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DOC. No. XXII.

REPORT

OF

THE LUNATIC ASYLUM

WEST

OF THE

ALLEGHANY MOUNTAINS,

1859.



DIRECTORS.

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MINTER BAILEY, PRESIDENT.

J. N. CAMDEN, CLERK.

JOHN BRANNON.

RO. J. McCANDLISH.

GEORGE J. ARNOLD.

JAMES T. JACKSON.

WILLIAM E. ARNOLD.

CALEB BOGGESS.

JOSEPH C. SPALDING.



WESTON, VIRGINIA,

November 2d, 1859.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have prepared and have had copied, *so that it can be read*, the report of the directors of the asylum, which I enclose to you.

Two of the documents referred to, have not yet been copied; and as the report should have been forwarded before this, I send that which is now ready, and will have the accompanying documents referred to forwarded in a few days.

Permit me to suggest, should you refer to the subject in your message, that the costs of support of the insane now in prisons for want of room in the asylums, furnishes an argument for a speedy completion.

You deserve the plaudits of the people of Virginia for your prompt and valorous action in the Harpers Ferry affair. Every day discloses evidence that it was an extensively arranged conspiracy—that many were prominently connected with it, and that others, and perhaps no less a person, as I see from the papers, than Mr. Seward, had a knowledge of it. If you have any evidence to justify you, we feel confident you will demand these nefarious traitors—and if not, if the evidence you may have only tends to implicate them in a knowledge of it, that upon the proper occasion you will make it public. Let us put the north to the test, and see if they will continue their support of such men.

Your friend,

JOHN BRANNON.

*His Excellency* HENRY A. WISE,  
*Governor of Virginia.*



# R E P O R T .

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WESTON, VA., OCTOBER 20, 1859.

The board of directors of the lunatic asylum west of the Alleghany mountains, as required by the 9th section of chapter 85 of the Code of Virginia, submit this their annual report:

It will occur to you that a compliance with all the requirements of said section are inapplicable to this institution, as it is at present only in progress of construction. We therefore deem it only necessary to report the state and condition of the work, the property acquired for the purposes of the institution, the condition of the funds appropriated, and expenditures, and to submit such remarks in relation thereto as we deem pertinent.

The general assembly, at the last session, prompted by a laudable desire, and indeed by an absolute necessity to provide for the care and cure of the insane, directed the erection of an asylum west of the Alleghany mountains, at a suitable point to be selected by three commissioners, to be appointed by your excellency—one from the Valley, and two from that part of the state east of the Blue Ridge: And in pursuance of that authority, Thomas S. Wallace of Petersburg, Dr. Clement R. Harris of Culpeper, and Samuel T. Walker of Rockingham were selected; and in discharge of the duties of said commissioners, they unanimously selected a point immediately opposite this place, on the west side of the west fork of the Monongahela river, as the site for said institution; and on this extensive and eligible area of land, bordering on the river, the buildings are being erected. Looking to the geographical position of the place, the productiveness of the surrounding country, its unsurpassed healthfulness, the vast abundance of the most superior class of materials necessary for the construction of the buildings, in close proximity, at once making the construction comparatively cheap, if not less than at almost any other point in the state—and in a word, combining all the facilities for the completion of the work and the support of the institution when completed, we believe attach peculiar and unsurpassed merits to the location selected.

## LANDS PURCHASED.

The board, as their first duty to be performed under the act of assembly, purchased 269 acres of land, embracing the site selected, at a cost of \$9,809 12, which has been paid for out of the appropriation. It is but a just tribute to the liberality of several of the owners of portions of this land, to say they made a sacrifice in the sale to promote the benevolence of the object, and the lands were thus acquired at a price considerably below their true value.

We have thus acquired a large extent of valuable and productive lands, amply supplied with spring and river water, and abounding with an inexhaustible amount of superior coal suitable for the purposes of the institution.

We return herewith a plat of the land.

## PLANS FOR BUILDINGS.

The next duty required by the act of assembly was the adoption of a plan for the buildings, and we were pleased to be, in a great measure, relieved by the provisions of the act from this duty, which required more skill and experience than we possessed, as it was thereby made incumbent upon us before said hospital should be built or contracted for, to submit "a plan to some physician or physicians, who have had charge of similar establishments, or are practically acquainted with all the details of their management, and receive his or their full approbation."

