

The Unbridled Spirit of **MISS ROSE PERCY**

by Lori Santamaura



The remarkable Miss Rose Percy and forever friend Yankee Doodle, along with Rose's treasures, stand before a Tiffany window backdrop depicting the theme of "ministry to the sick and wounded through sacrifice." Installed in the American Red Cross Washington, D.C. National Headquarters, these windows, dedicated in 1923, are reputedly the largest specimen of Tiffany windows remaining in a non-religious environment. Photo: Barbra Porter Photography

In Peace as in War

With rain glistening bright through majestic Garden Room windows at the Fairmont Olympic Hotel one Seattle morning, history was made that rang from sea to shining sea and reverberated around the world. On this glorious day – October 31, 2014 – Miss Rose Percy received the Clara Barton Award, American Red Cross' highest accolade for meritorious volunteer service.

The Clara Barton Award recognizes selfless individuals who give generously of their time and talent, persevering in dedication to the Global Red Cross Network's humanitarian efforts. Clara Barton, a legendary figure among American

women and founder of the American Red Cross, whose vision was to turn compassion into action, championed these causes with respect, integrity and personal courage. She was not only an "angel of the battlefield" but a savior on the home front.

Our own ever-helpful Miss Rose Percy served admirably, raising funds for the American Red Cross, first during its Sanitary Commission (Civil War) period and again through World War I, when her activities helped the Red Cross acquire much-needed ambulances before American involvement in the war. Rose was then displayed at the American Red Cross headquarters, where she resided for over eighty years with

Miss Rose Percy's "I Serve" American Red Cross Brunch ambassadors, left to right: Michael Canadas, Mary Senko, American Red Cross' Western Area Development Director, Ann Bodden, American Red Cross Regional Chief Executive Officer, Dawn Angelo and David Robinson. Photo: Barbra Porter Photography



Mary Senko, Rose Percy's Liberty Ball Chairperson, accepts Rose's award from American Red Cross Regional Chief Executive Officer, Dawn Angelo. Photo: Barbra Porter Photography



utmost grace as mascot for the Junior Red Cross. At the time World War II broke out in Europe, Rose Percy's junior members provided over fifty thousand gift boxes filled with paper, pencils, erasers, soap, candy and various items for the children of Britain. In 1943, seventeen million young Americans supporting the Junior Red Cross and its National Children's Fund again reached out to British children, providing food for those bombed out of their homes.

Since Rose's departure from the American Red Cross Museum's holdings via auction in 2009, her new custodians, Michael Canadas, President and CEO of The Grovian Doll

Museum, and David Robinson, The Grovian's Treasurer and CFO, along with a cavalcade of volunteers, have used her to spearhead charitable events offering interpretive programs throughout the country.

Staged and hosted by Miss Rose Percy's new permanent home, The Grovian Doll Museum of Pacific Grove, California, the "I Serve" brunch recognizing Rose's Clara Barton Award was a red-letter day in every sense. To honor the great history and outstanding record of service provided by the American Red Cross, Rose Percy requested that those in attendance wear red, thereby showing their support for that fine institution.



Clara Barton, circa 1865, by Mathew Brady, Washington, D.C., true heroine of the age, established the American Red Cross in 1881 and led the organization for twenty-three years. Public Domain Image



Miss Rose Percy is honored to have received these well wishes from HRH Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of Rose's Clara Barton Award. Serving gracefully as the Junior Red Cross mascot for over eighty years, Miss Rose touched the lives of countless individuals in the U.S. and abroad. How fitting that she be recognized for her service to the children of Britain! Photo: Samantha Lewis

The American Red Cross' Western Area Development Director, Ann Boddien, and Regional Chief Executive Officer, Dawn Angelo, presented Miss Rose with her award certificate and medal for ninety-one years of service, an unprecedented honor in the doll realm. Steadfast in her commitments, and having never been relieved of the longtime duty as official mascot of the Junior Red Cross, Rose designated the American Red Cross' Seattle Chapter beneficiary of a \$5,000 donation from brunch event profits. Mary Senko, Chairperson of the Rose Percy Liberty Ball slated for the next day, November 1, generously donated \$1,000 that was matched by Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals. Along with checks from event attendees and the Holiday Mail for Heroes program, the American Red Cross, a non-governmental organization, was provided \$7,900 to further its mission. These donations, as well as individual volunteerism and other forms of community support, are essential to the Red Cross' success.

