

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC VINELAND



MOMENTS IN HISTORY: FROM NUNS TO NURSES, (A HISTORY OF PATIENT CARE)

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People have been caring for others for centuries. That concept is not new. But, nursing as we know it today is a more recent human endeavor.

For example, during the middle ages, travelers would spend their nights in monasteries which had been built approximately a hard day's travel from each other. The weary traveler would have to bang on the door to be let in when he finally arrived. The monk that opened the door was called the hospitalier because it was his duty to give hospitality. Many times the traveler was ill, and they would have to give extra care and help. So was born the hospital! Eventually, the Christian Nuns became involved in such care. It is no wonder then that nurses, until recently, would wear a cap that was a carry over from the habit of a nun, who did

much of the caring of patients.

More modern nursing started during the Crimean war of 1853 to 1856 when a lady by the name of Florence Nightingale became involved in the care of wounded British soldiers. She was the daughter of a British Ambassador to Italy who named her "Florence" because she was born in Florence Italy.

Florence was an intelligent and head strong lady who refused to accept the limited role of women of that day. She was also proficient in mathematics and was able to show by uncontroversial statistics that the care she gave to the soldiers resulted in greatly improved survival.

We must keep in mind, however, that the changes that she made were very basic by today's standards. These involved such things as good nutrition, clean living quarters, toilets located far away from the

water supply, bandage changing, and many of the other sanitary measures that we take for granted today. The basic changes that proved so effective gave her the authority to set up an entire system of care that produced our modern day nurses.

In America, during the Civil War, a similar process took place, but the lady involved was Clara Barton. She brought those same simple yet radical measures to the American battle field, and produced dramatic results. Having demonstrated the need for nurses skilled in caring for the sick and wounded, Schools of Nursing were established. This movement was strongly supported by both physicians in the AMA and socially prominent women who had served as nurses during the Civil War. To her great credit, she eventually started the American Red Cross.

Contents:

Page #1: Moments in History, a History of Patient Care.

Page #2: Founder's Day, a success again

Page #3: Marie Dumas Durand, a personal history by her daughter

Page #4: The Calendar for 2003 is just around the corner. Help us meet our goal. Buy an ad!!

Join the Friends. It's for the good of our town and our kids!

(Cont. on page 2)

Around 1900, the field of nursing was well established but much different than today. Organizations for nurses were just beginning as was the idea that nurses should be licensed to practice. It was almost unheard of for a nurse to be a male. The few men in nursing were more in the role of attendants and were used especially in the care of violent patients who were out of control. Females who became nurses for the most part devoted their lives to the profession. They often lived at their place of employment. They worked 12 to 16 hour days (nurses today like to think that they are working that hard!!!). This was expected 6 days a week despite the fact that the pay was low. They were expected to attend lectures in addition to their duties with patients. The lady that studied to become a nurse usually received only 3 months of "training" and then was sent to take care of the hospitalized patients. Their

"uniforms" varied but washable clothing was advised. A distinctive cap was worn to keep the hair neat. Silent shoes that didn't squeak were advised for the sick room. Most nurses had their own "kits" which held scissors, a thermometer, dressing forceps, caustic holder, and tongue depressor.

Nurses were expected to be absolutely responsive to the orders of physician. They did not dare question the orders of a physician, were expected to stand in his presence, and if they were sitting, were to offer their seat to the physician.

The duties of a nurse revolved around the physical care of the patient such as washing them, changing bandages, feeding them and so forth. It was not until around 1950 when medical care became more and more complex, equipment became more sophisticated, and care became more

complicated that it was necessary to educate nurses to carry out the vastly more complex duties that were required for the care of hospitalized patients.

With this increased sophistication and importance, it was expected that nurses would receive as much advanced training as possible. Further, doctors became very interested in being more involved with the training of nurses. With such training, nurses were expected to question orders that did not correctly relate to what they had learned, and to ask as many questions as possible so that they could continue to be more effective.

With that, of course, came the end of the nurse as a "handmaiden" and believe me, they don't stand anymore when a doctor enters a room.

(Coming next in *Moments in History*—The Nurses of Newcomb)

The Heavens Smiled (Again!)

For seven years in a row, we have had a Founder's Day Event, and it has not rained. Truly, the heavens are smiling on us.

What a great day it was. It all started on Friday morning with 22 buses filled with third grade students from Vineland. They went through each station and learned something about the history of Vineland and of the area at the time that Vineland was founded. Then, it all ended with the Lyon's Club of Vineland, the Civil War Reenactors, putting on an impressive display of fire power.

In the afternoon, the event was more or less repeated, with 17 bus loads of students from the 5th grade of Vineland.

On Saturday, the main event unfolded. There were the old faithful characters such as Mr. Lincoln, Marie Durand, George Daynor, plus a number of new ones. The Vineland Art Alliance had the kids making kites and flying them, then drawing a picture of what the kit flying event seemed to them (had to get some art in there somehow!!)

The Civil War reenactors put on their usual lively events. A num-

ber of groups entertained the visitors with music of exceptional quality. The antique car guys were there en mass with their great old cars. The Boy Scouts were there to enjoy the day and help out. There was good food, crafters selling their ware, and ponies for the kids to ride when they joined the cavalry after basic training.

