



American Association for the History of Nursing Bulletin

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President's Message • Spring 2010

Rocky Mountains and AAHN



This year, Dave Stumph, our Executive Director, and the RC management team welcomed the Board to their headquarters in Denver for our spring Board Meeting. The staff welcomed us with a lovely English-inspired tea, complete with fruit and cream and scones—in honor of our upcoming conference in London. The Board was pleased to meet the staff and see the offices where the management of AAHN is carried out, both efficiently and creatively. We are in good hands!

As we began the Board Meeting, we paused for a moment of silence in memory of the loss of our long-time member Karen Buhler-Wilkerson, who passed away on February 13, 2010. Her contributions to generations of nurse historians were generous and fruitful in so many ways. We are certainly the better for having had her in our midst, and our prayers of comfort continue for her colleagues, family, and friends.

A highlight of our meeting was the presentation of the results from the member survey in which over 170 of you participated. Congratulations to Marjorie Baier and Sarah Ann Johnson, two of our long-time members who won the membership prizes for participating in the survey! The overwhelming message, once again, was that you very highly value the opportunity to connect with others who appreciate the history of nursing that belonging to AAHN provides. This connection is supported by our quality publications, by regular e-blasts, and by a newly-designed website: www.aahn.org. Check it out!

One of the most exciting developments we've had recently has been the growth of our international membership. We have members in 16 different countries, bringing new insights and new perspectives for the benefit of us all.

One big surprise for me from the survey was the large number of responders who have never attended an annual conference! The collegiality, the intellectual stimulus, the varied locations, plus all the fun we have at the dinners and auctions have kept me coming back to AAHN for over 20 years now. In my humble—yet very well considered—opinion, of all the many professional conferences I have attended, AAHN is hands-down the best!



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for the
History of Nursing**

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**International Perspectives
 in the History of Nursing.**

**European Nursing History Group
 and American Association for the
 History of Nursing**

London

September 14 – 16, 2010

Please join us in London as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the death of Florence Nightingale. The conference is run jointly by the American Association for the History of Nursing and the European Nursing History Group* and will feature extraordinary scholarship, networking, and socializing opportunities for all. In addition, those arriving in London early will have the opportunity to sightsee some major London attractions on Monday 13th September before attending a special service at St. Paul's Cathedral to mark the centenary of the death of Florence Nightingale. Delegates are then invited to a reception at the Florence Nightingale Museum which will recently have re-opened following a major refurbishment.



- * The European Nursing History Group consists of the following groups:
- FHSC Kingston University & St. George's University of London
 - The UK Centre for the History of Nursing and Midwifery;
 - The Irish Center for Nursing and Midwifery History;
 - The History Society of the Royal College of Nursing, UK.
- For more information please see the AAHN web site – www.aahn.org

After the Conference... Join AAHN in Turkey!

Immediately following the London conference an extension trip to Turkey is available. The trip will include air fare, hotels, most food, and guided tours of Istanbul, Selimiye (Scutari) Barracks, where Florence Nightingale worked during the Crimean War, and a cruise on the Bosphorus. These activities, along with many others, promise to make this an experience of a lifetime. Please see the AAHN web site for more information and the pertinent forms.



"Her Tower" located in the northwest corner. Florence occupied two floors that overlooked Scutari port. Today, the two floors are dedicated to a Florence Nightingale museum.

Photo courtesy of Chris Foard.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As you know, this year's conference is in London. Go to <http://www.nursesvoices.org.uk/conference/> for information and to register. And you have until June 1 to sign up to travel with us after the conference to Nightingale's Turkey: <http://www.resourcenter.net/images/AAHN/Files/2010/AnnMtg/AAHNConfXtensionToTurkey.pdf>

We'll move from celebrating our European roots this year to enjoying an all-American experience next year. The Board accepted with pleasure a detailed report from the local arrangements committee for the 2011 Conference that will be co-sponsored by Texas Christian University in Ft. Worth Texas.

In other business, the Board reviewed our budget and financial status, updated and streamlined our Strategic Plan, and approved the ballot for elected positions. All of us came away with notebooks full of "to-do's" most of which require our member participation in one way or another...so don't be surprised when you hear from us asking for your help! One of the primary pleasures of my presidency has been the willingness of you—our members—to run for office, serve on committees, take on projects, and fulfill responsibilities to promote the goals of AAHN.

It is my privilege to serve you!

Sylvia Rinker,
AAHN President

AAHN Needs You!

