

The American College of Nurse-Midwives and Its Antecedents: A Historic Time Line

Katy Dawley, CNM, PhD, and Helen Varney Burst, CNM, MSN, DHL (Hon)

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the American College of Nurse-Midwives, this time line presents a chronologic history of the development of nurse-midwifery in the United States. It places the introduction of nurse-midwifery in American health care into its historic context and follows the evolution of the profession through early attempts at forming a national organization, the eventual formation of the American College of Nurse-Midwifery, and the subsequent merger with the American Association of Nurse-Midwives, to create the American College of Nurse-Midwives. The work of the College between 1955 and the turn of the 21st century is highlighted. *J Midwifery Womens Health* 2005;50:16–22 © 2005 by the American College of Nurse-Midwives.

keywords: nurse-midwifery, history, public health nursing, American College of Nurse-Midwives, midwifery, midwifery education

As we celebrate 50 years of the American College of Nurse-Midwives, it is a good time to step back and also review the historic context within which the profession and College developed. This is an amazing history. The profession of midwifery emerged from the vision of a few strong nursing leaders and supportive physicians. It was nurtured under the watchful hands and eyes of nurses, nurse-midwives, physicians, and public health campaigners committed to improving the health and well-being of mothers, infants, and their families. We invite you to walk our collective path through time, meeting heroines and heroes of our past and reveling in the successes of our profession and professional organization. In so doing, we will learn new things about our collective past, develop a new admiration for the wisdom of our foremothers, and move forward to create the history of our next 50 years.

1911: Lillian Wald, RN, and Carolyn Conant van Blarcom, RN, introduced a resolution to educate American nurses in midwifery at the American Association for the Study and Prevention of Infant Mortality. This resolution was not adopted.¹

1912: Clara Noyes, RN, Superintendent of Training Schools at Bellevue Hospital, argued in the *American Journal of Nursing* that visiting nurses be educated in midwifery.²

1914: Fred Taussig, MD, called for the education of nurses in midwifery at the annual meeting of the National Organization for Public Health Nurses (NOPHN) and introduced the title “nurse-midwife” to differentiate this new professional from immigrant and traditional African American midwives.³

1918: Maternity Center Association was established. Its first director was Hazel Corbin, RN, who developed the concept of “family-centered maternity care.”⁴

1922: Ralph Lobenstine, MD, the first President of

Maternity Center Association’s Medical Board, suggested in the *American Journal of Public Health* that educating nurses to manage normal labor would reduce infant mortality.⁵

1923: Preston Retreat Maternity Hospital opened a course in midwifery for practical nurses and in the mid-1940s began to educate registered nurses as well.⁶

1924: Edwin R. Embree of the Rockefeller Foundation hired public health nurse Mary Beard, RN, and sent her to England to study the English maternity care system, especially “the relations of midwifery to nursing.” Beard became an advocate for nurse-midwifery.⁷

1925: Mary Breckinridge, RN, SCM, opened Frontier Nursing Service, the first nurse-midwifery clinical service in the United States.⁸

1925: Manhattan Midwifery School, affiliated with the Manhattan Maternity Dispensary, opened the first program to educate registered nurses in midwifery.⁹

1929: The Kentucky State Association of Midwives was founded as a professional organization for nurse-midwives practicing at Frontier Nursing Service and, after 1939, also became the association for graduates of the Frontier Nursing Service education program.^{10–12}

1931 to 1932: The Lobenstine Midwifery Clinic and School in New York City became the second midwifery service (1931) and the second midwifery education program (1932). It was established by the Association for the Promotion and Standardization of Midwifery, a creation of Maternity Center Association. Hattie Hemschemeyer, RN, CNM, MPH, a graduate of the first class, was director. Mary Breckinridge sent Rose McNaught, RN, SCM, a staff nurse-midwife at Frontier Nursing Service, to Maternity Center Association to be the first educator in this program. Although its official policy was not to fund nurse-midwifery in the United States, the Rockefeller Foundation provided funding for the East Harlem Nursing and Health Service, where Maternity Center Association midwives provided prenatal care. In addition, Mary Beard arranged for the Foundation’s China Medical Board to fund full

