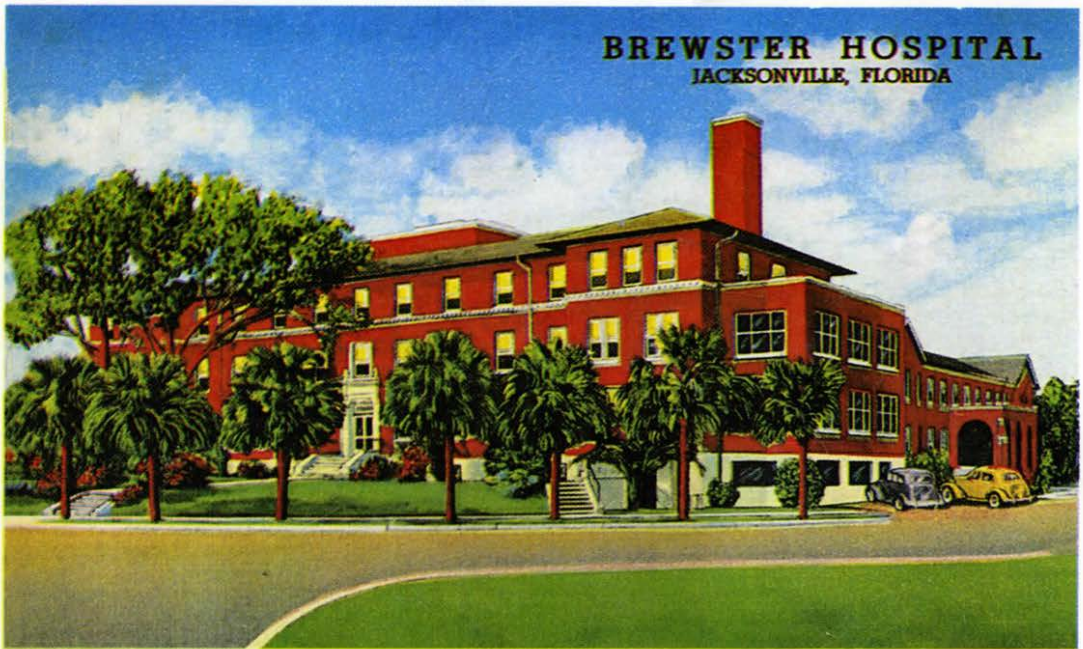


A CHARGE TO KEEP

**BREWSTER HOSPITAL, BREWSTER METHODIST HOSPITAL,
BREWSTER HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING,
BREWSTER-DUVAL SCHOOL OF NURSING**



1901 - 1966

B. J. SESSIONS



Gift of

Linda L. Smith

A CHARGE TO KEEP

**BREWSTER HOSPITAL, BREWSTER METHODIST HOSPITAL,
BREWSTER HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING,
BREWSTER-DUVAL SCHOOL OF NURSING**

1901 - 1966

B. J. SESSIONS

**BREWSTER AND COMMUNITY NURSES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA**

1996

A CHARGE TO KEEP

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BREWSTER HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING,
BREWSTER-DUVAL SCHOOL OF NURSING**

1901 - 1966

B. J. SESSIONS

Published by
Brewster and Community Nurses Alumni Association
(formerly Brewster Hospital Nurses Alumnae Association)
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1996

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Hettie L. Mills, R.N., B.S.
Vera W. Cruse, R.N., B.S.N., M.ED**

**Published by
Brewster and Community Nurses Alumni Association
(formerly Brewster Hospital Nurses Alumnae Association)**

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DEDICATION

To the memory of Miss Hattie E. Emerson and the women of the Woman's Home Missionary Society of The Methodist Episcopal Church, later the Woman's Division of Christian Service, Board of Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church, after 1939 The Methodist Church and the Woman's Society of Christian Service, Florida Conference of The Methodist Church who were the founders and supporters of Brewster Hospital, Brewster Methodist Hospital, Brewster Hospital School of Nursing and Brewster-Duval School of Nursing which proved to be outstanding institutions dedicated to the training of young Negro women as nurses and designed to give good medical treatment and nursing care to the Negro population in the Jacksonville community and surrounding areas.

**Brewster and Community Nurses Alumni Association
(formerly Brewster Hospital Nurses Alumnae Association)**

P R E F A C E

O Brewster House of Healing
Where love doth conquer ill
We yield our hearts devotion
Thy vision to fulfill
Wherever duty calls us
If need be far or near
To Brewster lessons loyal
We'll comfort, heal, and cheer.

Brewster. Brewster, be a cheering light,
Glowing, gleaming, beautiful, and bright
Like a beacon burning in the night
Glowing, gleaming, beautiful and bright.

A great loss was felt by the Black community in Jacksonville when Brewster Hospital School of Nursing and Brewster-Duval School of Nursing closed. The closing of the schools was followed by the phasing out of Brewster Methodist Hospital, the only private hospital for Negroes in Jacksonville, Florida. Intergration contributed to the closing of the schools and the hospital.

The Brewster and Community Nurses Alumni Association voted to preserve the history of the schools of nursing and the hospital by recording it in book form. The History Committee was appointed. Research, collection, and categorization of information and materials were initiated. Research for the book has come by word of mouth, personal experiences, written articles, library sources, hospital records, nurses, doctors, patients, citizens and women of The Methodist Church. We want to show how the sick were cared for then and who did the caring from the early nineteen hundreds through the nineteen sixties. The women of the Methodist Episcopal Church, North, and the Division of Christian Service who made the school and hospital a reality, we acknowledge gratefully.

The city of Jacksonville is applauded for filling the void when Brewster Hospital School of Nursing closed, by organizing Brewster-Duval School of Nursing. Contributors to the book include one who says she is the first baby born in the Brewster Hospital's Monroe Street location and one who

was the last patient discharged before the closing of Brewster Methodist Hospital. Our nursing history flows deep and penetrates a vision of students with clean stripped dresses, white starched aprons and bibs enhanced with a stiff white cap punctuated with a black velvet band. The Brewster nurse epitomized excellence in health care, pride and dignity in her appearance and her knowledge of nursing.

This book is being written with the hope that generations to come will learn of the health care and nursing available to Negroes after slavery and until integration of the races took place in the 1960's.

Brewster and Community Nurses Alumni Association
History Committee Members

**Flossie Weaver, R.N.-Gainesville, Florida
Aurelia Henley Daigeau, R.N. -Inglewood, California
Grace Brown Sykes, R.N.-Jacksonville, Florida
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President, Brewster and Community Nurses Alumni
Association

Since beginning our book, some of our sister nurses have gone to meet with the Great Physician. The** indicate the names of the deceased.

Hettie L. Thompson Mills

FOREWORD

Brewster Hospital and Brewster Hospital School of Nursing reflected the love and courage that grow out of a deep and abiding faith in God that in tough times God will stand by those who call upon him for aid. A group of Methodist church women banded together and provided the leadership necessary to establish the hospital and school of nursing which have served as beacons of light in the Jacksonville community, providing top-flight health care and producing some of the finest nurses in the Nursing profession.

Students from far and near left their homes and families in pursuit of the fine education that Brewster Hospital School of Nursing offered. Because schools of this type were not numerous for young Black women, many traveled great distances to receive nurse training. Arriving from diverse backgrounds these young women soon formed a different type of family which was bonded by love, mutual cooperation, and abiding concern for each other. The Brewster nursing students understood that in many cases all they had to depend on was each other. Thus, the relationships and sisterhood have continued long after graduation and the closing of Brewster Hospital School of Nursing. These graduate nurses went on to become model nurses in traditionally white hospitals and institutions throughout the country once the walls of segregation were breached.

The relationships and sisterhood were continued in the formation of the Brewster Hospital Nurses Alumnae Association in 1921. The purpose of our Association is to bring its members together for fellowship, to reminisce, to maintain old friendships and establish new ones, and to leave a legacy for the future by publishing the history of Brewster Hospital, Brewster Hospital School of Nursing and Brewster-Duval School of Nursing.

The closing of the Brewster Hospital School of Nursing in 1953 and the closing of the Brewster-Duval School of Nursing in 1963 presented a different challenge to these women to prove that they could continue their existence. They came together realizing that the closing of the school's meant that the alumnae association would gradually come to an end as older alumnae became inactive or passed away and no future classes would graduate to take their places and carry on the legacy. The idea of how to remain an active association first came from one of our past

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

B. J. Sessions is a native of Jacksonville, Florida. She graduated from Stanton High School, and has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Florida A and M University and a Master of Arts in Teaching degree from Jacksonville University.

Mrs. Sessions has been a public high school teacher, a professor of Humanities at Florida Community College at Jacksonville, a news writer-correspondent for the Jacksonville Journal newspaper and a writer of articles and poems for several other publications. She was one of seven writers for JACKSONVILLE'S MINORITY HERITAGE, A Resource Guide for Teachers (1992). She has published two books of poetry: CHARACTER PIECES AND BITS OF ME (1985) and RHYTHMS OF MY HEART (1991), one biography, A WOMAN FROM CHARLESTON - The Life of Arnolta Johnston Williams (Mama Williams), (1991), and a book of her speeches and lectures, LET THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH (1995).

In 1994 Florida Community College at Jacksonville named a scholarship for Bettye J. Sessions to be presented each year to a FAME participant. FAME (Format for Affecting Minority Enrollment) is a pre-college orientation program for high school students at Florida Community College initiated by Mrs. Sessions in 1984 to encourage Black students to seek information about college and later enroll in a college. In 1994 Malcolm G. A. and Bettye J. Sessions established the Byron Craig Sessions Scholarship in memory of their son to be presented each year to a qualifying young Black male at Florida Community College.

presidents Paradine Alford Smith who wanted to enlarge our group by including all members from across the United States. Her idea was indeed a temporary solution to our problem of continued existence including all members from across the United States. In 1974 the Biennial Banquet was held at the Robert Myers Hotel. The Honorable Mayor Johnny Ford of Tuskegee, Alabama was speaker for the occasion. At the banquet results of the contest to rename the association was announced by Mrs. Hettie L. Mills. Brewster and Community Nurses Alumni Association was accepted as presented by Mrs. Grace Sykes.

Today, the Brewster and Community Nurses Alumni Association is still active and holds a reunion biennially.

Grace Brown Sykes

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CHAPTER 1

THE CHARGE

A charge to keep I have	Arm me with jealous care,
A God to glorify;	As in Thy sight to live,
A never dying soul to save,	And O, Thy servant, Lord prepare,
And fit it for the sky.	A strict account to give!

To serve the present age,	Help me to watch and pray,
My calling to fulfill,	An on Thy-self rely,
O may it all my pow'rs engage;	Assured, if I my trust betray,
To do my master's will!	I shall forever die.

by Charles Wesley and Lowell Mason

The story of Brewster Hospital and Brewster School of Nursing is intrinsically intertwined with the history and mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and to present any chronology of the origin and growth of the hospital and school of nursing is also to relate parts of the history and activities of the Church. The founding of Brewster Hospital and Brewster School of Nursing in Jacksonville in 1901 to serve the medical needs of Negroes and to train Negro girls and women to be nurses was not an immediate or primary charge of the Methodist Episcopal Church. This charge grew out of the greater mission of the Church to provide Christian education through Sabbath School or Sunday School and to establish schools to train their members for vocations and careers. The earlier schools established by the Methodist Episcopal Church were institutes and seminaries to train ministers for the church and missionaries for church work. In Florida these institutes and seminaries have today become private and state colleges and universities of higher learning: in 1851 in Tallahassee, Florida, West Florida Seminary which became Florida State College for Women and is now Florida State University; in 1852 East Florida Seminary which is now the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida; and in 1883 South Florida Seminary which later became Florida Seminary and is now Florida Southern College at Lakeland, Florida.²

The second mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church, after that of the edification of the soul and enlightenment of the mind to the church's

doctrine, was education. It was this charge, this mission, to educate the illiterate that led to the founding of several institutions for Negroes in Jacksonville: the Cookman Institute, Boylan Industrial Home and School for Negro Girls and Brewster Hospital and Nurse Training School. The Church was anxious to help educate the masses of newly freed Negroes in the mid-eighteen sixties to read and write and establish themselves to become full participants in their church and their society:

"A little more than a year after Lee's surrender at Appomattox on August 7, 1866, a group of laymen and ministers met in Cincinnati, Ohio, and organized the Freeman's Aid Society, for the purpose of promoting relief work and education among Negroes in the Southern states.

Three months later after its organization the Society was at work in the South. By the end of its first year's work fifty-nine schools had been started with an enrollment of 5,000 pupils."³

Not only was education a major charge of the Church, it was also the major goal of many Negroes themselves. Thus, there was no problem in attracting students, young and old to fill the classrooms. The threatening obstacles for these new schools were adequate facilities and finance. In requesting additional funds from the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Freeman's Aid Society stated as reason for support, "Christian education is the solution to the race problem. We urge, therefore, that every pastor do his best to raise his full apportionment."⁴

Church organized and church supported schools became the primary institutions for educating and training Negroes from 1865 to 1900 with "the major support from the white Methodists [going] to schools founded by the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Church, an auxiliary of the Methodist Episcopal Church, North. By 1878 this society had founded five colleges, two theological seminaries, and two medical schools."⁵ John Hope Franklin in FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM also attests to the support of Negro education by the Methodist Episcopal Church and the achievements in education by the Freedmen's Aid Society in the 1860's and 1870's. "The Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church had broadened its scope by 1878 to include not only secondary schools and colleges, but also two medical colleges and three theological schools."⁶

To the efforts of the Freedmen's Aid Society were added those of the Woman's Home Missionary Society, another auxiliary of the Methodist Episcopal Church, North. In 1872, Samuel B. Darnell, a Quaker who later joined the Methodist

Episcopal Church, applied to the Freedmen's Aid Society to teach and work in the Southern states. He was accepted and sent to Jacksonville, Florida. Darnell looked for a place to establish a school and purchase several lots on the edge of the city. Rev. Alfred Cookman gave the funds for the construction of a two story building, and the Cookman Institute was established.⁷ Darnell and his wife were the only teachers for a few years. As the student enrollment increased there was a need for more room and more teachers. An additional three-story building was constructed. It contained the Cookman Chapel on the first floor, the class rooms on the second floor, and a dormitory for girls on the third floor. It is said that Darnell built the dormitory for the girls because of a dream he had had in which a Black women had come to him and said, "I am coming to your school; I am going to live in your house."⁸ Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church became the local sponsor of the Cookman Institute which was the first private high school for Negroes in the state of Florida. The faculty was composed of an equal number of southern Negro teachers and Methodist missionary teachers. The curriculum consisted of college preparatory courses in science, mathematics, foreign language and literature and vocational courses in shoemaking, tailoring, agriculture, printing and home economics.⁹

By 1892 Cookman Institute had reached the standards of a junior college.¹⁰ It was considered one of the best private schools for Negroes in the state. The institute continued to operate under the administration and guidelines of the Freedmen's Aid Society which later became the Freedman's Aid and Educational Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.¹¹ A fire in Jacksonville destroyed all of the buildings of the school in 1915, and a new location was purchased at 8th and Davis streets. New buildings were constructed and the education of Negro students continued. In 1923 Cookman Institute merged with the Daytona Normal and Industrial School for Girls in Daytona Beach, Florida, founded and operated by Mrs. Mary McCleod Bethune. The two schools became Daytona Cookman Collegiate Institute¹² and today is Bethune Cookman College.

In December 1884 Miss Hattie E. Emerson of Manchester, New Hampshire, was appointed to missionary work in Jacksonville, Florida.¹³ "In 1885 under the [auspices] of the New Hampshire women within the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, she opened a sewing department at Jacksonville's Cookman Institute, a school sponsored by the Freeman's Aid Society, another arm of the

Methodist Episcopal Church. The Woman's Home Missionary Society's program for [Negro] girls had begun five years earlier at Clark College in Atlanta with such an arrangement - the Woman's Society providing classes in homemaking skills within a Freemen's Aid Society's academic framework."¹⁴

Miss Hattie E. Emerson, said to be a cousin of Ralph Waldo Emerson, noted New England transcendental essayist and poet of Massachusetts, was a White missionary from the north who was faithful to her church and to her mission. She was an intelligent woman of ability and foresight who realized that her charge and that of the Woman's Home Missionary Society which she represented was to establish a home and school for Negro girls in Jacksonville. Miss Emerson let nothing deter her from her mission, her goal not lack of funds nor laws passed by a post-reconstruction Florida legislature. It was through the untiring, determined efforts and fortitude of Miss Hattie Emerson that Boylan Industrial Home and School for Negro Girls and Brewster Hospital and Nurse Training School were established within a fifteen year period in the city of Jacksonville. Both of these institutions grew consistently throughout the first fifty years of the twentieth century and produced some five generations of proud and successful Black women professionals that Miss Emerson could only have dreamed of in 1886.

The Boylan Industrial Home and School for Negro Girls opened in April, 1886 with Miss Emerson as its principal in a six-room cottage at Davis and Duval streets. "The first \$1,000 towards its purchase was given by Mrs. Ann Degroot of Newark, New Jersey, a lady deeply interested in the Christian education of colored girls. By her continued generosity this work has been enlarged from time to time and its influence for good extended. The new home received Mrs. DeGroot's family name, Boylan,"¹⁵ stated Miss Emerson in an interview with the Florida Times

NOTE: In some sources the name Hattie E. Emerson has been used; in other sources the name Harriett E. Emerson has been used. This author has chosen to use Hattie E. Emerson based on three sources: a letter Miss Emerson wrote and was printed in the Florida Times Union in 1895 with the name Hattie E. Emerson at the closure (contents of letter given in this chapter); the name printed in the Jacksonville City Directory each year from 1895 until 1904 when she retired; the 1973 Annual Report of Methodist Hospital, Inc.

Union in 1895. Elaine Smith, a graduate of Boylan-Haven School stated in her brief history of Boylan-Haven School that over the years Mrs. Ann Boylan DeGroot contributed as much as \$10,000 to the expansion and development of the home-school.¹⁶ "The cottage was small and the first term opened with seven girls, all that could be accomodated. The next year the house was enlarged so as to receive eighteen girls and the purchase of an adjoining lot and cottage soon after provided room for twenty-eight,"¹⁷ Miss Emerson reported.

Many girls applied to the school to become day students, attending classes each day, but not living at the Home. To meet this need Miss Emerson and her staff thought it best to add this dimension to the school by purchasing the next lot and cottage and remodeling it to serve as classrooms.¹⁸ The girls were taught industrial classes, and when they had finished the course, the students were competent in housekeeping, preparation of a plain meal, plain and fancy needlework of all kinds and dress making - cutting and fitting.¹⁹

The year 1895 was an ominous one for Miss Emerson and the Boylan Industrial Home and School for Negro Girls. The Florida State Legislature passed a bill that threatened to dismantle the dedicated and successful work she and the Woman's Home Missionary Society had been engaged in for the previous nine years. The law prohibited white teachers from teaching in Negro schools and white and Negro students from being taught in the same class or building at the same time:

CHAPTER 4335 [No. 14]
AN ACT TO PROHIBIT WHITE AND COLORED YOUTH
FROM BEING TAUGHT IN THE SAME SCHOOLS:

Be it enacted by the legislature of the state of Florida:

Section 1. It shall be a penal offense for an individual body of inhabitants, corporation or association to conduct within this state any school of any grade, public, private, or parochial, wherein white persons and negroes shall be instructed or boarded within the same building, or taught in the same class or at the same time by the same teacher.

Section 2. Any person or persons violating the provisions of

Section 1 of this act by patronizing or teaching in such school shall upon conviction thereof be fined in a sum not less than \$150.00 nor more than, \$500.00 or imprisoned in the county jail for not less than six months for every such offense.

Section 3. All laws or parts of laws in conflict with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

Section 4. The Act shall take effect September 1st, 1896.

Approved May 29, 1895²⁰

The Florida Times Union article of September 5, carried several subtitles for its story about the law and its implications: "White Teachers Can't Teach in Colored Schools," "The Law Will Not Tolerate Miscegenation," "Boylan Home and Orange Park Schools Must Be Changed." The news article also indicated that the Freedmen's Aid Society and the American Missionary Society would challenge the legality of the law and fight its enforcement.

Miss Emerson's response was swift and adamant calling the law un-Christian and issuing the following statement to students and friends of Boylan Industrial Home and School:

Boylan Industrial Home and School will open on Tuesday, October 6, with no change in the list of teachers. Pupils will be cared for as conscientiously as they have been in the past and plans are made for a successful school year. These include better accommodations for our day scholars. Those who wish to attend the night school should apply now.

It is a matter of regret that any law should pass in Florida designed to injure Christian educational work within its borders. We have always been peaceable and law-abiding, and are prepared to meet the present requirements, however unjust and un-Christian they may be. We are in receipt of advice both friendly and legal, and believe that Boylan Home has many years of usefulness in prospect.

Hattie E. Emerson ²¹

For the remainder of the 19th century the Boylan Industrial Home and School continued its classes and activities without interruption or stoppage under the principalship and superintendency of Miss Emerson and the sponsorship of the Woman's Home Missionary Society. Already night classes had been instituted. Additional activities and classes were initiated. "Accelerating this trend in 1901 were missionaries Jeanette Baker and Ada Ingraham. For five years [Miss Baker] conducted a night school, Bible classes and a Sunday school for the city's Chinese and Syrian minorities. [Miss Ingraham] established in a needy community Ingraham Faith Cottage, wherein a multi-faceted program, including a day school, was conducted until 1910. Whereas these outreach efforts failed to become permanently institutionalized, Boylan Home's nurse training course inaugurated on a merger scale in 1901"²² did not. This course served a pressing need in the Negro community, that of having trained nurses available to attend Negroes in their home since there was no hospital available to them at that time.

Miss Emerson wanted more than a limited nurse training course for her school, and, thus "the idea of hospital service for Negroes in Jacksonville was born in the Woman's Home Missionary Society. . . . Miss Emerson discovered the ability and desire of some of the girls in the Home for nurse training through the regular instruction given in hygiene and general care of the sick, and through the many calls that were made by the teachers and older pupils on the sick and needy. In this way, real preparation for the formation of a nurse training [program] was born, and the need became more and more apparent as the work"²³ at Boylan Industrial Home and School for Negro Girls progressed. These budding efforts continued to grow and became the start of Brewster Hospital and Nurse Training School.

1901 was a year of destruction and a year of rebuilding and moving forward for the city of Jacksonville. The city, once named Cow Ford, had come a long way since its meager beginnings in 1822 and was on the threshold of being one of Florida's major cities before a major part of it was destroyed by the Great fire on May 3, 1901. At the time of the Fire the city was a part integrated - mostly segregated community. "While housing was generally segregated by race, a surprising number of blacks and whites lived in integrated neighborhoods."²⁴ Negro businesses and white businesses existed in the same blocks along the same streets; yet, all else was segregated churches, hospitals, hotels, restaurants,

schools, theatres and transportation. Women slightly outnumbered men (both black and white) and had provided leadership in the city by establishing libraries and organizing several social and humanitarian societies.²⁵

While the masses of Negroes were still poor and illiterate, by 1900 a small Negro middle class had emerged in Jacksonville: forty-nine ministers, sixty-nine teachers, six doctors, three lawyers, one pharmacist and one hundred thirty-one businesses. These affluent Negroes built substantial homes in Oakland and Lavilla neighborhoods. There were seven public elementary schools, no public high schools and four private schools; Edward Waters College, Cookman Institute, Florida Baptist Academy and Boylan Industrial Home and School. The churches consisted of one Presbyterian church, twenty-three Methodist churches and twenty-five Baptist churches. Social and leisure activities included music, sports, literary groups and theatrical presentations.²⁶ Although much progress had been made in other areas in the Negro community, there was no private hospital that treated the Negro population. Clearly this Negro community was in need of a hospital where Negro doctors could service their patients.

Miss Hattie Emerson continued her work toward a hospital and nurse training school and "secured the services of Miss Iowa Benson, a graduate nurse, and obtained a small room in Whetstone College which adjoined"²⁷ the Boylan Industrial Home and School. She furnished it with the limited equipment of two cots, a table and a few chairs. "Eighteen girls paid a tuition fee of fifty cents, and the first black nurse training school in the state of Florida was formed. Several physicians of Jacksonville volunteered to teach, and much local interest was shown in the new class. Twice a week instruction was given to mothers, and in four months 417 calls were made on the sick."²⁸ Thus, what became Brewster Hospital and School of Nursing began in one small ill-equipped room in January, 1901.

The Great Fire of 1901 spared the Boylan Industrial Home and School property. Fortunately for Miss Emerson and her girls the wind of fate took the flames of the fire in a different direction from the home and school even though the fire started in the LaVilla area at Davis and Beaver streets just three blocks away from where the school was located. The home and the school became a part of the healing and rebuilding of the city as the fire gave impetus to the work of the Woman's Home Missionary Society in establishing a hospital for its nurse training

program. "In 1901 Boylan [Home and School] established a nurses' training program. Its purposes were twofold: to relieve suffering and to furnish young women with another career opportunity. Initially the school operated without a hospital, and the students practiced their skills doing home visits. Following the fire, seventy-five victims, most suffering from infectious diseases sought care at the school, which was converted into a makeshift hospital. By the end of the year, the patients regularly sought medical care at the school's two-room infirmary."²⁹ It was in 1902 that a physical structure for a hospital became a reality. A sum of money was given by Mrs. George A. Brewster, wife of a minister in Danielson, Connecticut.



Rev. George A. Brewster

Mrs. George A. Brewster

Various accounts give different amounts for the contribution of the Brewsters:

Mrs. George A. Brewster, a widow of a minister in Danielson, Connecticut, rescued the struggling hospital with a gift of \$1,000 to meet the emergency and later another thousand by will. In appreciation of the gift that saved the hospital, the hospital was named Brewster Hospital and Nurse Training School.³⁰

In 1902 a New England widow donated \$1,500 in memory of her husband to secure land and a building for a hospital. Two years later Brewster Hospital and its nursing school accommodated up to fifteen patients.³¹

The need for a hospital was clear and Mrs. George A. Brewster of Connecticut gave the school \$1,000 to start a hospital and a training school. In appreciation of this gift the institution was named after Mrs. Brewster.³²

The addition of Brewster Hospital to the Boylan Industrial Home and School complex enhanced the offerings of the school and included a new segment of the Negro community as a part of the school. With the treatment of Negro patients in the hospital came their doctors. "Black physicians could take patients there, perform operations, teach student nurses and obtain qualified nurses to do home care. Although minimally funded, it was the only hospital where black doctors could practice in Jacksonville.³³ Both Boylan Industrial Home and School and Brewster Hospital and Nurse Training School remained at the Davis, Duval, Lee, Monroe streets square until 1910. While the needs of the hospital were slowly met, the home and school had a steady increase in enrollment and more applications for boarding students from other cities in Florida and also a small number from Alabama and Georgia. There was a clear need for a larger more adequate facility. The new home and school was built in east Jacksonville in the Oakland neighborhood on a square bordered by Jessie, Franklin, Bridier and Odessa streets. The four-story, pressed-brick structure was valued at \$50,000 and was considered an excellent building for its purpose. A ceremony was held on Thursday evening, May 26, 1910, for laying the cornerstone. The story in the Florida Times Union the next day stated that the Rev. Dr. Jesse Bowman Young delivered the address in which he praised the work of the Woman's Home Missionary Society and the Freedman's Aid Society. The following is an excerpt:

"Boylan Home has long been hindered from doing its largest work by the lack of proper facilities where-with to carry out the purposes for which it was originally established. In spite, however, of its meager outfit and its inadequate accommodations, it has really done a remarkable work during the quarter of a century that has elapsed since it was begun. In that period it has helped to educate and equip hundreds

of girls and young women for self support and usefulness in different vocations. Some of these students are teaching; others are in home or foreign missions; those who are married and have homes of their own are illustrating therein the lessons they received in this institution, while those who are making their own way in the practice of the vocations they have been taught here have a different character and aim and life on account of the aid which was here administered.

This home, however, is but one of the institutions sustained by the organization which owns it and maintains it - the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. There are fifteen such schools carried on by it in the South alone for girls and young women of the colored race besides its institutions for white students, and for people of other nationalities in other sections of the land. Here in the South alone it has been giving about \$40,000 a year to carry on its schools. And these schools do not alone tell the story of what philanthropy from other sections of the land is doing for the Southland. Apart from the public schools of the South there are 132 schools sustained for colored students in the South largely by Northern beneficence. In these schools there are about 44,000 students enrolled, one-half of whom are receiving industrial training. Benefactions amounting to more than a million and a half dollars were received by these schools last year.

In addition to what the Woman's Home missionary Society is doing, the Freedmen's Aid Society has carried on a vast scheme of philanthropy. It has conducted the largest and best equipped theological school for colored ministers in all the Southland; it has equipped more than half of the colored physicians, pharmacists, and dentists of that race in all this Southern section. It has given a hundred thousand dollars a year for many years to help lift up and educate the young people belonging to this race under our care. From eight to ten thousand students each year pass through its halls. Many hundreds of ministers and teachers now at work and across in Africa were trained in these schools. It has thus given a new tone and a new type of life in all the Southland."³⁴

The home and school remained at this site at 1214 Jessie Street for the duration of its existence in Jacksonville. In 1932, Boylan Industrial

Home and School merged with Haven Home in Savannah, Georgia, and became Boylan-Haven School. The school closed its doors in Jacksonville in 1959 when it merged with Mather Academy, a co-educational school in Camden, South Carolina.³⁵ In its seventy-three years as an educational institution in Jacksonville, six women served as superintendent-principal: Hattie E. Emerson, Frances Calfee, Artelle Bever, J. E., Watter, Bertha E. Losee and Edith M. Carter. At the end of the 1959 school year, there were forty children enrolled in the kindergarten and one hundred seventy-seven enrolled in the junior and senior departments.³⁶ Mrs. Edith M. Carter who served from 1944-1959 ended her closing address with the following statement:

"Boylan-Haven throughout the years has provided a place, and the necessary atmosphere, for the meeting of the minds and the sharing of ideals and ideas among the concerned people of both Negro and the white groups of the city of Jacksonville. As such, it will be greatly missed in our community. There has been a wonderful fellowship here throughout the years.

