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This issue dedicated to

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Professor of History
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and
Former President
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TALLAHASSEE’S HOSPITALS, 1894-1971

SUSAN HAMBURGER

Between 1861, when emergency hospitals occupied churches and hotels, and 1894, when a local women’s group founded the city’s first hospital, Tallahassee lacked an organized medical facility. The In-As-Much Circle of the King’s Daughters, an international religious and charitable women’s club, coalesced from individual efforts to visit the sick at home. These middle- and upper-middle class matrons, recognizing the need for a hospital, raised money, purchased land, built and ran the Silver Cross Hospital from 1884-1923. Their pioneering effort brought medical care to the poor at a time when neither Tallahassee nor Leon County accepted responsibility for the indigent.1

Tallahasseeans first realized the great need for a hospital during the Civil War. Emergency impressment of local buildings saw the First Baptist Church on College Avenue, the First Presbyterian Church at Adams Street and Park Avenue, and the City Hotel opposite the Capitol on South Adams Street in use as hospitals.2 With the ending of the Civil War and the dispersal of the war casualties, Tallahassee’s urgent need for a hospital abated. Physicians returned to treating patients in their homes.

The first organized group to undertake responsibility for the health care of the sick and indigent, the In-As-Much Circle of the King’s Daughters, met at the home of Mrs. E.G. Chesley in 1894. Their Articles of Incorporation stated that "none but white persons shall be admitted to membership." The group’s object was to develop spiritual life and to stimulate Christian activities. The goal of this particular Circle shall be the establishment, maintenance, and organization of a hospital at said City of Tallahassee for the care of indigent white persons afflicted with physical diseases or wounds who are permanent residents of said County; such care to be at the expense of the corporation. The corporation may receive


2Tallahassee Democrat, March 28, 1974.
donations for such purposes.\textsuperscript{3}

Despite the whites-only rules, the group provided charity, excluding the hospital, to both blacks and whites.\textsuperscript{4}

When the King's Daughters first began to aid the sick they made house calls, nursing and bringing food to the ill. Soon the members realized that they needed their own quarters in which to care for people from the county and the homeless. In July 1894 the women decided to solicit contributions toward having a regular place to be used as a hospital. The Masons and Odd Fellows donated two ground floor rooms in the Masonic Temple on the corner of Adams Street and College Avenue. The rooms contained four beds but no kitchen. Members sent three hot meals each day to the patients. Bershe Megnin's Oven recalled that "the first patient was a tramp who had broken his leg. Lettie Johnston [Mrs. B.J. Bond] carried breakfast her mother had prepared to the hospital on the way to school."\textsuperscript{5} The women rotated the cooking duties; one member sent breakfast every morning for a week, another one sent dinner. Other times they had meals sent in from a nearby restaurant. Not until May 1895 did the little hospital have water in the rooms.

That fall the Daughters closed the hospital for the winter, only opening it for urgent calls. The summer of 1896 saw little use for the facilities. However, business picked up by September. The hospital admitted a Mrs. Newberry for about a month; then she "was removed to the home of Mr. Franklin, where after a few days she died." On October 30, 1896, Lyman Smith, son of Bob Smith, was brought to the hospital to be treated for a gunshot wound. "Two operations were found to be necessary, under the last of which he expired on Sunday November first. He was sixteen years of age."\textsuperscript{6} Other patients included the Nicholsons, the wife and seven children of a Madison County murderer in the Leon County Jail. The wife soon died but Dr. Philbrick and the King's Daughters nursed the children back to health and found

\textsuperscript{3}"Constitution and By-Laws of the Florida Branch, In-Aa-Much Circle of the King's Daughters and Sons," 1902, In-Aa-Much Circle Papers, Special Collections Department, Robert Manning Strozier Library, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida.

\textsuperscript{4}Folder No. 1, In-Aa-Much Circle Papers.

\textsuperscript{5}Tallahassee Democrat, May 5, 1965.

\textsuperscript{6}Secretary's Minutes, October 2, 30, 1896, In-Aa-Much Circle Papers.
homes for all of them.

