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# HISTORY OF THE BLACK PHYSICIAN IN INDIANAPOLIS

1870 TO 2000

*by*

George H. Rawls, M.D.

Copyright October, 1984

# INTRODUCTION

The history of the Black physician in Indianapolis is one of disappointment and triumph, tragedy and conquest, subjugation and dedication. That the early Black student persisted in his endeavors to become a physician is indeed miraculous. Knowing the sacrifices required and perceiving the discrimination existing in school and later in his practice, he is to be commended for the courage he possessed to persevere. Very little is written on his struggles in quest for parity with his Caucasian counterpart. This treatise will outline many of the difficulties he faced and contributions he made in his pursuit for equality.

Although the "root doctor" is a symbol of African medical heritage, the Europeans who immigrated to America brought some of their folk medicine with them also. Indeed, Colonial medicine was shrouded in ignorance.<sup>1</sup> Bleeding and purging were routine procedures without scientific rationale. Drug usage was empirical and often based on folk medicine.<sup>2</sup> Certain practices and medicines were learned from the Indians.

Historically, the first prominent figure in medicine was Imhotep, physician to King Zoser of the Egyptian Third Dynasty. He was dark of skin and of African origin. He lived about 3000 BC and possessed many talents. In addition to being a great physician, he was the architect of the step pyramid and an astronomer. He taught cheerfulness and contentment. The well-known adage, "Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die," is attributed to him.<sup>1</sup>

As in all other areas of life, the Black physician throughout America was making significant contributions despite almost insurmountable odds in the 16th and 17th centuries.<sup>1</sup> Educated in Holland and practicing in New York, Dr. Lucas Santomee received a land grant for his services to the colony of New Amsterdam in 1667. He was the first Black American physician. When small pox erupted in Boston, an African slave of Cotton Mather, Onesimus, indicated that inoculation had been done in his country and no one contracted the disease. Dr. Zabdiel Boyeston, a prominent White physician, during the Boston epidemic, therefore instituted this procedure in 1721. Because of this vaccination small pox was eliminated as a disease throughout the world in 1977.

Being accepted in medical school has been a perennial problem. The first Black to obtain a medical degree was Dr. James McCune Smith of New York.<sup>2</sup> He was graduated from the University of Glasgow, Scotland, in 1837. Dr. Daniel Piexotto, a Jewish physician who was president of Willoughby Medical College in Ohio, had urged publicly the admission of Negro students to American Medical Schools in 1836. He had indicated that it was inconceivable to him that a White physician would attend a Negro patient objectively. The first Negro to be graduated from an American Medical School was Dr. David J. Peck, who was awarded his medical degree by Rush Medical College in Chicago in 1847.<sup>2</sup> Dr. Rebecca Lee, the first Negro woman physician, was graduated from the New England Female Medical College in 1864.<sup>2</sup> Gradually, other schools began admitting Blacks. The majority of Negro physicians, however, were educated at Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, D.C., established in 1868, and at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, which opened in 1876.<sup>2,3,4</sup> In the strictly segregated framework of the post-reconstruction era, 6 other Negro Medical Schools appeared though none of them survived: Leonard (Shaw) Medical School, Raleigh, North Carolina (1882-1915); Louisville National Medical College, Louisville, Kentucky (1887-1911); Flint Medical College, New Orleans, Louisiana (1889-1911); Knoxville Medical College, Knoxville, Tennessee (1895-1910); the Medical Department of the University of West Tennessee (1900-1923); and Chattanooga National Medical College, Chattanooga, Tennessee (1902).<sup>1</sup> The founders of Howard had all been officers in the Union Army. The only Black on the original faculty was Dr. Alexander T. Augusta.<sup>1</sup>

In Nashville, five Irish brothers named Meharry, inspired by a desire to contribute to the reconstruction of their area, gave \$15,000 to the Methodist Episcopal Church for the establishment of a school for the "training of Negro Youth in Medicine".<sup>1</sup> George Whipple Hubbard, a young religious Yankee of 21, arrived in Nashville to fight in the Union Army on the day of the Armistice. He decided to stay to teach the freed men. After receiving the M.D. from Vanderbilt, he offered his services to train Negroes for medical careers. He became the first Dean of the school. Its hospital bears his name."<sup>2</sup>

There were outstanding Black physicians in the Antebellum era. David Ruggles, a hydropathic physician, was a free-born Black abolitionist. Although blind, he erected his Northampton Water Cure establishment in Florence, Massachusetts in 1846. Such notable figures as William Lloyd Garrison and Sojourner Truth were among his patients.<sup>1</sup> It was he who found Frederick Douglas a place to stay when Douglas escaped from slavery to New York City.<sup>1</sup>

In New Jersey, Dr. James Still, a contemporary of Ruggles, was inspired to become a physician after witnessing a vaccination at an early age. With less than a year's education, he began distilling sassafras roots and various herbs in 1843. He became known as the "Black Doctor" or the "Doctor of the Pines". He wrote of his diagnoses and treatments and published his autobiography in 1877.<sup>1</sup>

William Wells Brown devoted the last 19 years of his life to practicing medicine. Son of a slave mother and a White physician father, he had no formal medical training. He attended medical lectures and demonstrations in Boston by physicians who gave private instruction. Describing himself as a "dermapathic and practical physician", he opened his office in 1865. An erudite man, he has been dubbed the first American Black man of letters. His eyewitness accounts of the brutality of slavery, of the beatings that he absorbed and the narrative of his own escape are noteworthy.<sup>1</sup>

Dr. John Sweat Rock was a brilliant physician, who in 41 short years became a teacher, dentist, physician, lawyer, and freedom fighter. A dentist initially, he received his medical degree from the American Medical College in Philadelphia in 1852. Practicing dentistry and medicine in Boston, he gradually assumed a leadership role in abolitionist activities. He subsequently studied law and on February 1, 1865 was the first Black to be admitted to practice law before the Supreme Court of the United States.<sup>1</sup>

Postgraduate education has also been a problem. As a solution, Dr. Daniel Hale Williams founded Provident Hospital in Chicago in 1871 to train Black doctors and nurses. A renown surgeon, he became the second physician to suture a knife-inflicted laceration of the pericardium in 1893.<sup>2</sup>

## THE EARLY YEARS

Although the first boatload of Negroes reached America in 1619, the entire Black population was less than 20,000 in 1700. During the eighteenth century more than 20,000 arrived annually. Thus by 1869 there were in America four million Black slaves valued at four billion dollars.<sup>3</sup>

Prior to the Revolutionary War, Indiana was part of the Northwest Territory, controlled from Detroit by the British. It was inhabited by Indian tribes and was a virtual wilderness.<sup>4</sup> The victory by George Rogers Clark, in 1779, at Vincennes wrested the area from the British. American settlers, however, did not move toward Central Indiana until William Henry Harrison defeated the Indians in 1811 at Tippecanoe. The New Purchase of 1818 placed an eight million-acre tract of Central Indiana in the hands of America.<sup>4</sup>

In the years from admission to the union in 1816 until after the Civil War, Indiana progressed from a wilderness to a flourishing agricultural state. Indiana became a major underground Railway Station and some of the former slaves settled in the area. However, after 1813, Negroes seeking to settle in the state were required by law to register with County authorities and give bond as a guarantee of good behavior. In addition to the run-away slaves, many Blacks came with White Quakers and settled with them. The census of 1860 revealed a total of 11,428 Negroes in Indiana compared to 1,420 in 1820. The total population in Indianapolis was 8,097 in the mid-eighteenth century. This included 25 physicians and dentists.<sup>4</sup> But none of them were Black. The first Black physician to practice in the State of Indiana was Dr. Samuel A. Elbert.<sup>6,7</sup> Born of free parents in Maryland in 1832, and upon the death of his father, he worked as a common field hand beginning at age 9. Although twenty-two years old before learning to read and write, he studied at Oberlin College for two years. Subsequently, he came to Indianapolis to teach in a private school sponsored by Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church.<sup>8</sup> He

became interested in medicine and was one of the first students to enroll at Indiana Medical College when it began in 1869. After satisfactorily completing his study there, he was denied a medical degree. He had to fight for his right to practice. He was finally permitted to do so and opened his office in 1871. Very active in church and civic affairs, he was a nominee for the General Assembly in 1882. His oldest son, James, also became a physician.<sup>9</sup>

The second physician to establish practice in Indianapolis was Dr. William Chavis who came from Ohio in 1890. His brother later opened a drug store here.<sup>9</sup>

