Sugar, Streetcar, and the Sisters-
the Story of a Forgotten Hospital

The Richard Milliken Memorial
Children’s Hospital
1899-1952
What used to be here?
Thanks

• William Waring, M.D.
• Keli Rylance, PhD—Head, Southeastern Architectural Archive
• Karen Rachal, Pediatrics
• Rudolph Matas librarians
• Friends and family who listened to me talk about my fascination with this subject and always appeared interested!
Resources

• Digital Archives of Matas Library-Annual Reports of Charity Hospital and Times-Picayune

• Pro Parvulis-History of Tulane Pediatrics-William Waring, M.D.

• Keli Rylance, PhD, Director SEAA Tulane University

• Archdiocese of New Orleans
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Crack Research Team!!
Paid with candy and loose change
New Orleans, 1898

- Ranked 12th in population (287,000)-today Indianapolis is 12th in population and New Orleans is 51st
- Mayor was Walter Flower
- Governor of Louisiana was Murphy Foster
- USS New Orleans launched and sent to Cuba
- Audubon Park opened and Tulane Ave paved
- Storyville-Red Light District- was legalized
New Orleans, 1898

• Betty Runnels first woman admitted to Tulane
• Louisiana adopted a new constitution that disenfranchised African-Americans
• Charity Hospital was located on Tulane Avenue and had been built in 1833
• Tulane Medical School was on Canal Street in the Richardson Building-1500 block-building donated by Ida Richardson-wife of a previous dean
Sugar Industry Louisiana

- Antebellum produced 95% southern sugar crop
- Most plantations along the Mississippi River
- Slave labor force
- Sugar was sold and plantations financed and future prices speculated upon at Sugar Exchange on Bienville Street
Parishes with Sugar Plantations

Louisiana Sugarcane Production Areas

Sugarcane sweetens the Louisiana economy with about a $2 billion contribution each year. That's the result of the efforts of about 750 producers in 23 parishes (in blue) growing sugarcane on more than 450,000 acres. There are 17 sugar mills in Louisiana and two refineries—one in Gramercy and the other in Chalmette. Louisiana produces about 16 percent of the total sugar grown in the United States (includes both beet and sugarcane sugar).
Sugar Exchange-Bienville Street
Postwar Sugar Industry

- Plantations destroyed by war
- Labor force reduced by Emancipation
- Unsuccessful efforts to recruit Chinese and Italians for labor force—African-Americans had the work skills and few other opportunities
- The industry slowly regrew and became more technologically advanced
Richard Milliken-1870s
Life of Richard Milliken

• Born in Ireland 1817
• First came to Nova Scotia with parents and moved to New Orleans at age 17y
• Educated at Bardstown, Kentucky
• Returned to New Orleans and in 1842 he entered the sugar business
• Joined the Confederate cavalry at outbreak of Civil War
Life of Richard Milliken

• Later he was placed in charge of the Confederate copper mines in Tennessee

• After the war he returned to New Orleans and met Deborah Farwell, a daughter of Senator Farwell (R-Maine) and they married.

• Their only child Fannie Allen Milliken died in Maine, on vacation, in a drowning accident-age 24y
Richard Milliken-Plantation Owner and Sugar Factor

• Leading sugar factor (broker) in Louisiana in postwar era-noted for business acumen, fairness, and philanthropy

• Handled more sugar finances and crops than anyone in South

• Worked in the industry from 1842-1887

• Owned 13 plantations and employed over 1000 people and managed two plantations that donated funds to Daughters of Charity
Deborah Milliken

• Born in Maine 1831
• Ancestors came to America in 1640
• Brother Charles Farwell moved to New Orleans and became a leading citizen
• Deborah followed in 1854 and fell in love with the city and as written in her obituary-”’became one of the loyal daughters of Dixie.”
• She was known for her love of children and philanthropy
Milliken Home-First Street
New Orleans Streetcars

- St. Charles line began 1835 and cars were hauled by steam locomotives and then mules
- First electrified 1884 for World’s Fair and permanently electrified 1893
- St. Charles line is the oldest continuously operating street railway system in world
St Charles and Second
March 13, 1896

