NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

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THE DAILY OCCURRENCE DOCKET OF THE PHILADELPHIA ALMSHOUSE, 1800

DURING the past fifteen years, historians of early American cities have focused a great deal of attention on "ordinary" men and women rather than on the social and economic elites. In their search for evidence about their subject, many scholars have quantitatively analyzed tax rolls, censuses, estate inventories, and the like, in large part due to the paucity of other types of sources. However, the lives of a significant proportion of urban inhabitants—the dependent poor and the people they represent—are sometimes richly detailed in the registries of the agencies from whom they sought material aid. Such is the case for late eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Philadelphia where a multitude of records of relief institutions provide insights into the daily existence of thousands of individuals.¹ Specifically, the Daily Occurrence Docket of the city’s almshouse,² a portion of which is reproduced below, contains brief descriptions of events in the lives of the institution’s inmates, people who occupied the lower strata of the metropolitan social structure.

The almshouse served as a place of refuge for scores of people suffering from problems common in an early American city. The aged, the orphaned, the abandoned, and the infirm sought aid there, as did able-bodied men, women (especially widows), and children who simply
were unable to secure employment to support themselves and their family. Members of the latter group often used the excuse of "sore legs" or other related ailments to gain entrance to the house. Eligibility for admission to the almshouse required the establishment of legal residency in Philadelphia or one of its suburbs (generally defined as the payment of rent or taxes in the urban area for at least one year), and a signed order from one of the Guardians of the Poor attesting to the needs and the "deserving character" of the potential inmate.

Impoverished Philadelphians applied for admission to the almshouse only after appealing for help from friends, relations, private charities, and public out-relief programs which did not require their institutionalization. They resisted the almshouse alternative in part because as it provided assistance, it also functioned as a virtual prison for the poor. Its Managers enforced a strict code of regulations and punished misbehavior with penalties ranging from a diet of bread and water to confinement in the workhouse or the "Black Hole." Moreover, adults and, more frequently, children were liable to be bound out, with or without their consent, as servants or apprentices to pay for their maintenance. Thus, the stories of the "bettering house" inmates, over 800 of whom were admitted in 1800, reflect the predicaments encountered by many other of the city's inhabitants who managed, by whatever means, to escape institutionalization.

The Daily Occurrence Docket consists of 56 volumes covering, with but a few short gaps, the period between 1787 and 1888. The selection below includes nearly all of the Docket's entries for a two-month period in 1800. The next issue of *Pennsylvania History* will contain a variety of vignettes about poorer Philadelphians chosen from the succeeding Docket entries.

We have retained the almshouse clerk's capitalization, use of the ampersand, and spelling, except that we have expanded abbreviations. We have silently altered punctuation to render the text more comprehensible.
Friday, June 20th, 1800

Admitted Thomas Lippincott a Negro man highly venereal, his Master Benjamin Button of this City, Board Merchant, has engaged to pay for Board and expenses of said Negro during his stay here, or till such time he shall be cured and taken away. Per Order of Admission signed Thomas Hockley. Debit City.

Cash Debit to Manufactury received of George Eyre five pounds twelve shillings and six pence for three hundred weight Oakum at $5 per hundred . . . $15.

Died Thomas Fredrick a Mulatto Man was admitted the 2nd instant far gone in a Consumption and expired this morning. Credit City.

Discharged David Price who was admitted the 12th instant; his misfortune is the loss of his speech, and the intention of sending him here was to try if anything could be done for his relief, but finding that nothing could be done to any effect he is now at his own request at liberty to return to his family. Credit Southwark.

Saturday, June 21st

Took in the Weeks Work:

Spinning: twelve pounds flaxen yarn, seventeen pounds tow yarn, and two pounds wollen yarn.

Shoemaking: two pair Mens Shoes and two pair Womens Shoes per John Gavin.

Oakum: About four hundred weight picked this week.

Died Mary Norris a young Woman who was admitted the 27th last February in a very sick and weakly condition, and expired this day. Credit City.

Cash Debit to Expences received of Ann Richards seven shillings and six pence in full for One Week’s board of her husband Matthew Richards.

