

The Garland City Gazette

Ashland's Rich Early Medical History

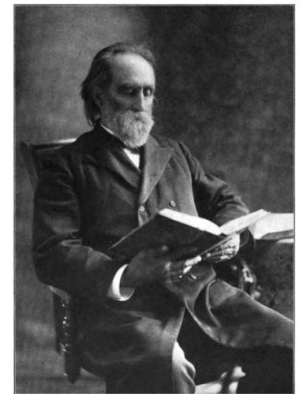
This article was inspired by the upcoming 50th Anniversary of Memorial Medical Center, which started in October of 1972.

Inside this issue:

Early Medical History	1
President's Corner	2
Bright Spot	4
Dr. Rinehart	5
Memorials/Donations	11

Early Physicians

From its inception, Ashland has been the medical center for the surrounding area. The earliest doctor to serve the area was Dr. Edwin Ellis. He arrived in 1856. He was both a founding father and community leader. (see picture at right)

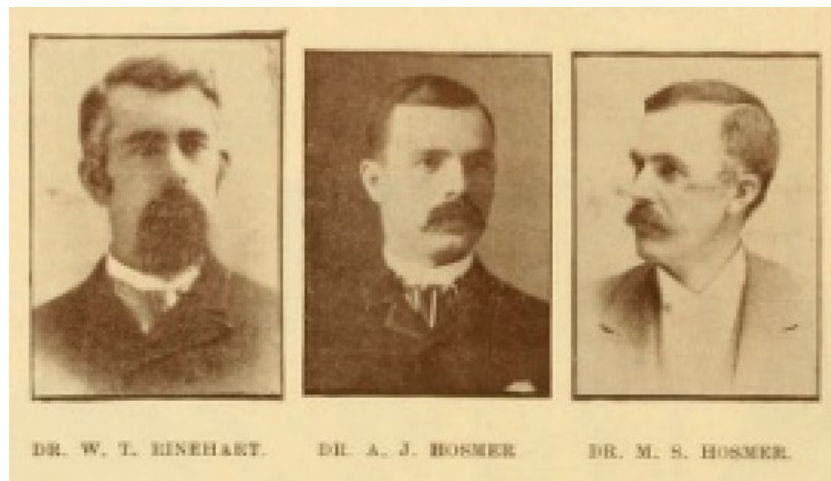


EDWIN ELLIS, M. D.

The second doctor was Dr. Myron Tomkins who came from Illinois for the restorative climate. He is credited with promoting the area as a healthy destination. His brother-in-law was Asaph Whittlesey.

Doctor George Wood Harrison opened his practice in Ashland in 1881 and was also actively involved in the community leadership. His sons Dr. David C. Harrison and Dr. George Wood Harrison II and his grandson Dr. George Wood Harrison III followed in his footsteps, which meant a Dr. Harrison served the area for over seven decades.

The other three generations of doctors serving Ashland and its surrounding area were Dr. Nils V. Sandin, his son Dr. Howard V. Sandin and his grandson Dr. Howard N.V. Sandin.



DR. W. T. RINEHART.

DR. A. J. HOSMER

DR. M. S. HOSMER.

(Doctors W. T. Rinehart, M. S. and A. J. Hosmer ran the first hospitals in Ashland.)

Continued on page 6

President's Corner by Tory Stroshane

Ashland Historical Society
Board of Directors

Tory Stroshane, President

Sam Solberg, Vice President

Barbara Suminski, Treasurer

Mary Grube, Secretary

Mary Gruper

Bob Klamerus

Denny Kontny

Rita Kovach

Ed Monroe

Glen Samuelson

Jon Walworth

It has been a busy summer with lots of activities. In June, we sponsored a book signing for Tom Tardiff and his book "Growing Up Soo Line" on the history of trains in Ashland.

July 4th threatened rain, so for the third time in a row, we had to change the location of the annual cemetery walk. This year it was supposed to be at Mount Hope Cemetery, but we held it at Saron Lutheran Church.

