

KGH School of Nursing Alumni Association



April, 2014

KGH Nursing Museum Exhibit To Open May 6th

TUESDAY, MAY 6th IN JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE

Nurses' Day in 2014 will mark an important milestone in preserving the history and legacy of KGH School of Nursing. As a result of nearly two years' worth of collective efforts, the stories and memories of the school and the incredible women who graduated from there will be preserved forever. The information will be available for anyone who has an interest in the development of nursing education and practice in South Central Appalachia.

Despite numerous inquiries, we were unable to locate a place in Knoxville to create an archive of KGH history and display artifacts in a publicly available museum setting. However, the Museum at Mountain Home in Johnson City was very interested, especially because there is a deep connection between KGH nurses and Johnson City medical facilities. The KGH exhibit will be located beside the exhibits donated by the Knoxville Academy of Medicine when its museum closed.

The Museum at Mountain Home, a joint project of the Veterans Administration Medical Center, East TN State University, and the city of Johnson City, is located in the historic mess hall ("clock tower" or "bell tower") building — known as Building 34 — on the VA campus. The museum's mission is to illustrate the history of the VA Medical Center at Mountain Home and the story of the development of health care in Eastern Tennessee, Western North Carolina,

(cont'd on page 2)

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**May 6th
&
May 31st**

Museum Exhibit Opening ... *(cont'd from page 1)*

Southeastern Kentucky, Southwestern Virginia, and Southern West Virginia. The museum's displays encompass the people, events, and activities that have shaped medical care in the region.

KGH Alumni, family members, friends, and members of the public who are interested in our history are invited to attend the unveiling.

The Museum's entrance is located on the West side of the building, up the ramp from 4th Street. Fourth Street is a one-way, north-south street between Maple and Dogwood Streets. For those with GPS, the coordinates are 36.308959, -82.376487. Free parking will be available, and we will have assistance up the ramp for those who require it.

For more information on-line, visit www.etsu.edu/com/museum/

Schedule of Events — May 6, 2014

- 11:00 a.m.** Buffet Lunch in the Museum
Reservation and pre-payment (\$15 per meal) required; see page 4
- 12:30 p.m.** Presentation of Nurses' Day proclamation by the City of Johnson City; unveiling of KGH exhibit; recognition of KGH nurses who are present
- 1:15 p.m.** Guided tours of the Museum; socializing opportunity

Transportation from the Knoxville Area

We have arranged for a 28-passenger chartered bus with comfortable seating and handicapped ("kneeling") capability to transport guests to the Museum event. Reservations and pre-payment (\$35 per seat) are required; see page 4.

Pick-up times will be as follows:

- 8:00 a.m. — depart West Town Mall Parking Lot (location to be determined)
- 8:40 a.m. — depart East Town/Knoxville Center Parking Lot (location to be determined)
- 9:20 a.m. — depart Cracker Barrel Parking Lot at Exit 407 on I-40

Drop-offs will be in reverse order, beginning at approximately 4:30 p.m. at the Cracker Barrel at Exit 407.

What Will You See at the Museum Exhibit?

We are still receiving donated and loaned items for the KGH exhibit, so the inventory is incomplete. Following is a partial listing:

- A nurse's pin from each decade of KGH's existence
- Items used in training and in professional practice by KGH alumni
- Personal mementos and correspondence of graduates from the first class (1905) to the last (1956)
- A tribute to KGH graduates who served in the military and the Cadet Nursing Corps
- Honor roll of KGH alumni who hold advanced degrees or commendations
- A tribute to Martha Rogers, KGH Class of 1936, who developed the Science of Unitary Human Beings, still taught in nursing programs today
- Uniforms actually worn by KGH student nurses
- Recreation of the dolls in student uniforms that were once displayed in a case at KGH
- Textbooks used by KGH students
- Hundreds of photographs
- Maps showing the geographic range of KGH nurses
- Much, much more!

The exhibit will contain a computer on which every graduate's biography — and, where available, photograph — will be available for searching and viewing.

Do You Have Items to Donate or Loan?

If you have items related to Knoxville General Hospital, the women who attended nursing school there, or nursing in South Central Appalachia, the Museum would be happy to serve as a permanent repository for the material. No item is too small or too large. We consider everything related to the nurses' training and practice, or their lives after training if they left nursing, to have significance.

We are especially interested in personal correspondence, scrapbooks, photos, and written or taped histories. Please contact us for more information about the donation process. Donations to the museum are tax-deductible.

KGH Alumni Assn c/o Mary McCall McNamara

P. O. Box 6764, Knoxville, TN 37914-0764

Phone: Omitted from Web document for privacy

E-mail: KnoxGenl@Gmail.com

Reservations for the Johnson City Museum Event

We would appreciate it if you would call or e-mail as soon as possible to let us know if you intend to participate, so we can make preliminary plans.

Then, be sure to send in your reservation form below.

Phone: Omitted from Web document for privacy

E-mail: KnoxGenl@gmail.com

Johnson City Trip Reservation Form

Return by **April 20th** to Mary McNamara, POB 6764, Knoxville, TN 37914.