- At corner of Second and St Charles
- Richard Milliken 79 years old struck by street car-one block from his home
- Car number 72-motorman John Edwards
- Milliken was taken to his home and then to Touro Infirmary and attended by Rudolph Matas-declared Milliken in serious condition with facial lacerations and compound fracture of right femur
Death of Richard Milliken May 28, 1896

Died about 14 days after injury

“all that medical science could do was ineffectual in the inevitable contest with the grim reaper” –Times-Picayune

Pallbearers included Isaac Delgado and Confederate veterans
Sister Agnes-Catherine Slavin

Born Ireland 1837
Came to America 1845
Entered DOC 1853
Came to CHNO 1874
Pushed for nursing school at CHNO-opened 1895
Served 40 years and was Sister Superior of CHNO
Described- a brilliant and stern despot-”The Dragon”
Sister Agnes and Deborah Milliken

- Sister Agnes knew Mrs. Milliken.
- Deborah Milliken was a contributor to children’s causes and often visited children at CHNO.
- Richard Milliken managed plantations for DOC.
Sister Agnes suggested to a grieving Deborah Milliken that a children’s hospital would be a wonderful memorial to her husband.
Rise of Children’s Hospitals

• Appalling urban poverty in the 19th century
• Era of progressive reforms - abolishing child labor and advocating the kindergarten movement
• Belief that morality, poverty, and disease were intertwined
• Led to coalitions of child advocates, the religious, and physicians to work for child welfare
• The wealthy had physicians visit sick children at home
Children’s Hospitals

• Accepted children of the “worthy poor”, but no child was turned away unless clearly incurable
• Nursing first by religious sisters, then by 1900 trained nurses began to practice
• These hospitals provided training for the new field of pediatrics
• AMA-Section of Diseases of Children 1880
• American Pediatric Society 1888
Children’s Hospitals

• Since much of care was supportive—nursing was critical
• Children had limited contact with families—this would increase homesickness and contagion and the poor were blamed for illnesses of their children
• Hospital stays could last for weeks
• Discharge to convalescent home—sometimes in the country—or to outpatient follow-up
Children’s Hospitals-USA

- 1854 Nursery and Child’s Hospital NYC
- 1855 Children’s Hospital Philadelphia
- 1865 Hospital for Women/Children Chicago
- 1869 Children’s Hospital Boston
- 1869 Foundling Hospital NYC
- In the next 30 years most major cities in USA had created children’s hospitals
Richard Milliken Memorial Children’s Hospital

• Richard Milliken Memorial Hospital, 1600 Tulane Avenue, New Orleans
• Architects--Sully, Burton & Stone,-leading architectural firm of New Orleans-original plans at SEAA Tulane University
• Designed Whitney Bank on Gravier St. and the Columns Hotel on St. Charles Avenue
• Final cost $200,000 equivalent of $50,000,000 today
Front Elevation

Facing Tulane Avenue @ 1600

40’ Tall    128’ wide

Pilings more evenly distributed than usual and covered with concrete and brick

3 floors-8 Wards-200 Beds

Appearance of Strength at base

Quoining –cornerstones of brick-impression of firmness to building

Dome-covering of galvanized iron

Pediment –covered with copper
Second Floor
Third Floor
Cornerstone Ceremony

- May 29, 1899
- Governor Murphy Foster used a silver trowel
- Guest of honor was Varina Davis, widow of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy
- E.S. Lewis, M.D. chairman of board of CHNO read an opening proclamation
- “Dixie was sung and all moved to CHNO for a meal prepared by Sr. Agnes”
Milliken Hospital after 1909
Delgado Surgical Hospital
1909-1952
Charity Hospital-built 1833
This monument,
The Richard Milliken Memorial Hospital for Children,
was erected and furnished A. D. 1898
by Mrs. Deborah A. Milliken,
the widow of the deceased,
in honor of him
whose name it bears.
It was reared by the wife
for the noble purpose indicated,
and to stand in perpetuation
of the virtues, unimpeachable character,
exemplary citizenship and distinguished
philanthropy of her husband.
Plaque Inscription

