

Early Harlan Hospitals and Doctor's offices

Ida Murphy Hospital established in July 1926

2103 7th Street -- The first Harlan hospital was established July 1926, by Drs. James and Dewey (son) Bisgard. The hospital was operated by Mrs. Ida Murphy and referred to as the Ida Murphy Hospital.

Dr. James Bisgard settled in Harlan in 1894 and had two sons who both became doctors: Drs. Dewey and Carl V. Bisgard.

Harlan Republican

July 22, 1926 - A new day of special significance in Harlan and Shelby County will dawn. Tomorrow Harlan's first hospital will be opened. Dr. Jas. C. Bisgard and his son, Dr. Dewey Bisgard, have financed and equipped the Perry Gaer residence as a hospital.

The hospital has 15 beds, there will be modern equipment, x-ray and an operating room. Mrs. Ida Murphy will be in charge of the hospital.



Compiled by Maggie Hatcher and Alan Mores

Hospital relocates to 1209 7th St., changes name to Harlan Hospital

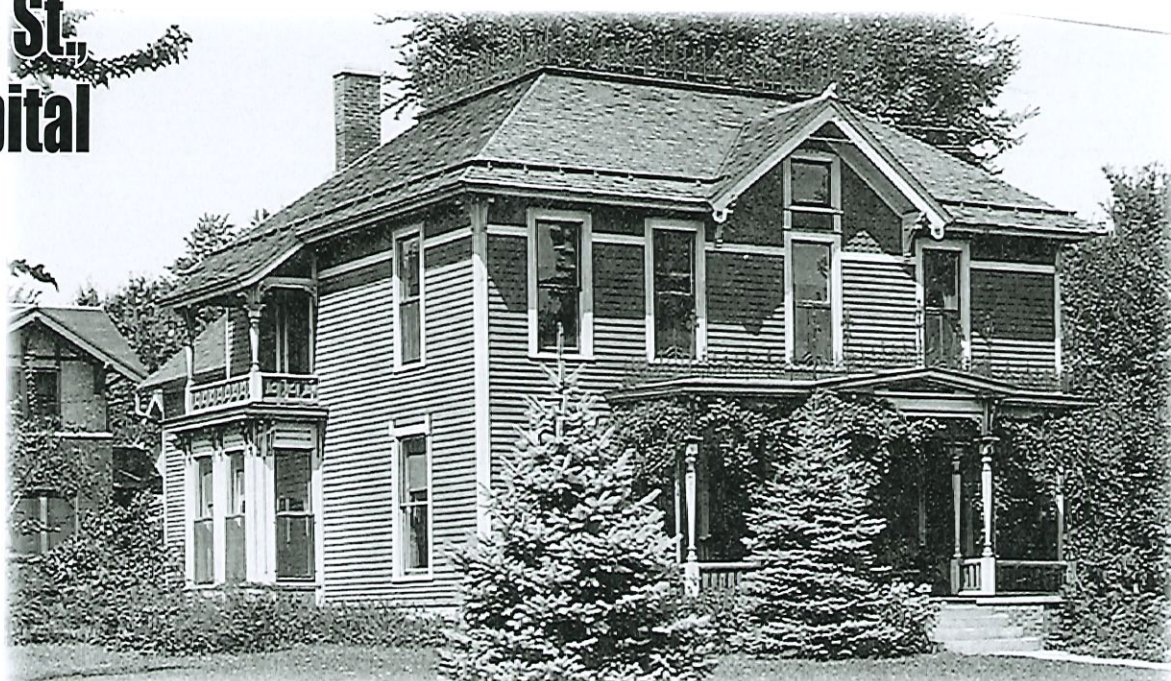
1209 7th Street -- In late 1929, Ida Murphy moved her hospital from 2103 7th Street to Dr. Elliott A. Cobb's home at 1209 7th St.

Cobb had opened his medical practice in Harlan in 1880.

This second hospital had 15 beds, and it was called the "Harlan Hospital."

But in 1936 the hospital had to be moved to make way for a new Post Office.

The house/hospital was moved to 912 Farnam (see next page).