Admitted Mary McGrigger, hath not legal residence, is an Old infirm feeble Scotch Woman with sore eyes and swelled legs, and not able to contribute to her support by Labour, it appears by a Note on the Order of Admission that said Mary belongs to the Township of Moyamensing and that a Bond is given by Samuel Stevens and Jonathan Dixey, Guardians of the Poor of said Township for the payment of her board in this house. Order signed James McGlathery and James Collings. Debit Southwark.
Admitted George Godfrey, has legal residence, is a poor, needy and helpless person, and is indeed incapable of contributing towards his support by labour, being both consumptive and subject to fits. Order of Admission Fredrick Hockley & Abel Evans. Credit City.

Sunday, June 22nd

Nothing Occurred this day.

Monday, June 23rd

Died John Guard an Old Man, has lingered a long time in a palsied state, and expired this Morning, him and his Wife Elizabeth were admitted the 6th July 1789. She's still living. Credit Southwark.

Died Ann McCanna, has been in a long and tedious Consumptive indisposition. Admitted October 1st, 1795. Credit Southwark.

Died Elizabeth Toy daughter of Martha Young, who was delivered of said Elizabeth the 22nd of July 1799 in this House. Credit Southwark.

Paid Mary Hudson eleven shillings and three pence in full for One Week's Nursing Child Mary Saunders . . . $1.50.15

Paid Sarah Ferry One pound two shillings and six pence in full for Nursing twins Henry and Richard Hickey . . . $3.00.

Admitted Hugh Haggerty an Old Venereal Customer who came here before this the 22nd November 1797 and continued till the 1st April 1800, when he was discharged cured, and is returned, whether with the same disorder or what the faculty call the Strangury a little time will discover. Order of Admission James McGlathery and James Collings. Debit Southwark.

Admitted Jacob Felsy a Sailor, and whose last employ was on board the Frigate United States, Commodore Barry, his affliction is the Venereal disease, and is sent here per Order James Collings and James McGlathery with a Note on the back of it "that his Board and Medical assistance during his stay here will be paid for by George Bateman Esquire on the presentment of the bill." Debit Southwark.

Discharged John Thomas, this child was admitted the 19th last February with a bad gathering under his Chin, and now delivered to his Mother Sarah Thomas per Order of the Board of Managers. Credit City.

Bound Christiana Averine to Ezra Bower of this city to serve him eleven years four months and twenty four days as per Indenture of this date. Said Christiana has had two Masters before this, the first was to Adam May her Uncle of this City, Baker, the second to Daniel B. Carson of said City also, both of which indentures are cancelled. The first bearing date November 19th 1798 the second December 17th 1798. Admitted the 5th of October by the name of Bunker.

Admitted Ann Nebecker, was admitted per Order Isaac Tatem Hopper for the purpose of being immediately bound out which was accordingly done as per annexed entry. Debit City.
Bound Ann Nebecker to Henry Hawkins of this City, Mariner, to serve him eleven years, four months and twenty four days as per Indenture of this date. Admitted as above. Credit City.

Tuesday, June 24th

Discharged Mary Gordon, was admitted the 18th last May and is gone out per Order of the Managers, at the same time Mister Cummings gave her a pair of shoes and One dollar to defray her expences to Bordentown. Credit Northern Liberties.

Discharged Martha Young who had the Child by [?] lad, and which she buried Yesterday. Admitted June 23, 1799. Credit Southwark.

Discharged Mary Sloan a Scotch Woman who was admitted the 13th last February in a very sick and low condition of health, is now gone and cured, decent and cleanly. Credit Southwark.

Discharged Sarah Davis, was admitted the 8th May last, somewhat silly and seemingly consumptive, is now gone out decently clothed and to all appearance recovered in health. Credit Southwark.

Discharged William Decker, hath legal residence, got up in his sleep last night and fell out of a two story window, which has disabled him in such a manner that in consequence thereof he is sent here per Order James Poulteny. Debit City.

Wednesday, June 25th

Discharged Robert Conner an Irish young man who was admitted the 26th of January last very sick, but is now recovered, and reinstated in his health, and gone out clean and decently clothed. Credit City.

