



## March is Red Cross Month; Please Be a Hero to Someone in Need Molly Dalton

For the 76<sup>th</sup> year, March is Red Cross Month across the United States and the American Red Cross is asking everyone to become a hero by giving blood, becoming a volunteer or making a donation to #helpfamily on Giving Day – March 27.

During Red Cross Month, we honor the volunteer heroes who fuel our mission every day to provide hope and urgent relief to families in need. These champions are your neighbors who give blood, take lifesaving classes such as First Aid and CPR, or leave their home in the middle of the night to support a disaster victim. We honor our volunteers and ask you to join them and make a difference.

**FIRST RED CROSS MONTH** President Donald Trump has proclaimed March as Red Cross Month across the country, a tradition begun by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1943. All of our presidents have designated March as Red Cross Month to recognize how the American Red Cross helps people across the country and around the world.

“Guided by her passionate devotion to humanity, Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross in 1881 as a charitable organization to provide services to people in need. After 138 years, her historic legacy of selfless service still inspires hundreds of thousands of Americans to give their time, resources, and energy to help people in the United States and around the world, aiding those facing natural disasters, donating and supplying blood, and serving our military families. During American Red Cross Month, we recognize and honor the

lifesaving work of the dedicated employees and volunteers of the American Red Cross, as well as the remarkable kindness of the American people who give so generously to this organization. [Read entire proclamation here.](#)

This year the Red Cross salutes all the heroes who make a difference in their communities by:

- Donating blood or platelets
- Volunteering to help people impacted by a disaster
- Taking a first aid or CPR class to help in an emergency
- Providing comfort to a member of the military, a veteran or their family

**WHAT WE DO** The Red Cross has been helping people in need for more than 130 years. And much of our work is accomplished through the work of our volunteers. The Red Cross:

- Responds to nearly 62,000 disasters across the country providing hope and comfort to people in need.
- Trains and provides information to as many as 6.2 million people in first aid, water safety and other skills that help save lives.
- Collects more than 4.7 million units of blood from nearly 2.7 million volunteer donors to meet the needs of patients at hospitals and transfusion centers across the country.
- Provides more than 422,000 support services to military members, veterans and their families.

- Helps nearly 174 million people outside the U.S. through disaster management and disease prevention efforts.



March is #RedCrossMonth

**GIVING DAY** Please #help1family on Giving Day - Wednesday, March 27- and support families impacted by disaster. Your donation can help provide hope and urgent relief such as food, blankets and other essentials to people who need it most. Giving Day is a 24-hour fundraising campaign supporting the work of the Red Cross, helping people across the country in need of emergency support. Donate now by visiting

[redcross.org/givingday](http://redcross.org/givingday), or by texting REDCROSS to 90999 to give \$10.

During Red Cross Month, be a hero and join the humanitarian mission of the Red Cross. More information is available on how you can help through [your local Red Cross chapter](#) or you can learn more about [the many ways to help on redcross.org](#).

**Red Cross Needs Health Professionals**

Molly Dalton

The American Red Cross relies on more than 20,000 nurses and other health professionals who bring our mission to life each day. If you're a nurse, nursing student or other health professional, we need your help! You can learn more about the Red Cross and its wonderful health professional volunteers by [viewing this video](#).

- [Pillowcase Project Instructor](#) (educating 3rd-5th graders about disasters)
- [Blood Donor Ambassador Leader](#)
- [Nursing Network](#) Regional Nurse Leaders and team members
- Service to the Armed Forces Hero Care Case Management

There are volunteer opportunities in direct service, leadership and behind-the-scenes. A few examples:

We hope that you consider volunteering with the Red Cross – you can have a meaningful impact by serving individuals and communities. Learn more at <http://redcross.org/volunteer>.

- [Disaster Health Services](#) – team members and leaders
- [Disaster Mental Health Services](#) – team members and leaders

**Sound the Alarm Against Home Fires; Help the Red Cross Install 100,000 Free Smoke Alarms**

Molly Dalton

March is Red Cross Month and the American Red Cross is getting ready to *Sound the Alarm* against home fires. Thousands of volunteers are needed to help install 100,000 free smoke alarms across the country in 16 days in 100 communities that have a high risk for home fires.