In 1897 Dr. Sumner A. Furniss opened an office at 132 W. New York Street. Born in 1874, in Jackson, Mississippi, he attended Lincoln University in Missouri. While matriculating at the Medical College of Indiana, he was the only Black in a class of 54 students. He was the first Black intern at the Indianapolis City Hospital.<sup>6</sup> Like many professionals, he was very active in community affairs. Among his many accomplishments were: City Councilman, Delegate to Republican National Convention from 1918 to 1922, Sovereign Grand Commander-Scottish Rite of Free Masonry from 1925 to 1947. A Prince Hall Lodge and a Sickle Cell Research Center bear his name. He was a founder of Iota Lamda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and remained active until his death in 1952.<sup>6,9,10</sup>

Another Furniss, Henry W., graduated from Howard University in 1891 and also practiced at 132 W. New York Street after receiving his license in 1897. He was listed as being a minister to Haiti.<sup>11</sup>

Because Black physicians were not accepted into the American Medical Association, the National Medical Association was formed. In October 1895, in Atlanta, Georgia, about one dozen Black physicians met in the First Congregational Church to organize the N.M.A. Its credo was stated in 1908 by Dr. C. V. Roman: "Conceived in no spirit of racial exclusiveness, fostering no ethnic antagonism, but born of the exigencies of American environment, the N.M.A. has for its object the banding together for mutual cooperation and helpfulness, the men and women of African descent who are legally and honorably engaged in the cognate professions of medicine, surgery, pharmacy, and dentistry."<sup>12,3</sup>

## THE MIDDLE YEARS (1900-1950)

The turn of the century found an influx of new, enterprising physicians as the city's population grew. Among the first was Dr. Arthur H. Wilson, a native of Indianapolis. His premedical work was done at Franklin College. After teaching two years, he attended the Indiana Medical School in Lafayette.<sup>12</sup> He began his practice in 1902-03 in the 400 block of Indiana Avenue. After serving his Country during World War I, he relocated his office in the Walker Building with Drs. Gerald Lowry and Lawrence Aldridge Lewis.<sup>12</sup>

Dr. Abraham Joseph King migrated from Xenia, Ohio. His mother was a run-away slave. After receiving a Ph.D. Degree, he became a principal of a high school in Bloomington, Indiana. After graduating from medical school, he opened an office on West 26th Street.<sup>12</sup> He was also the first Black deputy coroner in Indianapolis.<sup>12</sup>

In 1903, Dr. Henry L. Hummons opened his office at Walnut and West Street.<sup>12</sup> Born in Lexington, Kentucky in 1873 and graduated from Knoxville College and Indianapolis Medical School, he interned at Shelbyville Hospital. Very active in civic activities, he recruited a group of young men in 1900 and formed a prayer band that later became the nucleus for founding the Senate Avenue YMCA, which received its State Charter in 1902. For over 50 years he actively participated in its management. A staunch and devoted churchman, he and Henry Cleage organized Witherspoon United Presbyterian Church in his home in 1907. He served as an elder and superintendent of Sunday school for many years. In addition, he established the city's first free tuberculosis clinic at Flanner House in 1919.<sup>13,14,15,16,17,18</sup>

Another young physician who was to make an impact in Indianapolis arrived here in 1906 after a few years in Anderson, Indiana. Dr. Calvin R. Atkins, born in Hadenville, Kentucky in 1870 of former slaves, received his medical degree from Howard University in 1898. His office was located first at 1562½ Columbia Avenue and later at 1330



Roosevelt Avenue, where he held office hours daily, including Sunday. He was a Mason and a trustee of Simpson Methodist Episcopal Church. While in Anderson, he had attempted to build a hospital because of discrimination against Black patients and physicians. He realized this outstanding achievement by spearheading the establishment of Lincoln Hospital at 1101 North Senate Avenue in Indianapolis. A reproduction of the first annual report of Lincoln Hospital appears in the appendix.

Opened December 15, 1909, this noteworthy achievement symbolizes the aspirations that have permeated the activities of the Black physician. Quality assurance and peer review are demonstrated in the facility's reports which analyze diagnoses, morbidity and mortality. A nursing school was also established.<sup>12,19</sup> The rationale for this effort is indicated in the first annual report: "With Colored population of over forty thousand (40,000), nineteen (19) Colored physicians, and five (5) dentists, it was felt there was need for a Colored institution open freely to all classes of curable non-contagious cases, where any reputable physician could bring his cases and treat them, if desired, and where Colored nurses could be trained". Similar hospitals were built in other cities of the country for similar reasons: Mercy Douglas in Philadelphia (1895 & 1903); Provident in Chicago (1891); Freedmen's (1865) in Washington; Hubbard (1910) in Nashville; Lincoln (1901), Durham; St. Agnes (1896), Raleigh.<sup>1,2</sup>


Other physicians of this era were Drs. Charles Burr, W.E. Brown, J.O. Puryer, Clarence Toles and C.A. Lucas, Sr. Two children of Dr. Lucas, Clarence, Jr. and Dr. Carolyn Dickson, also practice medicine in the city.<sup>9</sup> As far as can be determined, Dr. Clarence Lucas, Sr. was the first Black graduate of Indiana University School of Medicine in 1908.<sup>20</sup> The school was formed in 1903 and graduated its first class on May 18, 1907. Although there had been 24 colleges of medicine chartered in Indiana from 1806 to 1906, in 1908 the Indiana medical college (Purdue) joined with Indiana University School of Medicine making it the only medical school in the state.<sup>21</sup>

Dr. Joseph Ward migrated here from Wilson, North Carolina near the turn of the century. He had attended the so-called Eclectic School of Medicine. He became acquainted with Dr. Long of I.U. School of Medicine and was encouraged to enter its school. He practiced for a while then went to the Army where he ascended to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He then went to Tuskegee Institute to become the first Black superintendent. He was praised for his administrative accomplishments while in that position for twelve years.<sup>3</sup> He returned here and, along with Dr. Mark Batties, opened the Ward Sanatorium, a three story building in the 2100 block of Boulevard Place about 1928. This served as a Black hospital since Negroes were still not admitted to local hospitals and Black doctors were denied hospital privileges.<sup>9,12</sup>

Two outstanding I.U. graduates interned at City Hospital in 1912-1913. Dr. Lawrence Aldridge Lewis, a brilliant student who ranked high in his class, compiled one of the highest scores ever recorded on the state licensure examination (94.7 in 1911).<sup>22</sup> Dr. Ezra Alexander was one of the founders of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity on the Bloomington Campus. Needless to say, their living quarters and dining facilities were segregated.<sup>9,12</sup>

There was an interval of twenty-two years before City Hospital acquired its next Black intern. Dr. Clarence Lucas, Jr. was appointed in 1940. Drs. Francis Hummons and Harry B. Anderson served as interns in 1941. Segregated conditions persisted for them. They could administer only to Black patients. Nevertheless, they stood tall, performed well and served as interference, as it were, for the young Black students who were to follow in the fifties and sixties. There was but one Black graduate nurse, Ms. Easter Goodnight Middleton, employed at the hospital at that time. Black student nurses in 1941 included Ms. Oneida Stuart, Frances Bell and Lillian Brown Stevenson.<sup>12</sup>

Dr. Hummons' account of conditions is graphic.<sup>12</sup> "As an intern along with one other fellow Black intern at City Hospital, we were forced to eat our meals in a segregated dining room set aside for us plus one graduate Black R. N. and

 <p>OFFICE HOURS 8 TO 10 A.M. 2 TO 4 P.M. 7 TO 8 P.M. New Phone 2680; Old Phone 4099</p> <p><b>DR. C. R. ATKINS</b> 1330 ROOSEVELT AVE. Indianapolis.</p> <p>Formerly of Anderson, Ind. Now in office of Dr. J. H. Ballard</p>	<p><b>DR. C. R. ATKINS</b> RESIDENCE, 1437 COLUMBIA AVE. RES. PHONE OLD WOODRUFF, 1339 NEW PHONE 2680 OFFICE 1562 1-2 COLUMBIA AVE. OFFICE PHONE, OLD WOODRUFF 2010 NEW PHONE 1334 OFFICE HOURS: 8-10 A.M. AND 2-4 AND 7-8 P.M. SUNDAY BY APPOINTMENT.</p>
	<p>SUNDAY 10 TO 11 A.M. 7 TO 8 P.M.</p>
<p>RUC'S DRUG STORE, CORNER COLUMBIA AVE. &amp; SIXTEENTH ST., INDIANAPOLIS</p>	

four Black student nurses in training at that time. There were, at times, pressures to limit our patients to Black only, but this was resolved after several conferences with the higher administrators. All in all, it was an interesting and profitable experience though, at times, very frustrating. I was on the general practice staff at City Hospital immediately after finishing my internship but it was several years before Methodist Hospital opened up its doors to me. I might add it was several years before Methodist opened up its doors to Black patients except for a few rooms in its basement area which were highly unsatisfactory".<sup>12</sup>

