

## TUSCOLA'S FIRST PHYSICIAN



Dr. Harvey Bassett followed his brother, Simon, to Tuscola from Vermont. Dr. Bassett was the first physician to establish residence in Tuscola (with a population of less than twenty at that time). Dr. Bassett was of French and English descent. He was born in Montpelier, Vermont on March 2, 1829. His tastes led him to adopt his father's profession, that of a physician. Harvey graduated from Castleton Medical College, Rutland County, Vermont in June, 1856. On June 16, 1855, Miss Euretta Flanders married Dr. Bassett. After graduating from medical school, Dr. Bassett left his new wife with her relatives in New York and followed his brother, Simon, west to Tuscola, Illinois. Simon Bassett had built the first depot and occupied it as station agent, express agent, post master, and general merchant. Dr. Bassett assisted him for one year and then sent for his wife.

The Bassetts bought a house and lot of Jonas Bragg on Parke Street, and the doctor established himself as a physician, the first in town. At the beginning of the War of Rebellion, 1862, he enlisted as First Lieutenant in Co. E, 79<sup>th</sup> regiment of Illinois Volunteers. A short time later his health failed with an attack of typhoid pneumonia and he was discharged. In 1863 he reopened his practice, but his illness plagued him for remainder of his life. He continued his practice until his death in 1896.

Dr. Bassett had three children, all born in Illinois. He was a good citizen, interested in politics and the affairs of the State and Nation, having always been attached to the Republican Party. He was connected with the Methodist Church. Dr. Bassett was as highly esteemed for his qualities as a gentleman and citizen, as for his skill as a physician, in which respect he stood in the front rank of his profession.

## SARAH A. JARMAN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

William F. Jarman, the principal founder of the Sarah A. Jarman Memorial Hospital, was born in Kentucky in 1843. He was reared on a farm by his parents, who were considered to be of little substance. His early schooling opportunities were meager, but as a youth he immigrated to Douglas County, where he worked as a farm laborer and in the winter months attended public schools in Camargo. Jarman was considered very industrious and energetic. With the savings from his days as a farmhand he was able to purchase a small store in Camargo. He proved to have a mind for business and invested his profits from the store into farmland, eventually owning over 400 acres, along with other personal property. While in his twenties, Jarman met and married Sarah A. Porter. A number of children were born to this union, but all died in infancy, except a daughter, Nellie.



**William F. Jarman**



**Sarah A. Jarman**



**Nellie B. Jarman**

Inflicted with a muscular disorder, Jarman was restricted to a wheelchair for the last 25 years of his life. His wife and daughter lovingly cared for him until their deaths, Sarah passing in 1910 and Nellie three years later. The deaths of the two main loves of his life led Jarman to call for a meeting with his good friend and attorney, John H. Chadwick. He had decided to plan for his own passing since he had no family to leave his estate. In his will he wished to leave 80 acres of land to the Christian Church of Camargo, of which he was a member. The majority of the remaining estate was to be used to establish a charitable institution in the name of his late wife.

Chadwick suggested his estate be used to establish a hospital in Tuscola, in which the poor of Douglas County could be cared for at no expense as long as funds were available. The hospital would carry the name of his late wife. Jarman agreed to this proposition, with the understanding the people of the county would raise \$40,000 for the construction of the building. He would offer 160 acres of his prime farmland to support the hospital. The proposition was published in the county newspapers and an effort was made to raise the funds. When the fundraising effort fell far short of the goal, Jarman was disappointed.

In the summer of 1916, a typhoid fever epidemic swept through Tuscola. More than 100 people were stricken with the disease, which came in a very virulent form. The fever claimed an estimated 30 lives, including the mayor, city librarian and several other prominent citizens. In the midst of the epidemic, Chadwick went back to Jarman to inform him of the situation. He suggested that Jarman reduce the required amount of donations for the construction of the hospital to \$10,000. The future founder agreed to the lesser amount a few days later. Chadwick happily agreed to the task and in several weeks had raised pledges totaling \$12,259.50. All three banks verified the donors to be solvent.