As part of the ongoing Red Cross Home Fire Campaign, Red Cross volunteers and campaign partners will fan out across these communities from April 27 to May 12 to install the 100,000 free smoke alarms, replace batteries in existing alarms, and educate families about fire prevention and safety. People can also make a donation in support of the effort. [Visit SoundTheAlarm.org to learn more today.](http://SoundTheAlarm.org)



Red Cross volunteer Dave Peace installs a free smoke alarm in Endicott, New York during a Sound the Alarm event while his teammate Max Little takes a call. Red Cross photo by Chuck Haupt.

Each year the Red Cross responds to more than 62,000 disasters – the vast majority of which are home fires. Every day seven people die in a home fire and most victims die in homes that don't have working smoke alarms. That's why the Red Cross launched the Home Fire Campaign in 2014 – to help prevent home fire tragedies. Working smoke alarms in a home cut the risk of death by half, and having an escape plan further improves the odds of survival.

**HOME FIRE CAMPAIGN SAVING LIVES** The Red Cross Home Fire Campaign is already credited

with saving more than 500 lives across the country. The campaign's volunteers and partners have also (as of January 31, 2019):

- Installed more than 1.5 million free smoke alarms
- Reached more than 1.3 million children through youth preparedness programs
- Made more than 661,000 households safer from the threat of home fires

**HOW TO HELP** The Red Cross and its partners will be out in communities between April 27 and May 12 to install 100,000 free smoke alarms. You

can help by volunteering or making a financial donation. Just \$15 can provide one smoke alarm.

Find events in your local community where you can help or learn how your donation will help educate families on fire safety; install free smoke alarms in high-risk neighborhoods nationwide; and provide food, comfort and aid to those who have been affected by a home fire. Learn more at [SoundTheAlarm.org](http://SoundTheAlarm.org).

Join this Red Cross effort to fight the tragedy of home fires. *Sound the Alarm. Save a Life.*

## Hidden Rewards of Disaster Mental Health Work

Disaster work is never for the faint of heart. It is, though, not without its rewards, sometimes from very unexpected places. This is a story about Donna Schloss, a nurse practitioner and Lynn Hagan, a clinical social worker. Both are disaster mental health (DMH) workers with stellar careers with the American Red Cross, Donna for “a long time” and Lynn for about five years.

The disaster that crossed their paths was Lynn's first. She had lived overseas for a long time and had recently returned to the U.S. She had done trauma work while living in the Middle East, so disaster work was not foreign to her. Donna was experienced, having been a DMH volunteer with Red Cross for many years, associated with the Red



Lynn Hagan

Cross for decades. She too had a long history of working overseas on disasters, both natural and manmade. This mutual experience acted as a bonding agent for the two workers in the Texas Hill Country.

They met during the Wimberly, Texas flooding event in 2015. The event was far-reaching, involving different disasters – floods and tornadoes – in different locales. A multi-agency resource center (MARC) was set up at the old Blanco County courthouse in Blanco. A MARC is a gathering of many disaster-related agencies which provide services to those individuals and families who have been impacted by the disaster. FEMA, Lions Club,

Donna Schloss, RN, FNP and Lynn Hagan, LCSW

Catholic Charities and Texas Baptist Men are examples of agencies that are represented: the MARC provides a sort of “one stop shop” to provide information to those affected by the disaster.

The role of a Red Cross worker at a MARC is multi-dimensional. As Disaster Mental Health workers, Donna and Lynn focused on providing comfort and information to those affected by the floods. The mental health issues individuals face at this stage in these situations can include increased anxiety, worry, anger, shock and grief. It is the role of the DMH volunteer to try to normalize feelings and provide information, not only for flood recovery but also for an individual's work towards bouncing back from the disaster. Some people who come to the MARC or who are seen in other locations may need extra assistance to cope with unfolding events and uncertainties. Providing concrete information is essential and the MARC is a wonderful venue for such dissemination. Information at this stage gives the individual a sense of hope and gives them a way to focus on moving forward, providing a platform on which to build resilience.