Our ghosts for 2022



Glenn Samuelson portrayed by his son Glenn Samuelson. Born in Mason, Glenn Samuelson, Sr. was a long-time employee of Northern State Bank, first in Mason, then Ashland. He was the treasurer for many area groups.

Mission Statement

The Ashland Historical Society, a non-profit volunteer organization promotes the appreciation of local history and pride of community through a visual connection to the past by collecting and preserving memorabilia and artifacts, stories and traditions and by functioning as an educational resource.

Ole Hansen told by Marie Pufall. For over 50 years, Norwegian born Ole Hansen ran several neighborhood grocery stores in Ashland. His last location was in the Wilmarth School neighborhood where every Wilmarth student had good memories of the store and his kind personality.



Neil Walworth portrayed by his grandson Jon Walworth. Ashland native Neil Walworth was a pilot in WWII whose plane was shot down and he became a POW in Germany. After the war he continued with the Wisconsin Telephone Company.

Continued on page 3

President's Corner continued from page 2



William Pascoe told by Mary Gruper. William Pascoe came from England and settled in Ashland where he worked as an undertaker, eventually owning the Pascoe Funeral Home on the corner of 7th Avenue and Third Street West.

George Barr told by Walter Gurske. George Barr came from New York to attend Northland College, where he was a star basketball player. He joined the service during WWII and became one of Doolittle's Raiders. He suffered three years in a Chinese prison camp after his plane was shot down.



The Rodman Family told by Sam Solberg. The Rodman family was originally from Rhode Island and its members held prestigious positions in the area once they moved to Ashland. Their home was on the SE corner of 7th Avenue and 6th St. West.



The All School Reunion was held on July 15 & 16. Since most of the activities took place across from the courthouse, we were quite busy. Kudos to the planners for the reunion. The classes of the 1950s and some 1940s held their get together at the museum. A large crowd had a fun time visiting. The AHS Class of 1962 held their official 60th reunion and many other classes were able to connect over the two days.

To make the two days more hectic, Ashland also celebrated Bay Days. Motel rooms were at a premium and there were lots of people in town. The Mesang
Continued on page 10

**Ashland
Historical
Society
Museum
Hours**

*Thursday, Friday,
Saturday
10 am to 3 pm*

The Bright Spot by Jim Goeltz



Today's article is about my old friend Leroy 'Red' Nylan. Red and I first met at the Ninth Avenue school which was run by principal Bertha Brenski. Red was three years ahead of me and he was a good customer of Dad's at the Bright Spot. Ninth Avenue school taught children kindergarten through seventh grade and after that, kids went to Ashland High School up on 11th Street and Ellis Avenue.

After third grade, my family moved out to the end of 8th Avenue (now MacArthur) and I entered Wilmarth School for fourth grade. By this time Red was studying at Ashland High School. He was a good athlete and a well-educated student. He played three sports in high school under

Coach Weikal, Coach Hovland, and, as a senior, he played for Coach Roy Melvin. In the summer of 1942, the Ashland school board, with a push from Ben Metternich, hired Melvin away from Hurley. He had great success in Hurley and spent 19 years coaching there. He also left a championship basketball team to come to Ashland.

Red Nylan benefitted by the hiring of Coach Melvin. Red played end on the football team, a center on the basketball team and ran the quarter-mile and the mile in track. He was just a good, all-around athlete and very good at his studies, too. At the graduation awards ceremony in the spring of 1943, Red was presented with the Metternich trophy. I asked Red a few years ago if he still had the trophy. He told me that he looked at it every day.

Following graduation and with WW II going on, Red joined the US Navy. He left behind his high school sweetheart Helen Link. The Navy shipped Red to the Pacific, where he was trained as a signal man. This was no easy task being a signal man. Red had to stand on the bridge of the ship with his two signal flags and send messages to other friendly craft.

Red was discharged from the war in late 1945. He returned to Ashland, married Helen and entered Northland College. He was one of many former soldiers who entered Northland in January 1946 and turned around Northland's basketball fortunes. In January of 1946, one of the Northland's basketball opponents remarked: "Who ARE these guys?" Indeed.