Brunch offered a parfait starter with fresh fruit, granola and yogurt. Perfectly prepared eggs benedict was served and everyone raised his or her glass high for a champagne 'salute' to duty's most faithful child, the "I Serve" event's honoree.

Michael Canadas regaled us with a moving and compelling program illuminating the American Red Cross' incredible history, its role in World War I and a summary of ways the organization achieved today's premier status. He also highlighted Rose Percy's position as Junior Red Cross mascot and how she earned the distinction of residing on E Street, a short distance from the White House, in the American Red Cross Museum. That museum building was erected in honor of the Civil War's heroic women. Standing proudly in those hallowed halls, Miss Rose saw many whose lives were about to be influenced by a historic destiny soon realized. War was brewing and would change the fashion of women forever – the Red Cross uniform. Supporters grew from two-hundred thousand to three million. Women's right to vote was greatly influenced by service to the country in World War I. Red Cross nurses during the Great War were highly prestigious. They literally fed and healed nations. Members of the audience gave testament to that fact by sharing personal stories.

Michael next introduced the officers and future board members of The Grovian Doll Museum, a nonprofit institution. The Grovian's purpose is to preserve, protect and promote the cultural and historical significance of dolls and other elements of childhood. Stewardship of the collections is a highly critical activity, which enables ongoing opportunities for study, enjoyment and inspiration. A permanent location where antique and vintage dolls, doll-related artifacts, playthings, ephemera and archival

material are accessible will be open to collectors, researchers, members of the academic community, students and the general public. Exhibits, seminars, publications and additional resources shall become available both onsite as well as via advanced technology to serve a broader audience.

In addition to ‘Lunch and Learn’ offerings, The Grovian has publications in progress and is actively involved in preventive conservation practices by identifying and mitigating collection risks – preservation with a purpose. This is possible through its strong volunteer network comprised of the board and museum friends.

The Grovian mounted a meaningful display of a few select pieces from Rose’s personal collection in advance of the Liberty Ball. Miss Rose, attired in her Red Cross uniform, stood tall with Tiffany ‘windows’ as backdrop, symbolizing “hope, mercy, faith, charity, truth and fortitude.” The original Favrile™ windows are installed in the Board of Governors Hall at the American Red Cross National Headquarters, Washington, DC.

Loyal canine companion Yankee Doodle sat stately by Rose’s side on the dais. Also present was a bust of Tzar Nicholas II, who commissioned the “Imperial Red Cross Egg” as an Eastertide gift to his mother, Maria Fyodorovna. The egg surprisingly contained five oval miniature portraits depicting women from the House of Romanov, each clothed in a Red Cross uniform. During the 1877 Ruso-Turkish War, Maria Fyodorovna served with the International Red Cross in Russia, later becoming that organization’s president. Additional artifacts accompanying Rose were First World War soldiers’ personal effects bags, invalid feeders, surgical uniforms and banners, the latter instrumental in rallying the troops.

On display were historic items from the American Red Cross Museum archives, a framed World War I Red Cross nurse cape loaned by Mary Jo Sarver, RN, and a nurse doll collection graciously exhibited by Michele Simpson.

The American Red Cross Holiday Mail for Heroes program was available for attendee participation. This long-standing tradition provides an opportunity for members of the community to send thank-you notes and encouraging words to active duty military men or women overseas, veterans and their families.



