

**1990s**

**A TUNNEL UNDER OLD YORK ROAD**



In 1992, workers bore below Old York Road, building a tunnel to connect the Levy Medical Plaza and Garage with the Elkins Building and future Toll Pavilion. Called the York Road Link, the brightly lit tunnel opened in June 1994.



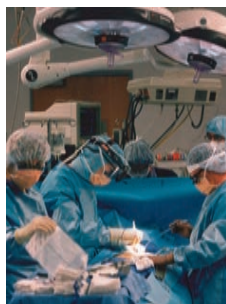
Oscar P. Vance, Jr. McKinley Lennox Shirley M. Dennis Robert J. Smith, Ph.D.

**MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMITTEE FOUNDED**

The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Fund Committee was created in 1991.

**FIRST OPEN HEART SURGERY**

Open heart surgery begins at Abington Memorial Hospital in 1996.



**2000s**

**JOHN J. "JACK" KELLY, M.D., NAMED CHIEF OF STAFF**



In July 2004, John J. "Jack" Kelly, M.D. was appointed chief of staff of Abington Memorial Hospital when David J. Eskin, M.D., retired. Kelly started his career at AMH in 1983. Kelly was chair of the Department of Medicine, director of the AMH Physician Network and chief patient safety officer.



**AHC - Warminster Opens**  
In 2007, AMH purchased the former Warminster Hospital and transformed it into a convenient outpatient center.

**AH EXPANDS LOCATIONS**

**Lansdale Hospital** - In 2008, Abington Memorial Hospital purchased the former Central Montgomery Medical Center in Lansdale, renaming the facility Lansdale Hospital.



**2010s**

**MERLIS BECOMES PRESIDENT AND CEO**

Laurence M. Merlis became president and CEO in 2010 following a national search. He succeeded Richard L. Jones, Jr., who retired after 30 years of service at AMH. Merlis took the helm at a time of significant change in healthcare delivery, bringing to AMH his 25-plus years of hospital leadership experience.



**NEW OUTPATIENT FACILITIES**

**AHC - Blue Bell** - In 2013, Abington Health opened Abington Health Center - Blue Bell, a comprehensive outpatient facility featuring physician practices, Imaging and Laboratory services.

**Urgent Care Centers** - In 2014, Abington Health launched two Urgent Care Centers in Feasterville and Flourtown. The Urgent Care Centers provide quality, affordable and convenient medical services for urgent health concerns that don't require an Emergency Department visit.



**A MESSAGE FROM LARRY MERLIS, PRESIDENT & CEO**

I am proud to be part of Abington Health as we celebrate AMH's Centennial. Generations of families have placed their trust in Abington, and with sound guidance from hospital trustees, a supporting and committed community, and the dedication of our talented physicians, staff and volunteers, the hospital enters its second century stronger than ever.

Every day, with every interaction, we remain committed to our patients and I look forward to providing the highest level of health care to our community for the next 100 years.

Larry Merlis  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer  
Abington Health



**Celebrating 100 Years**

 **Abington Memorial Hospital**



MAY 15, 2014

**AMH THROUGH THE YEARS**

A century ago, a vision for health care in our community began to develop. George W. Elkins, Sr., a prominent citizen and local Abington land owner, saw the need for something beyond his cornfields...a hospital.

One of the tenets of our mission today - patient safety - was utmost in his mind even then. Legend has it that he was one of the few individuals who owned a car, and he often helped transport the injured and sick to the nearest hospital, eight long and rough miles away. When a passenger died en route,

he knew it was time to act - to create a hospital for Abington and surrounding communities.

In 1912, Mr. Elkins donated land to begin to make his vision a reality. Long before the hospital opened its doors, the community rallied and the **Women's Board** was formed in 1913 to plan and raise funds. That same year, the cornerstone was laid, and on May 15, 1914, Abington Memorial Hospital officially opened its doors. A school for training nurses also opened in 1914.

**AMH THROUGH THE YEARS**

Visit the 100th Anniversary webpage [www.abingtonhealth.org/100](http://www.abingtonhealth.org/100) to view the hundreds of entries in the complete timeline.

**1910s**



**CORNERSTONE IS LAID**

**September 25, 1913** - The cornerstone of Abington Memorial Hospital was laid in a public ceremony. Posing for the occasion were Leon H. Gilbert, left, first secretary to the Board of Trustees, and George W. Elkins, Jr. The trowel used at the occasion is displayed in the AMH Wall of History. The engraving reads: Presented to Mr. George W. Elkins by the Trustees of the Abington Memorial Hospital, September 25, 1913.

**NEW HOSPITAL OPENS ITS DOORS**



**May 15, 1914** - Completed and opened to the public, the original hospital had 48 beds, six graduate nurses and nine student nurses. The hospital dedicated three days for public inspection. It was estimated that more than 10,000 people visited the hospital during those three days, bringing donations including vegetables, jelly, flour and canned fruit. In the first year, the hospital treated 763 patients and expanded to 62 beds.

