Major direction of the professional work in the hospital was provided by John E. Summers, M.D., who, in 1889 was appointed chief of the medical staff and the Department of Surgery. He was particularly knowledgeable in the treatment of wounds and abdominal surgery. He was the first surgeon, for example, to perform an appendectomy on an infant. This was done at Clarkson Hospital. In 1935, after many years of accomplishments, he died and was eulogized by many prominent individuals including Irving S. Cutter, M.D., the dean of Northwestern University Medical School, and the famous surgeon William J. Mayo, M.D. Newspaper articles and reports of the Board of Trustees indicate the deep respect he enjoyed both nationally and locally. Shortly before his death, Dr. Summers and his sister established a memorial library fund dedicated to their parents.
Other prominent physicians whose support assisted the advance of the hospital in its earlier years were Willis A. Taylor, M.D., (obstetrics and gynecology), J.P. Lord, M.D., (orthopedics), B.B. Davis, M.D., (general surgery), to be followed later by his son Herbert Davis, M.D., and grandson John B. Davis, M.D. Others were Dr. Potts (ear, nose and throat), Leroy Crummer, M.D., (internal medicine), and Harold Gifford, M.D., (a well-known ophthalmologist) who was president of the medical staff in 1907.

W.O. Bridges, M.D., a highly respected and outstanding specialist in internal medicine, was very helpful to the Board of Trustees and the professional staff with advice and guidance as to organization. Regular scientific meetings were established and rules and regulations of the medical staff were initiated.\textsuperscript{16}

Presidents were elected annually with terms of not more than two years. Regular monthly scientific meetings were held. Departmentalization proceeded as specialization advanced.


\textsuperscript{16} Handwritten minutes of the Board of Trustees directing staff organization in 1906.
The Staff of Bishop Clarkson Memorial Hospital was organized at a meeting held in the old hospital at 1716 Dodge St., on March 15, 1907. Members of the staff were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Specialty</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Specialty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Harold Gifford</td>
<td>Eye and Ear</td>
<td>Dr. A.W. Edmiston</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Bicknell</td>
<td>Nose and Throat</td>
<td>Dr. F.W. Lake</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. J.E. Summers</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>Dr. W.H. Christie</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. J.P. Lord</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>Dr. A.B. Somers</td>
<td>Obstetrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. C.O. Rich</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>Dr. Alfred Schalek</td>
<td>Skin and G.U.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. B.B. Davis</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>Dr. W.R. Lavender</td>
<td>Pathology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Frederick Rustin</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>Dr. W.O. Bridges</td>
<td>Consultant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dr. Harold Gifford was elected president and Dr. Charles O. Rich, secretary.

Medical staff membership in 1907

The year 1907 was significant. There were 15 members of the medical staff. In that same year the doctors held their first official scientific meeting. These soon became regular monthly affairs. Gradually, additional members were added. In 1924, there were 24 members. In 1936, the year of the move to the Lord Lister building, there were 38 members. There are now more than 465 members.

On July 1, 1907, the first Clarkson intern reported for duty. She was Matilda L. Berg, M.D.

In that year Dr. Gifford was president of the staff. Charles A. Rich, M.D., was secretary and served in that capacity until 1947, when his health required his retirement from the position. Other familiar names included Dr. Summers (surgery),
Regular monthly clinical meeting of the staff of Bishop Clarkson Memorial Hospital was held at the hospital, Monday, Oct. 6, 1924 at 8 p.m.


Dr. Lord presided -- Dr. A.D. Dunn in charge of program:
1. Case of dehydration .......... A.D. Dunn
2. Method of treating water deficiency by intraperitoneal injection of normal salt solution . . . J.A. Henske
3. Case of diabetes mellitus .......... A.D. Dunn
4. Demonstration of roentgenograms of unusual fractures ............... J.P. Lord
5. Demonstration of carcinoma of the body of the uterus ......... J.E. Summers
6. Demonstration of case of sepsis due to an anhemolytic streptococcus ................. J.E. Summers
7. Analysis of hospital patient's for the month of September.

Charles O'Neill Rich, Secty.
Staff of Bishop Clarkson Memorial Hospital

Minutes of a 1924 staff meeting

Dr. Lord (orthopedics), B.B. Davis, M.D., (surgery), Palmer Findley, M.D., (obstetrics and gynecology), and Dr. Bridges (internist, who was listed as a consultant).