## THE FIGHT FOR INTEGRATION

**D**r. Edwin Moten arrived here in 1919 from Denton, Texas. After establishing his office at 536½ N. Indiana Avenue, he sent for his family in 1921. A graduate of Shaw University Medical School, he was involved in Civil Defense in World War II. Being unable to join the Marion County Medical Society, he was instrumental in organizing the Aesculapian Medical Society in 1929 and later the Hoosier State Medical Society. These were affiliates of the N.M.A.<sup>9,17</sup> The Black physicians asked to join the Indianapolis Medical Society in 1940. They were denied. The following communications were exchanged.<sup>23</sup>

In 1935, a dynamic, enterprising physician moved to Indianapolis from Anderson where he had practiced for eight years. Born in Denmark, South Carolina, he had decided at age 10 to become a physician. The year was 1905 and his mother was ill, very ill. The doctor came as per his Hippocratic oath, but as she was Black he did not stay long. "Are you going to give her a complete examination?" his father asked. "Sorry, I am in a hurry," was the doctor's reply and he was on his way. It was at this moment that ten-year-old Harvey decided to become a physician. But he was to discover that for a man of color, it was to be exceedingly difficult.<sup>23</sup>

After receiving his degree at Benedict College and serving two years in the Army, Harvey Middleton attempted to enter Boston University School of Medicine. Like eight other Black schoolmates, he was found to be deficient in organic chemistry but was permitted to study for one year. He was greatly influenced by Dr. Benjamin Mays and entered the Boston University Medical School. Of his difficulties, he wrote, "In the clinic the patients refused to be examined by Colored doctors". He transferred to Meharry College, where he graduated in 1927. "At Saint Johns Hospital in Anderson, Indiana, where I had been practicing since 1928, medicine was medicine and a doctor was a doctor, so I had been accepted very well." He studied yearly at Boston under Drs. Dudley White and Samuel Levin and under Drs. Katz and Woods of London.<sup>23</sup>

"It was 1935 when I came to General Hospital, which was then called City Hospital. There were no Colored doctors. There were Colored patients but Colored physicians were left out of the framework of being trained in the hospital or treating patients. Here I was allowed to work as a volunteer, so with the heart information I had learned in the various colleges and universities, I bought a little portable cardiometer machine with three leads for five hundred dollars (\$500) and went into private practice making electrocardiograms. I began to study heart sounds and murmurs and eventually purchased a 1940 Stethocardiometer". He continued to work every Saturday in the heart clinic and was to become the first Negro doctor accepted on the staff in 1942. He was also the first Negro doctor at General to present a professional paper, Electrocardiographic studies of Gunshot and Stab wounds, based on case histories of patients in the clinic.<sup>23</sup>

Fortuitously, Dr. Middleton had become a member of the American Medical Association and Indiana Medical Association through the Madison County Medical Society in Anderson, Indiana, in 1934. Nevertheless, upon arriving in Indianapolis, he was not accepted for membership by the Indianapolis Medical Society, a requirement for staff appointment to Methodist and St. Vincent Hospitals. Despite this he was appointed to the staff of St. Vincent Hospital in 1945.<sup>23</sup>

Prior to 1945, Black patients were admitted only to General (Wishard) Hospital.<sup>9</sup> A few emergency patients or

BEN B. MOORE, M.D.  
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VICE-PRESIDENT

# Indianapolis Medical Society

*The Medical Society of Marion County*

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

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SECRETARY-TREASURER

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421 HUME MANSUR BLDG.

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CHARLES F. THOMPSON, M.D.  
FRANK B. RAMSEY, M.D.  
GEORGE J. GARCEAU, M.D.

November 12, 1940

E.D. Moten, M.D.  
536½ Indiana Ave.  
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Dr. Moten:

Your letter was read at a recent meeting of the Council of the Marion County Medical Society. After due consideration, they again decided against the admission of colored physicians to the Society.

Sincerely yours,

William M. Dugan, M.D.  
Secretary-Treasurer

Nov. 29, 1940

Wm. M. Dugan, M.D.  
421 Hume Mansur Building  
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Doctor:

We have your letter of Nov. 12th advising us of the Council's decision without some reason expressed. We are regular practicing physicians and feel we should know why such an unwanted decision is made.

Will you kindly furnish us the name of the Chairman and each member of the Council?

Yours truly,

E.D. Moten, M.D.  
Sec'y. Liaison Committee

EDM\*gh



## THE BURNING NEW HOSPITAL QUESTION

Many phone calls and correspondence have been proportionally heavy to the Indianapolis Negro physicians for the past several weeks since the Indianapolis Hospital Development Association Campaign for raising funds for the erection of a new hospital and needed improvement for two or three existing ones.

The question uppermost is: Now that the new day faces the officials and the responsible citizens of Indianapolis and Marion County, WILL DISCRIMINATORY AND OTHER PROHIBITIVE TACTICS be continued against the Negro physician and his patients to enjoy the privilege as others to these city and health institutions?

It is a sad omen to experience the present conditions confronting these qualified physicians and their patients when in need of hospitalization in this city and county.

The Negro physicians are waiting for the "GO SIGN" with the assurance of mutual consideration in these institutions as any other physician and their patients, and I will say with this granted, be assured it will be found they will be as liberal in contributing as any other group.

Some of us are already contributing and urging those with whom we come in contact to do so even for humanitarian sake, but we are DOGGEDLY OPPOSED to the present method as it is now practiced—exceptions, the General Hospital, and St.Vincent Hospital and probably the Methodist—all have marked limitation.

A reply from the proper source on this situation would be welcomed before Tuesday evening, Jan. 13th 1953, when this matter will be further discussed in the Aesculapian Medical Society (our local organization).

Signed:

E.D. Moten, Sr. M.D.  
Chairman of the Liaison Committee  
of the Aesculapian Medical Society

Dear Doctor:-

This letter comes as cordial greetings to the Negro Medical Profession of Indianapolis and Marion County.

The greetings are an exemplification to make an authentic test for future record as relates to the Negro Medical profession of this city and county.

As you no doubt have been apprised of the Indianapolis Hospital Development Association Campaign, and the great need for this venture, the members of the Negro Medical profession of this city have not been duly informed or brought up to date as to the anticipated procedure and just how the new venture will affect the Negro doctor and his patients. The great question is, will it be the same old thing with discriminatory and other prohibitive tactics as practiced at the existing hospitals in this city towards the Negro doctor and patients? We feel we should know about this status in the outset that we may not only give our moral support but material support IF MUTUAL CONSIDERATIONS are given in action as well as words, to help achieve this venture.

The chairman of the Liaison committee of the Aesculapian Medical Society has secured Mr. Jack Killen, the secretary of the Indianapolis Hospital Development Association Campaign, to meet with our Society Tuesday evening, Jan. 13th at the Morgan Health Center promptly at 8:30 o'clock to give any information on this burning question.

Incidentally, the Hoosier State Medical Association convention convening here in early June will be discussed and other important matters considered. If time permits a picture will be shown.\*\*\*\*\*

Please keep the date, place and time in mind and may I urge you to attend this meeting as to whether you are an affiliating member or not. Remember, however, you are a member of the Negro Medical Profession of Indianapolis and Marion County.

Very cordially,

E.P. Thomas M.D.  
Secretary of Aesculapian  
Medical Society.

prominent citizens were admitted to the basement of Methodist Hospital. At a meeting of the Aesculapian Medical Society on April 13, 1948, Dr. E. P. Thomas suggested that the Society build a small hospital.<sup>24</sup> It is noteworthy that neither the Lincoln Hospital nor Ward Sanitorium had survived. Black physicians continued to be frustrated in their attempts to offer quality medicine to their patients. At a meeting held at the Ferguson Hotel at noon on May 11, 1948 Dr. E. P. Thomas introduced the idea of building a hospital. A motion was made by Dr. Middleton and seconded by Dr. Moten to build a 40-bed hospital. The motion passed. Appropriate committees were appointed. The hospital was never built, however, perhaps because integration of all hospitals was to occur within five years.<sup>24</sup>

Several forces interacted to promote full integration of the hospitals. The Hill-Burton Act, passed by Congress in 1946, appropriated money for the expansion and building of hospitals provided that these facilities would have an open door policy.<sup>25</sup> Secondly, the AMA in 1950, voted to discontinue all opposition to membership by any physician in state and local societies.<sup>24</sup> Moreover, the AMA approved resolutions supporting full integration of Negroes in the Armed Services and their participation in graduate training and in their being hired in medical and scientific firms. Thirdly, the Mayor's Human Rights Commission strongly urged full integration of hospital facilities. Mrs. Louise Terry Batties, wife of Dr. Paul A. Batties and a member of this commission, raised the issue and actively pursued its acceptance.<sup>26</sup> Fourthly, Black physicians continued to seek hospital admission for their patients and themselves and to contribute financially to the building of hospitals although they were denied privileges. Note on the following two pages letters of Dr. Thomas to Black physicians and of Dr. Moten to the Indianapolis Medical Society.<sup>23</sup> In January, 1953 discriminatory barriers were lifted in all hospitals regarding Black physicians and patients.

