

Sarah McCarron papers

MC 10

Finding aid prepared by Center staff, updated by Bethany Myers.

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University of Pennsylvania, Barbara Bates Center for the Study of The History of Nursing

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Barbara Bates Center for the Study of The History of Nursing
Creator	McCarron, Sarah, 1917-1964
Title	Sarah McCarron papers
Call number	MC 10
Date [inclusive]	1917-1964
Extent	1.7 linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	Sarah McCarron was a Red Cross nurse during World War I. She served in Germany, France, and the Balkans. Later she joined the American Legion, as well as many other organizations. This collection contains McCarron's wartime diaries, as well as correspondence and other personal and professional papers.

Cite as:

Sarah McCarron papers, Barbara Bates Center for The Study of The History of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania

Biography/History

Born in Brooklyn, Sarah McCarron was a graduate of Williamsburg Hospital School of Nursing in 1909. A year later, she entered the New York City Public Health Service. In 1914, she became a member of the American Red Cross's Nursing Service and sailed to Europe on the "Mercy Mission." At that time, she worked in Cosel, Germany, near the Russian and Austrian frontiers, where the Red Cross nurses administered to all the sick and wounded. She returned to the U.S. in April 1915.

In 1917, she served at the Base Hospital in Fort Bliss, Texas, near the Mexican border in the Army Nurses Corp. From July 1918 to June 1919, Miss McCarron was assigned service to the American Ambulance Hospital France, at Chateau Theirry, Neuilla, Joug, and then in the Balkans.

She retired in 1942 after decades of participation in various organizations espousing the causes of nurses and veterans. She was a past commander of the Brooklyn Post 967 of the American Legion and acted as its delegate to their convention in France in September in 1927. She was a member of the National Organization of World War Nurses, Women's Overseas Service League, and the National Council of Catholic Nurses. She was the recipient of many medals and certificates which testify to her dedication and remarkable work in nursing.

Sarah McCarron spent the last nine years of her life in the VA Hospital in East Orange, NJ, and transferred to New York City. She died on January 8, 1964, at the age of 85.

Scope and Contents

Sarah McCarron's papers are noteworthy because of the inclusion of her two war diaries from 1914 and 1918 in which she relates her daily activities, patient population, and modes of treatment, and describes the anxiety and paranoia within a war torn community. Postal correspondence, Bon Voyage messages, and newspaper articles document the relationships between Miss McCarron and her family, friends, coworkers, and the nursing community. Also included in this collection are records of her certification as a registered nurse, oath to the Army, military orders, and death certificate. Artifacts include numerous pictures and various medals awarded to Miss McCarron for her outstanding participation in nursing and veteran organizations.

Administrative Information

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Finding aid prepared by Center staff, updated by Bethany Myers.

Access Restrictions

This collection is unrestricted.

Use Restrictions

Copyright restrictions may apply. Please contact the Center with requests for copying and for authorization to publish, quote or reproduce the material.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Gift of Emily Belringer via Irene Matthews, 1987.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

See also: MC 188, Mary A. Rothrock papers. Rothrock corresponded with another nurse, Caroline Bauer, who was stationed at the Cosel hospital during WWI.

Controlled Access Headings

CORPORATE NAME(S)

- New York City Public Health Service.

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Diaries
- Personal papers

OCCUPATION(S)

- Nurse
- Public health nursing

PERSONAL NAME(S)

- Behringer, Emily
- McCarron, Sarah, 1917-1964

SUBJECT(S)

- American Ambulance Hospital
- American Red Cross
- Military nursing
- United States. Army Nurse Corps.
- World War, 1914-1918--Medical care

Collection Inventory

SERIES 1. PERSONAL AND SERVICE RECORDS, 1917-1964.

Scope and Contents note

This series includes a brief biographical sketch by Sarah McCarron's niece Lillian Behringer, her death certificate, and obituary. Also included is incoming correspondence ranging from the War Department and the University of the State of New York to notes from several friends regarding her retirement in 1942.

	Box	Folder
Biographical Notes.	1	1
Correspondence and records.	1	2

SERIES 2. ORGANIZATIONS (1912-1943), CORRESPONDENCE (1914-1918).

Scope and Contents note

Series 2 contains information about Miss McCarron's war nursing with the Red Cross Nursing Service and the Army Nurse Corps. Included are the diaries from her 1914 and 1918 trips with typed versions of both. Additionally, many postcards and other travel memorabilia including Bon Voyage messages and A Soldier's French Course are documented. Several programs from organizations and schools such as the Women's Overseas Service League and the PS73 annual influenced by Miss McCarron are contained in this series.

	Box	Folder
Directories of the collection.	1	1

RED CROSS.

	Box	Folder
Correspondence: records of retirement, foreign service certification.	1	2

EUROPEAN TRIP, "MERCY MISSION", 1914.

	Box	Folder
Diary of trip, 1914.	1	3
Diary (typed), travel notes.	1	4
Postcards, 1914.	1	5

	Box	Folder
Army Nurse Corp, 1917.	1	6

EUROPEAN TRIP, SS "LA LORRAINE", 1918.

	Box	Folder
Diary of Trip, 1918.	1	7
Diary (typed).	1	8
Bon Voyages.	1	9
French course, postals.	1	10

	Box	Folder
American Legion, organizations, newsletters.	1	11
Relatives' letters, 1961.	1	12

SERIES 3. PHOTOGRAPHS, 1909-1954.

Scope and Contents note

Most of the photographs are group shots of Alumnae Association dinners and other nursing groups. There is a shot of an operation being personal and observed in 1929 as well as 35 small photos from Ft. Bliss.

	Box	Photo
Brooklyn Hospital, 1905.	1	1
Class Picture, 1909.	1	2
Ft. Bliss (women), 1917.	1	3
Ft. Bliss (men), 1917.	1	4
Class picture, 1920.	1	5
Operation, 1929.	1	6
American Legion, 1932.	1	7
Williamsburg Hospital (NY), 1934.	1	8
Women's Overseas League, 1937.	1	9
Alumnae Assoc. PGH, 1941.	1	10
Alumnae Assoc., 1941.	1	11
Alumnae Assoc., 1940s.	1	12
World War Nurses, 1947.	1	13
National Council of Catholic Nurses, 1954.	1	14
Mercy Mission News Clip, 1914.	1	15

The German Front News Clip, 1915.	1	16
Misc. Small Photos, Ft. Bliss, 1917.	1	17-53

SERIES 4. ARTIFACTS.

Scope and Contents note

This series includes ten American Legion Convention Pins, a Red Cross Arm Band, a Registered Nurse Diploma, as well as a framed collection of medals and pins commemorating her career in the Red Cross during World War I.

	Box
10 American Legion Convention Pins (Medals), 1925-1949.	1
Piece of US flag.	1
Red Cross Arm Band.	1
Red Cross Patch.	1
Memorium collection of medals and pins of career during WWI.	1