

HEALING AND HOPE: HOSPITALS' LEGACY OF SERVICE IN VIRGINIA



A 2026 Original Documentary Film

Presented By:

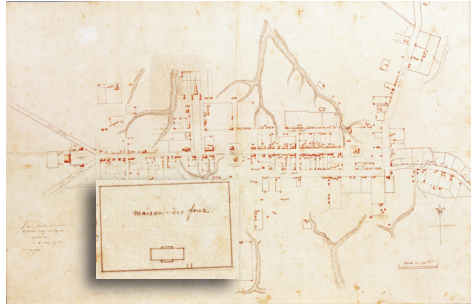


VIRGINIA HOSPITAL &
HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATION

PAST TO PRESENT: A BRIEF SUMMARY OF HOSPITAL HISTORY IN VIRGINIA

The history of hospitals in Virginia can be traced back to the 1760s when the Virginia House of Burgesses was petitioned to construct a public hospital for individuals with mental illness. In October 1773, the Public Hospital in Williamsburg admitted its first patients. Today, that facility is Eastern State Hospital, a state behavioral health hospital.

More hospitals were established in the 1800s. VCU Health's origins date to 1838 when what later became the Medical College of Virginia opened. Nearly 20 years later, the first infirmary for student care was established on the University of Virginia campus in 1857. Meanwhile, the Hospital of St. Vincent de Paul was founded in Norfolk in 1856.



*The "Frenchman's Map" of Williamsburg (1782) shows the Public Hospital as "maison les four"
Credit: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation*

In 1870, Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C. was established as one of the nation's first children's hospitals. What is today known as Inova Alexandria Hospital can trace its roots to 1872 and the efforts of a group of concerned women from the community.

Two current HCA Healthcare hospitals – Retreat Doctors' Hospital and Parham Doctors' Hospital – were established in 1877 and 1882, respectively. In 1888, a small hospital opened in Norfolk. It marked the start of what we currently know as Sentara Health. Danville had a Home for the Sick in 1884.

Sheltering Arms Institute, a modern rehabilitation provider, was established in 1889. The predecessor to Lake Taylor Transitional Care Hospital, a Norfolk-based long-term care provider, dates back to 1890.

The Roanoke Hospital Association was formed in 1899; the 30-bed Roanoke Hospital (Carilion Clinic) opened the next year. Mary Washington Healthcare traces its



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lineage to 1899 with the formation of an eight-room hospital in Fredericksburg. The University of Virginia hospital opened in 1901. The Richmond Community Hospital (Bon Secours) committee was formed in 1902. The opening of a 36-bed Winchester Memorial Hospital (Valley Health) occurred in 1903. Abingdon's first hospital had a 12-bed capacity. It was established in 1905 by a local doctor; that facility was an early predecessor to Johnston Memorial Hospital (Ballad Health).

The concept for an early hospital in Newport News (Riverside Health) goes back to 1910. Lynchburg General Hospital (Centra Health) dates to 1911. A rural traveling nurse program founded in 1913 is part of the origin of Bath Community Hospital in Hot Springs.

In 1926, 13 hospital leaders formed the Virginia Hospital Association “to promote the welfare of the people through the development of hospital and outpatient service.”

Additional hospitals – from Northern Virginia to Hampton Roads and Southwest Virginia to the Shenandoah Valley – have been established in the past century. They collaborate to improve quality and enhance access to care in pursuit of making Virginia the healthiest state in the nation. Recent highlights of that work include treating more than 140,000 COVID-19 patients during the pandemic, and providing more than \$3.6 billion so far to fund Medicaid expansion, helping 550,000-plus Virginians gain health coverage.

Today, as we celebrate a century of service, VHHA counts 26 health systems representing 117 hospitals as members. In 2024, those hospitals saw 4.45 million patient days. They handled 92 percent of behavioral health admissions statewide, delivered more than 87,000 babies, had \$68.8 billion in positive economic impact for Virginia, and provided more than 138,000 direct jobs with \$13.7 billion in payroll and benefits.

Hospitals do all this and more amid an increasingly challenging financial and policy environment with the potential to impact their long-term stability.



THROUGH THE YEARS: VIRGINIA HOSPITALS DEPICTED IN PHOTOS



*Postcard - Winchester Memorial Hospital
Postmarked October 1906
Credit: Library of Virginia*



*Medical College of Virginia Hospital - Richmond, Virginia
Credit: Library of Virginia*

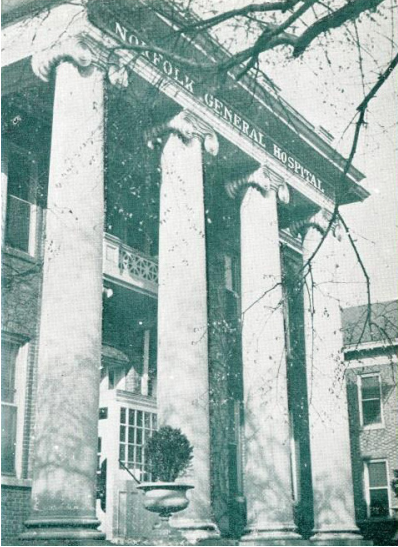


*Norfolk Protestant Hospital, Class of 1910
Credit: Library of Virginia*



*Halifax Community Hospital
1943 Dedication Event
Credit: Library of Virginia*

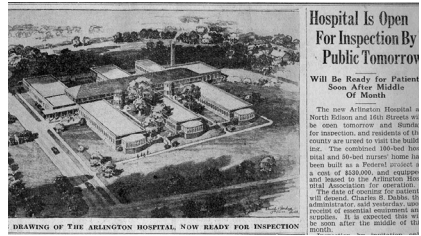
THROUGH THE YEARS: VIRGINIA HOSPITALS DEPICTED IN PHOTOS



