

THE TEWKSBURY STATE  
HOSPITAL and INFIRMARY

*One Hundredth Anniversary*



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER THIRTEENTH  
NINETEEN HUNDRED and FIFTY-FOUR

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE



*The Trustees of The Tewksbury  
State Hospital and Infirmary*

*announce  
the observance of*

*The One Hundredth Anniversary*

*of the opening of the institution*

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RALPH S. BATTLES

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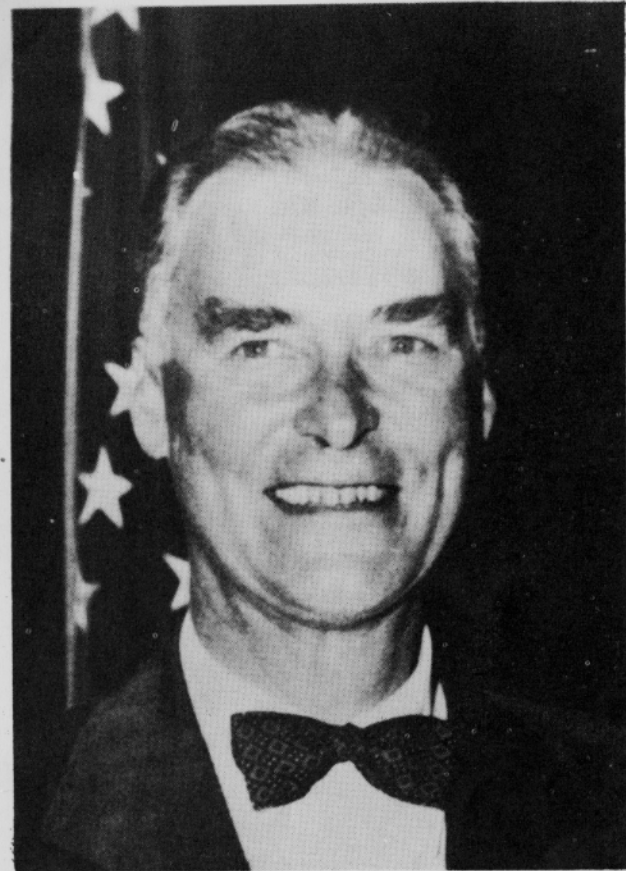
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It is a pleasure for me to send to all the members of the staff and patients of the Tewksbury State Hospital and Infirmary my sincere congratulations on the Centennial observance of this fine institution.

To the personnel of the hospital, may I say that we are grateful for the progress which has been made in the treatment of patients; and may I wish for the patients improved health and happiness.

For the institution, I know that we all are hopeful that it will continue for many more years to serve in the best interests of our citizen.

My warmest personal regards.

Most sincerely yours,

*Christie A. Foster*

## Administrative and Medical Staff

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NILS E. SVIBERGSON, M.D., *Medical Director*

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*Superintendent of Nurses  
Principal, School of Practical Nursing*

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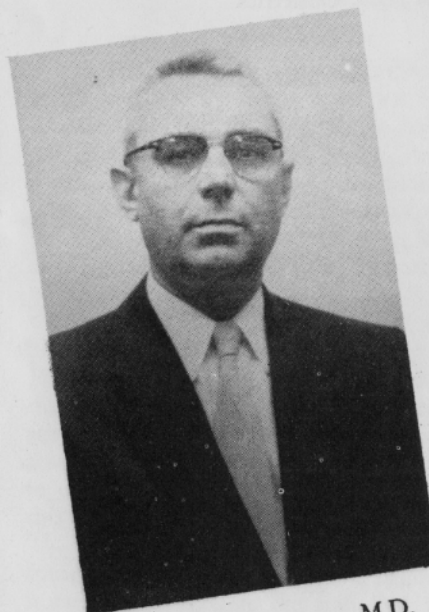
MISS MARY MURRAY, *Cambridge, Mass.*

MRS. JOSEPH SCHNEIDER, *Brookline, Mass.*

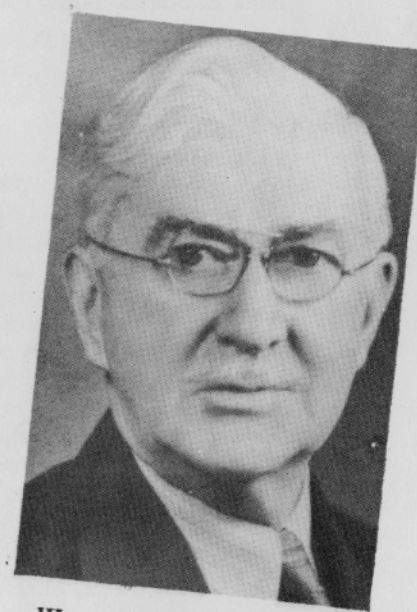
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NILS E. SVIBERCSON, M.D.  
*Medical Director*