Address correspondence to Katy Dawley, CNM, PhD, 235 Pelham Road, Philadelphia, PA 19119. E-mail: kd25@drexel.edu

scholarships and stipends for 12 of the first 25 nurses educated in midwifery at Maternity Center Association between 1932 and 1936.¹¹⁻¹⁴

1934: Maternity Center Association assumed administrative and financial responsibility for the Lobenstine Midwifery Clinic and School.¹²

1939: As English-educated midwives began to return home to aid their country during World War II, Frontier Nursing Service opened its education program, which was the third educational program to come into existence.⁸

1940: Hattie Hemschemeyer convened a meeting of nurse-midwives at the Biennial Nurses Convention in Philadelphia to form the National Association of Certified Nurse-Midwives to represent the approximately 200 nurse-midwives and provide guidance for their education programs and practice. The National Association of Certified Nurse-Midwives never met again after its organizing meeting.¹¹

1940: The Kentucky State Association of Midwives became the American Association of Nurse-Midwives and opened its door to graduates of other education programs.¹¹

1941: The fourth nurse-midwifery education program opened in Tuskegee, Alabama. Margaret Thomas and F. Carrington Owens, both Maternity Center Association graduates, and Claudia Durham, a Tuskegee graduate, served as program directors. Owens and Durham were African Americans. Thirty-one African American nurses were educated in midwifery at this school before it closed in 1946.^{11,15}

1942: The fifth education program opened in Louisiana at the Flint Goodrich Hospital. Kate Hyder, a graduate from Maternity Center Association and recipient of a Rockefeller scholarship, directed this program for African American nurses. It functioned for only 1 year and graduated 2 nurse-midwives.¹⁶⁻¹⁸

1942: The first nurse-midwifery operated "birthing center" opened in rural Georgia as a project initiated by the Georgia Department of Health to meet the health care needs of rural African American women. Two nurse-midwives, Hannah Mitchell and Marion Cadwallader, maternity nursing consultants to the Department, supervised this and 3 other nurse-midwife services between 1940 and early 1960. The 4 Georgia services included a hospital, home, and 2 "birthing center" services.^{11,19,20}

1944 to 1945: In 1944, 2 Medical Mission Sisters and nurse-midwives, Sister M. Theophane Shoemaker (later Agnes Reinders) and Helen Herb, both Maternity Center Association graduates, opened Catholic Maternity Institute in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Women birthed either at home or at La Casita, a freestanding birth center. The Catholic

Maternity Institute School of Nurse-Midwifery was founded in 1945 and closed in 1968. Catholic Maternity Institute closed in 1969. Sister M. Theophane Shoemaker served as director of both the clinical service and the school.¹⁶

1944: Because the American Association of Nurse Midwives neither admitted African American nurse-midwives nor set standards for midwifery practice, Hattie Hemschemeyer called together a meeting of nurse-midwives held at Maternity Center Association to discuss forming a new national organization to facilitate the exchange of professional knowledge, maintain standards for nurse-midwifery practice, and provide a professional home for African American nurse-midwives. The route chosen was the creation of an autonomous nurse-midwifery section within the National Organization of Public Health Nurses, an organization open to nurses of color. In 1952, the section disbanded as a result of the dissolution of the National Organization of Public Health Nurses and most other national nursing organizations during a reorganization in which the American Nurses Association and the National League of Nursing were designated as the 2 major national nursing organizations.^{11,12}

1947: Catholic Maternity Institute became the clinical site for Catholic University of America graduate students who were desirous of a clinical specialty in midwifery. Students graduated with a Master of Science degree from Catholic University of America and a Certificate in Nurse-Midwifery from Catholic Maternity Institute, a first for nurse-midwifery.^{16,21}

