



Guide to the Elizabeth Annie Dickenson Papers, 1906-1936

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David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

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Summary

Collection Title:

Elizabeth Annie Dickenson papers, 1906-1936

Creator:

Dickenson, Elizabeth Annie, 1878-1927

Source:

Josiah Charles Trent History of Medicine Collections (Duke University); Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture

Abstract:

Elizabeth Annie Dickenson was a white British nurse stationed in Wales and Lahore during World War I. This collection contains two captioned albums with Dickenson's photographs of herself and other nurses and soldiers; two certificates documenting Dickenson's nursing and midwifery service; a nurse's scarf; and a framed portrait of an unidentified nurse. Acquired as part of the History of Medicine Collection (Duke University) and the Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture.

Extent:

1.0 Linear Feet

Language:

Materials in English.

Collection ID:

RL.13006

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1tj20>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Elizabeth Annie Dickenson Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

The collection contains two photograph albums, two certificates, a woven scarf, and a small framed portrait of a nurse. The albums contain snapshots and candid photographs taken by or collected by Elizabeth Annie Dickenson, as well as some handwritten captions recording names, places, and dates of images. A larger album has about 140 photographs and appears to be based solely at the Bodlondeb Auxiliary Hospital in Bangor, Wales, where Dickenson worked as a nurse during World War I. Images include scenes of nurses and soldiers at the hospital as well as leisure outings to local sites in nearby Welsh towns. This album also contains two signatures from Princess Victoria, who appears in some of the photographs during her visit to the hospital.

A second album, "Autographs," has a range of images from different sources and periods of time, including Bodlondeb and other locations in Wales in 1916-1917; some images of Lahore, including Mayo Hospital, in 1919; and at least one 1906 photograph of Dickenson with other nurses. This album also contains a 1936 note and photograph of children dated 1924.

The certificates relate to Dickenson's nursing career - one is a midwife certification, issued 1906, and the other is a commendation issued by the Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England, dated approximately 1918.

The framed portrait is presumably of Elizabeth Annie Dickenson in uniform, but is unlabeled and undated.

Biographical/Historical

Elizabeth Annie Dickenson was a white woman originally from Topcliffe, Yorkshire, England. She worked as a nurse and midwife, and lived in Yorkshire and Sussex in the early 1900s. She served as a nurse for the Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England at hospitals in Bangor, Wales, and Lahore, India (now Pakistan) during World War I and shortly afterward. It appears she continued working as a nurse in England following the war. She never married and does not appear to have had descendants.

Census records indicate that Elizabeth Annie Dickenson was born in early 1878 in Topcliffe to parents Barnard Dickenson, a butcher, and Mary Hannah Cooper Dickenson. She was baptized on 17 February 1878. She had several siblings, including Joseph Cooper Dickenson, George Allanson Dickenson, Claribel Dickenson, Mary Jane Dickenson, William Edward Dickenson, and Thomas

Barnard Dickenson. An entry in the National Probate Calendar indicates that she died in Ely, Cambridgeshire, on 1927 March 12.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the Rubenstein Library's Citations, Permissions, and Copyright guide.

Acquisition Information

The Elizabeth Annie Dickenson Papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchase in 2015.

Processing Information

Processed by Meghan Lyon, May 2023

Accessions described in this collection guide: 2023-0030

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Names and Subjects

- Midwives -- Great Britain
- Nurses -- Great Britain
- Nursing -- Great Britain
- World War, 1914-1918 -- Hospitals
- Lahore (Pakistan)
- Wales -- Photographs
- Photograph albums
- Photographs
- neck scarves
- Josiah Charles Trent History of Medicine Collections (Duke University)
- Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture
- Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England

Collection Inventory

Central Midwives Board certification for Elizabeth Annie Dickenson, 1906 November 29	Box 1
Certificate of "valuable Red Cross Services rendered during the Great War, 1914-1918" for Elizabeth Annie Dickenson, issued by Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England, approximately 1918	Box 1
Green and yellow wool textile scarf, with emblem patch for National Association of State Enrolled Nurses, approximately 1920s	Box 2
Photograph portrait of British nurse in uniform (presumably Elizabeth Annie Dickenson), approximately 1910s	Box 1
Physical Description: In small frame, measuring 3.5 x 5.5 inches.	
Scrapbook album with photographs of nurses and others enjoying leisure time in Wales, approximately 1916	Box 1

Scope and Contents

Bound black album with about 140 pasted photographs and two manuscript pages with autographs of Princess Victoria. The album was assembled by Elizabeth Annie Dickenson and features many candid and snapshot images of uniformed nurses, including portraits of her, as well as images of other uniformed and convalescing soldiers on the grounds and gardens of Bodlondeb Auxiliary Hospital, Bangor, Wales. Album has some handwritten captions which record names of nurses and soldiers, as well as locations. Locations include Whitebait Island (Ynys Gored Goch), Menai Bridge and the strait, and Llandudno, Wales. Also includes some photographs of a hospital visit by Princess Victoria in 1916.

"Autographs" album with photographs of nurses and scenes in Wales and Lahore, approximately 1906-1936

Box 1

Scope and Contents

Small bound "Autographs" album with pasted snapshot and candid photographs of Elizabeth Annie Dickenson and other nurses. Most images are captioned and appear to be from her period working as a nurse in Bodlondeb Auxiliary Hospital in Wales. Some images match events documented in the other black album present in this collection: trips to Menai Bridge, group and posed pictures of nurses and convalescing soldiers, and a visit from Princess Victoria in 1916. Other images include "Sports at Bodlondeb" which is a photograph of men dressing in nurses uniforms; "Lahore, 1919, Mayo Hospital," which is an image of uniformed nurses, including Dickenson, having tea, as well as waiters in turbans; "Lahore," which is an image of a street in Lahore with a cow-drawn wagon; "Guy's District nurses, 1906," which appears to show Dickenson with other nurses; and "Miss Vivian and Mrs. Lloyd George," an undated image documenting a visit to the hospital.

The first page of this album contains the handwritten note "Jean, with love from Auntie Mary, Oct. 1936," opposite the interior cover which contains a photograph of two children captioned "Jeff and 1924 Jean." It could be this note was added to the item by a relative of Elizabeth Annie Dickenson. Thomas Bernard Dickenson (Elizabeth's brother) had a son, Jeffrey (b. 1920), and this could be a photograph of him.