The AAHN has reached 27 years of age ONLY with the help of volunteers. This summer you will have the opportunity to elect new officers and join various committees. In this year's election, you will select a President, 1st Vice-President, Treasurer, Director: Chair of Awards, Director: Chair of Bylaws, and two persons for the nominating committee. You should have received your ballot by email or a paper ballot has been mailed to you. If you did not receive a ballot, you may contact our office staff and a ballot will be provided. Please participate in this important endeavor by casting your ballot today. Sylvia Rinker will be appointing new persons to the following committees:

- Strategic Planning
- Abstract Review
- Publications
- Finance
- Christy and Dock Awards Committees

You may access the Bylaws to determine the specific responsibilities of each of the elected and appointed positions: <http://www.aahn.org/bylaws.html>. Please contact Sylvia Rinker at: Rinker@lynchburg.edu to express your interest in serving.



Karen Bulher-Wilkerson, 1944-2010 – An Appreciation

Beth Ann Reedy, May 2010



In 1955, when she was a young girl, Karen Buhler-Wilkerson's father, John E. Buhler, wished her a "confident, useful, and satisfying life." For those of us in the American Association for the History of Nursing, we know first-hand that she fulfilled that wish in many ways. As a community health nurse she encountered people coping with unimaginable problems related to the fragmented health care system in the United States. Instead of ignoring problems, or finding another job, Karen took on community health and visiting nursing as her life's work.

After receiving her undergraduate and master's degrees from Emory University in Atlanta, she moved to Philadelphia where she earned her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. Karen began her career in academia at the School of Nursing at Penn during the early 1970's. She taught community-health nursing at the undergraduate and graduate level throughout her career. She was a co-

founder of the Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing. For more than twenty years she was a mentor, cheerleader, dissertation chair and committee member, and personal friend of faculty and students involved with the center. She was always approachable and instrumental in leading people forward. Many of us can remember her humorous way of telling us that we would never graduate if we insisted on studying the history of nursing from the beginning of the world to the present time. She always fought for (and usually won) a "place at the table" for nursing history, be it at the local, regional, or national level. For that, all of us involved in nursing history in any way can be eternally grateful.

Karen Bulher-Wilkerson passed away on February 13, 2010 after a valiant fight with ovarian cancer and its complications. For Karen, it was all about life. After her diagnosis, she chose to live as she always had – with love, humor, a kind and generous spirit, and despite the ongoing complications and indignities associated with cancer care, with great appreciation for the nurses and others involved in her care. I remember visiting her in the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania during the 25th Annual AAHN conference that was held in Philadelphia that year. I had been diagnosed with a different form of cancer earlier that year and had recently finished treatment. When I sat with Karen, she was quite ill and uncomfortable from her own treatments yet was much more concerned about me. We talked and laughed about hair loss, biopsies, chemo, surgery and other issues so common among people with cancer. When I left, I realized that although I

went there to cheer her up, she helped me as well. I smiled all the way home.

Karen's accomplishments as a nurse were extraordinary. She was instrumental in the founding of Penn Nursing's LIFE program, Living Independently For Elders. More than 500 poor and frail elderly citizens of Philadelphia receive individualized yet interdisciplinary health care and essential therapies. In addition the participants are offered socialization opportunities, and palliative care when needed. Supported by Medicare and Medicaid, LIFE is indeed a lifeline for the marginalized elderly and a reminder what nurses are capable of doing.

Karen published widely, including three books and forty articles. Her best known book *No Place Like Home: A History of Nursing and Home Care in the United States* is considered a classic. She twice received the Lavinia L. Dock Award for Exemplary Historical Research and Writing from the American Association for the History of Nursing (in 1989 and 2001), as well as the Agnes Dillon Randolph Award for Significant Contributions to the Field of Nursing History from the Center for Nursing Inquiry at the University of Virginia School of Nursing in 2000. She became a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing in 1989 and received the Emory University Alumna Award of Honor in 1990. Her final publication will be published this summer. Written in collaboration with her partner of 17 years, Penn nursing Professor Neville Strumpf, it is titled *Living with Cancer* and describes their journey of more than five years as a cancer patient and survivor.

Dr. Strumpf described Karen as "unflinching, honest, brave, and deter-

mined” from diagnosis to death. Those of us who knew Karen well were not surprised when she acquired a standard poodle (who apparently has never escaped the toddler phase of development) when she was diagnosed with cancer, and when, during the last eight months of her life, she purchased a 1986 Porsche 911. She was quite proud of the car and, as any good researcher would, tested the reliability and validity of the car manufacturer’s claims in the Adirondack Mountains during the summer of 2009. Karen was also a collector of many interests. Fiestaware, old furniture, art, and an eclectic mixture of other things enlightened and brightened her life. Former Penn students will never walk through a gift shop

again without stopping to look at any and all floating pens.

