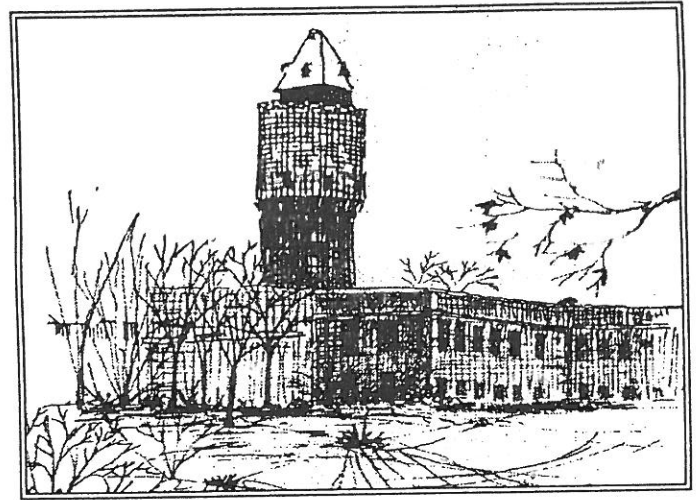


History



K.R.P.H.

135th ANNIVERSARY

August 29, 1859

to

August 29, 1994

KALAMAZOO PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL
1995

KALAMAZOO REGIONAL PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL
1986

KALAMAZOO STATE HOSPITAL
1911

MICHIGAN ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE
1859



PREFACE

On August 29, 1994, Kalamazoo Regional Psychiatric Hospital celebrated its 135th Anniversary of dedicated service to the people of the State of Michigan. From its humble beginning in 1859 it has experienced a proud history of serving those who were less fortunate. Known for its rich and unique tradition from its beginning when it was known as the Michigan Asylum for the Insane to its present day existence as Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital and still maintains its high standard as a care provider for the citizens of this State. It is with this pride and dedication we present this brief history to share our story with all of you.

HISTORY OF

KALAMAZOO

Regional

PSYCHIATRIC

HOSPITAL

The Kalamazoo Regional Psychiatric Hospital was formally opened on August 29, 1859 when James Buchanan was the 15th President of the United States and Moses Wisner was Governor of Michigan.

The first reference to the care of the insane in Michigan was an Act creating the Board of Superintendents of the Poor approved March 7, 1834. In 1842 a "Crazy House" was built at Wayne County Almshouse for the violently insane. The United States census for 1840 showed there were 65 mental cases in Michigan, of which seven were public charges. In 1850 the census lists 326 cases, and in 1854 there were 428 cases.

In 1848 the first provision for the insane was introduced to the legislature. An Act was passed which provided for the establishment of an asylum to care for these people.

However, it was 1850 before the board of trustees made public their selection of a site, the village of Kalamazoo. The citizens donated \$1,380.00 and ten acres of land in the center of the village for the building. The land donated proved unsuitable for a location of an institution and was offered for sale and disposed of for \$1,280.00, which was the full amount paid for 160 acres purchased for the present site of the institution.

In 1853 the legislature made another appropriation of \$20,000.00 from the general fund, and appointed a second board of trustees, whose duties were to adopt plans for the buildings.

In January 1854 the board of trustees appointed Dr. John P. Gray, then Superintendent of New York State Asylum at Utica, to the position of Superintendent at a salary not to exceed \$800.00 per year for services and expenses. Dr. Gray resigned in 1856 to return to Utica and Dr. Edwin VanDeusen, his assistant at Utica, was appointed Superintendent of this institution.

In 1855 erection of the center building began the following Spring and incorporated the best features of the then accepted type of construction for psychiatric patients.

The site of the main building was about one mile from the business section of the City of Kalamazoo, and sufficiently

elevated above the valley of the Kalamazoo River to provide an extensive prospect, yet well sheltered, and easily reached from the plain below. In the rear of the site the land falls by several ravines, about 80 feet to the valley below.

A fire on February 11, 1858 was a serious setback as the administration section was completely destroyed causing an estimated loss of nearly one-fifth of the building erected.

