

# WE COUNT TOO!

**A toolkit to find forgotten Nurses,  
VADs & other women who served  
during World War One**



Featuring local case  
studies from Causeway  
area and key influencers  
on wartime nursing,  
orthopaedics & medicine.



# WE COUNT TOO!

By Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers

Edited by B. McNerlin MBE

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Image used on front and back cover was taken at the Downhill 'Pages of the Sea' event on 11th November 2018 as part of the UK wide initiative led by Danny Boyle, to mark 100 years since Armistice and the end of the First World War. Courtesy of Aerial Vision NI.

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- ▶ Karen Humpage
- ▶ Hannah McEwen (daughter of Sue Light – Scarletfinders)
- ▶ Friends of the Somme, Mid Ulster Branch, Cookstown War Dead Book WW1

If anyone has been omitted, forgive us, but please know that your assistance was deeply appreciated.

## Dedication

This book is dedicated to all the women who served and supported those who went to the Great War (1914-1918), both at home and abroad.

Also to four of the most important influencers of the 50 years previously who set the standards and the pathways for modern nursing and medical care.

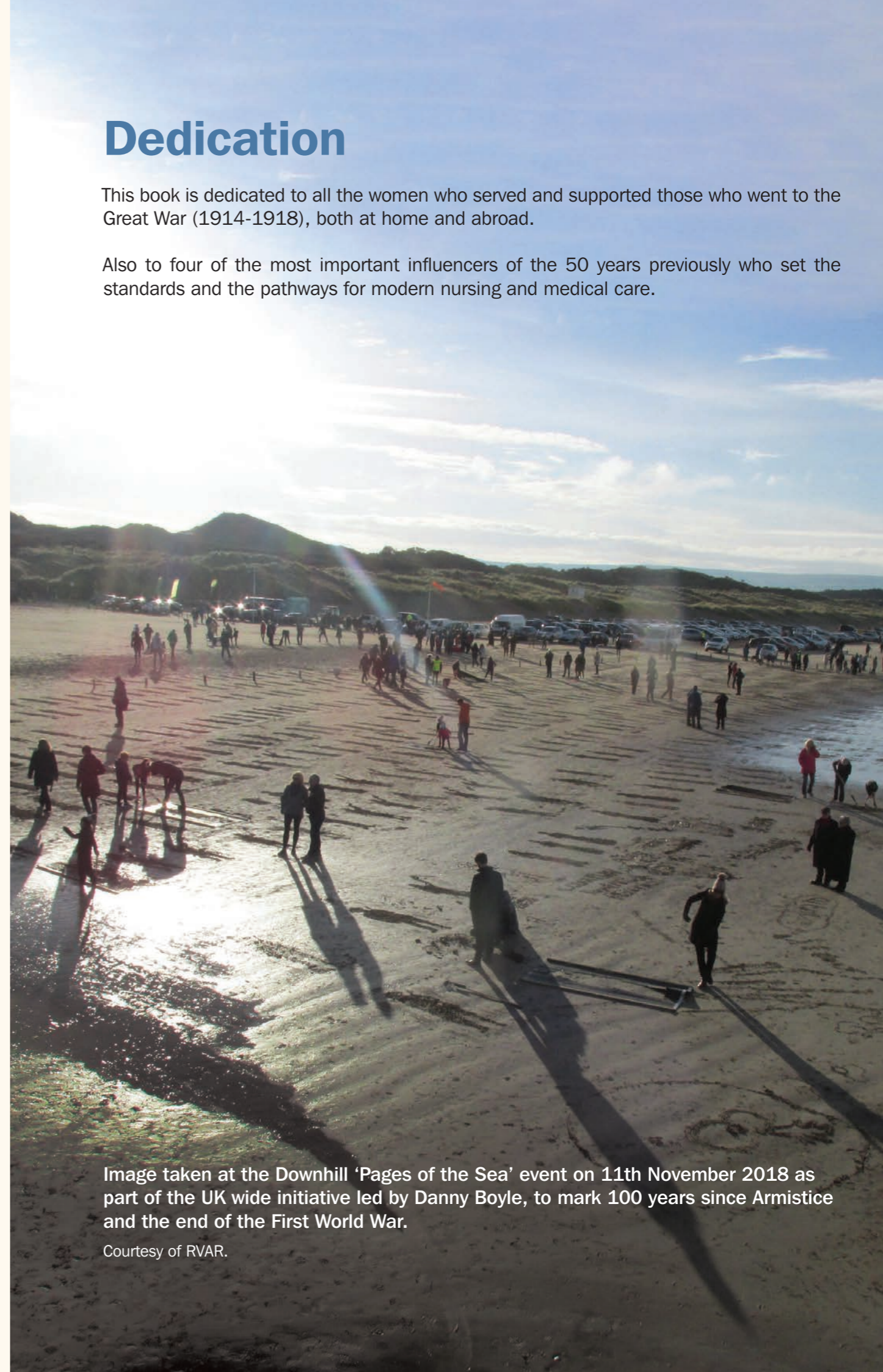


Image taken at the Downhill 'Pages of the Sea' event on 11th November 2018 as part of the UK wide initiative led by Danny Boyle, to mark 100 years since Armistice and the end of the First World War.

Courtesy of RVAR.

# Foreword

It is with great pleasure that I introduce this book “We Count Too!”, another positive result of the hugely popular and successful “Understanding Our Area” Peace IV Programme. The book shines a light on the involvement of women, with a specific focus on nurses, during World War One, which in many cases is an area that is all too often overlooked sometimes sadly forgotten. The book compiles in great detail and with lovely consideration these women, their backgrounds and their journey through a World War that changed the political landscape of Europe over a hundred years ago.

Some of the prominent women featured in the book are local to the Borough, so I would encourage you to pick up a copy and join them on their journey, to learn more about some of the local women who left these shores over 100 years ago to care for others in new and unfamiliar territories in Wartime Europe.

I would like to congratulate Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers and Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Service for this excellent toolkit and the depth and breadth of research that has gone into the publication of this book. We hope that individuals from far and wide will take guidance and learning for their own journeys.

**Dermot Nicholl**

Chair - Peace IV Partnership

# Preface

**By Chair Robert Guthrie**

Welcome to the first major publication by the Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers (RVAR).

I am one of the first chairpersons for the RVAR. The Association was formed in September 2016, after two years as a small informal history group based in Ballykelly village.

## Our Aims are

- ▶ to collect and document records, stories and histories of local people around the Roe Valley area and its environs;
- ▶ to put together a database of graveyards and headstones within burial sites of the Roe Valley;
- ▶ to record for posterity the socio-economic profile of the Roe Valley area as far as we can.

We have many combined years of professional experience within the Association, to help and direct those who are researching their family histories. The Association is a member of The Federation for Ulster Local Studies, and a non-profit organisation registered with the Charity Commission NI, and recently registered with Companies House as a Company Limited by Guarantee.

The publication idea came out of research commenced on the Heritage Lottery Fund project “**1914-1916: “On The Brink”**” with Causeway and Mid Antrim Museum Services and visits and outings within the Province of Ulster. Our committee members have backgrounds that include training, research, ICT, Civil Service, nursing/medical and senior management in government departments. We therefore came to a consensus that each member of the committee would choose a woman whom they felt had contributed to the war effort 1914-18 to be their prime area of research and to write a chapter for that “**Forgotten Woman**”, to honour those who had served both at home and abroad. Ultimately, what happened was that four “**Influencers**” would also be included and brought once again to the forefront, as they were the women who set the first standards for nursing, care, and medical support services. Those who served, whether as civilians or military, paid or unpaid, carried the flag forward in the conflict of World War One, for the formal baseline setup of modern career nursing and medical care.

We are working presently with the Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Museums Service under PEACE IV Understanding our Area. On behalf of RVAR, I wish to thank PEACE IV for funding the publication of this book.

For additional information please visit <http://www.rascahan.org>

# Introduction

**By Robert Peacocke**

This publication is mainly concerned with the sometimes forgotten women who made a difference in the times of conflict of the Great War. This was a time when most men firmly believed that a woman's place was in the home, although the cause of woman's suffrage was very much on people's minds.

At the outbreak of the Great War, Ireland was in a state of conflict over the subject of Home Rule. There were two opposing traditions; on one side were the anti-Home Rulers under the leadership of Edward Carson and on the other side were the pro-Home Rulers under the leadership of John Redmond. Both sides had begun to arm themselves and a bloody civil conflict was on the horizon. When world events started to unravel and the conflict began, young men from both traditions, many of whom had never been out of Ireland before, volunteered to go and fight the common foe. There was never any conscription on the island of Ireland during World War One. These brave young men went off to war, in 1914, many thinking that they would be victorious and home for Christmas. Little did they know of the terrible slaughter that would be the fate of so many, as The Great War went on for four dreadful years.

Those of the Unionist tradition hoped that by showing their loyalty to King and country the Home Rule Bill would be overturned in the parliament and those of the Nationalist tradition hoped that by joining the fight against the German foe it would strengthen their case for Home Rule. This led to the formation of two distinct divisions within the British Army. The mainly Unionist, 36th (Ulster) Division and the mainly Nationalist 16th (Irish) Division may have joined up for different reasons, but they fought and died together in massive numbers, in some of the worst battles of the Great War. Their very lives depended on each other and on the many exceptionally brave women from Ireland who were nurses, doctors and those working in other essential services behind the front lines. Many women from the island of Ireland went to the battlefronts and saved the lives of thousands of those who were wounded or gassed.

Those young nurses were supported by their sisters on the home front, as many of them had joined the Voluntary Aid Societies of the Red Cross and St. John Ambulance, in order to do all they could to help the war effort. Whether that was gathering sphagnum moss from the bogs of their native land to use as battle dressings or knitting socks for their poor menfolk in the waterlogged trenches. They too had an important role to play. Many women also took on the roles and jobs that their brothers and fathers had played before heading off to the war. This gave them an important boost in their quest for votes for women.

I hope you enjoy reading about these wonderful women and can gain a better understanding of the important role that their efforts played in one of the most disastrous periods of world history.

# CHAPTER ONE

## The Search For a Roe Valley Nurse Awarded the Military Medal (MM)

**By Betty McNerlin MBE**



**Military Medal awarded to Molly Maginnis 1918.**

By kind permission of R. Henderson. Courtesy of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

There were two searches for Molly McGinnis; one being a personal journey by her great-niece from Derry/Londonderry and one by the author of this particular chapter – myself, Betty McNerlin. This publication forms part of a project with Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers (RVAR), an association of volunteers actively interested in and researching local history, people and events relevant to the Roe Valley area in the North West of Northern Ireland, encompassing Ballykelly & Limavady, betwixt and between the City of Derry/Londonderry and the town of Coleraine along the North Coast.

Little did I know that my search had started some years before 2016 via a website called Rootschat around the year 2010 with a single query from America asking for details of a relative who had been a nurse in the Great War and had been awarded a medal for bravery. Just a one-off query but it appeared in a forum I was engaged in at the time and obviously my location of Limavady was something that prompted the writer to pose the question. Until then I had never heard of Molly McGinnis.

Let's give the lady her proper name - Mary Agnes McGinnis. She was called Molly by her family and it is Molly McGinnis that is written on the rim of her medal.

Her citation, as I later discovered, was published in the London Gazette and the Edinburgh Gazette, August 2, 1918 as follows:

*Sister Molly McGinnis, St John Ambulance Brigade Hospital. For gallantry and devotion to duty during an enemy air raid. She showed great courage, took charge of a ward, and sustained her patients.*

Coleraine Chronicle on July 2nd 1918 published the following as part of their Limavady District Notes:

## NURSE WINS MEDAL

'The Military Medal has been awarded to Sister McGinnis for conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during attacks by Germans on a St John Ambulance Brigade Hospital from May 19th to Jun 1st. Miss McGinnis was on the staff of the City of Dublin Nursing Institution before joining the Red Cross at the outbreak of war, and has served over three years in France. She is a daughter of the late Mr McGinnis, Carrichue, Co Derry, and sister of Dr McGinnis, Chesterfield.'

With thanks to Limavady Historian Alistair Harper (Limavady) 01 Sept 2016 for this information.

Unfortunately there were three family members who were also called 'Molly' and another nurse in Canada with the same name of Molly McGinnis (Mary Geraldine and her father also Patrick) who had some service in World War One but who died at home of flu. On this discovery, I thought my search had ended prematurely, and gave it no further thought – story put on the back burner.

This was early 2016 and I had been involved from May 2014 with a project called *"On The Brink, The Politics of Conflict 1914-1916"*, which was a three-year heritage-based project run by Council's Museum Services, exploring with local communities, the local connections with the impact and legacy of World War One. I was a volunteer researcher with a small history group in Ballykelly (later to become RVAR) at Ceres House and found myself deeply interested in the role of women in World War One, especially the emerging nursing profession (two of my sisters are nurses). Our group met once a month and researched local people who would today be called 'heroes'.

Part of the project research was also to develop a local tour based on World War One heroes and heroines. I decided to concentrate on three women in the Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council area because all three of the women had been recognised for their service and/or bravery in World War One and had been honoured with civilian medals. They were:

**Sister Molly McGinnis (MM)**



Sister Molly McGinnis (MM) (born in Carrichue Ballykelly) for bravery in the field in Etaples, France.

Courtesy of R Henderson.

**Catherine Anne Swetenham Trench MBE**



Catherine Anne Swetenham Trench MBE (born Limavady) for her work with Red Cross parcels in Londonderry and Limavady.

Courtesy of a private collection.

**Dr Louise McIlroy (Born Loughguile) OBE**



Dr Louise McIlroy (Born Loughguile) for her work with The Scottish Women's Hospitals during World War One.

Courtesy of Glasgow City Archives.

One of our researchers, Monica Doherty, had left a monthly group meeting in mid-2016 and with a throw-away comment as she went out the door said *"Just saw on BBC TV, a wee community note about a nurse in Faughanvale who won a medal for bravery ... think her name was McGinnis ..."*.

The BBC were broadcasting *'World War One At Home'* – the final local stories from a global conflict to be broadcast on BBC local radio stations from Saturday 25th June. All the final World War One at Home stories and many more are available online through the BBC website.

That re-started my search for Molly McGinnis. I remembered Rootschat and sent an email to her relative in America.

On 13th September 2016 I received an answer, which read:

"Dear Betty,

I was very pleased to receive your message this morning. Molly McGinnis was my great aunt, sister of my grandfather Patrick McGinnis. Since my grandfather died when my mother was young, I have few details of my McGinnis history. However, I did know of Aunt Molly's service and that she was awarded the Victoria Cross (I believe) for bravery and I do have a photo of her with a medal pinned to her dress. I actually met her in 1958 when I was in Ireland for a brief visit with my mother. I was also in touch with her a few years later and she sent me a few details of the family history. I would be delighted to have any information or details about her war record and I do so appreciate your contacting me."

Well, well – another *'push'* from Molly? Who knows? Certainly, the story gained momentum and I asked more questions on Rootschat but no birth or death certificate information was forthcoming from that direction either. I had to be sure I had the right local woman – she was hard to verify!

Time to recruit local helpers. The history group had evolved into a formal association in September 2016 and Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers was born. The new Secretary Matthew Ferguson was heavily involved with documenting and digitising gravestones in the area. I posed the question – *"Where is Molly McGinnis buried?"*

Matthew had gravestone photos of most local churches and chapels and he searched but could not find a headstone with Molly's name on it. Further investigation suggested that Molly was buried in *"Creggan"* – this could have been either Faughanvale, Star of the Sea or City Cemetery in the Creggan. Nothing was found. Plenty of McGinnis family members but not the Molly I needed to see.

On 20th September, I represented Northern Ireland (UK) at a Storytelling Conference in Helsinki and went to bed hoping for a few hours of sleep prior to an early departure for the airport the next morning. I got a phone call at midnight. The voice on the other end said, *"I believe you might be looking for me?"*

"Oh yes?" I queried, *"And you are?"*

*"I am the great-niece of Molly McGinnis, I live in the Creggan, Derry"* she said.

There was a pause.

*"I have something in my hand that you might be interested in it", she said, "It's a medal".*

Surely not – I thought! But yes!!

*"It's Molly's medal – can I bring it up to Ballykelly to show it to you?"* An hour's conversation ensued and no sleep happened that night!

Molly's great-niece duly arrived at Ceres House in Ballykelly with two bags of family photos, research on the medal already completed and a willingness to share her great-aunt's story. The medal itself was in its original box and was exhibited to the group.

## Where is Molly buried?

RVAR figured out it had to be the Hallow Chapel (St Finlough's, in the Parish of St Mary's Limavady). The graveyard is at 20 Loughmore Road, but whilst the present address may be Loughmore, ever since postcodes were allocated, and whilst there is consensus also that some local people relate to the chapel being in Faughanvale - the true address of the Chapel and its graveyard is Ballykelly, within the Parish of St Mary's Limavady. Sure enough, when we went there with her great-niece, she walked straight to the grave, the McGinnis plot. No mention of Molly on the headstone however, but checking with her great-uncle Patrick, he confirmed that this was the last resting place of Sister Molly McGinnis MM.

On 18th January 2017, RVAR was formally launched at Limavady Library and part of the opening was putting on show Molly's medal and giving local people a summary of her story, with the few pieces of historical evidence we had been able to put together. Molly was apparently known in the family as an inveterate photographer but her collection of wartime photos may have been lost to us in a house clearance.

Molly's story was also delivered as a mini-lecture in May 2018 at the Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre Limavady. The advertising in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's Museum Services Whats On Guide April - August 2018, read:

**'Among the Great War tragedies, battles and deaths there rose a flurry of white wings - the nursing sisters' caps and veils. Sister Molly McGinnis MM. from Faughanvale, is one of those unknown stories local to the Ballykelly / Greysteel area. This talk by the Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers (RVAR) details their search for Molly and the story of courageous service while volunteering in military hospitals in Etaples, France. The Search for Molly by Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers is part of the PEACE IV Understanding Our Area Programme.'**



**Military Medal awarded to Molly McGinnis lent to PEACEIV Understanding Our Area '1918 - Local Voices' exhibition, by kind permission of R. Henderson.**

Courtesy of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

Subsequently, the story of Sister Molly McGinnis (MM) as a nurse featured in PEACEIV Understanding Our Area **'1918 - Local Voices'** exhibition by Museum Services, in Ballymoney and Limavady November 2018 - March 2019.



**'Finding Molly' talk**  
31st May 2018 Joanne Honeyford (left - PEACEIV Understanding Our Area Project Officer) with members of RVAR at the talk in Limavady.

Courtesy of RVAR.



RVAR members introducing Mary McMahon to the project. Mary spent 37 years as a St John Ambulance trainer in London before settling into her retirement in Limavady.

Courtesy of RVAR.

*"Those beautiful white veils and cuffs had to be washed and starched every night, fresh for the next day's work! The Ministry of Defence did not provide uniforms for civilian nurses/VADs and there were many varieties of dress depending on the sponsor and the ability of each volunteer to find 'appropriate' apparel in the early years of the war"*

B.McNerlin. 2019

Replica of typical Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) Nurse's uniform made by R Henderson.

Courtesy of RVAR.



## CHAPTER TWO

### Toolkit - Finding Your Nurse

Searching online for nurses and auxiliaries who volunteered during World War One 1914-18

By Betty McNerlin MBE

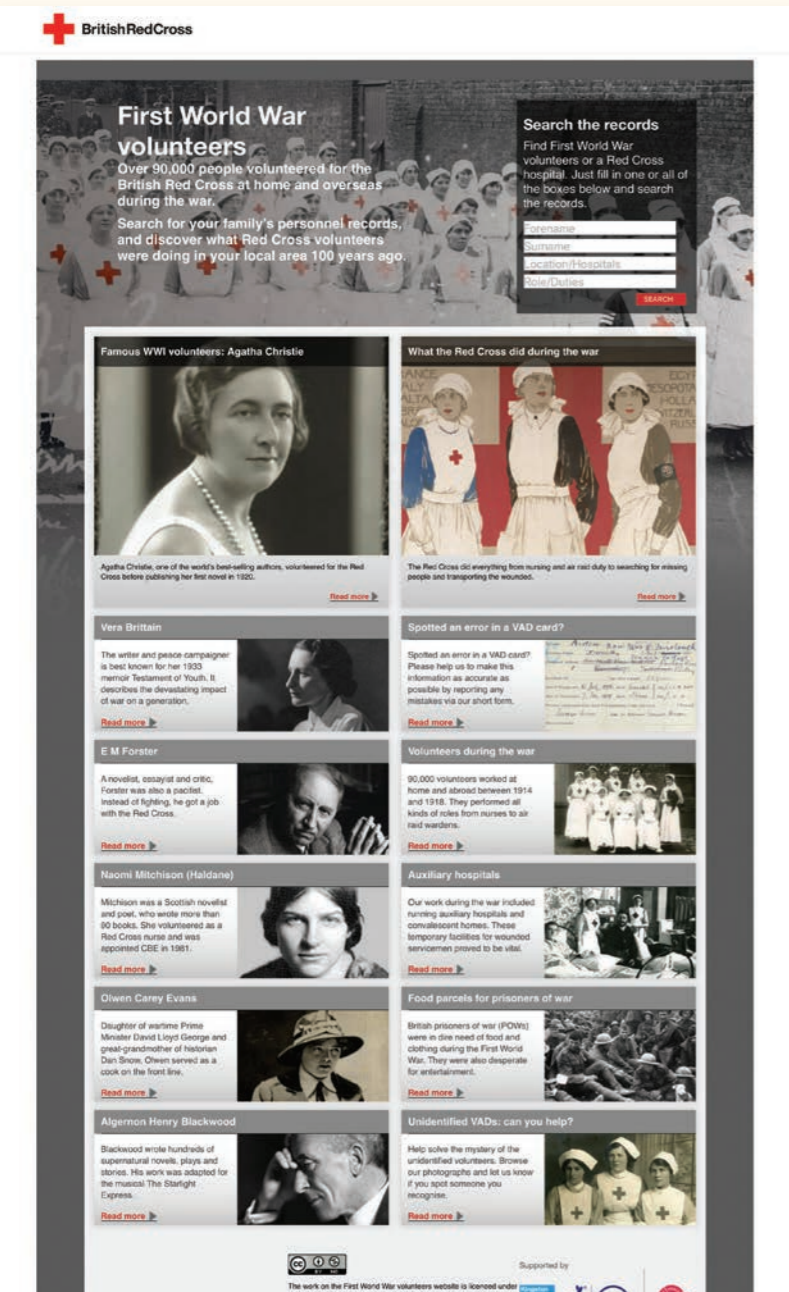


# Searchable Websites

## What websites can help your search?

Most nurses in World War One were either fully qualified nurses or VADs. “VAD” stands for Voluntary Aid Detachment which was a voluntary unit of civilians that provided nursing care for military personnel.

The first thing that you need to do when it comes to searching for nurses and VADs that volunteered during World War One, is to identify which websites are free to search for information on both military nurses and civilian volunteers.



## British Red Cross

The most popular website that is used to search for these types of nurses who volunteered in World War One is the British Red Cross.

To find out the information on the British Red Cross go to: <https://vad.redcross.org.uk/>

When you click on the above link it should bring up a screen like that shown here.