The closing of any such avenue of communication in these critical times is cause for great regret. It is our hope that this fellowship may be perpetuated for the years ahead by the establishment in this place, or another alternate site on the Eastside, of a neighborhood house which will meet the needs of this community.³⁷

The first listing of Brewster Hospital in the Jacksonville City Directory was in 1904, and it was listed as Brewster Memorial Training School at 927 West Monroe Street with L.T. Ross as superintendent. In 1905 the hospital was listed as Brewster Nurse Training School and Hospital at 927-933 West Monroe Street with Mrs. Isabelle Stowell, superintendent. In 1908 the Report of the Woman's Home Missionary Society in the General Conference Journal of the Methodist Episcopal Church stated: "While it has not been the policy of the Society to build or support hospitals and many have been declined, some have been accepted to furnish a place for training nurses and nurse-deaconess to meet the needs of the Society. All have come to us without overtures, on our part, and all are used for the training of workers for better service to the church. The hospitals are largely in the care of deaconesses who faithfully minister to both body and soul of their patients."³⁸ Clearly the Woman's Home Missionary Society saw the training of nurses as their primary mission and the establishment of the hospital as a necessity to provide this

training for Negro girls and women since Negroes were not allowed treatment at other hospitals in Jacksonville. "It is the only hospital for the care of the sick Negro race and for the training of colored nurses in the South,"³⁹ was the Society's justification for establishing Brewster Hospital.

1908 proved to be an eventful year for Brewster Hospital and Nurse Training School. The first baby was delivered in the hospital according to a letter from Mrs. Dorothy Bacon, March 30, 1989. It was a history making event because prior to the birth of this baby all Negro babies were delivered by midwives or doctors in their mother's homes.

. . . I was told I was the first baby born in Brewster Hospital. I was born January 12, 1908. Babies were delivered at home by midwives. The only babies delivered in the hospital were Caesarean babies. I was delivered by Caesarian. My mother's name was Grace Davis Washington and my father's name was Aaron Washington. The Doctor's name was Dr. James Freeman. The employees wanted to name me Mary Peabody Brewster after the founder. But my mother said, "No." I have a copy of my birth certificate if you need it.

Mrs. Dorothy Bacon

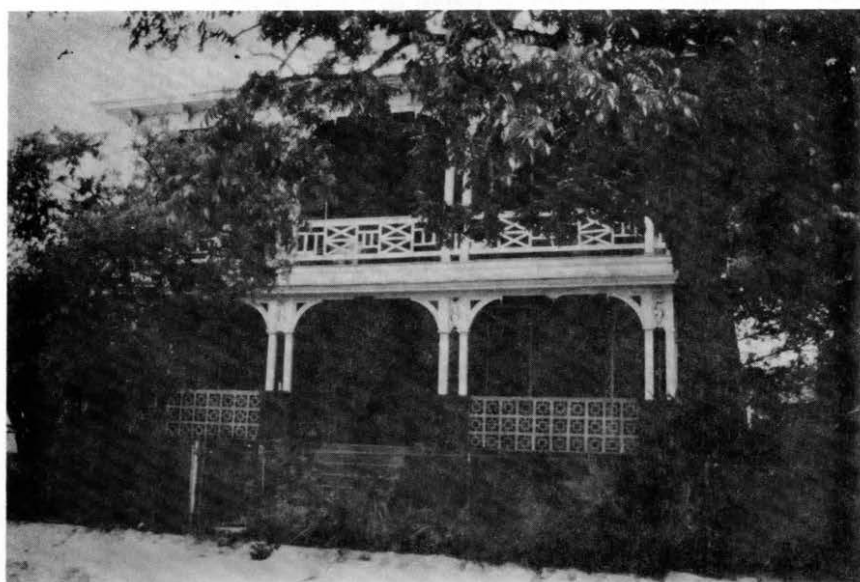
P. S. I was named after I left the hospital. Name on the certificate [is] Baby Washington.⁴⁰

In 1910 when the parent institution Boylan Industrial home and School moved to its new building in Oakland on the Eastside, its offspring Brewster Hospital also acquired a separate building for the nurses training school. For the first time the hospital was addressed apart from the nurses training school as Brewster Hospital at 913 West Monroe Street. Mrs. Olive Webster was the superintendent. The nurses training school was addressed as Brewster School of Nurse Training at 927 West Monroe Street with Mrs. Olive Webster as principal.⁴¹ Thus the nurses training school and the hospital occupied separate facilities, but still remained an educational unit under the leadership of Mrs. Webster.

By 1911 the city square at Davis, Duval, Lee and Monroe streets had been sold and no longer housed any of its former occupants; Brewster



(Photo Courtesy of Jacksonville Historical Society)



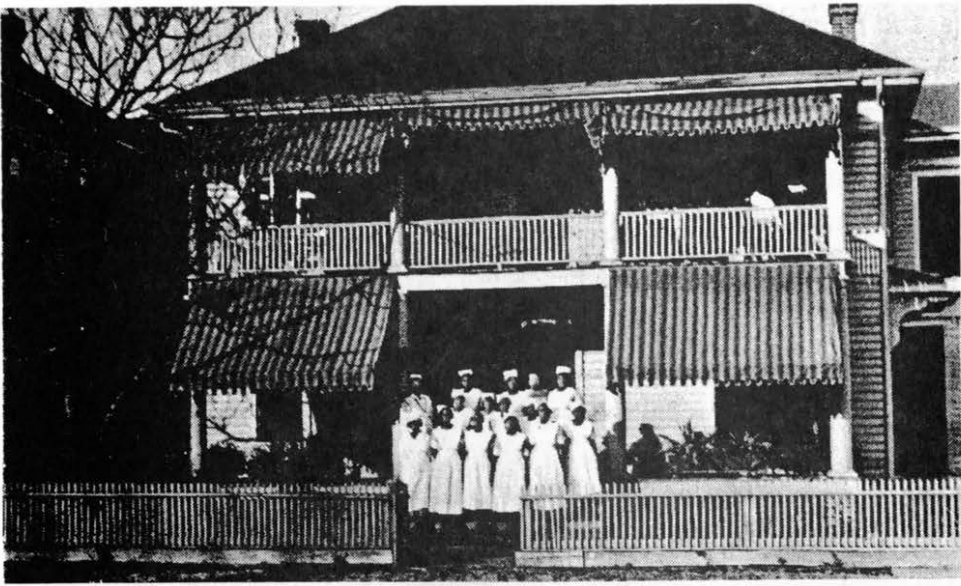
*Two views of the first
Brewster Hospital
building at 913 West
Monroe Street;
Brewster Hospital
occupied this
building until 1911.*

Hospital and Brewster Hospital School of Nurse Training moved to a temporary location for a year in a building on Southwest Jefferson Street, north of Forsyth Street.⁴² The next year the hospital and school moved to its third location at 149-151 Lee Street. The building was a large two-story structure at the corner of Lee and Union streets. By 1916 the Woman's Home Missionary Society had enlarged and improved the facility and had changed the front entrance of the hospital from Lee to Union Street with the address changed to 1001 Union Street.⁴³

In 1916 the Florida Legislative Nurses Registration Act became effective requiring the registration of all nurses in the state who had completed two years of training in a hospital in good standing or graduated from a training school that included a course of study in medical, surgical and obstetrical nursing preside over by a graduate nurse to determine their fitness and ability to give efficient care to the sick. The two-year nurses were given an examination to qualify for registration.⁴⁴ It appears that the nurse training at Brewster Hospital prior to 1916 was a two-year training program, but moved to a three-year program to meet the State requirements so that the graduates could become registered nurses.

To accommodate its growing nursing school, the Woman's Home Missionary Society indicated in 1920 the need for more space for the nurses training school and hospital: "Larger buildings must be provided for the constantly growing demands. The need for trained nurses among the Negroes is very great. A few young women have been graduated and are rendering good service in city institutions."⁴⁵

Mrs. Olive Webster was the superintendent-principal of Brewster Hospital and Brewster Hospital School of Nurse Training from 1906-1917; Miss Agnes Humphrey took the position in 1917-18; Mrs. Bertha E. Deen, R.N. from 1919-1929; Miss Elva L. Wade in 1930-31. In the 1929-30 school year the hospital hired two of its own graduates: Ethel Harris, class of 1919, was hired as night supervisor, and Virginia Murray McWaters, class of 1923, was hired as day supervisor.⁴⁶ Opportunities for Brewster graduate nurses were limited in Jacksonville. They could do private-duty nursing in white homes or work for the City Health Department or at Duval County Hospital on the wards that served only Negro patients. Most of the graduates had to leave Jacksonville to get professional nursing jobs. Some went North to work in hospitals there, and some went into the armed services.⁴⁷ Yet, the students continued to qualify for enrollment into the Brewster Hospital School of Nurse



*Brewster Hospital and Nurse Training School
in 1923 at Lee and Union streets*



*Brewster Hospital and Nurse Training School
in 1930: Miss Elva L. Wade, Superintendent of the Hospital, Miss Jana,
Superintendent of Nurses, Student Nurses - Class of 1930, Lillie Mae Thomp-
son, Ernestine Clark and Cora Bell Brookins*



*Class of 1922 - Kiota Gainer, Lelia C. Jennings, Maud Davis, Leola Redding and Matilda Blackstone
(Names are not in order according to the picture).*

Training. The state qualifications for admission to a nurse training school at that time called for the completion of the second year of high school, a certificate of health from a reputable physician, with the names of two persons (not relatives) as character references.⁴⁸

Brewster Hospital and Brewster School of Nurse Training remained under the ownership and operation of the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. From the beginning the charge was not an easy one to keep; finding enough funds to open the hospital, to keep it in operation and to support the nurse trainees was a constant challenge year after year. The institution survived because of the faith, tenacity and hard work of the Methodist church women and the support of the Jacksonville community that remembered the role the little one-room hospital played in the Great Fire of 1901. Faith and the will to survive and endure were qualities the church women passed on to the Negro girls and women they trained to be nurses. Somewhere in the process those in training and those who trained them became cohesive unit with the same "charge to keep."

Brewster Hospital and Brewster Hospital School of Nurse Training was a dream come true for those who were admitted and those who were able to graduate. Two graduates of these early years living in Jacksonville today are Florence Cooper Holman, class of 1920, and Lillie Mae Thompson Cutliff, class of 1930. The careers and lives of these early graduates show the quality of character and professionalism so evident in the Brewster Hospital trained nurses.

Florence Cooper Holman now ninety-four years old is the oldest graduate of Brewster Hospital Nurse Training School living in Jacksonville. Mrs. Holman has been living at the Metropolitan Home on West 6th Street since 1990. She remembers how difficult it was for Negro girls and women to take nurse training, but she said she loved nursing and taking care of people and she was determined to enter Brewster Hospital Nurse Training School and graduate.⁴⁹ Florence Cooper came to Jacksonville at age three with her mother and two brothers from Savannah, Georgia, but she considers Jacksonville her home. After completing her nurse training at Brewster Hospital she went to New York City to find work. What she found was that her nurse training she had worked so hard for at Brewster was not acceptable training for New York. She then entered the Harlem Hospital School of Nursing and graduated. She worked in hospitals in New York City and in Washington, D.C. before

returning to Jacksonville. She met and married Kaiaphas Holman who died in 1951 in Washington, D.C. Here in Jacksonville Mrs. Holman has done volunteer work for several community groups and was a Hospice volunteer for twelve years at Methodist Hospital Hospice.⁵⁰

Lillie Mae Thompson, a Jacksonville native, graduated from the high school division of Edward Waters College in September 1927. The course of study was a three-year program, and Mrs. Bertha E. Deen, a white missionary, was the superintendent. She described Mrs. Deen as "a nice, kind person, firm but fair."⁵¹ The course work and activities depended on the classification of the student. "As a freshman, the older students, seniors, were over you. The seniors served as leaders and role models for the lower class students,"⁵² she said.

Mrs. Cutliff has a very vivid memory of the uniform they wore: "It was a blue chambray uniform with a white apron and a bib that crossed in the back, black shoes and black stockings. The caps were white cotton, stiffly starched to stand. The caps were striped according to the classification of the student: freshmen wore no stripe at all; juniors wore one narrow band of black velvet; seniors wore two narrow bands of black velvet; the Brewster graduate nurse wore one wide black velvet band."⁵³

Mrs. Cutliff said there were three graduates in her class of 1930; the other two were Cora Bell Brookins Dukes and Ernestine Clark Johnson, and both are deceased. She graduated during the depression and remained in Jacksonville taking what amounted to a part-time job as a visiting nurse. Each visiting nurse worked several days a week, never a full week, in order for all of the available nurses to have a job. She then got a job with the State Health Department under the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) and was sent by FERA to a medical college in Richmond, Virginia, to take a four and a half month course in public health to further qualify her for the job. When a venereal disease clinic was opened at Duval County Hospital, she worked there for five years. From 1946 to 1967 Mrs. Cutliff was employed as a public health nurse for the city of Jacksonville, the position from which she retired. After retirement she did volunteer work with the city's nutrition program for twenty years. She married Thomas James Cutliff in 1941; they had no children.⁵⁴

In the first thirty years of its existence Brewster Hospital and Brewster School of Nurse Training were established as two of the most needed institutions in the city. It was the first hospital for Negroes in the state and

one of the two schools of nursing for Negroes in the Southeast. These institutions developed a tradition of excellence in health care and community service that continued with fervor in the next thirty-five years when the hospital and nurse training school relocated at Jefferson and Center streets.

CHAPTER 2

THE NEW HOSPITAL

In the face of disaster and devastation much can still be accomplished with faith, hope, charity and hard work. So it was in Jacksonville in the early years of the Great Depression that lasted from 1929 to 1941 that the church and community and their supporters came together and built Brewster Hospital on a hill at Jefferson and Center streets. The \$300,000 hospital was dedicated on March 29, 1931. It was a moment of pride in achievement for the Jacksonville community, especially the Negro community. The hospital was a magnificent structure for its time, and it sat majestically on its hill overlooking Springfield Park and Hogan Creek and surrounded by Springfield Heights.

In 1930 Brewster Hospital (1001 Union Street) along with other hospitals in Jacksonville was approved by the American Medical Association:

Jacksonville's five leading hospitals, and a negro hospital here, have been approved by the American Medical Association.

The county hospital, Riverside, Rollins hospital for women, St. Luke's and St. Vincent's all were given the stamp of approval. Brewster Hospital for negroes was also approved. ¹

This, of course, meant that all six hospitals were in good operating condition and met the standard criteria of the AMA. To maintain this standard Brewster Hospital as well as some of the others needed help. Help was quickly requested by Mayor John T. Alsop, Mrs. Robert Stewart of the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Dr. N. A. Upchurch, city health official. The hospital had previously been given \$2,500 on a yearly basis by the city of Jacksonville to assist in its operation. However in September 1930, the hospital officials requested an additional \$12,000 because of the anticipated opening of the new and larger facility the following year. The Jacksonville Journal newspaper reported the request for the additional funding from the city in the article "Hospital Gets Help from Jax - Health of Negroes Will Be Aided by \$1,000 a Month:"

An appropriation of \$1,000 a month for operating expenses of a new \$250,000 Brewster Hospital for negroes was added to the

city's budget today by council's budget committee.

The increase was made after Mayor Alsop and Mrs. Robert Stewart, an official of the Women's Home Missionary Society, and Thomas Devine, manager of the Community Chest, had appeared before the committee.

Mrs. Stewart pointed out that the new hospital, now in the process of construction, might be self-sustaining after this year when the additional appropriation would no longer be necessary. . .²

City Councilman Walter F. Rogers sponsored the appropriations increase, but the most poignant and rational statement requesting the additional funding was made by city health officer Dr. N.A. Upchurch:

"This hospital will mean much more to the community than might at first be evident," he said. "Industrial leaders who come here to survey the field for a new factory, spend 30 minutes with the chamber of commerce and two hours with the health department trying to determine the city's health status.

In the words of a famous Carolina senator "the white man of the South will never rise until he takes the negro with him."³

With the assistance from the city, the Methodist churchwomen and citizens throughout Jacksonville and Duval County, the new Brewster Hospital was completed and dedicated in early spring of 1931. Two accounts of the funding and activities surrounding the new hospital from Ruth Meeker's book SIX DECADES OF SERVICE, 1880-1940 and the 1973 Annual Report of Methodist Hospital, Inc. follow:

. . . A committee selected a new site, a beautiful location facing a park. The Jubilee Building Program included Brewster with an appropriation increased to \$260,000. Mrs. Stewart, the bureau secretary, built an efficient 75-bed hospital with this money.

Prominent people of both races participated in the ground breaking ceremony on May 31, 1930. Laying the cornerstone on September 20 was another interracial event. The city of Jacksonville evidenced an interest in the hospital through contributions totaling

about \$25,000 of which \$18,000 was raised by negro citizens. Bishop F.T. Keeney dedicated Brewster on March 29, 1931.⁴

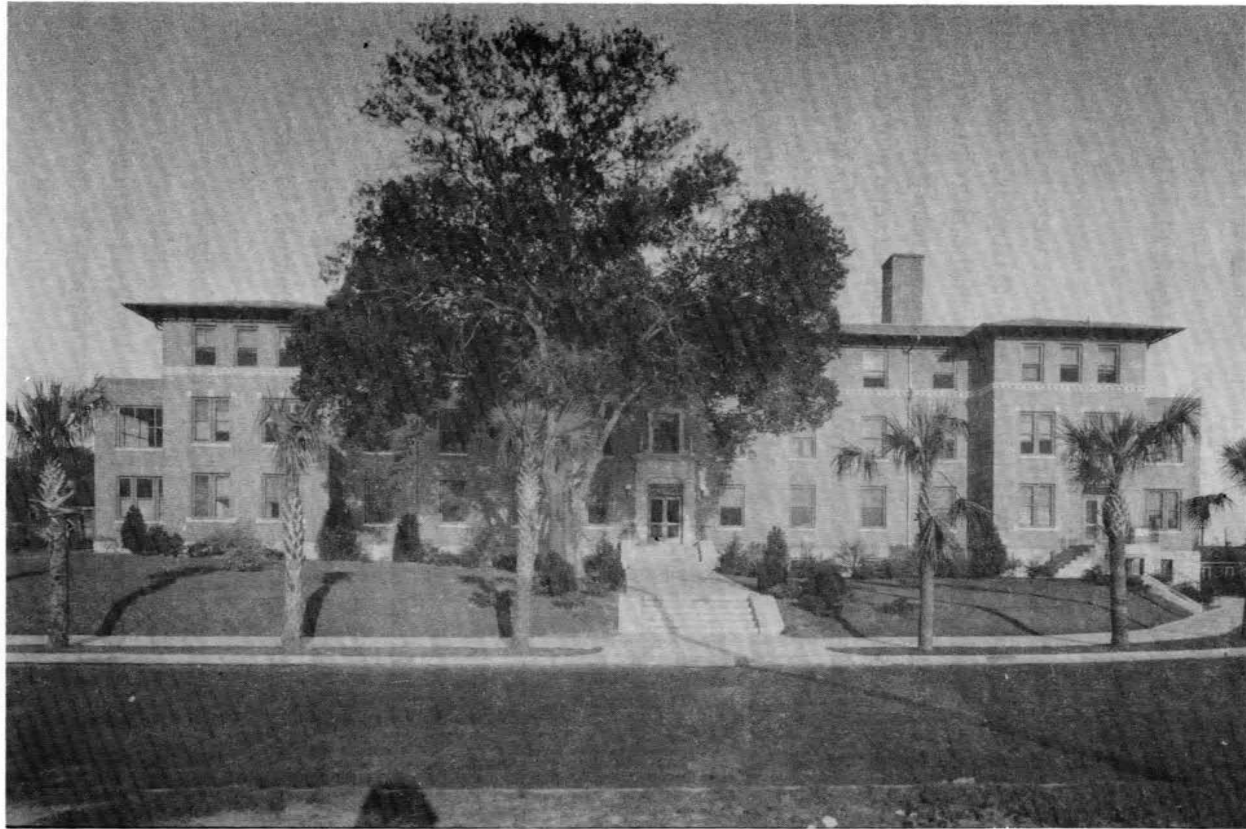
. . . The Methodist Woman's Home Missionary Society Jubilee donated money in 1930 to erect a ninety-five bed hospital on Seventh and Jefferson Streets. Citizens of Jacksonville of all races, as they were able, contributed \$50,000. Ground was broken for the new hospital on May 31, 1930, and on March 29, 1931, the completed building was dedicated.⁵

Attending the cornerstone laying and dedication were many dignitaries and other prominent citizens: Mayor John T. Alsop, Jr., Mrs. Robert Stewart of Secaucus, New Jersey, secretary of the Bureau of Hospitals; Mrs. May Leonard Woodruff, corresponding secretary emeritus; Rev. A. Fred Turner, Rev. N. E. Davis, corresponding secretary of the Board of Homes, Hospitals and Deaconess Work; Mrs. W.H. C. Goode, president of the National Woman's Home Missionary Society; Mrs. Maggie Williams, Mrs. Boyd, Mrs. McMurray, Miss Ethel Harris, Rev. Frederick T. Keeney, Atlanta, Georgia; Rev. John E. Ford, Bishop Henry Y. Tookes, Bishop R. A. Grant and Bishop George E. Curry.⁶ Also thousands of Negro and white citizens of the lay community attended to see the fruition of their contributions.

The new hospital as the old one was owned and operated by the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church as a non profit missionary hospital to serve the needs of the Negro community. Structually, the hospital was constructed of steel and reinforced concrete. It was a fireproofed building veneered in red pressed brick. It stood three stories tall with a basement that gave it four floors. The hospital was built by O.P. Woodcock and Company, local contractors.⁷

There were seventy-five rooms for patients, forty-five of which had a bath or connecting bath, There were twelve wards, each with four , six or eight beds. On each floor were three diet kitchens. There were four gallaries, two open and two closed where patients in the convalescent stage could bask in the sunshine.⁸

The offices of the superintendent, secretary and other staff heads and public parlors occupied the first floor. Private rooms and a baby ward were on the second floor; two operating rooms on the second floor; machinery, laundry and furnace in the basement.⁹



*Brewster Hospital at Jefferson and Center Streets when it opened in 1931
(Photo- Courtesy of Camilla Perkins Thompson)*

The nurses' home and school of nursing building faced Center Street. It was two stories high, semi-fire-proofed and veneered in red pressed brick. All the departmental heads were white men and women; the student nurses were Negroes.¹⁰

A small brochure published by Brewster Hospital and the Woman's Home Missionary Society in 1931 showed the new hospital on the cover with the nurses' residential building and described the hospital as "one of the most complete and finest in the South."¹¹ In the forward was the message from the new superintendent Miss Lula M. Henderson:

The completion of the New Brewster Hospital offers a definite advancement in the field of Medical Science of this vicinity, as well as to open up a new channel of development to the Negro Physician and Surgeon. At the same time it places an institution with modern equipment for every medical requirement at the disposal of those needing hospitalization. . . .

This New Brewster Hospital is just another one of the many institutions scattered over America dedicated to the great work of uplift to the fallen and relief of suffering humanity. It is the aim of the management to standardize this Institution and place it in class A-1, meeting the approval of the most critical. It is also the aim of the management to gain the confidence of the public and to do the greatest good to as many as possible.¹²

The new Brewster Hospital brochure also gave a detailed description of the facility's interior floors, location of departments, services provided with pictures, and the cost of various types of rooms per day:

. . . as you enter the Hospital, to your left are the offices including information, Records, Superintendent Quarters, First-Aid Emergency Rooms and Receiving Departments. To the right are offices and space to be used in the Out-patient Department which embraces Laboratory Clinic Pathology, which is adequately equipped to carry all the accepted tests as are now used in the best hospitals. This department is in charge of a technician under the direction of Dr. Clayton E. Royce. Detail gross and microscopic examination fundings are fill with the diagnosis on the patient's chart and mounted, and stained sections of all tissues are in file on

the laboratory of the hospital-Orthopedics, Medical, [Physiotherapy], Eye Ear, Nose and Throat, G. U. Room and Social Service Department. In front of you are the Doctor's Reception Room, Dining Rooms and the latest equipped Kitchen.

On the second floor are the Operating units which are composed of four rooms with the best and latest equipment in advanced surgery. The X-Ray [room] is modern in every detail. It is equipped for all types of diagnostic Roentgenology including fluoroscopy and is under the direction of Doctors Cunningham and Shaw with Dr. W.M. Shaw giving personal attention to the work. The Medical, Surgical, Obstetrical, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat, Urological, Dental and Pediatric Departments are found on this floor. In addition the women's ward and private rooms are found on this floor.¹³

Hospital Rates per Day

Private Rooms	\$5.00, \$6.00, \$7.00
Semi-Private Rooms.....	\$4.00
Ward Rates.....	\$3.00
Industrial Rates.....	\$3.50
CHILDREN'S DIVISION.	\$1.50
Semi-Private Rooms.....	\$2.50, \$3.00 ¹⁴

With its 75-bed capacity in its new location in 1931, Brewster Hospital served a Negro community of 60, 636.¹⁵ Jacksonville's Negro population was at 37% of the city's total population according to the 1930 census and included a sizable number of professionals - doctors, lawyers, educators, ministers, and businessmen, as well as skilled craftsmen and laborers.¹⁶ This Negro community had twenty practicing physicians: Drs. David H. Brown, Robert Brown, Samuel S. Campbell, Samuel B. Daniel, Charles Frederick Duncan, Sylvania Green, Jacob Hughes, Henry W. James, William Felix, Smart Pope Livingston, Joseph P. Miller, Louis H. Myers, J. Perry Patterson, John B. Roker, Warren Schell, Sr., John Shaw, Authur W. Smith, Cassious A. Ward, Isham A. White and Israel E. Williams.¹⁷ These Negro doctors were among those doctors who were extended a personal invitation to send their patients to Brewster Hospital: "We know that in many parts of this state there are no hospital facilities for colored patients, and consequently you cannot give your colored

patients the best possible medical service. The New Brewster Hospital which is a modernly equipped institution in every respect and whose staff of physicians is quite capable of giving to patients the best to be had in medicine and surgery is now ready to receive your colored patients who are in need of hospital care. We are availing ourselves of this opportunity to extend to you an invitation to visit the New Brewster Hospital and to ask you to send your colored patients that need hospital care to us."¹⁸

From 1931 to 1939 Brewster Hospital had three superintendents: Lula M. Henderson, 1931 - 1934; Clara L. Kreuger, 1934 - 1938; and Fred W. Kelley in 1939. All were engaged by the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church that continued to own, finance and operate the hospital and send its members with careers in medicine and nursing to employment at Brewster Hospital.

The 1930's was a decade of excitement and enthusiasm for those in service at Brewster Hospital, and this energy spilled over into the surrounding Negro community. The hospital was actually situated on a street that divided the Negro community of Springfield Heights from the white community of Springfield. The hospital was a beacon of hope for those in Springfield Heights community in the depression years.

In 1934 Hettie L. Thompson became a floor supervisor at Brewster. Miss Thompson was employed immediately after her graduation. She was in the first class to complete all of its three years in nursing at Brewster Hospital School of Nursing in the new hospital. Clara L. Kreuger was the hospital's superintendent and Florence M. Jones was the director of nursing. Miss Thompson supervised the third floor where medical, surgical and pediatric services were provided. At that time the floor supervisors could live in housing at the nursing school or provide their own private housing. Miss Thompson chose the nursing residence as her living quarters.¹⁹ She remembered especially the care they gave to the children, "We took care of crippled children and youth from Florida and Georgia. The cases of burned children were sent to us at Brewster; some of the children stayed as long as six months. They were cared for lovingly by nurses because their parents did not have the funds to pay the cost of a trip to the hospital to visit them."²⁰ Dr. John Fort headed the crippled children service; Dr. John Lovejoy and others provided the orthopedic services.

Some Negro doctors practicing medicine and attending their patients at

Brewster Hospital in the 1930's included Dr. Cassius A. Ward, Dr. C.F. Duncan, Dr. W.W. Schell, Sr., Dr. S.B. Daniel, Dr. I. E. Williams, Dr. R.L. Brown, and Dr. S.S. Campbell. In the mid 1930's Brewster accepted its first interns and residents. The first two interns came from schools in Chicago and Boston. Residents included Drs. C.D. Herbert, E.H. Washington, O.W. McIntosh, R.F. Mills, Earl Lloyd, C.M. Thompson, Dr. Akra, Dr. Paront, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Sheard, Dr. Wellington, and Dr. Mosely.²¹ Three of these doctors chose to settle in Jacksonville and practice medicine: Dr. Oscar W. McIntosh, Dr. Roosevelt F. Mills and Dr. Emmet H. Washington. Brewster Hospital allowed young medical students from MeHarry Medical School and Howard University Medical School to spend their summers getting additional medical training at the hospital. These students included Nelson W.V. Spaulding, W.W. Schell, Jr., and George Schanks.²²

The first addition was made to Brewster Hospital in 1937 to accommodate what the Woman's Home Missionary Society considered its primary charge, the education and training of young Negro women to become nurses. Stated by Ruth Meeker in *SIX DECADES OF SERVICE, 1880 - 1940*, "Nurse training, the first emphasis of this healing work, enrolled increasing numbers every year. To enlarge the housing accommodations, the Nurses' Home was remodeled and dedicated in December 1937. Besides seven bedrooms and a sitting room, a large auditorium was added."²³

In 1938 great praise was given to Brewster Hospital by Mrs. Robert Stewart, administrative secretary for hospitals for the Woman's Home Missionary Society, after her general inspection of the hospital. At the time Brewster was considered one of the finest Negro hospitals in the South and was accredited and approved by the American Medical Association, the American Hospital Association, and the American College of Surgeons.²⁴ She made special note of the social service department having made 738 calls during the year, the prenatal clinic held at the hospital in cooperation with the City Board of Health serving 1,042 persons, and the venereal disease clinic in operation serving some 4,000 persons. She concluded that the prenatal clinic had proved valuable in reducing the maternity mortality rate among Negroes in Jacksonville and at that time the great need at the hospital was for isolation quarters for contagious disease cases.²⁵

In 1940 Florence M. Jones was named superintendent of Brewster

Hospital, a position which she held until her retirement in December 1953. It was under her leadership that the school of nursing participated in the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps during the war years. The steady increase in the number of patients required additional space for their hospital stay, and the hospital increased its number of beds by twenty-five in 1940 after completng its third floor.

Brewster grew bigger and better. Completion of the third floor in 1940 brought the capacity to 100 beds.

. . . New clinics included one in cooperation with the Tuberculosis Association.

