

FROM: SCOTT CLARK, CURATOR

SUBJECT: HOSPITAL CEMETERY

St. Joseph State Hospital does still have a cemetery, but it is located on Department of Corrections (Western Region Diagnostic Correctional Center) grounds. The DOC grounds crew maintains the cemetery.

A brick monument honoring patients buried in our cemetery was moved to the 36th Street side of the grounds two years ago. Our cemetery is divided by a small creek.

No burials have been conducted since September/October 1949. We have approximately 2,000 graves in the cemetery. An exact count has not been made, but will be when we complete a restoration project this fall or early next spring.

Our original records indicated that the first burial in the cemetery was made in January 1908—and is identified by the number 101. When Corrections staff first started clearing the brush away from the area in 1997 they found several double-digit stones and asked if we wanted them to look for other stones. We readily agreed. They eventually found all the stones reaching down to Number 1.

In the mid-1960s our Assistant Superintendent decided it was costing too much mowing around and between all the headstones and ordered that they be pushed over and buried. At that time we thought we had about 1700 stones. We thought our last burial was in the fall of 1943. Last year a woman contacted our HIMD staff and brought in records indicating her mother(?) had died and was buried here in 1945. Our HIMD staff researched the issue and found additional burials until fall 1949. In some cases, family members have moved their loved one's remains to other cemeteries over the years. That's why we do not know exactly how many graves we have here.

A statewide cemetery restoration project was started several years ago by a family whose son was a patient at Nevada. They actively helped Fulton and Farmington hospitals restore their cemeteries and even developed plats listing the various names for the patients buried at those three hospitals.

DOC was reluctant to help us restore our cemetery until late last year. Now they seem like they want to adopt the project. I'm trying to find some grant money to help with the costs.

The Missouri Department of Mental Health does not deny employment or services because of race, sex, creed, marital status, national origin, disability or age of applicants or employees.

The Government of Missouri

Supplement to

Hughes'

Elementary Community Civics



ALLEN and BACON

Boston

New York

Atlanta

San Francisco

Chicago

State Institutions

In addition to the offices, boards, commissions, bureaus, etc., which the people of the State maintain for the protection and welfare of the public, it maintains institutions for the care or education of certain people whose care and education can best be secured by the cooperation of the whole State.

There are unfortunate people who have lost their minds and who cannot be properly cared for at home. State hospitals for these people are maintained at Fulton, St. Joseph, Nevada, and Farmington. Here are employed special physicians who may be able to cure some of these. They are at least kept as comfortable as possible and society is protected from them by means of these institutions.

Persons with feeble minds who cannot be educated in the regular schools and who are unable to take care of themselves are furnished a home and special schools at the State's expense at Marshall. This place is called the Colony for Feeble-Minded and Epileptic. Persons who have mild cases of tuberculosis which they may transmit to others are furnished a home and special care under physicians at a State sanatorium at Mt. Vernon. These frequently recover their health and are of no further danger to their friends. These institutions are under the control of a board appointed by the Governor.

There is a special school for the deaf at Fulton and one for the blind at St. Louis. At Carrollton is a children's home where orphans and neglected children are cared for and educated until suitable homes can be found for them. The Industrial Home for Girls is located at Chillicothe. Here white girls who have been convicted of crimes are taught to work and given a training that helps many of them to become good and useful women. A similar home for negro girls is located at Tipton. The Reformatory at Boonville does a similar work for boys.