

The Dakota Hospital Association  
and the  
Building and Maintenance of the  
Dakota Hospital in Vermillion, SD

By  
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*The photo on front cover courtesy of the W. H. Over Museum archives.*

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## PREFACE

After reading Schell's book *Clay County: Chapters Out of the Past*, Brookman's unpublished autobiography, *Dakota Doctor* and numerous *Dakota Republican* articles from 1900 to 1930, it was clear that the citizens of Clay County saw the need to construct a hospital. Dakota Hospital was the first community or public hospital in Clay County.

The purposes of this book were threefold. First was to record the existence of hospitals in Vermillion from 1902 until 1930 prior to the construction of the Dakota Hospital. Second was to describe the processes and challenges associated with building and maintaining the Dakota Hospital starting with the formation of the Dakota Hospital Association. This period covers 1930-1945. Finally, the last chapter describes the development of the Healthcare Campus beginning with the construction of the Nursing Home in 1957 and ending with extensive building and renovation of the Health Science Campus culminating in 2017. To update the Campus and to make room for more outpatient services, the Dakota Hospital was demolished in early 2016.

This book as well as several other dedications and a sculpture of 150 hands designed by Chris Meyer commemorate a hospital that for over 80 years meant so much to the citizens of this region whose children were born there, whose family members became ill and went to the hospital for care, and those individuals that passed away at the Dakota Hospital.

In writing this book I have many people to thank for their guidance, research, and support. They include Mary Merrigan who gave me access to the Dakota Hospital Association Meeting Minutes and accompanying documents. Discussions with her very much helped shape this book. In addition, Tim Tracy was also very supportive especially in looking to the future of healthcare in Vermillion and the surrounding territory. Both read through the book and contributed valuable comments.

I would like to also thank Tom Thaden for his research about hospitals in Vermillion prior to building Dakota Hospital that served as hospitals and additional articles describing activities associated with the construction of the Dakota Hospital. I received support from Clay County

Government, especially Carri Crum who gave me a copy of the County Commissioners' meeting minutes from December of 1926 to January of 1983. Michael Carlson, Financial Officer for the City of Vermillion, allowed me access to the Vermillion City Council meeting minutes from 1930-1940 that were invaluable to understand the relationship between the City of Vermillion and the Dakota Hospital Association. In addition, the Office of Deeds helped me trace the owners of houses that served as hospitals. The Clay County Clerk of Courts allowed me to view documents that clarified the underlying land related disputes that culminated with Peter Olson's tragic death and Jason Payne's near death in 1940. I also thank the Clay County Historical Society, especially Wess Pravecsek and the late Cleo Erickson for their valuable help and advice.

I conducted research at the University of South Dakota Archives and Special Collections with the gracious and untiring help of Doris Peterson. I also thank Larry Bradley for his conversations regarding Kirby's murder of Attorney Peter Olson, as well as Shirley Anderson and Tami Plank at the W. H. Over Museum who helped me find pertinent articles and photographs in their collection. Additional materials from the ID Weeks library and Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library were also utilized for this project.

I especially would like to thank Cyndy Chaney for long conversations about the Thompson and Chaney families, family photographs, and additional information about Vermillion that she shared with me. Finally, I want to acknowledge the continuing support that the Clay County Historic Preservation Commission Board Members gave me during this project, especially Jim Wilson who conceived the project ("write a book about the Dakota Hospital") and discussed the potential project and me as the author with Mary Merrigan and Tim Tracy. I am also indebted to Theodore Muenster who read through and edited early parts of the manuscript. Finally, several citizens of Vermillion shared their personal experiences about the Dakota Hospital which allowed me to better understand the ambiance that existed at time the Hospital was constructed and operated.

## INTRODUCTION

### Hospitals in Vermillion Prior to Dakota Hospital

At the turn of the 20th century Vermillion was a thriving community. It boasted the State University (now known as the University of South Dakota), the County seat, and existence as a city since 1859 when it was incorporated. In 1900 the population of Clay County was already 9,316 rising to over 10,000 by 1930. The 1909 Vermillion business directory records two hotels, two banks, 5 doctors, two dentists, one veterinarian, a large variety of businesses, several lawyers, and the first of two Carnegie Libraries. Although a core of the city in the early part of the 20th century was located in what is now the Bluff and Downtown Historic Districts, houses were being built on Forest Avenue, South University Avenue, Lewis and Yale Streets. Residents of these houses were businessmen, doctors, lawyers, and faculty associated with the University. On the outskirts of town there were farms and livestock operations. Over the years these farm lands were incorporated into the City of Vermillion and allowed for the expansion of residential houses, schools, parks, and the Dakota Hospital to meet the needs of a growing community.

In his book *Clay County: Chapters out of the Past*, historian Herbert Schell described the numerous physicians that practiced in Vermillion since 1860, starting with the very colorful Dr. Samuel Lyon who established the Chicago Drug store and built the Adelphi Hotel when Vermillion was located below the bluff. Some physicians stayed in the region for a year or two, others spent their lives in Vermillion serving its residents and those in the surrounding area. Importantly Dr. Thomas Cruickshank, who came to Vermillion in 1899, along with C. P. Lommen and F.A. Spafford were instrumental in the development of the University of South Dakota Medical School that opened in 1907. Over the years, physicians in Vermillion supported the Medical School by teaching students and contributing financially to its success.



## CHAPTER I

# Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities in Sioux City, Yankton and in Sioux Falls Prior to Dakota Hospital

To understand the role of the Dakota Hospital in care of residents in Clay, Union and Yankton Counties, what follows is a short description of the hospitals in the region before and during the early 20th century. Yankton boasted two hospitals, the Hospital for the Insane founded in 1879 and Sacred Heart Hospital started in 1897. In 1900 Sioux City had a population of 65,000 people and had four hospitals constructed before the turn of the century: St. Vincent's Hospital, Samaritan Hospital, St Joseph's Hospital, and the Lutheran Hospital.

In 1930, few residents from Vermillion and surrounding towns travelled to Sioux Falls where Sioux Valley and McKennan Hospital served its residents. Another Sioux Falls hospital, the Moe Hospital on the corner of 14th and Main Streets was built for \$250,000 in 1917, and closed in 1939 following Dr. Anton Moe's death. Currently the building is the home of the Davenport, Evans, Hurwitz and Smith law firm.

Some of these hospitals such as Sacred Heart, Lutheran Hospital and Sioux Valley had nursing schools associated with them. By contrast, the School of Nursing at the University of South Dakota did not start until 1954. Finally, elder residents who needed nursing home care went to the Bethesda Nursing Home in Beresford that started in 1914. It is important to recognize that these and other health care institutions changed over time due to mergers and incorporation into large hospital networks or disappeared. Importantly, the health care facilities described above became competitors for the fledgling Dakota Hospital for health care workers, physicians, and patients. This is still an issue today.

What follows is a history of hospitals in Vermillion prior to the construction of Dakota Hospital. Some of these hospitals were located in converted hotels, in homes, or specially constructed buildings. All were private hospitals. It was not until 1935 when Dakota Hospital opened that Vermillion truly had a community hospital. What follows is a brief history of the people who ran the hospitals from 1901 to 1930 and the buildings they utilized in Vermillion.



## The Vermillion City Hospital 1902

According to the *Dakota Republican* newspaper article from July 17, 1902, Drs. Theodore H. Larsen and A. J. Bennett from Chicago opened the Vermillion City Hospital in what was then the Cottage Hotel. From the description in this article and Sanborn Fire Maps from that time; this building was located on the northwest corner on Main Street diagonally across the street from the City Hall/Opera House (Figure 1). Unfortunately, the hospital was open for barely a year before it closed and later became a boarding house. The building no longer exists.

*Figure 2  
Roxie Robbin's Hospital at  
222 North Yale Street  
as it looks in 2016.*



*Photo by Evelyn Schlenker*

## **Roxie Robins' Hospital 1912-1914**

From July 1912 until February 1914 Roxie Robins, a graduate nurse, ran a hospital at 222 North Yale Street (Figure 2). The building, known as the Sargent House was built in 1899 and served as the home for University of South Dakota President Howard Gross. The house is currently part of the University Historic District and is owned by Marie Gray. According to the February 26, 1914 *Dakota Republican* newspaper article, over 300 patients were cared for in this hospital. In the article, the need for a community hospital was first mentioned.

## **Miss Johnson's Hospital 1915**

A *Dakota Republican* article from September 2, 1915 describes a hospital on N. Yale Street in the Jeanette House run by a Miss Johnson. In addition, the article refers to the development of a hospital board composed of women who were members from the several churches in Vermillion that raised funds to support this hospital. Requests for help from additional interested women from Vermillion were solicited in the article.

*Figure 3  
Current view of the Hospital  
that was located at  
323 Lewis Street.*



*Photo by Evelyn Schlenker*

## **Lewis Street Hospital 1914-1916**

Herbert Schell also reported that there was another building used as a hospital (the Vermillion Hospital) from 1914-1916 located on 323 Lewis Street (Figure 3). Two women from Omaha ran the establishment. The building still stands and is used as a one family residence currently owned by Jen and Doug Peterson.