## 1950 - 1975

**D**r. Walter Maddux arrived in 1946 at Morgan Health Center to initiate a multiphasic diagnostic clinic. Born in 1890 in Kansas City, Kansas, he brought with him a rich background. After graduating from the University of Kansas, he matriculated in medicine at the University of Chicago and interned in 1923 at General Hospital #2 in Kansas City where he practiced a few years. He then returned to Chicago and studied Pediatrics under Dr. Lyons at Provident. Subsequently, he worked for the Children's Bureau of Washington, D.C. for 16 years. During this time he traveled extensively in Mississippi and Alabama lecturing on mental and maternal health. His wife, the former Willa Mack of Paris, Kentucky, accompanied him as a nurse. They had met in Kansas City after her training at Provident Hospital in St. Louis. She was attracted to him as he examined a patient when she noticed that "His hands looked just like my father's". Unable to resist each other any longer, they were married in Chicago in 1926. After teaching Pediatrics at Meharry from 1943 to 1945, he was recruited by Dr. Cleo Blackburn to establish a diagnostic clinic here. He reported to the Aesculapian Medical Society on May 8, 1951 that 3,364 patients had been seen at Morgan Health Center in 1950. Seventy-six percent had positive findings and were referred to private practitioners. In his later years he practiced with Dr. Middleton at 1815 North Illinois Street until his demise on August 16, 1978.<sup>27</sup>

An Indianapolis native, Dr. Paul A. Batties returned to the city in 1940. Son of Dr. Mark Batties, he demonstrated his brilliance by being one of the youngest graduates of Shortridge High School, at age 14. After graduating from Butler University and the University of Chicago, he received a Rosenwald Fellowship and studied surgery at Provident Hospital. Although limited to General Hospital he was the first Black surgeon to perform his art in Indianapolis.<sup>26</sup>

The first board eligible and later certified Black specialist to establish a practice was Dr. Frank Lloyd. He was born in South Carolina and was educated at South Carolina State and Howard University Medical School. Having patience and limiting himself to his specialty of Obstetrics and Gynecology, he established the archetype by which all subsequent Black specialists were to be measured. Not only did he develop a large and respected practice, but also he participated in

THE INDIANAPOLIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
INDIANAPOLIS 4, INDIANA

March 27, 1952

Office of The President

Dr. H. N. Middleton  
1828 N. Illinois Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Dear Dr. Middleton:

I want to thank you so much for the check for \$250.00, which I received this morning, which is the partial payment of your pledge of \$1,000.00 for the Flanner House Homes project. We appreciate so much your interest in this worth while undertaking.

A copy of your letter and a copy of this letter, with the check, is being sent today to Mr. Cleo Blackburn for his attention, and deposit of the check.

Very sincerely yours,

William H. Book

WHB:MB  
Enc.



ELI LILLY AND COMPANY

INDIANAPOLIS 6, U.S.A.

June 4, 1952

Office of  
CHAS. J. LYNN  
Vice President

Dear Dr. Middleton:

We would like to have you as our guest at lunch at Flanner House, 333 West 16th Street, at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 11, when we will report our stewardship to you.

On May 26, 1947, you were invited to a luncheon at the Athletic Club and asked to contribute to an effort to provide better housing for low income families through private capital. Now, five years later, we would like to report what has been done with your contribution.

We would like to show you, a citizen of Indianapolis, what you have helped do for your city.

We will tour the project at 11:30, sit down to lunch at 12:30, and be out at 1:30, sure.

Plenty of convenient parking space will be found. Using the driveway behind Flanner House, turn East off Missouri Street.

Very truly yours,

Theodore B. Griffith

Charles J. Lynn

medical education, politics, business and community affairs. The acme of his career occurred when he was elected president of Methodist Hospital in 1981. Many successful Black specialists followed and most of them became board certified.

Moreover, Black physicians assumed leading roles in medicine. Drs. Clara Assue, Patricia Harper, John Smith and Raymond Pierce were appointed to the faculty of Indiana University Medical School. Dr. Frank Johnson became the Director, Division of Public Health of the Health and Hospital Corporation. Drs. E. P. Thomas, J. L. Simms, Randolph Jones and Bennie Davis were Chiefs of their respective services. Dr. George Rawls served as Chief of Staff and Board member of Winona Memorial Hospital. He was later elected to the Presidency of the Marion County Medical Society, Treasurer of the Indiana State Medical Association and President of the Medical Licensing Board. Before being elevated to the Presidency of Methodist Hospital Dr. Frank Lloyd was Chief of Medical Research. Dr. John Joyner became the Chairman to the Board of the National Medical Association. Dr. Robert Collins was coroner in the 1960's.

In addition, Black physicians have always actively participated in civic and community activities. Beginning with Dr. Samuel A. Elbert, who ran for the Indiana General Assembly in 1882, Black physicians have emblazoned their names among those of leaders of worthy activities. Note the achievements of Dr. Summer Furniss in the early twentieth century. Observe that they were instrumental in the establishment and management of the Senate Avenue and the Fallcreek YMCA. Consider the many boards on which they serve. Black physicians have won national honors in Scouting, served as coroner, headed the local United Way, served on the Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee, won the Jefferson Award, contributed substantially as a group to the United Negro College Fund (spearheaded by Dr. Ray Henderson), NAACP, ACTSO, and Black Expo, served on the boards of the NAACP, Urban League, Flanner House, Health and Hospital Corporation, Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation and many others. Witness the letters to Dr. Middleton from Eli Lilly and the Chamber of Commerce. They are testimonial of the often silent contribution of the Black physician.

The minutes of early meetings of the society are not available prior to 1948. Its golden anniversary was celebrated, however, in 1950; therefore, it must have been loosely established in 1900 by the few doctors practicing at that time. It was firmly established by Dr. Moten in 1929 and the official designation, Aesculapian Society, was used. Aesculapius was the god of medicine and healing in mythology. The early meetings were always opened with prayer which were followed by dinner and a scientific presentation. At the Society's meeting on March 9, 1948, Dr. Matthew Walker, Chief of Surgery at Meharry, spoke at the Flanner House on The Acute Surgical Abdomen-Differential diagnoses. Local dues were but \$5.00. Then plans were made for the annual dinner for spouses. In December 1950, the Society celebrated its golden anniversary. All widows were invited and escorted to the affair.

A litany of problems besetting the Black physician will be found when one peruses the minutes of meetings. Dr. Paul Batties, at the meeting of December 14, 1948, proposed a staggered answering service so that physicians would cover each other on nights and weekends. No definite decision was made on this. On January 11, 1949 Dr. Middleton, then President, appointed a committee to establish a fee schedule for office and house calls. On March 8, 1949, Mr. Palmer, Executive Secretary of Indianapolis Medical Society, spoke on National Health Insurance. "It was stressed that the men in the medical profession should do all that they could to enlighten the public as to the evils of such legislation". At the December 6, 1949 meeting, the executive committee determined that Dr. Gerald Lowry, who apparently had been accused of malpractice, had done nothing wrong to substantiate this accusation and was exonerated. He was admitted as a member of the Society. On April 11, 1950, a letter from a disgruntled patient was read and referred to the proper committee.

In 1951, two major problems surfaced. There was a special call meeting on July 3, 1951 regarding the critical health care problem caused by the call to the Armed Services of Drs. Briggs and Simms. Drs. Moten and Ward volunteered to go to the manpower commission. Nevertheless, the doctors were inducted into the Armed Services and adjustments were made in their patient coverage by the Black physicians in the community. The second problem was related to organization of the National Medical Association. Black physicians, dentists and pharmacists had organized locally and at the state level as the Indiana State Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association. A division, however, was

directed by the N.M.A. The Hoosier State Medical Association was formed. The combined association, of course, had a treasurer and gave scholarships; and the schism provoked ill will. Although a committee of the N.M.A. arrived in 1954 to try to solve the dispute, discord persisted for many years. On the other hand, the auxiliary - M.E.D.E. - P.H.A.R. Guild, endured. The wives sponsored dances and fashion shows to raise money to give scholarships to nurses and medical students, to furnish rooms at City Hospital (Wishard), to purchase water fountains for the emergency room and to provide other equipment for the hospital.

