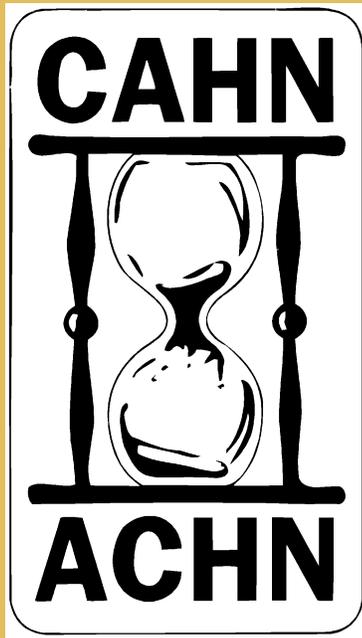


# Canadian Association for the History of Nursing Association canadienne pour l'histoire du nursing

## President's Message – Dr. Beverley Hicks



The CAHN conference and meeting in Medicine Hat is now a happy recollection and I am sure the 25th anniversary conference is recalled with good memories. This year's Hannah lecturer, Carol Helmstadter, spoke on "Military Nursing in Four Different Contexts". Carol's meticulous research was evident as she explored different nursing responses to the Crimean war. It was a privilege that one of our long standing members and supporters gave this 25th Hannah Lecture.

All the papers were excellent but one that stands out for me was presented by Jayne Elliott. It was the work of Jayne and Cynthia Toman who brought some order, continuity and clarity to our own history. This will help us to see our progress and will also encourage us as we move forward. For a small group we have done well to maintain a national presence.

Medicine Hat College and the local arrangements chair Florence Melchior did a superb job of arranging the conference, accommodation, and meals and Saturday evening entertainment. This was one of the smallest venues in which the conference has been held but all agreed it was excellent. The next conference will be in Victoria in conjunction with the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine.

The new slate of officers is published in this issue of the newsletter, including a number of students, and this is an excellent way to get students involved. We have maintained contact with CNA, including the publishing of the history of CNA and these details are provided in the newsletter by Cynthia Toman and Jayne Elliot. We hope that at the conference in Victoria we will be able to announce the finished work. We look forward to seeing as many as possible of you in Victoria and to having further discussions on the state and place of nursing history in Canada.

## CSHM/CAHN 2013 Conference

The 2013 Conference is to be held in Victoria, British Columbia from June 1-3, 2013.

The conference will bring together scholars and historians of nursing, medicine, health and health care.

The call for abstracts is now available on page 11.

For more details visit [cahn-achn.ca](http://cahn-achn.ca) or [cshm-schm.ca](http://cshm-schm.ca)

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### *An Update on the Relationships between CAHN, CNF & CNA*

Cynthia Toman

During the CAHN May executive phone call, I was asked to meet with the Canadian Nurses Foundation (CNF) about their funding and support for the field of nursing history research. Jayne Elliot and I spoke with H el ene Sabourin, Executive Director of the CNF in Ottawa on the 5th of July, 2012.

We had a very informative and productive meeting. It was clear that as far as CNF was concerned, nursing history was not on their radar prior to this meeting. We learned much about each other and I am convinced that H el ene now has a better-informed and positive understanding of what historical research is and how it contributes to the nursing profession. Indeed, she is quite interested in what we do, and I believe she will be a good advocate for CAHN and nursing history within the CNA-CNF organizations. Jayne and I offered to get involved with CNF scholarship evaluations and research grant applications wherever history is involved to offer names of CAHN members as experts to sit on their committees when needed. We also discussed having more of a history presence at events like the annual Nightingale galas in Ottawa (for CNF fund raising) and the CNA annual conferences. This means there may be future opportunities arising from this and perhaps we can approach our membership across Canada accordingly when CNA meetings are in their area. CAHN members may want to have a spare potential presentation "up their sleeve" for when such invitations arise.

