

The Lackawanna Historical Society BULLETIN

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THE MOSES TAYLOR HOSPITAL

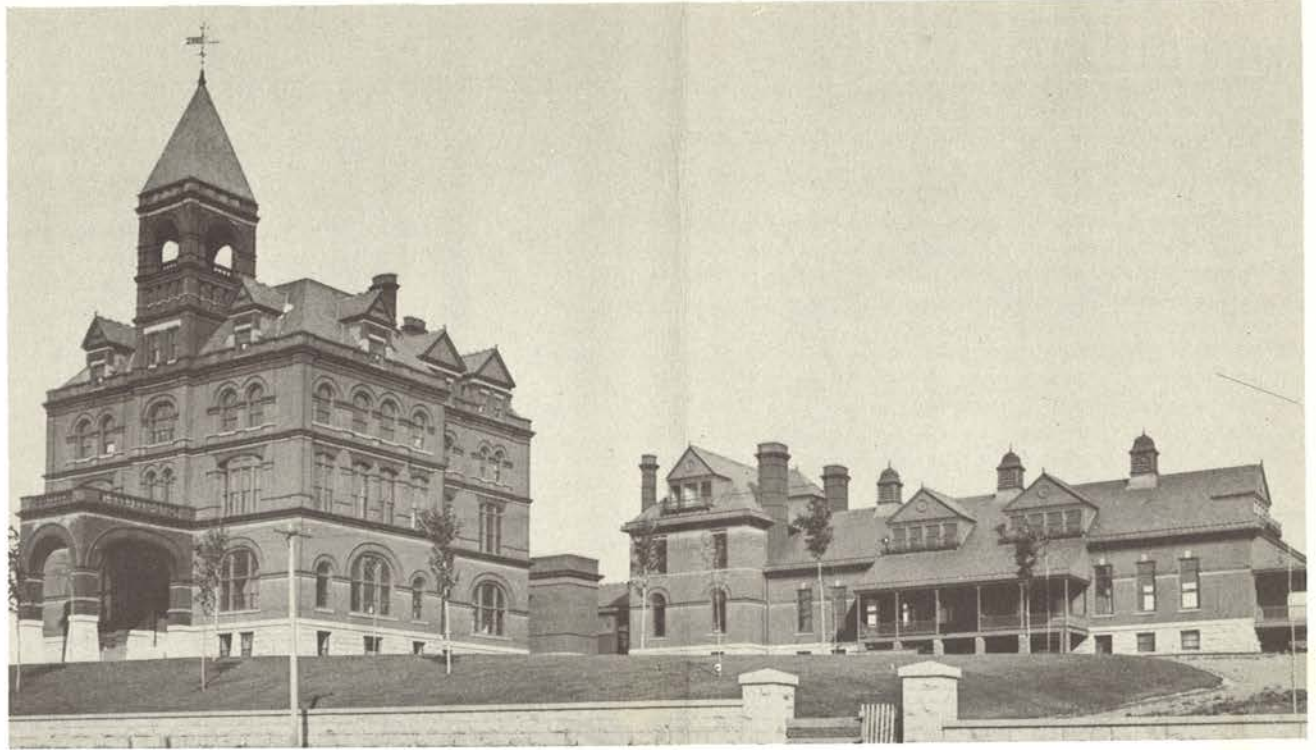
On the 29th of March, 1882, Moses Taylor, who gave his name and a considerable sum of money to what is now one of Scranton's finest hospitals, signed a charter, which brought that hospital into being. As reason for his interest and generosity he gave in the charter the following reason: "The interest which I feel in the welfare of the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company and of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Company, in the formation and development of both of which I have during so many years been actively engaged, renders me desirous of making some disposition which will mark my regard and respect for the employees of those great industries with whose labor the prosperity of those companies and of the city of Scranton is so closely identified."

Suiting the action to the word, he, in the same document, instructed his attorney to purchase and pay for \$250,000 of the first mortgage bonds of the New York, Lackawanna and Western Railroad (then worth \$270,000) and turn them over to certain trustees to be used by them in trust for "providing such hospital accommodations, relief and care for such of those employees or others, as they may consider deserving of it, under such rules and regulations as they may deem best for the erection of a suitable building or buildings, and applying the remainder thereof to the support and maintenance of the hospital, etc."

While Mr. Taylor plainly wanted the hospital to be used primarily by the employees of the two companies he named, and possibly did not foresee the subsequent fate of those companies and of the coal and iron industries in the area, he left the door open to the use of the hospital by others and in doing so, made it possible for it to accommodate to change. The charter, which originally called for complete control by the presidents of the two named corporations, was amended in 1966 and the ties with the coal and railroad companies, or with their successors were broken and the hospital became a community hospital, on a par with the best hospitals in the country.

The original board of directors was composed of six men: Edwin F. Hatfield, Jr., President of the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company and of the Lackawanna Iron and Steel Company; Samuel Sloan, President of the Delaware, Lackawanna

THE MOSES TAYLOR HOSPITAL IN 1890 - JUST BEFORE OPENING



and Western Railroad Company; Charles F. Mattes, William F. Halstead, Jr., Joseph C. Platt and William R. Storrs.

The gift was formally accepted on July 19, 1884, by Judge Alfred Hand's signature to the instrument. In February of the same year, the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company donated the entire block of land between Quincy and Clay Avenues and Pine and Gibson Streets, giving room for expansion.

An additional \$100,000 was donated to the hospital by Mr. and Mrs. Percy H. Pyne in February, 1884. Mrs. Pyne was a daughter of Moses Taylor, who died at his home in New York City on May 23, 1882, a few months after signing the papers for donating and founding the hospital.

