

Mary A. Rothrock papers

MC 188

Finding aid prepared by Bethany Myers.

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Barbara Bates Center for the Study of The History of Nursing
Creator	Rothrock, Mary A.
Title	Mary A. Rothrock papers
Call number	MC 188
Date [inclusive]	circa 1915-1970
Extent	1.8 linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	Mary Alice Rothrock was a Pennsylvania nurse. A graduate of Lankenau Hospital School of Nursing, her career spanned over fifty years. Rothrock's papers and scrapbook document her correspondence with a friend overseas during World War I, her involvement in politics, her membership and activities in Pennsylvania nurse organizations, and her later jobs at Clearfield Hospital and the Albert Einstein Medical Center.

Cite as:

Mary A. Rothrock papers, Barbara Bates Center for The Study of The History of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania

Biography/History

Mary Alice Rothrock graduated from German Hospital Training School for Nurses (later Lankenau Hospital School of Nursing) in 1911. Rothrock was appointed a member of the Pennsylvania State Board of Examiners for the Registration of Nurses in 1926. She was politically active, supporting Gifford Pinchot in his unsuccessful 1926 campaign for the Republican senatorial primary. Her decades-long involvement in the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association led to many public speaking appearances in the Philadelphia area. She worked as Superintendent and Director of Nursing at Clearfield Hospital, in Clearfield, Pennsylvania until 1939. Rothrock subsequently became a medical librarian at the Albert Einstein Medical Center, where she worked until her retirement in 1970. She died in 1979.

Scope and Contents

The papers include postcards and letters sent to Rothrock by her friend Carolyn R. Bauer, an American Red Cross Nurse serving in Europe in 1915. Also included are handwritten notes and typed speeches on various nursing-related topics, including reminiscences of Rothrock's student days at German Hospital. This collection also contains correspondence and other materials relating to Rothrock's tenure at the Clearfield Hospital School of Nursing. Among these are two petitions signed by students urging her to reconsider her 1939 letter of resignation from the position of superintendent of the school. Rothrock's scrapbook contains many letters and telegrams from various officials in Clearfield, correspondence with Governor Gifford Pinchot and his wife Cornelia Bryce Pinchot, materials documenting her participation in the Pennsylvania Nurses Association, and announcements of her many public speaking engagements. The scrapbook also demonstrates Rothrock's interest in singing, featuring several concert programs and news clippings on her appearances with The Brahms Choir.

Administrative Information

University of Pennsylvania, Barbara Bates Center for the Study of The History of Nursing
Finding aid prepared 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 Jill and Mary (Polly) Yearsley Schneider, 2012.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

See also: MC 10, Sarah McCarron papers. Like Rothrock's friend Bauer, McCarron served in Cosel's hospital during WWI.

Controlled Access Headings

CORPORATE NAME(S)

- Pennsylvania State Nurses' Association.

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Photographs
- Scrapbooks

OCCUPATION(S)

- Librarians.
- Nurse

PERSONAL NAME(S)

- Rothrock, Mary A.
- Schneider, Jill

- Schneider, Mary (Polly) Yearsley

SUBJECT(S)

- American Red Cross
- Military nursing
- World War, 1914-1918--Medical care

Collection Inventory

SERIES 1. CORRESPONDENCE AND PHOTOGRAPHS, 1915-1970 (BULK, 1915) .

Scope and Contents note

This series contains letters, postcards, and photographs. The majority of the series is World War I-era, sent to Rothrock by her friend Caroline Bauer, who was serving with the American Red Cross in Cosel, Poland in 1915. Other correspondence relates to Rothrock's time at Clearfield and the Albert Einstein Medical Center.