Donna Schloss

At the MARC, many workers from the Red Cross and other agencies provide information on services available to disaster survivors. In this role, these workers are in a position to hear many stories of survival as well as loss. The DMH volunteer ensures that Red Cross disaster workers and workers from other agencies take care of themselves in the midst of such emotion. It is a trying time for all, and it is

essential for those involved in disaster care on any level to take care of themselves.

The work of disaster workers can be trying and difficult. But personal rewards are many and can be found in very unique places. Donna and Lynn come from different health care disciplines. However, through their unique international trauma experience, they formed almost an immediate bond. They took time, between seeing survivors, to talk about the international stage of their lives. It became evident that they had led seemingly parallel lives. They found that Donna had worked for the State Department in the Foreign Service as a primary care provider, and Lynn had provided trauma counseling for the US Embassy in Kuwait. They both had worked with survivors of man-made traumatic events including terrorist attacks. They both had been in the Civil Air Patrol. During the course of conversation, they found themselves saying “me too” very often.

Lynn and Donna spent one day together at that courthouse in Blanco County. But that one day has

### Join Women's Resource Group

As you all know, March is Red Cross Month. Fittingly, March is also Women's History Month, a time when we can take pride in a rich history of women leaders at our organization all the way back to 1881, when our visionary founder, Clara Barton, started the American Red Cross.

From nurses and relief workers to board chairs and CEOs, Red Cross women focus on what can be achieved through leadership, perseverance and goodwill for all. As diverse as their backgrounds, so has been their demonstration of support. Some have been trailblazers, like Mildred Louise Boie Saunders, a Red Cross relief worker who published various journals about her time with the organization. Others, like Helen Begley Nixon, a refugee relief organizer in the postwar period, gave their support during disasters and in service to the Armed Forces.

This month the Office of Diversity and Inclusion launched the Red Cross Women's Resource Group, of which I am honored to serve as executive champion. It supports women employees and volunteers of all diverse groups, by providing a safe

turned in to a life-long friendship that transcended their continued work in Red Cross. They stay in contact; they continue to be a part of each other's lives from visiting each other's homes to being there for important moments in their lives. The relationship has been a unique opportunity for them to also share and debrief some of the more challenging disasters they have supported. They are a primary source of support in the disaster community.

So, what does this mean for the “routine” disaster mental health worker? While the personal gratification and satisfaction of helping people is certainly a benefit, longer-term rewards are possible. Personal friendships are forged through the common experience of working on a team through a disaster. For Donna and Lynn, this has been the unexpected reward. It was not something they sought or expected. It was real and it was organic. Through happenstance, they were brought together that day in Blanco. That day has now turned into many. For them, their friendship was the reward of that day.

Melissa Hurst, Chief Human Resources Officer



place to discuss issues that impact women, provide awareness throughout the Red Cross community, and empower women through networking and professional development, positively impacting the Red Cross Mission.

During Women's History Month, the group will be sharing various resources with the organization that speak to a variety of topics of interest to all women.

### We want to hear your story. Here's how to get involved:

- [Sign up](#) to be a member of the Women's Resource Group.
- Look for Cross Connection announcements and visit the [Facebook group page](#) to join the conversation and access resources.
- [Read more](#) on The Exchange.

As we celebrate both the Red Cross and the history of women this month, it is my hope that everyone will take a moment to acknowledge the many female figures of our organization who have played significant roles in advancing our work across all lines of service.

## The Partnership between the Organization for Associate Degree Nursing and the Red Cross

Donna Meyer, MSN, RN, ANEF, FAADN and CEO, OADN

The Organization for Associate Degree Nursing (OADN) was extremely pleased to welcome Dr. Linda MacIntyre, Chief Nurse of the American Red Cross at the OADN's national convention held in Philadelphia November 9 -11, 2018. The theme of the 2018 annual convention was *Population Health: A Vision for Nursing Education*. The American Red Cross understands the population health of our country and it was extremely relevant to have Dr. MacIntyre share in depth the important role of nursing within the Red Cross. Nursing has a strong legacy with the Red Cross as thousands of nurses have served in various capacities within the organization. Dr. MacIntyre provided an enlightening and excellent presentation on the Academic Service Learning (ASL), explaining that ASL "combines meaningful service to the community with curriculum-based learning. [Community] colleges and universities partner with...the Red Cross to foster an environment where students learn about themselves and the community by taking action through service. While volunteering in their communities, students improve their academic skills by applying what they learn in school to the real world."