After a year at Northland, Red and his bride moved to Des Moines, Iowa where Red matriculated at Drake University in 1949. He and his wife Helen raised three children.

Red founded the Champion Glove Company where his firm manufactured all types of sporting gloves. His products are worn by many athletes in most sports today. Red retired in 1988 and he and his wife reside in Clive, Iowa.

Leroy Nylan's contributions to the Ashland athletic program were outstanding. He was a leader and exhibited sportsmanship. His contribution to our country's Greatest Generation was commendable and outstanding.

Red is 96 now and he and I talk over old times every few months. Red is alert and quite aware of his past accomplishments.

Dr. William Thomas Rinehart

A Medical Mover and Shaker



William Thomas Rinehart was born in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania on December 27, 1855 to Marshall and Mina Rinehart. He worked as a school teacher for a short time to earn money for medical school. He graduated from the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, PA in 1886. He took a job as superintendent of the American Aid Association in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, which served the lumberjacks in the area. For \$6.00 per year, lumberjacks received a ticket that gave them up to 6 months of medical care through the association.

Rinehart left Eau Claire and came to Ashland in 1887. He married his wife Anna Malinda Chesney on October 14, 1887 in Waupaca, WI. He ran a hospital for the American Aid Association at 201-203 St. Claire Street until 1890. His Ashland Hospital opened in 1891 at 300 Willis Avenue. It was considered state of the art for the time. In that time, hospitals catered to men and had recovering patients as helpers in the hospitals. Rinehart added a woman's hospital in 1900 and a training school for nurses that was comprised of three years of training. His hospital could accommodate 75 patients at a time.

Rinehart was the first physician in Ashland to utilize x-ray treatments. X-rays were discovered by a German scientist named Rongen in November of 1895. Rinehart ordered the parts he needed to do x-rays in 1897 and his brother George Rinehart, who was a master machinist, worked with him to get the equipment set up and he also created many medical tools for his brother over the years. Some of the very first x-ray experiments in America took place at Rinehart's hospital.

Rinehart's third cousin was Dr. John Morris Dodd. He trained under Rinehart and came to work with him in Ashland in 1888. Dodd eventually started his own hospital and practice.

Dr. Rinehart was known as an accomplished surgeon and he and Dr. John M. Dodd performed the first abdominal surgery in Ashland. Rinehart also served as the Health Commissioner for the City and as the City and County Physician for several years.

Dr. Fred Hodges, brother-in-law to Rinehart, brought his family from Indiana in 1897 so he could work with Rinehart. He helped him with the x-ray equipment and with surgeries until his untimely death from blood poisoning in 1901. Hodges also served as Division Surgeon for the Wisconsin Central Railroad. Rinehart stood in as a surrogate father for his nephews Paul and Fred Hodges. They worked with him and served as the guinea pigs for the first x-rays. They later became the head of the x-ray departments at the Universities of Chicago and Michigan and inventors for x-ray devices.

Continued on page 10

Early Medical History continued from page 1

Several father and son generations of Ashland doctors included Dr. Clyde Smiles and his son Dr. William Smiles, Dr. J.W. Prentice and his son Dr. B. Culver Prentice, Dr. John M. Dodd and son Dr. John M. Dodd, Jr., Dr. Adellon Andrus, and his son Dr. Dell Andrus. Several sets of physician brothers also worked together, including Dr. Andrew J. Hosmer and Dr. Matthew S. Hosmer, Drs. Frank and Mike Brennan and Dr. J. A Marchessault and his brother Dr. Ulrio Marchessault.

Up to 1948, the only woman doctor was Dr. Adelaide Woodard who started as a nurse in Ashland and went on to attend Hamline College for her medical degree. She practiced in Ashland for a short time before going to India to work where she established a hospital for the poor.