### British Red Cross Home Screen

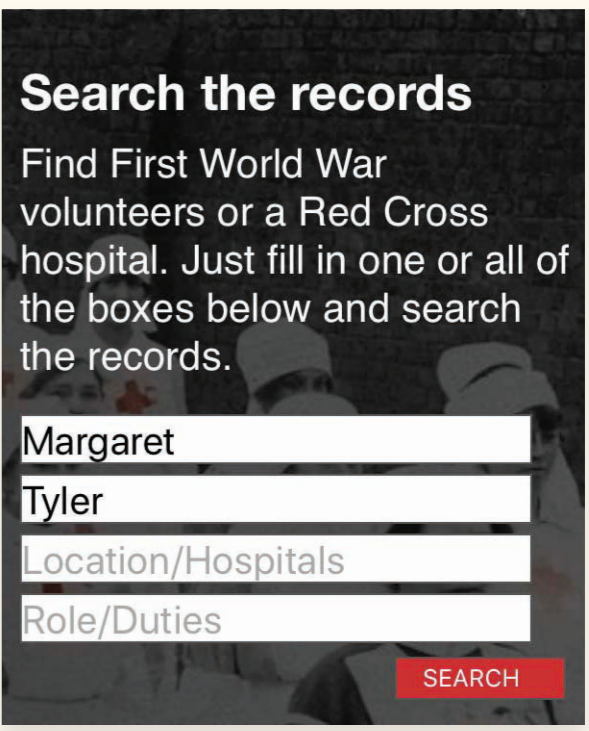
Please note that all screen shots from the British Red Cross Society website have been reproduced with their kind permission.

When this screen appears you can then enter the name of the nurse you think may have served as a VAD during World War One.

In the example below Margaret Tyler was the name that was entered into the search box to see if there was any information about her as a VAD nurse from the Limavady area.

### Results list for Margaret Tyler

The first record that appears is a Miss Margaret M Tyler from Co Londonderry which was the main aim of the research - find local Limavady nurses that volunteered during World War One. When you click into her profile it brings you up the information shown below.



[First World War](#) > Search our records

## Search results

Sort by name | [Sort by county](#)

### MISS MARGARET M TYLER

COUNTY: Co Londonderry  
DATE OF ENGAGEMENT: 13/03/1916  
AGE WHEN ENGAGED: 40

### MISS MARGARET TYLER

COUNTY: Co Donegal  
DATE OF ENGAGEMENT: 13/03/1916  
AGE WHEN ENGAGED: N/A

### MISS MARGARET TYLER

COUNTY: N/A  
DATE OF ENGAGEMENT: 12/1915

# Margaret M Tyler VAD Card

This search also allows you to view Margaret M Tyler’s VAD card for her period of service, when she volunteered during World War One as a nurse.

Record 1 1 NOV 1915 5. 11. 19.

Surname TYLER

Christian Names Margaret M. (~~Mr. Miss~~ Miss)

Permanent Address: Spring Hill.  
Lisnaveedy, Co Londonderry

Certificate No. \_\_\_\_\_ Age when engaged 40.

Date of Engagement 13. 3. 16 Rank Nurse. Pay \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Termination 31. 5. 17. Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Pay \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Engagements under Joint War Committee, if any, and where P.T.O.

Dept. for References J.W. V.A.D.

Honours awarded \_\_\_\_\_

Character \_\_\_\_\_

Londonderry/16

PERIOD OF SERVICE, Etc.

From 13. 3. 16 To 31. 5. 17. { Commission or  
Department or  
County

13. 3. 16 to 31. 5. 17. Star & faster, Richmond.

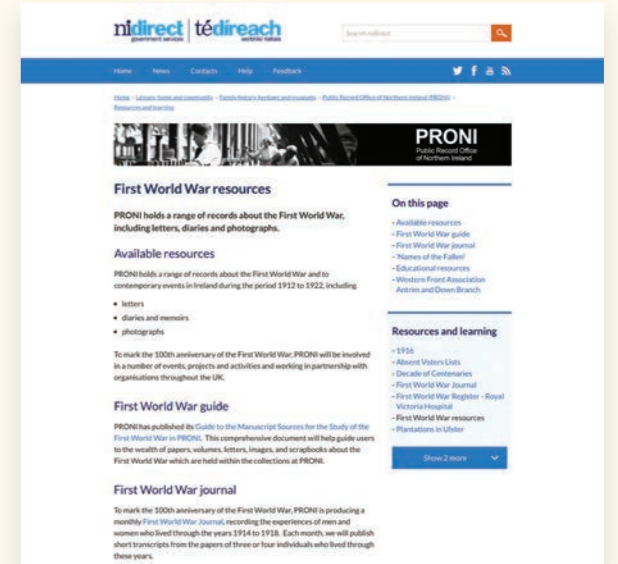
VAD cards.

Courtesy of British Red Cross Museum and Archive.

# Public Records Office NI (PRONI)

PRONI has an excellent website that can be used to search for World War One resources. It is: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/first-world-war-resources>

Screen grab reproduced by kind permission of the Deputy Keeper of the Records, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.

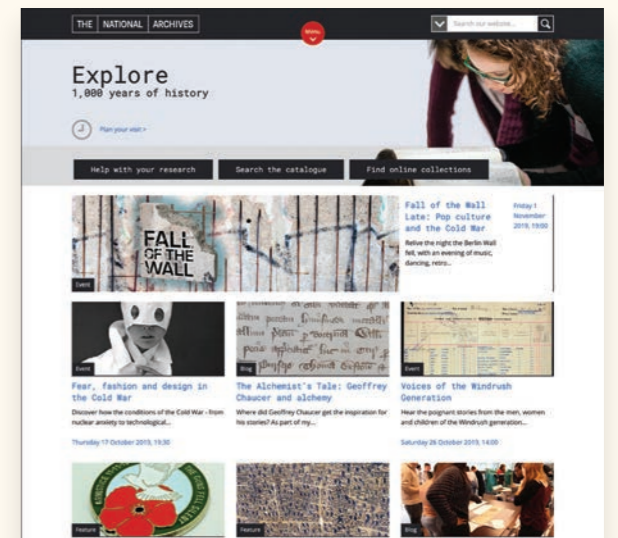


# The National Archives

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

By setting the search criteria to ‘First World War’ and ‘Nursing’, it is possible to start searching with even the minimum of criteria. The trick with any online searchable databases is to start with perhaps just 2 options and then work forward from results.

Screen grab reproduced by kind permission of National Archives.

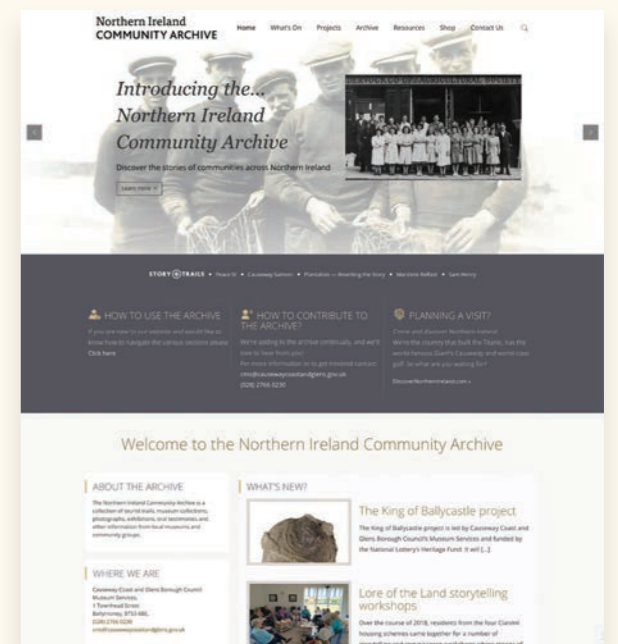


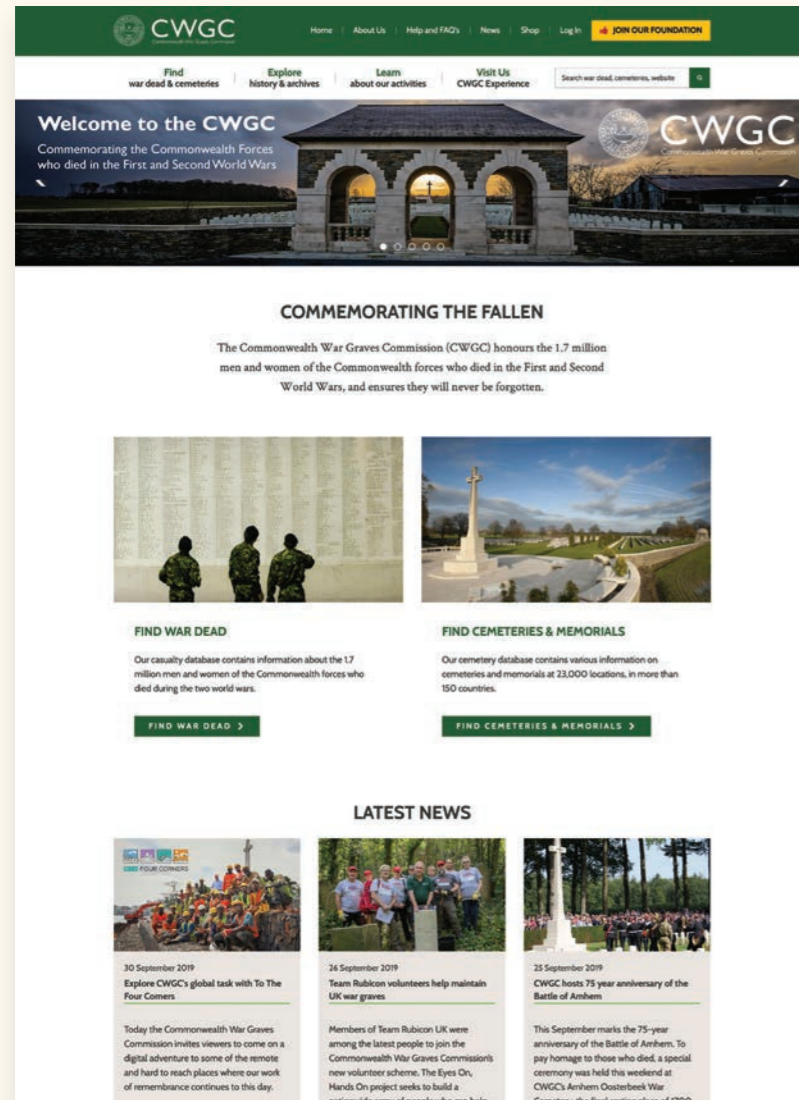
# Northern Ireland Archive

<http://www.niarchive.org>

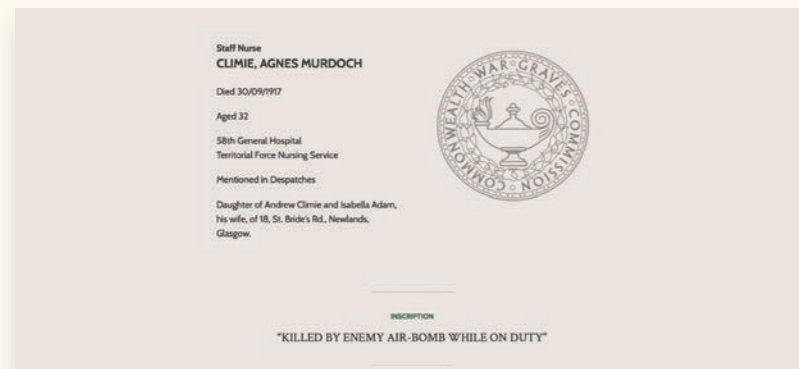
This site houses museums and community archives primarily from the Causeway area. Here you will find projects, exhibitions, learning resources and other useful links to a wide range of local history including World War One.

Screen grab reproduced by kind permission of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.





Last name Rank Service Number	First names or initials	Date of death Age Cemetery/memorial Grave Reference/Panel Number	Regiment Country of service
CLIMIE Staff Nurse	AGNES MURDOCH	30 September 1917 Age 32 LONGUENESSE (ST. OMER) SOUVENIR CEMETERY VI. B. 1.	Territorial Force Nursing Service United Kingdom



## Common-wealth War Graves Commission

Here you can also search for nurses that have died in World War One on the Commonwealth War Graves website. To get onto this website go to: <https://www.cwgc.org/>

Screen grab reproduced by kind permission of Commonwealth War graves Commission

The example that is being used for a search is Staff Nurse Agnes Murdoch Climie.

### War Dead Records Agnes Murdoch Climie

When this record appears, click on the arrow at the right hand side to look at the information about how she died during World War One in more detail.

### Agnes Murdoch Climie War Dead details

The image also gives you expanded details about when and how she was killed, any medals or honours awarded, who her parents were and where they lived.

## Further Information Available

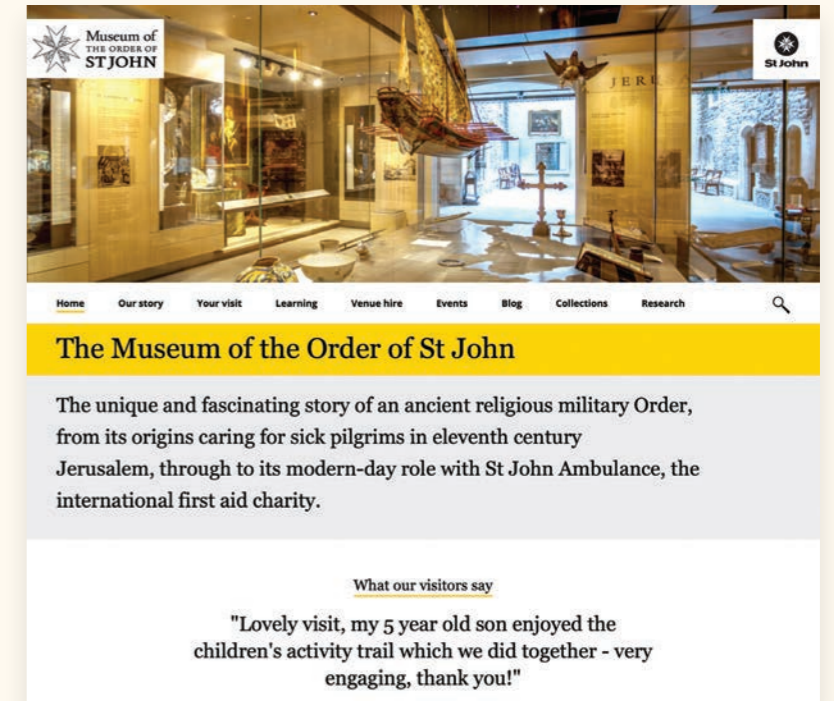
### St John Ambulance

You can go onto St John Ambulance home page <http://www.sja.org.uk> and click on the the link View our Museum. You can also go directly to the updated museum website <http://www.museumstjohn.org.uk>.

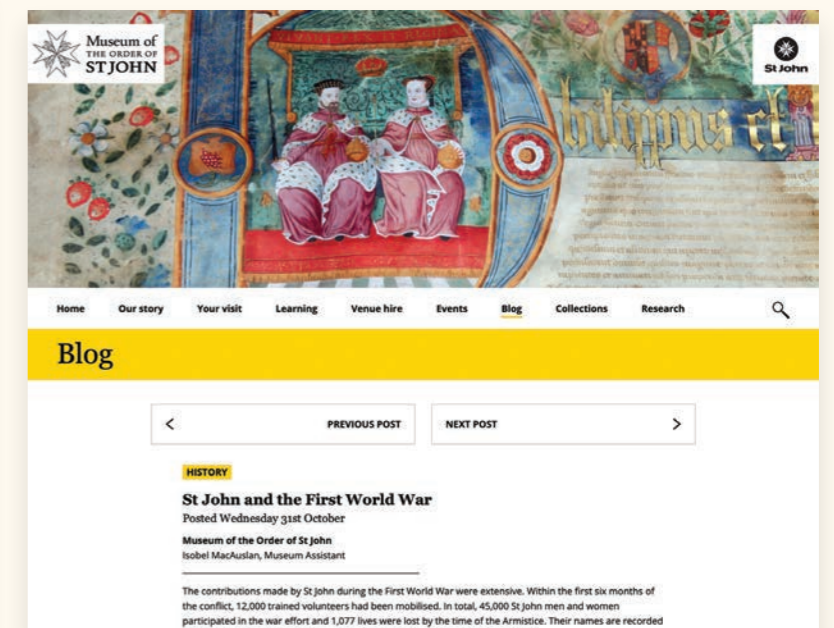
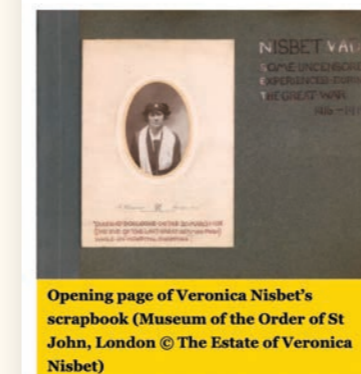
Please note that the screen grabs below are produced with kind permission of St John Ambulance.


By using the search tool you will be able to access their blog to find out more information. Screen grab one: type in World War One and an overview of the history of the organisation will appear.

Type in the search function Veronica Nisbet and her information will appear. Scroll through for more information.



**Veronica Nisbet: Volunteering and the Vote for Women**  
Posted Thursday 8th March  
Museum of the Order of St John  
Hannah Agass, Learning and Access Officer





Collection of  
St John Ambulance  
Memorabilia

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# Welcome to Inver Museum, Larne


Located at Larne Northern Ireland

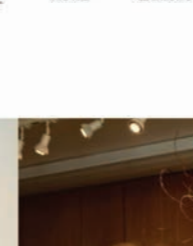
Inver Museum is a small independent museum housing a large private collection of memorabilia which portrays the voluntary humanitarian work carried out by St John Ambulance.

A concise history is told starting with the 11th century origins of the Order of St John (parent body of St John Ambulance) through to the voluntary organisation as we know it today.









# Inver Museum, Larne

To find out more information about St John Ambulance you can visit Inver Museum to see a collection of different memorabilia that are stored at the museum.

<http://invermuseum.com/>

Screen grab by kind permission  
Inver Museum, Larne.

## Inver Museum Home Screen

To find the St John Ambulance memorabilia that are kept at the museum, click on the exhibit button at the top of the page and then click on World War 1. When you click on the exhibit link it will take you to a screen like that shown here.

# Scarletfinders

Another website that can be used to research nurses from World War One is [Scarletfinders](#).

**<http://www.scarletfinders.co.uk/2.html>**

Please note that these screen grabs are courtesy of Scarletfinders website.

## Scarletfinders Home Screen

To find out about the VAD nurses on this website click the link which says “***Voluntary Aid Detachments***” on the left hand side of the screen, which will bring up the following page.


# SCARLETFINDERS

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- [Home](#)
- [British Military Nurses](#)
- [TF Nursing Service](#)
- [Naval Nurses](#)
- [Voluntary Aid Detachments](#)
- [Civilian Nurses](#)
- [Before the Great War](#)
- [Great War Accounts](#)
- [Nurses' Tales](#)
- [Miscellaneous Accounts](#)
- [Military Medals](#)
- [War Diary Index of pages](#)
- [War Diary - Introduction](#)
- [War Diary 1914](#)
- [War Diary 1915](#)
- [War Diary 1916](#)
- [War Diary 1917](#)
- [War Diary 1918](#)
- [War Diary 1919](#)
- [Diary - The Cast](#)
- [Medical Records WW1](#)
- [Hospitals WW2](#)
- [Scottish Women's Hospital](#)
- [Abbreviations](#)
- [Researching a Nurse](#)
- [Read all about it!](#)
- [Contact](#)

## RESEARCHING A NURSE or a HOSPITAL

\*\*\*



### WHAT YOU CAN DO YOURSELF

It's often the case that the only thing you know about a family member is that she was 'a nurse in the Great War,' or perhaps you have a photograph of a woman in uniform without any further information. The term 'nurse' is used frequently and rather loosely in connection with the Great War. Women who worked as nurses could have been trained, partly trained or untrained. They could have been employed by the War Office; the Joint War Committee (British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem); the French Red Cross; any number of independent organizations such as the Scottish Women's Hospital, or in ordinary civil hospitals in the United Kingdom. They might also have worked with the military nursing services of Australia, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand or the USA. A short article outlining the different types of British military nurses can be read here:

## VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENTS (VADs)

\*\*\*\*\*





## Pages of the Sea

You can also search for nurses that passed away during the World War One by going to Pages of the Sea website. <https://www.pagesofthesea.org.uk/>

Pages of the Sea was a UK wide initiative led by Danny Boyle, held on 11th November 2018, to mark 100 years since Armistice and the end of World War One. Downhill Beach was one of the chosen locations and featured Nurse Rachel Ferguson whose story can be found in Chapter Four.

Images courtesy of RVAR

## Book References

You can also search for nurses, VADS and Auxiliary Staff who died in World War One by reading the many books and pamphlets that have been published. A limited list of those used in the research for this book can be found in the Bibliography section.

## Other Useful Websites

<http://www.ucd.ie/archives/>

- holds material from private and public collections, online archive list. Requires permission to access records.

<http://www.familysearch.org>

- general search for ancestors

<http://www.iwm.org.uk>

- general search, national depository of war related material

<http://www.britisharmynurses.com>

- can be searched by name

<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie>

- searchable by name, address and place

<http://www.angloboerwar.com>

- holds information on regiments and military nurses, can be searched by name

<http://www.rascahan.org>

- Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers (local community archive Limavady/Ballykelly)

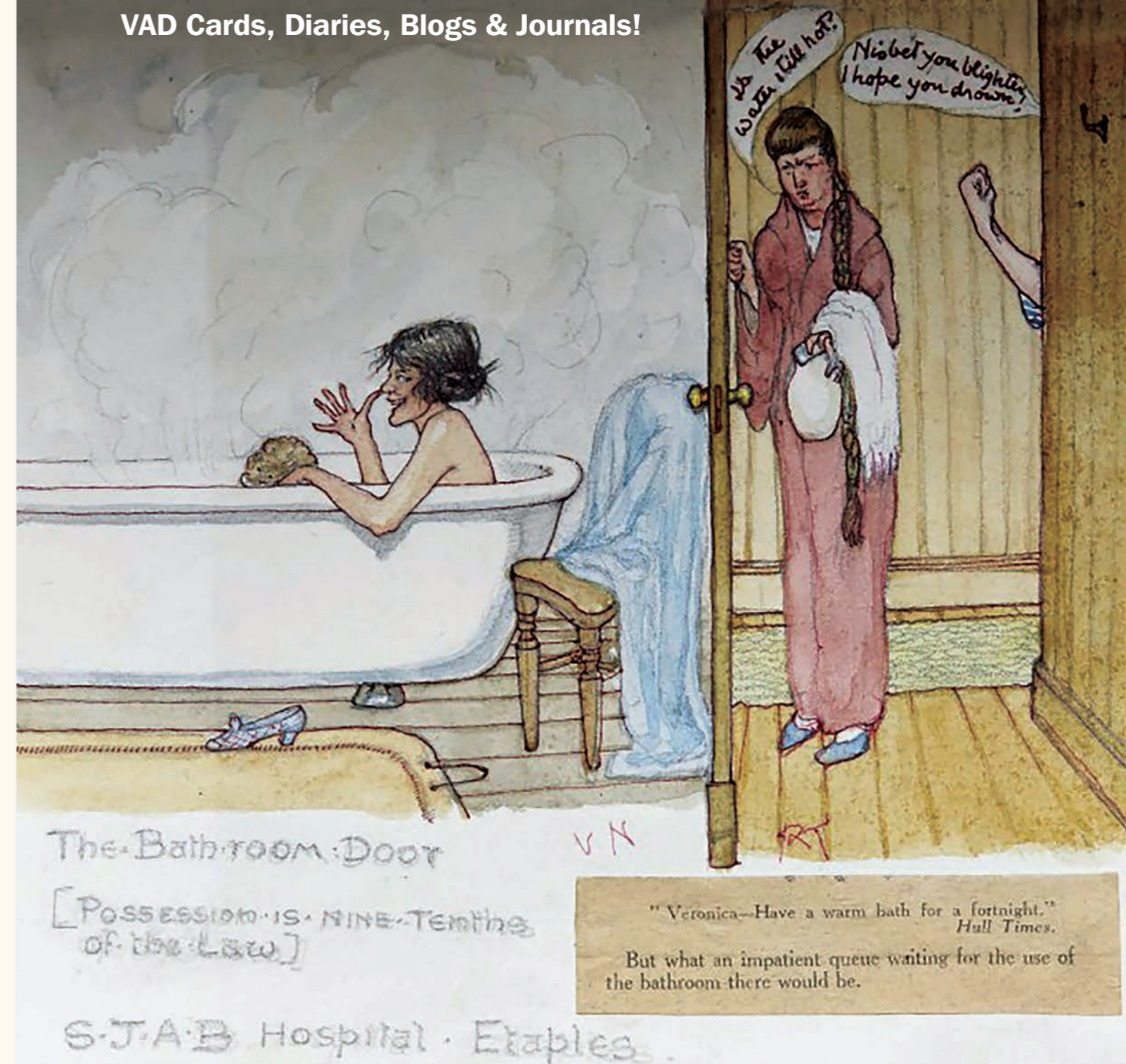
Images courtesy of RVAR.



