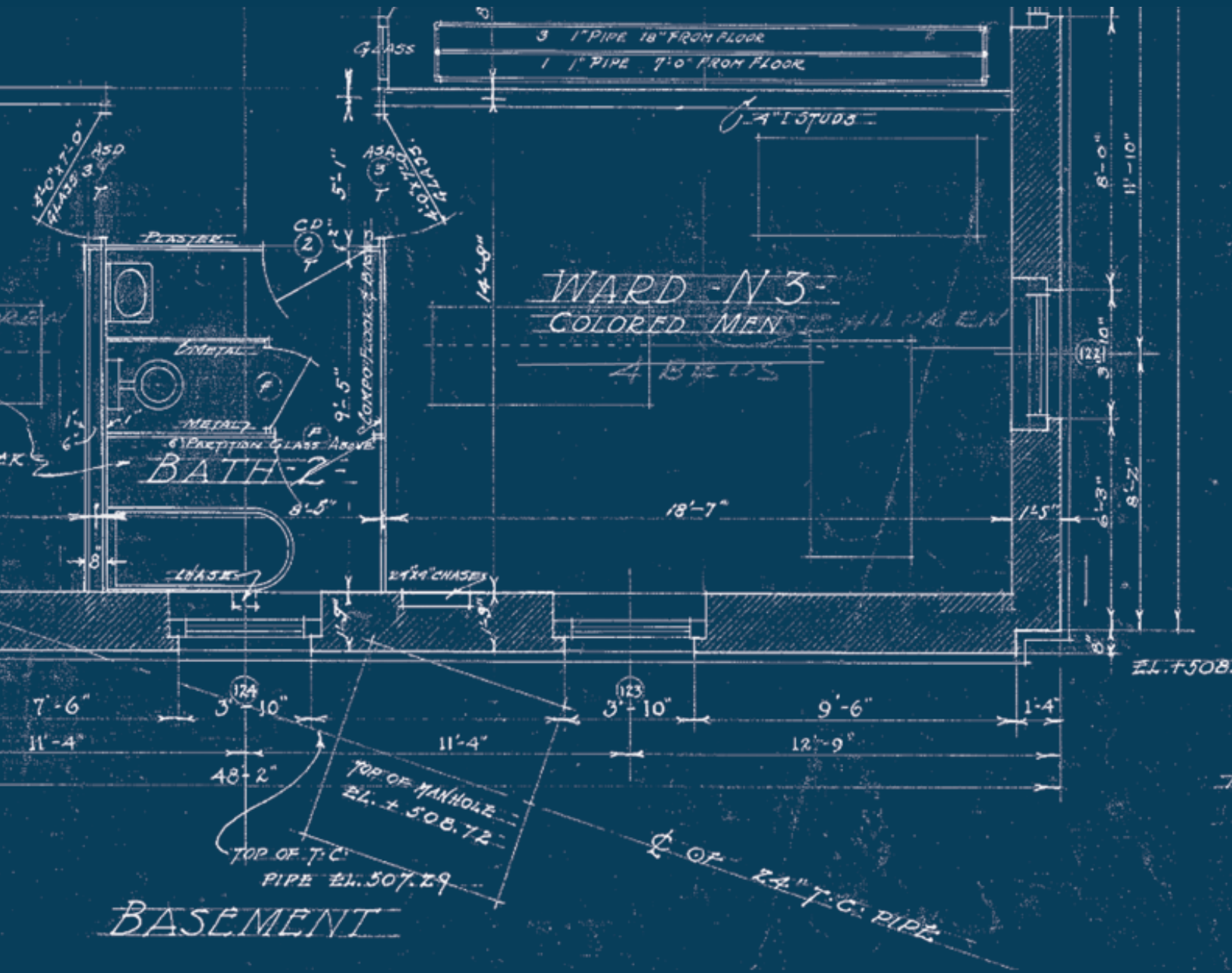


# WINDOWS IN TIME

2024



## THE ELEANOR CROWDER BJORING CENTER FOR NURSING HISTORICAL INQUIRY

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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 goals of the center include the collection of materials, the promotion of scholarship, and the dissemination of historical research findings.

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's been another productive year at the Bjoring Center, marked by exciting collaborations and growing international visibility. Last summer, the Bjoring Center launched the Race in Health Care website, the culmination of several intensive years of collaborative research, writing, and design among collectives of students, faculty, and staff within and beyond the School of Nursing.

This year we have also been growing our global connections. Last fall, we hosted Brazilian nurse historian Luciana Barizon Luchesi, PhD, RN, a professor at the University of Sao Paulo at Ribeirao Preto College of Nursing, where she directs the Laboratory of Studies in the History of Nursing. Dr. Luchesi spent two weeks at the center and is preparing to return for the fall 2024 semester to receive mentorship as she undertakes research examining the influence of North American imperialism on Brazilian nursing in the mid-20th century. Dr. Luchesi currently serves as president of the Brazilian Academy of Nursing History and, in this capacity, invited me to present at the 2nd International Congress on the History of Nursing Education and 6th Colloquium of the Brazilian Academy of Nursing History held in Rio de Janeiro in December 2023. This was a valuable opportunity to put the Bjoring Center on the global map, as many attendees were not previously familiar with the center.

The Bjoring Center has also launched a collaboration with Jerome Babate, executive director of the Filipino Nursing Diaspora Network, to undertake the Filipino Nurses Around the World Oral History Project. Over the next several years, Dr. Babate and colleagues will interview Filipino nurses from Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Oman, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, UK, Ireland, Germany, Austria, Finland, United States, Canada, and Norway. Through these interviews, the project will capture the diverse experiences of Filipino nurses working in various global contexts, documenting their experiences, personal reflections, and professional insights to highlight and preserve the contributions of Filipino nurses to international health-care systems. These oral histories will be deposited with the Bjoring Center and made digitally accessible.



Another exciting initiative this year is our recruitment of a Mellon Race, Place, and Equity Postdoctoral Research Associate in the History of Nursing and Health Care. This position is funded by a university-wide grant from the Mellon Foundation and matching funds from the School of Nursing to advance research and teaching related to race, justice, and equity. The postdoctoral fellow will be based in the Bjoring Center and will work on race, justice, and equity-related questions, specifically in the history of nursing and health care in North America. We will welcome this new scholar in August 2024 for a two-year term.

Throughout the year, our students, faculty, and center associates have presented their work at regional, national, and international conferences, including the Virginia Museum for History and Culture's History Matters Symposium, the annual meetings of the American Association for the History of Nursing and the American Association for the History of Medicine, and the biannual meeting of the European Association for the History of Medicine and Health. The Bjoring Center has continued to host scholars pursuing research in the history of nursing and health care, including several who are recipients of our research fellowships. And we have offered an engaging calendar of programs that highlights diverse and inclusive histories of nursing and health care. Mark your calendar for our next Agnes Dillon Randolph International Nursing History Conference, in conjunction with the Southern Association for the History of Medicine, March 14-15, 2025 in Charlottesville. We fully expect the upcoming year to be another vibrant one of programming, collaborations, research and scholarship at the Bjoring Center! ●

*Dominique Tobbell*

Director  
Eleanor Crowder Bjoring Center for  
Nursing Historical Inquiry



A workshop with visiting scholar Luciana Luchesi and Bjoring Center colleagues. Clockwise from bottom: Dr. Dominique Tobbell; doctoral candidate Ren Capuca; Dr. Arlene Keeling; Dr. Mary Gibson; Dr. Luciana Luchesi; and doctoral candidate Tegan Flowers.