In 1859 the board of trustees reported they were about ready to care for 90 male patients, and asked for an appropriation of \$90,500.00 to provide accommodations for 54 Female patients, reconstruct the center building, build a chapel, general kitchen, and other accessory buildings.

Lack of provisions for the insane in this State made it necessary to use the south wing, the only completed part of the building, to care for both male and female patients, and as living quarters for the officers. This part of the institution was fully equipped for receiving patients and the first patient was admitted on April 23, 1859.

The formal opening was not until August 29, 1859, eleven years after the enactment of the law establishing Michigan asylums. However, it was not until 1869 that the main building was completed in accordance with the original plan to accommodate 300 patients, 150 of either sex.

In 1859 the first Chaplain of this Hospital was appointed and the Reverend, Daniel Putnam, served in that capacity until 1884.

In 1871 \$220,000.00 was appropriated for another building to be occupied exclusively by male patients and the building was completed in 1874.

The Michigan Asylum for the insane was not considered complete with a capacity of 580 patients. Furnished and complete with modern improvements, together with 195 acres of land the institution cost the State \$727,173.90.

GATE COTTAGE

In 1874 a Cottage was built for the gardener at the entrance of the hospital near Asylum Avenue (later changed to Oakland Drive). The cost was \$1,230.00 and the architecture was Victorian Board and batten carpenter Gothic.

In 1877 Dr. Palmer, the Superintendent, assigned eight women patients to live at the Cottage with an attendant. While not recorded as such, it could have been called Michigan's first halfway house.

In 1936, while standing vacant, it was then used to house staff doctors and their families and Dr. Borgman was the first to live there.

There again came a period of disuse and in 1960's Dorothy U. Dalton donated \$4,000.00 to repair and maintain the Cottage so it could be used as a sales outlet for products made in occupational therapy, but in the late 1970s the Cottage again was vacant and began to deteriorate and the Citizens Association for the Hospital was at the time looking for office space. The Hospital offered the Cottage to the Association to use the kitchen and pantry, and to maintain the unused area as a museum.

In 1981 a complete restoration was completed and is maintained by the Citizens Association.

In 1879 the first woman doctor, Dr. Helen W. Bissell, was hired at this institution.

In 1885 the legislature authorized \$16,000.00 for the purchase of a 250-acre dairy farm to aid in the care of chronic cases. This farm was 3 miles north of the asylum and was called Brock Farm. The farm was discontinued and sold in 1958. The legislature appropriated \$23,000.00 and authorized the purchase of a larger 308-acre farm located 3 miles southwest of the asylum. This was called Colony Farm and had, at that time, more than 300 registered

Holstein cows which furnished milk for the entire institution. Michigan was the forerunner of this type of treatment, which was copied later by many other States.

In 1889 the legislature granted an appropriation of \$12,500.00 for a new chapel. This building with a chapel on the first floor and an amusement hall in the basement was located between the original male and female departments and was opened in May 1891.

A new beautiful and functional Interfaith Chapel was constructed on the grounds for a cost of \$175,000.00 from funds totally donated by the Citizens Association for KSH and dedicated September 12, 1965.

In 1892 the Kalamazoo State Hospital Training School for nurses was established, duly and accredited by the State of Michigan. The two-year requirement for nursing education was then in vogue. The first class of eleven graduated in 1894. In 1917 the curriculum requirements were increased to three years and State Boards became mandatory for practice. The school remained active until 1947 when the last class graduated. Thus, the influence of the Kalamazoo State Hospital Training School became wide spread. During the years of its active service the school graduated 733 nurses.

WATER TOWER

For the Citizens of Kalamazoo the most notable landmark is our beloved Water Tower.

Completed in 1895 it was designed by B.F. Stratton of Detroit. The Tower is 172 feet tall, finely proportioned and highlighted at the tip by its bracketed curtain wall and roofline crenellations. With its medieval appearance, the Water Tower, built to compliment the other structures of the hospital, is an engineering masterpiece and can be seen for miles around Kalamazoo. This tower could hold a capacity of 238,000 gallons of hard water and 20,000 gallons of soft water. However, it is no longer in use.