Cheers to the remarkable Miss Rose Percy! Hear, hear!
Photo: Barbra Porter Photography



The American Junior Red Cross was officially organized during World War I. Students became involved in purposeful projects ranging from knitting scarves to building furniture for hospitals. After the war, their work toward the betterment of children’s lives continued both at home and overseas.
Photo: The Grovian Doll Museum



A key figure discussed in Michael’s program was President Woodrow Wilson, first honorary president of the American Red Cross, and his contributions to the organization’s mission. One such example was his entreaty young Americans to join the newly formed Junior Red Cross. President Wilson addressed the children in a September 1917 letter, “... The Red Cross will bring you opportunities of service to your community and to communities all over the world... And best of all, more perfectly than through any of your other school lessons, you will learn by doing those kind things under your teacher’s direction to be future good citizens of this great country.”
Public Domain Image



President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed in his momentous 1918 Red Cross Speech ...“Friendship is the only cement that will ever hold the world together.” This famous American Red Cross poster, issued the same year, calls loud and clear for such harmony. Photo: Public Domain Image

The note-writing table as well as all exhibits remained open in the afternoon and became accessible to the general public.

It was a grand moment before the festivities concluded when Michael and David, with gratitude to brunch attendees’ for their generous support of the American Red Cross, bestowed a special souvenir. This lasting memento of the day in celebration of Miss Rose was something near and dear to her heart, soon to capture our own.

Nestled in a fine box, tied with patriotic satin ribbons and bows, we each eagerly received an antique German child dollhouse doll, circa 1915 – 1920, produced by the J.D. Kestner firm. Costumed impeccably in miniature American Red Cross nurse uniforms, still possessing original hangtags bearing a ‘red cross,’ and the only

remaining fifty-five examples of this four and one-half-inch size, had accompanied Miss Rose Percy to the auction block in November 2009.

Interestingly, the lot from which those tiny dolls came contained miniature wooden hospital tables, chairs, and stretchers, including a number of mature dollhouse dolls, also costumed as Red Cross nurses. These various items were most likely used as teaching tools for Junior Red Cross members, or perhaps displayed in dioramas that depicted the fine work of the American Red Cross. All of the items were housed at the American Red Cross Headquarters in Washington, D.C. until their de-accession by order of the American Red Cross.



Function, the driving of an automobile or ambulance, influenced **fashion**, where ladies of the American Red Cross Motor Corps were concerned. As Michael pointed out, it was European battlefields that determined fashions in this case, not the Paris runways, when women learned that shifting emergency vehicle gears while wearing a corset and long skirt was nearly impossible. Photo: The Grovian Doll Museum

Miss Rose Percy’s residence is The Grovian Doll Museum, sponsor of the “I Serve” brunch, during which Michael Canadas announced the following names of those who will serve on The Grovian’s governing board: members Sharon Barton-Maggio, Denise Buese, Elizabeth Ann Coleman, Chris Collins Madrid, Paula Ollson, Carol Schmidt, Mary Senko, Michael Canadas, Chairman, David Robinson, Vice Chairman and Lori Santamaura, Secretary. Photo: Barbra Porter Photography



A flag appears 'mid thunderous cheers

Excitement continued to mount as Friday evening approached and guests returned to the Fairmont's Garden Room for a Welcome Reception, prelude to Rose Percy's Liberty Ball on Saturday. Decadent desserts accompanied assortments of cheeses and fruits. Rose's special libations were offered at a No-Host Bar.

Miss Rose's strong independent spirit has always seen her through, but she is pleased to have enjoyed company along the way. Attendees had the distinct pleasure of an introduction to Rose's friends and acquaintances by Elizabeth Ann Coleman via her program on the other sanitary fair dolls.

The United States Sanitary Commission, a private relief agency created by Federal legislation in 1861, helped make a positive difference in the lives of wounded soldiers during, and after, the Civil War. Promoting clean and healthy conditions in Union army camps, among the commission's primary purposes, directly benefitted soldiers. Staffing field hospitals, raising money, providing supplies and working to educate the military and government on all matters of health and sanitation were the Sanitary Commission's remit.

Sanitary Fairs, held in aid of the United States Sanitary Commission, were more than a social event; they served as major fundraisers. Ann discussed the deep roles dolls played, informing us that what she has uncovered is only the tip of the iceberg.

One can extrapolate that there were thousands of dolls raffled or sold. The amount each doll raised ranged from hundreds of dollars to a single penny. Children spent their hard earned money. No contribution was too great or small. Not only were the dolls instrumental in making a tangible difference for the cause, children and adults were involved in preparing them for sale, as Mrs. Sarah Ogden Hoffman's school can attest in the case of Miss Rose Percy. Strengthening communication and understanding, resulting in a solid support team, this cross-generational involvement proved valuable, just as the money raised did.



