

CHESTER TIMES – January 19, 1905

COUNTY HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE

It is expected that with the opening of spring, work will be commenced on the new Insane Asylum at the County Home at Lima. Director of the Poor Newton P. West dropped into the County Commissioners' office yesterday and notified the board that the Poor Directors will be ready to advertise for bids for the new county institution the latter part of this week or early next week. The plans and specifications have been approved by the proper authorities and just as soon as the bids are received the contract will be awarded.

The buildings proper will cost about \$130,000. The Grand Jury and the Court have approved the sum of \$150,000 to be expended for this purpose and the Directors of the Poor have been assured by the architect that the buildings can be erected and furnished for this amount. About \$10,000 will be set aside for furnishing.

CARING FOR THE INSANE – The question of Delaware County taking care of its own insane has been up for several years. In fact it was one of the first counties to take up the subject after the passage of the Act of Assembly known as the "County Care Act." The expenditure of this large amount of money was at first opposed by many of the taxpayers, but when it was proven, clearly that the insane of the county can be cared for at home much cheaper than the county pays to the various State Institutions at present, all objections were removed.

Judge Johnson had a large part in bringing this about. He is chairman of the committee on lunacy of the State Board of Public Charities and in this way was brought in close touch with the subject. He learned from institutions of other States that the home institutions were the best for the care of the insane; not that the patients do not get the proper treatment at the State institutions but the necessarily crowded condition of some of these places made it almost impossible to give all grades of insane persons the attention necessary, which would tend to better their mental condition..

Judge Johnson found that in the county institutions where the proper facilities were afforded for relatives and friends to visit persons confined in similar institutions, which it is proposed to erect in Delaware County that the patients in many instances became very much improved and in many cases were able to be discharged and taken home by their friends. In many instances under the present condition of affairs the relatives and friends of those confined in the State institutions are unable to visit them on account of the expense attached.

THE COUNTY'S ROSTER – At present the county has about 175 patients in the various State institutions, for which the county pays \$1.75 per week for each patient. Under the "County Care Act," after the home institution is inaugurated, the state will pay to the county \$1.50 per week for each patient confined therein. It has been figured out that the taxpayers will save something like \$10,000 per year in the care of the insane. At this rate it will be but a few years before the institution will pay for the cost of construction and furnishing. IN addition to the paying of this amount of money to the taxpayers, these unfortunate persons confined therein, will, as Judge Johnson says, have the benefit of whatever comes to them by the visits of their relatives and friends, which in many instances it is claimed have bettered their condition to a degree that they have been permitted to leave the institution.