A contagious pavilion was in the planning stage in 1940 - a cooperative venture with the city fathers. The Woman's Home Missionary Society purchased the property on which to erect the isolation unit.²⁶

Reports of the missionary work and the continued developments and improvements made at Brewster Hospital were chronicled in the Annual Publication of the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Methodist Church:

1941 - 1942

The isolation pavilion at Brewster Hospital, Jacksonville, Florida, is nearing completion, the work being done almost on schedule with comparatively few delays. Several young men who have been with us for a long time are now overseas, and many office workers have been called to Washington by the Government. This turn-over in empolyees makes administration very dificult. Examination of selectees goes on continually, and the stress and strain of life in a defense area has increased illness and accidents so that the hospital is running to capacity. The Training School began the year with nineteen probationers, and thirteen juniors went to Freedman's Hospital for affiliatoin. The maternity and pediatric departments have been filled to overflowing, and we are now looking forward to the Christmas season and what it will mean to the little ones in our care.²⁷

These were the years of World War II which brought an increase in the Negro population in Jacksonville. By the end of the war in 1945 the Negro population had reached 67, 062.²⁸ Services, however, were

decreased somewhat at Brewster Hospital during the war years because doctors had to examine the men and women who were getting ready to go in to military service. It was a service doctors were sworn to perform for the Selective Service System of the United States.²⁹ A very disturbing incident of the war activity at Brewster Hospital was the removal from the hospital of Dr. Sitnzer from Germany and Dr. Brasher from Switzerland following a surgical procedure these two resident doctors had just performed. Miss Thompson said, "The police came and took them away for deportation. We never saw them again."³⁰

Some of Miss Thompson's treasured memories while a supervisor at Brewster Hospital were those times when Dr. Charles Drew and other nationally known health professionals visited Brewster Hospital and Florida A and M College conducting workshops and seminars. Miss Thompson said they were honored to dine and discuss science, medicine and nursing with these distinguished guests.³¹

Dr. Drew discovered a method to successfully process the preservation of blood plasma for transportation and transfusion. During World War II he was founder and director of the first American Red Cross blood bank in New York City and in charge of the collection of blood for use in the United States Army and Navy. He was also in charge of the collection and preparation of blood plasma for the British Army. Dr. Drew is credited with saving many lives and helping change the course of medicine and the course of the war for Great Britain in the 1940's. Dr. Drew received many awards for his accomplishments. He died in an automobile accident in Burlington, North Carolina, April 1, 1950.³² It was widely reported that he was refused medical emergency admission and blood transfusions that could have saved his life at a hospital that would not serve Negroes.

Another significant visitor to Brewster in the 1930's was Mable K. Stauper, R.N., president of the National Colored Graduate Nurses Association. Miss Thompson said Mable Stauper and other nurses from the national organization visited and exchanged nursing facts with the Jacksonville nurses. Miss Thompson ended her employment at Brewster Hospital in 1943 when she became the wife of Dr. Roosevelt F. Mills.³³

Dr. Oscar W. McIntosh was one of the Negro doctors who practiced medicine and instructed the student nurses at Brewster Hospital in the

1940's. He is the last living doctor of the early group of Negro residents and doctors who practiced at Brewster Hospital in the 1930's and 1940's. Dr. O.W. McIntosh, a native of Redding, Pennsylvania, came to Brewster Hospital as a surgical resident from Howard University School of Medicine in 1938.³⁴

Dr. McIntosh proved to be a very dedicated and excellent surgeon. At Brewster Hospital the administrators, the other physicians, the nurses, the student nurses and staff employees respected and admired him. He was concerned about the well being of others and gave his greatest attention to his patients.³⁵

In later years he became the role model for younger doctors who did their internships and residencies at Brewster Hospital and also for the younger doctors who were staff members. Dr. McIntosh showed his deep interest in the Black doctors in Jacksonville by researching their history from the first Black doctor in Jacksonville in 1864, Dr. M. R. Delaney to the last one to begin practice in 1982, Dr. Charles Simmons, III.³⁶

Dr. McIntosh was also very much concerned about young Black doctors and the areas of medicine they were choosing for their careers. He expressed his observation in an interview with a Jacksonville Journal News correspondent in 1984, a few years before he retired. He said that general practice which had been the backbone of medicine, especially for Black patients, was on the way out because few young doctors were choosing this area of medicine. Specialized medicine he felt was the primary change among young Black physicians in the last twenty-five years of this century.³⁷

Dr. McIntosh said in 1984, "What we need today are more Black doctors and more awareness of their capabilities. We need them in family practice and in fields such as dermatology, orthopedics, and neurosurgery. One of the greatest needs here in Jacksonville is in specialized branches of cardiology."³⁸

After more than forty-five years of practicing medicine in Jacksonville and at Brewster Methodist Hospital until it closed in 1966, Dr. McIntosh retired to his native Redding, Pennsylvania. He returns to Jacksonville periodically for business purposes and to visit with the many friends he made and patients he served.

Mrs. Robert Stewart of Secaucus, New Jersey, Administrative Secretary for Medical Work, Woman's Division of Christian Service, Board of Missions, Methodist Church



Three new structural additions were completed and dedicated at Brewster Hospital in the decade of the 1940's: in 1943, 1945 and 1946. Completed in 1943 the isolation building was designed to accommodate at least twenty beds and was expected to be a valuable addition to the city's health facilities. The \$40,000 cost of construction was paid for by the city of Jacksonville. City Commissioner of Health and Sanitation P.M. Ulsch pointed out that without the building there was no place available for the segregation and proper medical treatment of Negroes with contagious diseases.³⁹

In 1944 Mrs. Robert Stewart, secretary of medical work of the Woman's Division of Christian Service, praised the work at the hospital and called it one of the most modern hospitals for Negroes in the South. The hospital had 125 beds and the most modern operating room equipment to be found in any hospital of its size, and it was an institution very active in the war

effort offering maternal, child care, and vocational and rehabilitative services. At Brewster there was an accredited U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps.⁴⁰

The administrative staff and advisory committee in 1944 included Miss Florence M. Jones, superintendent of the hospital and past president of the Florida State Nurses Association, Dr. W.R. Schnauss, medical director, and Judge George Couper Gibbs, chairman of the advisory committee. On the advisory committee were Negro and white community leaders: Mrs. G.C. Gibbs, Mrs. Madeline Downing Knight, Dr. W.W. Rogers, Finley Tucker, M.R. McGehee, Mrs. W.C. White, E.E. King, Rev. S.P. Rutledge, Prof. St. Clair Evans, and Mrs Martha U. Stewart.⁴¹

On September 22, 1945, the Susan B. Pond residence and educational building at Brewster was dedicated. Jacksonville contractor O.P. Woodcock presented the building to Mrs. Robert Stewart of New Jersey, the representative of the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Methodist Church. Judge George Couper Gibbs, chairman of the Brewster Advisory Board presented the building for dedication. Mrs. E.B. White of Jacksonville, president of the Woman's Division of Christian Service for the Florida Methodist Church was the principal speaker. Others participating on the program were Miss Florence Jones, Mayor John T. Alsop, Mrs. Downing Knight, chairman of the nurse training school committee, Dr. W.R. Schnauss, Miss Ethel H. Harris, R.N., representing the Brewster Hospital Alumnae Association, Rev. K.D. Britt who gave the invocation, Rev. S.P. Rutledge who read the special scripture lesson, and Rev. H.W. Bartley who gave the benediction.⁴² The Susan B. Pond residence and educational building was constructed directly to the rear of the main hospital building.

In February 1946 construction was begun on the Children's Building which was connected to the main hospital building on the South side facing Jefferson Street. The building had a 750 foot front and was three stories with a basement. The cost of the completed structure was estimated to be \$100,000. A. Eugene Cellar, AIA, was the architect and O.P. Woodcock Company the general contractors.⁴³ The Children's Building was named the Grace Lorena Bragg Building.

Because Jacksonville, then considered the gateway city to Florida, had had a great influx of service men and their families and war workers who chose to reside in the city after the war, the local Council of Social Agencies in 1946 set up a survey committee of fifteen white and fifteen

Negro citizens to organize and direct a broad study of as many existing phases of Negro community life as possible. The committee began its work in February 1946 and had completed it by May of that year. The results were published under the title "Jacksonville Looks At Its Negro Community", subtitled "A Survey of Conditions Affecting the Negro Population in Jacksonville and Duval County, Florida." The survey included the following section on Brewster Hospital:

Brewster Hospital

Brewster Hospital is owned and operated by the Methodist Church. Some of the control of this institution has been given over to a local bi-racial board Both white and colored physicians and surgeons give service to patients at Brewster. The hospital staff includes two resident Negro physicians and a white superintendent.

One hundred and five beds (approximately the same number as there are at the County Hospital for Negroes) and 25 bassinets were available for occupancy during the year 1945. During this same year, 3,431 patients were admitted. The total patient days were 25,561.

The out-patient division at Brewster gave service to 1,631 people; 139 in general surgery, 280 in surgical specialties, and 1,212 in other than surgery.

There is no definite number of beds for free and part-pay patients set aside at this hospital. Persons who are unable to pay full ward rates are considered on an individual basis. During the calendar year 1945 no charges were required for service in the pediatric department. There were 859 babies given 4,524 days of care in the hospital in 1945.

Brewster Hospital rates for 1945 were listed as follows:

Private rooms	(7)	\$5.50 - \$6.00
Semi-private	(14)	\$4.50 - \$5.00
Ward-maternity		\$4.00
Ward-general		\$3.50
Service		\$2.00

It can readily be seen that the revenue from patients was not sufficient to cover the actual cost of service.

The hospital's annual report (1945) reveals that only the income from the seven private rooms was sufficient to cover cost. This means that patients occupying other than private rooms received a portion of free care at the institution. The foregoing state of affairs points up the need for increased subsidies for this institution.

. . .

The hospital reports 90 employees, of whom 72 are Negroes and 18 are white. The heads of departments at Brewster Hospital are for the most part white. Colored persons, however, occupy a variety of positions from administrative assistant, anaesthetist, and supervisors to the most menial places on the staff.

In the School of Nursing, there are two white full time instructors and three colored part-time instructors. One colored part time assistant admitting officer is employed in the business office. The supervisors and assistants of all the wards at the institution are colored. The Record Department, the X-Ray Department, and the linen room are the only divisions in which colored personnel were not employed in 1945.⁴⁴

What this survey clearly showed was that there had been little or no room rate increases from the opening of the new Brewster Hospital in 1931 to the year the survey covered, 1945. A number of services was free. Brewster was truly a missionary hospital supported in time, services and finance by the extensive generosity of the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Methodist Church, those employed at the hospital, the student nurses in training and volunteers from the Jacksonville community. No patient was denied service, even if the patient could not pay for it.

In its forty-ninth year of service to the Jacksonville and surrounding communities in 1950, Brewster Hospital and School of Nursing was lauded in its community newspaper as the largest Negro hospital in Florida and one of the South's outstanding Negro schools of nursing. The Jacksonville Journal reported that Brewster Hospital had developed into a bustling institution with an excellent training school, maternity wards, wards for children, surgical wards, operating rooms, and clinics giving prenatal care and treating venereal diseases, as well as an out-patient department which served 5,192 patients in 1949. The hospital had 140

beds and 35 bassinets and was valued at \$500.00. It was described as having an excellent bi-racial staff composed of members of the Duval County Medical Society and the Negro Florida Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Society. The hospital was approved by the American Medical Association for internship training in obstetrics and gynecology.⁴⁵

The hospital, still run on a non-profit basis, usually had a deficit. The deficit in operational expenses was funded each year by \$10,000 set up in the budget of the city of Jacksonville, miscellaneous gifts and donation and by the Methodist Church women.⁴⁶ In its Annual Publication the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Methodist Church did not deem it necessary to enumerate its activities at Brewster Hospital in the early 1950's in terms of accomplishments or projections or even problems and concerns, but made a statement that could well have been the philosophy of the hospital:

Brewster Hospital, Jacksonville, Florida, seeks to develop all of its services in such a way that Christianity will be promoted in every phase of activity; to provide the best medical care for Negro patients; to contribute to the preparation of well-qualified nursing personnel; and to provide the leadership and stimulate interest in the promotion of health programs and services for the Negroes of the Jacksonville area. Progress is being made through the efforts of an inter-racial board and staff to accomplish the purpose of this great institution.⁴⁷

Brewster Hospital and School of Nursing moved into the second half of the twentieth century with an integrated staff and board of directors, but its nursing students and hospital patients remained all Black.

Miss Florence M. Jones retired as superintendent at the end of 1953. In 1954 Jack H. Whittington was appointed the new head of Brewster Hospital with the title of administrator instead of superintendent. Administrator Whittington headed the hospital from 1954 - 1962. It was during his administration that the hospital's name was changed to Brewster Methodist Hospital. Administrator Whittington and his staff were much concerned about the care and comfort of their patients and found it necessary to publish a small brochure "Steps for your Comfort and Care at Brewster Hospital" in which they informed their patients of the different uniforms worn by various hospital personnel.

Hospital attendants who may come into your room will wear a variety of uniforms. So that you may know which is which, here is a list of what these uniforms represent:

REGISTERED NURSE - will be wearing a white uniform and a white cap designed to show from which school of nursing she graduated.

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE - a white uniform with a white cap bearing a blue and white striped band.

NURSES' AIDES - in this hospital will be wearing blue uniforms, dark hose and no caps.

STUDENT NURSES-PROFESSIONALS - blue and white striped uniform, white apron, white hose and shoes, caps with a black 1/4 inch velvet band.

STUDENT NURSES-PRACTICAL -blue and white seersucker striped uniform with white apron and bib, blue and white striped cap, white hose and shoes.

LABORATORY TECHNICIANS - white uniforms, no caps. They will come in bearing trays of utensils for blood and other tests.

RESIDENT DOCTORS - may be seen in short sleeved white cotton shirts and white trousers. They come in to take case histories just before surgery.

DIETITIAN - will be wearing a white uniform with an insignia on sleeve showing he is a member of the American Dietetic Association.

VOLUNTEER WORKERS - wear Cherry-Cherry red pinafores or smocks. They will bring the hospitality cart to your room, deliver messages and flowers.

HOSPITAL MAIDS - wear pink uniforms.

ORDERLIES - wear white shirts and trousers and shoes.

PORTERS - wear brown uniforms.⁴⁸

At Brewster Hospital the orderly had always been a vital supportive staff member of the patient care team. The orderly assisted the doctors and the nurses in caring for the patients: transported all patients by stretcher or wheelchair to various areas of the hospital, assisted patients with bathing, feeding and changing clothes, assisted doctors applying the plaster-of-Paris casts and other minor procedures.⁴⁹

Johnny Holden, now eighty and retired, came to Brewster Hospital as an orderly in 1937 as a part of the National Youth Administration (NYA) program of the national government that offered unemployed youth two or three days work a week during the depression. It was a part of President Roosevelt's New Deal. Holden was assigned to Brewster Hospital and the hospital hired him.⁵⁰

Johnny Holden remembered his duties on the 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. shift with great clarity, "We had to wear white trousers, white shirts and black bow ties. My job was to clean and take care of the third floor which was the all male floor, the two sun porches and the two staircases. There were only two orderlies for the entire hospital. The other orderly was Gilbert Wright, the resident orderly who lived on the hospital grounds, had his own room, three free meals a day and laundry services. Gilbert was assigned to the first and second floors. The administrative offices were on the first floor, and the rooms and wards for the female patients and the operating room were on the second floor."⁵¹

Holden worked as an orderly for four years, until 1941 when he was hired by the Afro-American Life Insurance Company in the bookkeeping department. Holden spent most of his working years at Blodgett Homes and Brentwood Project as superintendent of maintenance and as purchasing agent for the City Department of HUD.⁵²

Jack Whittington's work was praised often by the Woman's Division of Christian Service, "Brewster Hospital, Jacksonville, Florida, serves a large Negro population. The services have expanded the able administration of Mr. Whittington, and many more patients are now receiving the benefits of the hospital."⁵³ It was during Whittington's administration that Miss Emma Burris, executive secretary, Woman's Division of Christian Service, Methodist Board of Missions, and the Board of Directors at Brewster Hospital secured the services of R. Norman Brough, hospital consultant, Kingsport, Tennessee, to do an evaluative survey of the hospital with particular attention to the proposed expansion program, nursing service, and administrative practices. Mr. Brough completed his report with its conclusions and recommendations to Miss Burris with a copy to Jack Whittington:

The Conclusion (summarized)

1. Brewster Hospital is suitably located for its task of serving the non-white population of Jacksonville Duval County.

2. The hospital is now reaping the benefit of excellent management at the hands of an administrator appointed about 18 months ago.
3. The hospital has rendered each year a large amount of charitable service to the patients. Because the value of that service has not been fully understood or appreciated, the institution has suffered from a chronic lack of funds. As a result, a considerable portion of the equipment is inadequate or antiquated in some respect.
4. The medical work of the hospital is surprisingly good. Full accreditation was recently secured from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals.⁵⁴

Recommendations (summarization of 20 points)

1. For fifty years Brewster has been a missionary hospital of the Methodist Church. The management should seriously consider changing the major emphasis to a hospital which clearly demonstrates that in the South both Black and white can work side by side with efficiency, harmony, and gratifying results. A five-year plan should be undertaken along that line to include never-ending steps to tie the hospital into its area and to make it more nearly self-supporting.
2. That the expansion plan be modified and enlarged with financial problems being surmounted before construction begins.
3. That nursing services be improved to eliminate overcrowding; that the purpose of the hospital be clarified, restated, broadcast throughout its service area; that the Board of Directors be strengthened.
4. That contract with the New York headquarters be more frequent with more active outlining of fundamental policies; that as soon as possible an assistant administrator be engaged; that monthly conferences of the administrator, department heads and nursing supervisors be held with recorded minutes.
5. That a larger auxiliary and strong group of hospital volunteers be organized and given office space within the hospital.
6. That steps be taken to improve the hospital's financial

position and to study the institution of a mail campaign for donations and to raise the standards of the hospital to merit increased local support.

7. That the accounting system be strengthened and improved with better techniques in the admitting and credit departments.
8. That improvements be made in the boiler room, housekeeping departmentt, physical therapy department and maintenance department.⁵⁵

The constant problems of more beds, more space, more modern equipment, and few dollars put the operation of the hospital at risk in the 1950's. In 1955, the hospital was fully approved by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals for the first time. Subsequently, in 1958 and 1959 the hospital was put on probation both by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals and the Florida Board of Health. The hospital was approved again in May 1960, predicated largely on the extensive plans for expanding and remodeling its physical plant.⁵⁶

In November the hospital announced plans for two new buildings at Brewster to be completed by architect A. Eugene Cellar. A four-story chronic disease building and a six-story general service building were planned according to Jack Whittington, administrator at the hospital. The general service building would be erected in front of the existing Children's Building, and the chronic disease building between these building and the front property line on Jefferson Street.⁵⁷

A building fund campaign had been lauched in 1955 to erect the needed facilities. The initial contributions for the campaign came from the medical staff and other employees, the board of directors, the Men's Club and the Guild of Brewster Hospital. Their contributions were bolstered by pledges and contributions from churches, lodges, teachers in the public school system, business and industrial firms and their employees, philanthropic individuals and foundations interested in expansion of medical service programs. The Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Methodist Church gave substantially to meet construction costs, and additional funding came from the Ford Foundation and government aid under the Hill-Burton Act.⁵⁸ These generous donations made possible the completion of the new Chronic Disease Unit at Brewster Methodist Hospital in 1958.

The new Chronic Disease Unit added 26 adult beds and 26 pediatric beds to the hospital. Piped in oxygen and telephone outlets were provided in each of the 8 wards and 9 private rooms. The building was air-conditioned with solariums on each floor for patients and visitors. A spacious occupational therapy and multi-purpose room was located in the basement area. All rooms were furnished and decorated to give a pleasant and attractive atmosphere for the patient.⁵⁹

In 1958 the officers of the Board of Directors at Brewster were Wayman C. Parker, president; Rodell Roberts, vice president; Mrs. J.H. Rogers, Jr., second vice president; Mrs. E.M. Hurley, secretary; Mrs. Charles Brooks, assistant secretary; S. Gordon Blalock, attorney. On the medical staff's executive committee were Dr. C. Burling Roesch, president; Dr. Emmet F. Ferguson, vice president; Dr. Lincoln B. Childs, secretary; Dr. Hardy Bowen, Department of Surgery; Dr. John J. Fisher, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology; Dr. Morris A. Price, Department of Pediatrics; Dr. I.E. Williams, Department of Internal Medicine.⁶⁰

The Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Methodist Church published in its Annual Publication the following report on Brewster for the 1958-59 fiscal year:

The Ministry of Healing Through Medical Work

Brewster Methodist Hospital serves thousands of Negro families in Jacksonville, Florida, and the surrounding area. Mr Jack Whittington, the administrator, states: "When every minute of every hour is jammed with significant happenings, each twenty-four hours, each 365 days of the year, how does one tell the story of our hospital! Could any of the 1,557 mothers of babies born here last year describe what the blessed event meant to them? Could any of the 1,737 who were operated upon here last year and restored to health explain what the renewing of life means to them? A hospital is simply so many things about people - mostly delicate personal and subtle things - mostly things that are talked about only with those nearest and dearest We keep on growing. The crying need for services beyond our capacity to perform over 250 operations. To do this we had to have operations going on around the clock. In the same month we treated hundreds of

diseases including 203 distinctly different ones. We have about 270 employees including 45 professionals nurses 34 practical nurses, 43 nurses aides, 7 orderlies

Last June we were inspected by the national Joint Committee on Accreditation of Hospitals, and again inspected this past May. Both times we were fully accredited, but were warned about overcrowding and inadequate facilities. We are working on the problem.

The local board, the Brewster Men's Club, other organizations of the hospital, and many other friends of the hospital are helping raise money for a building to relieve the overcrowding and to serve adequately those who seek the help of Brewster Methodist Hospital.

The spirit of Christian service is evident in all the affairs of this hospital. It is not surprising that reports are abroad that Brewster Methodist Hospital is the strongest force in the development of good race relations in Jacksonville.⁶¹

The 1960-61 annual record of the Woman's Division of Christian Service reported that Brewster Methodist Hospital was in the process of adding a new general service building which would give much-needed space for a clinic, intensive care unit, X-Ray room, emergency room, operating room, dining room and kitchen. An older building would be remodeled to increase the bed capacity to help meet the fast-growing demands. In less than a decade the Black population of Jacksonville increased 50 percent. Again Brewster, with its doors open to all, faced the burden of increasing its capacity to help meet the total health needs of the fast-growing Black population.

The Central Service Building was dedicated in 1962 at a total cost including equipment of approximately \$1,000,000, leaving only a debt of \$70,000 to complete the payment for the new building.⁶² The hospital was described in the dedication brochure:

Brewster Methodist Hospital is an acute general hospital operated by the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Methodist Church. It has 170 beds and 35 bassinets. The medical staff, Board of Directors, and hospital personnel are all biracial. [composed of Black people and white people]

Brewster has on its medical staff 225 physicians. It is accredited by the National Joint Commission on Accreditation, is licensed by the Florida State Board of Health, and is a member of the American Hospital Association, the American Protestant Hospital Association, the Florida Hospital Association, the Northeast Florida Hospital Council, the American College of Surgeons, the American College of Physicians, the American Medical Association, the Jacksonville Hospital Educational Program, and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida. In the fiscal year 1960-61, Brewster had a total of 5,501 in-patients and 598 out-patients; over 1,250 babies were delivered and 1,651 operations were performed.⁶³

Officers of the Board of Directors for 1961-62 were S. Gordon Blalock, president; Rodell F. Roberts, vice president, Mrs. Nathaniel Davis, president; Miss Virginia Burner, secretary; Mrs. E.B. White, parliamentarian. Officers of the medical staff were Dr. Clyde M. Collins, chief of staff; Dr. Samuel C. Atkinson, assistant chief of staff; Dr. Frederick H. Bowen, chief of staff elect; Dr. Daniel L. Lauray, secretary. The departmental chiefs of staff were Dr. I.E. Williams, internal medicine; Dr. F.H. Bowen, surgery; Dr. Frank Long, obstetrics and gynecology; Dr. C.A. Mead, orthopedics; Dr. C.R. Smathers, otolaryngology; Dr. C.B. McIntosh, pediatrics; Dr. W.R. Gatling, general practice; Dr. J.R. Browning, urology; Dr. W.J. Knauer, Jr., ophthalmology; Dr. Joseph Farrington, dermatology; Dr. J.G. Lyerly, neurosurgery; Dr. Roger Hehn and Dr. James Henderson, dental staff.⁶⁴

With a feeling of achievement and success about the status Brewster Methodist Hospital had reached during his nine year tenure of service, Jack Whittington retired in December 1962. The president of the Board of Directors, S. Gordon Blalock, appointed a committee and assigned it the task of presenting the expression of tremendous gratitude and respect of the Board of Directors to be placed on a bronze, wall-type plaque to Whittington on his discontinuance as administrator at Brewster.⁶⁵ In addition, a memorial fund was established at Brewster Methodist Hospital for Jack Whittington when he died at his home in Daytona Beach, Florida, in 1963.⁶⁶

Robert Nordham, the assistant administrator at Brewster became the administrator in 1963 and served for two years. He was a graduate of Duke University Graduate School of Hospital Administration. During his

first year a prayer room was dedicated. The prayer room was furnished by the Jacksonville District - Woman's Society of Christian Service in honor of Mrs. Ralph E. Perkins, the organization's past president. On October 13, 1963, the Brewster Methodist Hospital Prayer Room was dedicated. In the 1963-64 fiscal year the hospital gave its total value in buildings and equipment as over \$2,200,000, the cost of patient care per day as \$33.93, and the annual operating expense at \$1,488,600.⁶⁷

In the Annual Publication of the Woman's Division of Christian Service the president of the Board of Directors, S. Gordon Blalock made the following statement:

We have completed an eventful year at Brewster Methodist Hospital under the leadership of our administrator and the guidance of Methodist women. The board of directors and the staff of the hospital are proud of the full accreditation and are determined to continue moving forward to higher levels of service to the community. Brewster Methodist Hospital grew from the seed of missionary enthusiasm, and we who are responsible for the position of Brewster in the community must never forget the importance of the missionary role which must be carried out by the hospital and the people connected with it. If this missionary spirit is in the heart of each person serving at Brewster, there will be generated such power that the entire institution will be a beacon light in the community. These are exciting and adventurous times in America. We all hope that Brewster Methodist Hospital will lead in the promotion of the Christian principle of service.⁶⁸

In the same publication Robert Nordham, administrator at Brewster Methodist Hospital made a brief statement:

When considering the total institution within the total community, one feels a warm sense of pride in the dynamic progress within our hospital, progress in the social climate, and progress in Brewster's role in Jacksonville which serves as continuing inspiration of Christian witness.⁶⁹

Stephen Dorn served as administrative assistant under both Jack Whittington and Robert Nordham. Dorn joined the administrative staff at Brewster Hospital in 1959. He was a graduate of the St. Louis University School of Administration.⁷⁰ With Dorn's addition to the staff the

administration of the hospital was intergrated for the first time. The Board of Directors and the nursing staff had been intergrated at the onset of the hospital's establishment at the Jefferson Street location. The only Black chairman of the Board of Directors was Lorenzo Isaac Alexander in the 1960's.⁷¹ L.I. Alexander was a registered real estate broker who operated his own business in Jacksonville for eighteen years before becoming a loan officer with the Small Business Administration. He was later director of the Division of Equal Opportunity with U.S. Housing and Urban Development.⁷²

Members of the Board of Directors and medical staff members at Brewster Methodist Hospital in the late 1950's and the 1960's were active members of the Methodist Church, leaders in the community, and leaders in their professions and professional organizations. Rodell Roberts who was appointed to the Board of Directors in 1958 was a very active member of the Methodist Church. He was local chairman of stewardship and finance, a lay leader, a certified lay speaker and coordinator of all lay leaders. He was elected vice president of the Board of Directors that same year.⁷³

During his tenure, 1958-1966, Roberts said the Board of Directors was the policy makers for the hospital staff and general operations of the hospital under the aegis of the Woman's Division of Christian Service, Board of Missions of the Methodist Church. Several pertinent issues were addressed by the Board at that time: fund raising to erect a general service building, the lost of the Brewster Hospital School of Nursing and the sensitive relationship between Brewster Hospital and the Duval County Hospital in establishing the Brewster-Duval School of Nursing, always the need for more beds especially in the early 1960's, the role of Black doctors at the hospital, and Brewster's relationship to the community that it served. Roberts said the Board handled each issue with great concern and efficiency.⁷⁴

Brewster Methodist Hospital had good facilities, good doctors and nurses, and provided adequate services to the Black community Roberts said. One of the things that he found most impressive was the community involvement at Brewster. He said many outstanding Black women donated time and service to the hospital.⁷⁵

Mrs. Vera Davis came to the Board of Directors as a very active community leader with the youth program in the YWCA and other

community groups as well as being quite active in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She also served in the position of vice president, 1961-1964. Mrs. Davis said that during her tenure the Board was involved in some very serious and heated issues. She gave much credit to A. Gordon Blaylock for the manner in which he handled matters as the presiding officer.

"Gordon Blaylock was a very effective and efficient chairman. He listened well, he was very observant, and he did his homework on issues. He allowed Board members to make their presentations without interruption. He was a pillar of the Methodist Church, and he felt the function of the Board to be serious and vital to the operation of Brewster Methodist Hospital,"⁷⁶ Mrs. Davis said.

Board members were given tours of the hospital at various times so that they could see first hand the facilities and procedures on which they had to make decisions. Mrs. Davis said she was always impressed by the very white stiff uniforms of the nurses which gave a sense of quiet dignity and professionalism to the nurses and the duties they performed. She said the nurses always had deference toward the doctors, and it was a good feeling to observe the nurses and doctors performing service to the patients.⁷⁷

Mrs. Davis also thought highly of the leadership of Jack Whittington: "Jack Whittington gave some visionary leadership to Brewster Hospital. Even if you did not agree with him and the issue was a controversial one, you could see he was trying to move the Board forward to be more progressive. Whittington was trying to get some standard operational procedures throughout the hospital. He was very receptive to JHEP."⁷⁸

Dr. Charles Byron McIntosh opened his private practice in Jacksonville in 1958 and received his first staff appointment at Brewster Methodist Hospital that same year. Dr. McIntosh said everything was tightly segregated at that time, and Black doctors could not enjoy staff privileges at other hospitals in Jacksonville. He said there were only three Black doctors who were chairmen of their departments: Dr. Daniel Lauray, Chairman of Obstetrics; Dr. I.E. Williams, Chairman of General Medicine; and himself, Chairman of Pediatrics. The white doctors actually ran Brewster Methodist Hospital until 1980 he said, but there was an atmosphere of cordiality between the two groups.⁷⁹

"White doctors taught freely, and Black doctors learned from white

doctors and white doctors learned from Black doctors. Each of us learned a lot from each other,"⁸⁰ Dr. McIntosh said.