The souvenir four-and one half-inch J.D. Kestner child dollhouse dolls, dating from 1915 – 1920, are beloved survivors that stayed with Rose and came in the same 2009 auction lot. Photos: Sal Santamaura

Stars and Stripes Forever

Emblems of the brave and true cascaded from soaring balconies in Seattle's Fairmont Olympic Hotel historic Spanish Ballroom on Saturday, November 1, reflecting in the dazzling crystal chandeliers above banquet tables set to perfection – all hail the red, white and blue!

The 'belle' of the Liberty Ball, Miss Rose Percy, filled this expanse of opulence and elegance with her charm and charisma. Giving special honor to Rose's service, Confederate and Union soldier reenactors flanked the triumphant display with Miss Rose, which included Rose's wardrobe of clothing featuring finery fit for Queen Victoria herself.

Joy and jubilation were evident throughout the room as Mary Senko, Event Chairperson, and her dynamic team at The Seattle Doll and Toy Collectors Club warmly welcomed us. Breaking bread together with the Fairmont's signature luncheon entrée, the Chop Chop Salad, and 'canning jars' berry crumb pie dessert, we were hugely impressed as the Cub Scouts Thunderbird Troop from Rainer Beach, Washington performed color guard duties. Months earlier, Rose Percy provided \$500 for this Cub Scout troop to purchase uniforms. Hence the gleam in her eye as she caught the same in eyes of these proud young scouts and their leader.





Engaging exhibits, along with “Holiday Mail for Heroes,” greeted brunch guests in the Fairmont’s Garden Room. The general public was offered complimentary access to these thought-provoking displays and worthy program in the afternoon. Among them, dolls clothed as nurses produced by Armand Marseille and others, symbolizing Clara Barton’s credo, “I may be compelled to face danger, but never fear it, and while our soldiers can stand and fight, I can stand and feed and nurse them.” Photos: Sal Santamaura



Everything was coming up roses! The immense talent and dedication of doll couturiere Denise Buese, along with staunch, enthusiastic support from the Carmel Doll & Toy Study Group, brought resounding ‘Live Auction’ results. Rosebud, a charming 1870s wax-over papier-mâché example and her extensive wardrobe created by Denise, as well as a plethora of donated antique accessories, fetched \$15,000.

It takes a village, and indeed, this ‘community’ produced. Denise drafted patterns, selected period-appropriate fabrics and trims, laboring with love for a huge number of hours, bestowing Rosebud with all that a proper lady requires and more.

Carmel Doll & Toy Study Group members organized a big bash for Rosebud with no detail spared. The club’s members and guests came in droves bearing gifts. Rosebud was showered with an apron, bonnet, petticoat, antique parasol, muff in box, gloves,

jewelry, hatpins, riding whip, jump rope, miniature photo album, copper teakettle, glass vitrine, toy kitten and diminutive dolls to call her own, naming a few, plus cash donations.

The ‘Live Auction’ claimed an additional \$16,000 through magnanimous effort by the Seattle Doll and Toy Collectors Club. Thirty-six-inch tall vintage-style ‘feather’ trees, artistically adorned by club members, graced each table and caused attendees to marvel. Themes included: exquisite fashion accessories, Godey’s Ladies, 1920s fabulous flappers and magnificent miniature portraits. There were charming children’s tea sets, delightful doll dishes, snow babies, paper dolls, toys, and dollhouse furniture. Nurses, babies and seaside dreams, together with birds and butterflies, were represented, as were our nation’s Presidents and the Fourth of July. Sweet land of liberty!

Silent auction donations earned \$12,000 and ‘Helpers’



brought in \$4,500. Dealers on site were extremely generous with their time, talent and donations. They also played key roles in the silent auction's rousing success. The Seattle Doll and Toy Collectors Club put forth great effort here too, extending their hands to hold an event in honor of 'Rosebud' that showered the 'Helper' tables with extensive offerings.