Karen Ann Buhler-Wilkerson was an amazing woman who died too soon. In addition to her nursing activities she raised two sons to be gentlemen who are carrying on her devotion to the poor, frail, and marginalized members of society. Jonathan and David Wilkerson, along with their wives, Kerri Wilkerson and Marie Thoma were devoted to their mother and are her enduring legacy, along with her grandchildren, Billy and Sonya. Along with her life partner, Neville Strumpf, Karen leaves behind a brother, John Buhler, and her former husband, L. Douglas Wilkerson, M.D.

A liturgy of burial and Holy Eucharist in celebration of Karen’s life and ministry was held in Philadelphia at Trinity Memorial Church on February 18th. The Karen Buhler-Wilkerson Faculty Research Fund at the Barbara Bates Center for the History of Nursing has been set up at the Penn School of Nursing. So typical of Karen, she was thinking of the future of nursing history until the end. The family requests that any donations in her honor be made to this fund. Checks can be made out to the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania and mailed to the School of Nursing at Penn, 418 Curie Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19104-4217.

A Revolutionary Library

Paula Thomas Ruffin, PhDc, MSN, RN, CMT, Research Fellow Center for the Study of Complementary Therapies, University of Virginia School of Nursing Charlottesville, VA

What patriotic organization founded in 1783 promotes historic scholarship on the Revolutionary War? The answer is the Society of the Cincinnati. This organization continues to build friendships among French and American historians interested in preserving the memory of the sacrifices and achievements made during the struggle for American independence.

Tucked away on the ground level of the society headquarters at Anderson House in Washington, D.C., is the sophisticated Harold Leonard Stuart Gallery, housing the Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection of 16th, 17th, and 18th century historical materials. The Society of the Cincinnati Library has the wonderful task of adding approximately 200 works to their collection annually thanks to a generous donor. The library and vault contain treaties

and maps, medical texts, Indian captivity narratives, photos, newspapers, sermons, drawings, and other publications relating to revolutionary period military and naval history.

In December my husband and I enjoyed a fascinating tour given by Ellen McCallister Clark, the Library Director. Upon learning of my doctoral studies at the University of Virginia School of Nursing and my use of the Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry for research on nursing massage history, she mentioned the Tyree Lamb Fellowships available to graduate-level students and other history scholars. Ellen described one particular document kept in the vault that might be of interest to a nurse historian interested in manual therapy. It was a handwritten doctor’s note for physical therapy following a gunshot wound to the elbow.

Searching the term “nursing” in the on-line library catalog retrieved no records however, “medical care” listed 87 references and “medicine” provided over 200 records of references. Looking out my window on this snowy, February day I let my imagination wander down the record list with several potential research questions such as:

What was the nurse’s role in the Continental hospital (1777-1780)?

Who were the nurses at the side of Dr. Benjamin Rush (1746-1813)?

Did Dr. Jonathan Potts, Director of the Northern and Middle Departments in the Revolutionary War (1823-1893) teach nurses?

Does the diary of a surgeon (1751-1752) mention nursing care?

Perhaps the next time you plan a visit to our Nation’s Capital you might wish to include a visit to a

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Annie McKay: School Nurse Pioneer

Dorothy Keeney, RN, BSN, MA

On Tuesday, August 25, 2009 a perfect sunny day in the South End, members of the Massachusetts School Nurse Organization (MSNO) gathered to honor an important figure in Boston's nursing history. They convened at 1521 Washington Street for the unveiling of a bronze plaque honoring the site of the home of Annie McKay. McKay became Boston's pioneering first school nurse in 1905. (1)

The History of School Nursing in Boston

School Health Services in the United States followed the development of such public health initiatives that first began in France in 1837, and much later in England, when the first very first school nurse, Ms. Amy Hughes, was appointed in London in 1892. (2)

Two years later, Boston first led the way in the United States towards better student health by implementing in 1894 medical inspection of students in schools by physicians. In an era marked by widespread communicable diseases and poor sanitation, school physicians were charged with checking on students referred by their teachers, and suggesting medical or surgical treatment when necessary. Students were often excluded from attending school, and without adequate follow-up, absenteeism increased dramatically. (3)

The Boston School Committee, concerned by a 13 per cent rate of absenteeism, began to address the situation and turned to nurses to supplement the work of the school physicians. Boston recognized the success that New York and Los Angeles had in implementing similar programs in 1902 and 1904, respectively.