## A SNAPSHOT OF NEWLY FUNDED RESEARCH

**C**arol Wanyo, PhD, RN, APHC-BC, an assistant professor of nursing at Mount Saint Mary College in New York, received the **2023 Barbara Brodie Nursing History Fellowship** for her research proposal, "Saving Babies is a National Concern": Comparing Lillian Wald's Maternal Child NYC Nursing Services to Nancy Milio's Mom and Tots Care in Detroit. "Lillian Wald opened the Henry Street Settlement Visiting Nurses Services on the Lower East Side of New York in 1893. More than 60 years later, in the 1960s, Nancy Milio addressed similar health-care needs of mothers and babies in Detroit by establishing the Mom and Tots Neighborhood Center. Both nurses provided services to underserved and impoverished populations, offering a comparison of public health nursing interventions from two distinct time periods and urban locales.

The Bjoring Center also provided funding to three recipients of the **Nurse Practitioner History Research Scholar Award** in 2023:

**KATHLEEN A. S. CANNELLA**, PhD, RN, APRN-NP, and **REGINA CANTY**, FNP-BC  
**"Nurse Practitioners in Georgia in the Early Years"**

The purpose of this project is to identify and characterize nurse practitioner practice and education in Georgia during the 1960s and 1970s in ways that can be used as a model for similar studies in other states. Relevant documents, photographs, and artifacts will be identified, catalogued and potentially collected.

**KRISTIN L. KUHLMANN**, PhD, RN, FNP, C-WIC, an associate professor of nursing at Eastern New Mexico University  
**"Nurse Practitioners in New Mexico: Providing Crucial Health Care Access Through the Evolution of the Full Authority to Practice"**

This project entails a historical review of nursing practice and the professional development of the nurse practitioner role in New Mexico, and will document the impact of full practice authority for the New Mexico population. A professional video presentation will be produced from interviews with nurse practitioners and other health-care leaders.

**SUSAN E. DAVIS DOUGHTY**, MSN, CNS, AGNP, WHNP-BC, FAANP  
**"History of Nurse Practitioners in the State of Maine"**

This project aims to document, preserve and collate the historical journey to independent practice in the state of Maine. Nurse practitioners in Maine were third in the country to achieve full practice authority. Project goals include digitizing the organization's documents into a searchable database; publishing a collected history; and disseminating this history to Maine NP Association members and to the American Association of Nurse Practitioners' archives for state history.

For 2024, the Bjoring Center is excited to offer additional funding for proposals focused on the preservation of nurse practitioner history. Visit our website for details on the new **Nurse Practitioner History Preservation Award**. ●



Linda Janet Holmes

## Unearthing Black Midwife Stories

**WRITER** and independent scholar **Linda Janet Holmes** received the Bjoring Center's **2024 Agnes Dillon Randolph Award** in honor of her

outstanding scholarship documenting the experiences, knowledge, and practices of Black midwives in the U.S. and across the African diaspora. Holmes is the author of *Safe in a Midwife's Hands: Birthing Traditions from Africa to the American South* (Ohio State University Press, 2023) and co-author of *Listen to Me Good: The Story of an Alabama Midwife*, with Margaret Charles Smith (Ohio State University Press, 1996).

She visited the School of Nursing on April 16, 2024 and spoke to a packed classroom of students, faculty, and alumni—with many more attending via Zoom—about the travels she undertook in Kenya, Ghana, and Ethiopia to interview traditional midwives about their deeply spiritual practices, sustaining birthing traditions passed down from their ancestors, from plant-based medicines and skilled massage to naming rituals. Holmes later did interviews in Virginia with practicing Black midwives and birth workers, as well as descendants of midwives, to uncover traditions and holistic practices that continue. This knowledge is important to collect and preserve, she said, and gives strength to a growing birth justice movement that seeks holistic, culturally-centered care for women of color. ●



## Global Connections: The Bjoring Center in Brazil

by Dominique Tobbell, PhD

**L**ast fall, the Bjoring Center hosted Dr. Luciana Barizon Luchesi, president of the Brazilian Academy of Nursing History and a professor with the University of Sao Paulo at Ribeirao Preto College of Nursing. In December, at Dr. Luchesi's invitation, I presented at the 2nd International Congress on the History of Nursing Education and 6th Colloquium of the Brazilian Academy of Nursing History in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This was a fantastic opportunity to forge new connections and showcase the great work of the Bjoring Center with a diverse international audience.

The conference brought together historians of nursing from Brazil, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Spain, Tenerife, and Portugal, and included a sizable number of undergraduate nursing students from the University of Sao Paulo. It provided valuable insights about the status of nursing in these countries—as well as the status of nursing history in the curriculum. Their challenges are very similar to those we encounter in the U.S., including the limited time for history in the curriculum, limited funding support for nursing history research, and limited institutional support for graduate students and faculty whose primary area of research is nursing history. Such international venues, however, are a chance to share strategies and best practices for advancing historical research, and for collaborating on position statements to advocate for historical research and teaching in nursing education. To that end, the Bjoring Center was a signatory on the international position statement



Dominique Tobbell (fifth from left) with other conference participants in Brazil.



**THIS PRESENTATION AND MY PARTICIPATION AT THE CONFERENCE LITERALLY PUT THE BJORING CENTER ON THE MAP AS AN IMPORTANT RESEARCH CENTER IN NURSING HISTORY."**

asserting the importance of teaching nursing history in schools of nursing: "Statement from Rio De Janeiro (Brazil) for Nursing History Education."

I shared my reflections on the challenges of conducting research in nursing history and the role that centers like ours play in helping to address those issues. Along the way, I highlighted some of the work that the Bjoring Center is doing to support and expand research in the history of nursing. This presentation and my participation at the conference literally put the Bjoring Center on the map as an important research center in nursing history. Multiple participants told me that they had never before heard of the Bjoring Center and were excited to learn of our work and the opportunities for future collaborations. ●



Photo: Christine Kueter

## NO ORDINARY BENCH

Alumni of the Jackson P. Burley High School/UVA Hospital Licensed Practical Nurse Program and their families gathered last May for the unveiling of a new bench in their honor. Set in the garden in front of McLeod Hall, it was installed as part of the UVA Memorial Benches Initiative, which seeks to make the built environment at UVA more inclusive of all students from a diversity of backgrounds. About 150 nurses graduated from the program during the 1950s and 1960s and were instrumental in desegregating UVA Hospital. Bjoring Center associate Victoria Tucker (BSN '12, PhD '22), shown at the lectern, helped organize the program and was a featured speaker. ●





## AN ESSAY BY FAITH BUSH

Undergraduate nursing student Faith Bush (BSN '25) originally wrote this essay as an assignment for the course *Research, Ethics, Advocacy, and Leadership*. The assignment was to investigate and examine an aspect of nursing's history, with a focus on who is missing from the dominant historical narrative and why.

### What led you to write about Rachael, an enslaved midwife at Monticello?

I knew that I wanted to write about someone who had been almost completely erased from nursing history. I found Rachael's story randomly, through a brief mention on Monticello's website about Edith Hern Fossett, who was a chef enslaved there around the same time. The website included an excerpt from Thomas Jefferson's Memorandum Papers and I felt quite drawn to the fact that Rachael's name and profession were even written down. The idea that Jefferson had not only identified her but paid her for her services seemed so significant and I knew I wanted to find out more.

### In your essay, you write about the ways in which enslaved midwives like Rachael have been erased from the historical record. Given this erasure, how did you go about finding information about Rachael? In other words, what was your research process?

One of my biggest barriers was the fact that Rachael's first name was the sole piece of information I had about her. The only real records of her existence are related to payment transactions, so the pieces of her story that were recorded relied on her being paid for her services (which was rare for the time period) and the publication of those documents. The National Archives has transcripts of Jefferson's Memorandum Papers, which contain decades' worth of transactions and notes that he jotted down throughout his life. Those were a great help in showing me not only the births that Rachael accompanied, but where she was able to travel as an enslaved woman during this time. I was also able to utilize the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library here at UVA to find genealogy charts of the enslaved families at Monticello. It definitely felt like a scavenger hunt at times, but it was always so gratifying to find a new piece of information on Rachael. Her story made the entire process feel so purposeful and I feel like I found out a lot about what nursing means to me.