Figure 4a  
 The location of St. Paul's  
 Episcopal Church on what  
 now is the campus of the  
 University of South Dakota.

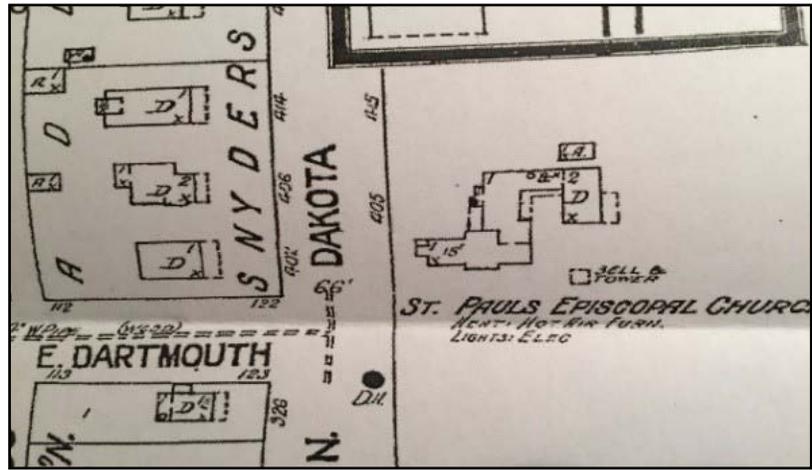
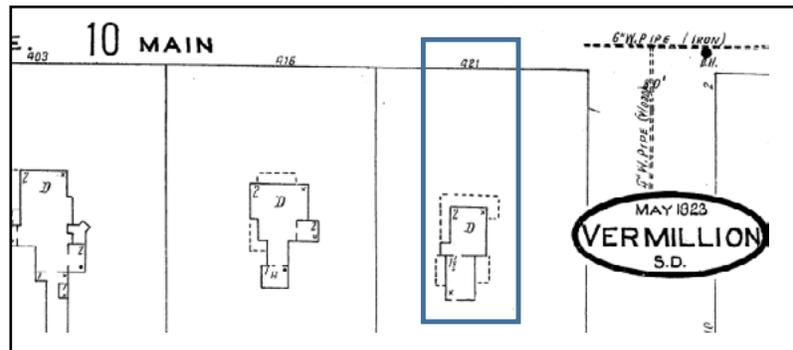


Figure 4b  
 The location of the S. J. Lewis  
 House on the corner of East Main  
 and South University Street.



Sanborn Fire Maps, 1923

## Treating Students During the Influenza Pandemic (1918-1919)

During the 1918-1919 Influenza Pandemic there was no formal hospital in Vermillion to treat students. In response to the Pandemic the University was closed during the fall semester of 1918. Ill students remaining in Vermillion were treated in fraternity houses as well as in the annex of the Episcopal Church that was located on Dakota Street facing Dartmouth Street (on what is now the USD campus, Figure 4a). Dr. Francis Townshead was in charge. He also used the Lewis House located at 421 Main Street as a hospital for a year (Sanborn fire map 1923 Figure 4b). The S.J. Lewis house was subsequently moved to Cottage Street, according to Cyndy Chaney, a long-term resident of Vermillion and historian. The Concordia Lutheran Church currently occupies the land where the Lewis house stood.

Figure 5a  
Location of the  
216 East Clark Street house  
in 1920.

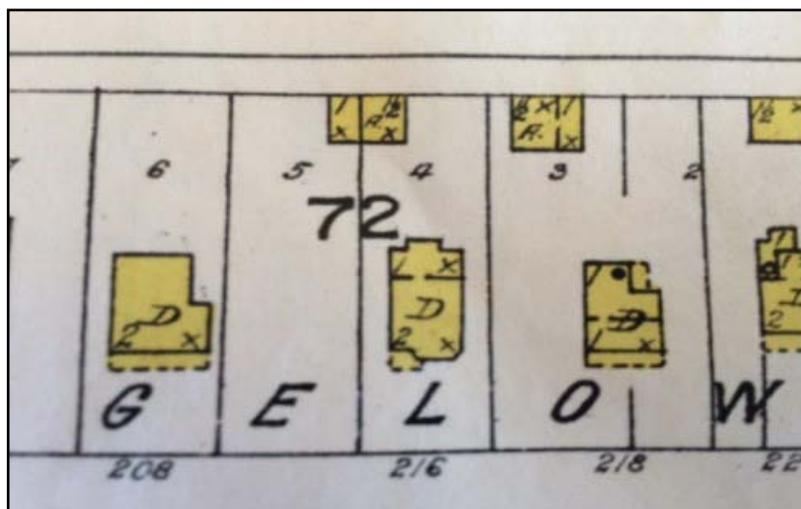


Figure 5b  
216 East Clark as it appeared  
when it served as a hospital.



Sanborn Fire Maps, 1920  
and Ancestry.com

## **Dr. Eugene Stansbury's Hospital on Clark Street 1916-1918**

For two years (from 1916-1918) Dr. Eugene M. Stansbury, who arrived in Vermillion in 1914, operated a hospital at 216 East Clark Street. He was licensed to practice medicine and surgery in South Dakota. During WW I he served as a captain in the US Army in France. In later years the building became one of many Stansbury's rental properties. In the 1960's the house was donated to the University of South Dakota, by Mrs. Stansbury. The building served as an office for Historical Preservation for a few years until it was torn down in the late 1980's. Existence of this building is documented using Sanborn fire map (5a) and a photograph from Stansbury's files on Ancestry.com.

*Figure 6a*  
*Current views of the first*  
*hospital run by Cowan*  
*and Troy on Cottage Avenue*



*Figure 6b*  
*Their second hospital on*  
*119 North University*



*Photo by Evelyn Schlenker*

## **The St. Catherine's Hospitals 1919-1930**

In 1919 two nurses, Kathryn Cowan and Kathryn F. Troy, both trained in Sioux City, opened a new hospital at 428 Cottage Street at a cost of \$10,000 (Figure 6a). Local organizations contributed funds and furnishings, including physicians Dr. Nicholas Collisi and his nephew Dr. Lawrence Brookman. This hospital was known as the Saint Catherine's Hospital or the Red Cross Hospital. Today the building is a rental.

In 1923 the hospital was moved to 119 North University (Figure 6b). The nurses used the building as a hospital for several years. However, in 1930 Troy died and Cowan owned the building with Patrick Henry Keeley (whose family was prominent in Wakonda). Kathryn Cowan went on to work in Dakota Hospital as a nurse for many years (1940-1950's). The building, 119 North University, is the beautiful home of Susan Keith Gray, and is located in the University Historic District.

*Figure 7a*  
*The Vermillion Hospital*  
*(25 Prospect St.) as it appeared*  
*when is served as a hospital.*



*Figure 7b*  
*A photograph of*  
*25 Prospect Street*  
*taken in 2017*



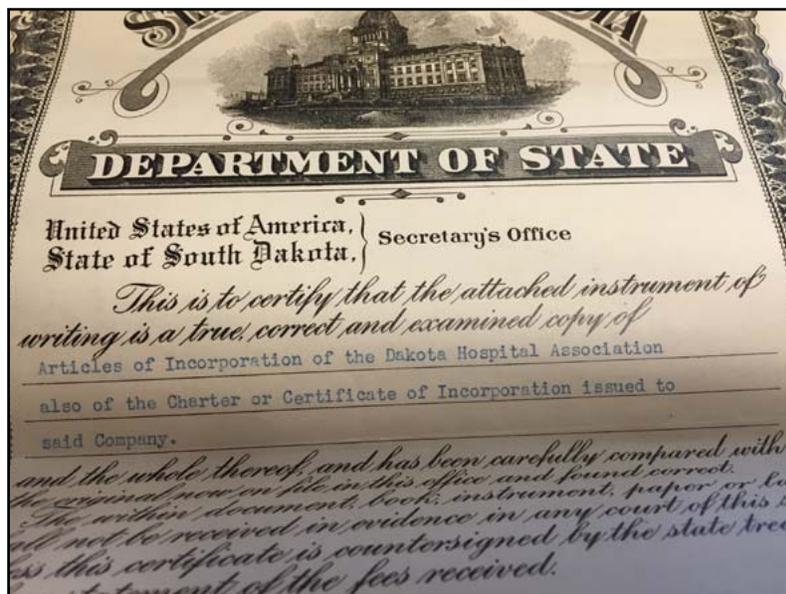
*Top photo from Ancestry.com*  
*Bottom photo by Evelyn Schlenker*

## The Vermillion Hospital 1922-1931

Dr. Stansbury, who was previously mentioned, extensively renovated 25 Prospect into a hospital and a site to train nurses. The building was used as the Vermillion Hospital from 1922 until 1931 (Figure 7a). Subsequently Stansbury used the building as a clinic and rental property. Currently the building is a rental property. Figure 7b shows what the building looks like today. Note that the porch was closed in and a new entrance to the building constructed.

