

Volume I

NURSES

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**BAHAMAS
UP TO
1983 PLUS**

by
**Hilda V. Bowen
M.B.E.**





PHOTOGRAPHED IN 1983

INTRODUCTION

Due to circumstances beyond my control and also a matter of time "Nurses Footprints" Bahamas up to 1983 plus had to be written without the participation of those invited to join in the production.

First of all Birds Eye View of this book is the foundation to what Nurses Footprints contains. The cover itself can be used as an evaluation of the Footprint of each nurse whose name appeared in the book, Self evaluation or otherwise:

Comments and sales results in the Bahamas so far have indicated that people are interested in the writer's career. Therefore all who sought this will be pleased with the contents which will give them the opportunity to evaluate the role of the first Bahamian Matron of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

Therefore the first section of Nurses Footprints is dedicated to all the nurses whose names appear in the Public Service list during my tenure of service 1962 to 1983 when I as head of the nurses of Service that is Director of Nursing.

In addition to what is in Birds Eye View,

In Addition:

HILDA V. BOWEN: Second child of Irvin and Justina Bowen, born in Cunningham Lane, Nassau, on the 12th of October, 1923. Christened at St. Mary the Virgin Church. Attended Presbyterian Church "Kirk" Sunday School. Accepted into the Roman Catholic Church in 1929 at St. Peter and Paul Chippingham, at the age of six and has attended St. Francis Xavier Cathedral ever since with the exception of the period spent abroad. Attended the Catholic Church nearest to the hospital college or institution studied.

General education includes Donald Davis Evening School, Masons Addition, Nassau.

Mr. Bosfield Johnson, Delancy St.

Music lessons, Sir Samuel Otis Johnson.

Sewing lessons Mrs. Lila Albury, establishment on the corner of West and Marlborough St.

Mrs. Blanch Degregory

Mrs. Hilda Bullard

Mrs. Sherlin

Member of St. Francis Church

Member of Seton Club.

Member of Western Senior Basketball Team

Member of Fr.. Ambrose distinguished Choir; soprano

Acted as second Maji in the outstanding female Nativity Play

staged on St. Benedicts Hall by Fr. Marcian Peters.

Mixed Doubles match played at the Gym Courts Mackey St. with Harold Degregory. Defeated Lila Mitchell nee Ford and Phillip Worrell, Central Court.

Played Tennis with members of hospital staff at institution where studies were undertaken in the U.K.

On return to Nassau in 1953 played weekly on tennis court in Princess Margaret Hospital Compound; nursing sisters and doctors.

Swimming: Grew up in area a few steps from the Long Wharf Beach and was able to make use of the sea at anytime of the year. On retirement, half an hour in the early morning was one of persons seen swimming off Long Wharf Beach until walking was taken up at 5:30 a.m.

Hobbies: Swimming, cooking, collection of coffee spoons from all countries visited, walking, watching satellite Cspan.

VOLUME I

SECTION ONE

*Dedicated to all Nurses whose names appear in
Birds Eye View of Nurses
Footprints Bahamas up 1983 plus*

Our Top Nurse Reviews Her Career

Story by: Jeanne Gibson 1983



A PRINCIPAL BAHAMIAN NURSE - Director of Nursing Hilda Bowen (above) stands out in her profession, as she was the first black Bahamian to reach the position of a nursing sister at the Bahamas General Hospital, now the Princess Margaret Hospital. Nurse Bowen - who has contributed more than 40 years to the public service, most of the time being in the nursing service - has been the chief proponent in the upgrading of nursing education in the country. After many years of study abroad in the United Kingdom and many years of labour in the nursing profession, Nurse Hilda Bowen has held the position of Director of Nursing for the past three years.

The Bahamas has had no wars, nor has this little country experienced any major epidemic. However, in her own way Director of Nursing **Hilda Bowen** can aptly be described as the Florence Nightingale of The Bahamas, because of her contribution to nursing which contributed to the present high standard of health care available not only in New Providence but also on the major Family Islands.

This outstanding woman, who stands tall among her countrywomen, was not satisfied with becoming a nurse, but qualified herself to the highest degree, and having qualified herself, she did not stop there, her fellow Bahamian men and women were allowed the opportunity to avail themselves of nursing education that is of such a high standard at present that it is accepted almost worldwide.

"NO REGRETS"

Nurse Bowen is one who has "walked with kings, but not lost the common touch," and having dedicated almost her entire life to others, in the public service (more than 30 years as a nurse), she says with a smile that must have warmed and heartened many a sufferer that "I have no regrets."

And we get it from the horse's mouth, so to speak, that nursing is not the glamorous profession many people believe it to be. The job is very demanding, though challenging. So what made a black educated Bahamian

woman seek such a profession? Says Nurse Bowen simply, "Love of people." And yes, this remark might sound trite to many. However, almost anyone who has had dealings with Nurse Bowen will find no trouble believing in the sincerity of the statement, for she is almost the last person one will charge with being pretentious.

An avid reader, Nurse Bowen recalls that one day she sat in the living room of her parents' house reading a book, and vividly remembers the picture of a woman going into an elderly persons room. Trying to describe the actual expression on the woman's (who happens to be a nurse) face leaves Nurse Bowen short of words. But it is this loving, caring, unselfish, warm expression that she felt that she too would like to feel that encouraged her to become a nurse.