# THE HIDDEN NURSE OF MONTICELLO

Matthew Casey  
1 Negro Woman Rachael \$85.00  
1 feather bed & \$17.50

Enslaved laborers in the 19th-century American South were meant to serve until they were buried and forgotten, despite the fact that the buildings brought to life by their hands remain today. This familiar narrative still leaves its trace across the grounds of the University of Virginia, Monticello, and Charlottesville as a whole. Nursing and midwifery, however, offered a unique opportunity for the names of life-saving women of color to be sketched by pen and ink. Rachael, a nurse and midwife enslaved by Thomas Jefferson, was one of the few whose name still lingers throughout the president's writings. Rachael played a unique role in her community as evidenced by her salary, independence, and purpose; however, her name would be missing from the history of nursing and midwifery for more than a century due to the intentional erasure of enslaved people from the historical record from the 19th century to the present day.

▲ A bill of sale for Rachael, an enslaved midwife at Monticello, to Matthew Casey. She was sold soon after Thomas Jefferson's death to help settle his debts. Courtesy of the Monticello Foundation.

**“I KNEW THAT I WANTED TO WRITE ABOUT SOMEONE WHO HAD BEEN ALMOST COMPLETELY ERASED FROM NURSING HISTORY.”**



"Nurses and Child" by William Berryman, c.1808-1915. Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Beginning in the early 17th century, as Europeans began to colonize Native American lands, they also brought enslaved Africans to America. Enslaved Africans carried with them the rich healing traditions embedded in their culture. This included an understanding of health as being dependent on maintaining harmonious relationships with family, community, ancestors, and spirits. Enslaved healers, including nurses and midwives, integrated Indigenous, European, and African medicinal practices that allowed for many advancements in the practice of nursing and healing. Herbal treatments were frequently used by Black nurses and midwives, but the names were recorded in Latin (a language predominantly known only by Europeans), making them inaccessible to many enslaved healers (Baptiste et al., 2021). Midwives were generally older women and acted as important pillars of the community. They were entrusted with

the care of pregnant women as well as the younger generations, which made them especially important to slave owners. Enslaved people at this time were seen as material objects, and anyone who played a role in expanding an owner's workforce was seen as especially valuable. Due to the important role of midwives, midwifery became one of the very few routes to payment and increased independence for enslaved women at this time (Tunc, 2010). After all, maternal mortality and miscarriage rates did not discriminate. The knowledge and wisdom of midwives, including those who were enslaved, were welcomed through doors that were oftentimes locked for other laborers.

Thomas Jefferson, writer of the Declaration of Independence and owner of more than 600 enslaved people, led a very paradoxical life (Bickford & Hendrickson, 2020). Though Jefferson was not known as a particularly violent slave owner for his time, he reaped many benefits from the free labor and relationships brought to him by slavery (Scherr, 2019). His slaves were very rarely paid and were dehumanized beginning at birth, with hard labor being forced upon young teenagers. Rachael, an enslaved nurse-midwife at Monticello, is first mentioned in Thomas Jefferson's *Memorandum Books* in 1813. Jefferson kept an in-depth account of his expenditures and correspondences in these books for decades; however, enslaved people are not frequently mentioned in these records. On March 29th of 1813, Jefferson wrote "Pd. the midwife (Rachael) 6.D. for attending Edy, Moses's Mary and Esther," (The Papers of Thomas Jefferson, 1997). Overall, the phrase "midwife (Rachael)" is mentioned at least 9 times in various

An acct of sales of negroes of the Est of Thomas Jefferson 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. 1829.

Purchaser	Name of Negroes	Price
John Perry	+ Abram	325
Larkin Knight	+ Isaac	450
Jaco. Yancey	+ Ben & Lilly	385
Geo. Blanton	+ Gill & Esther	590
Wm. G. Carter	+ Lania Child	295
Geo. M. Perry	+ Washington	150
Geo. M. Perry	+ James, Rachel & Edmund	300
Thos. J. Randolph	+ Jimmy	415
James Kyle	+ Isaac	395
Wm. Lewis	+ Jerry	415
James Kyle	+ Sijmpster	600
Al. Broderick	+ John Virginia, Ben Lash & Bayne	535
Thos. J. Randolph	+ Maria & Wall & Henry	535
William Garland	+ Davy (Cooper)	270
Arthur Whitcomb	+ Waggoner David	320
Dr. Douglas	+ Isaac	455
Daniel Piper	+ Nacl (Cooper)	545
William Garland	+ Moses (Cooper)	250
Wm. Pelet	+ Bondell	100
John S. Brown	+ Jerry	225
Thos. J. Randolph	+ Jackson	300
Sam. Carr	+ Nancy	300
Dr. Bailey		390

295  
150  
300  
535  
100  
1370  
2  
1  
3  
5  
1200  
36  
5  
418

"An account of sales of negroes of the estate of Thomas Jefferson" from an 1829 slave auction held in Charlottesville. Courtesy of the Monticello Foundation.

*Memorandum Books* from 1813-1824. There are mentions of payments to an unnamed midwife in previous records which are also possible payments made to Rachael. An interesting aspect in many of these payment records are the places and people that they introduce into Rachael's narrative.

Edith "Edy" Fossett, as mentioned in the above payment record, was an enslaved cook owned by Thomas Jefferson. At the time of this payment, Fossett was a deeply valued chef, although paid only in gratuity, not wages. Fossett's cooking received much praise throughout her years of service and her husband Joseph was eventually freed in Thomas Jefferson's will. Joseph and his brother-in-law later bought independence for their entire family, stating, "I, Joseph Fossett of the County of Albemarle and state of Virginia have manumitted,

emancipated and set free [...] Eady, Elizabeth Ann, William, Daniel, Lucy and Jesse and her grandchildren James, Joseph," (*Albemarle County Deed Book*, 1837). This was a family that Thomas Jefferson would offer French culinary education to and would one day be freed in his will (Pierson, 1862). Rachael accompanied the births of at least five of Fossett's ten children, which serves as an incredible indicator towards her association with Thomas Jefferson and his most trusted laborers.

Rachael is also recorded as having acted as midwife for Rachael Bedford, daughter of Cate and James Hubbard. Bedford and her family had recently moved from Poplar Forest to Lego, two of Thomas Jefferson's nearby quarter farms (*Memorandum Books*, 1814). Rachael (the midwife), who lived at Tufton, would have completed a two-mile trek to accompany births at alternate properties. This

independence in travel would have been rare for an enslaved woman in this era, and speaks to the special path marched by Black midwives during this time.

Thomas Jefferson's death passed thousands of dollars of debt onto his family, which resulted in the sale of many of his lands and enslaved laborers. Rachael, after treating tens of births on Thomas Jefferson's properties, would be appraised at a value of fifty dollars in 1827 (Reed, 2007). There is a strange dichotomy in admiring the unparalleled worth of an elderly Black woman during this time and seeing a price tag being placed next to a person's name. She would be sold to Matthew Casey that same year for \$85.00 (Trist, 1827). The bill lists a misspelled version of her name and a

feather bed valued at \$17.50. It is plausible to assume, due to the lack of other names listed in this bill, that she was separated from her family during this sale. A woman who devoted her life to motherhood, nurturing, healing, and care would be separated from everyone and everything that she had known for 50 years.