Thus, the proceeding pages and information from Schell's book *Clay County: Chapters out of the Past* document the long history of physicians and temporary nature of hospitals in Vermillion. The need for a community hospital was well recognized by its citizens. The chapter that follows documents the challenges associated with building a hospital during the Great Depression and subsequently operating it successfully through World War II. The final chapter discusses the formation of a healthcare campus that we have in Vermillion today. The Dakota Hospital Association Board (Incorporated on May 29, 1930) that initiated this process was composed of very dedicated men and had the strong support of the Vermillion community. How the Dakota Hospital came to be follows.

Figure 8  
The Dakota Hospital Association's  
Articles of Incorporation



CHAPTER 2

**The Dakota Hospital Association:  
Building and Maintaining the  
Dakota Hospital  
(1930-1945)**

From the preceding chapter chronicling Vermillion's hospitals located in a variety of buildings from 1902 until 1930, it was clear that the citizens of Vermillion saw the need for a community hospital. This chapter highlights the events that led up to the formation of the Dakota Hospital Association (DHA) and the resourceful DHA Board members who were instrumental in getting the Dakota Hospital built. Included in this chapter is the strong association that the Board had with the University of South Dakota (USD), the City of Vermillion, the medical staff of the Dakota Hospital, and the Clay County Commissioners. Specifically the chapter focuses on the many challenges faced by the Board to build and keep the Hospital functioning from 1930 until the end of World War II in 1945.

## Formation of the Dakota Hospital Association (DHA)

Economically the period from 1925 to 1935 was difficult for South Dakota and Vermillion. Prices of farm products dropped following the boom of World War I. Jobs became scarce and savings dried up. A number of organizations in Vermillion helped needy citizens including the Red Cross, and the welfare division of the Civic Council which was formed in 1921. In spite of these challenges, several buildings were constructed in Vermillion (the extension of the Baptist Church designed by architects Beuttler and Arnold, the Methodist Church, the Congregational Church, Slagle Auditorium and the South Dakota Union Building). During this time University enrollments increased to about 1,000 students. Importantly, no banks in Vermillion closed. According to the City Council of Vermillion minutes from the 1930's, in response to the Great Depression, most City of Vermillion employees voluntarily reduced their salaries by 15%. The City created jobs to pay as many people as possible. Government relief funds were actively pursued. This was the time period that the idea for a community hospital was conceived and executed.

Moreover, looking at the minutes of the Clay County Commissioners from that time, poor relief for age related and medical needs was supplied by local physicians, pharmacists, and caregivers as well as sending patients who required additional care to Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, the Yankton Hospital for the Insane, and the Bethesda Home for the Aged in Beresford. These factors and others discussed later in this chapter created a strong impetus for the development of a community hospital and later for a nursing home.

In 1925 the Clay County Commissioners proposed levying a special County property tax of one mil for three years and the City Council of Vermillion a property tax of 1.5 mil to help fund the construction of a hospital in Vermillion. Almost 600 citizens of Clay County presented a pe-

tition supporting the proposal, but members of the Farmers Union opposed it. The tax proposals were never implemented.

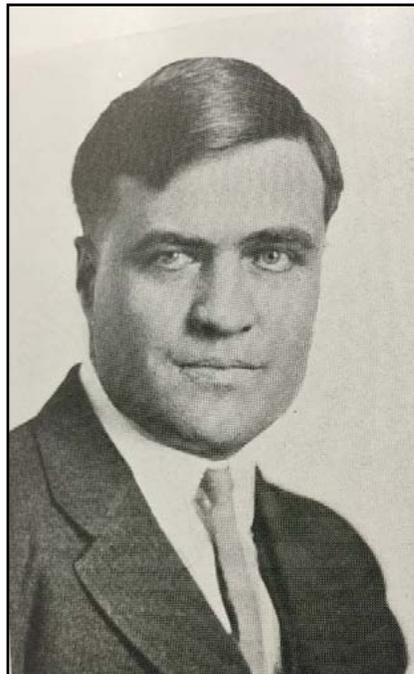
On January 7, 1928 in yet another attempt to develop a new hospital, the Community Hospital Holding Company of Vermillion was incorporated. The Board of Directors consisted of M. L. Thompson, George L. Brosius, W. R. Cleland, P. D. Lund, and Carl Viers, all prominent citizens of Clay County. Members of the Holding Company also included several doctors and businessmen. About two years later when the Dakota Hospital Association (DHA) was incorporated on May 29, 1930, the Holding Company ceded its mission of developing a hospital and transferred its assets including property and cash holdings to the DHA.

The major purpose of the DHA was to provide and maintain a hospital for patients in the *territory*, which included Clay County and adjacent areas. Hospitals in Sioux City or Yankton were more than 25 miles away.

The first Board of Directors of the DHA included J. H. Peterson and Albert Johnson from Elk Point, L. B. Twedt from Burbank, H. P. Rasmussen from Wakonda, and Vermillion residents included J. B. Jaeger, James Gilbertson, P. D. Lund, Edmund G. Endresen, Peter Leikvold, Hubert J. Lee, William H. Over, W. M. Hanson, M. L. Thompson, Jason E. Payne, and Morris J. Chaney. The first elected officers of the DHA were Payne (President), Chaney (Vice President), Endresen (Secretary) and Leikvold (Treasurer).

Individuals who wished to become members of the DHA paid \$100 (and according to lists in the DHA files more than 200 people joined). Thus a member or their immediate family member received a 20% discount for services rendered at the hospital until the \$100 of services were received. That this perk was utilized by members appears over and over again in the financial statements of the Hospital. Moreover, some citizens donated much more than \$100 towards the development of the Hospital. The largest individual pledge (\$5,000) came from Dr. Eugene Stansbury, who practiced medicine in Vermillion from 1914 until the early 1950's.

*Figure 9*  
*Photo of Jason E. Payne as a*  
*Professor of Law*



*Photo from Coyote,*  
*University of South Dakota*  
*Yearbook 1922*

## Snapshots of DHA Board Officers, Nelson, and Roseland

The Dakota Hospital Association consisted of association members and the DHA Board. Officers of the Board, especially the president, represented the organization. What follows are biographical snapshots of some of the founding officers of the Board and two individuals that influenced the future of the Association and building the Dakota Hospital.

Jason E. Payne was continuously President of the DHA from 1930 until 1941. Payne, a Clay County native (1874-1941), received his law degree from the University of Minnesota in 1899, was a lawyer in the Vermillion based firm of Payne and Olson located in a suite of offices above the Citizens Bank and Trust Company on Main Street. As a result of a farm accident he lost his right arm (according to a *Dakota Republican* article from September 11, 1941). Payne was a Professor in the USD School of Law since its founding in 1901. He also helped establish and was an extremely active member of the USD Alumni Association and helped get the South Dakota Union building erected on the USD campus. Payne served as state senator from 1903 to 1907 and was City Attorney from 1902-1904 as well as from 1910-1916. He and Olson owned real estate and substantial acreage in Vermillion as well as below the bluff near the Missouri River.

An event that affected the DHA in several ways happened on October 25, 1940 when his law partner in the firm of Payne and Olson, Peter Olson, was killed in their law office by Ozzie A. Kirby. The attack on the lawyers was the result of a disappointing case settlement that occurred on October 22, 1940 involving a large tract of land Payne and Olson owned near the Missouri River in Vermillion Township (State of SD versus Ozzie A. Kirby, 56/5, Office of the Clerk of Courts, Clay County, SD). For many years O. A. Kirby ran a Clothier Store directly across Main Street from the Payne and Olson law office. In the altercation Payne was also targeted. He would have been killed if the Winchester Repeater 10 gauge shotgun Kirby used had not misfired. That gave Phillips Crew, a young lawyer working in the office, just enough time to tackle Kirby, after a shot hit a

Figure 10a  
M. J. Chaney

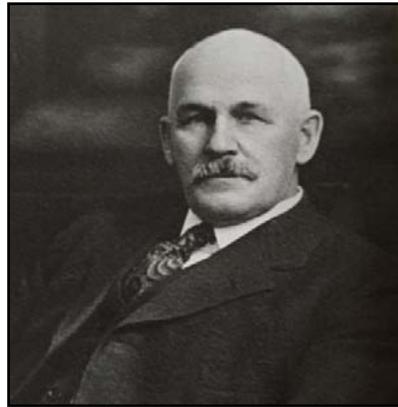


Figure 10b  
M. A. Chaney



Figure 11  
Plaque commemorating  
contributions of Morris A. Chaney



Top two photos from  
Cyndy Chaney's Collection  
Plaque photo by Mary Merrigan

bookcase in the law library that was part of the lawyers' suite, and for the stenographer to call the sheriff. After a long trial that started in March of 1941, Kirby was sentenced to 10 years in the State Penitentiary for first degree manslaughter. Payne passed away later in 1941 as a result of a car accident (according to a *Dakota Republican* article from September 11, 1941).

