to transform Iranian women into Americanized professional nurses.

After missionary nurses opened nursing schools, beginning in 1916, they relinquished much of the direct patient care to student nurses, but they also assumed new administrative and educational tasks involved with operating the nursing schools. From the very beginning, they were far more interested in advancing the nursing profession in Iran than they were about securing nursing labor for the mission hospitals. In 1923, after watching another class of students graduate, missionary nurse Jean Wells wrote that she was inspired to continue her “effort in the development of the profession in a country where hospitals are so few and trained care in sickness is almost unknown.”¹⁰ Missionary nurses felt that it was important to “not just train nurses to care for the sick, but to train nurses capable of taking charge of a hospital and training other nurses.”¹¹

By the 1920s, mission nurses were more interested in developing an Americanized nursing profession in Iran than they were in evangelizing or advancing the work of the mission.

Missionary nurse Janet Fulton wrote: “Ever since nursing has become my profession, I have wanted to produce fine nurses for Iran.”¹² This sentiment was echoed by missionary nurse Estella Chambers who wrote: “It is what I live for, to try to give to Iran good nurses.”¹³ Although the schools did not graduate large numbers of nurses, missionary nurses were at the forefront of nursing education innovation in the country. In 1936, the Iranian government hired missionary nurses to found the first government nursing schools in the country. And mission nurses continued to have an active role in nursing education in Iran until the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

Mission nurses increasingly focused on promoting nursing professionalism, and redefined their idea of Christian service in light of their professional goals. They began to argue that developing professional nursing was Christian work. One missionary nurse wrote: “I believe that teaching nationals to do nursing is one of the necessary and distinctive contributions of a Christian Mission. Do we believe in the ministry of healing? In hospitals? If so, nurses are necessary and must be produced right in the community, slowly over years. This has been my task.”¹⁴ Their ability to adapt their vision of mission nursing enabled them to continue their nursing schools even after mission hospitals were closed after World War II. They adjusted their faith and professional goals in light of their interactions with student and graduate nurses, and in relation to the changing political context of Iran.

Presbyterian missionaries affiliated with the mission comprised the largest American presence in Iran before World War II. They had a formative role in shaping Iranian perceptions about the U.S. and American perceptions about Iran. Thousands of people received treatment in American mission hospitals on a yearly basis in the first half of the twentieth century. These medical encounters were not insignificant. Certainly, medical missionaries represented a particular image of America to their patients, but they also delivered tangible medical care to thousands of people. Missionary nurses played an important role in these medical encounters. Nurses are not always considered in medical mission historiography, but mission nurses in Iran were more successful than their physician counterparts at navigating their position in the country. They had their own professional goals and carved out specific areas of nursing autonomy within the physician-dominated field of mission medicine. ■

⁸ Philip McDowell, “Report of the Medical Work, July 1, 1931—June 30, 1932,” PHS RG 91-19-11.

⁹ Jean Wells, “Personal Report, [1921?],” PHS RG 91-4-7.

¹⁰ Jean Wells, “Personal Report, 1923–1924,” PHS RG 91-4-7.

¹¹ *A Century of Mission Work in Iran (Persia), 1834-1934* (Beirut, Syria: American Press, 1936), 60.

¹² Janet Fulton, “Personal Report, 1953,” PHS RG 360: Janet Fulton.

¹³ Estella Chambers, “Personal Report, 1940–1941,” PHS RG 360: Estella Chambers.

¹⁴ Ellen Nicholson, “Personal Report, June 1953,” PHS RG 360: Ellen Nicholson.

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES

IN NURSING AND MEDICAL HISTORY

New Bjoring Center Grant for Historical Research on Nurse Practitioners

The Eleanor Crowder Bjoring Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry (ECBCNHI) announces the Nurse Practitioner History Research Scholar Award. The goal of this research award is to disseminate scholarship about nurse practitioners to an international audience. By strengthening relationships and collaborations to increase access to historical scholarship, the ECBCNHI hopes to advance historical scholarship on practitioners.

A donor has made a generous gift of \$5,000. This is a one-time award with potential for continuation. The due date is June 1, 2019 with the intention that the recipient use the award the following academic year.

