



THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY WORKHOUSE.

REPORTS  
OF THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE  
NEW CASTLE COUNTY  
WORKHOUSE  
TO THE  
LEVY COURT

FOR THE FISCAL YEARS ENDING  
DECEMBER 10, 1903.  
DECEMBER 13, 1904.

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WATER ANALYSIS.

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AN ACT  
AUTHORIZING REFUNDING OF WORKHOUSE LOAN.

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GREENBANK, DELAWARE.

TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS  
OF THE  
NEW CASTLE COUNTY WORKHOUSE.

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

J. NEWLIN GAWTHROP, Wilmington,  
Term expires March 31, 1905.  
JOS. L. CARPENTER, JR., Wilmington,  
Term expires March 31, 1906.  
GEORGE G. KERR, Newark,  
Term expires March 31, 1907.  
DANIEL W. CORBIT, Odessa,  
Term expires March 31, 1908.  
J. FRANK BALL, Wilmington,  
Term expires March 31, 1909.

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OFFICERS.

PRESIDENT,  
J. NEWLIN GAWTHROP.  
SECRETARY,  
J. FRANK BALL.  
TREASURER,  
JOS. L. CARPENTER, JR.  
WARDEN,  
A. S. MESERVE.  
DEPUTY WARDEN,  
LEONARD CRAWFORD.  
CLERK,  
W. H. WINGATE.  
PHYSICIAN,  
RALPH P. STUBBS.  
MATRON,  
MRS. S. D. MESERVE.

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT.

WILMINGTON, DEL., December 31st, 1903.

To the Members of the Levy Court of New Castle County, Delaware:

GENTLEMEN: Pursuant to the Act entitled, "An Act to establish the New Castle County Workhouse," we herewith submit the following report for the year ending December 10th, 1903.

As this fiscal year began immediately after the occurrence of a very disastrous fire which took place on November 29th, the last working day of last year, and as a full account of its occurrence and destruction was given in the last annual report, it only remains to be said that means were at once taken to rebuild, and repair the damages. After mature consideration it was thought best to change the plans and construction somewhat, to make, if possible, a more durable, safe and convenient building. To this end steel trusses were used in roof of center corridor, and fire walls were run up through the roof to divide the several sections of the building; the shop building was projected on ground floor so as to make it remote and distinct from cell houses, and in reconstructing cell houses, the floors were made of steel and concrete, and steel vestibules and stairways have been constructed for use of future cells.

By this plan the second story of the east cell house is used as an eating room for the prisoners; also as a chapel and night school room, and is found to be well adapted to these purposes. There is also an apartment on first floor in which it is intended to install some light industry in the near future.

The number imprisoned during the year has varied from 245, the highest on September 19th, to 154, the lowest on December 24th, and the population on November 30th, 1903, was 194.

The convicts have continued to work during the year in the same manner as described in last report; except they were used to good advantage in restoring the building and damages after the fire, and it is thought they yield to discipline and comport them-

selves better since that occurrence. The amount of this work done by the convicts was as follows:

Taking down walls, cleaning bricks and moving materials, . . . . .	\$ 406 40
Excavating, filling in for foundations and floors, concrete footing and cement floors, . . . .	1,449 81
Erecting iron work, . . . . .	96 00
Carpenter work, . . . . .	717 00
Total, . . . . .	\$2,669 21

Attached hereto you will find a detailed statement of all receipts and expenditures for this year ending December 10th, 1903, with a balance on hand of \$2,023.05. During the year there has been received from the Levy Court \$27,916.80 and from the United States Government \$1,100.07, aggregating \$29,016.87 for the keep of prisoners, and there is still due from the United States Government \$224.75. There was also received from the Levy Court for the transportation of prisoners to and from the sessions of the criminal courts the sum of \$53.20.

There was received from the Fire Insurance Companies for fire loss \$19,908.33, and from the contractors for shop work \$6,455.56. The Levy Court also made an appropriation of \$5,000.00 for the improvement of the quarry site and the installing of a stone crushing plant, which will soon be put in operation for the making of stone road material.