In November 1897 the Circle ran out of funds to continue the hospital. They appointed Mrs. Chesley, Mrs. Roberts, and Miss Sallie Blake to inventory the hospital's furniture and have it moved to Mrs. Spear's for safekeeping until a permanent hospital could be obtained. The committeewomen arrived to find a poor family living in the hospital whom they did not wish to evict but requested that they vacate as soon as possible.7

By 1898 the King's Daughters recognized the inadequacy of these two rooms and began looking for a larger and better-equipped place. One courageous member suggested they build their own hospital. "The word startled, almost frightened [them] at first...[they] took courage -- [they] even became enthusiastic, and then and there decided to build a hospital."8 The search began for a suitable site. In March the Daughters portioned off the city into four sections, each section allotted to a committee of two women charged with investigating every vacant lot in their section. Every committee had to hand in a written report describing each piece of salable property, its price, and owner.9

The Circle called a special meeting on March 10, 1899 to select a name for the hospital and to elect officers for the corporation. The Silver Cross Hospital received the highest number of votes cast. The members elected as officers of the corporation were: Miss Sue Archer, president; Miss Mary D. Lewis, secretary; and Miss C.J. Stephenson, treasurer. Board managers consisted of Miss Sallie Blake, Miss E.R. Pearce, and Miss Walker. The committee appointed to draw plans for the hospital included Miss Mary L. Lewis, Miss Sallie Blake, and Dr. Gwynn.10

After many bake sales, catered banquets, and benefit performances at Munro's Opera House, the Circle had enough money to buy lot number 138 of block number 41 on East Gaines Street between Monroe and Calhoun Streets (now the Larson Building site) in October 1899 for $400 from Mrs. Courtney Walker Cockrell, the wife

7Tallahassee Democrat, April 22, 1951; October 29, 1961; May 5, 1965; Florida Record, April 30, 1914; Secretary's Minutes, December 3, 1897, In-As-Much Circle Papers.
8Florida Record, April 30, 1914.
9Secretary's Minutes, December 3, 10, 1897; January 7, February 4, March 4, 1898, In-As-Much Circle Papers.
10Ibid., March 10, 1899.
of a Jacksonville attorney on the Florida Supreme Court. In the interim, Sallie E. Blake, a professional nurse, operated her own sanitarium on North Monroe Street (now the Florida Theater site) from 1900-1902. Frank Douglas Moor, whose physician father William Louis Moor encouraged Blake to start her hospital, recalled it as small with "probably five or six rooms." Nurse Blake printed a set of rules for her patients. Marie Waitees also operated a sanitarium on South Calhoun Street until 1902. Gilmore and Davis, local building contractors, erected the Silver Cross Hospital building in 1902 at a cost of $1,584.90 plus $500 for subsequent additions and improvements. It contained three charity rooms, one pay room, operating room, bath room, linen room, nurses' dining room, medicine closet, diet kitchen, front and back porches, halls and kitchen. The children's branch of the Circle, the Sunbeams, raised $65 to furnish one of the charity rooms used as the children's room.

Fund raising always presented a problem for the group. One member noted, "Often when a case of typhoid, or other cases which we knew would be long and expensive, applied for admittance, we wondered where the money was to come from, but it always came." A 1900 annual report listed some of the ways the Daughters raised their funds to support the hospital and other charity projects:

- $73.88 from the veteran's supper at the armory
- 3.70 at a lawn party
- 6.30 for sale of sherbets at the county school
- 5.50 sale of articles left over from bazaar
- 5.00 afghan
- 11.55 musicale at Mrs. P.W. Wilson's
- 66.00 cake walk contributed by young gentlemen of this city
- .75 offering from In-As-Much Circle basket

11Tallahassee Democrat, June 14, 1959.
14Tallahassee Democrat, March 29, 1974.
15Florida Record, April 30, 1914; Secretary's Minutes, March 7, 1902, In-As-Much Circle Papers, Tallahassee Democrat, March 28, 1974.
6.29 lock box at Leon Hotel
180.12 bazaar at armory
.50 sale of biscuits in March
17.50 musical comedy\textsuperscript{16}