Eligibility: Any student pursuing a Ph.D. or an established scholar. This award is not limited to nursing scholars; other historians of medicine and health care are encouraged to apply. Applicants must provide a full research proposal, including:

- A concise statement of the research they wish to conduct
- A narrative describing the project, placed within the context of the present state of historical knowledge, including background, sources and appropriate citations
- Identification of resources to be utilized
- An itemized budget detailing the ways they will use the research funds
- A current CV

Proposals and supporting materials will be received by ECBCNHI and distributed to Review Committee members.

The recipient must agree to provide a research presentation to selected faculty when the project is completed (donor included, if desired). In addition, they must produce a submission-ready paper for publication and a letter of thanks for the donor. ■

Conferences

The 2019 joint meeting of the **Canadian Society for the History of Medicine** and the **Canadian Association for the History of Nursing** will take place June 1–3, 2019, at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Papers and discussions will critically explore the relationships between historians of health, medicine, and nursing and the communities they influence and are influenced by. <https://cshh-schm.ca/annual-conference-conference-annuelle/>

The UK Association for the History of Nursing is hosting a one-day colloquium on July 5, 2019, in collaboration with the **European Association for the History of Nursing**. The theme will be ‘Histories of Humanitarian Nursing.’ <http://ukahn.org/wp/ukahn-colloquium-2019>

The Health Professions Conference will feature “Integrative Healthcare Strategies: Exploring Culture and Practice in Traditional, Complementary and Alternative Medicine,” September 21, 2019, Utica College, Utica, NY. <https://www.utica.edu/academic/hhs/ihs/>

Call for Submissions

The *Journal of the Southern Association of the History of Medicine and Science* (JSAHMS) is an online, peer-reviewed journal (ISSN 2639-6661) that aims to provide new and unique insights into the study of the history of medicine and science. It offers a platform for a variety

of new scholarship and welcomes articles from a variety of fields that intersect with the history of medicine and science.

JSAHMS currently seeks original articles for its 2020 issue. The submission deadline is July 31, 2019. If you are willing to serve as a reviewer,

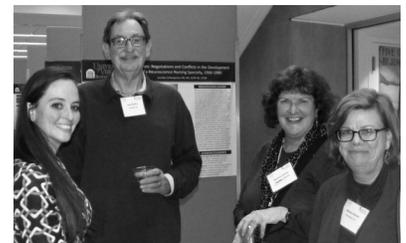
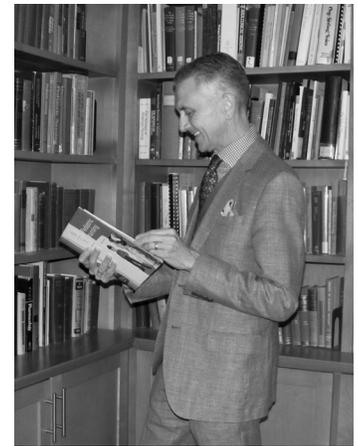
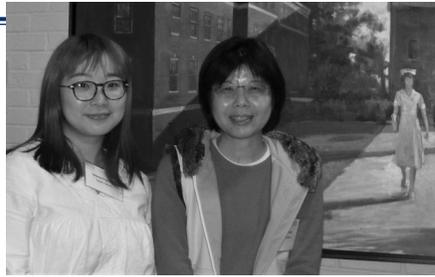
please register with the journal and indicate your areas of expertise.

The journal is published by the Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science with support from Troy University. For more information: <https://journals.troy.edu/index.php/JSAHMS>. ■

From Medieval Medicine to Nurses' Narratives of 9/11

The UVA School of Nursing Eleanor Crowder Bjoring Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry hosted the **4th Agnes Dillon Randolph International Nursing History and the 21st Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science** conferences on March 14–16, 2019. Keynote speakers included Sioban Nelson, PhD, RN, FAAN from the University of Toronto; Peter Hobbins, PhD from the University of Sydney; and Shauna Devine, PhD from Western University. The 130 attendees travelled from 10 countries and 26 states across the U.S.

Participants shared more than 100 unique paper and poster presentations, with topics as diverse as the attendees. These included sessions on “Greek and Latin Scientific and Medical Literature”; “Eugenics, Civil Rights, and the Child in 20th Century Alabama and Georgia”; “African-American Science and Medicine”; and “Voices in Nursing: Memoirs and Oral Histories.” The joint program provided an important connection to scholarship across a variety of disciplines and amplified UVA’s commitment to equity and justice on Grounds and beyond. ■



The conference drew a cross-section of international scholars. Clockwise from top left: Hsiang-Ting Song and Shu-Ching Chang of Chang Gung University, Taiwan; Marie Campbell-Statler; Peter Hobbins in the History Center; Gwyneth Milbrath, Steve Beitler, Madonna Grehan and Melissa Sherrad attending the poster presentations; Peter Hobbins and Barbra Mann Wall; Madonna Grehan, Barbra Mann Wall, Sioban Nelson, and Cindy Connolly; and Brigid Lusk with Lourdes Carhuapoma.

