“Man’s inhumanity to man has made countless thousands mourn, and his humanity, progressing by successive gradations to its present altitude, has brought comfort to thousands, who may well bless the benevolent spirit of the age. The primary provision consequent upon the organization of towns was the appropriation of funds to support the poor, and as population increased, the advantages of a special institution under efficient officials became apparent. The idea of self-support, so far as practicable, led to the purchase of a farm, upon which buildings were erected, in size commensurate with the demand, and supplied with superintendents of undoubted qualifications.

_The Monroe County Poor-House_, situated three miles southeast from Rochester, was erected by the county in 1826. It was constructed of brick, and was calculated to accommodate from seventy-five to one hundred paupers. It was managed by five superintendents, and had, in 1827, thirty-five occupants, about twenty of whom
were employed in useful labor. Population increased, and the building became old and overcrowded. The raving manic, the young child, the infirm old man, and the seducer’s victim, were crowded in a building whose remembrance must seem painful. Humanity called for a removal of the child from baneful influences, and a separation of the insane from the sane. In 1855 a school was taught by Miss Benedict, and contained some forty scholars. A schoolhouse was finished in 1859. It contained two stories, the lower being for a schoolroom, the upper for a dormitory. Miss Gorton was employed as teacher, and Miss Flynn as assistant teacher. Miss Pepper succeeded Miss Gorton, and Miss Flynn in turn became the teacher.

In 1860 a building was set apart for the infirm old men. Year after year the buildings became more dilapidated, and the report in favor of new buildings passed unheeded until early in 1872, when the commissioners began to act in a manner which set the future at rest upon this question. A building committee, composed of Patrick Malone, L. M. Otis, A. N. Whiting, Josiah Rich, William W. Bruff, and A. Crittenden, was appointed, and a contract was made for new buildings with George H. Thompson and John W. McElhiny, on February 28, 1872, for $59,600. The almshouse was located midway between the insane asylum and the penitentiary, and fifty feet south. The architect employed was J. R. Thomas. The entire cost of the work was $72,948.44. The building was constructed of brick, partitions being of the same material, and the cornice of iron, thus rendering the structure nearly fire-proof. Its dimensions are one hundred and eighty-eight feet fronting on South avenue, with wings on the north and south ends, running east one hundred feet from the front wall, and forty-eight feet wide each. A hall eighty-five feet wide extends through the centre of each. A third wing is situated back from the centre of the main building, in extent sixty-eight feet, and width thirty feet. Twenty-two feet are two stories, for kitchen and bake-rooms, the remaining thirty-eight feet are used for heating purposes. The main building is three stories high, with cupola rising from the centre; the whole presents a comely and handsome exterior. The basement is in use as kitchen, dining-room, cellars, etc., while the first and second stories comprise the day apartments and a portion of the dormitories, the remainder being in the third story. The hospitals are situated in the wings, on the same floor. The wards are heated by steam. There are bath-rooms on the first and third stories. The chapel is on the first floor. There are accommodations for 400 persons, and the arrangements are all that could be desired. The number of paupers supported in 1857 was 961; in 1858, 1121; and in 1859, 1182. The number in the house on successive years on October 1, beginning with 1858, were 305; 1859, 291; 1860, 261; 1861, 274; 1871, 185; 1874, 184; and 1875, 185. Among the keepers were Collins, F. H. James, and E. A. Loder. Of the chaplains have been H. A. Brewster, J. Mandeville, Dr. Samuel Lucky, who died October 11, 1869, J. V. Van Ingen, John E. Baker, and George F. Linfield. Dr. Azel Backus is the present physician, and George E. McGonigal, superintendent. The expenses for the year ending September 30, 1875, were $21,701.31. Admitted during the year, six hundred and ninety paupers. Born in the house, thirty; died, sixty; discharged, six hundred and
seventeen; three hundred and forty-nine were natives of this country, and three hundred and fourteen of Ireland. The institution will compare favorably with any other in the State.

*The Monroe County Insane Asylum* is an outgrowth of necessity, and a practical exemplification of humane feeling. A brief history of the insane poor is full of interest. The primary effort to improve their condition was made by the grant of a charter, in 1791, to the New York Hospital, and an appropriation from the legislature of two thousand dollars annually for twenty years. Inmates were received of the pauper class in May, 1797, and seven persons were provided for monthly during 1798. An average of twenty-two were annually cared for, from 1797 to 1803, and the total of admissions for the interval was two hundred and fifteen. A law was passed, in 1806, appropriating twelve thousand five hundred dollars, to be paid quarterly every year till 1857, to the New York Hospital, to provide ‘suitable apartments for maniacs, adapted to the various forms and degrees of insanity.’ A building of limited capacity was completed in 1808, and hither the officials of several counties sent of their pauper insane, and sixty-seven persons were received, two of whom had been confined for eighteen years in the cells of a common jail. This marks the commencement of State provision for the treatment of pauper lunatics.