Directors were elected in Tuscola on July 21, 1916 for the business of managing the hospital for the first year: W. C. Hackett, Dr. C. L. Hine, C. C. Jones, J. M. Fuller, Dr. W. C. Blaine, J. F. Helm, H. C. Jones, Mrs. E. Y. McCarty, Josie R. Goff, W. W. Reeves, A. W. Wallace, William Iles, Frank H. Jones, S. B. Ervin, J. C. Van Voorhis, G. C. Jeffers, Jesse Ellars Hackett, and Blanche Caraway. A charter was procured on July 27, 1916. The decision was made to locate the hospital on block eleven of Winston's Addition to the town of Tuscola. On August 30, Jarman stayed true to his word and conveyed a quarter-section of land east of Villa Grove to the hospital. Jarman also decided to leave another quarter-section of land to the hospital, assuming certain terms could be met. An operating room, sterilizing room and anesthetic room would be named in his daughter's honor and a suitable permanent Memorial placed in or adjacent to said rooms, properly announcing the fact.



**Sarah A. Jarman Memorial Hospital**

It was William Jarman's hope to see the Sarah A. Jarman Memorial Hospital completed during his lifetime. Unfortunately, his dream was unfulfilled. He died on March 1, 1917, before the building's completion.

James P. Moorehead of Tuscola was the general contractor for the hospital which had a capacity of 30 patients. It was considered to be state-of-the-art in all safety and artistic characteristics. The hospital accepted its first patient on April 1, 1919. In the first two years, over 1,100 patients were admitted. Of those, only 23 deaths had occurred, which was deemed to be a "splendid" record by Chadwick.



**The Office**



**One of the Wards**



**The Nursery**



**The Solarium**

In the summer of 1919, subscriptions were solicited for the purpose of purchasing an X-ray machine and laboratory outfit for the hospital. The city and township of Newman procured the X-ray machine and the laboratory was secured from the citizens of Tuscola and the surrounding area. Upon the completion of the purchases, Sarah A. Jarman Memorial Hospital was deemed to have the finest equipment of the time. Churches, societies, and individuals furnished the office, solariums, dining room, kitchen and rooms for patients. This was a sign of the deep interest of the people of Douglas County to support the new hospital. Many additional donations were forthcoming and a steady supply of food was under the management of the Board of Lady Managers. A nurse's home was also purchased and furnished for the use of nurses employed by the hospital.

From the 1895 *Saturday Journal* a recommendation appeared: A Professional Nurse. To those who may need the services of a professional nurse we would say that Miss Ella Poole, of this city, has just graduated with special recommendations from the Maternity Hospital, Indianapolis, one of the most celebrated in the central states. Miss Poole was born and raised in Tuscola and those who know her disposition to thoroughly master all she undertakes will readily grant that she will make a most excellent person to care for the sick. In addition to this she is of an exceedingly jovial temperament, intelligent, agreeable and companionable, and will lighten sorrow and drive away gloom wherever she goes. For further recommendations, she refers by permission to Doctors Martin, S. T. Spees and Rice, of this city, or to Dr. Louis Burkhardt of Indianapolis. Miss Poole will remain permanently in this city. Residence: 104 East Pembroke Street; address, post office box 321, Tuscola, Ill. We take pleasure in commending her to our readers as a young lady of amiable disposition, pleasant address and refined and cultured ways. "This institution has already proven itself to be a great blessing to the community. With such an array of earnest friends behind it, its future is assured," Chadwick commented.



**Dr. James Taylor, Joan Fleming, Ray B. Goetze**



**Mrs. Mary Fleming**



**Jarman Auxiliary**  
Mrs. Bud Rice, Mrs. Rosemary Nussel. Mrs. James King and Mrs. Max Johnson



**February, 1965**  
**Douglas County First Blood Bank**  
 Rev. Wesley Groff, Ned Beckewitz and  
 Marion Ponder

By the mid 1970's the condition of the "old" hospital did not make it economically advisable to repair or remodel it to meet state requirements and the need to consolidate county health services in one location was more pressing than patient care, according to Garland Strohl, hospital administrator. A more modern addition had been attached to the old structure.

