Oakdale in the Newspapers

Lapeer County Democrat
Wednesday, July 4, 1894

Our Jubilee

The New State Building Corner Stone Properly Laid

A GREAT DAY LONG TO BE REMEMBERED IN THE HISTORY OF LAPEER

Over 50,000 People Here and Not One Candidate for Admission to the New Asylum.

Everybody happy, well fed and three quartered in Apple Pie Order.

The site near the lake is ideal. The grand and magnificent building of Lapeer is past and present and future.

The cornerstone of the new building in Ms. Finkle's Mound and finished with magnificent ceremony in this city was laid Tuesday, June 26th, with Masonic rites. The citizens will understand the many symbolic significations in Lapeer being selected as the most desirable place in all the land for the erection of a state institution and the laying of the cornerstone and the monument, dedicated to the God whom the traveler seeks and finds where the light of the institution would be centered and where the moon, the stars, and the sun, shall be crowned and glorified.

Lapeer Democrat, Layman's Digest, and Layman's Union, published July 4th, 1894.

The cornerstone was laid on the site of the present building.

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Lapeer County Democrat
Wednesday, May 3, 1893

"Lapeer would like one of the state institutions which the legislature is about to establish. We have all advantages, natural, supernatural and evil spirits, and we are ready for the new and improved Lapeer County Asylum for the Insane in Oakdale."
Oakdale in the Newspapers

Lapeer County Democrat
August 8, 1894

Genesee street, from Main street to the asylum, should be put into the hands of Street Commissioner Jerome Compton with directions to make a boulevard of it. The residents should then slick up and beautify their places and the name changed to Asylum Avenue, or Asylum Boulevard. It ought to be the handsomest street in the city, for the largest amount of travel will be on it. Get to the front, ye property holders on old Genesee.

Lapeer County Democrat
September 12, 1894

The New Asylum.
Work on the new asylum progresses favorably, to the satisfaction of the contractors, Messrs. Smith & Earl. The boiler house and the dining hall are about completed. *One of the large cottages is nearly ready for the roof and the brick work of the second is half way up. The buildings will probably be entirely completed and ready for occupancy by Nov. 1st. The new superintendent has not been selected, yet a number of candidates are being considered, and the selection will be made in a few days.

Lapeer County Democrat
October 31, 1894

Forty or more men at the new asylum are hustling things along rapidly. The slate roof on the south cottage is just completed and other details are going forward most satisfactorily. The buildings have been wired preparatory to electric lighting. It will require 250 incandescent burners.

Date Not Known thought to be around 1894

Lapeer County Democrat
January 2, 1895

C. D. Croley has also bought quite a pile. The Commission for the Home for Feeble-Minded and Epileptic, L. A. Sherman, John C. Sharpe and John Hevener, met in this city Saturday. Owing to the resignation of Ex-Gov. Luce from the board and appointment of John Hevener of this city as his successor, re-organization was necessary. Officers were elected as follows: Pres., L. A. Sherman, secy., John Hevener; treas., John C. Sharpe. They then visited the board at their meeting last week.
Oakdale in the Newspapers

Lapeer County Democrat
January 9, 1895

One thousand cords of pine wood, four feet long, are wanted by the commissioners of the new asylum. See or address John Hevener, Secretary, Lapeer.

Lapeer County Democrat
January 30, 1895

Home of the Feeble-Minded

Last Wednesday was the day fixed for the legislative committee to visit the new state asylum at Lapeer. The committee of the House consists of five members; that of the Senate, three members. For some reason the Senate committee postponed their visit; the House was represented by Dr. Allen of Charlotte, Mr. Partridge of Detroit, and Mr. Place of Ionia. Mr. Hevener, the resident member of the commission, being confined to his house by a severe attack of rheumatism, Dr. McColl, Mayor Vincent, Col. Frank McKelroy and Mr. G. H. Cary escorted the visitors to the asylum, where Mr. Brundage, the superintendent of construction, showed them around the buildings now in progress and explained the plans in detail. The visitors expressed themselves more than pleased with the location. It is as yet uncertain when the other members of the legislative committees will be here.

Lapeer County Democrat
March 27, 1985

Street Car Line Wanted

A line of street cars is needed from the depots to the Abram House, then west to the feeble-minded home. Perhaps it is not generally known that a bus line is running from the center of the city daily, except Sundays, making two trips out to the home and back. Yet such is the case. Starting from the Farmers Home hotel at 8:20 a.m. with from ten to fifteen passengers all bound for the state home. Again leaving the hotel at 8:20 p.m. making the round trip in about 45 minutes. Ben Palm and Phil Slattery take turns driving.

Lapeer County Democrat
April 3, 1895

The new asylum is closed to the public for the present, in order to let the finishing touches dry. Supt. Brundage will be pleased to open the building as soon as all is in readiness.

Lapeer County Democrat
July 17, 1895

The new home for the feeble-minded is progressing nicely and it is expected it will be open for patients the latter part of this month. It will accommodate about 100 inmates and we believe there are already 500 applications.