1947: Maternity Center Association's Hazel Corbin spearheaded a collaborative agreement between Yale University's Schools of Medicine and Nursing and Grace-New Haven Hospital to establish a childbirth education program at the hospital. Maternity Center Association nurse-midwives worked in the hospital providing childbirth education for nurses, residents, and pregnant women. They also provided support for women during labor and the postpartum period.^{11,22}

1952 to 1955: Maternity Center Association entered into a childbirth education arrangement with Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital. The success of this project led to the introduction of a nurse-midwifery clinical service in 1954 and a nurse-midwifery education program in 1955 in the Columbia University School of Nursing, both under the leadership of Maternity Center Association graduate Mary Crawford. This was the first education program in which student nurse-midwives were obtaining their midwifery education within a university and their clinical experience within a university-affiliated hospital.^{11,23}

1953 to 1956: Nurse-midwifery service opened at Johns Hopkins at the request of Nicholson Eastman, Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology, who had worked with midwives in China under the auspices of the Rockefeller Foundation's China Medical Board. Maternity Center Association graduates, nurse-midwives Mary Crawford and

Katy Dawley, CNM, PhD, is on the faculty of Drexel University College of Nursing and Health Professions.

Helen Varney Burst, CNM, MSN, DHL (Hon), FACNM, is Professor Emeritus at Yale University School of Nursing.

Betty Hosford, started the clinical service as an experiment in 1953. It was the first nurse-midwifery service in an academic medical center. Funding for the clinical service and a nurse-midwifery education program was finalized in January 1956. Sara Fetter, a graduate of Maternity Center Association, directed both programs.^{11,27}

1954: A group of nurse-midwives answered a call from Sister M. Theophane Shoemaker and Hattie Hemschemeyer and convened at the American Nurses Association convention in Chicago in April 1954. Neither the American Nurses Association nor the National League for Nursing, some of whose leaders believed nurse-midwives practiced medicine not nursing, was open to an autonomous section for nurse-midwifery, as had been possible in the National Organization of Public Health Nurses. Nurse-midwives were dissatisfied with their inability to address the professional issues of nurse-midwifery within the national nursing organizations. The Committee on Organization, chaired by Sister Theophane, was formed during this meeting, and the members set out to explore the formation of an autonomous national organization^{11,12}

April 1954 to April 1955: Members of the Committee on Organization drafted definitions of a nurse-midwife and of nurse-midwifery practice and wrote standards for both practice and education. A nurse-midwife was defined as a professional who “combines the knowledge and skills of professional nursing and midwifery.” This was the last time midwifery was included as a clinical origin of nurse-midwifery practice until the 1978 definition of a nurse-midwife. The committee also explored several routes for achieving their goal of a representative organization to guide the practice of nurse-midwifery. Mary Breckinridge, President of the American Association of Nurse-Midwives throughout her lifetime, rejected the Committee’s request to restructure the American Association of Nurse-Midwives to meet the committee’s goals of an organization with open membership and a mission to set standards for education and practice. At the same time, the Committee continued to negotiate with nursing leaders in the hope of achieving autonomous councils that would continue the work of the Nurse-Midwifery Section of the National Organization of Public Health Nurses within either the American Nurses Association or the National League for Nursing. Both organizations rejected the committee’s request for autonomous councils, and planning for the creation of the American College of Nurse-Midwifery moved forward.^{11,12,24}

1955: On November 12, 1955, the founding meeting of the American College of Nurse-Midwifery was held in Kansas City, Missouri. Seventeen nurse-midwives were present. Hattie Hemschemeyer was elected President, and Sr. Theophane Shoemaker was elected President-Elect. The corporate seal was designed by Rita Kroska, who incorporated suggestions from the membership. The *Bulletin of the American College of Nurse-Midwifery* was designated as an official publication of the College. Volume 1, Number 1 is dated December 1955.^{25,26,28}

1956: The American College of Nurse-Midwifery was accepted into the International Confederation of Midwives.¹²

1955 to 1956: The American College of Nurse-Midwifery established committees to draft a definition of the nurse-midwife and of nurse-midwifery practice; a philosophy of nurse-midwifery; Functions, Standards, and Qualifications; and to explore a process for accrediting education programs.^{28,29}

1956 to 1958: A nurse-midwifery education program opened at Yale University School of Nursing in 1956 under the leadership of Maternity Center Association graduate nurse-midwife Ernestine Wiedenbach.²⁷ In 1958, Wiedenbach published her textbook *Family-Centered Maternity Nursing*.

