

A Guide to the Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts - Western State Hospital Records, 1825-1884

Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts - Western State Hospital Records, 1825-1884
1825-1884

A Collection in the Library of Virginia APA 130
Library of Virginia
2017

History

Processed by: Renee M. Savits

Title Statement

A Guide to the Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts - Western State Hospital Records, 1825-1884

Subtitle: Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts - Western State Hospital records, 1825-1884

Collection: APA 130

Author: Renee M. Savits

Publication Statement

Date: © 2017 By The Library of Virginia. All Rights Reserved.

Publisher: Library of Virginia

Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid created in EAD by Renee M. Savits, 8 June 2017

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Accession Number

APA 130

Language

English

Creator

Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts

Extent

5.4 cu. ft. (12 boxes)

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Transferred from the Auditor of Public Accounts in 1913.

Preferred Citation

Virginia. Auditor of Public Accounts (1776-1928). Western State Hospital records, 1825-1884. Accession APA 130. State government records collection, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Biographical Information

In January 1825 the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation providing for the construction of an asylum in the western part of the state. A Court of Directors was commissioned by the Governor to serve as the asylum's governing body and charged with purchasing a site close to the town of Staunton, west of the Blue Ridge Mountains, on which to build an asylum to house the mentally ill of western Virginia. The institution, which became known as Western Lunatic Asylum, was the second mental health facility built in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The buildings and surrounding gardens were designed to embrace the idea of "moral therapy" for mentally ill patients by providing an aesthetically pleasing and tranquil atmosphere in which patients lived comfortably, exercised and worked outdoors.

Western Lunatic Asylum opened in 1828, accepting both male and female patients suffering from a variety of mental disorders. Common diagnoses included "hard study," "religious excitement," and "debility of the nervous system." The asylum was overseen by a Keeper, a Matron and a visiting physician during its earliest years. The hospital also employed attendants, gate keepers, night watch personnel, farm hands, and a steward who handled the day-to-day financial operations. The first superintendent appointed to oversee Western Lunatic Asylum was Dr. Francis T. Stribling. Dr. Stribling was a proponent of the moral therapy approach, and was a leader in the early mental health community. Dr. Stribling was one of the thirteen founders of the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane, which later became known as the American Psychiatric Association. Dr. Stribling served as the hospital superintendent and as a physician until his death in 1874.

It should be noted that the hospital underwent a short-lived name change between 1861 and 1865, when it was known as Central Lunatic Asylum. (It should not be confused with an asylum of the same name later built in Petersburg, Virginia to house African American patients). From 1865 to 1894 the name was again Western Lunatic Asylum. However, in 1894 the General Assembly passed legislation changing the name to Western State Hospital.

Scope and Content

Records, 1825-1884, including accounts, checks, lists of patients, promissory notes, receipts, reports, and vouchers of the Western State Hospital located in Staunton, Virginia. The bulk of the records relate to the expenses for building the hospital as well as running and maintaining the hospital and inmates. The accounts and receipts, 1825-1884, detail purchases of materials (timber, rail, nails), food (beef, veal, sugar, molasses, butter), salaries of the keepers and doctors, hire of slaves, transportation costs to jailers for bringing patients to the hospital, clothing, repairs to the building, purchases of furniture, and other sundry items.

Of note are Reports of the Court of Directors, 1828-1833, which contain financial information, resolutions, and lists of patients. Also included is a ledger, 1828-1835, of patients, listing the patients name, residence, dates of commitment, and expenses.

For additional information and records please see the Western State Hospital Records, 1825-2000 (LVA Accession 31030).

Arrangement

This collection is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Contents List

Accounts and receipts, Construction, 1825-1826.

Box 1

Folder 1

Accounts and receipts, Construction, 1827.

Box 1

Folder 2

Accounts and receipts, Construction, 1828.

Box 1

Folder 3

Accounts and receipts, 1828.

Box 1

Folder 4

Accounts and receipts, 1828.

Box 1

Folder 5

Accounts and receipts, 1828-1829.

