

Muhlenberg Hospital School of Nursing collection

MC 212

Finding aid prepared by Bethany Myers.

Last updated on February 12, 2014.

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
Title	Muhlenberg Hospital School of Nursing collection
Call number	MC 212
Date [bulk]	1912-1915
Date [inclusive]	1912-1972
Extent	0.917 linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	Muhlenberg Hospital Nurses Training School, New Jersey, was created in 1894. This collection consists of photographs and other memorabilia relating to Muhlenberg nurses in the early part of the 20th century. Of particular interest is a series of photographs depicting nurses playing baseball.

Cite as:

Muhlenberg Hospital School of Nursing collection, Barbara Bates Center for The Study of The History of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania

Biography/History

Muhlenberg Hospital opened in 1881 with twenty beds. After two minor expansions and the installation of electric and plumbing systems, the Muhlenberg Hospital Nurses Training School was established in 1894 as a two-year program. In 1896, the first class of two students graduated, and a Nurses Home building was completed. In 1903 the hospital moved to its present location at Park Avenue and Randolph Road in Plainfield, New Jersey. At this time the hospital had a capacity of sixty beds. The Alumnae Association was organized in 1905.

The hospital continued to grow throughout the 20th century. In 1986, Muhlenberg Hospital changed its name to Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center. In 1998, the hospital merged with John F. Kennedy Medical Center as part of Solaris Health System, but ten years later, the Muhlenberg location's acute care facility was closed. Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center currently offers a satellite emergency department and a small number of outpatient services as Solaris Healthcare System's JFK Medical Center – Muhlenberg Campus. The School of Nursing was transferred to JFK Medical Center in Edison, N.J., and continues to educate nurses through a cooperative nursing program with UNION County College in Cranford, N.J.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of documents and photographs relating to the Muhlenberg Hospital School of Nursing. It is primarily comprised of photographs of nurses from about 1912-1915. These photographs, some of which were removed from a scrapbook, show nurses participating in various activities, such as a "Nurses vs. Doctors" baseball game. The photographs are accompanied by an assortment of memorabilia. These items include a certificate and a pin previously belonging to Adele Krooks Kirkgard, class of 1922. Also included is a copy of a 1961 memorial book entitled "Muhlenberg Nurses Through the Years, 1896-1961," which features historical information on the school.

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.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

The Muhlenberg Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association Papers, 1904-2000, are held at the Plainfield Public Library, Local History Department, 800 Park Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060.

Controlled Access Headings

CORPORATE NAME(S)

- Muhlenberg Hospital School of Nursing.

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Photographs
- Postcards

GEOGRAPHIC NAME(S)

- Plainfield (N.J.)

SUBJECT(S)

- Baseball.
- Nursing schools.

Collection Inventory

SERIES 1. MEMORABILIA, 1961-1972.

Scope and Contents note

This series contains items issued by the Muhlenberg Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association. Materials include a certificate (with related correspondence), a pin, and a book of Muhlenberg nursing history.

	Box	Folder
Adele Krooks Kirkgard materials: correspondence from Selena Cornwell [?] to Adele Kirkgard concerning the 50th Anniversary, Class of 1922 Award of Merit, May 8, 1972; Award of Merit to Adele Krooks Kirkgard, April 26, 1972; Kirkgard's Muhlenberg Hospital School of Nursing pin, 1972.	1	1
Book: Muhlenberg Nurses Through the Years, 1896-1961, Presented by the Muhlenberg Hospital Alumnae Association, June 1961.	1	2

SERIES 2. PHOTOGRAPHS, CIRCA 1912-1915.

Scope and Contents note

This series contains photographs, postcards, and scrapbook pages depicting Muhlenberg nurses. Photographs include interior and exterior locations at Muhlenberg Hospital and around Plainfield, N.J.

	Box	Folder
Eight photo postcards of nurses at sporting events around Plainfield, N.J., photographed by Paul R. Collier, accompanied by one other	1	3

photo., 1913-1914.

	Box	Folder
Nurses and doctors in a field, with a marching band, 1913.	1	3
Nurses and doctors in a field, with a marching band. A sign reads "June 14th, Doctors vs. Dentists, Parker Field", 1913.	1	3
Nurses on a baseball field. A sign reads "The Female of the Species is More Deadly Than the Male", June 20, 1914.	1	3
Nurses marching. A sign reads "Put Your Money On Us, We Will Take All You Got", June 20, 1914.	1	3
Nurses marching. A sign reads "The Female of the Species is More Deadly Than the Male" and "This is the Femi-NINE", June 20, 1914.	1	3
The baseball game in progress, with the audience (and some of their automobiles) in the background, June 20, 1914.	1	3
The game in progress, June 20, 1914.	1	3
The game in progress, June 20, 1914.	1	3
A woman holding a United States flag and a British ensign, undated.	1	3
Eleven undated photographs of nurses, some of which include Muhlenberg buildings or vehicles, circa 1915?.	1	4
	Box	Folder
Group of nurses outdoors, labeled with names.	1	4
Two nurses with a man and a woman.	1	4
Six nurses sitting on stairs.	1	4
Nurse standing near a small pine tree [Christmas tree?].	1	4

Group of nurses sitting on stairs.	1	4
Nurse and doctor standing on stairs.	1	4
Three nurses on the stairs.	1	4
Group of nurses outdoors.	1	4
Group of nurses, labeled with names, standing next to Muhlenberg Hospital ambulance.	1	4
Nurse standing outside.	1	4
Two nurses sitting on an automobile.	1	4
Two scrapbook pages and eleven loose photographs that appear to have previously been part of the scrapbook. They are undated unless otherwise noted, 1912-1914.	1	5
	Box	Folder
A woman and a nurse inside an exam room.	1	5
Photo of nurse: "Harriet Connelly," with inscription on back.	1	5
Two women outdoors, "Ken & Mollie".	1	5
Three nurses, with a woman and a man, on a front porch. Labeled "Elsie – Alice 'Boob' [?] 'Pink' & Ken", 1913.	1	5
Nurse standing outside.	1	5
Nurse standing in front of building.	1	5
Nurse standing outside, "Catherine S. Knox", 1912.	1	5
Two nurses and a young African American child, labeled "Ruth Kenny – 'Billy' Green – Sara Nevins".	1	5

Nurse and woman, seated indoors.	1	5
Group of nurses on a front porch, labeled with names.	1	5
Group of nurses lined up outdoors, labeled with names.	1	5
Album page: Two nurses, “Kenny & Brownie”; Three nurses, a woman, and a man, “‘Ken’ ‘Boob’ Alice – ‘Pink’ – Elsie”; A nurse giving a drink to a male patient, “‘Bill’ Bullock & Brownie”; A nurse standing in front of a building, “Cora M. Charleton – Isolating Hospital, 1912.”, 1912.	1	5
Album page: A nurse, a doctor, and a man; Group of nurses outdoors, labeled with names; Two nurses and a doctor; a doctor and a man.	1	5

OVERSIZED PHOTOGRAPHS.

	Box	Photo
McKenna Ward, November 1913.	1	32
Hyde Ward, November 1913.	1	233
Pupil nurses, 1914.	1	34
Dr. E.S. Rochfort and Dr. S. Smelin, 1913-1914.	1	35
Pupil nurses, 1913.	1	36
Pupil nurses with Helen Carol Howes, September 1913.	1	37