Minutes of meetings for 1952 and 1953 are not available but would have been informative because integration in local hospitals occurred in January, 1953. Dr. Moten was working very diligently during this time in the area of civil defense and health needs of the nation. Observe the letters he sent to President Harry S. Truman and to Dr. E. Vernon Hahn in 1952.

The late fifties provided little intensive action for the Society. There was a problem of beds at Marion County General Hospital. At the meeting on September 21, 1955, Dr. Frank Lloyd stated, "Now is the time to approach General Hospital Superintendent, Dr. Lowe, about hospital policy to Colored patients and physicians with special emphasis on hospital beds for Colored patients." Dr. Lowe spoke at the November meeting on the future policies of the hospital in regard to privileges for Black doctors and beds for Black patients. He assured the Society that in the future there would be an open policy for both Black patients and physicians. Dr. Simms, president of Aesculapian in 1955, suggested that early society records be obtained and compiled. Dr. Paul A. Batties consented to serve as historian. In 1956, members voted to contribute \$10.00 per member to the NAACP. Drs. Simms and Thomas were authorized to prepare a constitution and by-laws in January, 1958.

Interest waned and attendance was poor from 1959 to 1961. No minutes are available. In 1961 extensive discussions were held in an attempt to set up a savings and loan association. It was determined that each member would have to invest \$25,000. The project was not pursued. Chi Delta Mu, a social fraternity of pharmacists, dentists, and physicians, was established in 1961 to rekindle the association of members of these professions. During the approximately twelve years of this group's existence a dinner dance was given annually. Moreover, dinner meetings were held monthly at the Household of Ruth on North Capitol Avenue. In February, 1963, Aesculapian members held a gala party for their spouses at the Pink Poodle. This was followed in March by an elaborate dinner at the King Cole Restaurant.

Although there was another gap in recorded minutes from 1963-1972, Aesculapian did give money for scholarships to I.U. from 1969 to 1973. It was funneled through the Louis Russell Scholarship Fund. The following decade was very eventful.

Several significant events occurred in 1973 and 1974. First, the mid-winter meeting of Hoosier State Region was held at Scenic View Country Club on Grandview Drive in January, 1973. The frozen lake, cupped in three feet of snow, served as a backdrop for social events held inside.

Second, students were invited to attend and to participate actively in the meetings. For the preceding 12 years the Rawls family had given an annual social affair for students and their spouses to meet practicing physicians. The monthly meeting provided more frequent interaction of student and physician. Thus, the student was able to be aware of community problems that could impinge on his future practice of medicine. On the other hand, the student provided a bridge to the future for the practicing physician. Dr. John Joyner, a member of the I.U. admission committee, indicated that 17 minority students had been accepted for the 1973 class.

Third, Indianapolis Metropolitan Health Council was developing a pre-paid health care system called Metro Health Plan. Dr. Rawls, a member of the council, suggested that the Society actively participate in this venture inasmuch as it would be competing for patients. Drs. Rawls, Bruce, Washington and Martin served in succession as representatives of the Aesculapian Medical Society to the Metropolitan Health Council.

Two important events occurred in 1974. Medical Dental Services was formed in 1973 under the leadership of Dr. Melvin Baird. Its purpose was to study and implement, if feasible, the development of a health maintenance organization. Under its lobbying, the Metropolitan Health Council approved that \$225,000 be given to a Seventeenth and Broadway

Jan. 31, 1952

Dr. E. Vernon Hahn  
Hume Mansur Building  
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Doctor Hahn:

I appreciated the opportunity to have been present in your Committee of Civil Defense last Tuesday evening in the White Cross Guild Building at Methodist Hospital. It was my first meeting attended and I assure you it was most interesting.

Your general survey of the committee's activities and its possibilities to function unhampered was gratifying to me. The various reports showed there were activities in other states, none however appeared to excel the fine job you are conducting as chairman.

I am wondering just what part the Fellows from the Aesculapian Medical Society could take to help advance this work? We are willing and anxious to serve when and where designated. Your information on this matter will be appreciated at the earliest time possible, especially before Feb. 12th the date of our monthly meeting, that I may inform the men just what is expected.

Yours respectfully,

E.D. Moten, M.D.



Jan. 3, 1952

His Excellency  
Hon. Harry S. Truman  
President of the United States of America  
White House  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. President:-

The officers and members of the Hoosier State Medical Association deeply regret and are sadly disappointed in your oversight in over looking to name a representative member of the National Medical Association to the Presidential Commission on the Health needs of the Nation.

Signed:

E.D. Moten, Sr., M.D.  
Chairman of the Liaison Committee  
of the Hoosier State Med. Association.

Project, if approved by the Department of Health Education and Welfare. Its objective was to develop the potential for a prepaid health plan with a data information system to hire a fiscal manager and an administrator and to purchase equipment for the project. H.E.W. approved the funding and construction was completed in 1974.

Group Practice Incorporated (GPI) was legalized in 1974. It was comprised of physicians of the Aesculapian Medical Society. Its function was to manage the 17th and Broadway Project (Citizens Ambulatory Health Center). Although an HMO was never developed, the clinic performs a useful service to the community by treating indigent patients with a multitude of health problems.

The second important event of 1974 was the winning by I.U. of a reverse discrimination suit. A Black medical student with a 2.9 average was accepted while a White student with a 3.2 average was denied admission to medical school. The Aesculapian Medical Society sent a letter to Dean Beering showing its appreciation for his concern to increase minority student enrollment.

In 1974 physicians entertained their spouses and sweethearts at Beef and Boards where Dizzy Gillespie was featured.

In 1975 two important appointments were made. Dr. James Williams was elected to serve as representative for the Aesculapian Medical Society on the Health System Agency board at its inception. Also, Dr. Frank Johnson was appointed Public Health Director of Marion County.

Dr. Reginald Bruce suggested in 1975 that the Society purchase a C.A.T. Scanner for \$340,000 to provide a service to the community. This was before any private hospital in the city had bought one. This led to a project with Winona Memorial Hospital by a few doctors including members of the Society led by Dr. John Joyner.

During the ensuing years a recurring set of problems and projects were discussed. Whether to attempt to establish an HMO at Citizens Health Center was debated frequently. Dr. Robert Briggs warned that a study done in 1975 had indicated the unfeasibility of establishing an HMO run by private practitioners at that facility. In October, 1982, Mr. Tarwin, executive director of Choice Care, an individual practice association in Cincinnati, discussed before the group the advantages and pitfalls of developing an HMO. On November 2, 1982, Mr. Craig Smith of Maxicare discussed its gatekeeper form of HMO. Despite the debates, no action to form an HMO has been taken.

A very successful Region IV NMA meeting was held at the Hyatt Regency in 1980 and sponsored by the Aesculapian Medical Society. A scholarship fund of \$1,300 was established.

The Society assisted in solving a problem for one of its members in 1980. Dr. Sylvia Kenner, a well trained and competent anesthesiologist, was having difficulty obtaining privileges at Methodist Hospital. A committee, led by Dr. Arthur Sumrall and Dr. Bennett Desadler, interceded, wrote appropriate letters and appeared before the Section of Anesthesiology at the hospital to plead her cause. Having an open staff and without a closed anesthesiology group, the hospital had little basis for denying her privileges unless incompetence could be proven. Of course, there was no basis of incompetence and she became the first Black anesthesiologist to practice in a private hospital in the city. The door was opened and others entered.

Many interesting speakers have appeared at the monthly meetings of the Aesculapian Medical Society. Steven Goldsmith, Marion County Prosecutor, spoke on December 2, 1980 and gave his views on law enforcement and use of deadly force. Members indicated to him that they felt that police were often abusive of their power and oppressive in the exercise of their duties. Other speakers have included Father Harding on Sickle Cell Anemia; Attorney Fred Scott on tax audits; Dr. Stevens, Black oncologist at I.U., on cancer in Blacks; Dr. Irwin Johnson of Eli Lilly on Genetics and Cloning; Dan Endt of Bell, Endt and Associates on tax shelters; Glen Howard, City-County Councilman, on politics; Henry Bundles on Center for Leadership Development; and Attorney Yvonne Watkins.

## STATISTICS

The number of Black physicians in America has gradually grown from 15 in 1850 and 1,734 in 1900 to approximately 9,300 in 1982.<sup>28,29</sup> The White physician/White population ratio for the entire nation is approximately 1/540. However, the Black physician/Black patient ratio is 1/4,100. Black physicians comprise 2.2 percent of the Nation's physicians, whereas Blacks make up 12 percent of the population. It cannot be assumed, however, that Black physicians treat all or even most Black patients. A recent study analyzing the practice patterns of graduates of Howard University confirms the fact that Black physicians are providing care mostly to Blacks (70%) and to the poor (50%).<sup>29</sup>

In 1984, Indianapolis, had approximately 50 Black physicians in a total pool of approximately 1,400 physicians. There is a definite deficit in minority physicians in the city, especially at the primary care level. Attempts to relieve this situation will require more Black admissions to regional medical schools and recruitment of physicians to this area.