The shoestring budget provided little money for medical help at the hospital. Local physicians generously donated their services for charity cases. The Circle could not afford the continuous services of a skilled professional nurse nor a matron to live in the building until 1910; Mrs. Townsend, the matron, resigned in 1913 because she could not make her expenses. The burden of upkeep fell to the members. When they had no patients they closed the building, and reopened it to admit patients. The hospital committee, consisting of Mrs. M.S. Lewis, Mrs. J.R. Bradford, and Mrs. B.A. Meginniss, personally opened and cleaned the hospital and secured the services of a nurse. Every morning one of these committee women visited the hospital, distributed linen, inquired into the condition of the patients, oversaw their diets, and attended to all other details of running the hospital. The first hospital committee served for one year; subsequent committee members were relieved after a three-month appointment.\textsuperscript{17}

Even the three-month appointments overwhelmed the committee women. The hospital work conflicted with duties at home. In the fall of 1910 the Circle decided to rent the hospital, furnished and equipped, to a professional nurse under the Circle’s supervision. This reduced the hospital committee’s duties to acting as an advisory board and visiting the hospital to see that it was properly managed. The Daughters paid the nurse in charge for the care of charity patients. After two years the nurse said the building was too small to make it pay. In the spring of 1913 the Daughters regretfully closed the building as a hospital. They rented it as a residence, using the rent money for their other charitable works with the sick and poor, until selling it in March 1916 for $2,000 cash.\textsuperscript{18}

Tallahassee did not lack hospital facilities after the Silver Cross Hospital closed. From 1914 to 1917 Marie Waites operated a private hospital, Parkview Sanitarium, in the Chittenden House on Park Avenue.

\textsuperscript{16}\textit{Weekly Tallahassee}, May 31, 1900.
\textsuperscript{17}\textit{Ibid.; Florida Record, April 30, 1914; Tallahassee Democrat, March 28, 1974.}
\textsuperscript{18}\textit{Florida Record, April 30, 1914; Tallahassee Democrat, March 28, 1974.}

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at Gadsden Street with furnishings from Hospital, and with the assistance of William L. Moor.\textsuperscript{19} A Separate community provided a description of the lower floor and reception room, a new nurses’ rooms and ward, and a large sun porch. Ascending the staircase was greeted by Mrs. Waites, who conducted them into the sanitarium proper, conveniently located in the operating room, with appointments and operation. The main room was perfect in all parts, and especially attractive was the furnishing, an another feature was the guests.\textsuperscript{20}

However welcome, this was not the entire town.

The Daughters of the Grove. These were exchanges containing the two-story apartment on North Duval Street. Originating month to raise the funds to decide three years later on opening it in September 1913, it was the only hospital for whites until the Tallahassee Democrat, March

\textsuperscript{19}Tallahassee Democrat, March
\textsuperscript{20}Daily Democrat, September 2
\textsuperscript{21}J. Edwin White, Interview by Historic Tallahassee Preservation March 28, 1974.
at Gadsden Street with furnishings purchased from the Silver Cross Hospital, and with the assistance of Dr. Fred C. Moor, son of Dr. William L. Moor. A September 1916 open house reception for the community provided a description of the facilities:

The lower floor consists of a large and beautiful reception room, a spacious hall, dining room, kitchen, nurses’ rooms and superintendent's private apartments and a large sun porch with southern exposure.

Ascending the main stairs the visitors were greeted by Mrs. May Bower, a popular nurse who conducted them through the sunny rooms comprising the sanitarium proper. The superintendent's office is conveniently located near the head of the stairs. The operating room is well-lighted and is correct in all of its appointments and is equipped for any type of operation. The rooms are spacious, well ventilated and perfect in all particulars. The children’s ward is especially attractive with dainty bassinet, crib, beds, and other furnishings, all in white. A sleeping porch is another feature which adds greatly to the comfort of the guests.20

However welcome, this one facility could not serve the needs of the entire town.

The Daughters owned six vacant lots immediately west of The Grove. These were exchanged in the fall of 1914 for the two lots containing the two-story apartment house of J. Edwin White at 580 North Duval Street. Originally planning to rent the house for $25 per month to raise the funds to build a third hospital, the Daughters decided three years later to remodel the house into a hospital for $305, opening it in September 1919.21 This building served as the town’s only hospital for whites until Dr. J. Kent Johnston, brother of King's Daughter Lettie Johnston Bond, built Johnston's Sanitarium on North

19Tallahassee Democrat, March 28, 1974.


