

CHARITY IN NEW YORK STATE IN 1906

FROM

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES

SCHUYLER COUNTY

Note from the publisher

We at Between the Lakes Group are happy to make this item of New York State history available.

We were fortunate to happen on an eBay listing for a three volume set that comprised this report. It was certainly an unusual item; so much so that the seller actually contacted us after the auction to ask what would motivate someone to actually buy such a thing and pay the shipping for it. When we told them that we felt that this would be a great primary source for those interested in local history and for those who might want to see for themselves just what life was actually like a hundred years ago if you happened to be among society's unfortunates and lived in New York State. We allowed that given the political attention today's "safety net" was getting, we thought that there might actually turn out to be quite a bit of interest in the information in these three volumes.

The question was how to make it available, of course. We're a firm that publishes electronically, so reprinting those volumes was not an option. How to organize the material was, however. It occurred to us that possibly the eBay seller was flummoxed about who would want to buy something like this was that, in its three volume format, this is pretty close to impenetrable. For example, volume III (this material is from volume II) is almost entirely tables of statistics. You've got to be more than a policy wonk to find that worth a second look. Volume I – the "report" per se – is a real mixed bag, with much duplication of material on some of the state facilities discussed in this volume, yet also some that is not found here. Volume I also has a series of transcripts of discussions and papers appended dealing with specific issues that were of particular interest to the Commission at that time.

We decided that, since we tend to organize our publications by county, we would stick to that methodology here, providing a certain amount of information at a state-wide level, but certainly not all that the three volumes include. We recognized from the start that we would be overlooking material in volumes I and III that referenced facilities in the counties, but one must start somewhere. Accordingly, our plan is to re-publish volume II in county by county segments. This publication, for Schuyler County, is one of that series of county reports – one of the shortest county reports, in fact.

We hope that those interested in local history will find this series interesting, and we are confident that very few counties have these reports available to them anymore. Thus, we think that any county historian or local historian will find it of interest. We expect that people working on the genealogy of people who were involved in charitable administration in New York State in 1906 will find this of interest simply because it contains many names of persons in various administrative capacities. Further, although names of inmates of the facilities are not listed, we think that anyone who learns that a genealogical subject was at one time an inmate of a particular institution will want to find out a bit more about where the ancestor or other relative lived and what conditions were like there. Finally, as mentioned earlier, with the political discourse about the “safety net” we now have, we ought to have, and at some point in the past we had, we think that knowing what this portion of the safety net consisted of back in 1906 will be instructive, if not surprising, to most people.

We are in the process of publishing more historical information about New York State (and other locales) from a variety of sources, all old, out of copyright, out of print, and much of it very scarce and difficult to locate. We invite you to examine both our material available for download (like this article) and our CD-ROMs – your purchases of which make it possible to continue to collect and republish this material for you.

A full catalog of our offerings can be found at our main website, <http://www.betweenthelakes.com>. We invite you to visit us there.

Meanwhile, enjoy this bit of New York – and American -- history!

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ANNUAL REPORT

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OF THE

STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES

FOR THE YEAR 1906

IN THREE VOLUMES

WITH STATISTICAL APPENDIX TO VOLUME ONE BOUND SEPARATELY

VOLUME TWO

A directory of the poor law officers of the State, and of the public
and the private charities which report to the
State Board of Charities.

TRANSMITTED TO THE LEGISLATURE FEBRUARY 11, 1907.

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DIRECTORY

THE STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES.

The State Board of Charities was created in 1887, and became a constitutional body in 1894. It is organized under the provisions of article VIII of the Constitution of the State of New York, which was adopted in 1894. The constitution of that year provided that the State Board of Charities should be composed of all institutions, including State hospitals, asylums, and other institutions, which should be subject to the supervision and control of the State Board of Charities. The constitution also provided that all reformatories, except those in which child inmates convicted of felony shall be confined, and all other institutions, shall be subject to the supervision and control of the State Board of Charities.

with or without the aid of the State Board of Charities.

The Commission on the State Board of Charities, which was created in 1894, shall be composed of the following members: the Governor, the Attorney General, the State Comptroller, and the State Board of Charities. The Commission shall have the honor of the State Board of Charities.

DIRECTORY.

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THE STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES.

The State Board of Charities was created in 1867, and became a constitutional body January 1, 1895, under the provisions of article VIII of the Constitution of the State of New York, which was adopted in 1894. This article of the Constitution provides that the State Board of Charities shall visit and inspect all institutions, whether State, county, municipal, incorporated and unincorporated, which are of a charitable, eleemosynary, correctional or reformatory character, including institutions for epileptics and idiots, and all reformatories (save those in which adult males convicted of felony shall be confined), and excepting institutions for the care and treatment of the insane, and for the detention of sane adults charged with or convicted of crime, or detained as witnesses or debtors.