Many, many wonderful and dedicated doctors have come and gone in the area, too many to name without forgetting someone. Those who stayed and ran their practices enjoyed the climate and beauty of the area. A quote from Dr. John M. Dodd, Sr. in 1948 describes the work of the early doctors in the area: "All of the doctors of a half century and more ago began practice in a hard way. Regardless of heat, cold, rain or snow, lack of sleep and many other physical discomforts, often gave service to those who were too poor to pay. The doctor of those days was a true humanitarian."

Several Early Notable Physicians Up Through 1948

Doctor Ulrio Marchessault arrived in 1873 from Minneapolis and his brother Dr. Joseph Arthur Marchessault arrived in 1882. Dr. Ulrio Marchessault died in 1886, but his brother Joseph was a long-time physician in the area who was also successful in his business affairs and owned a number of blocks in Ashland. Joseph Marchessault owned one of the first automobiles in Ashland. Both brothers were born in Quebec, Canada, but their medical careers were served in the U.S.

Dr. George Wood Harrison arrived in 1881, the same year he received his medical degree from Rush Medical College in Chicago, IL. Besides practicing medicine, his family also ran the Harrison Drug Store. Dr. Harrison was a leader in early Ashland. He was one of the incorporators of the Ashland National Bank, a successful explorer of the Gogebic Range and connected to the Ashland Mine in Ironwood. He was president and general manager of the Ashland Light, Power and Street Railway Co, which he helped to organize and which brought gas and electric lights to the city. He went to England with Thomas Bardon to see if they could garner interest in Ashland by English investors.

(Rinehart Hospital; 300 Willis Ave. at right)



Continued on page 7

Stop in to our Gift Shop and pick up the 2023 Calendar!

Early Medical History continued from page 6

Dr. William Thomas Rinehart arrived in 1887 as a manager for the American Aid Association that sold tickets to lumberjacks. For \$6.00 per year, they would be entitled to up to 6 months of medical care. Rinehart built his Ashland Hospital in 1891 at 300 Willis Avenue and Third Street. It had the capacity for 75 patients. He was a noted surgeon.

Dr. Fred Jenner Hodges, brother-in-law to Rinehart, came from Indiana to work with Rinehart. He was in Ashland several years before his death in 1901. When Rinehart brought the first x-ray machine to Ashland in 1897, Hodges moved to the area to partner with him. Hodges' sons were pioneers in the radiology field and their sons followed suit.

(Dr. Dodd's hospital, 610 Ellis Ave. at right)



Dr. John Morrison Dodd came to Ashland to work with his third cousin William Rinehart. After several years, he ran his own hospital at 610 Ellis Avenue. He also built two clinics. The first one was on east Second Street to be close to St. Joseph's Hospital. When he sold it, it became home to the Ashland Water Company for many years. The second clinic was at 220 West 7th Avenue, called The Clinic and later the Medical Arts Building. He built it to be close to the Ashland General Hospital. Dr. Dodd was a community leader and served on many state and local boards and four terms as mayor of Ashland. His son Dr. John M. Dodd, Jr was a physician in Ashland, too, until after World War II.



(The Clinic at 220 7th Avenue by Dr. Dodd at left)

Dr. William T. O'Brien, who was in medical school with the Mayo brothers was, at one time, chief surgeon at St. Joseph's Hospital. He was a beloved doctor who held the esteem and gratitude of the sisters from the convent. While visiting the pediatrics wing at Christmas time at St. Joe's hospital, a patient bumped the Christmas tree and the lit candles on the tree started a fire. Dr. O'Brien was severely burned on his hands when he helped to put out the fire. He had to go through months of treatment where a specialist in Chicago treated him with skin grafts.

Continued on page 8

Early Medical History continued from page 7

Dr. William J. Tucker came to Ashland in 1921 after serving his internship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. He replaced Dr. W. T. O'Brien as chief surgeon at St. Joseph's Hospital. The surgeon served the area until his retirement in the mid 1970s. One of his last of many involvements in the city was to help raise money to build Memorial Medical Center.

Dr. Matthew S. Hosmer was a long time Ashland physician who was instrumental in the building of the Pure Air Sanitarium near Bayfield, used for the Tri-County tuberculosis patients (Ashland, Bayfield and Iron Counties).