Norfolk General Hospital, 1943
Credit: Library of Virginia



Postcard - Roanoke Memorial Hospital
Credit: Library of Virginia



1944 News Article on Opening of Arlington Hospital
Credit: Library of Virginia



Site of Chesapeake General Hospital, which Opened in 1976
Credit: Chesapeake Regional Healthcare



Postcard - General Hospital, Danville, VA
Postmarked October 1906
Credit: Library of Virginia



THROUGH THE YEARS: VIRGINIA HOSPITALS DEPICTED IN PHOTOS



NORTON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Norton Community Hospital
Credit: VHHA Archives



Western State Hospital Ward
Credit: Library of Virginia



UVA Anatomical Hall Used for Medical Demonstrations
Credit: Claude Moore Health Sciences Library Historical Collections - UVA



Rockingham Memorial Hospital, Harrisonburg, Va.

Postcard - Rockingham Memorial Hospital
Credit: Library of Virginia



Soldiers Home, General Hospital, Hampton, Va.

Postcard - Soldiers Home General Hospital, Hampton, VA,
Postmarked 1909
Credit: Library of Virginia



THROUGH THE YEARS: VIRGINIA HOSPITALS DEPICTED IN PHOTOS



Southside Community Hospital, Farmville, Virginia

*Postcard - Southside Community Hospital, Farmville, VA
Credit: Library of Virginia*



*Norfolk General Hospital - Health Careers Bus
Credit: VHHA Archives*



*Keep Our Virginia Hospitals Alive
Credit: VHHA Archives*



*During COVID-19 PPE Shortages, Riverside Health Developed a Technique to Clean and Repurpose N95 Masks
Credit: VHHA Archives*

THROUGH THE YEARS: VIRGINIA HOSPITALS DEPICTED IN PHOTOS



*Former Virginia Governor Ralph Northam Enacting Medicaid Expansion in 2018
Credit: VHHA Archives*



*Mary Washington Healthcare Converts Parking Garage into a Field Hospital During COVID-19
Credit: VHHA Archives*



*National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Near Fort Monroe, VA
Circa 1870s-1880s
Credit: Library of Virginia*



*FRONT VIEW—JEFFERSON HOSPITAL
DR. HUBB H. TROUT'S PRIVATE HOSPITAL, ROANOKE, VA.
Postcard - Jefferson Hospital, Roanoke, VA
Postmarked 1906
Credit: Library of Virginia*



THROUGH THE YEARS: VIRGINIA HOSPITALS DEPICTED IN PHOTOS



789. HOME AND RETREAT HOSPITAL AND NURSES HOME, LYNCHBURG, VA.

Postcard - Home and Retreat Hospital and Nurses Home, Lynchburg, VA
Credit: Library of Virginia



Soldiers Home, General Hospital, Hampton, Va.

Postcard - Soldier's Home General Hospital, Hampton, VA
Postmarked 1909
Credit: Library of Virginia

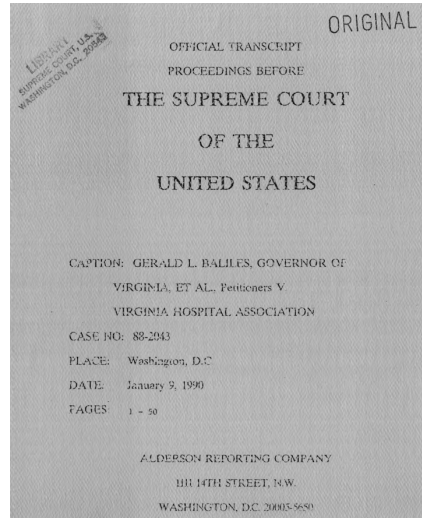


CIVIL WAR HOSPITAL ON BROOK ROAD
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Rendering - Civil War Hospital on Brook Road in Richmond
Credit: Library of Virginia



Virginia Hospital Association Annual Meeting, Williamsburg, VA, 1981
Credit: VHHHA Archives



1990 Transcript - U.S. Supreme Court Hearing on State Medicaid Payments (Virginia Hospital Association)
Credit: U.S. Supreme Court



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- Augusta Health
- Ballad Health
- Bath Community Hospital
- Bon Secours
- Buchanan General Hospital
- Carilion Clinic
- Centra Health
- Chesapeake Regional Healthcare
- Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters
- Children's National Hospital
- Encompass Health
- HCA Virginia
- Inova
- Lake Taylor Transitional Care Hospital
- Lifepoint Health
- Mary Washington Healthcare
- Riverside Health
- Select Specialty Hospitals
- Sentara Health
- Sheltering Arms Institute
- Summit BHC
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