



## Sarah McCarron papers, 1917-1964 PU-N.MC 10

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History of Nursing

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Pennsylvania: Barbara Bates Center for the Study of The History of Nursing
<b>Source - dnr:</b>	Behringer, Emily
<b>Creator:</b>	McCarron, Sarah
<b>Title:</b>	Sarah McCarron papers
<b>ID:</b>	PU-N.MC 10
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1917-1964
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.7 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	Sarah McCarron was a Red Cross nurse during World War I. She served in Germany, France, and the Balkans. Later she joined the American Legion, as well as many other organizations. This collection contains McCarron's wartime diaries, as well as correspondence and other personal and professional papers.

### Preferred Citation

Sarah McCarron papers, Barbara Bates Center for The Study of The History of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania

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## Biographical / Historical

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Born in Brooklyn, Sarah McCarron was a graduate of Williamsburg Hospital School of Nursing in 1909. A year later, she entered the New York City Public Health Service. In 1914, she became a member of the American Red Cross's Nursing Service and sailed to Europe on the "Mercy Mission." At that time, she worked in Cosel, Germany, near the Russian and Austrian frontiers, where the Red Cross nurses administered to all the sick and wounded. She returned to the U.S. in April 1915.

In 1917, she served at the Base Hospital in Fort Bliss, Texas, near the Mexican border in the Army Nurses Corp. From July 1918 to June 1919, Miss McCarron was assigned service to the American Ambulance Hospital France, at Chateau Theirry, Neuilla, Joug, and then in the Balkans.

She retired in 1942 after decades of participation in various organizations espousing the causes of nurses and veterans. She was a past commander of the Brooklyn Post 967 of the American Legion and acted as its delegate to their convention in France in September in 1927. She was a member of the National Organization of World War Nurses, Women's Overseas Service League, and the National Council of Catholic Nurses. She was the recipient of many medals and certificates which testify to her dedication and remarkable work in nursing.

Sarah McCarron spent the last nine years of her life in the VA Hospital in East Orange, NJ, and transferred to New York City. She died on January 8, 1964, at the age of 85.

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## Scope and Contents

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Sarah McCarron's papers are noteworthy because of the inclusion of her two war diaries from 1914 and 1918 in which she relates her daily activities, patient population, and modes of treatment, and describes the anxiety and paranoia within a war torn community. Postal correspondence, Bon Voyage messages, and newspaper articles document the relationships between Miss McCarron and her family, friends, coworkers, and the nursing community. Also included in this collection are records of her certification as a registered nurse, oath to the Army, military orders, and death certificate. Artifacts include numerous pictures and various medals awarded to Miss McCarron for her outstanding participation in nursing and veteran organizations.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

University of Pennsylvania: Barbara Bates Center for the Study of The History of Nursing

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## Conditions Governing Access

This collection is unrestricted.

## Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Emily Belringer via Irene Matthews, 1987.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

See also: MC 188, Mary A. Rothrock papers. Rothrock corresponded with another nurse, Caroline Bauer, who was stationed at the Cosel hospital during WWI.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- American Red Cross
- World War, 1914-1918 -- Medical care
- Personal papers
- Diaries
- Nursing
- United States. Army Nurse Corps.
- American Ambulance Hospital
- Public health nursing
- Military nursing
- Nurse

- McCarron, Sarah
- Behringer, Emily
- New York City Public Health Service

## Collection Inventory

### Personal and Service Records, 1917-1964

#### Scope and Contents

This series includes a brief biographical sketch by Sarah McCarron's niece Lillian Behringer, her death certificate, and obituary. Also included is incoming correspondence ranging from the War Department and the University of the State of New York to notes from several friends regarding her retirement in 1942.

Title/Description	Instances	
Biographical Notes	box 1	folder 1
Correspondence and records	box 1	folder 2

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### Organizations (1912-1943), Correspondence (1914-1918)

#### Scope and Contents

Series 2 contains information about Miss McCarron's war nursing with the Red Cross Nursing Service and the Army Nurse Corps. Included are the diaries from her 1914 and 1918 trips with typed versions of both. Additionally, many postcards and other travel memorabilia including Bon Voyage messages and A Soldier's French Course are documented. Several programs from organizations and schools such as the Women's Overseas Service League and the PS73 annual influenced by Miss McCarron are contained in this series.

Title/Description	Instances	
Directories of the collection	box 1	folder 1

#### Red Cross

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence: records of retirement, foreign service certification.	box 1	folder 2

#### European Trip, "Mercy Mission", 1914

Title/Description	Instances	
Diary of trip, 1914	box 1	folder 3
Diary (typed), travel notes		

	box 1	folder 4
Postcards, 1914	box 1	folder 5
Army Nurse Corp, 1917	box 1	folder 6
<b>European Trip, SS "La Lorraine", 1918</b>		
<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Diary of Trip, 1918	box 1	folder 7
Diary (typed)	box 1	folder 8
Bon Voyages	box 1	folder 9
French course, postals	box 1	folder 10
American Legion, organizations, newsletters	box 1	folder 11
Relatives' letters, 1961	box 1	folder 12

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## Photographs, 1909-1954

### Scope and Contents

Most of the photographs are group shots of Alumnae Association dinners and other nursing groups. There is a shot of an operation being performed and observed in 1929 as well as 35 small photos from Ft. Bliss.

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Brooklyn Hospital, 1905	box 1	photo 1
Class Picture, 1909	box 1	photo 2
Ft. Bliss (women), 1917	box 1	photo 3
Ft. Bliss (men), 1917	box 1	photo 4
Class picture, 1920	box 1	photo 5
Operation, 1929	box 1	photo 6
American Legion, 1932	box 1	photo 7
Williamsburg Hospital (NY), 1934	box 1	photo 8
Women's Overseas League, 1937	box 1	photo 9
Alumnae Assoc. PGH, 1941	box 1	photo 10
Alumnae Assoc., 1941	box 1	photo 11
Alumnae Assoc., 1940s	box 1	photo 12
World War Nurses, 1947	box 1	photo 13
National Council of Catholic Nurses, 1954	box 1	photo 14

Mercy Mission News Clip, 1914	box 1	photo 15
The German Front News Clip, 1915	box 1	photo 16
Misc. Small Photos, Ft. Bliss, 1917	box 1	photo 17-53

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## Artifacts

### Scope and Contents

This series includes ten American Legion Convention Pins, a Red Cross Arm Band, a Registered Nurse Diploma, as well as a framed collection of medals and pins commemorating her career in the Red Cross during World War I.

Title/Description	Instances
10 American Legion Convention Pins (Medals), 1925-1949	box 1
Piece of US flag	box 1
Red Cross Arm Band	box 1
Red Cross Patch	box 1
Memorium collection of medals and pins of career during WWI	box 1

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