

Cabaniss, Sadie Heath, letters

Sadie Heath Cabaniss Letters
1900-1904

Title Statement

Cabaniss, Sadie Heath, lettersA Guide to the Sadie Heath Cabaniss Letters, 1900-1904 Acc. 30

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Acc. 30

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/333

Unit Date

1900-1904

Mixed Materials

Small Collections 4

Language

English

Creator

Robb, Isabel Hampton

Creator

Spencer, Mary Louise.

Creator

Cabaniss, Sadie Heath, 1865-1921

Extent

3 Items

Repository

VCU Health Sciences Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open to research.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Presented to the VCU Health Sciences Library by Miss Mary Bell, Librarian at the Virginia Department of Health, 11 August 1976.

Preferred Citation

Sadie Heath Cabaniss Letters, Accession # Acc. 30, Special Collections and Archives, Health Sciences Library, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.

Biographical Information

Sadie Heath Cabaniss, daughter of Charles J. and Virginia R. Cabaniss, was born in Petersburg, Virginia on 9 October 1865. She received a classical education at home before attending St. Timothy's School in Catonsville, Maryland where she graduated in 1874. Following a brief time as governess and teacher, Cabaniss attended the Johns Hopkins Hospital School of Nursing in Baltimore, Maryland. While at Hopkins, Cabaniss became acquainted with Isabel Hampton Robb. Upon graduation in 1893, Cabaniss held the position of night supervisor at the Johns Hopkins Hospital

In 1895, Cabaniss became supervisor of the operating room at the Old Dominion Hospital connected to the Medical College of Virginia (MCV) in Richmond, Virginia. The MCV faculty asked Cabaniss to organize a training school for nurses. Cabaniss ran the school she organized on the Nightingale method of nursing education from 1895 until April of 1901.

To respond to the needs of the sick poor in Richmond, Cabaniss and several of her former students from the Old Dominion Training School organized the Nurses' Settlement of Richmond in 1900. The group subsequently evolved into the Instructive Visiting Nurses Association (IVNA).

Following the creation of the Nurses' Settlement, Cabaniss focuses on the organization of trained nurses. She urged the formation of alumnae associations at various schools across the Commonwealth and in 1901 called members of the various associations to Richmond to organize the Virginia State Association of Nurses (now the Virginia Nurses Association). Cabaniss served as the first President and continued in the office until 1905. While serving as President, Cabaniss led the movement to secure licensing legislation to regulate nursing in Virginia.

Later in life, Cabaniss continued her work in public health in Florida, Georgia and North Carolina. She returned to Virginia following World War I and worked in Virginia's northern neck area. Poor health forced her to retire from nursing work. Cabaniss died in Richmond on 11 July 1921.

For additional biographical information see "Sadie Heath Cabaniss" in *Dictionary of American Nursing Biography* 1988 and "Sadie Heath Cabaniss" in *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* 2001.

Scope and Content

The collection contains three items. The letter from Isabel Hampton Robb and the list of questions for the anatomy and physiology exam were written during her tenure as Superintendent of the Old Dominion Training School. Cabaniss wrote the letter to Mary Louise Spencer during her time on the Virginia State Board of Examiners of Nurses.

Keywords

Nurses -- Virginia.

Nursing -- Study and teaching -- Virginia.

Education, Nursing.

Cabaniss, Sadie Heath, 1865-1921 -- Archives
Robb, Isabel Hampton -- Letter

Provenance

The items in this collection were obtained by Nannie Minor during her association with Sadie Cabaniss. Miss Minor subsequently places these items in her working library at the Department of Health where they were discovered by Mary Bell.

Description of Subordinate Components

Letter to Sadie Heath Cabaniss

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/3895

Unit Date 3 May [1901?]

Mixed Materials Small Collections 4

Extent 1 item

Scope and Contents

ALS, Isabel Hampton, Cleveland, Ohio to Miss [Sadie Heath] Cabaniss 3 May [1901?]

Letter to Mary Louise Spencer

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/3896

Unit Date 2 April 1904

Mixed Materials Small Collections 4

Extent 1 Items

Scope and Contents

ALS, S[adie] H[earth] Cabaniss, Richmond, VA to Miss [Mary Louise] Spencer 2 April 1904.

Exam questions

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/3897

Unit Date 1900

Mixed Materials Small Collections 4

Extent 1 Items

Scope and Contents

ADS, Document written by Sadie Heath Cabaniss with examination questions in anatomy and physiology for the student in the Old Dominion Hospital Training School.