In 1825 the State contained eight hundred and nineteen insane; of these, three hundred and sixty-three were self-supporting, two hundred and eight were in jail or poor-house, and three hundred and forty-eight at large. A law was passed in 1828 prohibiting the confinement of lunatics in jails, but the act was ignored. In his message to the legislature, in 1830, Governor Throop called special attention to the pitiable state of the insane poor, and recommended an asylum for gratuitous care and treatment. As a result, an act was passed on March 30, 1836, authorizing the erection of the State Lunatic Asylum at Utica, and making an appropriation thereto. The institution was completed January 16, 1843, and has done a noble and extended work, resulting in incalculable good to thousands.

The asylum received patients from the poor-houses, and treated them for two years; if not then cured they were remanded back to the poor-house, and new cases received. It therefore happened that some who were quiet, and might ultimately have recovered at the asylum, when returned to the almshouse became violent, and were chained as a measure of safety. A dependence was placed in the State, and appeals for relief to the insane were made in 1856, by county superintendents of the poor, to the legislature, but no action followed. At this time, the condition of the lunatic poor, in the Monroe almshouse, was truly deplorable. There were thirty-seven insane confined in thirteen cells. These cells were low, unventilated, and unwholesome, and in dimensions but four and a half by seven feet. In this small space were crowded as many as four persons, some of whom, wild and raving, were chained and handcuffed. There was no out-yard, and no guards to stoves to prevent self-inflicted injury. It
was resolved to erect a permanent and convenient building especially for the insane. It was constructed at a cost of somewhat over three thousand dollars, during 1856 and 1857. The first visiting committee, consisting of Dr. P. G. Tobey, Henry Churchill, H. A. Brewster, and James H. Warner, pronounced the structure ‘in conception and completion a credit to the county.’ The building was opened for patients in the spring of 1857, and the accommodations for forty-eight persons were fully occupied. The institution was placed under the supervision and management of Colonel J. P. Wiggins and wife. An addition was completed by October, 1859, at a cost of $26,791.57. The building committee were Messrs. Moore, Wagner, and Smyles. The wing thus erected was three stories high and constructed of brick. There is a hall in each story. The basement contained kitchen, furnace, etc.; the first floor, a dining-room, parlor, and bed-rooms, and in the upper story are fourteen fine large rooms for patients. This wing served more as an accommodation for the superintendent and employees than a relief for patients, and the forty-four rooms were speedily crowded, and several placed in the same room, while a number were compelled for lack of room to remain in the almshouse. The case was improved, but the increase of patients demanded like increase of room. The following statistics exhibit the number of inmates on October 1 of each year: In 1859, fifty-two; 1860, fifty-nine; 1861, seventy; 1862, seventy-five; 1863, sixty-three. This year there were twenty-five cells in which there were two in each cell. There were seventeen Monroe County insane poor at Utica, so that the insane of the county for the year was eighty. F. Wallace was in charge as warden, and Charles C. H. Miller was the physician. Dr. Samuel Lucky was an untiring friend and worker for the poor for a number of years. The need of better accommodations was annually stated, but unheeded, while numbers continually increased. There were in 1864 ninety-four lunatics; 1865, seventy; 1866, seventy-three; 1867, eighty-three; 1868, eighty-nine; 1869, eighty-seven; and in 1870, eighty-eight. Two to four had been confined in a single room, and the demand for relief became imperative. A wing was erected in 1870, giving accommodations for twenty-five patients. The number of inmates arose in 1871 to one hundred, while there were rooms for but seventy with single occupants. In 1872 a main building was erected, at a cost of eighteen thousand dollars. This building is of three stories, and has a Mansard roof. It gave a supply of forty-one rooms. Various improvements for heating, water-supply, and other essentials, have made the cost of construction about fifty thousand dollars. The patients in the asylum October 1, 1873, were one hundred and forty-three; 1874, one hundred and forty; and in 1875, one hundred and forty. The cost of maintenance, including repairs on buildings, of each patient, is two dollars and thirty-four cents per week, - a rare showing, and much to the credit of M. L. Lord, M.D., the warden and physician since 1868. The institution has a wide reputation for excellent treatment of patients and good management. The board of trustees for 1875 is composed of Messrs. Henry Churchill, J. W. Craig, and Charles S. Wright.