For Dr. McIntosh Brewster Methodist Hospital had its good points and its bad points. Patient care was good. The hospital always passed the hospital review board and gave Blacks the best care possible even though the state of medical art was not the same as it is today. The facilities and equipment needed upgrading and improvement. There were non-air conditioned areas where fans were used; these rooms were hot, especially the operating room where all surgery was performed.⁸¹

Dr. McIntosh firmly believes the Black doctors at Brewster served their patients even though conditions were not always the best. He cited the Black doctors in the late 1950's and 1960's who worked out of Brewster Methodist Hospital: late 1950's Dr. W.W. Schell, Jr., Dr. I.E. Williams, Dr. O.W. McIntosh, Dr. Lincoln B. Childs, Dr. Lansing Childs, Dr. E.M. Washington, Dr. A.T. Frazier, Dr. Daniel Lauray and Dr. R.F. Mills, in the 1960's - Dr. Wilbert Dawkins, Sr., Dr. Richard Hunter and Dr. Earl T. Cullins.⁸²

The Hill-Burton Investigation of 1963 opened up Duval County Medical Center to Black doctors, and Dr. Daniel Lauray blazed the trail in getting staff privileges there. He was followed by Dr. C.B. McIntosh in 1964. Drs. Lauray and McIntosh were also the first Black doctors to join the Duval County Medical Society in 1963. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 opened all of the hospitals to Black doctors.⁸³ Dr. C.B. McIntosh has served his profession and his community well over the past thirty-seven years. He helped establish the Florida State Sickle Cell Foundation in 1975; was president of the Duval County Medical Society in 1981.

After his one-year internship at Kate Bitting Reynolds Memorial Hospital in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 1955-56, Dr. Archie Theopolis Frazier returned home to Jacksonville to do a one-year residency in obstetrics/gynecology in July 1956 at Brewster Hospital under the direction of Dr. John J. Fisher and his alternate Dr. Ivory Fray. Dr. Fisher then Chief of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department was a very liberal person. As a resident Dr. Frazier was on duty twelve hours and on call twelve hours every day. His duties included assisting in surgery under board certified surgeons and working in the emergency room. He attended seminars and training sessions with other doctors from St. Luke's, Duval Medical Center, St. Vincent's and Baptist hospitals. These hospitals

along with Brewster Hospital were a part of Jacksonville Hospital Education Program (JHEP).⁸⁴

Dr. Frazier said beginning his private practice on July 1, 1957 was a eventful and long awaited. He began practice as a general practitioner because he said he was ready to go work for himself and it would have taken three or four years to get ready for the board examination in obstetrics/gynecology. Even though integration was not widespread in 1957, Dr. Frazier began his practice with both white and Black patients. Some of the patients he had served at Brewster Hospital became his private patients.⁸⁵

His first position was at Brewster Hospital, and Dr. Frazier said, "My residency and beginning general practice were much the same. In both positions I was busy, working hard. I was very fortunate to start out busy in surgery, general practice and some obstetrics/gynecology."⁸⁶

Dr. Frazier said the relationship among the doctors both white and Black was good at Brewster Hospital. He said attitudes and feelings were ironed out in staff meetings in frank and open discussions. He had very good relationships with his colleagues. He said he was kind of an apprentice under Dr. Lansing G. Childs in surgery, and they became close friends. The two doctors that made a great impression on him were Dr. Lincoln B. Childs and Dr. O.W. McIntosh. He said he appreciated the aid Dr. W.W. Schell, Jr. gave him in getting his practice started. Other doctors who were a part of his world at Brewster were Dr. I.E. Williams, Dr. E.H. Washington, Dr. C.B. McIntosh, Dr. Daniel Lauray, Dr. Richard Hunter and Dr. Wilbert Dawkins. Dr. Frazier retired from practicing medicine June 30, 1995, after thirty-eight years of service.⁸⁷

Dr. Farris Monsour, once an active member of the staff at Brewster Hospital, taped his thoughts on Brewster Hospital for the Nurses Alumni Association's History Committee in 1992. Dr. Monsour was among the group of doctors who serviced patients at Brewster Hospital during the 1950's and early 1960's and remembered with esteem those with whom he worked closely.

When I first came to Jacksonville in 1956, Brewster Hospital was the only place that Black people, more commonly called colored people at the time, could be hospitalized when they became ill.

I became a member of the active staff there and attended patients

there on a regular basis. Most of my visits there were for consultations at the request of Dr. Lincoln Childs, or Dr. R. Mills or Dr. W.W. Schell, Jr., or one of the other Black physicians.

I can particularly remember Dr. I. E. Williams who was the chief of medicine at Brewster when I first came to town. He was the type of elderly gentleman whom one could not forget easily. It was quite an accomplishment for a Black man to become a physician in those days, and it was even more unusual for one to become a specialist such Dr. Williams had done.

I enjoyed my association with Dr. Lincoln Childs. He was a true family practitioner. He freely obtained consultations on his patients to make certain that they received the best medical care that was available at that time. I can clearly remember when he urged me to increase my fee for consultation from \$15.00 to \$25.00 because I was not charging enough.

Gradually we were allowed to admit Black patients to the other hospitals, particularly Baptist Hospital in my case. When that became possible and when my southside practice grew enough so I could eliminate other hospitals, I began to restrict myself to Baptist Hospital. I continued to go to meetings at Brewster Hospital for a few years after I became less active there, but I never did become a member of the staff of Methodist Hospital after the change-over took place.

In its thirty-three years at the 1640 Jefferson Street location Brewster Methodist Hospital by affirmation of its board members and medical staff had made tremendous progress and had served its community well. The hospital had lifted itself over many hurdles; it had faced and overcome many obstacles; it had come a long way on very limited finance. This hospital had come to be known as the hospital with a heart. It was at peak performance in all of its departments and services in 1964. Brewster Methodist Hospital had more than doubled its bed capacity from the 75 beds it had in 1931. The hospital now boasted of 163 beds in modernly equipped, attractively decorated rooms and a pharmacy that dispensed some 95,599 prescriptions in the 1963-64 fiscal year.⁸⁸ With the cooperation of local, state and national governments, the Jacksonville community - both Black and white, generous benefactors and foundations, and the direction and financing of the Methodist church women, the hospital had built, remodeled, or renovated and equipped

seven additions: 1937, remodeled and enlarged the Nurses' Home Building; 1940, completion of the hospital's third floor; 1943, built the Isolation Building; 1945, built the Susan B. Pond Residence and Education Building; 1946, Built the Bragg Building (Children's Building); 1958, built the Chronic Disease Building; 1962, built the General Service Building. In 1964 Brewster Methodist Hospital had accomplished its charge, its mission of providing good medical services to the Black community of Jacksonville and the surrounding areas. It was the hospital that the Black community had helped build and service for itself.

Perhaps the Woman's Society of Christian Service of the Florida Conference of the Methodist Church best summed up the efforts of Brewster Methodist Hospital in its 1963-64 Yearbook: "Brewster Hospital in Jacksonville . . . seeks to develop all its services in such a way that Christianity will be promoted in every phase of activity. The hospital seeks to provide leadership and stimulate interest in the promotion of health programs and services primarily for the Negro people of the Jacksonville area. Progress is being made through the efforts of an interracial board and staff dedicated to the accomplishment of these purposes."⁸⁹



Student Nurses at Brewster Hospital School of Nursing in the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps - 1945 - 1946

CHAPTER 3

THE NEW SCHOOL OF NURSING

From the beginning the first "charge to keep" for the Woman's Home Missionary Society was education, that of providing nurse training for young Negro girls and women in Jacksonville. During the early years the emphasis was truly on the nurse training school, and the hospital served as a support to the school for the clinical training, hands on experiences for the students. However, as the Jacksonville Negro population grew and its medical needs increased, the hospital and its expansion overshadowed the growth and development of the Brewster Hospital School of Nursing. In 1931 when the hospital and school moved to the new buildings on Jefferson and Center streets, the hospital took center stage in the public's eye and the school of nursing became the supporting cast.

Thus, it was the hospital and its services in the Negro community that attracted the attention of the young women who enrolled in increasing numbers each year. Classes were formed yearly in September and February. The nursing students were educated at a minimal cost of \$35.00 tuition per year. Some of the students were able to pay the tuition; others were fully sponsored by the Woman's Home Missionary Society in the cities from which they had come. These students were provided room and board, laundry services, and medical care. They attended classes daily and worked in the hospital daily, rotating eight-hour schedules (7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.). The hours spent on the hospital floors were for clinical training. Most students worked the first two schedules so that they could follow the daily regimen set by the director of nursing and the instructors: chapel at 6:00 a.m., breakfast at 6:30 a.m., 7:00 a.m. report to clinical duty or to classes.¹

Brewster Hospital School of Nursing was the only school for nurse training for young Negro women in Florida at the time. In the 1930's the director of nurse training and all of the instructors in the school of nursing were white missionary nurses or deaconesses sent by the Woman's Home Missionary Society. In 1931 three Brewster graduates entered the new hospital as supervisors: Ethel Harris, R.N., as night supervisor; Matilda Walker, R.N., as operating room supervisor; Virginia McWaters, R.N., as evening supervisor.² Other supervisors and head nurses were Gladys

Right: Miss Ethel Harris, R.N., Brewster Graduate Nurse and one of the first three Negro supervisors at Brewster Hospital and Brewster Hospital School of Nursing



Below: Capping of student nurses after completion of six months of nurse training - Class of 1947



Lowe, R.N., Leila Williams, R.N., Ernestine Johnson, R.N., Mazie Alexander, R.N., and Inez Hooks, R.N. Brewster graduates who were nurse anesthetist were Matilda Walker, R.N., Annie Spivey, R.N., McLeon Avery, R.N., and Mary Rogers, R.N. Nurse midwives were Ernestine Johnson, R.N., Mozelle Nelson, R.N., and Chelsea Ambrose, R.N.

Miss Ethel Harris, native of Fernandina, Florida, made a great impact on the student nurses. She lived at the school until she purchased her own home in the 1940's, and she worked at Brewster Hospital throughout her nursing career. Miss Harris has been described as very pleasant and outgoing. She required careful attention and accuracy from the students, and she knew how to get them to perform desirably and correctly. As an instructor Miss Harris taught Professional Adjustments and Nursing Ethics. As a dedicated and caring person, she taught the student nurses by being an example for them and quietly counseling them. Everyone loved her - students, patients and doctors. She was greatly respected by the doctors who afforded her many courtesies. Miss Harris was a model of the Christian spirit of sharing and an active member of her church and the Brewster Hospital Nurses Alumnae Association.³

Margarite Ivory-Bertram, a Brewster graduate in the class of 1940, described Miss Harris in her book *NURSE-THE STORY OF ONE WOMAN'S EFFORT TO SUCCEED*: "The third floor was supervised by a Brewster graduate, [Miss] Ethel Harris. She was a hard-working and respectable nurse who gave much learning, support, guidance and love to the students."⁴ Miss Harris also served for a brief six-month period, beginning in May 1946, as assistant to the superintendent of the hospital. Miss Florence Jones wrote in her annual report for 1945-46, "When last May I was left without an assistant to carry on the nursing service, my then night supervisor, Miss Ethel Harris, came to the rescue and has proved a very efficient person in the office."⁵

In 1934 A. Clara Kreuger, R.N., became superintendent of the hospital and Edyelle Henry, R.N., principal of the nursing school. Bible was added to the curriculum for the first time. There were nineteen student nurses at various stages of training.⁶ The students affiliated with Grady Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Atlanta, Georgia, for Medical, Surgical Nursing for three months and Pediatrics and Obstetrical Nursing for two months. Brewster Hospital did not have the facilities nor the staffing to offer adequate training in these areas in the 1930's. There were

forty-four graduates from Brewster Hospital School of Nursing from 1932 to 1938.⁷ Most of these graduates passed the State Board Examination to become registered nurses.

To enlarge the housing accommodations for the students, the Nurses' Home Building was remodeled and dedicated in December, 1937. Seven bedrooms, a sitting room and a large auditorium were added.⁸ This was the first addition to the new hospital and school of nursing. The only other addition to the nursing school was the Susan B. Pond Residence and Education Building dedicated in September 1945.⁹

The decade of the 1940's introduced a new era of training for the Brewster student nurse. The catalog announcing the Brewster Hospital School of Nursing printed the essential information on admission, policies and practices, history of the school, tuition and expenses, courses required, faculty, hospital staff, administrative staff, and national officers of the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Church.

. . . classes are admitted in September and February each year.

Educational requirements: Graduation from an accredited High School. Two certificates of high school records must be notarized and sent from the high school directly to the Director of Nursing School not later than one month previous to admission to the School. Preference is shown to applicant who had high school chemistry.

Health must be good and she must have a complete physical examination by her family physician [and] also a blood examination by the State Board of Health. These forms will be sent to the applicant after her high school record is approved by the Florida State Board of Nurse Examiners.

A statement, signed by the parent or guardians of the applicant's exact birth date, must accompany the application blanks. Three letters of recommendation are necessary. One from the pastor of your church and the other two from persons who have known the applicant for several years.¹⁰

Policies and practices were spelled out on attendance, grading and the new student's remaining a part of the nursing program during the next six-month probationary period and after:

At any time during the Pre-clinical period the Director of the School may terminate the work of a student if her work or her conduct make such a measure desirable. Upon completion of the Pre-clinical period (end of six months period) the student is given the cap of the School, and is accepted into the School as a regular student.

Students are required to attend all classes unless permission is granted from the Nursing School office. If a student makes below 75% in 2 subjects during the Pre-clinical term she is automatically eliminated from the School.¹¹

The entering student was thus made aware of her duties and requirements in her mission to become a nurse. The catalog further stated under the subject of "Discipline" that the School of Nursing reserved the right to require the withdrawal of any student whose scholarship in theoretical or practical work was not satisfactory. Those students whose conduct for any reason did not measure up to the ideals and standards for the school set by the director of nursing and her staff were also asked to withdraw from the nursing program.

An entrance fee of \$52.00 was required. It covered the use of books, first set of uniforms, bandage scissors and key deposit. At the beginning of the second and third years a deposit of \$35.00 was made to cover the cost of additional uniforms and textbooks. The applicants were advised to bring with them in addition to their regular street wear: four plain dark blue dresses, one pair of black oxfords with low heels, three pairs of black hose, one bath robe, one pair of house shoes, one blue sweater, one large laundry bag, a fountain pen and a watch with a second hand. The dollar watch was suggested for those who did not have a second hand on their watches.¹²

The three-year nursing curriculum consisted of 705 hours in theory and practice the first year at Brewster Hospital. The courses were nursing Arts, Professional Adjustments I, History of Nursing, Psychology, Anatomy and Physiology, Drugs and Solutions, Bible, Chemistry, Sociology, Introduction to Medical and Surgical Nursing, Surgery, Bacteriology, Advanced Materia Medica, Dietetics, Pathology and Gynecology. The second year was spent at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia, acquiring 164 hours. The course work included

Orthopedics, Obstetrical Lectures/Obstetrical Nursing, Nursing, Pediatrics Lectures/Pediatrics Nursing, Milk Laboratory, Social Problems, Urology and Venereal, Eye-Ear-Nose-Throat, Communicable Disease and Dermatology. The third year, the senior year, was spent at Brewster Hospital, 164 hours required in Diet Therapy, Occupational Diseases (including Tuberculosis), Psychiatry, First Aid, Professional Adjustments II, and Public Health.¹³

Brewster Hospital School of Nursing was a small school, and Brewster Hospital was a hospital without all of facilities for teaching certain courses required by the State Board of Health and other regulatory agencies. In order to meet these requirements Brewster Hospital School of Nursing affiliated with other larger schools for the teaching and clinical training necessary for the students to complete their program. These affiliate schools at various times included Grady Memorial Hospital and School of Nursing, Tuskegee Veteran's Hospital and School of Nursing in Tuskegee, Alabama, and Freedman's Hospital and School of Nursing in Washington, D.C. Upon successful completion of this three-year program the student graduated and was eligible to take the Florida State Board Examination. Passing the examination earned the graduate nurse the title of registered nurse, R.N.

On the 1940's Brewster Hospital administrative staff were Dr. W. R. Schnauss, medical director; Miss Florence M. Jones, superintendent; Miss Mary A. Brend, assistant superintendent of nurses; Miss Lucy Erdman, instructor of nurses; Mrs. Margaret Moody, cashier and book keeper. The department chiefs on the medical staff were Dr. I.E. Williams, internal medicine; Dr. W.W. Schell, Sr., urology; Dr. Ward and Dr. S.S. Campbell, obstetrics; Dr. R.L. Brown, eye-ear-nose-throat; Dr. L.C. Ervin, dentistry; Dr. C. Christopher, pharmacy.¹⁴

The faculty of the school of nursing were Florence M. Jones, R.N., B.S., superintendent; Mary Agnes Brend, M.S., R.N., assistant superintendent of nurses; Lucy Erdman, R.N., instructor of nurses; Eleanor Baker, B.S., instructor in Diet Therapy; Matilda Walker, R.N., supervisor of the operating room and instructor in Operating Technique; Hettie L. Thompson, R.N., Ward Supervisor; Ethel Harris, R.N., Night Supervisor; Mozella Nelson, R.N., Obstetric Supervisor; Mamie Allen, R.N., Orthopedic Supervisor; Susie D. Thompson, R.N., Twilight Supervisor; Bertha Callahan, R.N., Second Floor Supervisor; Marion Morse, R.N., Clinic Supervisor.

In addition to their course work, student nurses were required to provide nursing care to patients as a part of their clinical studies. The student nurses gave morning care in its entirety before breakfast trays were served. Morning care included a complete bed bath for bedrest patients, assistance for ambulatory patients to bathrooms for tub baths or showers, complete bed linen changes, oral hygiene, hair care, and grooming of fingernails and toenails. Patients who were unable to feed themselves were fed. Documentation was made of all information concerning the patients' wellbeing - oral intake, skin tone, mobility and other signs of their conditions. This information was then reported to the head nurse for further documentation. They gave afternoon or P.M. care before the evening meal and visiting hours.¹⁵

Dr. Charles F. Duncan and Dr. Isreal E. Williams were special staff physicians for the student nurses. They were considered father figures by the students. Dr. Duncan cared for them and encouraged them to be the best nurses possible. Dr. Williams was looked upon as their counselor for medical situations. These two men epitomized the very best in medical professionalism for the nurses. Both men considered the growth, development, and service of nurses a willing part of their services ¹⁵ Negro nurses were hired as supervisors at Brewster Hospital, and they instructed the students in techniques and procedures or clinical training in their areas of expertise and on their floors. Six of these supervisors were Brewster graduates. White missionary nurses and Negro and white doctors taught the academic courses.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service, Florida Conference of The Methodist Church was sent an annual report each year from the superintendents of the hospitals in their jurisdiction. The society published these reports in their annual yearbook. In the 1943-44 Yearbook Miss Florence Jones reported that the new Isolation Building for Contagious Diseases was not actually being used for that purpose. It was being used as a dormitory for the student nurses.

While the building [Isolation Building] was not completed sufficiently to admit patients, it was just the place to house our class of students who came to us last fall. So we bought dormitory furniture and the girls enjoyed their stay there until there was room for them in the nurses' home. This brings us to one of our needs - that of additional housing and teaching facilities for our school of nursing. If we are to expand our school, this needs to be our

immediate consideration.¹⁶

It is not clear the specific year that the Brewster Hospital School of Nursing began participating in the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps. The Cadet Nurse Corps was established by the United States government in the passage of the Bolton Act in 1943 during World War II. The purpose of establishing the Cadet Nurse Corps was to recruit and train young women in nursing to increase the number of nurses willing to serve their country and to make sure that there were still enough nurses to serve the civilian population. The program was administered by the U.S. Public Health Service. Those young women entering nursing school under this program received a monthly stipend, paid tuition, books and materials, regular uniforms for their schools and U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps uniforms. Ophelia G. Ford (Toston) a member of the 1944 entering class at Brewster recalled that when the program was explained to them, all of the 1944 beginning students at Brewster Hospital School of Nursing enrolled in the Corps. After graduation all of them gave a year of service at a military hospital or enlisted in the armed services.¹⁷

Two reports indicate the year Brewster Hospital School of Nursing began participating in the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps to be 1944. In the 1944-45 Yearbook of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, Florida Conference, Superintendent Florence Jones reported:

One of the new developments in our work within the past twelve months has been the acceptance by the U.S. Public Health Service, our school of nursing as a part of the Cadet Nurse Corps. Through this, young women are given financial help through their training. By means of a monthly stipend to them through the major part of the course. It has given to the hospital a stipulated amount for each student to cover the cost of maintenance for a portion of their course. It entitles the students to wear the outdoor uniform of the Corps and the insignia on their work uniforms. It has enabled girls whose financial status has prevented their taking this course to enroll as members of the Cadet Nurse Corps. It has set a standard of excellence for the school of nursing - we had to earn our place in the list of schools acceptable to train these students. [Their] standards we must maintain if we are to continue a high type of nursing education.¹⁸

The Woman's Division of Christian Service of The Methodist Church printed in its 1944-45 Annual Publication this report:

Brewster Hospital, Jacksonville, Florida, has admitted thirty girls to the last class to enter under the Cadet Nurse Corps program made possible by the Bolton Act. President Truman officially ended this program, and yet we are asked to continue to train as many nurses as we can house. It was only because of the financial help of the government that we were able to accept the large number of girls we have trained through the war years. Now that this is to end soon, we wonder just how we can continue the program without additional scholarships or some means of financing the work. The need for nurses will continue to be great with all the servicemen coming home to hospitals here in this country. It has been expensive to train these students, even with government assistance.¹⁹

The U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps program which ended in 1948 gave an added dimension to the Brewster Hospital School of Nursing.

Throughout the 1940's and into the 1950's Brewster Hospital continued to hire its graduates as general staff nurses, supervisors, and nursing instructors in the Brewster Hospital School of Nursing. In addition, graduates were encouraged to take leaves from duty of six months to a year to take post-graduate courses to further prepare themselves for the positions they held or for better positions. A report in the 1945-46 Year book of the Woman's Society of Christian Service stated of Brewster graduates, "Our own graduates, too have measured up well during these trying months. Three of them, either by reason of years of experience or special post-graduate work, have been promoted to positions of greater responsibility and are actively participating in the educational program for the student nurses."²⁰

Evelyn Jefferson came from Hazelhurst, Mississippi, to enter the Brewster Hospital School of Nursing in 1937. She graduated in 1940. After graduation she was hired as a general duty nurse at Brewster. At the end of one year she left Brewster and went to work as a nurse in Detroit, Michigan, for better pay and more experience. Miss Jefferson returned to Brewster in 1943 as a operating room supervisor and in the same year married Oscar Hillman co-owner of Hillman-Pratt Funeral Home. The hospital gave her leave to go to Chicago to take courses in operating room techniques at Cook County Hospital. She returned and taught the students the Operating Room Techniques course.²¹

Mrs. Hillman described her duties; "I supervised all activities in and for

Right: Mrs. Hettie L. Thompson Mills, R.N., B.S. Degree-Florida A. and M. College School of Nursing and Instructor of Nursing for Florida A. and M. University School of Nursing at Duval Medical Center and Instructor at Brewster-Duval School of Nursing



Below: 1947-Florida A. and M. College Medical and Nursing Clinic held to up-date nursing education, Mrs. Hettie L. Mills, front row - second from right



the operating room: ordering supplies and instruments, scheduling all surgical procedures, checking all preparations (set-ups and special preparations) in the operating room from beginning to end. This included supervising all doctors using the operating room. My hours were 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily, but I was on-call 24 hours around the clock. If there were an emergency operation, I had to be there."²²

Mrs. Hillman said her work atmosphere was quite comfortable, not stressed, because everyone wanted to do a good job. She was respected by both Negro and white doctors and those in authority. One of the areas that was uncomfortable for her even as a student at Brewster was the separate dining rooms for Negroes and whites. Mrs. Hillman supervised the operating room from 1943 to 1950 when she took leave to help her husband at the funeral home. She became the mother of two children and remained close to home for a while.²³

In later years Mrs. Hillman worked for Blue Cross-Blue Shield in the evenings for six years. In 1971 she started the health occupation course at Ed White High School for the Duval County School Board. After her husband's death in 1978, Mrs. Hillman left the school system to become the full-time operator of Hillman-Pratt Funeral Home which she owned.²⁴

Hettie L. Thompson Mills returned to employment at Brewster Hospital School of Nursing as the first Negro nurse hired to teach in the academic program of the school. She had previously taught in the clinical part of the nursing school when she was a floor supervisor from 1934 to 1943. Hettie Thompson came to Jacksonville at age seven from Reddick, Florida, to live with her uncle Samuel Smith, a letter carrier, and her aunt Olive Smith, a home demonstration agent for Duval County. When she entered Brewster Hospital School of Nursing in 1931 as a student, she had already been accepted for admission at Hampton Institute in Virginia. However, her aunt became seriously ill with tuberculosis, and this meant no money for her to go to college. Her aunt's friend who was a nurse enrolled her at Brewster Hospital School of Nursing.²⁵

She has no regrets about the change in her career plans. "All of my memories of my nursing education are very pleasant. Dormitory life was very good; teachers were patient and encouraging. I loved the uniforms. Our uniforms were done at the laundry for us, and we were inspected every morning. I loved nursing and the philosophy of nursing, and I admired the Florence Nightengale Pledge."²⁶

"I truly enjoyed taking care of patients, giving medications, making them comfortable in their beds and seeing everything clean and beautiful," Mrs. Mills explained. "I am a very organized person who knows where everything is, and I believed in and was dedicated to giving patients their medications and taking care of their needs at the designated time. I loved the orderliness of nursing and the uniforms showed organization and order."²⁷

Margaritte Ivory-Bertram said of Mrs. Mills in her book, "The night supervisor, Hettie Thompson Mills . . . was quiet, reassuring, patient, and pleasant. She was also the cleanest and neatest person on duty. She was firm and knowledgeable, but kind and helpful at all times."²⁸

From 1946 to 1950 Mrs. Mills taught Fundamentals of Nursing, Nursing Ethics and other courses at Brewster Hospital School of Nursing. She had already done post graduate study in nursing at the Medical College at Virginia, but she also realized if she intend to continue teaching nursing she had to get a B.S. degree in nursing. She enrolled in the Florida A and M College School of Nursing in Tallahassee, Florida, in 1950 and received her degree in 1951. From 1951 to 1955 she was an instructor in nursing for Florida A and M University School of Nursing at Duval Medical Center. When the Brewster-Duval School of Nursing opened, she becamed an instructor at the school for the Duval County Welfare Board until the school closed in 1963.²⁹

The capping of the nursing career of Hettie Thompson Mills was her appointment by president John F. Kennedy in 1961 as an Ambassador of Good Will to Africa. She was one of forty-five persons in a government approved health education program initiated by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. When they arrived in Africa, officials of the U.S. Embassy met and greeted them first, and then they traveled to seven African countries visiting their schools of nursing. The countries they traveled to were Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan, Etheopia, Egypt and Liberia. They spent six weeks attending conferencess and teaching at the schools of nursing. Mrs. Mills called it the great experience of a lifetime.³⁰

Ophelia Ford came to Jacksonville from Lowell, Florida, in 1944 to enroll at Brewster Hospital School of Nursing. She had heard about Brewster from two sisters, Hettie Thompson and Dorothy Thompson. The Thompson family lived a few miles from Lowell in Reddick, Florida. "I found

Brewster to be just what they said it was. I liked the nursing school; it had a beautiful environment; the neighborhood was very pleasant; lovely homes surrounded the school," Mrs. Toston said.³¹

Mrs. Toston said she found the nursing program at Brewster quite rigid and very disciplined, but she liked everything about the program because she was accustomed to discipline having been brought up in a strict home. She did not mind the curfews. She said the first six months were strictly business. After graduation in 1947 Ophelia Ford was hired at Brewster Hospital as a staff nurse. In 1948 she was made a supervisor, and in the same year she married Charles E. Toston. Her husband was a licensed mortician at the time. They had three sons.³²

As a supervisor Mrs. Toston worked the afternoon and night shifts with Ida McHenry Payne alternating monthly the 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. shifts. Their duty was to service the entire hospital, all patients on all floors. They made rounds on each unit and collected the census (total number of patients at the end of a shift) and reported this count to the next supervisor at the change of shifts. Mrs. Toston said they had a great responsibility placed on them as afternoon and night supervisors. The hospital switchboard closed down at 9:00 p.m., and after that time the supervisors had to admit all patients, handle all problems, get medications and see to the removal of a patient from the floor if a death occurred. She stated that she had a good relationship with the nurses on the various units, and the cooperation they gave made her work enjoyable.³³

Mrs. Toston worked as supervisor from 1948 to 1953. At that time her husband went into the ministry of the A.M.E. Church and she began traveling with him. He served as presiding elder for twenty-six years until his death. They lived in St. Augustine for nine years, and she worked there at Flagler Hospital; in Fort Pierce she worked at Fort Pierce General Hospital. They returned to Jacksonville in 1963, and she returned to work at Brewster where she remained until it closed in 1966. When the hospital closed Mrs. Toston and several other nurses went to St. Vincent's Hospital. They were hired immediately she said because the staff at St. Vincent's considered Brewster graduates to have excellent training.³⁴

Albertha Carley came from Tampa, Florida, to Jacksonville in 1947 to enroll at Brewster Hospital School of Nursing. "In the beginning there was quite a bit of fear because we were told if we did not pass the six-

months probationary period we could not remain at the school. I knew that I could not afford to fail, and I took my studies seriously,"³⁵ Mrs. Bevel said.

Albertha Carley graduated in 1950 and was hired at Brewster Hospital the same year as staff nurse in obstetrics. She also worked in surgery as a relief supervisor. On May 15, 1951, Miss Carley married Thomas James Bevel whom she met at a party while she was in nursing school. One means of entertainment for the student nurses at Brewster was a party given once a month where they could invite guests. She and her husband have two sons.³⁶

Mrs. Bevel said she had always been interested in obstetrics, and surgery was her second interest. She said, "In obstetrics we assisted physicians in the deliveries and postpartum after delivery; we also took care of the babies. There was never a dull moment; there were always some babies in the nursery. We enjoyed our work."³⁷

She moved from obstetrics to become supervisor on the evening and night shifts for the entire hospital. Her responsibilities, as those of Mrs. Toston had been, were many. After 9:00 p.m. each night she admitted patients, kept records, answered the telephone, and assisted in minor emergencies. She said, "We provided very good services for our patients in all areas; the nursing students assisted us in working the floors and providing patient care."³⁸

Mrs. Bevel worked at Brewster from 1950 to 1966 when the hospital closed. For her the closing of the Brewster Hospital School of Nursing and the Brewster-Duval School of Nursing was depressing because of the changes that occurred. On the other hand, she saw the need for closing the hospital. With integration in 1964, the census went down because Black patients began using the other hospitals that were opened to them.³⁹

"When I left Brewster Hospital I had every intention of returning when the hospital reopened. I went to St. Vincent's Hospital and was hired immediately. I loved it; the working conditions and the salaries were better. I became a charge or head nurse in obstetrics and remained at St. Vincent's for nineteen years,"⁴⁰ Mrs. Bevel said.

