



FOURTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

New Jersey State Reform School



FOR JUVENILE DELINQUENTS,

FOR THE YEAR 1868.

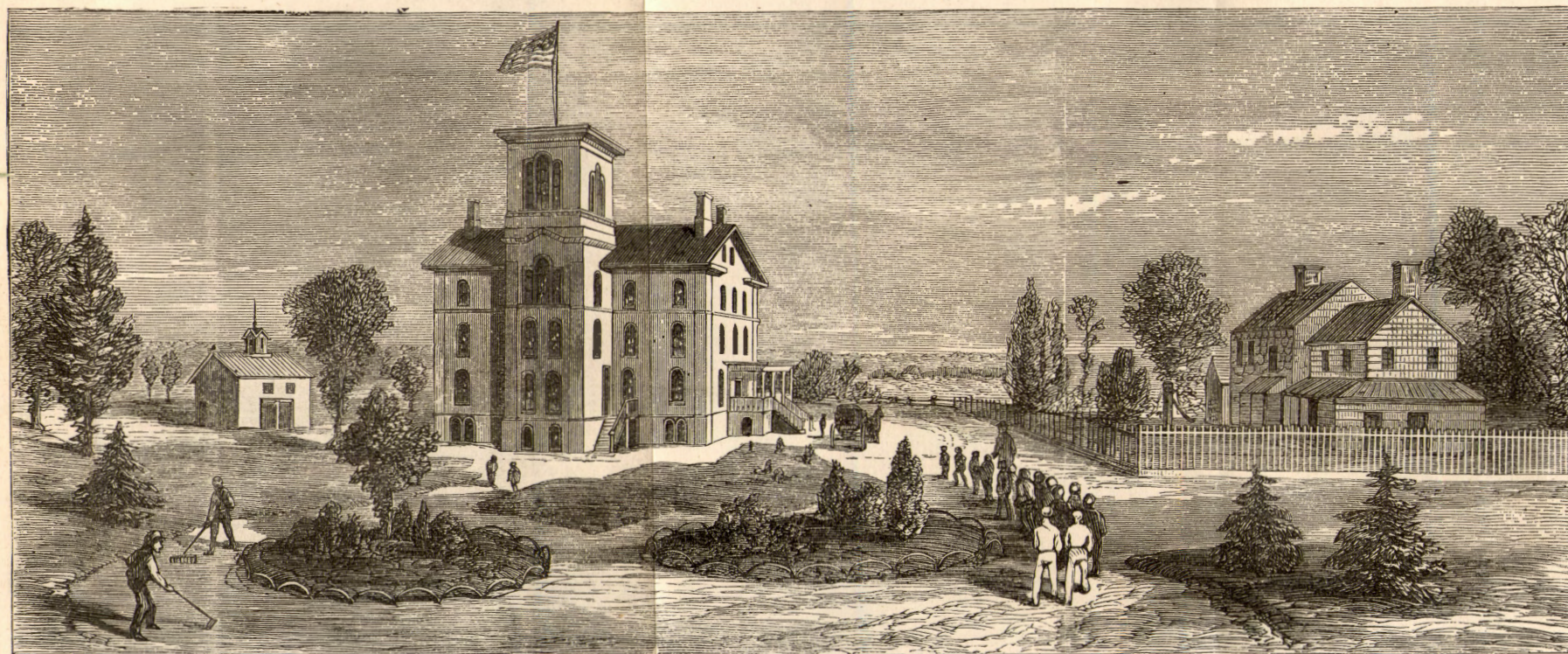
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TRENTON, N. J.:

PRINTED AT THE TRUE AMERICAN OFFICE.
1869.



EXTERIOR VIEW



OF THE STATE REFORM SCHOOL AT JAMESBURG, NEW JERSEY.

THE FARM HOUSE SEEN ON THE RIGHT WAS BUILT DURING THE FRENCH WAR OF 1754-6, AND USED FOR THE DETENTION OF FRENCH PRISONERS.

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OFFICERS.

BOARD OF CONTROL.

His Excellency Governor MARCUS L. WARD,
Chancellor A. O. ZABRISKIE,
Chief Justice MERCER BEASLEY.

TRUSTEES.