In general, professional and lay members of the Clarkson family directed their efforts toward the hospital benefit. In 1919, the executive committee of the staff asked that no staff additions be made. They gave no exact reasons that were recorded but Drs. Potts, Lord, Taylor and Summers made the official request to the Board of Trustees. The Board concurred. At the time, Drs. Edwin Davis and Clyde Roeder had been recommended for membership but their names were withdrawn. They were later appointed to the staff on which they conducted themselves with great credit for years to come. In that era, there was some concern among practitioners as to the ascendance of surgical subspecialists and there was some doubt that one could be utilized on the surgical staff. Dr. Davis confined his work to genitourinary surgery and Dr. Roeder, to general surgery. He, incidentally, did not remain in long in Omaha. Dr. Davis continued an outstanding career and was president of the staff in 1937 and 1938.
Although there was occasional disagreement between the staff and Trustees, they worked well together with mutual understanding, each respecting the domain of the other and settling temporary rancorous situations to the satisfaction of all concerned. These are recorded herewith only because they are examples of growth and maturation.

There was some discontent within the staff as to inadequate room for patient care. Perhaps greater was the feeling of inadequate representation of the staff on the Board of Trustees. In April 1924, the prominent physicians who made up the executive committee of the staff resigned as the executive committee, indicating that "the results of our endeavors are not commensurate with our effort." These were Drs. Potts, Crummer, Lord and B.B. Davis. They continued their individual staff membership in which they demonstrated a high level of professional accomplishment throughout their careers.
In 1937, the minutes of a medical staff meeting\textsuperscript{21} indicates that some chagrin on the body's part in that, without consulting them, the Board of Trustees appointed two physicians not previously members as "consulting staff." They were well respected men, Adolph Sachs, M.D., (internist) and Louis Moon, M.D., (proctologist). However, the staff felt that they should have been consulted first and a motion was carried to abolish the title of consulting staff as an illegal entity as indicated by F.W. Niehaus, M.D. R.R. Best, M.D., emphasized that it was the desire of the professional staff to restrict its membership to those physicians with the University of Nebraska appointments. This was respected by the Board. Dr. Sachs was chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine at Creighton and Dr. Moon, a member of the Creighton surgical faculty, both highly respected and eventually welcomed to have hospital privileges.

In the 1880s, W.R. Lavender, M.D., acted as part-time pathologist for the hospital. Later, in 1919, Dr. Niehaus was added to the staff with the title of pathologist, which he fulfilled until he limited his practice exclusively to internal medicine in 1932.\textsuperscript{22} He was replaced by F. Lowell Dunn, M.D., he, too, an internist who later confined his practice to internal medicine.

\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|l|}
\hline
\textbf{MEDICAL STAFF} \\
\textbf{September 15, 1935} \\
\textbf{PRESIDENT} \\
Robert D. Schrock, M.D. \\
\textbf{VICE PRESIDENT} \\
Warren Thompson, M.D. \\
\textbf{SECRETARY} \\
C.O. Rich, M.D. \\
\textbf{EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE} \\
Charles Moon, M.D. \\
Warren Thompson, M.D. \\
\textbf{SURGERY} \\
C.O. Rich, M.D. \\
A.C. Stokes, M.D. \\
A.J. Brown, M.D. \\
C.H. Waters, M.D. \\
Herbert Davis, M.D. \\
Russell Best, M.D. \\
N.F. Hicken, M.D. \\
J.D. Bisgard, M.D. \\
\textbf{MEDICAL} \\
Warren Thompson, M.D. \\
Frederick Niehaus, M.D. \\
Chester Thompson, M.D. \\
Lowell Dunn, M.D. \\
Olga Staatsny, M.D. \\
J.D. McCarthy, M.D. \\
Frank P. Conlin, M.D. \\
A.D. Cloyd Jr., M.D. \\
\textbf{GENITO-URINARY} \\
Edwin Davis, M.D. \\
C.A. Owens, M.D. \\
\textbf{ORTHOPEDICS} \\
J.P. Lord, M.D. \\
Robert D. Schrock, M.D. \\
Herman Johnson, M.D. \\
\textbf{EYE, EAR, NOSE AND THROAT} \\
J.B. Potts, M.D. \\
W.A. Cassidy, M.D. \\
J.H. Judd, M.D. \\
\textbf{OBSTETRICS} \\
Charles Moon, M.D. \\
Ralph Luikart, M.D. \\
Earl Sage, M.D. \\
C.O. Rich, M.D. \\
W.A. Cassidy, M.D. \\
\textbf{ORAL SURGERY} \\
William L. Shearer, M.D. \\
\textbf{NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY} \\
J.J. Keegan, M.D. \\
\textbf{DERMATOLOGY} \\
C.C. Tomlinson, M.D. \\
\textbf{PEDIATRICS} \\
Clyde Moore, M.D. \\
R. Bruce Eldredge, M.D. \\
\textbf{NEUROLOGY} \\
G.A. Young, M.D. \\
\textbf{X-RAY} \\
T.T. Harris, M.D. \\
\textbf{PATHOLOGIST} \\
Lowell Dunn, M.D. \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\caption{Staff membership in 1935}
\end{table}
He was a nephew of Dr. Dunn, one of the early staff leaders.

