

Manuscript
Collection

ROBINSON (MARGARET L) PAPERS

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A small collection relating to Mrs. Robinson's part in forming the Colonial Nursing Association and its sub-committee which was called the Canada Prairie Nursing Association. It includes letters to Mrs. Robinson from women on the Canadian Prairies, 1912-1924.

EXTENT: 1 box; 2 1/2 "

Acquired from Mrs. Gillian Newman of Guildford, Surrey, England, through the kind offices of Mr. James Evans of Wyoming, Ont.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Margaret Robinson came of a distinguished Scottish family, being the daughter of General Sir Archibald Alison. In 1884 she married Major-General Charles Walker Robinson, son of Sir John Beverley Robinson, Chief Justice of Canada from 1829 to 1862.

Her interest in Canada, already kindled by her husband's Canadian origins, was deepened by a visit to Canada in 1911, when she says she "got to learn a good deal about outlying district life". She had already helped to form the Colonial Nursing Association with head-quarters in London, England, and had written a short history of the organization in 1909. After visiting Canada she began to correspond with women living in primitive conditions in remote areas of the Canadian West. Many of them were wives and mothers who were bearing children under difficult conditions, and who suffered from many problems, including loneliness.

She wrote letters to them, and arranged for shipments of reading material to be sent. She also succeeded in getting a sub-committee of her original nursing association set up, to form the Canadian Prairie Nursing Association.

Rachel Grover
January 1987

ROBINSON (MARGARET) L. PAPERS

CONTAINER LISTING:

Robinson, Margaret L. The Story of the Colonial Nursing Association, 1896-1909. Typed draft with ms. corrections. 18 leaves.

----- The Story of Colonial Nursing Association, 1896-1909. [1909]. Xerox copy of printed pamphlet (original has been accessioned as a printed pamphlet).

----- Trend of expenditure [of the Colonial Nursing Association] 1897-1909. Ts. 16 leaves.

----- [Letters received from women on the Canadian prairies, thanking Mrs. Robinson for letters and reading material, and describing living conditions] 1912-1924. 9 folders.

Writers include: Ella Allen, Murphy's River, Sask; Lucy Campbell, Sped-dington P.Q. Sask; Mary Dodds, Earlie P.O., via Kitzcoty, Alta; Christina Gordon, Ft. M^cMurray, Alta; Agnes Munro, Bjorkdale, Sask.; Gladys Risk, North Bay, Ont.; Jane Sinclair, Point St. Charles, Montreal, P.Q.; L. Staples, Crooked River, Sask.

----- Some of my correspondents in Canada. 1914. Ts. 4 leaves. Mrs. Robinson lists her Canadian correspondents, quotes from their letters and gives brief notes on their circumstances.

Form of application for the Canadian Prairie Nursing Committee. "To be returned to Mrs. Chas. Robinson." 2 leaves.

Unsigned, undated letter on behalf of the Canadian Prairie Nursing Committee to members of the I.O.D.E. asking for help in sending maternity nurses to Canada. ca. 1919. Probably composed by Margaret Robinson. 5 leaves.

Robinson, Margaret L. [Correspondence relating to the setting up of a Canada sub-committee of the Colonial Nursing Association] 1918. 6 leaves.

Jarvis, Julia. Three centuries of the Robinson family.
Excerpt. 4 p.