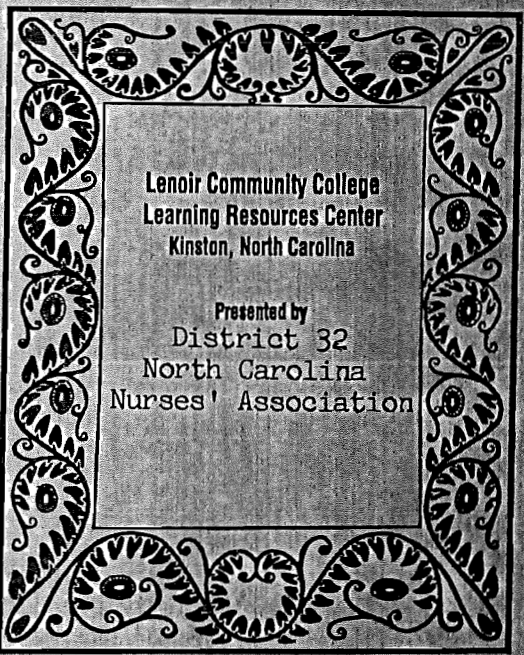




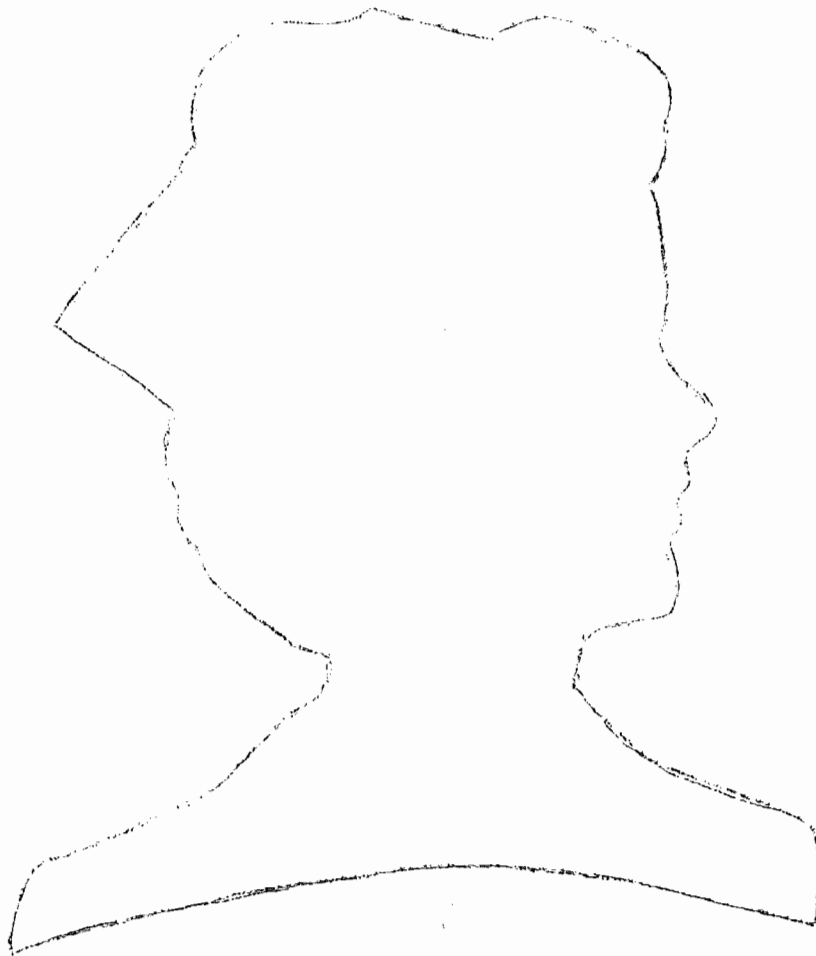
**HISTORY
OF
NURSING
IN
LENOIR
COUNTY**



Lenoir Community College
Learning Resources Center
Kinston, North Carolina

Presented by
District 32
North Carolina
Nurses' Association

HISTORY OF NURSING IN LENOIR COUNTY



DISTRICT-32, NORTH CAROLINA NURSES' ASSOCIATION

By Historical Committee: Bertie Bynum Ward, R.N.
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Ethel Barrow Loftin, R.N.

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Library
Kinston, North Carolina

The Nurses' Cap

The nurses' cap is the badge of her profession. She is privileged to wear it only after a period of orientation and adjustment during which she has proven herself worthy of joining the ranks of nursing service.