# CHAPTER THREE

## Courageous Women

VAD Cards, Diaries, Blogs & Journals!



Cartoon regarding the bath of VAD nurse Veronica Nisbet.

Courtesy St John Ambulance.

Our research brought us into the realms of women in war and VADs working at home. Their diaries would be the forerunners of today's blogs and journals.

How did this come about? Well ..... the shortened version is ..... Most nurses in World War One were either fully qualified nurses or VADs. "VAD" stands for Voluntary Aid Detachment which was a voluntary unit of civilians that provided nursing care for military personnel.

The outbreak of World War One in 1914 saw St John Ambulance join forces with the Red Cross to form the Joint War Committee, providing medical care for war casualties in hospitals in England and overseas.

This period also saw the expansion of the Red Cross Journal at a time when newspapers and periodical magazines played an important role in providing information to those at home, abroad and in the trenches. A communication tool was required - instant TV coverage was NOT an option just yet!

Of course, readership in the early days of the war initially came from the 'middle classes', amongst which Red Cross County leadership was recruited. However, in 1915 the focus started to shift to war news and information relevant to Voluntary Aid Detachments (VADs) in particular; so much so that in April 1916 a new section was launched called "V.A.D. Notes and News". As VAD numbers increased, so did mention in the Journal of their detachments, postings, obituaries and honours.

The VAD News section grew so much that it was later divided into Men's and Women's VAD news, the latter often the most detailed. This evolution towards a greater presence of VADs is particularly worth noticing in comparison with the relative decrease in the number of portraits of prominent Red Cross members, which were a frequent feature in the Journal during the years 1914 - 1916; this change could be interpreted as greater recognition being given to members beyond prominent patrons. This shift is also telling of the growing importance of the figure of the female VAD within British society: alongside munitions workers for example, VAD members became one of Great Britain's "distinctive figures of mobilization" (Purseigle, Pierre. 2012. "Home fronts: the mobilisation of resources for total war.).

The fast-increasing volume of enquiries received was repeatedly emphasised, and regular updates on the number of queries received were also published; for example, readers were informed that 8,702 enquiries were received by the Missing and Wounded Department, and 11,838 reports collected by researchers in August 1916. In addition to quantitative surveys, letters from prisoners of war expressing their gratitude for the 'comfort' parcels sent through the British Red Cross Society (BRCS) were also published, showing the value of this activity.

The Red Cross also recruited home based workers and the Volunteer Card became the record of their work on the Home Front. Two examples of the Card are shown below, chosen from the list of local names printed at Appendix 2. The Appendix is also located on <http://www.niarchive.org> and will be updated by RVAR as more names are revealed.

One of the best equivalents of today's news 'blog' can be found on the Scarletfinders website (there is a web link to the site in the Toolkit Online Guide).

Surname Adams Rec'd 8 MAY 1919

Christian Names Letitia (Miss) (Mr., Mrs. or Miss)

Permanent Address: Ballyquin  
Limerick

Date of Engagement \_\_\_\_\_ Rank Member V.A.D. Pay 4373 1126

Date of Termination \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Pay \_\_\_\_\_

Particulars of Duties W.H.S. Depot 5<sup>th</sup> Co Work Party 4373

Whether whole or part time, and if latter No. of hours served 70

Previous Engagements under Joint War Committee, if any, and where None

Honours awarded V.W. Badge & Certificate

VAD record Letitia Adams.

Courtesy of British Red Cross Museum and Archive.

Surname Ritter Rec'd 8 MAY 1919

Christian Names Margaret (Miss) (Mr., Mrs. or Miss)

Permanent Address: Roe Park  
Limerick

Date of Engagement \_\_\_\_\_ Rank Member 5<sup>th</sup> Co V.A.D. Pay 1126

Date of Termination \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Pay \_\_\_\_\_

Particulars of Duties W.H.S. Depot 5<sup>th</sup> Co Work Party 4373

Whether whole or part time, and if latter No. of hours served 212 1/2

Previous Engagements under Joint War Committee, if any, and where V.A.D.  
Red Cross Hospital Cirencester

Honours awarded V.W. Badge & Certificate

VAD Record Margaret Ritter.

Courtesy of British Red Cross Museum and Archive.

For this book, the important date of 31st May 1918 is relevant to Molly McGinnis and these extracts can be found by using the tabs down the left hand side of the page. Click on May 1918 (visits).

‘May 30th Etaples:

On this night there was another air-raid which lasted 2 hours. There were no casualties in the hospitals but one YMCA worker was killed and another wounded, in a car on the Paris Plage road.

May 31st Etaples:

There was a terrible raid right over the hospitals. Practically all the Etaples hospitals suffered, those which had the most casualties being the St. John’s Ambulance Brigade Hospital, where 1 Sister was killed and 5 wounded, besides many patients and personnel, the Liverpool Merchants’ Hospital (1 Sister wounded), No.24 General Hospital (2 of the nursing staff wounded, one severely), No.56 General Hospital, where there were no casualties amongst the nursing staff but the administrative block was almost destroyed, and No.26 General Hospital, as well as the two Canadian hospitals (Nos.1 and 7) which had suffered so severely before. The St. John Ambulance Brigade Hospital, which was beautifully equipped, is entirely wrecked. Besides the above raids which were especially severe, almost every area behind the lines was bombed during the month.’

This was a summary from Scarletfinders for May 1918, readers can see the continuous toll on trained staff and VADs:

Arrivals

Trained – 115  
VADs – 50

Sent home sick

Trained – 32  
VADs – 21

Returned from sick leave

Trained – 8  
VADs – 5

Total at present sick in England

Trained – 115  
VADs – 63

Resignations sent forward

Trained – 9 (2 for marriage)

Transfers to Home Establishment

Trained – 4

Approximate No. of leaves granted

To United Kingdom – 351  
To Etretat – 6  
Total – 357

VADs returned to England

Resigned – 9 (4 for marriage)  
Termination of contract – 11  
Transfer to Home Establishment – 2  
Total – 22

Casualties

Died

Miss E. M. Warnock, VAD from pleurisy, on 5.5.18

Killed

N/Sister K. M. Macdonald, CAMC (bomb wounds) on 19.5.18  
N/Sister D. M. Y. Baldwin, CAMC (bomb wounds) on 29.5.18  
N/Sister E. L. Pringle, CAMC (bomb wounds) on 29.5.18  
N/Sister A. McPherson, CAMC (bomb wounds) on 29.5.18  
Sister M. W. Bain, SJAB (bomb wounds) on 31.5.18

Died of wounds

N/Sister G. M. M. Wake, CAMC, Compound Fractured Femur, on 21.5.18  
N/Sister M. Lowe, CAMC, wound of chest, penetrating, on 28.5.18

Wounded

N/Sister G. D. Long, CAMC (wrist l., buttock l.) on 19.5.18  
N/Sister I. K. G. Wishart, CAMC (contusion back) on 19.5.18  
N/Sister E. A. Gallagher, CAMC (injury to eye) on 19.5.18  
N/Sister M. C. Hirsch, CAMC (multiple shrapnel wounds) on 19.5.18  
N/Sister B. McKinnon, CAMC (leg. l. and back) on 19.5.18  
Miss N. Marshall, VAD (gsw arm) on 19.5.18  
Miss D. L. Draper, VAD (gsw scalp) on 19.5.18  
Miss W. A. Brampton, VAD (wrist, and shell shock) on 19.5.18  
Miss D. M. Crewdson, VAD (slight wound wrist) on 19.5.18  
S/Nurse M. de H. Smith, CHR (slight eye wound) on 19.5.18  
Sister L. B. Leedam, QAIMNSR (leg l.) on 24.5.18  
N/Sister M. Hodge, CAMC (head and knee) on 29.5.18  
Sister M. McKinnon, SJAB (head) on 31.5.18  
Sister E. P. Eadie, SJAB (fractured ankle) on 31.5.18  
Sister M. M. Thompson, SJAB (contusion) on 31.5.18  
Sister M. M. Dann, SJAB (contusion) on 31.5.18  
Sister H. M. Gubb, SJAB (contusion) on 31.5.18  
Sister Sanne, BRCS (shell shock) on 31.5.18  
Miss K. M. Freshfield, VAD (head, severe) on 31.5.18  
S/Nurse B. Dascombe, QAIMNSR (head, slight) on 31.5.18

**Total requirement of nurses in the BEF according to War Establishment on the L of C, including Stationary Hospitals in the front areas:**

Trained nurses – 2311  
VADs and SMP – 1703

**Total requirement in Front areas (CCS, Trains, Barges, etc.)**

Trained nurses – 623

**Total requirement in BEF**

Trained nurses – 2934  
VADs and SMP – 1703



**Total British staff now in BEF**

Trained nurses – 2475

**Americans attached to British units nursed by British personnel**

Trained – 97

**AANS attached to British units nursed by British personnel**

Trained – 20

**VADs and Special Military Probationers**

1767

**Shortage**

Trained nurses – 342

**Grand total in BEF (including Overseas and Americans)**

Trained nurses – 4886  
Civilians – 26  
VADs and SMP – 3380\*

\*includes 828 General Service VADs working in British units

Military Medals were normally awarded for bravery shown by enlisted personnel. A change was needed and King George V, in recognition of the bravery by civilian VADs & Trained Nurses, decreed that they would be given the same Military Medal awarded to enlisted nurses in the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS) for bravery in the field.

Image left is Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Medal.

Courtesy of Nina McNeary.

The extract below is copied from the Scarletfinders 'blog' for 2019.

**Military Medals Awarded 1918**

**Sister C. L. A. Robinson**, QAIMNS:  
No.10 Stationary Hospital, St. Omer

**A/Sister N. Galvin**, CHR: No.10  
Stationary Hospital, St. Omer

**A/Sister M. de Guerin**, CHR: No.10  
Stationary Hospital, St. Omer

**S/Nurse K. R. Lowe**, QAIMNSR: No.10  
Stationary Hospital, St. Omer

**S/Nurse S. D. Munroe**, QAIMNSR: No.46  
Stationary Hospital, Etaples

**Miss W. A. Brampton**, VAD: No.46  
Stationary Hospital, Etaples

**Miss D. L. Crewdson**, VAD: No.46  
Stationary Hospital, Etaples

**A/Matron L. M. M. Toller**, RRC, QAIMNS:  
No.26 General Hospital, Etaples

**Sister M. E. Davis**, QAIMNS: No.26  
General Hospital, Etaples

**S/Nurse A. M. McGrath**, QAIMNSR:  
No.26 General Hospital, Etaples

**Miss M. G. Campbell**, VAD: No.26  
General Hospital, Etaples

**Miss E. Hounslow**, ARRC, VAD: No.26  
General Hospital, Etaples

**Miss M. Cavanagh**, VAD: No.56 General  
Hospital, Etaples

**Sister L. A. Wilkinson**, QAIMNSR: No.24

General Hospital, Etaples

**S/Nurse B. Dascombe**, QAIMNSR: No.24  
General Hospital, Etaples

**Miss K. M. Freshfield**, VAD: No.24  
General Hospital, Etaples

**Miss L. A. Gregory**, VAD: No.24 General  
Hospital, Etaples

**Matron C. E. Todd**, SJAB: SJAB Hospital,  
Etaples

**Asst. Matron M. Chittock**, SJAB: SJAB  
Hospital, Etaples

**Sister K. Warner**, SJAB: SJAB Hospital,  
Etaples

**Sister J. Bemrose**, SJAB: SJAB Hospital,  
Etaples

**Sister M. McGinnis**, SJAB: SJAB Hospital,  
Etaples

**Sister M. H. Balance**, SJAB: SJAB  
Hospital, Etaples

**Commandant Miss W.E.S.M. Batten**:  
BRCS Motor Convoy, Etaples

**Senior Section Leader J. V. Mellor**:  
BRCS Motor Convoy, Etaples

**Sub-Section Leader G. M. Cuthbert**:  
BRCS Motor Convoy, Etaples

**Section Leader G. F. Johnston**: BRCS  
Motor Convoy, Etaples

## Nurses' Diaries

And, finally, we come to nurses' diaries. There have been quite a few published for the World War One Centenary events in 2018, and some are listed in the bibliography for this book as reference material – please read a few of them!

Our researchers read through examples held in the Archives of St John Ambulance Museum, St John's Lane, London, EC1M 4BU.

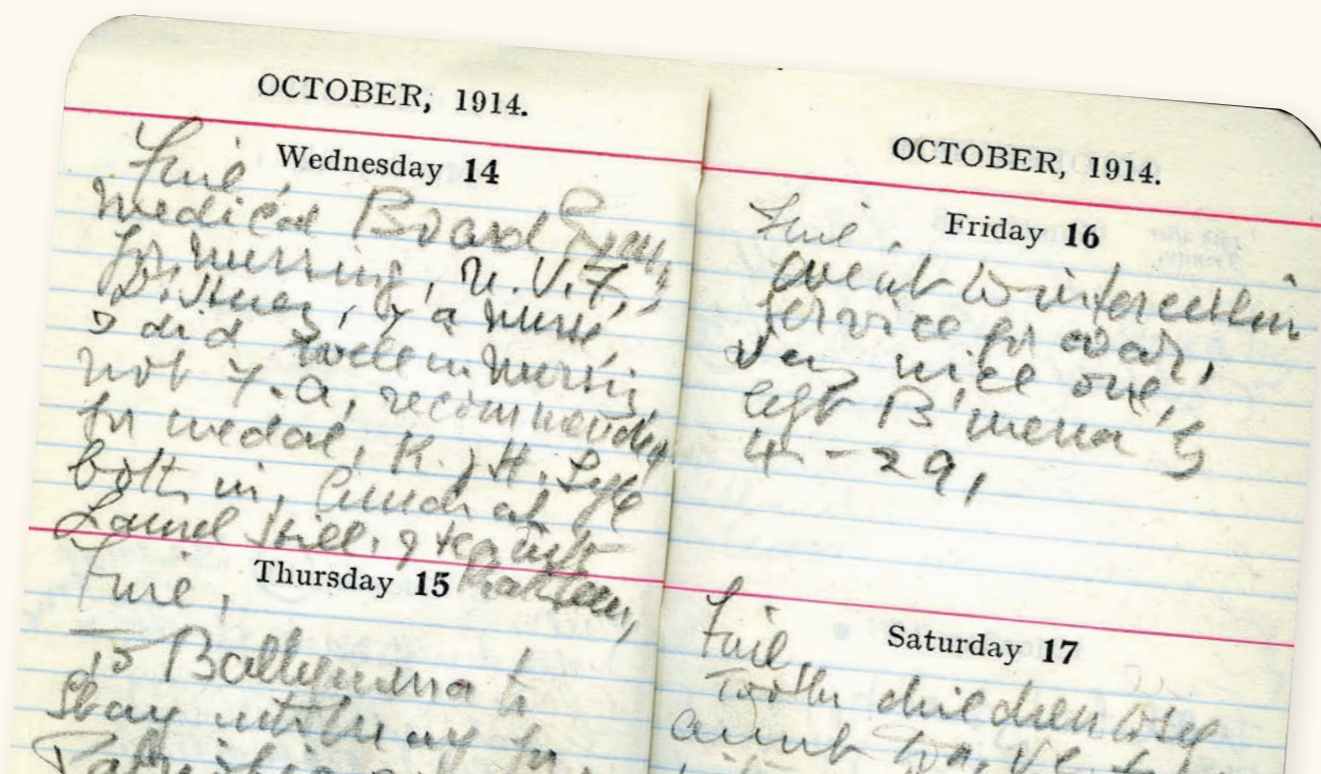
Entries ranged from the everyday notes of one young lady trying to arrange her marriage whilst volunteering on the Front and trying to ascertain if her fiancé (a serving soldier) was still alive after every event he was involved in. Notes were exclusively on the subject of dress fittings on her next leave home, trying to find material for bridesmaids, cake making and making sure they both got leave to appear at the church together!

Another diary had wonderful cartoons on almost every page, detailing how to find enough warm water for a field bath, how to secure enough starch for the nightly (yes ... EVERY night) wash of white stiff aprons and caps and all the other necessities required by a young lady away from home for extended periods! There were plenty of complaints to the Red Cross Journal about the clothing they were issued with – indeed there were many variations of the 'proper' clothing as ladies improvised. One entry in the Journal was submitted:

*Surely there is no necessity for the enormous unwieldy brims of both winter and summer hats, or the out-of-the-way ugly shape of the latter also. [...] The gabardine hats for winter wear have deservedly met with nothing but praise; is it too much to hope that some day an equally satisfactory and comfortable summer headgear may be given to us?*

Extract from Emily Hezlet's diary on the occasion of her sitting her Nursing exam.  
See Page 39 for her story.

Courtesy of Coleraine Museum.



# CHAPTER FOUR

## Women's War Effort



Tapestry produced in 2018 by Building Ballysally Together to commemorate the end of World War One and all those who served.

Courtesy of Coleraine Museum.

# Dr Louise Mcllroy

By Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum  
Services for '1916: Legacy and Impact' exhibition

<b>Name</b>	Dr Louise Mcllroy OBE DBE
<b>Dates</b>	1874 – 1968
<b>Buried</b>	Turnberry, Ayrshire, Scotland
<b>Service</b>	The Scottish Women's Hospital Foreign Service, Surgeon
<b>Medals</b>	French Croix de Geurre avec Palme, French Medaille des Epidemies, Serbian Order of St Sava and the Serbian Red Cross.

Anne Louise Mcllroy was born in Loughguile, Co Antrim in 1874. Her father, Dr J. Mcllroy, a medical practitioner in Ballycastle and Justice of the Peace, educated his four daughters to a very high standard for the time. Louise graduated in 1898 – the first woman from the University of Glasgow to earn a Doctorate in Medicine and then the first female gynaecological surgeon at the Royal Infirmary Glasgow.



Dr Louise Mcllroy.

Courtesy Glasgow City Archives.

*'It had been ordained that women could not fight, and therefore they were of no use in war time'.*

A L Mcllroy, British Medical Journal, 14 Mar 1914, p579;

Dr Mcllroy and other female medical graduates offered their services to the government. After rejection by the War Office, Dr Elsie Inglis, founder of the Scottish Women's Suffragette Federation was inspired to start a hospital of 'our own', with influential supporters. The Scottish Women's Hospital Foreign Service, set up with the aim of using all female staff to care for the Allied wounded, and became known for its surgical brilliance and administrative efficiency.

Dr Mcllroy was given command of a hospital at Troyes in France before serving in Serbia and then in Salonika. During her time in Salonika she established a nurses' training school for Serbian women. At the end of the war she was working as a surgeon at a Royal Army Medical Corps hospital in Constantinople.

Working under canvas and maintaining high hygiene standards in the time before antibiotics were available, she wrote home: 'we are hoping to (teach) the French the enormous advantages of the open air and sunlight for septic wounds. Our results have been simply extraordinary, no antiseptics at all.'

In June 1918, Dr Mcllroy's new orthopaedic department (for 'helping our wounded Serbian allies') is described as: 'A canvas shed has been erected where carpenters are ... making hospital ward furniture,... Some of [the patients] are making beautiful stonework designs ... the thistle and Serbian eagle feature largely ... most of the wards are making gardens outside the barracks'.



Dr Mcllroy inspecting tents at Troyes.

Courtesy of Glasgow City Archives.

In recognition of her services during World War One, she was awarded the French Croix de Geurre avec Palme, French Medaille des Epidemies, Serbian Order of St Sava and the Serbian Red Cross. In 1920 she was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for her war effort. In 1921 she became the first female full professor at a University – Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the London School of Medicine for Women and was made a Dame in 1929 for her services to midwifery. In 1939 when World War Two broke out Dr Mcllroy became a consultant for Buckinghamshire County Council.

Dr Louise Mcllroy MBE died on 8th February 1968 and is buried in Turnberry, Ayrshire.

## On finding Dr Louise McIlroy

By Helen Perry

During the research period for our On the Brink 1914 - 1916 project funded by HLF, a wonderful photographic album titled Scottish Womens Hospital (SWH) was revealed in the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland. This led me to search their online website <http://www.scottishwomenshospital.co.uk> where names of the women (doctors and nurses) could be found. I went looking for women from the Causeway Area. There Dr Louise McIlroy was found. The website is currently not available. However you can find a list of names on <http://www.scarletfinders.org>.

Her record there led me to Glasgow City Archives where SWH financial records are held. Whilst not available online, staff there were so helpful and copied me their index of the archives they held. Other useful sources included Glasgow University - <https://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/medicine/aboutus/history/ourfamousscholars/annelouisemcillroy/>

## Nurse Rachel Ferguson QAIMNS

By Betty McNerlin



**Name**  
Staff Nurse Rachel Ferguson QAIMNS

**Dates**  
1886 – 26 June 1918

**Buried**  
Bordighera British Cemetery, Italy

**Service**  
Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service

**Medals**  
British War Medal, Victory Medal

© IWM (WWC H21-44)

Rachel Ferguson was part of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, one of the main providers of female nurses for the British Army. During the war, 10,000 members of the service were deployed as far afield as India and East Africa.

Rachel was the daughter of Annie and John Stewart Ferguson, of Lanebrooke House, Ballygoney, Moneymore, County Londonderry, with three brothers and three sisters.