At the OADN conference, Red Cross Chief Nurse Linda MacIntyre presented OADN CEO Donna Meyer with a Red Cross Nurse pin.

Dr. MacIntyre highlighted various leadership opportunities available for OADN members through the Red Cross National Nursing Network that recruits and engages health professional volunteers to support all the Red Cross service lines, including Biomedical Services, Disaster Cycle Services, International Services, Service to the Armed Forces, and Training

Services. She also shared the need for health professional volunteers to assist with disaster response and recovery.

Additionally, the Red Cross held an exhibit space that was very well received by the attendees. This was the first time the Red Cross had an exhibit at the OADN's national convention. Attendees expressed new awareness about the many

opportunities to engage their students through their local Red Cross chapters.

In 2017, OADN and the American Red Cross established a partnership to provide opportunities for OADN members to contribute to Red Cross programs across the country. The agreement paved the way for OADN to support Red Cross chapters in their efforts. As a result of the partnership, OADN members have been encouraged to become Red Cross Disaster Health Services volunteers and respond to disasters in their communities as well as to large national disasters.

The OADN Board of Directors believes our future nursing workforce needs to be engaged in the communities where they reside and be prepared to assist in disasters they may encounter. To "prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies" in communities across the U.S. is the Red Cross' mission; that social mission should be instilled in nursing students and nurses across the profession. Community college nursing programs are embedded in and can have a vital impact on their communities, which in turn assist the Red Cross in numerous ways.

OADN is very pleased to work so closely with the American Red Cross in the important work that they provide for our country. I am tremendously proud to represent OADN on the National Nursing Committee (NNC). Red Cross Chief Nurse, Linda MacIntyre, stated, "I appreciate the partnership with the Organization for Associate Degree Nursing and the Red Cross that meets a shared goal of serving communities." Membership of the NNC includes nurses and non-nurse leaders across Red Cross business lines as well as external leaders in health-related professions. Today, the NNC is actively working with strategic initiatives to promote and guide nursing involvement throughout the entire Red Cross.

The partnership between the OADN and the Red Cross will continue to benefit communities across the country in the years to come, through OADN members' involvement in disaster preparedness and other Red Cross services and projects in their local chapters and communities.

**Student Curriculum for American Red Cross Disaster Health Services****Training**

Janice Springer DNP, RN, PHN and Cheryl Schmidt PhD, RN, CNE, ANEF, FAAN

During Hurricane Katrina (2005), Janice Springer, a Red Cross Disaster Health Services (DHS) manager working in a Louisiana shelter, and Cheryl Schmidt, a nurse educator and DHS volunteer working evacuation shelters in Arkansas, found themselves with nursing students who were available and willing to help work in the busy shelters. They both embraced those students and engaged them in DHS shelter operations. After that, unbeknownst to one another, each volunteer began teaching shelter nursing to local nursing students, Janice in Minnesota, and Cheryl in Arkansas.

In 2009 Dr. Sharon Stanley became Red Cross Chief Nurse and learned of the pair's stories. Her vision to make a nursing student program into a national opportunity took shape. Over two years, a curriculum was developed, concept models were pilot tested at 12 schools of nursing throughout the country, and leadership in nursing, including the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), American Nurses Association (ANA), Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), National League for Nursing (NLN), and the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA), were appraised of and endorsed the project.

After some course corrections and vendor challenges, a program called *Disaster Health and Sheltering* was born and released in 2012. Across the country, 1,000-4,000 students per year have taken this curriculum, which entailed an on-line self-study module, followed by a table-top-style exercise in shelter nursing, generally facilitated by a Red Cross volunteer RN who assisted faculty with their subject matter expertise. Since inception, more than 16,000 nursing students have taken the full course, and over 40,000 hits have been made on the public-facing portion of that course. There have been multiple episodes of nursing students working as event-based volunteers in support of Red Cross disaster operations in the years since inception. In some areas there are many new Red Cross nurses, thanks to this program with faculty and chapter support.