SAMUEL ALLINSON, Term expires January 1, 1869.
NATHAN T. STRATTON, . . Term expires January 1, 1869.
DANIEL HAINES, Term expires January 1, 1870.
DAVID RIPLEY, Term expires January 1, 1870.
JOHN D. BUCKELEW, Term expires January 1, 1871.
ANTHONY RECKLESS, Term expires January 1, 1871.

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HAMBURGH, December 14, 1868.

To His Excellency Marcus L. Ward, Governor of New Jersey :

SIR—With this I have the honor to submit the Fourth Annual Report of the Trustees of the State Reform School for Juvenile Delinquents.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

DANIEL HAINES,

President of the Board of Trustees.

TRUSTEES' REPORT.

To His Excellency Marcus L. Ward, Governor of the State of New Jersey :

The Trustees of the State Reform School for Juvenile Delinquents, in compliance with the requirements of the law, respectfully present their fourth annual report.

The interesting institution under their charge has continued to receive their attention, and another year's observation tends to confirm the correctness of the idea upon which it was founded : that it is the duty of the State to extend a reclaiming parental care over her erring children, rather than to regard them as hopeless criminals. Especially is this true of the young whose minds are yet plastic, and who having known by sad experience the evil results of wrong training and of great destitution, are prepared to appreciate the blessings of kind but firm restraint, and of a comfortable home where love and order reign.

We have been surprised and gratified on observing the facility with which new pupils fall into the established ways of the institution. All is at first strange to them. Instead of a prison, they find a school. Instead of reproach, they are met with words of kindness. By the thorough cleansing of their persons, an operation often much needed, they are taught that cleanliness is the precursor of good conduct. By the substitution of clean, and, when necessary, new clothing for former rags and filth, a principle of self respect is aroused, and the pupil awakes to the sense of a tie of humanity existing between himself and the masses of mankind. Their errors or their crimes are not now made the subject of remark, but they at once join the other boys at labor, in the school room or the play ground, or at the table, and are soon taught by their fellows, and readily adopt, the recognized proprieties of the place. In a little while they themselves become the instructors of other comers, and aid in maintaining the discipline of

the school. The Superintendent takes an early private opportunity to learn from them the facts of their parentage and history; their habits and former associates, of which a record is made, and they are encouraged to efforts to profit by the inducements which the State now offers them to live for the future a new and better life. That many of them purpose to do it we cannot doubt, nor that they will cherish a lifelong gratitude for their rescue from the snares that beset their early pathway.

In looking over the record of commitments to the school, we have regretted to observe that a considerable number are sent here after a conviction by the county courts, thus entailing needless expense upon the community. The trial, too, in a number of instances, has been preceded by months of confinement in the county jails, and in one case a boy sentenced at the May term was not brought here till August. We are constrained to think that officers and citizens fail to appreciate the benevolent intention of the law which provides for the prompt examination and decision of cases of youthful delinquency by a Justice of the Supreme Court, on their being referred to him by a Justice of the Peace, who may believe the boys to be suitable subjects for the Reform School. The community has long since learned that, in cases of insanity, the probabilities of recovery is far greater if, in the early stages, the patient be placed under the curative treatment of a proper asylum. So in the case of the youthful criminal. He should not only be preserved from the degradation of the prison and the contaminating associates confined there, but he should, with as little delay as possible, be placed under the reformatory influence which the State has provided for his benefit.

If an officer in bringing boys to the school by public conveyance deems it necessary, for security, to manacle them, we, perhaps, have no right to complain. But we regard his supplying them with chewing tobacco, segars and spirituous liquors, as a gross immorality. One boy was brought here in a state of intoxication, produced by liquor furnished by the officer.

Our main building was not designed to accommodate more than fifty pupils. It has now sixty-two, and they are crowded beyond the limits of propriety. We have been blessed with a remarkable freedom from disease, but in case of an epidemic, to which all institutions are liable, the results might be disastrous, and the want of a hospital would increase the calamity.

We contemplate using for some of the boys a portion of the old farm house, but this will be an insufficient, and only a temporary, relief.

