Wishard, William Niles, Sr. (October 10, 1851-January 23, 1941) Pioneer in urology, “father of City Hospital (now Wishard Memorial Hospital), and medical educator. Born in Greenwood, Indiana, Wishard received M.D. degrees from Indiana Medical College in 1874 and Miami Medical College, Cincinnati, in 1876. He began his practice in Indianapolis, serving as a coroner. Appointed superintendent of City Hospital in 1879, he served until January 1, 1887.

As superintendent, Wishard initiated the construction (1882-1885) of a modern general hospital to replace the inadequate facility he inherited. He also helped establish Indiana’s first nursing school, Indianapolis Training School for Nurses, and worked for the merger of the Indiana medical schools that formed Indiana Medical College, the predecessor of Indiana University School of Medicine.

After his resignation as superintendent of City Hospital, Wishard pursued further medical studies in genitor-urinary surgery and urology. An early specialist in this field, he left Indianapolis for a brief period to study in New York. Upon returning he practiced exclusively in genitor-urinary and venereal diseases and served as chairman of that specialty for 49 years at Indiana Medical College and Indiana University School of Medicine. He is credited with pioneering work in prostrate gland surgery.

Wishard was an originator of the Medical Practice Act of 1897, which established the State Board of Medical Registration and Examination. Throughout his life he held many influential positions in state and national organizations: member, Founders’ Group of the American Board of Urology; president, Mississippi Valley Medical Association; president, American Urological Association; Surgeon General of Indiana. In 1975, Marion County General Hospital (formerly City Hospital) was renamed William Niles Wishard Memorial Hospital.

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