Anna Ropp
Endowed Scholarship

Ann Ropp was raised in Missouri and left home in 1927 to enroll in the Mennonite Hospital School of Nursing in Bloomington, Illinois. A non-traditional student, Ann had already worked for several years before attending nursing school.

Ann graduated from nursing school in 1931 and began her nursing career as a “private duty” nurse. Working around the clock, she cared for patients with tireless dedication. Ann is best known for her role as relief day supervisor, a position she held at Mennonite Hospital for 22 years. Those who have known Ann professionally are quick to comment about her eye for detail, her ability to run many parts of the hospital operations, her high level of energy and her ever present black book. Some say that the location and status of every patient and every bed was dutifully recorded in Ann’s black book, and everyone respected it as well as its author.

When Ann’s work day ended it began again at the family farm. Her perfection extended to her care for her family and home. Ann was known as an outstanding cook and baker, gardener and neighbor. Those who lived close by occasionally requested her nursing care and kindly called her “Doc”. Ann actively served her church and community.

When Ann retired in the early 1970’s, healthcare was beginning to undergo major changes. Some say that the hospital had to hire 7 nurses to replace the energy, skill, care and experience that Ann provided. She continued to volunteer until she was in her late 90’s, as a charter member of the BroMenn Service Auxiliary.

Ann embodies the finest qualities in a nurse. Her dedication to nursing, her family and community are unwavering. Her commitment to excellence in every area of her life inspires respect of those around her. She demonstrated care of the whole person throughout her life, and idea that is at the very root of what it means to be a Mennonite College of Nursing graduate.

The Anna Ropp Scholarship Fund was created in 2004, and funded initially with birthday gifts given in celebration of Ann’s 100th birthday, and later with memorial gifts given by many dear friends and family. The sons of Ann Ropp intend to complete the endowment through family gifts as funds permit.

Each candidate for an Anna Ropp scholarship must be or have enrolled in good standing at Illinois State University, demonstrated academic achievement, as evidenced by a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, and demonstrated financial need. Preference will be given to a non-traditional nursing student in their junior or senior year, or participating in the RN/BSN or equivalent program or graduate student and who demonstrates concern for body, mind and spiritual aspects of nursing.