

[Archives & Special Collections, Columbia University Health Sciences Library](#)

[Columbia University School of Nursing Historical Collection](#)

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. SCHOOL OF NURSING.

Historical collection, 1887-1990.

2.5 cubic feet (8 boxes)

HISTORICAL NOTE: The School of Nursing was founded in 1892 by the Presbyterian Hospital Board of Managers as the Training School for Nurses. It became the Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing circa 1904 and in 1928 moved with Presbyterian Hospital to the new Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in northern Manhattan.

Responsibility for the School's educational program was assumed by the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1935. This relationship was formalized in 1937 when the University established the Department of Nursing of the Faculty of Medicine, at which time the Director of the School became the Associate Dean for Nursing. However, most of the School's budget was still funded by Presbyterian Hospital which also continued to own and operate the School's physical plant. In 1974, the Dept. of Nursing became the Columbia University School of Nursing and its head assumed the title of Dean.

SCOPE AND CONTENT: Correspondence, memoranda, reports, financial records, memoirs, curriculum materials, printed matter, and blueprints documenting the history of the Columbia University School of Nursing, founded in 1892 as the Presbyterian Hospital Training School for Nurses.

Among the topics documented are the founding of the school; the work of its graduates during the Spanish-American War and the First and Second World Wars; the affiliation with Columbia University in the 1930s; fundraising for and construction of Anna Maxwell Hall, the School of Nursing home from 1928 to 1984; extensive records relating to curriculum; and much biographical material on the school's directors/deans through 1976.

The correspondence includes much that originated in the records of the school's deans and of the presidents of Presbyterian Hospital. Since few dean's records exist before the 1960s and no Presbyterian Hospital president's records appear to have survived at all, this collection probably includes the only body of records relating to the school's first four decades.

Internal evidence shows that the majority of these records were created by Eleanor Lee as working files for her two histories of the School of Nursing, *History of the School of Nursing of the Presbyterian Hospital, New York, 1892-1942* (1942) and *Neighbors, 1892-1967: A History of the Department of Nursing, Faculty of Medicine, Columbia University, 1937-1967, and its predecessor, the School of Nursing of the Presbyterian Hospital, New York, 1892-1937* (1967). They were then passed on to Gary Goldenberg who used them in writing the third history of the school, *Nurses of a Different Stripe: A History of the Columbia University School of Nursing, 1892-1992* (1992).

Goldenberg added to the collection including both material for the post-1967 era as well as additional items to the existing files, largely photocopies of pages from the Alumni Association's publication, *The Quarterly Magazine* and its successors.

The folder titles are original; the list of items in each folder is not comprehensive but highlights only the more significant items.

ORGANIZATION: Organized in three series: I. Subjects, Chronological; II. Subjects, Alphabetical; III. Biographical.

PROVENANCE: Transfer from the School of Nursing in 2016-17 (accessions #2016.020; #2017.010).

LANGUAGE: English, French.

ACCESS: Open without restrictions.

ADDITIONAL RECORDS: After the School of Nursing's affiliation with Columbia in 1937, there are considerable records relating to it in the [Central Records of the Office of the Vice President for Health Sciences/Dean of the Faculty of Medicine](#). Archives & Special Collections also holds [Office of the Dean Records, 1962-1986](#) as well as other unprocessed Office of the Dean records largely dating post-1986, and other School of Nursing collections.

There are also separate collections of papers of [Elizabeth S. Gill](#) and [Helen Young](#).

CITE AS: Columbia University School of Nursing Historical Collection, Archives & Special Collections, Columbia University Health Sciences Library.

Subjects

Conrad, Margaret.

Crawford, Mary I.

Eliot, Margaret.

Gill, Elizabeth S.

Lee, Eleanor, 1896-1967.

Maxwell, Anna Caroline, 1851-1929.

Young, Helen, 1874-

Columbia University. School of Nursing.

Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center.

Presbyterian Hospital (New York, N.Y.). School of Nursing.

United States. Army. Base Hospital No. 2.

Nurses – United States.

Nursing – Study and teaching – New York (State) – New York.

Nursing schools – New York (State) – New York.

Schools, Nursing – New York (State) – New York.

World War, 1914-1918 - Hospitals - France - Étretat.

**Columbia University. School of Nursing
Historical Collection, 1887-1968**

Box Folder

Series I: Subjects, Chronological

- 1 1 Early years, 1887-1906:
Presbyterian Hospital. Brochure announcing plans to open Training School for Nurses, with requirements for admission, undated but 1892.

Presbyterian Hospital. *Rules for Nurses*, Oct. 1903, 8 p.

