
Various Items related to St Agnes

517 S. Person Street,
Raleigh, N.C.
Nov. 23, [19]05.

Dear Miss Moseley:-

I came in from my work and found your letter. I'm sorry it has been here some time.

I am not located at the Colored Deaf Dumb and Blind Institution as you thought, just go there when I am needed. They had hoped to have the sick ward built by this year, and I would have been here permanently, but it was not finished, so I go when there is anything to do.

I have been nursing Mrs. Stanback out at her brother's at the old place. That's why I missed your letter. Will be very glad if my little experience can help you any.

I left St. Agnes June 1903. My first work was in Slater Hospital, Winston-Salem, N.C. Had quite a number of cases, especially operative cases under my entire charge. I stayed there as long as they could keep a special nurse. I had then some private work under Drs. Phole and Summers, who seemed very much pleased with my work. I came [sic] to Raleigh, October 1904, where I've been since. My first work here was two cases of diphtheria under Dr. Goodwin both recovering. I next went to Leonard Hospital during the absence of the head nurse there for one month. Had twelve patients, not any help, some critically ill, did all that work alone, had only one to die during that time. She was brought in a dying condition. I seemed to give perfect satisfaction, or at least was told I did.

I then had two cases of pneumonia under Dr. Hubert Haywood, both recovering. I next went to Estey Building, Shaw University, where I nursed *small pox*. I had six cases. After they were well, I stayed one week *fumigating*, went from there to the Deaf Dumb and Blind Institution where I stayed until it closed. I did all the surgical work and had about fifteen or twenty cases of small pox. The most severe cases were sent to the *pest house*, the mild ones I nursed. During the summer, I had one case of appendicitis under Dr. Knox, one case of *fever* under Dr. Knox, and one other case of chronic indigestion, doing my work at the Institution when needed. I then went to Rex Hospital (white) where I nursed until three weeks ago, just doing special night my last case was the first mentioned under Dr. H.I. Royster.

I have never had any trouble getting work; have never been anywhere without perfect satisfaction or being told so.

I went to Mrs. Robert Strong after she had tried three nurses—two white and one colored—stayed until she recovered and received a written recommendation. Went to Mrs. Stanback, who has had seven nurses, received special recommendation, also from Drs. Knox, Goodwin, Haywood and Graham. Am going to Dr. Graham on a case in Durham the first of the month. I am glad to say St. Agnes nurses have a high standing in this and other towns.

In the autumn of 1898 I was ill and sent to St. Agnes Hospital for a nurse. At this time there had been no graduates but a probationer was sent to me. Miss Effie Wortham proved to be everything that was kind, attentive and devoted, most untiring in service both by day and night. When the five weeks had passed and I was able to be left alone it was with the deepest feeling of gratitude and regret that I saw this kind, patient young girl depart. It has been with pleasure that I have followed her career and always have heard the most complimentary things of her services. Very truly,

(Signed) M.B.W. Gregory.

Southern Pines, N.C.

SAINT AGNES HOSPITAL (St. Augustine's College campus)

St. Agnes Hospital, situated on the southwest corner of the St. Augustine College campus, is a three and one half story stone building. The straight-forward functional design of the T-shape building reflects characteristic institutional simplicity. The granite walls are laid in random ashlar and are pierced by segmental-arched windows of varying sizes.

Mrs. Aaron Burtis Hunter, wife of the fourth principle of St. Augustine Normal School and Collegiate Institute, was responsible for the establishment of a hospital and nurses training center for blacks in 1895. Working with the college and community heightened Mrs. Hunter's awareness of the urgent need for medical facilities in the Black neighborhood. Hunter came to St. Augustine in 1888 and in 1891 he became the principal. In 1895 the Hunters attended a conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where Mrs. Hunter presented the dilemma to the women's auxiliary. T.L. Collins of California pledged the initial six hundred dollars, and requested that the clinic be named in memory of his late wife, Agnes. Collins' gift was followed by a contribution of five hundred dollars through the woman's' auxiliary. These generous funds instigated the saying, "St. Agnes Hospital was founded with faith, love, and \$1,100".

The Sutton house on the campus of St. Augustine Institute, residence of the third principal of the school, was the hospital's first home. Mrs. Hunter superintended the dedication ceremonies on October 18, 1896.

