Nursing Caps Collection

* The Midwest Nursing History Research Center

College of Nursing
University of Illinois at Chicago
Nurses’ caps, now rare in the US, were once a distinct part of the nurse’s image. The origin of the cap isn’t clear. When “trained nursing” started in the 1850s women usually wore caps indoors. Female servants also wore caps as part of their uniform. However the tradition of nursing caps began, they persisted as part of a nurses’ uniform in the US until the 1970s when fewer nurses started wearing them. They were impractical and inconsistent with the image of a knowledge-based profession.

US nurses wore the cap of their training school or university throughout their career. Thus one hospital could have a multitude of caps being worn.

The caps in the Midwest Nursing History Research Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago have been collected from different sources; many came from nurses at the Cook County Hospital in Chicago and showed that the nurses came from hospitals and universities all over the world.

Many of the caps in the collection are yellowed and some are stained. They represent years of nursing work, many spent in the busy wards of the old Cook County Hospital.

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American Hospital School of Nursing
Chicago, Illinois
Amundson-Mayfair Chicago City College
Chicago, Illinois
Augusta Hospital School of Nursing
Chicago, Illinois
Cook County School of Nursing (Early)
Chicago, Illinois
Copley Memorial Hospital School of Nursing
Aurora, Illinois
Englewood Hospital School of Nursing
Chicago, Illinois
Grant Hospital School of Nursing
Chicago, Illinois
Illinois Training School for Nurses
Chicago, Illinois
Jackson Park Hospital
School of Nursing
Chicago, Illinois
Little Company of Mary Hospital
School of Nursing
Evergreen Park, Illinois
Little Company of Mary Hospital
School of Nursing
Evergreen Park, Illinois
Loyola University School of Nursing
Chicago, Illinois
Michael Reese Hospital School of Nursing
Chicago, Illinois
Norwegian American Hospital Training School
Chicago, Illinois
Oak Park Hospital School of Nursing
Oak Park, Illinois
Passavant Memorial Hospital Training School
Chicago Illinois
Passavant Memorial Hospital
School of Nursing
Chicago, Illinois
Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing
Chicago, Illinois
Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Hospital School of Nursing
Chicago, Illinois
Princeton
Princeton Illinois?
LPN School
Providence Hospital School of Nursing
Chicago, Illinois
Ravenswood Hospital School of Nursing
Chicago, Illinois
South Chicago Community Hospital School of Nursing
Chicago, Illinois
St. Anne’s Hospital School of Nursing
Chicago, Illinois
St. Bernard’s Hospital School of Nursing
Chicago, Illinois
St. Charles Hospital School of Nursing
Aurora, Illinois
St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing
Kewanee, Illinois
St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing
Evanston, Illinois
St. Joseph’s Hospital
School of Nursing
Chicago, Illinois
St. Mary’s Hospital School of Nursing
Kankakee, Illinois
St. Luke’s Hospital
Training School
Chicago, Illinois
University of St. Anthony
Rockford, Illinois
Washington Boulevard Hospital
School of Nursing
Chicago, Illinois
School closed in 1942
* Schools of Nursing outside Illinois
Barnes Hospital School of Nursing
St. Louis, Missouri
Barnes Hospital School of Nursing
St. Louis, Missouri
Bronson Hospital School of Nursing
Kalamazoo, Michigan
Durham Program of Practical Nurse Education
Durham, N. Carolina
Grady Memorial Hospital School of Nursing
Atlanta, Georgia
Indiana University
Indiana
Little Rock School of Practical Nursing
Little Rock, Arkansas
Kansas City Medical Center
Kansas City, Missouri
Marquette University School of Nursing
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
McKennon Hospital School of Nursing
Sioux Falls, S. Dakota
Mercy Hospital School of Nursing
Dubuque, Iowa
Milwaukee Passavant Hospital
School of Nursing
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Mississippi Vocational College
Mississippi
St. Joseph Mercy Hospital School of Nursing
Dubuque, Iowa
St. Joseph-Mercy School of Nursing
Dubuque, Iowa
University of Michigan School of Nursing
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Red Cross
*Schools of Nursing outside the U.S.*
Iloilo Mission Hospital School of Nursing
Iloilo City, Phillipines
University of Santo Tomás
Philippines