Presbyterian Hospital. *Rules for Nurses*, undated, 26 p.

Presbyterian Hospital Training School for Nurses. Invitation to “demonstration of the work of the School by members of the Graduating Class,” undated but ca. 1890s
- 2 Curriculum, early 1900s
- 3 Spanish-American War:
Dr. Edwin B. McDaniel: reminiscences of Anna C. Maxwell at Sternberg General Hospital, 2 p., undated

American National Red Cross Relief Committee: Reports, May, 1898-March 1899 [excerpts?]

Anna C. Maxwell to Training School Committee, Board of Managers, Presbyterian Hospital: report of her work at Sternberg General Hospital, Oct. 31, 1898, 4 p. (later typed copy)
- 4 Early 1900s:
Photocopy of admissions application of Harriet Beatrice Gibson, Class of 1894

Constitution of Student Association, February 1921
- 5 1910s:
Teachers College, Columbia University: “Outline of Plan for Affiliation with the Presbyterian Hospital Training School for Nurses,” April 1919, 2 p.

Correspondence between Presbyterian Hospital President Dean Sage and Prof. Isabel M. Stewart, Teachers College, regarding discontinuance of Teachers College-Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing program, 1926

Box Folder

- 1 5 Presbyterian Hospital. *Charter, Constitution, By-Laws and Rules and Regulations of the Presbyterian Hospital in the City of New York*, April 1914, 40 p.
- 6 Class of 1912: Class Books, 45th (1957) and 50th (1962) reunions
- 7 Public health, early 1900s:
Visiting Nurse Service of New York: undergraduate courses in public health nursing, 1918, 1 p.
- “History of the Visiting Nurse Service of New York and Social Service Department of the Presbyterian Hospital” no date, no author, 4 p.
- 8 Henry Street; Lillian Wald:
Printed material by and about the Visiting Nurse Service of New York, ca. 1930s-1940s
- 9 World War I:
“Participation of the Presbyterian Hospital in the First World War,” undated (but after 1939), and no author but may be early draft of Albert R. Lamb’s chapter on the hospital in World War I for his *History of the Presbyterian Hospital and the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center* (1955); it quotes extensively from George Brewer’s war memoir, 34 p.
- 10 World War I:
Helen Young (?): description of Anna C. Maxwell’s design of a dress uniform for the nurses of Base Hospital No. 2, 4 p.
- Winfred L. Van Atta (Director, Dept. of Public Interest, Presbyterian Hospital): “Presbyterian Hospital in World War I, 1917-1918,” “Chapter 4” in an unpublished history of the hospital, undated but ca. 1970, 20 p.
- Program for *Hello Etretat! A Revusical Comedy in 3 Acts and 9 Scenes*, Christmas, 1917, 4 p.
- 11 World War I:
Anna C. Maxwell? “Report to Presbyterian Hospital Board of Managers, Oct. 15, 1917,” 3 p.
- List of Presbyterian Hospital physicians and School of Nursing graduates who served in World War I

Box Folder

- 1** 11 "U. S. Base Hospital No. 2, 1917-1918" no author, undated, 8 p.
- 12 World War I: *The First Six Hundred*, Anne K. Williams' memoir of serving with Base Hospital No. 2 in Étretat, France; includes index created later.
- 13 World War I: Anne K. Williams' correspondence with Helen Young, 1940-1942
- 2** 1 1920s:
Rules and Regulations Governing the Student Body of the Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing, 1922/23, 1924, 1926
- Teachers College, Dept. of Nursing Education. *Announcement of Experience in Supervision and Teaching in the Out Patient Department, Being Offered in Vanderbilt Clinic, New York City*, undated, 2 p.
- "Rules Controlling the Use of Privileges Granted the Students' Association of the Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing," undated, 3 p.
- Program, *Benefit Performance of Lollipop at the Knickerbocker Theatre in Aid of the 'Hilltop Camp' a Summer Home for the Delicate Children of the Presbyterian Hospital District*, April 28, 1924
- Constitution of the Student Association, Feb. 1921
- "Analysis of Curriculum," May 1927, 4 p.
- Letter, Helen Young and Anna Maxwell to Presbyterian Hospital President Dean Sage regarding requirements for an affiliation of the School of Nursing with Columbia University, June 4, 1925, 3 p.
- "School of Nursing - Presbyterian Hospital – Instruction, Fall Term 1928," 5 p.
- Student petition with signatures to Dean Helen Young protesting conditions at the School, undated, 3 p.
- "P.H." *The Quarterly of the Student Association*, v. 1, no. 2, August, 1923
- 2 Maxwell Hall, 1925-1945:
Fundraising brochures for Maxwell Hall, 1920s
- Invitation to cornerstone laying of addition to Maxwell Hall, Dec. 20, 1945