1961: Sr. Mary Stella Simpson had a movie made in the obstetric division of St. Mary’s Hospital in Evansville, Indiana, *Hospital Maternity Care: Family-Centered*, which presented family-centered maternity care to the public.⁴

1961 to 1963: A 3-year demonstration project used nurse-midwives, primarily Armentia Jarrett, to provide prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum care at Madera County Hospital in Madera, California. A comparison of outcomes of physician-provided care before and after the demonstration project with outcomes of midwifery provided care during the project showed nurse-midwives significantly increased access and decreased prematurity and neonatal mortality.³⁰

1962: American College of Nurse-Midwifery approved its first definition of the nurse-midwife and nurse-midwifery practice stating that a “. . . nurse-midwife is a registered nurse who by virtue of added knowledge and skill gained through an organized program of study and clinical experience has extended the limits of her practice into the area of management of the care of mothers and babies throughout the maternity cycle. . . .”

1962: The “Criteria for Evaluation of Nurse-Midwifery Programs” and “Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Programs in Nurse-Midwifery” were approved. By 1971, the 13 existing education programs were approved.¹¹

1963: The American College of Nurse-Midwifery approved its first Philosophy of Nurse-Midwifery. It was revised in 1972, 1983, 1989, and 2004.¹¹

1966: The American College of Nurse-Midwifery approved and published the first “Functions, Standards, and Qualifications for the Practice of Nurse-Midwifery.” These were revised in 1975 and 1983.

1967: The A.C.N.M. Foundation, Inc., conceived and nurtured to fruition by Ruth and Bill Lubic, was incorporated as a 501c3 tax-exempt organization to raise money to support the work of the College and its volunteer committees.¹¹

1968: The Maternal Infant Care (MIC) nurse-midwifery program was established in New York City under the direction of Dorothea Lang, CNM, MPH. It provided many more employment opportunities for nurse-midwives than

were previously in existence. For the first time, a significant number of nurse-midwives not associated with an education program could practice clinical midwifery in the United States.^{11,12,31}

1969: The American College of Nurse-Midwifery approved “Standards for a Nurse-Midwifery Service” that upheld practice characteristics pioneered, tested, and demonstrated to be effective at Frontier Nursing Service, Maternity Center Association, and Catholic Maternity Institute. All 3 were autonomous institutions with practices controlled by nurse-midwives. The College did not want nurse-midwives with large clinical services in medical institutions to lose this autonomy to control practice; thus, the standards required a nurse-midwife, one with authority to communicate directly with nursing and medical leadership, to direct the service and participate in all decisions affecting nurse-midwifery practice.¹¹

1969: The American Association of Nurse-Midwives and the American College of Nurse-Midwifery merged to form the American College of Nurse-Midwives. The corporate seal was changed to reflect the new name of the organization, and 1929 was added to the “1955” already on the seal to include the founding dates of both organizations.¹²

1969: Ingeborg Rathke is the first nurse-midwife to practice in the United States Indian Health Service.³²

1970: Private practice emerged as a major direction for nurse-midwifery beginning in Springfield, Ohio, on July 1, 1970, with Harriet Keefer Simpson, CNM, and John E. Burnett, Jr, MD.^{11,12,33}

1971: The first “Joint Statement on Maternity Care” was approved by the American College of Nurse-Midwives, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the Nurses Association of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. This was the first official recognition of the practice of nurse-midwifery by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

1971: The American College of Nurse-Midwives established a national certification examination with a bylaws change in May 1971. Nurse-midwives who graduated before May 1971 were retroactively certified between 1971 and 1973.