In obedience to this direction, we caused to be submitted to Doctors Thomas S. Kirkbride of the Pennsylvania hospital for the insane, and Francis T. Stribling of the Western lunatic asylum of Virginia, a plan for the buildings. These gentlemen, independent of their long practical experience in the charge of similar institutions, have devoted much of their time to the investigation and study of plans and architecture of this character, and we have had no duty to perform, which gave us more pleasure than to have secured and to have cheerfully granted to us, the eminent services of those gentlemen. They conferred together; and after having had their suggestions and amendments incorporated in the plan, it was adopted by them. We feel entirely safe in declaring our entire confidence and belief that we have secured a plan free from all the objections attaching to the old hospitals, constructed more for the purposes of security and safety of patients, than as a curative means—adopting only such details as experience has approved, and at the same time a plan that will be unexceptionable in point of economy. The plan is arranged for the accommodation of 250 patients.

## RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS.

Document marked A, accompanying this report, exhibits the amount of receipts and disbursements, showing a balance in the Exchange Bank of Virginia at this place, to the credit of the institution, of \$ 3,246 32 on the 30th of September 1859.

Of the sum appropriated for this work, the land was purchased, as before stated, and the balance, exclusive of the sum above stated to the credit of the institution, was used in doing necessary preparatory work—such as building shops, several houses, &c. and prosecuting the work—a large amount of which has been done, and is yet in progress, with the small amount of means to our credit.

## WORK AND LABOR PERFORMED.

We submit herewith, document B, which is the report of R. Snowden Andrews, architect, which exhibits the work performed, exclusive of the preparatory work referred to above.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS.

Document C, accompanying this report, contains our by-laws and regulations.

## REMARKS.

It is the purpose of those who are connected with this institution, should they be so fortunate as not to be delayed for the want of means, to prosecute the work to a speedy completion. Prompted by the pride of disinterested motive, they feel assured they can safely appeal to the representatives of the people to aid them with the necessary means to accomplish an object that appeals to the sympathies of every class of our people.

The past affords conclusive evidences of the necessity which has existed, and which is now increasing, to have this work finished at the earliest possible time. The last census shows that there were then in Virginia 922 insane whites, beside a number of free blacks and slaves, and there were 945 idiots; and no doubt many of this last class once possessed mind, and from the unchecked influence of disease have become demented.

The existing institutions have not sufficient capacity to provide for these unfortunate people, and many of them are confined to the common prisons of the commonwealth—some of them at great expense to the state, and others are at large, in some instances, to the terror of other citizens. Every one who investigates the merits of the application for a speedy completion must acknowledge the absolute necessity for it; and that it appeals more forcibly than any other charity to the favorable consideration of the people.

We venture to make the assertion that so large a number of instances of insanity would not exist had we adequate provisions in the state for the specific treatment which can alone be offered at institutions constructed for the purpose. This is the history of insanity in every state in the Union—as the means of this treatment have been enlarged, there has been a proportionate diminution of insanity. Insanity is to be regarded like other diseases; but from its nature, hospitals for its cure must be provided. In ordinary sickness, proper treatment can be rendered at the humblest home, but the comforts of a palace cannot, in many cases, afford relief and cure for this disease of the mind.

We see many instances of some of the very best class of citizens, who have been restored, alone by the curative means of these institutions, to their homes, and have discharged every duty of life—public and private—and indeed the ratio of recoveries is as great, if not greater, when subjected to this specific treatment, than in many diseases of more frequent occurrence.

As none can claim exemption from a visitation of this fearful malady of insanity, and, all will admit, in a majority of instances, its sufferers can only be alleviated by the means which are proposed to be afforded by this institution, we indulge the belief there is no charity calling so imperatively upon us, or embracing so wide a range; and we cannot but believe our appeal to further and advance this great and benevolent object, will be speedily and favorably responded to.

