

# Myra Cook Gordon

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**M**yra Cook Gordon of Medina was a woman of vision who pursued a cause. Like many causes which people take up, hers arose out of a loved one's death.

It seems her brother Dr. Mortimer Cook, who was born in 1868, died of a ruptured appendix in 1905. His death emphasized the desperate need for a hospital in Medina.

The 1903 Orleans County Directory lists 45 physicians and 25 nurses but there were no hospitals. Doctors made house calls and performed surgery sometimes in the patients' very own kitchen. The closest hospitals were in Rochester or Buffalo.

Myra Cook was inspired and with determination set out to do something as she was herself a trained nurse. In 1907 she opened a house for nursing care on South Academy Street in Medina. In honor of a generous donor, Miss Coon, she named her hospital "Mary Louise Hospital." This venture flourished and soon required more room.

For a time the hospital was located on the corner of West Center and Ann Street. From there it went to a large



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house at the corner of Park Avenue and Prospect Street, now a vacant lot. It was here that surgery was performed by Buffalo surgeons who came by train when called by local doctors. A nursing and kitchen staff was developed along with a group of women focused on raising money and the community became more hospital minded.

When Myra Cook was about to marry Frederick Gordon of Chicago and move away she encouraged others to take over what she had established. Consequently, the Medina

Memorial Hospital Association was formed in 1912 and the hospital then was moved to a brick house at the northwest corner of Prospect and Eagle Streets. Here it remained for around four decades when the present Medina Memorial Hospital was built on Ohio Street.