All monies raised went toward assisting active duty military and veterans. It is truly humbling to realize how much of a difference these funds will make to so many courageous men and women as well as their families. The record breaking \$50,000 proceeds from the Liberty Ball were equally distributed among four entities that follow.

The Washington Army National Guard Minuteman Emergency Assistance Fund helps citizen soldiers, airmen and their families in times of financial crisis and personal challenges. This fund assists them if the heater breaks, monies are required to turn the lights back on, or to provide food and other services, meeting critical needs with dignity and in a timely manner. Major Gary Gessell, Army National Guard, gave Rose a coin for support of the National Guard when this check was awarded.

The VA Puget Sound Fisher House provides shelter to families of servicemen who are in the VA Hospital, suffering from Traumatic Brain injuries, loss of limbs and other critical conditions. Housing, which is located on the campus of the VA Puget Sound Healthcare System, permits families to be close to their loved one. There is no charge for this lodging, relieving them of that financial burden so they can focus on the patient. Rose Percy received an honorary coin from Lorraine Thomas of Fisher House, acknowledging the generous donation and noting Rose's service to the military and their families.

The USO Northwest Service Center, at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport in Washington State, had become completely inadequate to support one of the largest concentrations of military personnel in the United States as

they travel through the SeaTac Airport and beyond. The new USO Service Center will provide much needed comfort and respite for these men, women and families in a newly furnished seventy-five hundred square foot facility. Commander Don Leingang, U.S. Navy (Retired) and Executive Director of USO Northwest, was thrilled that one area where donated funds will be used is the storytelling CD project. Servicemen or women record a story that can be played to their children while he or she is deployed. Funding for this service was seriously lacking; Rose Percy helped make it happen with support from those who attended the Liberty Ball.

The Wounded Warrior Project helps thousands of injured servicemen and women, along with their families, who return home from current conflicts. Its purpose is to raise awareness and offer unique programs that will provide direct assistance to injured service members, who often face extraordinary obstacles, including physical injuries as well as invisible ones, like post-traumatic stress disorder. Funds donated from this Seattle Rose Percy event will reach far and wide.

Throughout the festivities, Miss Rose received a steady stream of guests, offering each an opportunity to see and discover more of her rich history. Rose Percy's remarkable story began when young ladies of the finest finishing school in New York City, owned and operated by Mrs. Sarah Ogden Hoffman, decided to do their part for the upcoming Metropolitan Sanitary Fair, which was ultimately held in 1864. The girls worked for two years to create Rose's outfits, asking the most prominent merchants of the day for accessories that might accompany their creations, and would also provide Rose with items that might be tempting to her potential buyer. After being supplied with exquisite fabrics by New York's premier dry-goods purveyor, Arnold, Constable



Elizabeth Ann Coleman offered a stimulating presentation titled "In Service, Dolls of the Sanitary Fairs, 1863 -1865." Prominent among them is Flora McFlimsey, as these dolls were often named, inspired by a William Butler poem, *Nothing to Wear: An Episode of City Life*. One such Flora is seen in this *Harper's Weekly* illustration from April 23, 1864, accompanied by a statement reported under the "Children's Department" at the New York City Metropolitan Fair. "The view entitled 'Flora McFlimsey' on this page represents a Doll contributed to the Fair by a lady and her daughter, with twelve complete sets of dresses, etc., all of the finest description, and made entirely by the hands of the contributors. The wardrobe thus provided for the miserable Flora includes every garment and accessory the richest taste or heaviest purse could suggest, and yet the whole is offered at a price which would not, probably, pay for the material at present rates. As a triumph of womanly patience and skill 'Flora McFlimsey' must challenge the admiration of all visitors. 'Nothing to Wear' never had a more perfectly satirical illustration than this." *Harper's Weekly* Author's Collection
 Photos: Sal Santamaura

& Co., the schoolgirls secured jewels and other precious treasures from the boutique of Charles Tiffany, and miniature fur creations from C.G. Gunther.