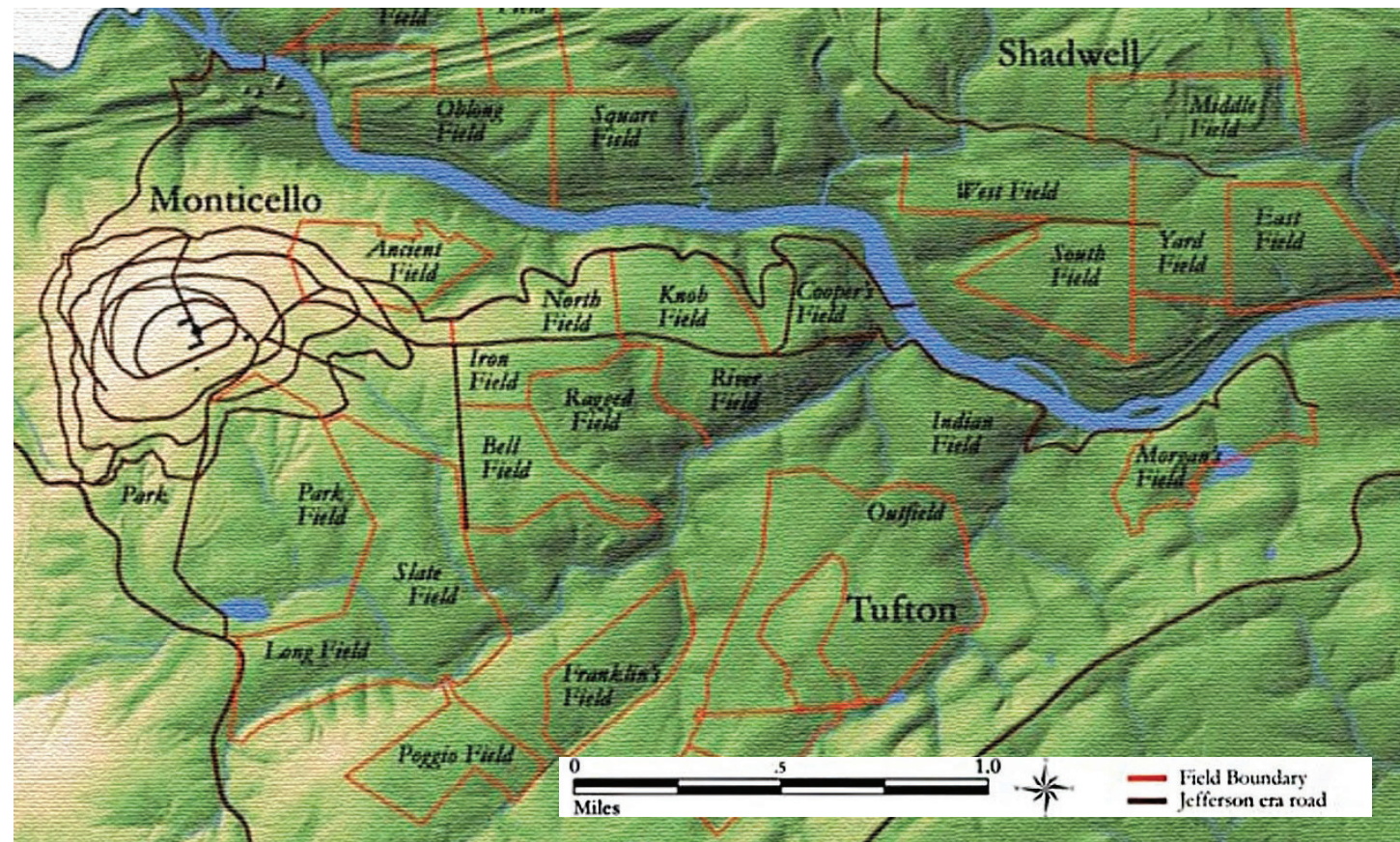
Little is known about Rachael's death, despite her incredible career in health care as an older enslaved woman in the South. Thomas Jefferson's death sadly meant a clear end to Rachael's recorded existence. If she was paid by Matthew Casey for her services, there is no trace of it. The knowledge of her existence comes as a direct result of the perfect combination between Jefferson's thorough record-keeping and intense notoriety. It wasn't

common for slaveholders to document the labors of specific slaves during this era and Rachael's story prompts the consideration of those whose stories have been lost in time. Without the atypical archive of seemingly insignificant notes from Jefferson's exchanges, we would not even have Rachael's first name. There are many first names that stopped being whispered once they were lost by their descendants.

*The Jefferson Papers* were published thanks to the work of Julian P. Boyd, the New York Times Co., and the Princeton University Press. More than a century after his death, they not only provided a new outlook on American history, but also the names of enslaved laborers owned by Jefferson; names that had been



"Planting corn. Old driver. Planting corn. House Negro digging corn holes" by William Berryman, c. 1808-1815. Courtesy of the Library of Congress.



A map of Thomas Jefferson's quarter farms around Monticello. Rachael, who lived at Tufton, traveled miles to accompany births at his other properties. Courtesy of the Monticello Foundation.

previously lost to their descendants. It speaks to the importance of access in relation to historical documents, as digitization opens up an entire world of research. It also pertains more specifically to nursing as a profession, in that we are able to study the cultural significance of the care enslaved midwives provided, as well as apply these lessons of natural healing to health care in the present. During an age in which we experience the impacts of polypharmacy and commercialized health care, holistic medicine becomes more and more relevant. The care that Rachael provided to other members of her community as an enslaved Black woman also prompts the consideration of current Black maternal mortality rates in Virginia. According to the 2021 *Maternal Health Annual Report*, "The maternal mortality rate of Black women (47.2) is over two times higher than that for white women (18.1)," (DMAS, 2021). Until the 20th century, most births within the Black community were overseen by Black midwives. The purposeful introduction of strict regulations regarding maternal care in the early 1900s worked to discredit the qualifications of the midwives who attended

the births of people of color. Legislation like the Sheppard-Towner Act (1921) has continued to impact maternal care in the United States through the belittlement of Black healing (Niles & Drew, 2020). Rachael's story reminds us of the importance of ensuring that health-care workers reflect the populations they serve.

Thousands of descendants of the enslaved laborers who resided at Monticello still live today, many of them in Charlottesville and its neighboring cities. Rachael's story is able to be slowly brought into the light due to her unique role within an otherwise hidden community of enslaved laborers at Monticello. She played a large role in many births throughout her career, and yet we are still only left with her first name. Rachael is one of the few hidden nurses who was not completely erased by history, but many pillars of enslaved communities were forgotten by time, negligence, and intentional erasure. Uncovering stories like her's helps to remind us of the role of nurses as healers and advocates, and leads us to the memories of those whose names we have not yet found. ●

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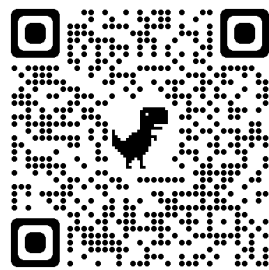
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BY DOMINIQUE TOBBELL, PHD