If the Legislature is satisfied with the experiment of the school, and, believing that it meets a great public need, shall continue to the Justices of the Supreme Court the authority to commit juvenile delinquents to it, instead of sentencing them to the State prison or county jail, it will be necessary to provide further accommodation.

Should this be determined upon, it is desirable that the appropriation be made at an early day, that the Trustees may institute the necessary preparations with the opening spring.

A careful examination into the expenses of the institution during the past year shows that the cost of a pupil here averages three dollars (\$3.00) per week for board and clothing, fuel, light, salaries and incidentals. To meet these constantly recurring expenses, and to obviate by some fixed rule the necessity of constantly recurring legislation, we think must be as desirable to the Legislature as it is to the Trustees. They therefore recommend that provision be made by law, to continue in force for five years, authorizing the Superintendent to draw quarterly upon the State Treasurer for the sum of thirty-nine dollars (\$39.00) for each pupil who has been in the institution the preceding three months, and at that rate for those who shall have been there for a shorter time. The correctness of the draft could be certified by the President or Secretary.

The Trustees have concluded that it will be most satisfactory to get a large part of the farm as rapidly as possible under grass for hay and grazing, reserving suitable portions for fruits and market vegetables. While in this transition state it will not be so remunerative, but they confidently believe that when the change is effected it will be more productive of fruits and of reformatory influences. It will more profitably employ the labor of the boys than the raising of grain, and will give them more variety of interest and instruction. Our outlay to this end in the purchase of trees and plants, and of marl as a fertilizer, the erection of a slaughter house, piggery and corn shed, amounts to the sum of three thousand five hundred dollars. This, however, may be regarded as capital invested, and its results we trust will, in the not distant future, aid in a material reduction of the cost of the School.

While the reformation of boys showing a tendency to lives of crime is the great object of the State in establishing this school, we feel that the effective application of willing labor at our command requires constant intelligent consideration.

One of the Trustees recently visited a large reformatory for boys in England where the fields were dug with spades for raising rye, barley, &c. He objected to such expensive labor for such unremunerative crops, but was informed that it provided labor for the boys. The teacher had not thought, till it was then suggested to him, of cultivating berries and garden vegetables for which the near market of a great city affords an almost unlimited demand.

When the growing or ripened crops have made pressing demands for labor to cultivate or secure them, the exercises of the school room have been temporarily suspended. These harvests and other vacations are, however, made up to the students. When snow covers the ground, or the weather is inclement, the school hours are doubled, and we have been pleased with their manifest improvement.

Our worthy Superintendent has successfully maintained the discipline of the School without the use of the rod, which speaks well for him and for the teachers. It is due to them to say that we believe they all endeavor faithfully to perform all the varied and responsible duties devolving upon them.

We have no means of estimating the moral renovation of our pupils. Their inner lives are hidden from our view. Our effort is to shield them from temptation, to check all visible errors and to instil moral and religious truth, their duty to their fellow beings and to their beneficent Father in Heaven. So far as their outward lives are concerned, we have good reason to be gratified with the change that is effected. A carpenter working at the buildings, and who thus had a good opportunity for observing the boys in their unrestrained moments, said he had not heard a profane word from any one of them. We have an abiding trust that the industrial, intellectual and religious training they receive here, will be impressed upon the future lives of a large proportion of them. Our experience has not had a long existence, but thus far it has confirmed our previous convictions that Justice and Love, Firmness and Gentleness, are, under the Divine blessing, the great pillars of a truly reformatory institution.

Several boys by twelve months good conduct have attained the grade of Honor, and are considered as entitled to an honorable discharge when suitable situations open for them. There are some whose best interests for life will doubtless be promoted by restoring them to their friends; whilst to others such restoration would be an almost certain return to lives of crime. Some of them have no parents or natural protectors, and are destitute of friends, except those kindly care-takers who have them in charge here. Their varied circumstances, and their expressed desires for future occupations, will be considered by the Superintendent in securing homes for them, and his parental interest will prompt him to place them where their training will tend to make God-fearing, law-abiding citizens.

The report of the Superintendent herewith submitted exhibits more in detail the condition of the school, and the deportment and progress of the pupils.

