

Disability History Mother Lode: Records of Institutionalization at the Pennsylvania State Archives

Tyler Stump



Pennsylvania State Archives
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION



What's at the State Archives?

Reading Pa Decemb 23rd 1882
Dr Margaret A. Cleaves
Madam
Your^l came to hand. in reply
would thank you kindly for the
favor I have sent a boy for Nellie
as a christmas present consisting
of Cakes of Fruit & nuts. should
you think it proper for her to
have them, I was glad to hear
that she is getting better. I should
very much like to see her
Whenever you think it
proper for me to do so.
Very truly Yours
C. J. Leary
719 Penn St



NAME.	NO.	AGE.	SEX.	MARRIED OR SINGLE.	RESIDENCE.	TIME OF ADMISSION.	DUR. OF REF. OR ADMISS. IN
⁷⁷⁹ Robert D. Cornelison	1337	22	M	S	Montour	Jan 7 '1861	1 year
⁵⁵⁷ Clementina Strickler	1338	30	F	M	Lebanon	Jan 10 '1861	2 mos. Ill
⁷⁸⁰ Elliot B. Brown	1339	37	M	S	Mifflin	Jan 14 '1861	2 years
⁷⁸¹ James S. Ford	1340	22	M	S	Westmoreland	Jan 15 '1861	9 mos. Maske
⁵⁵⁰ Hannah Hoop	1341	45	F	S	Lancaster	Jan 19 '1861	3 mos. Anax
⁷⁸² Lloyd Krigger	1342	21	M	S	Columbia	Jan 22 '1861	2 years
⁷⁸³ Charles Rader	1343	40	M	M	Lehigh	Jan 23 '1861	1 year Trouble
⁵⁰⁷ Elizabeth Emerick	1344	67	F	M	Perry	Jan 26 '1861	1 year Domestic br
⁷⁸⁴ Samuel Nesbit	1345	25	M	S	Mercer	Jan 29 '1861	6 years Washburne
⁷⁸⁵ Moses Fisher	1346	24	M	S	Lebanon	Feb 6 '1861	4 mos.
⁵⁵⁷ Sarah J. Wickham	1347	27	F	M	Phila ^d	Feb 6 '1861	7 years
⁵⁵⁷ Henrietta Klone	1348	27	F	S	Centre	Feb 6 '1861	2 years Ill health
⁷⁸⁶ Thomas Griffith	1349	39	M	S	Jayette	Feb 13 '1861	4 mos Trouble
⁵⁵⁴ Lavina Coffman	1350	32	F	M	York	Feb 13 '1861	10 days Ill health
⁷⁸⁷ John Singer	1351	25	M	S	Jefferson	Feb 20 '1861	4 mos
⁷⁸⁸ Herman C. Kern	1352	38	M	M	Lancaster	Feb 24 '1861	2 mos. Excitement
⁷⁸⁹ Conrad Gunkler	1353	55	M	M	Tioga	Feb 27 '1861	6 mos
⁷⁹⁰ Andrew Coyne	1354	29	M	M	Schuylkill	March 6 '61	3 mos
⁵⁶⁵ Bridget Moran	1355	20	F	M	Leizern	March 7 '61	3 mos Trouble
⁷⁹¹ Sylvester Bond	1356	30	M	S	Carbon	March 12 '61	1 month
⁷⁹² William Hummel	1357	41	M	M	Schuylkill	March 20 '61	2 weeks Ill health
⁷⁹³ Samuel Fetterhoff	1358	24	M	S	Lycoming	March 22 '61	2 mos. Overexcite
⁷⁹⁴ Benjamin Helmer	1359	58	M	M	Schuylkill	March 25 '61	2 mos
⁷⁹⁵ Christopher Dehn	1360	38	M	M	Carbon	March 26 '61	3 mos.
⁷⁹⁶ Alonzo Carpenter	1361	23	M	S	Leizern	March 27 '61	2 1/2 years
⁷⁹⁷ George Hill	1362	45	M	M	Lycoming	March 29 '61	3 mos Trouble
⁷⁹⁸ Amos B. Myers	1363	19	M	S	Lancaster	April 2 '61	2 weeks
⁷⁹⁹ Francis C. Carson	1364	38	M	S	Dauphin	April 10 '61	8 years
⁸⁰⁰ John H. Cravely	1365	31	M	M	Lebanon	April 11 '61	4 years
⁸⁰¹ Daniel Williams	1366	28	M	M	Tioga	April 11 '61	3 mos Ill health
⁸⁰² Franklin Deal	1367	30	M	M	Montour	April 12 '61	2 mos Domestic br
⁸⁰³ Merritt Johnson	1368	24	M	S	Leizern	April 12 '61	9 mos Washburne
⁵⁰⁴ Anna Howell	1369	24	F	S	Tioga	April 12 '61	1 year Epilepsy
⁵⁰⁷ Elizabeth White	1370	20	F	S	Dauphin	April 13 '1861	1 week Ill health
⁵⁰³ Mary A. Johnston	1371	35	F	S	Cambria	April 20 '1861	3 years
⁸⁰⁴ David Smith	1372	58	M	M	Lycoming	April 24 '1861	6 mos
⁵⁰⁴ Susan Schuman	1373	38	F	M	Dauphin	April 24 '1861	1 week Trouble

