

## NURSE RUTH SEYMOUR

Nee Ruth Mary Healy

Anne Wood's recent article entitled "*Grand lady' of nursing*" in the Illawarra Mercury of 8/4/1999 gave an outline of the career of this remarkable woman, affectionately known by many Wollongong people as Nurse Seymour.

It all began when Anne answered a letter of inquiry received by the Society from Daphne McDonald of Baradine, NSW, who is the late Nurse Seymour's daughter. Along with other items, Anne received from Daphne an excerpt from *Ruth's Story*, which Daphne wrote some years ago.

Born in 1885, Ruth Healy worked for a couple of years at Wollongong's first public hospital, the Albert Memorial Hospital which was situated in Flinders St where the Collegians Club is now. Ruth moved away from the district to work in Sydney, Moss Vale,

The Oaks and Muswellbrook. In 1911 she married Thomas Seymour and they had two children, Mildred in 1912 and Daphne in 1914, before Thomas joined the AIF and went off to fight in World War I.

After operating a holding house for women at Camden during the war years, Ruth moved to Sydney and trained to be a midwife at St Margaret's Hospital for Women at Surry Hills, receiving her certificate after 12 months. She then decided to make a life for herself and her two children in Wollongong, which is the point at which we take up her story. Items in square brackets [ ] have been included for either clarity or brevity.

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