## **CANADIAN NURSING HISTORY NEWS**

On the less positive side, CNF funding is restricted due partially to how donors have targeted their funds. Much like our own Vera Roberts endowment the criteria are quite specific. There is far, far less funding available for general research in nursing (where nursing history might fit) or for graduate students that are not in a targeted support group (such as historians in nursing). H el ene is quite aware of these dilemmas and seemed interested in integrating nursing history into the fund-raising agenda.

We also learned from the meeting that no nursing history or nursing history students have been funded by CNF to the best of our combined knowledge. There are few opportunities for funding of our students or our research within the current funding mandates/structures of CNF. Yet, we are welcome to try, and now, I believe any such applications have a better chance of success if there is funding to do so. One of H el ene's mandates is to build up funding, to recruit donors and encourage more open donations for the fund within the major Nursing 4.0 campaign advertised on the CNA website. I'm sure she'd welcome any potential donor suggestions that we might identify. I hope this new connection and knowledge will be helpful for Canadian nursing historians, CAHN and our membership.

## News from the Nursing History Research Unit / l'Unité de recherche sur l'histoire des soins infirmiers Ottawa

Jayne Elliot

The Unit welcomes two new faculty members, Jaime Lapeyre and Brandi Vanderspank-Wright, both of whom have begun to teach in the School of Nursing at the University of Ottawa. Jaime is completing her doctorate at the University of Toronto on the development of public health nursing education in North America and Europe during the immediate post-WWI period, with a particular focus on the roles of the Rockefeller Foundation and the Red Cross in these developments. Brandi's doctoral research centres on the development of Canadian Intensive Care Units and the nature of ICU nurses' work from 1960-2002. She is co-supervised by Cynthia Toman and is undertaking her PhD at the University of Ottawa.

Marie-Claude Thifault, director of the Unit, has just published a book entitled *L'incontournable caste des femmes: histoire des services de santé au Québec et au Canada*. The book focuses on several generations of women who had a prominent role in developing the health care system in Quebec and in Canada. The book also seeks to connect Anglophone and francophone scholarship in nursing history and Unit members Marie-Claude Thifault, Jayne Elliott, Cynthia Toman, Sarah Glassford, and Isabelle Perreault have articles, translated into French, in the book.

The Unit will be sponsoring three seminars this coming year. Tina Bates, curator emerita of the Canadian Museum of Civilization, will kick off the series this coming 15 November with a talk on her new book *A Cultural History of the Nurse's Uniform*, which will be released at the beginning of November. On 14 February 2013, Rafael Mandressi from Centre Alexandre-Koyré du CNRS will speak on his research on the history of the body. On 12 April 2013, Karen Flynn from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign will share with us research from her recent book *Moving Beyond Borders: Black Canadian and Caribbean women in the African Canadian Diaspora*, in which she followed the lifestories of a group of nurses.

Finally, the Unit has a new website at <http://www.health.uottawa.ca/nursing-history/> (English) and <http://www.sante.uottawa.ca/histoire-infirmieres/index.htm> (French). It is always a work in process: Please send news and information on nursing history to Jayne Elliott ([je Elliott@uottawa.ca](mailto:je Elliott@uottawa.ca)).



## News from the Nursing History Research Unit / l'Unité de recherche sur l'histoire des soins infirmiers – Ottawa

Jayne Elliot

Deux nouvelles professeures se sont jointes à l'Unité en juillet dernier. Il s'agit de Jaime Lapeyre et Brandi Vanderspank-Wright qui ont toutes les deux commencé à enseigner à l'École des sciences infirmières de l'Université d'Ottawa. Jaime termine son doctorat à l'Université de Toronto sur le développement de la formation des infirmières en santé publique, en Amérique du Nord et en Europe dans l'après Première Guerre mondiale. Elle s'intéresse spécifiquement au rôle de la Fondation Rockefeller et celui de la Croix-Rouge. Les recherches doctorales en cours de Brandi portent sur le développement des unités de soins intensifs au Canada et questionnent la nature du travail des infirmières en soins intensifs entre 1960 et 2002. Notre collègue Cynthia Toman codirige sa thèse.