Phillips Crew went on to become a successful lawyer, businessman, and citizen of Vermillion. Crew was active in various organizations in the University of South Dakota. He served on the Board of the DHA in the 1970's according to a *Vermillion Plain Talk* article from October 23, 1998.

Another enterprising member of the Board of Directors was Morris J. Chaney (1858-1940) who came to Wakonda, Clay County in 1893 and acquired extensive lands in Clay County. He moved to Vermillion and was one of the organizers and an officer of the Citizens Bank and Trust Company in 1914, resigning his position in 1936. He also served in the state legislature for four terms and was speaker of the State House of Representatives. Aside from his long-term involvement in the construction and development of Dakota Hospital, Chaney also was instrumental in building of the new Congregational Church in 1929. His son, Morris A. Chaney joined the DHA Board of Directors in June of 1940 following his father's death. M. A. Chaney was Secretary for several years, and became President of the DHA Board in 1951. He was a tireless advocate for the hospital and later for the nursing home built in 1957. A plaque displayed in the entrance to the Dakota Hospital honored M.A. Chaney for his many contributions to the DHA.

Figure 12a  
M. D. Thompson



Figure 12b  
M. L. Thompson



Figure 13  
Plaque commemorating  
contributions of the Thompson  
family to the Dakota Hospital

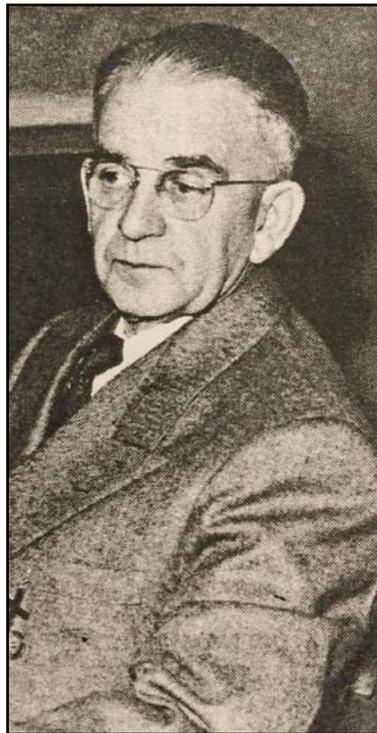


Top two photographs from  
Cindy Chaney's collection  
Plaque photo by Mary Merrigan

Edmund Endresen (1886-1971), secretary and Peter Leikvold (1875-1961), treasurer were both businessmen in Vermillion. Endresen managed Fullerton Lumber for many years. Leikvold was an insurance agent and adjuster as well as an alderman from 1927-1930 and again from 1932-1937. According to DHA meeting minutes, Leikvold was a member of the board from its inception well into the 1950's. Another board member who also served for a lengthy period (1930 until 1945) was W. H. Over who was the assistant curator and then director of the University Museum (later to become the W. H. Over Museum) from 1913-1948. Interestingly Over's obituary or biography never cites his involvement with the DHA where he served on several committees over 15 years.

Lastly, Martin L. Thompson born in Vermillion in 1879 was the son of a Clay County pioneer, Myron D. Thompson (1847-1929), according to a *Vermillion Plain Talk* article from February 12, 1929. Martin L. Thompson, also known as M. L., was president of the National Bank of South Dakota located on Main Street in Vermillion and served on several financial boards. He was also involved in the Thompson Lumber Company, part owner of the Macy Hotel in Vermillion, and was a large landowner in South Dakota and California. M. L. was stationed in France during WW I. He was very civic minded, served in the State Legislature and briefly as Mayor of Vermillion in 1922. Importantly, he and his family made substantial contributions for the building and furnishing of Dakota Hospital. Because of his extensive land holdings, M. L. lived in California for part of each year and was not as active a Board member as others according to the meeting minutes of the Board of Directors of the DHA. In the DHA Board of Directors meeting minutes of October 28, 1952, the Board mentioned that they had acquired a plaque commending the contributions to the Hospital of Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Thompson and their sons M. L. Thompson and Orville W. Thompson. M. L. died in 1947 and O. W. died in 1948.

*Figure 14*  
*Reverend R. A. Roseland*

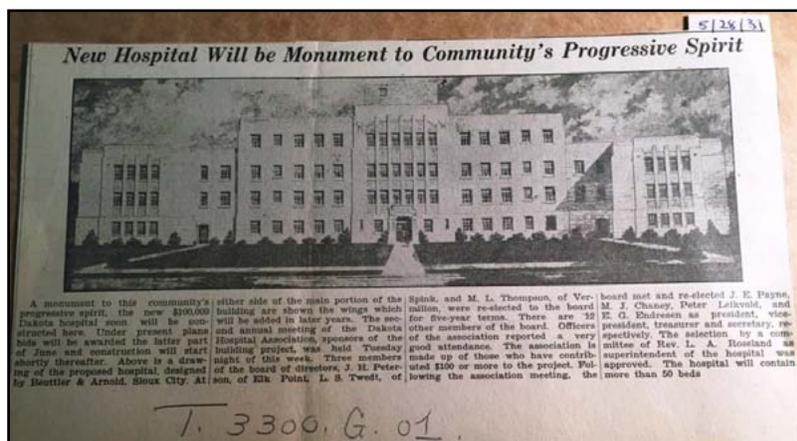


*Photo from*  
*Vermillion Plain Talk supplement*  
*August 22, 1985*

A few months after the DHA was incorporated, Reverend R. A. Roseland, the Trinity Lutheran minister in Vermillion since 1925, came before the Board to suggest getting ministers (and thus church members) involved in obtaining pledges. Roseland also recommended that ministers receive complimentary memberships, which they did for several years. Roseland's first appearance before the Board would result in a relationship with the DHA Board and Hospital spanning over 20 years, first as an advisor to the Board and then as "Superintendent" ( a role similar to chief operating officer today) of the Hospital starting on May 15, 1931. He resigned as superintendent of the Dakota Hospital in 1951.

Although not a Board member, N. A. Nelson from Sioux Falls was a lawyer whose function was to help raise funds for the venture. As stated in the *Dakota Republican* article of May 29, 1930, he was to raise \$100,000 toward the construction of the Dakota Hospital. In fact, the *Dakota Republican* article of Nov 20, 1930 reports that speaking before a luncheon club at the Varsity, Nelson "confidently predicted that a hospital would be built by the next spring." The Hospital would not be completed until October of 1935. According to the minutes of the DHA Board, Nelson was fired from his position by May 13, 1931. Subsequently, a committee of Board members took on the task of garnering memberships and making sure that all pledges would be honored.

Figure 15  
 Clipping from the Dakota  
 Republican illustrating  
 what the Dakota Hospital  
 would look like when it was  
 constructed, according to the  
 architects rendering.



## Challenges to Building the Dakota Hospital

The Dakota Hospital began with purchasing the land for the building. In the minutes of June 27, 1930, the City Council recommended buying seven acres East of Prentis Park for the hospital site. At that time the land was outside of the City of Vermillion boundaries. The DHA directors demurred and stated that they would consider that land along with other lots. Thus, several other possible sites were examined, prices compared, and finally Thomas R. Walker's land on Main and Plum Streets was proposed for the site of the hospital according to the October 28, 1930 DHA Board meeting minutes. This land was part of a large track of land Walker owned on what would become the eastern section of Vermillion according to the Schell's book *Clay County: Chapters out of the Past*.

The next factor to be considered was collecting pledges. As mentioned in several DHA Board meeting minutes over the years, this would be an ongoing problem. About \$5,600 in pledges were raised as of May 25, 1931. The Board then formed a new committee with the express duty of collecting pledges. Later the Board turned to a collection agency and sued people with unpaid pledges. According to DHA Board of Directors (BOD) meeting minutes several times the Board prevailed in suing outstanding pledgees and even collected money from estates as detailed in the December 13, 1937 DHA BOD meeting minutes.

Finding an architectural firm to design the hospital was necessary. Rose-land originally suggested that none were needed to save money, but the Board did not agree. By April 28, 1931 the well-known Sioux City firm of Beuttler and Arnold, established in 1912, was commissioned to design the hospital. The firm designed several structures in Iowa and the extension to the Baptist Church in Vermillion that would be placed on the National Register of Historic Sites. William Beuttler, an architect with the firm, met with the Board several times to negotiate designs for the Hospital, especially since there was some doubt about raising the needed funds according to the DHA BOD meeting minutes from October 10, 1931. The firm's rendering of the proposed hospital and future expansion ("Bookends") is shown in Figure 15. The article from the *Dakota Republican* (see figure 15)

Figure 16a  
 Plat map of T. R. Walker's land  
 (1924). The region denoted as  
 "5" is where the hospital would  
 be built.