In 1903 the hospital was expanded to include new facilities, included a new operation room. The following year a fire which broke out in an adjacent building damaged the hospital and severely reduced the bed space. The Hunters immediately engaged in a successful fund raising campaign which needed adequate monies to begin construction of the present building in 1905. Stone for the structure was quarried on the premises of St. Augustine's by students who built the hospital partly under the supervision of Vice-Principal Henry Beard Delany, who later became Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina. The cornerstone

was laid May 29, 1906 by Bishop Joseph Blount Cheshire, and the last stone was put in place by the Rev. Mr. Delany on August 6, 1908. Electric lightning was installed by students in 1906 supervised by Superintendent J.W. Holmes. The building was occupied June 26, 1909. Dr. Hubert A. Royster, surgeon-in-chief, performed the first operation in the new St. Agnes on June 28.

Despite financial setbacks and another fire in 1926, the educational and medical services of St. Agnes grew. In the 1920's St. Agnes was the "largest colored hospital in the Southern States between Atlanta and Washington." In 1928 the clinic was accredited to train interns as well as nurses.

In the fall of 1948, in cooperation with St. Agnes Hospital Training School, St. Augustine's College began offering a five-year course of study leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. Because of the approaching termination of the total St. Agnes program due to the scheduled erection of the Wake Memorial Hospital, the 1957 class was the last one to graduate with the Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. Those who completed this degree program were in great demand, and many went on to earn advanced degrees in Nursing. No other black church-related institution of higher learning in the Middle-Atlantic region offered such a program.

The college and hospital agreed to separate in the 1940s in order that the hospital be eligible to receive county and city financial aid. This, however, did not insure the continuation of the services of the clinic, and in 1961 the institution closed when Wake County Medical Center opened. The property was returned to the college, which uses the first floor of the building as office space.

This statement of significance is taken from An Architectural and Historical Inventory of Raleigh, North Carolina (1978), p.76; Cecil D. Halliburton's, History of St. Augustine's College, 1867-1937, pp. 31-32; and James H. Boykin's, St. Augustine's College, 1938-1958, pp. 47-48

Slater Hospital,
Winston-Salem, N.C.
Dec 6, 1905.

My dear Miss Moseley:-

Your letter some time ago found me well and very busy.

I would have answered ere this, but thinking I would be able to have the photos taken that you desired I delayed writing you. The photographer has promised several times to come out but failed to come, so I'm compelled to write you without the pictures.

Miss Moseley, I did private nursing from November 6th, 1904, until June 12th, 1905, in Sanford, N.C., and Greensboro, N.C... On June 12th I went to Durham, N.C., and had charge of Lincoln Hospital for seven weeks. I left there August 4th for Greensboro. Went down to Siler City, N.C., August 7th and nursed a surgical case for two weeks, arriving in Greensboro August 21st and left there August 25th for Winston-Salem, N.C., to take the position of head nurse of Slater Hospital Training School, where I have been since that time.

I found three patients here and two junior nurses. I have admitted thirty-eight patients since August 28th. I have five patients now.

The hospital is not in connection with Slater School now as it was from the first, but a separate institution [sic]. I have been the means of organizing four Ladies Hospital Clubs since coming here and the people are donating liberally to the support of the institution.

The building is a two story wooden structure. On first floor is office; on right of entrance the Men's Ward with six beds; following patients' bath room private ward number two; next nurses' dining room; next kitchen; a nice wide porch on the back porch running across the front completes the first floor with a gracious hall.

On second floor there are seven rooms which are used by nurses and help with the exception of two. One is the linen room; the other, private room number three. The laundry is in the basement under the back porch.

The site is beautiful, with a nice lawn surrounding the building.

Miss Moseley, we have the same regulation as any other nursing school with one exception: we have devotional exercise before breakfast.

I don't [sic] know whether the description of my work here will be of any service or not, but I trust it will. When I succeed in getting the photos made, I will send you one with

Wishing you much success in you undertaking, I remain

Yours truly,

(Signed) Nina E. Peoples.

March 3rd, 1908

COLORED NURSES AT WORK

The Commencement Exercises at St. Agnes Hospital Proved Full of Interest.