There is still cause to be very thankful for the good health of the inmates. When the movements of the short term prisoners, and their environments, when at liberty, are considered, it is wonderful that no contagious disease has been brought in.

The annual report of Dr. Ralph P. Stubbs, the vigilant and efficient physician, will appear with the printed reports.

There is attached hereto the report of Warden A. S. Meserve, giving detailed information.

Following the fire and during the rebuilding, additional guards and watchmen were required to keep the prisoners in order and prevent escapes. This cost in salaries alone \$1,159.43. At the same time the work and responsibilities of the Wardens and regular officers were greatly increased, and when to this is added the fact that they were deprived of comfortable quarters for a long time, the Board feels very grateful to them for their devotion and loyalty to the institution.

This Board regrets that it is necessary to mention an occurrence that took place at the workhouse on the night of June 22nd, 1903.

On June 15th, one week previous, a murder, surrounded by the most heinous and aggravated circumstances, was committed in the neighborhood, and a negro by the name of George White was arrested and placed in the jail to await trial. The crime was so revolting, that when the prisoner made a confession to the officers of his guilt, the public mind became so excited and incensed that on the above eventful night the workhouse was surrounded by an armed mob of several thousand people, who demanded the surrender to them of the prisoner. This was refused by the Warden, and although he had doubled his guards and was reinforced by City Chief Black, and a faithful band of his officers, it was soon made manifest that resistance to the infuriated mob would be useless, even with a great loss of life and property, and after a work of hours the prison doors and bolts were broken down, and the prisoner was taken out by the mob. There was very little destruction of property except that necessary to get at the criminal, and no other prisoner was molested. The cost of making repairs of damage done by the mob was \$383.36, which was promptly paid by the Levy Court.

We know of no suggestions or recommendations that seem necessary to be made at this time, except to remind your Honorable body (the Levy Court) that as yet there has been nothing done with the sale of the workhouse bonds that was authorized to be made by the last Legislature, except that they were offered for sale on June 19th, 1903, but owing to the depression of the money market at that time no satisfactory bids were received. Should the market change for the better, we think it would be best for all interested parties, that the sale should be made in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,

J. NEWLIN GAWTHROP,  
*President.*

Attest: J. FRANK BALL,  
*Secretary.*

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY WORKHOUSE

FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 10, 1903.

### RECEIPTS.

Cash in bank Dec. 10, 1902, . . . . .	\$ 1,480 39
Levy Court—Care of prisoners 69,792 days @ .40, . . . . .	27,916 80
“ “ Transportation of 1,064 prisoners to and from Court @ .05, . . . . .	53 20
“ “ For Stone Crushing Plant, . . . . .	5,000 00
“ “ For damages by mob, . . . . .	383 36
United States—Care of prisoners 2,706 days @ .40, . . . . .	1,082 40
Clothing and money furnished Petro Malfi, . . . . .	17 67
Farm—Produce sold and earnings of team, . . . . .	521 34
Quarry—Building stone sold, . . . . .	247 31
Insurance—On account of fire, . . . . .	19,908 33
Oppenheimer & Co.—Mfg. of Pants, . . . . .	6,455 56
	<hr/> \$63,066 36

### REGULAR BILLS NOVEMBER, 1902, TO DECEMBER, 1903.

Drugs, . . . . .	\$ 158 10
Salaries, . . . . .	10,778 96
Heat, light and power, . . . . .	3,563 86
Farm, . . . . .	1,242 50
Supplies, . . . . .	2,833 45
Sustenance, . . . . .	7,324 88
Grounds, . . . . .	105 79
Printing and Stationery, . . . . .	343 82
Quarry, . . . . .	2,430 64
Furnishings, . . . . .	165 22
Sundries, . . . . .	59 73
Transportation, . . . . .	868 45
Petty cash, . . . . .	130 00
Interest, . . . . .	6,642 44
Trustees' expenses, . . . . .	161 39
Insurance, . . . . .	399 00
Bonus, . . . . .	435 73
Repairs, . . . . .	798 74
Court expenses, . . . . .	68 00
Outstanding checks Dec. 10, 1902, . . . . .	70 10
	<hr/> \$38,580 80