1972: The American College of Nurse-Midwives approved “Standards for the Evaluation of Nurse-Midwifery Procedural Functions” for nurse-midwives who wanted to expand practice beyond what was learned in their basic education program. The American College of Nurse-Midwives also approved “Guidelines for Establishing a Nurse-Midwifery Service” to pass on knowledge, gleaned by nurse-midwives since the 1920s, on how to design and run successful practices.

1972: The American College of Nurse-Midwives hosted the International Confederation of Midwives triennial Congress in Washington, DC, under the leadership of Lucille Woodville, the International Confederation of Midwives President and the American College of Nurse-Midwives immediate past President. The American College of Nurse-

Midwives presidential medallion was created for this meeting at the request of Carmela Cavero, President.

1972: The nurse-midwifery mastery learning curriculum using modules was developed at the University of Mississippi Medical Center Nurse-Midwifery Educational Program.³⁴

1972: The *Bulletin of the American College of Nurse-Midwifery* was last published as Volume 17 (4); November 1972.

1973: The inaugural issue of the *Journal of Nurse-Midwifery* was published as Volume 18 (1); February 1973.

1974: The Legislative Committee issued a “Position Statement on Nurse-Midwifery Legislation” approved by the American College of Nurse-Midwives Board of Directors in July 1974. It called for separate statutory recognition as a basis for nurse-midwifery practice and for nurse-midwives to be involved in the policy-making process of appropriate state regulatory bodies.³⁵

1974: A change in the American College of Nurse-Midwives Bylaws converted the Committee for Approval of Educational Programs into a more autonomous Division of Approval; concurrently, the Testing Committee became the Division of Examiners. In 1984, the Division of Approval became the Division of Accreditation and, in 1987, the Division of Examiners became the Division of Competency Assessment. In 1990, the Division of Competency Assessment separated from the College and became the ACNM Certification Council, Inc.

1974: After attending a workshop on Mississippi’s mastery learning curriculum using modules, the midwifery education program directors organized to meet on a regular basis in 1976 and formed the Nurse-Midwifery Education Directors Group. In 2000, the Nurse-Midwifery Education Directors structurally reorganized and became the Directors of Midwifery Education (DOME).^{12,36}

1976: The Legislative Committee published the first report on the legislative status of nurse-midwifery in every state in the 1976 Summer issue of the *Journal of Nurse-Midwifery*.

1977: The American College of Nurse-Midwives archives were gifted to the National Library of Medicine.³⁷

1977: The Division of Examiners became a founding member of the National Commission for Health Certifying Agencies.³⁷

1978: The American College of Nurse-Midwives approved a new definition of nurse-midwifery practice that declared the nurse-midwife could “independently manage the antepartal, intrapartal, postpartal, and gynecological care of essentially normal women and their normal newborns.” A new definition of a certified nurse-midwife stated that a “Certified Nurse-Midwife is an individual educated in the two disciplines of nursing and midwifery. . .”; this marked a return to the 1954 acceptance of the dual basis of nurse-midwifery practice in midwifery and nursing.¹¹

1978: The Legislative Committee issued *Sample Law: Statute and Rules and Regulations for Nurse-Midwifery* to

guide chapters in state efforts to modernize their regulatory boards, rules, and regulations.

1978: The American College of Nurse-Midwives issued the first “Core Competencies in Nurse-Midwifery: Expected Outcomes of Nurse-Midwifery Education.” These were revised in 1985, 1992, 1997, and 2002.

1978: Federal Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS) legislation became the first national legislation to mandate direct reimbursement to nurse-midwives.

1979: The American College of Nurse-Midwives issued “Guidelines for Establishing a Hospital Birth Room;” “Guidelines for Establishing an Alternative Birth Center;” and “Guidelines for Establishing a Home Birth Service.”

1980: The American College of Nurse-Midwives issued the “Statement on Practice Settings,” which supported midwifery practice in hospital, birth center, and home.