The nurses' cap is not a mere piece of linen. It represents purity, faith in and loyalty to the trust of those committed to the nurses' care. It is also a crown studded with invisible, symbolic jewels--diamonds of honesty, pearls of silence, sapphires of kindness, rubies of sympathy and opals of honor. Underneath her cap the nurse keeps all the confidences of the patients and the profession. The ideals of nursing she guards with integrity, honor and kindness or else they, like the jewels of her symbolic crown, will become tarnished and her cap becomes only a piece of linen.

The nurses' cap is the distinctive part of her uniform. Each nursing school's cap is different, although often quite similar. The nurse is admonished to ask God to help her keep the faith each day as she dons her cap, the badge of her profession.

(author unknown)

THE NIGHTINGALE PLEDGE

I SOLEMNLY PLEDGE MYSELF BEFORE GOD AND IN THE
PRESENCE OF THE ASSEMBLY:

TO pass my life in purity and to practice my
profession faithfully.

I WILL abstain from whatever is deleterious and
mischievous and will not take or knowingly
administer any harmful drug.

I WILL do all in my power to maintain and elevate
the standard of my profession, and will hold in
confidence all personal matters committed to my
keeping, and all family affairs coming to my
knowledge in the practice of my profession.

WITH loyalty will I endeavor to aid the physician
in his work and devote myself to the welfare of
those committed to my care.

(This pledge was formulated in 1893 by a committee
of which Mrs. Lystra E. Gretter, R.N., was chairman.)

FOREWORD

This historical narrative is the results of the efforts of a three member committee composed of Bertie Bynum Ward, Chairman, Virginia Turner Perry and Ethel Barrow Loftin. The committee was appointed in September, 1976, by Christine Maroules, Chairman of District-32, North Carolina Nurses' Association. The committee's purpose was to write a brief summary of nursing activities in Lenoir County. This summary was to be forwarded to the State Office of the North Carolina Nurses' Association to be used by a State Committee in updating and rewriting "The History of Nursing In North Carolina," by Mary L. Wyche.

The committee began its work immediately. During their first work session they compiled a content outline. This was used as a guideline in doing research toward writing this work. The Kinston Daily Free Press Morgue, Courthouse Records, Parrott Hospital, Lenoir Memorial Hospital, Caswell Center, Kennedy Home, Dobbs Farm, and Lenoir Community College records have all been consulted to verify facts and data. A great deal of information was gained through personal interviews and telephone conversations. Without these interviews and the assistance of the records custodians of the above named institutions this history would not have been possible.

The committee has compiled the information gained from their research survey into the following narrative format. There is a brief introduction which describes nursing care given in Lenoir County before nurses were trained. Next we find a history of nursing education in

Lenoir County--from the first training school to the present Lenoir Community College, Practical Nurse Education Program. The narrative gives an account of how nursing practice has extended from hospital and home to residential institutions, the Health Department, Doctor's Offices, etc.

The work is closed with biographical sketches of nurses who were first in Lenoir County in their chosen fields of nursing.

It is felt that this work is far from complete. However, the committee members are hoping that their efforts will be the inspiration to others to continue the recording of nursing activities in Lenoir County so that the noble contributions of individual nurses may be preserved for posterity.

The History of Nursing in Lenoir County

Early nursing in Lenoir County was, as in other rural areas having a few small towns, not organized as we know the nursing profession today. Most nursing care was given in the home by neighbors and relatives who had a "knack" for caring for the ill. Every neighborhood had at least one such volunteer who always seemed to be available when needed for maternal and child care. She also helped with treating pneumonia, communicable diseases, etc., and in case of death she prepared and "laid out" the dead. A hospital, if available, was used as a last resort, only when it seemed one would surely die.

The first registered nurse to practice her profession in Lenoir County was Addie Coward McCotter, a native of Contentnea Neck Township, Lenoir County. After graduation from the School of Nursing, University of Maryland Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland, she returned to her native County to work with Dr. Walter Dawson, of Grifton, North Carolina. When Robert Bruce McDaniel Hospital was opened in February, 1905, she became the first head nurse. (Parrott) Mrs. McCotter was active in various aspects of her profession until after her seventy-fifth (75th) birthday and died at the age of eighty-seven (87). She was buried in Maplewood Cemetery, Kinston, N.C. in her uniform with cap in hand as she had requested. (Jackson)

Organized education of nurses began in Lenoir County, North Carolina in Kinston in the Robert Bruce McDaniel Memorial Hospital in 1907. Miss Alice Rountree Hodges was the first student enrolled. Martha Nichols, R.N. came to Kinston to get the hospital and nurses training school established.