POSTDOCTORAL OPPORTUNITY AT THE BJORING CENTER

The Eleanor Crowder Bjoring Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry Barbara Brodie Nursing History Fellowship, a postdoctoral fellowship, is open to nurses engaged in historical scholarship that advances the field of nursing history. Applications for the \$3,000 award are due October 15 each year, and the recipient will be announced in early December. 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 history.

The application and a curriculum vitae should be emailed to the Bjoring Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry’s Director, Barbra Mann Wall, PhD, RN, FAAN at bmw8y@virginia.edu. ■

SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST

The Final Roll Call

REBECCA COFFIN, PHD, RN

*On Fame's eternal camping ground
Their silent tents are spread,
And Glory guards, with solemn round,
The bivouac of the dead. ...*

*Rest on embalmed and sainted dead!
Dear as the blood ye gave;
No impious footsteps here shall tread
The herbage of your grave; ...¹*

Meander through Arlington National Cemetery and gaze upon the sea of white marble headstones, uniformly sized at 13 x 24 x 4 inches, with approximately 11 lines of text and an optional “emblem of belief.”² Strict eligibility regulations for interment in Arlington National Cemetery unite the dead in service to their country,³ while headstone inscriptions such as “Loving Father and Husband,” or “Infant Daughter,” or “Proud Soldier,” recall the living to the uniqueness of each veteran buried or memorialized there.

Section 21 of the cemetery, also known as the “Nurses Section,” unites 653 nurses who served in the military. An 8.5-foot-tall statue of a nurse has directed her watch over the section



since 1938. Originally dedicated to U.S. Army and Navy nurses, the memorial was later rededicated with a bronze plaque that reads, “This monument was erected in 1938 and rededicated in 1971 to commemorate devoted service to country and humanity by Army, Navy and Air Force Nurses.”⁴

Among those in her care are:

Sophia Elizabeth Deaterla

Commander
Chief Nurse
Navy Nurse Corps
World War I & II
Sept. 5, 1892—
Jan. 13, 1989

Elizabeth M. Hewitt

Chief Nurse
U.S. Navy
1872–1936

Elizabeth C. Lee

Nurse
1870–1927
Citation Nov. 2, 1918
Heroic Conduct
while attached Evacuation
Hospital No. 4
Meuse-Argonne Offensive

Mary E. MacRae

District of Columbia
Nurse
Army Nurse Corps
Jan 21 1944

Dora E. Thompson

California
Captain
Army Nurse Corps
World War I
Nov 20 1876
Jun 23 1954
DSM

The Society of Spanish-American War Nurses dedicated the Spanish-American War Nurses monument to the nurses involved in the Spanish-American War of 1898. This monument, also found in Section 21 of the cemetery, features a Maltese cross (the Society's insignia) with the words Spanish American War Nurses encircling “U.S.A.” in the middle of the cross. The cross sits atop a large granite boulder inscribed “To Our Comrades.” The etched cross is duplicated on the back of the monument, under which is a bronze plaque that reads, “In memory of the women who gave their lives as Army Nurses in 1898.—Erected by the Society of Spanish American War Nurses.”

¹These selected lines from Theodore O'Hara's “Bivouac of the Dead” are found on McClellan Gate, the original main entrance to Arlington National Cemetery.

²“Government Headstone/Niche Cover,” Arlington National Cemetery, accessed February 27, 2019, <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Funerals/Scheduling-a-Funeral/Headstones-and-Niche-Covers/Government-Headstone-Niche-Covers>.

³See 32 CFR Part 553 <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2016-09-26/pdf/2016-23087.pdf>

⁴National Park Service, “Arlington National Cemetery Historic District,” February 24, 2014, <https://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/places/pdfs/14000146.pdf>



PHOTOS BY REBECCA COFFIN

Resting near this impressive memorial are:

Jane A. Delano

Front: Born Montour Falls, N.Y.,
March 12, 1862

Died Savenay, France, April 15, 1919
Faithful unto Death

Back: Organizer and first director of the
American Red Cross Nursing Service.