OUTSTANDING BAHAMIAN NURSE - Director of Nursing Hilda V. Bowen truly stands tall in her profession. After three years of teaching from the age of 18, she was the first person selected by The Bahamas government in 1946 to study nursing in the United Kingdom, under the Colonial Scholarship scheme to develop nursing within Colonial Territories. When she returned to The Bahamas, she became the first black Bahamian to become a nursing sister. Above, she is pictured with an anaesthetist and nurses outside of the theatre at the Farnborough General Hospital, Kent, where she undertook the three-year basic nurses' education programme and obtained the State Registered Nurse Qualification in 1950.

NURSING SISTER

So despite all the odds, Hilda Bowen went abroad and studied to become a nurse. Not only did she qualify herself as a nurse but she excelled and upon returning to the Bahamas she became the first black Bahamian woman to do the garb of a nursing sister at the Princess Margaret Hospital, then the Bahamas General Hospital. Now, however, some 30 years later, primarily through the untiring efforts of Nurse Bowen, all senior nursing posts are held by Bahamians.

Continued on next page

NURSE REVIEW CONT'D

She is truly a woman who stands tall in her profession. Nurse Bowen is worthy of praise and being lauded and has a story to tell.

This outstanding woman was not born to wealth or riches but, rather to a normal Bahamian family of six. Her parents were Irvin and the late Jestina Bowen nee Johnson of Cunningham Lane, Nassau.

FIFTY STUDENTS

She was educated in New Providence at St. Francis Xavier Primary School, West Street, the Western Junior and Senior Schools and Government High School. And Nurse Bowen recalls that during her years at the Government High School, the institution which had an enrollment of fewer than 50 students, had only some six to eight females. In fact, she recalls that there were very few opportunities for girls in the country at that time.



DEDICATED NURSE - The nursing profession is not glamorous and those entering it must be totally dedicated. This is the contention of Nurse Hilda Bowen, Director of Nursing. Nurse Bowen has dedicated her life to her career, pursuing studies abroad and returning home to contribute her services to her country. Above she lovingly holds a baby outside the Stirling Royal Infirmary, Scotland, where she received the State Certified Midwife qualification.

Having completed school, she entered the public service as a teacher at the Eastern Junior school in 1942 and after three years teaching grade one students, she was given the opportunity to pursue the career of her choice.

Hilda Bowen became the first person to be selected by The Bahamas government to undertake nursing in the United Kingdom under the Colonial Scholarship scheme to develop nursing within Colonial Territories. Of course, she had been eligible to obtain entry for nurse training at the Bahamas General Hospital. However, as the local training at the time was not on par with what it is today, the idea of studying locally was not met with much enthusiasm.

EDUCATIONALLY ENRICHED

Therefore, in 1946, Hilda Bowen, with the career she desired to follow in sight, said good-bye to her parents and left The Bahamas for the United Kingdom. She was not going to see The Bahamas, her family or friends for a number of years. When she returned home, however, she was going to be educationally enriched.

Now as Nurse Bowen looks back on the whole matter of leaving home, she recalls the excitement of being given such an opportunity. She was one of the first Bahamian women to be allowed the opportunity to study in the United Kingdom and she was to meet people from all over the world and compile a treasury of experiences.

Nurse Bowen's first stage of training was done at the Farnborough General Hospital, Kent, where she undertook

the three-year basic nurse education programme and obtained the State Registered Nurse qualification in 1950.

GETS BRONZE BUCKLE

Her interest was also in the field of ophthalmic (eye) nursing. She was keenly interested in helping persons with eye problems and therefore this interest led her acceptance at the world renowned Moorfield's Eye Hospital, London, where she was awarded the Bronze Buckle as the most outstanding post-graduate nurse of the year in 1951. And in order for a person to obtain a nursing sister post in The Bahamas, midwifery qualification were compulsory.

Therefore, further studies became necessary and Miss Bowen continued her education for this in Scotland. On completion of training at the Elsie Inglis Maternity Hospital and Stirling Royal Infirmary, the State Certified Midwife qualification was obtained. Miss Bowen states among the highlights of her studies receiving the Bronze Buckle Award for Ophthalmic Nursing.

She recalls, however, that her studies abroad were not always a bed of roses. Interestingly, she notes as one of the hardships, the sometimes inefficient postal system that caused her to miss letters from home. She found compensation for this, however, in meeting and working with people from all over the world, including Africans, Europeans and fellow West Indians.

HARD, BLACK BREAD

She recalls also that the early post-world war days proved difficult times, as in addition to the fact that mail from home took months at times, food was rationed and the bread was hard and black and meat was eaten twice per month, if one was lucky. A bath was allowed once a week in about six inches of water and, according to the director, some of the accommodation was below standards accustomed to.

Of the good times, she notes that there were many. Among them was an invitation she received to attend at the Royal Garden Party, Buckingham Palace, in celebration of the crowning of the Queen.

Then there was the attendance at lectures and talks on numerous topics, visits to hospitals and health related institutions. There were visits to historical places and buildings throughout the United Kingdom and Europe, including Rome, Italy and Stratford-on-Avon, United Kingdom (Shakespeare's birthplace). Nurse Bowen says that it was during this time that she learnt to appreciate classical music, drama, art and sports.

