

MONROE (ETHEL V.) PAPERS
Mss. 1779
Inventory

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library
Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

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SUMMARY

Size.	0.6 linear feet
Geographic locations.	New Orleans, Louisiana
Inclusive dates.	1897-1961
Bulk dates.	1925-1940
Language.	English
Summary.	Professional papers of Ethel Virginia Monroe, a medical nurse in New Orleans, pertaining to her work with nursing organizations.
Restrictions on access.	None.
Related collections.	None.
Copyright.	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Citation.	Ethel V. Monroe Papers, Mss. 1779, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack locations.	78:24

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Ethel Monroe, a nurse who practiced in the New Orleans area during the early part of the twentieth century, graduated from the New Orleans Sanitarium, now the Presbyterian Hospital. She practiced in area hospitals around New Orleans and was an “at home” nurse during World War I. During her career, Monroe became a founding member of the New Orleans chapter of the St. Barnabas Guild for Nurses, a nationwide Christian organization for nurses. She was also a member of the Louisiana State Nurses’ Association. Monroe filled various duties and became an officer of both organizations, serving as president of the Louisiana State Nurses’ Association for a time.

Monroe’s greatest service to the Nurses’ Association was the purchase of their club house. She played a heavy role in organizing the effort to purchase the house, which she saw as a haven for nurses from the stresses of their work.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Ethel V. Monroe's papers pertain to her work with several nursing organizations, including the Louisiana State Nurses Association, the New Orleans District Nurses' Association, the Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses, and the Southern Division of the American Nurses Association. Two minute books of the New Orleans Sanitarium Alumnae Association, an organization made up of nurses who attended the New Orleans Sanitarium and Training School for Nurses, are also included (1914-1940), as are nine issues of *The Southern Registered Nurse* (1927-1929).

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The earliest items in the collection are a menu from Touro Infirmary in New Orleans (1897) and an unfilled prescription note from the New Orleans Sanitarium and Training School for Nurses (1906). Later items include checks to nurses from the N.O.S. Nurses' Association (1915-1916); a pamphlet from the Red Cross concerning Home Defense Nurses (1918), an address given by Monroe to an assembly of nurses (1924), and invitation to a party held by the N.O.S. nurses (1927). A letter from Monroe concerns the purchase of the club house by the New Orleans District Nurses Association (1925) and a picture postcard depicts the club house itself. Also included are two contracts between Touro Infirmary and Hebrew Benevolent Association and the New Orleans Branch of the Guild of St. Barnabas for Trained Nurses detailing the extent of their relationship (1927) as well as letters from the *American Journal of Nursing* and *Southern Registered Nurse* to Monroe concerning articles about New Orleans District Nurses (1927-1928). Some items concern a class reunion of the New Orleans Sanitarium, including correspondence from Bessie Hart and from Margaret Bott indicating regret at not being able to attend, as well as the welcome speech made by Monroe at the reunion (1932). A letter from the Louisiana State Nurses Association requests the presence of Ethel Monroe as per her duties as president of the New Orleans Sanitarium Alumnae Association (1932) and another notifies Ethel Monroe of the upcoming convention and provides an itinerary for the Louisiana State Nurses Association (1932). A notice to Ethel Monroe informs of her appointment as representative to the House Committee of the New Orleans District Nurses Association (1929) and another indicates her appointment as member of the finance committee for the Association (1937).

Also found in the collection is a letter from the British War Relief Society thanking Ethel Monroe for her contribution to their cause (1941); membership lists for the Nurses' Association (1943-1944); and a letter and invoice from the First Homestead & Savings Association (1944). An obituary of Minnie H. Mims, a graduate of the New Orleans Sanitarium, notes her many accomplishments, while a postcard from the New Orleans District Nurses' Association announces a flag presentation in honor of Mims (1942). Other items pertain to the New Orleans Branch of the Guild of St. Barnabas, including minutes (1944); letters discussing officers and membership (1945); a letter from a member describing her duties and work in Fort Yukon, Alaska (1945); and a letter inviting the Guild to a meeting and church service at St. Stephen's Church in Philadelphia (1946). Later letters from Monroe state that interest and membership in the guild is waning (1949) and eventually ask the Chaplain of the New Orleans Branch of the Guild of St. Barnabas to consider calling a meeting to disband the branch (1949).