In 1975 when in serious need of repair, it was suggested to demolish the structure, but the people of the area came to its aide and raised \$150,000.00. Along with a grant from the State, the structure was preserved for future generations. The Tower has been listed on the State register of Historic Sites, the National register of Historical sites, and has been designated as a nationally significant structure by the American Waterworks Association.

In 1897 the Fletcher Hospital opened, named for a former trustee, with sufficient room for treatment of 190 men in the infirmary class. Potter Hospital opened in 1898 and was named after a former Treasurer. Edwards Hospital, named after a former Superintendent and the male counterpart of

Potter, was finished in 1905. Burns Cottage, named after a former trustee, accommodating 125 working male patients opened in August 1900. Monroe Cottage, named after a former trustee, built for working female patients was completed in May 1902 and provided beds for 120 patients.

In 1906 Dr. Alfred I Noble, then Superintendent, caused all forms of mechanic restraints to be abolished. This was an important forward step in the management of mental patients doing away with cuffs, camisoles, cages, and similar immobilizing devices so long associated with mental hospitals. Kalamazoo State Hospital was again a leader in the humane treatment of psychiatric patients.

In 1908 the VanDuesen Hospital for female patients with 104 beds was opened.

The cause of mental diseases was unknown at this time, but public opinion had changed considerably due to the improvements seen in patients admitted to the hospital.

In 1906 the population of the hospital had grown to 1,700. In 1911 the legislature changed the name from "Michigan Asylum for the Insane" to "Kalamazoo State Hospital."

On September 21, 1910, the Rich Building, a three-story brick structure named after the former Governor Rich, who was greatly interested in the mentally ill, was completed and opened for use.

On February 3, 1910, a modest wooden shack with

accommodations for 20 tubercular men was completed and occupied. A corresponding structure for 25 female patients similarly afflicted was occupied October 13, 1911. The segregation of tubercular patients was again a pioneering effort by Michigan.

In the Spring of 1912 a Pathology building of stucco was completed. This building comprised three laboratory rooms, a library, classrooms, and lavatory.

In 1913 the Out-Patient Service was established. Physicians from this hospital and a psychologist interviewed patients referred by County authorities to establish whether or not commitment for mental illness was indicated and to offer treatment without hospitalization when practicable.

In 1914 the institution had 73 buildings and a tract of 1,053 acres, which was valued at \$1,585,189.15. On July first of that year 14,125 patients had been cared for since the first admission. The population of the hospital at that time was 2,111.

In 1916 a new laundry was built, which cost \$26,230.00, and employed approximately 115 patients.

In 1919 Noble Lodge was built for employees at a cost of \$70,000.00 with a capacity for 100 people with their own kitchen and dining room. This same year a 3-story Industrial Building costing \$15,300.00 was erected. The

basement was a repair and paint shop. The second floor had a shoe repair shop, brush and broom shop, and a large weaving room.

In 1921, during the time when Dr. Herman Ostrander was Superintendent, the Social Services Department of Kalamazoo State Hospital was established under the supervision of the Social Service Director.

In 1921 the Board of Trustees, which had controlled the hospital since its origin, was replaced by the State Hospital Commission. It consisted of five members appointed by the Governor.

In 1925 a new Power Plant was built costing \$510,294.68. This facility was modernized and enlarged in 1958, and has furnished steam for Western Michigan University as well as Kalamazoo Regional Psychiatric Hospital. The Herman Ostrander Infirmary for women with 100 beds and costing \$136,138.05 and also a storehouse costing \$57,930.00 was built in 1925.

In 1930 the 250-acre Kiltz farm was purchased for \$28,992.70. This area was transferred to Western Michigan University in 1960.

In 1931 the Linda Richards Memorial home for nurses was built at a cost of \$187,151.65 and was named in honor of the

Nation's first graduate nurse, Miss Linda Richards, who served as Chief of Nursing on the hospital staff from 1906 until 1909.

In 1933 the 39-acre Cole farm, valued at \$2,922.70, was given to the hospital as payment on an account.

In 1935 a warehouse for feed storage was built near the railroad siding at a cost of \$1,253.00.