Dr. Cobb's home, later becomes a hospital, photo is circa 1880 - 1890.



Harlan Hospital circa 1920's,
now the site of
the Harlan Post Office.

Harlan Hospital moves a third time to 912 Farnam, closes in 1947



Photo 2012 - 912 Farnam is now an apartment building.

912 Farnam Street -- In April 1935 the 15-bed Harlan Hospital at 1209 7th St., was moved from to 912 Farnam to make way for a new Post Office.

From 1936 - 1947 it served as a hospital, then it closed for one year leaving Harlan without a hospital.

Harlan Republican -- April 11, 1935 - Mrs. Ida Murphy's hospital has been reopened about two weeks ago at its new location at 10th and Farnam Streets and since its reopening has been used considerably by the hospital needing folks of the locality.



Photo 1940s - 912 Farnam, Harlan Hospital,



Photo 2012 - 407 Durant St.



Photo 2012 - 411 Durant St.



Photo circa 1900s - 411 Durant St.

Bisgard Hospital, becomes Harlan's second hospital in 1928

407 & 411 Durant Streets - It soon became apparent, that Harlan needed more hospital beds than the 15-bed Harlan Hospital on 2103 7th St. Drs. James and Dewey Bisgard sometimes had more pa-

tients than could be accommodated at the hospital. So their family home at 407 Durant (photos above) was converted into an eight-bed hospital in 1928.

Mrs. L.C. White, daughter of the late Dr. James

Bisgard, operated the Bisgard Hospital. She continued to manage it after it was moved across the street in 1930 to 412 Durant St. (Kinsey property)

Bisgard Hospital relocates in 1930, closes in '31, re-opens in '48

412 Durant Street - In 1930 the Bisgard Hospital moved across the street to 412 Durant and closed in 1931 when Dr. Dewey Bisgard sought more surgery training in Chicago and later moved his surgical practice to Omaha.

Fast forward to 1947 and Harlan has no hospital. In March 1948, Dr. Carl Bisgard, the younger son of Dr. James Bisgard, reopened "Bisgard Hospital" at 412 Durant St. In 1949 he was joined by L.V. Larsen following time with the U.S. Army.

It was operated by Bisgard's nurse, Mrs. Martha Sorensen from 1948 - 1950, and from 1950-1954 by Miss Alma Olson.

to Harlan once a week to do major surgeries and kept involved in the community."

He said the "Hospital" had two floors with the first floor primarily for child delivery and the second floor for surgery and patient recovery.

"Carrying patients up and down those stairs to the second floor was quite an experience - it's amazing the changes that have occurred in the last 60 years."

"It was fortunate that the Bisgards had the guts to start a hospital in Harlan, when I arrived in 1949 the biggest selling point for me was the often discussed prospect of building a new hospital -- and it finally came to fruition in 1954 and we closed our hospital."

In 1954, a new hospital was built and Miss Olson joined the staff at new Myrtue Memorial



July 1954 - 412 Durant right before it closed.



2012 - 412 Durant former hospital is now an apartment bldg. Hospital as did Drs. Carl Bisgard and L.V. Larsen

Larsen comments on the Bisgard Hospital

Larsen said, "Dr. Dewey Bisgard did return

Dream of local Danish immigrant helps make hospital a reality

A Shelby County youth who left home at 16 to start farming on his own was destined to have one of Iowa's finest county hospitals named after him.

The original \$1 million Myrtue Memorial Hospital was started from funds representing 63 years of accumulation through the thrift and hard work of Chris Myrtue.

When Andrew Myrtue brought his wife and 10 children to America from Denmark in 1880, Chris, the third child in the family, was ten. He bore his share of hard work in clearing prairie and breaking sod to wrest a living from the land.

ON HIS OWN

Chris Myrtue felt the urge to make his own way while in his early teens. Bare living necessities were not enough reward for hard work to the ambitious lad who, with his four brothers, helped his father establish the Myrtue homestead in Shelby County's Lincoln township.

When 16-year-old Chris left home, he rented a nearby farm and began his bachelor existence. Though his father would have no more to do with his headstrong son, his mother smuggled food and home baked bread to her son's barren kitchen.