SINGING IN TONGUES

She spoke nostalgically of a pilgrimage she took part in to Lourdes, France, in 1948. Thousands of people from many lands gathered with the sick hoping to be healed at the place where it is believed the Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette, and the director said that this was the first experience she had ever had of well-known hymns being sung in so many different tongues. The whole event was interesting but she noted that a candlelight procession was impressive and therefore even more noteworthy.

"Despite everything, there are many memories of good friends who treated one as a member of the family creating relationships that can never be severed," she says.

And after six years of study, Hilda Bowen was qualified and ready to return home to give her service to her country. In 1952, when she wrote of her intentions of returning home, however, the replies she received from health authorities were negative and all sorts of excuses were found, such as no vacancies and more experience being necessary.

Miss Bowen was determined to return home, however. Therefore, she wrote the then Governor of The Bahamas, who took the necessary steps and one year later she returned home to The Bahamas, where she was destined to make a mark on the nursing profession in The Bahamas and somewhat revolutionize the delivery of health care on these islands.



House on the corner of Elizabeth Avenue and Shirley Street. Birthplace of my mother JUSTINA BOWEN. Sold to Government and used as The Matron House until the late fifties.



HILDA on her way to Eastern Junior School.



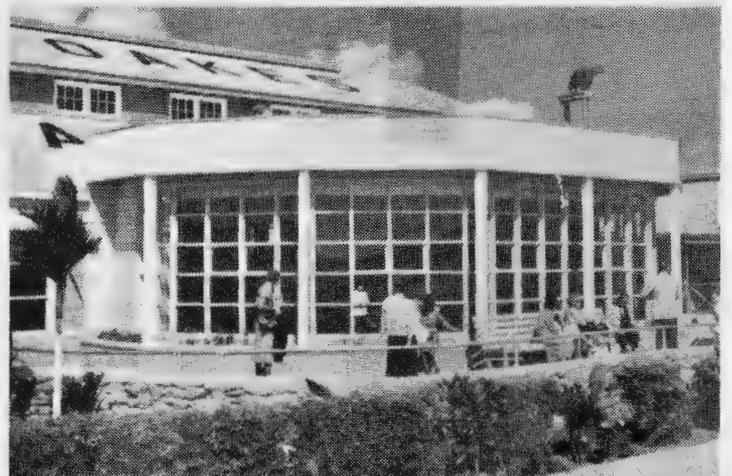
Hilda's only brother HARRY outside their home on Cunningham Lane.



Taken at Oakes Airfield on December 25, 1946. Start of journey to U.K. to undertake Nurse Training.



IRVIN and JUSTINA'S residence 5 Cunningham Lane, Nassau.



Oakes Airfield Airport in 1946.



ALBERT WOODS
Frist Headmaster
1925-42 & 1946-47



ANATOL RODGERS
Headmistress
1971-75



MRS. SALMON
Canadian Teacher



THIRTY YEARS: Old Scholars Association of 1945 — Front Row: Ruth Speed (nee Russell), Ralph Wood, Hon. Gerald Cash. Donald Davis (deceased), Rev. John Taylor; Second Row: Mrs. Eva Williams (McPherson), Mrs. Myrtle Wray (Wright-deceased), Mrs. Sylvia Eneas (Saunders), Mrs. Velma Allen (Archer), Mrs. Mispah Coakley (Burrows), Matron Hilda Bowen; Ladies Row: Mrs. Nellie Wood (Kelly), Mrs. Mildred Sawyer (Lightbourn), Mrs. Iva Franks (Roberts-deceased), Mrs. Edith Johnson (Storr); Men's Row: Gaspar

Weir, Dr. Jackson Burnside, a graduate Male Nurse from the Bahamas General Hospital, Harold Munnings, Clinton Moultrie, Randol Fawkes; Back Row: Matthew Sawyer, Arthur Richardson, William Swain (deceased), Dr. Gilbert Davis, Kendal Isaacs and Dr. Francis Aderley; Other Teachers: Mrs. Naomi Blatch, Mrs. Rosalyn Espie (deceased), Mr. Kenneth Huyler, Mrs. Merlene Seymour (Francis-deceased), Mr. Rodney Bain, Mr. Donald Davis and Dr. Mary Madeline S.O.C.

VOLUME I
SECTION TWO

Dedicated To

the late
MRS. ETHEL STEVENS
27 Lancing Road
Orpington, Kent,
England

A mother to Hilda
while she was in England



Mr. and Mrs. Stevens took me as a member of the family from 1947. Words cannot express the bindness and care given during my entire stay in the United Kingdom.

FARNBOROUGH HOSPITAL, KENT, ENGLAND



Hilda and Patsy with two African Student Nurses.



Anaethetist, Hilda Bowen and Nurses outside the theatre at Farnborough General Hospital, Kent.



Hilda at Stirling Royal Infirmary.



Christmas at Moorfields Eye Hospital, London. Matron McKellan seated.



Outfit worn at party at Garden of Buckingham Palace. Taken the day after at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Stevens, 27 Lancing Road, Orpington, Kent, England.



**COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
BAHAMAS**

5th April, 1950

Madam,

I am directed to acknowledge your letter and to congratulate you on the successful passing of all your examinations. Your progress has been noted with much interest.

I have the honor to be,
Madam
Your obedient servant

COLONIAL SECRETARY

Miss Hilda V. Bowen,
Farnborough Hospital,
Kent.

FMN:wm.



The Lord Chamberlain is
commanded by Her Majesty to invite

MISS HILDA BOWEN

to an afternoon Party in the Garden of Buckingham Palace
on Thursday 23rd July, 1953 from 4 to 6 o'clock
(Weather Permitting)
Morning Dress or Uniform or Lounge Suit.

Farnborough Hospital,
Farnborough,
Kent.

Best wishes for your future happiness and
success.

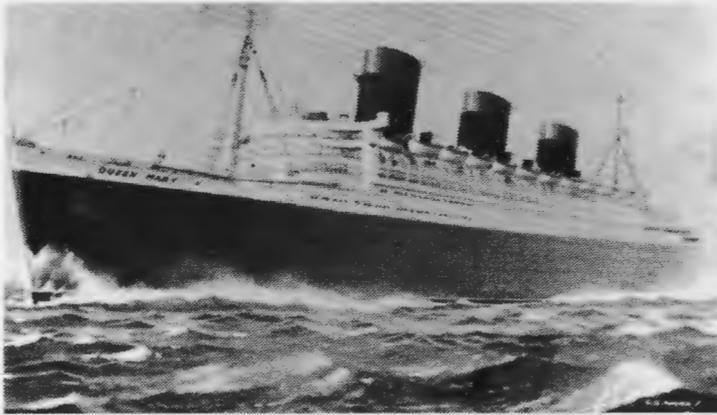
N. B. Bruce
Deputy Matron
3rd June, 1950

Farnborough Hospital,
Farnborough,
Kent.

Wishing you well.
H.V. Moore
Sister Tuta

Best of luck in your future career and
thanking you for all your work whilst at Farnbo-
rough.

John J. Hackwood
Surgeon Superintendent
Farnborough Hospital
2.6.50.



Left England on board "Queen Mary" in 1953 on way to Nassau via New York.



Mr. and Mrs. Irvin W. Bowen of Cunningham Lane had occasion for a double celebration yesterday afternoon. Shortly before their daughter, Nurse Hilda Bowen arrived in Nassau, news from Hawkins Hill revealed that Winifred, another daughter, had presented her husband, Mr. Henry E. Lightbourn with an 8½ lbs. baby boy.

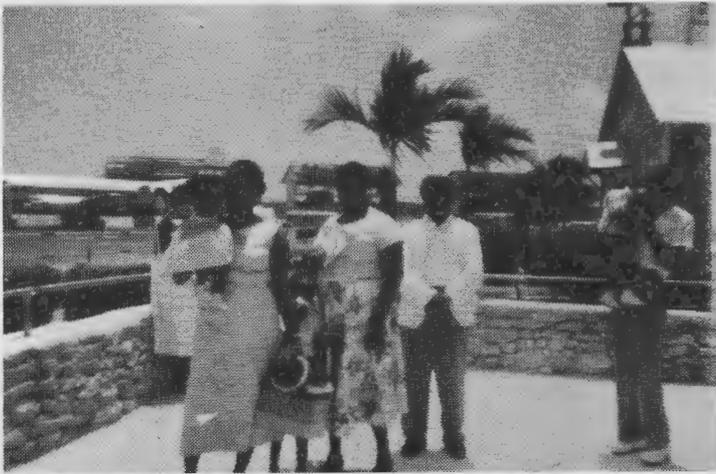
Nurse Bowen, who has spent seven years in England on a British Council's Colonial Nursing Scholarship, crossed the Atlantic on the Queen Mary and spent some time in New York before coming to Nassau.



Matron Hilda V. Bowen, Nursing Sister June Smith and Nursing Sister Merle Elford.



1956 Oakesfield Airport. Hilda with Matron Denese Dane.



Leaving Nassau for U.K. to undertake Administration Course at Royal College of Nursing. Tater sister, niece and nephews.



Taken on board Corona at New York on route to South Hampton.



Taken In Garden Florence Highlengal House, Cromwell Road, London with Jamaican Students.



Taken outside residence Crag Hill P.M.H. Compound.



Mrs. Paul Potter, Regent of the Gordon Chapter, I.O.D. E., (right) presented a cheque of £201-11-0 to principle Matron Clapton for four suction machines at the Princess Margaret Hospital this afternoon. Mrs. Wesley Fox, charmain of the Hospital Committee of the Gordon Chapter, is also pictured (second from left) presenting one of the suction machines to Matron Bowen.



Members of the International Garden Club presented the Princess Margaret Hospital with colourful decorations to be used in the wards during Christmas. The decorations was distributed to other hospitals on the island, including the Geriatrics Hospital, Fox Hill. "These were made at a meeting by members of the club at the home of Mrs. Sigmund Pritchard," said a club spokesman. "This is the first year we have done this but we hope to make it an annual affair in the future," she said. Shown left to right are: Mrs. Taylor Gates, Mrs. Sigmund Pritchard, Mrs. Fred Pate, Matron Hilda Bowen, Mrs. Michael Withers, Mrs. Curene Dobell and Mrs. Eugene Dupuch.

