



A WAITING AREA inside Jarman Hospital.

Jarman

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by the City of Tuscola, 2007), Jarman accumulated more than 400 acres of land and other property.

William F. Jarman was considered to be honest and upright in his business dealings and charitable, kind, and public spirited in his personal dealings. Jarman's business acumen and the help of a good wife eventually brought success and made him and his family a family of means.

On Sept. 7, 1871, William married a young woman named Sarah A. Porter in Douglas County. Sarah Porter was born in Paris, Ky. in 1845 and moved with her family to Missouri when she was 11 years old. In 1864, the Porter family moved to Douglas County where she met her future husband.

Sarah Porter joined the Methodist Church in Camargo after her marriage and then joined the Camargo Christian Church when it was formed. She was considered to be a very kind woman, and after her death in late 1910, her obituary in the Jan. 3, 1911, Decatur Herald and Review proclaimed, "Benevolences Left As Her Monument." After purchasing a new bell for the Camargo Christian Church shortly before her death, she was reported to have said, "Oh, how sweet it sounds, I hope it will bring many souls to Christ."

William and Sarah were a devoted couple, but their marriage was marked by trag-

edy. Five children were born into the marriage, four died in infancy: Austin P. Jarman (1872-1872), Lulu E. Jarman (1873-1874), William E. "Willie" Jarman (1877-1883), and infant son (1888).

In September 1880, the Jarman's welcomed a daughter they named Nellie, the only one of their children to survive into adulthood. They were a close-knit trio and after William became confined to a wheelchair in the early 1890s with what his obituary in the Tuscola Journal, dated March 8, 1917, referred to as rheumatism, or rheumatoid arthritis, Sarah and Nellie became loving caretakers. (The Tuscola History Book referred to William's affliction as a muscular disorder.)

After attending school in Camargo, Nellie attended the Jacksonville Female Academy in Jacksonville. The Academy had close ties to Illinois College which was a seminary school for male students. The two schools merged in 1903.

In the summer of 1903, Nellie Jarman married a young man named James Winterbotham. Winterbotham, a student of theology, most likely at Illinois College, was living in Jacksonville at the time. However, after his marriage James started a business called Winterbotham Bros. with his brother Joseph in Springfield, where they handled real estate, insurance, and loans.

The newlywed Nellie moved to Springfield with her husband where they lived for about a decade. Their marriage did not produce any children, whether by design or misfortune is unknown.



THE ORIGINAL JARMAN Hospital on North Main Street in Tuscola.



A REAR VIEW of the old Jarman Hospital.

On Dec. 30, 1910, Sarah Porter died. Soon after, Nellie and her husband James moved to Camargo to take care of Nellie's father, but tragedy soon struck the family again. In October 1913, Nellie contracted typhoid and on Oct. 22, 1913, she died at her father's home in Camargo at the age of 33.

William Jarman was heartbroken at the loss of his wife and then his daughter. Among the many items he would leave the Camargo Christian Church upon his own death just four years later were precious items he described as, "the piano and piano stool that were used by my beloved daughter, Nellie B. Jarman, and the little rocking chair used by her..."

William and his wife had discussed the disposition of their fortune to various charities, and finding himself without any immediate heirs, William began planning his estate with the help of his friend and attorney John H. Chadwick of Tuscola. With William's last Will and Testament, dated Aug. 30, 1916, he made generous bequests to the Christian

Church, his sister (Sue Ritter), a sister-in-law, and made a provision for his family's final resting place, Oak Ridge Cemetery in Camargo.

But William Jarman's greatest legacies were put into motion before his death and were tributes to his beloved wife and daughter. Jarman created the Nellie Jarman Memorial Scholarship to be awarded to young Douglas County women attending Illinois College in Jacksonville and upon the suggestion of his friend, John Chadwick, he decided to help establish a county hospital.

