

**Washington, Wayne, Westchester, Wyoming & Yates Counties 1883**

**Washington County.** - I visited the poor-house of this county November 17, 1883, in company with Superintendent Reid, the keeper being absent. Its inmates then were said to number 57 males and 46 females; total, 103. Of these, 25 - 7 men and 18 women - were classed as insane. Among the number was a young man, a recently arrived immigrant, just admitted, whose home was in Liverpool, England, where his parents reside. As he was quiet and harmless, and had sufficient money to defray the expense of his passage home, I advised that he be permitted to return in accordance with his desire, taking the precaution, however, to see him aboard, and placed under the steamship surgeon's care.

The other noticeable cases of insane were the following: **Benjamin Tallman**, 50 years old, an inmate about eight years, and formerly at the State Lunatic Asylum, and the Asylum at Brattleboro, Vermont. He was quiet during my visit, but at times, it was said, is extremely violent and dangerous. I advised his removal to the Binghamton State Asylum. **Mary Loomis**, a widow, 68 years old, an inmate about five years, having never been at any State asylum. She is generally quiet, but the matron said, is subject to periods of great depression, continuing often for two or three weeks, and, although never as yet attempting self destruction, she has strong suicidal tendencies. For this reason I also advised her removal to the State Asylum at Binghamton. **Mary Jane Walker**, a single woman, 26 years old, congenitally feeble-minded. She was an inmate when a child, was placed out in a family, and returned June 5, 1877, as insane; discharged July 24, 1877, re-admitted May 11, 1881, and again discharged March 14, 1882. On October 28, 1883, she was again returned, and at the time of my visit was laboring under considerable excitement. I advised the superintendents that she be carefully examined by Dr. McNeil, the attending physician, and that they be guided by his opinion as to her removal.

During the year this poor-house has been improved by the removal of several partitions, thus enlarging the rooms, and the floors in many parts of the building have been renewed. The basement of the old asylum building has been fitted up and set apart for feeble-minded and filthy males. The rooms throughout were clean and in good order, and the beds and

bedding tidy and comfortable. A separation of the sexes is said to be effected at night, but the association during the day is almost wholly unrestricted.

**Wayne County.** - Upon my visit to this county, March 2, 1883, the buildings set apart for the insane contained 61 patients, of whom 28 were men and 33 women. There were also a few cases classed as insane that were in the poor-house proper. The insane are under the charge of Dr. C.N. Dorset, resident physician, who also acts as an attendant to the men. There are two female attendants having the care of the women. There was only one patient in any form of restraint. This was a turbulent, noisy woman, strapped in a chair, and she was said to be continuously disturbed. I recommended her removal to the Willard Asylum. The county has now 13 chronic insane at that institution, and its authorities will probably endeavor soon to remove some of these. The removal should be restricted to mild and harmless cases only, and I so advised the authorities.

Visited April 26, 1883, accompanied by Commissioner Milhau and the State Commissioner in Lunacy. The asylum department then contained 68 insane, of whom 31 were men and 37 women. The turbulent, noisy woman, referred to in my last visit, **Carrie Gay**, has since then been transferred to the Willard Asylum, and eight patients, all quiet and harmless cases, have been returned from that institution to the county. We found the insane free from restraint and their apartments throughout clean and in good order. The buildings will properly accommodate 100 patients, fifty of each sex. The paid force in charge of the insane are: The resident physician, acting also as attendant, at \$400 per year; one male attendant at \$20 per month; one female attendant at \$250 per year; and one at \$2 per week. It is probable that two or three more patients will soon be removed from the Willard Asylum.

Visited July 26, 1883. Since last visited - April 26, 1883 - four additional patients - three men and one woman - have been brought from the Willard Asylum, and two men and two women, admitted direct from their homes. Of the latter, one man, aged 37 years, had been insane a long time in family care, and the other 19 years old, was a case of chronic dementia. The women had both been at the State Lunatic Asylum, discharged as improved, and for some time past provided for at their homes. One was a disturbed chronic demented case,

and the other quiet, and apparently improving. No discharges or deaths had taken place since last reported, thus giving 36 men and 40 women, or a total of 76 under care.

My visit was made in the absence of the keeper and the resident physician, though the latter returned before my leaving. One man was considerably excited, and his hands were restrained by straps. The excitement was said to be only temporary, the man being usually a good laborer. One woman, an inmate about three years, was extremely noisy, and I advised her removal, if this condition continued. There were no other patients in restraint, nor apparently any other troublesome cases, and the wards and rooms throughout were clean and in good order. The force of attendants continues the same as when last reported.