In 1936 a new canning factory was built, which cost \$11,578.00. Approximately 40,000 gallons of fruit and vegetables were canned here and 45,000 lbs. were frozen yearly. The greater portion of this food was produced on the hospital farm.

In 1930 several improvements were made at Colony Farm, including a \$2,717.00 piggery and a maternity barn, costing \$4,895.00. In 1930 the Pratt Cottage at Colony Farm, damaged by fire, was rebuilt with a capacity for 120 patients instead of the original capacity of 40 and cost \$109,227.00. In 1932 a bull barn was built costing \$4,365.00. In 1939 a herdsman building was erected costing \$4,730.00. In 1940 the slaughter house was built at a cost of \$1,894.00.

In 1938 the Brook farm built a maternity barn at a cost of \$5,080.00. This farm then had 34 horses, 11 mules, and 6 colts. Colony farm had 131 cows and 522 pigs. In 1958 the

Brook farm was sold shortly after a fire demolished many of the barns, then empty.

On April 15, 1940, Mary Muff Tubercular Hospital opened with room for 150 patients and cost \$295,000.00. Miss Muff, for whom the building was named, was a graduate of the Kalamazoo State Hospital Training School for Nurses in 1902 and was a valued Chief of Nursing at this Hospital from 1912 - 1938. In 1961 the TB patients were transferred to the Southwestern Michigan Tuberculosis Sanatorium and to Traverse City State Hospital and this building was renovated to house children.

In 1941 the largest construction effort so far attempted at this hospital was completed. Built was the Administration Building, Male Receiving Hospital, Men's Hospital, Acute Medical Hospital for both male and female patients, and Women's Hospital. In 1951 the Female Receiving Hospital was built which completed the quadrangle. This whole section is of an attractive design and is the Hospital Center. In the middle of this quadrangle rises the water tower with its distinctive architecture, which is the landmark so well known to all. The Administration Building is of two-story construction and the rest of the quadrangle are three stories.

In 1942, shortly before the Kalamazoo State Hospital Training School for Nurses was discontinued, classes for

affiliates in Psychiatric Nursing were started with one school represented and 24 student nurses. From time to time there have been 12 different schools of Nursing affiliating.

In 1946 the patient census was 3,380. In 1950 a Garage to house official vehicles was completed by hospital labor at a cost of \$27,724.00.

In 1951 four residences were completed on Oakland Drive across from the Administration Building. These were occupied by physicians employed at the hospital and were erected for a total cost of \$70,720.00.

In 1952 the Service Building was built, which provided excellent facilities for receiving, storage, and issued stores of all kinds of property for the hospital, except mechanical items. Also in the building were the Meat Preparation Room and Bakery, and all necessary cold and dry storage was available. In 1958 the Central Kitchen was added. Both of these buildings cost \$1,198,425.00.

In 1955 the Adjunctive Therapy building was built at a cost of \$765,232.00. It consists of two 2-story sections connected by a single story area know as the Auditorium.

However, since 1859 patient activities have been part of this Hospital's plan of treatment.

The first trained occupational therapists were products from World War I. In 1917 Mrs. Burn B. Thompkins was employed to plan an activity treatment program and she remained until Miss Marion R. Spear replaced her in June of 1918. As the department grew in scope of treatment, additional employees were needed to carry out the treatment.

In 1922 the Kalamazoo School of Occupational Therapy was opened and was a part of this hospital until it was moved to Western Michigan University in 1944.

In 1963 Sheltered Workshops were established here. These afforded excellent outlets for patient activities to many and produced some personal remuneration.

In 1958 the Industrial Building was completed and this entire building cost \$523,230.00.

In 1961 a Childrens Unit, know as the Tower Heights School, was established with accommodations for approximately 80 selected children and adolescent patients in the building formerly known as the Mary Muff TB hospital. Here some of the children, up to age 18, were housed and trained.

In 1962 the last building to be erected at this hospital was occupied in 1962. It was locally known as the East Wing Building. It was a beautifully constructed, two-story, in attractive surroundings and was modern throughout. With its equipment it cost approximately \$800,000.00. It was the first of three buildings which was anticipated to be erected in the same general area to allow the eventual demolition of the old Female Center, parts of which were structurally unsound after over a century of use.