The Monroe County Penitentiary had its origin in the idea that the able-bodied should contribute to their own support, and would be better prepared for freedom by a habit of constant hard labor, in place of the idle
confinement which, as late as 1820, was inflicted upon the unfortunate debtor as a paradoxical means of relief. In 1853, Joshua Conkey, Samuel H. Davis, Ezra B. True, and Lewis Selye were appointed a committee for the erection of a work-house. The contract price of erecting buildings was $22,707.60. Ninety-two cells were suitably furnished. L. R. Brockway, a judicious manager, was appointed superintendent, and the institution began business with a capital of $7000. The income for 1854 was over $4000. The expenses till October 1, 1855, were $7127.59, leaving, to commence the year, but little over $4000. In 1856, there were seven hundred and fifty-four commitments, of whom four hundred and ninety were foreigners. In 1859, two workshops were erected, and a south wing was built having thirty-two cells. The total expenditure had reached the sum of $117,423.53, while the income was eighty dollars per day. In the fall of 1860, the business of barrel-making was changed to that of finishing staves. Work in the shoe-shop was continued as the chief employment, and all who could labor were called to do so. The policy of receiving convicts from other counties was found advantageous and continued. The total income for 1860 was $22,729.30, a gain of $3235.28, and the second instance in history of realizing a profit from a penal institution. Messrs. L. & H. Churchill contracted for five years, from April 1, 1860, for labor in the shoe-shops; Hayden & Bromley, for three years, from June 1, 1859, for female labor in chair-work; and Rowe & Page had contracted for barrel-work as early as the spring of 1856. Contracts have been made, and various manufactures attempted, from time to time, as they seemed to promise profit. In 1862, an addition was made to the cooper-shop, and a warehouse, fifty-five by one hundred feet, was constructed.

On the 5th of January, 1865, a fire broke out and destroyed buildings and material to the amount of nearly twenty thousand dollars. The buildings were replaced at once by others. Again, on the night of October 1, 1868, a fire destroyed the frame warehouse and other structures and damaged the shops. The loss was over ten thousand dollars. In 1869 new dry-houses were built, of brick with stone foundations. A reservoir of one hundred and fifty thousand gallons’ capacity was constructed, and a well of five-inch diameter was bored a depth of one hundred feet. In 1873 a two-story brick workshop, one hundred and eighty by thirty-four and a half feet, was built on the site of a former pail and tub factory, at a cost of nine thousand dollars. The penitentiary proper is a four-story brick building with two wings. The north wing has cells for males, the south wing for females. One story of the latter comprises the female department for the manufacture of shoes. A high brick wall, inclosing shops, bounds the prison yard. Upon this wall sentries are stationed during the day, and when prisoners are locked in their cells at night, the guards are transferred to the halls as a measure of precaution. The discipline of the institution imposes silence, non-intercourse, hard labor, and deference to officers. Terms being short, the inmates are changed about three times annually. The highest number remaining in the institution on October 1 any year was in 1865, when there were two hundred and seventy-six. The average number has been two hundred and twenty.
The income of the penitentiary for the year ending September 30, 1875, was $1404.48 less than the current expenses, and amounted to $20,771.70, and was derived principally from the tub and pail factory and shoe-shop. The number of prisoners in confinement for the year was twelve hundred and sixty-four, and there were one hundred and forty-nine in the institution on September 30, 1875. Ninety per cent of commitments were of intemperate persons, and over seventy per cent were of persons unmarried. The cost per day for each prisoner was twenty-eight cents. There was an average of one hundred and twelve men employed in the shoe-shop, and an attempt is being made to employ a number of the women at sewing.

L. R. Brockway served three terms as superintendent, and then resigned to take charge of the Detroit House of Correction. Captain William Willard, of Connecticut, ably supplied his place during the last of his unexpired term. Captain Levi S. Fulton long and efficiently filled the position, which requires peculiar qualifications. Alexander McWharter is the present superintendent. Benjamin F. Gilkeson, a former physician, was succeeded by Dr. J. F. Whitbeck. Rev. H. A. Brewster first served as chaplain, gratis; Dr. Samuel Lucky served till his death, October 11, 1869; and Rev. John Parker has satisfactorily performed the duties of the office since. The board of inspectors for 1875 were Patrick Barry, P. Malone, Homer C. Ely, and Russell C. Bates. They report ‘excellent discipline, rigid economy, unusual good health from exceeding cleanliness and good management.”