She was educated at Ballygoney National School and Our Lady's School, Cookstown, before training at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

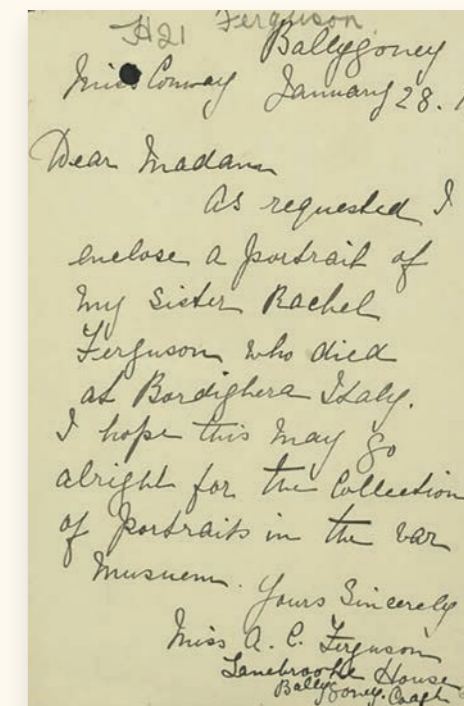
During the war, she served in Italy, where Commonwealth forces operated from November 1917, with medical units based behind the front. The 62nd General Hospital was posted at the town of Bordighera, Liguria in Italy, from January 1918 onwards. Rachel had returned from leave on May 25, but on June 26 she was admitted there as a patient, suffering from bronchopneumonia. She was by then already dangerously ill and died later that day. Her personal effects were sent to her father, being a wrist watch and strap, a gold penknife, Reserve Badge ribbon and brooch, pendant, silver pencil case, scarf pin, one small coin and two brooches.

As part of the Danny Boyle 'Pages of The Sea' project on 11th November 2018 to mark 100 years since Armistice and the end of the First World War, a sand picture of her face was drawn in the beach at Downhill, Co Londonderry.<sup>1</sup> Rachel reportedly visited relatives at Downhill during summer school holidays.

Rachel is remembered on the War Memorial at Cookstown and her details are recorded by Friends of the Somme Mid Ulster Branch in their 'Cookstown War Dead Book WW1'.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.pagesofthesea.org.uk/beaches/downhill/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cookstownwardead.co.uk>



Letter written by the sister of Rachel Ferguson, donating her portrait to the Imperial War Museum in 1919.

© IWM (EN1/3/DEA/004/64)

Rachel Ferguson on Downhill Strand as part of 'Pages of the Sea' 11th November 2018.

Courtesy of Aerial Vision NI.



# Miss Emily Mary Hezlet

By Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Services for '1916: Legacy and Impact' exhibition



Courtesy of Coleraine Museum.

**Name**  
Miss Emily Mary Hezlet

**Birth/Death**  
c.1879 – 1958

**Address**  
Bovagh, Aghadowey, Co Londonderry

**Service**  
V.A.D. NURSE 03/06/1917 – 12/07/1917

Emily Hezlet of Bovagh, Aghadowey, was Matron at Morden Hall, London for a period during 1918. Morden Hall was provided on loan to the London Hospital during 1914 - 1918 as a home for recovering military patients injured during the war.

The following are extracts from Emily Hezlet's Register notebook whilst she worked at Morden Hall. It contains messages of appreciation from the patients.

"Kindest regards to Nurse Hazlet(sic) and many thanks for the kindness shown to me while at Morden Hall 28.1.18 – 6.5.18. Pte E. V. Francis."

"I offer you my kindest regards (Nurse Hazlet) for your kindness and treatment to me, while my stay at Morden Hall. Thank you! W. Wilson."

Emily Hezlet received a letter from Morden Hall on 2nd October 1918, asking her to return to fill a nursing vacancy

"...in a place like this one does need someone with a little nice dignity! Just to keep the rowdy patients from getting beyond themselves and I know you understand that as well as the professional side of nursing."

Surname *Hezlet (Miss)* Recd 8 MAY 1919

Christian Names *Emily Mary* (Mr., Mrs. or Miss)

Permanent Address: *Bovagh, Aghadowey, Co. Derry*

Date of Engagement *March 19<sup>th</sup> 1919* Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Pay \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Termination *May 1<sup>st</sup> 1919* Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Pay \_\_\_\_\_

Particulars of Duties *V. A. D. nursing*

Whether whole or part time, and if latter No. of hours served *whole time*

Previous Engagements under Joint War Committee, if any, and where *over*

*Heydon House, Aux. Red Cross Hospital, Harwell, Carlisle, 5 weeks*  
*also Hatfield Hospital, Morden Hall, Mitcham Surrey, 6 months*

Honours awarded \_\_\_\_\_

PERIOD OF SERVICE, Etc.

From *June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1917* To *July 12<sup>th</sup> 1917* Commission or Department or County *Londonderry*

From *Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> 1917* To *May 18<sup>th</sup> 1918*

From *March 20<sup>th</sup> 1919*

*Also worked at Coleraine War Hospital Supply Sub-Depot 379 hours*

*V. A. D. Member No 24780 L. Derry*

VAD Record, front and reverse, for Emily Hezlet.

Courtesy of British Red Cross Museum and Archive.

Members of Emily Hezlet's family were also involved in World War One. Emily's youngest brother, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Owen Hezlet (1891-1965), received a DSO for 'conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an enemy attack'.

Major General Robert Knox Hezlet (1879 - 1963), Emily's older brother, also served during World War One. He was mentioned in Despatches twice and also received a DSO.

From a golfing family, during 1920 - 1921 Emily Hezlet was Captain at Portrush Ladies' Branch and remained on the committee until her death in 1958.

During World War Two Emily Hezlet was a committee member of the Portrush branch of the Women's Voluntary Services, helped form a local Girl Guide company and was actively involved with St. John Ambulance Brigade.

## Finding Emily Hezlet

By Sarah Carson

Within the Hezlet collection, held by Coleraine Museum, I discovered an envelope with a photograph of Emily Hezlet in a nurse's uniform with an accompanying letter sent from Morden Hall, Surrey and dated 2nd Oct 1918. On the outside of the envelope was handwritten '**Photos, self, 1918, Morden Hall.**' In another box I found a small red notebook that was full of messages of thanks from soldiers treated by Nurse Hezlet, dating from Dec 1917. There wasn't much else in the collection that filled in any of the blanks about what Emily had been doing during World War One, even her obituary didn't reveal much about this period of her life. So I had to start and look elsewhere.

After doing some desktop research I found Emily's VAD record on The British Red Cross website. This confirmed that she worked in Morden Hall for 6 months. Before that she worked at Heyton House Auxilliary Red Cross Hospital in Carlisle. As well as this, Emily worked at the Coleraine War Hospital Supply Depot.

I spent some time at PRONI searching through the items they have relating to the Hezlet family. Some of this material shed more light on what Emily had been doing leading up to and during World War One. There were a number of letters about ambulances, hospitals, collection of Sphagnum moss and training which Emily was involved in, including a letter from Leopold Canning, responding to Emily's query about using Garvagh House as a hospital, as well as many letters on the headed paper of the South Derry Women's Unionist Association.

While I still think there is more to be discovered and fully researched about Emily, what we have uncovered has revealed much more than what we knew about her from the Museum Collection alone.

## Nurse Laura Gailey

By Betty McNerlin MBE

**Name**  
Miss Laura Gailey

**Birth/Death**  
1886 - 1917

**Address**  
Asylum Road, Londonderry

**Buried**  
Liverpool, England

**Service**  
V.A.D. Nurse



Nurse Laura Gailey who died of pneumonia on service.

© IWM (WWC H2-54)

Laura Gailey was born and brought up in Londonderry (now known as The City of Derry/Londonderry). Before the outbreak of World War One, Laura lived at 6 Bayview Terrace, Asylum Road, Londonderry. During the First World War she was a nurse with the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) and was based in Liverpool.

In her work during the First World War, Laura transferred to Fazakerly Hospital (now Aintree University Hospital) in Liverpool, where she worked tending the wounded soldiers who were returning from the battlefields. While treating her patients, Laura caught measles and died from pneumonia in March 1917. She was buried with full military honours and after a campaign by her family in Londonderry, her name was added to the war memorial at the Diamond in the centre of the City.

She is the only female name listed in full on the city's war memorial.

<https://www.creativecentenaries.org/toolkit/case-study/junction-laura-gailey-film>



Surname *Gailey* Rec'd 15 APR 1918  
 Christian Names *Laura. Miss.* (Mr., Mrs. or Miss)  
 Permanent Address: *Bayview Terrace, Londonderry.*  
 Date of Engagement *June 1915* Rank *S. O. S.* Pay  
 Date of Termination *died on Active Service 24th March 1917*  
 Particulars of Duties *at M. Hosp. 1st W. Gen. Liverpool.*  
 Whether whole or 'part' time, and if latter No. of hours served  
 Previous engagements under Joint War Committee, if any, and where  
 Honours awarded

PERIOD OF SERVICE, Etc. *Donegal.*  
 From *1915* To *1917* {Commission or Department or County *Londonderry.*  
*Member of St. John. A. Am. L' derry. S.*  
*Served full time from July 1916. to March 1917.*  
*Died on Active Service.*

VAD record Laura Gailey. Courtesy of British Red Cross Museum and Archive.

In 2015, the Women's Orange Order Lodge, Mountjoy WLOL 29 dedicated a new bannerette depicting Laura on one side. When they heard that Laura's grave in Liverpool did not have a headstone, fundraising commenced to cover the cost of providing a suitable marker.

The headstone has now been erected and it was dedicated during a ceremony which had also been organised to mark the 100th anniversary of Laura's death in 1917. Members of the Mountjoy Lodge travelled to Liverpool to attend the ceremony.

#### New gravestone for Laura Gailey in Liverpool dedicated in 2017.

Courtesy of Women's Orange Order lodge, Mountjoy WLOL 29.



Women's Orange Order lodge, Mountjoy WLOL 29 at the graveside in Liverpool, 2017.

Courtesy of Women's Orange Order Lodge, Mountjoy WLOL 29.

# Sister Molly McGinnis

By Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum  
Services for '1916: Legacy and Impact' exhibition



Sister Mary Agnes McGinnis (Molly).

Courtesy of R. Henderson.

## Name

Miss Molly McGinnis

## Birth/Death

1880 - 1967

## Address

Legahoire, Carrichue, Ballykelly

## Buried

St Finlough's Chapel Ballykelly

## Service

Nursing Sister St John Ambulance

## Medals

Military Medal (MM)

Sister Mary Agnes McGinnis, known as Molly, was born in January 1880 near Ballykelly. She was the fifth child of Patrick and Roseanna McGinnis. After leaving school, Molly trained at the City of Dublin Nursing Institute for three years. When war broke out, Molly was a St John Ambulance Nurse, she enlisted on the 18th March 1915 and served in the VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment) Hospital at Horncastle until June 1915. From there she travelled to Newton Abbot VAD Hospital in Devon until January 1916, before being posted with the rank of Sister in February of that year to St John Ambulance Brigade Hospital at Etaples, France. During the month of May 1918, the hospital at Etaples and surrounding area suffered sustained bomb raids. On the night of 31st May 1918, the hospital was hit and many were killed and injured.

Surname *McGinnis* Recd 1 OCT 1919

Christian Names *Molly* (Mr, Mrs, or Miss)

Permanent Address : *Legahoire Carrichue Co. Kerry*

Certificate No. \_\_\_\_\_ Age when engaged *33 years*

Date of Engagement *18 Mar 1915* Rank *Nurse* Pay *£1.1.0*

Date of Termination *31 Jan 1919* Rank *Nurse* Pay *£1.4.10*

Previous engagements under Joint War Committee, if any, and where *on staff 1*

*(Brigade Hospital) Lancs* Dept. for References *T. N. Dept*

Honours awarded *Military Medal*

Character \_\_\_\_\_

PERIOD OF SERVICE, Etc.

From *18.3.15* To *31.1.19* (Commission or Department or County) *T. N. Dept*

VAD Record (front and reverse) for Sister Molly McGinnis.

Courtesy of British Red Cross Museum and Archive.

## Sister Molly McGinnis, St John Ambulance.

For gallantry and devotion to duty during an enemy air raid. She showed great courage, took charge of a ward, and sustained her patients.

From 'Supplement to the London Gazette, 30 July, 1918'.

Coleraine Chronicle, July 20, 1918.

Along with 8 other civilian nurses, Sister McGinnis was awarded the Military Medal, the highest civilian honour available, for her bravery under fire and her conduct to rescue and safeguard her fellow nurses and patients. During World War One, of the 114,000 Military Medals awarded, only 147 were awarded to women.



**Military Medal awarded to Molly McGinnis by kind permission of R. Henderson.**

Courtesy of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.



A ward showing the devastation following the air raid on 31st May 1918

Photo is courtesy of John Ambulance Museum, London.

In early 2020 Molly's Story by Rosemary Henderson will be published by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council under PEACEIV Understanding Our Area programme. It will be available in hard copy free of charge or on line at <http://www.niarchive.org>

# CHAPTER FIVE

## Women's War Effort at Home



**The Spagnum Moss Collectors.**

Courtesy of Coleraine Museum.

# Mrs Catherine Anne Swetenham Trench MacManaway MBE

By B. McNerlin MBE

**Name**  
Mrs Catherine Anne Swetenham  
Trench McManaway

**Birth/Death**  
1877 – 1951

**Buried**  
Drumachose Parish Church (Christ  
Church), Limavady, Northern Ireland

**Service**  
Red Cross

**Medals**  
MBE



MBE medal.  
Courtesy of RVAR.

Born in 1877, Catherine was the only child and daughter of Sir Thomas Lecky, Greystone Hall, Limavady. Throughout her life, Catherine Anne has been known as *‘the daughter of Sir Thomas Lecky’*; *‘the wife/widow of Major Trench’*; *‘the wife of the Rev MacManaway’*, but so little is in print of her own achievements and her community work though the Red Cross. In trying to extract material from historical records, the most intimate praise has been the words penned for her obituary.

## Obituary, Northern Constitution February 3, 1951

Sourced by Betty McNerlin.

*“The death occurred at her residence, Red Roof, Northland Rd, Derry, on Saturday morning of Mrs. Catherine Anne Swetenham MacManaway, MBE, wife of the Rv`d J.G. MacManaway. M.A. M.B.E., former M.P. for West Belfast at Westminster and for Derry City in the Northern Ireland House of Commons. While the news of her passing has occasioned deep regret throughout the City and County of Londonderry, in which she was held in great affection and esteem, nowhere was the sorrow more sincere or the loss more keenly felt than in Limavady district, where much of her life was spent and to which she was so deeply attached.*

*Catherine was the only daughter of the late Sir Thomas Lecky, a former Mayor of Derry, and Lady Lecky, of Greystone Hall, Limavady.*

*Mrs MacManaway was first married to Major F.C.B. Trench, who was killed in the First World War. Catherine became the wife of Mr. MacManaway in 1924, when he was curate of the parish of Drumachose, Limavady. Shortly afterwards Mr. MacManaway was appointed rector of Christ Church, Derry, and though she took up residence in the city with her husband she maintained a close association with Limavady district and regularly visited her home at Greystone Hall, for which she had a great love.*

*Mrs. MacManaway had been in failing health for a considerable time, but had only been seriously ill since November last. Her death was not unexpected, but it has left a void that will be difficult to fill and to her husband wide sympathy has been extended on this, the most severe of the succession of blows he has sustained in the last few months.”*

## Her Charitable Activities



Mrs Trench with returning Prisoners of War at Alexander Hall Limavady.  
Courtesy of private collection.

*Educated privately, Mrs MacManaway was trained in the traditions of service to the community and loyalty to and love of country and much of her life was spent in social and charitable activities. In addition to her interest in various organisations, her private benefactions throughout the year were always generous but unostentatious and there are many indeed who have cause to remember with gratitude her ready sympathy and practical help in times of hardship or distress.*

She had a charming disposition and a charitable and compassionate nature and, while she devoted herself unselfishly to the cause of the less fortunate members of the community in North Derry as a whole, she was, perhaps, best known throughout the North-West for her social work on behalf of Service and ex-Servicemen and their dependants - a work which lay very close to her heart.

In World War One she was the principal organiser of the parcels scheme to provide comforts for the troops and prisoners of war and enlisted a band of willing workers and assistants, who did a magnificent job under her aspiring leadership. For her outstanding services in this connection she was awarded the MBE for the inception of the Poppy Day. The funeral procession passed through the town watched by silent crowds along the route. Members of the Limavady Branch of the Legion acted as pall bearers as the coffin was borne into the church, where an impressive service was heard.

In the large congregation which filled the church to capacity were many people prominent in the public and social life of the country, clergy of the Church of Ireland and ministers of other denominations, officers and members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, and representatives of the business, professional and agricultural life of the community. Lady MacDonald-Tyler (one of two vice presidents of the county), who was accompanied by her husband, Sir Henry H F MacDonald-Tyler CIE DI, represented the women's section of the British Legion and the Limavady District Nursing Association were represented by Mrs R G Connell and Mrs John Hunter.

Rev Canon DHS White NA Rector, conducted the service; the lesson was read by the Rev Mr Evans; and an eloquent tribute to the deceased was paid by the Rev E G Parke MA, Rector of Christ Church Derry, who represented the Lord Bishop of Derry and Raphoe (Rt Rev R McNeill Boyd DD, MC, who was unavoidably absent). During the service the 23rd Psalm and hymns 'O Love that will not let me go' and 'Abide with me' were sung by the choir.

*Pulpit tribute:* in the address Mr Parks said that he had scarcely ever met anyone who thought so little of self and so much of others as Mrs MacManaway. Laterally she lived only to help and succour those who were in need. It was this desire which led her into those various organisations to which she belonged. But she never sought publicity nor did she like it - all she wished to do was to care for, and, if possible, to relieve those in distress and need. To this end she did as much as was humanly possible, spending long hours organising and directing the various appeals, investigating cases and disbursing the help which that society had to offer, and often at great inconvenience and toil to herself, especially in her later years. As they knew, she was especially concerned about the welfare of those who were fighting or who had fought for their country, and on their behalf she did a noble and splendid work, which brought her, in the Great War, a richly deserved decoration and, in peacetime a high office in connection with the British Legion. And it was there she would be missed, by the British Legion and other such organisations, as an absolutely indefatigable organiser and worker, and by many also to whom she was able to bring some measure of sustenance in times of distress. In the Parish of Christ Church, Derry, Mrs MacManaway was greatly beloved by the parishioners as the wife of their Rector and for those qualities which she possessed, humility, sincerity, of purpose, a deeply sympathetic nature, kindness and goodness, and perhaps most of all, for her wonderfully charitable disposition; so no-one was ever turned away empty from her door.

Extract from exhibition script '1916 Legacy and Impact' by Causeway Coast and Glens Museum Services funded by Heritage Lottery Fund.

She married, firstly, Frederick Charles Bloomfield Trench, son of Henry Bloomfield Trench and Jessie Maria Rawlins, on 20th July 1905. Her husband was killed in action at the Somme on the 1st July 1916 and his body was never recovered. His story is also one well known in the Limavady District. "During the Home Rule Crisis, Captain Trench with J.C.B. Proctor formed the Limavady Ulster Volunteer Force. At the outbreak of World War One, Trench was commissioned as Captain into the 10th Service Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (Derry Volunteers). In 1915 Captain Trench was court martialled, but awaiting the outcome, he disappeared. He went to London and enlisted as a Private in the 14th (City of London) Battalion (London Scottish) under the name of Bloomfeld, so it was Private F.C. Bloomfeld who was reported missing, believed killed in action, on 1st July 1916.

From the beginning of the War, Mrs Trench was raising funds for comforts for soldiers, especially the 'Derrys' and she continued to support the 10th Battalion, starting a fund for the dependents of soldiers and another for prisoners of war. During this time she sought information as to whether her husband was dead or taken prisoner, using her own network and connections. After the War she was involved with the Soldiers Pensions Committee."

For her war work and her Red Cross work, she was awarded the Order of the Member of the British Empire (MBE) in 1919. She married, secondly, the Reverend James Godfrey MacManaway, son of Rt. Rev. James MacManaway, on 27th January 1926.

The Trench Memorial Flute Band was formed by returning Prisoners of War. Mrs. Anne S. Trench during the war started and organised a fund to supply local men (Limavady Borough area) with food parcels while they were in captivity. The band was formed "In honour of the brave local lads who made the supreme sacrifice in the great war and also Mrs. Trench, Greystone Hall".

Courtesy of Alistair Harper



Greystone Hall, Limavady, where Catherine was born.

Courtesy Limavady Museum.



# May Traill

By Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Services for '1916: Legacy and Impact' exhibition

## Name

Miss May Traill

## Birth/Death

1894

## Address

Ballylough

## Service

Chauffeuress and Electrician

The war gave women opportunities that would not otherwise have been open to them at that time. At the outbreak of war, May Traill of Ballylough was studying at Studley Agricultural College in Warwickshire. She took up the duties of her college's chauffeur and electrician when both men joined the army. After graduating, she was appointed a chauffeuress to the Ministry of Munitions.



1917-1918 Government Rolling Mills (Woolston, Southampton) Ladies football team. May Traill sits in the centre of the photo holding the ball.

Courtesy of Patrick Brennan.

By the start of 1918, she was working as the 'electric driver' at the powerhouse of the government rolling mills near Southampton, *"a post never before undertaken by any woman of these countries."* When being shown the voluminous cotton overalls she was supposed to wear in the powerhouse, May is said to have responded *"I'll find my own clothes, thank you"* and wore sensible dungarees and a man's cap instead.

Later in the year, she trained to qualify as an expert electrical fitter.

In January 1918, May was the captain and star player in a *"patriotic football match"* between the ladies of Southampton and Portsmouth. The Northern Constitution reported that her *"skill and energy were greatly admired by a big holiday crowd ... May Traill, who is only 22, seems thorough whether at work or at play."*

## Finding May

By Nic Wright

In 2017 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's Museum Services, as part of PEACEIV Understanding our Area Programme, commissioned a researcher to look at all the local papers throughout the period in question (1918) and create an indexed summary document of events which impacted on the area within the timeframe. One of the figures who stood out was May Traill, a woman in her early twenties, on account of her skill at football.

Coming from a locally prominent family, I approached them to see if there were any family records that could be used to flesh out her life. Unfortunately, they were unable to provide much information in the available timeframe. Web-based research highlighted a 1978 volume by Peggy Hamilton, *Three Years or the Duration: The Memoirs of a Munition Worker*, 1914-18, which included information on May's life working in the government rolling mills at Southampton during the final year of WWI.

As May Traill's role as the captain of the Southampton ladies football team was mentioned again in connection with her position at the rolling mills, I refocused web-based searches towards ladies football matches which brought me to a web archive created by Patrick Brennan where I was able to make contact, source images, and secure image use permissions.



From Peggy Hamilton's memoirs, 'Three Years or the Duration', 1978.

Courtesy Patrick Brennan.

# Lady May Bradford

By Dr V Newman



## Name

Lady May Bradford

## Service

Letter Writer for the British Expeditionary Force

## Medals

OBE, Jan 1919

May Bradford taken from '1920 HOSPITAL LETTER-WRITER IN FRANCE' Published by Methuen and Co., London, 1920.

Copyright unknown. Image taken from ebay book seller. With thanks to The Independent 2014.

By 1917, the British Forces Postal Services were handling an average of two million letters and postcards a day. However, for sisters in hospitals, letter-writing was part of their official duties, needing to be fitted into their nursing shifts which occasionally exceeded 40 hours. Military hospital protocol required that the next-of-kin of patients considered **"Dangerously ill"** be informed of their relative's possible demise; sisters' duties included writing these 'Break-the-News' letters. They frequently could not keep up with them. In just one morning during the Somme offensive, Sister Edie Appleton wrote about 60 such letters from her hospital in France, this in addition to being in charge of wards overflowing with the wounded and dying.