Lapeer County Democrat
August 7, 1895

We can see no objection to the good old name of Genesee street. It is a fit compliment to our neighbors in the county west of us. Yet there are people here who talk of Asylum street, as though that were its name. If we must have a change, give us something new: Foolery avenue, for instance; or Boulevard Epileptic; or Rue de Feeblemind.
“Billy Harper has moved more stone within a year than any man in this section. He furnished a lot for the new asylum, 50 cords for the new Catholic church and has shipped several carloads to Detroit.”

To visitors at the Home: The management of this school extend a cordial invitation to the public to visit the School and inspect its work. To assist in this an attendant is provided to explain the various details. But, until further notice, we request that the public confine their visits to Wednesdays, between the hours of 2 and 4 p.m. The great amount of work coincident with the opening and organizing will thus not be interfered with. No visiting on Saturdays, Sundays or the Holidays allowed except by special permission from the superintendent. State officials and professional people or those engaged in the work excepted. W. A. Polglase, M. D., Superintendent

There are now about thirty inmates at the new Home in this city, and thirty more applications have been approved. Two new inmates arrived Monday and others are expected daily.

Jas. Brackenbury, on his way home the other evening, was accosted by a little girl, who asked him for a penny to get something to eat. “Who are you?” asked Jim in his kindest manner. “I’m a little beggar,” was the prompt response. “Where do you live?” “Don’t live nowhere.” “Where’s your home?” “Ain’t got no home.” Jim was a little surprised at the answer, but gave her a nickel and passed on. As he walked his thoughts were on this wise: “Poor little waif! Clad in a thin dress, with only a shawl over her head, wandering about in the cold”—but just then his cogitations were interrupted by his meeting the very man he wanted to see—Sheriff Demarest. Together they went in search of the little stranger, and found her in Miss Walker’s restaurant, buying candy. She proved to be an inmate of the Home, having escaped from a basement window, and was duly returned to custody.
Oakdale in the Newspapers

Lapeer County Democrat
December 18, 1895

The new hospital for the Home is in process of construction, and will be completed about Jan. 1st.

Lapeer County Democrat
February 19, 1896

To disabuse the minds of some people of the impression that the state pays for the pleasant entertainments at the Michigan Home, we will state that all the expense involved is met by Supt. Polglase personally. The Home affords more ample room for entertaining than the Doctor's private residence, and besides, it is a universal custom in the state institutions of this class. Entertainments such as dancing, etc., are given every two weeks during the winter at Pontiac Asylum, and are participated in by the professors, leading attendants and many inmates, as well as the citizens.

Lapeer County Democrat
February 26, 1896

The state live stock sanitary commission, together with the state veterinary and Gov. Rich, personally conducted an investigation into the condition of the herd of Holstein cattle at the Michigan Home, here last week. Stock breeders hereabouts thought the cows were not "up to snuff" when they arrived here last fall, and the animals have not appeared well since that time. The findings of the commission pointed toward tuberculosis, and one of the cows being killed, a post-mortem examination confirmed the suspicion. In consequence, the whole herd of 11 cows were ordered killed. The New York stock breeder of whom the cattle were purchased will be taken to task and made to square the deal.

Lapeer County Democrat
May 13

Sunday at The Home.

Having occasion to visit the Michigan Home last Sunday I chanced to arrive during the Sunday school hour and found the girls' classes, in charge of Teacher Eldridge and Gormer, assembled on the lawn in front of their cottage. A speaker's table was decorated with beautiful wild flowers from the grove, and in the hall was placed the piano whose inspiring strains assisted the children to sing familiar gospel hymns.

After the lesson of the day had been carefully explained, Supt. Polglase addressed the children in a simple manner, taking for his text, "Hear ye Him," in which he impressed them with their duty to love God and one another. The children then repeated in concert a hymn, "Sun of My Soul," "Mizpah" and a prayer, which closed the exercises. At the same hour a similar service was being conducted in the boys' cottage.

At 5 p.m. lunch was brought over from the dining-room by attendants and the children received a bountiful supply of physical as well as spiritual food. I shall not soon forget this interesting sight. A Visroz.

Lapeer Democrat
June 3, 1896

Although the exercises at the Michigan Home last Saturday were drowned out by rain, the flag pole was raised just the same and it is a handsome spar furnished with cross-trees and wire cable shrouds, all in the purity of white paint. The program (recitations, music and marching) was very beautiful and enjoyable for, Monday, bright and pleasant, seemed made for the occasion.
Oakdale in the Newspapers

Lapeer County Democrat
November 25, 1896

Fire at The Home.

Friday morning fire broke out in the laundry room at the Michigan Home, and the loss is estimated at about $400. Supt. Polglase has a well organized company, and Chief Murphy found but little to do when he reached the scene. The cause of the fire was the explosion of the gas generator. The valve failed to do its work and forced the blaze back into the gas machine, which exploded with terrific force, and three other gas stoves on the same floor were blown into atoms. A young lady who was operating one of the laundry machines, sitting just in front of the generator when it went to pieces, escaped injury with the exception that her hair was badly scorched. Foreman Webber jumped over the railing to the basement below, injuring his hip quite seriously. He lost clothing valued at $21. It was employees' day for laundry work. Their loss is estimated at $300. Supt. Polglase has urged the necessity of a change in the laundry building, as he has considered it inadequate and unsafe. The board of control has had the matter under advisement. The loss will be adjusted by one of the state boards of which Gov. Rich is chairman ex officio.