	Box	Folder
Three letters from Caroline Bauer, American Red Cross, 1915.	1	1
Postcards and photographs: Primarily WWI-era from Bauer's station in Cosel (Poland), 1915-1960s?.	1	2
	Box	Folder
The Lankenau Hospital. Color postcard of buildings, 1960s?.	1	2
The Lankenau Hospital. Color postcard of buildings, 1960s?.	1	2
Bird's eye view of Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD. Postcard from "Sam" to Rothrock, April 28, 1941.	1	2
Ohren-Klinik Prof. Dr. Heinrich Neumann. MacKenzie-Group. Vienna 1927. Photo postcard with note to Rothrock., circa 1927.	1	2
Cosel, O.-Schl. Kreisständehaus. Postcard of a building with a note from Bauer to Rothrock, April 21, 1915.	1	2
Holland-America Line. T.S.S. Rotterdam. Social Hall. Postcard from Bauer to Rothrock, March 5, 1915.	1	2

Photo of two nurses, “Mary Rothrock on left.”, undated.	1	2
“Carolyn Bauer.” Atelier Malek, Cosel O./S. Filiale: Leschnitz. Photo postcard with a portrait of Bauer in her Red Cross uniform, circa 1915.	1	2
“This is the national Polish costume.” Atelier Makel, Cosel O./S. Photo postcard of two women in traditional clothing, circa 1915.	1	2
Atelier Malek, Cosel O./S. Blank photo postcard of two nurses and two male patients in uniform, circa 1915.	1	2
Blank photo postcard depicting a group of hospital patients and staff, circa 1915.	1	2
“From left to right, 3rd row: Esther Rosenberg, Natalie Schottle, Francis Mayer (Supervisor), Dr. Robert Newman (Director), Ulga Schottle, Margeritte Roethur (German nurse). 4th row: Caroline Bauer, Grace Nilday. Dr. Newman is from Tennessee and knows Dr. Holloway.” Group photo of hospital staff, circa 1915.	1	2
“Just a few of my patients.” Photo postcard depicting a group of hospital patients and staff, circa 1915.	1	2
“This picture was taken in front of the “Liegehalle,” a sun parlor that we built for our patient with money given by the American Red Cross. The Dr. is R. Newman our director. The sister in front of him is Anna Goertz, a graduate of Blockley and the other one is Ellen Thomas a graduate of Christ Hospital Jersey City.” Photo postcard depicting a group of hospitalpatients and staff, circa 1915.	1	2
“From left to right: Miss Francis Mayor of New York – Supervisor, Dr. Lionel Leon of San Francisco, Caroline Bauer, Grace Nilday.” Photo postcard depicting a group of hospital patients and staff, circa 1915.	1	2
Other correspondence: Personal, resignations from Clearfield and Einstein, etc., 1939-1970.	1	3

Scope and Contents note

This file contains Rothrock's resignation letters to Clearfield and Einstein, with the Clearfield petitions that attempted to persuade her to stay on as superintendent and director. This file also includes some of Rothrock's personal correspondence.

Portrait of Rothrock, undated.	2	1
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SERIES 2. SPEECHES, 1930s-1960s.**Scope and Contents note**

This series contains Rothrock's notes and speeches. She gave many addresses on nursing work, hospital care, her memories of Lankenau, and other topics.

	Box	Folder
Lankenau: Sister Marie Koeneke remembrance, "After 50 Years," "The Half Century Mark", 1934-1961.	1	4
Hospitals: "Hospital Service," League Institute, "The Eight Hour Day for Nurses", 1931-1956.	1	5
Other: "Popular Superstitions," poems, miscellaneous handwritten notes, circa 1948.	1	6

SERIES 3. PRINTED MATERIALS, 1937-1955.**Scope and Contents note**

This small series contains the publications that Rothrock saved. It primarily consists of issues of The Pennsylvania Nurse, published by the Pennsylvania Nurses Association. This series also includes a few articles written by Rothrock herself, as well as miscellaneous clippings.

	Box	Folder
Nursing publications, contains issues of The Pennsylvania Nurse and other articles, including a printed version of "The Half Century Mark" in Lankenau's alumni publication The Chronicle, 1930-1961.	1	7
Miscellaneous printed items, includes news clipping and ephemera, undated.	1	8

SERIES 4. SCRAPBOOK, 1911-1970 (BULK, 1926-1939) .