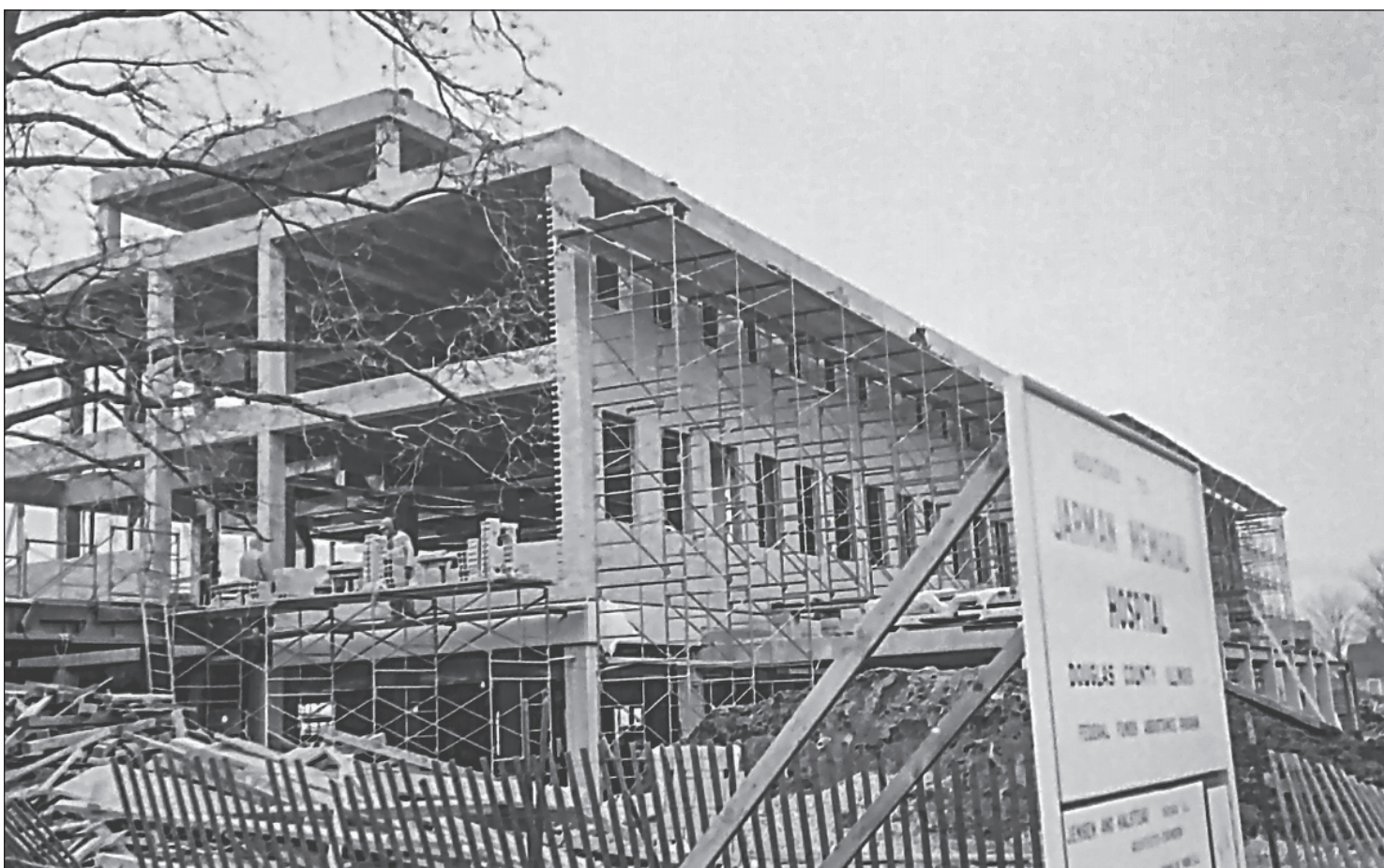
In 1914, William Jarman offered to donate 160 acres of farmland to be used to help fund the hospital with the expectation that the people of the county would raise \$40,000 for the construction of the building. He had two stipulations, he asked that the poor be cared for at the hospital whether they could pay or not, so long as funds were available to do so, and he insisted the hospital be named for his good wife, Sarah A. Jarman.

Efforts to raise the \$40,000 fell far short of the goal and plans for the hospital were dropped. But in July 1916, as a typhoid epidemic gripped Tuscola and 100 residents were reportedly afflicted and 30 people reportedly died, John Chadwick again approached William Jarman and asked him to reconsider his offer and to lower the required amount of donations county residents would be expected to raise to \$10,000. Being a compassionate man, and likely influenced by the recent loss of his own daughter to typhoid, William Jarman agreed.

On July 21, 1916, the Decatur Herald and Review announced that pledges for the hospital had nearly reached \$10,000 and were expected to exceed \$12,000. (The Jan. 11, 1917, Tuscola Journal lists the final total as \$14,000, which would be \$320,091.41 in today's dollars.) That same day directors were elected for the hospital and on July 27 a charter was obtained. And on August 30, William Jarman transferred the promised 160 acres

to the hospital and then offered an additional 160 acres with the caveat that he be allowed to draw income off the land for the remainder of his life, and upon his death ownership of the land would pass to the hospital.

In January 1917, the location of the hospital site was announced with the purchase of the 1.26 acre Richmond property on the north end of Tuscola, at what was then 624-626 North Main Street (the addresses have changed - the building located in that vicinity now, which is the "new" hospital built just north of the old building in 1967, sits at what is 704 N. Main Street today). The Richmond Building had once been home to Dr. S.A. Richmond's Patent Medicine Company, which began selling medicines claiming to cure just about everything around 1890. In 1900, John Loughlin bought the building for the American Hindoo Medicine Company. The building was torn down in 1917 to make way for the Sarah A. Jarman Memorial Hospital.



BUILDING THE "NEW" Jarman Hospital in Tuscola.

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