Marie-Claude Thifault, directrice de l'Unité, vient de publier le collectif *L'incontournable caste des femmes. Histoire des services de santé au Québec et au Canada*. Cet ouvrage présente plusieurs générations de femmes qui ont eu un rôle de premier plan dans le développement du système de soins de santé au Québec et au Canada. *L'incontournable caste des femmes* réunit des historiennes et des historiens anglophones et francophones spécialistes de l'histoire des soins infirmiers et des services de santé au pays. Plusieurs membres de l'Unité ont contribué à ce livre: Jayne Elliott, Sarah Glassford, Isabelle Perreault, Marie-Claude Thifault et Cynthia Toman.

La série de séminaires organisée annuellement par l'Unité accueillera le 15 novembre 2012 Tina Bates, conservatrice émérite du Musée canadien des civilisations ; le 14 février 2013, Rafael Mandressi du Centre Alexandre-Koyré du CNRS, et le 12 avril 2013, Karen Flynn de l'Université de l'Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Enfin, l'Unité dispose d'un nouveau site Internet disponible à l'adresse suivante en anglais <http://www.health.uottawa.ca/nursing-history/> et en français à celle-ci <http://www.sante.uottawa.ca/histoire-infirmieres/index.htm>. Nous avons l'intention de tenir note site à jour et de publier toutes informations pertinentes en lien avec l'histoire de la santé, alors s'il vous plaît n'hésitez pas à faire parvenir vos annonces à Jayne Elliott ([jelliott@uottawa.ca](mailto:jelliott@uottawa.ca)).



### *CAHN & the CNA Biennial Convention*

Geertje Boschma

The CNA biennial convention was held in Vancouver last June 18-20, 2012. Dr. Geertje Boschma from the University of British Columbia was representing CAHN at the convention. During the convention, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Canadian Nurses Foundation was celebrated. The highlight of the convention was the presentation at the business meeting the newly formed Association of for the Registered Nurses in BC (ARNBC) represented by BC nurses as the new professional nursing voice for the first time. All provinces welcomed Barbara Mildon who started her term as the new president.

Have a look at the new CNA website for some important new resolutions that were passed at the business meeting: (<http://www.cna-aiic.ca/en/about-cna/annual-meeting-2012/>).

Several speeches from the conference are available for viewing on YouTube:  
<http://www.youtube.com/user/CNAVideos>

### **The British Columbia History of Nursing Society has a new Facebook Page**



### *History in the Making: A New Association of Registered Nurses in British Columbia*

Helen Vandenberg

A new Association of Registered Nursing (ARNBC) has been established in British Columbia. This change came in light of the reorganization of the province's nursing regulatory body (CRNBC) which decided to focus on its regulatory function and eliminate its role in advocacy work. This change made it difficult for the nursing profession in British Columbia as a whole to be heard in policy work. As a result, a new organization was formed to take a role in advocacy for better health and health care in British Columbia. If you would like to read about the history of this recent and exciting organization, please visit:  
<http://www.arnbc.ca/images/pdfs/news-arnbc/understanding-implications-changing-regs.pdf>

*Want to share news from your nursing history organization? Please contact the Newsletter Team!*

Every year the CAHN/ACHN awards two major financial awards:

- The **Margaret M. Allemang Scholarship** for graduate students (Masters or PhD level) who are studying in the field of nursing history
- The **Vera Roberts Award** for historians of nursing (academic or independent) who are working on Canadian nursing history focused on the region north of the 60th parallel.

Applications and further details about these and other awards can be found on the CAHN/ACHN website: <http://cahn-achn.ca/awards/>

The deadline to apply for both awards is February 1st 2013.