As the course evolved and the Red Cross gained more sophisticated technology capability, the content needed to be updated to better align with the fundamental doctrine of the Red Cross and included in the Disaster Cycle Services umbrella of training. Unfortunately, the vendor who volunteered his unique web-based exercise, and donated his time to the program for six years, Chris Floyd, passed away last October. Fortunately, there had already been alternate ways of delivering Red Cross Disaster Health Services content to nursing students. It was tested in various places across the country and a transition was facilitated during fall 2018.

The "new" course is composed of the core basics for Disaster Health Services, (Fundamentals I & II and DCS Overview) and a live table top exercise: the newly released DHS Simulations course. The program for faculty is the same; that is, students do courses on-line ahead of class and follow with a classroom exercise facilitated by a Red Cross volunteer RN. The Red Cross RN assists faculty by sharing their expertise. This course has the added benefit that when completed, the student has most of the basic coursework to become a Red Cross volunteer with Disaster Health Services as soon as they become a licensed nurse. They are encouraged to become general volunteers in the meantime to build their knowledge of the Red Cross mission and obtain training.

The new curriculum is called Student Curriculum for American Red Cross Disaster Health Services, and full transition occurred for this winter/spring semester (2019). Faculty who used the former course can use the new format, and early reports indicate that it is going well. There are gaps in some areas for faculty to have a Red Cross RN facilitator; Lucille Frisicano, manager of the [DisasterHealthSvcs@redcross.org](mailto:DisasterHealthSvcs@redcross.org) email, links faculty requests for facilitators to Division DHS leadership. We are fortunate to have a volunteer from South Carolina who took on the role of course administrator: Ron Johnson, who supports getting the curriculum details to faculty once they register for the course. Johnson enters the students' completion of the simulation into their EDGE profile.

As part of capacity building and volunteer engagement, a strategy to inform school of nursing faculty nationwide about the course will be explored later this year through the office of the Chief Nurse. If you are a seasoned Red Cross RN

volunteer and are willing to facilitate the simulations exercise, please contact your Division DHS leadership to let them know of your availability. We need to support the nurses of the future!

## **Candlelight Nurse Pinning Ceremony Held in Cincinnati-Dayton Regional Chapter**

Judith Schnatz, BSN, RN, Crossroads Division Health Services Adviser

In order to show appreciation for nurses, the Red Cross regional disaster officer in the Greater Cincinnati-Dayton Region suggested having a Red Cross candlelight nurse pinning ceremony to say thank you to our nurses. Realizing that over the years some nurses may not have received pins and were overdue for recognition, we did a thorough review in Volunteer Connection of nurses in all five business lines. We found 45 nurses who had never been given pins. In our search we found no nurses in SAF or Training Services; we do not have Biomedical Services or International Services at the chapter; so all who attended were Disaster Health Services nurses. Regardless of their current active volunteer status, if they had 20 hours in training and/or volunteering as a nurse they were invited to the ceremony. In our search, we also found EMTs and paramedics who had not been recognized, so we honored them with pins as well, although they did not attend the nurse pinning ceremony.

provided an in-character dialogue as Clara Barton, complete with black hoop skirt dress and wig. She looked just like Clara and delivered an uplifting and inspiring dialogue. One attendee who was recognized was Marianne Urban, a 65-year volunteer.

Each nurse received her Red Cross Nurse pin, a copy of the Red Cross Nurse Creed rolled and tied with a red ribbon, and a long-stemmed red rose. We



Some of the Red Cross nurses who received pins at the ceremony.

The ceremony took place on January 28, 2019. One invitee was Marita Headpohl, who has been a Red Cross volunteer for 76 years (yes, 76 years!). She is 85. At the age of nine she became a Junior Red Cross volunteer and helped roll bandages for WWII. Marita had never received her nursing pin. We arranged transportation for her, but she was unable to attend due to the inclement weather that day, so we will be honoring her when the weather gets better with a special personal ceremony.

served light refreshments; many of the nurses stayed after the ceremony to network and chat. The nurses who attended were enthusiastic and we received many positive comments. The excitement this event generated for attendees was refreshing.

