

Minnesota State Board of Corrections and Charities, Biennial Report, 1884

RICE COUNTY POORHOUSE:

Visited May 13, 1884.

Number of Inmates: 8; 5 male and 3 female, including 1 imbecile and 1 child.

Farm of one hundred and sixty acres ... under cultivation, one hundred acres; pasture, sixty acres. Stocked with 2 horses, 14 cows, 3 yearlings, 2 calves, 13 hogs, 8 pigs.

House -- A frame building. Overseer's rooms: First floor; parlor, sitting room and bedroom and pantry. Second floor; three sleeping rooms. Paupers' department -- First floor: kitchen, 18x18, with good sink; pantry; dining room, 15x30 with sink; sitting room, 12x12, looks east and south; two sleeping rooms; steep, narrow stairs. Second floor: six sleeping rooms in women's part. Mens' part in an entirely separate part of the building, above kitchen. Two rooms with bad, uneven floors, badly furnished, with crazy bedsteads and broken chairs. No ventilation except windows; rooms very low.

Administration -- Overseer sells produce and stock in his discretion and pays his own bills ... submitting only his accounts to the board. This is a bad system and ought to be prohibited by law. The administration is economical. Dining room, kitchen and pantries very clean. Women's department, generally neat and satisfactory. Men's department, not clean, but appeared neglected. With this exception paupers seemed well cared for. In winter paupers are required to bathe their feet regularly. In summer they always plan to bathe regularly.

Bill of Fare -- Fresh meat about two days in the week; salt fish on Fridays. Ham and eggs two or three times a week; salt pork twice a day; bread and butter and milk *ad libitum* at all meals; coffee for breakfast; tea for dinner and supper; potatoes and other vegetables "when we have them." Cookies, doughnuts or sauce three or four times a week.

The provision for separating the sexes in this house are highly commendable. The house was in bad repair. On the whole the institution compares favorably with most of the poor houses in the State.

Minnesota State Board of Corrections and Charities, Biennial Report, 1892

RICE COUNTY POORHOUSE was visited September 8, 1892. There were 11 inmates; 5 men and 6 women. This county has the combined system of county and town care for the poor. The towns distribute outdoor relief and the county maintains a poor farm, charging back the expenses upon the towns at the rate of \$1.50 per week.

There is no proper separation between the sexes, the rooms of the men and the women being on the same hall.

Supper was on the table; bread and butter, dried apple sauce, tea, milk, and syrup, making a good meal. The general condition of the house was satisfactory.

Minnesota State Board of Corrections and Charities, Biennial Report, 1896

RICE COUNTY POORHOUSE:

No. in the Poorhouse, Jan 1, 1895: Male 7, Female 5, total 12.

No. Received During the Year: Male 1, Female 1, total 2.

No. Discharged During the Year: Male 0, Female 1, total 1.

No. Died During the Year: Male 1, Female 0, total 1.

No. in the Poorhouse, Dec 31, 1895: Male 7, Female 5, total 12.

Average Weekly Cost per Inmate: \$2.80