Gadsden Street in 1924.\textsuperscript{22}

At this new location, the Daughters ran into the same financial problems as before: mounting expenses and a small patient load. In the first year the hospital staff cared for 180 patients. They received $7,494.34 and disbursed $7,438.65, leaving a balance of $55.69 to carry forward to the new operating year.\textsuperscript{23} They requested free water, gas, and electricity from the city, but were granted only a fifty percent discount and $50 a month for charity patients. The county commissioners promised the Circle $25 a month. The hospital charged $30 a week for a private room and $3 for the use of an operating room. Nurses, still difficult to keep, received board and pay of $65 to $75 a month. Ward helpers earned $20 per week.\textsuperscript{24} By 1922 the King's Daughters, discouraged and losing several hundred dollars per month, contemplated closing the hospital in January 1923.\textsuperscript{25}

They had approached the city with a cash bequest of $5,000 from Mary S. Lewis to assume responsibility for, and build, an adequate hospital. Local doctors had expressed willingness to manage the facility. The Daughters requested that the city continue the name Silver Cross and have at least two charity wards. At a March 14, 1922 Tallahassee City Commission meeting the City Manager, J.W. Greer, said he was "in favor of building a Hospital by the City but that he was opposed to the operation of the Hospital by the City." The commissioners moved to appoint a committee "to investigate the needs, the plans and other requirements of the Hospital and make a report to the City Commission."\textsuperscript{26} This report was never made public in a city commission meeting. The Florida Times-Union newspaper in Jacksonville urged Tallahasseeans not to let the hospital close. On November 3, 1922 the King's Daughters voted to close the hospital on January 1, 1923. One citizen, E.A. Gilbert, urged the city on November 17 to assume the financial responsibility for the hospital rather than

\textsuperscript{22}Tallahassee Democrat, May 5, 1965.

\textsuperscript{23}"Report of Treasurer of Silver Cross Hospital for Year Ending September 3, 1920", undated, unsigned letter in Folder No. 1, In-At-Much Circle Papers.

\textsuperscript{24}Tallahassee Democrat, March 28, 1974.

\textsuperscript{25}Daily Democrat, November 4, 1922.

\textsuperscript{26}Tallahassee City Commission Minutes, March 14, 1922 (microfilm reel 4), City Hall, Tallahassee, Florida.
purchase the golf links. The Daughters approached the City Commission again in February 1923 to no avail. Dr. O.C. Kendrick tried one more time in November. The Commission told Dr. Kendrick that "there was no definite plan before the Commission looking toward the building of a hospital," and requested that he confer with the Daughters about a definite proposition. The city did not take over the hospital and the Daughters sold the furnishings and divided the building into rental properties.

The King's Daughters continued meeting and providing charity to Tallahassee's needy. By 1966 the group's activities had waned. The thirty-three remaining members voted to disperse at their regular meeting at Carter Chapel on February 23, 1966, according to President Ruth F. Berga, "because we realized that the charitable work we began could be done more effectively by younger, more active women." They dissolved the Silver Cross Hospital on March 11, 1966.

Picking up the slack in hospital service in 1924, Dr. J. Kent Johnston built his Sanitarium on North Gadsden Street in a most desirable location: "no prettier site could be found for this institution which means so much to the people of this section of Florida." The Daily Democrat described the stucco building as "modern and complete with every known equipment for hospital work," and further elaborated:

On the ground floor there are handsome rooms with connecting baths and lavatories, each room being equipped with hospital beds, tables and chifferrobe with soft white window draperies, presenting an immaculate and inviting appearance in general. The nurses' rooms

27 Daily Democrat, November 10, 17, 1922.
28 Tallahassee City Commission Minutes, November 12 and February 13, 1923.
29 P. Nettie Clare Bowen retired after fifteen and one-half years, Nettie Clare Bowen repaired and rented the Dowel Street house until the Daughters sold it in 1945 and donated the money to two hospitals: Forth Memorial and Baptist Memorial.
31 Order of Dissolution of Silver Cross Hospital (Folder No. 1), In-As-Much Circle Papers.
32 Daily Democrat, July 23, 1924.
are located on the south side, while the dining room and kitchen are on the north. The kitchen is equipped with an immense range, hot water tank, beautiful sink and china racks with plenty of aluminum utensils. The huge refrigerator is located on a screen side porch [sic]. On this floor as well as on the upper floor there is a spacious ward for six beds each with all necessary ward fixtures, and there is a lower and upper sleeping porch with eastern exposure, giving a lovely view of unusual wood and shrubbery.

