

Guide to the Helen Varney Papers

MS 2040



compiled by Christine Connolly

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 2040

CREATOR: Varney, Helen

TITLE: Helen Varney papers

DATES: 1947-2015

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 8 linear feet (19 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers document the career of Yale School of Nursing professor, Nurse-Midwifery Specialty, Helen Varney Burst. The bulk of the materials are evenly divided between speeches given by Varney Burst, 1970-2015, mainly on the history or future of midwifery, and material documenting her work on the Special Commission on Infant Health in New Haven, primarily 1987-1995. There are also small amounts of material on other aspects of nurse-midwifery and Varney Burst's career.

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Helen Varney Burst, 2015.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Helen Varney Papers (MS 2040). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Helen Varney Burst is professor emerita of the Yale School of Nursing, Nurse-Midwifery Specialty. After attending University of Kansas (BSN, 1961) and Yale University School of Nursing (MSN, 1963) she practiced midwifery in a variety of settings and directed nurse-midwifery education programs at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and the Medical Center of South Carolina before returning the Yale School of Nursing where she was a faculty member from 1979 until retirement in 2004.

Varney Burst is the author of the first textbook for nurse-midwives in the United States. Originally titled *Nurse-Midwifery*, it is now in its fourth edition as *Varney's Midwifery*. In addition to numerous journal articles, she is also author of *Yale School of Nursing: Celebrating 90 Years of Excellence* and co-author of *Varney's Pocket Midwife*. She was also a co-originator of the mastery learning modular curriculum design for nurse-midwife education at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in 1972.

An outspoken advocate of midwifery as a profession, Varney Burst was a member of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), serving two terms as president (1977-1981), as chair of several committees, and as a representative to many other national groups. She received the ACNM Hattie Hemschemeyer Award in 1982. She has given many speeches and panel presentations on both the history and the future of nurse-midwifery in the United States.

Varney Burst was also involved in the efforts to improve health care for women and children in the New Haven area. She served on the Prenatal Care Committee of the Special Commission on Infant Health in the 1980s and 1990s, working to decrease the infant mortality rates in the city.

Scope and Contents

The papers document the career of Yale School of Nursing professor, Nurse-Midwifery Specialty, Helen Varney Burst. The bulk of the materials are evenly divided between notes, drafts and final texts of speeches

given by Varney Burst, 1970-2015, mainly on the history or future of midwifery, and material documenting her work on the Special Commission on Infant Health in New Haven, primarily 1987-1995. There are also small amounts of material on the short-lived Family Childbirth Center of New Haven, 1981-1986, family planning, 1967-1970, historical information on the Rooming-In program at Grace-New Haven Hospital, 1947-1962, biographical information on Varney Burst and other aspects of nurse-midwifery.

Arrangement

The material is arranged by topic and is in alphabetical order therein, except for the speeches, which are in chronological order.

Collection Contents

	General	1961-2004
	Correspondence	
b. 1, f. 1	1977-1980	1977-1980
b. 1, f. 2	Minnesota	2001
b. 1, f. 3	<i>Ob.Gyn.News</i>	1983 March 4
b. 1, f. 4	<i>Cognitive Dissonance: Interpreting and Implementing Faculty Practice Roles in Nursing Education</i>	1980
b. 1, f. 5	Jarrett, Armentia, and Madre, California nurse-midwife trial	1961-1963, 1991-1992
b. 2	Interview conducted by Helen Varney <i>1 Audiocassette</i> Original audiovisual materials, as well as preservation and duplicating masters, may not be played. Researchers must consult use copies, or if none exist must pay for a use copy, which is retained by the repository. Researchers wishing to obtain an additional copy of non-commercially produced items for their personal use should consult the ordering reproductions information on the Manuscripts and Archives web site.	1991 September 3
b. 1, f. 6	National League for Nursing accreditation	1980 April- October
b. 1, f. 7	<i>The Quickening</i> board minutes	1972-2004
b. 1, f. 8	<i>Report of the Faculty Practice Plan Task Force, Yale University School of Nursing</i>	1983 August 15
b. 1, f. 9	Special Collection Advisory Group	1999-2003
b. 1, f. 10	"YSN Midwifery Students in South Africa," report by Terri Clark	2004
b. 1, f. 11	Yale School of Nursing Clinical Track Proposal	1992 May 1
b. 1, f. 12	"Yale University School of Nursing Program Development I -- Preliminary"	1988 December 21
	Biographical	1961-2005
b. 3, f. 1	Articles, clippings, and reviews	1973-1985
b. 3, f. 2-3	Correspondence, curriculum vita, grants, awards	1961-1990
b. 3, f. 4	Diers, Donna, ed., <i>Celebrating the Contributions of Academic Midwifery: A Symposium on the Occasion of the Retirement from the Faculty of the Yale School of Nursing of Professor Helen Varney Burst</i>	2004-2005
b. 3, f. 5	Varney, Helen, <i>An Exploratory Study of the Deliberative Nursing Practice</i> , thesis	1963