On June 1, 1990 Douglas County Memorial Hospital, nee Sarah A. Jarman Memorial Hospital, was closed for good. Jarman attracted only about 20 per cent of the healthcare market in Douglas County. The other 80 per cent went elsewhere. The County had been subsidizing Jarman's losses to the tune of \$400,000 per year from the general budget, plus \$350,000 per year in retirement benefits for hospital employees and insurance.

Later in the 1990's Carle Clinic, Provena Covenant Family Care Network, and Christy Clinic have offered city and county residents medical services.

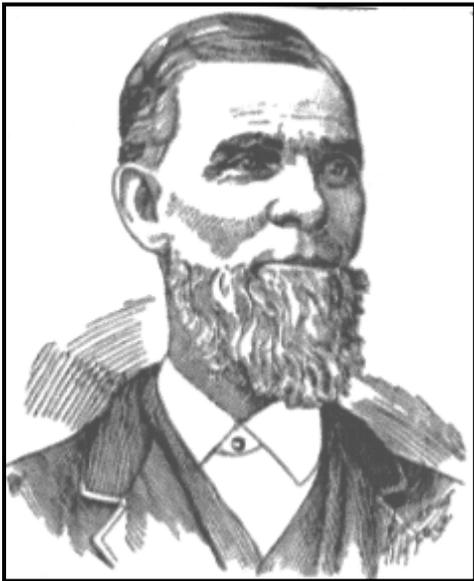
Mrs. Belle Martin,  
 founder of **Martin Nursing Home**,  
 with Mrs. Lena Schrader, age 96.  
 1972



## THE DOUGLAS COUNTY MEDICAL LYCEUM

A meeting of five physicians on January 2, 1860 was for the purpose of forming a medical society. The physicians were Drs. J. S. Johnson, Harvey J. Bassett, J. H. Apperson, J. W. Wright and Samuel Daggy. Three other meeting during the early months of that year had an additional attendance including: J. C. Rankins, Lucius McAllister, J. H. McKinney, James C. Reat and A. C. Duncan. Not much business was conducted but a schedule of fees was adopted. These included \$5.00 for a maternity case, plus .30 cents per hour after four hours.

Presumably, the Civil War curtailed activities with some of the members going into service. There were no more meetings until December 1863 when again the formation of a society was discussed. This was carried out on February 15, 1864 when a constitution was adopted. Those signing the document were Drs. M. M. Christian, Washington Brenton, J. W. Wright, J. H. Apperson, J. C. B. Wharton, and Lucius McAllister. This time the organization was known as the Douglas County Medical Lyceum. The purpose was to meet and discuss matters of common interest and exchange information.



**Dr. Brenton's professional career in Tuscola dates back to 1863, when he came here from Putnam Co., Indiana and began the practice of medicine. He has always ranked high as a physician and, as a consequence, enjoyed a good practice. Since his residence here, he has been identified with the development of Tuscola, and both in a private and public capacity has done everything to further her material and moral welfare. He was a member of the City Council for four years, and of the Board of Education ten years, and gave to both positions his most careful attention and the results of his practical thought and close observations. In 1846 he married Miss Mary Pursel of Putnam County, Indiana, a lady of refinement and culture. Eight children blessed the union. Dr. Brenton was a native of Madison Co., IN where he was born in 1823 and was one of eleven children.**

The organization adopted the American Medication Association code of ethics and set up procedures for disciplining members, if necessary. New members joining the organization in 1865 were Drs. F. Wallace, A. K. P. Townsend, J. S. Laverty, T. M. Rynearson, J. C. Parcels, N. Cheever, William A. Smith, J. E. Nichols, E. B. Cannon and George Callaway.

On January 2, 1866, the members adjourned their meeting to examine a serious gunshot wound. After this was taken care of, the meeting was resumed.

A meeting was held in the Thayer House on Central Avenue on May 1 and a debate was held on the use of calomel. From time to time, public discussions were held. One such meeting in 1868 lasted over four hours but apparently no one tired of it and remained until the last. The subject was "in disease, the nervous system is always first at fault." In those times, pharmacists and many others were called "doctor", and it was inevitable that such a one would seek membership in the organization. This came

in 1868 from Henry C. Niles, an exceedingly versatile gentleman. He was the county's first surveyor, had laid out Tuscola and also had been in various partnerships in drug stores. He was made an honorary member of the organization. Drs. F. T. and S. T. Spees were elected to membership in 1869 and Dr. W. S. Martin became a member in 1870.