The second floor is charming in its arrangements in every detail having lovely bed rooms and spacious corridors. On the north end is located the operating room which is equipped with every known fixture for a modern and up-to-date hospital. This room is in close touch with a handsome sterilizer and scrubbing room, the finest to be found anywhere.

The building is a handsome stucco finish, with ample room to accommodate the needs of Tallahassee and middle Florida, and the launching of this new enterprise again evidences the growth of this section of the state.

Mrs. Edna Jones, formerly with the Silver Cross Hospital, returned to Tallahassee as matron at this new hospital. The nursing staff included Miss Mary Lillian Burnette, Miss Margaret Whitehead, and Miss Olive Ready.33

Despite the praise for the facilities, the reality of hospital care appears to have been different. Malcolm Johnson, longtime editor of the Tallahassee Democrat, arrived in Tallahassee in the 1930s. He recalled that Johnston's Sanitarium had maybe twenty rooms and half of them reserved for new babies or something of the sort. If you had anything very seriously wrong with you, you went to Thomasville or Atlanta or Jacksonville.34 Dr. Johnston built a nurses' home next door, and added a new wing behind the original building, thereby increasing the number of beds to thirty-five and including a delivery room.35 Johnston operated the hospital until 1941. The administrators of his estate sold it to the Seventh Day Adventist Hospital Corporation.

The Seventh Day Adventist Hospital Board purchased Johnston's hospital through Mrs. M. W. Humphress (with her husband) of a leper mission. In the early 1940s she became interested in the hospital and purchased the buildings. They renamed it Memorial Hospital in her honor. Admitted patients of any religious background (1902-1986) served as the nursing staff. The hospital's anesthesia committee included twelve nurses, twelve nurses' aides, and one anesthetist. The Seventh Day Adventist Hospital Board began soliciting funds in partnership with the city. Donations to be paid over the cost of construction were to be collected in 1946. The city would not match the funds. Humphress organized a home drive with 25% of the proceeds benefiting the city and the right to use of Centennial Field in Tallahassee.

In the meantime, the city government acquired the Dixie plant surplus. News of this prompted the Home Steering Committee of the Dixie Plant Association, to request a formal meeting with the mayor of Tallahassee to discuss the Congressional Delegation in the state.

33 Ibid., July 25, 1924.
35 Tallahassee Democrat, March 28, 1946.
36 Ibid., Sunday News-Democrat, March 26, 1944.
37 Tallahassee Democrat, November 9, 1947.
Johnston operated the hospital until his death on July 19, 1941. The administrators of his estate continued the hospital until selling it to the Seventh Day Adventists in 1947 for $51,000. The Seventh Day Adventists learned of the availability of Johnston's hospital through Mrs. Edna Forsyth, a dentist and founder (with her husband) of a leper colony in Africa. On a tour of Florida in the early 1940s she became interested in Tallahassee. After learning the hospital was for sale she offered to help the Seventh Day Adventists purchase the buildings. They renamed Johnston's Sanitarium Forsyth Memorial Hospital in her honor. The thirty-seven bed institution admitted patients of any religious affiliation. Dr. William E. Westcott (1902-1986) served as the medical director. The staff included nine trained nurses, twelve nurses' aides, an X-ray technician, and an anesthetist. The Seventh Day Adventists operated it as an affiliate of their larger hospital in Orlando until closing it in 1964.