The Constitution also provides that the members of the Board shall be appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, that all the existing laws relating to institutions above mentioned, and to their supervision and inspection, in so far as such laws are not inconsistent with the provisions of the Constitution, shall remain in force, and that the Legislature may confer upon the Board any additional powers. It further provides that while payments by counties, cities, towns and villages to charitable, eleemosynary, correctional or reformatory institutions, wholly or partly under private control, for care, support and maintenance, may be authorized but shall not be required by the Legislature, no such payments shall be made for any such inmate of such institution who is not received and retained therein pursuant to rules made by the State Board of Charities.

The Commissioners comprising the Board are twelve in number, and are appointed for the term of eight years, one from each of the nine judicial districts of the State, and three additional members from the city of New York. The Commissioners are required to reside in the districts and city from which they are respectively appointed, and no Commissioner can act as such while a trustee, director or other administrative officer of any institution subject to the visitation and inspection of the State Board of Charities.

Each Commissioner is paid actual expenses necessarily incurred while engaged in the performance of the duties of his office, and receives, as compensation, \$10 for each day's attendance at meetings of the Board, or of any of its committees, not exceeding in any one year the sum of \$500.

The chief officers of the Board are a president and a vice-president, elected annually from its members.

The principal duties of the Board are to visit, inspect and maintain a general supervision of all institutions, societies or associations which are of a charitable, eleemosynary or correctional character, whether State or municipal, incorporated or unincorporated, made subject to its supervision by the Constitution and the statutes of the State. Other duties are to establish rules for the reception and retention of inmates, to approve or disapprove the organization and incorporation of all institutions which are or shall be subject to the supervision of the Board, to license dispensaries, supervise the placing out of dependent children, secure the just, humane and economic administration of all institutions subject to its supervision; advise the officers of such institutions in the performance of their official duties; aid in securing the erection of suitable buildings for the accommodation of inmates in such institutions; aid in securing the best sanitary condition of the buildings and grounds of all such institutions, and advise measures for the protection and preservation of the health of the inmates; aid in securing the establishment and maintenance of such industrial, educational and moral training in institutions having the care of children as is best suited for inmates; investigate the condition of the poor seeking public aid and advise measures for their relief; administer the laws providing for the care, support and removal of State, nonresident and alien poor, and the support of Indian poor persons; collect statistical information in respect to the property, receipts and expenditures of all institutions, societies and associations subject to its supervision, and the number and condition of the inmates thereof, and of the poor seeking public relief.

The Board is required to report to the Legislature annually. Its seal is the arms of the State surrounded by the inscription, "State of New York — The State Board of Charities."

SCHUYLER COUNTY—PUBLIC RELIEF.

COUNTY AND TOWN POOR LAW OFFICERS.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

Chairman, not appointed. Clerk, Osborn Smith, Reynoldsville.

Town of Catharine.—S. D. Bolyen, Alpine.

Cayuta.—Walter Lawhead, Cayuta.

Dix.—John W. Gurnett, Watkins.

Hector.—T. O. Coon, Burdett.

Montour.—Frederick J. Dunham, Montour Falls.

Orange.—E. W. Burt, Beaver Dams.

Reading.—Charles Chapman, Watkins.

Tyrone.—John B. Crawford, Dundee.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF THE POOR.

Frank W. Severne, Watkins, N. Y.

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

Town of Catharine.—Albert Ganung, Alpine.

Cayuta.—Warren Bates, Cayuta.

Dix.—J. D. Considine, Watkins; Henry M. Phelps, Watkins, R. F. D. No. 2.

Hector.—J. M. Secor, Triumansburg, R. F. D. No. 35; Frank Dunham, Burdett.

Montour.—Charles W. Fletcher, Montour Falls.

Orange.—O. H. Barker, Beaver Dam, R. F. D. No. 1.

Reading.—Joseph Philip, Reading Center.

Tyrone.—Charles E. Shaffer, Tyrone.

COUNTY INSTITUTIONS.

As Schuyler county has no almshouse, its dependent poor are cared for by being boarded in families.

The total number for whom such care and maintenance were provided, during the year ending September 30, 1906, was 327.

Aggregate expenditures for support and relief during the year, \$14,586.93; for residents of the county, \$14,466.93; for non-resident wayfarers or tramps, \$120.