Vera Williams was born and raised in Live Oak, Florida. She came to Jacksonville to enroll at Brewster Hospital School of Nursing in 1948.

She had learned about Brewster from Mrs. Ruby Ross, a Methodist Missionary Woman, in Live Oak who had told Miss Williams' mother about the school. Mrs. Ross through the Methodist Missionary women helped her gain admission and helped her financially.⁴¹

When she arrived at the hospital she was a bit apprehensive, but very impressed. "I thought Brewster was the most beautiful brick building I had ever seen with the lawn so beautiful and well kept,"⁴² Mrs. Cruse said.

For Miss Williams the nursing program was very intense; there were two instructors who helped her, Miss Eleanor Neal and Mrs. Hettie Mills. Miss Neal taught the basic subjects: Anatomy and Physiology and Medical-Surgical Nursing. She was very strict and Miss Williams thought that she was being pushy, but as she matured she came to understand that Miss Neal was just a good teacher trying to help her.⁴³

"I idolized Mrs. Mills. She was always so petite, prim and proper and in control," Mrs. Cruse said. She remembered how tactfully Mrs. Mills had corrected her pronunciation of the word "hospital."⁴⁴

When Miss Williams graduated in 1951 she went back home to Live Oak hoping to give back some service to her community by working at Suwanee County Hospital. She found working at the hospital quite uncomfortable and returned to Brewster where she worked in several areas from 1951 to 1955: staff nurse, float nurse, obstetrical nurse and operating room nurse. In 1956 she married Walter E. Cruse. They have one son. In 1957 Mrs. Cruse returned to Brewster where she remained until 1962 working as operating room nurse, head nurse, assistant supervisor and supervisor. In 1962 she began working for Duval County Board of Public Instruction in practical nurse education. When the practical nurse education program was transferred to Florida Junior College - Cumberland Campus, now Kent Campus - FCCJ, in 1968, Mrs. Cruse moved with the program. In 1978 she began teaching in the associate degree nursing program at the junior college. Mrs. Cruse continued her education completing the work for a B.S. degree in vocational education in 1975 and a M. Ed. degree in 1976 from FAMU and a B.S.N. in 1982 from Florida Southern College. Mrs. Cruse retired from FCCJ after twenty-five years of continuous service.⁴⁵

The appointment of Mrs. Anita Irving to the position of Supervisor of

Nurses at Brewster Hospital, August 17, 1956, was a history making event for the Brewster nurses and the Jacksonville Black community. Mrs. Irving was the first Black woman to hold the position at the hospital. Mrs. Irving was a graduate of Brewster Hospital School of Nursing and at that time of her appointment was enrolled at Edward Waters College. J. H. Whittington, Administrator at Brewster said that Mrs. Irving's duties and responsibilities would be greater in her new position and that she would be a credit to her people. Mrs. Irving was the wife of Joseph Irving, an employee of the U.S. Postal Service, and the mother of two children. Mrs. Myrtis B. Harris, also a Brewster Hospital School of Nursing graduate, served as the first Black Assistant Director of Nursing at Brewster Hospital.

Superintendent Florence Jones continued to report annually to the Woman's Society of Christian Service, Florida Conference, the status, changes and developments in the school of nursing. The constant concerns throughout the late 1940's and early 1950's were financial support, larger enrollments, meeting standards for accreditation and scholarships for the student nurses.

It was in the 1949-50 report to the Woman's Society of Christian Service that Miss Jones began to sound the alarm, warning that it was highly possible that the Brewster Hospital School of Nursing would not be able to meet the standards for accreditation, and, therefore, would be in deep trouble:

Every effort is being made to bring our school up to the standards required for accreditation. Among the recommendations made was the improvement of the library. Through a generous gift from the Florida Conference and money from other sources, many new books have been added and the library space enlarged. Plans to enlarge the nurses' dining room are completed and as soon as materials are here these plans will be carried out. One of the recommendations which we are unable to carry out at the present time is additional housing space for the students. This is a matter of grave concern and a condition which the Board of Nurse Examiners will not long continue to accept. Funds for such an addition are not insight and the fact that our rating with the Board depends pretty largely on the correction of this deficiency, troubles us greatly. Florida needs this school of nursing, but unless we are able to carry out the recommendations of the

Accrediting Board, our school cannot indefinitely remain on the approved list. We need your help in this important matter. Additional faculty members are needed and we are seeking qualified persons to fill the positions necessary to carry on a first-rate school.⁴⁶

The fiftieth anniversary year of the opening of Brewster Hospital School of Nursing was a crucial year for those involved in the school's operation. The idea of having to close the school of nursing became more pressing and this was most emphatically stated in the 1950-51 report:

. . . Conditions affecting hospitals make this year one of decisions that will chart the course of non-profit hospitals. We wonder what the future holds for us.

One of these decisions pertains to our school of nursing. Some schools such as ours, have been obliged to close for lack of funds. Education is an expensive thing and nursing education has followed the trend. It cost a lot to prepare nurses who are qualified to meet the present demand of their profession. The cost of operating our school has increased so much that unless additional funds are available we see no way to operate it. This month we will graduate fourteen nurses, about forty others are in various stages of their course. We hope to enroll a class of new recruits this fall, but that will depend upon the money available to continue the school.⁴⁷

Two major problems that led to the closing of Brewster Hospital School of Nursing were getting money to operate the school and meeting state accreditation requirements. Even while the Methodist churchwomen were facing the possibility of closing the school of nursing for training registered nurses, they were considering alternatives. The administration at Brewster Hospital School of Nursing entered an agreement with the Duval County School System to train practical nurses and nurses aides. Miss Jones' 1952-53 report to the Woman's Society of the Florida Conference informed the group of the work with the Duval County School System:

We have also been working with the Jacksonville School of Technology in their program for training Practical Nurses. A twelve month course is offered by this school and our classrooms

and wards have been used for the training of these women. One of our own graduates was chosen as instructor for this course, and she is highly commended for the success of her work. The second class of students will finish this fall and they will be useful members of the nursing group.⁴⁸

The joint educational venture between the Duval County School Board and the Brewster Hospital School of Nursing to train practical nurses commenced in 1951 with Mrs. Carrie L. Bram Hammond, R.N., as the instructor/coordinator. Mrs. Hammond was a graduate of Brewster Hospital School of Nursing and was employed as Supervisor of the Pediatrics Department at Brewster Hospital. Prior to Mrs. Hammond's taking over the department, the children at Brewster had been cared for in a section of the male medical-surgical area on the third floor. Mrs. Hammond had been sent by Miss Florence Jones, R.N., superintendent of Brewster Hospital, to Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, to learn the techniques necessary for setting up a pediatrics department to meet the needs of the children at Brewster Hospital. The pediatrics department Mrs. Hammond set up and developed was considered one of the best in Jacksonville by physicians who practiced pediatric care at Brewster and in other hospitals throughout the city.⁴⁹

The Practical Nursing Program was initiated by the Duval County School Board to assist hospitals in increasing nursing care for patients. Miss Jones released Mrs. Hammond from her duties at Brewster to set up the Practical Nursing Program. Classes were held at Stanton Vocational High School, and clinical experiences were provided by Brewster Hospital and Duval Medical Center. Mrs. Hammond continued with the practical nursing program when it was transferred to Florida Junior College.⁵⁰

Elizabeth G. Means, former student of Mrs. Hammond and now vice president, Community Relations and Community Education, University Medical Center, said, Mrs. Hammond was her "mentor and the maker of champions" in nursing. Mrs. Means described Carrie Hammond as a teacher who transformed young people in the art of nursing, teaching them pride in their profession, love for their fellowman, and caring for others. She said Mrs. Hammond touched her life and instilled in her those abilities she needed to rise above "the status quo and seek new heights against all odds."

Mrs. Hammond retired from Florida Community College after having

given forty years of nursing care to her patients and instruction to her students. She touched the lives of many professional and practical nurses in Jacksonville. She often expressed thanks to the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Methodist Church for sending her from Asheville, North Carolina, to Jacksonville to Brewster Hospital School of Nursing. Mrs. Carrie Hammond died August 7, 1995.⁵¹

Brewster Hospital School of Nursing graduated its last class of students trained to become registered nurses in the fall of 1953. The students were told nothing about the possible closing of the school because plans were still being worked out with other institutions and sources to keep it afloat. Throughout the entire year Dr. Samuel M. Day, chief of staff at Brewster Hospital and Miss Florence Jones worked on a proposal for a joint nursing school program between Duval Medical Center and Brewster Hospital. The proposal would have made available the facilities of the Medical Center to the student nurses at Brewster Hospital. Opening of the joint school would have reopened the student nursing program at Brewster Hospital as well as begin one at Duval Medical Center. Duval Medical Center had already been approved for funds to begin a nursing school. At first the proposal was rejected by the Woman's Division of Christian Service, Board of Missions and Church Extensions of the Methodist Church. Dr. Day explained the Church's rejection in a letter to the Brewster and Community Nurses Alumni History Committee in 1990:

Since the hospital was owned by the Methodist women, they were consulted and they sent a Supervisor of Nurses [from] the Emory University Nursing School out here to inspect the hospital and advise. She inspected it and her advice was that the Nursing School only be reopened as a degree school. I hit the ceiling, I said that was the most asinine report I have ever seen. But the only other school of nursing in Florida for Black students was the Florida A and M School which was a degree school. Many of these young ladies did not need that type of schooling. They were excellent bedside nurses but they did not want to be teachers and things of that sort at that time. So I looked at other means of continuing the school. The Methodist women would not renew it after the recommendation made by the Nursing Supervisor.⁵²

Dr. Day found that the Jacksonville Urban League was opposed to the opening of the school of nursing at Duval Medical Center because it had not been confirmed that the school would be intergrated, that Black

students could be admitted. With some difficult negotiations Dr. Day was able to convince the Welfare Board that controlled Duval Medical Center, the Mayor of Jacksonville, the state legislators including State Senator Wayne Ripley and the Jacksonville Urban League that the joint venture could work. It was necessary to pass a bill in the State legislature to establish and fund the joint school of nursing. Dr. Day concluded, "Amazingly he [State Senator Wayne Ripley] got through both houses of the Legislature on that last day. And the school was reactivated under the auspices of the County Hospital and housed at Brewster. They [the nursing students] were helpful in both those hospitals and in all the hospitals in the community as they graduated."⁵³

The bill was passed in July 1953. The act of the Florida State Legislature that provided for the establishment of the Brewster Duval School of Nursing was contained in House Bill No. 1408, Chapter 30713, Laws of Florida, 1953, authorizing the Duval County Welfare Board to operate a School of Nursing in conjunction with Brewster Hospital of Jacksonville, Florida, authorizing and requiring the Board of County Commissioners of Duval County, Florida, to levy the appropriate tax of one-quarter mill per annum for the year 1955 and 1956 for the operation of the school.⁵⁴

In the 1952-53 report of Brewster Hospital to the Florida Conference, Miss Florence Jones wrote: "A final agreement was reached yesterday between directors of Brewster Hospital and the County Welfare Board for the early opening of a school of nursing at the Negro hospital. The second will be operated by the welfare board and the staff of Duval Medical Center and is planned to open by September. . . ."⁵⁵

The Brewster Hospital 1953-54 annual report to the Florida Conference of the Methodist Church informed the church that the new school of nursing the Brewster-Duval School of Nursing opened on March 15, 1954, with ten students. The school was being financed by the Duval Welfare Board, and students remained under the supervision of the staff of Brewster Methodist Hospital during their training period. The school of nursing would accept twenty-two more students that September bringing the total enrollment to thirty-two.⁵⁶

A picture illustrated and informative brochure was printed showing and explaining the many aspects and areas of the new Brewster-Duval School of Nursing, the history of the school, the school's philosophy, requirements for admission, tuition and expenses, the educational

program, student services, clinical practice, faculty, and affiliations. The philosophy of the school as stated in the brochure:

The faculty of the Brewster-Duval School of Nursing believes that each individual learns in terms of new understandings, appreciations, attitudes, and meanings as he continually readjusts through interactions with persons, conditions, events, circumstances, ideas and emotional climates. Because of this belief, physical and social sciences are intergrated with clinical practice to meet the changing social needs, the awakening social consciousness, the changing of medical practices, and the new trends in hospitalization. The student is thus provided the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and competencies essential in giving comprehensive nursing care and meeting the changes in the responsibilities of the graduate nurse.⁵⁷

Miss Myrtle Lee Floyd, Director of Nursing at Duval Medical Center, headed the Brewster -Duval School of Nursing team; she was also an instructor. Director of Instructions was Mrs. Alma Hakansson, a native of Sweden and graduate and post-graduate of Columbia University and the University of Chicago.⁵⁸ The other faculty members were Vera Walker, Eleanor Littlejohn, Hettie L. Mills, Mildred Hitchcock, Claire Hall, and Patty Blanc. The faculty members were degreed nurses from Florida A and M University, Florida State University, Vanderbilt University, New York University, and Boston University.⁵⁹ The students affiliated with the Southwest Florida Tuberculosis Hospital in Tampa, Florida.

Brewster Methodist Hospital administrator Jack H. Whittington reported in 1958 that the Brewster-Duval School of Nursing graduated its second class in August 1957, maintained a class for training licensed practical nurses and was unique in having the only nurses aides class in cooperation with the public school system under the Duval County Training program (D.C.T.).⁶⁰

In its 1958 brochure of services to the Jacksonville community Brewster Methodist Hospital gave the following description of its tri-component nursing education program:

THE BREWSTER-DUVAL SCHOOL OF NURSING is conducted by Brewster Methodist Hospital and by the Duval

County Welfare Board. It is open to qualified students of Duval County and other nearby areas. Since its inception, three classes have graduated. There have been on the other hand 2,000 applications for admission to the school. However, we were able to accept only about 150. If we had a larger dormitory or other facilities to accommodate students, we could undoubtedly accept many more applications.

The Brewster-Duval School of Nursing took over the old Brewster School of Nursing which began originally in 1901. The vocational field has increasingly expanded. The nursing field is wide open and could receive all the girls that any institution could train.

PRACTICAL NURSES TRAINING PROGRAM is conducted by the Duval County Board of Public Instruction in conjunction with Brewster Hospital. Two classes are graduated annually. The combined number of graduates average 30 to 35 per year. The academic training is provided by the school board, and the Brewster Methodist Hospital provides the clinical training. It also provides the girls with their meals while they are in training.

NURSES AIDE TRAINING PROGRAM. New Stanton [Vocational] High School and Mathew W. Gilbert High School enroll students who are interested in medical or para-medical vocations as either technicians, nurses, doctors, etc. Brewster accepts the girls for a nine-month training period at the hospital. They are paid a minimum amount while training. After training, they are offered jobs at Brewster and other local hospitals, or go to the school of their choice for further training.⁶¹

At various times the students in the Brewster-Duval School of Nursing had to be housed in different quarters. In the beginning years of the school the senior students were housed in the former home of A.L. Lewis, founder of the Afro-American Life Insurance Company, on Eighth Street. The freshmen and juniors were housed in the nurses residence at Brewster Methodist Hospital. In 1958 arrangements were made with Edward Waters College to house the freshmen in the college dormitory for women and transport them by bus to the nursing classes. These freshmen participated fully in college campus activities with other students and acquired semester hours of college credit as well as their hours in nursing. Juniors and seniors were housed in the nursing residence quarters at

Brewster Methodist Hospital. Church auditoriums throughout the Jacksonville community were used as the sites for graduation exercises for the classes of student nurses. ⁶²

Those who taught the students and nurtured the Brewster-Duval School of Nursing through its infancy and nine years of existence included some of the graduates of Brewster Hospital School of Nursing. The traditions of Brewster were passed on by her graduate nurses to the next generation. The belief in God and oneself, the pride in achievement, the honesty and dignity of character, the rigor of hard work and the willingness to serve one's fellowman were some of the qualities instilled in the Brewster graduate nurses and the graduates of Brewster-Duval School of Nursing.

BREWSTER NURSES - THE STUDENTS AND THE GRADUATE



CHAPTER 4

THE STUDENTS, THE CLASSES, THE FACULTY

The Florence Nightingale Pledge

I solemnly pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly: to pass my life in purity and to practice my profession faithfully.

I will abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous, and will not take or knowingly administer any harmful drug.

I will do all in my power to maintain and elevate the standard of my profession, and will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping, and all family affairs coming to my knowledge in the practice of my profession.

With loyalty will I endeavor to aid the physician in his work, and devote myself to the welfare of those committed to my care.¹

Graduation, The Florence Nightingale Pledge, passing the state board examination, becoming a registered nurse, all were the goals and dreams of every student nurse who entered Brewster Hospital School of Nursing. Not all who entered the schools had nursing as their first career choice. Not all who entered understood the rigidity and intensity of the three-year program of no room for failure. Not all who entered graduated. Yet, some three hundred student nurses graduated in the thirty-two years from 1931 to 1963 when the program ended.

The Brewster student nurse was characterized by her academic ability, determination to reach her goals, and dedication to providing service to the patients. The 1944-45 Annual Report of the Woman's Division of Christian Service of The Methodist Church gave the following account of the academic excellence of Brewster student nurse:

A Student Nurse's Contribution

Student nurses at Brewster Hospital, Jacksonville, Florida, affiliate with the State Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Orlando, Florida, for a course in the care and treatment of tuberculosis patients. When one of the class of twelve girls who took the course in 1945 was asked to write a paper on "Tuberculosis," she wrote an outstanding essay; beginning with the history of the disease when has been traced back to 400 B.C., giving its types, its causes and symptoms, the effects on both humans and animals, methods of treatment, medical and surgical, and finally, methods of control and prevention. Her paper was of such merit that the Florida Tuberculosis and Health Association, recognizing the value of the essay, had it mimeographed for distribution.²

The essay was an attestation to the academic excellence of the Brewster student nurse. The students themselves give accounts of their determination to reach their dedication to nursing in their individual statements and letters about their student days at Brewster Hospital School of Nursing and Brewster Duval School of Nursing from the 1930's to the 1960's. From the class of 1937 Juanita Simmons Williams and Pearlean Fleming Odom remember their days at Brewster:

On Saturday, July 4, 1934, eleven of us entered Brewster Hospital School of Nursing, and on Sunday July 5, we went to work on the floors. Our uniforms were made by Mrs. Fannie Shrowder who lived two doors from the hospital. We had four per student - blue stripped dresses, white aprons, bibs, cuffs and collars. We had black shoes and white stockings the first year, and the next two years we had white shoes and white stockings.

At Christmas time we went to Boylan Haven Home and School for Girls and had lots of fun. We would get gifts galore. We could also have dates visit us in the parlor of the nursing residence. Our matron, Nellie, a deaconess, would pace the floor. If our dates took us out, we would have to be back by 11:00 p.m., and our matron met us at the door.

Our instructors taught us well: Miss Krueger, head of the nursing department; Miss Matilda Walker, operating room nurse; Miss Ethel Harris, nursing service day nurse; Mrs.

Virginia McWaters, night supervisor; Mrs. Hettie Thompson Mills, supervisor, who is still with us. Mrs. Mills was a stern teacher; we thought she was tough, but she helped to instill in us good nursing skills and habits of behavior. We cannot forget our medical doctors who also taught us skills we will never forget.

Ten of us graduated in March 1937. Only three of us are left - Pearline Fleming Odom, Vermell Jackson Porter and Juanita Simmons Williams. We are in the Master's care. We thank Brewster Hospital for giving us a career that has stood for fifty-four years. We three have retired and are enjoying life to the fullest.

1991 Letter to History Committee
from Pearline Fleming Odom and
Juanita Simons Williams

Irene Parrish Dowdell came to Brewster Hospital School of Nursing in 1937 and graduated in 1940. She gave the following account of her coming to the school:

During the summer of 1936 I was an employee at Bethesda Hospital. . . . The house-keeper Deaconess Matilda Schimmelfenning was connected with the Missionary Department of the Methodist Episcopal Church. I told her my desire to be a graduate nurse. She told me about Brewster and its connection with the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Bethesda was also endowed with the Methodist Episcopal Church. Through Deaconess Schimmelfenning a scholarship was arranged for me to attend Brewster.

I came to Brewster Hospital from Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1937 as an accepted student of nursing. I found a very warm and caring staff and students at Brewster. I had classmates from Georgia, Florida and Mississippi. With the hard work and good training I graduated in the class of 1940 with seven other classmates.

Letter from Irene Parris Dowdell,
Jacksonville

Dorothy Thompson Harris of ocala, Florida, remembered in great detail

her Sunday morning religious activities at Brewster Hospital:

Every Sunday morning for one semester two nursing students of the class of 1941 walked to Snyder Memorial Methodist Church in downtown Jacksonville to care for the church members' infants and small children while their parents attended 11:00 a.m. worship services. We were dressed in full student nurses uniform.

This was our first course in child care or pediatrics. This was also something new for us, because at our Negro churches the infants and children stayed in church with their parents and disrupted the services until the minister would ask the parents to take them outside.

The minister from Snyder Memorial Methodist Church came to Brewster Hospital on Saturday mornings and taught bible class in exchange for our services. When the bible class was completed at the end of the semester, each of us received a black leather zipped up bible with our name engraved on it. Even though it was worn and torn, it is still one of my prized possessions.

Letter of May 1989 from
Dorothy Thompson Harris
Ocala, Florida

Julia Folk Whitehead gave an update on the three students who were in her 1941 graduating class from Brewster:

I entered Brewster September 4, 1938 and finished in July 1941. Only three of us finished - Zerlina Carr, Bernice Rogers and myself.

Most of my nursing career was with the school district of Philadelphia. I was school nurse for eighteen years, but my experience in nursing was varied and most rewarding. I was director of nursing at a small hospital in Coatsville, Pennsylvania, before becoming a school nurse. I ended up as a nurse teacher for four years with my last years in nursing in charge of health services at Cheyney University.

Bernice Rogers was a public health nurse in Oklahoma City,

Oaklahoma, and Zerlina Carr was a private duty nurse in Bay City, Texas.

Letter from Julia Folk
Whitehead of Cheyney, Pennsylvania

The reflections of Ernestine Rutledge Williams cover many aspects of her life as a student nurse at Brewster Hospital School of Nursing in the early 1940's. She is most proud of being a member of the first class to affiliate at Freedman's Hospital School of Nursing in Washington, D.C. The hospital is now Howard University Hospital.

As valedictorian of my high school graduating class, I had no problem being accepted into Brewster Hospital School of Nursing winter class of 1940. My arrival at Brewster, after traveling all night by train, found me very nervous, emotionally drained and just plain scared. After meeting the hospital director and superintendent of nursing, I was introduced to my future classmates. The first night I was so lonesome for home that I cried myself to sleep.

Our routine day as "Probies" (First six months of school) started early with prayer service in the chapel that also doubled as a classroom. Then off to breakfast. . . . We wore black shoes and black stockings, navy blue or black plain dresses, no jewelry and no make-up. It wasn't until our capping exercise that we started wearing our white bibs and stripes, white shoes and white stockings. I think it was during this six months probation period that we realized 'This is the real world of nursing,' and accordingly decided the best way to deal with it was to study hard and graduate.

One of the doctors that really befriended us as new students was Dr. T. M. Christopher, who also taught us Materia Medica. Dr. Christopher, who owned a drugstore, being aware that we nursing students were financially crippled during training, made arrangements for us to charge milkshakes or other refreshments at his soda fountain on our days off. We always had to get permission and sign out to leave campus.

When we arrived at Freedman's, the administrators, doctors and

nurses were wonderful and pleasant to us. For nine months we received invaluable experiences on the pediatrics, medical-surgical and gynecology wards and duty assignments in the clinics. In realizing the importance of being the first Brewster student nurses to affiliate at Freedman's, we not only established high aims and standards but enforced them. We hoped that the students after us would benefit from the fruits of our labor. When we left Freedman's it was a tearful departure. however, we welcomed the return to Brewster and graduation.

Letter from Ernestine Rutledge Williams
of Seattle, Washington

Nanny (Nan) Campbell Fletcher, a 1943 Brewster graduate, remembered with great clarity the days she spent in nurse training at Brewster Hospital. Mrs. Fletcher had always wanted to be a teacher, but her parents could not afford college for her. After graduation from high school in Bainbridge, Georgia, (11th grade for Negroes; 12th grade for whites) she taught one year in the adult education program to save money for college. Her friend Mattie Lockett and Dr. Earl Lord felt that she would make a good nurse and helped her gain admittance to Brewster Hospital School of Nursing in 1940.³

Mrs. Fletcher remembered her classes, classmates, instructors and her duties and responsibilities as a student nurse: "There were twenty-six students in my class, but only twelve graduated. One died. We had one affiliation at Friedman's Hospital in Washington, D.C. in 1942. While we were there Mattie Lockett, my close friend became ill and was sent home to Bainbridge. She later died; we all left Brewster and went to the funeral."⁴

In the 1940's Mrs. Nan Fletcher said the student nurses had excellent instructors like Mrs. Matilda Walker Brown who demanded the attention of her students and did not permit them to "bat an eye." The student nurses when on duty had to observe every aspect of patients' conditions: their eating habits, skin color, temperature, pulse and respiration, and whether or not any patient was apprehensive. These duties required much attentiveness on the part of the student nurses.⁵

Mrs. Fletcher described thoses three years of training at Brewster Hospital School of Nursing as "the best phase in my life." She said everything

about her training was stimulating and challenging to her; she never felt pressured and always had a sense of expectancy for each new stage of her training. Mrs. Fletcher continued her education beyond Brewster attaining the bachelor of science and master of science degrees at the University of North Florida. She also did graduate study at Charity Hospital in New Orleans and North Carolina College at Durham in public health nursing.⁶

Gertrude Robinson Dawson, class of 1944, shared her early experience in nursing at Brewster Hospital in a letter to the history committee dated October 31, 1988. Before her retirement in 1984, Mrs. Dawson had been nursing supervisor and clinic manager of the Family Health Center at Group Health Cooperative of Puget Sound in Seattle, Washington. The following are excerpts from her letter:

My venture of becoming a registered nurse came before I came to Brewster Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida. I was enrolled in the School of Nursing at a county hospital in Montgomery, Alabama. After being there for three months, the superintendent of the school became ill and passed. After her death the decision was made to only hire graduate nurses and to discontinue the student nurses program. . . . My classmate Delarence Hatchett Wilcher and I [were] transferred to Brewster Hospital School of Nursing. We were enrolled along with twenty-five other young women. We started out with twenty-seven, but only eight of us graduated.

We had a white instructor, Lucy Erdman, who made the decision on who she thought should be retained in the class and the others were flunked and sent home. Those were trying times. Miss Lucy Erdman was one who seemed to enjoy making discouraging remarks to the students and seeing that their self-esteem was at [an] all time low. I often wondered why such [an] uncaring woman was given such an important job. The encouragement and support we received came from out of the classroom from other members of the faculty or nursing staff.

In spite of the bad times there was always a bright side. I received an excellent foundation in nursing. The faculty at Brewster Hospital School of Nursing were expert clinicians with nursing at its best. They expected our best. Mrs. Matilda Walker made sure

and very sure when one of us completed our surgery rotation we could work in surgery any place.

The capping exercise was a great step, but I longed for the day I could finally add R.N. to my name. In my mind it symbolized adulthood and a chance to experience all the wonderful opportunities in my profession. My determination and the ability to withstand criticism became important assets later in my nursing career. . . . I am very proud that I [chose] nursing as my profession.⁷

Helen Parker Barger, February class of 1950, remembered all of the requirements she had to meet to enter Brewster Hospital School of Nursing in 1947, how students were admitted twice per year and that no married students were accepted. She recalled the academic and clinical experiences she received during her course of study.

The graduating class of February 1950 began February 12, 1947, with 16 students. All of the students were from out of town. Blue and white uniforms, black shoes and stockings were required for the first six months. Uniforms were furnished by the school; students furnished their own clothing and personal needs.

The students were given clinical experience in medical, surgical, pediatric, psychiatric and obstetrical nursing using the hospital's facilities. Instructors included mostly doctors and supervisors of the hospital. No affiliations were done outside of the hospital. Students were required to work and go to classes. Students on call for the operating and delivery rooms were required to take night calls. Additional training was received in the dietary department. Many weeks were spent learning to prepare menus according to doctor's orders and learning to prepare formulas in the nursery.

Students also spent hours getting experience in the outpatient clinic under the directions of Dr. Morris, a pediatrician, and Mrs. Inez Rivers, R.N. All students were taught to administer intravenous therapy before they completed the nurse training program.

At the end of the three years, six students completed requirements for graduation. Following commencement, we began work at Brewster Hospital with a salary of \$63.00 biweekly. Many

graduates furthered their education at Edward Waters College.

Letter from Helen Parker Bargeron,
Jacksonville

The personal memories of Aurelia Henley Daigeau about Brewster Hospital cover the years of her nurse training from February 1949 to February 1952:

In February 1949 twenty-four new students arrived at Brewster Hospital School of Nursing to begin their training. We were housed in the Pond's Nurses Home also known as the Educational Building. We were the first class to wear the drab, brown smocks with black shoes and stockings during the six months probationary period. The uniform was not very attractive, but it sure let everyone know who we were.

The structured life in the nurses home and the intense study plus the fact that this was the first time we were away from home for a lot of us made those first six months a period of difficult adjustment for most of us. The examples that some of the graduates, upperclassmen and the instructors set made us all the more determined to reach our goals.

The instructors, especially Mrs. Mills, made us want to achieve. Mrs. Mills was so professional in her starched white uniform, as she taught us Professional Ethics. Yet, she was so warm and understanding. Miss Elinor Neal was strict, yet a very capable instructor of Anatomy and Physiology. She gave us a solid background.

The capping ceremony was a happy and proud time. It was a real significant milestone for us, and the fact that it was a religious ceremony made it even better. The solemnity and the dedicatory aspect was an important part. The evening vespers and the study hall were very important and to me a very inspiring part of the whole training experience. In February 1952 ten of us graduated with Nan Fletcher as our class advisor.