On November 14, 1905, the Committee appointed Annie McKay, "one of our most experienced nurses to supplement the work of physicians in schools", in partnership with the Instructive District Nurses Association (IDNA). (4) The IDNA later became the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA), which remains a key component in health care services today.

Plaque dedicated to Annie McKay at her home at 1521 Washington Street, South End, Boston, MA.

Miss McKay's Early Life

Annie McKay was born of Scottish parentage in Canada on July 29, 1867 in the rural town of Beaverton, Ontario. She was the fifth of ten children. (5) Interestingly, Ms. McKay was trained as a schoolteacher and taught school prior to nursing. Undoubtedly, her experience with children contributed to her later success as a school nurse. Records from the Toronto General Hospital tell us that Annie McKay graduated with a nursing certificate in 1894 at the age of 27. She graduated from Victorian Order Training School, Toronto and served as District Nurse there for two years. After that she also graduated from Woman's Hospital in New York, and the Massachusetts Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary. (6)

Her Assignments and Her Impact

When Annie McKay became Boston's first school nurse in 1905, she lived close to her assignment, at 1521 Washington Street, an apartment building in the South End that still stands today. The Boston Directory of the time classified her as a nurse, living there as "h" and "do". The designation meant this was both her work and home and that probably she may have cared for an individual in the apartment building.



Annie McKay at work

This would not be surprising, for she was an unmarried woman, living on her own, and probably needed extra money.

As noted in the plaque, Annie McKay was assigned to three elementary schools in the South End—the Quincy, the Way Street and the Andrews. Though lesser known, part of her assignment was to check on the children at the Hawthorne Club, which catered to poorly nourished children with what were described as "tubercular tendencies". A booklet at the time from the Hawthorne Club reports McKay wrote a play called "The Elf Child", which was performed by the children there. (7) The original Quincy School, known today as the Old Quincy School, still stands on Tyler Street and is now the home of the Chinese Benevolent Cultural Center. The Andrews and Way Street Schools, several blocks away, were demolished in the urban renewal of the 1960s.

Records show that after only 8 weeks on her job, McKay saw 215 cases in school, and made 576 home visits. Within three months in her position, she had more than 70 children outfitted for glasses. In 1906, McKay gave the main address at IDNA's Annual Meeting. She recounted instances where parents were unable to buy children eyeglasses, and the Board of IDNA provided the funds for this purpose. She tells the story of a boy who had bald spots on his scalp, where hair was not growing. It was probably tinea capitis. The problem was that the child

had this for two years, and no treatment that was advised was carried out for more than a few days. It took the intervention of Annie McKay in returning the child to the Boston Dispensary again for treatment and convincing the mother to keep bringing him until the disease was cured. She also reported that the staff at the Boston Dispensary, now part of Tufts Medical Center, was always eager and willing to treat poor school children free of charge. (8)

In an interview published April 4, 1906, in a newspaper of the day, *The Transcript*, McKay said “adenoids and tonsils, next to defective vision, are the most frequent cases that the nurse meets.” She expressed concern that many parents solicited medical advice from several clinics and received free care but followed few of the suggestions. In hindsight, we can say that she was recognizing some of the problems we are still addressing in our modern health care system. (9) Though the school day started at nine am and finished at three pm, McKay made home visits to the families before and after school, and in the evening, teaching simple techniques of self-help and basic hygiene. To compensate for this time, she was given Saturday afternoon off. On some evenings, she would bring children to the Boston Dispensary, taking them to be fitted for glasses, or give a health talk to a local group. The so-called “experiment” of appointing McKay as a school nurse soon was recognized as a success and records of the day contain praise from teachers, parents, medical inspectors, and even the children themselves.

It wasn't long after her appointment that The Mt. Sinai Hospital Society, with the consent of the Boston School Committee, employed a school nurse in Boston's Washington School District. By 1906, the Boston School Committee appointed a commission of physicians

to study the health of children in the first three grades. Their report concluded with the recommendation “that competent trained nurses be appointed to supplement the work of the medical inspectors.” (10)

By January 1907, IDNA had on its own a total of five nurses working in 19 schools spanning six public school districts. The Boston School Committee, acknowledging the value of school nursing services, accepted the Commission's recommendation. Their absenteeism rate had dropped by five percent within less than two years. By September 1907, the Committee established a formal program to directly employ 29 nurses and a supervising nurse to service the elementary day schools in Boston. (11) Subsequently, this program was expanded by the state legislature to mandate school health services in every city and town in Massachusetts.