The Treasurer's report subjoined shows the finances of the Institution. It will there be seen that of the appropriation of twenty thousand dollars made by the Legislature at its last session, the sum of seventeen thousand five hundred dollars has been drawn, leaving two thousand five hundred dollars, together with farm products yet unsold, of the value of three thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars, for the support of the school until further means are furnished.

It may not be inappropriate to add that the whole products of the farm have been the sum of five thousand nine hundred and two dollars and fifty-one cents, of which there were consumed by the families of the value of nine hundred and twenty-six dollars and fifty cents, and

sold to the amount of twelve hundred and twenty-six dollars and one cent.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

By order of the Board.

DANIEL HAINES, *President.*
JOHN D. BUCKELEW, *Secretary.*

December 14th, 1868.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the Trustees of the State Reform School, Jamesburg, New Jersey :

GENTLEMEN :—As we pass in review our second year's toil and its results, it becomes us to recognize, with profound gratitude, that Divine superintendence which has secured to us an unexpected degree of health and prosperity during the entire period. No severe sickness or disturbing influence has interfered with the desired success of the school.

Our last Report left us with twenty-six boys. This year we have added thirty-nine, making in all sixty-five. Two have been conditionally discharged, and thus far have not deceived our hopes. Five others have reached their "Grade of Honor," which secures to them the opportunity of putting their new and better life to the test, either in their homes or at some occupation where they will not be tempted to fall into their old habits. It is hoped such situations will soon be secured for them.

METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION.

The system of government and discipline inaugurated at the opening of the institution, and so minutely set forth in our last report, has been found eminently adapted to secure the cheerful obedience and industry, as well as the mental and moral improvement of the boys. The largely increased number of inmates only strengthens our confidence in the general wisdom and efficiency of this plan.

Its superiority is seen in its results, viz :

THE BEHAVIOR OF THE BOYS.

When we remember the previous character of those sent to this Reform School, and the criminal conduct which, in most instances, led

to their commitment, it must be a matter of heart-felt satisfaction that over sixty such boys, many of them nearly men grown, can be held upon an open farm, performing labor in field and forest without revolt or manifest insubordination.

Yet, not an instance of extended secret combination or serious opposition to the authority of the officers has been known. Not a complaint of insolent language to any workman on the farm has reached my ear. In their daily duties in each household their conduct towards the ladies has been invariably kind and respectful. Under firm christian discipline they are cheerful and submissive. While they are by no means faultless, their defects are no other, in kind or degree, than inhere in all neglected or improperly disciplined boys.

ARE THEY IMPROVING ?

It is the design of our system of "grades" to show the true standing and progress of every boy in the institution. Good or bad conduct is indicated by "Credits or Demerits." Each boy reports for himself at night these little marks, which reveal to the Superintendent at the end of the month what the standing of the boy is, and he is kept in the same grade, put back or advanced, according to his just deserts. Thus the "grades" show where he is, and how great improvement he has made in the year. As this regards his conduct in the family, in the school-room, on the play-ground and on the farm, it must be a very fair exhibition of the standing of the boy. Its only failure will be in not showing how rapid and how great a change may have taken place in a boy who resolves at the outset to do all in his power to merit the respect and confidence of his officers. I am happy to say that we have some instances of this kind.

The table below will truthfully answer the question of improvement. No boy can be permitted to leave the institution until he has reached his "Grade of Honor." If a boy's conduct is good the first month, and he evidently improves each following month, he can get his "Grade of Honor" in twelve months; hence the number of months he has been in the school, and the grade he has reached, indicate his progress as well as his standing.

Entering on his twelfth grade, his conduct during that month determines whether he can be advanced at the commencement of his second month, and so on from month to month during his stay in the institution. Upon considering the system of grades, we concluded to change from that noticed in our last report to a simple one numbering from twelve to one.

- One Boy reached the "Grade of Honor" in twelve months.
- Two Boys reached the "Grade of Honor" in thirteen months.
- Two Boys reached the "Grade of Honor" in fourteen months.
- One Boy reached the First Grade in thirteen months.