# RECKONING WITH RACISM IN HEALTH CARE

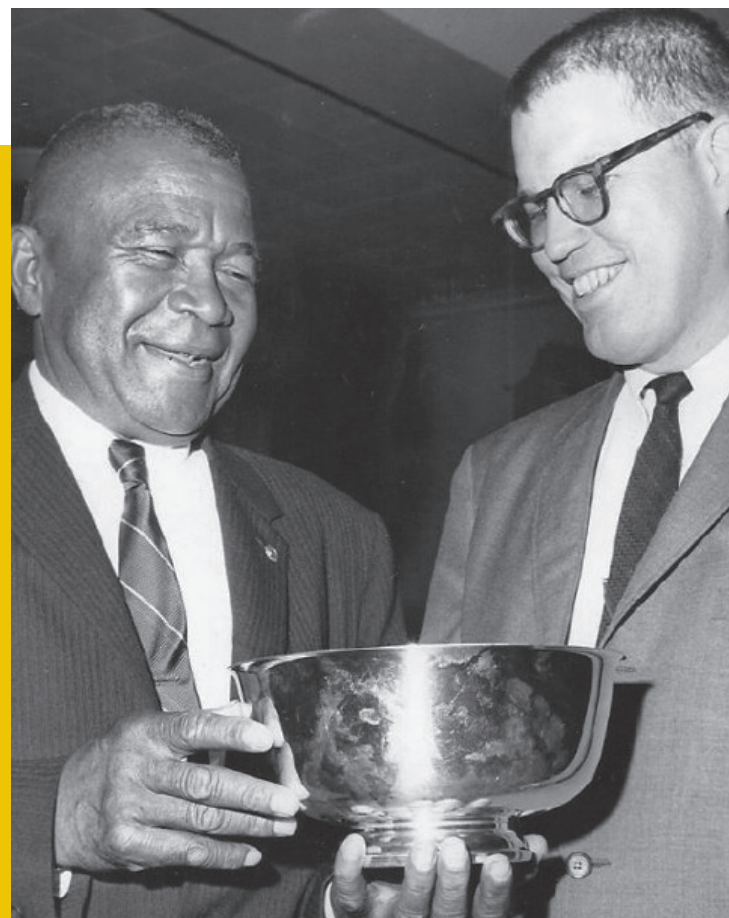
This year, the Bjoring Center launched **RACE IN HEALTH CARE: HISTORICAL ESSENTIALS FOR UVA NURSES**. This website is the culmination of a multi-year collaboration among the Bjoring Center, the School of Nursing's Inclusion, Diversity, and Excellence Achievement (IDEA) initiative, collectives of students, staff, faculty, and alumni, and a team of designers and web developers with UVA's Institute for Applied Technology in the Humanities, all underwritten by the Jefferson Trust and IDEA.



[COMMUNITY.VILLAGE.VIRGINIA.EDU/RHC](https://community.village.virginia.edu/rhc)

THE VOICES AND EXPERIENCES OF MARGINALIZED NURSES AND COMMUNITIES ARE CENTRAL TO THIS PROJECT.

Grace Quarles Tinsley (LPN '58), a civil rights activist, nurse, and advocate for public education. Painting by Frances Brand, from Frances Brand's "Firsts" Collection, Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society.



Randolph Lewis White, a prominent leader in the civil rights movement in Charlottesville and founder of the Charlottesville-Albemarle Tribune, the weekly African American newspaper. Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, UVA.



Mavis Claytor became the first Black woman to graduate from the School of Nursing in 1970. From Mavis Claytor's personal collection.



Class of 1956 graduates of the Burley-UVA Licensed Practical Nursing Training Program. ECBCNHI Collections.



Evelyn Rogers Gardner (LPN '61) created UVA's outpatient neurology clinic in 1967. Photo by Christine Kueter, UVA School of Nursing.

This project evolved with the nursing school's efforts, begun a decade ago, to transform its culture and become an antiracist school. Acknowledging and reckoning with the school's history of race and racism was an integral component of that work. As readers of *Window in Time* will recall, two outcomes of this historical reckoning included Dean Dorrie Fontaine's formal public apology in 2016 to Mavis Claytor, the first Black woman to graduate from the nursing school in 1970, for the racism she encountered as a student. Later, in 2019, the school held a recognition ceremony acknowledging the Black nurses

who had graduated from the Jackson P. Burley High School/UVA Hospital Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) program during the 1950s and 1960s. Despite being graduates of a UVA program, they had been denied alumni status. Nevertheless, as Louella Jackson Walker, a graduate of the class of 1958, reminded school representatives in September 2018, the LPN graduates "were alumni, too." At the ceremony, UVA President Jim Ryan inducted the graduates into the UVA Alumni Association. These public apologies were an important first step in

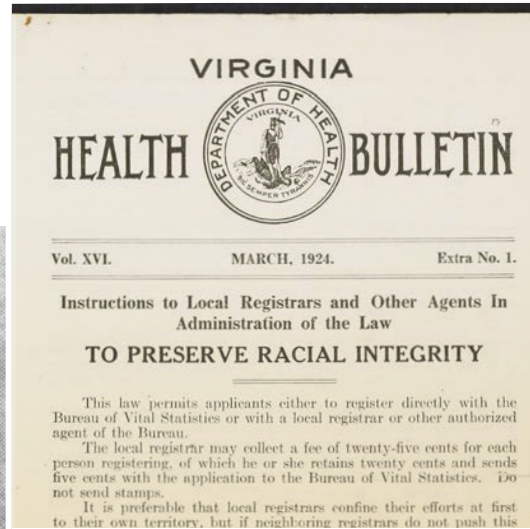
addressing the school's history of racial exclusion.

Three core principles have guided this project. First, a commitment to telling an inclusive history of nursing and health care, highlighting the contributions and experiences of historically marginalized nurses and communities. This research has been led by doctoral students. For example, Ren Capucio (Col '14, MSN '19, PhD candidate '24) and Victoria Tucker (BSN '12, PhD '22) have completed oral histories with Filipino nurses and Black nurses, respectively, who were educated and/or worked

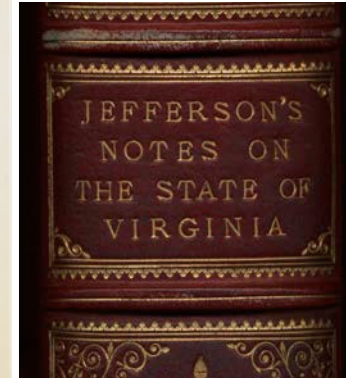


THIS DYNAMIC REPOSITORY INCLUDES PRIMARY SOURCES, TIMELINES, AND CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS.

The 1924 Virginia Sterilization Act and Racial Integrity Act. Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, UVA.



The segregated basement ward at UVA Hospital for Black patients in the 1950s. Historical Collections, Claude Moore Health Sciences Library, UVA.



In his Notes on the State of Virginia in 1784, Thomas Jefferson defines Black people as inferior to White people.



The Crackerbox, one of only two intact buildings on Grounds where enslaved people worked and lived. Photo by Dan Addison.

Class of 1930 UVA nursing students and physician instructors; a number of these physicians were leaders in the eugenics movement. Historical Collections, Claude Moore Health Sciences Library, UVA.

in the region during the mid- and late-20th century. Second, documenting the history of race, racism, and resistance at UVA is integral to the work of redressing past harms and injustices. And third, understanding the historical underpinnings of racism, bias, and distrust in the current health system is necessary to prepare nursing students to identify and dismantle racism and other biases in their clinical careers.

Recent local and national events made the work of historical reckoning more urgent. After Donald Trump was elected president in 2016, a growing trend

of racist and Islamophobic behavior by patients and families arose in the UVA Medical Center. In August 2017, the "Unite the Right" rally, organized by two UVA graduates and held in Charlottesville, highlighted the historical and ongoing roots of White supremacy at UVA. In May 2020, the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer prompted a further reckoning at the school. Despite its progress, the school was not making the deep substantive changes necessary to truly become an antiracist school.

That summer of 2020, undergraduate nursing students Milania Harris (BSN '22) and Zahra Alisa (BSN '22) founded Advocates for Medical Equality with the goal of teaching nursing students about the history of discrimination in health care and diversifying learning experiences. Several student-led working groups also formed to tackle issues of race and diversity. The "Addressing Racism in the Hospital" working group, composed of nursing students, faculty, and staff, met weekly through fall 2020 to develop concrete actions

to prepare students, staff, and faculty to address racism and other forms of bias in clinical settings. The group felt that nursing students needed to have a basic understanding of the history of race and racism, particularly in the local context, before engaging in clinical practice. The group began by educating themselves and at the same time amassing resources to share on various historical topics. Ultimately, the group decided that a website should be the vehicle for providing this critical history. The website project was underwritten by a grant from the Jefferson Trust to reshape public and

# THE EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM BROUGHT NURSES PREDOMINANTLY FROM THE PHILIPPINES TO WORK AT UVA HOSPITAL.