Bulletins and circular letters from the Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses contain information of national events and undertakings (1952-1954); a document notes financial dues and contributions of selected districts of the Guild; a pamphlet details of the history of the Boston Chapter of the Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses (1958); and letters to Monroe from the Secretary General of the Guild inform her of recent activities and request information about the history of the New Orleans Chapter (1958, 1961). Undated items include a letter from Caroline Goodwin to Ethel Monroe regarding a request for information on Goodwin's early years as a nurse; a letter from Margaret Tate to members of St. Barnabas Guild for Nurses clarifying the nature of the Bed Fund; documents containing the rules for use of the New Orleans District Nurses' Association's

Club House; the code of ethics for Nurses; and the Constitution and By-laws of the New Orleans Training School for Nurses (undated). Other items are comprised of songs and notes pertaining to the New Orleans Sanitarium and St. Barnabas Guild (undated).

Newspapers clippings are primarily from the New Orleans *Times-Picayune* and pertain to nurses and nursing in the area. They include articles concerning the purchase of the club house (1925); the examination of the Louisiana Nurses' Board (1927); nurses' volunteer work after a flood (1927); elections within the N.O. District Nurses' Association; job prospects for nurses with WPA training (1936); Charity Hospital in New Orleans (1936); wartime nurses; and the new surgical methods of Dr. William J. Mayo.

Printed materials pertain to the Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses and include pamphlets, registration cards, and newsletters (1905-1961, undated). Other items include a postcard from The Lighthouse for the Blind thanking Monroe for her contribution (undated); a postcard of the Hotel Dieu in New Orleans; and a pamphlet containing a statement of the functions, standards, and qualifications for nurses as discussed by the American Nurses' Association (undated). A number of printed volumes are also included pertaining to the Louisiana State Nurses' Association, the Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses, and the monthly periodical *The Southern Registered Nurse* (1925-1961) [see container list for details]. Also included are bound minute books of the New Orleans Sanitarium Alumnae Association (1914-1940).

INDEX TERMS

Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found throughout the entire collection.

American Nurses Association. Southern Division.
Clippings (information artifacts)
Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses.
Louisiana State Nurses Association.
Minute books.
Monroe, Ethel V. (Ethel Virginia)
New Orleans District Nurses' Association.
New Orleans Sanitarium Alumnae Association.
New Orleans Sanitarium and Training School for Nurses--Alumni and alumnae.
Nurses--Louisiana.
Nurses--Training of--Louisiana--New Orleans.
Nursing--Louisiana.
Pamphlets.
Southern registered nurse.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
78:24	1	1-4	Papers, 1897-1961, undated	
		5	Newspaper clippings, 1925-1961	
		6-7	Printed material, 1905-1961, undated	
	2	1-2	Printed volumes, pamphlets, 1925-1961, undated	
			“Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of the Louisiana State Nurses’ Association,” 1925, 1946	
			“Health Heroes, Florence Nightingale,” 1928	
			“History of Louisiana State Nurses’ Association, Silver Jubilee,” 1929	
			“Article of Incorporation and By-Laws of the New Orleans District Nurses’ Association,” 1941, 1947	
			“The Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses News Letter,” 1944	
			“Christmas News Letter, The Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses,” December 1948	
“The Cruse, Post-Convention Issue, St. Barnabas Guild for Nurses,” 1954				
78:24	3-4	<i>The Southern Registered Nurse,</i>		
		Vol. I, No. 6, April 1927		
		Vol. II, No. 5, March 1928		
		Vol. III, No. 2, January 1929		
		Vol. III, No. 4, March 1929		
		Vol. III, No. 5, April 1929		
		Vol. III, No. 6, May 1929		
		Vol. III, No. 7, June 1929		
		Vol. III, No. 8, July 1929		
		Manuscript volumes:		
5	1. N.O. Sanitarium Alumnae Association Minute Book, 1914-1931			
6	2. N.O. Sanitarium Alumnae Association Minute Book, 1931-1940			