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I am happy to have the opportunity to share with all of you the findings of my study and research of "a history of the Lancaster General Hospital and School of Nursing" from their origin through the first 50 years of growth and development.

The material for my study was obtained chiefly from past records of hospital, School of Nursing, Alumnae, correspondence and interviews with former graduates and other personnel at one time associated with LGH and local newspapers . 1893-1895

In 1893 the knights of Malta of Lanc. announced their intention to establish a hospital in Lanc. Circulars were sent out to the different secret orders and various churches for a meeting of all representatives to be held June 15, 1893 at the YMCA to discuss the advisability of establishing a public hospital in Lanc, that shall be non-sectarian.

On July 6, 1893-Committee on Ways and Means met to consider means by which hospital could be built and maintained. A week later, the Comm. on permanent Organization reported a draft of a constitution which was adopted. This provided that the name of the corporation shall be "The Lancaster General Hospital" and its object and purpose is to establish and maintain an institution or hospital which shall be devoted to the care and treatment of the sick and suffering and the training of nurses to be employed in such care.

A charter was applied for by the Board of Directors at the August term of the Quarter Sessions Court and was granted Saturday Sept. 23, 1893. At same meeting it was decided to secure a temporary building until permanent location was selected.

End of Oct. considered Holman property at corner of Orange & Pine St. but 2 weeks later owner withdrew offer.

Finally Committee rewarded-following appeared in The Daily Examiner- Dec. 13, 1893----page 7-1, followed by-2.

From time to time appeals were made to the public for donations: cooking utensils, furniture, table linen, towels, bedding. Public invited to attend a reception at LGH on Jan 1, from 9-5, while it is also a donation day when supplies of all kinds will be gratefully received, everybody is welcome whether a gift is taken or not. ~~Other~~ donations included: basket of groceries, jellies, cut flowers, jar of pears, bandages, basket of oranges, ~~and~~ \$5 in drugs, 3 window shades, 2 suits gents' clothes, ten cents worth of labor for repairing a whip, 11 night shirts, 5 gallons of whiskey, 8 doz. turnovers, a chair, century plants, clock for operating room and horse shoeing services.

End of first year--<sup>admitted</sup> 53 patients--22 surgical, 31 medical

4 died  
 38 dismissed-cured or improved  
 4 dismissed-unimproved  
 7 remained in hospital

Patients cared for by one nurse (chief nurse), her assistant and an orderly-(original quarters). Board of Directors hoped that time not far distant when a spot more quietly situated may be found on which a suitable building may, through, the generosity of our citizens, be set in place commensurate with the dignity and utility of so broad and liberal a movement. 1895 (p. 12)

During the next 5 years only improvements made in the buildings were those absolutely necessary.

But a new building was essential and the Board contemplated the erection of a building in 3 sections

north wing --- wards

central wing --- administration building

south wing (woman's wing) --- wards

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1912-13 (20 yrs)

"a corps of 48 nurses and 3 resident physicians on duty in the hospital and that "as many as 10 operations have occurred in a single day."

1916-17

twice during year hospital menaced by fires in the Bowman Box Factory which adjoined hospital property on south side. This constant threat to the safety of the patients necessitated the hospitals purchase of the Bowman House and Box Factory.

1918

hospital overcrowded, need for expansion-plans approved 1917 halted by war and influenza epidemic. Excavation for new center wing and service building-Aug. 16, 1920.

Aug. 8, 1921-Esbenshade Operating Room Suite opened

Sept. 2, 1921-Service building: kitchens, dining rooms, employees dorm.

Nov. 20, 1921- Lillian Wmson Ghriskey Memorial Children's floor opened.

Dec. 10, 1921-private room section-central wing.

Total hospital beds-150

1921-1927-increase of more than 30% in number of patients treated in hospital. Three causes: 1. awakening of public to convenience and efficiency of hospital treatment; 2. increased # of accident cases due to increased number of automobiles in existence; 3. increased acceptance of hospitalization for maternity patients(42 babies born in hospital during March, 1925-this being the largest number for any one month in the history of the institution)

Sept. 10, 1928-Board sanctioned building of new maternity wing and Adm.

Bldg. //Officially opened Oct 5, 1929.(Mat. Wing) May, 1930-Adm. Bldg

completed and occupied. (p. 26)

Move On

1943 - 50th anniversary of the hospital

Board planned for a celebration to mark this event.