His pioneering days over, Chris bought a 160-acre farm at Correctionville, IA, which he farmed for a few years and later sold to buy more land in Lincoln township.

During the depression and drought years, Myrtue seemed to be able to make money from his land when others failed. He never seemed to have any desire to acquire a hired hand. He was wedded to his land and the land repaid him for his devotion.

SIMPLE LIFE

As his acres accumulated and though he owned five farms, Chris Myrtue lived in the simplest surroundings. His home had but the barest necessities. When relatives came to help him prepare for harvest hands, they often had to bring cooking utensils and dishes from their own homes.

Cooking was done on a battered range, the fire fed with cobs and wood. A coal oil lamp was his light in the evenings and his luxury was a radio from which he got his market reports. Hired men, whom he reluctantly found it necessary to engage when work was heaviest, always had to cook the meals.

HEALTH WEAKENS

In his later years, Myrtue relied more heavily on relatives when ill health overtook him. Though he rallied from pneumonia, he spent several months recuperating at the home of his brother, Martin.

It was after he had been critically ill in the Harlan Hospital then operated by Alma Olson and Ida Murphy, that he made his will. Close friends and executors, Lee White, an attorney, and Morris Frederickson, a local builder, said Myrtue had long before discussed with them the possibility of a new Harlan hospital. Both assured him it was a logical place to put his money.

That was in August 1944. Myrtue died in January 1945 at the age of 75.



Myrtue Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees gathered for a July 1952 photo of the cornerstone laying for the hospital.

They included (front row, from left): George Hurley, Harlan; and Stanley Volga, administrator; (second row, from left): Joseph Leinen, Portsmouth; Robert Sullivan, Panama; Lee White, Harlan, the hospital's attorney; James Wickersham, Irwin; Edgar Larson, Harlan; and Marion Boose, Elk Horn; back row: Morris Frederickson, Harlan.

Even as his acres accumulated and though he owned five farms, Chris Myrtue lived in the simplest surroundings and his home had but the barest necessities.



Early Harlan Doctors

(dates are when began practice)

- Dr. W. J. Ault -- 1852
- Dr. L. D. Frost -- 1863
- Dr. J. W. Johnston -- 1860s
- Dr. R. M. Smith -- 1870s
- Dr. F. A. Bayer -- 1872
- Dr. W. H. Thermong -- 1874
- Dr. Cowles -- 1877
- Dr. Ransom Harris -- 1877
- Dr. J.R. Teller -- 1877
- Dr. Edwin B. Moore -- 1878
- Dr. J. H. Haslett -- 1878
- Dr. Franklin -- 1879
- Dr. Cartlich -- 1880
- Dr. Elliot A. Cobb -- 1880
- Dr. E. J. Smith -- 1880
- Dr. J. C. Dunlavy -- 1880s
- Dr. E. L. Cook -- 1880s
- Dr. J. H. Waite -- 1880s
- Dr. G. W. Todd -- 1881
- Dr. James Bisgaard -- 1894
- Dr. Edwin A. Moore -- 1903
- Dr. F.R. Lintleman -- 1900s
- Dr. Herman Bocken -- 1900s
- Dr. James Dewey Bisgard -- 1920's
- Dr. Carl V. Bisgard -- 1930s
- Dr. Jos. H. Spearing -- 1947
- Dr. L.V. Larsen -- 1949
- Dr. Robert E. Donlin -- 1948
- Dr. W.S. Markham -- 1955

Longtime Harlan Medical Staff



Carl V. Bisgard, MD



Robert E. Donlin, MD



L.V. Larsen, MD



G.E. Larson, MD
Elk Horn



W.S. Markham, MD



Jos. H. Spearing, MD



R. Duane Harris, MD



Wing-Tai Fung, MD



Dilip Parikh, MD, Surgeon

Other early Doctors who began at the new Myrtue Hospital



Norman West, MD
Avoca



Charles Huntley, MD
Avoca



Allen Ryan, MD
Harlan



Edward Vosika, MD



1954 - Myrtue Memorial Hospital

Compiled by Maggie Hatcher and Alan Mores



411 Durant -- (pictured above and below) was the home of Dr. James Bisgard who settled in Harlan in 1894. Son James Dewey Bisgard joined his father from 1924-1929, then relocated to Omaha.