## THE FUTURE

The past is indeed prologue. Just as he has overcome the problems of inadequate education and discrimination in seeking hospital privileges for himself and his patients, the Black physician in Indianapolis will meet the challenges of the future. Moreover, the problems facing the physician in the future are enormous. However, the Black physician may view them with a different slant. The glut of doctors predicted in the nineties will shrink his restrictive patient pool. More likely than not, he will be compelled to accept payment by third party insurance companies. The IPAs, HMOs, urgent care centers, satellite hospitals, and convenience clinics will be devastatingly competitive. He must continue to strive for excellence and become board certified, for this certification will be a prerequisite for obtaining hospital privileges.

There are many young, enterprising, well trained, aggressive, enthusiastic, caring Black physicians who have recently entered our portals and who represent a panorama of specialties. It is perceived that they, like their predecessors, will doubtless meet all obstacles and leave a legacy of accomplishment to their profession and to their progeny.

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Mrs. Martha Martin; Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Brent; Dr. and Mrs. J. Leon Simms.
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# AESCULAPIAN MEDICAL SOCIETY

Year	President	Secretary
1948	Dr. Homer Wales	Dr. E. P. Thomas
1949	Dr. H. N. Middleton	Dr. F. Evans
1950	Dr. F. Evans	Dr. E. Moten
1951	Dr. F. Evans	Dr. J. L. Simms
1952	Dr. F. H. Hummons	Dr. E. P. Thomas
1953	Dr. E. H. Hudson	Dr. E. P. Thomas
1954	Dr. Robert Briggs	Dr. J. L. Simms
1955	Dr. J. L. Simms	Dr. C. Dickson
1956	Dr. J. L. Simms	Dr. Roscoe Henderson
1957	Dr. F. Lloyd	Dr. E. P. Thomas
1958	Dr. A. Howell (resigned)	Dr. A. L. Coles
1959	Dr. M. Baird	Dr. J. L. Simms
1960	Dr. G. Rawls	Dr. J. T. Young
1961	Dr. G. Rawls	Dr. J. T. Young
1962	Dr. G. Rawls	Dr. J. T. Young
1963	Dr. G. Rawls	Dr. J. T. Young
1972	Dr. R. Pierce	Dr. J. T. Young
1973	Dr. R. Pierce	Dr. J. T. Young
1974	Dr. R. Pierce (resigned)	Dr. J. T. Young
1975	Dr. W. Washington	Dr. J. T. Young
1976	Dr. B. L. Davis	Dr. E. P. Thomas
1977	Dr. R. Jones	Dr. P. T. Batties
1978	Dr. R. Collins	Dr. P. T. Batties
1979	Dr. A. Sumrall	Dr. B. Perkins
1980	Dr. Ray Henderson	Dr. J. Marcus
1981	Dr. Ray Henderson	Dr. J. Griffin
1982	Dr. P. T. Batties	Dr. J. Griffin

# PHYSICIANS WHO PRACTICED IN INDIANAPOLIS (1870-1980)

Adams, Jerry	Harris, Clarence N.	Moten, Edwin
Alexander, Ezra	Hatch, Robert	McArthur, Rutherford B.
Anderson, James	Hendricks, Albert	Norrell, James
Allison, William B.	Henderson, Ray L.	Norrell, John
Armstead, Henry	Henderson, Roscoe	Page, Oliver
Armstead, John	Henderson, John	Perkins, Beverly
Assue, Clara	Hicks, Wilbur	Pierce, Raymond
Atkins, Calvin	Howell, Arthur	Puryear, J.D.
Baird, Melvin, Sr.	Hudson, E.H.	Rawls, George
Ballanger, Oscar	Hummons, Francis	Robinson, Earle
Batties, Mark, Sr.	Hummons, Henry L.	Robinson, Luther D.
Batties, Paul A.	Jamieson, Billie J.	Ross, Edward
Batties, Paul T.	Jenkins, John	Salsbury, Henry
Briggs, Robert	Johnson, E.	Shobe, Walter
Brown, Frank	Johnson, Frank	Simms, J. Leon
Brown, William E.	Johnson, Joseph T.	Smith, John
Bruce, Reginald	Johnson, Thomas	Smith, William B.
Burns, Charles	Jones, Randolph	Stevens, Eugene
Cater-Miller, Debra	Joyner, John	Sumrall, Arthur
Chavis, William	Kakaza, Kenneth	Thomas, E. Paul
Clark, Edward	Kenner, Sylvia	Thompson, Marcia
Coates, Jacqueline	King, Abraham Joseph	Thompson, Mary W.
Coles, A.L.	King, Joseph P.	Toles, Clarence
Collins, Robert	Lewis, Lawrence Aldrich, Sr.	Turner, Isaac Newton
Cravens, Frederick	Linthecome, Scobie	Wales, Homer
Davis, Bennie L.	Lloyd, Frank P., Sr.	Ward, Joseph
Desadier, Bennett B.	Lowry, Gerald	Washington, Wilbert
Dickson, Carolyn (Lucas)	Lucas, Clarence, Sr.	Waters, Tom
Elbert, Samuel	Lucas, Clarence, Jr.	Williams, James
Evans, Fredrick H.	Lynch, Curtis	Williams, James R.
Furniss, Henry W.	Mack, William	Wilson, Arthur H.
Furniss, Sumner A.	Maddox, Walter	Wright, Melvin C.
Goodloe, Samuel	Marcus, Herschel	Yancy, Eric
Gordon, O.T., Jr.	Martin, Freeman	Young, John T.
Griffin, James, Jr.	Middleton, Harvey	Young, Lemon Randall, Sr.
Graves, Mark	Monroe, Alicia	Young, Lemon Randall, Jr.
Harper, Patricia	Moore, Andrew	Young, Walter



## 1980 TO 2000

The eighties brought a plethora of activity for the Aesculapian Medical Society and individual members. Managed Care became firmly entrenched. Medicare's diagnostic related groups (DRGs) and resource based relative value system (RBRVS) decreased reimbursement for many physicians and specialties. Many fee for service fees were also decreased. Patient care was affected because providers, especially hospitals, had to decrease some of their employees to remain financially secure. This impacted negatively on patient care.

Moreover, managed care companies excluded many physicians. This phenomenon was devastating to African-American physicians because they cared for many Blacks and other minorities and the poor. This phenomenon was also not good for these patients. Many reports of apparent discrimination in care have appeared in the National Medical Association (NMA) and American Medical Association (AMA) journals and the New England Journal of Medicine. For example, often Black patients with the same symptoms as Whites did not receive the appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic procedures when treated by some White physicians. It has been suggested that the difference in care given may be due to different cultures of the physician and patient with a lack of understanding, trust or compliance.

The Aesculapian Society sought relief for its physicians and their patients in the legislature. The Society assisted in passage of a bill requiring some HMOs to include physicians if they accepted the same contractual arrangements as the included physicians. The Black Caucus of Indiana was very helpful in obtaining this provision. Many Black physicians in Indiana contributed to a political action committee (PAC) to support the Caucus.

Individual achievements were prominent. Dr. Frank Johnson was the Director of the Marion County Department of Health (MCDH) and president of the Indianapolis Medical Society (JMS) and Board of the Indiana State Medical Association (ISMA). Dr. Virginia Cain followed as Director of MCDH and was named Physician of the Year by the NMA in 1999. Dr. Woodrow Myers became Indiana State Commissioner of Health. Dr. Frank Lloyd Sr. served as CEO of Methodist Hospital and President of Mid-west National Bank. Dr. Earl Robinson helped to develop laparoscopy (including gallbladder surgery) at Methodist. Dr. George Rawls served as President and was a member of the Medical Licensure Board for 9 years. He was also President of ISMA, IMS, delegate to the AMA and Assistant Dean at Indiana University School of Medicine.