**Dr. Martin was born in Putnam County, IN, on August 2 1837. After teaching school for eight years, he entered the Bellevue Medical College of New York, He graduated in 1877. He came to Tuscola in 1878. Dr. Martin actively engaged in the practice of his profession and retired to his beautiful home on South Main St. During his active practice, he was regarded as one of the ablest and most successful physicians in Central Illinois. Dr. Martin was a life time Republican and served as mayor of Tuscola.**

Diseases discussed at meetings included ringo, pneumonia, ague, croup, typhoid fever, summer complaints, grippe, diphtheria, appendicitis, insanity, and kleptomania. "Bleeding" was practiced as a treatment for various ills.

The name of the organization was changed to Douglas County Medical Society in 1894. The Wabash Valley Aesculapian Society met in Tuscola on May 28, 1902. Area physicians registered included: Tuscola – Drs. James Reat, W. E. Rice, Floyd Phillips, W. C. Blaine, W. T. Pullian, W. Brinton, George Callaway, W. S. Martin, and George H. Fuller. Newman – Dr. H. I. McNeill. Pesotum – Drs. John A. Hoffman, Z. E. Matheny. Atwood - Drs. B. T. McClain, J. A. Puickard. Hindsboro – Drs. H. M. Austin, J. C. Barnes, Paul A. Slater. Camargo – Drs. I. W. Hall, W. H. Wiseman. Arcola – E. S. Allen, John S. Polk. Arthur – J. W. Dobson. Garrett – Drs. P. M. Slater, J. R. Coyler. Dr. James F. Helegenberg, Pesotum, was elected to membership in 1905.

**Dr. William E. Rice was born at Chilo, Ohio in January, 1865. He graduated from Miami Medical College, Ohio in 1891. Dr. Rice located in Tuscola on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September, 1892. He was elected in 1912 on the Democratic ticket as coroner of Douglas County. He was a member of several boards and associations throughout his career.**



Dr. C. L. Hine, local dentist, gave a talk at a meeting in 1906 on oral hygiene. On April 4, 1912, a resolution was adopted, stating that the use of tobacco was unnecessary, that young people should be advised against smoking and chewing, as nicotine is injurious to the heart and brain.

**Dr. C. L. Hine was born in McKalb County, Indiana in 1877. As a young man he entered the Spanish American War and served through the same, coming out as Sergeant Major. He graduated from Dental College in Indiana in 1904. In October, 1904, Dr. Hine located in Tuscola. He was secretary to the Board of Education and very active in the Boy Scout movement.**



Dr. M. E. Lollar was elected to membership on November 6, 1913.

On October 7, 1915, the society took a stand against caring for the county indigent on a contract basis. It was noted that all service should be on a fee basis and that the patient should always have a free choice. The organization frequently took positions for or against legislation affecting the profession, and letters were drafted in order to make the opinions known. The members were much aware of World War I for, on July 26, 1917, a resolution was adopted concerning the care of soldiers' families; also, it was resolved to protect the interest of the doctors who had gone into service.

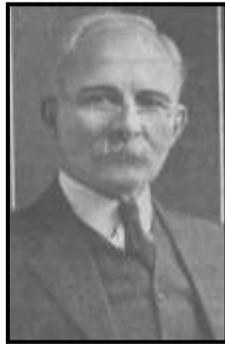
The Physicians who came to Douglas County were trained in the following schools: Rush Medical College, Barnes of St. Louis, Jefferson, and University of Pennsylvania of Philadelphia; Indiana Medical College, Indianapolis; Marion Sims, St. Louis; Kentucky School of Medicine, Louisville; Bennett Medical College, Chicago; Miami Medical College, Cincinnati and Bellevue Medical College New York City.

