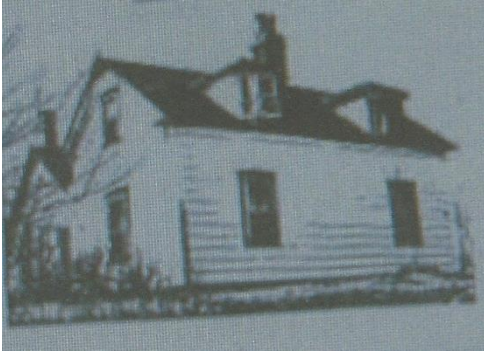


# SIBELLA ANNIE BARRINGTON

By Gloria Stephens, Dec. 6, 2015

Sibella Annie Barrington, born December 4, 1867, in the homestead, Barrington Park, the second of seven children of Baronet Yorke Ainsley Walker and Lady M. Matilda (Mahon) Barrington in Sydney Mines, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.



'BARRINGTON PARK'

Sibella, unmarried, died December 9, 1929, following surgery in the Saint John General Hospital. Her brother John accompanied the remains to Sydney Mines, and burial in Trinity Anglican cemetery. Her stone reads: "The glory of life is to give not to get; to serve not to be served." The Red Cross Nursing Service crest is on the stone.

Sibella graduated in 1904 from the Aberdeen School of Nursing, New Glasgow, NS.



1<sup>st</sup>. ABERDEEN HOSPITAL - 1897

SIBELLA A. BARRINGTON

Aberdeen Nursing School pin and cap – in later years



## POST BASIC EDUCATION-

- \* Chicago- Public Health program with emphasis in maternity
- \* Dublin – learned about the care of tuberculosis patients
- \* London- worked with Dr. Frederic Truby King, a New Zealander who specialized in the health care of children, renowned advocate for child welfare.

## WORK EXPERIENCE -

Sibella did Private Duty maternity and child welfare nursing in Halifax

1917 - Halifax Explosion, December 6<sup>th</sup>, volunteered with the Red Cross.

1918 to 1923, Superintendent at the Halifax Infant's Home which served as a 'Women's Hospital'.



Sibella was noted for her sympathy towards unmarried pregnant women and orphaned children.

Sibella became an RN after the NS Nurses' Act, first in Canada, was passed in 1922.

### HALIFAX INFANT'S HOME

1924 - Saint John, New Brunswick, through the Canadian Red Cross, organized Home Nursing courses (100), taught women (over 1500) basic home nursing skills and disease recognition. Sibella made over 100 home visits and lectured throughout the province. She elicited support from the IODE, RNANB and VON in a campaign to improve the health issues of women and children. Because of Sibella's efforts, New Brunswick's record for 'home-nursing classes was the best in Canada with the exception of Ontario. Sibella established outpost hospitals in isolated areas in New Brunswick.

1928 started the first 'port-nursery', in the world, in Saint John, NB, through the post-war initiative of the Red Cross. Doctors were on call but for the most part nurses met the medical needs of immigrants and others which resembled that of a 'nurse-practitioner' of today.

1929, Sibella successfully organized communities and associations to campaign for donations helping the Red Cross financially

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES;

1914- 1917 member- Ladies Legion Auxiliary WW1

1917 – Volunteer with the Red Cross during the Halifax Explosion

1918 – Vice President Children’s Aid Society, Halifax

1918 - Vice President, Halifax, Graduate Nurses Association of NS, (GNANS),

1919 - President of the GNANS; met with provincial health authorities for legislation on health and professional nursing issues.

1920 - Delegate to the National Canadian Council of Women, to improve the lives of women and children and to fight for ‘women’s vote’.

The Halifax Council of Women met in this house which Sibella attended, owned by George Wright. He donated the house to the organization before his voyage on the Titanic.



GEORGE WRIGHT HOUSE

1924 – Councillor to CNA Nursing Education committee.

1929 - Published, along with two others, an article in the Canadian Public Health Journal; “Public Health Nursing: The work of a Port Nursery”

Sibella’s chief contribution to nursing and health care was her teaching and promotion of ‘Home Nursing Programs ‘; organizing ‘Outpost Hospitals’ in isolated areas and starting the first ‘port-nursery’ in the world, Saint John, NB. She had an amazing ability through her positive attitude to link organizations to a common cause contributing to her success in the health care of women and children.

## AWARDS:

- 1918 – Life Membership in the British Red Cross: ‘outstanding work as a volunteer following the 1917 Halifax Explosion’,
- 2009- College of Registered Nurses Nova Scotia; Centennial Award of Distinction: ‘for significant nursing accomplishments for women and children.

## REFERENCES:

Margaret Marion (Barrington) Muise, RN, Halifax, first cousin twice removed