Women and Children’s Contributions to Canadian History

Week 5: The World Wars at Home and Abroad

Early Spring Session 2019
LIR Program: Carleton University

Dr. Patricia Kmiec
April 8
Women and Nursing

Photograph from Canada’s first training school for nurses at the General and Marine Hospital in St. Catharines, Ontario. C. 1875 (historymuseum.ca)
“Nursing Sisters” and WWI

Georgina Fane Pope. (1862-1938)

Katherine MacDonald (1893-1918)
Canadian Women: The Home Front WWI
Canadian Women on the Home Front

The Greatest Mother in the World

We are saving you. YOU save FOOD.

Well fed Soldiers will win the war.
Canadian Women: The Homefront WWII

Elsie MacGill (1905-1980)
Women in War: WWII

Women’s Royal Canadian Naval Service  c. 1945.
Canadian Children and War
Canadian Children and War

“I am only a boy of 16 years and want to give my life for my country. I have tried [to enlist] many times and have failed...If you only knew how I am going crazy to do something to gain honor. I am strong and healthy, I have never had a sickness in my life. I was just reading the paper this morning and saw that you said ‘Canadians must hold the line.’ They cannot do it without men. Please will you give me a position on that line. I don’t call myself a man but I might help to hold that line. So please give me a chance, the line is more valuable than my life.”

Letter from John Wright, to Prime Minister Robert Borden, April 1918.
Canadian Children: The Homefront
Other Experiences of the Wars in Canada
Next Week: Closing the Twentieth Century