

Collection #  
M1029  
OMB0126

## INDIANA METHODIST HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING MATERIALS, 1919–2010

[Collection Information](#)

[Historical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Series Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

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January 2012

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 manuscript boxes; 1 oversized manuscript box; 3 folders color photographs; 5 folders OVB graphics.

COLLECTION DATES: 1919–2010

PROVENANCE: Indiana Methodist Hospital School of nursing Alumnae Association, December 2011

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: “The Indianapolis Area of the Methodist Episcopal Church : First Quadrennium, 1920-1924.” General Collection: BX8381.A44 I554 1924

“A Mission of Compassionate Health Care: The History of Methodist Hospital of Indiana Inc.” General Collection: RA982.I55 M487 1984

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2011.0338

NOTES:

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

At the beginning of the twentieth century, the Indianapolis metropolitan area was expanding rapidly. Due to overcrowding, the city's three hospitals were forced to turn away nearly two out of every four people seeking medical attention. It was clear that the city would need an additional hospital, and the Methodist church began to plan for the creation of a new hospital for Indianapolis. A school for nurses training became an integral part of the initial plans for the new hospital.

As the opening of the hospital approached, nursing students at varying degrees of experience were recruited. Methodist ministers and church members sought out women of "good character and background" to attend the new school. Transfers from other nursing schools were also accepted. The school officially opened in 1908, with the opening of the Methodist Episcopal Hospital. The superintendent of nurses served as the superintendent of the school of nursing. The school graduated two nurses in 1909 and five in 1910. The graduating class of 1911 was the first to attend the school for all three years of the program (14 nurses). By 1919, there were 206 students in training and the nursing school had an estimated operating cost of \$25,000.

In the early years of the school's existence, much was demanded of the students. Nurses worked in the hospital from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. This shift was followed by evening classes in the basement of the hospital. In 1917 the day was shortened to eight hours of work in the hospital followed by classes. Nursing students were also expected to help clean all areas of the hospital. Though discipline was strict at the school, nursing students enjoyed their free time in Indianapolis. In 1934, the school ran the first edition of "The Reflector," the school newsletter.

Prior to 1932, students were not required to pay tuition. These students also received their room and board along with a monthly paycheck. In 1911, the monthly pay was \$6. In 1932, nursing students were required to pay tuition of \$175. This increased over the years to \$375 in 1937 and \$450 in 1939. In addition, students paid for their uniforms and equipment. With the introduction of the tuition and fees, the nursing school became self supporting and even returned a profit through the Great Depression. Following WWII, Methodist Episcopal Hospital experienced a shortage of nurses. As a result, tuition dropped to \$50 by 1947, with no charge for textbooks.

Hearing of the school's plight, a prominent local businessman, Edward F. Gallahue, president of the American State Insurance Company, suggested a new method for recruiting students. Gallahue himself visited Methodist summer youth camps around the state, showing a film which dramatized a nursing career. Interested women provided their contact information. The "Gallahue Plan" relied on the year-round efforts of Methodist ministers and church members to contact interested women and encourage them to attend school. As a result of these efforts, the nursing school had one of its largest incoming classes in 1949. The "Gallahue Plan" received national attention as the subject of an article in the *Reader's Digest*.

The creation of multiple scholarships for nursing students, coupled with a relaxing of the strict rules attracted more women as well. With the construction of tennis, horseshoes, shuffleboard and badminton courts, the appointment of a librarian and a full-time social director, the school began to emphasize social and recreational opportunities. This shift helped to make the nursing school more attractive to potential students. In 1957, the school converted the old Riley Hospital into a residence hall for nursing students, naming it Wesley Hall. Though positive changes had been made, the nursing school continued to struggle with the retention of its students, who often found other hospitals to work in after graduating. To address this problem, the school offered to waive the then-\$235 tuition fee for the senior year if the student agreed to stay on for a year after graduation. Scholarships were created which stipulated that the student remain at Methodist Hospital for one year.