MINTER BAILEY, *President.*  
 R. J. McCANDLISH,  
 CALEB BOGGESS,  
 J. C. SPALDING,  
 JAMES T. JACKSON,  
 GEORGE J. ARNOLD,  
 WM. E. ARNOLD,  
 J. N. CAMDEN,  
 JOHN BRANNON,

*Directors.*

*His Excellency* HENRY A. WISE,  
*Governor of Virginia.*

A

*Receipts and Disbursements for the*

To amount of appropriation by act of 22d March 1858,	-	25,000 00	
To rent received for a house on the asylum grounds,	•	19 87	
		<u>          </u>	25,019 87

\$ 25,019 87

To balance unexpended on 30th September 1859, on deposit in the Exchange  
Bank at Weston,

\$ 3,246 32

*fiscal year ending September 30, 1859.*

Land:		
By amount paid for	acres of land conveyed to asylum, - -	9,809 12
Traveling expenses:		
By expenses of two commissioners visiting other asylums, preparatory to obtaining plans, - - -		478 06
By expenses allowed to Dr. Stribling, - - -		70 00
"    "    to a director, - - -		4 25
		<u>552 31</u>
Architect and superintendent:		
By amount paid for grading and leveling grounds, - - -		152 05
By paid architect on salary, - - -		664 31
By paid superintendent on salary, - - -		262 80
		<u>1,079 16</u>
Stationery:		
By books, &c. - - - - -		34 75
Tools:		
By amount paid for tools, including stone wagon, derrick and rigging, blacksmith's forge, wheelbarrows, axes, picks, drills, spades, shovels, iron hooks, saws, chisels, &c. &c. - - - - -		935 59
Labor:		
By amount paid for day labor, including carts, teams, quarrying, stone cutting, stone masons, and all other labor, - - - - -		5,567 41
Materials furnished:		
By amount paid for cement, blasting powder, fuse, materials for convicts' house, shops, &c. - - - - -		482 99
Convict labor:		
By amount expended in transportation, boarding, furnishing and keeping laboring convicts, - - - - -		3,312 22
	Total expenditure,	<u>21,773 55</u>
By bal. on 30th September 1859, deposited in Exchange Bank at Weston,		3,246 32
		<u>\$ 25,019 87</u>



## B .

## REPORT OF THE ARCHITECT.

WESTON, LEWIS COUNTY, VA.

October 29, 1859.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor to submit to you this report of the progress of the work, from the commencement to the present date.

17,000 cubic yards of earth have been excavated, at a cost of 14 cents per cubic yard, and the 17,000 cubic yards have been hauled and leveled adjacent to the walls to be erected on the northern or the lowest point of the building site. A quarry has been stripped and placed in working order, of close texture and fine color, a sandstone capable of resisting a crushing force of 21,000 lbs to the cubic inch, and yet able to be worked, when first quarried, with great ease, forming a fine quality of block work, without the use of any tool save the hammer. A road has been made from the quarry to the main turnpike.

1,400 perches of stone have been quarried and hauled to the building, a part of which has been used, the balance being on hand.

1,319 feet in length of cellar walls a little over 6 feet in height, and two feet in thickness, with fifty piers of the same height, making in all 700 perches of masonry in the southern one-story building or lodges, at the cost per perch of three dollars and fifty cents, laid, of cement work.

2,400 square feet of stone, forming the 4-5ths portion of the front of one-story lodges, at a cost of 20 cents per foot.

3,000 bushels of lime have been purchased and hauled to the building, the larger portion of which is on hand for an early commencement of the work in the spring.

300 barrels of cement have been purchased, of which 100 barrels are on hand. A derrick has been erected with a forty foot boom, to place stone from the quarry on to the wagons, by which a wagon can be loaded in from five to seven minutes. A building for lime and cement, blacksmith's shop and shed for tools, have been erected.

A blockhouse for confinement of the convicts, capable of accommodating thirty five, has been erected.

Stone cutting and quarrying tools have been purchased.

A wagon has been purchased for hauling stone, a blacksmith's bellows and tools have been purchased, and a well at the quarry has been sunk.

1,000 yards of stripping of quarry.

100 loads of sand have been excavated and hauled to the building and used.

As the masonry has been suspended for the season, I shall employ the convicts in excavating sand, of which there will be need early in the spring. Within thirty days there will be some 1,500 loads ready for use. The convicts will then prepare clay for burning brick next season.

I beg leave to call to your attention the cost of the stone work (laid up in cement) of the walls, viz: \$ 3 50 per perch; realizing my expectations, and showing conclusively the economy in building of stone rather than of brick—the average cost of the front and rear stone work not exceeding \$ 4 50 per perch, whereas its equivalent in brick work would cost \$ 4 89 and would then be of an inferior quality to the stone.