CABINET OFFICE,
P.O. Box 147
Nassau, Bahamas.
 26th May, 1965

Madam,

I am directed to inform you that His Excellency the Governor, acting on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission, has been pleased to approve your promotion to the post of Principal Matron, Health Department, in Schedule N of the Public Service Act 1964, with effect from 21st May, 1965.

2. As from this date, your salary will be £2190 per annum plus 15% non-pensionable.

3. I am to congratulate you on your salary promotion and to wish you success in your new post.

I am,
 Madam
 Your obedient servant,

**ESTABLISHMENT SEC-
 RETARY.**

Miss Hilda V. Bowen,
 U.F.S. Chief Medical Officer,
 NASSAU.

My hearty congratulations and look forward to working together.

27/5



Miss Hilda Bowen, Principal Matron of the Princess Margaret Hospital, is shown officially opening the YWCA fair Friday afternoon at the Y's headquarters on Interfield Road. Guests were the Premier, Sir Roland Symonette and Lady Symonette, above left. The fair was the first major event to be held on the new grounds, which were opened in November, 1964.

THE ANNUAL SUMMER BANQUET
OF
THE OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION
OF
THE GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL
HELD IN
THE GOVERNOR'S HALL
SHERATON BRITISH COLONIAL HOTEL

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 1965 AT 8:00 P.M.

GUESTS OF HONOUR

MISS HILDA BOWENPrincipal Matron
MISS PATRICIA FOUNTAIN.....Matron

THE HON. SENATOR KENDAL G. L. ISAACS

PROGRAMME

MASTER OF CEREMONIESMr. Orville Turnquest
GRACE.....Fr. Charles Coakley

DINNER

TOASTS.....Mr. Rudolph Moultrie

SPEECHES

Honouring Miss Hilda Bowen, Miss Patricia Fountain
and the Hon. Kendal G. L. Isaacs, on behalf of the
Old Scholars' AssociationMr. Henry Bostwick

Honouring Miss Hilda BowenDr. Earle Farrington

Honouring Miss Patricia Fountain.....Mr. Mark Bethel

Honouring the Hon. Kendal Isaacs...Mr. Philip Worrell

DANCING

MUSIC PROVIDED BY
THE NASSAU BEACH QUARTET

MENU

Fresh Tropical Fruit Cup Supreme
Conch Chowder
Breast of Rock Cornish Game Hen a La Kiev
Vegetables
Potatoes
String Beans almondineMixed Green Salad
(Thousand Island Dressing)
Dessert
Bowen, Fountain & Isaacs Gateaux

The Master of the Household
is commanded by Her Majesty to invite

MISS HILDA BOWEN, Principal Matron
to a Reception to be given by
Th Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh
on Board H.M.Y. "Britannia"
on Monday, February 28, 1966,
from 12:15 p.m. to 1 p.m. o'clock
at Nassau, Bahamas

A reply is requested to:
Private Secretary to the Governor,
Government House

Dress: Gentlemen, Lounge Suit
Ladies, Day Dress with Hat



PRINCIPAL Matron Hilda Bowen accompanies Prince Philip on a tour of the Princess Margaret Hospital during the royal visit in 1965.



TESTIMONIAL DINNER
Grand Hotel, Paradise Island
October 5, 1953

SERVICE COMMISSIONS
P.O. Box N1418
Nassau, Bahamas

Dear Miss Bowen,

I refer to your letter dated August 25, 1990.

A thorough search of our records was made and it shows that your progressed through the Public Service is as follows:

Promoted Principal Matron with effect from May 21, 1965.

Redesignated Chief Nursing Officer circa, July, 1970.

Redesignated Director of Nursing with effect from July 1, 1979.

Please accept my apologies for the omission in my letter of August 14, 1990.

Yours sincerely,

M. WRIGHT,
for Chairman,
Public Service Commissions



Mrs. Mary Johnson, Celeste Lockhart and Ernestine Douglas.

TESTIMONIAL DINNER (Cont'd)



October 1967 at Government House, the occasion was the M.B.E. Award. Pictured are: the late Governor General, Sir Milo B. Butler, the late Irwin W. Bowen, father, the late Mrs. Anatol Rodgers, teacher, Mrs. Margaret Wake, aunt and Winifred Lightbourne, sister.

HISTORICAL BUILDINGS



Background, Alexandria Hospital, built in 1902.



Thursday, January 12, 1967, The Tribune, Nassau

HOSPITAL GIFT

At a brief ceremony on Friday afternoon the Hon. Foster Clarke presented a lasting memento, of the visit of The Queen and Prince Philip to The Princess Margaret Hospital, consisting of five framed pictures taken of the occasion by Mr. Stanley Toogood.

Appearing in the picture (left to right) are: the matron, Miss P. Fountain; principal matron, Miss H. Bowen; the Hon. Foster Clarke, Minister for Health; Mr. J.H. Bamforth, permanent secretary; Medical Sup. Col. R.H. Hunt, O.B.E.



**This Section is dedicated to
the late**

NURSE ALICE HILL-JONES

Born: January 18, 1903 — Died: 1977

1928: Worked as a Sister at the Bahamas General Hospital, but was transferred in charge of Public Health Nursing Service at the Blue Hill Road Clinic, because American registered Nurses were not qualified in Midwifery.