Aware as early as December 1914 of nursing staffs' near unmanageable non-nursing workload, 60-year-old May Bradford, wife of the Consulting Physician and subsequently Surgeon General to the BEF, had arrived in Boulogne, 'with the view of undertaking work of a suitable kind in one of the service hospitals.' She wrote letters for the sick and wounded as well as 'Break-the-News' letters, which lasted until after the Armistice, 'without any break save a week's illness due to some fever.'

Deeply conscious of how recipients would cherish her letters – frequently the last contact they would have with their loved one – she would write sitting by the man's bedside and, to ensure that each letter sounded personal, she would try to include homely details and allude to his children by name. Armed with 'writing materials, a camp-stool, newspapers, two baskets of comforts, and often a third large basket of oranges for the gassed cases,' she made her way round the 'distant huts' linking wounded men with their homes, reassuring families or gently preparing them to accept that despite every effort being made to save him, he would soon, in soldier's terminology, be 'going West.'

Friendships were formed, not only with the patients, but also with correspondents. Having written many letters to an Irishman's sister, - 'About six weeks after his death she wrote,

*"I wish you would go on writing to me; I am so lonesome without your letters".* May complied. Another soldier, Private C.J. Reynolds, had his foot amputated; his mother donated May's letters to the IWM. In one she wrote:

*We are so sorry your son was delayed from getting to England. It must have been a great disappointment to you, he was not well enough to travel. It is a terrible anxious time for you in England. All my heart goes out to you in sympathy. The sister-in-charge says your son's wounds are not doing very well, he has so many. He is now asleep on his bed in the sun and this is very good for him. I will keep you informed of his progress. He sends his love.*

*Yours faithfully*

*(Lady) May Bradford.*

She soon prepares Mrs Reynolds for the worst:

*Your son I regret to say keeps very ill, his condition is so septic. He is anxious I should say that he cannot write himself but sends his best love.*

## May Bradford

In a more deferential age than our own, many patients wondered if she would 'know how to write' letters to those whom they considered important recipients. Unsure of her social standing, they would tell her that the requested letter was, 'quite different from writing to my mother'. One 'street sweeper' received Christmas greetings from the Corporation of London. Wishing to acknowledge these, he asked 'Do you know how to write it, Sister?'. He felt reassured when, as instructed, she signed off 'Your Obedient Servant'.

At times ingenuity was required, as some soldiers were so badly wounded that they were unable to speak or even remember their address. Linguistic issues could compound the difficulties. As a Welshwoman, Lady Bradford ascertained that one delirious soldier was speaking Welsh; her letter was 'the first intimation that his family had had of his whereabouts for considerable time.' Other Welsh soldiers were unsuspectingly grateful for her linguistic fluency. An up-the-line letter to a Welsh wife 'who knew no English' had been languishing in the Censor's Department. These worthy gentlemen, 'not knowing in the least what treason might be in it, would not send it on,' until she assured them that it contained no threat to national security. The fact that the letters she wrote were not censored caused considerable joy to a young lad, who decided that, as no male eyes would fall upon his letter, he could send his inamorata 'as many kisses as he wished'!

Some recipients were anxious about this letter-writer's identity. One mother demanded that the matron of the hospital, 'tell me who May Bradford is? My son is very susceptible.' Another mother was reassured when her son, finally able to write for himself, provided an explanation. She was 'glad your letters are written by a nice old lady.' To May's amusement the age was 'trebly underlined!' Younger women at home were equally wary; more than one asked, 'Who is this pretty V.A.D. who wrote for you? Tell me more about her.'

Lack of official status created uncertainty as to how to address May. 'There is no official name for the post or position which I filled,' the confusion was neatly summed up by one boy, "*I calls you Mother, my mother calls you Nurse, and the Sister of the ward calls you Lady Bradford. I'm fair 'mazed'*." Others were similarly 'mazed'. One relative wrote to 'M. Bradford, Commanding-Officer in charge of private T.' At time she was 'reduced to the ranks and called "*Private Bradford*",' at others elevated to 'Major'. One mother felt comforted, 'Major Bradford must be a kind-hearted sort of man .... I expect he has a mother of his own living, that's why he feels for me so much'. Another soldier told her that 'Mother thinks you're a mon'.

The men themselves found a solution. 'Early in 1915 they took to calling me Mother', some going on to tell her that she was 'the very "*spit*" of their mother and would show me her photograph. It was sometimes rather startling to see the figure which I was supposed to resemble'. Intriguing insights are given into the treatment some of them meted out to their mothers; 'the calls of "*Mother*" here and "*Mother*" there', resounded around the wards as she was asked to "*go under the bed and get my pipe out of my kit*", or other similar tasks.

The emotional comfort Lady Bradford gave as she knelt on the ground to speak to those lying on stretchers knew no bound; her skirt was often clutched by 'seven or eight men' pleading "*Don't leave me out!*" "*Don't go away without writing for me!*". To the dying she would sometimes replace a beloved mother at home and many soldiers were eased into the next world convinced that they were holding their own mother's hand, 'He died thinking that she was at his side.'

On hearing in June 1916 that May was 'Mentioned in Despatches', one man summed up the feelings of the many, quite simply, 'We are proud'. Her work amongst the wounded and suffering continued until 7th April 1919. Post-war, she received an OBE, a well-deserved accolade for a woman whom many soldiers felt had 'smiled me well'. She humbly commented that her service was 'an experience on which I could never look back without a deep gratitude that it had been given me to fulfil.' Judging from the comments of those she wrote for and those who received her letters, the gratitude was reciprocal.



Embroidered card typical of those sent from soldiers at the Front.

Courtesy of Coleraine Museum.

Letters from the Front provided those at home with immense comfort. May Bradford gently prepared some families for sorrows that would soon be theirs; those anxiously awaiting news were reassured that, irrespective of rank, social status or age, everything possible was being done to save their soldier's life. She comforted the dying and became quite simply, 'Mother to the British Army.'

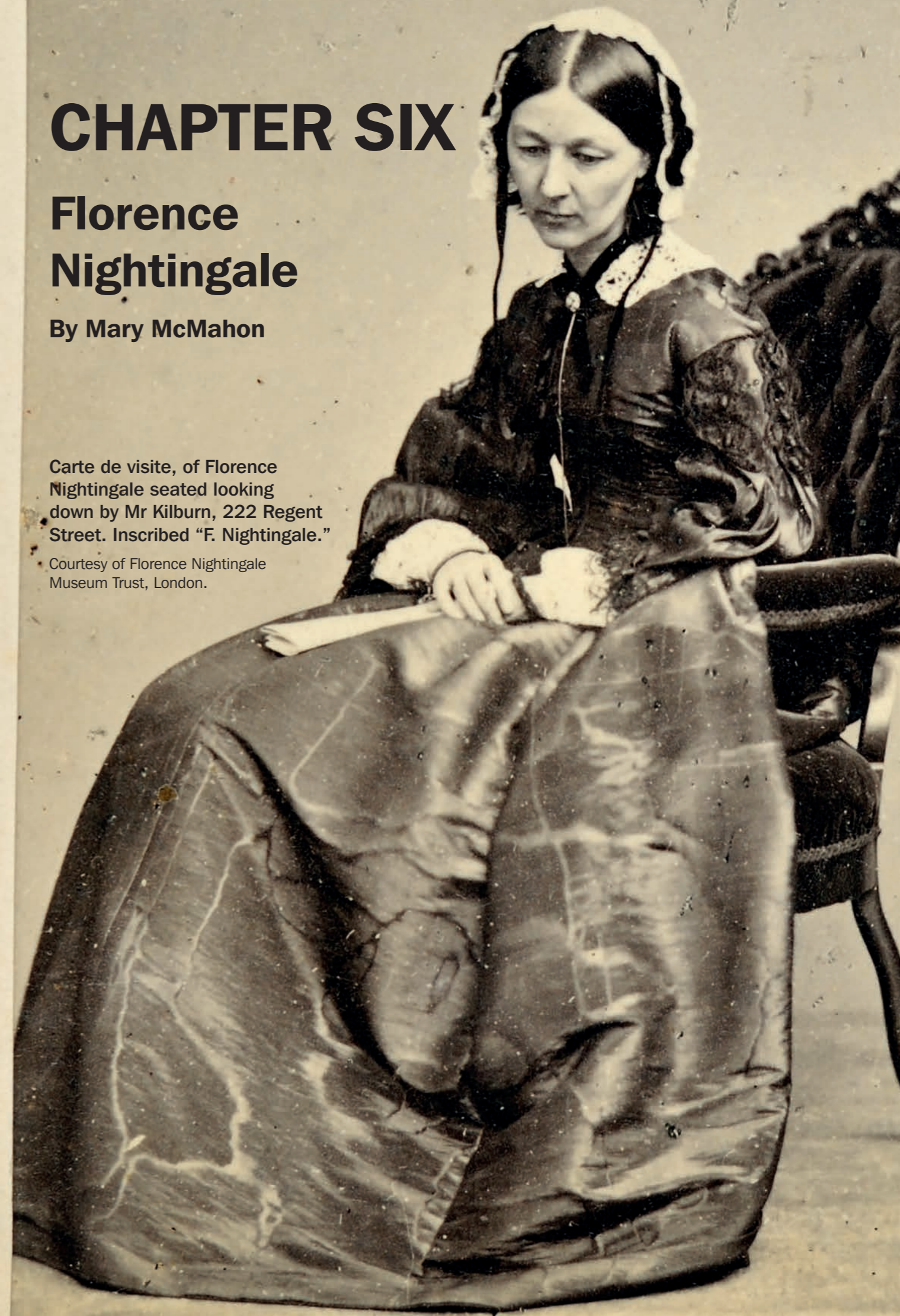
## CHAPTER SIX

### Florence Nightingale

By Mary McMahon

Carte de visite, of Florence Nightingale seated looking down by Mr Kilburn, 222 Regent Street. Inscribed "F. Nightingale."

Courtesy of Florence Nightingale Museum Trust, London.



# Florence Nightingale

By Mary McMahon



Carte de visite, of Florence Nightingale seated looking down by Mr Kilburn, 222 Regent Street. Inscribed "F. Nightingale."

Courtesy of Florence Nightingale Museum Trust, London.



Lithograph of Florence Nightingale with Athena the owl after a drawing by Parthenope Nightingale. Engraved by F Holl. Published by P. & D. Colnaghi, 6 June 1855.

Courtesy Florence Nightingale Museum.

Florence Nightingale was born on the 12th of May 1820. Her father, William Shore Nightingale, was a wealthy landowner. William with his wife Fanny were, at that time, travelling through Italy. They named their daughter Florence, after the city of her birth. Their older daughter was also named after the city of her birth, (Frances) Parthenope, the Greek name for Naples. The family relocated soon after Florence's birth to their home at Lea Hurst, Derbyshire, that William had inherited from his uncle. Fanny decided that her daughters, born into the warm climate of Italy also needed a more moderate climate for their health, therefore the family bought a second house, Embley, near the sea in Hampshire.

As a child Florence possessed a scientific mind, questioning everything she came across. Her mother came from a large family and this enabled a keen Florence to keep records of all their illnesses and health problems and remedies that were used. William educated his daughters in Greek, Latin, History, Grammar and Composition into their teens. Parthenope preferred painting and poetry but Florence wanted to know more about mathematics, sciences, physics, chemistry and astronomy. She also had a great love of animals as demonstrated by her rescuing a young owl whilst in Greece. Florence often kept the little owl, named Athena, in her pocket.

People at that time were dying from diseases such as cholera, typhus and tuberculosis and there were no medicines available to treat them; people did not realise disease was caused by germs, and germs grow best in dirty conditions. Victorian hospitals were overcrowded and full of germs, doctors used dirty equipment, did not wash their hands and never wore aprons. Nurses were not trained to look after patients. 'Before Nightingale nursing was not considered a respectable profession. With the exception of nuns, the women who worked as nurses were often ill trained and poorly disciplined' Extract from National Army Museum website.

Florence declined several marriage proposals, only wanting to pursue nursing. After a number of years, her parents eventually allowed her, in 1851, to study at the Institute of Protestant Deaconesses at Kaiserwerth Germany.

Florence spent some time caring for her frail grandmother until she died. Her friend Florence Bracebridge recommended her to a charity hospital to become a manager in London. It was while she was here that Florence met Lady Canning from the committee who was impressed with her and tasked her to become the Superintendent (unpaid) of The Institution for Sick Gentlemen in Distressed Circumstances, London in 1853. She agreed only if she was able to observe the doctors and nurses in order to make those changes required to improve the overall hospital standards of nursing and medicine. Her father supported her financially for two years to pursue her superintendent role.

Britain entered the Crimean War in 1854 with France and Turkey fighting against Russia. Thousands of British soldiers were dying in the hospitals in Crimea due to poor conditions and a lack of properly trained doctors and nurses to look after them. After answering an appeal, Florence was asked by the British Government to take a group of thirty eight nurses from across different religious orders out to the Crimea to help. In November 1854 at Scutari, Florence and her nurses arrived at the hospital and they were shocked at what they saw.



Florence Nightingale in the Military Hospital, Scutari, 1855. Coloured lithograph by and after Joseph Austin Benwell, published by Peter Jackson, The Caxton Press, London and Liverpool, 1856 (c).

Courtesy of National Army Museum.



In 1855 Florence Nightingale was awarded The Nightingale Jewel by Queen Victoria for her work in the Crimea. On the reverse of the jewel is engraved 'To miss FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE as a mark of esteem and gratitude for her devotion towards the Queen's brave soldiers. From VICTORIA R 1855.

Courtesy of National Army Museum.

Florence was working so hard that she became ill, prompting her family to ask her to come home. During this time she was encouraged by a gift from Parthenope of a little handmade book commemorating the life of her owl Athena. So dedicated Florence continued to work until 1856 when the war was over. When she returned home, she looked so thin and her hair was cut very short due to her illnesses.

Although she had nearly died when out in the Crimea, she kept on working. Her aim was to make conditions in army hospitals better. She wrote reports and sent thousands of letters to government ministers, doctors and leads of hospitals and colleges. Her hard work paid off.

The place was filthy and overrun with rats, and without proper food for the injured men. With funds from London to purchase equipment, she established standards of care and they cleaned the hospital, organised a kitchen and provided assistance through letter writing. Each evening Florence did her rounds of the hospital with a lamp in her hand walking miles of dark corridors to talk with the sick soldiers. She became known as 'The Lady with the Lamp'.

Communication is a fundamental part of being a nurse. Healthcare communication is an art and requires continual practice – your communication skills must be tailored to your patient. Good communication calms nerves, helps education, builds trust and raises the quality of care. (Mary McMahon DipHE Adult Nursing, Nurse Discharge Co-ordinator Band 7, London)

In her books 'Notes on Nursing' and 'Notes on Hospitals' published in 1859, supported by her statistics, she stresses the importance of:

- ▶ cleanliness in hospitals
- ▶ placing patients near windows for fresh air and light
- ▶ treating patients well
- ▶ allowing patients to have visitors

In 1860 The Nightingale School for Nurses was established at St Thomas' Hospital London. This was the first time nurses were given professional training in caring for the sick. The school became successful and so the same types of training schools were set up across the world.

**'Dress & apron: to be full length, long-sleeved dresses and aprons were meant to protect nurses from illnesses. Dress was meant to protect against 'fever'. Nurses had yet to wear masks and gloves. The cap: the veil-like caps were originally fashioned after nuns' habits and were meant to cover the hair of the nurse who wore it.'**

Florence Nightingale, 1867

In 1867 she was recovering from a period of 'Crimean or Mediterranean Fever' and for the remainder of the year worked on the Indian sanitary affairs, but she was confined to bed with brucellosis at times. This same year saw Florence in Paris to receive a Gold Medal from the French for advice on care of the war wounded.

In Magee College, Northern Ireland, in the Visitor's book dated 31st May 1867, the signature is recognised as that of Florence Nightingale although it was not noted in any newspaper of the time. The suggestion by Patrick Deeny (Senior Lecturer, School of Nursing, Magee Campus, University of Ulster) is that she came to see her friend and fellow nursing pioneer, Agnes "Una"



Florence Nightingale 1856

Courtesy of National Army Museum.



French Gold Medal

Courtesy of National Army Museum.

Jones (see Chapter 9) who had family links with Fahan in Co Donegal and the City of Londonderry.

Florence would encourage the introduction of trained nurses into the workhouse system. She is reputed to have said and written:

*“From the moment a person becomes ill, he ceases to be a pauper and becomes brother to the best of us, and as a brother he should be cared for. I would make this a cardinal principle in Poor Law Relief”*

Florence Nightingale, 1867.



Red Cross medal presented to Florence in 1883.

Courtesy of National Army Museum.

Florence was the first woman to receive the Order of Merit in 1907, Britain's highest civilian decoration.

Courtesy National Army Museum.

In 1908 Florence Nightingale was awarded The Freedom of the City of London.

Florence died quietly in her sleep in a chair in the afternoon of 13th August 1910.

In 1862, a marble bust 'was paid for and presented to Florence by the Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the British Army. Publicity-shy and appalled at the adulation she received, when asked to lend this bust to the Victorian Era Exhibition, held to commemorate Queen Victoria's 1897 Diamond Jubilee, Florence initially refused but eventually relented. Confirming her worst fears, the bust was venerated by visitors almost as a holy relic. Nevertheless, she was touched by the report that an anonymous visitor, possibly a veteran of the Crimea, came every day to dress it with fresh flowers'. Extract from National Army Museum website.



## Florence changed healthcare through:

- ▶ her innovative use of statistics
- ▶ emphasising the importance of making informed decisions
- ▶ the availability of twenty four hour patient care
- ▶ the practice of patient centred care.

Her legacy and many achievements live on with new generations of nursing students learning about Florence Nightingale's courageous life and work. Thanks to her, nursing became a respected profession for the first time, providing the skills and experience to meet the demands for professionally trained medical staff at the core of care for WW1 casualties across the World.

## Footnote from Mary McMahon:

In 2004 Florence's owl, Athena (named after the Greek Goddess of war and wisdom) now stuffed, was held by the Age Care elderly care charity who for 50 years had owned the family home of Lea Hurst in Derbyshire. They loaned the owl Athena to the Florence Nightingale Museum. When the item was put up for sale, a community fundraiser's effort was successful in keeping the owl Athena.

## References

The Life of Florence Nightingale, *Beginning History* by Liz Gogerly, published 2012 by Wayland, ISBN: 978 0 7502 4428 2

Florence Nightingale, *A Life from Beginning to End*, copyright 2018 by Hourly History, ISBN: 9781985162365



In 1955 a Blue Plaque was erected by London County Council at 10 South Street, Mayfair, London, W1K 1DE. Florence was the first woman to receive the Order of Merit in 1907, Britain's highest civilian decoration.

Courtesy of Mary McMahon.



There is a Museum and a statue of Florence Nightingale at: St Thomas' Hospital, London SE1 7EW

Courtesy of Mary McMahon.

## Other Sources

- ▶ *Notes on Hospitals* by Florence Nightingale originally published in 1859
- ▶ Bibliolife DBA of Bibilio Bazaar II LLC, 13 Feb 2015
- ▶ Notes on *Nursing: What it is and What it is Not* by Florence Nightingale. Originally published in 1860. Published (2nd ed.). London: Harrison. Retrieved 29 November 2018 – via Internet Archive
- ▶ Florence Nightingale Museum <https://www.florence-nightingale.co.uk>
- ▶ National Army Museum <https://www.nam.ac.uk>
- ▶ Florence Nightingale – timeline by Mary McMahon

## A Brief History of Florence Nightingale

*“The first idea I can recollect when I was a child was a desire to nurse the sick”* quote by Florence Nightingale from *‘A Life from Beginning to End’* by Hourly History.

### 1820

The year Florence is born in Florence, Italy into a wealthy family, and was named after the Italian city.

### 1827

Florence contracted whooping cough whilst at the home of one of her mother Fanny’s nine siblings. Parthenope, her sister, recalled how Florence had nursed her 13 dolls with the same treatments she received herself.

### 1851

Her father allowed her to study nursing at the Institute of Protestant Deaconesses in Kaisersworth Germany aged 31. Florence had been determined to enter nursing for a number of years despite the low status it had at the time.

### 1853

Florence runs a London hospital for ‘Invalid Gentlewomen’, and ends up nursing her father and sister when they become ill.

### 1854

Florence is asked by the Secretary of War, Sidney Herbert, at the Institute of Protestant Deaconesses in Kaiserwerth, Germany, to lead a team of 38 nurses to the Crimean War.

### 1855

Florence becomes known as ‘the Lady with the Lamp’ as she held it high on her ward rounds. When news of her work spread she became a celebrity. The downside of all this hard work was that on 13th May Florence came down with Crimean fever, now known as brucellosis. Parthenope sent her a little handmade book commemorating the life of her beloved owl Athena.

### 1856

Fundraising generates over £50,000 (by today’s standards over £2.6 million) for the Nightingale Nurses. Florence had by now returned to recuperate to her home at Lea Hurst. Here she met Sir James Clark, the doctor who had treated her sister some years previously. Sir James invited her to Scotland and it was here that she would meet Queen Victoria, her husband Prince Albert and the Secretary of State who agreed to appoint a committee to begin making enquiries into what had happened with the hospitals during the war. He suggested that Florence write a detailed report with suggestions for reform. She moved to Burlington Hotel in London and was soon writing for over 20 hours a day.

### 1857

Florence completes an 800 page document called *Notes of Matters Affecting the Health, Efficiency and Hospital Administration of the British Army*. She used a new way of presenting information in graphs and tables to be easy for the readers to understand.

### 1860

Florence makes use of money raised to open the Nightingale Training School, at St Thomas’ Hospital in London. Her book ‘Notes for Nursing’ helps many students today.

### 1910

Florence dies on 13 August, aged 90. Her family requested a private funeral.

## Thirteen top comments reputed to have been said by Florence are:

1. To be 'in charge' is certainly not only to carry out the proper measures yourself but to see that everyone else does so too.
2. Rather, ten times, die in the surf, heralding the way to a new world, than stand idly on the shore.
3. I attribute my success to this:—I never gave or took an excuse.
4. I think one's feelings waste themselves in words, they ought all to be distilled into actions and into actions which bring results.
5. The very first requirement in a hospital is that it should do the sick no harm.
6. Live life when you have it. Life is a splendid gift – there is nothing small about it.
7. So never lose an opportunity of urging a practical beginning, however small, for it is wonderful how often in such matters the mustard-seed germinates and roots itself.
8. And what nursing has to do in either case, is to put the patient in the best condition for nature to act upon him.
9. If a nurse declines to do these kinds of things for her patient, 'because it is not her business', I should say that nursing was not her calling.
10. What cruel mistakes are sometimes made by benevolent men and women in matters of business about which they know nothing and think they know a great deal?
11. Wise and humane management of the patient is the best safeguard against infection.
12. How very little can be done under the spirit of fear.
13. Were there none who were discontented with what they have, the world would never reach anything better.

Extracts from Flavia Medrut on <http://www.goalcast.com> February 8, 2018  
'Inspirational Florence Nightingale quotes to nurse your soul'.

# CHAPTER SEVEN

## Mary Jane Seacole

By Monica Doherty

Portrait of Mary Seacole by Karen Humpage. Medals in the portrait are: The French Legion of Honour, The Crimean Medal and The Turkish Order of the Medjidie 5th Class.

