

Shriners International Historical Facts

- 1870** Masons, Walter M. Fleming, M.D. and William J. "Billy" Florence, an actor, started a new fraternity for Masons which would center on fun, fellowship and philanthropy.
- 1872** On September 26th the first meeting of Shriners was held. Membership grew rapidly throughout the USA.
- 1888** Shriners worked long hours to help the sick during a yellow fever epidemic in Jacksonville, Florida.
- 1889** Shriners aided flood victims in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.
- 1898** There were 50,000 Shriners.
- 1900's** Membership spread into Canada, Mexico and Panama.
- 1906** Shriners sent \$25,000 to help after the San Francisco earthquake and \$10,000 for European war victim relief.
- 1919-1920** Freeland Kendrick (P.I.P., Lu Lu Shriners, Pennsylvania) brought to the Shrine membership the idea of building a hospital for children with orthopedic disorders.
- 1922** The cornerstone was laid for the first Shriners Hospitals for Children® in Shreveport, Louisiana. The first patient to be admitted was a little girl with a clubfoot.

Now there are 22 Shriners hospitals throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico that have helped in excess of 1.3 million children.