1980: The first edition of Helen Varney Burst’s textbook, *Nurse-Midwifery*, was published. This was the first text on nurse-midwifery practice published in the Western Hemisphere. With the third edition, in 1997, the name changed to *Varney’s Midwifery*, and the fourth edition published in 2004 was coauthored by Jan Kriebs and Carolyn Geger.

1980: Sally Tom became The American College of Nurse-Midwives first federal Government Relations Liaison.

1981: The American College of Nurse-Midwives received its first international grant for the Traditional Birth Attendant Training Program under the guidance of Bonnie Pederson. This evolved into the Special Projects Section in 1982 and, in 1999, became the Department of Global Outreach.

1981: The U.S. Department of Education first recognized the American College of Nurse-Midwives as an agency to accredit nurse-midwifery education programs.

1981: The Cooperative Birth Center Network founded by nurse-midwives Ruth Lubic and Eunice (Kitty) Ernst. Became the National Association of Childbearing Centers (NACC) in 1983.¹²

1982: First meeting of the Service Directors Network organized by Joanne Leck and Anne Scupholme.

1984: The American College of Nurse-Midwives issued the “Guide to Quality Assurance/Peer Review.”

1985: The Ad Hoc Committee on Minority Affairs was formed.

1988: The Division of Research and the Division of Publications were created from the previous committees.

1989: The Board of Directors of the American College of Nurse-Midwives charged the Division of Accreditation to “actively explore the testing of non-nurse professional midwifery educational routes.”³⁸

1991: The American College of Nurse-Midwives Code of Ethics was adopted. Revised in 2004.

1993: The American College of Nurse-Midwives hired the first Director of Professional Services, Deanne Williams.

1994: Fellowship in the American College of Nurse-Midwives was established under the leadership of Mary Ann Shah, and the induction of the first group of Fellows occurred at the annual meeting.

1994: At the 1994 annual meeting, a motion was made and overwhelmingly passed recommending that the Board of Directors of the American College of Nurse-Midwives direct the Division of Accreditation to establish and implement mechanisms for the review and accreditation of non-nurse direct entry professional midwifery education programs, and that the ACNM Certification Council, Inc., certify graduates of these programs. Via a mail ballot to the membership, more than 70% of returned ballots were affirmative votes on both issues.³⁸

1995: The Student Committee was formed.

1995: The Division of Education and the Division of Standards and Practice were formed by combining a number of standing committees.

1996: The first education program designed to meet the American College of Nurse-Midwives Division of Accreditation Criteria for Preaccreditation of Education Programs in Midwifery preparing the non-nurse to become a Certified Midwife was opened at the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn in affiliation with the North Central Bronx Hospital. The ACNM Certification Council, Inc., approved the certification of the Certified Midwife that same year and authorized the same certification examination for any graduate of an American College of Nurse-Midwives Division of Accreditation accredited nurse-midwifery/midwifery education program.^{38,39}

1996: Mandatory recertification was instituted by the ACNM Certification Council, Inc.

1996: Nurse-midwives at the University of Michigan and the University of Michigan Health Service sponsored the first Midwifery Business Institute.¹²

1997: At the annual meeting, the membership of the College approved a bylaws change allowing Certified Midwives to become active members and student midwives to become student members of the American College of Nurse-Midwives.

1999: The Division of Women’s Health Leadership and Policy was formed.

1999: The Midwives-PAC was formed.

1999: The *Journal of Nurse-Midwifery* published its last issue as Volume 44 (6), November/December 1999.

2000: The renamed *Journal of Midwifery and Women’s Health* published its first issue as Volume 45 (1), January/February 2000.

2000: The Blankets for Babies Campaign was initiated. Beginning at the 2000 American College of Nurse-Midwives annual meeting, and at every following meeting, members donated baby blankets that were given to appropriate local organizations.

