



Commemorative Ribbon, KHS Collection

Frontier Nursing Service and Midwifery

The medical needs of rural communities have led to innovative practices in Kentucky.

In 1925, Mary Carson Breckinridge established the Frontier Nursing Service in **Leslie County**. Inspired by the loss of two of her children, Breckinridge founded the organization to provide medical care and midwife services for rural Kentuckians.

Breckinridge modeled the Frontier Nursing Service off similar institutions in Scotland. The agency developed a skilled set of nurses and midwives that drastically reduced infants' mortality rate in rural Kentucky. During World War II, deprived of overseas training, the organization developed educational services, educating nurses in the state and beyond.

The Frontier Nursing Service (later known as the Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing) eventually grew into an educational institution that still benefits rural health care services across the nation.