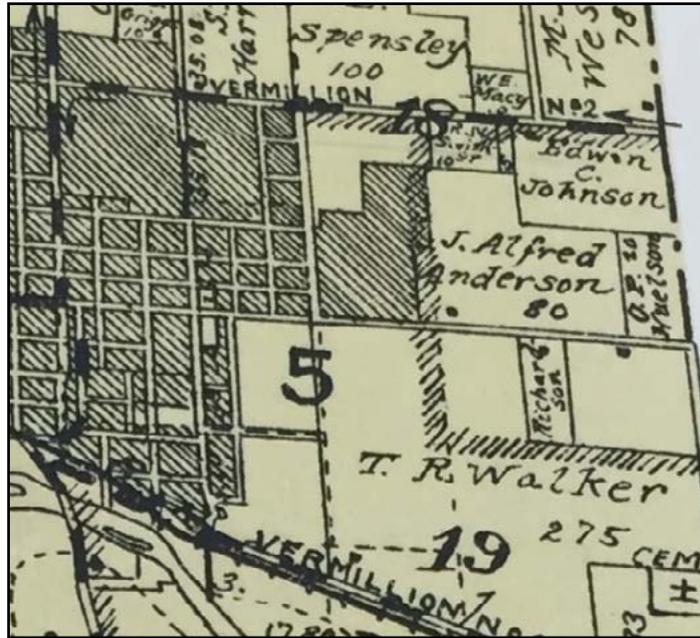
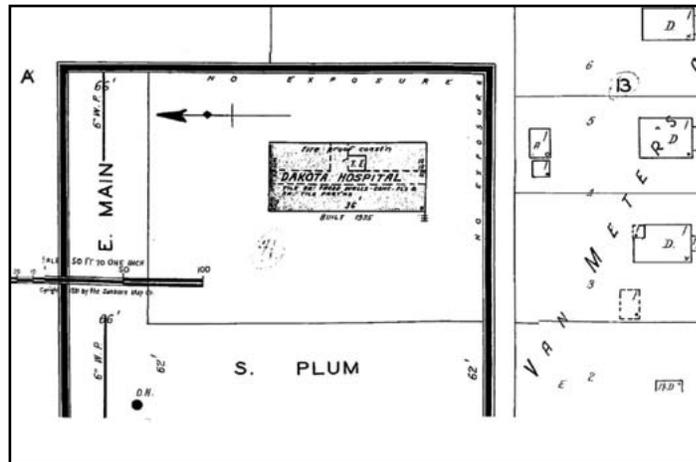


Figure 16b  
 Sanborn fire map of the location of  
 the Dakota Hospital on the lot on  
 East Main and South Plum Streets  
 in the late 1930's.



Anderson Publishing Company  
 Sanborn Fire Maps 1930

states that the construction of the hospital was expected to occur soon.

Another important consideration was administration of the hospital. Neither Roseland, nor any Board members were physicians or nurses. This lack of direct knowledge of medical matters would cause friction among the medical staff, the DHA, and the USD Medical School well into the future. Not uncommon at the time, nurses actually managed hospitals. Thus, Roseland suggested that the Omaha based Lutheran Immanuel Deaconess Home and Hospital, which also had a nursing school since 1890, be contacted to find a nurse supervisor for the Dakota Hospital. The first two nurse supervisors of the Dakota Hospital came from the Immanuel Deaconess Hospital.

Within the DHA documents at this time four reasons were stated for the necessity to build the Dakota Hospital. The first was that the nearest hospitals were 30-65 miles away causing a hardship on patients and their families. Secondly, there was no provision in Vermillion for treating University Students who became seriously ill and also stated was the need for a student health facility for health examinations and vaccinations. According to papers in USD President ID Weeks' files from the 1930's each entering University student underwent a physical examination and a tuberculous test. The third reason cited was that the Dakota Hospital would be useful to the USD Medical School (begun in 1907) to acquire pathological specimens (including unclaimed bodies used for teaching purposes). Finally the Hospital would become instrumental in aiding education of nurses. The Nursing School at the University of South Dakota started in 1954 and student nurses, according to June Larson (Associate Dean of the School of Health Sciences and former Chair of the Department of Nursing at USD) did learn skills at the Dakota Hospital. Thus, building the hospital was imperative for Vermillion for a number of reasons. As we shall see, the relationship between the DHA, Dakota Hospital, and the University existed well into the future.

Figure 17a  
 Inside the Warranty Deed giving  
 the University of South Dakota  
 possession of the DHA land with  
 JH Julian acting as trustee.

Note that Peter Olson was the  
 Notary Public for the transaction.

WARRANTY DEED—State Form      Republican Legal Blanks, Vermillion, S. D.

Dakota Hospital Association, a Corporation,  
 \_\_\_\_\_, Grantor., of  
 Clay County, State of South Dakota

for and in consideration of One Dollar and other valuable considerations,  
 GRANTS, CONVEYS and WARRANTS to J. H. Julian, vice-president and business  
 manager of the University of South Dakota, grantee., of Vermillion, South Dakota, P. O., the following described real estate in  
 the County of Clay in the State of South Dakota:

A tract of land commencing at a point thirty-three (33) feet  
 east and thirty-three (33) feet south of the northwest corner of the  
 Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section Nineteen (19),  
 in Township Ninety-two (92) North, of Range Fifty-one (51) West of  
 the 5th P. M.; thence running south parallel with the west line of  
 said Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of said Section  
 Nineteen (19), and thirty-three (33) feet east thereof, 308 feet;  
 thence running east parallel with the north line of said Northeast  
 Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of said Section Nineteen (19), 320  
 feet; thence running north and parallel with the west line of said  
 Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of said Section Nineteen  
 (19), 308 feet; thence west and parallel with the north line of said  
 Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of said Section Nineteen  
 (19) 320 feet to the place of beginning.

Dated this 23rd day of February 1934.

DAKOTA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
 By *Jason E. Payne* President.  
 By *E. G. Andresen* Secretary.

STATE OF South Dakota County of Clay ss:

On this 23rd day of February in the year 1934  
 before me Peter Olson a Notary Public within and for  
 said County and State, personally appeared Jason E. Payne and E. G. Andresen,  
 well known to me to be the President and Secretary of the Corporation  
 that is described in, and that executed the within and foregoing in-  
 strument, and acknowledged to me that such corporation executed the  
 instrument and is the person or persons who executed the same.

*Peter Olson*  
 Notary Public.

## The Public Works Administration Grant

By June 30, 1933 the Board of Directors explored the possibility of obtaining Public Works Administration (PWA) funds as source of money to build the hospital. On February 9, 1934 at a special DHA Board meeting, Dr. Herman James, then President of the University, suggested that the DHA write a memorandum of agreement with USD to give the University the rights, title, and interest for the land as a means of using the University to garner PWA grant funds to help build the Hospital. It is clear in a February 24, 1934 Federal Government letter that included a meeting with Dr. James, Reverend Roseland, the State PWA Board, and government officials, that application for a \$25,000 grant would not be accepted unless it was administered by the Board of Regents as a *University Project*. Please remember that three out of the four reasons for constructing the Hospital involved the University, the DHA had been in existence for less than four years at that time, and had never constructed a building. Thus, the USD Trustee Dr. J. Hendon Julian, who served USD for over 50 years and for whom Julian Hall is named, and the DHA President, Payne, worked together on this proposal. The Deed for the Hospital (Book 38, Page 327 in Office of Deeds, Clay County Courthouse Figures 17a and 17b) designated that Julian was the trustee of the land. It was not until November 29, 1963 that Julian submitted a "Quit Claim Deed" to relinquish the University's ownership of the land.

17b  
Outside Warranty Deed

Res.  1633  
Comp.   
Ind. A.   
Ind. N.

**WARRANTY DEED**  
STATE FORM

Dakota Hospital Association,  
a Corporation,

TO

J. H. Julian, vice-  
president and business  
manager of the University  
of South Dakota.

State of South Dakota }  
County of Clay } ss.

Filed for record this 1<sup>st</sup>  
day of March 1934  
at 2<sup>25</sup> o'clock P. M., and recorded  
in Book 38 of Deeds on  
Page 327.

*Joie Sullivan*  
Register of Deeds.

By \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy.  
Fee 60¢ P.D.

When recorded return to  
*J. E. Payne*

University of South Dakota Archives

The PWA grant application in the Dakota Hospital Foundation Archives is an important part of DHA history and the extensive funding application is instructive in many ways. It discusses the cost of the project, how the hospital would be an asset to the University and surrounding “territory” and also that the project would “give considerable employment” to residents of the area during the Great Depression. Harold Brookman, an engineer who served on the faculty of USD, was an alderman, and City of Vermillion engineer, included a sketch of the proposed Hospital in the proposal (figure 18, next page). Also, as part of the application Dr. Eugene Stansbury, a physician in Vermillion for almost twenty years, wrote a letter of support. He stated that his letter represented the sentiments of four other physicians in Vermillion and ten physicians in surrounding towns for the need of a local community Hospital. In a separate letter, C. J. Nulty, County Auditor representing the Clay County Commissioners who were responsible for supporting the hospitalization of indigent patients as part of Poor Relief, also indicated his support for this project. In both letters the authors cite the number of individuals the local hospital would expect to serve and also the effort and time saved by eliminating thirty mile or longer trips to Yankton or Sioux City hospitals. The grant also details where additional funds for the construction of the hospital would come from including citizens’ pledges, money from the City of Vermillion (\$15,000), and a memorial fund for MD Thompson from his family (\$30,000). According to the *Dakota Republican* article from July 5, 1934 the grant was funded for \$25,000.