Image courtesy of Heritage Image Partnership Ltd.



# Mary Jane Seacole

By Monica Doherty



**The Turkish Order of the Medijie 5th Class.**

Courtesy of National Army Museum.

rights. They couldn't vote, hold public office or enter the professions. Little is recorded about Mary's father but her mother was a woman well known as a healer. Mary's mother ran one of the best boarding houses in Kingston and was trained in Caribbean and African herbal medicines. This gave Mary an early interest in medicine, as she would help her mother with her patients.

While still young, Mary worked for an elderly woman who became her patroness. This woman made sure that Mary had a good education. Mary travelled a lot throughout the Caribbean, visiting Cuba, Haiti and the Bahamas. She first went to London in 1821 where she got to know European medicine. She returned to Jamaica and then on her second trip to London she sold Jamaican pickles and preserves, returning once more to Jamaica in 1825.

Mary nursed her elderly patroness until her death. She then went to work at the British Army Hospital at Up-Park Camp alongside her mother.

In recent years, the pioneering nurse Mary Seacole has come to the forefront in the public realm, especially since calls were made during public consideration during 2018 for the shortlist for the new British £50 note, for Mary Seacole to be included.

Unlike her more famous contemporary Florence Nightingale, little was known about her by the modern public, other than in nursing circles. The two women did actually meet for a few minutes when Mary arrived at Scutari, in Turkey, and got a bed for the night. You might ask why one became very famous and the other disappeared from sight. Many believe it was because Mary was mixed race and as a result faced a double prejudice, her colour and her gender.

Mary Jane Seacole (nee Grant) was born in Kingston, Jamaica on 23rd November 1805 to a Scottish soldier father and a free Jamaican mother. Even though Mary and her mother were technically free, they had few civil

On 10th November 1836 Mary married Edwin Horatio Hamilton Seacole and they ran a shop in Black River until his death. In 1843 the boarding house belonging to Mary's mother was destroyed by fire and had to be rebuilt. Sometime in the mid 1840s Mary's mother died and Mary took over the running of the boarding house. She also became well respected as a nurse over the following years.

In 1850 cholera struck Jamaica and thousands died yet she continued to help patients. In 1851 she went to Cruces in Panama to see her brother and yet another cholera epidemic occurred. There was no doctor so she treated patients, as she had become a very skilled doctress and was established as a knowledgeable medical professional. She opened a hospital with her brother in New Granada (now called Panama) and in this hospital she saved her first cholera patient. She was paid by the rich but treated the poor for free. On her return to Jamaica in 1852 she helped with a yellow fever epidemic after the medical authorities asked for her assistance. Yet little could be done for these patients. In 1853 Mary returned to Jamaica where there was a serious Yellow Fever epidemic and she used her skills to help save many lives and the people of Jamaica were very grateful for her help and medical expertise.

Mary returned to Panama in 1854 and learned of the war in Crimea. She volunteered at the War Office asking to be sent to Crimea as there were poor medical facilities. Despite her vast experience she was rejected. With a business partner Thomas Day (Superintendent of the Panama mining camp) she planned to open a **"mess table"** for convalescent officers and so, using her own resources, she travelled to the Crimea.

The 97th Regiment of Foot landed at Balaklava on 20th November 1854. They took part in the Siege of Sevastopol and the Battle of the Great Redan. It was on 22nd March 1855, during the Siege of Sevastopol, that Captain Hedley Vicars of the 97th lost his life. Vicars was mentioned in despatches on 6th April by Lord Raglan, and was the subject of a posthumous book. The regiment suffered heavy casualties, with two members subsequently being awarded the newly created Victoria Cross in 1857:

- ▶ Sergeant John Coleman for actions at Sevastopol on 30th August 1855.
- ▶ Brevet Major Charles Henry Lumley for actions at the Great Redan on 8th September 1855.

In February 1855 Mary Seacole left for the Crimea and arrived at Scutari on 8th March. For the next few weeks she provided soldiers with lemonade and tea while they were waiting for transport. She established the **"British Hotel"** near Balaklava which provided catering for officers and a canteen for the soldiers. On 18th June she sold food and drink to the spectators at the first Redan assault (Cathcart's Hill).

She then helped at the first aid tent. Again on 16th August at the Battle of Tchernaya and on 8th September at the second Great Redan assault she sold food and drink before assisting with first aid after the battle. From September 1855 to April 1856 she continued catering and expanding her business.

Mary helped at the military hospitals and battlefields nursing the wounded and helping the sick. She provided medicine, food and other supplies to her patients and served them selflessly regardless of her own health or finances. Her vast knowledge of treating Cholera was invaluable. To the British Army she was known as **“Mother Seacole”** and was much respected by all the soldiers.

Following the end of the war and the signing of the Peace Treaty in April 1856, the 97th Regiment of Foot returned to England, arriving in July 1856.

Mary’s business failed and she returned to England destitute. Fundraising for her succour then began. On 17th January 1857 a Bankruptcy Certificate was granted against her. On 27th July the Surrey Gardens Festival fundraiser in Mary’s honour was held but with little proceeds. Later that year Mary published her memoirs, **“The Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole in Many Lands”**. A copy of this book is presently held by Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers at Rascahan House, 44A Ballykelly Road, Limavady.



In 1858 Mary takes a trip to Antwerp and in 1859 Henry Weekes makes a sculpture of her wearing her medals (now at the Getty Centre, Los Angeles).

In October 1865 Mary returns to England and in August 1866 she donates 100 boxes of anti-cholera medicine and 100 boxes of pills to the Lord Mayor’s Cholera Fund. In January 1867 fundraising begins again, which supports Mary for the rest of her life. The census entry for April 1871 shows Mary living in Paddington, London.

Not only did Mary Seacole care for sick and wounded soldiers, she paid for it herself with the aid of a business partner.

**Mary Seacole’s headstone.**

Courtesy of M. McMahon.

She ran what we would now call a restaurant, bar, shop and catering service to help finance medical supplies and for other needs. In other words she was in trade and not from a genteel background. It is ironic that throughout most of the 20th Century and to the present day there is an organisation called the NAAFI (Navy, Army and Air Force Institute) which provides catering, shops and bars for military personnel. It seems that Mary was ahead of her time.

Yet even though she lost her health and money the soldiers she helped did not abandon her. When her plight came to light the same soldiers fundraised to support her in her old age.

She died on 14th May 1881 in London and is buried in St Mary’s Roman Catholic Cemetery, Harrow Road, NW10 5NU.

Commemorative Government stamps have been issued in her honour both by Jamaica and the UK Royal Mail. In them she is portrayed wearing medals – which however were never awarded formally to her as medals were only given to the military.

In 1991 she was posthumously awarded the Jamaican Order of Merit and in 2004 she was voted the greatest Black Briton.



Courtesy of M. McMahon.



**A Blue Plaque was raised in her honour and is on the wall of 14 Soho Square, London, W1.**

Courtesy of M. McMahon.



**Mary’s grave is tended daily and covered with fresh flowers by nurses and the Jamaican community.**

Courtesy of M. McMahon.



Statue of Mary Seacole by Martin Jennings.

Courtesy of Mary McMahon.

One of the first organisations to commemorate Mary Seacole by name was the Mary Seacole Centre for Nursing Practice at Thames Valley University, London. In October 2007, one of two named wards in Whittington Hospital, Majdala Avenue, London N19 5NF was named after her to honour Black History month.

After a 12-year campaign which raised £500,000 to honour her, Tottenham MP David Lammy said it was a **“seminal moment for Londoners, and for the black community particularly”** when actress and broadcaster Baroness Benjamin unveiled the statue of Mary Seacole.

Emeritus Professor of Nursing Elizabeth Anionwu said the unveiling was **“extremely significant”** because it was believed to be the first memorial statue of a named black woman in the UK.

**“For somebody like myself, a nurse of mixed heritage - Mary was Jamaican-Scottish, I’m Nigerian-Irish heritage - there’s a link there”.**

**“Too often difference gets written out of history,”** said Mr Lammy.

**“Mary Seacole’s pioneering work saved lives and people of all backgrounds can draw inspiration from the fact that her achievements have finally been recognised.”**

The statue was created by sculptor Martin Jennings and stands opposite the Houses of Parliament in the grounds of St Thomas’ Hospital. It is inscribed with words written in 1857 by The Times’ Crimean War correspondent, Sir William Howard Russell: **“I trust that England will not forget one who nursed her sick, who sought out her wounded to aid and succour them, and who performed the last offices for some of her illustrious dead.”**

## Mary Seacole and the 97th (Earl of Ulster’s) Regiment of Foot

The bulk of the 97th Regiment of Foot was recruited in Ireland, and it was initially regarded as an Irish unit. This led to it being given sky blue facings derived from the colour of the ribbon of the Order of St Patrick. The colour of the facings led to the 97th gaining the nickname The Celestials. The Irish connection was reinforced in September 1826 when the regiment was granted the additional title of **“Earl of Ulster’s”**. This was an additional title in the Peerage of Ireland borne by Prince Frederick, Duke of York and Albany.<sup>3</sup>

The Latin motto **Quo fas et gloria ducunt** (where right and glory lead) was granted to the regiment in the following month.

<sup>3</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Princess\\_of\\_Wales%27s\\_Royal\\_Regiment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Princess_of_Wales%27s_Royal_Regiment)

### The 97th had the following casualties in the Crimea:

- ▶ 172 died in the trenches,
- ▶ 81 killed on the Redan
- ▶ 43 died of wounds on the assault
- ▶ 231 died of cholera and disease

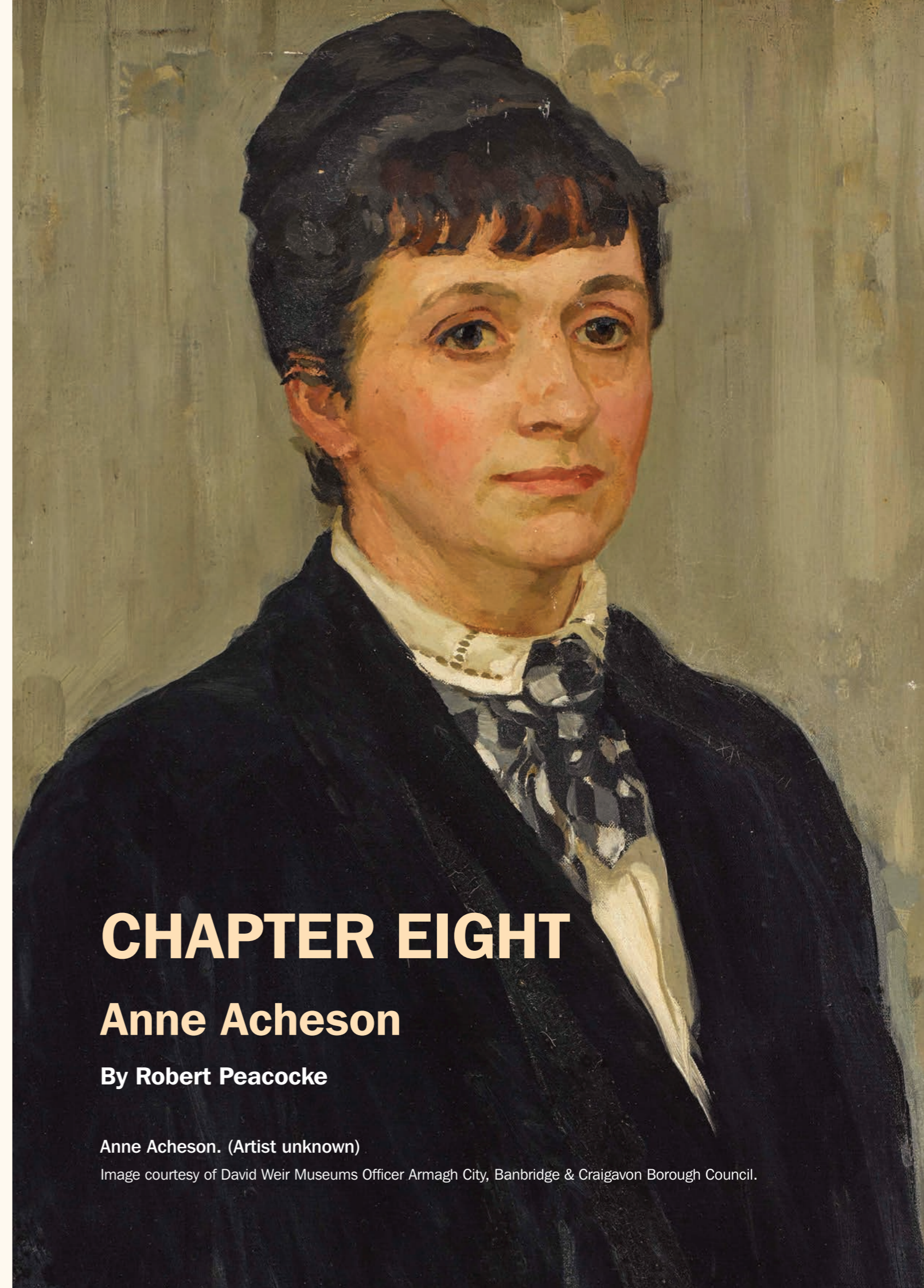
Mary Seacole was nursing Irish soldiers in the Crimea.

### Note by Monica Doherty

Extract from her autobiography written in 1857 *'The Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole in Many Lands'* by Mary Seacole.

Published by Penguin Classics 2005. Copy held by RVAR in Rascahan.org office, Ballykelly Village, Limavady Northern Ireland BT49 9DS.

*'On researching the history of the 97th Foot, I have found that, despite amalgamations and re-badging, the regiment retained its essentially Irish character, but finally became amalgamated with The Queen's Regiment and the Royal Hampshire Regiment to become The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (PWRR) – known as "The Tigers". The regiment's 2nd Battalion was based in Shackleton Barracks, Ballykelly, Northern Ireland, the last resident battalion deployed in this role under Operation Banner, leaving in March 2008. Shackleton Barracks is 2 miles from where RVAR now operates as a Community Hub and one mile from where RVAR was set up on the NAAFI Estate Families Office as a small Association in September 2016.'*



## CHAPTER EIGHT

### Anne Acheson

By Robert Peacocke

Anne Acheson. (Artist unknown)

Image courtesy of David Weir Museums Officer Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council.

# Anne Acheson

**By Robert Peacocke**

Few people will have heard of Anne Acheson but if you have ever broken a bone and had it placed in a plaster cast, you could be grateful for the insight, imagination, talent and skills of this remarkable young woman.

Anne was born on the 5th August 1882, in Portadown, County Armagh. Her parents were John and Harriet Acheson, nee Glasgow. Anne's father was a prominent business man and mill owner in Portadown. Her mother was the daughter of Reverend Professor James Glasgow, who was the first missionary of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to be sent to India. He was a distinguished scholar and translated the Bible into Gujarati. Her mother was educated at a boarding school in Walthamstow which had been established by the London Missionary Society for the education of the daughters of missionaries of all societies.



Anne was educated at the Alexandra School in Portadown and Victoria College, Belfast, where her mother had been a pupil and teacher. Anne studied in the Belfast School of Art, from where she won a scholarship to the Royal College of Art in Kensington, London where she studied sculpture under Edouard Lanteri from 1906 to 1910. In July of 1910, when she had completed her studies, she travelled to Italy with her younger sister Grace. They travelled to Florence, Rome and Venice with Anne taking careful note of all the art works she encountered.

**Miss A.C. Acheson CBE.  
Inventor of surgical  
appliances at the Surgical  
Requisites Association,  
Mulberry Walk (London).**

© IWM (WWC D8-4-495)

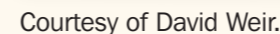
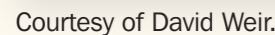
On her return to London she took up a part time teaching post in Putney, a post she held for three and a half years before leaving to concentrate on her own artistic career.

Acheson began exhibiting her sculptures at the Royal Academy in 1913, when 'The Pixie' was accepted. From then until 1949 she exhibited 22 times, 30 works in all, with a mixture of statuettes, portrait heads and bronze or lead figurines for the garden. In the early years she worked in wood before turning to metal, stone and concrete. She also exhibited at the Royal Hibernian Academy Annual Exhibitions in 1910 and 1914, the Annual Exhibitions of the Belfast Arts Society in 1926, 1927 and 1930 and the Ulster Academy of Arts in 1934, 1936, 1948, 1949 and 1950 as well as in other arts venues throughout the UK. She exhibited at the Paris Salon and in Rome, Brussels, Stockholm and Toronto. She was one of the first women to become an Associate member of the Royal Society of British Sculptors, the first woman full member in 1938 and a member of its Council in 1944. She received the Feodora Gleichen Memorial Award in 1938. Among other works she was responsible for the portrait bust in the Gertrude Bell Memorial (designed by JM Wilson ARIBA), the original of which is in the National Museum in Baghdad.

In 1914 Anne lost both of her parents. John passed away away on the 13th of April and Harriet on the 23rd July, just five days before war was declared. John Acheson's estate amounted to £23,835 (equivalent to £2.7 million in today's terms). On the 26th August 1915 Anne's younger brother Edgar was commissioned as a temporary second lieutenant into the East Lancashire Regiment.

In the autumn of 1915 Anne joined the Surgical Requisites Association (SRA), based in a five roomed house at No. 17 Mulberry Walk, a quiet residential area of Chelsea, London. Each room in the house was dedicated to a particular task. The largest room was concerned with the making of pneumonia jackets and stretcher quilts, but the need for splints and other aids for the many wounded soldiers returning from the front line, soon became a priority. This is where Anne's knowledge of anatomy and skills as a sculptor came into play. Initially Anne and her co-worker Elinor Hallé, also a sculptor, were tasked with producing a better and less costly version of the splints needed for the successful healing of the many fractures that were being encountered on a daily basis. Initially papier-mâché was used, which was light, x-ray translucent and considerably more comfortable for the wounded soldier, but it was a slow process to manufacture.

The best material for the papier-mâché proved to be sugar bags! Boy scouts were organised to collect the empty bags from the grocery shops, everyone was helping with the war effort if they possibly could. The weekly output of splints and other appliances was, by 1916, up to an astonishing fifteen to twenty thousand items. These were picked up every Wednesday by a Royal luggage van from St. James's Palace, as part of Queen Mary's Needlework Guild, and taken to Friary Court, St. James to be sorted, packed and despatched to where they were needed. This could be the battlefield or the various hospitals round the country who had requisitioned special items. The numbers involved are staggering but then so were the number of casualties arriving from Verdun, the Somme and Ancre, not forgetting those evacuated from Gallipoli and the casualties from the Battle of Jutland. Later in 1916, the SRA had to expand to additional premises and took over two rooms of a larger house, just around the corner in Old Church Street. A new hut was built at Mulberry Walk capable of housing the 200 workers of this non-profit-making factory.



81



Anne's younger brother Edgar had arrived in France as a Lieutenant with the 11th King's Liverpool Regiment in May 1916. On the 8th May 1917 he was wounded in the face but returned to his regiment shortly afterwards. On the 20th April 1918 the Portadown News reports that Lieutenant John E. Acheson, Anne's brother previously reported wounded and missing, is a prisoner in Germany. Whether the deaths of her parents in 1914 or her brother joining up in 1915 influenced Anne's desire to assist with the war work we shall never know. We must, however, acknowledge the wonderful contribution that she made to the management of major injuries. I wonder how many of those young men who returned from the front with such horrific injuries would have been maimed for life without the skills of Anne and her colleagues at the SRA.

Anne was awarded a CBE by King George V in February 1919 in recognition of her work. This was an honour specially created by the King to reward civilians for extraordinary war work and Anne was one of the first to receive it. She continued with her work as an artist and during the Second World War she retrained as an engineer. She also volunteered her services to the Red Cross and was on the Civil Nursing Reserve for the London area. Returning to Northern Ireland in the 1950s, she lived at Glenavy until her death aged 79.

Anne Acheson died in the Lagan Valley Hospital, Lisburn on 13th March 1962.



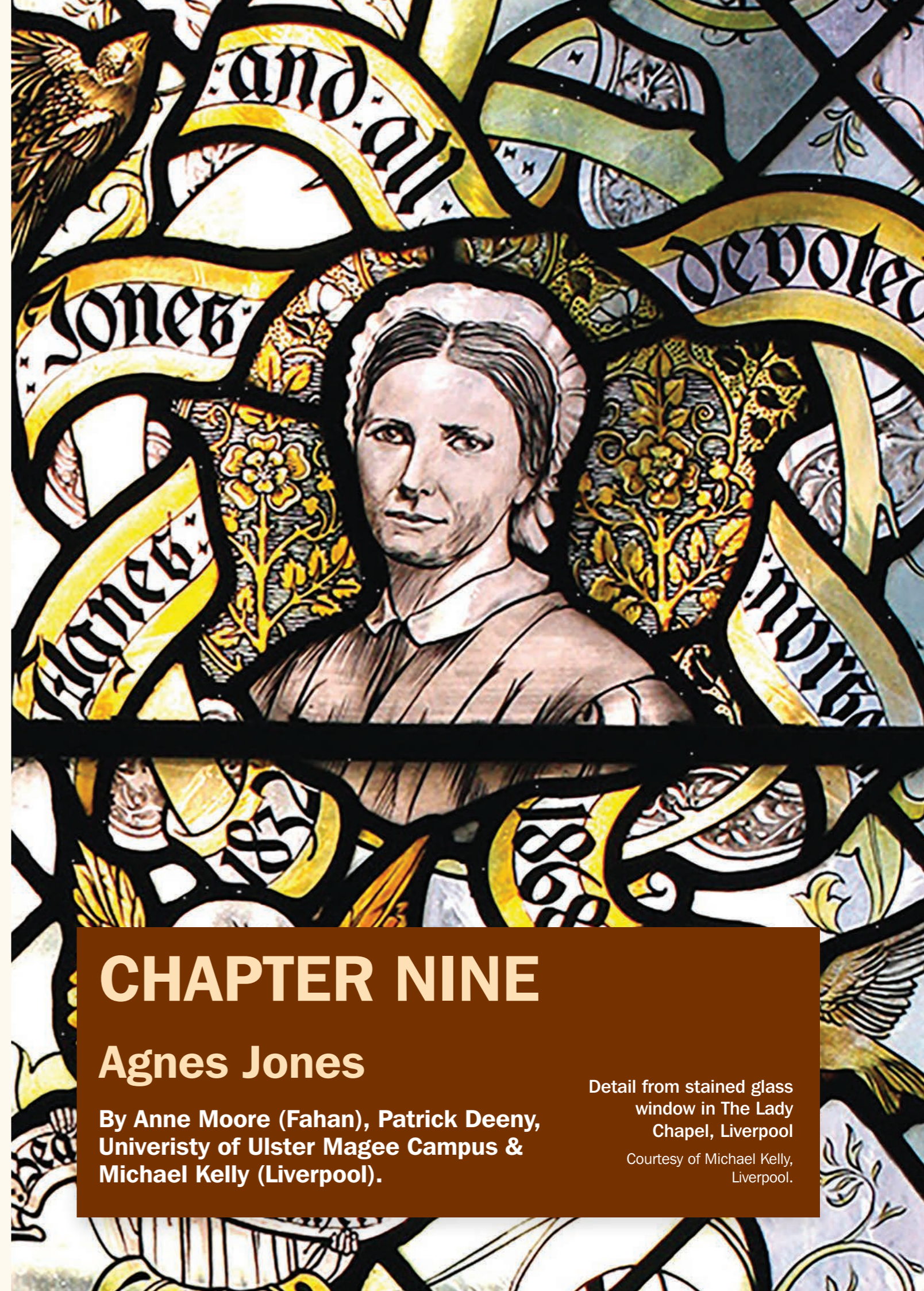
Anne was remembered on the 28th September 2018 with a Blue Plaque of the Ulster History Circle unveiled at the First Presbyterian Church, Bridge Street, Portadown.