Phone Omitted from Web document for privacy for questions.

Name _____	Class _____	Reserve _____ lunches @ \$15.00 each, totalling \$ _____
Address _____		Reserve _____ bus seats @ \$35.00 each, totalling \$ _____
City, State, ZIP Code _____		I/we will board the bus at (choose one)
Phone / Cell Phone _____		<input type="checkbox"/> West Town Mall
Your E-mail Address _____		<input type="checkbox"/> East Town/Knoxville Center
		<input type="checkbox"/> Cracker Barrel @ Exit 407
		Total Amount Enclosed (check payable to KGH Alumni Association) \$ _____

The Carnegie Hotel, located near the Museum, has given us a **special rate of \$89** plus taxes for those who wish to stay the night of May 5th. Please refer to **KGH Alumni** when you make your reservation. Please note that you are responsible for making your own hotel reservation separately.

The hotel is located at 1216 W. State of Franklin Rd, Johnson City, TN 37604. The phone number is (423) 979-6400.

The Legacy of KGH Nursing Alumni

Two years ago, Billie McNamara began a “little research project” to present an overview of KGH and its nursing program at the annual alumni luncheon. Little did anyone know her research would expand as far as it has.

Billie has made important connections with historians and archivists at East TN State University, Appalachian State University (Boone, NC), Lincoln Memorial University, and The University of the South (Sewanee, TN). She has explored documents related to nursing programs as far away as Nashville and Chattanooga. Billie and her primary research partner, Sharon Loury, Ph.D., R.N., probably know more about early nurses’ training in East Tennessee than anyone — including institutional archivists at the various schools. Dr. Loury has begun documenting rural nurses, both those who served numerous communities and those who were resident at settlements.

Why does this matter? Because we can trace direct effects and connections between these pioneer nurses and those practicing in our region today. The development of nurses’ training and the profession of nursing in South Central Appalachia tracks with the modernization and deployment of health care programs in the region, especially the institution of public health departments. It appears everywhere we turn, KGH nurses are involved somehow. The overlaps seem endless.

In addition to the KGH museum exhibit, several important results have grown out of the consortium. Oral histories are being collected from nurses who completed their training before 1960 in the region, or those who trained elsewhere and came to work in the region. Dr. Loury is writing a book on the history of health care in the region, focusing on the influence of nurses in the development of community health programs. Appalachian State nursing professor Phoebe Pollitt, Ph.D., R.N., is writing a book on Black and Native American trained nurses from the region. She is also heading a project to collect oral histories of nurses from North Carolina or women who went there to train or work. ETSU College of Nursing is developing courses, many of which will be available worldwide via the Internet, on South Central Appalachian nursing history.

After much cajoling from her beloved mother (Mary McCall McNamara, KGH Class of 1954) Billie is writing a book about the amazing women who graduated from KGH School of Nursing.

Research is on-going and expanding. What can you share?

“The health conditions in Knoxville [in 1912] were so bad I sometimes felt like a sprinkler pot trying to put out a great big fire and sometimes felt overwhelmed with responsibility.”

Amy Young Cox Harshman, R. N.,
writing about her work with the Metropolitan Visiting Nurses Program

Sneak Preview: Amelia Young Cox Harshman, R. N.

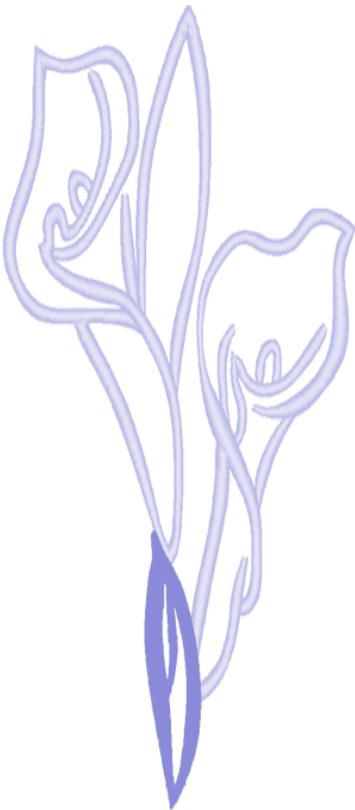
The daughter of a graduate nurse from Boston City Hospital, Amelia Margaret Young was born in 1890 on the Cumberland Plateau near Rockwood, Tennessee. Amy graduated from Lincoln Memorial University School of Nursing in Knoxville, after which she was hired to be the first Superintendent of a brand-new hospital in Johnson City, Tennessee.

From there, Amy was hired by Metropolitan Insurance to set up its visiting nurse program — the employer of many early KGH graduates. “Miss Amy,” as she was called, worked to establish the Beverly Hills Sanatorium for tuberculosis patients in Knoxville. Many KGH graduates worked at Beverly Hills. The Metropolitan program developed into the Knox County Public Health Department, another employer of numerous KGH graduates. The Health Department is located on Cleveland Place, where KGH once stood.