WILLIAM M. COLLINS, M.D.  
*Chairman, Board of Trustees*

## Consultant Staff

Joseph A. Doherty, D.D.S.	Dental Surgeon
Ethel M. Rockwood, M.D.	Dermatology
Basil C. Gray, M.D.	Dermatology
Robert Kaldeck, M.D.	Dermatology
Howard Roct, M.D.	Diabetes
Brendan Leahey, M.D.	Ophthalmogy
Julian Chisholm, M.D.	Ophthalmogy
Emmanuel Deutsch, M.D.	Gastroenterology
Harold Leland, M.D.	Genito-Urinary Surgery
Lawrence Rockwood, M.D.	Genito-Urinary Surgery
Germain J. Bouchard, M.D.	Genito-Urinary Surgery
David B. Bailey, M.D.	Internal Medicine
William F. Ryan, M.D.	Internal Medicine
Dereck Denny-Brown, M.D.	Neurology
Herbert Abrams, M.D.	Obstetrics
Hugh F. Mahoney, M.D.	Obstetrics
Nina E. Scarito, M.D.	Obstetrics
John L. Doherty, M.D.	Orthopedic Surgery
Frank W. Brady, M.D.	Otolaryngology
Frank Heifetz, M.D.	Otolaryngology
H. S. Queen, M.D.	Otolaryngology
Allan Butler, M.D.	Pediatrics
Robert Scannell, M.D.	Pediatrics
Herbert M. Larrabee	Psychiatry
Thomas Tighe, M.D.	General Surgery
Samuel Dibbins, M.D.	General Surgery
Marshall Alling, M.D.	General Surgery
Joseph D. Sweency, M.D.	General Surgery
Ralph Heifetz, M.D.	General Surgery
Oliver Cope, M.D.	General Surgery
Carl Blotner, M.D.	General Surgery
Richard H. Sweet, M.D.	Thoracic Surgery



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

## Historical Notes

The Tewksbury State Hospital and Infirmary, now celebrating its One Hundredth Anniversary of service to the communities of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, first opened its doors as an Almshouse on May 1, 1854. The administration was placed in the hands of a superintendent, a physician and a chaplain. Of the fourteen additional employees, only one was a nurse. The Almshouse, which was built under the supervision of a commissioner for five hundred persons, had in nineteen days admitted eight hundred persons, including infants and children, maternity cases, tubercular and other infectious persons, the mentally sick, the acutely and chronically ill and the indigent poor.

In the first twelve years of the institution's existence, the struggle to humanely care for the indigent sick can be seen. However, it was not until 1866 that any attempt was made to classify the patients as to physical and mental diagnosis. It was at this time that the idea of a hospital in relation to the institution first came into being. A separate building was constructed to segregate insane women from the remainder of the patients; well children were transferred to other institutions; and the school rooms and work shops formerly used by this latter group were converted into hospital wards.

In the years intervening between 1866-1879, we see the nucleus of the future function of this hospital begin to take form. Additional physicians and nurses were added to the staff and a male nursing department became an es-

## Program of Events

Holiday dance for employees. Refreshments, favors—door prizes.

October 12, 1954—8:00 P.M. Redding's Orchestra.

Special Holiday menu for patients and employees.

Entertainment in chapel by patients 1:15 P.M.—2:30 P.M., under the direction of Mrs. Beatrice Willwerth.

Band Concert—2:30 P.M., Lowell High School Band.

Exhibition of patients' handicrafts and School of Practical Nursing.

Centennial Dinner for State Officials and invited guests.

Tea served in Annie G. McDonald House,

3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. by "Friends of Tewksbury"



HOSPITAL ENTRANCE

## Menu of the Day

Chilled Tropical Fruit Cocktail

Celery curls

Sweet Pickle Stix

Ripe Olives

Cranberry Jelly

Roast Native Turkey

Savory White Potato

Red Turban Squash

Giblet Gravy

Orange Sweet Potato

Sage Stuffing

Hot Bowknot Rolls

Butter

Butter pecan ice cream

Butterscotch sauce

coffee

After Dinner Mints



PRENATAL AND MATERNITY WARDS



MENTAL WARD

sential part of the nursing service. It was in this period of time that we find service being offered to persons sick with alcoholism, and reference made to industrial and occupational work as a therapeutic measure in the rehabilitation of the patient. By 1874 the institution was divided into three classifications:

Mental Wards	40%
Hospital Department	27%
Almshouse	33%

By 1879 a Board of Trustees composed of three men and two women was appointed by the Governor, and simultaneously the State Board of Charity was granted full supervision of the Almshouse by the Legislature. Thus in the first twenty-five years of its existence, we can see the evolution from an almshouse to a hospital begin to take form.