Box 1

Folder 6

Accounts and receipts, 1828-1829.

Box 1

Folder 7

Accounts and receipts, 1829.

Box 1

Folder 8

Accounts and receipts, 1829.

Box 1

Folder 9

Accounts and receipts, 1829-1830.

Box 2

Folder 1

Accounts and receipts, 1830.

Box 2

Folder 2

Accounts and receipts, 1830-1831.

Box 2

Folder 3

Accounts and receipts, 1832 January - June.

Box 2

Folder 4

Accounts and receipts, 1832 July - December.

Box 2

Folder 5

Accounts and receipts, 1833 January - June.

Box 2

Folder 6

Accounts and receipts, 1833 July - December.

Box 2

Folder 7

Accounts and receipts, 1833 July - December.

Box 2

Folder 8

Accounts and receipts, 1834 January - June.

Box 3

Folder 1

Accounts and receipts, 1834 January - June.

Box 3

Folder 2

Accounts and receipts, 1834 July - December.

Box 3

Folder 3

Accounts and receipts, 1834 July - December.

Box 3

Folder 4

Accounts and receipts, 1835.

Box 3

Folder 5

Accounts and receipts, 1836.

Box 3

Folder 6

Accounts and receipts, 1836-1837.

Box 3

Folder 7

Accounts and receipts, 1837.

Box 3

Folder 8

Accounts and receipts, 1838-1839.

Box 3

Folder 9

Accounts and receipts, 1838-1839.

Box 4

Folder 1

Accounts and receipts, 1839.

Box 4

Folder 2

Accounts and receipts, 1839.

Box 4

Folder 3

Accounts and receipts, 1840.

Box 4

Folder 4

Accounts and receipts, 184.

Box 4

Folder 5

Accounts and receipts, 1840.

Box 4

Folder 6

Accounts and receipts, 1841.

Box 4

Folder 7

Accounts and receipts, 1842.

Box 4

Folder 8

Accounts and receipts, 1842.

Box 4

Folder 9

Accounts and receipts, 1843.

Box 4

Folder 10

Accounts and receipts, 1844 January - June.

Box 5

Folder 1

Accounts and receipts, 1844 July - December.

Box 5

Folder 2

Accounts and receipts, Check # 1-100, 1845.

Box 5

Folder 3

Accounts and receipts, Check # 101-253, 1845.

Box 5

Folder 4

Accounts and receipts, 1845.

Box 5

Folder 5

Accounts and receipts, Check # 1-125, 1846.

Box 5

Folder 6

Accounts and receipts, Check # 126-213, 1846.

Box 5

Folder 7

Accounts and receipts, Check # 214-269, 1846.

Box 5

Folder 8

Accounts and receipts, 1846.

Box 5

Folder 9

Accounts and receipts, Check # 1-112, 1847.

Box 6

Folder 1

Accounts and receipts, Check # 113-216, 1847.

Box 6

Folder 2

Accounts and receipts, 1847.

Box 6

Folder 3

Accounts and receipts, Check # 1-69, 1848.

Box 6

Folder 4

Accounts and receipts, Check #70-134, 1848.

Box 6

Folder 5

Accounts and receipts, Check # 135-207, 1848.

Box 6

Folder 6

Accounts and receipts, Check # 208-282, 1848.

Box 6

Folder 7

Accounts and receipts, 1848.

Box 6

Folder 8

Accounts and receipts, Check # 1-168, 1848-1849.

Box 6

Folder 9

Accounts and receipts, Check # 169-307, 1848-1849.

Box 6

Folder 10

Accounts and receipts, 1849.

Box 6

Folder 11

Accounts and receipts, Check # 1-50, 1849-1850.

Box 7

Folder 1

Accounts and receipts, Check # 51-129, 1849-1850.

Box 7

Folder 2

Accounts and receipts, Check # 130-233, 1849-1850.

Box 7

Folder 3

Accounts and receipts, Check # 234-308, 1849-1850.

Box 7

Folder 4

Accounts and receipts, 1850.