Dr. James M. Parrott was Superintendent of Nurses. Shortly after Miss Hodges entered training, a number of other students entered the school of nursing. (Dale) Miss Hodges completed her first year of training in this hospital then transferred to Sarah Leigh Hospital, Norfolk, Virginia, for her second year. After that she returned to the Kinston Hospital for the third year and her diploma. (Rider)

Young ladies applied for admission directly to Dr. Parrott in a face-to-face interview. If he liked the applicant, she was accepted on the spot and entered the training program immediately. An applicant could begin training on any given date but was required to complete a three year program of training dating from the date she began. The students worked all day, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. with two hours off during the day. Students attended classes from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. (unless too busy). All classes were taught by the staff doctors. As a new student began her studies she attended lectures with all other students regardless of the advancement of the course. As they progressed, the senior student nurse acted as head nurse. Clinical practice was always emphasized above theory. They went into homes with the doctor for child delivery and if needed remained in the home and nursed the mother and baby. She was also sent into homes where people were sick with disease, injury, etc., if it was determined by the doctor that nursing care was necessary. (Bland)

Records of this period are elusive. However, records in the Clerk of Court files, Lenoir County Courthouse reveal the following:

Miss Alice Rountree Hodges registered February 3, 1910. This is the first registration recorded in Lenoir County. There was a nine (9) year span of time between the registration of number one (1) and number

five (5). What was happening is difficult to determine from the court-house records since registrations are listed as follows:

Number two (2) Vivian F. May, July 17, 1912

Number three (3) Carrie L. Cox, July 28, 1919

Number 4 (4) Mary L. Casey, July 2, 1915

Number five (5) Carrie E. Blount, July 28, 1919

We cannot explain why Miss Cox who was number three (3) was registered in 1919, while persons registering at earlier dates were given higher numbers.

It is to be noted herein that Miss Alice Hodges, the first to register remained a leader and outstanding Lenoir County nurse throughout her lifetime. She did venture to New York State to work in the Roosevelt Hospital during the first year after graduation but then returned to Lenoir County to work for the next four years in the office of Dr. Jim Parrott. Following this she worked as director of nurses at the Rocky Mount Sanitarium, Rocky Mount, North Carolina. During the period of time that she was employed there the "flu epidemic of 1918" occurred. After this she put away her white uniform and worked in a business office for eight years. But, in 1942, she returned to her chosen profession in Kinston as Director of Nursing at Memorial General Hospital, where she remained for nearly ten (10) years. After resigning from this position, she worked as a private duty nurse in Kinston until declining health forced her retirement. (Rider) Her portrait hangs in a prominent place in the Lenoir Memorial Hospital, Student Nurses' Residence. She was born January 21, 1887 and died on July 12, 1964, at the age of 77. (Lenoir County Courthouse Records)

The "Robert Bruce McDaniel Memorial Hospital, Training School" was

changed to the "Parrott Memorial Hospital, Training School" in 1914, when Dr. W. Thomas Parrott and Dr. James M. Parrott arranged with the McDaniels for them to have full management of the institution. They named it the Elizabeth Waters Parrott Memorial Hospital in memory of their Mother who was also the Aunt of Mrs. McDaniel. (Dale)

The Parrott Memorial Hospital, School of Nursing remained in existence for twenty-five (25) years. It closed in 1932. Available records indicate that sixty-six (66) nurses were graduated during its operation. Mankie Abbott Bell was the last student to graduate on September 13, 1932. (Canady)

The Parrott Memorial Hospital closed when the new, modern, two-hundred, eighty-five (285) bed Lenoir Memorial Hospital opened on July 7, 1973. An interesting fact about its closing is that it happened on the same date and month as its opening sixty-seven (67) years earlier on July 1, and with the same number of patients--two (2). (Kinston Free Press, June 8, 1973)

Planning for this closing began when the owners sold the hospital to Lenoir County in anticipation of a bond issue which would allow funding toward building one large county hospital that would meet the needs of the citizens. In the interval between the sale and the opening of the new facility both hospitals were under the same administration. Nursing staff of both hospitals transferred into the new facility as a big, happy family with each nurse having assignments equal to responsibilities previously held.

Miss Edith Broadway, a native Lenoir Countian, was one of the first nurses to graduate from the Parrott Memorial Hospital, Training School. Soon after graduation she went to Morehead City, North Carolina, to help

organize and manage a hospital there. She stayed there until her death. Her picture hangs in the Morehead City Hospital in her honor and in recognition of her service. (Sabiston)

The second nurses' training school began in Lenoir County, Kinston, North Carolina in the early twenty's (20's), where six young physicians with the help of a few interested citizens, organized and financed Memorial General Hospital. On November 1, 1925, the hospital was opened with twenty-five (25) beds, complete with hospital and x-ray facilities. The Nursing School opened under the direction of Miss Carrie Blount, now Mrs. Bynum Harper of Snow Hill. She was a graduate of Lenoir County's "first" training school and the fifth (5th) nurse to register in this County. Her assistant was Miss Marie Piner from the same school. The first five (5) nurses to graduate were Thelma Sutton, Ada Gray, Hazel Sutton (Rouse), Annie Files (Collins), Swannonea Newsome (Southern), class of 1928. (Kinston Free Press, May 19, 1973) In the early days of this training school students worked from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. with two (2) hours off. Classes were taught by the staff doctors and the director of nursing. The senior nurse was in charge when the director was off duty but the director was to be called any and all hours if necessary.