Present-day Tallahassee Memorial Regional Medical Center traces its origins to a 1940 referendum which showed the Tallahassee city government that its citizens wanted a public hospital. The Baptist Hospital Board began soliciting funds for building a whites-only hospital in partnership with the city. The Baptists' solicitation plan called for donations to be paid over a three-year period, insufficient for construction to begin in 1946 unless all the unpaid pledges had been called in. The city would not let a contract for construction until the Baptists provided the cash. Mrs. Sue McCready and John Yaeger Humphress organized a horse show in October 1945 with fifty percent of the proceeds benefitting the hospital. The City Commission allowed them use of Centennial Field for the event.

In the meantime, the city was negotiating with the United States government to acquire the Dale Mabry Field Hospital, soon to be Army surplus. News of this prompted H.C. Roland, chairman of the Rest Home Steering Committee, Leon County Tuberculosis and Health Association, to request a forty-bed ward for tuberculosis patients. He reminded the mayor of "his efforts in aiding the city with the Congressional Delegation in obtaining the Dale Mabry Field hospital

and equipment for the city’s use.\textsuperscript{38}

Either the requested services were not forthcoming or were not adequate because in April 1952 the W.T. Edwards Tuberculosis Hospital opened in Tallahassee. The State of Florida and the federal government provided funds to the State Tuberculosis Board to construct and equip the hospital on a 132-acre tract on Phillips Road east of the city limits. The Board of County Commissioners of Leon County donated the excavation work and landscaping services. The four million dollar complex included a five-story main building, nurses’ home to house seventy-two nurses plus three apartments for the nursing department heads, six staff residences for the medical director, business manager, and resident physicians, a central heating plant, and a laundry.\textsuperscript{39} This hospital closed in 1967; the Sunland Center of Tallahassee for retarded children took over the buildings.

The city acquired the Dale Mabry Field Hospital on April 6, 1946 and contracted with the Baptist Church to operate it for $1.00 per year.\textsuperscript{40} The Baptists needed money to start operations but could not use already-solicited construction money for that purpose. The city agreed to pay no more than $9,211.00 from the Hospital Revenue Certificate Account for the renovations.

Although the city turned over hospital operations to the Baptist Hospital Board "without expense to the City," purchases of equipment which could later be transferred to the new hospital awaiting construction were soon made. The city approved the purchase of beds and equipment for $5,379.92 in December 1946. Yet the Commission denied a request in February 1947 for operating equipment costing $3,100 on the grounds that the city had already spent a lot for the hospital and "that the type of merchandise referred to . . . was easily movable and, therefore, would incur much difficulty in trying to keep up with to transfer it to the new hospital." The city also refused to pay the insurance premium covering that time. Yet in March the city council met to an emergency spotlight demand of the Baptist Church notion that the facility was "inadequate" reinforced inconsistently.\textsuperscript{41}

The City Manager of the Medical Association to request City Commission about the architect Prentiss Huddleston received the contract to make "had agreed to contribute to the original plans."

The city’s commission was seen in a denial of a new Sanitarium and Hospital for the installation of new equipment and $5,000 in equipment to be to the new Hospital is constructed. The Baptist group operated the city funds had already been transferred to the new entity.

It cannot be said it Adventists because of the city. It is more likely that the Board had the influential members of religious ties to the community would indicate a hesitancy in giving it under the tight control of accountability.

The City Commission’s State Improvement Committee stated the government money would be used to complete and would not be changing those plans to improve the City's permanent location at the

\textsuperscript{38}Tallahassee City Commission Minutes, November 27, September 11, August 21, 1945. Dale Mabry Field, the city's municipal airport, opened in 1929. It was taken over by the U.S. Army in 1940. See David Ramsey, "The First Year of Dale Mabry Field: June 1940-June 1941," \textit{Apalachicola} 8 (1971-1979), 5-20.

\textsuperscript{39}"Dedication... W.T. Edwards Tuberculosis Hospital at Tallahassee," Sunday, April 6, 1952, 2:30 p.m." Brochure in Florida Vertical File, "Tallahassee--Hospitals," Special Collections Department, Robert Manning Strozier Library, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida.

\textsuperscript{40}Tallahassee \textit{Democrat}, March 28, 1974; Tallahassee City Commission Minutes, March 20, May 14, 1946.
the insurance premium covering the buildings and equipment at this
time. Yet in March the city paid for a $2,070.80 oil burner, followed by
an emergency spotlight, surgical saw, and resuscitator in October. The
notion that the facilities at Dale Mabry Hospital were temporary was
reinforced inconsistently. Plans for the new hospital continued apace.