Twenty nurses attended the ceremony. Two chapter CEOs attended, one of whom gave opening remarks. We also had a very special guest: a volunteer who works in Volunteer Services

We are so very pleased by the nurses' response and by the full support of our two regional chapter CEOs. This year we plan to keep track of Red Cross nurses who meet the 20-hour requirement and to have another candlelight ceremony next year.

## **Red Cross Nurse Reflects on Nursing and the Polio Epidemic**

Linda MacIntyre, PhD, RN

American Red Cross nurse Jacqueline (Jackie) Wouwenberg was born November 6, 1925 and left this earth on January 19, 2019. In 2016, Wouwenberg shared her story about helping

during the polio epidemic in the late 1940's. Her story is reprinted here.

"It was the fall of 1947. The weather was so lovely,

a fine time to graduate from nursing school at Bellevue Hospital School of Nursing in New York City. To take a short break from nursing after three long years I agreed to help my friend, Gloria out at her father's restaurant in New England.

"After a summer romance, the man I fell in love with did not reciprocate my feelings. He left me with the stinging words, "...but you will always be in my heart." I went home to New Jersey, still devastated with this breakup and looking for a diversion when I heard an announcement on the radio from the American Red Cross that the Red Cross was looking for nurses to serve in the polio epidemic and said Los Angeles was particularly hard hit. I immediately called to say I could go.

"The Red Cross wanted to give me some time to prepare, but I said I wanted to go right then and there. They arranged for my 10+-hour flight to Los Angeles in a propeller plane. It turned out I was one of the first nurses from my area to volunteer for this devastating epidemic in which so many lives were being lost. Upon arrival I found the scene to be dreadful and frightening and I wondered what I had gotten myself into. There were rows and rows of respirators pumping frantically to keep so many patients alive. It was just one big open room with so many respirators. I worked for three months solid without a break and with little time to feel sorry for myself and the heartbreak I had experienced.

"The work was not only mentally grueling, but physically grueling as I focused 100% on the patients who were completely dependent on all the nurses who were caring for them. I was so proud, though, to be there using my skills, more skills than I knew I had...and representing the American Red Cross."

When asked about some of the biggest challenges, Wouwenberg said that trying to keep patients alive and working with the physicians and all the demands they had were difficult. She learned to be a good team player, and "was stretched in every way possible as a brand new nurse." Not all of her

patients survived.

"One of my first patients was a very young woman in her last stages of cancer, with a 2-year-old boy. She seemed to appreciate me coming so much," Wouwenberg recalled. "I tried to keep her comfortable and in good spirits every day. One day I told her family that she may not make it through the night, but told them I would be back first thing in the morning. When I arrived the next morning there were so many cars at her house. As I came in,

I noticed she was still breathing...but barely. I took her hand in mine and then silently, she let go and drifted away. I somehow knew she was waiting for me and it made me let go and cry."

While Wouwenberg regretted that she didn't pursue a bachelor's degree in nursing, she knows that she made a difference. "My first nursing instructor was Miss Nash, a very prim lady in her 40<sup>th</sup> year, with tight curls beneath a crisp Bellevue cap," Wouwenberg said. "She taught us many basic nursing tasks, but so much more than just tasks; she taught us how to be a real nurse. She told us she had left nursing for a while to work in an office where she typed all day long. She finally realized what an empty job that was compared to nursing. She returned to nursing and devoted herself to teaching. Her commitment and devotion made me realize just how special nursing was."

For Wouwenberg, a real nurse is one who is "kind, caring and a good listener and always advocates for the patient first, remembering to do no harm." Wouwenberg advises that "new nurses should try many different aspects of nursing and find a path that suits their passion. All these decades later I would have never anticipated that my only daughter would also be so devoted to nursing and the Red Cross. She would say that this is her passion and I can see that it is."

Her daughter is Susan Hassmiller, former member of the Red Cross Board of Governors who serves as senior ambassador for Nursing and Health for the Red Cross. Half of the royalties from Hassmiller's [book](#) will be donated to Red Cross nursing programs.



Jacqueline Wouwenberg, above, in 1948; below, after her daughter Sue Hassmiller's PhD graduation.

