The first open-heart operation was performed back in 1893 by an African-American doctor named Daniel Hale Williams. Dr. Williams was born in Pennsylvania in ________. His father, who was a barber and a minister, died when Daniel was only eleven. The boy went to Wisconsin with his sister and found a job in a barbershop. There he met a doctor who hired him as an assistant and was so _____________________ by his ability that he helped him get into Chicago Medical School.

Williams earned his medical degree in 1883, and opened an __________________ in Chicago. But because he was an African-American, he was not allowed to work in ______________________. He had to operate on his patients in their __________, often on the kitchen or dining room __________.

Dr. Williams was determined to open a hospital where African-American __________________ and nurses could be trained and where black patients would receive the best ____________. In __________, his dream came true when he opened Provident Hospital in Chicago, the first African-American owned __________________ in the country.

It was there, two years later, that a man named James Cornish was taken after he was stabbed in the __________. At that time, there was no X-rays, antibiotics, or blood __________________. Yet Dr. Williams opened the patient’s chest, repaired the ____________, and stitched the incision back together. Mr. Cornish recovered ______________________, and Dr. Williams became __________________ throughout the country.