

Eastern State Hospital Records

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1862-1868, 1956-1957

Title Statement

Eastern State Hospital RecordsGuide to the Eastern State Hospital Records SC 01415

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 01415

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/3842

Unit Date

1862-1868, 1956-1957

Unit Date

1862-1868

Language

English

Creator

Eastern State Hospital (Va.)

Extent

0.01 Linear Foot

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access:

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Acquisition Information:

Gift of Mrs. Meta Newman in 1956 and purchase from Mr. Norwood Singleton in 1957.

Preferred Citation:

Eastern State Hospital Records, Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library, College of William and Mary.

Historical Note:

The Public Hospital for Persons of Insane and Disordered Minds, as the facility was first known, was established by act of the Virginia colonial legislature on June 4, 1770. The act, which intended to "Make Provision for the Support and Maintenance of Ideots, Lunaticks, and other Persons of unsound Minds," authorized the House of Burgesses to appoint a fifteen-man Court Of Directors to oversee the future hospital's operations and admissions.

In 1841, the hospital was renamed the Eastern Lunatic Asylum and newly-appointed superintendent John Minson Galt II initiated a series of reforms which came to have great effect on the history of mental treatment.

The current name is Eastern State Hospital, part of the Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services system.

More information about this individual or organization may be available in the Special Collections Research Center Wiki: [http://scdbwiki.swem.wm.edu/wiki/index.php/Eastern_State_Hospital_\(Va.\)](http://scdbwiki.swem.wm.edu/wiki/index.php/Eastern_State_Hospital_(Va.)).

Scope and Contents

The collection is composed of material, chiefly 1862-1868, relating to Eastern Lunatic Asylum (now Eastern State Hospital), Williamsburg, Va. Includes correspondence, a list of female patients and "coloured" female patients, patient reports, and requisition orders of Dr. Peter Wager, director of the hospital during the Union occupation of Williamsburg. There are also replies, 1956-1957, to inquiries for information about Dr. John de Sequeyera [or Sequeyra], a physician at the hospital from 1773 to 1793, and the hospital during the Civil War.

Related Materials:

2009.244 Eastern Lunatic Asylum Ledgers, 1876-1916; Mss. Acc. 2006.13 H. Clinton Thompson, M.D. Affidavit on the Eastern Lunatic Asylum.

Keywords

Correspondence

Reports

Williamsburg (Va.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

Eastern State Hospital (Va.)--History

Mental illness--Treatment--History

Mental illness--Treatment--United States

Mental illness--United States

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

Eastern Lunatic Asylum (Va.)
Eastern State Hospital (Va.)
Sequeyra, John de, 1712-1795

Custodial History

This collection was previously identified as Mss. Sm Coll Eastern State.

Description of Subordinate Components

Records

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/245683

Unit Date 1862-1868, 1956-1957

Mixed Materials Small Collections Box 102 (Box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

The collection contains the following items, among others:

Item 1: "List of female patients of the E.L.A" and " List of Coloured females of the E.L.A.". Undated.

Item 2: Report on the patients at E.L.A. in regard to their ages, present conditions, causes of insanity, forms of insanity, and noted improvements. 1862 August 20.

3. Order from E. McClellan, Assistant Medical Director of Virginia and North Carolina, that Lewis W. Blake is to relieve P. Wager at the Eastern Lunatic Asylum. 1864 November 22.

4. Certification by P. Wager that the Asylum was entitled to use some wood "said to have been taken from Miss Stiner and Whipple".

5. P. Wager, Eastern Lunatic Asylum, to Col. J.J. Crann. In need of repair. 1865 October 6. (Fragile)

6. Statement by Harrison Jones that he was relieved of his position of Steward because he did not vote for Lemuel G. Bowden. Witnessed by Thomas Lindsay, J.P. 1865 October 19.

7. Statement by Harrison Jones that he was relieved of his position of Steward because he did not vote for Lemuel G. Bowden. Witnessed by Thomas Lindsay, J.P. 1865 October 19.

8. P. Wager, Williamsburg, to W.C. Spencer, Washington, D.C. 1866 July 19.

9. Five letters (two originals and three carbons) of correspondence of Eastern State Hospital with Winterthur Museum and Pennsylvania Hospital. Re: ESH, Dr. Siqueyra, and Civil War. 1956 December 1-1957 March 30.

"Report of Sick and Wounded"

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610923

Unit Date 1866 October

Mixed Materials Small collections oversize box 18

Container 2 (Folder)

Extent 0.1 Linear FeetOne oversized folder.

Scope and Contents

A fold out report titled "Report of Sick and Wounded" at Eastern State Hospital in October 1866.

"Muster and Pay Roll of the Eastern Lunatic Asylum"

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610924

Unit Date 1864 November 30

Mixed Materials Small collections oversize box 18

Container 3 (Folder)

Extent 0.1 Linear FeetOne oversized folder.