Dr. Dodd, Sr. compiled a list of Ashland doctors up through 1948 and some of the many familiar doctors at that time are mentioned below in no particular order:

Dr. Adellon P. Andrus, Dr. John Madden, Dr. C. O. Hertzman, Dr. J. V. Wenzel, Dr. Clifford A. Grand, Dr. M. L. Young, Dr. Adolph Kamm, Dr. Albert Butler, Dr. W. D. Merrill, Dr. R. O. Grigsby, Dr. Frank Weeks, Dr. J. W. Prentice, Dr. Clyde Smiles, Dr. John Kreher, Dr. Howard V. Sandin, Dr. Joseph Jauquet, Dr. William E. Bargholz, and Dr. M.W. Moody.

More recent Ashland area physicians are too numerous to mention. It is noted that over the years, several clinics were established by Ashland doctors.

Early Hospitals

Hospitals were originally boarding houses and also private homes. The Hosmer brothers were some of the first to open a hospital in Ashland which was at St. Claire Street and Stuntz Avenue and they ran it until 1889. Doctor Rinehart's Ashland Hospital was at 300 Willis and opened in 1891. Dr. Dodd's hospital at first was his home at 110 Ellis, then he renovated the former brothel at 610 Ellis and created an up-to-date hospital for the time.

(St. Joseph's Hospital at right)



St. Joseph's Hospital was started in 1884 by the sisters of the Poor Handmaidens Catholic order and was added onto in 1887 and 1891. The much larger brick and brownstone hospital was built over several years with the east wing opening in 1907 and the west wing opening in 1912. It became Ashland Community Hospital in the mid 1960s.

Early Medical History continued from page 8

(Ashland General Hospital on 7th Avenue West at right)



The Ashland General Hospital was opened in 1920 after a very successful building campaign led by Dr. Dodd. It was originally the Wilmarth mansion and had two additions added. In the 1940s it became Trinity Lutheran Hospital.

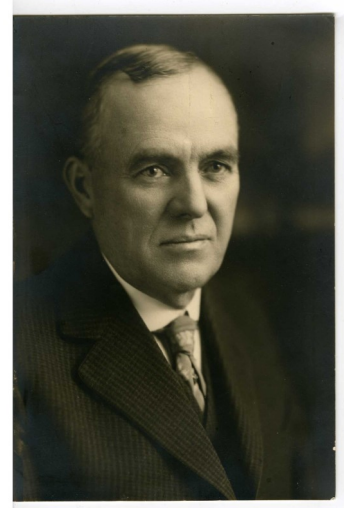
The St. Joseph's and Ashland General as well as the Rinehart and Dodd hospitals had nurses training. In the 1940s, the Bureau of Nursing Education made such stiff requirements that the local hospitals had to close their doors on nurses training. Hospital services expanded to include specialties and many specific careers.

In 1969, it was determined that Ashland needed an up-to-date hospital to serve the needs of the city and surrounding area. Memorial Medical Center, Inc was formed to raise the funds needed to build the new hospital. The Memorial Medical Center (MMC) combined the staff of St. Joseph's and Trinity Hospital and opened its doors in October of 1972. Since that time, MMC has expanded and improved its services to continue to be a state-of-the-art hospital that serves the upper counties of Wisconsin.

Many thanks go out to the medical staff and employees who have served our area so faithfully over the years. Ashland truly deserves its reputation as an exceptional medical center.



Dr. A. P. Andrus



Dr. M. S. Hosmer

*Rose Bents
Newsletter Word
Processor/Editor*

Dr. Rinehart continued from page 5

Dr. Rinehart purchased one of the first cars in Ashland at a cost of \$1750.00. The Autocar had a horsepower of 12. When he drove his car to Bayfield in 1903, it was the first car to be driven on Bayfield roads. He also had the first steam powered car, the White Steamer, purchased in 1905.



DR. WILLIAM T. RINEHART and his 1903 Autocar. Photographed at the top of White River Hill, which was a "test run" for the autos of that day.