As the need arose, additional hospital buildings were added to both the men's and women's services. by the year 1887 it became apparent that trained hospital personnel was a necessity. The first superintendent of nurses was appointed and the nursing staff increased, and in the same year the hospital was approved for internship by the Harvard Medical School. In 1894 the "Home Training School for Nurses" was approved. This was a two-year program and by 1898 the school of nursing established a three-year program. Thus began many years of training nurses for service, who went forth to various sections of the country as teachers, administrators and comforters of the sick.

In the year 1900, the name of the institution was changed from the Tewksbury Almshouse to the Tewksbury State Hospital.

After the turn of the century there was evidence of increased demand for admission with general overcrowding in the hospital wards. Urgent requests were being made yearly to expand the hospital services. It was during this period that separate buildings for tuberculous men and women were erected. Additional wards were also added to both the male and female medical and surgical services to accommodate the ever increasing demand for hospital service.

Throughout the old reports of this time, there is evidence of tremendous problems of administration, medical and nursing care. Small pox and typhoid fever were prevalent in the communities, and these patients were sent to this hospital to be cared for under isolation precautions. The medical care offered by the Infirmary continued to expand, and it was now obvious that the institution could be considered a general hospital offering service to the acutely and chronically ill patient.

The name of the hospital was again changed in 1909 from Tewksbury State Hospital to Massachusetts State Infirmary and was thus known until 1938 when it became the Tewksbury State Hospital and Infirmary.

In the year 1910, the Social Service Department was established under the supervision of the State Board of Charity. In the beginning social service assistance was offered to the unwed mother, but gradually extended to include all admitted female patients. In 1918, after due survey of all admitted patients, this service was expanded to include all male patients. Thus the Social Service Department of this hospital continues to be interested in every patient, and works with him and his physician planning for his discharge back to the community.

The Department of Dentistry was added as a part of the hospital service in the year 1912.

There is evidence at this time that volunteer workers were supplementing the work of the Social Service Visitor, assisting with the recreation and musical entertainment of the patients, and offering various services to the patients throughout the hospital.

In 1915 the laboratory was organized with a complete staff trained to do all bacteriological and pathological testing necessary to physical diagnosis and therapy.

A clinic for diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat was established and specialists in these fields were added to the staff. In one year two thousand such cases had been given treatment.

The Tewksbury State Hospital and Infirmary, like all hospitals, has been greatly influenced by the march of scientific medicine and the development of preventive medicine. Through the years our hospital has been fortunate in having successive groups of devoted doctors who have given special attention to the types of problems represented by the patients who have been admitted for care. Probably more than any other hospital in the Commonwealth, our medical staff and consultants, from the various specialties that have been provided, have witnessed the increasing complexities and volume of chronic disease and the variety of disease and infirmities of old age. The uniqueness of opportunities for clinical teaching provided for in observation of the care and treatment of our patients has been recognized by some of the teachers of medicine, and valuable clinical instruction has been made available through generous cooperation of the administration of our medical and nursing staffs.

As early as 1917, the annual report of the Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Infirmary recommended to the Legislature that an eight hour



CHAPEL AND MEN'S PAVILION

day for employees be established. The First World War increased the number of admissions to the hospital, and by the same token decreased the number of personnel to care for the patients. A similar situation was repeated during World War II.

In 1921 the School of Practical Nursing was established. This group originally known as "relief nurses" was added to the nursing department as an adjunct to the nursing service. The students were given some formal teaching, but emphasis was placed on the practical "on-the-job" training at the bedside of the patient. At the end of one year, graduates were given a certificate and employed on our wards to relieve the nursing shortage created by the additional time the three year student nurses were spending in the classroom. This course was the forerunner of our present school of practical nursing.

In 1922 a group of employees each donated a given sum of money to start the "community store." The proceeds or profit realized from this venture has over the years been used for the benefit of patients and employees.

A ten year study of cases admitted to the Massachusetts State Infirmary completed in 1920 indicated that 16,808 were classified as chronically ill, and 17,666 as acutely ill patients. However, certain cases continued to be admitted who were especially in need of shelter and supervisory care. Having this latter group in large numbers, due to economic conditions in the communities, increased the problem of housing at the Infirmary. To meet this problem, in 1929 a lodge for two hundred men was ready for occupancy, creating space throughout the hospital wards for the sick and infirm.

In the early 1930's considerable building was possible through the Public Works Administration Program sponsored by the Federal Government. Several new buildings were added which greatly alleviated some of the administrative problems. The type of admissions to our hospital had gradually been undergoing a significant change until by 1940 it became apparent that we were doing less acute work and concentrating more on the care of the chronically ill patient. Persons suffering from tuberculosis had been removed from the Tewksbury State Hospital and Infirmary to hospitals specializing in this type of disease under the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

In 1942 the three year school of nursing graduated its last class. In the years 1894 to 1942, six hundred and eighty-eight nurses had been graduated. Theirs had been a proud heritage, but changes in medical treatment and the curriculum in nursing education had made this move expedient.