This school of nursing has struggled long and hard to maintain accreditation standards. The school has been closed to allow hospital renovations and to re-evaluate itself on two occasions. The school closed first in 1932, and reopened in 1937. At this time, Mrs. Mary Ester Benton was Director of Nursing Service and Head of the School of Nursing, a position she held for three (3) years. Her first class graduated in 1940. This school continued to educate nurses until 1953. During some of this time, two classes entered each year--February and

September. (Lenoir Memorial Hospital, Alumnae Records)

In 1953, Memorial General Hospital was donated by it's founders to Lenoir County and the name was changed to Lenoir Memorial Hospital. At that time a bond issue provided monies for extensive renovations and enlargement, increasing bed capacity from seventy-five (75) beds to one hundred, twenty-five (125). During renovation the School of Nursing was closed and the student body was transferred to Watts Hospital, Durham, North Carolina, to complete their studies. (Kinston Free Press, June 8, 1973)

In 1957, the School re-opened with a class of sixteen (16) students under the leadership of Mrs. Mary Bellinger and the new name of Lenoir Memorial Hospital, School of nursing. Mrs. Bellinger served the school until 1958, after which Miss Josephine Rappaport assumed the position and served it well until 1964. Following her resignation, Mrs. Hazel Mazingo Blizzard, who graduated from Memorial General Hospital in 1950, and earned a B.S. degree from East Carolina University in 1964, was made Director of Nursing Service and Education, a position she held until 1973. Other position which she held included Assistant Director of Nursing Service at Caswell Center, Supervisor at Lenoir Memorial Hospital and instructor in the School of Nursing. Following her tenure, Mr. Theodore Koldjeski assumed the position and is currently serving in this capacity.

The first graduate from this hospital to register in Lenoir County was Miss Thelma Sutton on January 9, 1929. The last to register was Hilda Hardy Strickland on August 11, 1950, making a total of one hundred, seventy-seven (177) nurses to register in Lenoir County before registering began through the State Licensing Board. (Lenoir County Clerk of Court Records)

The largest class to graduate was in 1964 when sixteen (16) nurses received diplomas. Including the class of 1976, three hundred, twenty-six (326) nurses have received diplomas. In the history of the school only one class has the distinction of having all students who were enrolled to graduate--all four (4) of them in February, 1949! (Lenoir Memorial Hospital, School of Nursing Records)

Accessible hospital records fail to reveal all past directors of nursing service. Listed are those who can be remembered by persons interviewed in the course of compiling this brief history. Dates and length of service are only educated guesses.

Lenoir Memorial Hospital Directors of Nursing Service:

Mrs. Carrie Blount Harper, **First** Director

Miss Mary Emma Long

Miss Myrtle Agnes Koons

Miss Katheryn Gaddy

Miss Ada M. Gray

Mrs. Katheryn Gaddy Oglesby (returned after marriage)

Mrs. Mary Esther Benton, 1937-1940

Miss Lelia Ross Clark, 1940-1941

Miss Alice Rountree Hodges

Miss Mary Kerchinsky, 1951-1953

Mrs. Mary Emma Long Broadhurst, 1954-1955 (Returned at special request of Medical Staff due to shortage of nurses)

Mrs. Mary Bellinger, 1956-1958

Miss Josephine Rappaport, 1958-1964

Mrs. Hazel Mozingo Blizzard, 1964-1973

Mr. Theodore Koldjeski, 1973 to date

Parrott Hospital Directors of Nursing Service:

Addie Coward McCotter

Martha Nichols

Kathleen Parker Wooten - 1923

Lidie Dixon Jones

Frances E. Harriett Canady - 1926 (for 8 months)

Emma Sloan Robinson

Ethel Roberts Sabiston (Director when Training School
closed on September 13, 1932)

Mabel Shivar - July, 1945 until hospital closed on

July 3, 1973

The third program for nurse education was the inception, in the fall of 1972, of a Practical Nursing Program at Lenoir Community College, Kinston, N.C. This program like all Lenoir Community College programs was instituted on the basis of community need and interest.