The City Manager requested the chairman of the Leon County
Medical Association to select three members to serve as advisors to the
City Commission about the hospital. Despite objections by local
architect Prentiss Huddleston, the Pensacola firm of Yonge and Hart
received the contract to redraw plans for the new building since they
"had agreed to contribute a part of the fee heretofore paid them for the
original plans."

The city's commitment to the Baptist Memorial Hospital can be
seen in a denial of a request for $12,500 from Forsyth Memorial
Sanitarium and Hospital "towards the cost of remodeling, renovation,
and installation of new equipment" at the hospital and "the purchase of
$5,000 in equipment to be turned over to the City at such time as the
new Hospital is constructed." The City Commission pointed out that the
Baptist group operated the hospital under a contract with the city and
city funds had already purchased equipment at that hospital to be
transferred to the new one.

It cannot be said that the city turned down the Seventh Day
Adventists because of the belief in the separation of church and state.
It is more likely that the Baptists, being more mainstream, represented
the influential members of the community with personal, social, and
religious ties to the commissioners. Such evidence of fiscal conservatism
would indicate a hesitancy to spread the money around but rather keep
it under the tight control of a legal contract and the consequent
accountability.

The City Commission also received notice from the Florida
State Improvement Commission in November 1947 that federal
government money would be available "under certain conditions." The
mayor stated that "since our plans for financing our hospital were
already complete and underway that he did not look with favor on
changing those plans to include Federal aid."41

In April 1948 the Baptists turned over the assets and liabilities
of the hospital to the City of Tallahassee. The new building, at its
permanent location at the intersection of Magnolia Drive, Centerville

41Tallahassee City Commission Minutes, March 20, December 16, 1946; February 6,
11, 25; March 11, October 14, 26; November 6, 1947.
Road, and Miccosukee Road, opened in December 1949.\textsuperscript{42} Less than ten years later, in 1958, Tallahassee Memorial Hospital had increased its capacity to 109 rooms and 250 beds, up from 149 beds soon after it opened.\textsuperscript{43}

The municipal hospital served only whites. The medical needs of Tallahassee’s black citizens were met in a distinctly different way. Black residents did not have hospital facilities until Florida A&M College extended its services to the community in 1914. Florida A&M built its first medical infirmary for its students in 1911; the two-story white-frame structure on South Boulevard contained nineteen beds and ‘inadequate clinical, emergency and service areas.’\textsuperscript{44} Between 1911 and 1925 registered nurse Jennie Virginia Hilyer supervised the infirmary. A graduate of the Freedman’s Hospital in Washington, D.C., Hilyer helped establish the first nursing baccalaureate program in Florida.\textsuperscript{45} When the college offered medical care to Tallahassee and Leon County, both black and white patients took advantage of the services, ‘with all of the physicians of the city serving any and all of the patients needing medical care.’\textsuperscript{46} Florida A&M offered the only hospital for blacks between Pensacola and Jacksonville. By 1924-25 the hospital had added an annex, increased bed capacity, and improved the staff.\textsuperscript{47} While mainly a teaching hospital, its outreach services brought in patients which overtaxed the facilities; often cots were set up in corridors to supplement the bed capacity.\textsuperscript{48}

In April 1945 Alphonse Pichard, Lester Moon, Jack Simmons, and Mrs. J.L. Cresap (of the Baptist Hospital Board) requested the

\textsuperscript{42}Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, Tallahassee, Florida ... General Information,"[1951]. Brochure in Florida Vertical File, "Tallahassee Hospitals," Special Collections, Strozier Library, FSU.

\textsuperscript{43}Tallahassee Democrat, March 26, 1974.

\textsuperscript{44}Ibid., August 3, 1987; "Hospital, Health Center and Nursing Education School Ground Breaking Program, Florida A&M College, Tallahassee, Florida, February 9, 1949." Florida Vertical File, "Florida A&M University," Special Collections, Strozier Library, FSU.

\textsuperscript{45}Tallahassee Democrat, August 3, 1987.