## CAHN-ACHN SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

### 2012 AWARD WINNERS

**Two awards were presented at the CAHN/ACHN conference this year:**

- Dr. Lesley McBain of the University of Saskatchewan was awarded the Vera Roberts Award for her project: Nursing in Northern “Company” Health Care Facilities.
- Lydia Wytenbroek of York University was awarded the Margaret M. Allemang Scholarship for her proposed PhD project, which will explore the medical work of missionary nurses and physicians who were affiliated with the Presbyterian Mission to Iran from 1871-1960.

**Canadian Award Winner at the American Association of the History of Nursing (AAHN):**

- Carol Helmstadter won the Lavinia L. Dock Award to recognize outstanding research and writing produced by an experienced scholar in nursing history who completes a book. She was recognized for her book, co-authored by Judith Godden titled, *Nursing before Nightingale 1850-1899*.

# Canadian Association for the History of Nursing Conference 2012

Lydia Wytenbroek

Scholars, students and professionals from across Canada, as well as from Brazil, Hong Kong and Great Britain, gathered in Medicine Hat, Alberta from June 15 to 17 to attend the CAHN annual conference. This was a particularly significant and commemorative conference as it marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CAHN, which was founded in 1987. The conference was well-attended, highly informative and very enjoyable. Members of the Host Committee did an outstanding job of organizing the event and even the smallest details were impressive, such as the provision of a bag lunches to conference attendees for their journeys home. Their hospitality was commendable and they set the bar high for future conference organizers! Thank you also to members of the Program Committee, who did an excellent job of arranging the program!

The theme of this year's conference, *Places and People's Health: Exploring Nursing in Diverse Contexts*, inspired fascinating presentations and discussions, many of which explored the relationship between place and practice. Several of the sessions also addressed the history of nursing and healthcare in diverse geographical, social and political settings.

One of the highlights from this year's conference was the 2012 AMS-Hannah Lecture, given by Carol Helmstadter, Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, University of Toronto. In her interesting talk, "Military Nursing in Four Different Contexts: The Crimean War, 1853-1856," which was based on a considerable amount of research, she explored the activities of nurses associated with the British, Russian, French and Sardinian armies during the Crimean War. She demonstrated how the political and cultural backgrounds of these armies shaped their distinctive nursing services. Nurses began to develop new practices as it became apparent that good nursing care could have strategic outcomes: it enabled soldiers to return to the front lines. Thus, a new concept of military nursing emerged as a result of the conflict. (...continued on page 7)



Breaking for coffee between presentations



David Kang, Helen Vandenberg, Carol Helmstadter

(...continued from page 6)

Jayne Elliott and Cynthia Toman took the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CAHN as an opportunity to evaluate and dialogue about the association's own archival materials. Drawing on photographs and documents from the archives, as well as interviews that they conducted with past CAHN presidents, Jayne began their interactive session, "Archives and Anecdotes: Telling the Story of CAHN," by tracing the origins of the association. The CAHN was formally established on 8 June 1987 at a meeting organized by Barbara Keddy and Margaret Allemang to discuss the formation of a national association to promote education in the history of nursing. The first CAHN conference took place the following year in Charlottetown, PEI, with Monica Baly as the keynote speaker. In the second part of their paper, Jayne and Cynthia discussed four themes that emerged from their study of the archives: the balance between the preservation of nursing history sources and the creation of new research, the creation of a space for the contributions of both informally and formally trained historians, the development of funding sources, and the political activities of the organization. Jayne ended the presentation by eliciting feedback from members of the audience regarding future accessibility, preservation and location of the CAHN archives. Their fascinating paper can be found on the CAHN website at the following link: [http://cahn-achn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Archives\\_and\\_Anecdotes\\_Talk.pdf](http://cahn-achn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Archives_and_Anecdotes_Talk.pdf).

On Saturday evening, conference participants attended a banquet, held at Medalta, a museum located in the Historic Clay District, a National Historic Site in Medicine Hat. From 1912 to 1954, Medalta was one of Canada's largest pottery producers. Conference attendees perused the Collections Room, which contains over 30,000 pieces of pottery, were guided through a history of the factory and stepped inside one of the historic kilns. Following the tour of the museum, attendees partook of a scrumptious dinner, sampled an abundance of various wines and listened to live music.