b. 3, f. 6	<p>Varney, Helen, "Nursing, Nurse-Midwifery, and the History of Nurse-Midwifery in the United States"</p> <p>This paper was written while Varney was a trainee in the Family Planning Program for Midwives and Nurse-Midwives at King's County Hospital, Brooklyn, NY.</p>	1969
	Family Childbirth Center	1981-1986, 2000
b. 4, f. 1	General	1981-1986, 2000
b. 4, f. 2	Information packet	Circa 1981
	Family planning	1967-1970
b. 4, f. 3	Telephone conference	1967-1970
b. 4, f. 4	University of Wisconsin - Extension, self-study unit	1970
b. 5	<p>University of Missouri telelecture on family planning <i>1 Audiotape Reel 0:50:46 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i></p> <p>As a preservation measure, original materials, as well as preservation and duplicating masters, may not be used. Digital access copies must be provided for use. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access.</p> <p>A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives.</p>	Circa 1970
b. 4, f. 5-6b. 6, f. 1-2	<p>Grace-New Haven Hospital Rooming-In Program historical information and articles</p> <p>Grace-New Haven Hospital is now Yale-New Haven Hospital.</p>	1947-1962, undated
b. 4, f. 7-8	Mississippi Nurse-Midwife Project	1970-2010
b. 4, f. 9	Photographs	1977-1995, undated
	<p>Speeches</p> <p>There is a draft of one article included in the speeches, "Decision Making in Labor and Delivery," 1980.</p> <p>Speeches are arranged in chronological order.</p>	1970-2015
b. 7, f. 1	Family Planning, Mississippi Nurses' Association (MNA), Maternal-Child Health Conference, panel moderator	1970 April 9
b. 7, f. 2	"How to Design a Mastery Learning Modular Curriculum," plenary speech, University of Mississippi Medical Center English	1973 December 9
b. 7, f. 3	"Harmonious Unity," on installation as president of American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) English	1977 May 4
b. 7, f. 4	"Labor Note," Medical University of South Carolina English	1977 August 21

b. 7, f. 5	"Adolescent Pregnancies and Problems," International Confederation of Midwives, 18th Triennial Conference, Jerusalem English	1978
b. 7, f. 6	"On the Essentiality of Professional Midwives in Any Good Maternity Plan" English	1978
b. 7, f. 7	Remarks, seminar commemorating the 60th anniversary of Maternity Center Association	1978 April
b. 7, f. 8	Presidential speech, Phoenix, Arizona	1978 May 3
b. 7, f. 9	"The American College of Nurse-Midwives: A Professional Organization," panel presentation, 2nd annual meeting, Nurses Association of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (NAACOG) English	1979 March 19
b. 7, f. 10	"What Price Visibility?," president's address, 24th annual meeting, ACNM, Miami Beach English	1979 May 2
b. 7, f. 11	Speech presenting Hattie Hemschemeyer Award to Ernestine Wiedenbach	1979 May 2
b. 7, f. 12	"What is the Appropriate Training for Midwives and Should They Be Licensed?," National Association of Parents and Professionals for Safe Alternatives in Childbirth (NAPSAC) English	1979 July 16
b. 7, f. 13	Testimony, Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee, Connecticut	1979 September 4
b. 7, f. 14	"Alternative Delivery Sites and the Role of Midwives," 5th Annual Ignatz Semmelweis Seminar English	1979 September 15
b. 7, f. 15	"Value the Child: Focus on the Mother," panel presentation, National Continuing Education Conference for Nurses English	1979 October 10
b. 7, f. 16	"Nurse-Midwifery: Powerlessness and Power," panel presentation, Nurses as Women English	1979 November 3
b. 7, f. 17	"Maternity Services: Past, Present, Future," panel presentation English	1979 November 12
b. 7, f. 17A	"Decision Making in Labor and Delivery" This is a draft of an article for C.C.C. newsletter. The bulk of the material is taken verbatim from Varney's textbook, <i>Nurse-Midwifery</i> .	1980
b. 7, f. 18	"Our Destiny," presidential address English	1980
b. 7, f. 19	Testimony, Public Health Committee, Connecticut	1980 February 28
b. 7, f. 20	Testimony, Board of Medical Examiners, New Jersey	1980 March 26