I cannot close this report, without congratulating the board upon the amount of work done for the limited amount of means at its command. And I take the liberty of urging them to request the legislature to appropriate at its next session the entire amount necessary to complete the building, rather than by small sums from time to time, as has been done in the Maryland hospital for the insane, which has been in course of erection since 1852, and has at the present time but one portion under roof, by which means the interest upon a large sum has been unproductive, while many expenses have been incurred which might have been avoided. This building cannot be properly constructed in less than three years, even when enabled to systematize from the beginning, which can be only done as effectively by the appropriation of the whole amount.

The building proper will cost \$ 253,000, with the necessary heating and ventilating apparatus, including the engine house, &c., exercising yards and enclosures, \$ 305,000.

The Northampton asylum (being the third by the state of Massachusetts), recently completed has been erected at a cost of \$ 335,000; and that of the New Pennsylvania Hospital, at a cost of \$ 325,000. That of the state of Maryland, being the second for the state (there being three other private institutions, either built or in course of erection), will cost \$ 300,000 when completed. All of these are intended to accommodate 250 patients.

With great respect,

Your obedient serv't,

R. SNOWDEN ANDREWS.

*Board Directors Trans-Alleghany L. A.*

LUNATIC ASYLUM WEST OF ALLEGHANY MOUNTAINS,  
WESTON, Nov. 10th, 1859.

SIR,

Enclosed I hand a copy of the by-laws of this institution, which was made a part of the annual report of the board of directors. They desire to have them printed, to accompany said report.

Very resp'y.,

Your ob't servant,

J. N. CAMDEN, *Clk. Board.*

To His Excellency HENRY A. WISE,  
*Governor of Virginia.*

ADDITIONAL REQUISITE: A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
Must be submitted with the application.

The Board of Trustees of the New York Public Library  
has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter  
of the 10th inst. and to inform you that the same  
has been forwarded to the appropriate authorities  
for their consideration.

Very respectfully,  
The Librarian

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION

15th Street, New York City

## C

## BY-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The annual meeting shall take place on the Saturday after the fourth Mouday in November. There shall, also, be quarterly meetings held on the Saturday after the fourth Monday in the months of November, February, May and August.

In the absence of the president, the senior director shall preside; and when the clerk is absent, a clerk pro tem. shall be appointed.

There shall be kept a well bound book, in which the orders and resolutions of the board shall be recorded; and the records of the last meeting shall be read, and if necessary, corrected, and signed by the president; and any unfinished business mentioned therein shall be first taken up.

The directors shall, at their annual meetings, appoint from their own body a clerk and executive committee; as also, apart from their own body, a treasurer, physician, steward and matron, and assistants; or as soon thereafter as it may be necessary, to fill said offices.

Any vacancy in the offices of the institution may be supplied, or such offices may be originally filled at any regular or called meeting; provided, that the board shall have been notified by the president that such is the object of the called meeting.

Every resolution or motion (except for adjournment) shall be reduced to writing by the mover, and shall be disposed of before any other motion shall be entertained.

Special meetings may be called by the president, or any two or more directors, when he or they may deem it necessary, of which the steward, when appointed, shall have notice, and summon the other directors at the time and place appointed.

All appointments shall be made viva voce, and questions shall be determined by a majority of the votes present; provided, that not less than six shall constitute a quorum for the appropriation of money, and not less than five concur therein.

No office shall be filled or vacancy supplied, unless the candidate shall receive a majority of the whole board.

The meetings of the board shall be at the town of Weston until the buildings of the institution shall have been completed, and at such places as the board may from time to time designate; and when such buildings are completed, then within the same.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The executive committee shall consist of three members, any two of whom shall be competent to transact business. They shall be an advisory body, with whom the superintendent of the asylum and construction agents and contractors shall from time to time confer. They shall transact all business, and shall be clothed with full power to do all acts which a full board could do, except in such cases as the law requires the action of the board itself, and except as they shall be governed by the orders of the board.

The committee shall, within three days after the expiration of each month, meet at the asylum, or such place as they may appoint in the town of Weston, for the transaction of all business within the scope of their duties. It shall be their especial duty at such times to examine, settle and certify to the auditor the accounts of the steward for the expenditures of the preceding month; and if they find them correct, shall authorize the auditor to draw on the treasurer for such sums as may be necessary for their payment.

They may also, if they deem it expedient, draw on the treasurer for such sums as they may think necessary, to meet the expenses of the current month.