Records of McKay's travels from Beaverton to Toronto, New York and Boston, give us reason to believe she was a very independent woman. Following her period of school nursing, she remained in Boston, and worked with tuberculosis patients in area hospitals and other health agencies. McKay later served in Europe as a nurse for the Paris Committee (American Red Cross Nursing Service) in 1918. (12) During the 1920's, she made frequent trips to Canada to visit her family, who recognized her as “a very dedicated woman”. Never marrying, she eventually returned to her hometown of Beaverton to care for family members and she passed away in Beaverton in 1944.

The Plaque Unveiled

The unveiling ceremony of the plaque to honor Annie McKay, school nursing pioneer, held on August 25, 2009, began with opening remarks by Dorothy Keeney, MSNO Historian. Tributes to Annie McKay's trailblazing work by

Mimi Stamer, MSNO President, who also read remarks by Sandi Delack, president, National Association of School Nurses (NASN). Others who offered remarks were Dr. Alfred DeMaria, Chief State Epidemiologist; Boston City Councilor Bill Linehan; Dr. Linda Grant, medical director for the Boston Public Schools and Mary Smoyer, Boston Women's Heritage Trail; Tabitha Bennett, South End Neighborhood Coordinator; Mary Ellen Doona, Historian, Living Legend of the Massachusetts Association of Registered Nurses and Diane Gallagher, history archivist of the Gotlieb Archival Center at Boston University. After their remarks Dorothy Keeney and Tom Geraghty of Geraghty Associates, the building's current owner, unveiled the plaque.

Ordinary people can do extraordinary things. Annie McKay's legacy in the public schools was to make our system of universal education more accessible to additional children thus making them productive citizens. With the stroke of her appointment a system of health assessment, nursing intervention and follow-up for all children within the school system was established. The school nursing mission continues: Keeping children in school, in class, and ready to learn.

Dorothy Keeney was formerly the school nurse at the Edison Middle School in Boston and is the Historian of the Massachusetts School Nurse Organization.

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2. *School Nursing, A Framework For Practice*, by Susan J. Wold, Sunrise River Press, pg. 5,6, 1981.
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From the Archivist's Corner

Gertrude B. Hutchinson

I just want to take a few minutes of your time to say "Hello," and "Thank You" again to the Board for honoring me with this appointment as your Archivist, and "Thank You" to Wanda Hiestand for the wonderful job she has done and for all the transitional support she has given to me.



I have received several inquiries to introduce myself and to outline the process for preserving the history of our organization so I will do so here.

Nursing and History are two of my four passions in life and I cannot honestly say which came first. As far back as I can remember in my childhood, I loved history and wanted to become a nurse. Although my mother was a RN and my paternal grandfather a doctor, my parents never actively influenced my career choice; they were proud I chose nursing. Furthermore, I continued a family tradition as two generations of my family (my mother, one of her sisters, my cousin and I) graduated from the same hospital school of nursing in New Brighton, PA. I embarked on a clinical career spanning 34 years in Critical Care, Neonatal Nursery, Emergency Room and Critical Care Transport. The end of 2005 marked the end of my clinical career as I entered graduate school.

In 2000, I started my quest to earn my BA in History. Then I discovered, to work in Public History, I needed a graduate degree. I earned my BA in History from California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) in 2005. During that time I was inducted into the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society. It was at CSUSB that I joined the NSDAR and did an internship to help develop the archives of the Stringfellow Museum in Riverside, CA.

January of 2006, I started graduate classes at the State University of New York at Albany (SUNYA). While at UAlbany, I did an internship at the Foundation of NYS Nurses in Guilderland, NY and realized that I wanted to earn an advanced degree in archiving as well as history. In 2007, I earned my Master of Arts in History and started my career as the Archivist of the Bellevue Alumnae Center for Nursing History at the Foundation of NYS Nurses. Here I learned of the AAHN and became a member. This past December 2009, I earned my Master of Science in Information Systems (MSIS) with an emphasis on Archiving and Records Management.

In September 2009, I received the Board Appointment as the Archivist of AAHN and in February, I traveled to the Howard Gotlieb Special Collections at the Mugar Library of Boston University to meet the archivists who have been working with our collection there. Presently, our collection measures about 22 cubic feet! That brings me up questions about saving the documents of our organization.

If you have any documents as a past officer or past committee chair, prior to 2006, that you have not passed on to the current officers or chairs, please organize them into the years and send them to me at the address listed at the end of the article. I will inventory them by the committee(s) and year(s), or conferences and year(s), or officer tenure and year(s) and forward them to the Howard Gotlieb Special Collections for addition to our collection.