Box Folder

- 2 2 Pencil sketch of layout of furniture in students' rooms, W. & J. Sloane, undated but ca. 1925-27
- Maxwell Hall house regulations, March 1, 1928, Sept. 1, 1929
- Program and correspondence: Flag presentation to Maxwell Hall by the Junior Circle #1 of the Ladies of the G.A.R., Sept. 8, 1928
- 3 Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center/Maxwell Hall, 1924-1928:
Invitation to dedication of the Medical Center, Oct. 12, 1928
- Medical center fundraising brochures, 1920s
- List of donors to Maxwell Hall, Feb. 12, 1925
- Presbyterian Hospital Building Fund: contributions of \$1000 and over received by March 18, 1925
- Joint Administrative Board bulletins, 1925-1927
- 4 Transition to Columbia University, 1920s-1930s:
Extensive correspondence and reports, both original and photocopies, relating to the affiliation with Columbia from the records of the Dean of the College of Physicians & Surgeons, the Dean of the Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing, and the Office of the President, Presbyterian Hospital
- "Memorandum on Instruction in Nursing for University Council Meeting on October 20, 1936"
- 5 Curriculum, 1930s-1940s:
Correspondence and reports relating to curriculum, largely from the Office of the Dean, School of Nursing,
- 6 1930s:
Correspondence and reports from the Office of the Dean, School of Nursing;
printed matter
- Rules and Regulations Governing the Student Body of the Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing, 1934*

Box Folder

- 3 1 Near East Foundation/Greek students, 1937-1942:
Correspondence among Presbyterian Hospital Director of Nursing, Helen Young;
Dean of the Nursing School, Margaret Conrad; and the Near East Foundation
relating to the education of Greek women at the nursing school
- 2 World War II, Cadet Corps, 1940-1949:
Correspondence, reports, and printed matter
- 3 World War II, Bryn Mawr Summer School of Nursing, 1941-1946:
Correspondence of Margaret Conrad, Director; reports; printed matter
- 4 World War II, General:
Graph: "200 PH Graduates Have Gone to War"
- Margaret Conrad memo regarding schedule for Presbyterian Hospital nurses and
students wanting to celebrate V-J Day, Aug. 14, 1945
- Correspondence, J. Herman Kinnicutt to Walter Lippmann asking if he would be
speaker at School of Nursing's 1941 commencement
- 5 World War II, Abroad:
Marjorie Peto, "History of 2nd General Hospital Army Nurses," 12 p.
- Untitled reminiscences of 2nd General Hospital service by two unidentified nurses,
7 p. and 10 p.
- Letter of Sheila Dwyer, former nurse at Presbyterian Hospital, to Helen Young
describing her experiences with the American Hospital in Britain, Basingstoke,
Hants., England, Oct. 13-Nov. 9, 1940
- News Bulletin of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Hospital Units*, no. 1-4
(Feb. 1943-Dec. 1944) and May 1945 (unnumbered)
- 6 World War II, Homefront:
Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, air raid procedure, general
memorandum #1, Dec. 20, 1941
- Aid raid regulations, Maxwell Hall, June 1, 1942
- Caroline Nicoll, "Final Report on the Red Cross Volunteer Nurses' Aides at
Presbyterian Hospital from 1942 through 1945" ca. 1945, 5 p.

Box Folder

- 3** **7** 1940s:
Program, "Christmas Music by the Trapp Family Singers," Sturges Auditorium, Maxwell Hall, Dec. 19, 1948
- Correspondence and reports relating to curriculum
- Script for Senior Class Night, 1947, with manuscript note listing cast members, 7 p.
- "Review of Work Done by the Advisory Committee of the Combined Medical Board in Cooperation with the Administration, the Department of Nursing and the Medical School," May 25, 1943, 28 p.
- "Articles Sealed in Box Buried under the Ivy at Maxwell Hall, for safe keeping until the 100th Anniversary in 1992," no date, 1 p.
- 8** 1940s:
Programs, Welcoming Ceremony, Class of 1945 (Jan. 29, 1943) and Class of 1946 (Jan. 28, 1944)
- Presbyterian Hospital, "Official Bed Capacity as of November 1, 1940," 1 p.
- Documents and correspondence regarding School of Nursing finances
- 9** Classroom plans, 1948-49, 1954:
Correspondence, reports, and a blueprint relating to proposed move of some School of Nursing classes to Presbyterian Hospital building
- 4** **1** 50th anniversary banquet, history, etc.:
Program, guest list, table list, correspondence, and bills relating to June 3, 1942 50th anniversary banquet at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel
- Correspondence with and financial documents from G.P. Putnam's Sons relating to publication and sale of Eleanor Lee's *History of the School of Nursing of the Presbyterian Hospital, New York, 1892-1942*
- 2** 1951-1968
Presbyterian Hospital, "Comparison of Special and Staff Nurses' Rate of Pay and Benefits," Jan. 11, 1952, 2 p.