In 1933, Miss Amy went to live in Crossville on the Homestead Settlement, where she became the “beloved project nurse,” providing health care to the community’s residents. In her 70’s, Amy returned to work in the medical field, as a unit secretary at Crossville Hospital where she worked alongside KGH graduates.

It seems wherever you find nursing history in the region, you find KGH alumni! Miss Amy will be featured in the regional nursing exhibit at the Museum at Mountain Home.

In Memoriam — Recent Passages



Sarah Ruth Gaut Williams	1939	December 16, 2012
Mary Ann Lambert Luff	1940	March 27, 2013
Merlin Lorene Cunningham Shaffer	1941	May 22, 2013
Viola Louise Hopkins Brewer	1942	March 14, 2013
Imogene Brown Kaserman Newton	1943	August 17, 2013
Mary Jane “Jeane” Stewart Boehm	1945	April 20, 2013
Elsie Marie Nelson Lail	1946	February 4, 2014
Shirley Fields Lawson	1952	June 28, 2013
Billie Ruth Russell Holland	1952	August 10, 2013
Mary Helen Hensley Sharpe	1952	July 30, 2012
Bonnie Louise Valentine Smith	1952	February 12, 2013
Clara Jean Bertram Elliott	1953	March 3, 2014
Eva Marie Sparks Craig Rich	1954	September 2, 2013
Betty Rae Tabor Horton	1954	May 30, 2013
Ernestine Lorine Sparks Goggins	1955	January 12, 2014
Doris Catherine Kegley Casteel	1956	August 4, 2013

Annual KGH Alumni Luncheon 2014

SATURDAY, MAY 31st IN KNOXVILLE

KGH Alumni Association's Annual Luncheon will be held on **Saturday, May 31, 2014**. The location is St. James' Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 1101 North Broadway, Knoxville.

Anyone with a connection to KGH is welcome to attend and share in this event.

This year, we are going to have a different format for the luncheon. Instead of a plated meal, we will find sandwiches, fresh vegetables, other "finger" foods, and desserts at each table, much like the fare you find at a fancy tea. The reason for the change is we want our alumni members and visitors to focus more on socializing and sharing memories than on the meal and program.

Also new this year, we are going to have a nursing student or younger nurse present to ask questions about your training days and your nursing practice. These discussion facilitators will be at each table. Our purpose is to ensure we have recorded as many memories as possible. Your stories and experiences are crucial to documenting the history of nursing education and the development of the nursing profession in South Central Appalachia. We hope to document many of your stories on video for posterity.

The classes of 1914, 1924, 1934, 1944, and 1954 will be featured. A brief business meeting and a few details about the on-going historical research will also be on the agenda.

2014 KGH Alumni Luncheon Reservation Form

Return **by May 24th** to Christine Dean Christenberry, 4024 Kingston Pike
Knoxville, TN 37919. Phone Omitted from Web document for privacy

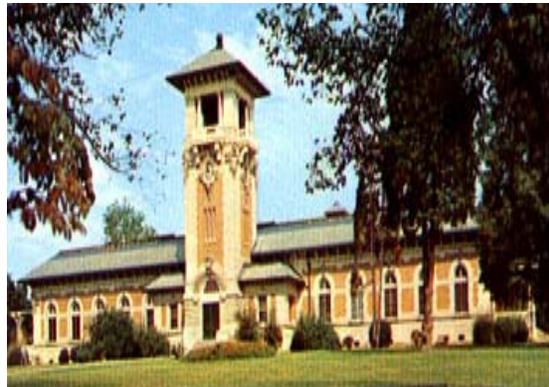
_____	_____	Please reserve _____
Name	Class	lunches @ \$9.50
		each, totalling \$ _____
_____		Alumni Dues @ \$3.00 \$ _____
Address		Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____
_____		(check payable to KGH
City, State, ZIP Code		Alumni Association)
_____	_____	
Phone / Cell Phone	Your E-mail Address	

Knoxville General Hospital School of Nursing Museum Exhibit's Home in Johnson City, Tennessee

After much research and many meetings, we believe the Museum at Mountain Home is the ideal location to house our memories and mementos, as well as preserve our stories.

Located on the joint campus of the VA Hospital/ETSU College of Medicine, the museum collects, preserves, and interprets the story of health care in South Central Appalachia from the earliest practitioner to the present. The building is open free-of-charge to the public for guided tours. Call (423) 439-8069 for information.

The museum is a 501(c)(3) charity staffed solely by volunteers and supported through tax-deductible contributions. If you wish to donate materials or funds, please contact the KGH Alumni Association so we can coordinate our gifts. See page 3 for details.



Inside: Details & Reservation Forms for two events
May 6 — Museum Exhibit Opening
May 31 — Annual Alumni Luncheon

<http://kgh.knoxcothn.org>

Visit KGH On-Line



Return to:
East Tennessee State University
Quillen College of Medicine
KGH/Museum at Mountain Home
Box 70693
Johnson City, TN 37614-1710
Return Service Requested