Recommended Resources

Websites

- For information about midwife educational programs, certifications, or to find a midwife in your area:
  
  American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM)
  www.midwife.org
  www.mymidwife.org

  Midwives Alliance of North America (MANA)
  www.mana.org

  North American Registry of Midwives (NARM)
  www.narm.org

  Wisconsin Guild of Midwives
  www.wisconsinguildofmidwives.org

Books

- Further historical readings about midwives in America and/or Wisconsin:
  
  Charolette Borst (1995)
  Catching Babies: The Professionalization of Childbirth, 1870-1920

  Mary Fiorenza (1985; UW-Madison M.A. Thesis)
  Midwifery and the Law in Illinois and Wisconsin

  Judith Walzer Leavitt (1986)
  Brought to Bed: Childbearing in America, 1750-1950

Contact Information

Micaela Sullivan-Fowler, MS, MA
Head of Historical Collections
Ebling Library for the Health Sciences
Health Sciences Learning Center
750 Highland Avenue, Room 3315
Madison, WI 53705-2221
608.262.2402
FAX 608.262.4732
msullivan@library.wisc.edu

http://ebling.library.wisc.edu

Kala Kluender
Guest Curator
University of Wisconsin—Madison
kkluender@wisc.edu

April 23—June 30, 2007

Complimentary exhibit to:
“Reclaiming Midwives: Stills from All My Babies”
In 1953, licensing was discontinued in Wisconsin, although midwives previously certified were allowed to continue their practice. A new law in 1979 granted certificates to and permitted the practice of nurse-midwives, who were considered eligible if they were registered nurses, paid a fee, and met the specified educational and training requirements. The law permitted nurse-midwives to practice in board-approved healthcare facilities or under the supervision of a physician with obstetrical training.

In 2002 the Wisconsin state legislature signed assembly bill 725 into law. This bill redefined “nurse-midwifery” to the terms utilized by the American College of Nurse-Midwives. It also granted CNMs prescriptive privileges, addressed the amount of malpractice insurance required for practice throughout the state, and declared that nurse-midwives were allowed to “collaborate” with (versus practice under the supervision of) physicians.

Most recently, Governor Jim Doyle signed the Midwife Licensing Act 292 into law on April 10, 2006. Effective May 1, 2007, the Act establishes a second means to midwifery licensure in Wisconsin that does not require formal training as a nurse. Both CNMs and CPMs may be licensed under the new act. It also mandates that other healthcare providers will not assume liability if they work with or accept transfers of care from licensed midwives.

Sources of information are listed as “Recommended Resources”.

A copy of Act 292 may be found at: www.legis.state.wi.us/2005/data/acts/05Act292.pdf