Note from Aurelia Henley Daigeau
Inglewood, California

Brewster Hospital School of Nursing graduated only four classes in the 1950's. Grace Brown Sykes, a 1951 Brewster graduate, always knew she wanted to be a nurse from early childhood. She was impressed by the public health nurse who held clinics in her hometown, Sneads, Florida. The nurse became her positive Black role model. When Grace Brown graduated from high school in Miami, Florida in 1947, Mrs. Evelyn Babcock and the missionary women of Coral Gables Methodist Church assisted her in attending Brewster Hospital School of Nursing. Every term the missionary women sent a check for her tuition, and when she went home on vacation, Mrs. Babcock took her shopping to purchase personal articles she needed.⁸

Mrs. Sykes remembered Brewster as a very good, very strict school. The students had study hours each night from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and if they were permitted to go out at night, they had to be in by 10:00 p.m. The student nurses learned to discipline themselves according to this regimen.⁹

"What impressed me most about Brewster was the care we gave to the patients," Mrs. Sykes said. "I liked the operating room; it was exciting. I had studied Anatomy and Physiology, but in the operating room I was able to actually touch some of those organs. It helped me to understand better what happened when a patient had an appendectomy or hysterectomy or some other operation."¹⁰

The training Mrs. Sykes received at Brewster Hospital helped her reach adulthood and maturity. She said she learned to work with people, to reach out to people and to understand illness. The hospital's atmosphere was always very professional. She said if a student nurse did not know what to do in a situation, she could always ask for assistance. The graduate nurses and supervisors were highly regarded and respected. It was at Brewster Hospital that Mrs. Sykes worked as a staff nurse and head nurse from 1951 to 1966. In 1986 she retired from the position of occupational nurse at the U.S. Post Office after seventeen years of service.¹¹

Among the last group of student nurses to graduate from Brewster in June 1953 was Doreatha Ford Brown. Mrs. Brown said there was no indication to her or her classmates from the administration or faculty that there would be no more graduates from the nursing school. She learned of the school's

closing later when she began working at Duval Medical Center. Mrs. Brown said not only did the students of her time have to measure up academically, but they also had to conform to the criteria of the the school ethically, socially and professionally. She said for her the six-month probationary period was the most difficult because if the student did not "conform to the criteria" in any area, the school's administrators would "purchase her ticket and send her home." There was no room for failure at Brewster Hospital School of Nursing.¹²

Mrs. Brown said she came from Lowell, Florida, in 1950 to enter Brewster on the recommendation of her sister Ophelia who had already graduated from the school. "I was sort of geared up to be a nurse; I knew I had to forget self and have compassion for other people. As students we were just like a family; we lived two students to a room. My roommate was Geraldine Ervin. We all studied, socialized, celebrated and worried together."¹³

One of the incident during her training that Mrs. Brown recalled was the postmortem care she gave a patient. During her junior year she was assigned to the third floor that housed male patients and surgical patients. A male patient died shortly after surgery, and she had to give the post mortem care which included bathing the patient and closing all of the orifices. It was a significant experience in her training. Mrs. Brown said her Brewster Nurse training gave her more than clinical experiences; it helped her develop patience, stability and endurance and taught her how to treat the whole patient physically and emotionally.¹⁴

The sense of stability and endurance she received from nurse training gave Mrs. Brown what she needed to complete thirty-nine years of service (1954-1993) at Duval Medical Center, now University Medical Center. Mrs. Brown said at Duval Medical Center the nurses had to go the extra mile in getting services for their patients beyond their hospital stays. This sometimes meant getting social workers to come in to assist the patients, giving counseling and spiritual guidance, and ministering to the spirit as well as the body.¹⁵

Some Brewster student nurses wrote of their memories of specific persons whom they met while at Brewster Hospital or a specific incident that was etched in their memories while they were in nurse training. For Ruth Peterson Atwater it was a specific person.

At Brewster I met Mrs. Mary Todd McKemie secretary of the Woman's Division of Christian Service for the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church (now United Methodist Church). I knew of Mrs. Mckenzie from the letters she wrote to my brother for St. Paul's Methodist Church in Macclenny, Florida. She spent much of her time at the hospital working with the Methodist women, and she was at the hospital every day during her husband's surgery and recovery.

I introduced myself and she recalled sending letters to my mother, Mamie Peterson. I last saw Mrs. Mckenzie in 1971 at Methodist Hospital in the dining room. I sat with her to let her know she was remembered.

Letter from Ruth Peterson Atwater

For Agnes Chatman Freeman it was a specific incident that stands out in her memory.

One morning in 1956 during my first year in nursing, my surgical class assignment was assist Dr. Richard Thompson, surgeon, with a procedure. I had to carry the tray of surgical instruments and hand each instrument to the doctor. A Kelly clamp was knocked out of my hand. I became so nervous I could not function and had to be replaced.

Mrs. Lois Gibson, R.N., Nursing Supervisor and Instructor, replaced me with another student nurse. I thought that incident was the last nursing act for me. I could see myself being reprimanded, suspended or dismissed, but I wasn't. I made it through the nursing program. We had an excellent team of instructors who were very understanding.

Letter from Agnes Chatman
Freeman

The June graduating class of 1953 ended an era in nurse training at Brewster Hospital. The new class that begin in March 1954 was the first class in the Brewster-Duval School of Nursing with a new philosophy and a new faculty, but with the same goal of training young women to become

registered nurses. Eloyce Sampson, Gladys Jackson, Lemira Henson and Ruth Cotton Hicks were students in the Brewster-Duval School as the school grew and made changes to adjust to the needs of the students and the community it served.

Eloyce Sampson entered Brewster-Duval School of Nursing in 1959 in the first class where married students were accepted, a major change in the admission requirements for the school. Not only was she married, but Mrs. Sampson also had three children and lived at home, not in the dormitory housing. Her class was also the first to take classes at Edward Waters College. The students took morning classes in communications, humanities, and anatomy and physiology at the college during their freshman year.¹⁶

Mrs. Sampson said she had to take an entrance exam at Jacksonville University to enter the Brewster-Duval nursing program because she had been out of school for twelve years. She had completed the practical nurses training program at Stanton Vocational High School to become a licensed practical nurse (L.P.N.) and worked at Brewster Hospital as an L.P.N. from 1954-1959. It was her work at Brewster Hospital that influenced her to become a registered nurse. She said she received excellent training at Brewster-Duval and the program was not difficult for her. She graduated salutatorian of her class in 1962. On the social side, one of the things she remembered was being the chaperon for her classmates at a party for them at American Beach because she was much older than the other students. Mrs. Sampson worked for Gulf Life Insurance Company from 1963 until her retirement in 1991.¹⁷

Gladys Jackson, Lemira Henson and Ruth Hicks entered Brewster Duval in 1960 and graduated in the last class in 1963. Gladys Jackson was a graduate of New Stanton Senior High School and said she chose Brewster-Duval School of Nursing because of its availability as a career path. She said looking back on her experiences makes her realize the school had a good program of nursing with rigid standards set for the students to maintain. She remembered the faculty as outstanding with some excellent role models in the world of nursing. For Mrs. Jackson one of the best experiences for her class was to be sent to Atlanta, Georgia, to Grady Hospital School of Nursing for their senior year. She said leaving home made them grow up and Grady Hospital School of Nursing gave them broader, wider experiences in nursing education. Ms. Jackson is currently Professor of Nursing at Florida Community College at Jacksonville where she teaches

Lemira Henson knew well the history of Brewster Hospital and the role of the Methodist Church women in its establishment when she enrolled in Brewster-Duval School of Nursing in 1960. She was a graduate of Boylan Haven School from which Brewster Hospital and its school of nursing had been formed. Mrs. Henson said she had wanted to be a nurse since she could remember; she never entertained any idea of being anything else. She chose Brewster-Duval because she had worked at Brewster Hospital during the summers when she was a teenager and because it was a well-known local institution. She said Brewster-Duval's program of studies was well-organized and provided very good training for its students.¹⁹

Mrs. Henson remembered the atmosphere of love and respect that existed in the school. There was admiration for all of the instructors, especially Mrs. Hettie Mills and Mrs. Lois Gibson. Going to Atlanta for her senior year was her first time being away from home. The transition for her was very easy because she felt well-equipped academically and morally. She later earned a bachelor of science degree in nursing. Mrs. Henson worked at Methodist Hospital, now Methodist Medical Center, until she retired in November 1994. She was a review coordinator in the utilization review department where patient's charts are reviewed for adequate and proper care and facility utilization.²⁰

Mrs. Hicks graduated in the class of 1963, the last class to graduate from the Brewster-Duval School of Nursing. The student nurses were told during the last part of their junior year that the school would be closed when they graduated. The students spent their senior year at Grady Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Atlanta, Georgia, because of the phasing out of Brewster-Duval. Mrs. Hicks said entering Grady School of Nursing was a reality shock for them. As seniors they were expected to be able to take over and run the floors. After the class toured the hospital wards, she was assigned to the urology floor with two four-bed wards and one six-bed ward to cover alone, as well as the responsibility of cleaning linen closet. Her classmates got similar assignments. It took some adjustment, but Grady Hospital became one of the great experiences for the Brewster-Duval student nurses. At the end of that year they returned to Jacksonville and had full graduation exercise in the Nurses Auditorium at Duval Medical Center.²²

Brewster Hospital School of Nursing closed in 1953 and Brewster-Duval

School of Nursing opened in 1954 after much discussion among two hospitals, Brewster Hospital and Duval Medical Center, the Duval County Board of Health, state legislators, community leaders and several community groups. None were sure the merger would hold together. The quality of training of the beginning faculty and those that later joined the faculty did much for cohesiveness in the new joint-school of nursing. The faculty understood the needs of the students and the nursing school and sought to establish harmonious grounds on which to build a successful training program. It was the grit of the faculty and those who worked with them that held the school together for its nine years of existence. One of the threads that held the nursing faculty team and the students together was that spun by Mrs. Hettie L. Mills who joined the initial faculty in 1954 and remained through the closing in 1963.

Barbara Davis who became part of the Brewster-Duval School of Nursing team in 1960 as director of nursing said of the students and Mrs. Mills, "They were fine, very conscientious young women, and they gave a high quality of nursing care to the patients. A lot of the development and formation of the students was due to Mrs. Mill's teaching in Nursing Arts."²³

During Mrs. Davis' tenure (1960-62) there were seven instructors in the school of nursing and they worked as a team. They recruited high school students, had weekly monthly planning sessions and worked on the curriculum and other needs and concerns of the students and faculty. Miss Davis taught the students Psychiatric Nursing. Miss Davis said although she was the director of the school of nursing, she did not handle the school's budget. The nursing school's budget was handled by the financial office of the hospital.²⁴

Miss Davis received her training in nursing from Charity Hospital School of Nursing in New Orleans and DePaul University in Chicago where she received a B.S. degree. She received her Masters Degree in Education from Western Reserve University in Cleveland Ohio. When Brewster-Duval School of Nursing closed, Miss Davis taught in the nursing program at Jacksonville University for three years and then in the nursing program at Florida Community College for eighteen years until she retired in 1986.²⁵

Lois Davis Gibson joined the Brewster-Duval faculty in 1957; she had been employed as operating room nurse at Duval Medical Center for two

years. It was her first teaching assignment, and she taught Medical-Surgical nursing. Dr. Gibson said the curriculum of the nursing school covered five disciplines: Nursing Fundamentals and Professional Ethics, Medical-Surgical Nursing, Pediatrics, Obstetrics, and Psychiatric Nursing. While each instructor had her own specialty area, the faculty worked together in many activities. They shared ideas in faculty meetings and conferences, made preparations for accreditation, worked in cooperation with local physicians and others to coordinate the clinical and theoretical experiences of the students.²⁶

Dr. Gibson had great praise for the quality of student that enrolled in Brewster-Duval; "We had students who came from good homes that were family oriented, and they were accountable to their parents. Those students were eager to learn, exemplified a caring attitude and were willing to perform the tasks asked of them. There was some apprehension, but they were well disciplined. They had good study habits and observed their study hours in the dormitory. Their requirements were many, but they complied and were able to assume leadership role."²⁷

Dr. Gibson a Jacksonville native and graduate of Stanton High School, received her B.S.N. from Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama. She received her M.S. in nursing education from Boston University and her Ed.D. from Nova University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. After Brewster-Duval she continued in nursing education as instructor/coordinator of practical nursing at Stanton Vocational High School and later Florida Community College at Jacksonville, North Campus, as Instructor/Coordinator of Medical-Surgical Nursing, Director of Nursing Programs and Assistant Dean of Health Services. Dr. Gibson retired after twenty-three years of service at Florida Community College at Jacksonville in 1989.²⁸

Ernestine Scruggs Boswell said she had a wonderful experience as an instructor at Brewster-Duval School of Nursing. Mrs. Boswell taught Fundamentals of Nursing along with Mrs. Mills and also Pediatric Nursing. Her students in pediatric nursing did their clinical experiences at Duval Medical Center rather than Brewster Hospital. Mrs. Boswell said that Brewster Hospital had mostly well babies and cripple children, while Duval Medical had babies with a variety of medical problems - diphtheria, tuberculosis, parasites, diarrhea- which gave her students good clinical experiences. She and her students traveled to other places that had facilities that were not available in Jacksonville. They did observations at Sunland and Shands in Gainesville, Florida, and at the School for the

Mrs. Boswell worked very closely with her students and understood their backgrounds and needs: "We had a good selection process for our students; we averaged fifty applications and usually selected twenty-five. Our students were young, most of them just out of high school. Some were from small towns surrounding Jacksonville; others were from larger cities. They had varied backgrounds and experiences, but they were all very committed to their studies and had a good State Board pass rate."³⁰

The faculty was very dedicated and qualified Mrs. Boswell said. They had meetings with the faculties at St. Luke's School of Nursing and St. Vincent's School of Nursing and shared ideas and exchanged programs and activities. She said the Brewster-Duval faculty was integrated; however, all of the seven different directors were white.³¹

Mrs. Boswell graduated from Tuskegee Institute School of Nursing with a B.S. degree in 1954. She received her masters degree from Florida State University and has studied at New York University, University of Miami, Emory University and the University of Florida. After her tenure at Brewster-Duval Mrs. Boswell was employed in public health for the City of Jacksonville, health education at University Medical Center and Twenty-five years in nursing instruction at Florida Community College at Jacksonville.³²

Ruth Anderson Stephens became part of the Brewster-Duval faculty in 1957. She started as an assistant to Mrs. Hettie Mills in Fundamentals of Nursing, and then moved to Medical-Surgical Nursing. She said Mrs. Mills had previously been an instructor of hers at Florida A and M University School of Nursing and sort of took her under her wings at Brewster-Duval. Dr. Stephens remained with Brewster-Duval until 1962.³³

There were very close relationships in the school between the students and the instructors Dr. Stephens said. It was a time when nurses held nursing in awe and nursing was held on a high level by the public. The nurse's uniform, the presence of the nurse in all white and the nurse's own professionalism brought her the respect of her community she said. The challenge for Dr. Stephens was the staffing at Brewster-Duval; all of the directors of the program were white and the instructors were Black. The necessary, but the discriminatory attitude was present. Dr. Stephens remembered the statement made to her by a white colleague when she

decided to study for the masters degree, "You will never be able to use a masters degree in the South."³⁴

Dr. Stephens was guided into nursing by Mrs. Lucille G. Coleman, a high school teacher at Stanton Senior High School, and she grew to love it. She graduated from Florida A and M University School of Nursing in 1954 and returned home to Jacksonville to work at Brewster Hospital. She had received a Scholarship from Brewster Hospital to assist her in attending FAMU with the stipulation that she work two years at Brewster after graduation. She later worked for sixteen years as an instructor at FAMU School of Nursing, at one time serving as interim dean of the school. Dr. Stephens received her masters degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and earned the doctorate from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. She has been employed as professor of nursing at Florida Community College at Jacksonville since 1986.³⁵

Paradine Alford Smith graduated from Brewster Hospital School of Nursing in 1943. She became an Army nurse in October 1944 and remained in the armed services until 1946. She had always wanted to be a doctor, but realized that financially that was not possible. After her military tour of duty she went to New York and worked at Knickerbocker Hospital until she entered New York University where she received her bachelors degree in 1951.³⁶

In 1959 Mrs. Smith moved back home to Jacksonville and was hired as an instructor and clinical assistant for Brewster-Duval School of Nursing. At Brewster-Duval she was responsible for supervising the students in their clinical experiences in psychiatry, medical-surgical nursing and dermatology. The clinics were conducted by doctors who were specialists. These clinical experiences occurred three days per week and sometimes lasted all day. Each student worked with two patients in the clinics and wards. Geriatrics was added to the program in the last years of the school, and Mrs. Smith took the senior class to the Jewish nursing home on Stockton Street to observe thhe three stages of aging.³⁷

Mrs. Smith said that most of the girls came from somewhere in Florida. The students were taught more than academics and clinical procedures; they were taught behavior, how to dress, sit, eat and carry themselves in public. When the school ended for her in 1962, Mrs. Smith worked as a supervisor in medical-surgical nursing and obstetrics at Brewster Hospital until the hospital closed in 1966. Mrs. Smith retired from nursing in 1985

after thirteen and a half years at Cathedral Health and Rehabilitation Center for the Florida State Department of Labor in Workmans Compensation.³⁸

Wilma Bryant Lauray became a member of the Brewster-Duval faculty team in 1958 and remained until 1962. She was class sponsor for the last class to graduate from the school. During her five years with Brewster-Duval Mrs. Lauray taught obstetrics and supervised her students in the related clinical situations - labor and delivery, nursery, and postpartum. In clinic students observed and assisted in deliveries and took care of the babies in the nursery and the mothers during postpartum.³⁹

Mrs. Lauray said for her Brewster-Duval School of Nursing provided a very good working environment. The students were very good academically and socially. She said she had good relationships with her students and has followed the careers of some of them. She remains in close contact with them. There was also a cohesive working relationship with the school's leadership; the administrative, faculty and secretarial staffs worked well together Mrs. Lauray said. However, at the closing of the school, there were discussions about finances, administrative changes and the need for the students to get experiences at other, larger hospitals.⁴⁰

"For me working at Brewster-Duval was a period of growth I needed. It gave me the opportunity to move into an area that I wanted to pursue when I was not sure of what I really wanted. It helped me in career development and self-fulfillment. I enjoyed working with the students, teaching and learning with them,"⁴¹ Mrs. Lauray said.

Mrs. Lauray, a Jacksonville native, received her degree in nursing from Florida A and M College School of Nursing in 1953. While working at Brewster-Duval she took courses at Margaret Hague Maternity Hospital in New Jersey and Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, Florida. After the school closed, she worked for the Public Health Department of the City of Jacksonville and as office manager for Dr. Daniel Lauray. In 1977 she began teaching at Florida Community College at Jacksonville. Currently Mrs. Lauray is an administrative assistant and skills labor coordinator at the college.⁴²

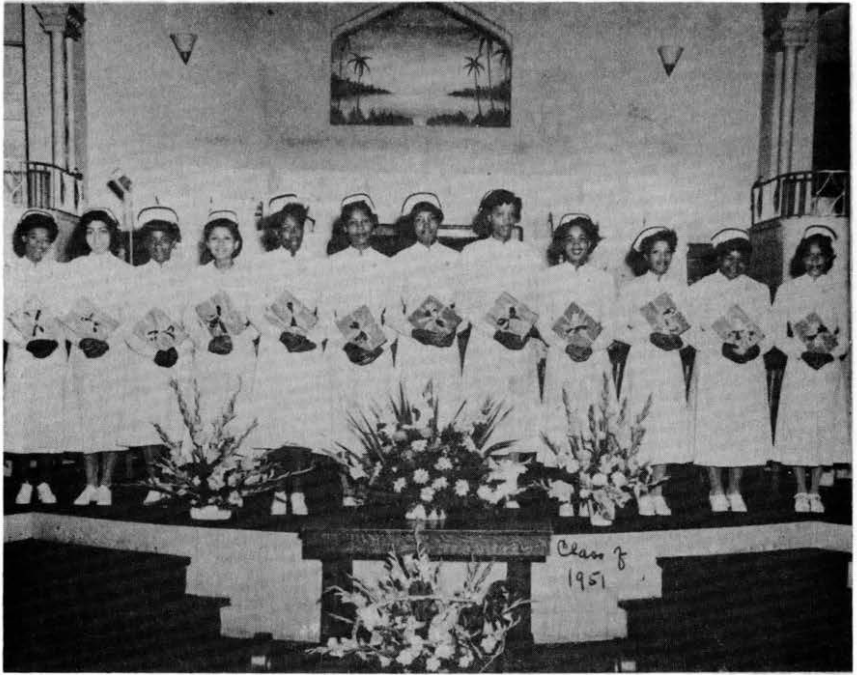
Brewster Hospital School of Nursing and Brewster-Duval School of Nursing had resident directors. These resident directors were deaconesses appointed by the Methodist Episcopal Church in the northern states. The



Class of 1934 Photo



Class of 1943 Photo



Class of 1951 Photo



Class of 1963 Photo



From Night for February 1952 Graduating Class

deaconesses lived in the nurses residence at the hospital. They included Nellie Wright, Margaret Fields, Ms. Edwards and Ms. Gruntter. The Brewster-Duval School of Nursing resident directors were local lay women who worked in three, eight-hour shifts. They did not live on the school's campus. These lay resident directors included Sophia Risse, Inez Asque, Pearl Cohen, Myrtle Mercer, Bertha LeSesne, Golden Jennings, Ms. Mahoney, Mrs. Hart, Ms. Hill, and Ms. Cromartie.⁴³ The resident directors were invaluable assests in the counseling and social adjustment of the student nurses.

Students, classes and faculty came to an end for the Brewster-Duval School of Nursing September 16, 1963, when the last nursing class graduated. Two years earlier the death blow had been struck for the school when the Duval County Budget Commission voted unanimously to stop funding the School of Nursing. The vote came after the Commission received a letter from Clarence G. King, Jr., chairman of the Duval County Hospital Board. The letter was read to the Budget Commission by Michael Wood, executive director of Duval Medical Center:

It is the opinion of the hospital board that
Brewster-Duval School of Nursing [can] not be

successfully operated at a budget level of \$100,000.⁴⁴

After statements by Joe Sessions to delete the funds for the school from the budget and Carl Langston that tax payers could not afford to support the operation of the school "with the apparent lack of interest shown by all concerned,"⁴⁵ the Commission voted unanimously to delete the school funds from the budget.

The administrators of the Brewster-Duval School of Nursing had asked the Budget Commission for \$148,000 to operate the school for the 1961-62 school year. The request exceeded the \$100,000 set by the Florida Legislature. When the Budget Commission deleted the school's funds, the Hospital Board agreed to operate within the \$100,000 limitation, but it also voted to accept new students for 1961-62. The Hospital Board agreed to continue the operation of the school to permit the thirty-five students enrolled in the school to complete their three-year course of study so that the school could "be closed in an orderly manner."⁴⁶ Of the thirty-five students enrolled in the school, seven would graduate in September 1961 leaving an enrollment of twenty-eight. Eighteen were second year students, and the remaining ten were first year students.⁴⁷ The first year students would complete their program in 1963.

From June through September various groups sought reinstatement of the school of nursing in the budget. The State Board of Health decided to determine if it had the resources to help keep the school afloat. The State Board instructed the state health officer, Dr. Wilson T. Sowder, to investigate the school's problems and determine if the State Board could find the funds to keep the school. Dr. Ashbel C. Williams of Jacksonville urged the State Board to seek funds to supplement the amount the Budget Commission was willing to grant. He pointed out a critical shortage of nurses as the prime factor in his feeling that the school must remain open.⁴⁸ The State Board offered temporary aid in the form of services and not funds. It would pay part of the salaries of some of the school's faculty members.⁴⁹

The Duval County Medical Society also took exception to the Budget Commission's vote to close the nursing school. In a resolution adopted unanimously by the Society, the members urged the Budget Commission to continue funding the school to alleviate the nursing shortage using both

tax funds and extra monies in the amount requested by the Hospital Board.⁵⁰

In early August at a meeting of interested citizens called by Dr. Wilson T. Sowder, a five member committee was appointed to guide the Brewster-Duval School of Nursing over legal and financial hurdles and back into the county budget picture. The appointed committee included Hazel Peeples, Florida State Board of Nursing; Fred Raglan, Director of the Bureau of Financing of the Florida State Board of Health; Duval County Commissioner Fletcher Morgan; Dr. Samuel Day, President of the Jacksonville Hospital Educational Association; and James Cameron, an executive of Winn Dixie Company.⁵¹ The committee was also to investigate the legal aspects of accepting contributions of funds and personnel from outside sources to operate the school. Those attending the meeting felt that immediate action was necessary in order to keep students and faculty from resigning because of the school's uncertain fate.⁵²

The Duval County Hospital Board also took steps to provide for continued operation of the school. The Board voted on August 17, to prepare a new 1961-62 budget using a \$95,000 cash carryover from the previous years to ask the Budget Commission for a declaration of intent as to whether the Commission would provide up to \$100,000 for the school's operation for the 1962-63 school year. The difference between the Hospital Board which operated the school and the Budget Commission which funded it was that of interpretation of a new legislative act relating to the funding of the school. The Budget Commission's attorney decided that the legislative act restricted the Commission from appropriating in excess of \$100,00 for the nursing school.⁵³

At its meeting on September 7, the Budget Commission approved a reduced budget of \$98,311 for the 1961-62 year operation. The commissioners indicated that by their approval of a reduced budget they were not making commitments for the continuation of the nursing school in the next year's appropriations, nor were they committing themselves to discontinue funds in future budgets.⁵⁴ Chairman of the Hospital Board Clarence King stated that the commissioners' action prevented the acceptance of a freshman class at the school that year (1961). He said the approved funds would merely permit the continuation of schooling for the second and third year students already enrolled, and that if a similar amount were approved the next year, the school might completely close down at the

end of the 1962-63 school year.⁵⁵ Brewster-Duval School of Nursing was closed in 1963.

The students at Brewster-Duval School of Nursing were Black, and more than seventy percent of the faculty was Black; however, the directors of the school were white. 1963 was before the civil rights act of 1964 and later years in the 60's, and many in the Black community felt that the Duval County Hospital Board just wanted to rid itself of the nursing school for Black students. It is a fact that the hospital had already built a building to house a new nursing school for white students, but the proposed white school was not funded by the State Legislature. The building was then used by the hospital to house its interns and residents.⁵⁶

Other factors could have heavily affected the closing of Brewster-Duval School of Nursing: lack of involvement of the director of nursing and the nursing faculty in the budget and financing of the school;⁵⁷ that the state was not willing to spend sizeable amounts of money on segregated nursing schools when integration was beginning to take place in other areas; that it was an era in which three-year hospital nursing programs were being phased out and four-year programs which offered degrees were being emphasized and pushed, and also two-year degree programs were being initiated at junior colleges.⁵⁸ Two other hospitals in Jacksonville St. Luke's and St. Vincent's had nursing school during the same period as Brewster-Duval. St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing opened in 1873 and was phased out at the hospital and into a two year course leading to an associate degree at Jacksonville University in 1965.⁵⁹ St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing opened in 1916 and closed in 1973 because of the two year nursing program at the junior college.⁶⁰

Finally, it was the opinion of some in the community that the Brewster-Duval School of Nursing was just a political football being kicked at the time between the Duval County Hospital Board and the Duval County Budget Commission. Whatever the case, the closing of the school ended a long period in nurse training for young Black women that began in 1901 and that produced a significant group of professional whose presence is still eminent in the Jacksonville Community and other areas of the country today. The 1963 Class Motto perhaps is the most fitting conclusion for the school: "The knowledge which a man can use is the only real knowledge which has life and growth in it and converts into practical power."⁶¹

GRADUATION



1

9

**Brewster Hospital
Alumni Association**

3

4

1

9

3

4



You are cordially invited to attend

A Reception

in honor of

Graduating Class of 1934

Monday evening, May 21, 1934

at Brewster Hospital Nurses' Home

7th, and Jefferson Sts.

8:30--12:00



CONGRATULATIONS



LD18 VH 5

CLEARLAKE SDAK 515P 23

SENIOR CLASS

BREWSTER HOSPITAL JACKSONVILLE FLO

CONGRATULATIONS WISHING YOU MUCH SUCCESS

CLARA KRUEGER.

631P

REG No 3801 DR. FREDRICK OETJEN 211 E. FORTYTH ST. OFFICE PHONE 5-0018 5-0987 RES. PHONE 7-1190

NAME Nurses of Brewster Hosp.

R ADDRESS

Ry Roses
Best Wishes
for
All that is good
and worth while
in life.

AND
BEST
WISHES

TAKE TO HALLIDAY APOTHECARIES INC. The office
Y. B. HALLIDAY +
230 HOGAN STREET Dr. Oetjen
PHONE 5-4140
1948 PEARL STREET
PHONE 5-0084, 5-0083

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE

Brewster Hospital School of Nursing

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Wednesday, February sixth, eight o'clock

SIMPSON METHODIST CHURCH

Mr. L. I. Alexander, Presiding

Member, Brewster Hospital Board

Processional	Miss Eva Ford <i>Student Nurse</i>
Invocation	Rev. S. S. Robinson <i>Pastor, Simpson Methodist Church</i>
Hymn: "Are Ye Able"	School of Nursing
Greetings: The Woman's Organization	Mrs. David Cathcart <i>Secretary, Student Work</i> <i>S. E. Jurisdiction, W. D. C. S.</i>
The Jacksonville District W. S. C. S.	Mrs. D. C. Dawkins, President
The Medical Staff	Thomas H. Lipscomb, M. D., President
Solo: "Open The Gates"	Miss Cynthia Hannah <i>Student Nurse</i>
Address to the Graduating Class	Rev. Charles C. King <i>Pastor, Laura Street Presbyterian Church</i>
Music: "My Task"	School of Nursing
Presentation of the Class	Miss Anna L. Haug, R.N. <i>Clinical Instructor</i>
Presentation of Diplomas	Miss Florence M. Jones, R.N. <i>Hospital Administrator</i>
Presentation of School Pins	Miss Athria McElwreath, R.N. <i>Director, School of Nursing</i>
The Nightingale Pledge	The Graduating Class
Music: "My Creed"	The Graduating Class
Prayer	Rev. S. S. Robinson
Recessional	Miss Eva Ford

Reception for the graduates, their families and friends, sponsored by the Woman's Guild of Brewster Hospital, immediately following the Program, to be held at the Nurses' Home, 7th and Jefferson Streets.

CHAPTER 5

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPORT

Jacksonville's Black community has been involved consistently in the activities of Brewster Hospital and Brewster Methodist Hospital. The community's support of the hospital has been both financial and in volunteer service. Not only has the involvement and support come from individuals, but also from groups organized specifically to give assistance to the hospital. These organized groups were the Brewster Men's Club, the Brewster Ladies Auxiliary, the Mothers' Club, the Floradale Unit of the Auxiliary, the Brewster Hospital Nurses Alumnae Association, and the Volunteens. The primary support, however, came from the patients who served by the hospital and the employees that served them.