Rose's 'ladies-in-waiting,' Elizabeth Ann Coleman, Laurie McGill, Denise Buese, joined this year by Carol Cameron, were charged with getting her garments ready for display. During the event, Elizabeth Ann graciously handed out Miss Rose's calling cards and, by request, retrieved items from her presentation tables for examination up close. Rose's Tiffany jewelry received considerable personal viewing attention, as did her underpinnings, which afforded a rare chance to see examples of historic stitching. Her 'ladies-in-waiting' also had the honor of

packing Rose's precious possessions when day was done.

The beautifully illustrated book about Rose, her possessions and life, a souvenir available only to those in attendance at the event, became a cherished remembrance and chance to relive. Miss Rose, arguably the most important doll in American history, represents much more than just her storied past. She continues to leave a mark, raising substantial funds and offering an invaluable helping hand up, as participants came to understand in Seattle. Rose's work with charities brings prestige to our avocation, visibly demonstrating the profound difference a doll can make. As for her future potential – there's simply no stopping the indomitably spirited Miss Rose Percy!



Rose Percy's Liberty Ball in all its splendor presented by the Seattle Doll & Toy Collectors Club. "No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it."

(Not Pictured) Laurae Dunning and Jan Rohrmann, Decorating; Lisa Pepin, Diana Boettger, Sheryl Varon and Valerie Fogel, Creativity Team; Additional support, Lleana Davison, Mary Lu McDaniels, LaDonna Dolan, Norene Ott, Shelley Helzer and Rosalie Whyel; Graphic Designer Sheryl Varon. Photos: Barbra Porter Photography



Mary Senko, Chairperson



Custom-created Rose Percy-themed shopping bags were ready to be filled with gifts, winnings, and remembrances of the day. Photo: Barbra Porter Photography



(Left) Judy Lloyd, executive 'go-to person'; (Right) Treasurer and Registrar, Nancy Greenawalt, President of Seattle Doll and Toy Collectors Club.



On this ceremonial occasion, Cub Scouts Thunderbird Troop, hailing from Rainer Beach, Washington, had the honors ...Color Guard, Forward March! Photo: Barbra Porter Photography



Well-known dealer Fritzi Martinez held the floor, while husband Rick took the podium, leading each live auction to a rousing success. Sixteen-inch Rosebud, shown here by Michael Canadas, along with her wealth of worldly possessions, captured the crowd, as did the stunning vintage-style feather trees. Kudos Denise Buese, Carmel Doll & Toy Study Group, and the Seattle Doll and Toy Collectors Club! Fritzi Martinez, Rick Martinez and Michael Canadas Photos: Barbra Porter Photography / Rosebud Photo: Sal Santamura



Cathy Soares (left) and Denise Buese (right) mark the memorable moment together as do Miss Rose Percy and Rosebud. Cathy's winning Rosebud bid helped our military men and women immeasurably. What an amazing lady!
Photo: Barbra Porter Photography



'Hail to the Chiefs.' The Presidential Tree winning bidder, Carol Cameron, gifted this triumph to Miss Rose, who has met each President since Abraham Lincoln. Photos: Samantha Lewis



Seated with the nurse-themed centerpiece, these lively Liberty Ball goers were especially well cared for! Photo: Barbra Porter Photography



The outpouring of donations made to the live auction, silent auction and 'helpers' is beyond enumeration. Shown is only a small sample. Thank you one and all! Photo: Sal Santamaura



Civil War Reenactors from the local area were excited to see Rose Percy and provided a lovely ambiance to the event. American Civil War reenactment began before the actual fighting ended as a tribute to those lost in battle. It was also a teaching tool to foster better understanding of the war. Men predominate in military portrayals, while women are often civilians. Photos: Barbra Porter Photography



Photo: Samantha Lewis



When Rose was offered for sale at the Metropolitan Fair held in New York City during April of 1864, her trousseau comprised over one hundred articles. Since only a small amount of machine work is visible, the extensive hand sewing reveals the signature of three pairs of hands. It is imagined that while some of the skilled young sewers were completing these tasks, others approached merchants to amass the cache of accessories Miss Rose possesses. Present-day 'ladies-in-waiting' have the privilege of serving Rose at events and providing us rare up close and personal moments with these immensely important items. Photo: Sal Santamaura