Box Folder

- 4 2 Committee of Assistant Professors of Nursing, Minutes, Sept. 10, 1951 – May 14, 1956
- 3 Columbia University Bicentennial (1954): Minutes, correspondence, publications relating to School of Nursing participation, 1953-54

Series II: Subjects, Alphabetical

- 4 Agreements, Columbia University-Presbyterian Hospital, relating to School of Nursing, 1937, 1945-1955
- 5 Alumni: correspondence with and biographical information about, 1890s-1990s
- 6 Alumni Association: Programs, invitations, correspondence, 1898-1980
- 7 École Florence Nightingale, Bordeaux, France: Postcards, a photo, correspondence, blueprint, and brochure, *Appel au Protestantisme Français a la Memoire des Jeunes Protestants morts pour la France pendant la Grande Guerre* [no date, c.1920]
- 5 1 Handbooks, yearbooks: Author's index of topics found in them, c. 1990
- 2 Harkness Memorial Hall: Remarks delivered at cornerstone laying, 1945; articles from *The Stethoscope*, 1946; list of items found in cornerstone, 1984
- 3 "Letters from Notable People": Edith Cavell, 1913; Annie W. Goodrich (4), 1922, 1945; Adelaide Nutting, 1936; Linda Richards, 1923; John Singer Sargent, 1921; Lillian Wald (2), 1930, 1932
- 4 Male nurses: Notes of interviews with recent graduates, probably conducted by Gary Goldenberg; articles about recent graduates, c. 1980s-early 1990s.
- 5 *Neighbors* [School of Nursing history, 1967]: Correspondence with publisher, etc., 1965-1967
- 6 *Neighbors* [School of Nursing history, 1967]: Eleanor Lee correspondence with alumnae, 1965-1966
- 7 Presbyterian Hospital: Unpublished history by Winfred L. Van Atta, Director, Dept. of Public Interest, Presbyterian Hospital, chapters I-VI, undated, c. 1970

Box Folder

- 5 8 Red Cross: "Red Cross Pioneering in New York City," Carolyn E. Gray (11 p.), undated, c. 1930; "Address Made at the Red Cross Convention Dinner by Mrs. William Kinnicutt Draper...April 10, 1934" (9 p.)
- 9 Seventy-Fifth Anniversary, 1967: Program, newspaper clipping

Series III: Biographical

- 10 Conrad, Margaret [Dean, 1937-1950]: Biographical material
- 6 Conrad, Margaret
- 1 Correspondence, 1940-1979
- 2 Resignation, 1950: Correspondence, minutes, etc.
- 3 Tribute from Alumni Association [1950]
- 4 Nursing school notebook, 1920
- 5 Scrapbook pages, 1935; "Manuscript for Nurses," undated
- 6 Crawford, Mary I. [Dean, 1968-1976]: Biographical material, 1960s-70s
- 7 Eliot, Margaret [Director of Nursing, Presbyterian Hospital, 1938-1955]: Biographical material, 1941-1961
- 8 Gill, Elizabeth S. [Dean, 1961-1968]: Biographical material, including postcards from Eleanor Lee, 1960s
- Lee, Eleanor [Dean, 1951-1961]
- 9 Biographical material, 1930s-1960s
- 10 Correspondence, 1957-1966
- 11 Letters received by School of Nursing upon her death, 1967
- 7 Maxwell, Anna [Dean, 1892-1921]
- 1-2 Biographical material, general, 1890s-1920s
- 3 Correspondence to, from, and about her, 1893-1927, 1941

Box	Folder	
7	4	Correspondence regarding fundraising for Anna Maxwell Hall, 1925
		Young, Helen [Dean, 1921-1936]
	5-6	Biographical material, 1890s-1960s
	7	Correspondence, 1898, 1921, 1934-1966
	8	Letters received upon her retirement, 1942
8	1	“Birthday and Christmas cards drawn by Cecile Covell and sent to Miss Young,” 1940s-1960s
	2	Letters to Anne Penland upon Young’s death, 1966
	3	Memorial tributes, 1966
	4	Funeral guest books (2 volumes), 1966