

A BRIEF ARTIFACTS INVENTORY AND HISTORY OF THE SITE CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY THE EDWARD A. BLOCK FAMILY LIBRARY, JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN

On January 15, 2004 the Edward A. Block Family Library, a component of the Frank & Marian Snyder Family Resource Center, opened for the benefit of the patients and families that frequent Riley Hospital for Children. This library contains the merged holdings of the original Riley Family Library that resided in the fourth floor eaves of the Phase 1 portion of the hospital and the contents of the original Family Resource Center that resided in the Riley Outpatient Center from the fall of 2000 until January 2004. A portion of this facility, housing medical and support information for our patients and families, occupies the original lobby of the hospital, which was refurbished prior to its occupancy. Like the rest of the hospital, this area has a great amount of history and symbolism of its own, but this lobby area not only serves as an information center for our patients and families but also serves as a showplace for the hospital in regard to fund-raising efforts and the frequent public tours that facilitate that fund raising.

For several years, after the addition of the main Atrium Lobby of Riley Phase 2 in the late 1960's-early 1970's, this area was used as a 'quiet' and reflective area in conjunction with the Riley Chapel that resides immediately next door. It also served as the site for annual blood draws and the hallways that led to it on either side also turned this area into an ornate thoroughfare, connecting the outpatient and inpatient sides of the hospital. Offices for staff originally were located on either side of the lobby although those offices were removed and the staff relocated to make way for the rest of the family resource center and its other component parts; the Ronald McDonald House at Riley, the Family Education Center, and the office of the Patient Education staff that manage it.

There are many artifacts and decorative structures within the 'old' lobby side of the library and this narrative will attempt to describe them and their significance regarding the storied history of this hospital. Most of the room was kept in its original condition with light fixtures being upgraded to make them more than decorative.

Stained Glass – A main panel on each window was originally imported from Germany in the early 1920's, with the stained glass panels, all reflective of the poetry of James Whitcomb Riley, being added through the 1920's under the direction of Thomas Hibben. All of the stained glass panels commemorate private individuals and organizations that were committed to supporting the hospital and its mission. One in particular was added to honor the memory of Louis C. Huesmann, one of the Incorporators of the James Whitcomb Riley Memorial Association (JWRMA) and member of the Joint Executive Committee that oversaw the building and early operations of the hospital. The stained glass windows are currently backlit with phlorescent lamps but originally these windows opened to reveal a central courtyard of the hospital which disappeared over time, replaced as the hospital grew in terms of its physical size and where many of the original components of the hospital were razed to make way for more modern facilities.

The Donor Cabinet – The Donor Cabinet is an ornate walnut cabinet filled with four metal file cabinets that are in turn filled with 3x5 index cards that chronicle the original donations that were made by one

out of every five Hoosiers during the 1920's through the early 1950's. On the two doors of the cabinet are two brass plaques that are inscribed –

(Left side) “Herein is Perpetuated the Record of the Gifts Which Made Possible This Hospital”

(Right side) “That Remembrance of Those Whose Generously Provided for Childhood the Service of Physician and Surgeon May Endure”.

This cabinet is currently locked with the key in the possession of the President and CEO of the Riley Children's Foundation, Kevin O'Keefe.

Kiwanis/Rotary Displays – Inset into the walls on either side of the Vestibule entrance. The Kiwanis display commemorates the “Polio Plus” program that helped to eradicate infantile poliomyelitis.

Plaque and painting commemorating Dr. Morris Green, Physician-in-Chief, 1968-1988. Dr. Green developed the concept of Patient and Family Centered Care during his tenure here and remained on staff as a professor emeritus of pediatrics until quite recently (2006), working with patients well unto his eighties and being a mentor to hundreds of students and physicians trained here.

Grandfather Clock – Currently inoperable. Bill of lading from 1907 found within the clock.

Plaques and Engravings, original entrance Vestibule walls –

“IN GRATEFUL MEMORY

JESSIE SPAULDING LANDON

WHO GAVE FREELY OF
HER SUBSTANCE
HER THOUGHT
HER SELF

FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN
WITHIN WHOM
HER LOVING SERVICE
WILL LIVE FOREVER

THIS TABLET IS DEDICATED
BY THE TRUSTEES OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY”

(Jessie Spaulding Landon was the wife of Hugh McK. Landon, first President of the James Whitcomb Riley Memorial Association)

“THIS HOSPITAL

WAS PLANNED AND BUILT UNDER THE
SUPERVISION AND DIRECTION OF THE
FOLLOWING JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY MEMORIAL
ASSOCIATION AND THE BOARD OF
TRUSTEES OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY
AND REPRESENTS THE INDIVIDUAL
GIFTS OF MORE THAN 45000 DONORS

HUGH McK. LANDON
PRES. RILEY MEMORIAL ASSN.

Wm. LOWE BRYAN
PRES. INDIANA UNIVERSITY

GEORGE A. BALL
IRA C. BATMAN
WILLIAM C. BOBBS
JAMES W. FESLER
LOUIS C. HUESMANN

BENJAMIN F. LONG
DR. C.B. McCULLOCH
DR. LAFAYETTE PAGE
DR. SAMUEL E. SMITH
ARTHUR V. BROWN

JAMES W. CARR, *EXEC. SECY.*”

Both of these engraved wall tablets are on the left and right inside walls of the Vestibule of the original entrance that now leads into the Franklin Courtyard. They are on the left and right sides of the entrance into the vestibule respectively.

