

RURAL NURSING

CONCEPTS,
THEORY,
AND
PRACTICE



Third Edition

CHARLENE A. WINTERS

HELEN J. LEE

Rural Nursing

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EDITORS


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To our research colleagues Elizabeth H. "Betty" Thomlinson (deceased 2004) and Marlene A. Reimer (deceased 2005). We enjoyed knowing them, working with them, and we miss them.

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Foreword

It is a great honor to have been invited by Dr. Charlene Winters and Dr. Helen Lee to write the foreword for *Rural Nursing*, the third edition. In reflecting on the history and development of the rural nursing phenomenon, I note the role faculty and graduates connected with Montana State University–Bozeman (MSU) have played for more than three decades.

Initially, in the mid-1970s, Dr. Anna Shannon, former Dean of the College of Nursing at Montana State, developed a master's degree program focusing on nursing in the rural environment. At that time Dr. Helen Lee was a nursing instructor at MSU and I was fortunate to be a student in the program. Subsequently, Dr. Lee wrote a chapter that discussed definitions of “rural” for a text that I edited on rural nursing (Sage, 1991). Several years later Dr. Lee edited *Conceptual Basis for Rural Nursing* (Springer, 1998), highlighting scholarly findings from MSU nursing faculty and students and primarily focusing on the intermountain region of the United States. Dr. Lee's *Rural Nursing: Concepts, Theory, and Practice, 2nd Edition*, co-authored by Dr. Charlene Winters, expanded on the concepts for an evolving theory for rural nursing; and, included perspectives from Canada and beyond the intermountain region.

The third edition of *Rural Nursing: Concepts, Theory, and Practice* by Dr. Winters and Dr. Lee has an even greater scope—geographically and contentwise. While seminal chapters from the two previous texts are updated herein, along with the Canadian perspective, information from Australian experts is included. Other timely topics focus on health disparities, public health issues, evidence-based practice, childhood obesity, challenges confronting male caregivers, community-based participatory research within tribal communities, and complementary therapy. The authors of the various chapters are leaders in rural nursing, and for me, reinforce the MSU connection among many of them. This extended text