Drs. Claire Assue, Diane Simon and William Lawson served as Chief of Psychiatry at LaRue Carter Hospital. Dr. Raymond Pierce is Professor of Orthopedics at Indiana University School of Medicine and Chief of Orthopedics at Wishard Hospital. Drs. Michael French, O.T. Gordon, Andrew Moore and John Joyner have been on the Board of Winona Hospital. Dr. John Joyner has served admirably as President of the NMA and directed procedures to make it financially sound. Dr. Michael French is also a minister of a local church. Drs. John Joyner, Phelgar Washington and others were instrumental in developing a managed care organization at Winona Hospital. Black physicians are joining major White medical groups. Among them have been Dr. Gordon, gastroenterologist; Dr. Bettye-Jo Rawls Lloyd, ophthalmologist; Dr. Samuel Hollingsworth, internal medicine; Dr. Andrew Moore, urologist; Dr. Karen Rodman, neurologist; Drs. Samuel Goodloe, Lili Leavell-Hayes, Gregory Henderson, Johnny Hobbs, Keith Woodard, Sylvia Kenner, Charlene Walton, Christian Beaton, Leah Bryant anesthesia; Dr. Stanley Givens, radiation oncologist; Dr. Marc Eric Young, emergency medicine; Dr. Michael Slaughter, medical oncology; Dr. William Palmer, Rehabilitation.

The Aesculapian Society has given scholarships to minority students since 1969 at Indiana University School of Medicine. Its members have served as mentors to these students and invited them to their meetings.

The Society celebrates its centennial anniversary at the Walker Building on May 5-7, 2000. It conducted a forum on legislative medical issues, seminars on medical diseases common among Blacks and health screenings for the public.

Having served our patients well by fighting against segregation and discrimination in medicine, seeking equality to access of excellent medical care, fighting for Medicare and Medicaid to assist them in payment of care, we look forward to continuing to provide them with the best care available in the new millennium. With God's blessing, we will do this.

As stated in the original History: "There are many young, enterprising, well trained, aggressive, enthusiastic, caring Black physicians who have recently entered our portals and who represent a panorama of specialties. It is perceived that they, like their predecessors, will doubtless meet all obstacles and leave a legacy of accomplishment to their profession and to their progeny.

## ADDITIONAL PHYSICIANS WHO PRACTICED IN INDIANAPOLIS (1980 -2000)

Austin-Taylor, Doris  
Bangura, Luella  
Barrett, Warrick  
Beaton, Christian  
Berry, Ernest  
Brown, Haywood  
Brown, Terri  
Brown-Jones, Lynnette C  
Bryant, Cathy A  
Bryant, Leah D  
Bush, Mary  
Caine, Virginia  
Campbell Johnson, Sonya  
Carter, Robert  
Chavis, Dion  
Corbitt, Toya  
Darrisaw, Brian  
DiSanto, Vinson  
Edwards, Fred  
Egwu, Victor  
Eldridge, Toni  
Ford, LaMar  
French, Gregory  
French, Michael  
Gates, L.T.  
Gill, Joyce  
Givens, Stanley  
Graves, B. Anthony  
Gray, Frances  
Green-Mack, Lynette  
Hackett, Joel  
Haley, Jennifer  
Henderson, Gregory  
Hollingsworth, Samuel  
Hunt, Dona  
Johnson, Frank Jr.  
Johnson, Sonya  
Joyner-Wentland, Monica  
King, Joseph  
Lawson, William  
Leavell-Hayes, Lili

Lee, Carol  
Lewis-Hall, Freida  
Lloyd, Frank Jr.  
Mann-Dobson, Antoinette  
Maras, Hershel  
Martin, Dianne  
Mays, Kerry  
McCaskill-Stevens, Wort  
Myers, Debra  
Myers, Woodrow  
Obeime, Mercy  
Palmer, William  
Payne, Richard  
Pugh, Amelia  
Pyles, Joseph  
Rawls-Lloyd, Betty-Jo  
Reed, Stanley  
Rodman, Karen  
Shelton, Richard  
Shields, Deborah  
Simon, Diana  
Slaughter, Michael  
Smartt, Jerry  
Southern, Cheryl  
Spears, Lucia  
Thomas, Jeff  
Treadwell, Patricia  
Turnquest, Mureena  
Walton, Charlene  
Washington, Phelgar  
Webber-Hunt, Patsy  
Whitaker, Jeffery  
Wilkes, David  
Williams, Mary  
Woodard, Keith  
Wright, Louis  
Wright, Allison  
Yekinni, Abideen  
Young, Marc Eric  
Young, Walter



# Lincoln Hospital

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Amanda Rogers  
Superintendent

Lillian Morris  
Clerk

1101 North Senate Avenue  
New Phone 3595

Press of  
Sentinel Printing Company, Indianapolis  
1911



#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- |                      |                      |                       |                     |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Dr. S. A. Parnes. | 2. Dr. C. E. Atkins. | 3. Dr. H. L. Hammons. | 4. Dr. W. E. Brown. |
| 5. W. J. I. Reed.    | 6. Allen Sims.       | 7. A. M. Wilcox.      | 8. J. O. Furryear.  |
| 9. Charles Burris.   | 10. Arthur Tolson.   | 11. Clarence Lucas.   |                     |

# Lincoln Hospital Association

## *Officers*

Dr. S. A. Furniss  
Dr. W. E. Brown  
Dr. C. R. Atkins  
Dr. H. L. Hummons

President  
Vice-President  
Secretary  
Treasurer

## *Board of Managers*

Dr. S. A. Furniss  
Dr. C. R. Atkins  
Dr. H. L. Hummons  
Dr. Chas. Burriss  
A. C. Sims  
Dr. W. E. Brown

Dr. C. A. Lucas  
Dr. J. Otway Puryear  
Jas. H. Lott  
W. J. I. Reed  
Dr. Clarence Toles

## *Hospital Staff*

Dr. S. A. Furniss  
Dr. C. R. Atkins  
Dr. C. A. Lucas

Surgery

Dr. W. E. Brown  
Dr. H. L. Hummons  
Dr. A. H. Wilson

Gynecology and Obstetrics

Genito-urinary and Venereal Diseases

Dr. Chas. Burris  
Dr. Clarence Toles  
Dr. J. O. Puryear

General Medicine

Dr. Rufus Kurkendall  
Dr. Howard Huffman

Dental Surgery

## *Consulting Staff*

A consulting staff consisting of a number of the leading physicians and surgeons of the city and state actively co-operate in the work of the Institution and care of the patients.



HOSPITAL BUILDING



# First Annual Report Lincoln Hospital Association

## *Organization—Equipment—Work of Initial Year*

Indianapolis, like many other Northern cities, has felt the effects of the larger increase in racial discrimination. None of the larger public hospitals admit Colored patients as freely as White, and at the city institution conditions are such that many who have needed hospital attention will not take advantage of it, but prefer to remain at their homes. None of these institutions have in the past permitted Colored physicians to attend their own patients; the patient must necessarily be relinquished to a White physician. Owing to obvious conditions it is needless to say that none of the training schools for nurses have admitted Colored women as pupils. This has been a lamentable condition. With a Colored population of over forty thousand (40,000), nineteen (19) Colored physicians, and five (5) dentists, it was felt there was need for a Colored institution open freely to all classes of curable non-contagious cases, where any reputable physician could bring his cases and treat them, if desired, and where Colored nurses could be trained. To meet this condition of number of Colored physicians and citizens met and organized the Lincoln Hospital Association, which association was incorporated as a charitable association under the laws of the State of Indiana, June 30, 1909. A location was secured at the northeast corner of Senate Avenue and Eleventh Street, and the hospital was opened to the public December 15, 1909. The hospital building consists of a modern two-story frame structure of twelve rooms, situated on a large, high lot at the intersection of two broad, well-paved streets, conveniently located on a car line and about five minutes' ride from the center of the city. The building is heated by furnace and lighted by gas and electricity. Large grates in each of the large wards aid in the ventilation, and windows so situated as to give a maximum of light make the rooms ideal for the purpose of which they are used. The hospital can accommodate seventeen patients. There are two medical wards, one obstetrical room, and one private room for post-operative treatment or for use in any case where privacy is needed.

The wards are equipped with the latest pattern hospital beds, screens, back rests, tray tables, etc., in fact, every necessity of a modern, thoroughly equipped hospital. The dining room and kitchen are equipped with every necessity of the culinary art. A bathroom is conveniently located for those patients who are able to take a tub bath. The special pride of the institution is the Surgery. This room was especially built for the purpose. It is supplied with three sets of triple windows on three sides, also a large skylight. In addition it is lighted with a powerful arc light. The Surgery is thoroughly equipped with every appliance necessary for surgical work. This room and its equipment were the gift of Carl G. Fisher. In the anaesthetizing room adjacent are located the instrument, water and dressing sterilizers of the most modern design. Convenient to this is the drug room.

The management of the institution takes great pride in the work that has been accomplished during this initial year. They feel deeply grateful to the generous public, to the members of the consulting staff, and to the Ladies Auxiliary who have assisted with the work and made the success of the institution possible.