Visited October 20, 1883. Since my visit July 26, 1883, there have been two admissions to the asylum of this county, one man and one woman, and one woman has been taken away by her relatives, said to be improved. It has also lost two men by death, one 52, and the other 56 years old. The number under care was, men, 35; women, 40; total, 75, as against 76, when last reported. My visit extended to all the wards, halls and rooms, and to the kitchen, laundry and dining apartments. There was one woman disposed to tear her clothing, strapped in a chair, but no others were in any manner restrained, and all were quiet and orderly. The walls have recently been cleaned and whitened, and the buildings throughout were in good condition. It did not seem that any removals were necessary. The resident physician, Dr. Dorset, was recently discharged, and the medical services were being performed by the attending physician, Dr. J.W. Putnam, who, it was said, makes daily visits to the institution. The keeper informed me that negotiations were in progress for the immediate employment of a resident physician.

**Westchester County.** - My visit to the poor-house of this county was made March 10, 1883. It then sheltered 202 inmates - mostly aged, sick and infirm persons - of whom 136 were males, and 66 females. There were no insane except one woman, a recent case, awaiting removal to the Hudson River State Hospital. The county has 119 chronic insane in the Willard and 62 at the Binghamton State Asylum. I found an imbecile alien pauper in the institution - **Joseph Andrews**, a German, 26 years old, sent to this country by his brother, in November 1882 - and I provided for his return to his home. I also found three feeble-

minded young women in the institution, viz.: **Josephine McClenan**, aged 18; **Catherine Pierce**, aged 22; and **Phebe Jane Bennett**, aged 21. The superintendents were advised to take measures for the removal of these cases to the Custodial Asylum at Newark, and they have since been transferred to that institution.

**Wyoming County.** - The insane department of the poor-house of this county, May 26, 1883, the date of my visit, had 17 inmates, of whom 7 were men and 10 women. Of the men, 4 were in the building, and 3 at work upon the farm. Several of the women were engaged in sewing. The wards and rooms were clean and in good order. A matron has charge of the women, and the keeper looks after the men. There were two cases which I advised the superintendents to remove to the Willard Asylum, viz.: **James E. Lathrop** and **Rose Warner**. The former seeks every opportunity to escape, and was shackled at the ankles with a chain. He was brought from the Utica State Lunatic Asylum, about three years ago, and recently has become very noisy, especially at night. The latter, an inmate about four years, has never been at any State asylum. She is a congenital, feeble-minded woman, very noisy both day and night, and sloven and filthy in her person and habits. In the poor-house proper there was a feeble-minded child, **Mina Fox**, seven years old, and I recommended that application be made for her admission to the State Idiot Asylum.

In company with the State Commissioner in Lunacy, visited August 3, 1883. Since my last visit, May 26, 1883, **Jerome Lathrop** had been taken away by his relatives and removed to the Willard Asylum July 30; and **Chauncey Hayden** had been admitted, transferred from the Genesee county poor-house. Application had been made for the admission of **Rose Warner** to the Willard Asylum, but she had not been removed. The number of insane was the same as last reported, viz.: Men, 7; women, 10; total, 17. The feeble-minded girl, **Mina Fox**, had been accepted as a pupil at the State Idiot Asylum, and was to enter the asylum at the opening of its school in October. I communicated with the superintendents, advising the removal of **Chauncey Hayden**, but did not regard it necessary to recommend further removals, other than those referred to in my last report. We found the insane generally, clean and orderly, and their rooms, beds, bedding, etc., in good condition.

In a visit to the Willard Asylum, September 14, 1883, I learned that **Rose Warner** was removed to that institution August 6, and **Chauncey Hayden**, August 16, 1883. The removal to the Willard Asylum, of the cases referred to in my last report, left only 14 insane in the care of this county upon the occasion of my visit, October 26, 1883, viz.: 5 men and 9 women. These were all orderly, quiet patients, entirely free from restraint, and upon my arrival were at dinner. The meal consisted of fried salt pork, boiled potatoes, stewed carrots and beets mixed, and bread, milk and tea. The poor-house inmates were also being served with a similar meal, and in abundant quantities. The institution in all its parts was clean, and in good order, and there seemed no necessity of advising, for the present at least, any further removals of insane. The feeble-minded little girl, **Mina Fox**, had been transferred to the State Idiot Asylum at Syracuse.

**Yates County.** - The poor-house of this county was visited June 4, 1883. It then sheltered 29 inmates, of whom two were insane women. One of these, **Phebe Newson**, a widow, had been an inmate about five months, being sent to her relatives in this county from Illinois, where she had probably been insane for some time. She was very neat and clean in her person and habits, but being at times quite disturbed, I advised her removal to the Willard Asylum, in which the county has now about 30 patients. The other woman was a quiet, harmless case, and said to be a good laborer. Among the inmates, who were mostly very aged and infirm, there was one feeble-minded woman, 27 years old, who had been in the house about six months. She is badly scarred upon the chest, from a burn by hot water, when a child, and lacks physical vigor. During the past winter, an attempt was made by a tramp, lodging over night in the house, to outrage her person, but it is said without success. In view of her helpless condition, I advised the superintendent to endeavor to secure her early admission to the Newark Asylum.