The concept of osteopathic medicine has brought fame as well as fortune to the city of Kirkville. Some might even say that it has put Kirkville on the map. Whether or not this is true is a matter of opinion, but it is a fact that Kirkville is known as, and prides itself on being, the birthplace of osteopathic medicine.

The heart of osteopathic medicine in Kirkville has always been on West Jefferson Street. Not only are the medical care centers located here but also the osteopathic college. West Jefferson Street as we know it today, is a far cry from the dirt road that Andrew Taylor Still knew or the paved one of the 1950s and 60s.

At the far west end of this street was the hospital of the American School of Osteopathy. It was the first osteopathic hospital built to supplement the care of the ASO Infirmary. In the photograph to the right is a picture of this hospital which was built next to the Infirmary. The old hospital was razed in the early 1950s because it did not adhere to the then current hospital standards. Parts of the Infirmary still stands today and were incorporated into the east side of the new structure as shown in the inset to the right.

Across the street from the hospital stood the nurse's cottage. The first structure, as shown in the lower left photo, was a two-story house. Around 1911, the second story was heightened, eventually there was an addition built on the east side of the house to keep up with the growing nursing program. It was later converted into an Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic as shown in the lower right photo. In 1973 this was torn down to build the southern wing of the Kirkville Osteopathic Medical Center.

Two blocks east of the nurse's cottage stood the ASO chapter of the YMCA shown in the upper right photograph. The ASO chapter of the YWCA was located across the street to the north. They provided Christian activities and fellowship for the students as well as being a center for these activities. The YMCA site is now a parking lot.

West Jefferson Street is still dominated by the buildings of osteopathic treatment and learning. These buildings include the Timken-Burnett Building, the southern wing of KOMC, the Gutensohn Health and Wellness Clinic. With these and the projected building of a new state-of-the-art diagnostic center Kirkville will remain the heart of osteopathic medicine.