In 1961 the County Referral Program had begun, which involved patients more than 65 who were placed outside the hospital into basic and extended skilled nursing home. As a result the hospital population began to drop at the same time. One-hundred patients were transferred to the Southwestern Michigan Sanitarium and the waiting list was practically eliminated.

While the admissions actually increased in number, new drug therapy resulted in rapid improvement and shorter stays for the patients.

In 1966 the County Referral Program was modified to include all patients who could adjust to more suitable community placements. As a result the Southwestern Sanitarium was turned over to the Department of Mental Health, which resulted in the closing of all farm cottages.

Through this period K.S.H. continued to vacate the older units and in 1973 four smaller buildings and the male center were demolished. The patient population that had a high of 3,590 decreased to 780.

The 1970s was a period of rapid change in the Mental Health System as gradual closing and downsizing of the State's Mental Health system and the expansion of the community-based services for both the Developmentally disabled and mentally ill. Also, community awareness in the Mental Health System was apparent by the involvement of activities and projects at K.S.H. Notable during this period was the closing of sister agencies at Fort Custer on October 1, 1972.

In 1974 Dr. Clarence Schrier, MD, Facility Director since 1956 retired. Dr. Joseph Denniston was named to replace him and Dr. William Decker, MD as the Assistant Facility Director. Later in the year Dr. Denniston left and in January of 1975 Dr. Decker was named Facility Director. It should be noted that during this period the large male building constructed in 1870 was demolished. However, the beloved Water Tower built in 1895 was saved from demolition by Save the Water Tower Committee that raised \$150,000 to

preserve this unique structure, which still stands as Kalamazoo's most prominent landmark.

The 1980's was no exception to the rapid changes that were occurring in the Department of Mental Health. In 1982 Mary Muff Children's Hospital was renamed Pheasant Ridge Center and became a separate facility with it's own director. As the demolition of the older buildings continued, the preservationists protested the razing of Edwards Hospital, Fletcher School, and the Burns Building. The then Governor, James Blanchard, formed a Citizens Committee. However, their efforts were for naught as the buildings were demolished in 1988.

In 1986 the Kalamazoo State Hospital was officially changed to Kalamazoo Regional Psychiatric Hospital to coincide with it's expanding service area.

The former Linda Richards Home, which was utilized by the Corrections Department as a halfway facility was relocated to the Noble Lodge Building at the southern end of the facility grounds in 1992. The Linda Richards' facility is now remodeled and is part of the new medical facility being constructed on the site in cooperation with Michigan State University, which will operate the facility as a tracking unit of its Human Medicine Program.

As we continue into the 1990's, K.R.P.H. is continuing to

experience the forces of change. On 11/14/90 the Northwest Unit was closed. On 4/15/91, Noble Lodge Building was closed. On 11/5/94 the Power Plant was purchased by Western Michigan University, and on 3/14/93 Pheasant Ridge Center was merged back to it's original parent agency, K.P.H.

On 4/3/95 the name was officially changed to Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital.

Below those listed are those who served as Superintendents or Facility Directors:

1854 - 1856	Dr. John P. Gray, M.D.
1856 - 1878	Dr. Edwin H. VanDeusen, M.D.
1878 - 1891	Dr. George C. Palmer, M.D.
1891 - 1905	Dr. William M. Edwards, M.D.
1906 - 1916	Dr. Alfred I. Noble, M.D.
1916 - 1930	Dr. Herman Ostrander, M.D.
1930 - 1956	Dr. Roy A. Morter, M.D.
1956 - 1974	Dr. Clarence M. Schrier, M.D.
1974 - 1974	Dr. Joseph Denniston, M.D.
1974 - 1987	Dr. William A. Decker, M.D.
1987 - Present	Dr. James J. Coleman, Ed.D.

**Served as Acting Superintendent during early construction days.*

(616) 965-3972
337-3000
3346



Richard L. Thompson
Administrative Officer

KALAMAZOO REGIONAL PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL
Box A 1312 Oakland Dr. Kalamazoo, MI 49008