They shall be restricted from making any purchases or making any contracts which may require an expenditure of more than fifty dollars, unless the committee are unanimous; and in no event shall they enter into any contract, or expend more than one hundred dollars for any one object, without first having obtained the consent of the board of directors.

The committee shall keep a journal of its proceedings, or otherwise report all its transactions specially to the meetings of the board; and they shall report to the regular meetings of the board the general condition of the asylum, and recommend such modifications of the regulations, or such new ones as they may deem expedient.

## TERMS OF OFFICE.

The terms of office of the different officers of the asylum shall commence on the first of January, and terminate on the 31st day of December of each year. If such offices shall not be filled so as to take effect on the 1st of January, then they may be filled until the 31st of December after they may have been so filled; and all persons in office shall remain in office until their successors take office.

## AUDITOR.

It shall be the duty of the auditor to audit, in a suitable book, which he shall keep for the purpose, all accounts of the asylum, both debits and credits, whether approved of, and drawn by the board of directors, executive committee, or other person having competent authority. He shall endorse upon each account the number and date, and shall write "audited" thereupon, and subscribe his name thereto, and report to each quarterly meeting of the board, the state of the accounts of the institution, as presented by his books.

*For Disbursements.*—He shall cause to be printed and kept at all times in his possession, printed drafts upon the treasurer, with blanks for the payee's name, and on the same paper a printed check for the treasurer to sign, with blanks for the payees' names; and the same shall be kept together, and so presented by such payees to the bank for payment.

*For the Collection of Moneys.*—He shall in like manner have printed drafts to be signed by him, payable to the treasurer. He shall not issue any draft upon the treasurer upon

the orders of the board, unless he shall be presented with a copy of such order, duly certified to him, by the clerk, by certificate showing when the same was so ordered; which he shall, when he issues a draft therefor, endorse "audited," and subscribe his name thereto.

## TREASURER.

The treasurer shall keep a methodical account of all moneys received or paid out by him, and shall settle with the board of directors quarterly, or oftener if required. He shall report his accounts quarterly, counting from the first of January in each year, or oftener if required by the board. He shall neither receive nor pay out any money, unless a draft for the same be issued by the auditor, and have endorsed thereupon the date and number, and name of the auditor, with his official character. He shall keep a book corresponding with that kept by the auditor, in which he shall enter all accounts of moneys received, either collected or paid out, opposite their appropriate number, with the name of the individual of whom received, or to whom paid, and the proper amount thereof. He shall account with the executive committee quarterly, on the last day of March, June, September and December, for the full amount of all drafts drawn by the auditor for the purpose of collecting money, unless he can show, to the satisfaction of the committee, that he has not received the same, and that the failure to collect has not been owing to his neglect. He shall receive, for all moneys other than those collected by him from the treasury of the commonwealth, a commission of three per centum, and on moneys from the treasury of the commonwealth, one half of one per centum; which commissions shall be charged with all other costs and commissions accruing in such collections. He shall not be at liberty to use the funds of the asylum for his individual benefit, but shall deposit the same in such bank as the board may direct, and shall not be responsible for the failure of such bank to pay; and he shall either pay or protest all drafts, if properly drawn and authenticated; and no draft shall be paid, unless signed in the proper handwriting of the treasurer and auditor. He shall take from the person to whom he issues his draft, a receipt corresponding in number with the number of his draft, which he shall file and preserve.

## BANKS.

Such bank as the board may designate and appoint to receive deposits, shall receive the same, and place them to the credit of the asylum, and pay the same upon the draft of the treasurer, signed in his own proper hand, accompanied by the certificate of the auditor, and upon no other authority, and shall file away all such drafts.

## AUDITOR, TREASURER AND BANK.

The auditor, treasurer and bank shall, on the first day of each month, compare their books; and if any disagreement occur, they shall forthwith call upon the executive committee to determine between them; and if such committee cannot agree, they shall direct the steward, when appointed, and until then the president, to summon a meeting of the directors, who shall meet as early as practicable, and decide the matter in controversy.

the order of the day, which he will be pleased to see in your hands, and which he will be pleased to see in your hands, and which he will be pleased to see in your hands.

MEMORANDUM

The present state of the country is such that it is necessary to take measures to secure the peace and tranquillity of the people, and to prevent any disturbance which may arise from the present state of the country. It is necessary to take measures to secure the peace and tranquillity of the people, and to prevent any disturbance which may arise from the present state of the country.

MEMORANDUM

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