Five Boys reached the Second Grade in fourteen months.
 Two Boys reached the Third Grade in nine months.
 Two Boys reached the Third Grade in ten months.
 One Boy reached the Third Grade in twelve months.
 One Boy reached the Third Grade in thirteen months.
 One Boy reached the Third Grade in fourteen months.
 Two Boys reached the Fourth Grade in eight months.
 One Boy reached the Fifth Grade in seven months.
 One Boy reached the Fifth Grade in eight months.
 One Boy reached the Fifth Grade in eleven months.
 Two Boys reached the Sixth Grade in six months.
 One Boy reached the Sixth Grade in eight months.
 One reached the Sixth Grade in eleven months.
 One Boy reached the Seventh Grade in nine months.
 One Boy reached the Seventh Grade in sixteen months.
 One Boy reached the Eighth Grade in four months.
 One Boy reached the Eighth Grade in eight months.
 One Boy reached the Eighth Grade in fifteen months.
 One Boy reached the Ninth Grade in four months.
 One Boy reached the Ninth Grade in five months.
 Six Boys reached the Tenth Grade in two months.
 One Boy has been degraded three months.
 Six Boys have been degraded four months.

It will be seen by the above table that of those here over six months, nine have reached their present grade in the shortest possible time; hence their conduct must have been good. Three have lost but one month by slight disobedience, and others in proportion, while some have been put back to their twelfth grade for an attempt to escape. Two boys who eloped have not yet been returned.

THE BOYS IN SCHOOL.

Our whole number is divided into two grades, according to their proficiency. One is in school in the forenoon, and the other in the afternoon. They are taught all the common English branches, and have generally made commendable proficiency. Many, who could not say their letters when they came, now read quite fluently and are improving in other studies. They are quite interested in learning verses from the Bible for the Sabbath School.

MANUAL LABOR.

As the boys have engaged in all kinds of farm work, ploughing, preparing manures, fitting the soil for seed, planting, haying, harvesting, &c., &c., and as their labor has often been in connection with

that of hired help, it cannot always be shown except in the farm crops. These, in part, are due to their toil. Besides, they have dug the holes for, and planted fifty apple trees, two hundred and seventy-five standard pear trees, over four thousand peach trees, two hundred and fifty grape vines, one hundred and forty shade and small fruit trees, over four thousand blackberries, and about three thousand five hundred raspberries, twenty-six thousand asparagus roots, twenty thousand strawberry plants; planted and reared from the seed eleven thousand peach trees, which are all budded and in good condition, cut the poles and planted eight thousand hills of lima beans; and raised sixteen bushels of bush beans, besides the usual vegetables of a summer garden for such a family.

The planting, weeding and training of the small fruits have occupied much time, the products of which will soon be available. Considerable attention has been paid to improvements on the farm, and spare hours have been devoted to securing wood for fuel. Under the guidance of the farmer, they care for the stock, doing the usual work of the barn.

But two domestics are kept in the family, the boys performing the remainder of the domestic labor, so that in all departments we have had five thousand five hundred and seventy-three days of boys' labor.

THE FARM.

In changing the labor of a large farm from the growing of grain to the cultivation of small fruits, and to the growth and fattening of stock, it requires a little time to perfect this change and bring in the profits. Fields must be properly laid down to grass, fences moved, and suitable soils selected and prepared for the new culture, hedgerows cleaned out, drains opened, and all waste land made as available as rapidly as possible. This work has been going on during the past season, and a good beginning has been made, while our farm produce and increased hay and stock will show what we may expect from year to year. Our corn crop is better than it was last season. Other grain about the same. The whole result will be seen in the "Farm Products."

CONCLUSION.

With pleasure we express our thanks to those benevolent hearted men and women who remember our boys and take delight in sending those things which minister to their welfare and happiness. The playground has had its donations. The winter sports have not been forgotten. Skates, lectures, books for reading, song and worship, and little comforts for neck and hand, have not come amiss as tokens of thoughtful interest in the boys. We are particularly indebted to S. S. Boardman, Esq., for a generous donation of fruit trees. The pro-

prietor of the "Practical Farmer" has still cheered and instructed us with his valuable paper. Again, gentlemen, permit me to thank you for your unabated interest and your past counsel and confidence.

Most respectfully, yours,

L. H. SHELDON, *Sup't.*

STATE REFORM SCHOOL, *Jamesburg, N. J.*, }
December 1st, 1868. }

APPENDIX.