Page 17: Listed, are persons who held Public Health Supervisory posts.

NURSING SERVICE

Mrs. Mary Hughs

Mrs. Besty Fisher

Mrs. Dorothea Phillip

Mrs. M. Taylor

Evelyn Prescod

Mrs. C. Lockhart



**GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
BAHAMAS**

April 18, 1945

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Nurse Alice Hill has been in charge of the two Infant Welfare Clinics built by me in Nassau, Bahamas, for four years.

Nurse Hill has had the supervision of the other nurses working with her, and has conducted a very fine District Nursing Service. I consider her an excellent nurse and feel that she is capable of undertaking a position of trust and responsibility.

**WALLIS WINDSOR,
The Duchess of Windsor**



By Command of

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

the accompanying Medal is forwarded to

MRS. ALICE MARIE HILL-JONES

to be worn in commemoration of

Her Majesty's Coronation

2nd June, 1953

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE

In the early twenties Lady Cordeaux wife of the Governor of the day, with a group of voluntary ladies and others commenced a service in New Providence to assist mothers in the raising of their children. The first Public Health Nurse was known as Nurse Meyers, a Canadian Legislature voted. In 1925 an annual grant of £300 for a period of three years to assist the Committee, this provided as for the Health visitor service initially was operated from a mobile Clinic. Then Victoria Clinic were opened in the southern district at St. Agnes School and Quarry Mission School on Nassau Street.

The Community Nurse service started in New Providence in the early 1920's. In 1941 Nurse Alice Hill Bahamian took charge of two clinics donated by the Duchess of Windsor, The Blue Hill Road in the Western District and the Bilney Lane Clinic in the Eastern District.

List of Public Health Nursing Supervisors.

On May 4, 1927 sister Mary Regina of the Sisters of Charity opened the Madonna Day Nursery in a small building on the Priory Grounds West Street.

In 1904 the Marian Clinic on the grounds of Our Lady's Church, Young Street. In 1955 a Pre-Natal Clinic at Fox Hill.

Weekly visits by Dr. Camille Gordon gave voluntary service.

In 1915 The Guy Cooper Outal Clinic was opened on Young Street. Dr. Juckern Burnside (a graduate Nurse of Bahamas General Hospital) gave service on Wednesday afternoon for children.

In 1961, The Francian Sisters staffed the Rand Memorial Hospital in Freeport, Grand Bahama. In 1965 the services of the Sisters were withdrawn. The sisters continued to work in a Community Health programme from a mobile clinic Sister Mary Ann.



Sister Mary Angelus, who returned to the Mother House in New York after ten years as director of the Infant of Prague Clinic, hands the records to Sister Mary Celeste of the nursing sisters of the sick poor.



GRAMCO PRESENTS CHEQUE TO CLINIC — Gramco presented a cheque for \$5,600 to the Catholic Clinic, Young Street on Thursday. The Clinic which was started in 1963 as a means of teaching better health habits, was ran by Dr. Julie Wershing and now has about 680 patients most of whom are children. Presenting the cheque to Sister Mary Noel, coordinator of the clinics, on behalf of Gramco is Dr. Richardo Nanez. Flanking them are Bishop Hagarty and Dr. Wershing.

*Some of The Services Rendered By
— The Community Nursing Service —*



School Health Nurse administering immunization for the prevention of communicable diseases.



Community Health Nurse administering tetanus Immunisation for the prevention of tetanus in the newborn.



Breast-feeding promoted at child-health clinics to contribute to maintaining infant's immunity against disabling diseases.



School Nurse's examination of child at Stapledon School.



Screening for defective hearing in a premature infant at Child Health Clinic.



The home environment is a crucial factor in the prevention of handicapping diseases. A Community Nurse pays a routine visit to a client in her area.

PRIVATE NURSING



The late Nurse Ruth Gardiner attending to the late Mr. Irwin Bowen, patient. (Father)



District Nurse Mrs. Zietta Fountain and Private Nurse Mary Butler attending to a diabetic patient, Ms. Dorothea Bowen who had her right leg amputated in 1985. (Sister)

VOLUME I

SECTION III

Nursing Medical and Para-Medical Staff
and Others who assisted Nurse Education
during my tenure of Officer as
Matron Principal Matron Director of Nursing.

BASIC EDUCATION IN THE BAHAMAS PERIOD 1950 TO 1962

In 1950 nurse training at the Bahamas General Hospital comprised a four year apprenticeship programme. This programme was implemented at that Hospital in 1809, the year the hospital was established.

Applicants holding the Bahamas Board of Education School Leaving Certificate, a good character reference, medical certificates and who had an average or above average IQ were accepted on a three month trial period. At the end of this period an indenture was signed in the presence of the Board of Health, the Chief Medical Officer and the Matron.

Lectures and tutorials were given in the classroom located in the hospital from 1953 to 1958. The syllabus consisted of the following:

Preliminary Nursing, Anatomy and Physiology, Midwifery, Surgery, Medicine, Materia Medica, Dietetics, Bacteriology, Mental Nursing and Tuberculosis.

At that time the probationers (the term used for nurses in training) accounted for the higher percentage of the nursing work force.