In early 1971, Dan Duval, Administrator of Lenoir Memorial Hospital, and Mrs. Hazel Blizzard, Director of Nursing Service, Lenoir Memorial Hospital, approached the college administration about establishing this program in order to provide trained personnel for staffing the enlarged hospital. After six (6) months of preparation and planning, approval for this twelve (12) months program was granted by the State Board of Nursing as well as the State Board of Education. Accreditation was granted the Lenoir Community College Program by the State Board of Nursing in June, 1973.

Miss Lois O'Quinn, R.N., M.S., a graduate of the Philadelphia General Hospital, School of Nursing (1947) and Columbia University, New York, was appointed Director of this program. The first class 1972-73 began with eighteen (18) enrollees and sixteen (16) graduated.

Mrs. Josie Hookway, R.N., joined the staff of this program in 1973. Together she and Miss O'Quinn taught all nursing subjects. Miss O'Quinn performed administrative duties and Mrs. Hookway coordinated clinical practice. (Lenoir Community College Records)

At the present time the program has grown and is admitting two (2) classes per year.

Professional organizations for Lenoir County nurses have included, The Kinston Registered Nurses Club, The Lenoir Memorial Hospital, School of Nursing Alumnae, The North Carolina State Nurses Association and a Private Duty Nurses Organization.

The Kinston Registered Nurses Club was organized in the 1930's by a group of retired, registered nurses who wished to meet with a group of active nurses for an evening of social fun and professional growth and enlightenment. Mrs. Kathleen Parker Wooten was the first chairman. Other persons living in Kinston today who can remember belonging to this nurses club include; Ada Gray, Maude Taylor, Marjorie Penny Rouse and Stella Mallard Mewborn. None of these ladies can remember exact dates of the club's beginning, yet, they state they had some very informative meetings and some great socials. A great accomplishment of this club was the establishment of the Lilla Bell Student Loan Fund in memory of Lilla Mae Simmons Bell, a well liked and esteemed native Kinstonian and graduate of Parrott Hospital Training School. She was the widowed mother of four (4) small children when she entered training and graduated at the age of 36. (Waller) She practiced as a private duty nurse in her native town until her sudden death in 1942. This student loan fund is being administered today by the present Lenoir Memorial Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae. The Kinston Professional Nurses Club was

active throughout the World War-II years. Membership was open to all registered nurses. It disbanded in 1953, when the Lenoir Memorial Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association was founded. All monies and records were transferred to the new Alumnae by Miss Ada Gray, one of the last officials of the Kinston Registered Nurses Club.

The Lenoir Memorial Hospital, School of Nursing and Hospital hosted a homecoming on January 23, 1953, for all of it's graduates. The Alumnae Association was founded at this event. The first officers elected to serve were:

Jane Hines Arnold (Newman) - President
Hilda Grace Wade Stadiem - Vice-President
Martha Brothers Clark - First Vice-President
Hazel Mazingo Blizzard - Secretary
Maude Taylor - Treasurer

Members of the Board: Bonnie Adams Grady
Iris C. Jackson
Virginia Brown
Frances Faulkner Barwick

Mary Kerchinsky (Director of Nursing Service and the Nursing School) was advisor. (Kinston Daily Free Press, January 30, 1953)

The Alumnae functioned until 1961, when due to membership apathy (even the president moved out of the area without resigning from the Association) no meetings were held during the last half of the year. It was disbanded in 1962.

In 1966, interested graduates of the Lenoir Memorial Hospital, School of Nursing organized a second homecoming for all graduates of the School for the purpose of re-organizing the Alumnae Association. The

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homecoming was held on January 21, 1967. It was a great success and the Alumnae was again an official organization. Officers elected were:

Charlotte Moore	-	President
Shelba G. Poole	-	Vice-President
Betty Albertson	-	Secretary
Rachel Stucker	-	Treasurer

There have been two other homecomings held by this group. One on June 28, 1969, and the last on June 2, 1973. The June 28, 1969, homecoming was held at the Student Nurses' Residence on Warren Avenue, Kinston, N.C. A coffee hour was held from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Guests included alumnae members, hospital personnel, doctors and other friends. The coffee hour was followed by a luncheon hosted by Lenoir Memorial Hospital. Honored guests included Miss Letha Byrd and Mrs. Grace Blevins, former instructors in the School of Nursing. Miss Josephine Rappaport, former Director of Nursing Service, was a special guest.

The 1973 homecoming was a nostalgic event; everyone was aware that this was the last homecoming to the "old home place" on Rhodes Avenue. Lenoir Memorial Hospital was planning to move to the beautiful, new modern facility on Airport Road in early summer. Special notice was given to this memorable occasion in that the Association was treated to a special luncheon in the new hospital dining room which was followed by a guided tour of the new building.

