

**Sullivan, Tioga, Tompkins, Ulster & Warren Counties 1883**

**Sullivan County.** - The poor-house of this county was visited March 16, 1883. The asylum department then contained 33 insane, of whom 11 were men and 22 women. The county has four insane at the Binghamton Asylum, removed about a year ago upon the recommendation of the Board. It has also ten patients at the State Homeopathic Asylum, two of whom are soon to be removed to the asylum at Binghamton. I made a careful examination of the insane in the county institution, and found them all quiet, harmless cases, there being none in any form of restraint, and I therefore did not deem it advisable to recommend any removals. Plans have been adopted for the improvement of the poor-house and the building for the insane men, which it is said will be carried out early the coming summer.

**Tioga County.** - Visited June 9, 1883. The poor-house then had 51 inmates - 27 males and 24 females. Of these, 13 - five men and eight women - were insane. Five of these were in the poor-house proper; the others occupy a separate building. The only attendants are paupers. I made a careful examination of the insane, and advised the superintendents to remove the following cases to the Binghamton State Asylum, viz.: **John Barrington**, age 42 years, wholly incoherent, and at times quite noisy; **Charles Marquart**, 40 years old, incoherent, at times violent and noisy, and slovenly in his habits; **Thomas Ryan**, aged 50 years, has paroxysms of excitement, and is then noisy and violent; **Ann Westfall**, a married woman, 45 years old, an inmate periodically for the past ten years, is violent and noisy, and greatly disturbed at night; **Mary Ward**, 37 years of age, noisy and filthy in her person and habits; **Martha Robinson**, aged 34 years, filthy and demented; **Phebe Cole**, 52 years old, excited and violent, and inclined to injure herself; and **Mary Glover**, 50 years of age, demented and extremely filthy.

Visited November 23, 1883. At the suggestion of Commissioner Miller, before going to the poor-house, I called at the rooms of the supervisors of the county, then in annual session, at Owego, and was accorded full opportunity to address them in regard to the condition of their chronic insane, and as to the necessity of their removal. Upon my request, the board appointed its chairman, Supervisor Ogden, and Supervisor Williams, a committee to visit the

poor-house with me; and Superintendents Barnes and DeForest, who, with Superintendent Earll, were present, accompanied us. At my visit June 9, 1883, I recommended the superintendents to remove eight insane - three men and five women - to the Binghamton State Asylum, and a like recommendation had been made by the State Commissioner in Lunacy, in a previous visit to the institution. Of these, only one, viz.: **Mary Westfall**, had been thus removed. We carefully examined the others, and found no material change in their condition except in the cases of **John Barrington** and **Phebe Cole**, both of whom were more quiet than when before reported, and who, in the opinion of keeper Johnson, could be properly provided for in the poor-house department. The other cases, viz.: **Charles Marquart, Thomas Ryan, Mary Ward, Martha Robinson** and **Mary Glover**, were all more or less disturbed, and generally filthy in their persons and habits, and I renewed my recommendation for their removal to the Binghamton State Asylum. Upon our return to Owego, the committee, at the afternoon session of the supervisors, reported in favor of the removal of these cases, which was thereupon unanimously approved by the Board. In a subsequent interview with the superintendents, they assured me that these removals would be made with the greatest possible dispatch. Under the advice of the supervisors, the old asylum building is to be immediately fitted up and adapted to poor-house purposes, and the high board fences at its rear are to be removed. The few insane remaining in the institution will be distributed among the other inmates.

Since my last visit to this poor-house, a bountiful supply of pure and wholesome water has been procured. A part of this is by means of a pump, and a part comes by an iron pipe leading from springs. The tank is said to have capacity for about 120 barrels, and it is elevated so as to supply all parts of the buildings. A number of bath tubs have also been procured, and good facilities have been introduced for heating and distributing both hot and cold water.

Under date of November 26, 1883, keeper Johnson addressed me the following: 'On the 24th of this month we removed from our county poor-house, to the Binghamton State Asylum, the following insane: **Charles Marquart, Thomas Ryan, Mary Ward, Martha Robinson** and **Mary Glover**.'

**Tompkins County.** - The poor-house of this county, visited June 6, 1883, contained 41 inmates - 22 males and 19 females. Nearly all were aged, sick, infirm and helpless persons. There were only two insane present, both quiet, harmless men, and said to be good laborers. The county has about 50 chronic insane at the Willard Asylum.

**Ulster County.** - I visited the poor-house of this county February 7, 1883, with a committee of the board of supervisors, viz.: A.S. Denton of Gardiner, A.B. Dubois of Rosendale, and C.T. Contant of Esopus - to confer with them in regard to remodeling the buildings. The action had in this respect will hereafter be reported.

In the course of my visit, I made a careful examination of the institution, which then contained 82 inmates – 66 males and 16 females. They were mostly aged and infirm persons, and there were none classed as insane. The county has 79 chronic insane at the Willard and 12 at the Binghamton State Asylum. Among the inmates were three feeble-minded young women, viz.: **Abigail White**, aged 27 years, **Lillian Wright**, aged 24 years, and **Eliza Stokes**, aged 22 years. These all appeared to be suitable cases for the Custodial Asylum at Newark, and the superintendent, who was present, promised to take immediate measures to secure their removal to that institution.