Courtesy David Weir.

► Footnote From: Robert Peacocke

**List of works by Anne Acheson. Date refers to when they were first exhibited.**

- ▶ The Pixie (1910)
- ▶ The Leprechaun (1914)
- ▶ Echo Mocking (1914)
- ▶ Sally (circa 1923)
- ▶ The Imp (1924)
- ▶ Trio (1924 presumed)
- ▶ Lead Mask for Garden Decoration (1924 presumed)
- ▶ The Gossamer Thread (1924 presumed)
- ▶ Tangle (Pewter Statuette) (1926)
- ▶ Mischief (1927)
- ▶ Flora M'Flimsy (1927)
- ▶ Gertrude Bell (bust for Gertrude Bell Memorial) (circa 1926-1929)
- ▶ Harriet Emily (Lead Garden Figure) (1930)
- ▶ Harriet Glasgow Acheson, Bronze Medallion (1934)
- ▶ Barbara (Glazed Pottery) (1936)
- ▶ Saint Brigit (Glazed Pottery) (1936)
- ▶ Mother and Child (Glazed Pottery) (1936)
- ▶ Harriet Emily (1938)
- ▶ Fountain figure (circa 1944)
- ▶ The Sacred Bull (1948)
- ▶ Virginia (1949)
- ▶ Squirrel (1950, presumed)
- ▶ River Nymph (Walnut Wood) (1950)



## CHAPTER NINE

### Agnes Jones

By Anne Moore (Fahan), Patrick Deeny,  
Univeristy of Ulster Magee Campus &  
Michael Kelly (Liverpool).

Detail from stained glass  
window in The Lady  
Chapel, Liverpool

Courtesy of Michael Kelly,  
Liverpool.

## Agnes ('Una') Jones

**By Anne Moore (Fahan), Patrick Deeny, Univeristy of Ulster Magee Campus & Michael Kelly (Liverpool). This story was revealed through RVAR Chair Robert Guthrie and his association with Fahan.**

Agnes Elizabeth Jones (1832 – 1868) of Fahan, County Donegal, Ireland became the first trained Nursing Superintendent of Liverpool Brownlow Hill Infirmary and is recognised as the founder of Public Health Nursing.

Agnes was one of the first pupils to attend the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing at St Thomas' Hospital in London and was recognised by Nightingale as her 'star pupil'. It is proposed by Pat Deeny, a Senior Lecturer in Nursing at Ulster University, and Ann Moore, a local historian from Fahan, Co Donegal, that Agnes would have stood out from the rest of the pupils because of her years of experience in working with the sick and visiting the homes of poor people. Along with Cecily Alexander, Agnes would have visited the poor and infirm in their homes in Donegal and was a recognised expert in wound healing.

During the 1850s, when Agnes would have been doing this work, children were very susceptible to burns. At that time many people, especially the poor, would have lived in houses that had a fire in the centre of the floor meaning that children were always at risk of getting burns.

Pat Deeny further suggests that as Ireland was in the wake of the famine, thousands of people were still malnourished and in many cases displaced and living in temporary shelters, similar to what we see today in refugee camps only made from stone and clay.

Agnes would have been witness to all this pain and suffering, making her a very empathetic and compassionate person.

While she was driven by Christian values and a strong faith she was a deeply caring person, having the values and goals of what nurses today always aspire to. This, combined with her knowledge of healing, makes her a very important person in the history of nursing across the world not just in the British Isles.

**Left panel - produced by University of Ulster Magee Campus for the 150th anniversary of the death of Agnes Jones featuring a portrait by Henry Death of 119, Camberwell Road, London, approx. 1866.**

Courtesy of P. Deeny (see Appendix 2).



Courtesy of RVAR.

## Agnes Jones - Nursing Education Pioneer



Agnes Elizabeth Jones (1832-1868) of Fahan, County Donegal, commenced nurse training in the Nightingale School at St Thomas Hospital in London in 1862. She moved to the Liverpool Workhouse Infirmary, at Brownlow Hill, to become its first trained Nursing Superintendent in 1865. Jones brought twelve trained nurses and seven probationers to the infirmary, paving the way for nurse training systems across the UK.

*"She overworked as others underwork. I looked upon hers as one of the most valuable lives in England."* - Florence Nightingale



The Parish Church at Fahan in Co Donegal where visitors pay their respects to the life of Agnes Jones - 'given so willingly to the care of those most vulnerable, of the poor - the so called 'paupers'. B McNerlin 2019

Courtesy of RVAR.

She gave all her time and energy to her patients and died at the age of 35 from typhus fever. Agnes had what is called '**perseverance**' – she had a deep faith and a gentle nature, working herself to her limits of endurance and beyond. Her passion for nursing and the desire to be taught, took her to apply for nurse training at St Thomas' Hospital in London, where she studied for a year.

Her training and dedication to work led to her becoming the superintendent of Burton Crescent and then the Great Northern Hospital. She overworked, filling in gaps for inexperienced staff night and day and made herself so exhausted that she had to resign in 1864 and return home to Donegal to rest.

Florence Nightingale said of Agnes Elizabeth Jones, '***She overworked as others underwork. I looked upon hers as one of the most valuable lives in England.***' A book written by Florence Nightingale is available titled '***Una and Her Paupers: The Extraordinary Life of Nurse Agnes Elizabeth Jones***' (reprint 2005).<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Refer to Appendix 2 for information provided by Patrick Deeny, Senior Lecturer, School of Nursing, Magee Campus, University of Ulster exploring the Florence Nightingale visit to Derry and her friendship with Agnes Jones.



Mural celebrating Irish native Agnes Jones (1832 – 1868) who became the first trained Nursing Superintendent of the Liverpool Workhouse Infirmary.

Courtesy of M. Kelly. Liverpool.

The following text is by courtesy of Michael Kelly, a historian and Tour Guide from Liverpool who has completed research into the legacy of Agnes Jones in Liverpool.

It was Florence who persuaded her in 1865 to take the position of superintendent of Liverpool Workhouse Infirmary offered by William Rathbone, who paid for 12 trained nurses from St Thomas' to accompany her.

The workhouse was notorious for drunkenness by visitors to the wards. Patients had to be extremely ill to gain admittance to the wards, it was not easy to gain admittance to the Workhouse as a whole, having some of Liverpool's most notorious and roughest 'patients' but Agnes won them over with her gentle nature, her dedicated unending toil on their behalf and bible lessons. She treated them as human beings, paying attention to the teaching of Florence Nightingale who ascertained and taught that: "***Wise and humane management of the patient is the best safeguard against infection***" and "***From the moment a person becomes ill, he ceases to be a pauper and becomes brother to the best of us, and as a brother he should be cared for. I would make this a cardinal principle in Poor Law Relief***".

Agnes set in place new systems for the workhouse which inspired both the inhabitants and the workhouse committee so much that before her trial period of three years were up, they had voted to adopt her management style completely and without reservation.

Working 18 hours per day, Agnes was exhausted and prone to infection. She caught a fever and died on the 19th February 1868, aged only 35 years old.

Her body was returned to her home In Fahan, Co Donegal and is buried at St Mura's Church, Church of Ireland with her father Joseph Jones. Her mother, Elizabeth Smyth, is reputed to be buried in Glendermott Churchyard.



The plate on the family vault says *“In memory of Agnes Elizabeth Jones A Great Nurse”*

2018 was the 150th Anniversary of her death. A new committee was set up in Fahan to celebrate her life and work. In 2018 they organised a commemorative visit to her grave and a service in her church.

#### 150th Anniversary Committee.

Courtesy of Patrick Deeny.



Ulster University Nursing Students at Agnes Jones Grave in May 2019. Left to Right: Breda Henderson (Muff), Cheryl Tierney (Derry), Tina Devlin (Buncrana), Amy McIvor (Derry), Michael O’Sullivan (Warrenpoint), Sean Green (Derry), Bronagh Smyth (Derry), Emma Harkin (Muff), Aisling Lafferty (Derry), Emma McNutt (Derry), Finnuala McGlinchey (Cookstown).

Photo courtesy of Patrick Deeny.



Her legacy of humane treatment of workhouse inhabitants was seen in changes in the Poor Law for treatment of paupers. A stained glass window is dedicated to her in the Lady Chapel at Liverpool Cathedral and a statue was erected to her which stood in the Workhouse until 1927 then transferred to the Anglican Chapel at Walton Hospital then later to the Oratory Building, by the Walker Art Gallery, St James Cemetery, Liverpool.

Michael Kelly (Historian & Tour Guide, Liverpool) with Patrick Deeny (Senior Lecturer, School of Nursing, Magee Campus, University of Ulster) at The Oratory, St James Cemetery, Liverpool, where the statue now stands.

Courtesy of Patrick Deeny.

# Postscript

## By Matthew Ferguson, Secretary Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers

I wish to acknowledge the contribution of all those who helped put together this publication telling of some of the actions of a few women who made such a difference to so many lives during the Great War 1914 - 1918.

Working within local history, we have a baseline in Ballykelly and Magilligan, it is the Lough Foyle Baseline which measures a trigonometrical distance from a given point to another given point and is the standard for present day Ordnance Survey maps.

Four of the women in this publication created the baseline for modern nursing care and practice. The committee members who wrote chapters and researched content for their instinctively chosen piece all did so with a willing heart and dedication. They had their own calling to each chapter and established a link with them to the Province of Ulster - and so the publication has turned out a bit differently from the first thoughts all those months ago of what would be written.

Our work continues and as we reveal new names and information we will make it available through our online archive. If you have any information on local nurses you would like to share please email us at: [rvaresearchers@gmail.com](mailto:rvaresearchers@gmail.com)

I am proud to be associated with this first publication from the Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers and hope it paves the way for more to follow as we all work through the educational programme we have set up for ourselves and other associated members.

I wish to personally thank the following committee members

- ▶ Betty McNerlin MBE
- ▶ Hester McCunn
- ▶ Mary McMahon
- ▶ Monica Doherty
- ▶ Robert Guthrie
- ▶ Robert Peacocke
- ▶ Brandon Sayer

# Appendix 1

## List of local VADs – Co Londonderry

Name	Forename	From	Signed Up	Demobbed	Rank At Engagement	Served	Awarded
Adams	Letitia	House 4 In Ballyquin, Limavady	26/01/1917	25/12/1918	Member V.a.d. 1126	W.h.s. Depot Sv-Gb Work Party 4373	V.w. Badge & Certificate
Aiken	Eileen Miss	Portstewart	03/03/1916	Nurse V.a.d.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Allen	Florence	Portstewart					
Anderson	Maude	Coleraine	18/08/1916	Still Serving	V.a.d	N/A	N/A
Arnold	Annie	Coleraine	30/04/1916	30/11/1918	N/A	N/A	V.w. Badge St John & Red X Certificate
Baxter	Susan	Coleraine	00/10/1916	00/12/1918	N/A	Worker At Whs Depot Coleraine	V.w. Badge
Beasley	Maud Miss	Main St, Limavady	27/04/1916	23/07/1917	Member St. J V.a.d. 1126	W.h.s. Depot St John's Work Party 4373	Certificate
Bethel	Lily	Coleraine	14/08/1916	00/09/1917	V.a.d	5Th North General Hospital Evington Leicester	N/A
Bishop	Elizabeth	Coleraine					
Blackie	Mary Katherine	Portstewart					
Blaikie	Ruth Miss	Portstewart	20/04/1917	20/11/1918	Nurse	N/A	N/A
Blair	Sarah	Coleraine	00/09/1916	00/08/1918	N/A	Worker At W.k.s. Depot Coleraine	V.w. Badge

The file will be continually updated on the new Archive.

Name	Forename	From	Signed Up	Demobbed	Rank At Engagement	Served	Awarded
Boyd	Rosa Miss	Barley Pk, Limavady	27/03/1916	18/03/1918	Member St. J V.a.d. 1126	W.h.s. Depot St John's Work Party 4373	V.w. Badge & Certificate
Boyle	Dorothy	Dungiven					
Brown	Rena Mcdonald Miss	70 Main St, Limavady	00/11/1917	00/11/1918	N/A	Basingstoke, Canadian Hosp.	N/A
Caldwell	Eleanor Keilli	Coleraine					
Caldwell	Margaret Miss	Killen, Castlederg	05/06/1918	Present.	Nurse	1St Eastern General Hosp. Cambridge	N/A
Caldwell	Jane Mrs	Adelaide Avenue, Coleraine	00/02/1917	00/12/1918	N/A	Worker At W.h.s. Depot, Coleraine	V.w. Badge
Campbell	Mary Miss	Dungiven, Co. L/ Derry	00/05/1917	00/03/1919	N/A	W.p. 5015 Londonderry	V.w. Badge
Carson	Janie K	Coleraine					
Cassidy	Agnes Miss	Main St, Limavady	27/03/1916	23/07/2017	Member St. J V.a.d. 1126	W.h.s. Depot St Johns Work Party 4373	V.w. Badge & Certificate
Clarke	Margaret	Coleraine	30/03/1916	30/11/1918	N/A	Worker At W.h.s. Depot Coleraine	V.w. Badge
Cleland	Isabella	Dungiven	N/A	N/A	N/A	Ulster Sphagnumoss Assoc	None
Connor	Annie	Dungiven	03/01/1918	03/08/1918	Nurse	Mil: Hosp: Wallosy - Liverpool.	N/A
Craig	Mrs	Feeny	00/05/1917	00/03/1919	N/A	Picking Sphagnum & Sewing	N/A
Creery	Annette Eileen	Coleraine	30/03/1916	30/11/1918	N/A	Worker At W.h.s. Depot Coleraine	V.w. Badge St John & Red X Certificate
Creery	Julia	Coleraine	30/03/1916	30/11/1918	N/A	Worker At W.h.s. Depot Coleraine	V.w. Badge St John & Red X Certificate
Creery	Nina	Coleraine	30/03/1916	30/11/1918	N/A	Worker At W.h.s. Depot Coleraine	V.w. Badge St John & Red X Certificate

Name	Forename	From	Signed Up	Demobbed	Rank At Engagement	Served	Awarded
Creighton	Bertha	Coleraine	00/02/1918	00/12/1918	N/A	Worker At W.h.s. Depot	V.w. Badge
Crosbie	Margaret L Mrs.	The Hut, Magilligan	05/06/1915	14/01/1916	N/A	2Nd London Gen. Mil. Hosp. Chelsea	N/A
Cummins	Frances	Coleraine	00/08/1916	00/02/1919	N/A	Coleraine Sphagnum Moss Depot	N/A
Cunningham	Mrs	Coleraine	00/08/1916	00/02/1919	N/A	Coleraine Sphagnum Moss Depot.	N/A
Currie	L.r. Miss	Coleraine	00/08/1916	00/04/1918	N/A	Coleraine Sphagnum Moss Depot.	N/A
Daly	Annie	Coleraine	01/02/1917	N/A	V.a.d	Barnett X. War Hospital North London.	N/A
Deane	M Mrs	Feeny, Or Claudy	00/05/1915	00/03/1919	N/A	Co. Londonderry W.p. 5015 L/Derry	V.w. Badge
Devine	Minnie Miss	Feeny, Or Claudy	00/05/1915	00/03/1919	N/A	W.p. 5016 Londonderry	V.w. Badge
Dill	Annie Miss	Foyle College, L/ Derry	00/03/1916	00/03/1919	N/A	Work In W.h.s. Depot	V.w. Badge
Dill	Evelyn Mrs	Foyle College, L/ Derry	00/03/1916	00/03/1919	N/A	Work In W.h.s. Depot	V.w. Badge
Drennan	Katherine Mrs	Carse Hall, Ldy Junction	27/03/1916	03/02/1919	Member St. J V.a.d. 1126	W.h.s. Depot St Johns Work Party 4373	V.w. Badge & Certificate
Eccles	Kathleen	Coleraine					
Eccles	Mollie Miss	Coleraine	20/04/1916	00/02/2018	Nurse V.a.d. 24799	Unpaid Vad General Service	
Eccles	Ester	Coleraine	12/02/1918	01/05/2019	Nurse V.a.d. 24783	Unpaid Vad General Service	
Edwards	Bertha Challis Mrs	Coleraine					
Eyre	Mary E Mrs	Coleraine					
Faith	Ellie Miss	Feeny, Nr Claudy	00/05/1915	00/03/1919	Sewing	W.p. 5015 Londonderry	N/A

Name	Forename	From	Signed Up	Demobbed	Rank At Engagement	Served	Awarded
Fell	Margaret	Coleraine					
Fleming	Anna Chancellor	Limavady	15/03/1916	Present	Cook		
Fleming	Margaret	Limavady					
Fleming	May Miss	Rose Cottage, Dungiven	00/05/1917	00/03/1919	N/A	W.p. 5015 Londonderry	V.w. Badge
Fulton	Lily Miss	Derry Rd, Dungiven	00/05/1917	00/03/1919	N/A	W.p. 5015 Londonderry	V.w. Badge
Gage	Kathleen	Coleraine	00/12/1915	00/02/1919	N/A	Coleraine Sphagnum Moss Depot.	Voluntary Workers Badge Mentioned For Services
Gilmour	Isabel E	Portstewart	23/10/1915	Still Serving	V.a.d Nursing	Bermondsey Military Hospital Lewisham London	
Given	Fanny	Coleraine					
Given	Jessie	Coleraine					
Given	Mary	Coleraine					
Given	May	Coleraine					
Given	Muriel	Coleraine					
Given	Susan May	Coleraine					
Gough	Emily	Coleraine	00/07/1916	00/12/1918	N/A	Worker At W.h.s. Depot Coleraine	N/A
Gribbon	Dorothea Hilda	Coleraine	00/08/1915	00/02/1919	N/A	Sphagnum Moss Depot 215 Hours War Hospital	V.w.badge
Gribbon	Nance Elizabeth	Coleraine	00/08/1915	00/02/1919	N/A	Coleraine Sphagnum Moss Depot	Voluntary Worker's Badge
Gribbon	Frances Elizabeth	Coleraine					
Gribbon	Griselda Jane	Coleraine	00/01/1917	00/06/1918	N/A	N/A	N/A

Name	Forename	From	Signed Up	Demobbed	Rank At Engagement	Served	Awarded
Guy	Sarah Josephine Miss	31 Irish Green St, Limavady	09/10/1918	08/04/1919	Nurse	J.w. V.a.d.	N/A
Hay	Margaret	Coleraine	30/03/1916	30/11/1918	N/A	Worker At W.h.s. Depôt Coleraine	V.w. Badge
Hazlet	Emily Mary	Aghadowey					
Heaney	Anne Miss	Ashpark, Feeney, Co. L/Dry	00/05/1915	00/03/1919	N/A	Packing Sphagnum Moss&Sewing	V.w. Badge
Henry	Louise E S	Coleraine	00/08/1915	00/02/1919	N/A	Coleraine Sphagnum Moss Depôt	Voluntary Workers Badge.
Herries	Jennie Legrand Forbes	Coleraine	04/07/1917	Present	Clerk	Berrington War Hosp	N/A
Hewett	Hester	Coleraine	18/08/1916	Still Serving	V.a.d	4Th Northern General Hospital Lincoln	N/A
Hezlett	Caroline	Coleraine					
Hill	Kathleen	Boveda	01/11/1917	01/06/1919	Nurse	1St West: Gen: Mil. Hos: Liverpool	N/A
Hill	Kathleen	Kilrea					
Hill	Mary Humphreys	Coleraine	10/04/1918	03/06/1918	Nurse	War: Hos: Reading	N/A
Horner	Elizabeth Miss	Main St, Limavady	27/04/1916	03/02/1919	Member St. J V.a.d. 1126	W.h.s. Depot St Johns Work Party 4373	V.w. Badge & Certificate
Hughes	Alice	Coleraine	30/03/1916	30/11/1918	N/A		V.w. Badge & Certificate
Hughes	Mary H	Coleraine	00/08/1915	00/09/1918	N/A	Coleraine Sphagnum Moss Depot	Voluntary Workers Badge
Hunter	Annie Jane	Coleraine					
Hunter	Eleanor	Coleraine	30/03/1916	30/11/1918	N/A	Worker At W.h.s. Depot Coleraine	V.w. Badge. St. John & Red X Certificate
Inwin	Florence Miss	Roe Mill Rd, Limavady	27/03/1916	Still Serving	Member St. J V.a.d. 1126	W.h.s. Depot St John's Work Party 4373	V.w. Badge & Certificate

Name	Forename	From	Signed Up	Demobbed	Rank At Engagement	Served	Awarded
Irwin	Mary Jane Mrs	Ballyarton, Londonderry	00/10/1914	00/03/1919	Work And Organisation	Head Of Large Branch	L/Derry War Hosp, Supply Depot Badge
Irwin	Matilda Mrs	74 Main St, Limavady	00/10/1916	00/01/1919	Commandant Reserve V.a.d.	W.h.s. Depot St Johns Work Party 4373	V.w. Badge & Certificate
Jackson	Kathleen	Ballinisha Londonderry	26/10/1916	27/05/1918	Nurse		
Jervis	Matilda Mrs	Knockalla, Feeny	00/05/1917	00/03/1919	Sphagnum Picking/Sewing	Moss Picking And Sewing	V.w. Badge
Kane	Martha Maureen	Kilrea	N/A	N/A	Ord. Member	1St Eastern Gen: Hosp. Cambridge	Red Stripe
Kelly	Mary Miss	Feeny, Or Claudy	00/05/1917	00/03/1919	Sphagnum Picking/Sewing	Moss Picking And Sewing	N/A
Kennedy	Jeannie	Kilrea					
Kenny	Isabella	Coleraine	00/09/1916	00/02/1919	N/A	Coleraine Sphagnum Moss Depot.	N/A
Kydd	Elizabeth Miss	Coleraine	00/03/1916	00/11/1918	N/A	Coleraine War Hospital Supply Depot	V.w. Badge
Kydd	Jessie	Coleraine	00/03/1916	00/11/1918	N/A	Worked At Coleraine W.h.s. Depot	V.w.badge
Longmore	Vena Mrs	Dungiven, Co. L/ Derry	00/03/1916	00/11/1918	Gathering Cleaning/Packing	Sphagnum Moss	N/A
Loughberry	May Miss	Carrick House, Limavady	00/06/1917	Still Serving	1St Western Gen Hosp, L`Pool	V.a.d. Nurse In Military Hospital	N/A
Loughrey	May	Carrick House, Limavady	01/06/1917	13/04/1919	Nurse	1St Western General Liverpool	1 Scarlet Efficiency Stripe 1.12.18
Love	Mary Miss	Main St, Limavady	27/03/1916	19/02/1917	Member St. J V.a.d. 1126	W.h.s. Depot St Johns Work Party 4373	V.w. Badge & Certificate
Love	Wilhemina	Coleraine	01/07/1916	04/04/1919	Nurse	Manchester Mil. Hosp.	2 Scarlet Stripes 1.8.18

