

ANNIE MCKAY'S HISTORY

Annie McKay was born on July 29, 1867 in a log house in rural Beaverton, Ontario, Canada, the fifth of ten children. Interestingly, Ms. McKay was trained as a schoolteacher in Canada and taught school before she decided to enter nursing. Her credentials were listed as the following by the *Instructive District Nursing Association (IDNA)*: Graduate of Toronto General Hospital, graduate of Victorian Order Training School, Toronto; Woman's Hospital in New York, Mass. Charitable Eye & Ear Infirmary; and District Nurse for Victorian Order for two years. Later on in her career, she joined the American Red Cross Paris Committee during WW1. Her family called her "a very dedicated woman" and she seemed to be on hand in Canada when any family, medical emergency arose. She passed away in Beaverton, Canada in 1944.

After only 8 weeks after being assigned to her job in the South End's Quincy School District in 1905, Ms McKay had already seen 215 cases in school, and made 576 home visits. Though the school day started at 9 am and finished at 3 pm, Ms. McKay made home visits to the families both before and after school in order to impress the parents with the importance of medical care. Frequently, the nurse just taught simple techniques of self-help, hygiene, and how to protect themselves and others from disease. Records show that Ms. McKay dealt with eye and ear problems, nose, throat, pulmonary and skin cases, pediculosis, plus medical and surgical issues. After she had been working in the Quincy district for only three months, more than 70 children had been fitted for glasses.

In addition to her three schools, the Quincy, Way Street and Andrews, Annie McKay was also assigned to check on students at the Hawthorne Club, an after school program near the Way Street School. She wrote a play called the "Elf Child" for the school, which when it was set to music, was produced by the program.

With the stroke of her appointment, a system of health assessment, intervention and follow-up for all children within the school system was established, a legacy that continues to this day.

This pamphlet was prepared by Dorothy Keeney, MSNO Historian

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ANNIE MCKAY 1867-1944

PLAQUE DEDICATION CEREMONY

Massachusetts' First School Nurse, 1905
1521 Washington Street, South End (her home)

August 25, 2009, at 11:00 am



COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE

ANNIE MCKAY 1867-1944

THIS BUILDING WAS THE HOME IN 1905 OF ANNIE MCKAY, BOSTON'S PIONEERING FIRST SCHOOL NURSE. BECAUSE OF THE ERA'S HIGH RATE OF ABSENTEEISM FROM SCHOOL, THE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN 1905, IN AN EXPERIMENTAL AND PRIVATELY FUNDED PROGRAM WITH THE INSTRUCTIVE DISTRICT NURSE ASSOCIATION, APPOINTED ANNIE MCKAY, A TRAINED NURSE, TO SUPPLEMENT THE WORK OF PHYSICIANS. SHE WAS ASSIGNED THREE SCHOOLS IN THE SOUTH END: THE QUINCY, WAY STREET AND ANDREWS. THIS PROGRAM WAS JUDGED SUCH AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS IN IMPROVING STUDENT HEALTH AND ATTENDANCE THAT THE STATE PASSED LEGISLATION IN 1907 MANDATING SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES THROUGHOUT MASSACHUSETTS.

MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL NURSE ORGANIZATION-

BUILDING HISTORY

The building at 1521 Washington Street, known as the *Stanford*, was built in 1889-1891. It is a handsome apartment house with the lower floor finished for stores. The building survived the threat of urban renewal in the 1970's and is owned by Geraghty Associates.

CEREMONY PROGRAM

11:00 am

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dorothy Keeney, RN, BSN, MA
Historian, Massachusetts School Nurse Organization

Tributes to School Nursing

Mimi Stamer, BSN, MSN, PNP-BC
President, Massachusetts School Nurse Organization

Sandi Delack, RN, BSN, MEd, NCSN
President, National Association of School Nurses

Tabitha Bennett
Neighborhood Coordinator, Mayor Menino's Office

Mary Ellen Doona, RN, EdD, Historian, *Living Legend*
Massachusetts Association of Registered Nurses

Diane Gallagher
History Archivist, Gotlieb Archival Center
Boston University

11:45

Unveiling of Plaque

Thomas J. Geraghty, Jr.

Light Refreshments to follow at Stella Café
compliments of Thomas Geraghty