b. 7, f. 21	"Gauntlets Thrown and Caught," presidential address English Varney annotated this as "the only one not published".	1980 September
b. 7, f. 22	Midwifery Practice in the 1980s," Ob-Gyn Grand Rounds	1980 November 3
b. 7, f. 23	Testimony, Joint Committee on Public Health, Connecticut	1981 February 24
b. 7, f. 24	"25 Years of Family Centered Nurse-Midwifery at Yale," Yale School of Nursing Alumnae Day English	1981 June 5
b. 7, f. 25	"Midwifery in the Americas," plenary speech, 17th Congress of the Pan American Medical Women's Alliance English	1981 September 3
b. 7, f. 26	"Overview of Educational Programs," session speech, Regional Program Orientation, March of Dimes English	1981 November 9
b. 7, f. 27	"Adolescent Pregnancy: A Worldwide Problem," Ob-Gyn Grand Rounds, University of Vermont English	1981 December 8
b. 8, f. 1	"Out -of-Hospital Birth Alternatives," International Childbirth Education Association English	1982
b. 8, f. 2	Presentation, ACNM Chapter 1, Region 1	1982 April 21
b. 8, f. 3	"Nurse-Midwifery: The Evolution of an Alternative," Mt. Holyoke English	1982 May 20
b. 8, f. 4	"The Effect of KU Nursing Professionalism on One Person," Kansas University (KU) Nurses Alumni, Alumni of the Year speech English	1983
b. 8, f. 5	"Women's Health Care in the 1980s," Women in Focus: Health Care Challenges for the 1980s English	1983 March 19
b. 8, f. 6	"Technology's Impact on the Specialties" English	1985 June 6
b. 8, f. 7	"The Normal, Essentially Healthy 85%," National Conference on Women's Health English	1986 June 17
b. 8, f. 8	Doctoral Dilemma panel discussion	1987
b. 8, f. 9	Commencement address, Georgetown University School of Nurse-Midwifery Program	1987 December 13
b. 8, f. 10-11	"Shoulder Dystocia," North Central Bronx Hospital English Material includes slides.	1988 February 18

b. 8, f. 12	Second Therese Dondero Memorial Lecture, ACNM Convention, Detroit, Michigan	1988 April 24
b. 8, f. 13	Ob-Gyn Grand Rounds, State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate	1988 October 3
b. 8, f. 14	Testimony, Public Health Committee, Connecticut	1989 March 14
b. 8, f. 15	"Shoulder Dystocia: Predictors, Diagnosis, Management," ACNM English	1990 May 17
b. 8, f. 16	Fourth Therese Dondero Memorial Lecture, ACNM Convention, Atlanta, Georgia	1990 May 30
b. 8, f. 17	Parkland graduation	1990 September 24
b. 8, f. 18	Commencement speech, University of Southern California, Los Angeles	1990 December 13
b. 8, f. 19	King/Drew Nurse Midwifery Education Program keynote graduation speech	1991 September 5
b. 8, f. 20-21	"The American College of Nurse-Midwives: Representing an Ancient Profession Reborn in Contemporary Society," National Institutes of Health and ACNM English	1991 October 11
b. 9, f. 1	"The History and Future of Certified Nurse Midwives as Primary Care Providers in the United States," Bureau of Health Professions (BHP), Division of Nursing (DON) and Bureau of Health Care Delivery and Assistance (BHCDA), The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) English	1992 March 19
b. 9, f. 2	University of Texas at El Paso and Texas Tech University	1993 May 5
b. 9, f. 3	American College of Nurse-Midwives Open Forum	1994
b. 9, f. 4	Therese Dondero Lecture	1995 May 27
b. 9, f. 5-6	"The Presidents Speak" English	1995 May 29
b. 9, f. 7	"Documenting Traditions of the Past: Preserving the History of American Nurse-Midwifery," panel presentation English	1995 May 31
b. 9, f. 8	Northeast Regional Council on Education for Nurse-Midwifery (NERCEN) history speech	1995-2004
b. 9, f. 9	Graduation party address, U.S. Air Force and Georgetown University	1996 December 15
b. 9, f. 10	Air Force history and closing ceremony speech	1997 December 12
b. 9, f. 11	University of Rhode Island (URI) graduation speech	1998 May 14