During the year there have been eighty-eight cases treated at the hospital. These cases are classified as follows:

Tabes dorsalis	1	Carcinoma of breast	3	Cardiac dilatation	1
Ulcer of leg	3	Lobar pneumonia	3	Tonsillitis	2
Paresis	1	Inflammatory rheumatism	5	Appendicitis	3
Bronchitis	4	Carcinoma of bowels	2	Nephritis	6
Cysts	2	Hepatic colic	2	Incised wounds	4
Fibroid tumors	6	Uterine carcinoma	2	Convulsions	1
Hemorrhoids	1	General peritonitis	4	Child birth	3
Strangulated hernia	1	Rectal Fistula	1	Pelvic Peritonitis	2

Malarial fever	1	Marasmus	1	Typhoid fever	3
Salpingitis	5	Neuritis	1	Tubercular peritonitis	1
Chronic gastritis	1	Renal colic	1		
Bilious fever	4	Mitral regurgitation		<b>TOTAL MEDICAL CASES</b>	<b>59</b>
Gunshot wound	1	Tubercular joint	1	<b>TOTAL SURGICAL CASES</b>	<b>29</b>
Cerebral hemorrhage	1	Abdominal fistula	1		
Empyema	1	Overitis	1	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>88</b>

There have been two deaths in the institution following surgical operations, and, considering the class of cases treated, this record is extremely creditable. There were no cases of infection or other complication directly traceable to the operation in any case. There were six deaths on medical wards, making a total mortality of eight.

### *Terms for Admission*

Only curable, non-contagious cases are taken, limited facilities for charity cases. The regular rates are as follows:

Surgery fee	\$1.00 to 5.00
Surgical cases	\$8.00 to 15.00 per week
Medical cases	\$5.00 to 10.00 per week
Obstetrical cases	\$5.00 to 10.00 per week

Special rates are given lodges and other organizations. Beds can be endowed for one year for \$100.00. Beds can be endowed in perpetuity for \$1,000.00.

### *Partial Endowment*

An organization making a donation of a stipulated sum to the hospital can secure treatment for its members at greatly reduced rates. It is the endeavor of the management to charge only a sufficient sum to pay the actual cost of keeping the patient.

### *Physicians*

Patients can have the services of any reputable physician. Hospital rates do not include physicians' fees. Patients having no choice of physicians and who are unable to pay a fee for same, will be furnished attention by members of the staff gratuitously if desired.

### *Lincoln Hospital Training School for Nurses*

The Lincoln Hospital Training School, Indianapolis, Indiana, offers a two years' course of training to women who desire to enter the profession of nursing. The course of instruction is given by means of lectures, class demonstrations and practical work, and is divided into the Junior and Senior years, as follows:

**JUNIOR YEAR.** - Class work. Anatomy and Physiology, Materia Medica, and Practical Nursing, embracing the whole care of ordinary medical, surgical and gynaecological patients, with text books, model and demonstrations.  
**LECTURES.** - On Hygiene, Anatomy and Physiology; on Materia Medica and Bacteriology; on Surgical, Medical and Gynaecological Nursing.

**COOKING LESSONS.** - practical and Theoretical work.

**SENIOR YEAR.** - Class work. Obstetrical Nursing, Care of the Newborn, Special Nursing, Care of Operative Patients, Private Duty, Surgical Technique and Operating Room work.

**LECTURES.** - Public Hygiene, Training School Administration.

During the Senior Year nurses will serve as special nurses.

The practical work in the wards follows the same lines and is continuous throughout the two years' time.

Classes and lectures begin the first week in October and last until the end of May, with the usual intermission at Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and Lincoln's birthday.

Applications must be made to the Superintendent of the Hospital.

The applicant is required to fill out the answers to the number of questions and to send it with a letter from a physician and one from a clergyman, testifying to her physical and moral qualities. If suitable she is then received two months on probation.

The most acceptable age is from twenty-one to thirty-five years. Applicants may be received at any time during the year when there is a vacancy, but it is greatly preferred that they enter not earlier than March 1st, and not later than November 1st, as thus the entire course of study may be taken without interruption.

The Board of Directors has full power to decide as to the fitness of the applicant for the work, and to retain or dismiss her at the end of the two months' probation. In doubtful cases the time of probation may be extended to three months.

Upon being accepted as a pupil nurse, the candidate is required to sign an agreement, promising to remain for two years, and to conform strictly to the discipline of the school and hospital, with the distinct understanding that the Board of Directors reserves the right to dismiss her at any time for misconduct or inefficiency. If for any reason of her own, illness excepted, the pupil breaks this agreement and leaves the school, she is required to refund the money expended for her maintenance.

The hours of work are from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The pupils are allowed five hours on Sunday and are often given a half day in the week.

Two weeks vacation is allowed each year.

Time lost through illness, or absence other than allotted vacation, must be made up. In illness, pupils will be cared for gratuitously.

Nurses must come provided with a watch, plain underwear, gingham petticoats, sensible shoes with rubber heels, at least three dresses, plainly made of gingham or dark washable material; twelve white muslin aprons, made with two-inch band with two buttons, six-inch hem and long enough to reach within one and one-half inches of the bottom of dress when finished.

The following nurses have been admitted during the year:

Myrtle Larkins, Indianapolis  
Elizabeth Davis, Indianapolis  
Hannah Irwin, Indianapolis  
Julia Ewell, Indianapolis  
Sarah Dix, Indianapolis  
Lydia Mayes, Louisville, Ky.  
Lama Joiner, Indianapolis  
Eliza Saunders, Indianapolis  
Amanda Boone, Indianapolis  
Miss Goodrich, Indianapolis  
Alice Barbour, Anderson

The training school can accommodate six pupil nurses. There is already a waiting list, and as vacancies exist others will be admitted for training.



ONE OF SURGICAL WARDS



LINCOLN HOSPITAL NURSES HOME



The training school is prepared to furnish nurses in training for outside cases. Parties desiring same can secure them by calling the Superintendent at hospital.

Matilda Russell, a graduate of Tuskegee Training School, was Superintendent for seven months following the opening. Since August 1, 1910, Miss Amanda Rogers, Freedman's Hospital, Washington, D.C., has been Superintendent.

### *Ladies Auxiliary*

The Ladies Auxiliary of Lincoln Hospital was organized in September, 1910, with the following officers:

Mrs. Mary Mayes	President
Mrs. Sarah Hill	Vice-President
Miss Georgia Nance	Secretary
Mrs. Clinton Nunn	Treasurer

They have already been of material assistance in conducting the work of the hospital. They have secured numerous donations to the institution. Through the efforts of the Ladies Auxiliary a comfortable nurses' home has been established at No. 221 W. Eleventh street, immediately opposite the hospital.

### *Free Dispensary*

The first of January, 1911, a free dispensary was established for the free treatment of cases applying at the hospital for treatment. Competent physicians and surgeons of the staff will be in attendance at the hours designated, and all worthy indigent cases will be treated gratuitously, only a nominal fee being charged for medicine furnished.

Dispensary hours - 10 to 11 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

### *Dispensary Staff*

Dr. S. A. Furniss	
Dr. Clarence Lucas	Surgery
Dr. C. R. Atkins	
Dr. W. E. Brown	Gynecology
Dr. H. L. Hummons	& Obstetrics
Dr. A. H. Wilson	Genito-urinary & Venereal Diseases
Dr. Rufus Kurkendall	
Dr. Howard Huffman	Dental Surgery
Dr. Chas. Burns	
Dr. Clarence Toles	General Medicine
Dr. J. Otway Puryear	
Dr. A. H. Wilson	Superintendent
Dr. J. O. Puryear	Secretary & Treasurer

## *Hospital Needs*

It is the desire of the management of Lincoln Hospital to make the treatment in the hospital as nearly charitable as possible. To this end an earnest appeal is made to the public to forward donations of any kind to the institution.

The institution needs -

First.	Money in any amounts to meet the current expenses of the institution.
Second.	Money for the endowment of beds.
Third.	Provisions of any kind, towels, etc.

We suggest the following for of bequest be used:

"I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby bequest to Lincoln Hospital Association for the support and maintenance of Lincoln Hospital and Training School \_\_\_\_\_ dollars.

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### *Financial Statement*

Subscriptions	\$2,091.00	
Cash receipts	1,366.67	
Loan	<u>78.50</u>	
Total receipts from all sources		\$3,536.17
Paid on property & interest	\$1,154.54	
Paid on insurance & taxes	86.79	
Paid on improvements	337.00	
Paid on equipment	499.98	
Paid on salaries	400.65	
Paid on drugs, supplies, laundry, etc.	463.47	
Paid on fuel	90.89	
Paid on groceries, etc.	273.11	
Paid on gas & water	103.09	
Paid on miscellaneous	<u>105.39</u>	
Total expenditures		<u>3,514.91</u>
Balance in treasury		
January 1, 1911		\$21.26



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