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Milliken Rotunda
Play and Sun Room
Milliken Ward
Rounds at Milliken Wards--1899
Plaster Room-Third Floor
Ambulance Service—1911—Only One Auto Ambulance–Mule Backup
Ambulance Service
Children on Front Lawn-1910
Christmas Party 1911
Photograph for CHNO Fundraiser
1911
Milliken Christmas Party with Sister Angelica (?)-Sister Superior
Deborah Milliken and Children
William Butterworth, M.D.
Chair 1909-1919
First Chairman Tulane Pediatrics-1909
Staff Milliken Hospital
Children’s Advocate
Established need for clean milk in city-Pure Milk Society--later became Child Welfare Association
Maud Loeber, M.D.
First Woman on staff -1918

Tulane Faculty Member-
unsuccessfully recruited by
Alton Ochsner

First Tulane woman graduate
(Newcomb-1903) to finish
medical school (Cornell)

Beloved by her patients-always
wore a large hat –dressed in
black with high laced shoes and
dark stockings

Prolific author-multiple studies
of children in institutions and
the impact on development
John Signorelli, M.D.
Immigrated from Italy as child

Graduate of Tulane Medical School

Professor of Pediatrics at Tulane

Staff at Milliken Children’s Hospital

First Chair of Pediatrics at LSU 1931

Medical Director Orleans Public Schools

Died 12/14/1938 age 49
Ludo Von Meysenbug, M.D.

First faculty member with Dr. Signorelli in new pediatrics department at LSU School of Medicine

Recruited from Tulane medical faculty in 1931

Staff Member at Milliken Memorial Children’s Hospital

Trained in both pathology and pediatrics
Suzanne Schaeffer, M.D.

Graduate Tulane Medical School

Member of the staff at the Milliken Memorial Children’s Hospital

One of most respected pediatricians in New Orleans

Published multiple papers on a variety of subjects in general pediatrics

Major supporter of the New Orleans Speech and Hearing Center—was able to save it when it was taken out of the EENT Hospital
Rene Crawford, M.D.

Graduate Johns Hopkins Medical School

Staff member of Milliken Memorial Children’s Hospital

Active supporter of New Orleans Dispensary for Women and Children-later Sara Mayo Hospital

Professor of Pediatrics LSU School of Medicine, New Orleans

1878-1957
Elizabeth Cohen, M.D. First woman to practice medicine in New Orleans (1857-1887)—(1820-1921)
Philanthropy of Deborah Milliken

• Cost of Milliken Memorial Hospital $200,000-in today’s dollars approximately $50 million
• Donated $1000 every year from 1896 to 1915
• Donated $50,000 on her death in 1915-for upkeep of hospital
• Multiple gifts of art and restoration projects
• Total giving ~$267,000 (1896) = ~$67,000,000 (2012)
Times-Picayune Loving Cup Awarded to Deborah Milliken 1914
Other Loving Cup Recipients

- Ida Richardson
- Samuel Zemurray
- Rudolph Matas
- Sr. Stanislaus
- Alton Ochsner
- Norman Francis
- Leah Chase
- Scott Cowen
Deborah Milliken
1831-1915
Milliken Tomb-Metairie Cemetery
Milliken and Brunswig Tombs
Metairie Cemetery
Sister Stanislaus-Catherine Malone

- Served for over 50 years at CHNOLA
- Trained under Sr. Agnes
- Member of first class at Charity Nursing School 1897 as was Sr. Angelica
- Served as Sister Superior at CHNO
- Met and persuaded FDR to give $3.6 million for construction of CHNO
Milliken Hospital and Charity Hospital-1939

- All pediatric patients were moved from Milliken Memorial Hospital to the new pediatrics floor at CHNO
- After 1939 little mention of Milliken Hospital in newspapers or the annual report of Charity Hospital except for the continuing mention of the $50,000 endowment from Mrs. Milliken and the interest on investments.
Declining Years

- 1944—Not in use as a patient facility and in disrepair—$50,000 needed to renovate—described as condemned in Times-Picayune
- 1947--Plans were being considered for its use as a crippled children’s hospital for polio patients
- No funds available
- CHNO printing shop in basement
- Negotiations were underway with LSU to build an additional facility for their medical school
CHNO, Delgado, Milliken Memorial
Children’s Hospitals—after 1938 and prior to 1952
Aerial view of Tulane Avenue
1939-1952
Milliken Demolition 1952
What are the Remnants of Milliken Hospital?