**Warren County.** - Visited July 18, 1883, in company with the State Commissioner in Lunacy. The poor-house then contained 57 inmates, about equally divided as to sex. Of these, there were five insane, viz.: One man and four women. These were found under conditions as follows: **William Archer**, 24 years old, admitted August 22, 1881, having never been at any State asylum; is confined constantly in his room, being violent, filthy and noisy; he recently attacked an aged inmate, whose life was saved only by the interposition of the keeper. **Helen Richardson**, a married woman, 40 years old, admitted September 14, 1880; is very filthy in her person and habits, violent and noisy, especially at night, and remains most of her time in her room; has never been treated at any State asylum. **Jane A. Raymore**, aged 40 years, and married; admitted in March, 1883, previous to which she had been a long time insane and kept at home; is destructive and filthy, and was confined in the basement. **Margaret Liddle**, 31 years old, admitted in 1879, and has never been at any State asylum; is at times excited and noisy, and needs constant oversight. **Mary Donahue**,

admitted in November, 1882, having never received treatment in any State asylum; is at times violent and noisy, and was wandering without restraint about the buildings and grounds.

With the concurrence of the State Commissioner, and the approval of Commissioner Foster, who had a few days previously visited the institution, I soon after addressed A.T. Pasko, superintendent of the poor, advising the removal of these insane to the Binghamton State Asylum, and the removals not being made, I subsequently addressed him twice more upon the subject. On the 28th day of September 1883, the superintendent wrote me as follows: 'I have concluded to lay the matter before the supervisors, which meet on the 1st of November. There is a great deal of opposition here to sending the insane to the State Asylum.' In view of the communication of the superintendent, I would respectfully recommend that measures be taken to bring the subject to the notice of the supervisors, at their meeting in November, and that the State Commissioner in Lunacy be requested to cooperate in the matter.

We also found in the poor-house, at this visit, two feeble-minded girls, whose removal was recommended to the Newark Custodial Asylum, viz.: **Mary Moss**, aged 19, and **Lucy Hathaway**, aged 21 years. Up to October 1, 1883, these removals had not been effected, nor have I been advised of any application being made for their admission to that institution.

Visited November 16, 1883. Previous to my visit, I attended the session of the supervisors of the county, at Caldwell, and was courteously given an opportunity to address them in regard to the insane and other inmates of their county poor-house. At my request, the Board appointed a committee consisting of Supervisors Dr. G.H. Aldrich and John Peart, to accompany me to the institution. We accordingly visited the poor-house, and were there joined by Dr. Howard, attending physician. The only change that had occurred in the insane since my visit with the State Commissioner in Lunacy, July 18, 1883, was the removal, soon after, of **Margaret Liddle**, by her friends, since which time she has been maintained in family care. We carefully examined the other cases of insane, and found them in about the same condition as last reported.

**William Archer** was confined in a room, lying upon a straw mattress on the floor, with no clothes, except a coarse, heavy shirt, and was sullen and morose. He was covered with blankets, his hair long and unkempt, and was filthy in his person. The keeper said that at times he was extremely violent and noisy, and that he regarded him as highly dangerous. He is taken out of his room occasionally by the keeper, while it is being cleaned, but is not allowed at large with the other inmates. **Jane A. Raymore** had been removed to a room in one corner of the basement kitchen. The partitions are wooden slats or bars, admitting warmth from the kitchen stove, but the room is imperfectly lighted. She is very filthy in her person and habits, and her face was swollen from erysipelatous disease. **Helen Richardson** was in bed, her clothing disordered, and extremely filthy. The matron stated that she required to be bathed daily, and not infrequently three or four times a day, with entire change of clothing. She was quiet during our visit, but is said to be, at times, very violent and noisy. **Mary Donahue** fled from her room at our approach, and we were unable to find her. There is but little restraint exercised over her, she being allowed to wander about the buildings and grounds, and she is said, frequently, to be noisy and violent.

The two feeble-minded young girls, **Mary Moss** and **Lucy Hathaway**, were still in the institution, and no application had been made by the superintendent for their admission to the Newark Custodial Asylum.

In the course of our visit, we went through all parts of the institution. The rooms were clean and in good order, and we saw much to commend in the management of the keeper and his wife. The removal of the insane and other cases referred to would relieve them of much anxiety and care, and enable them to bestow greater attention upon the other inmates, most of whom are aged, feeble-minded and infirm.

From the proceedings of the supervisors of this county, subsequent to my visit, as published in the local press, the following action in regard to the insane, etc., appears to have been taken: On the 17th of November, the committee upon the subject reported as follows: 'We recommend the removal of **Mary Moss** and **Lucy Hathaway**, idiotic inmates, to a State institution; we recommend a surgical operation to be performed on **Helen Richardson**, at the poor-house, and that **Jane Raymore** be kept at the county house and be attended by the

county physicians.’ On the 22d of November the report was taken up by the Board and adopted. It will be observed that no action whatever was taken in respect to **William Archer**, the violent, dangerous, insane young man, constantly confined. Regarding this man, Dr. Aldrich, one of the committee, is reported as saying, ‘that **Archer** was past help, mentally. His physical health, he thought, might be improved under the care of a keeper and the advantages of an asylum, but as himself and Mr. Peart, the other member of the committee, were not tax payers, they did not wish to burden the county with their inclinations.’

The wretched condition of the chronic insane in the poor-house of this county calls, in my opinion, for prompt and decided action on the part of the Board. As the Willard and Binghamton State Asylums have spare room, there seems to be no valid excuse for the retention of violent, dangerous, filthy and feeble insane, as those of this county are, in poor-houses. I therefore recommend, that an order be made by the Board, directing the superintendent of the poor to remove the chronic insane now in the poor-house of this county, to one of the State asylums for this class.