Joseph Earl Morse became President of the Brewster Men's Club during the administration of Jack Whittington (1954-1962). Morse said the Men's Club was organized to support and assist the hospital in needed areas.¹ Mostly the men held fund raisers to purchase equipment and other needed items. One such fundraiser was the Spring Fun Festival of 1961 held in the Myrtle Avenue Ball Park, now James P. Small Ball Park, May 9-13. President J. Earl Morse presented trophies to the various contest winners. The major contest was that for the title of Miss Brewster Hospital.²

In its 1958 brochure "For the Love of Life . . . Protection . . . Service," Brewster Methodist Hospital listed officers of its volunteer organizations:

Brewster Men's Club - J. Earl Morse, president; J. J. Nixon, vice president; Clarence Willis, treasurer; William Surcey, secretary; other members, Harold Ferguson, Josh Hillman, Calvin Morse and Ellis Morse

Brewster Ladies Auxiliary- Mrs. Sallye B. Mathis, president; Mrs. E.L. Deas, first vice-president; Mrs. E. S. Levey, second vice-president; Miss Alethia B. Frazier, third vice-president; Mrs. Edna Adams, secretary; Mrs. Peter Robinson, treasurer

Brewster Mothers' Club - Mrs. J. E. Davis, president; Mrs. Bernice Douglass, vice-president; Mrs. Maeola Robinson, treasurer; Mrs. Annie D. Wells, recording secretary; Mrs. Louvenia Wells, secretary; Mrs. J. M. Hutchins, assistant secretary

Brewster Hospital Nurses

Alumnae Association - Mrs. Evelyn J. Hillman, president; Mrs. Vera W. Cruse, vice-president; Mrs. Eugenia Dines Bazzell, treasurer; Mrs. Myrtis Brown, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Anita Irving, financial secretary; Miss Mildred Lyons, recording secretary; Mrs. Marion C. Morse, reporter.³

THE BREWSTER ORBIT, the hospital newspaper, expressed its appreciation to the Brewster Men's Club in its August 1961 publication: "We offer special words of praise and thanks to our Brewster Men's Club, an organization of businessmen, professionals and non-professionals. A long record of volunteer [service] is written in the history of our hospital and its progress concerning this fine group of men."⁴

The 1957-58 report of the Woman's Society of Christian Services on Home Mission Projects stated, "A Dental Clinic is a new service being offered at Brewster. This has been equipped through personal gifts and funds raised by the Brewster Men's Club. The Brewster Hospital Auxiliary and Brewster Mothers' Club are active in the program of the hospital."⁵

The Brewster Ladies Auxiliary in cherry red uniforms and smocks provided many services throughout the hospital. The auxiliary members served as receptionist and performed duties in patient care, central supply, the children's ward, the clinic and other areas of the hospital. The ladies held regular orientation programs of instruction in general hospital procedures and special areas of hospital care. They scheduled themselves regular periods of duty in the hospital and at the reception desk during hospital visiting hours.⁶

An article in the July-August 1963 Brewster Hospital News reported the results of a Patriotic Tea fund raiser by the Brewster Ladies Auxiliary:

A big "Thank You" comes from Miss Edith Boyd, president of the Brewster Methodist Hospital Auxiliary, to the community, friends and hospital employees and to volunteer groups of the Auxiliary for the wonderful contributions and assistance given which made the Patriotic Tea a successful event in mid-June.

The Auxiliary came so near to its goal during the enjoyable Sunday afternoon program in the Hospital Cafeteria, it is believed that when all reports are in from State contractors the full amount will be realized. The smile of the president sparkled as the State of Georgia which she represented reported the highest amount of contributions.⁷

On another occasion the patients of the hospital were the sweethearts of the Brewster Auxiliary on St. Valentine's Day. Carnations with Cupid's red darts conveyed messages of tender-loving-care for the shut-in's. The bouquets were carried to each hospital patient by the Auxiliary Flower Committee under the chairmanship of Mrs. Hattie McClendon.⁸

No one questioned remembers exactly when the Brewster Mother's Club was organized or whose idea it was. Some believe it was in the early 1950's. It also believed that the idea for the club originated in the obstetrics and pediatrics departments. The Club was open to any mother who had had a child delivered at Brewster Hospital. The activities of this club assisted in giving an excellent image of the hospital's statement of continuing to care about its patients after their hospital stay. The meetings and other gatherings provided a means of showing off the fine babies and children that had been delivered in Brewster Hospital and cared for in the nursery.

The Brewster Hospital Nurses Alumnae Association was formed in 1921 by the nurses living in Jacksonville who had graduated from Brewster Hospital School of Nursing. The primary objective was to continue that bond formed in nursing school among the Brewster graduate nurses. The Association participated in many of the activities of the hospital and encouraged other young women to enroll in the School of Nursing

throughout its existence. Informally they represented the visible products of what the hospital had achieved.

In July 1961 a group of fifteen teenage girls completed an orientation program at Brewster Methodist Hospital to become Volunteens. The young women under the supervision of Mrs. C. D. Mungin, director of Volunteens, represented the four major Black high schools in the city: New Stanton, Mrs. W. M. Richardson, sponsor; Douglass Anderson, Miss Ida Logan, sponsor; Northwestern, Mrs. W. M. Davis, sponsor; and Mathew W. Gilbert, Mrs. Sallye B. Mathis, sponsor. The Volunteens took their duties very seriously and in their candy-striped uniforms gave special attention to the patients. Their duties and assignments were rotated with four young women working each day in shifts of three hours each. In a ten month period the Volunteens rendered over 5,000 hours of service. In 1961 forty-five received gold pins with the American Hospital Association emblem for over 100 hours of service. Twenty others received certificates of award.⁹

The Volunteens' on-the-job training program included repacking supplies, washing, drying, oiling, repacking instrument sets, and operating autoclaves. They ran errands which saved invaluable time for other employees, assisted with the linen packs for the operating room and other departments, answered telephones, fed patients and assisted in putting new patients to bed. While the Volunteens performed these services, the nursing personnel could concentrate on the professional duties necessary in direct patient care. The cheerfulness and conscientiousness of the Volunteens made them a valuable asset to patient care. They received much praise from the Brewster medical staff, other hospital employees and the patients.¹⁰

W. Devaughn Sweet, principal of Stanton Vocational High School, who was hospitalized during the month of July 1963, praised the services of the Volunteens:

Always ready to go on errands and always looking for some way to help the patient in need of their service Roberta Johnson, student of Northwestern High School and Susie McMorries from New Stanton Senior High School assigned to our area were energetic, pleasant and thoughtful in the performance of numerous services for patients arranging flowers and cards, changing pitchers of ice water. Chatting with them as they went about their

tasks, I was told that they give their services to the hospital because they wished to help someone. Questioned as to their life's ambition, I was told, 'Since I've worked here I think I would like to be a nurse.'

Too much thanks cannot be given to Mrs. Eleanor Hurley and her organization of volunteer workers, both youth and adult. Helping two young ladies find their way in life is payment in full for the organization. Because of this type of organization, my stay in the hospital was made very pleasant and beneficial.¹¹

Good patient care was the goal at Brewster, and the patients who were served by the hospital were the best messengers to the community the hospital could have. The patients were the primary support for Brewster beyond the Methodist Church, and they expressed their views on patient care in letters and statements to the administration, doctors, nurses and the volunteers:

April 1989

I was admitted to Brewster Hospital July 10, 1960. My father had passed a week before and I was admitted the day just before the funeral.

I wasn't feeling [too] good. I had a lot medical problems. I was sixteen (16) years old at the time and was really confused about life. I thought about my disability constantly and had heard rumors that Brewster didn't provide the best health care. But after being there for a few days, I began to feel better. The nurses showed me that they were really concerned about my health.

The staff and nurses at Brewster will always be dear to me. I feel like I owe my life to them. At that time, my mother was alive. She lived so far away. She didn't have transportation. She had to catch a bus on the days when she wasn't working to visit me or she would have to pay someone to bring her at night to visit me when she got off from work. So the staff at Brewster Hospital became my family.

I met and still have a lot of friends today that were patients during my stay at the hospital. I had 37 operations while I was there. There was always someone to hold my hand, and a shoulder to cry on while I was there. I don't think I would be doing the things [I do] today if I had not known some of the people I met while there.

I was discharged on May 10, 1964. This was nearly four years later. I thank God for the people at Old Brewster, because I know if it wasn't for His grace, I wouldn't be alive today. The memories and love will always be with me.

Artis Strigler

August 1961

To: Mr. J. H. Whittington, Administrator and Entire Hospital Staff

I take this means to attempt in an humble, sincere manner to express my deep appreciation, not only for the highly professional care given us, but for the many kind, understanding, and tender courtesies extended, the pleasant greeting from early morning until the hour of retiring at night. These constant inquiries as to my comfort and special personal desires created within me an inward happiness that only such genuine and noble gestures can give to one at the time of enforced confinement. These overtures, to me are priceless and will always be treasured as "intrinsic values" - such as no amount of the world's wealth in rubies, diamonds, silver or gold could approximate.

May God's grace continue to be showered upon each of you, that His richest and most beautiful blessing be yours. May the efforts of each of you be so coordinated that Brewster Methodist Hospital may continue in its quest to be numbered among the renowned institutions of mercy.

L. Ann Humes

Patients' charts, records, and orders were kept in files in a section of the hospital called the "nurses station." The nurses did the charting and study of the doctors' orders at the station. Doctors also used the station to study

charts of their patients and write orders and progress notes. Student nurses stood and greeted the doctors as they approached the nurses' station; the nurses accompanied them to the patients' bedsides and prepared the patients for the visit. Following the visit, the nurses returned to the station to review the follow-up care. Before Brewster Hospital had interns, the nurses were responsible for observing and notifying the doctor of the patients' progress. Because some doctors had to come from areas across the St. Johns River and Ortega, the nurses delivered many babies before the doctors could arrive. When the doctors arrived, assessments were made and special care given.

While the nurses at Brewster Hospital spent the greater part of their energies attending patients in the hospital in their beds, sometimes it was necessary to attend them outside the hospital as well. During the 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. shift one night, a male patient who had a cast on his leg jumped out of a third floor window. The nurses heard noise and hurried to the ward. The window was open. Another patient said, "He crawled out of the window." The nurses checked the empty bed, looked out of the window and saw the male patient in his hospital gown running from the hospital down Cedar Street toward Eight Street. A student nurse and Supervisor of Nursing, Hettie L. Mills, R.N., ran after the patient and returned him to the hospital. He protested loudly that he left because he "wanted to go home."¹²

Brewster services to the community were the work of loyal and dedicated employees. The hospital showed its gratitude in a number of ways. In the summer of 1963 the third Annual Employee Outing was held at Little Talbot Island Beach. One hundred fifteen employees and their families and friends enjoyed the sand, the salt water and the sunshine.¹³ In July 1962 more than 300 Brewster employees and volunteer workers were presented awards in recognition of their services throughout the years to Brewster Methodist Hospital. The guest speaker for the program was President Richard V. Moore of Bethune Cookman College, Daytona, Beach, Florida. Awards were presented by J. H. Whittington who paid tribute to the many loyal workers who had rendered their service to ensure "better health care to the community" and to the volunteers who had assisted them.¹⁴

Community involvement and support for Brewster Methodist Hospital was continuous throughout the 65 year existence of the hospital. This community support and the relationship the community felt with the hospital were

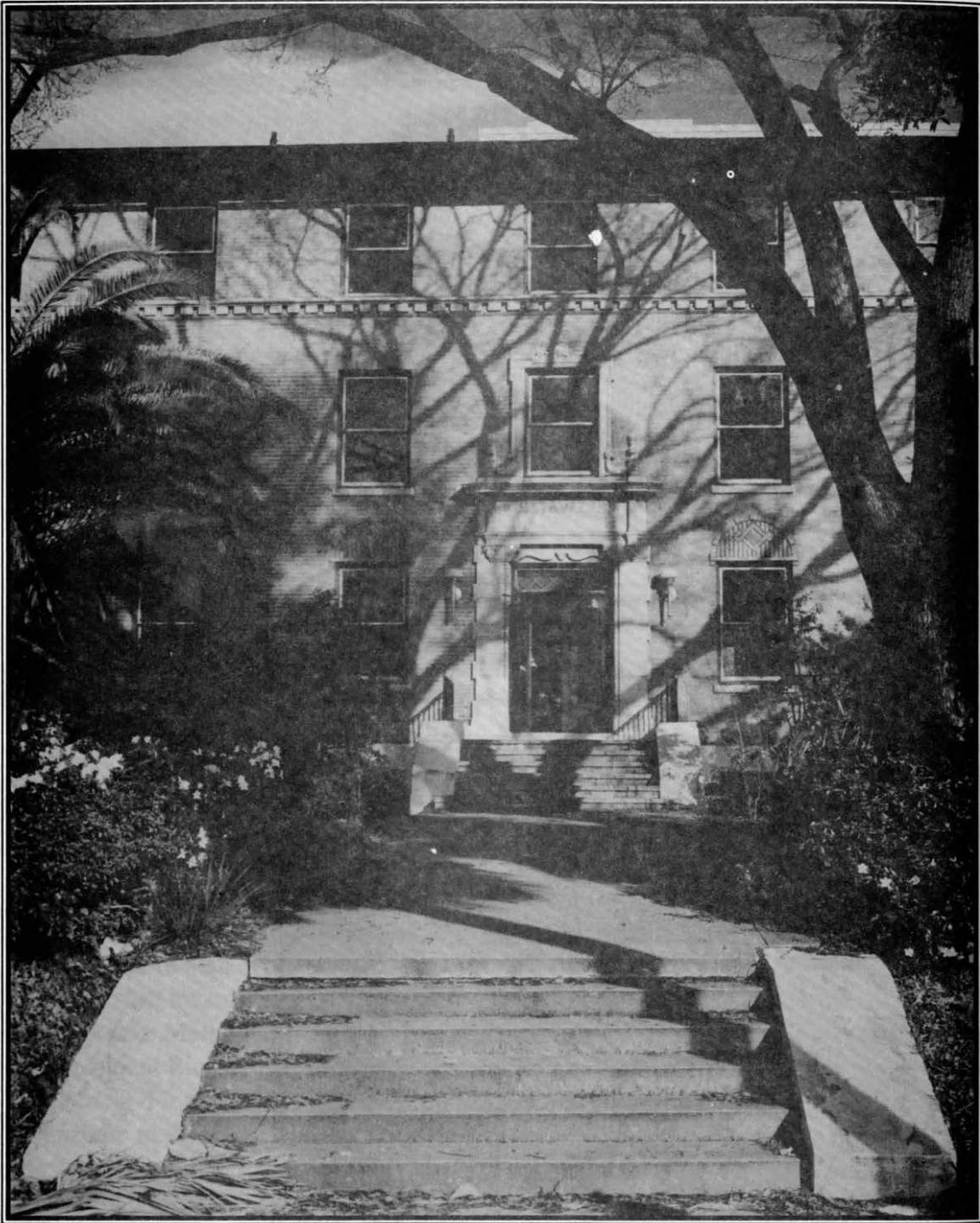
crucial to the health care the hospital provided to the community. In the good times and the times that were not so good the hospital could count on this community.



First Baby Born in Brewster Hospital in 1955



At Work at the Nurses Station



*Front Entrance of Brewster Methodist Hospital
Jefferson Street
(Photo - Courtesy of Marcus E. Drewa, President, Methodist Medical Center)*

CHAPTER 6

COUNTDOWN TO CLOSING THE HOSPITAL

The countdown to the closing of Brewster Methodist Hospital actually began July 2, 1964, with the passage of the strongest civil rights law in the history of the United States. This Civil Rights Act of 1964 made it unlawful for hospitals to remain segregated or for them to discriminate against Blacks and other minority groups. The law sought to ensure equal rights for all to vote, to work and to use public accommodations and facilities, public educational institutions and programs receiving federal funds. The law set in motion changes that brought about the closing of Brewster Methodist Hospital established in 1901 to provide health services for the Negro people in Jacksonville had to become non-segregated, accepting all ethnic and minority groups. The original charge or mission of Brewster Methodist Hospital had been fulfilled, and the hospital had two options - close or change. The National Board of Missions and the Woman's Division of Christian Service of The Methodist Church chose both, to close the hospital temporarily and to change its mission to that of an acute care general service hospital.

It was a year of tragedy and triumph for those involved in the closing of Brewster Methodist Hospital on September 30, 1966, and the opening of Methodist Hospital on October 1, 1967. No one was more aware of the swing of the pendulum than Marcus E. Drewa, the last administrator of Brewster Methodist Hospital and the new administrator of Methodist Hospital. Drewa spearheaded the entire process from start to finish. His first task was that of gaining the support and confidence of the community and its leaders both Black and white.

It is difficult to separate Marcus Drewa the administrator from Marcus Drewa the man: they are so much the same. For thirty years Drewa has been committed to his goal "to make something out of Brewster Methodist Hospital,"¹ and he has. February 1, 1966, was the beginning of Drewa's involvement with the hospital when he was appointed by the National Division of the Board of Missions of The Methodist Church to carry out the Board's directives as to its position on the revitalization of Brewster Methodist Hospital. Drewa was not new to Jacksonville; he had spent a year (1955-56) as an administrative resident at Baptist Memorial Hospital on Jacksonville's southside, and a year (1960-61) as administrative assis-

tant at Baptist. But Drewa said he "always wanted to be an administrator of a Methodist hospital,"² and accepting the position at Brewster gave him that opportunity.

May 21, 1966, a letter from Dr. J. Edward Carothers, National Board of Missions of the Methodist Church informed Drewa that the Woman's Division and the National Board would no longer operate Brewster Methodist Hospital, but would lease it to a local non-profit group. Without hesitation Drewa approached Jacob F. Bryan, III, then chairman and chief executive officer of Independent Life and Accident Insurance Company, to support him in the effort to revitalize Brewster Methodist Hospital, to remake the hospital into the first all-private room, private bath hospital in the state.³ Not only did he get the support of Jacob F. Bryan, III, but also that of Gordon Blalock, Hobart Joost, Chauncey Lever, C. Herman Terry and other individuals and organizations in the Jacksonville community that realized the need for the hospital to have a new face and a new function.

Perhaps the most difficult task for Drewa that year was reducing the staff to only seventeen persons needed to carry on the transitional work. Some employees had worked at Brewster since the hospital had moved to the new location on Jefferson Street in 1931. Drewa said his way of handling it was to treat everyone fairly, and he feels the hospital's closing was handled quite well. He said he has always had an open-door policy for employees and still does. The other immediate problem for him was the security of the facility. Drewa feels that because the renovation of the hospital was accepted by the immediate community surrounding the hospital there was very little property damage.⁴ He and the employees that were left were able to sell the furniture and other hospital equipment on the sidewalk in front of the hospital to pay salaries and other cost.

In reopening the hospital Drewa wanted it to have a completely new image in facility as well as in patient services. He said he "put familiar faces in different places" in the hospital to give it a different image in personnel and services. The Methodist Hospital medical staff set standards which were comparable to standards in other community hospitals for accepting physicians as staff members. Some Black and white physicians did not return to the medical staff he said. Drewa said his thirty years in developing Methodist Hospital have been "very gratifying to me personally because of my family and my relationship with the employees, the physicians, the board of directors and the Jacksonville community. They have

faith in me." ⁵ He said there was only one time that he considered giving up the job as administrator of Methodist Hospital. That year was one year after the hospital reopened. But, he had asked Jacob E. Bryan and others in the community to help him reopen the hospital, and he wanted to live up to his end of the agreement. Today, Methodist Medical Center is a testament to the ingenuity of Marcus E. Drewa. He has earned that faith.

The countdown to the closing of Brewster Methodist Hospital continued through its final stages in 1966.

April 1966

Dr. Carl I. Flath, F.A.C.H.A. Hospital Consultant, completed a three-day study (April 14-16) of Brewster Methodist Hospital and reported his findings, "Reconnaissance Study of Brewster Methodist Hospital" sent to Miss Emma Burris, executive secretary, Medical Work - National Division, Board of Missions of The Methodist Church.

Dr. Flath recommended that the Hospital close down completely and remain closed for a necessary period to allow time for reorganizational patterns to be completed, and future operational and medical staffs to be recruited and appointed; then reopen midst a carefully ordered flourish of public information. Dr. Flath also recommended that the name of the Hospital be changed to Methodist Memorial Hospital and that an on-going mechanism of financial support to the Hospital be created.

May 21, 1966

Statement from Dr. J. Edward Carothers, National Board of Missions of The Methodist Church, New York, New York:

Together, the Women's Division and the National Division make the property [Brewster Methodist Hospital] available to a local Board of Directors subject only to the following limitations:

1. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of 21 persons genuinely concerned to provide health services to the community. Of this number two-thirds shall be members of The Methodist Church.
2. The first by-laws will be drafted in consultation with a local committee approved by the administrator of the hospital.

3. The by-laws will provide for full operational authority on the local level, a continuance of the Methodist Hospital as a Methodist-related, non-profit institution and approval of by-law change by the National Division.
4. The National Division will deliver the buildings of what has been known as Brewster Methodist Hospital to the Board of Directors of Methodist Hospital without debt, continue, for at least five years, to contribute \$60,000 per year to the operation of the hospital and continue to make the property available to the Board of Directors as long as they are used for high-standard health services on a non-profit basis.

May 21, 1966

News Release Draft - Dr. J. Edward Carothers, A HOSPITAL DIES AND IS RE-BORN; BREWSTER ENDS - METHODIST HOSPITAL BEGINS

In order to meet the new goals of ever-expanding health services demands Brewster Methodist Hospital [is] now to be terminated. The complete authority and responsibility for the affairs of the "new" Methodist Hospital will be placed in local hands.

May 1966

Statement by Marcus E. Drewa, Administrator of Brewster Methodist Hospital:

Last week Dr. J. Edward Carothers, General Secretary, National Division of the Board of Missions of The Methodist Church, informed the administration of Brewster Hospital, medical and community leaders that effective September 1, 1966, it would no longer operate the institution.

The National Division would

1. Lease the buildings to the [local non-profit group] for a token sum with the National Organization retaining title to the land and buildings.
2. Pay all indebtedness through August 31, 1966.
3. Make a gift of \$300,000 available to the group in either a

lump sum or divided equally over the next five years.

The course of action [taken] would be as follows:

1. Close the facility for a short period of time (30 days).
2. Reorganize the medical staff.
3. Reorganize all departments.
4. Reopen the hospital under the name Methodist Hospital as a fully integrated facility which would provide service that is second to none in the community.

May 30, 1966

Letter to Jacob F. Bryan, III, Health Facilities Planning Council of the Jacksonville Area, Inc., Jacksonville, Florida, from Dr. Wade S. Rizk, M.D. Radiology, President of the Duval County Medical Society, Jacksonville, Florida, concerning the status of Jacksonville's Black physicians:

. . . There is one factor which has to be taken into consideration that bears heavily on the success of any plan adopted. This factor is intimately related to the racial problem and cannot be easily dismissed on the ground that we now have integration, and social patterns have changed to meet the new order. This factor is the role the colored physicians will play in the proposed newly organized hospital. The colored physicians under the strict new order will find themselves more ostracized than they were previously. Their privileges will be sharply curtailed, because in general, they are not as well trained as their white counterparts, sometimes through no fault of their own. This was well brought out by Dr. Lauray in his remarks before the Council. Dr. Lauray pointed out that if a colored physician is denied a range of privileges which he formerly had, as would be inevitable under the new proposed reorganization plan, his practice would suffer, and his patients would be unhappy, since in many cases, they would be driven to seek other doctors . . . Obviously, the colored physician is in a special category, since he is not likely to fare better in other hospitals in the community, while the white physician is generally not circumscribed. It is my firm opinion that no new physician coming to the community, be he either colored or white, should have any concessions from an approved rigid standard of eligibility to practice in the hospital. . . . However, these colored physicians who have been practicing at Brewster for many years, and doing a good job at it, should have some permissive regulations that allow them to

practice as in the past, perhaps with some qualifications. This is necessary to establish proper rapport with the colored community and to give recognition to the colored physicians' long and honorable service to health care in the community.

June 1, 1966

FLORIDA TIMES UNION - COUNCIL PONDERES BREWSTER ROLE IN 900 HOSPITAL BED GOAL

There is nothing especially new in the 900-bed figure, arrived at following a series of reports from county hospitals at a meeting last night of the screening committee of the Health Facilities Planning Council of the Jacksonville Area, Inc.

But injected right into the middle of the meeting was a related subject, and one that wasn't on last night's agenda - what's to be done with Brewster Methodist Hospital?

The Health Facilities Planning Council is scheduled to look further into Brewster's future at a June 8 meeting, and it now is seeking public feeling about what should be done with the 160-bed facility.

June 1, 1966

Jacksonville Area Chamber of Commerce Public Health Committee- Resolution Concerning Brewster Methodist Hospital

Whereas, There apparently exists in Duval County a shortage of acute short-term hospital beds . . .

Therefore, Be It Resolved that every reasonable effort be undertaken to insure that the facilities of Brewster Methodist Hospital shall not be lost to the community at this time and Be It Further Resolved that the Duval County Medical Society and the Health Facilities Planning Council be urged to work together to assist the administration of Brewster Methodist Hospital in providing the highest standard of medical care.

June 7, 1966

Duval County Medical Society's Resolution

WHEREAS, The membership of the Duval County Medical Society has been cognizant of the extreme shortage of acute medical and surgical beds in the Jacksonville area and also realizes that this shortage has existed for the last several years.

WHEREAS, there will be no hospital beds constructed and ready for occupancy in the metropolitan Jacksonville area prior to 1968 and

WHEREAS, there are now 168 beds available at Brewster Hospital which are not being fully utilized . . .

BE IT RESOLVED by the membership of the Duval County Medical Society that these hospital beds must be kept open and available for community use as needed, that the administration and governing body of this hospital be [urged] to proceed with their plans for the complete renovation and reorganization of this hospital so that it can offer complete and quality medical care for the entire community.

June 8, 1966

Letter to Jacob F. Bryan, III, Chairman, Health Facilities Planning Council from Robert A. Cunningham, Secretary, Jacksonville Hospital Council, Jacksonville, Florida

The Jacksonville Hospital Council at its meeting on June 7, 1966, passed the following motion concerning Brewster Methodist Hospital:

The Jacksonville Hospital Council hereby endorse the proposal of the National Division of the Board of Missions of the Methodist Church for the reorganization of the Brewster Methodist Hospital as outlined by Dr. Carothers and Mr. Drewa. It is felt by the Hospital Council that with the critical shortage of beds in Jacksonville, Brewster must remain open as a general hospital facility.

June 8, 1966

JACKSONVILLE JOURNAL: DUVAL NEGRO PHYSICIANS HAVE A PROBLEM

Jacksonville's formerly "lily-white" hospitals are opening their doors gradually to Negro physicians and surgeons - but only the younger Negro medical men seem destined for first class status.

Dr. W. W. Schell, Jr., is a second generation physician. His father, the late Dr. W. W. Schell, started practicing medicine here in 1905

He [Schell, Jr.] started his career as a general practitioner in July 1946 and has been at it ever since. . . . Back when Schell was studying medicine, hospital residencies which would lead to a doctor's rating as a specialist, in one field or another were almost impossible for Negro doctors to obtain.

Schell can't practice his specialties or surgery at St. Luke's or Baptist because he didn't take residency training in those fields. Residency means that a doctor has followed up his medical schooling and internship with a stipulated amount of time spent in a hospital studying specialized aspects of medicine.

"There's a need for Brewster in order to allow us to maintain our practice," said Dr. Schell.

There are nine Negro physicians in Jacksonville and three of these have completed residencies. That leaves six doctors faced with the problem of past discrimination echoing against them in today's climate of growing racial integration.

So far three Negro doctors have been accepted on the staffs of one or more formerly white hospitals. Four Negro doctors have been accepted as members of the Duval County Medical Society.

June 9, 1966

**FLORIDA TIMES UNION-HEALTH COUNCIL APPROVES
BREWSTER HOSPITAL PLAN**

The Health Facilities Planning Council of Duval County voted to lend its full support to efforts to establish a reorganized and renovated general services hospital to replace the existing Brewster Methodist Hospital.

The National Board of Missions of the Methodist Church plans to close the hospital, September 1.

June 10, 1966

FLORIDA TIMES UNION - BREWSTER HOSPITAL MEET SET
Thirty Jacksonville area insurance company executives, bankers, clergymen and civic leaders will meet at 7:30 a.m. today to discuss the possibility of taking over the operation of Brewster Methodist Hospital.

Those attending the meeting have indicated an intention of forming a board of directors for what has tentatively been designated as Methodist Hospital, Marcus Drewa, administrator of Brewster, said yesterday.

June 15, 1966

JACKSONVILLE JOURNAL - METHODIST OK BREWSTER PLAN
Plans to lease Brewster Methodist Hospital to a local non-profit operating corporation composed of Jacksonville area community leaders for a 50-year period have been approved by the National Division of the Board of Missions of the Methodist Church.

Marcus Drewa, administrator of the hospital, said the New York City group approved negotiation of a lease during a meeting on Monday which Drewa attended.

July 1966

Letters to Local Doctors from Marcus E. Drewa, administrator Methodist Hospital

The closing, remodeling and reopening of an old hospital under a new Charter and Board is filled with treacherous problems, real hard work and much heartache.

A beautiful building with modern scientific equipment, even though properly planned and well-built, does not necessarily make a hospital.

At the top of our list will be our doctors. It is safe to say that neither this nor any other hospital can become any greater than the doctors who compose its medical staff.

I am enclosing with this letter an application blank which is being sent to every member of the Duval County Medical Society. If you desire staff privileges in this hospital, please complete the form of application indicating the division of the staff to which you would like to be assigned, either active staff or visiting staff and return to me as soon as possible.

August 4, 1966

FLORIDA TIMES UNION - METHODIST EXTEND LIFE OF BREWSTER

Brewster Methodist Hospital, slated to close its doors in less than a month, has been granted a 30-day extension by the Methodist Church.

The extension was made at the request of a 21-member citizens committee that is working to float a million dollar loan needed to keep the 160-bed hospital open.

Now the committee has until October 1, to come up with funds needed to renovate and furnish the hospital which was established by the Methodist Church as a mission to the Negro community.

August 4, 1966

JACKSONVILLE JOURNAL - OBSTETRIC DEPARTMENT TO

CLOSE AUG. 15

Brewster Hospital's obstetrics department will close August 15, Marcus E. Drewa, hospital administrator said today.

Drewa said the decision to close the unit stems from the fact that it not only handles an insufficient number of cases to pay its way, but has become a drain on the hospital's finances.