2001: According to National Vital Statistics Report 51 No. 2, nurse-midwives first attended 10% of all vaginal births in the United States during 2001. During 2001, there

were 305,606 CNM-attended vaginal births, up from 297,902 the previous year.⁴⁰

2001: The U.S. Department of Education renewed its recognition of the ACNM DOA for precertification and certification of nurse-midwifery education programs and expanded its scope to include the preaccreditation and accreditation of direct-entry midwifery education.

2001: The first American College of Nurse-Midwives/Canadian Midwives Association Joint Clinical Symposium was held in Toronto, Canada, October 3 to 6, 2001. The second joint meeting was held September 15 to 19, 2004, in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

2002: On October 1, 2002, the American College of Nurse-Midwives and The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists issued the "Joint Statement of Practice Relations Between Obstetrician-Gynecologists and Certified Nurse-Midwives/Certified Midwives." This document marks a major advance over previous joint statements because physicians and certified nurse-midwives/certified midwives are discussed in terms that are equivalent. For the first time, there is no mention of physician direction, supervision, or superior standing in the professional relationship between these practitioners.

Funding for some of the research by the primary author came from the National Institute of Nursing Research Grant No. NR07445.

REFERENCES

1. American Association for the Study and Prevention of Infant Mortality Transactions. Report of the Section on Nursing and Social Work Thursday November 16, 1911 in the Transactions of the Second Annual Meeting. Baltimore (MD): The Franklin Printing Co., 1912:282–5.
2. Noyes CD. Training of midwives in relation to the prevention of infant mortality. *Am J Obstet Dis Women Child* 1912;66:1051–6 and Noyes CD. The midwifery problem. *Am J Nurs* 1912;12:466–71.
3. Taussig FJ. The nurse midwife. *Public Health Nurse* 1914;4:33–9. Reprinted in Judith Barrett Lutoff. *The American midwife debate: A sourcebook on its modern origins*. Westport (CT) Greenwood Press, 1996:227–31.
4. Shealy SM. Family centered maternity care: A historical perspective [masters thesis]. New Haven (CT): Yale University School of Nursing, 1996.
5. Lobenstine RW. Practical means of reducing maternal mortality. *Am J Public Health* 1922;12:39–44.
6. This information came from the scrapbooks and records of the Preston retreat Alumni Association and was provided to the first author by the President Joyce Gehman in 1999.
7. Rockefeller Foundation Minutes page 2416 10/7/24, RG 1.1 Series 401C, Box 33-34, and Letter from ER Embree to Mary Beard 10/9/24, RG 1.1 Series 401C, Box 33, Folder 419 Rockefeller Foundation Archives, Rockefeller Archive Center, North Tarrytown, New York.
8. Breckinridge M. Wide neighborhoods: A story of the Frontier Nursing Service. New York (NY): Harpers, 1952. Republished: Lexington (KY): University of Kentucky Press, 1984.
9. Cassells J. The Manhattan Midwifery School [masters thesis]. New Haven (CT): Yale University School of Nursing, 2000.
10. Ettinger LE. Birth of a new professional: The nurse-midwife in the United States, 1925–1955 [dissertation]. Rochester (NY): University of Rochester, 1999.
11. Dawley KL. Leaving the nest: Nurse-midwifery in the United States 1940–1980 [dissertation]. Philadelphia (PA): University of Pennsylvania, 2001.
12. Varney H, Kriebs JM, Geger CL. *Varney's midwifery*, 4th ed. Boston: Jones and Bartlett Publishers, 2004.
13. Tom SA. Rose McNaught: American nurse-midwifery's own "Sister Tutor." *J Nurse Midwifery* 1979;24:3–8.
14. Rockefeller Foundation directory of fellowships and scholarships, 1917–1970. New York (NY): The Rockefeller Foundation, 1972.
15. Cauty L. The graduates of the Tuskegee School of Nurse-Midwifery [masters thesis]. New Haven (CT): Yale University School of Nursing, 1994.
16. Sister M. Theophane Shoemaker. *History of nurse-midwifery in the United States*. Washington (DC): Catholic University Press, 1947. Reprinted by Garland Publishing, Inc. New York, 1984.
17. Horch J. The Flint-Goodrich School of Nurse-Midwifery [masters thesis]. New Haven (CT): Yale University School of Nursing, 2002.
18. The biography of Deola Lange Cyrus found in the ACNM honor roll in the National Library of Medicine ACNM archival collection MS C 330, Box 13, folder Deola Lange Cyrus.
19. Thompson EI. Nurse-midwife service in Walton, Georgia. *J Med Assoc Ga* 1950;June:.
20. Melber RB, Sharp E. Midwifery in Georgia: The legacy of public health nursing. Unpublished paper provided by Elizabeth Sharp from her personal collection.
21. Bulletin surveys opportunities: Nurse-midwifery programs in U.S.A., Educational programs: The Catholic University of America and the Catholic Maternity Institute. *Bull Am Coll Nurse-Midwifery* 1956;1:21–23.
22. Thoms H. Training for childbirth: A program of natural childbirth with rooming-in. New York (NY): McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1950.
23. Briefs published between 1950 and 1953 which are available in the Maternity Center Association stored archival collection container 515044, box 145, folder 1955.
24. The Nurse-Midwife Bulletins 1, nos. 1, 2, and 3 found in the National Library of Medicine ACNM archives MS C 330, Box 2, Folder preorganization and in Box 33 The Nurse-Midwife Bulletin 1954–1955.
25. Kroska R. The emblem of the American College of Nurse-Midwives. *Bull Am Coll Nurse-Midwifery* 1955;1:1.
26. Shah MA. Historical background of the Journal of Nurse-Midwifery. Unpublished paper, November 30, 1995.
27. Burst HV, Thompson JE. Genealogy of nurse-midwifery edu-