**H. E. Munkvold, D. C. PH. C.**

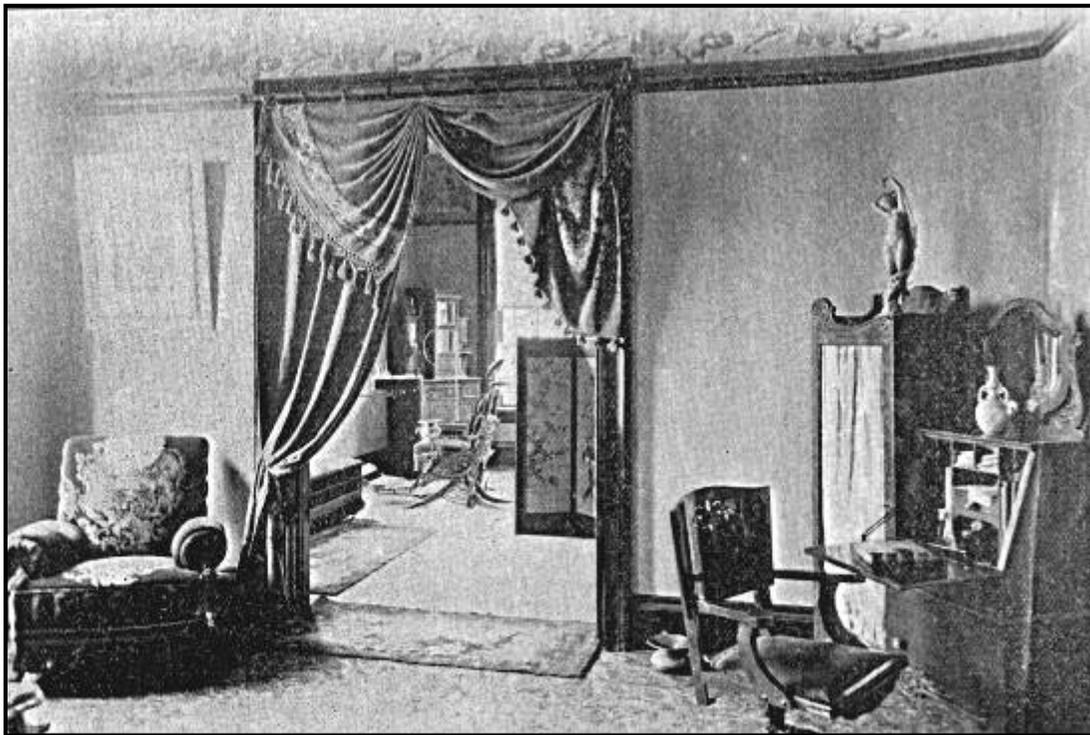
**Dr. Munkvold was born in Viburg, South Dakota in February, 1897. He graduated from high school in 1914 and after completing a course at Red Wing Seminary, he entered the Palmer School of Chiropractors, at Davenport, Iowa, where he graduated in 1922. He located in Tuscola in March, 1922. His office was in the Wamsley block.**



**Dr. F. F. Rice, D. D. S., was born at Chilo, Ohio in 1872. He graduated from Ohio Dental College in 1896. He came to Tuscola where his brother, Dr. William E. Rice, was located. He had a well furnished office on the first floor of the Hotel building.**



**Dr. A. E. Boyce was born in Camargo Township and came to Tuscola in 1865. He graduated from Indiana Dental College in 1894. His office was located in the New Wortham Building until 1905 when the building was destroyed by fire. He then erected the Boyce building.**



**Dr. Boyce's Office**

**Dr. Walter C. Blaine, was born in Champaign County in June, 1866. He graduated from Champaign High School in 1888. Dr. Blaine also graduated from the University of Illinois and the University of Pennsylvania with medical degrees. He came to Tuscola in 1898 and enjoyed a large practice in the city and surrounding country. His office was located on the first floor of the Blaine building on Main Street.**



**Dr. G. R. Ingram was born in Camargo in 1877. He graduated from Tuscola schools in 1905. He graduated from the Kirksville Osteopathy School at Kirksville, MO and the Hahnemann Medical School to receive a degree of M. D. in 1916. After serving in WW I he engaged in general practice in Tuscola.**