No planned training existed at this time. The probationer was placed immediately on the hospital wards and was required to attend ad hoc lectures, tutorials and practical demonstrations. No consideration was given to the hours of duty. The trainee had to attend scheduled classes even after working long night duty shifts from 7:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.

The recruitment of a qualified registered nurse tutor in 1950 on a three year contract brought about changes in this disorganised system.

In 1958 the first Preliminary Training School admitted students who met the upgraded criteria for admission to nurse training. The recruitment drive towards Senior Schools made a change in the attitude of students selecting nursing as a career.

The impact of the first black Bahamian Nursing Sister participating in all of the career day exercises dressed in sparkling white uniform and the distinctive white veil attracted candidates with the Cambridge Junior Certificate and higher academic qualifications. The syllabus was based on the curriculum used by all recognised nurse training schools within the British Commonwealth and was adapted to meet the needs of health services of the Bahamas.

The syllabus, in addition to the previous one, now included Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Chest Surgery, First Aid,

Public Health and Social Medicine and the Theory of Nursing. The pupils, as they were now called, entered a scheduled three months full time programme. An examination at the end of this period determined the pupil's continuation of training. Successful candidates were allocated to the wards with specific schedules and indentured. They were supervised on the wards by the Nursing sister and graduate nurses. On night duty the third and fourth year nurses were left in charge of wards, as there were only two qualified nurses on duty in the entire hospital. Students who were trained under the above programme had to successfully pass the final examination in order to be awarded the hospital certificate and have their names entered in the register of certified nurses.

Females successful in the Midwifery final examination received a certificate in accordance with the Nurses and Midwives Act 1926. Their names were inserted in the Register of Midwives and published in the Official Gazette of the Bahamas.

In 1962 the two year trained clinical nurse programme was established.

We have focused on two distinct periods in the history of Nursing Education in the Bahamas, the apprenticeship programme and the preliminary training school programme. The further developments in nursing education in the Bahamas can be researched in the book "Bird's Eye View" produced by the writer of this supplement.

23 Portland Place
London, W.I.

A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT

Reciprocity

Agreement with the

General Nursing Council England and Wales

Reference Bird's Eye View Pg. 49

Dear Miss Bowen,

Further to my Deputy's letter of 16th August, 1967, I am writing to inform you that your letter of July 31st, in regard to the Princess Margaret Hospital, Nassau, was placed before the Registration Committee at their recent meeting.

The Committee noted the two requests made therein in respect of student nurses entering nurses entering training at this hospital under the Experimental Syllabus, 1962, who, with satisfactory educational qualifications, would be completing their training in three years and in respect of those student nurses who were already eligible for the

FIRST PRELIMINARY TRAINING SCHOOL (PTS)

(Continued from previous page)

two-year concession and would have to complete a four-year training including midwifery.

In this connection they had before them the Report on Nurse Education which you brought with you last July, and after giving careful consideration to this, taking into account the comments of the Education Officer which had been sought on this, they considered that the training under the new Scheme was being carried out conscientiously and that standards were high, and with present administration this situation was likely to be maintained. They also considered that the position of tutorial staff, with four tutors in post, and the prospect of two more taking a course this year, was a satisfactory one, provided entries were kept to less than 30 per year.

They agreed, therefore, to the following decisions:-

- 1) that student nurses entering the Princess Margaret Hospital under the approved Experimental Syllabus, 1962, on or after 1st October, 1967, should be accepted for the registration with this Council forthwith, and
- 2) that those students nurses, who were already eligible for the two-year concession, be allowed to complete a further year either in the United Kingdom, or in their parent hospital, before entering for the Final Examination in this country.

The Committee noted with interest the proposal made by your Committee that those nurses trained prior to the granting of the concession will be required to take a Ward Sister's Course before qualifying for promotion, and supported the proposal that you should take advantage of the courses offered by the University of the West Indies. They hope these arrangements will solve your problem and prove of value.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

M. Henry
REGISTRAR

Miss H.V. Bowen
Principal Matron

The list below includes the names of some of the nurses who entered the first PTS with their current location of practice:

Names	Place of Practice
Zel Burrows-Lockhart.....	Hotel Nurse
Clarice Allen.....	Princess Margaret Hospital
Virginia Bullard.....	Princess Margaret Hospital
Maud A. Knowles-Outten	Community Health Service
Gloria White-Okpuno	Princess Margaret Hospital
Lucinda Johnson-Forbes.....	Community Health Service
Leona Greene-McCartney	Nursing Education
Prenetta Deveaux-Poitier	Community Health Service
Gloria Forbes-Ferguson.....	Nursing Education
Gertrude Ferguson-Butler.....	Princess Margaret Hospital
Heddie Dillet	Europe
Jacquelyn Wells-Dean.....	Nursing Education
Gievernien Babbs-Lindo	Princess Margaret Hospital

REGISTERED NURSE TUTORS 1950 — 1983: Mrs. Irene Phillips, Mrs. Monica Knowles (who was employed when the school obtained Reciprocity), Mrs. Ironica Morris-Baker, Mrs. Jennie Isaacs, Cecile Knowles.

SPECIALIZED TUTORS: Zelma Prevatt, the call, Eloise Penn, Esmerelda Rutherford, Community, Gloria Ferguson, Evelyn Prescod, Louise Tynes, Mary Johnson, Ivy Wilson, Psychiatry.