**BIRD'S EYE VIEW**

**1920s**



Here's a look at AMH from the Thirteenth Annual Report, year ending March, 1927. The Founder's Building is on the right. The Isolation Building is in the background, near Highland Avenue.

**AMH DIDN'T ALWAYS HAVE A STEEPLE**

The Elkins Building, then called Administration Building, in February 1928, before the familiar community symbol, the cupola we today call the hospital's steeple, was added in 1930.



**MEDICAL DEPARTMENTS ORGANIZED**

**1930s**



1931 – The medical staff was organized into departments, bringing significant staff expansion. A photo of medical staff members circa mid-1930s.



**NURSE EDNA'S PHOTO ALBUM**

This photo is part of a treasured photo album kept by AMH nurse Edna Thomas, circa 1937 – 1938, and donated to the hospital in 1971. You can view more of these photos on our website - [www.abingtonhealth.org/100](http://www.abingtonhealth.org/100). Over the last 100 years, an estimated 240,000 babies were born at AMH.

**OLDEST CAR AT JUNE FETE**

**1950s**



Nurses from AMH joined George W. Elkins, Jr., in 1953 as he posed in an 1898 Autocar at his "Justa Farm," in Huntingdon Valley at the 40th annual June Fete. The Autocar was the oldest of more than 125 cars in the antique Auto Show held as part of the Fete that year.

**ALONZO SUDLER, DIRECTOR OF PHARMACY**

Alonzo Sudler, director of Pharmacy, was the first African-American department head at the hospital. He was a mentor for many who worked and trained in the Pharmacy.



**AIR CONDITIONING INSTALLED**

Once considered a luxury, air conditioning is now recognized as an important to patient comfort. In 1958, the hospital installed 206 units to cool patient areas in the summer months. Funds from the Annual Appeal enabled the hospital to purchase the air conditioners.



**1940s**



**MEMORIAL NURSES' HOME (DIXON BUILDING) CONSTRUCTED**

1942 – The Memorial Nurses' Home (now the Dixon Building), including living quarters, classrooms and a gymnasium, was presented to the hospital by Mrs. Eleanor Widener Dixon as a memorial to her mother.

**NEW TECHNOLOGY IN MEDICAL RECORDS**

The hospital began to transfer medical records to microfilm around 1944 when storage became a problem. While admission charts and other data from 1914 to 1918 remained in book form, records from 1919 to 1944 were microfilmed. This took 748 reels of film, which the hospital kept in one, 10-drawer filing cabinet. To illustrate the space saved, the same records stored in their original form would have required 85, four-drawer cabinets.



**FIRST WOMAN NAMED DEPARTMENT CHIEF**

**1960s**

In 1965, Abington Memorial Hospital's Coronary Care Unit was the second to be established in the Delaware Valley.



**FIRST CORONARY CARE UNIT AT AMH**

J. Roderick Kitchell, M.D., director of the Medical Service and physician-in-chief of the Cardiovascular Service, was a pioneer in the development of coronary care units in the U.S.



In 1966, Bernadette E. K. Twardy, M.D., became the first woman to head a medical department when she was named Physician-in-Chief of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. She succeeded Albert Martucci, M.D., the late chief at AMH, under whom she trained. A graduate of Women's Medical College, Dr. Twardy interned in Abington Memorial Hospital and served a three-year residency in physical medicine and rehabilitation at Philadelphia General Hospital.

**NURSES' SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON**

Having chosen to dedicate their fundraising to Nursing Scholarships, the auxiliaries hosted the first Nurses' Scholarship Luncheon in 1972 at the Buck Hotel with lunch, a fashion show, raffle items and a special "Golden Opportunity" donated by Straub Jewelers. This event continues today as the premier fundraiser hosted by the auxiliaries.



**1970s**



**FETAL MONITORS INSTALLED**

In 1976, four fetal monitors were installed in the AMH delivery suite to detect possible complications during labor. By looking at an unborn baby's heartbeat via a continuous electrocardiograph (EKG) print-out, and comparing this with the mother's contractions, the infant's status could be determined.

**1980s**



**AHC – SCHILLING OPENS**

The hospital founded the AMH Health Center – North Willow Grove in 1983 (now Abington Health Center – Schilling). The 40-acre campus included outpatient services, medical and administrative offices and conference and educational facilities.

**WARREN MATTHEWS, M.D.**

Warren B. Matthews, M.D., began his distinguished career with AMH in 1979 with an appointment as co-chief resident. Dr. Matthews joined the medical staff and was appointed chair of Family Practice in 1986 at age 37. He was the first African American and also the youngest individual to ever hold this position at the hospital.