Officers of the Visitor Exchange Nurses Association at UVA Hospital in 1970. Its members included nurses from the Philippines, India, Korea, Thailand, and Panama. *Historical Collections, Claude Moore Health Sciences Library, UVA.*

archival spaces in the school to reflect the important role that Black nurses played in challenging racial discrimination in the UVA health system.

The website is a dynamic repository of primary sources, timelines, and contextual analysis about the history of racism and oppression in the region, at UVA, and in the School of Nursing. It includes historical context about the experiences and legacies of colonization, enslavement, and segregation, and acknowledges Virginia's central role in this narrative. Virginia's history embodies the violence of slavery and the resistance of enslaved

people. It also reflects the advances, resistance, and setbacks of segregation and desegregation that were happening across the country in the decades after the Civil War. This history has also been shaped by settler colonialism, the process by which a nation strives to eliminate Indigenous people and replace them with a new colonial society on the expropriated land. Since the early 20th century, Virginia has also been a site of transnational migration, particularly of Filipino servicepeople and nurses. Filipino migration to Virginia, and to the U.S. more broadly, has been shaped by the American colonization of



Erlinda Pantaleon and fellow nurses from the Philippines hosted a celebration of their culture in June 1967 for UVA Hospital colleagues. *Historical Collections, Claude Moore Health Sciences Library, UVA.*



Four Filipino nurses toured precincts during election day in Charlottesville in 1965. *Historical Collections, Claude Moore Health Sciences Library, UVA.*



In the mid-1960s, nurses from the Philippines, Thailand, India and elsewhere joined UVA Hospital as part of the U.S. State Department's Exchange Visitor Program, working in the U.S. for two years. *Historical Collections, Claude Moore Health Sciences Library, UVA.*

the Philippines, which began following the outbreak of the Spanish-American War in 1898 and continued until 1946. The website also provides brief information about some of Charlottesville and Albemarle County's historical neighborhoods, including Vinegar Hill and Gospel Hill, as well as the area's segregated Black schools, including Albemarle Training School, the Jefferson School, and Jackson P. Burley High School.

An extensive timeline documents the history of segregation, eugenics, racism, and xenophobia at UVA and its health system; the long history of racial exclusion at the nursing school; and UVA's role in the

displacement and "redevelopment" of a predominantly Black neighborhood to support the expansion of the UVA Hospital. Readers can view primary sources like Thomas Jefferson's *Notes on the State of Virginia*, a foundational text on racism and White supremacy, and the architectural plans for UVA Hospital that date from the first half of the 20th century, when the hospital was designed as a segregated institution providing separate and unequal care to African American patients. The timeline also directs readers to relevant secondary sources that place UVA's history of eugenics, segregation, and racism in health care in wider context.

THE WEBSITE DOCUMENTS THE ACTIVISM OF BLACK NURSES AND HOSPITAL WORKERS TO DISMANTLE DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES.

UVA School for Nursing diploma graduates in 1968. ECBCNHI Collections.



The May 26, 1951 edition of the Charlottesville Tribune, detailing the unequal conditions of the Black public wards at UVA Hospital.

The website also centers the voices and experiences of marginalized nurses and communities. Included are biographies of nursing leaders, such as Mavis Claytor, the graduates of the Burley-UVA LPN program, and the first Black registered nurses to work at UVA Hospital. It also highlights the activism of Black hospital workers to dismantle discriminatory practices in the hospital; of Black nurses to desegregate UVA Hospital and the nursing school; and the activism of nurses of color to challenge ongoing discriminatory practices at UVA and throughout the state in the

decades since the passage of civil rights legislation in the 1960s. This resistance and activism, as well as the diverse experiences of nurses of color, are reflected in primary source documents such as *The Tribune*, the Black newspaper serving Charlottesville and Albemarle County, the UVA Hospital's newsletter, the *Draw Sheet*, and correspondence from university and hospital leaders. The website also provides an extensive list of secondary sources about the experiences of nurses of color in the U.S.—local, regional, and national histories of resistance and activism in health care.



The segregated cafeteria at UVA Hospital in 1954. Historical Collections, Claude Moore Health Sciences Library, UVA.



The first class of the Burley-UVA Licensed Practical Nurse Program graduated in 1953. ECBCNHI Collections.

We acknowledge that a resource of this nature will never be complete. We will continue to expand the website as more students, faculty and scholars contribute new historical knowledge. We will also develop teaching modules utilizing the website that can be incorporated into undergraduate and graduate nursing courses, and shared with other units at UVA and its health system.

Our aspiration is that every nurse who studies and practices at UVA understands the historical roots of racism in the current health-care system and is prepared to actively identify and dismantle

Hampton Nurses Buck Hospital Jim Crow; Fired



Aug. 24, 1963 edition of the Norfolk Journal and Guide. Three Dixie Hospital nurses were fired after eating in the cafeteria reserved for Whites only. ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

racism and other biases in their clinical careers and beyond. The website is also a resource for the broader community, not only to learn about the ways in which racism and ideas about race influenced the development of UVA and its health system and the provision of care in Charlottesville and beyond, but also to learn about the critical role of nurses of color in this history. ●

# NEW ACQUISITIONS

**Victoria Buffmire**, material belonging to her grandmother, Martha "Bea" Spahr, who trained as a registered nurse to meet the requirement to become an air hostess with TWA in the early 1940s. She served many decades with the airline. The donation includes her student nurse uniform from the Jewish Hospital for Nurses from the late 1930s, nursing and flight pins, plus a pictorial history of TWA attendants from 1935 to 1985.

**Virginia Burggraf**, a collection of professional papers detailing more than a half-century career in gerontological nursing research, teaching, and health care, primarily as a professor with Radford University College of Nursing.

**Rita K. Chow**, additions to the Rita K. Chow Collection.

**Janna Dieckmann**, material concerning public health nursing, health promotion and health policy, from her tenure as a clinical associate professor at the University of North Carolina School of Nursing, Chapel Hill. Particularly noteworthy are oral interviews on the development of nursing care for the chronically ill between 1950 and 1970.

**Barbie Dunn**, *Our Bodies, Ourselves* and other feminist books from the early 1970s.

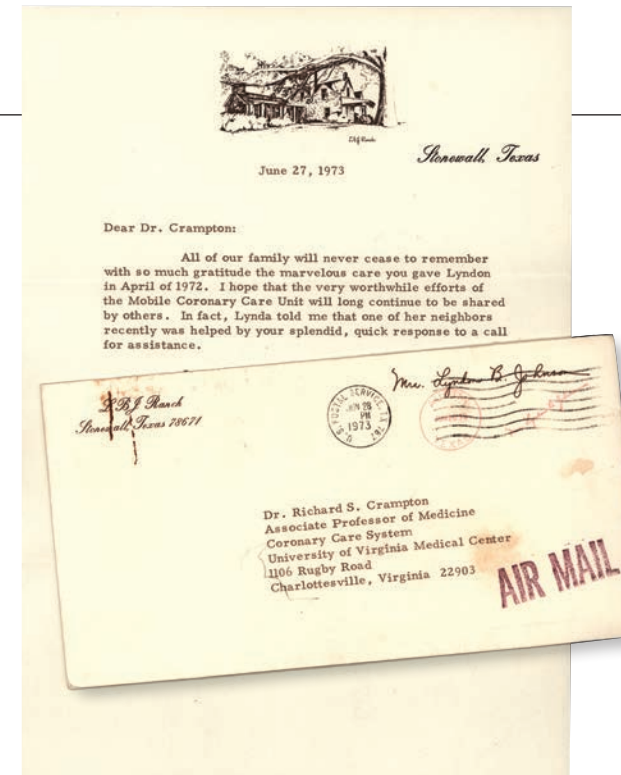
**Virginia "Ginny" Hart**, papers related primarily to psychiatric mental health nursing and educational coursework during her tenure with UVA School of Nursing.