## Our Dear Docky: The Extraordinary Miss Lavinia Lloyd Dock Jean Shulman, RN

In February 1956, American Red Cross WWI nurse and longtime editor of the American Journal of Nursing, Mary M. Roberts wrote a moving tribute to honor the multifaceted career of Lavinia Dock as



Dock wearing a suffragist sash.

a “nurse, feminist and internationalist.” She characterized Miss Dock as “deeply compassionate, intellectually forthright and farseeing, happily and often amusingly unconventional.” Two months later, Robert’s apt words appeared again in Dock’s obituaries in newspapers across the country.

The life of this unique nursing pioneer, author and suffragist continues to intrigue nurses today. Born on February 26, 1858 to Gilliad and Lavinia Brombaugh Dock, she joined sister Mira, who became a renowned botanist and environmentalist. This distinguished Harrisburg, Pennsylvania family eventually included three more sisters and one brother. Education in the arts, music, languages and literature produced scholars in several professions.

Although not an employee of the Red Cross, Dock’s professional career included interaction with many Red Cross academic nursing leaders, including Isabel Hampton Robb, Adelaide Nutting, Lillian Wald, Clara Noyes and Isabel Stewart. To Robb, Nutting and Wald, Dock was always “Our Dear Docky.”

Dock’s first American Red Cross connections began with Jane Delano, fellow graduate of Bellevue Hospital Training School for Nurses, class of 1886. When a yellow fever outbreak occurred near Jacksonville, Florida in 1888, a Bellevue physician, Dr. Solace Mitchell asked Miss Delano to serve as superintendent of the temporary Sandhills Hospital. Two more Bellevue nurses, Lavinia Dock and Wilhelmina Weir, arrived as charge nurses for the wards. Conditions were challenging. This experience convinced Dock and Delano of the importance of improved nursing education and the need for standardization of nursing practices. Ten years later, Dock and Delano helped enroll trained graduate nurses for service in the Spanish

American War, preventing some of the volunteer problems faced in the Florida epidemic.

Dock’s response to the May 31, 1889, Johnstown Flood provided a special Red Cross memory. Clara Barton and a group of 50 volunteers arrived at the disaster site on June 5. Miss Dock left Harrisburg on June 8 carrying a suitcase filled with first aid supplies to join Miss Barton in Johnstown. To the Dock family’s surprise, Miss Barton telegraphed Mira Dock that her younger sister was the first trained nurse to appear after the flood. Mira treasured the telegram throughout her life.

A talented writer, Lavinia Dock wrote her first book, *Text Book of Materia Medica for Nurses*

while a night supervisor at Bellevue in 1890.

*Hygiene and Morality*, the four-volume *History of Nursing* with Adelaide Nutting, and *A Short History of Nursing* with Isabel Stewart followed. From 1900 to 1923, she provided monthly articles in the American Journal of Nursing.



Dock’s photo from *Trained Nurse and Hospital Review*-in “Makers of Nursing History”.

American Red Cross nurses may know Lavinia Dock as an editor of the *History of American Red Cross Nursing* with Clara Noyes, Elizabeth Pickett, Elizabeth Fox, Fannie Clement and Anna Van Meter. In December 1922, after four years of research, the 1562- page volume became available for \$5.00. Dock wrote the chapters on the evolution of military nursing, nursing in the Civil and Spanish-American wars, Red Cross affiliation with the nursing profession, mobilization, rural nursing and class instruction for women. It was Dock’s last book and remained the only Red Cross nursing history until 1949 when Portia B. Kernodle published *The Red Cross Nurse in Action, 1882-1948*.

There are two letters from Kernodle in Dock’s papers at the Library of Congress. One asks if Kernodle can meet her at the Dock home to discuss nursing history. From the second letter, Dock must have asked to have Clara Barton’s influence

expanded in the new book. Kernodle responded, “Your comment on Clara Barton pleases me... Clara Barton cannot play a very large part in my story but I intend to do as well by her as I can.”

As Secretary of the International Council of Nurses in 1910, Dock invited the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses (NACGN) to send a delegate to the 1912 conference in Cologne, Germany. In 1911, the NACGN received a request for a second delegate from Lillian Wald and Dock. Rosa Williams Brown and Adah Thoms, Lincoln Hospital graduates, attended the meeting. The British Journal of Nursing published Williams Brown’s address, “The Social Work of the Coloured Nurse” in the November 23, 1912 issue. Her later career as a Red Cross Public Health nurse in the Glades area of Palm Beach County, Florida covered decades. Thoms and Delano worked closely together during World War I to enroll African American Red Cross nurses.