Name	Forename	From	Signed Up	Demobbed	Rank At Engagement	Served	Awarded
Lowry	Constance	Coleraine	00/10/1915	Still Serving	Nurse	N/A	Mentioned For Services Oct. 1917. Recommended For Assistant Nurse 27/3/19
Lyle	Florence	Coleraine	30/03/1916	30/11/1918	N/A	Worker At W.h.s. Depot Coleraine	V.w. Badge
Lyle	Harriette	Coleraine	30/03/1916	30/11/1918	N/A	I.w.h.s. Sub Depot (Head)	V.w. Badge St. John & Red Cross Certificates
Lynch	Linda Miss	Main St, Limavady	27/03/1916	00/05/1917	Q` Master St. J V.a.d. 1126	W.h.s. Depot St John's Work Party 4373	V.w. Badge & Certificate
Macafee	Agnes	Coleraine					
Mathers	Katherine Mrs	Coleraine	30/03/1916	30/11/1918	N/A	Worker At W.h.s. Depot Coleraine	V.w. Badge St. John & Red X Certificate
Mawhinney	N Mrs	Feeny, Or Claudy	00/05/1915	00/03/1919	Moss Picking And Sewing	W.p. 5015 Londonderry	V.w. Badge
Mcafee	Elizabeth Miss	Coleraine	00/10/1916	00/05/1916	Nurse		
Mccartney	Jemma Mrs	Feeny, Or Claudy	01/05/1915	00/03/1919	Moss Picking And Sewing	W.p. 5015 Londonderry	V.w. Badge
Mccartney	Catherine	Adelaide Avenue, Coleraine, Co Derry, Ireland	00/12/1917	00/12/1918	N/A	N/A	V.w Badge
Mccausland	Eileen Leslie Mrs	Drenagh, Limavady	27/03/1916	07/02/1919	Commandant St. J. V.a.d.1126	Sphagnum Moss Dept.	N/A
Mccloskey	Mrs M	Glenedra	01/05/1915	00/03/1919	Moss Gathering		N/A
Mccloskey	Miss Kate	Glenedra,Feeney	01/11/1917	00/06/1918	Moss Picking And Sewing	Sphagnum Moss Picking & Sewing	N/A
Mccloskey	Mary Miss	Dungiven, Derry	01/05/1915	00/03/1919	Moss Picking And Sewing	V.w	

Name	Forename	From	Signed Up	Demobbed	Rank At Engagement	Served	Awarded
Mconachy	Isabella	Bovevagh	01/05/1917	01/03/1919		V.w Badge	
Mconaghie	Jane	Coleraine	01/07/1918	01/01/1919	N/A	Voluntary Worker's Badge	
Mccormick	Martha Miss	Newtoncunningham, London-derry	21/12/1917	0/09/1919	Nurse	Berrington War Military	N/A
Mccullagh	Elizabeth Mrs	Leacliffe, Portrush, Ireland	17/08/1916	Still Serving	V.a.d		
Mccullock	Margaret	Portrush	01/09/1916	30/11/1918			V.w.badge. 1 St John & Red Cross Certificate
Mccundy	May	Portstewart					
Mcdonnell	Madge Miss	Limavady Junction	11/09/1916	07/01/1919	Member St J Vad 1126	W.h.s.depot& St J's Work Party 4373	V.w Badge & Certificate
Mcfeteridge	Helen Miss	New Street, Dungiven	N/A	N/A	Gathering & Cleaning S. Moss	Dungiven Sewing & Knitting For The Soldiers	
Mcgranahan	May Miss	Crawford Sqr, Londonderry	01/08/1917	00/06/1918	Voluntary Work At M Hospital, London	Member Of St John A. Ass. Londonderry	N/A
Mcgrath	Mary	Union Street, Coleraine, Co Derry, Ireland	00/02/1918	00/12/1918			Vw Badge
McLaughlin	Margaret	Coleraine					
McLeod	Martha Miss	Willsboro, Campsie, L/Derry	01/02/1918	Still Serving	Clerk	J.w.v.a.d.	N/A
McIernon	Elizabeth Miss	Coleraine	00/10/1916	00/10/1918	Coleraine	00/10/1916	00/10/1918
Mcsparrace	Martha Miss	Killunaught,Feeny	00/05/1917	00/03/1919	Sphagnum Moss Picking & Sewing	Moss Picking And Sewing	V.w Badge

Name	Forename	From	Signed Up	Demobbed	Rank At Engagement	Served	Awarded
Mcsparron	Mary Anne	Rallagh, Derrychrier, Co. Derry	08/09/1917	Present	Asst .Cook		
Mcsparron	Edith	The Cluster, Derrychrier	00/01/1918	00/03/1919			V.w. Badge
Michael	Hessie Adela	New Buildings, Drumsara, Kilrea	15/03/1917	17/05/1919	Nurse		
Miller	Henrietta Charlotte						
Montgomery	Lizzie Miss	Feeny, Londonderry	00/05/1915	00/03/1919	N/A	Moss Picking And Sewing	V.w Badge
Montgomery	Rachael Miss	Feeny	00/05/1915	00/03/1919	N/A	Moss Picking And Serving	V.w. Badge
Montgomery	W. Mrs	Feeny	00/05/1915	00/03/1919	N/A	Moss Picking & Sewing	V.w
Montgomery	Eva	Millburn, Coleraine, Co Derry, Ireland	30/03/1916	30/11/1918			V.w. Badge
Moody	Isabel	10 Railway Place, Coleraine, Co. Derry, Ireland	21/06/1918	15/06/1919	Nurse		
Moon	Gladys	Aghadowey	N/A	N/A			
Moon	Mary Ethel	Aghadowey	07/02/1917	24/03/1919	Nurse		01.12.1918 1 Scarlet Efficiency Stripe
Moore	Florence Isabel	8 Macdonald Terrace, Coleraine	07/02/1918	21/10/1918	Nurse		
Moore	Jane	Lodge Road Coleraine	30/03/1916	30/10/1918			V.w. Badge

Name	Forename	From	Signed Up	Demobbed	Rank At Engagement	Served	Awarded
Moore	Margaret H	Dunedin Terrace, Lodge Road, Coleraine	00/12/1915	00/02/1919			Voluntary Workers Badge
Moore	Martha R	Dunedin Terrace, Lodge Road, Coleraine	00/12/1915	00/02/1919			Voluntary Workers Badge
Moore	Margaret	Feeny					
Moore	Maude	“Gorteen” Lodge Road, Coleraine	00/08/1915	00/02/1919			V.w. Badge
Moore	Mary						
Mrs	Limavady						
Mullan	Rose	Feeny					
Murray	Kate R	Ashbrooke, Captain St, Coleraine	00/08/1915	00/02/1919			Voluntary Worker’s Badge
Nelson	Frances Dorothy Mrs	Finlagan Rectory Ballykelly	00/11/1916	00/05/1918	Cook		
Nutt	Minnie	Feeny					
O’neill	Adelaide M	Adelaide Avenue, Coleraine	00/02/1917	00/02/1919			Voluntary Workers Badge
O’neill	Edith Florence Matilda	Adelaide Avenue, Coleraine	06/11/1917	Present	House Member		
O’neill	Eileen	Ballygallow House, Coleraine	27/08/1918	Present	Clerk		
O’neill	Eva	Eastbourne, Coleraine	00/10/1916	00/11/1918			V.w. Badge
Orr	Ellen	Dungiven					
Orr	Minnie Miss	Ballymoney	28/12/1916	20/09/1919		Nurse V.a.d.	

Name	Forename	From	Signed Up	Demobbed	Rank At Engagement	Served	Awarded
Orr	Sybil Chatres Miss	Ballymoney	28/12/1916	31/07/1919		Nurse V.a.d.	
Parker	Margaret	Captain Street, Coleraine	00/08/1916	00/02/1919			Voluntary Workers' Badge
Patton	Margaret	Captain Street, Coleraine	00/08/1917	00/02/1919			Voluntary Workers' Badge
Patton	Matilda W	Captain Street, Coleraine	00/08/1916	00/02/1919			Voluntary Workers' Badge
Paul	Jenny	Feeny					
Paul	Margaret G	Coleraine	00/11/1915	00/02/1919			Voluntary Workers' Badge
Philips	May	Dungiven					
Poston	Elizabeth	Limavady	27/03/1916	07/02/1919		Lady Superintendent St John Work Party	V.w. Badge & Certificate
Poston	G Mrs	Feeny					
Poston	Maude	Feeny					
Poston	Minnie	Dungiven	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ritchie	Martha	Feeny	00/05/1915	00/03/1919			V.w. Badge
Rae	Margaret Mrs	Coleraine	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A
Rankin	Helen Mrs	Clifton Terrace, Coleraine	00/01/1917	00/03/1918			V.w. Badge & St John & Red X Certificate
Ritter	Margaret Miss	Limavady	27/03/1916				V.w. Badge
Ross	Annie	Dungiven	00/05/1917	00/03/1919	N/A	N/A	V.w.badge
Ross	Lottie	Dungiven					
Ross	Margaret Morrison	Dungiven	N/A	N/A	N/A	Gathering And Cleaning S. Moss	N/A

Name	Forename	From	Signed Up	Demobbed	Rank At Engagement	Served	Awarded
Ross	Mary Elizabeth	Dungiven	N/A	N/A	N/A	Gathering And Cleaning Sphagnum Moss	N/A
Rothwell	Constance	Blackheath, Coleraine	03/01/1919	30/01/1919	Nurse		
Rutledge	Mary O	Derrycrier, Dungiven					
Shannon	Elizabeth	Adelaide Avenue, Coleraine	00/10/1916	00/11/1918			V.w. Badge
Shannon	Mary	Circular Road, Coleraine	00/09/1917	00/02/1919			Voluntary Workers Badge
Sinclair	Kathleen	Ballyarten, Coleraine	30/08/1916	30/04/1918			
Smith	Caroline May	St Kilda, Coleraine	10/01/1917	23/07/1918	Nurse		
Strong	Maude	Aghadowey					
Taggart	Margaret	New Row Coleraine	30/03/1916	30/11/1918	N/A	Worker At W. H. S. Depot Coleraine	V. W. Badge St John & Red + Certificate
Taggart	Susan	New Row Coleraine	08/08/1915	00/02/1919	N/A	N/A	Voluntary Workers' Badge
Tannahill	Edith Maude Miss	Coleraine	22/05/1916	31/10/1919	Nurse	King George Dublin Military 22/5/16 Trans France Military 2/2/18	Mid For Bravery 05/03/1917
Tate	Elizabeth	Institution Road. Coleraine	00/08/1915	00/02/1919	N/A	Coleraine Sphagnum Moss Depot 640 Hours Member V.a.d. Co. L.derry	Voluntary Workers Badge
Temple	Winifred	Dungiven					
Thompson	Martha	Feeny	00/05/1917	00/03/1919	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tyler	Margaret Miss	Limavady	00/12/1915	27/06/1919	Nurse	N/A	N/A

Name	Forename	From	Signed Up	Demobbed	Rank At Engagement	Served	Awarded
Tyler	Flora						
Miss	Limavady	03/08/1916	08/03/1917	Nurse			
V.a.d.							
Wallen	Blanche	Bathkenny, Coleraine	30/03/1916	30/11/1918			V.w. Badge
Ward	Isabel	Provincial Bank House Coleraine	31/03/1916	30/11/1918			V.w. Badge
Warren	Janie	Dungiven					
Warren	Sheilah	Dungiven	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Woodside	Millicent	Bellevue Terrace, Coleraine	10/09/1916	03/01/1918			V.w. Badge, Red Cross & St John Certificate
Workman	Elizabeth Irwin	Captain Street, Coleraine	22/11/1915	Still Serving	V.a.d		Mentioned For Services A.r.r.c.
Wright	Marion	Fountain Villas, Portstewart Road, Coleraine	00/11/1915	00/02/1919	N/A		Voluntary Workers' Badge
Young	Ethel M	Dungiven	00/05/1917	00/03/1919	N/A	Moss Picking & Sewing For Joint Societies.	V.w. Badge
Young	Kathleen Jane Dunn	Bellemont, Coleraine	01/07/1916	31/07/1917	Nurse	N/A	1 Scarlet Efficiency Stripe 01.08.17
Young	Marjorie	Dungiven	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Young	Rosalie	Dungiven	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

# Appendix 2

## Visit by Florence Nightingale to Magee

### Unravelling the mystery of Florence Nightingale’s visit to Magee College in 1867

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#### Background

The eminent founder of Nursing, pioneer of military health care and public health reform in Victorian England and India, Miss Florence Nightingale, visited Magee College, Londonderry on Friday 31st May 1867. She was one of a party of four people who visited the new Christian Arts and Theological College, which had only been open since 1865. While Florence Nightingale is renowned for her travels including trips to Ireland there are minimal records associated with the visit to Derry. To date there have been no reasons as to why she visited Magee College, aside from the suggestion that she came to see her friend and fellow Nursing pioneer, Agnes 'Una' Jones who had family links with Fahan in Co Donegal and the City of Londonderry.

#### Aim

To examine the historical context of Nightingale's visit to Derry in 1867 and suggest possible reasons why she might have visited Magee College.

#### Method

Historical enquiry involving examination of literature, artefacts, historical documents and discussion with experts.

#### Findings

While there are references to Florence Nightingale visiting Ireland no evidence exists of a visit occurring in 1867. There are no newspaper reports to indicate that Nightingale was in Ireland at that time. Then again there are no newspaper reports to confirm any of the visits.

#### Florence Nightingale's signature in the Magee Visitor's book

The Signature in the Magee Visitors' Book dated 31<sup>st</sup> May 1867 is recognised as the signature of Florence Nightingale. The notable 'back loop' on the first letter 'F' and the tie directly to the second letter 'L', creating what looks like a 'H' is notable. While the first letter of her surname 'N' is in upper case she writes it like large lower case( D). Also the 'tail' at the top of the D is notable. Many examples of her signature are available from letters sent by Nightingale to Nurses across the world. Similar signature features exist throughout.

#### Florence Nightingale in 1867

Florence Nightingale was in good health in 1867 having recovered from a period of ' Crimean or Mediterranean Fever'. Throughout 1867 she was busy working on the Indian sanitary affairs (Woodham-Smith,1950). Records confirm that she had completed other travels prior to coming to Derry i.e. 1866 Paris to receive a Gold Medal from the French for advice on care of war wounded in the Franco-Prussian War. As one of a group of ' Reformers' in England at that time, Miss Nightingale had a disquiet cause for celebration in 1867. The Metropolitan Poor Act had just been passed in March 1867 and while Nightingale and her fellow 'Reformers' i.e. Sir William Rathbone the Liverpool philanthropist were disappointed that Gathorne Hardy MP claimed the glory it was mostly their ideas that were included in the Act. It was confirmation of the social and political influence of the 'Reformers' such as Florence Nightingale and Sir William Rathbone in the 1860's in Victorian England and the British Empire.

#### Agnes 'Una' Jones in 1867

Since 1865 Agnes Jones a former pupil of Miss Nightingale had been in charge of the Brownlow Workhouse Infirmary in Liverpool. She was given twelve other Nightingale nurses from St. Thomas's, and in her three years in Liverpool trained up many other nurses(Jones, 1872).There is no evidence either way that Agnes Jones accompanied Miss Nightingale as one of the party of 4 to Magee in 1867. She was most likely to have been in Liverpool not Fahan. However she could have taken a short trip to Ireland with Florence Nightingale. In Victorian England, trips to Ireland were commonplace and with a good rail network and frequent ships from Liverpool to Derry (return sailing 10<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>) it was very possible. Both ladies were accustomed to travelling across all parts of Europe. Agnes Jones and Florence Nightingale were working together in 1867 with Public Health matters in Liverpool. Sir William Rathbone who worked closely with Nightingale as a 'Reformer' also worked closely with Agnes Jones in setting up a Training School at the Brownlow Infirmary.

#### The Lawrence Family Connection

Sir John Lawrence, born in Londonderry was a prominent British pro-consul and imperial statesman. He served as Viceroy of India from 1864 to 1869. Florence Nightingale was a close friend of Sir John Lawrence. She admired him a lot calling him 'a Bayard- a knight



Agnes Jones



Florence Nightingale

of a better era'. They were bought together through her work at the War Office in London and her lead role in the Indian Sanitary Report. Florence Nightingale was an expert on India albeit that she had never actually been to India. The Indian Sanitary Report proposed dramatic changes to public health standards in India. While the report was initially dismissed it was not until after the appointment of Sir John as Viceroy of India in November 1863 that the report became a landmark document (Woodham-Smith, 1950, p 421-422). It is highly unlikely that Sir John Lawrence would have been in Derry in 1867 as he would still have been in India.

However in 1867 Florence was still working on Indian sanitary affairs and contact with the Lawrence family may have been appropriate. It is also noted that in June 1867 she was drafting ideas on establishing a School of Midwifery in King's College Hospital in London. This project was to be funded by the Nightingale Fund. In order to boost the Nightingale Fund Florence may have been seeking further monies from the Lawrence Family who were known philanthropists. Agnes Jones was a close family relative of the Lawrence's. As an astute politician and proactive fund raiser it is reasonable to suggest that Florence visited Derry in 1867 to raise funds.

#### Magee College as a show piece in the city

Magee College had just opened in 1865 and would have been an architectural showpiece within the City of Londonderry. As a Presbyterian Christian Arts and Theological College it was ahead of its time as consideration was being given to the education of woman even in mid Victorian times. Large numbers of women attended 'extension lectures' from 1868 onwards. Through her close contacts with Agnes Jones and with the Lawrence family, Nightingale would have been aware of this development. As an avid promoter of education for woman this alone could have been one of the reasons why she may have been keen to come to Londonderry.

#### Conclusion

While there is no definitive reason for Florence Nightingale's visit to Derry in 1867, there is confidence that she signed the Magee Visitors' book. She may have taken a short trip to Ireland to see Agnes Jones or even have travelled together with Agnes. Meeting the family of Sir John Lawrence also a close friend would have been a bonus especially if she was seeking money for the Nightingale Fund. The visit to Magee College then a showpiece of the city would have met with Nightingale's approval especially the early philosophies related to educating woman.

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# Appendix 3

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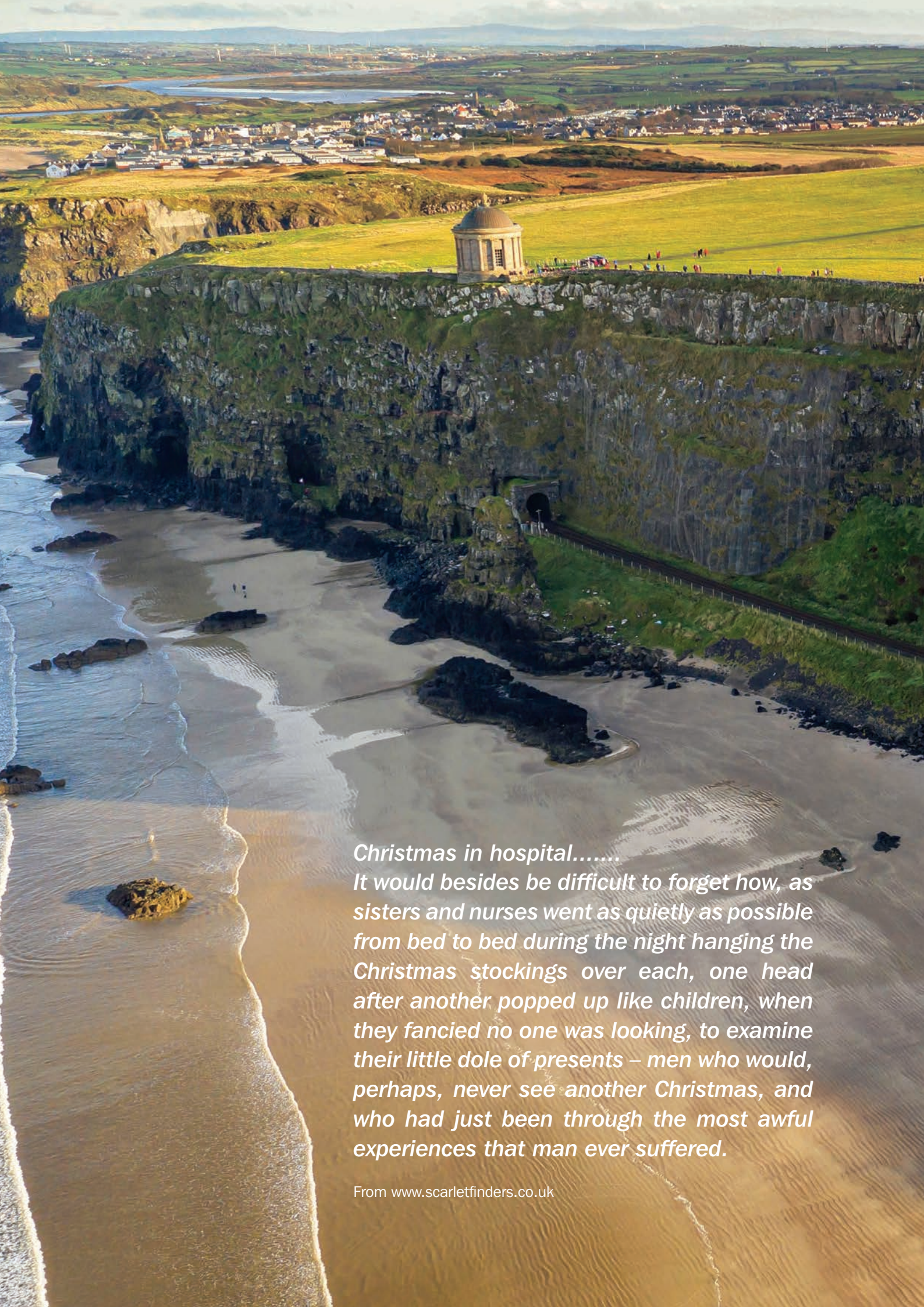
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- ▶ Pages of The Sea <https://www.pagesofthesea.org.uk>
- ▶ Public Records Office Northern Ireland <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni>
- ▶ SCARLETFINDERS, <http://www.scarletfinders.co.uk/>
- ▶ The National Archives <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

## Free Learning Resources for Young People and Adults

- ▶ <https://niarchive.org/trails/peaceiv/> Including digital copy of this publication.
- ▶ <https://niarchive.org/projectitems/on-the-brink-1914-1916-learning-resource-toolkit/> includes local case studies of local women
- ▶ <https://niarchive.org/projectitems/1914-across-the-hawthorn-hedge/> - exhibition panels including local case studies
- ▶ [https://niarchive.org/projects/?fwp\\_project=1914-1916-on-the-brink](https://niarchive.org/projects/?fwp_project=1914-1916-on-the-brink) – includes the links to all On the Brink project pages.
- ▶ <https://niarchive.org/projectitems/1918-local-voices/> including learning resources for 1918 case studies of local women
- ▶ <https://niarchive.org/trails/peaceiv> - where downloadable PDF of this book can be found along with project updates
- ▶ <https://www.teachingpacks.co.uk/the-florence-nightingale-mini-pack/>



### *Christmas in hospital.....*

*It would besides be difficult to forget how, as sisters and nurses went as quietly as possible from bed to bed during the night hanging the Christmas stockings over each, one head after another popped up like children, when they fancied no one was looking, to examine their little dole of presents – men who would, perhaps, never see another Christmas, and who had just been through the most awful experiences that man ever suffered.*

From [www.scarletfinders.co.uk](http://www.scarletfinders.co.uk)