



National Museum of Health and Medicine

Otis Historical Archives

OHA 268 Patterson Manuscript Collection

Date of Records: 1898, 1921, and 1987

Size: .5 cubic feet

Finding Aid by: Eric W. Boyle (2012)

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Biographical Note: Julia Jeannette Deeley was born in Richmond, Indiana to Richard Deeley and Helen Haskin. She was accepted to nursing school at the Mt. Auburn Hospital in Cincinnati, but during her first year came down with typhoid. The hospital subsequently closed the nursing school, so Julia and other nursing students who had advanced sufficiently were employed as district nurses, visiting the sick in the lowest part of the city along the river front. The Angels of Rat Row, as they were called, boarded barges occupied by entire large families living under the worst possible conditions where they tended to the ill and dying. After working briefly at the National Old Soldier's Home of Dayton, where conditions were much better, Julia was recruited by her former superintendant Annie Murray to finish her studies in Baltimore at the Maryland General Hospital.

She graduated in 1898 and quickly volunteered to serve with the Army during the Spanish American War. She became part of a small group of nurses who formed the pioneer U.S. Army Nurse Corps, setting up shop in Fortress Monroe in Hampton Roads, Virginia. Julia went on to serve in the Philippines, where she was appointed head nurse. Before Julia was ordered to the Presidio Army Hospital a short time later, she fell in love and married Albert Patterson. After trying to resign from the Nurse Corps (on the grounds that nurses could not be married), she was granted an honorable discharge after several months. Julia returned to Manila to begin a family with Albert. His career as an officer took them to China, Australia, and half a dozen U.S. cities. After the startling death of Albert in Seattle in 1930, she settled in Baltimore before making New York her home after the war. She died in the U.S. Army Hospital at Fort Hamilton in 1952 and is buried in the Spanish-American War nurses section of Arlington National Cemetery.

Series/Scope and Content Note: Items in this collection were donated by the daughter of Julia Jeannette Deeley Patterson. They include a biography written by the donor, photographs of



Patterson and other nurses in 1898 and 1921, as well as Army School of Nursing graduation materials from the Walter Reed General Hospital in 1921 (possibly involving Patterson's daughter).

BOX AND CONTENT LIST

Box 001:

00001: Biography of Julia Jeannette Deeley

00002: 1921 Nursing Corps Graduation

00003: Photographs

Loose Material:

- 1921 Army School of Nursing Graduation Photos (damaged)
- 1921 Graduation Certificate for Marie Becker (damaged)