The first professional State Nurses' Organization involving Lenoir County nurses was the Wilson Nurses Association, District-#8. This District was organized in 1920 and included Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Edgecomb, Hyde, Lenoir, Martin, Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Gates, Green, Halifax, Hertford,

Pitt, Tyrell, Washington, Wayne and Wilson Counties. Lenoir County's first members in District-#8 were: Alice R. Hodges, Lilla Bell, Ada Gray and Maude Taylor. (Gray) During this time there was a district meeting held in Kinston at the Country Club. Dr. Moseley spoke to the group.

In 1962, the Lenoir County group of nurses joined District-#21, which included Lenoir, Craven, Onslow and Carteret Counties, where they remained until January 30, 1968. Due to the amount of travel involved in attending meetings, Lenoir County nurses requested withdrawal from District-#21 to form a new district. Formal application was made, approval was granted and District-#32 was formed. At the organizational meeting, Sarah Cline Skinner, was elected as the first president.

At the State Convention in 1969, District-#32 was awarded prizes for the following: \$20 for the largest percentage increase in membership and \$20 for the largest numerical increase in membership. This money was donated to the State Headquarters Building Fund. There were seventy-nine (79) members at that time.

Nursing in Lenoir County Residential Facilities

There are five (5) residential institutions in Lenoir County. The types of residents and their needs are as varied as the types of institutions. Each will be explained in a time sequence according to the dates they were established.

Nursing in residential facilities began at Caswell Center, a State Institution, which was established in 1914, to provide residential and medical care and training and education for mentally retarded (adults and children).

It is believed by Mrs. Sadie Cranford Broome (employed at Caswell

Center as a nurses' aide, 1922) that Miss Minnie Bell Culver was the first registered nurse employed there. Mrs. Broome bases her belief on conversation and chance remarks made by Miss Culver during the years they worked together. This is further substantiated by Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Directors held in 1914, which indicates that Minnie Culver, a trained nurse was employed at a salary of \$40 per month. The superintendent was instructed in these same minutes to hire as many "trained nurses" as he deemed necessary. Nurses worked twelve (12) hour shifts and were required to live on campus. It was necessary to obtain a leave of absence if one desired to leave the premises for any reason. (Broome)

Caswell Center records indicate that Texie Bowman was it's first registered nurse; she was paid \$110 the month of November, 1928. A notation in a letter from the superintendent to the parents of a resident document that Miss Bowman was working at least eighteen (18) months prior to this date. In September, 1931, the name, Mrs. C. A. Lehman, R.N. appears in the records. It looks as if we lost Texie Bowman as head nurse but in reality they are the same because Texie got married. Mrs. Lehman left Caswell after fourteen (14) years of dedicated service in 1941. At that time she had four (4) nurse assistants who helped her supervise the surrogate parents in giving nursing care to the residents. Those who became ill were admitted to the hospital which was the first floor of the Austin Building.

Madge Funderburke, R.N. joined the staff in April, 1941, to become head nurse upon the resignation of Mrs. Lehman. Miss Shaefer was her assistant. These two with five (5) aides rendered all nursing care on campus. Miss Shaefer left Caswell Center in May, 1944, and for the

next nine (9) years Miss Funderburke was the only registered nurse at the institution. In August, 1949, five new nurse assistant positions were added to the staff, making a total of ten. In filling these positions Miss Funderburke chose a graduate nurse, an undergraduate nurse and three aides. Miss Funderburke married in May, 1953, and became Mrs. Madge F. Waller. In November, 1953, she left Caswell Center employment after giving twelve (12) years of devoted service.

Registered nurses joining the staff in 1953 included Arlene Marshall, (who became head nurse in January, 1954), Rose Marie Musser, Mildred Turnage, Lelia Geddie, Madaline Burbage, and Mavis Koonce.

The 1953-54 years were the beginning of a period of growth and change at the institution. Resident population increased, staff at all levels and professions increased and new buildings were built-- including a new hospital.

Upon the resignation of Mrs. Marshall in 1955, Mrs. Margaret Tisdale, became director of nurses, a position she still holds. Her staff today includes thirty-one (31) registered nurses, fifty-eight (58) licensed practical nurses and twenty-seven (27) health care technicians.