**International Society of Psychiatric Mental Health Nurses Collection**, organizational papers.



**Arlene Keeling**, additions to the Arlene Keeling Collection, including correspondence and photographs reflecting her position as a member of the faculty of the UVA School of Nursing and director of the Bjoring Center, plus research papers and newspaper clippings on cardiology and UVA Hospital history. The material includes clippings related to former president Lyndon B. Johnson's care in UVA Hospital's coronary care unit after he suffered a serious heart attack during an April 1972 visit to Charlottesville; Keeling was a member of his care team during this period.

**Nancy Lawton and Barbara Sheer**, additional materials documenting the history of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and predecessor organizations.



**Ann Simmons**, material belonging to her mother, Audrey Ritchie Simmons, a 1950 graduate of Stuart Circle Hospital School for Nurses whose lengthy career included public health, private duty, hospital and pediatric nursing. The donation include her student desk, nursing textbooks primarily from the 1940s, photos, nursing pins, and other artifacts.

**Loretta Spittle**, historical nursing textbooks, framed photo of Red Cross headquarters in Elmira, NY, and other historical photos, Harrison Fisher print of a World War I nurse recruitment poster and banner.

**Elizabeth Younger**, nursing and medical texts, primarily from the 1970s.



# PRESERVATION AND THE IMMEDIACY OF HISTORY



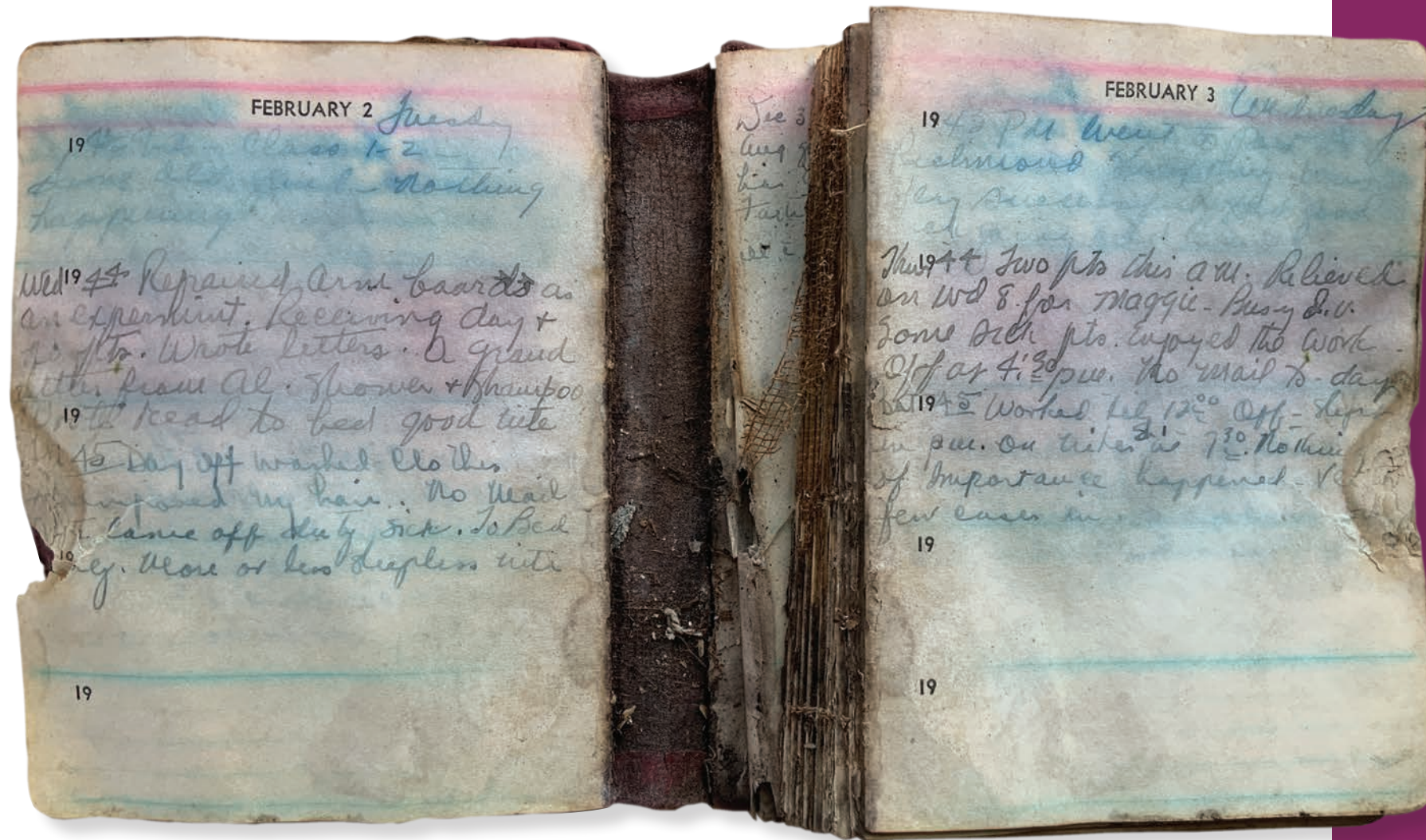
Lt. Addie K. Roadcap (Nurs '30) served with UVA's Eighth Evacuation Hospital during World War Two.

BY HENRY K. SHARP

**T**ypically, the manuscript collections donated

to the Bjoring Center are relatively recent in date and in good condition. Newsprint is usually the most problematic item we receive — since the wood-pulp paper has such a high acid content it becomes friable with age. These clippings have to be enveloped in acid-free sheets or clear mylar sleeves before placement with other papers in file folders and boxes, which are themselves acid free. If items are particularly fragile they are stored in a special temperature and humidity-controlled room. All this to keep materials stable and accessible for researchers as long as possible.

More rarely, we'll get a donation that presents a significant preservation challenge. The most recent one of these is a World War Two diary from a nurse who worked with the Eighth Evacuation Hospital. The "8th Evac," as some of you know, was a



mobile hospital unit put together by doctors and nurses from the University of Virginia. It saw service from 1942 to 1945, following the Allied forces from North Africa through Italy. The preservation issue in this case, however, is not war damage. Instead, it's an unfortunate long-term encounter with a dripping basement pipe. Those slow but steady drops bored a hole through the front cover, dissolving ink, and making dampened pages stick together. At first glance it looked like Nurse Addie Roadcap's diary was a total loss.

**ADDIE ROADCAP MADE BRIEF NOTATIONS EVERY DAY FROM JULY 1942 TO OCTOBER 1945, VIRTUALLY THE WHOLE TIME SHE WAS INVOLVED WITH THE 8TH EVAC.**

**SOME EXCERPTS:**

**MAY 16, 1943**  
7:10 AM 2 truck loads went to Marekesh. lovely hotel, to Market Medina. Sultans Palace Home 12 midnite. Dirty dusty and dead tired.

**MAY 30, 1943**  
Worked on w[ar]d 3. 1 w[ee]k since I've seen Al. Becky Lib Cato & I drank liquors & cherry. Put on Restrictions by Lt. Beery [the head nurse].

**APRIL 29, 1944**  
...at 9 AM Rumor that 300 Bombers went over. The formation was the most beautiful sight I ever saw. The Fighters made pathway through the clouds. They were gone app[roximately] 3 h[ou]rs.

**MAY 14, 1944**  
...Too hot for sleeping. Busy all night long. Rubbed backs of p[atien]ts who was in nite before 2 deaths. A Murphy boy from NY Only 20 years old. Was Shot to pieces. That got me.