- Boy with Boot Statue in the Milliken Atrium was moved to CHNO and later moved to Tranquility Garden at Children’s Hospital New Orleans.

- Plaque from the Atrium was on 9th floor CHNO for years then moved to 6th floor of University Hospital at urging of John Lewy, M.D.-chair of Tulane Pediatrics 1978-2003.
Milliken Hospital Mysteries

• What happened to Milliken endowment left by Deborah Milliken on her death in 1915? $50,000 was left for upkeep of the hospital. Return of funds was requested by representatives of family in 1949—total value-$90,000. Results of request are unknown.

• What happened to stained glass windows in the atrium? There were three 4’x10’ Tiffany Glass windows in the atrium in 1899.
Missing Tiffany Windows from the atrium of Milliken Hospital

- The windows were named Spring, Winter, and Summer—in memory of Fanny Milliken, Richard Milliken, and Deborah Milliken on her death
- Described in detail in Times Picayune on May 5, 1899—day after the opening of hospital
- Hospital razed June, 1952 and no record of fate of windows though pictures are available that show windows removed prior to razing
Who are the Sisters?

• Sr. Agnes who suggested the idea of a children’s hospital
• Deborah Milliken who funded the hospital and its continued maintenance
• Maud Loeber, M.D. first woman staff member
• Sister Angelica-Sister Superior of Milliken Hospital
• Sr. Stanislaus who worked tirelessly for the poor and obtained half of the funds for CHNO
Deborah Milliken (1831-1915)
“To whom much is given, much is required” Luke 12:48
Milliken Hospital
Milliken Tomb adjacent to Brunswig Pyramid
Names of Milliken Family

Richard Allen Milliken, 1817 — 1896.

Fanny Allen Milliken, 1864 — 1888.

Deborah Allen Milliken, 1831 — 1915.
Milliken Home Uptown
Milliken Accident Scene
St Charles and Second Avenue
Little cripples are given party
Howard School Students Entertain Children in Milliken Hospital.

Spontaneous laughter rang out across the great upper hall of the Richard Milliken Memorial Hospital for Children yesterday afternoon as Christmas storybooks and toys were passed. Christmas plays were acted and boxes of little Christmas cakes were passed. All the plans which students from Howard School No. 1, Cleveland and Lopes streets, had made to carry out their lessons: “I must help others,” and “to bring happiness to twenty or thirty little sick children in the hospital.”

In a wide semicircle were grouped all the children in the hospital who were well enough to leave their rooms. Several came on crutches, one or two in wheel chairs, but they came with glad excitement. Little girls were held in the arms of stronger and larger children, and in her wheel chair sat Gertrude Jacobs, the little ‘mother’ of the other children, reading a letter to each child, speaking in love tones to each, and pointing with pride to the pictures of the hospital.

People from the five grades of Howard and No. 1 were laden with gifts which they had fashioned for this particular merry. Older children had
Walter Flower Mayor
Governor Murphy Foster
Tulane Medical School 1898-Funds donated by Ida Richardson
Sister Agnes and Deborah Milliken

- The Millikens lost a daughter to drowning at age 24 (1888) and became advocates and substantial donors to children’s causes including CHNO
- Richard Milliken worked with Sr. Agnes in the management of funds from plantations that were donated to DOC
- Sr. Agnes comforted Mrs. Milliken in her grief and suggested a children’s hospital as a memorial to her husband and daughter Fanny Allen
Second and St Charles-Accident Scene
Philanthropy and Healthcare 1898-1936

- Tulane Medical School Building Canal Street 1500 block-donor- Ida Richardson
- Richard Milliken Memorial Hospital
- Delgado Surgical Hospital 1909 donor Isaac Delgado
- Lapeyre Miltenberger Convalescent Hospital (1934)-donor- Corinne Miltenberger
- John Dibert TB Hospital (1936)-donor Eve Dibert
Sugar, Streetcars, and the Sisters
Story of a Forgotten Hospital

Richard Milliken Memorial Hospital
for Children
1899-1952
Center Section of Hospital