



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Mary Ann Whitaker Robinson Student Nursing Papers

NMAH.AC.0499

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Mary Ann Whitaker Robinson Student Nursing Papers
Date:	1955-1985
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0499
Creator:	Robinson, Mary Ann Whitaker (nurse) (Creator)
Extent:	0.6 Cubic feet (1 box)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Pamphlets, photographs, news clippings, and a student yearbook documenting Robinson's career as a student and nurse at Wilmington Delaware's Memorial Hospital.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Mary Ann Robinson (nee Whitaker) donated this collection in December 1991.

Provenance

Papers were transferred to the Archives Center in August 1993.

Separated Materials

Whitaker's student nurse's uniform is in the Division of Medicine and Science.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Grace Meyer, August 30, 1994

Preferred Citation

Mary Ann Whitaker Robinson Student Nursing Papers, Archives Center, 1955-1985, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

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Biographical / Historical

During her summer holidays while in high school, Mary Ann Whitaker worked at Memorial Hospital in Wilmington, Delaware, as a nurse's aid. This cemented her long-standing desire to become a nurse and she

entered Memorial Hospital's school of nursing on September 6, 1955. In 1956, she earned her cap and bib after completing her probationary period. She graduated in 1958 and in October of that year successfully passed the Delaware State professional licensing examination to become a Registered Nurse. Soon afterwards, she married and became Mary Ann Robinson. She has worked in hospitals in Delaware, New Jersey and Virginia in obstetrics, critical care units and infection control. As of 1991, she was employed at Eastern State Hospital in Williamsburg, Virginia. In 1985, the 80 year old Memorial Hospital in Wilmington was closed and the building demolished to prepare the site for a twin high-rise condominium.

Scope and Contents

The materials mainly concern the nursing program at Memorial Hospital and Miss Whitaker's years as a student there between 1955 and 1958. Included are residence policies, student government regulations, pamphlets about the "Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses," and other materials related to the school's history. There are photoprints of Miss Whitaker and her classmates as a probationer and at her graduation ceremony, along with a 1959 Yearbook from the school. Of particular interest are two original drawings of Miss Whitaker done by a patient while an affiliate student at the Philadelphia General Hospital in 1957. Also included is an autobiographical narrative prepared by Mrs. Robinson in 1991. Lastly, the collection includes photocopies of newsclippings about the 1985 demolition of Memorial Hospital.

Arrangement

Collection arranged into one series.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Hospital care -- 1950-1990
- Nursing -- 1950-1990
- Nursing students -- 1950-1990

Types of Materials:

- Clippings -- 1950-2000
- Pamphlets -- 1950-2000
- Photographic prints
- Photographs -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Silver gelatin -- 1950-2000
- School yearbooks
- Yearbooks -- 1950-2000

Names:

- Memorial Hospital (Wilmington, Delaware)
- Philadelphia General Hospital

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	Memorial Hospital School of Nursing Booklet, undated
Box 1, Folder 1	Residence Policy and Regulations, undated
Box 1, Folder 1	Student Government Association Handbook 1957, 1957
Box 1, Folder 1	Student Government Constitution and By Laws, 1957
Box 1, Folder 2	"Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses" Pamphlet, 1955
Box 1, Folder 3	Probation & Capping Ceremony, 1955-1957
Box 1, Folder 4	Graduation, 1958
Box 1, Folder 5	Certificate - Board of Nurse Examiners, 1958
Box 1, Folder 6	1959 year book The Lamp, 1959
Box 1, Folder 7	100th Anniversary Homeopathic Memorial Hospital and Nurses Alumnae Association 1891-1991 Booklet
Box 1, Folder 8	Autobiography and Resume
Box 1, Folder 9	Drawings of Miss Whitaker done by a patient, 1957
Box 1, Folder 10	Photocopies of Newsclippings about demolition of Memorial Hospital, 1985