CAHN President Dr. Beverley Hicks concluded the conference by noting the importance of looking back as the CAHN moves forward. The conference offered a wonderful opportunity to exchange ideas and knowledge, celebrate our history as an association, catch-up with friends and meet new colleagues. I left the conference feeling a little sad at the prospect of having to wait a year before we meet together again, but I'm looking forward to gathering together again in Victoria in 2013.

## Thank you to the 2012 CAHN Conference Organizers

### **The Host Committee:**

Florence Melchior (Chair)  
Cathy Crockford, (Conference Planner, MHC)  
Denise Hellman (Nursing Faculty)  
Tanis Robinson (Nursing Faculty)  
Michelle Robinson (Admin Assistant, Health Studies)  
Mary Jean Thompson (Nursing Faculty)  
Shanna Mohns (Alumni Relations, MHC)

### **The Program Committee:**

Geertje Boschma, University of British Columbia (Chair)  
Kristin Burnett, Lakehead University  
Sonya Grypma, Trinity Western University  
Helen Vandenberg, University of British Columbia (Program Booklet Development)



Conference organizers at the registration table



Michelle Filice presents her research

## CAHN 2012: Student Reflections

CAHN has a strong tradition of supporting students who are engaged in nursing history research. This supportive ethos is evident in by the number of students who participated in this year's annual conference. Six students (five PhD candidates and one MA student) presented papers based on their original and current research. Two of these students, Michelle Filice and David Kang, share about their experiences attending and presenting at the conference.

### Michelle Filice

This past June, I attended the annual CAHN conference and presented an original paper, "Nursing in the Royal Canadian Navy; Exploring Professional Identities and Relationships between Sick Birth Attendants and Nursing Sisters, 1941-1945." It was a very successful conference; I learned about different aspects of nursing history from a variety of perspectives. Students and scholars from across Canada, as well as from various parts of the world, shared their opinions, experiences, and stories, thus making this conference both fun and informative.

I always enjoy attending CAHN conferences because they create an environment in which students, such as me, feel comfortable sharing their research with others in the field. After presenting at CAHN, I received a lot of useful suggestions to further strengthen my work. CAHN gives it members the opportunity to not only receive constructive feedback on their research, but to also meet new friends and contacts that will last long after the annual conference is over.

*\*Michelle Filice is a third-year doctoral student at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario. Her interests include gender studies and military medical and nursing history. Michelle's doctoral thesis focuses on the place and function of nursing-orderlies in the Canadian armed forces during the Second World War. She became interested in nursing history while conducting a project on military nurses for her Master's degree. Her love for nursing history has continued ever since!*

## Canadian Nursing History of Nursing Conference 2012: Student Reflections



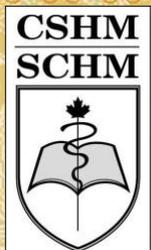
### David J. Kang

After a sixteen-hour flight from Hong Kong, I finally arrived in Calgary. It was late at night; I patiently sat in the terminal to wait for my mid-night flight to Medicine Hat—it was the very last flight that was scheduled to fly out of Calgary that night. When the boarding process began, I was very surprised that only eight people showed up at the gate; I never knew that the aircraft would only sit 20 people and it was definitely the smallest commercial airplane I had ever seen. Luckily by then I was too exhausted to worry about anything. After a smooth flight, I arrived at the destination early in the morning.

The trip felt longer than expected, but the next day I quickly found out that it was a worthwhile journey. As a historian without any nursing background or training, I have always believed it was very crucial for me to understand how nurses look at their own history, both in terms of professional development and as personal experience. And the CAHN conference was the perfect place for me to witness such voices and perspectives. As one of only a few non-RNs at the conference, I was fascinated to learn about the various ways that nurses conduct both archival and scientific research about their past. Even though I could not fully understand some of the more technical findings without sufficient knowledge of the historical background as (cont. next pg.) profession, it was a fruitful experience for me to hear about the variety of topics in nursing history. At the same time, I was very impressed by the capability of nursing scholars to carry out historical research, especially the way they placed nursing under historical context.