b. 10	<p>"Yale University School of Nursing: Lux et Veritas," Yale University School of Nursing (YSN) 75th anniversary 1 Videocassette (VHS)</p> <p>Original audiovisual materials, as well as preservation and duplicating masters, may not be played. Researchers must consult use copies, or if none exist must pay for a use copy, which is retained by the repository. Researchers wishing to obtain an additional copy of non-commercially produced items for their personal use should consult the ordering reproductions information on the Manuscripts and Archives web site.</p>	1998 June 6
b. 11, f. 1	Therese Dondero Lecture, Maine	1998 July 31
b. 11, f. 2	Therese Dondero Lecture slides listing	1998 August 3
b. 11, f. 3	Baystate graduation speech	1998 December 12
b. 11, f. 4	Northeast Regional Council on Education for Nurse-Midwifery (NERCEN) history speech	1998-2006
b. 11, f. 5	"So You Want to Publish a Book," ACNM presentation English	2000-2002
b. 11, f. 6	"Critical Commonalities in Midwifery Education," International Conference of Midwives (ICM) English	2002
b. 11, f. 7	"Historical Perspectives of Nurse-Midwifery in the U.S.," Kansas English	2002 March 2
b. 11, f. 8	Connecticut League of Nurses (CLN)-Yale School of Nursing (YSN) history display	2003
b. 11, f. 9	"Facilitating Student Learning in the Clinical Setting," Ontario English	2004 February 12
b. 12, f. 1-2	"Facilitating Student Learning in the Clinical Setting," clinical teaching, ACNM presentation English	2004-2005
b. 12, f. 3	Columbia University 50th Anniversary of Midwifery Masters Program	2005 May 5
b. 12, f. 4	"Bloom, Thrive, Nourish, Survive," University of New Hampshire English	2006 April 21
b. 12, f. 5	"Nurse-Midwifery History and You," Northeast Regional Council on Education for Nurse-Midwifery (NERCEN)/NEMEC English	2007-2008
b. 12, f. 6	"Are We Ready?," Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing (FSN) English	2008 October 18
b. 12, f. 7	"Does Our Nurse-Midwifery History and Our Purpose Tell Us We Are Ready?," Columbia and Yale presentation English	2010 March 22, April 23
b. 12, f. 8-9	"Does Our Nurse-Midwifery History and Our Purpose Tell Us We Are Ready?" English	2010-2014

b. 12, f. 10	Midwifery in Maine in the 1800s," Pleasant River Historical Society, Addison, Maine	2011 June 13
b. 12, f. 11	Midwifery in the 19th Century," Millbridge Historical Society, Millbridge, Maine	2011 August 11
b. 12, f. 12	"Change as a Variable in the Practice of Midwifery: Past, Present, and Future" English	2014-2015
b. 12, f. 13	"Moments in the History of the ACNM," American College of Nurse-Midwives annual meeting English	2015 June 28
	Special Commission on Infant and Child Health This group is also called the Special Commission on Infant Health and the Commission on Infant and Child Health in these papers.	1978-2008, 1987-1995
b. 13, f. 1-5	General	1990-1995
b. 13, f. 6	Agendas	1991-1993
b. 13, f. 7	Articles and clippings	1989-1995
b. 13, f. 8	"Better Beginnings II," draft English	Undated
b. 13, f. 9	Budget	1990-1991
b. 13, f. 10	Cambridge Model	1988, undated
b. 13, f. 11	Commission meetings	1991-1993
b. 13, f. 12	Coordinating Committee	1991
b. 13, f. 13	Coordinator's Group	1992-1993
b. 13, f. 14	Correspondence	1989-1992, 2008, undated
b. 13, f. 15	Data base	1980-1988
b. 14, f. 1	Fairchild, Elizabeth	1990
b. 14, f. 2-3	Fetal and infant mortality	1989-1993
b. 14, f. 4	First Steps	1991
b. 14, f. 5	Flyers	1992, undated
b. 14, f. 6	Focus Group on Community Health and Education Initiatives, summary	1993 April 23
b. 14, f. 7	Forms, blank	Undated
b. 14, f. 8	"Governor Rowland's Block Grant Initiative" English	1995 February 15
b. 14, f. 9	Grant request to ACNM Foundation concerning "Presidents Speak" (not funded)	1992