Kennedy Memorial Home, a branch of the North Carolina Baptist Orphanage, was established at Falling Creek Township, about seven miles from Kinston, N.C. in 1912. A school teacher, who has retired after working many years at the home stated, "The children were the healthiest, happiest ones I ever saw. They worked hard doing chores about the cottages and on the farm. They ate well, as vegetables were grown right there on the grounds. If one became ill he was carried to a Kinston doctor who treated him." (McDaniel)

The first registered nurse to serve the residents, according to Mrs. Douglas McDaniel, was Mrs. W. A. Smith (Virginia). She began her duties in July, 1950. She acted as Assistant to the Superintendent, who was her husband, and supervised the health care of the children. This included transporting them to the doctors' offices in Kinston when necessary. (The doctors gave their services at no charge.) Mrs. Smith carried out the doctor's orders. Moore cottage was renovated and made into an infirmary in early 1951. Mrs. Flonnie Parker, a practical nurse, was employed and was provided an apartment in the infirmary. As live-in nurse, Mrs. Parker provided nursing care to the sick children under Mrs. Smith's supervision.

This arrangement continued until July, 1967, when Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Smith and Mr. Smith, all retired.

Mrs. Raymond Mabe, R.N. served as the next registered nurse for a short time.

Other nurses known to have worked at Kennedy Home by persons we have interviewed include: Myrl Kruger and Jean Hartley Jarman. No registered nurse is employed at Kennedy Home at the present time.

Dobbs School for Girls was first established Northwest of Kinston in 1927. A correctional institution for female offenders, it was first intended for white women, then was used for negro girls. It differs from other penal institutions in that it was set up in 1944, as a correctional school rather than a prison.

The first nurse to work at the school was hired on January 1, 1951. Mrs. Josephine Williams, LPN, lived on campus and rendered nursing care as needed. Mrs. Williams wore several hats--acted as nurse, acted as cottage parent, and used her art talent and worked as a teacher. She

continued in this multi-service role until her death in 1968.

The first registered nurse to serve the institution was Mrs. Shelka G. Poole, a graduate of Lenoir Memorial Hospital, School of Nursing. She was hired in 1968. She worked alone rendering all health care until 1974, when two (2) other nurse positions were allotted the school. Currently Mrs. Poole supervises Mrs. Jane Taylor Miller, R.N. and Miss Donna Stegall, ADN. These three (3) nurses supervise and render health care services to all resident students.

In 1960, with \$200,000 obtained through a bond issue the citizens of Lenoir County dedicated a nursing home on Cunningham Road in Kinston. It replaced the inadequate and outmoded county home previously used for care of the aged, indigent, and chronically ill. The fifty-five (55) bed facility was leased to Mr. Oscar Keller of Sanford, N.C. who managed it for the next eleven (11) years. Records of this period are unavailable locally, therefore it cannot be determined how many nurses were employed in the beginning.

In 1971, the facility was purchased by Guardian Care, Inc. It is licensed as an intermediate care facility. When present renovation and additions are completed in December, 1976, it will have a 114 bed capacity.

Mrs. Annette Stapleford Faulkner, R.N. was among the first to serve as nursing director. Others who have served there include Mrs. Frances Taylor, LPN, Mrs. Nan Morris Abel, R.N., and Mrs. Doris Haskitt Rouse, R.N.

Mrs. Shirley Rouse Fields, R.N. is presently administrator. There are three (3) other registered nurses plus five (5) licensed practical nurses employed at Guardian Care. (Fields)

Oak Manor, Inc., the newest extended care facility in Lenoir County, opened on May 17, 1976, with 100 beds available. It is situated in the building formerly occupied by Lenoir Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. Norma Rawls, R.N. serves as Personnel Director and Mrs. Mittie Pippin, R.N. serves as Director of Nursing. At present, there are twelve (12) registered nurses, twenty (20) licensed practical nurses and fifty-two (52) nursing assistants employed at Oak Manor.

In October, 1976, additional staff was employed, and twenty-four (24) more rooms were opened. As soon as adequate nursing personnel can be employed, fifty-eight (58) additional beds will be opened for service. It is licensed as a skilled nursing facility as well as an intermediate nursing facility. When all space is in use, one-hundred beds will be for patients who need intermediate nursing care and eighty-two (82) beds will be used for those who need skilled nursing care.

Mr. Robert Hill, Hookerton, N.C. owns the building and leases it to Mrs. Billy Albritton, also of Hookerton, who owns Oak Manor, Inc.

(Rawls)

Organized Public Health Nursing began in Lenoir County in 1914 with the establishment of the Lenoir County Health Department. It was one of the earliest departments organized in North Carolina. (Johnson)

Mrs. Georgia K. Battle, R.N. was the first known public health nurse to work in the Lenoir County Health Department. Her first tenure was 1922 to 1926. She was on special assignment by the State Office in the counties of Pitt (1931-1934), Halifax (1934-1936) and returned to Lenoir County in 1936 where she worked until her retirement.

Mrs. Battle, a native Kinstonian, began her education in Kinston City Schools and because there was no local Negro high school she

anything else. In 1968, she joined the operating room staff at Lenoir Memorial Hospital and in March, 1969, enrolled in an eight (8) weeks course in coronary care at Forsyth County Hospital in Winston Salem, North Carolina. That same year she attended a course in "Management of the Coronary Care Unit" at North Carolina Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill.