Lapeer County Democrat
January 20, 1897

Another cottage is to be built at the Michigan Home, at a cost of $15,000. It will be of brick, in the form of a Greek cross, in marked contrast to the two plain cottages already in use, and will stand to the north of them, next to the road. Dr. Polglase is now at Lansing making arrangements with reference to this new building, and it is planned to get the material on the ground this winter. It will increase the institution's capacity, a great desideratum, as there are several hundred applications waiting. The new cottage will have all modern appointments, and be more convenient than the old ones. Here also is a source of employment for some of our laboring men. 'Twill be a good thing all around.

Lapeer County Democrat
January 26, 1898

Flint Daily Journal, January 22, 1898

Free Press—Muskogon wants to know. It has been partially supporting a deaf and dumb boy by the name of Hans Christian, who was sent to the state school for the deaf and dumb at Flint. The boy was returned with instructions that he be sent to the home for feeble minded at Lapeer. Now the authorities at that place have sent him back, saying that Flint is the proper place for him. And there you are.

Lapeer Democrat
May 18, 1898

Plans for a new cottage at the home for feeble minded in Lapeer were examined by the State Board of Health at a special meeting at Lansing May 18th. With a number of recommendations, the plans were approved.
A Teacher at the Home Writes the Following on Training of the Feeble-Minded

If ever in the history of our country there has been a need of moral training, in every walk of life, and in all classes of society, it is at the present time. It is true that few of the children who are in our care today, are likely to outlive the world; consequently, their influence for good or ill is in great measure bound up with the institution limits. But we must consider that they themselves are the factors with which we have to deal, and develop as far as possible the good, repress the evil, for their own sakes. Physical and mental development without moral training tend to make the child more capable of slavery. But the necessity of moral education is conceded how best to effect it is to be considered.

The feeble-minded child is a human being, but an imperfect one; so the training that is necessary for other children is applicable here, making allowance for the warped, weak and stunted natures with which we have to deal. So our progress is necessarily slow, but with patience and perseverance, we shall achieve much. The moral faculties, like the physical, require strength by one; and we have led the child to independent decision between right and wrong; we have strengthened the moral perception and it is easier to gain another victory. Obedience is one of the cardinal points in moral training; indeed it may almost be considered the corner stone. No child can be fitted for the duties of life morally, mentally or physically until it has learned to obey, for the voice of conscience will have little power over one, no matter how brilliant or how dull the intellect may be, who has not been taught to yield to proper authority. Another necessary element to the moral growth of every child is a proper regard for their rights and privileges of others, their feelings, property and persons; sympathy for the afflicted reverence for age; and for all things pertaining to the maker of all.

Closely following obedience, and very
Oakdale in the Newspapers

Flint Daily Journal, July 9, 1898

At a meeting of the Board of Control of the Home for the Feeble Minded held at Lapeer on Wednesday Hon. George R. Gold was elected secretary. Certificates of admission have been sent out and epileptics will soon be occupying the new cottage built for their accommodation. The school department is taking vacation and the teachers are away.

Flint Daily Journal, July 30, 1898

Miss Maud Smith, of Davison, has accepted a position in Lapeer as night attendant at the home for the feeble minded. She left Wednesday to take up her new duties.

Lapeer Democrat, January 4, 1899

Dr. W. A. Polglase, superintendent of the Home, has recovered from threatened blood poisoning resulting from performing a surgical operation.

Lapeer County Democrat
July 12, 1899

Fire at The Home
Lapeer Fire Department Saved The Building

At 10 o’clock Monday night an alarm of fire was sent in from the Michigan Home for the Feeble Minded. The Lapeer fire department responded promptly and together with the department at the institution soon had the flames under control. The fire started among the barrels and boxes in the store room underneath the dining hall and had gained great headway when discovered. The building was filled with dense smoke throughout and a hot fire was raging in the hatchways and joints of the cellar. Heavy rolls of smoke were issuing from every window. It was just ripe for a conflagration; but the prompt and efficient work of the firemen was soon felt, and in less than an hour the fire was extinguished and smoke cleared away. Supt. Polglase was in Detroit at the time. Commissioner John Havener was early on the scene and praised the Lapeer firemen for their great work. The ladies of the Home served the firemen with a lunch of coffee and cake. This is the second occasion the Lapeer firemen have been called to the Home, and they speak in great praise of the kind treatment and splendid discipline on the part of the authorities and attendants of the Home.

Lapeer County Democrat
August 30, 1899

Things are moving along nicely at the Michigan Home. Ground is being broken for a new and extensive boiler house southwest of the present one. It will be large and on an extensive scale, furnishing power, steam heat, it own electric light plant etc. Progress is the watch word and Dr. Polglase is always at the front.