

Please use this address from now on:

4519 Fifteenth Avenue West  
Vancouver, British Columbia

September 19, 1949

Dear Mrs Brack :

There were many reasons why I was glad to get your letter of September 10 but the chief of them all was the thrilling possibility that my old friend and collaborator Blanche Pfefferkorn may perhaps be induced to tackle the 1907 - 1950 epoch of the famous history. No better choice could be made. She is one of your most distinguished graduates, she is a recognized authority in the whole field of nursing education, she has historical sense and can write good English. I shall eagerly await word of her acceptance.

And now a word about my own situation. This has been a very difficult summer but at last things do seem to be shaping up a bit. There have been some infuriating delays in my taking possession of my little house and in the delivery of my household goods from storage in the East. It is almost impossible to get any sort of "handy man" help and as a result I tried to do harder physical work than I had the strength to cope with. As a matter of fact, I came dangerously near keeling over altogether and have been quite unable to do more than look over the source material and proceed a little further with its classification. However, within the last few days ideas have begun to flow again and if all goes well I hope to be able to work steadily if slowly from now on. I am afraid that I shall not be able to get the job done as soon as I had hoped but you may count on me to do my level best to make up for lost time.

I am concentrating on the 1867 - 1889 period and find that the whole section which deals with the work of Dr Billings as consultant regarding the construction of the Hospital can also be made most interesting and valuable from a nursing education point of view. You may remember that I came across a good deal of what I called "Early American" among Miss Nutting's historical collection. Some of this can be woven into the Billings material and will form a rich background for the Hampton - Nutting epoch. As soon as I have this whipped into shape, I will let you have a look at it. I hope that you will eventually hear from Mr Glen because he may be able to make a contribution to this particular section as well as to those which deal with the later development of the School.

I can well understand that your days must be more than full. I was sorry to hear that you have had cause for family anxiety as well as struggling with that wretched throat infection. You must try and spare your strength as much as you can. How in the world you manage to keep so many balls in the air with such deceptive ease is a mystery to me.

All good wishes to the family and to Mrs McVicar. Tell her I will write to her very soon.

Yours very sincerely

Ethel Johns