As I was sitting at the airport and waiting for my flight out of Medicine Hat early Monday morning, the beautiful sunrise reminded me of how fortunate I was to be given the opportunity to come all the way from Asia to hear these valuable insights and to learn from these nursing scholars. I understand the way historians and nurses look at nursing history will be very different, both in terms of methodology and perspective. I also recognize that the way we question how people look at nursing history will never be the same, in terms of both experience and understanding, but deep down I believe we share one important commonality that will motivate us to continue the journey—the passion to place nursing in its rightful place in history.

*\*David J. Kang is a third-year doctoral student in Chinese Studies at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. The topic of his dissertation is *Missionaries, Women and Health Care: The History of Nursing in Colonial Hong Kong*. After spending several years conducting research on women and Christianity in Chinese history, David became interested in the history of Chinese nurses – not only because it was an under-researched topic, but more importantly, because his mother was a nurse in Korea before she became a missionary in Taiwan. As a result, David decided to attend The Chinese University of Hong Kong to conduct research on nursing development in Hong Kong.*



**2013 CSHM/CAHN Annual Conference: Call for Papers**  
**2013 Congrès annuel de la SCHM / ACHN:**  
Appel de communications

**The Canadian Society for the History of Medicine** and the **Canadian Association for the History of Nursing** are issuing a call for papers for their annual meeting, to be held in conjunction with the Congress for the Social Sciences and Humanities at the University of Victoria, on Saturday 1 June to Monday 3 June 2013. Abstracts on all topics relating to the history of nursing, medicine, health, and health care, broadly defined, are welcome.

Please submit your abstract (maximum 350 words) and one-page c.v. for consideration by **30 November 2012** to:

Kristin Burnett and Jayne Elliott, program co-chairs  
[kburnett@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:kburnett@lakeheadu.ca) / [jelliott@uottawa.ca](mailto:jelliott@uottawa.ca)

The Committee will notify applicants of its decision by 15 January 2013. *All presenters must be members of one of the societies and, if invited to present at the meeting, must provide a translation of their abstract for the bilingual program book.*

**La Société canadienne d'histoire de la médecine et l'Association canadienne pour l'histoire du nursing** lancent un appel à communications à l'occasion de leur congrès annuel, qui se tiendra conjointement dans le cadre du Congrès des sciences sociales et humaines, le samedi 1<sup>er</sup> juin au lundi 3 juin 2013 à l'Université Victoria.

Les propositions de communication (maximum 350 mots) sur l'histoire des infirmiers et des infirmières, de la médecine, de la santé et des soins de santé et comportant un CV d'une page seulement de l'auteur-e devront parvenir aux organisatrices **avant le 30 novembre 2012**.

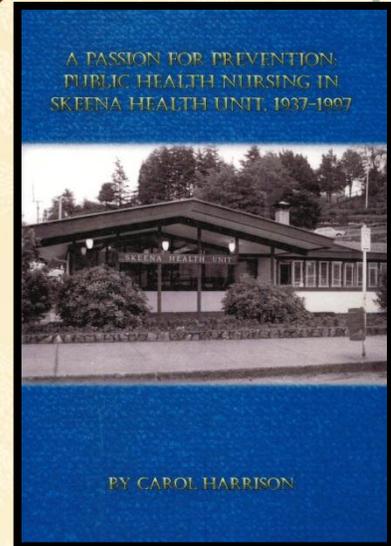
Kristin Burnett et Jayne Elliott, comité organisateurs  
[kburnett@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:kburnett@lakeheadu.ca) / [jelliott@uottawa.ca](mailto:jelliott@uottawa.ca)