Annie Rinehart served as the matron for her husband's hospital, being a skilled helper and manager for him. She died very suddenly on November 15, 1907.



St. Anthony Hospital, Ashland, Wis.

Dr. Rinehart had several episodes of ill health which included being struck in the eye by bullet shards at the Elks Club shooting gallery and with stomach ailments for which he doctored in St. Paul. Due to his continued ill health, Dr. Rinehart sold his hospital to the local Catholic order of nuns who transformed it into St. Anthony's Nursing Home. The training nurses from St. Joseph's Hospital also stayed there.

Dr. Rinehart had planned to build a home to share with his sister-in-law and nephews utilizing an attached office for patients, but he died on July 1, 1914, passing at the Augustana Hospital in Chicago. Dr. Dodd was with him when he died. Both Annie and William are buried in her hometown of Waupaca, WI.

President's Corner continued from page 3

Band Shell was the site for music for the reunion and Bay Days and also throughout the summer.

As we move into fall, the Mural Fest and Classic Car show will be taking place outside the museum on September 9th and then upcoming local events will include ABC Raceway's 45th Red Clay Classic race September 30th and October 1st, Apple Fest October 7th-9th and, the Whistle Stop race on October 15th.

While you are out and about, stop on down and view our displays and shop in the Gift Shop.

Memorials and Donations

Memorials for Jeff Cate as of 8/1/22

Caroline Basley
 Rose Bents
 Lynn Berger
 Ralph and Geri Bloomquist
 Hilding Branzell
 Steve and Pam Brien
 Mark Bruhy and Katherine Egan-Bruhy
 Jon Jensen
 John and Rita Kovach
 Richard and Linda Mitchell
 Alice Nelson
 Joyce Neumann
 Bob and Mary Lou Ochsenbauer
 Bob Olson and Rita Hennell Olson
 Duane and Sandra Raspotnik
 Robert and Carol Ann Reneau
 Gary and Kay Roffers
 Jim and Kit Shaw
 Sheila Smiles Ross
 Joan Smiles Knight
 Sam and Karolyn Solberg
 Sarah Stroshane and Tammy Burke
 30.00 cash
 Mary Woods
 Unknown
 Dick and Mary Verch

Memorials

Carol Belanger for Clayton and Helen Harvey
 Jim and Sue Bradle for Joyce Carlson
 Richard C. Chvala for Richard Sundberg
 Amy Frisch for Tom Frisch (Poppy)
 Gwen Gilbert for Gorden and Yvonne Gilbert
 Carver Harries for Catherine Harries
 Lyle Johnson for Lyle and Mary Cumberland
 Mary Myott, Ray and Jim Kuzzy for Arlene Bystrom
 Nancy Rostallon for Suzanne Marie Tyndall (Mirwald)
 Bob and Marilyn Skoraczewski by their family
 Dean and Mary Westlund for Arlene Gillies
 Mary Woods for Arlene Bystrom

Donations

Gabriele Block
 Jack and Julie Coy
 Robert Erickson
 Amy Frisch
 Don and Karen Jaskowiak
 June Sellung

Deadline for articles

in the next

Garland City Gazette

November 15, 2022

Thank you to Heart
Graphics for printing
this issue of
*The Garland
City Gazette*

THE GARLAND CITY GAZETTE

Ashland Historical Society
216 Main Street West
Ashland WI 54806-1513

Phone: 715-682-4911
Email: museum@ashlandwishistory.com
Website: <http://ashlandwishistory.com>

Presorted Standard

U.S. Postage

PAID

Ashland, WI

Permit No. 5

Ashland Historical Society Membership Form

Membership includes family or single member and includes the quarterly "Garland City Gazette" newsletter and 10% off of Museum Gift Shop purchases. Donations, Memorials and Honoring individuals always appreciated.

Member Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Membership is \$15 per calendar year

Designate your gift \$ _____ membership

\$ _____ donation

\$ _____ memorial

\$ _____ honoring

Total Enclosed is \$ _____

Memorial or Honoree name _____ Please print clearly