

Black-Owned and Operated Hospitals in the Detroit Metropolitan Area during the 20th Century

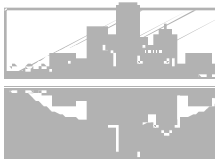
- Wayne Diagnostic Hospital ♦ Burton Mercy Hospital ♦ Kirwood General Hospital
- DMS "Clinic Day" Conference
- Project Update
- Upcoming Issue

Summer Newsletter 1998

University of Michigan Medical School

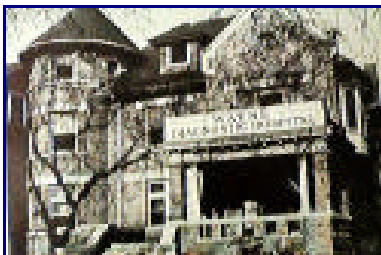
The Archive

Documenting the Historical Experiences of African Americans in Southeastern Michigan with regard to Health Care, the Health Professions, and the Health Sciences
SPONSORED BY THE KELLOGG FOUNDATION



Black-Owned and Operated Hospitals in the Detroit Metropolitan Area during the 20th Century

Wayne Diagnostic Hospital, Detroit, Michigan (1939-1949)



Founders:

DeWitt Burton, MD and Chester Ames, MD

Location:

271 Eliot between John R. and Brush
1939 - 34 beds; 1945 - 67 beds

Like so many other African American physicians who migrated to Detroit during the 1920's and 1930's, Drs. DeWitt Burton (Meharry, m '21) and Chester Ames (Wayne University, m '26) were committed, in the face of intense discrimination, to providing additional space for attending to the health care needs of African Americans. They formed a partnership and established a hospital with a 34 bed capacity. In addition to the general hospital, there was a mental health facility located across the street

from the hospital (Wayne Diagnostic II). The combined bed capacity of both facilities was a total of 96 beds.

The popularity and strength of Wayne Diagnostic grew as physicians sought out one of the "best" medical facilities with which they were permitted to affiliate. Shortly after the death of Dr. Ames, Wayne Diagnostic Hospital was renamed Burton Mercy Hospital in 1949.

Burton Mercy Hospital, Detroit, Michigan (1949-1974)



Founders:

DeWitt T. Burton, MD and Chester Ames, MD

Location:

271 Eliot: 1949 - 96 beds; 1952 - 150 beds

Following the death of Dr. Ames, the hospital continued to thrive and grow. The name was changed from Wayne Diagnostic No.1 to Burton Mercy, and

by 1952 had undergone a major expansion to a 150 bed institution. It had also been incorporated. The expanded facilities included a second operating room, a second delivery room, an autopsy room, a pharmacy, an enlarged medical laboratory, as well as a number of patient and staff support departments. Mrs. Alice Burton assisted Dr. Burton through each phase of the hospital's development by providing administrative support.

Kirwood General Hospital, Detroit, Michigan (1943-1974)



Founder:

Dr. Guy O. Saulsberry

Locations:

301 E. Kirby

1943: 27 beds — two expansions brought capacity to 50 beds



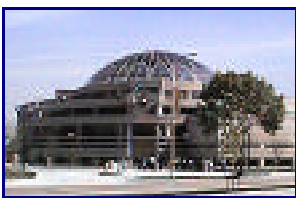
Davison and Petosky location -161 beds

After attempting and failing to gain admission to the staff of Woman's Hospital, Dr. Guy O. Saulsberry (Howard, m '27) established his own hospital. The first facility was a converted mansion with a capacity of 27 beds. Two subsequent expansions increased the hospital's capacity to 50 beds. In 1958 the hospital became non-profit.

As with many of the African American facilities, pressure was put on them to move. The city wanted to use the 301 Kirby Street location to build the Center for Creative Studies. The institution was moved several miles away from its original location to W. Davison and Petosky. In 1967, Kirwood opened its new, well-equipped facility with 161 beds and 12 medical departments. After only 8 months, the hospital achieved three year accreditation.

Two noteworthy legacies of Kirwood are that: 1) Kirwood was the site of some of the initial sickle-cell research conducted by Dr. Charles F. Whitten; and 2) the residual funds of various accounts within the hospital were, upon its closing, used to pay off the Dunbar Memorial Hospital Museum's mortgage.

Kellogg Project National Conference



The Kellogg African American Health Care Project will host a national conference which will focus on the historical and policy implications of our work, as well as the present state of black health care and blacks in the health sciences. The conference will be held on February 26, 1999 at the Dr. Charles H.

Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit, Michigan. We will continue to update you on this upcoming conference as its planning progresses.

1998 Detroit Medical Society "Clinic Day"-Medicine in the New Millennium: Closing the Racial Healthcare Gap By 2010



George Myers, Project Coordinator, at the Detroit Medical Society's "Clinic Day", Cobo Hall, June 13, 1998

On Saturday, June 13, 1998, Kellogg Project Coordinator, George Myers, and Research Associate, Ron Amos presented a historical exhibit displaying selected photos of Black-Owned and Operated Hospitals and Detroit physicians at the conference. This event was sponsored by the Detroit Medical Society and the Wolverine State Medical Society. The conference sessions focused on reasons for the racial healthcare gap and acknowledged the important role of Black Medical Schools in the next century. The presidents or representatives from the four Historically Black Medical Colleges (Meharry, Howard, Drew, and Morehouse) and the former Surgeon General, Louis Sullivan, MD made formal presentations at the conference.

Upcoming Issue

The fall quarterly newsletter will feature 3 more of the seventeen Black-owned and operated hospitals in the Detroit Metropolitan area during this century, along with project updates. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please feel free to mail them to:

George Myers, Project Coordinator

University of Michigan Medical School
300 North Ingalls Building, Room 3D19
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-0489
734-647-6918; email: gmyers @umich.edu

web address:

<http://www.med.umich.edu/haahc>

Research Investigators

Norman L. Foster, M.D., Professor,
University of Michigan Medical School

Harold W. Neighbors, Ph.D., Professor,
University of Michigan School of Public Health

Project Advisors

Vence Bonham, J.D., College of Human Medicine,
Michigan State University

Joel Howell, M.D., Ph.D., Professor,
University of Michigan Medical School

Martin Pemick, Ph.D., Professor,
History Dept., University of Michigan

Richard Candida Smith, Ph.D., Professor,
History Dept., University of Michigan

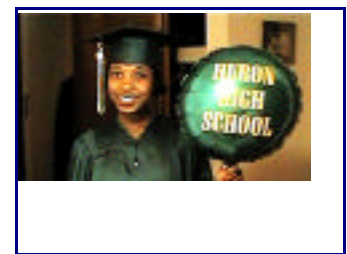
Nicholas Steneck, Ph.D., Professor
History Dept., University of Michigan

Brian Williams, M.L.S., Associate Archivist,
Bentley Library, University of Michigan

Kellogg Project Team

George Myers Ron Amos
Amy Hawkins Kristin Myers

!!!! Congratulations !!!!



Our student intern, Kristin Myers, will be leaving at the end of the summer to pursue her studies. She recently graduated from Ann Arbor Huron High School with honors, and will begin her college career at Michigan State University in the Fall. We wish her well!!!