Scope and Contents note

This series consists of one item, a large scrapbook assembled by Rothrock that documents her career and personal interests. Many pages pertain to the Pennsylvania Nurses Association and the State Board of Examiners for the Registration of Nurses. There are several pages of correspondence with Pennsylvania governor Gifford Pinchot and his wife, as well as letters from incoming governor John Fisher. Materials may include event programs, newspaper clippings, photographs of Rothrock, birthday greetings, and other items. The scrapbook pages have been detached and sleeved in polyester enclosures.

	Box	Page
Letter from the Superintendent of Clearfield Hospital, appointing Rothrock a member of the State Board of Examiners for the Registration of Nurses, August 3, 1925; Letter confirming appointment to the State Board of Examiners, August 17, 1925.	2	1
Six news clippings regarding appointment to the State Board of Examiners, circa August 17, 1925; Two telegrams from Cornelia Bryce Pinchot re: Rothrock becoming Vice Chairman of Clearfield County, April 26-27, 1926.	2	2

Two telegrams from Governor Gifford Pinchot regarding his primary bid for the Republican senatorial candidacy, May 15-16, 1926; One telegram from Gifford Pinchot thanking Rothrock for her support, May 19, 1926.	2	3
Letter from Gifford Pinchot thanking Rothrock for her support, June 2, 1926; Letter from Cornelia Bryce Pinchot thanking Rothrock for her support (page 1), June 30, 1926.	2	4
Letter from Cornelia Bryce Pinchot thanking Rothrock for her support (page 2), June 30, 1926; Greeting card from the Pinchots, undated.	2	5
Invitation to Governor John Fisher's inauguration, January 18, 1927; Brief thank-you note from John Fisher, June 8, 1926.	2	7
Letter from Gifford Pinchot from his cruise in the South Seas, describing Galapagos, July 10, 1929.	2	8
Letter from John Fisher acknowledging Rothrock's endorsement of Ellen C. Potter for head of the Department of Welfare, December 20, 1926; News clippings: Rothrock's involvement in the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association and the State Board of Examiners for the Registration of Nurses, October 1929.	2	9
Pennsylvania State Nurses Association Convention program, 1939; Announcement card for Rothrock's appearance at a service for nurses at Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion, undated; News clippings: Rothrock's speech at Catholic Daughters of America, Harrisburg Hospital capping ceremony; list of names; Banquet for Pennsylvania State Nurses Association Convention, October 25, 1939.	2	10
Certificate of membership, the Clearfield-Progress Club, 1938; Pennsylvania State Nurses Association District 5 meeting program, October 1, 1935; News clipping of nursing facts written by Rothrock, undated.	2	11
Program: Elizabeth Steel Magee Hospital "Magee Day," October 25,	2	12

1939; Telegram from Mary B. Ross regarding an upcoming address by Rothrock on an eight hour day for nurses, September 23, no year; Two news clippings on Rothrock's musical appearances as a singer, undated.		
Two handwritten notes, circa 1938.	2	13
Telegram from Helene Hermann, sympathy, undated; "Excerpt from Report of Helene S. Hermann," circa 1930.	2	14
Four news clippings: The Brahms Choir, undated; Two programs: Clearfield American Legion Band and The Brahms Choir, Ritz Theatre, June 24, no year; The Brahms Choir and The Nurses Choral Club, Presbyterian Church, January 28, no year.	2	15
Program: The Brahms Choir New Year's Song Festival, Lyric Theater and Rex Theater, December 30, 1934; Program: The Brahms Choir, "The Seven Last Words of Christ," Cherry Tree Presbyterian Church, March 27, 1934.	2	16
Two programs at Clearfield Hospital School of Nursing Nurses Residence: The Nurses Choral Club and The Brahms Choir, November 19, no year; The Nurses Choral Club and The Brahms Choir, December 17, 1933; Note from W. Edgar Reiley thanking Rothrock for her help with Clinic Day, October 5, 1931; News clipping: "Yesterday..." mentioning Rothrock and the Nurses Chorus as a flashback to 1934, December 11, 1954; Letter from S.J. Waterworth commending Rothrock's editorial in the Progress, October 8, 1931.	2	17
Program for Sister Marie Koeneke memorial service, April 6, [1934].	2	18
Four news clippings: Rothrock's speaking engagements, circa March 3, 1934; Letter from Sister Anna Ebert at Lankenau requesting that Rothrock speak at Koeneke's memorial service, March 16, 1934.	2	19
Program: Polyclinic Hospital SON capping exercises, February 25, 1949; Postcard advertising meeting of Clearfield Commercial Club, Rothrock	2	20