All effort was then made to improve the school of practical nursing. The course was revised to meet the Minimum Curriculum and Syllabus for Schools of Practical Nursing in Massachusetts. The course became fourteen months and later was changed to fifteen months, which is the required time at present. As of now, the Tewksbury State Hospital and Infirmary School of Practical Nursing is not only State approved, but has the full accreditation of the National Association for Practical Nurse Education. The school also provides affiliations in the "Care of the Mother and Newborn" and the "Care of the Child" to five other schools of practical nursing of specialized hospitals

MALE ADMITTING WARD



who cannot offer areas of experience in these fields. The graduates of the school are going forth yearly to other hospitals to serve with equal merit, as did those of their predecessors of the school of nursing.

In 1949, the group known as the "Friends of Tewksbury" was established. This group of public spirited and philanthropic individuals has done much to enhance the service offered daily to the patients confined to our hospital.

Thus we bring up to the present day a proud history of service. The institution has expanded and grown, and at the present time comprises 899 acres. There is a large farm with many acres under cultivation; 250 head of cattle which provides the milk supply daily; a poultry farm with about 5000 chickens; and a piggery with 272 hogs. Heat, light and power are generated here, and we have our own water supply. There is an active Occupational and Industrial Department, and a person in charge of recreation. There is a well equipped Physiotherapy Department. The Library with a total of over 7000 books is under the supervision of an experienced librarian. Ambulatory patients may go to this Library to read, while the bed patients are serviced from the book cart which is taken through the wards. Chaplain service is available to persons of all faiths and denominations. All patients are admitted and discharged through the local Board of Public Welfare. There are a number of patients who are assigned to do a limited amount of work individualized according to classification and physical ability, as part of the rehabilitation program.

Close cooperation with other agencies in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts makes our services available to not only the Department of Public Welfare, but the Division of Child Guardianship, Youth Service Board, and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

The daily average is about 1699 patients. The patients' ages range from birth to ninety plus. Besides the Medical Director, there are fifteen physicians and the employees number 714.

No account of the service provided at the Tewksbury State Hospital and Infirmary would be complete without mention of the outstanding atmosphere which has been created by the Medical Staff, Social Service Department, and the personnel in general. Of necessity, much has been left unsaid. The resident physicians, who have served our hospital with self-sacrifice and efficiency over the years, have gone out to various sections throughout the country and have been a positive influence on hospital administration and medical practice.

The Social Service Department has expanded in proportion to the growing needs of the patient. This group has made an outstanding contribution to the welfare and the happiness of the patients while in the hospital, and continues to do the necessary follow up in the community so necessary in a program of rehabilitation.

In closing, we have attempted not only to point up the history of our institution, but also the type of service that has been offered by the Tewksbury State Hospital and Infirmary over the years. The most important aspect of this service is the care of the patient as an individual, for no two are alike except in their need of care. They cannot be treated en masse, either for physical or social well being; each is a separate soul with his own needs and desires. Each must and does receive specialized medical and nursing care, but it is by considering the personal welfare and social condition of each individual that a proper perspective of the work done at this hospital can be obtained.

## Administrative Heads of Departments

THOMAS F. FLYNN, *Steward*

ROBERT E. GAY, *Chief Clerk*

LENOX KARNER, *Head Farmer*

THOMAS MCKAY, *Treasurer*

HARRY B. MURRAY, R.N., *Chief Hospital Supervisor—Male*

THOMAS FOY, *Chief Engineer*

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WILLIAM M. COLLINS, M.D.	1938—

## *Superintendents of The Hospital 1854-1954*

ISSAC H. MESERVE	1854—1858
THOMAS J. MARSH	1858—1883
IRVING FISHER, M.D.	1883—1891
HERBERT B. HOWARD, M.D.	1891—1897
JOHN H. NICHOLS, M.D.	1897—1935
LAWRENCE K. KELLEY, M.D.	1935—1942
C. WINTHROP HOUGHTON, M.D.	1942—1951
THOMAS J. SAUNDERS	1951—

## *Superintendents of Nurses and Principals of The Training School*

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E. MAUDE ELLIS	1897—1902
AUGUSTA C. ROBERTSON	1902—1905
RACHEL BOURKE	1905—1909
LAURA E. MACEachern	1909—1921
ANNIE KELLEY McDONALD	1921—1944
MARY M. SABRE	1944—1945
ANN B. CAHILL	1945—1947
ELEANOR A. GAFFNEY	1947—