b. 14, f. 10-11	"Guidelines for the Provision of Prenatal Care" English	1991
b. 14, f. 12	Hanson, Charlene	1988-1999
b. 14, f. 13	Hassles subcommittee	1988
b. 14, f. 14-15	Healthy Start	1989-1992
b. 14, f. 16	Immunization	1991
b. 14, f. 17	Klerman, Lorraine and Varney	1988
b. 14, f. 18	Legislative proposals and alerts	1992
b. 15, f. 1	Medical Services Committee	1988-1993
	Meeting packets	
b. 15, f. 2	Commission on Infant and Child Health	1990-1993
b. 15, f. 3	Coordinator's Group, Commission on Infant Health	1991-1992
b. 15, f. 4	Prenatal Care Committee, Special Commission on Infant Health	1990-1992
b. 15, f. 5	Memoranda	1978, 1989-1995
b. 15, f. 6	Minority Community Health Coalition Demonstration Project grant application	1991
b. 15, f. 7	Minutes	1990-1995
b. 15, f. 8	"A Model of Obstetrical and Gynecological Health Care Service for the Dixwell Satellite of the Hill Health Center" English	1989
b. 15, f. 9	New Haven general	1990-1993
b. 15, f. 10	Notes (handwritten)	1991-1992, undated
	Objectives	
b. 16, f. 1	Commission on Infant and Child Health	1991-1993
b. 16, f. 2	Prenatal Care Committee	1991
b. 16, f. 3	Prenatal Care and Commission on Infant Health integrated objectives	1992
b. 16, f. 4	"Opening Doors," draft English	1993
b. 16, f. 5	"Outline: A Better Chance for Every Child (ABC)" English	Undated
b. 16, f. 6	Pregnancy Healthline	1990-1991
b. 16, f. 7	Pregnancy Healthline / Infoline	1987-1992
	Prenatal Care Committee	

Prenatal Care Committee (continued)

b. 17, f. 1-4	General	1987-1992
b. 17, f. 5	Contact meetings	1991-1993
b. 17, f. 6-7	Minutes	1987-1991
b. 17, f. 8	Report	1987
b. 17, f. 9	Presentations	1987-1993
b. 18, f. 1	Presentations / summary of work	1987-1988
b. 18, f. 2	Problem-Oriented Perinatal Risk Assessment System (POPRAS) Program to Reduce Obstetrical Problems and Prematurity (PROPP) in the Bronx	1988-1991
b. 18, f. 3	Problem-Oriented Perinatal Risk Assessment System (POPRAS) Request for Proposal (RFP) evaluation	1989
b. 18, f. 4	Reminder notices	1991-1992
b. 18, f. 5	Reports and summaries	1987-1991
b. 18, f. 6	Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Local Initiative Funding Partners Program	1991
b. 18, f. 7	St. Raphael's Project Mothercare dedication	1990 November 13
b. 18, f. 8	Seitz, Victoria and Nacy Apfel, "Brief Overview of Findings from a Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Mothers and Their First-Born Children"	1992
b. 18, f. 9	Special Commission on Infant Health, "What Is the Commission?"	Circa 1991
b. 18, f. 10-11	Standards	1988-1992
b. 18, f. 12	Strategic planning	1990-1991
b. 18, f. 13	Substance Abuse Treatment Planning	1990
b. 18, f. 14	Substance-abusing women and their children	1990-1992
	Workshops	1979-2000
b. 19, f. 1	Aggie Higgins Nutrition Workshop	1988
b. 19, f. 2	Aggie Higgins Preventing Low Birth Weight	Circa 1990
b. 19, f. 3	Circle of Safety	2000
b. 19, f. 4	Clinical teaching	1982-1994
b. 19, f. 5	Mastery learning	Undated
b. 19, f. 6	Women's Studies: Nurses as Women, with Marie Manthey	1979 November 3

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Childbirth
Family planning
Infants -- Mortality
Midwifery
Nursing -- Study and teaching

Names

Varney, Helen

Corporate Body

Yale University. School of Nursing