On May 11, 1969, exactly 60 years after the opening of the school, the Methodist Hospital School of Nursing graduated its last class (77 students). The program had been slowly phased out in favor of a two-year degree in nursing program available through classes at the regional campus of Indiana University (now Indiana University-Purdue University of Indianapolis). In its 60 years of operation, the school graduated 3, 668 nurses.

The Methodist Episcopal Hospital is now the Indiana University Health Methodist Hospital.

Sources:

*A Mission of Compassionate Health Care: The History of Methodist Hospital of Indiana Inc.* General Collection: RA982.I55 M487 1984

Methodist Health Foundation. "Methodist Hospital History: 100 Years Video."

<http://www.methodisthealthfoundation.org/methodistHospital.aspx>

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection has been divided into two series. The first, Methodist Hospital School of Nursing (1919–2010), is the larger of the two and contains materials related to the school of nursing. Materials include general school history, documents related to rules and regulations at the school, student handbooks, residence hall handbooks, annual yearbooks, school newsletters, programs and invitations to commencement and capping ceremonies, alumnae association materials, class photographs, class reunion materials, and materials related to individual graduates of the IMH School of Nursing. This series is housed in 3 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize manuscript box, 5 OVB Graphics folders and 3 folders of color photographs. The yearbooks have been transferred to the Indiana Historical Society Printed Collections (1919, 1926–27, 1940, 1948, 1951–68).

The second series, Methodist Hospital (1953–2005), contains materials related to Methodist Hospital and the IMH Nursing Service. Much smaller than the first series, this series contains general IMH history, IMH and Nursing Service newsletters and IMH and Nursing Service annual reports.

## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: Methodist Hospital School of Nursing, 1919–2010**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
History of IMH School of Nursing, ca. 1968	Box 1, Folder 1
Superintendents/Directors List, 1983	Box 1, Folder 2
Tribute to Fredericka Koch, June 30 1971	Box 1, Folder 3
“The Prayer Perfect” School Song, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 4
Student Permission to Marry, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 5
Division of Graduate Nursing Service, 1936	Box 1, Folder 6
Health Center News Clipping, ca. 1948	Box 1, Folder 7
Residence Hall Clippings, 1923–28	Box 1, Folder 8
Wesley Hall News Clippings, 1957	OMB0126 Box 1, Folder 1
Residence Handbook, 1958–63	Box 1, Folder 9
Student Handbook, 1959–63	Box 1, Folder 10
“Methodist Hospital School of Nursing,” 1932–41	Box 1, Folder 11
“Methodist Hospital School of Nursing,” 1940–48	Box 1, Folder 12
“Methodist Hospital School of Nursing,” 1949–60	Box 1, Folder 13
“Methodist Hospital School of Nursing,” 1961–66	Box 1, Folder 14
“The Reflector” Volume 1, November 1934	Box 1, Folder 15
“The Reflector” Volume 2, December 1934	Box 1, Folder 16
“The Reflector” Volume 4, February 1935	Box 1, Folder 17
“The Reflector” Volume 5, March 1935	Box 1, Folder 18
“The Reflector” Volume 6, April 1935	Box 1, Folder 19

“The Reflector” Volume 7, May 1935	Box 1, Folder 20
“The Reflector” Volume 8, June 1935	Box 1, Folder 21
Homecoming Programs, 1947–2010	Box 1, Folder 22
Programs and Invitations, 1954–85	Box 1, Folder 23
“The Nightingale” Yearbook, 1919	Printed Collections
“The Wesleyann” Yearbook, 1926	Printed Collections
“The Nightingale” Yearbook, 1927	Printed Collections
“The Reflector” Yearbook, 1940	Printed Collections
“Cross and Crown” Yearbook, 1948	Printed Collections
“Cross and Crown” Yearbook, 1951	Printed Collections
“Cross and Crown” Yearbook, 1952	Printed Collections
“Cross and Crown” Yearbook, 1953	Printed Collections
“Cross and Crown” Yearbook, 1955	Printed Collections
“Cross and Crown” Yearbook, 1956	Printed Collections
“Cross and Crown” Yearbook, 1957	Printed Collections
“Cross and Crown” Yearbook, 1958	Printed Collections
“Cross and Crown” Yearbook, 1959	Printed Collections
“Cross and Crown” Yearbook, 1960	Printed Collections
“Cross and Crown” Yearbook, 1961	Printed Collections
“Cross and Crown” Yearbook, 1962	Printed Collections
“Cross and Crown” Yearbook, 1963	Printed Collections
“Cross and Crown” Yearbook, 1964	Printed Collections
“Cross and Crown” Yearbook, 1965	Printed Collections
“Cross and Crown” Yearbook, 1966	Printed Collections