**JUNE 1, 1944**  
8 bloods in shock 10, 45 p[atien]ts began to plasma - shock 1 2 3, w[ar]ds 1 12 13 were full, 33 plasmas 3 bloods 3 infusions I started penicillin on p[atien]ts in shock. Air Raid. There is lots of shrapnel over the area. 300 Surg[ical] p[atien]ts that day.



Roadcap, seated, sewing surgical aprons with fellow Eighth Evacuation nurse Ruth Eastman, 1944.

However, once we got the diary placed in a clean box and stored in the controlled environment for several months, most of the stuck pages beyond the first thirty or so began to loosen, and we were able to make an assessment of how to proceed. Fortunately, "Roady," as she was called by her Army colleagues, used many different pens with different qualities of ink. A good number of entries remained legible, and, in addition, some of the faded sections could be deciphered under bright or raking light. Since the diary is still too fragile to be served to researchers, we opted to try a twenty-first century method to make the content available: voice to text transfer to make a transcription. I read aloud the entries, then go back to correct the numerous errors; it's time consuming, but still much more efficient than typing out every word.

The results have been fascinating. Roady made brief notations every day from July 1942 to October 1945, virtually the whole time she was involved with the 8th Evac. Sometimes just a few abbreviated sentences or notes, these are observations made at the very moment, a vivid picture of life in that exceptional environment in all its dimensions, from the ordinary to the devastating. Typically Roady worked on the shock wards, stabilizing wounded soldiers, civilians, and prisoners of war before surgery, but put in time on the general and contagious wards, too. Also highlighted are the relationships, pastimes, drudgery, and general conditions of wartime service, often not too far from the front. It's a great addition to the Bjoring Center holdings. ●



Roadcap with a patient in the shock ward, c. 1944. She was awarded the Bronze Star for her exceptional service in support of combat operations. "Her unusual professional ability and calm, cheerful, sympathetic manner contributed vitally to the medical treatment of severely wounded soldiers," the official citation read.

**JUNE 2, 1944**

Busy with patients & 8 Blood Donor Sometime in the A.M. Miss Beery pinned 1st Lt bars on me. I was shocked beyond words. Madge gave me a party. Then she had to go on nite duty. In the nite was an Air Raid.

**JUNE 17, 1944**

Up at 6:30 AM. Rolled sleeping bag Straightened part of tent. To breakfast Left old area at 7:50 AM. Arrived at new one at 4 PM. Destruction of vehicles were tremendous. Last by pass just before arriving there a soldier stepped on a mine was told he was not injured badly Beautiful country. Drove along the coast quite a distance. Heavy gun fire all nite long.

**JUNE 23, 1944**

The girls from 105th Sta[tion] Hosp[ital] left at 9:30 this a.m. Still sick patients in. 4 Italian women & 3 men. P.C.T 1st Armed soldiers came in. Lots of burned cases 1st & 2nd degrees. Bloods & plasmas. The boys are so grateful for anything that I do for them.

**MAY 1, 1945**

busy next nite. N[umber] of P.O.W. News of Hitler's death. Muddy and rainy Slept well til 5 AM. Col[onel] K & Col. Snyder had drink before eating Col. K. loaned me his watch Moderately busy.



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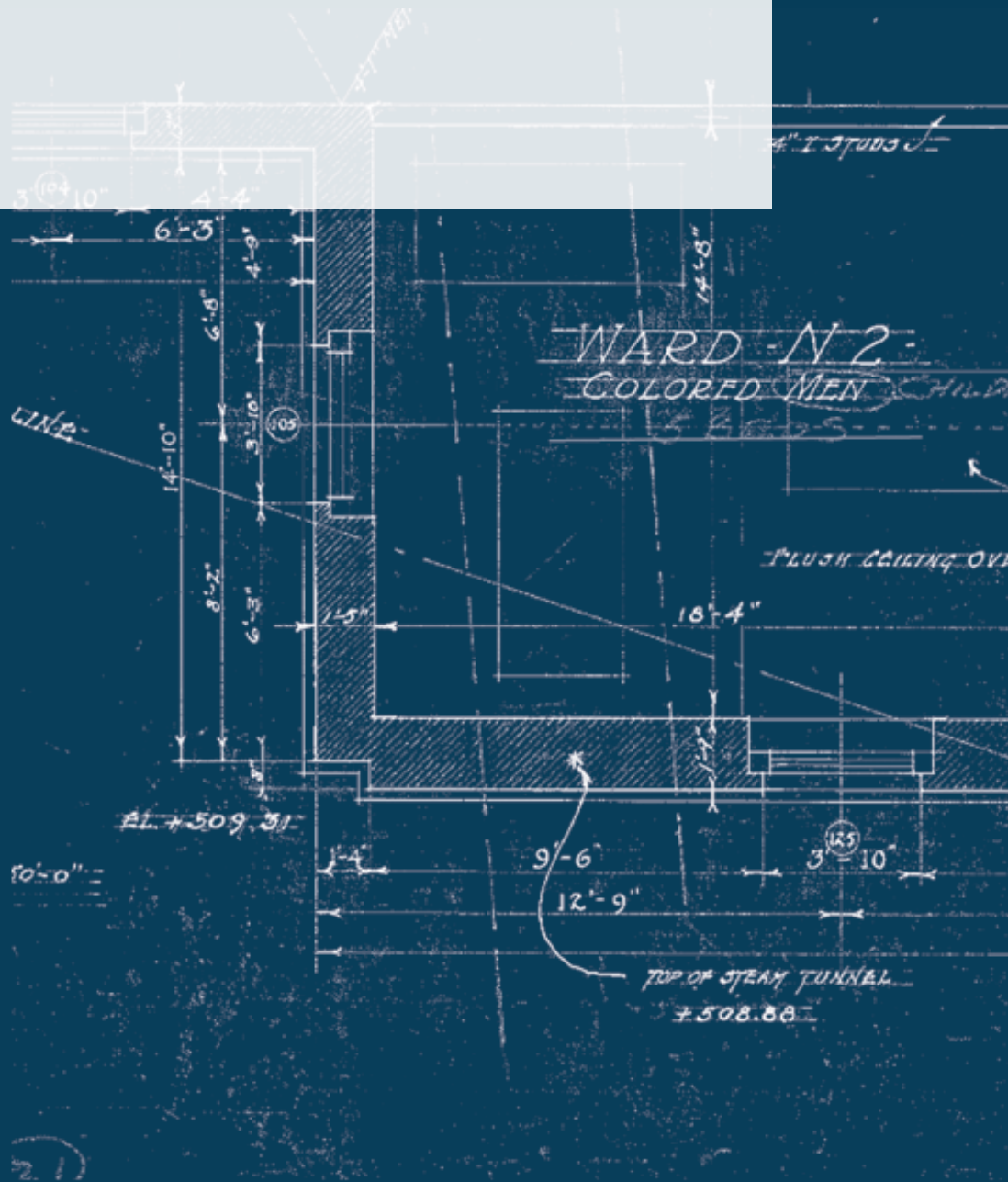
If you prefer to make a contribution by check, please make it payable to the UVA School of Nursing and mail it to: University of Virginia, P.O. Box 37963, Boone, IA 50037. In the memo section, please state that it is for the Bjoring Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry.

**DONATE STOCK**

To make a gift of stock, or for UVA tax ID information, please contact Elle Blevins in the UVA School of Nursing at (434) 924-0138.

For questions about donating papers and artifacts, contact us at [nurs-hxc@virginia.edu](mailto:nurs-hxc@virginia.edu).

Thank you for your generosity! All gifts are tax deductible.



ON THE COVER: The basement level of UVA Hospital's McIntire Wing, 1923. Until the 1960s, the hospital racially discriminated against Black patients, physicians, nurses, and hospital employees, denying hospital privileges to Black physicians, limiting employment opportunities for Black nurses and other Black hospital workers, and relegating Black patients to segregated wards in the hospital's basement. *Courtesy of UVA Facilities Management.*