Box 7

Folder 5

Accounts and receipts, Check # 1-130, 1851.

Box 7

Folder 6

Accounts and receipts, Check # 131-233, 1851.

Box 7

Folder 7

Accounts and receipts, Check # 234-323, 1851.

Box 7

Folder 8

Accounts and receipts, Check # 324-401, 1851.

Box 7

Folder 9

Accounts and receipts, Check # 1-100, 1852.

Box 8

Folder 1

Accounts and receipts, Check # 101-206, 1852.

Box 8

Folder 2

Accounts and receipts, Transportation Fund Certificates #30-50, 1852.

Box 8

Folder 3

Accounts and receipts, Transportation Fund Certificates #51-72, 1852.

Box 8

Folder 4

Accounts and receipts, Check # 1-120, 1853.

Box 8

Folder 5

Accounts and receipts, Check # 121-227, 1853.

Box 8

Folder 6

Accounts and receipts, Check # 228-331, 1853.

Box 8

Folder 7

Accounts and receipts, Check #332-400, 1853.

Box 8

Folder 8

Accounts and receipts, 1855.

Box 8

Folder 9

Accounts and receipts, Check #1-100, 1856-1857.

Box 9

Folder 1

Accounts and receipts, Check #101-196, 1856-1857.

Box 9

Folder 2

Accounts and receipts, 1856-1857.

Box 9

Folder 3

Accounts and receipts, Check #198-257, 1858.

Box 9

Folder 4

Accounts and receipts, Check #258-359, 1858.

Box 9

Folder 5

Accounts and receipts, 1858.

Box 9

Folder 6

Accounts and receipts, Check #1-100, 1859.

Box 9

Folder 7

Accounts and receipts, Check #101-185, 1859.

Box 9

Folder 8

Accounts and receipts, 1859.

Box 9

Folder 9

Accounts and receipts, Check #1-100, 1860-1861.

Box 9

Folder 10

Accounts and receipts, Check #101-200, 1860-1861.

Box 10

Folder 1

Accounts and receipts, Check #201-279, 1860-1861.

Box 10

Folder 2

Accounts and receipts, Check #280-345, 1860-1861.

Box 10

Folder 3

Accounts and receipts, Check #1-100, 1861-1862.

Box 10

Folder 4

Accounts and receipts, Check #101-200, 1861-1862.

Box 10

Folder 5

Accounts and receipts, Check #201-232 plus Special Funds, 1861-1862.

Box 10

Folder 6

Accounts and receipts, 1864-1865.

Box 10

Folder 7

Accounts and receipts, Check #120-174, 1869.

Box 10

Folder 8

Accounts and receipts, Check #175-237, 1869.

Box 10

Folder 9

Accounts and receipts, Check #1-33, 1871.

Box 10

Folder 10

Accounts and receipts, 1873.

Box 11

Folder 1

Accounts and receipts, 1874.

Box 11

Folder 2

Accounts and receipts, 1875.

Box 11

Folder 3

Accounts and receipts, 1876.

Box 11

Folder 4

Accounts and receipts, 1876-1877.

Box 11

Folder 5

Accounts and receipts, Augusta National Bank, 1877.

Box 11

Folder 6

Accounts and receipts, National Valley Bank of Staunton, 1877.

Box 11

Folder 7

Accounts and receipts, 1884.

Box 11

Folder 8

List of Patients, 1828-1835.

Box 11

Folder 9

Report of Court of Directors, 1828-1833.

Box 11

Folder 10

Oversize Accounts and receipts, 1828-1835.

Box 12

Folder 1

Oversize Accounts and receipts, 1837-1839.

Box 12

Folder 1a

Oversize Accounts and receipts, 1839-1843.

Box 12

Folder 2

Oversize Accounts and receipts, 1844-1848.

Box 12

Folder 3

Oversize Accounts and receipts, 1849-1850.

Box 12

Folder 4

Oversize Accounts and receipts, 1852-1858.

Box 12

Folder 5

Oversize Accounts and receipts, 1859-1877.

Box 12

Folder 6

Library of Virginia