“The Prayer Perfect” plaque – written by James Whitcomb Riley. It is positioned on the inside wall in the alcove behind and to the left of the Reference Desk.

Dear Lord! Kind Lord!
Gracious Lord! I pray
Thou wilt look on all I love,
Tenderly to-day!
Weed their hearts of weariness;
Scatter every care,
Down a wake of angel wings
Winnowing the air.

Bring unto the sorrowing
All release from pain;
Let the lips of laughter
Overflow again;
And with all the needy
O divide, I pray,

This vast treasure of content
That is mine to-day!

Floor Plaques – There are several brass floor plaques that chronicle important ‘notables’, some of which were affiliated with the I.U. School of Medicine. Three are clustered immediately in front of the reference desk, the largest being a brass cross that lists 16 famous pioneers in the development of medicine, internationally, nationally, and locally. They are as follows -

Hippocrates (460-370 BC)-Ancient Greek physician regarded as one of the most outstanding figures in the history of medicine. He is often referred to as the ‘Father of Medicine’.

Galen (129-200)-Ancient Greek physician considered as second only to Hippocrates in the development of medicine.

Avicenna (980-1037)-Ancient Persian physician, philosopher and scientist. Followed the approach of Hippocrates and Galen.

Ambroise Pare (1510-1590)-French surgeon considered to be one of the fathers of modern surgery, particularly in the treatment of wounds. Also royal surgeon to four French kings.

Andreas Vesalius (1514-1564) - Belgian physician and anatomist regarded as the founder of modern human anatomic research.

William Harvey (1578-1657) - English physician who is credited with describing, in great detail, the properties of blood being pumped around the body by the heart.

Thomas Sydenham (1624-1689)-English physician recognized as the founder of clinical medicine and epidemiology.

Anton van Leewenhoek (1632-1723)-Dutch scientist and inventor regarded as the ‘Father of Microbiology’ who improved the microscope.

William Beaumont (1785-1853)-American physician who was a surgeon with the U.S. Army and who became known as the ‘Father of Gastric Physiology’.

Crawford Long (1815-1878)-American physician and pharmacist and namesake of Long Hospital. Performed the first surgical operation in general anesthesia induced by ether.

William Jenner (1815-1898)-English physician primarily known for discovering the difference between typhus and typhoid.

Rudolf Virchow (1821-1902)-German physician, anthropologist, public health advocate, and politician.

Louis Pasteur (1822-1895)-French microbiologist and chemist. His experiments confirmed the germ theory of disease. Also one of the main founders of bacteriology and inventor of 'pasteurization'.

Robert Koch (1843-1910)-German physician and Nobel laureate (Physiology/Medicine) known for discovering the anthrax, tuberculosis and cholera bacillus.

Wilhelm Roentgen (1845-1923)-German physicist and Nobel laureate (Physics) who produced and detected an electromagnetic radiation wavelength known today as X-Rays.

Walter Reed (1851-1902)-U.S. Army surgeon who proved that Yellow Fever (Malaria) was transmitted by mosquitoes, not by human contact. Long standing U.S. Army hospital in Washington D.C. bears his name.

There is an old tradition, particularly among the nursing staff, to avoid stepping on this cross while walking through the lobby.

Additional floor plaques commemorate the following individuals–

Frank .A. Morrison, M.D. (1860-1928) – Former Head of Ophthalmology Clinic, Long Hospital

John H. Oliver, M.D. (1859-1927) – Attending surgeon to Pres. Theodore Roosevelt, graduate of the Medical College of Indiana, precursor to the Indiana University School of Medicine.

Lafayette Page, M.D. (1863-1929) – Incorporator of the James Whitcomb Riley Memorial Association and member of the Joint Executive Committee that build the hospital. Dr. Page was the individual that impressed on Mr. Riley's other friends the need to build a children's hospital to honor Mr. Riley since the health care needs of the children of Indiana were so acute at the time. His persistence led to the adoption of the plan to build the hospital approximately one year after Mr. Riley's death. [This plaque is partially covered by wooden space divider positioned immediately behind the reference desk]

"Incorporators of the James Whitcomb Riley Memorial Association" – (this plaque is covered by the area rug closest to the stained glass windows)

George Ade
Frank C. Ball

Henry W. Bennett
William C. Bobbs
Arthur V. Brown
Charles A. Coffin
Fred C. Dickson
James W. Fesler
William Fortune
William Pirtle Herod
George C. Hitt
Hewitt H. Howland
Louis C. Huesmann
Hugh McK. Landon
Josiah K. Lilly
Carleton B. McCullough M.D.
Meredith Nicholson
Lafayette Page M.D.
Frank D. Stalnaker
N. Booth Tarkington
Evans Woollen Jr.

Framed Paintings -

Hugh M. Landon, 1st President of the James Whitcomb Riley Memorial Association

Perry Lesh, 2nd President of the James Whitcomb Riley Memorial Association

These are positioned on both sides of "The Donor Cabinet". The painting of Mr. Landon is on the left and Mr. Lesh's is located on the right.

Prepared by: Thomas D. Lund, 11/2/2006, rev. by Thomas D. Lund, 3/26/2016. Thomas D. Lund served as Family Resource Librarian, Edward A. Block Family Library, Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health, 2000-2014 and then as an Archival Consultant, Riley Children's Foundation.