The commencement exercises of the graduating class of nurses at St. Agnes Hospital were held Thursday evening in Taylor Hall at St. Augustine school. While the processional hymn, "On Our Way Rejoicing," was being sung, there entered in procession the nurses of the hospital; Dr. Catherine P. Hayden, the resident physician; Mrs. A.B. Hunter, the superintendent of the hospital; Dr. H.A. Royster, surgeon in chief, and Dr. W. de B. MacNider. Rev. H.B. Delany and Bishop Cheshire.

The opening prayers were said by Rev. H. B. Delany, at the conclusion of which Dr. Hayden stated to the audience that the exercises were in the nature of demonstrations of the practical work which the nurses had to do every day in the wards of the hospital.

Nurse Annie Davis then demonstrated on two of the students of St. Augustine School the various forms of bandages—handkerchief, roller and spike—which a nurse might be called upon at any moment to adjust. This she did in an admirable manner, and elected much applause from the audience.

With a young girl in bed as a patient, she then demonstrated the daily routine of ward work in the way of changing sheets, bedding, etc... With the patient lying in bed, and arranging all so that the patient might be comfortable. Her assistant in this case Nurse Lucy Taylor did the actual work showing remarkable deftness in her arrangement of the bed and coverings.

Nurse Daisy Anerum followed with a demonstration of the preparations usually made for an accident case which had been notified by telephone; and Nurse Florence Wilson showed how sponges, splints and sterilized dressings were gotten ready for such cases.

The last demonstration was the preparation of diet for the sick by Nurse Nettie Davis. The cleverly appetizing beef broth on the platform, and showed how albumen water was prepared for a patient too ill to digest solid food.

The commencement address to the nurses was made by Dr. W. de B. MacNider. In an earnest and thoughtful speech, full of much practical wisdom, he emphasized the three duties which summed up the life work of a nurse; the duty to the patient; the duty to the physician; the duty to herself.

Bishop Cheshire then made a few remarks to the nurses. He could never forget what a colored nurse had done to help him at a most trying time of his life. The profession of nursing was comparatively new for the colored women. It was the duty of the colored nurse to elevate her profession. People were coming to recognize that colored women were peculiarly adapted to this sort of work. They should do all in their power to dignify their profession. Of all the work done on St. Augustine's' grounds none was more useful than this work of training colored nurses for serviceable lives.

The meeting was brought to a close with the benediction of the Bishop. During the demonstrations a few songs, by Mary L. Charter and E.O. Osborne, teachers of St. Augustine's school were loudly applauded.

St. Augustine's School

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES

ST. AGNES HOSPITAL

Established 1896. In 1917, thirty nurses are under training, caring for eighty-five beds.

Pattie H. Carter, a graduate in 1909, took some post-graduate work at the Episcopal Hospital in Philadelphia, and has been in charge of the Lincoln Hospital, Durham, N.C., for several years.

Mary Fernandez Briscoe graduated in 1915. She remained in St. Agnes Hospital for some months after graduating, as night supervisor, then took a post-graduate course at Battle Creek Sanitarium. She returned to North Carolina and took the State Examination, and is the first colored trained nurse who has been registered in this State. She is now night supervisor and teacher of Massage and Hydrotherapy in the hospital and working under the United Offering of the Board of Missions. Her picture is at the left in the group.

Mary A. Culbreth, a graduate in 1916, has been doing private nursing in the city of Raleigh, but has her headquarters still at St. Agnes Hospital.

Nannie Lee Pritchard Johnson, a graduate of 1911, with two little patients in the Children's Ward.

Gertrude McWilliams, a graduate of the Class of 1915, after leaving St. Agnes Hospital, served some months in the Leonard Home for Colored Children at Atlanta, Ga. She then held a position in a small hospital in Oklahoma where great responsibility devolved upon her. She is now the dietitian at St. Agnes Hospital and in full charge of all meals for nurses and patients.

Julia A. Latta, a graduate in 1900, did private nursing for a time and for several years had charge of the Lincoln Hospital at Durham, N.C. She is now doing private nursing in the city of Durham.

Alice Hall, a graduate of 1916, remained in St. Agnes Hospital for post-graduate work, in order to complete the three-year course which is now required for all who wish to become registered nurses.

GRADUATING CLASS OF 1916

Louise Harris

Allean W. Brown

Lulu C. Grantham

Mary Cash

R. Madelyn C. Bullock

Lillian M. Robinson

These are all engaged in private nursing