I have received some documents and look forward to receiving more in the near future.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at: (518) 456-7858, ext. 24 or

GHutchinson@FoundationNSYNurses.org. Please send all documents in boxes/envelopes clearly marked "AAHN DOCUMENTS" to:

Gertrude B. Hutchinson, MA, MSIS, RN
Veronica M. Driscoll Center for Nursing
2113 Western Avenue, Suite 1, Guilderland, NY 12084

ANNIE McKAY — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

4. *Instructive District Nursing Association Board of Managers Reports*, November, 1905 Box 8, Folder II, Boston Visiting Nurse Archives.
5. *MacKay Family History*, by Jean MacKay.
6. *Twenty-First Annual Report of the Instructive District Nursing Association For the Year Ending January 31, 1907*, 9 Box 10, Boston Visiting Nurse Archives.
7. *The Hawthorne Club, Boston, MA 1910-1912*, The Metcalf Press, Boston p. 13
8. "Work In The Public Schools by The Nurse In The Quincy District" *Twentieth Annual Report of the Instructive District Nursing Association For the Year Ending January 31, 1906*, 34-37 Box 10, Boston Visiting Nurse Archives.
9. Standwood, Clara, "Nurses in the Schools", *The Boston Transcript*, April 4, 1906. Box 4, Visiting Nurse Archives.
10. *Report of the Commission: Health of Children Attending The First Three Grades*, School Document No.2, (Boston Public Schools) January 1907, 18.
11. *Annual Boston School Report*, 1907, School Document No.16, 7.
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Florence Nightingale: Bring Her Back to the Syllabus

Fidelindo A. Lim, M.A., R.N., New York University, College of Nursing

With the ever expanding nursing curricula, Florence Nightingale is mentioned occasionally, but in-depth exploration of her life and contributions to nursing is often overlooked. Considered by some to be irrelevant to modern nursing, she remains a mystery to many nurses today. Nightingale was a product of Victorian England, but her writings suggest a forward thinking person whose ideas are still relevant today. In 1860, Nightingale published her cutting-edge book *Notes on Nursing: What it is and what it is not*. In less than 80 pages she gave us a handbook on how we should take care of the sick and a blueprint on how to run a health care system. True, many of what she has written is outdated (though not for her time). But consider the following direct quotes from her book and you can see its inescapable relevance to today's health care problems.

On Infection Control

Notes on Nursing, 1860

"True nursing ignores infections, except to prevent them."

"Every nurse ought to be careful to wash her hands very frequently (if her face too, so much the better)."

JCAHO National Patient Safety Goal 2010

"Use the hand cleaning guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the World Health Organization."

WHO Hand Hygiene Guidelines, 2005

"Hand hygiene, a very simple action, remains the primary measure to reduce health-care associated infection and the spread of antimicrobial

resistance, enhancing patient safety across all settings."

On Patient Confidentiality

Notes on Nursing, 1860

"And remember every nurse should be one who is to be depended upon, in other words, capable of being a 'confidential' nurse... she must be no gossip; vain talker, she should never answer about the sick except those who have the right to ask them."

HIPPA Privacy Rule, 2003

"The goal of the privacy rule is to assure that individuals' health information is properly protected while allowing the flow of health information needed to provide and promote high quality health care."

On Nursing Shortage

Notes on Nursing, 1860

"To increase the efficiency of this class (nurses) and to make as many of them as possible the disciples of the true doctrine of health would be a great national work."

Nurse Reinvestment Act" (H.R.3487), 2002

President Bush signed into law the "Nurse Reinvestment Act" (H.R.3487), designed to encourage people to enter and remain in nursing careers, thus helping to alleviate the nation's growing nursing shortage."

On Patient Safety

Notes on Nursing, 1860

"If you look into reports of trials or accidents, and especially of suicides... it is almost incredible how often the whole thing turns upon something which has happened because "he," "or still oftener "she" "was not there."

JCAHO National Patient Safety Goals, 2010

"Identify patient safety risks Find out which patients are most likely to try to kill themselves."

Notes on Nursing, 1860

"It may seem a strange principle to enunciate as the very first requirement in a Hospital that it should do the sick no harm."

JCAHO National Patient Safety Goals, 2010

"Use medicines safely. Label all medicines that are not already labeled. For example, medicines in syringes, cups and basins. Take extra care with patients who take medicines to thin their blood."

On Documentation

Notes on Nursing, 1860

"Oh, leave these jargons and go your way straight to God's work, in simplicity and singleness of heart."