Superintendent of the
Army Nurse Corps

16009-D

Eleanor Mayes

Contract Nurse
U.S. Army
Sp. Am. War

16010

Jessie A. Zerbone

Contract Nurse
U.S. Army
Sp. Am. War

Minnie A. DeChard

Nurse
ANC
Sp Am War
Nov 11 1874
Feb 16 1952

Mary Lillie Bauskett

Nurse
ANC
Sp Am War

Brigadier General (BG) Hazel Winifred Johnson-Brown quietly rests in Section 60, a large area safely holding veterans who served in wartime and peacetime. Her unadorned headstone belies her outstanding accomplishments in military and civilian life. Johnson-Brown was the first African American female to attain the rank of general officer in American military history. Johnson worked as a head nurse at the Philadelphia Veterans Administration Hospital prior to joining the Army Nurse Corps in 1955. Her tours of duty included: Camp Zama, Japan; Madigan General Hospital in Washington state; Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C; and, Seoul, South Korea. She earned her PhD at the Catholic University of America, and subsequently became the 16th chief of the Army Nurse Corps with a promotion to Brigadier General.⁵

After retirement, Johnson-Brown accepted a professorship at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. She remained active as a Professor Emeritus until her death in 2011. In honor of BG Johnson-Brown, the school created the General Hazel Johnson-Brown Endowed Scholarship, bestowing funds to its inaugural recipient in 2018. Her



PHOTO BY REBECCA COFFIN

contributions are also memorialized at the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.⁶

Hazel Winifred Johnson-Brown

BG
US Army
Korea
Vietnam
Oct 10 1927
Aug 5 2011

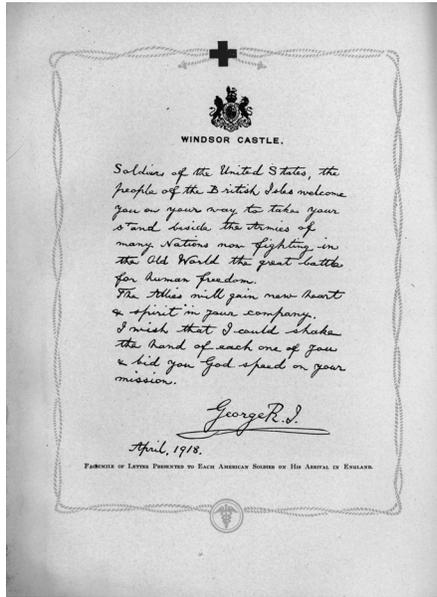


⁵ Mary T. Sarnecky, "Brigadier General Hazel W. Johnson, 16th Chief, Army Nurse Corps," accessed February 27, 2019, <https://e-anca.org/History/Superintendents-Chiefs-of-the-ANC/Hazel-W-Johnson>

⁶ "About General Hazel Johnson-Brown," George Mason University, accessed February 27, 2019, <https://advancement.gmu.edu/s/1564/GID2/16/interior-1col.aspx?sid=1564&gid=2&sitebuilder=1&pgid=3113>