gave address "Cultivating an Art," October 2, 1933.		
Leather-covered program: German Hospital Training School, Class of 1911, Class Day Exercises, May 17, 1911.	2	1
Letter from Edieth S. Connel congratulating Rothrock on her position as Secretary for the State Board of Examiners for the Registration of Nurses, January 21, 1939; Christmas letter from William G. Falconer, undated.	2	21
Two copies of the German Hospital Graduation Exercises, Class of 1911 May 16, 1911; News clipping: Cartoon, "The Master Craftsman," undated.	2	22
News clipping: Rothrock's graduation from German Hospital, May [1911]; Three news clippings: Rothrock's retirement from Clearfield, undated; Goodbye note from Mary G. Snyder, February 28, 1939.	2	23
Letter from Mary M. Roberts at the American Journal of Nursing, regarding Rothrock's upcoming appointment as Secretary for the State Board of Examiners for the Registration of Nurses, February 24, 1939; Note from ?, February 28, 1939.	2	24
Two news clippings: Death of S. J. Waterworth, November 1939; Letter from Clearfield about new business manager Donald Rosenberger, March 15, 1939.	2	25
Letter from Donald Rosenberger, March 25, 1939.	2	26
Pennsylvania Nurses Association Philadelphia County District Service Award, presented to Rothrock, May 10, 1967; Clipping regarding PNA Honorary Recognition, undated.	2	27
Telegram of congratulations re: award, from Catherine A. Bell, undated.	2	28
Certificate of Honorary Recognition, presented to Rothrock by the PNA, undated.	2	29

Photographs: Mary Rothrock (appears to be receiving the PNA Certificate) and three other women; three unlabeled portraits of Rothrock, undated.	2	2
Sister Magdalene von Bracht: News clipping, June 22, 1934; obituary in Deaconess Messenger, January 1942; Biographical brochure, after 1941; Note from Mary Spare[?] to Ella W. Allison, May 26, 1964.	2	30
The Pennsylvania Nurse, January 1958.	2	3
Rothrock's birthday: Letter from P.F. Lucchesi, April 29, 1964; Telegram from Jane Tate, May 21, 1964; Envelope of small correspondence, birthday card, notes, fragment of a telegram, 1964.	2	31
Letter from Ella W. Allison (Albert Einstein Medical Center) accepting Rothrock's resignation as librarian, January 26, 1970.	2	4
Birthday letter from the State Board of Nurse Examiners, May 9, 1964; Programs: The Brahms Choir New Year's Song Festival, Lyric Theater and Rex Theater, December 30, 1934 (second copy), Clearfield Hospital SON Nurses Residence, The Nurses Choral Club and The Brahms Choir, November 19, no year (second copy), typed poem.	2	32
Handwriting analysis report from Janet Winton, graphologist, undated.	2	5
Personal letter dated October 19, 1965; Handwritten poem dated February 9, 1965.	2	33
News clippings: Miscellaneous, circa 1965.	2	6
News clippings: Miscellaneous, postcard; Program: Clearfield Fraternal Order of Eagles, Exercises commemorating Mother's Day, May 10, 1936; The German Hospital Training School for Nurses Class of 1911, graduation exercises and list of names, May 16, 1911.	2	34
Letter from Gertrude L. Healty[?] on possible appointment to the Pennsylvania State Board of Examiners for the Registration of Nurses,	2	35

May 22, 1925; Letter from Ellen C. Potter to Elizabeth E. Mitchell re:
Potter's recommendation of Rothrock, May 29, 1925; Letter from Ellen
C. Potter to Rothrock, July 19, 1925.