Patient Records

- Admission/discharge ledgers
- Master patient card indexes
- Case files

Administrative Records

FORM 88-501
200M-1-51

Janvier

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

January 25, 1955

SUBJECT: Farview State Hospital

TO: Mr. Harry Shapiro
Secretary of Welfare

FROM: *ES* Hilding Bengs, M. D.
Commissioner of Mental Health

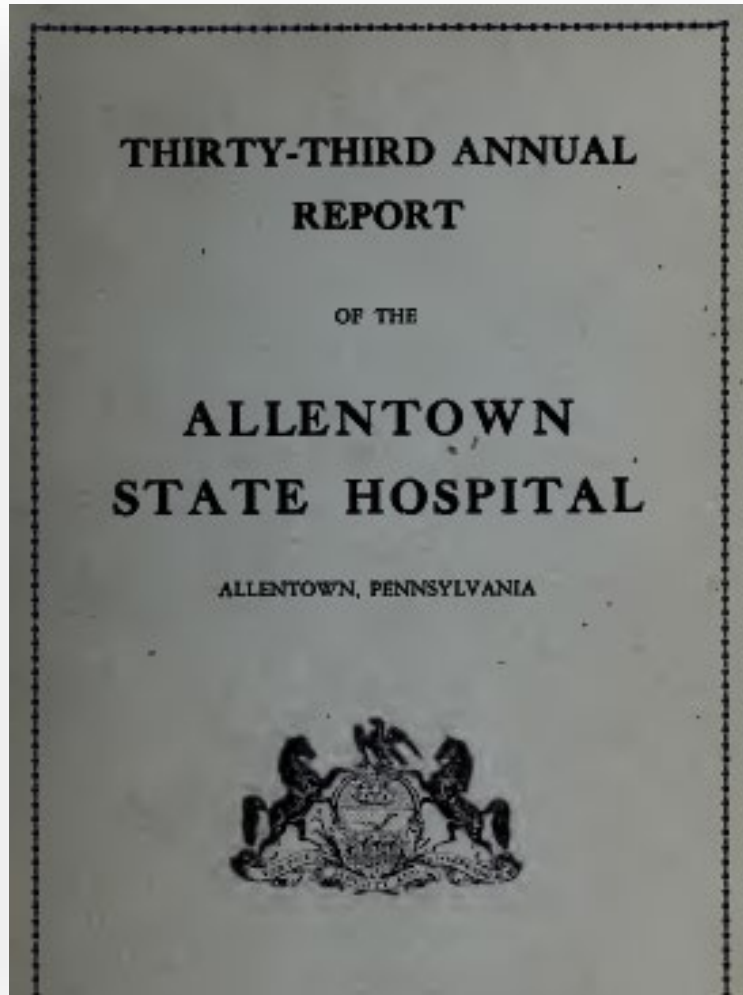
This institution which is exclusively devoted to the care and treatment of male adults who are found to be mentally ill and with criminal tendencies, is a state mental hospital of maximum security.

Although it rates very low in the state mental hospital system because of great deficiencies in a progressive program it has the positive qualities of a conscientious dedicated superintendent and a hard core of devoted key personnel who have prevented conditions from becoming worse.

The basic difficulty is the division of authority whereby the Board as a whole and individually interfere and dictate down to the lowest echelon of personnel. This is due to the fact that every employee is responsible to the Board Member and the County Chairman who sponsored his employment.

The meetings of the Board of Trustees have degenerated into a bargaining market for patronage. Although the institution serves the entire Commonwealth only five counties are represented on the Board which usually divides into two factions held in balance as the separate counties shift in their alignment. I am advised that there are a small number of members on the Board who appear to be interested in the welfare of patients. These are known by the Superintendent. The remainder trade jobs among each other and pressure the Superintendent to create additional positions that he does not want or need.

Among the humiliating experiences endured by the Superintendent was the arbitrary assignment of Miss Ann Thomas, sister of a Board Member, as the Superintendent's personal secretary. With her brother no longer a Board Member it became possible to transfer her to a less responsible position. However, she is incompetent in her work and unreliable as to loyalty and should be immediately dismissed. Another experience was the personal challenge of a Board Member that he would get the Superintendent dismissed when the latter discontinued the resources of the hospital greenhouse to the Board Member's wife.



- Annual reports
- Audit and budget
- Superintendent's diaries
- Board of Trustee meeting minutes
- Photos and scrapbooks
- Policy and training manuals
- Correspondence



“...it is fitting that the fullest information be made available to the people, for full, free, and public discussion of their operation...”

www.phmc.pa.gov/archives

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