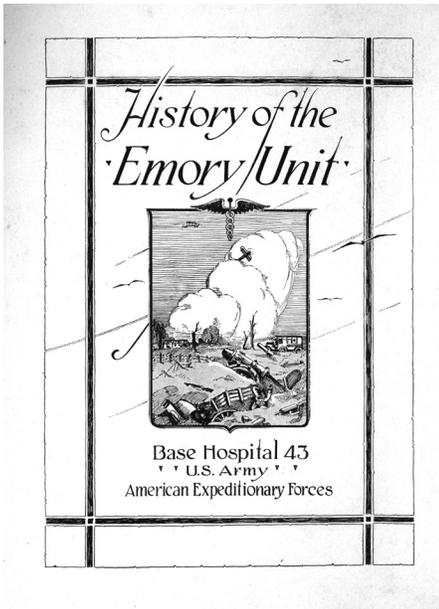


JOHN ORA JOHNSON COLLECTION



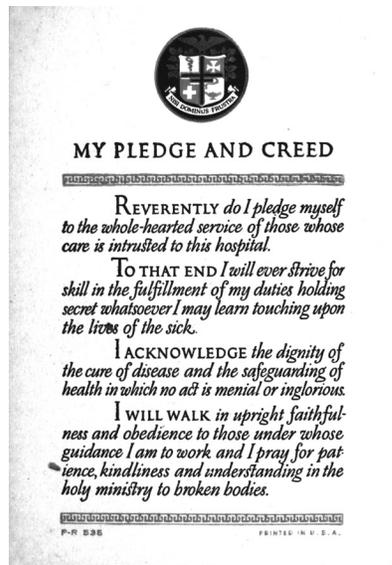
JOHN ORA JOHNSON COLLECTION

Clockwise from top left: John Ora Johnson, Emory Unit, WWI; a facsimile of an April 1918 letter from King George presented to each American soldier on his arrival in England; yearbook of the Emory Unit in WWI



JOHN ORA JOHNSON COLLECTION

A nurse's "Pledge and Creed"



BETA MICHELBERGER COLLECTION

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Thelma Smith Brandon SON '51—photographs and other items she collected at UVA Hospital in 1950–51.

June Welsh Echols—additions to her papers.

Dorrie Fontaine, Dean of the UVa School of Nursing—a first installment of papers concerning her programmatic initiatives, board memberships, and professional relationships fostered during her deanship.

Dianne M. Gagliano—additional items for the Gagliano Papers, highlighting her career as a military flight nurse.

Rebecca Harmon—materials concerning Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society, and papers on psychiatric nursing.

Kit Johnson—mementos from the World War I nursing career of his mother, John Ora Johnson.

Megan Matters—a flag from US military operations in Syria, commemorating the UVa nursing program.

Barbara Parker BSN '66—vintage books

Neil and Kent Schlusless—have given nursing procedure materials assembled by their mother Idareta Feder Schlusless at the Portsmouth, Virginia, Public Health Department and General Hospital.

Elizabeth Sergio—notes, books, and other papers related to the career of Beta Louise Michelberger Smith.

Audrey Snyder—items from her tenure as Chief Flight Nurse for the UVa Medical Center's Pegasus Medical Transport service. ■



BETA MICHELBERGER COLLECTION

The Cadet Nurse Corps News from Jan. 1946

Building Bridges

HENRY K. SHARP

The most recent manuscript donation to come to the Bjoring Center is the first installment of the deanship papers of our own Dorrie Fontaine, RN, PhD, FAAN. As many of you know, Dean Fontaine will be retiring at the end of this academic year, and the gift of her papers will allow us to highlight a number of the significant programs and initiatives that she fostered here as Dean of the UVA School of Nursing. Among the documents in this initial gift are the records of the RN/MD Relations Task Force, a group charged with bridging the gaps between the two professions. By devising more effective systems of communication and collaboration, the task force aimed to improve working environments and, consequently, patient experiences and treatment outcomes. Closely related to this project are materials of the UVA Center for ASPIRE (Academic Strategic Partnerships for Interprofessional Research and Education). The ASPIRE research and training methodologies pull together nursing and medical students, faculty, and clinicians to develop and maintain wholistic, team-based approaches to patient care—bridges, in effect, that encourage safety, efficiency, and high-quality treatment regimes. Dean Fontaine also took on the responsibility of linking the University with the larger community, through board and membership work with the United Way, PACE all-inclusive care for the elderly, and Hospice, among others. We'll have more information about the Dorrie Fontaine Papers in future newsletters.

Nursing-medical bridge building is featured in the Center's existing collections, as well. The NONPF Papers (National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties) take the story back to the early 1980s, as curriculum development efforts to promote cross-discipline communication were documented in the organization's first scrapbook.

Finally, the role of connection at the person-to-person level—fundamental to the practice of nursing—is well represented in the Rita Chow Papers. Dr. Chow's long career with the United States Public Health Service brought her into



Dean Dorrie Fontaine leading students in song

contact with some of our nation's most vulnerable populations, including the Sioux Nation residents on the reservation in Rosebud, South Dakota; patients at the National Hansen's Disease Center in Carville, Louisiana; and inmates in facilities managed by the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Fort Worth, Texas. These front-line efforts to secure delivery of high-quality healthcare are especially important for the profession and patients alike. Many of the Bjoring Center's collections highlight this significant bridge-building work. ■

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Blue Birds massaging joints; Base Hospital 43, Emory Unit, Bloise, France, WWI