\textsuperscript{46}"Ground Breaking Program, February 9, 1949."

\textsuperscript{47}Capital Outlook, April 1-7, 1981.

\textsuperscript{48}"Serving Tallahassee and Florida, A Modern Hospital, Florida A&M College," 3, Florida Vertical File, Special Collections, Strozier Library, FSU.
Tallahassee City Commission to contribute $50,000 toward the Florida A&M Hospital construction project. The City agreed to enter into a contract with the A&M Hospital wherein for a long period of time the hospital would furnish the City for the benefit of negroes a standby service in the hospital, and that this cost would be amortized against the contribution made by the City.

A&M President William H. Gray asked for a letter in October from the City assuring him of the $50,000 contribution. City Attorney Messer prepared the letter for the mayor to sign. By December 1947 J. Velma Keen, representing the Tallahassee Citizens Committee, requested the City contribute an additional $100,000. The City Commission agreed to consider this request after they had reviewed plans for the Tallahassee Memorial Hospital to see what funds would be available.50

Other than to Florida A&M Hospital, local blacks went to Dr. Alpha O. Campbell's clinic and Laura Bell Memorial Hospital at 316-20 West Virginia Street in 1947.50 That year the State of Florida through the Board of Control, with donations from citizens of Tallahassee and Florida and a federal grant, spent two million dollars to build a new hospital, health center, and nursing school at Florida A&M.51

With the demise of Forsyth Memorial Hospital in 1964, the two remaining general hospitals, Tallahassee Memorial and Florida A&M, provided parallel services to the white and black communities of Tallahassee and the surrounding counties. While Tallahassee Memorial continued to grow, Florida A&M stagnated. The passage of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 threatened the seventy-year practice of separate hospital facilities in Tallahassee. In May 1965 the Tallahassee Memorial Hospital Board agreed to comply with the federal law. It took until June 1966 for compliance following a federal government threat to withhold eighty million dollars in federal funds from the State University System (which governed Florida A&M), and cessation of Medicare

49Tallahassee City Commission Minutes, October 4, August 21, April 24, 1945; December 9, 1947.

50Tallahassee City Directory 1948 (Tallahassee, 1948).

funds to both hospitals. The financial loss to Tallahassee Memorial would have bankrupted it. Tallahassee Memorial agreed *to accept Negro patients, assign qualified Negro doctors to the staff and possibly to hire Negro nurses and aides.* The hospital will accept patients and assign patients to rooms without regard to race; will grant staff privileges and assign staff members to patients without regard to race, and will allow patients and staff access to all hospital facilities without regard to race.  

June 15, 1966 saw Dr. Alexander Brickler become the first black physician on the Tallahassee Memorial Hospital medical staff. The victory of integration rang the death knell for Florida A&M Hospital. Many of the paying black patients transferred to the larger city hospital; indigent patients who could not pay their bills remained at A&M. Chairman Chester Ferguson said the Board of Regents had run out of money. Structural deterioration, high operating costs, and a low patient census convinced the Board of Regents to abandon the hospital. Even though Tallahassee and Leon County had been sharing in the operating expense deficits since 1967, the Board decided it was time to get out of the hospital business and closed the facility on December 24, 1971. Tallahassee finally had adequate medical facilities for both its white and black citizens.

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53Tallahassee Democrat, May 18, 1965.
54Rabby, "Out of the Past," 229.
56Tallahassee Democrat, March 28, 1974.

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The muddy Apalachicola River, Florida to the Gulf of Mexico, Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers, South's cotton-producing region's boundary. At this point the navigation, and Apalachicola, centers serving the agricultural

Radiating from Columbus, which the cotton farmers were an active trading center where they take their supplies. Manufactured in a foreign manufactured goods made many stops along the line to take on more cotton and plantations.

During the cotton war, business section near the warehouses and shops. As the spilled out into the streets, through. Merchants here are business by acting as the farm or in the North and in purchase.

The people of Columbus between them had more in one. With the cultivation of the slave economy. When sections of the States during the late 1850s, secessionists.

At dawn on January 1, 1861, from the Union, ordinance was

1Diffie William Standard, G cares (Frederick Press, 1954), 11.