JCAHO National Patient Safety Goals, 2008

Standardized a list of abbreviations, acronyms, symbols and dose designations that are not to be used throughout the organization.

On False Endearment

Notes on Nursing, 1860

"I would appeal most seriously to all friends, visitors and attendants of the sick to leave of this practice of attempting to 'cheer' the sick."

National Institute on Aging, 2004

"Avoid using familiar terms, like 'dear' and 'hon,' which tend to sound patronizing. Talk to your staff the importance of being respectful to all your patients."

On Evidence-Based Practice

Notes on Nursing, 1860

"The most important practical lesson that can be given to nurses is to teach them what to observe—how to observe—what symptoms indicate improvement—what the reverse..."

"Statistics is the most important science in the world."

The Institute of Medicine, 2003

"Evidenced-based practice is the integration of best research, clinical expertise and patient values in making decisions about the care of individualized patients."

Nursing education of today rarely covers the prolific history of our profession. Very few of today's nurses have read of Florence Nightingale's work or derive inspiration from it. To all nurses, both young and old, grab a copy of Nightingale's book and try to envision the future of nursing and health care—so deeply rooted in the past. Though Florence Nightingale has been dead for 100 years, she might as well have written the 2010 National Patient Safety Goals by the JCAHO. It is time to bring her back to our syllabi.

References

- Nightingale *F. Notes on Nursing: what it is and what it is not*. London: Harrison, 1860
- JCAHO National Patient Safety Goals 2010 http://www.jointcommission.org/GeneralPublic/NPSG/10_npsgs.htm

Bylaws Change

At the spring Board meeting, the Board of Directors approved the following change to Article 8 § 6 of the AAHN Bylaws for presentation to the members:

Article 8: Section 6 - Bylaws and Policies Committee

A. Responsibilities:

1. The Bylaws and Policies Committee shall be responsible for:
 - a. Reviewing and recommending revisions of the bylaws to the Board of Directors as the needs of the Association dictate.
 - b. Reviewing and recommending policies to the Board of Directors as the needs of the Association dictate.

B. Composition, Appointment and Period of Appointment:

1. The Bylaws and Policies Committee chairperson shall be a director. Additional Committee members may be appointed on an ad hoc basis.
2. The Bylaws and Policies Committee chairperson serves for two years.

(The current version is available for viewing on the AAHN website <http://aahn.org/bylaws.html>; members will vote on the change at the 2010 Annual Meeting.)

A REVOLUTIONARY LIBRARY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

rare gem of a library and explore the treasures of our nation's history for the purpose of uncovering a new perspective on nursing during a time of revolution and a glimpse of nursing at the beginning of our country.

The society library website is:

<http://www.societyofthecincinnati.org/lib.htm>

**Author's note: Although "nurse" or "nursing" are not present in the on-line catalog, there are many references to "women" present. Some are intriguing – women and the Revolutionary War, women in public life during the 1700's, etc. Could there be information about nursing care included, albeit without the title of nurse?*

The Nursing History listserv: An Exciting New Resource

Francis C. Biley

Several months ago I was forwarded a now long-deleted email that suggested a need for some kind of international forum to enable the discussion of issues related to nursing history. Personally, I had previously become aware of how difficult it was to communicate formally and informally with those around the world (and even locally in the UK) who were interested in nursing history. As I have been the listserv manager for a number of groups for up to 15 years, my immediate response was to say "I can do that!" Within 24 hours I had obtained permission to launch a UK Government-sponsored 'nursing-history' listserv through an organization called JISC, which is the UK university's Joint Information System Committee, an organization dedicated to promoting the use of electronic information technology in higher education teaching and research. JISCmail hosts listservs and aims to use "the world wide web and e-mail to enable groups of academics and support staff to talk to each other and to share information" (taken from the JISCmail website) And so, the 'nursing-history' discussion listserv was born!

So how do you participate? Well, first, you have to enroll. This is at no cost and it can be done easily. Firstly, go to <https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=nursing-history> and click on the 'subscribe' button. Simply add your name and email address in the appropriate boxes

and click the 'subscribe' button again. You may have to establish a password and so on, but the onscreen instructions could not be simpler. It is that easy! You will get a confirmation email, and instructions relating to your membership sent to the email address that you have given.