**Dr. Jas. L. Reat came with his parents to Illinois from Ohio in 1839. They settled in Charleston where he was educated. In 1859, Dr. Reat came to Tuscola after attending Rush Medical College in Chicago. In 1862 he was appointed assistant surgeon, U. S. Army and was stationed at Louisville, KY for a time with Grant's old regiment. He then returned to Tuscola and married Miss Sallie Callaway and had three children.**

**The doctor always stood high in his profession, enjoyed the fullest confidence of his fellow men and was prominent in all matters looking for the betterment of mankind and the progress of Tuscola.**



**Dr. W. T. Pulliam achieved a success and reputation in the healing art second to none. He was thoroughly educated and a most honorable and congenial gentleman. He graduated from the U of I and studied medicine at the Indiana Medical College from where he graduated in 1882. His office hours where he was located on the second floor of the Evan's Block were from 8 to 5 P.M. weekdays and from 9 – 6 P.M. on Sundays.**



**The Martin Drugstore  
Dr. W. S. Martin purchased the Washington Drug store from a sheriff's auction Dec., 1894. Due to the large medical practice of Dr. Martin, his daughter, Miss Maggie attended to the store.**



**Residence of W. J. Lane,  
Dentist**



**Dr. S. T. Spees was born in Ohio Oct. 22, 1849. He came to Tuscola with his father in 1866 and graduated from Tuscola High School. After graduating from the Ohio Medical College, he began practice in Tuscola in 1874 with his father. This union was dissolved in 1883. Dr. Spees ranked high in the city as a physician as he continued his practice.**

Dr. J. A. Field was born in England in 1850 and was the oldest of a family of four children and the son of a physician. At the age of fifteen, Dr. Field graduated from the Royal College of London and began the study of medicine under his father's partner. America was a land of promise for the lad and in 1867, he came to New Jersey where he resided with his uncle, Captain S. D. Childs, U. S. Navy. Dr. Field decided to seek his fortune in the West and soon chose Tuscola as his location. After attending a series of lectures at Rush Medical School in Chicago in 1870, he began the practice of medicine in Tuscola but in 1878 purchased the drug store of his uncle, Dr. J. W. Wright, and entered the pharmacy business. In 1883, he erected the brick block at the corner of Parke and Sale Street later occupied by Evan's grocery. He died of lung trouble in 1900 at his home on Parke St. Dr. Field was widely known because of his many eccentric manners and habits. His quick, nervous nature and peculiar gestures rendered the kindly doctor a man long to be remembered. Possessed of the sensitive temperament of a woman, he was a strange contrast with the rough, busy world in which he lived.

The society had its largest membership in 1921 with 25 members. They were: Tuscola – Drs. M. E. Lollar, I. W. Bach, W. E. Rice, G. R. Ingram, W. C. Blaine, G. H. Fuller, W. S. Martin, J. L. Reat. Arcola – Drs. E. S. Allen, M. H. Fortney, J. H. McClain, O. F. Barnes. Atwood – O. H. Slater. Arthur – Drs. C. O. Norris, Alma E. Anderson, A. F. Turner. Camargo – Drs. W. A. Wiseman, N. E. McKinney. Villa Grove – Drs. James M. Miller, Phillip Heron. Newman – Drs. Cyrus W. Rutherford, R. C. Gillogly. Garrett – Dr. W. C. Colyer. Hindsboro – Dr. J. J. Hopkins. Murdock – Dr. S. J. Veach. Dr. J. O. Cletcher was elected to membership the following year.

In 1964 there were but 13 members, and in Tuscola, where there were eight members, there were then but three. The 1964 membership was: Tuscola – Drs. Myron Boylson, John Hill, Walter G. Steiner. Arcola – Drs. E. S. Allen, J. Virgil Fishel, Ervin J. Gross. Arthur – Drs. Gordon D. Messmore, Grant Jones, Harry L. Messmore. Newman – Dr. Max Johnson. Atwood – Dr. Edgar Weir. Villa Grove – Drs. Edward Tanous, James Taylor.

The membership of the Society in 1972 was composed of the following members: Tuscola – Ricardo Izquiere, Walter G. Steiner and Humberto Mondul. Arcola – J. V. Fishel, Robert Arrol, E. S. Allen. Arthur – Grant Jones. Newman – Max Johnson. Villa Grove – E. M. Tanous, James Taylor.