August 10, 1966

Letter from Dr. J. Edward Carothers, National Division, Board of Missions of The Methodist Church to Marcus Drewa, administrator of Brewster Methodist Hospital:

This letter is your instruction to take the necessary steps for the closing of Brewster Methodist Hospital on October 1, 1966. You will give staff proper severance notification and make arrangements for transfer of all patients.

August 13, 1966

FLORIDA TIMES UNION - BREWSTER BIRTH CUTOFF NEARING

Five babies delivered at Brewster Methodist Hospital yesterday may be among the last born in the 65-year old institution which has delivered as many as 1,259 in one year.

Its maternity section closes Monday [August 15].

September 1, 1966

JACKSONVILLE JOURNAL - PINK SLIPS AT HOSPITAL

Brewster Methodist Hospital's administrator Marcus Drewa [told] employees at the hospital they have 30 days left on the job. He said those employees who stayed through the September 30 closing of the hospital would draw all accrued vacation pay and any other benefits they had coming.

September 2, 1966

Letter to the Brewster Staff Physicians from Marcus E. Drewa, Administrator, Brewster Methodist Hospital:

It is with deep regret that we close Brewster Hospital. We will be unable to schedule any surgery after Monday, September 13, 1966, and we will not be able to admit any patients after that date.

We do appreciate the support that you have given in returning your application for the new Methodist Hospital and also the time that you took in answering the personal reference request that so many of you did so gracefully. . . .

September 13, 1966

Letter to Drs. L. B. Childs, Geo. S. Trotter, E. H. Washington, Carl C. Mendoza, F. H. Schnauss, Daniel Lauray, O. W. McIntosh, John D. Ferrara, Richard Wilhelm, Clyde Collins, Frederick Oetjen and L. A. Wilensky from Marcus E. Drewa, Administrator, Brewster Methodist Hospital:

We are writing to you in order that we may have an orderly transfer or discharge of your patients on or before Tuesday, September 20, 1966, at 3:00 p.m.

The laboratory will be closed September 20th, and there will be no Nursing Service Staff available after the above date. If we can be of any help to you in effecting your patients transfer or discharge, please contact Mrs. Ellen Strader, Director of Nursing Service. Service.

September 20, 1966

FLORIDA TIMES UNION - LAST PATIENT LEAVES BREWSTER

Justice Davis of 1512 West 35th Street said goodbye to Room 367 yesterday [when] a nurse rolled him down the hall and to the front door of Brewster Methodist Hospital. When the door was closed and Davis went home, a final chapter was written in the history of the hospital. He was the last patient to be discharged. Brewster

administrator Marcus Drewa said that much of the Hospital's staff had left and more would leave [the following day], ending up with a closing crew of about 25.

September 24, 1966

FLORIDA STAR NEWSPAPER - Eric O. Simpson, Editor

The closing of Brewster Methodist Hospital during the past week brought more than a pang of remorse to the hearts of Jacksonville citizens.

One can only feel regret when he thinks of the untiring efforts of those who struggled to build the facility, and those who labored so hard through their contributions, services, and other worthwhile acts to keep it in existence.

Without a shadow of a doubt, the Hospital is badly needed (more efficiently operated, of course) to supplement the other institutions in the community devoted to the care of the seriously ill.

It is my sincere hope that the facility will be reopened, dedicated to render more proficient service in a more ethical manner to its patients.

September 30, 1966

BREWSTER METHODIST HOSPITAL CLOSED AFTER 65 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE JACKSONVILLE COMMUNITY. The count-down to the closing was completed. For some it was a sigh of relief; for others it was a sigh of regret, and for most a question of the future of the facility.

For Mrs. Ruth Hicks, now program director and patient family care coordinator for Hospice of Methodist Hospital, the closing of the hospital was unsettling. Mrs. Hicks was a nurse at Brewster at the time of the closing, and she was a graduate of the Brewster-Duval School of Nursing at the time it closed in 1963. She said the employees felt that when Marcus Drewa came to the hospital his mission was to close it. "Personally, I didn't like it. There was some anger and some sadness, and I, too, felt that the new administrator had just come to close the hospital. But, he

did reopen it a year later, and those who responded to the inquiry were rehired,"⁹ Mrs. Hicks said.

Herbert Best didn't like it either when Brewster closed, and he estimated that about 85% of the employees didn't like it. Best had been employed at the hospital for twenty-five years as an operating room and cast room orderly when he received his pink slip. Best got another job with the City Health Department as a rodent control inspector from which he retired in 1991.¹⁰

December 21, 1966

**FLORIDA TIMES UNION - WITH YOUR HELP. . . IN SIX MONTHS
DUVAL COUNTY WILL HAVE ITS FINEST HOSPITAL (advertisement)**

A group of interested citizens have organized a non-profit corporation and leased the Methodist Hospital building with the intent of completely rehabilitating and modernizing the facility. This can be accomplished at a cost of \$1,800,000. Of this amount, loans totaling \$1,000,000 have been committed from banks, insurance companies and the Board of Missions of the Methodist Church in the amount of \$300,000. \$150,000 has been pledged by Jacksonville Area Methodist Churches. Therefore, \$350,000 is needed to proceed with construction and to complete the new Methodist Hospital. Your contributions toward this goal will mean the successful completion of Duval County's finest hospital and additional life saving facilities for you and our citizens within six months.

September 24, 1967

**FLORIDA TIMES UNION AND JOURNAL - HOSPITAL DOORS
OPEN TO NEW ERA**

The story of the new Methodist Hospital began on December 8 when the Board of Directors of a non-profit corporation was organized to direct the effort. The Board named Gordon Blalock as president and Marcus Drewa to be administrator.

With today's community open house, the efforts to provide Duval Countians with a new, ultra-modern health facility were complete.

The first patient will be admitted to the new hospital on Sunday, October 1, and the first operation will be performed on October 2, according to Dr. James W. Bond, president of the medical staff.

The National Board of Missions of the Women's Division of Christian Services of the Methodist Church along with Marcus E. Drewa chose wisely in 1966, to close the hospital and change the charge. Today the old red brick structure of the hopsital is being used as a facility to house persons who have Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and has been renamed St. Johns Horizon House.

CHAPTER 7

THE NURSING ORGANIZATIONS

Men live, die and pass into eternity.
Yet, there are others whose lives live after them.

- Origin Unknown

Some seventy-five years ago, the graduates of Brewster Hospital School of Nursing realized that they were apart of history and needed to establish a means of carrying on the legacy of those who had gone before them and a pathway for those who would later come. On May 27, 1921, a small group of graduate nurses came together and organized the Brewster Hospital Nurses Alumnae Association. At that time the objectives were to preserve the legacy of the Brewster nursing tradition, to stimulate the union among graduates for mutual help and to raise the standards of nursing to the highest level attainable.

Throughout its history the Alumni Association has made changes and adjustments, but the objectives have remained essentially the same: (1) to establish a friendly and close relationship among its members, (2) to stimulate the union among graduates for mutual help and support, (3) to promote the standards of nursing to the highest level obtainable while working together for a common goal. The categories of membership are active and honorary, resident and non-resident. The Alumni Association holds regular monthly meetings September through June in the homes of its members. These meetings are guided by the constitution and by-laws of the Association. The officers accept their roles and responsibilities of giving service and support and promoting the goals and objectives of the Association.

In addition to the regular monthly meetings, the Alumni Association plans and implements several special programs and activities. The Valentine's Day and Christmas socials provide the nurses an opportunity to meet fellow nurses and renew friendships and relationships of the past. The most significant special activity for the Brewster Hospital Nurses Alumnae Association, now Brewster and Community Nurses Alumni Association, has been its biennial reunion. The reunion is held in June and lasts three to five days. The event attracts Brewster graduates and other gradu-

ate nurses from areas throughout the United States and from overseas. The reunion ends with a banquet at which nursing scholarships are given to two needy students. The attendees are given lovely gifts; a lottery system is used. Several gifts have been donated by the president of Methodist Medical Center, Marcus E. Drewa.

During the 1972-73 year the members of the Alumnae Association became aware of the fact that the closing of the nursing schools, Brewster Hospital School of Nursing in 1953 and Brewster-Duval School of Nursing in 1963, meant the loss of graduate nurses to become members of the Association, and thus eventually there would be no organization. A number of meetings were held to discuss the problem and determine the best solution. The Alumnae Association involved the hospital, the Brewster nurses, the community and the community nurses in these discussions.

In 1974, because the Alumnae Association members wanted to maintain and secure the heritage and legacy of the Brewster graduate nurses, the name Brewster and Community Nurses Alumni Association was chosen as the new name for the Association. The new name had been submitted by Grace Brown Sykes, a 1951 graduate of Brewster Hospital School of Nursing. In accepting the new name the Association opened its membership to any registered nurse in the community who chose to join the group, both female and male. Today, the Community Nurses comprise approximately 10% of the Association's Membership.

Mrs. Vera Williams Cruse, president of the Association since 1978, said a major focus of the organization is recruiting new members. She said they have not yet been able to devise a plan that works in attracting the younger nurses coming into the community. She said, "The older members have a sense of dignity and pride in having been apart of the history of Brewster Hospital which shapes the framework of their lives as blocks support houses to stand"¹ erect and graceful.

Mrs. Cruse said, "The bond which united students during their training years of study remains in place retaining members as an extended family. Our inherited tradition continues to assist members in striving to fulfill their dreams, grow professionally and provide for themselves a secure financial status."²

Mrs. Cruse said they encourage members to help other nurses by using

positive stokes, participating in other professional organizations and continuing to assume greater obligations and responsibilities in promoting service in meeting the needs of humanity. She said outstanding contributions have been made by many of the Association's members in professional leadership roles, nursing education, careers in national organizations, community development programs, home health programs and institutional nursing.

One outstanding example of a Brewster graduate nurse in a professional leadership role of service in the face of disaster was that of Addie Sweetwater, R.N., who while serving in the armed forces during World War II gave needed assistance to passengers involved in a train wreck in London. Nurse Sweetwater was cited by the British government for endangering her life to give heroic assistance while facing death.³ Her actions were truly a Florence Nightingale performance of mercy, and one in which this nurse took her pledge to serve the sick and the wounded with seriousness and dedication.

Members of the Brewster and Community Nurses Alumni Association are also members of national nursing organizations. Prior to 1951 Negro graduate nurses could only hold membership in the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses. In January 1951 the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses was dissolved, and its function was absorbed by the American Nurses Association (ANA) when the ANA opened its membership to all graduate nurses. The overall purpose of the ANA is to foster high standards of nursing practice and to promote the welfare of nurses to the end that all people may have better nursing care.⁴ Mrs. Hettie L. Mills maintained membership in the National League for Nursing (NLN), Division of Nursing Education because of her dedication to nursing education. The NLN is the oldest of the national professional nursing organizations having been organized in 1893. The NLN seeks to provide communities with the best possible nursing service and to assure good nursing education by enlisting the interests and active cooperation of nurses and friends of nursing, regardless of race, creed or national origin. To realize its purposes membership is open to nurses, lay members and agencies.⁵ Mrs. Mills attended the regular meetings on nursing education to prepare students to write State Board Test Pool Examinations.

The Brewster Hospital Nurses Alumnae Association and Brewster and Community Nurses Alumni Association have had excellent leadership throughout its seventy-five years of existence. The past presidents include

Mrs. Matilda Walker Brown, the first president, Mrs. Hettie L. Mills, Mrs. Evelyn Jefferson Hillman, Mrs. Paradine Alford Smith, Mrs. Nannye Campbell Fletcher, Mrs. Carrie Bram Hammond, Mrs. Marion Gilyard Morse, and Mrs. Irene Parrish Dowdell. The Association began celebrating an annual sisterhood dinner during the presidency of Mrs. Paradine A. Smith (1960-65). That annual dinner has now become a biennial anniversary reunion.

June 14-18, 1995, the Brewster and Community Nurses Alumni Association celebrated the beginning of its 75th year. The theme for the five day biennial anniversary reunion celebration was "Back to Basics . . . Moving Forward in the Health Field" submitted by Mrs. Albertha Bevel, a 1950 graduate of the Brewster Hospital School of Nursing. Activities were held at Methodist Medical Center Plaza where the red carpet was laid out to honor the Association's members. Special activities included breakfast each morning, a dinner at Alhambra Dinner Theatre, a memorial service, a Cruise to Nowhere, worship at Bethel Baptist Institutional Church, and the Alumni banquet.

The president's message was an adequate conclusion for the five-days of festivity:

The President's Message

"We are greatly indebted to the group of nurses who saw fit 75 years ago to organize our illustrious Alumni. Over the years we have continued to perpetuate their "pearls of wisdom."

-THAT'S HISTORY-

Without your enthusiasm, energy and positive participation we could not have planned for "Back to Basics . . . Moving Forward in the Health Field." Let us join hands in love and spirituality as we reminisce, recapitulate and rededicate ourselves in union with one another.

We can only achieve when everyone works together in a positive manner. A special feeling comes over me when I think we are successful and able to make the organization continuously grow, demonstrating positive rewarding experiences.

Thanks to each of you for your sincere vote of confidence. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you.

Yours in a marvelous profession,

Vera W. Cruse, President

Many expressions of gratitude and elation have been sent to the president about the June 1995 reunion celebration:

Hampton, Virginia

Dear Mrs. Cruse,

I just want to say thank you to you and all the Brewster and Community Nurses for the beautiful affair. Everything was great. I am still talking about the hospitality, programs, and food. Hope to see you in two years!

Ida M. Tyson

Dayton, Ohio

Mrs. Cruse,

I could never thank you and the committee enough for selecting me for your outstanding nurse enough. It was really a surprise; I am thankful to you all. The gift along with the picture on the bag will be the "spotlight" in my home forever.

Gertrude M. Bertram Ivory

Camden, New Jersey

Dear Mrs. Cruse and Friends,

What can I say about the reunion. You girls did an outstanding job. All of them were fine. But this one was the the tops. Thanks to all of you again and again. We love you. It was a lot of work, but you seemed to enjoy it.

Mrs. Vernon Lee Forrester

Dear Mrs. Mills,

It was so nice seeing everyone at the Brewster and Community Nurses Reunion. It brought back many memories from long ago.

Most of my nursing was with the School District of Philadelphia. I was school nurse for eighteen years, but my experiences in nursing were varied and most rewarding. I ended up as a nurse-teacher and in charge of health services at Cheyney University.

With best wishes always.

Julia Folk Whitehead

The life of the Brewster and Community Nurses Alumni Association depends to some degree on the successful recruitment of younger members to carry on the Brewster tradition. Realizing that the recruitment of numbers of young nurses might not happen as they had anticipated, the members of the Association appointed the History Committee in 1989 to begin collecting information from every available source for a written history of Brewster Hospital, Brewster Methodist Hospital, Brewster Hospital School of Nursing, and Brewster-Duval School of Nursing. The completion of this volume in December 1995 is the realization of seven years of work by the History Committee to make sure that the legacies and traditions of these institutions are preserved for posterity.

MEMORIES OF OTHER TIMES



Florida Junior College at Jacksonville Foundation, Inc.

Jacksonville, Florida

presents to



*Brewster & Community
Nurses Alumni Assoc.
this*



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

as a

1976-77 FOUNDATION MEMBER

for the period beginning July 1, 1976 through June 30, 1977

Presented this

29th

day of

June

, 19

76

Signature Deleted

Signature Deleted

Executive Director

President, Florida Junior College at Jacksonville Foundation, Inc.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: The beginning was a venture of faith, a small "Sick Room" with two cots, two chairs, a table, and a cupboard. Eighteen girls paid a tuition fee of fifty cents each; and

WHEREAS: The first nurses training class and hospital work began in 1901. Several Jacksonville physicians constituted the first faculty. In four months, 417 calls were made on the sick; and

WHEREAS: In 1901, Jacksonville suffered from a terrific fire. It left thousands homeless. Negroes had no place where they could receive medical care. Christian women were aroused, made plans, and this gave birth to a medical center for Negroes called "Faith Cottage", and

WHEREAS: Twenty years later, Brewster Hospital Alumnae Association was organized; and

WHEREAS: In 1974 the name of the alumnae association was changed to encompass the graduates of Brewster Hospital, as well as other nurses associations in the community; and

WHEREAS: The objectives of Brewster and Community Nurses Alumni Association are:

- **To establish a friendly and close relationship among members.
- **To stimulate the union of graduates.
- **To promote the standards of nursing to the highest plane attainable by working together for the common goal.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ED AUSTIN, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim June 14-18, 1995, as

BREWSTER HOSPITAL ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION'S

75TH ANNIVERSARY

and urge all citizens to recognize the important contributions made by the Brewster Hospital Alumnae Association.

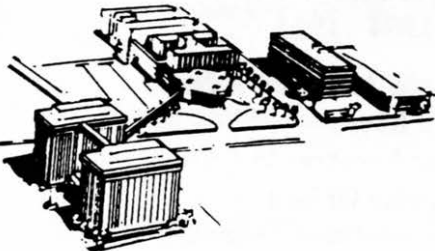


IN WITNESS WHEREOF this 15th day of June
in the year One Thousand Nine Hundred and
Ninety Five

Signature Deleted

MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA



METHODIST MEDICAL CENTER

METHODIST HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

MEDICAL CENTER PLAZA
580 WEST EIGHTH STREET • JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32209
TELEPHONE (904) 798-8200

MARCUS E. DREWA, F.A.C.H.E.

July 18, 1995

Ms. Vera W. Cruse, President
Brewster & Community Nurses Alumni Association
P. O. Box 9311
Jacksonville, Florida 32208

Dear Ms. Cruse:

Thank you for Brewster & Community Nurses Alumni Association's \$2,000 check to Methodist Hospital Foundation. I am pleased that your 75th reunion went so well. We deeply appreciate your support of the Foundation.

Cordially yours,

Signature Deleted

Marcus E. Drewa

MED/mlm



**GRADUATING CLASSES OF BREWSTER
HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING - 1904 - 1953**

1904 - Estelle Hayward	Chelsea Ambrose, R.N. Laura Reese
1905 - Connie Golden	Arline Spencer Mercedes Gilbert
1906 - Susie Dilworth Hattie Hicks	1915 - Minnie Neal, R.N. Clara Curley
1907 - Cora Johnson Anna Geiger	Claudia Mack Cassie Weber Mamie Starling, R.N. Bertha M. Moses
1908 - Hattie Hammerlyn Delsey Butler Almeda Graham (Ingraham)	1916 - Ona Mack Ruth Saxon Florence Jones Lillie Monroe Laura Lee
1909 - Celeatine Gibbons Bessie Scott Lizzie Hicks Lillie Farness	1917- No Graduates
1910 - Celestine Harrison Clara Davis Mabel Harris	1918 - Willie Meadows, R.N. Minnie Rogers
1911 - Rosa Burns Grace Young Mary Hines Mary Bright Doretha Williams	1919 - Ethel L. Harris, R.N. Keturah Anderson Clark Lillie White, R.N.
1912 - Janie White, R.N. Pearl Barnett, R.N. Maud Jones	1920 - Serena Gaskins, R.N. Enola Baker Florence Cooper Louvenia Jackson
1913 - Alice Gillislee Cora Williams Ethel Speed Alethia Mathis Sarah Brubson	1921 - Bessie Jordan, R.N. Carrie Robinson Viola Wyche
1914 - Estelle Evans, R.N.	1922 - Kiota Gainer, R.N. Lelia C. Jennings, R.N. Maud Davis, R.N. Leola Redding, R.N.

- Matilda Blackstone, R.N.
- 1923 - Virginia Murray, R.N.
 Pearl Williams, R.N.
 Lottie Anderson
- 1924 - Rosabelle Thompson, R.N.
 Theora Missouri
 Essie Mae Thompson, R.N.
 Maud Lee Bell, R.N.
 Isabelle Napoleon, R.N.
- 1925 - Mazie M. Gilbert, R.N.
 Lelia M. Williams, R.N.
 Mozelle C. Nelson, R.N.
- 1926 - Lelia M. Wilson, R.N.
 Laura A. King, R.N.
 Agnes O. Hale, R.N.
 Frances S. Minifield, R.N.
 Elizabeth Ramsey, R.N.
- 1927 - Louisa Walker
 Mildred M. Sherman, R.N.
 Irma Graverly
 Catherine Bostic, R.N.
- 1928 - Lelia C. McGriff, R.N.
 Laura O. Clark
 Lelia A. Surrency, R.N.
- 1929 - Inez L. Hogan
 Marian Gilyard, R.N.
 Iola V. Smith, R.N.
 Odessa T. Crawford
 Maggie W. Williams, R.N.
- 1930 - Ernestine Clark, R.N.
 Lillie Mae Thompkins, R.N.
 Cora Bell Brookins, R.N.
- 1931 - Evelyn Deas, R.N.
- Edyth James, R.N.
 Francis Proctor, R.N.
 Florrie Dyson, R.N.
- 1932 - Mary Theresa Hayward, R.N.
 Johnathan Albertha Jones, R.N.
 Juanita Altamese Pickens, R.N.
 Pansy Wyman McFadden, R.N.
- 1933 - Inez Elizabeth Hooks
 Viney Drucilla Williams, R.N.
 Clara Leontine Benjamin, R.N.
 Effie Mae Clark, R.N.
 Evelyn Marie Pemberton, R.N.
- 1934 - Louise Margaret Hamilton, R.N.
 Georgia Mae Lloyd, R.N.
 Phyllis Alfreda Hall, R.N.
 Louanna Constance Clayton, R.N.
 Hettie Louise Thompson, R.N.
 Ophelia Helene Johnson, R.N.
 Theresa Elizabeth Stafford, R.N.
 Doris Elizabeth Harris, R.N.
 Lonnie Elizabeth Johnosn, R.N.
 Margaret Louise Johnson, R.N.
- 1935 - Pennie Emauel, R.N.
 Thelma Farley
 Rosa Lee Harris, R.N.
 Thelma Paul, R.N.
- 1936 - Fanie Mae Bryant, R.N.
 Inez Lucretia Harris, R.N.
 Eva Mae Merkeson, R.N.
- 1937 - Mary Elizabeth Brooks, R.N.
 Mattie Theodosia Colbert, R.N.
 Susie Lillie Mae Davis, R.N.
 Pearlina Louise Fleming, R.N.
 Naomi Alberta Gaulden, R.N.
 Vernell Jackson, R.N.
 Ella Lou Francis Martin

Lilla Richmond Porter, R.N.
Ella Juanita Simmons, R. N.
Verdelle Yvonne Wiley, R.N.

Mary Sykes, R.N.
Avilla Y. Washington, R.N.
Freida West, R.N.
Earline Young, R.N.

1938 - Christine Louise Covington, R.N.
Ella Mae Durant, R.N.
Flossie Bernice Gillard, R.N.
Tennie Lee Stallworth, R.N.
Olphair Olmar Trapp, R.N.

1943 February -
Mary Elinor Lacy, R.N.
Ernestine Rutledge, R.N.
Kayte Beatrice White, R.N.

1939 - Laura Adams, R.N.
Carrie Bram, R.N.
Theodosia Calhoun, R.N.
Roberta Jennings, R.N.
Bessie Johnson, R.N.
Mary Alice Quarles, R.N.
Ora Mae Reed, R.N.
Jonnie Stevenson, R.N.
Mary Shephard, R.N.
Ruth Sylvers, R.N.

1943 September -
Irma Adams, R.N.
Paradine Alford, R.N.
Clara Brightly
Mattye Caesar, R.N.
Evelyn Calloway
Nannie Campbell, R.N.
Wilhemina Mable
Ernestine Palmer
Martha Payne
Bossie Spencer
Mayme Stevenson
Bessie Styles

1940 - Margaritte Ivory, R.N.
Evelyn Jefferson, R.N.
Naomi Jordan, R.N.
Lucille Lowery, R.N.
Annie Sue Martin, R.N.
Rachel Henry, R.N.
Irene Parrish, R.N.
Ida Mae Trapp, R.N.

1944 - Ruby Myrtle Clausell
Ida Cook
Alma Laverne Daniels
Delaware I. Hatchett
Gertrude E. Robinson
Rachel Idelia Suggs
Dorothy Lee Thompson
Mary Lee Turner
Mary Anita Rice

1941 - Zerlena Carr, R.N.
Eugenia Dines, R.N.
Julia Mae Folk, R.n.
Bernice Rogers, R.N.
Daisy Mae Wilson, R.N.

1945 - Claudia Bell, R.N.
Hattie Gore, R.N.
Margaret Ingraham, R.N.
Ida McHenry, R.N.
Elsie Norris, R.N.
Josephine Pugh, R.N.

1942 - Sara Alexander, R.N.
Evelyn Jackson, R.N.
Irma Mack, R.N.
Elsie Reed, R.N.
Mary Scott, R.N.
Abbie Sweetwine, R.N.

1946 - Annie Bell Brown, R.N.

Ada Catherine Clausell, R.N.
Frankie Frost, R.N.
Helen Harley, R.N.
Lilly Belle Johnson, R.N.
Estella Elnora Long, R.N.
Nellie McClendon, R.N.
Doris McLaughlin, R.N.
Ferreta Decleon Peterkin, R.N.
Perry Lee Richerson, R.N.
Essie Mae Steeples, R.N.

1947 - Yvonne Allenm, R.N.
Annie Mae Campbell, R.N.
Mary Calloway, R.N.
Inez Carter, R.N.
Almorise Days, R.N.
Flossie Galloway
Bernice Leaks
Katherine McCants, R.N.
Nelse Rankins, R.N.
Eunice Singletary, R.N.
Eleanor Brown
Mary Collier, R.N.
Ophelia Ford, R.N.
Eartha Mae Parker, R.N.
Elizabeth Philpot
Marguerite Wilkins, R.N.

1948 February -
Edith Baker
Vernon Lee Benjamin
Reatha Bruell
Mary Louise Bryant
Elizabeth Hedgley
Inez Senior
Ruth Summerford
Lois Williams

1948 September -
Bettye Dixon
Willie Mae Goodall
Lillie Mae Hill

Beatrice Holmes
Jessie Mae Jackson
Marion Vivian Johnson
Florence Ruth King
Lucinda Neeley
Mary Newton
Shirley Wall

1949 February -
Gloria Felicia Hadley
Myrtle Wyonella Simons

1949 September -
Doris Marie Black
Hannah Pearl Cummings
Altamese Anita Graham
Evelyn Arlean Morse
Blanche Alyce Pinkney
Mildred Bernice Neal
Geneva Alpine Scott
Lorraine Marjorie Scott
Nellye Elizabeth White

1950 February -
Albertha Carley
Rosella Gordon
Clara Howard
Maxie Manning
Helen Parker
Ruth Peterson
Thurthez Powell

1950 - Elnora Adams
Elizabeth Anderson
Mable Carwise
Muriel Exson
Mary Gabriel
Willie Lee Harris
O'June Kelly
Hilda Lewis
Mildred Royal
Doris Samue
Lillie Mae York

1951 February -

Louise Addison
Grace Brown
Doris Drummond
Elnora Jenkins
Albertha Ryals
Bessie Lee Wilder
Vera Williams

Ruby Lee Johnson
Lillie B. Simmons
Priscilla Smith
Alice Tunsil
Mable Joyce Vernon
Mildred Walker
Doris Wiggins
Evelyn Williams
Marie Williams

1951 September -

Constance Allen
Earice Carter
Gloria Dillard
Estelle Ingram
Lillie Mae Jackson
Rosa Lee Myers
Gwendolyn Scott

1953 -

Annie L. Allen
Magatta Bains
Lena Bennet
Myrtis Brown
Helen Bryant
Martha Council
Geraldine Ervin
Doretha Ford
Rose Frison
Willie Goodson
Cynthia Hannah
Gloria Kinchen
Elouise Koonce
McLeon Lawson
Mildred Lyons
Annie B. Roberson
Marian E. Rogers
Josie M. Seabrooks
Ethel Williams

1952 February -

Evelyn Austin
Mary Christine Bickers
Rhudine Bowden
Pollye Deneffield
Juanita Dunkins
Eva Ford
Hazel Lee Garrison
Aurelia Henley
Ethel Lee Jackson

NOTE: Names and R.N. status of the graduating classes of Brewster Hospital School of Nursing were taken from the handwritten ledger of records of nursing students kept at Methodist Medical Center. Names of the 1953 class were given by Mrs. Doretha Ford Brown. Members of the Brewster and Community Nurses Alumni Association were unable to obtain a complete record from the Florida State Board of Nursing.

**GRADUATING CLASSES OF BREWSTER-DUVAL
SCHOOL OF NURSING - 1957 - 1963**

1957 - Ernestine Brown
 Willie Mae Dawson
 Alice Faison
 Dorothy M. Gauldin
 Tommie Grace
 Annie Mae Hall
 Burny Holland
 Eldra Jackson
 Gloria James
 Earline P. Linder
 Caruther Manning
 Cornelia Mills
 Dorothy Odom
 Lola Mae Prime
 Constance Rice
 Grace Spires
 Odessa Travis
 Delores Fredrica West

Betty Calhoun
 Joan Crawford
 Jacqueline Hendry
 Betty Hutchinson
 Barbara Linder
 Pauline Riley
 Sarah Speights
 Francina Wade
 Sadie Wiggins
 Vivian Yoeman
 Rosa Zorn

1961 - Alfronia Chisholm
 Delores Duncan
 Florence Forester
 Ella Mae Hatcher
 Sarah A. Collins Sharper
 Annie Mae Tucker
 Mae E. Fletcher Williams

1958 - Allie Brooks
 Almetya Johnson
 Annie Miller
 Jennie Robertson
 Leida Belle Williams

1962 - Gladys Anderson
 Trannie Harris Bailey
 Deloria Darby
 Edna Cecilia Dawkins
 Wanda Fox
 Patricia Gibbs
 Jacquelyn Goldsmith
 Dorothy Green
 Bernice Head
 Josephine Hudson
 Gloria Love
 Regina McCloud
 Mary Pollock
 Bettye Washington Rosemond
 Eloyce Sampson
 Alma Flowers Walden
 Betty Ann Williams

1959 - Mary Albury
 Agnes Chatmen
 Sylvania Dawson
 Marie Dooms
 Mary Henderson
 Bertha Mae Howard
 Mae Evelyn McCants
 Jacqueline Patterson
 Bernice Parker
 Hattie I. Scruggs
 Carolyn Tate
 Wynetta Johnson

1960 - Jeanette Barber
 Jean Bradley

1963 - Annie Mae Cook
Rutha Lee Cotton
Ella Mae Grayes
Lemira Hinson
Constance Jones
Betty Curry Lathan
Gladys Noel Latimer
Marie M. Proctor
Patricia L. Shipp
Louise L. Wright

NOTE: Names of graduating classes of Brewster-Duval School of Nursing were taken from "History of Brewster-Duval School of Nursing," compiled as a project for History of Nursing Class, 1961.

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