In celebration of our Centennial year, we assembled an exhibit of historical items and artifacts from the nursing profession, loaned to us by scores of nurses from the greater Attleboro community. This included vintage uniforms worn by hospital and visiting nurses in the 1960s-1980s, heavy woolen capes nurses used in the cold weather, nursing school yearbooks and training materials, and replicas of 1890 to 1910 uniforms and aprons worn by the earliest trained nurses in our country.

Focus of the temporary exhibit was our extensive collection of 23 nursing caps. Once a mandatory part of each nurse’s daily uniform, today the nursing cap is only a nostalgic reminder of the nursing profession’s history. Each nursing school’s cap was unique in design and was “earned” by the graduating student and worn with pride.

We had caps from many of the well-known nursing schools in Boston and across Massachusetts as well as some out of state schools. We even had a 1st lieutenant’s cap from a nurse who served in Vietnam. Displayed and viewed by hundreds of visitors at various special events during our 2011 Centennial year, each of the historical items have been returned to their owners with our thanks for sharing them with us and the community.