Figure 18  
 Harold Brookman's rendering of  
 the proposed Dakota Hospital  
 that was part of the 1934 PWA  
 grant application.



Figure 19  
 Ad for bids to build the  
 new hospital

**HOSPITAL BUILDING—BIDS CLOSE  
 SEPT. 10.  
 Vermillion, S. D.**

**NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.** — Sealed proposals for the erection and completion of a hospital building to be erected at Vermillion, South Dakota, for the University of South Dakota at Vermillion, South Dakota, will be received by Mr. J. H. Julian, trustee, up until 2:00 o'clock p. m., September 10, 1934.

The owner is the Board of Regents of Education, State of South Dakota, W. S. Dolan, president.

All bids submitted shall be in accordance with drawings and specifications prepared by Beuttler & Arnold, architects, of Sioux City, Iowa.

Drawings and specifications are on file at the office of the architects and with Mr. J. H. Julian, trustee, at Vermillion, South Dakota.

Separate bids shall be submitted according to the following listed classifications:

- 1—General Contract.
- 2—Heating and Plumbing.
- 3—Electric Wiring.
- 4—Elevator and Dumb Waiter.

Bids shall be addressed and delivered to Mr. J. H. Julian, trustee, in sealed envelopes and each bidder shall include with his bid in a sealed envelope, the names of all sub-contractors and their bid, upon which his bid is based. The sealed envelope so submitted shall have on it the name of the contractor with the words thereon "Bids of Sub-Contractors." (See P. W. 8538, under date of March 28, 1934.)

Contractor shall conform to all Federal regulations as outlined in the grant agreement and in Bulletin No. 2 as revised and issued by the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, under date of March 3, 1934, the minimum rate of wages being \$1.20 per hour for skilled labor and \$0.50 per hour for unskilled labor.

Top photo DHA document  
 Bottom newspaper clipping  
 Vermillion Plain Talk  
 September 23, 1934

## Building the Hospital 1934-1935

When it became evident that the Hospital would be built, several newspaper articles highlighted the events taking place and extra meetings of the Board took place to make sure that the project was completed. Included in this process were opening bids for constructing the hospital (Figure 19). Ads in the *Dakota Republican* and *Vermillion Plain Talk* published on September, 23, 1934 noted that bids from contractors and sub-contractors should be sent to Mr. J. H. Julian, trustee. The actual owner of the Hospital was listed as W. S. Dolan, who represented the Board of Regents of Education, State of South Dakota. Bids were solicited for general contracting, heating and plumbing, electric wiring and an elevator and a dumb waiter. Winning bids were Holtze Construction Company, Sioux City, IA; Johnson Plumbing Company, Sioux City, IA; Aberdeen Electric Company, Aberdeen, SD; and the Otis Elevator Company.

At the time the Dakota Hospital was built, it lay outside the City of Vermillion. According to the City Council meeting minutes it was not until April 6, 1936 that the Hospital property would become part of the City. Since the land was essentially farm land, clearing the land, grading and placing sidewalks were required. Several glitches occurred in the construction of the building. For example, a large front page ad in the *Dakota Republican* of July 26, 1934 noted that over \$22,000 in pledges were still required to start the project. By August \$14,000 were still needed. However by the end of September of 1934 the pledge funds needed were collected and became available to begin building.

Another problem was that one week after construction started; an article in the *Dakota Republican* reported that construction was halted because the required report denoting the breakdown sheet dividing labor and material costs had not been properly submitted. Finally another important requirement of the PWA grant was to employ labor from local relief lists unless special skilled workers were not available as stated in the *Dakota Republican* article of September 27, 1934. This was not a problem at the time of the Great Depression when City Council minutes over and over again cite the need for financial aid to destitute citizens. According to City Council meeting minutes it was not until December of 1934 that William Lawton granted right of way through his land to construct sewer and water connections to the Hospital.

By March 7, 1935 much of the Dakota Hospital construction was completed but there were still several items that needed attention including installing an elevator and sterilization equipment. Although the hospital officially opened on October 17, 1935, additional rooms still were being furnished.

## Controversies between the DHA Board and the Medical Staff

While the Dakota Hospital Superintendent was Rev. Roseland, the care of patients was supervised by Sister Myrtle Anderson, a registered nurse who had been hired from the Immanuel Deaconess Hospital. Other nurses first employed by the Hospital included Bernice Dahlberg, Ethel Sullivan, Mrs. Robert Gobell, and Kate Roetman who was the laboratory and X-ray technician. Sister Myrtle was also put in charge of regulating the use of narcotics and alcohol for the hospital. According to the DHA BOD meeting minutes of December 3, 1935 Sister Myrtle reported that 52 patients had entered the hospital since its opening. Several thousand dollars in pledges still went uncollected, a problem that would plague the Board as evidenced in the meeting minutes for many years.

A controversy over the role of the medical staff and control of the workings of the hospital was voiced in the December 10, 1935 and January 14, 1936 DHA Board of Directors (BOD) meeting minutes. Doctors in and around Vermillion were expected to approve and abide by by-laws composed by DHA board members, become members of the hospital staff, support the hospital monetarily, and direct patients to the Dakota Hospital for care rather than to hospitals in Sioux City or Yankton.

A copy of the medical staff by-laws in University President ID Weeks' files outlines these and several particulars required by the medical staff including a provision about handling "therapeutic abortions" which were relatively common during the Great Depression according to Reagan's book *When Abortion was a Crime*. Push back against the by-laws came immediately from the medical staff and the Dean of the Medical School, Dr. Ohlmacher, who wrote DHA President Payne a 3 page single spaced typed letter expressing grave concerns regarding the Board's handling of the medical staff. However, later on in the letter he was clearly supportive of the Hospital and even agreed to be its pathologist for a year. In response to the complaints, the by-laws were amended, but there were no representatives of the medical staff at Board meetings and would not be until the 1950's. New by-laws in 1952, included in DHA files, were very different than the earlier version and omitted any mention of abortions.

Figure 20a  
The sign in front of the  
new Dakota Hospital  
and the University  
Student Health



Figure 20b  
Full view of the new  
Dakota Hospital



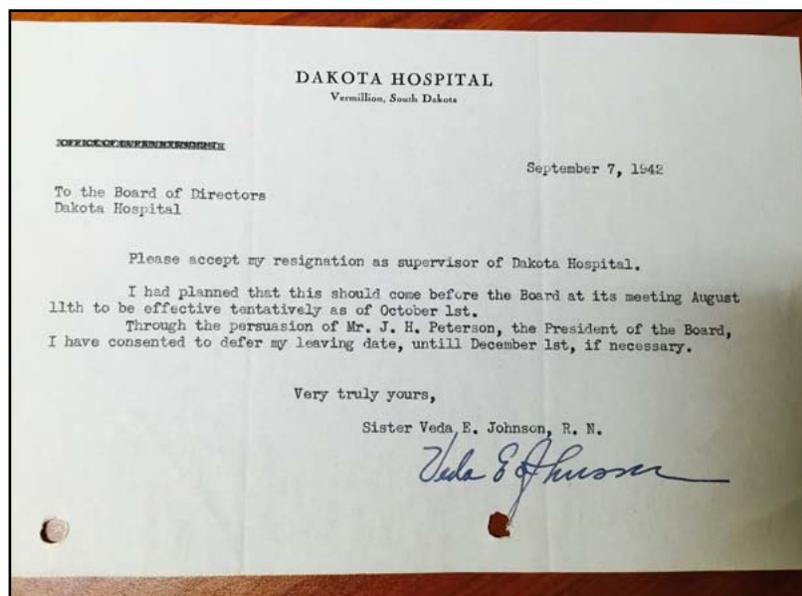
W. H. Over Archives

## University Student Health and Additional Concerns

Reading through the DHA BOD meeting minutes additional areas of continuing concern included obtaining funds to treat University students (the University Student Health Service was located in Dakota Hospital until the late 1940's well described in the files of ID Weeks, President of the University from 1935-1966), garnering funds from the County Commissioners to treat indigent patients (many of whom were still sent to Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton), and equipment problems especially washing machines, and boilers that were initially not treated to deal with the caustic Vermillion water (there was mention in the DHA BOD meeting minutes of suing the City of Vermillion over the water quality), and the elevator that needed constant maintenance. An additional problem was the lack of street lights and paving around the Hospital was not complete. Some of this was completed with Federal Government relief funds in the coming years. Landscaping the Hospital would not occur until several years later starting in 1944.