And there was more. But enough of what was accomplished. We want to make it better. The Friends have already had a meeting and are planning next year's event. Here are some of the ideas: The event next year will be called Founder's Day Fair



*Linda Schimmel as
Louisa Mae Alcott*

The theme will be “Family Fun.” The major emphasis will be to have a day of fun centered around history. There should be many more games and events for the kids, but they will be the type that would have been played in more simple times gone by. We hope to modify the tents with more displays of history, and more interactive material.

All of this will take more money, as we hope to continue to provide much of the activity free of cost, and it will involve more people to participate. So, good folks of Vineland, if you want to have Fun With History, give us a call, we can use you!!!

MARIE DUMAS DURAND

(Note: This article was provided by Janice Olivio who is a re-enactor for Marie Durand. She said that the article was written by the daughter of Marie Durand)

I hope the young people who read this article will profit by my mistake. While you are living at home, before you venture forth on your own, you should ask your parents where they were born and where they spent their early days. It is a wise thing to write these facts in a little book. I did not do so and one forgets. Many things you were told elude you in later years.

Marie Dumas Durand was born in Grenoble, France, December 4, 1871. This city is situated in the French Alps and is very beautiful. She was the daughter of Francois and Adele Tezier Dumas. Mr. Dumas was engaged in the manufacture of gloves. His particular specialty being tanning and dyeing the skins.

Mr. Dumas crossed the ocean three or four times to visit the United States. He thought it was the country of the future. He traveled as far as California. On the way, he visited many of the cities in view of establishing a home in one of them. When he brought his wife and Marie here, about the year 1877, Mrs. Dumas would go no further than New York City. She was separated from her family by the ocean and she said that was far enough.

The family settled in New York in a part of the Bronx, which was rural country in those days. Conditions were very unsanitary and malaria was rampant due to the mosquitoes in the marshes. Within a year, the three fell ill with the dread disease. Nego-

tations were in progress with several glove factories in Gloversville and Tannersville, New York. They had plans to move to that section~ Mrs. Dumas and Marie made a satisfactory recovery but Mr. Dumas had complications which left him with a paralysis of the throat and a complete loss of his voice. There was a long convalescence.

One Sunday in the newspaper, they saw a Charles K. Landis advertisement about Vineland. The great attraction was the fact that the area was malaria free. If grape vines grew there, they knew it would be a healthy climate. Marie and her father journeyed to Vineland on the Central Railroad, quite a trip at that time. It was a warm January day, almost like Florida. They were very impressed by Mr. Landis and his young town. A tract of land was purchased on Wheat Road. Marie, a little girl, did all the talk-ing for her father as he had not regained his voice. When he did speak again, he was so pleased with life in Vineland and the progress the town had made that they decided to remain.

Marie attended the Vineland Public Schools. Her first being the two—room Vine Road School, which was torn down some years ago. I cannot recall the other schools she attended. After two years of high school she went to New York, where she stayed with a French family. She finished her education studying music and painting followed by a summer in England and France.

In 1898, Marie married Victor Durand, an industrious young glass manufacturer who had established his factory in Vineland. Two daughters were born to the couple. The older, Adele, died at the age of eleven. Lorraine, Mrs. Charles Cunningham, is living in Vineland.



Matilda Landis, brother of Charles K. Landis, during Founder's Day

PLANNING AHEAD: We have started to plan the calendar for the Friends for next year, 2003. As you know, we try to honor some worthwhile group every year, and this year it will be the Police Department Of Vineland. You know, we can always count on it, and we would like to show our appreciation to them.

So, if a little old lady by the name of Mary Ribaudo (better known among her FRIENDS as Matilda Landis) calls you and asks if you would again like to put an ad in our calendar, don't disappoint her and say no! The price is the same, a bargain at \$100. You get 25 "free" calendars for the donation, and the satisfaction of knowing that your money is being spent to help educated our town about the great history of Vineland, and what our expectations for our town should be!!

Marie Durand, continued

Mrs. Durand lived six weeks short of her 97th birthday. She lived a very busy active life. In the beginning years she helped her husband in his business. She was very interested in education and the school system. She helped found the first Parent Teacher's Association at the Park and East School. The Newcomb Hospital was another of her favorite projects. She worked on many committees to help its Building Fund.

In her opinion, every boy should be a member of the Boy Scouts and the Young Men's Christian Association. These organizations, she thought, developed a sense of patriotism, honesty and courage. They were important character builders at the period when a boy was growing up. She was ever

urging young people to strive for higher goals. If there was a will there was a way. Always happy that she was fortunate to be able to contribute very generously to these worthwhile projects, she made a last gift to these organizations the year she died.

She was an avid reader and kept informed in the political affairs of the City and Nation. Although she was born in France, she was an American Citizen and her first allegiance was to the United States. That was one point that she never wanted anyone to doubt.

Her strong belief was that one must lead a good Christian life and keep alert to one's surroundings and live a useful life. These rules she followed very closely.

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