The following tables may be interesting and instructive to such as are wishing to inform themselves more minutely in regard to the school.

Number present December 1st, 1867,	26
Committed in January, 1868,	5
Committed in February,	3
Committed in March,	6
Committed in April,	1
Committed in May,	2
Committed in June,	1
Committed in July,	2
Committed in August,	1
Committed in September,	6
Committed in October,	6
Committed in November,	6

Whole number of boys committed to the school,	65
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B
NUMBER OF BOYS FROM EACH COUNTY.

Committed from Bergen County,	1
Committed from Burlington,	5
Committed from Camden,	1
Committed from Essex,	16
Committed from Hudson,	7
Committed from Mercer,	5
Committed from Middlesex,	7
Committed from Monmouth,	1
Committed from Morris,	2
Committed from Passaic,	0

REPORT OF STATE REFORM SCHOOL.

Committed from Salem,	2
Committed from Union,	7
Sent by parents from New York, (paid)	1
	<hr/>
	65
Boys returned to their friends 2,	
Escaped, 2*,	4
	<hr/>
Number in the School December 1st, 1868,	61

*One of these voluntarily returned after the report was made up, and has since conducted himself well.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

JAMESBURG, December 7th, 1868.

Hon. Daniel Haines, President of the Board of Trustees of the State Reform School.

DEAR SIR:—Below please find an abstract of my account as Treasurer for the fiscal year ending December 1st, 1868.

The financial statement of the Superintendent herewith appended, shows the expenditures of the institution under their appropriate heads.

The State Reform School in acc't with John D. Buckelew, Treasurer.

DR.		CR.
For loan paid First National Bank, Jamesburg, \$4,500 00		Balance on hand December 1st, 1867, \$452 26
For interest, 55 12		From State Treasurer, 17,500 00
For L. H. Sheldon, Sup't, 17,143 05		Loan from 1st National Bank, Jamesburg, 2,000 00
		Parents and Guardians, 440 75
		Farm products sold, 1,305 16
\$21,698 17		\$21,698 17
Total appropriation for 1868,		\$20,000

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN D. BUCKELEW, *Treasurer.*

*State Reform School in account with L. H. Sheldon, Superintendent,
for the year ending December 1st, 1868.*

DR.		CR.
For salaries and labor,	\$2,655 48	From balance on hand De-
Provision,	2,300 35	cember 1st, 1867,
Clothing,	1,742 56	From Treasurer,
Furniture,	843 10	Due Superintendent,
Books and stationery,	184 27	
Fuel and light,	293 76	
Buildings and improvements,	1,445 20	
Farm expenses,	2,880 89	
Farm implements,	932 78	
Live stock,	1,369 93	
Fertilizers,	436 65	
Fruit trees, plants and seeds,	1,664 76	
Farm improvements and repairs	724 81	
Express, freight and travel-		
ing expenses,	327 94	
Incidental expenses,	147 40	
Trustees expenses (2 years),	406 59	
Insurance,	300 00	
	<hr/>	
	\$18,656 47	<hr/>
		\$18,656 47

L. H. SHELDON, *Superintendent.*

Inventory of the value of the Live Stock and other Personal Property of the State in the buildings and on the farm of the State Reform School for Juvenile Delinquents, on the 1st day of December, 1868.

Furniture in the school building,	\$4,680 65
Furniture in the farm house,	262 06
Materials and clothing,	1,384 12
Provisions on hand,	103 63
Books and stationery,	250 00
Implements,	2,098 20
Farm products on hand,	3,750 00
Live stock,	3,869 50
	<hr/>
	\$16,398 16

List of the Salaried Officers and their Salaries.

LUTHER H. SHELDON, <i>Superintendent</i> ,	Salary, \$1,000 00
Mrs. SARAH H. SHELDON, <i>Matron</i> ,	Salary, \$200 00
MISS SARAH J. SHELDON, <i>Librarian</i> ,	Salary, \$200 00
IRA G. GOODELL, <i>Teacher</i> ,	Salary, \$600 00
FREDERICK A. WISWALL, <i>Teacher</i> ,	Salary, \$360 00

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