Dock remembered her 20 years with Lillian Wald at the Henry Street Settlement as her happiest. However, as Mary Roberts noted, “She became



Lavinia Dock (third from left), holding a “Votes for Women” staff, 1913. Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

mildly socialistic, ardently pacifist and a militant suffragist.” Dock decided to devote herself to woman suffrage issues, parades and speeches to enroll diverse groups of supporters, and to march with the activists. The march in December

1912, from New York City to Albany, started with hundreds of women. Many others joined along the difficult route, but only 5, including Dock, completed the 12-day trek to petition the State Legislature for the vote. “Surgeon General Dock” or “Little Doc Dock” became a hero for aiding others with medical problems each day.

On March 3, 1913, the Rainbow Parade in Washington, D.C. brought thousands of women to that city. The nurses’ section of the Congressional Committee of the National American Woman Suffrage Association included Lavinia Dock, Jane Delano, Isabel McIsaac, Georgia Nevins and Reba Taylor to help with planning events. Forty nurses marched under a Florence Nightingale banner and

many more with individual states. Isabel McIsaac described frightening conditions from a “jeering multitude” and “indifferent” police presence but the “nursing



Nurses' group in 1913 Washington Parade.

section fared better than many others, perhaps because even the worst of men can recall having been nursed by someone.” In a New York City suffrage parade on Fifth Avenue, nursing leaders Lillian Wald, Annie Goodrich and Adelaide Nutting joined Dock to support the cause. Isabel Stewart went with “Docky” to an open-air meeting where Dock addressed labor groups from a soap box. Dock joined the suffragists picketing the White House in 1917 and 1918. Arrested at least three times, she spent time in prison. Newspaper accounts from the time describe the terrible conditions the imprisoned women endured, especially at the infamous Occoquan Workhouse in Virginia. She eventually decided to return to the family home in Graeffenburg Hills, Pennsylvania near Chambersburg

In October 1918, although semi-retired from nursing, she responded to the call for nurses in the influenza epidemic. She volunteered to care for soldiers at Camp Colt and remained in Gettysburg for 10 days. When she returned, she worked night shifts to care for local influenza patients in Chambersburg.

Twice in retirement Dock received special honors. In 1939 she attended the opening of the new Henry Street Nursing Service Headquarters in New York as the oldest alumnae at 81 years. Lillian Wald was too ill to attend.



Effie Taylor, President of the ICN presenting citations to Lavinia Dock, center and Annie Goodrich, right, at the 1947 Meeting of ICN, Atlanta. 91 years!

When the Ninth Congress of the International Council of Nurses (ICN) met in Atlanta in 1947, Dock, secretary from 1899 to 1922, became the most popular member present. She and Annie

Goodrich received citations for their years of distinguished service from the retiring president, Effie Taylor. Nursing friends from many countries contributed to the Lavinia Dock Fund to help replace nursing materials lost in the war.

In retirement, Dock enjoyed music, her garden, and writing to friends and family. Her brother George, a physician in California, responded to one note, "I am glad you still play the piano. A small matter is that the use of your fingers will keep the bones and joints better than if they would not be used. I well remember the Schubert."

On April 4, 1956, Lavinia Dock suffered a fractured hip after a fall in the home she shared with her

**Here's How You Can Be a Hero to Someone in Need** Candace Roosevelt, MAN, MBA

March is Red Cross Month and the American Red Cross is asking people across the country to become a hero by giving blood, becoming a volunteer or making a donation. We honor these individuals during Red Cross Month and ask that you consider joining and making a difference.

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youngest sister Emily, an artist. She died April 17 in the Chambersburg Hospital.

[The History of American Red Cross Nursing](#) is

available to download or read through the Internet Archive and many other sites. Miss Dock would be pleased to know we can read the book on a smartphone in 2019, since she believed her book was out of print in 1947.



Lavinia Dock in 1939 (81 years) at the opening of the new Henry Street Headquarters in New York City.

• "I want to leave a legacy that truly makes a difference"

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