In 1940, a full-time pathologist, G.R. Kerr, M.D., was employed for a year or so only until ill health caused his resignation. He and the members of the laboratory committee of the medical staff requested less interference from the Board and more authority in laboratory administration. Vice Chairman McAuliffe replied that the Board would grant more authority when the efficiency of the department deserved it. He allowed that the Board was in complete accord with the professional and scientific conduct of the Pathology Department but not with the way financial records were kept. 23

It is of interest that J. Perry Tollman, M.D., chairman of the Department of Pathology at the University, replaced Dr. Kerr, working two hours a day for $200 a month. His chief technician’s income was raised to $110 a month and an assistant was obtained at $75 a month. 24

Miles Foster, M.D., came to Clarkson in 1948 as a full-time pathologist, initiating the origin of a strong effective department compatible with the scientific developments which were to follow in the immediate future.

Trustee-staff antagonism or rivalry no longer presents any problem at Clarkson Hospital. There are multiple reasons, not
the least of which is the development of mutual respect of one group for the efforts of the other and the recognition that the eminence of the hospital is the primary intent of all.

Equally influential in the genesis of the current harmony is the efficiency of the professional hospital administration under the able direction of James A. Canedy, whose tenure at Clarkson Hospital started in 1952 as assistant administrator, later Administrator in 1962. His office has expanded with the size of the hospital and patient population to include a chief operating office and three associate administrators as well as a director of staff services and public relations. Canedy’s understanding of the goals of the staff and the high economic standards of the Board, has been contributory to maintaining cordial effective communications between the two groups.

The value and need for a well qualified professional administrator developed with the size and complication of the hospital activities. The first few hospital administrators were women. If they had any special training, it was in nursing. The last was Cecelia Meister, who served from 1937 to 1946. She was replaced by Thomas F. Henley, who died suddenly the same year of an overwhelming infection and was replaced by Hal G. Perrin, who remained in that position until Canedy became the senior administrator. The building of and the move into the present building were major projects in Perrin’s term of office.

James A. Canedy, administrator
Prior to the rapid provision of new technologies, a high standard of practice was maintained in the 1940s, '50s and '60s by a few staff members who deserve recognition.

In general surgery R. Russell Best, M.D., clinical professor of surgery at the University, recipient of the Legion of Merit for Distinguished Military Service in World War II, contributed to the hospital and community in many ways. He was president of the staff in 1948. He took part in medical education at all levels and published extensively.

He was succeeded by Stanley E. Potter, M.D., an adept general surgeon who exemplified the highly respected practitioner. He died in 1984. He was president of the staff in 1957 and 1958.

William R. Hamsa Sr., M.D., orthopedist, president of the staff in 1956, a highly educated surgeon, was well-known throughout the United States as well as locally as a highly competent surgeon who contributed much to the surgical literature.

Walden A. Cassidy, M.D., an early member of the staff in otolaryngology, maintained that department with high standards throughout his time.

The early days of internal medicine were represented by men mentioned previously. Somewhat later in the '30s, through the '50s good work was done by brothers, Drs. Warren Y. and Chester Q. Thompson, formerly associated with Dr. Dunn. Chester was particularly competent in cardiology and electrocardiography. Warren had served as president of the staff in 1936 and

R.R. Best, M.D., staff president in 1948.
had been a governor in the American College of Physicians. The family is currently represented on the staff by Chester Q. Thompson Jr., M.D., in plastic surgery.

Dr. Niehaus, an internist with a special interest in cardiology, was a scholarly man. He came to the hospital in 1919 as pathologist and later confined his practice to internal medicine. He served as president of the staff and took an effective part in various hospital and educational activities, particularly in cardiology. He died in 1967. His son, Karl, continues to practice internal medicine at Clarkson Hospital.

Henry J. Lehnhoff Jr., M.D., an internist, president of the staff in 1961 and 1962, directed special efforts toward the maintenance of high standards of practice in all specialties. He instituted improvements in medical records. He initiated the development of the Intensive Care Centers. He was active in maintaining an educational program in conjunction with the University.

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology was represented earlier by Earl Sage, M.D., and Dr. Moon and later by Ralph Luikhart, M.D., after whom an obstetrical forceps is named. All hold an honorable place in Clarkson obstetrical history.