The first coronary care unit in Lenoir County was officially opened on October 1, 1969, under the supervision and leadership of Mrs. Rouse. There were two General Electric monitors and one portable General Electric defibrillator. These were set up in two (2) private rooms with a doorway between the rooms and only the acutely ill myocardial patient was admitted (or retained once the status of the patient was established). Under her leadership the policies and standing orders were written and approved by hospital administration and medical staff. A lot of the ground work was laid for the new coronary care unit that was established in 1953, in the new Lenoir Memorial Hospital. Since that time Mrs. Rouse helped to set up and train staff in a coronary care unit at Duplin General Hospital in Kenansville, N.C.

The first Family Nurse Practitioners in Lenoir County are Mrs. Della Smith Rouse, R.N., F.N.P. (Watts Hospital, School of Nursing 1951; East Carolina University, 1976) and Mrs. Linda Lee Sanderson, R.N., F.N.P. (Lenoir Memorial Hospital, School of Nursing, 1962; East Carolina University, 1976).

After graduation from nursing school, Mrs. Rouse was employed at Lenoir Memorial Hospital until May, 1953, when she became office nurse for Dr. Lynwood E. Williams, a local internist. She held this position until September, 1975, when she took a leave of absence to enroll in the

Family Nurse Practitioner Course at East Carolina University. Since completing this twelve (12) months program and earning her Family Nurse Practitioner certificate she has returned to Dr. William's office. She finds great personal and professional satisfaction functioning in the new role.

Mrs. Sanderson worked in the Emergency Room and Obstetrics Department at Lenoir Memorial Hospital for a while after graduation, following this she was office nurse for Dr. David Whitaker (general practitioner) for eight (8) years. In 1972, she began work in the Lenoir County Health Department. The desire for personal and professional growth and enrichment prompted Mrs. Sanderson to enroll in the Family Nurse Practitioner Program. Her special interest was pediatric care, but she decided to take courses in all areas of practice. Since earning her certificate she has returned to the Lenoir County Public Health Department and is effectively serving in her expanded role.

Two Lenoir County nurses have been honored as "Nurse of the Year" by the Lenoir-Greene-Jones Medical Society. They are Miss Maude Glenn Taylor, graduate of Lenoir Memorial Hospital, School of Nursing (1930), and Miss Marjorie Elmore, graduate of James Walker Memorial Hospital, School of Nursing (1944).

Christine Maroules, R.N., a graduate of Grace Hospital, Richmond, Virginia (1950) is the first nurse supervisor in the Public Health Department of Lenoir County. She is also the first nurse to be appointed to serve on the Neuse Regional Development Council. She is the only nurse to be appointed to serve on the East Carolina Health Systems Agency.

Dorothy Murphy Miller, R.N., a graduate of Lenoir Memorial Hospital, School of Nursing (1952) is the first perinatal nurse in Lenoir County

with the Public Health Department. She attended a perinatal course at East Carolina University.

Terry Mitchell Isler, R.N., was the first and only negro nurse employed at Lenoir Memorial Hospital for a number of years. She was highly esteemed by all and especially loved by the students.

Virginia Turner Perry, R.N., B.S., graduated from Lenoir Memorial Hospital in 1942, and East Carolina University in 1966. She has been employed in Staff Development and Inservice Training at Caswell Center for more than twenty (20) years. She planned and implemented the first Vocational Rehabilitation Nurses Aide Training Program for the mentally retarded in the United States in 1957. This program has been used as a model by Vocational Rehabilitation Services throughout the Nation.

Lenoir County nurses have a distinguished, historic past and are proud of their modern present. The future has many promises.

A Nurse's Prayer

I dedicate myself to thee
O Lord, My God, this work I undertake
Alone in thy great name, and for thy sake.
In ministering to suffering I would learn
The sympathy that in thy heart did burn.

Take, then, mine eyes, and teach them to perceive
The ablest way each sick one to relieve.
Guide thou my hands, that e'en their touch may prove
The gentleness and aptness born of love.
Bless thou my feet, and while they softly tread
May faces smile on many a sufferer's bed.
Touch thou my lips, guide thou my tongue,
Give me a work in sermon for each one.
Clothe me with patience, strength all tasks to bear,
Crown me with hope and love, which know no fear,
And faith, that coming face to face with death
Shall e'en inspire with joy the dying breath.
All through the arduous day my actions guide,
All through the lonely night watch by my side.
So I shall wake refreshed, with strength to pray,
Work in me, through me, with me, Lord, this day.

—Author Unknown

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