Nov. 30 - Dec. 7 - anniversary week

booklet: THROUGH THE YEARS

brief resume of hospital's history

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Dec, 1943-drive for funds for a building program-first appeal for funds in 27 years and no additions made to hospital since completion of Adm. building in 1930.

Aug. 1, 1949-ground broken for new 5-story addition.

Sept. 17, 1950-cornerstone laid-contained copper box: copy charter & by-laws of hospital,-list of Board members & officers,-list of staff members, dep't heads, key personnel,-schedule of rates,-pictures of present hospital-program of cornerstone laying and 1950 telephone directory.

Aug. 3, 1952-building dedicated-Open House "Through the Years"-there has been an evolution of hospital buildings and equipment from 7 room, 3-story brick building of 1893 to comprehensive building which includes 450 beds and 90 bassinets in 1953 showing architecture and equipment have advanced with medical and surgical practice.

#### DIRECTORS OF SCHOOL

14 in history of the institution

length of service varied considerably

first CHIEF NURSE - approx. 4 months  
Carrie Reinecke

Miss Sarah Reinhart - 20 years / 5 years  
as assistant

The Charter and By-Laws provide "The Board of Directors shall appoint all physicians, superintendents, officers, nurses, agents or employees, and fix their rights, duties and compensation and have full control over them.

## NURSES' RESIDENCES

When LGH decided to have a training school for nurses a problem that faced them was the housing of the students. In the early days students were housed in the hospital itself.

1905 - the Annex - on Cherry Alley fitted for a dwelling for the nurses - involving an expenditure of probably \$3,000.

Next few years dwellings purchased to north of hospital property, but lack of funds prevented them from altering these homes.

1910-11 - started building home - lack of funds halted the building.

While debating the problem of securing funds Mrs. Annie D.T. FonDersmith donated amount needed to complete the home as a memorial to her husband, and we have the Chas. Allen FonDersmith Home for Nurses.

- 1916 - re-modeled REIST HOME to accommodate additional nurses  
1920 - BOWMAN HOUSE - used as an auxiliary home for nurses  
Next apartment at 436 N. Lime St - accommodated 5 pupil nurses  
(rent: \$20,00/ month)

Homes needed papering "nothing elaborate, but something to make the rooms look more cheerful" - \$50.00 appropriated one time to paper 2 front rooms and the hallway as far as possible.

Need for additional accommodations for the nurses continued to be a problem - p. 92 - 93

1928 - Charles Tole property: 520 N. Lime Street

Bucks property at 430 N. Lime St - leased

In each of the homes radios have been installed and for those who are interested in tennis, a fine tennis court has been built. Overhead lighting makes it possible to use this court at night as well as in daytime.

1928 - 4200

1943 - Jacoby & Kieffer Homes purchased: 516-518 N. Lime Street.

Next 10 years more houses bought on N. Duke Street --- 8 homes providing living facilities, classrooms, recreational facilities.

## ORIGIN &amp; GROWTH OF SCHOOL OF NURSING

From the beginning plans were included for a school of nursing.

In the Charter of the hospital it states: "The object and purpose of this Corporation is the establishment and maintenance of an institution, or hospital, which shall be devoted to the care and treatment of the sick and suffering and the training of nurses to be employed in such care."

The earliest record found relating to the training school was an article that appeared in a local newspaper on June 29, 1894

Not until  
✓

1902 Annual report states "A training school will be commenced in the near future, lack of accommodations being the only reason why this had not been done in the past. Quite a number of applicants are waiting patiently to be called."

1903 "The training school for nurses has been established."  
Miss Minnie White - first nurse to graduate from L.G.H. - 1904 - 2 yr. course as required at that time.

ANNUAL REPORT

Qualifications for Applicants published in Annual Report 1903 require applicant to be a single woman between 21-35, possessed of good education, health and moral character. Other things being equal, those of superior education, culture and refinement will be preferred.

Admitted on probation for 2 months - then sign contract to remain 3 years from date (less 2 months)

Students admitted one at a time as needed over a twelve month period.