Thus, the picture figure 20b shows Dakota Hospital surrounded by bare land. Evident in this picture also is the sign for the Dakota Hospital and Student Health Services. Although student health services took place within the hospital building, they were managed by a Dean of the Medical School who appointed the University Physician and University Nurse (according to the ID Weeks Archives). Becoming a University Physician was considered a privilege and was paid for by student fees. University Physicians not only took care of students' health and wellbeing, but were also required to do some teaching in the USD School of Medicine. Additional extensive information about Student Health Services at USD is found in President ID Weeks' records at the USD Archives.

Figure 21  
Sister Veda Johnson's  
Resignation letter.



DHA documents

## Turnover of Nurse Supervisors

In the August 4, 1936 DHA Board meeting minutes it was reported that Sister Myrtle, the first nurse supervisor, was leaving to take a missionary post in China. Other staff members also left during this period of time possibly because of low salaries that the Board were extremely hesitant to increase. This became an especially embarrassing situation following the hiring of Sister Veda Johnson, the second nurse supervisor. Her starting salary, according to the Board meeting minutes of November 14, 1939, was to be \$75 per month plus room and board. According to the DHA BOD meeting minutes of May 13, 1941, her salary was decreased to \$50 per month even as she was lauded for her work according the annual DHA meeting minutes of May 27, 1941. The outcome of this salary decrease started a controversy that reached the Director of the Immanuel Deaconess Institute who chastised the Board members for their improper treatment of Sister Veda. In a special meeting of the Board on October 27, 1942 it was clear that Sister Veda tended her resignation. The money owed to her was not resolved for several months. The new supervisor of nursing, Miss Richardson, was paid \$90 per month and by March 9, 1943 she was making \$100 per month! The issue of increasing hospital staff salaries, not including physicians' pay at that time, would be an ongoing challenge.

Figure 22  
"Open House" advertisement



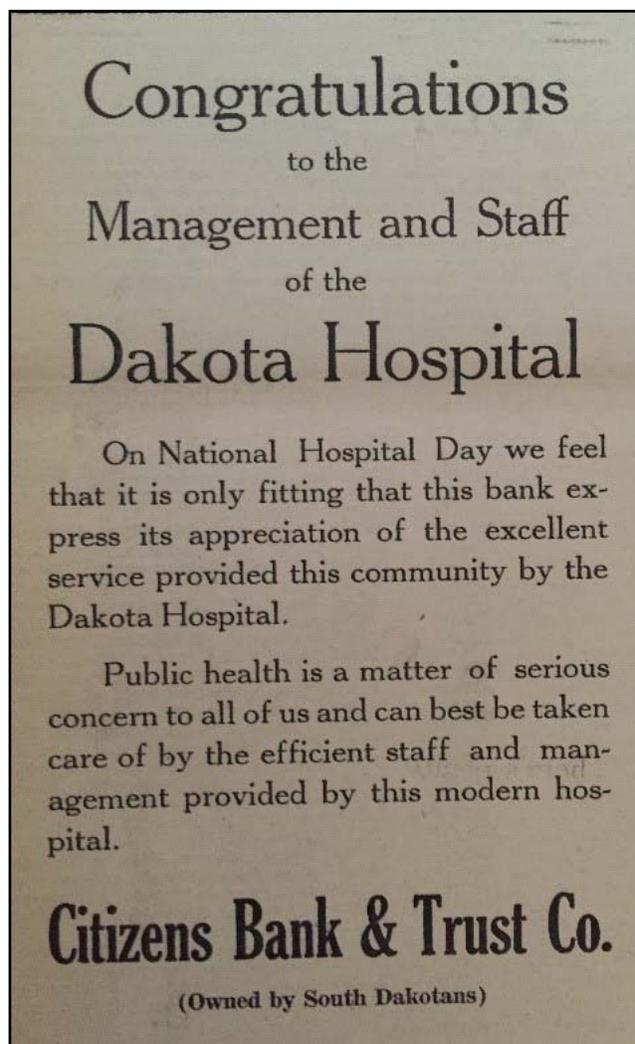
Vermillion Plain Talk  
May 11, 1937  
Courtesy of Clay County  
Historical Society

## Public Relations

In the course of the construction of the hospital and shortly thereafter newspaper articles frequently mentioned the progress of the Hospital. Names of patients were published weekly in the local papers, but during a DHA BOD meeting in October 23, 1936 Rev. Roseland expressed concern that the citizens of Clay County and surrounding areas incorrectly thought that Board Members were earning large salaries from the Hospital and members' pledges. Positive publicity for the Hospital and understanding the function of the Board was needed. On May 12, 1939 the Hospital was opened to the public for observance of National Hospital Week (figure 22). Moreover, a long article published in the *Dakota Republican* on February 22, 1940 was the first to detail the history the Dakota Hospital, its financial status, the number of patients served, current DHA Board members, and medical staff (including nurses and physicians in Vermillion, Elk Point, Wakonda, and Beresford). As a consequence of the concern regarding public perception of the Hospital and the DHA, the Board deemed it necessary to create a publicity committee.

The other indication that the community was not interested and knowledgeable about the function of the DHA or the Hospital was the lack of DHA members (other than Board members) who attended the Annual Meetings of the Association. Admittedly, the newspaper notices tended to be very small. After several years of a lack of quorum, the Annual DHA Members' meetings were actually cancelled according to the minutes of DHA. Moreover, copies of newspaper ads advertising the annual meetings were retained in the DHA as evidence that the meetings were made open to the public! Finally, the Board suggested that a quorum could consist of eight members at a meeting (i.e. generally Board of Directors).

Figure 23  
Thank you from  
Citizens Bank and Trust



Vermillion Plain Talk  
May 11, 1937  
Courtesy of Clay County  
Historical Society.

## Finances

The other factor to keep the Hospital open was making sure that there would be an ongoing influx of new pledges and other forms of financial support. Board members were not averse to taking individuals who had pledged money to court. Moreover, in the minutes of the December 7, 1937 and February 8, 1938 meetings described that the DHA contested the probate of Martha Helgeson's estate and won a \$750 settlement. Finally to increase the ability of the board to increase its income it amended the 8th Article of Incorporation to be able "to acquire, take, receive, hold property real and personal, by devise bequest, gift, grant and other contrivance, or testimonial disposition" according to the DHA BOD meeting minutes of April 12, 1938. This change in function of the DHA increased the size of the "net" by which the Board could increase its financial reach.

A valid contributing factor to the concerns that citizens may have had about the DHA and Dakota Hospital was their poor financial reporting. Although numbers for receipts and expenditures were mentioned in the DHA BOD minutes, it was not until late in 1940 that good book keeping practices were initiated. On July 9, 1940 Maud Sloan, the City Treasurer, was hired to audit the books. Her first report stated that the finances were poorly collected and reported. In addition it was not until September 9, 1941 that two accounts were set up, one for the DHA and the other for the Dakota Hospital. In the future, the more detailed financial reports produced monthly revealed exact income sources and expenditures. Consequently, the job of the office manager took on a bigger role and over time helpers were hired to maintain the books. There was also a need to obtain insurance for Board members, patients, the hospital and even boilers. Getting these was not always easy since the Hospital was not entirely built according to code. However, the importance of hospital safety was soon appreciated.

Figure 24  
Poster advertising an upcoming auction to benefit Dakota Hospital in the early 1950's. Note the items accepted and the rural collection sites indicating the broad regional impact of the Dakota Hospital.

**PHONE No. 25**  
Between Hours of 10:00-12:00 Daily  
On the Items You Can Contribute  
to the  
**DAKOTA HOSPITAL BENEFIT  
COMMUNITY  
AUCTION SALE**

Auction and rummage sale to be held at the  
National Guard Armory.  
All proceeds from this sale will be used for  
needed improvements at Dakota Hospital

<b>ARTICLES THAT MAY BE CONTRIBUTED TO SALE . . .</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grandma's false teeth</li><li>• Worn out snow shovels</li><li>• Articles of clothing</li><li>• Poultry</li><li>• Livestock</li><li>• Appliances</li><li>• Household furnishings</li><li>• Garden tools</li><li>• Farm machinery</li><li>• Auto accessories</li><li>• Toys</li><li>• Canned foods</li><li>• Building materials</li></ul> and anything else you can dig up that someone might want.	<b>RURAL COLLECTION STATIONS</b>  Westerville Store Greenfield Store Turner's Locker Hub City Store Swanson's Grocery Hart-Bartlett-Sturtevant, Burbank.  <small>These points are for the convenience of rural contributors. Articles will be picked up from there by the committee.</small>
--	--

**Saturday, March 20**  
Sponsored by Vermillion Lion and Rotary Clubs

## Challenges to the Dakota Hospital due to World War II

World War II brought many challenges to the DHA and the Hospital. For example several of the physicians and nurses joined the military as did University students and citizens. Having fewer nurses resulted in increased nurses' salaries. On April 12, 1938 the DHA Board resolved that only registered nurses be employed except in emergency situations when graduate nurses could be hired. Since the number of registered nurses was at a premium, their salaries steadily rose (sometimes to the chagrin of Board members according to DHA BOD meeting minutes). In addition, the enrollment at the University dropped to almost half during the War. Thus, fewer fees from students were available for the Hospital. In addition, some ill student soldiers were housed on University property, again depriving the Hospital of income it would have garnered from having soldiers treated at the Hospital. Finally, an article from the *Vermillion Plain Talk* on May 9, 1943 indicated that the University of South Dakota would become a site for military medical training.