“Cross and Crown” Yearbook, 1967	Printed Collections
“Cross and Crown” Yearbook, 1968	Printed Collections
Closing of School, 1965–68	Box 1, Folder 24
Alumnae Association By-Laws, 1961–2010	Box 1, Folder 25
Scrapbook Pages, 1952–53	OMB0126 Box 1, Folder 2
“Graduates of the School of Nursing, 1910–68”	Box 2, Folder 1
Class of 1929 Reunion, 1983	Color Photographs Folder 1
Class of 1932 “In Memorium,” 1982	OMB0126 Box 1, Folder 3
Class of 1932 50-Year Reunion, June 6 1992	Color Photographs Folder 2
Class of 1932 50-Year Reunion, June 6 1992	Box 2, Folder 2
Class Photo, 1937	OVB Graphics Folder 1
Class Photo, 1939	OVB Graphics Folder 2
Class of 1939 Roster, 1989	Box 2, Folder 3
Class of 1940 Clipping, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 4
Class Photo, 1945	OVB Graphics Folder 3
Class Photo, 1950	OVB Graphics Folder 4
Class Photo, 1951	OVB Graphics Folder 5
Class of 1954 “Cross and Crown,” 2004	Box 2, Folder 5
Katherine Brewer Pattison (1911) Clippings, 1974–83	OMB0126 Box 1, Folder 4



Florence Sayers French (1926) Pictures, ca. 1926	OMB0126 Box 1, Folder 5
Florence Sayers French (1926) Clippings, 2005	OMB0126 Box 1, Folder 6
Vernice Butler (1939) Scrapbook, 1939	OMB0126 Box 1, Folder 7
Vernice Butler (1939), n.d.	Color Photographs Folder 3
Sue Ann Perkins Taylor (1956), 2006	Box 2, Folder 5

**Series 2: Methodist Hospital, 1953–2005**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Hospital History Article, 2005	Box 2, Folder 6
<i>Methodist Hospital Beacon</i> , 1954–87	Box 2, Folder 7
<i>Cross &amp; Crown Reflections</i> , 1980–2010	Box 2, Folder 8
“A Commitment of Medical Excellence,” 1981	Box 2, Folder 9
Nursing Service History, 1983	Box 2, Folder 10
Semi-Annual Reports, 1953–54	Box 2, Folder 11
Annual Report, 1958	Box 2, Folder 12
Annual Report, 1959	Box 2, Folder 13
Annual Report, 1960	Box 2, Folder 14
Annual Report, 1961	Box 2, Folder 15
Annual Report, 1962	Box 2, Folder 16
Annual Report, 1963	Box 2, Folder 17
Annual Report, 1964	Box 2, Folder 18
Annual Report, 1965	Box 2, Folder 19
Annual Report, 1966	Box 2, Folder 20

Annual Report, 1967	Box 2, Folder 21
Annual Report, 1968	Box 3, Folder 1
Annual Report, 1969	Box 3, Folder 2
Annual Report, 1970–71	Box 3, Folder 3
Annual Report, 1972	Box 3, Folder 4
Annual Report, 1973	Box 3, Folder 5
Annual Report, 1974	Box 3, Folder 6
Annual Report, 1975	Box 3, Folder 7
Annual Report, 1976	Box 3, Folder 8
Annual Report, 1977	Box 3, Folder 9
Annual Report, 1978–80	Box 3, Folder 10

## CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:  
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M1029).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.