In letters from members of these early classes we found some interesting comments

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- 1904 - 05 report - first mention of a Committee on Nurses Training School - an active committee in regard to the functions of the school and the training of the students - always looking forward to improving the school.
- 1907 <sup>time to time</sup> slight changed in qualifications of applicants and "Pupils nurses while on duty as nurses in the hospital or elsewhere must conform to all rules governing nurses in general, be scrupulously clean and neat, kind in conduct toward the patients, courteous and considerate of manner and \* watchful for the interests of their "ALMA MATER", the LGH, 16 students in the school
- 1910 <sup>omit</sup> S of Nsg now considered "A most desirable one as seen by the number of those well qualified in other branches of education applying to study here.
- 1911 32 students enrolled  
course of instruction followed as recommended by Penn. Bd. of Examiners for Registration of nurses --- with minor additions! *Pennmanship- Orthography-Composition*
- 1912 Applicants now required to pass a preliminary scholastic & physical examination. Exams held as soon as sufficient no. of applications were received and conducted by S of Nsg Com. 70 passing - and if successful admitted as soon as there was room/
- 1915 44 students - on duty the student nurse had full charge of the care of the rooms and wards "excepting the sweeping of same!"
- 1916 class of this year published a yearbook titled The SKELETON

At this time institution having difficulty in securing nurses - Com. authorized to increase number of students from 35 - 50 (problem - where house them) - month later only had 40 nurses but still hopeful.

1918 - age of applicants 20 - 35 3 years later 18

allowance increased from \$4 - \$6, later \$8 (1&2) & \$10. (#3)

1919 56 students and "their general health has been good" - but this state of health did not continue for many months as it was reported that "there had been an unusual amount of illness among the nurses, nine nurses have been off duty when there were 125 patients in the hospital!"

1920 - 46 students

Among the amusements provided by the institution for the pupil nurses were special entertainments at Hallowe'en and Christmas plus small parties at various times during the year and several musical evenings furnished by outside talent."

(Tennis and swimming at YWCA - 1927)

1922 79 students

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1923 75 students - first full time instructor employed - she was granted permission "to instal a wireless apparatus in the Bowman House with wires on the roof, providing our insurance is not affected"

1924 81 students - largest number in history of the institution

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1930-93 students

*Last 20 years changed*

- 1931 a new feature in the activities of the hospital was in the form of a Baccalaureate Service, which was held in the Grace Lutheran Church.
- 1932 changes in allowance: 1st yr - no allowance  
 2nd \$5.00  
 3rd 7.50  
 1938: allowance discontinued
- 1933 affiliation in psychiatric nursing with Lanc. Co. Hosp. continued until 1943 - discontinued - later affiliation contracted with Philadelphia State Hospital.
- 1940 WITHIN THESE WALLS  
 word-and-picture story of LGH - included a brief description of admission requirements and program offered by school at that time.
- 1942 tuition charged - \$50.00/yr.
- 1944 student government was formally instituted - changes in By-Laws 1952
- Through the years the probation period - preclinical period - varied
- |      |            |      |            |
|------|------------|------|------------|
| 1903 | - 2 months | 1939 | - 5 months |
| 1930 | - 4 months | 1953 | - 160 days |
- 1948 - no spring class admitted because the applicants were not satisfactory and the total number of girls to be entered in the training school in Sept. will be sufficient to equal both spring & fall group
- 1949 Student Health program inaugurated AND traditional "blacks" disappeared and white shoes and hose were worn
- 1950 first printed catalogue of the school of nursing
- 1952 red letter year for graduates of that year: entire class were successful in writing the State Board examinations - first time in any year all graduates passed
- 1953 RED LETTER YEAR for LGH School of Nursing - 50th Anniversary

I think it only fitting to conclude my HIG LIGHTS with a few words about the Alumnae Association, which we here represent.

It came into existence as the Nurses Alumnae Association December 8, 1908 through the efforts of the early graduates of the school and under the guidance and leadership of Minnie White.

Charter members were - p. 99

Original by-laws written in 1935, revised 1945, 1953

Association incorporated Feb. 18, 1937

One of the objects of the Alumnae Association is "good fellowship among the graduates of this school " - I hope that this Home Coming has furthered this objective and that I have helped you to re-live some pleasant memories as we traveled hastily through the years.

In this history many facts may have been omitted but it was written from material available.

Frank Reid Diffenderffer in a collection of Historical Papers and Addresses of the Lancaster County Historical Society written early in this century stated - and I quote -

"Then, again, history is not a completed thing. It is continuous, progressive and never will be finished. There is, here and there a hiatus which cannot be filled, that is, not now, but later investigations and discoveries may supply the missing link and the completed chain be forged at last. There is consolation in that thought, for we are all aware that many doubtful questions have come before us from time to time which the discovery of some document or other unknown record will in time clear up."