NAME	POST	DEGREE	WHERE OBTAINED	YEAR OBTAINED
Jacquelyn Dean	SNO/Acting Asst.	Health Visitor	University of Manchester	1979
	Chairperson	Tutor Certificate	Bolton College, England	
	Nursing and Health Division, COB	Bachelor in Nursing (Awarded)	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill North Carolina	1981
		Masters of Science Degree (Advanced Public Health and Nursing Education)	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill North Carolina	1985



Participants of Firstline Management Course.

Presentation to SNO Simmons.



Participants of second Firstline Management Course and Tutor.



Jay Robin, tutor from London Hospital, England, Firstline Management Course, WHO/O Consultant, Maternal & Child Health Seminar with Mrs. Morris, Principal Tutor and myself.



Greetings,

Volume Two of Nurses Footprints Bahamas is scheduled for early 1993. To be included; additional achievements, problems faced and the nursing plan of action submitted by the author in 1982 for the year 2,000.

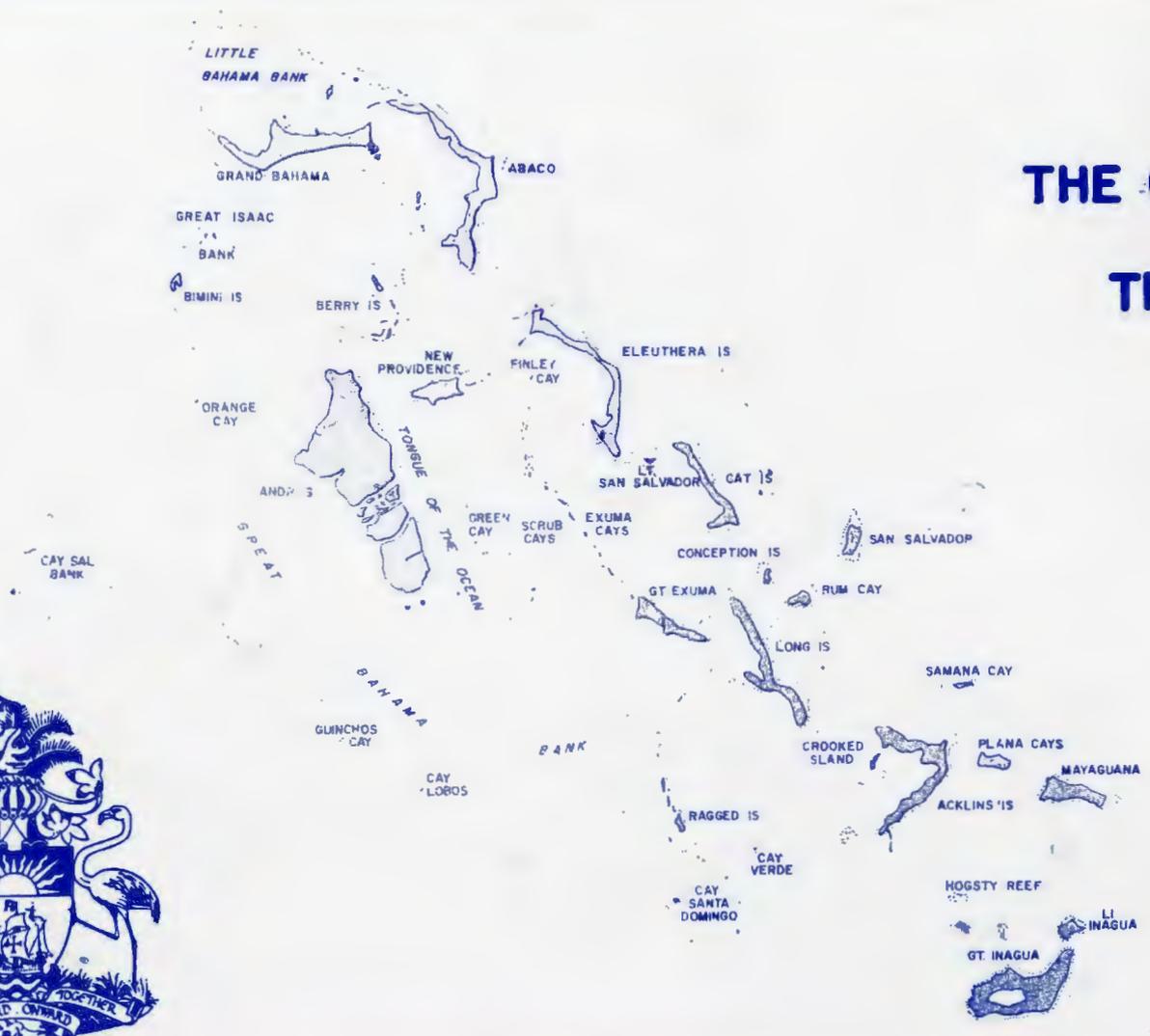
Nurses are invited to submit information for consideration to be included in Volume Two.

Thank You.

HILDA V. BOWEN, M.B.E.

October 1992.

THE COMMONWEALTH *of* THE BAHAMAS



THE COMMONWEALTH *of* THE BAHAMAS