Le comité fera connaître sa décision avant le 15 janvier 2013. *Veillez noter que chaque auteur-e invité-e à participer au congrès doit être membre de l'une des deux sociétés hôtes et devra soumettre le résumé de sa communication dans les deux langues.*

For further details please visit:  
<http://cshm-schm.ca/annual-conference-conference-annuelle/>

## Book Review: A Passion for Prevention: Public Health Nursing in Skeena Health Unit, 1937-1997

Catherine Haney



At the 2012 CAHN conference, I had the privilege of meeting and attending Carol Harrison's presentation. The lecture proved an excellent primer for her new book which traces the evolution of public health in Northern British Columbia and investigates the lives and work of the nurses instrumental to its development.

Harrison deftly handles many familiar historical public health issues such as tuberculosis and other "plagues and poxes," the development of vaccines and immunizations, community sanitation and hygiene, and nurses' developing roles in health promotion and education (especially for new mothers). Yet, her unique historical lens frames these issues within the particular challenges of providing health care in Northern BC: geographical isolation, inadequate infrastructure, a considerable and unfamiliar First Nations population, and slow-to-develop interdisciplinary professional relationships—just to name a few. Many of these challenges, Harrison discovers, prove blessings in disguise, leading, surprisingly, to increased autonomy for public health nurses and strengthened nurse-community relationships.

Situating the story of the Skeena Public Health Unit within broader social contexts, Harrison tackles many difficult topics such as ongoing racism and sexism in the community—and she does not ignore nurses' potential participation. Her particularly vivid portrayal of venereal disease management in the 1940s is but one excellent example of her treatment of such difficult issues.

"There was a fear of contamination of the White population by First Nations women, and so those who were known to be infected with either TB or VD could be forcibly confined to go one step further, even the alleged contacts of known cases, or the 'possible' sources of infection, could be hospitalized without their consent." [...] "In 1972 as a new PHN," Harrison explains, "I discovered in a desk drawer a list of 'promiscuous females'. These women [many of whom were First Nations] were considered to be at high risk for VD (as it was still called then) and were to be contacted at regular intervals for testing and treatment if necessary. There was no corresponding list of 'promiscuous males'" (p. 79).

This book, as Harrison herself explained at the CAHN conference, is indeed not merely a glossing over of "the good old days," but a critical analysis of public health nurses' battles, both won and lost, on the Northern BC frontier.

Collected and analyzed is an array of primary sources including individual nurses' diaries and records, photographs, newspaper articles, historical health education films and other "official" health literature, and interviews with the author. As a result, Harrison's discoveries are accented with colorful (and often very funny) stories, a number of which I was compelled to read aloud to unsuspecting family members. If you didn't have a chance to hear her talk at this year's conference, I highly recommend this book – like Harrison herself, it is both warm and insightful, a pleasure to read.

## Canadian Nursing History Stories: Canada's First Chinese Nurse

Helen Vandenberg

Agnes Chan was born Fung Chan in Southern China in the late 1890s. Her family was poor and parents struggled to care for her and her five sisters. At the time, it was common practice for parents in China to sell daughters in hopes that they would live a better life. Agnes was sold to a friend of her father. She stayed with the family for two years, until a fortune teller told the family that she would run away and never return. As a result, the family sold her to another owner. Agnes lived with that family for two years until she was sold to a woman in Victoria, British Columbia.

Many Chinese girls who were sold to owners in the Americas were forced into prostitution or unpaid work. Though it is unclear what kind of work Agnes had obtained, it was not long before she ran away to the Women's Rescue Home for Chinese girls. The Methodist Church had established the home in 1887 as an attempt to save girls from brothels or slavery. The girls were encouraged to become Christians and if they did, they could be educated and given opportunities to work within the church. Agnes lived and was educated at the school, but eventually a family friend told her that her parents sold her youngest sister. She informed the missionaries of the situation and money was granted to her so she could save her sister and repay when she was working.