Some time after the gift was formally accepted in 1884, Otto Botticher was engaged to design the new hospital buildings and they were completed in 1891.

The first annual report of the hospital was prepared and published for the year ending October 31, 1893, so organization and staffing must have been accomplished and the hospital opened in 1892.

The report itself, which is the property of the historical society, donated by Dorothea Mattes, is signed by A. W. Smith, M.D., Acting Superintendent, and it states that the original secretary

CLUB JOTTINGS

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Milton J. Davis - Moscow
Miss Claire B. Shetter - Allentown (Miss Shetter is an assistant librarian at Swarthmore College)
Mr. John R. Thomas - Scranton
Mr. Casimer J. Yanish - Scranton

APRIL MEETING

Miss Mary Lou Nappi, who was scheduled to speak at the cancelled meeting in February, will present her talk and pictures at the April meeting, which will be at the Catlin Home on the evening of April 24. Her subject will be a recent interview with President Nixon at the White House. Miss Nappi is beginning what promises to be a brilliant career as a teacher of retarded children. She was the recipient of the 1970 Joseph P. Kennedy Achievement Award.

and treasurer, Edward S. Moffat, died during the year. The report gives Charles F. Mattes, a member of the board, the title, so I gather that he was secretary and treasurer of the board, while Mr. Moffat was secretary and treasurer on duty at the

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hospital itself. Mr. Mattes was an uncle of Miss Mattes and the father of Attorney Philip Mattes, a member of the board of trustees of the Society.

N. Y. Leet, M.D., is noted as Surgeon-in-Chief with W. E. Allen, M.D., and A. J. Connell, M.D., listed as Associated Physicians.

The report mentions that a training school for nurses was established during the hospital's first year of service and that it was in successful operation.

The report is of considerable interest since it goes into details about operating costs. These costs for the first year came to \$21,767.05, which would last a very short time at the present day.

The hospital spent a total of \$9,116.81 for salaries; \$771.58 for medicine; \$35 for a skeleton; \$689.04 for fresh meat and poultry; \$510.56 for butter; \$131.36 for coffee; \$545.07 for milk; \$4.64 for chocolate; \$159.95 for fish and oysters; \$3.15 for salt; \$56.61 for apples; \$187.82 for eggs; \$7.64 for onions; \$245.49 for bread; \$65.15 for ice and \$733.25 for coal; \$330 water rent; \$6.61 for stove polish and pomade; \$4.80 for a clock and \$100 for insurance — to mention just a few of the items.

Statistics concerning the hospital's services show 165 admissions from accident causes and 41 from disease, with 294 patients treated for accidents and 95 for disease. I suppose this refers to what are now known as "in-patients."

The patients spent a total of 6,220 days in the institution. Accident cases from the DL&WRR were 112, higher than the 91 admitted from the coal and iron company employees. The mortality rate was 7.3 per cent, the average patient's stay in the hospital, 30.02 days. Most of the accident cases occurred to brakemen and laborers; injuries to other types of workmen being comparatively few. By nationality, 75 patients were Irish; 48 Americans; 22 Germans; 20 Polish; 12 Hungarian; 10 Welsh; 13 English; 1 Italian and 1 Scotchman. 134 were Roman Catholics, 7 Greek Catholics and 65 Protestants.

The Moses Taylor Hospital of today would be a delight to the founder, if he could by some means become aware of it.

A descendant of his, also named Moses Taylor, is a member of the board and travels from his home in the middle west to attend meetings. Other members of the board of directors are Walter L. Hill, Jr., president; Franklin B. Gelder, vice-president; Morris E. Shay, controller; Leroy T. James, secretary-treasurer; Philip Christian; William Connell, Jr.; Jeffrey W. Graham; Robert C. Hendricks; A. W. Thomas, Jr. and Edward T. Wells. Leroy T. James is administrator and George E. Pugh, M.D., chief surgeon.

Over \$4.5 million has been spent since 1960 to keep the institution completely modernized. With 232 beds, the hospital accommodated 6,104

patients in 1970. To provide this service, 432 employees were employed with wages and salaries coming to \$2,403,000.

MOSES TAYLOR

Moses Taylor, whose generosity and foresight brought about the founding of Moses Taylor Hospital, was born in New York City, January 11, 1806, son of Jacob B. Taylor and great-grandson of another Moses Taylor, who emigrated to New York from England in 1736.



He attended school until he was fifteen years old and then entered the counting room of G.G.&S. Howland as a clerk. His intelligence and industry won him rapid promotion and as he advanced was "allowed to make small adventures to foreign parts on his own account" by which means he accumulated a capital which allowed him to commence his own business at the age of 26. Just as he opened his office a cholera epidemic brought about a great depression and when business revived, his store was swept away by fire, leaving him only with his books.

His resolution and industry overcame these misfortunes and he went on to accumulate a fortune in foreign trade. His ships were well known in Cuba, India, China, the West Indies and South America. In 1855 he became president of the City Bank, holding the office until his death.

During the Civil War he was a staunch supporter of the government and served as chairman of the loan committee of the Associated Banks and it was chiefly by his efforts that a \$200,000,000 loan was raised, giving the government money with which to carry on the war. He was a personal friend of Abraham Lincoln's and refused the office of Secretary of the Treasury which Mr. Lincoln offered him in 1866.

Many large corporations owe their existence and prosperity to his early help and wise counsels. He was one of five associates who laid the first Atlantic Cable.

Scranton and the surrounding region owe a great deal to the financial help and interest given by Mr. Taylor when the Scrantons and others sought his help to gain capital necessary for carrying on and expanding early iron, steel, coal and railroad ventures.

The last act of his life was his gift of bonds worth \$270,000 to provide money for establishing the Moses Taylor Hospital.

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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