By the end of World War II, the Hospital had been in operation for about a decade. Starting from barren land, the Board of Directors constructed and ran a community hospital as promised. Many challenges would remain including the death of very active Board members and officers including James Gilbertson, M. J. Chaney and Jason Payne and resignation of others including W. H. Over in 1945. The Board with the help of the community faced these challenges. Moreover, with time and very prudent investments, the Board started appreciating the need to expand the Hospital Campus. The outcome of these efforts extending to the present time is discussed in the following chapter.

*Figure 25  
Photograph of the Dakota  
Nursing Home.  
Vermillion Plain Talk  
April 11, 1957.*



*Courtesy of the Clay County  
Historical Society*

## Expansion of the Health Care Campus

Timeline: Construction of the Nursing Home (1957), Expansion of the Hospital to a Healthcare Campus, and Demolition of Dakota Hospital to build a new Healthcare Outpatient Facility and Health Campus remodeling (2017)

The previous section highlighted the struggles and triumphs associated with the building and management of the Dakota Hospital from the time of Great Depression to the end of World War II. In this chapter a time-line of expansion of the Dakota Hospital “Campus” is presented.

### The Nursing Home 1957

Following the building of the Dakota Hospital, the next venture the DHA pursued was building a Nursing Home, or at that time it was called a Home for the Aged. Although there was a nursing home in Beresford, the Bethesda Home for the Aged, the need for a nursing home in Vermillion was clear. Funds for this new building came from donations of many organizations in Vermillion to match the \$150,000 obtained from the Hill-Burton Construction Act of 1946 in response to the paucity of medical facilities (hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care facilities) following World War II. The need for matching funds prompted a number of fund drives that also gave a fair amount of publicity to the construction of the Nursing Home that opened in the spring of 1957. It was the first Hill-Burton sponsored nursing home built in South Dakota. At that time it was considered a model construction and was quickly utilized. The total cost of the facility was \$320,000. According to an article in the *Vermillion Plain Talk* published on April 18, 1957 over 3,000 attended the dedication of the Nursing Home on April 14, 1957.

Figure 26  
*"Bookends" built on either side  
of the Dakota Hospital to expand  
the size of the building.*



University of South Dakota Archives  
School of Medicine, Box 2

## The “Bookends”

The next expansion of the health care campus was construction of *bookends* onto the existing Dakota Hospital (see Figure 26). This project also received Hill-Burton funding support. The additions to the hospital were designed by Beuttler and Son, an offspring of the firm Beuttler and Arnold Architects from Sioux City who had designed the original Dakota Hospital. Although initiated in 1964, construction of the additions was not completed until 1966. Several community organizations were instrumental in helping furnish the new *bookends*.

The Dakota Hospital Association managed the Hospital and Nursing Home for several years. According to the August 22, 1985 “50th Anniversary of the Dakota Hospital” supplement to the *Vermillion Plain Talk*, a group from Minnesota, Health Center of Minneapolis, took over administration of the health care facilities. By 1989, Sioux Valley had extended its reach into health facilities in the territory and started managing the hospital, and nursing home signing a lease agreement in 1997.

Figure 27  
Aerial view of Sioux Valley,  
Vermillion Medical Center in  
2004.

Note the interconnections  
between the original Dakota  
Hospital with the “bookends”  
and interconnections to other  
buildings.



## Expanding the Hospital

In 1992, a 36 bed hospital was built adjacent to the Dakota Hospital. Over time the original Dakota Hospital building housed offices, records and became a venue for therapists. The newly formed Occupational Therapy Department, which is part of the School of Health Sciences at the University of South Dakota occupied two floors of the Hospital from 1991 until 2008 when it moved into the newly built Andrew E. Lee Medical School building on Dakota and Clark Street. Additions to the health care campus also included a new emergency room, a new lobby, and a Family Medicine clinic. In 2007, the Sioux Valley Vermillion Medical Center was renamed the Sanford Vermillion Medical Center.

With less of a need for hospital beds, the use of electronic storage of records, and more out-patient facilities used, both Sanford and the Dakota Hospital Foundation (formerly the Dakota Hospital Association from 1930-2003), renamed the Dakota Hospital Association and Foundation (2003-2006), and finally became the Dakota Hospital Foundation thereafter) undertook a proposed 14.5 million dollar project to revamp completely the Dakota Hospital Campus (which also included an assisted living facility (see Figure 28) to be more attune to current medical needs.

Figure 28  
A map indicating consolidated lots to form the community oriented Health Care Development District in 2014 from the Vermillion Zoning and Planning meeting.

The rectangle denotes the location of the Dakota Hospital on the corner of Main Street and South Plum.



(<http://www.vermillion.us/vertical/sites>)

## Planning for the Future: Modernizing the Health Campus

In early 2014 the Dakota Hospital Foundation signed an agreement with Sanford Health to build a new health care facility on the footprint of the Dakota Hospital. The investment consisted of \$12 million from Sanford Health and \$2.45 million from the Dakota Hospital Foundation. Additional funds are needed to furnish the facility and purchase new equipment. Subsequently, at the conclusion of the project, Sanford Health will assume ownership for the infrastructure, including building projects and technology. For the first phase of the agreement, Sanford Health will remodel several areas of Sanford Vermillion Campus. Also, in preparation for this new project, the Vermillion Zoning and Planning Commission was approached to develop the land owned by Dakota Hospital Foundation (DHF) into a district for health care. This included combining the original 4 lots into one lot and purchasing additional land. The boundary of land owned by the DHF included all properties except for the lots owned by Vermillion Medical Clinic and Saunders Chiropractic (Figure 28). The structure outlined by the rectangle denotes where the Dakota Hospital stood prior to its removal, to make way for new construction. The zoning change was approved by the Vermillion City Council meeting on September 15, 2014.

In February of 2016 demolition of the Dakota Hospital and parts of the facilities built in 1993 started. By March 2017 the new 17,300 square feet building (constructed by Feigen Construction, Sioux Falls) was well on its way to completion according to a *Vermillion Plain Talk* article. The new facility houses an outpatient services center for physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, cardiac rehabilitation, respiratory therapy, and areas for imaging including a new MRI as well as equipment for bone densitometry measurements, mammography, and ultrasound. This space also contains a new material management space. On the lower levels on-call sleep rooms, training areas and mechanical rooms will be located. The new facility (architect's rendering in Figure 29 or actual photograph Figure 30) should be up to date and more amenable to the changing needs of

Figure 29  
Architect's rendering of the  
new addition



Architecture, Inc., Sioux Falls

patients for years to come. Another project included remodeling the Dakota Gardens located on South Plum Street into an assisted living facility that opened in January of 2017.

Future projects will involve demolition of older buildings that Sanford owns on the west side of Plum Street. When all construction is complete, Sanford will own the entire health care campus.

Since 2008 the Dakota Hospital Foundation has been actively supporting both hospital related projects such as purchase of digital mammography equipment, development of a “Healing Garden Idea”, sponsoring Employee Challenge Projects, and purchasing pulmonary function equipment and obstetrics furniture. In addition, the Foundation contributed to the improvement of the well-being of Vermillion community by supporting the Main Street Center, Vermillion School District projects, the Vermillion Public Library, Parks and Recreation renovations in Prentis Park, and giving out student scholarships. The Foundation will continue to help maintain the existing facility and improve the well-being and health of the community through grants.

Thus, the Dakota Hospital as a community hospital helped maintain health care of people who lived in Vermillion and the surrounding territory for 80 years. Late in 2015 “The Farewell Ceremony” described plans for a sculpture by Chris Meyer, consisting of molds of 150 hands of individuals that had interactions with the Dakota Hospital. In addition, a video was developed denoting experiences of people involved with the Dakota Hospital including constructing the hospital, being an employee of the hospital, being a patient or having a loved one as a patient, or otherwise how this hospital touched their lives. Hopefully this book chronicles the challenges to the construction and maintenance of Dakota Hospital and what it meant to the people of Vermillion and surrounding territory.

Figure 30  
Photo of new facility



Photo by Bill Willroth III

## REFERENCES

Newspapers accessed and cited in the text:

*Argus Leader* (Sioux Falls paper)  
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