Agnes graduated from the mission in 1920, and applied to several nursing schools in Western Canada. Unfortunately none of the programs accepted her into training. Eventually arrangements were made to have her join the Women's College Hospital in Toronto from which she graduated with honors in 1923.

After receiving her nursing training, Agnes took a post-graduate course in Detroit and left to work in a large Methodist Mission hospital and school in Southern China. She was soon appointed Superintendent, but faced many trials as she attempted to continue operation of the hospital during the Chinese Civil war and Japanese occupation. In 1929 she and four other nurses met with the International Nurses' Association in Montreal to represent Chinese nurses. She presented a paper titled "The Status and Problems of Private Duty Nursing in Asia." She also served as the vice-chairman of the Educational Committee of the Nurses Association of China. In 1945, the Women's College Hospital Alumnae Association heard of her harrowing experiences in China and sent her an award of \$100. However, very little is known about her experiences in China and later career.

\*All information obtained from the Women's College Hospital Archives in Toronto, Canada



### Agnes Chan, R.N.

Graduation Photo 1923  
Women's College Hospital Archives

#### Did You Know?

- Most nurses of Asian origin were not accepted into Canadian nursing schools until the late 1920s to early 1930s.
- Lamont Public Hospital was one of the first Western Canadian hospitals to accept Asian nursing students in 1928. This hospital was a Methodist hospital and girls from the Japanese Methodist Church in Vancouver were often referred to Lamont for their nursing training. Some came back to Vancouver to practice within the Japanese community.

Do you have a Canadian Nursing History Story that you would like to share? Please contact the newsletter team!

### Canada:

- BC History of Nursing Society  
<http://www.bcnursinghistory.ca/>
- Canadian Association for the History of Nursing  
<http://www.cahn-achn.ca/>
- Canadian Society for the History of Medicine  
<http://cshm-schm.ca/>
- Margaret M. Allemang Society for the History of Nursing  
<http://allemang.on.ca/>
- AMS Nursing History Research Unit: University of Ottawa  
<http://www.health.uottawa.ca/nursing-history/index.htm>

### USA:

- American Association for the History of Medicine  
<http://www.histmed.org/>
- American Association for the History of Nursing  
<http://www.aahn.org/index.html>
- Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing  
<http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/history/Pages/default.aspx#chrome>
- Center for Nursing History, Ethics, Human Rights and Innovations: Purdue University  
<http://www.nursing.purdue.edu/centersandclinics/cnhehri/collections.php#nurhist>

### UK:

- UK Association for the History of Nursing  
<http://www.nursing.manchester.ac.uk/ukchnm/ukahn/>
- Society for the Social history of Medicine  
<http://www.sshm.org/>

### Australia:

- Nursing History Research Unit: University of Sydney  
[http://sydney.edu.au/nursing/research/affiliates/nursing\\_history\\_research\\_unit.shtml](http://sydney.edu.au/nursing/research/affiliates/nursing_history_research_unit.shtml)

### Denmark:

- Danish Society of Nursing History  
<http://www2.dsr.dk/msite/frontpage.asp?id=109>

### Ireland:

- UCD Centre for Nursing and Midwifery History  
<http://www.ucd.ie/icnmh/>

For more links go to [www.cahn-achn.ca](http://www.cahn-achn.ca)

# Nursing History Links



## New Links

The first volume of The Bulletin of the UK Association of the History of Nursing is now available online:

<http://www.nursing.manchester.ac.uk/ukchnm/UKAHN/Bulletin/>

David Crawford, Librarian emeritus of McGill University has provided several important bibliographies related to Canadian hospitals, health, medical and nursing history online at:

<http://internatlibs.mcgill.ca/>

Several nursing organizations have started Facebook pages/groups including the Canadian and American Associations for the History of Nursing, The Barbara Bates Center and British Columbia History of Nursing Society. Please 'Like' these pages to support nursing history and be informed about nursing history events.

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