cation programs in the United States. *J Midwifery Womens Health* 2003;48:464–72.

28. See reports on the first annual meeting of the ACNM in the *Bull Am Coll Nurse-Midwifery* 1955;1.

29. Hemschemeyer H. First president of the College sends message to members. *Bull Am Coll Nurse-Midwifery* 1956;1:5–6.

30. Levy BS, Wilkerson FS, Marine WM. Reducing neonatal mortality rate with nurse-midwives. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 1971;1:50–8.

31. Harris DED, Lang D. Nurse-midwifery in New York City. *Am J Public Health* 1971;61:64–7.

32. Landwehr GA. Nurse-midwifery within the Indian Health Service: 1965–1980 [masters thesis]. New Haven (CT): Yale University School of Nursing, 2002.

33. Burnett Jr. JE A physician sponsored community nurse-midwifery program. *Obstet Gynecol* 1972;40:719–23.

34. Burst HV, Wheeler LA, Christensen K. We hear you—keep talking. *J Nurse Midwifery* 1973;18:9–13.

35. ACNM Legislation Committee. Legislative scene: Position statement on nurse-midwifery legislation. *J Nurse Midwifery* 1974;4:24.

36. Directors of Nurse-Midwifery Education Programs. Report of a workshop. Washington (DC): ACNM, 1976.

37. Varney Burst H. Significant dates for American midwifery since 1900. In Kriebs J, Geger C. *Varney's pocket midwife*, 2nd ed. Boston (MA): Jones and Bartlett Publisher, 2005, in press.

38. Varney Burst H. An update on the credentialing of midwives by the ACNM. *J Nurse Midwifery* 1995;40:290–6.

39. Shah MA, Hsia L. Direct-entry midwifery education: History in the making. *J Nurse-Midwifery* 1996;41:351–3.

40. Quoted in *Quickening* 2003;4.1.

**50TH AMERICAN COLLEGE OF NURSE-MIDWIVES
ANNUAL MEETING**

Be a part of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
Golden Anniversary Celebration!

June 10–16, 2005 Marriott–Wardman Park, Washington, DC

For more information: <http://www.midwife.org/meetings/50>