Another son, Dr. Carl V. Bisgard returned to assist his father in 1931, opened a hospital across the street at 412 Durant St. and he later joined Myrtue Memorial Hospital in 1954.

Early Doctor's Offices in Harlan



Carl V. Bisgard, MD



DRS MOORE PRIVATE HOSPITAL, HARLAN, IOWA

1205 7th Street -- The home of pioneering physician Dr. E.B. Moore who began practicing medicine in Harlan in 1878 out of home as did many early physicians.

His son, Dr. E.A. Moore carried on in 1903. This home was sold to library association in the early 1900s for construction of the H.H. Paup Library, now the site of the Harlan business -- ESP - Elite Sales Processing.

Early Harlan Hospitals and Doctor's offices

First hospital in July 1926

2103 7th Street -- The first Harlan hospital was established July 1926, by Drs. James and Dewey (son) Bisgard on the property owned by Perry Gaer. The hospital was operated by Mrs. Ida Murphy and often referred to as the Ida Murphy Hospital.

Harlan Republican

July 22, 1926 - A new day of special significance in Harlan and Shelby County will dawn. Tomorrow Harlan's first hospital will be opened. Dr. Jas. C. Bisgard and his son, Dr. Dewey Bisgard, have financed and equipped the residence property belong to Perry Gaer as a hospital.

The hospital will house 15 beds, There will be modern equipment, x-ray and an operating room. Mrs. Ida Murphy will be in charge of that hospital.



Hospital relocates to 1209 7th Street

1209 7th Street -- In late 1929, Dr. Herman Bocken purchased the Cobb residence to begin a hospital with Ida Murphy moved her hospital from 2103 7th Street (above photo) to Dr. Elliott A. Cobb's home at 1209 7th St.

Cobb had opened his medical practice in Harlan in 1880.

This second hospital had 15 beds, and it was called the "Harlan Hospital."

In 1936 the hospital had to be moved to make way for a new Post Office.

It relocated to 912 Farnam where it served as a hospital until 1947. Miss Alma Olson (Ida Murphy's sister) was her assistant.



Compiled by Maggie Hatcher and Alan Mores



Post office needs land, so Harlan Hospital physically moved to 912 Farnam



912 Farnam Street -- In April 1935 the 15-bed Harlan Hospital at 1209 7th St., was physically moved from its old site to make way for the new Post Office.

The hospital was transported to 912 Farnam Street. Miss Alma Olson (sister to Ida Murphy) was her Murphy's assistant. From 1936 - 1947 it served as a hospital, then it closed for one year leaving Harlan without a hospital.

Harlan Republican -- April 11, 1935 - Mrs. Ida Murphy's hospital has been reopened about two weeks ago at its new location at 10th and Farnam Streets and since its reopening has been used considerably by the hospital needing folks of the locality.

Second hospital establish in 1928 by Bisgard's

407 Durant Street - In 1928, due to a shortage of beds, Drs. James and Dewey (son) Bisgard opened a second eight-bed hospital in their family home, 407 Durant.

That hospital was operated by Mrs. L.C. White (Dr. James Bisgard's daughter).



Moves across the street in 1930

412 Durant Street - In 1930 the hospital moved across the street to 412 Durant (the Kinsey property) but it was closed in 1931 when Dr. Dewey Bisgard moved to Chicago.

In 1947 the hospital at 912 Farnam (top left photo) was closed, leaving Harlan with no hospital, but in March 1948, Dr. Carl Bisgard, the younger son of Dr. James Bisgard, reopened "Bisgard Hospital" at 412 Durant St.

It was operated by Bisgard's nurse, Mrs. Martha Sorensen from 1948 - 1950, and from 1950-1954 it was operated by Miss Alma Olson until it closed.

In 1954, a new hospital was built and Miss Olson joined the staff at new Myrtue Memorial Hospital as did Dr. Carl Bisgard. Myrtue was named after Chris A. Myrtue, the hospital's benefactor.