With great assistance from Barbra Mann Wall, who is now a co-moderator for the listserv, and after scouring the internet for email addresses of those who might be interested, we emailed news of the listserv to nurse historians around the world. Membership rapidly grew in the early days, and now stands at 31, from about 15 different countries. But we need more members to create that critical mass. Join up! Contribute to the list, which was created to provide a national and international forum for the discussion of philosophical and practical issues related to the academic study of the history of nursing. You can use the list to advertise your event, join the global nursing historian community, notify members of a new book, ask questions, or discuss relevant topics, whatever you want really!

If you need any further information, please contact me, Francis C. Biley; 'nursing-history' list owner, Associate Professor, Bournemouth University, UK and Adjunct Professor, Seton Hall University, New Jersey, USA on fbiley@bournemouth.ac.uk.

Announcements Scholarships/Grants

University of Pennsylvania

The Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing is pleased to announce its call for applications for three fellowships in the history of nursing:

- The Lillian Brunner Fellowship (\$5000)
- The Alice Fisher Fellowship (\$5000)
- The Karen Buhler-Wilkerson Fellowship (\$1500)

More information, including instructions for applying, can be found at <http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/history/Pages/FellowshipsandAwards.aspx>. The application submission deadline is December 31st. Please feel free to contact Patricia D'Antonio (dantonio@nursing.upenn.edu) or Barbra Mann Wall (wallbm@nursing.upenn.edu) for more information.

University of Virginia

The Barbara Brodie Nursing History Fellowship, a post-doctoral award, is open to doctorally prepared scholars engaged in historical research. Applications for the \$3000 award are due October 15th each year, and the recipient will be announced each December. The selected Barbara Brodie Nursing History Fellow is expected to present a paper from the funded project in the Center's History Forum series within two years of receiving the award. Please see the website for more information and an application. <http://www.nursing.virginia.edu/research/cnhi/fellowship/>

The Society of the Cincinnati

Tyree-Lamb Research Fellowship.

This fellowship is named in honor of two members of the Society of the

Cincinnati in the State of Virginia, Lewis Tyree Jr., and John K. Lamont Lamb. It is intended to provide \$1,000 to support the cost of travel, housing and per diem expenses for a scholar wishing to use the Society's library for a period of at least one full week. The fellowship is open to graduate-level students and other scholars who are conducting research that may benefit from the library's holdings. The fellowship recipient will be required to complete his or her week of research within a period of one year from the date of the award. Further, the recipient will be required to submit a three-to-five-page written report and summary of research findings, which may be published in the Society's journal, *Cincinnati Fourteen*. In addition, the library requests a single copy of any subsequent publication (article, thesis, dissertation or book) that may result. Applications must be received by Friday November 12, 2010. Applicants will be notified by January 14, 2011. For further information see the web site at <http://www.societyofthecincinnati.org/> Applications should be mailed to:

Ellen McCallister Clark,
Library Director
The Society of the Cincinnati
2118 Massachusetts Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Sigma Theta Tau International/The Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science

Purpose

The purpose of the Sigma Theta Tau International/The Council for Advancement of Nursing Science research grant is to encourage qualified nurses to improve the health of the world's people through research. Proposals for clinical, educational or historical research, including plans for broadly disseminating the research

findings, may be submitted for the grant.

Research Funding

Funds for this grant are provided by Sigma Theta Tau International and the Council on Advancement of Nursing Science.

Funds for this grant do not cover expenses incurred prior to the funding date.

Grants available: 1 per year

Funding: up to \$5000

Deadline: 1 July 2010

Funding date: 1 November 2010

See <http://www.nursingsociety.org/Research/SmallGrants/Pages/CANS.aspx> for more information.

Member News Spring 2010

Congratulations

Nettie Birnbach has been named to the American Nurses' Hall of Fame and will be inducted in June at the Convention in Washington, D.C.

Julie Fairman received the Claire M. Fagin Distinguished Researcher Award, 2010; and has been named an IOM Nurse Scholar

Patricia D'Antonio received the University of Virginia's Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry's Agnes Dillon Randolph Award & Lectureship

New Books

Congratulations to the following on the publication of their books:

Martha Libster and Betty Ann McNeil: *Enlightened Charity*, Golden Apple Publications, 2009.

Elizabeth Norman with Michael Norman: *Tears of Darkness: The Story of the Bataan Death March*, Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2009.

Thelma Robinson: *Your Country Needs You - Cadet Nurses of World War II*, Xlibris, 2009.

Kara Dixon Vuic: *Officer, Nurse, Woman: The Army Nurse Corps in the Vietnam War* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010).



Karen Bulher-Wilkerson, 1944-2010

Copied from the web page of the Barbara Bates Center at Penn.

<http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/history/Pages/default.aspx>

American Association
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