Discharged Sophia Fitzpatrick and her daughter Catherine Morrow. Said Sophia was admitted the 6th last May, pregnant with said child and delivered of it the 3rd instant June following. Credit City.

Eloped Catherine Bedient a Mulatto woman who was admitted the 10th instant June in a most distressing condition, being very sick and almost blind and not able to help herself till now. She has taken this method of returning or acknowledging her gratitude to her benefactors. Credit City.

Sent to Jail Richard Crosby, having in a clandestine manner and derogatory to the rules and good order of this institution, introduced spiritous liquor among some of the women particularly Cate Levman, the consequence of which was, disorderly and quarrelsome behavior. He was accordingly committed yesterday in the evening under warranty of William Jones Esquire.

Died George Godfrey at the same time, far gone in a consumption and subject to fits, day of admission the 21st instant June.

Cash Debit to Manufactury received of George Eyre seven pounds ten shillings for four hundred weight of Oakum sent him at $5 per hundred . . . $20.

Admitted Sybil Preston, hath legal residence, has very bad sore eyes, and is
entirely deprived of the sight of one of them, and being poor, needy and destitute of friends is sent here per Order Isaac Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Admitted Ann Southerland of legal residence, is very sick with a pain in her side and head, is poor, needy, and friendless. Order of Admission Isaac Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Thursday, June 26th

Admitted Charles Knockenower a German hath legal residence is much addicted to liquor, which occasions temporary insanity and leaves him unfit to take care of himself; he was brought here in a very bruised condition, per Order Isaac Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Admitted Nicholas Goldy a Swiss, has gained legal residence, the poor man, by an unlucky fall, broke the pan of one of his knees, and dislocated his shoulder, which has rendered him incapable of contributing towards his support by labour and was brought here in a Cart with an Order signed James Collings and James McGlathery. Debit Southwark.

Admitted James McClaskey an Irishman, has lived in this City six years, is a Barber by trade, but being afflicted with a very bad sore leg, is rendered incapable of following his business and is sent here per Order James Collings and James McGlathery. Debit Southwark.

Cash Debit to Manufactury received of Mister Segan five pounds twelve shillings and six pence for three hundred weight of Oakum sold him at $5 per hundred . . . $15.

Friday, June 27th

Discharged Rachel Ward, she was sent to jail the 27th ultimo (see daily Occurrences of that date), and came from there yesterday and now discharged at her own request. Admitted the 16th July, 1799. Credit City.

Admitted Timothy Murdock a poor deranged object, and subject to fits, this unfortunate creature was committed to prison the 17th last May, returned the 17th instant June and discharged the same day at his own request and has been wandering ever since till now has returned of his own accord. And Mr. Cummings humanely permitted him to stay. Debit City.

Saturday, June 28th

Took in the Week’s Work:

Weaving: One piece, 800 Shirting 55 yards by John Story, this piece took 18 pounds flaxen yarn for chain and 25 pounds Tow yarn for filling.

Spinning: Twelve pounds flaxen yarn, sixteen pounds tow yarn and two pounds Woolen yarn 6 Hanks.


Oakum: About four hundred weight picked this week.
Admitted Jacob Myer Miles a Boy about five years of Age and hath legal residence, his Mother had deserted him, and the Man to whom the Mother had bound him is not capable of taking care and providing for him as a Master is in duty bound to do. Therefore he is sent in here to be provided for per Order of Thomas Hockley. Debit City.

Admitted Thomas Parmer an Irishman, has been in this City three years and labourer to a Bricklayer, seems a little deranged on which account and no other, he was brought here by a Constable with an Order signed James Collings and James McGlathery. Debit Southwark.

Sunday, June 29th

Died Eleanor Jackson, admitted the 10th instant June far advanced on a decay and expired this Morning. Credit Southwark.

Admitted Mary McNeal an Irish Woman, and hath legal residence, this poor creature had the Misfortune of breaking one of her thighs, last Wednesday, by falling down a pair of Stairs; her Husband John McNeal is a poor labouring man and not being able to support himself and her in the situation she is in, he obtained an Order of Admission from James Collings and Henry Molier to bring her in here. Debit Southwark.

Monday, June 30th

Materials issued to be Manufactured:

Twelve pounds flax, sixteen pounds Tow, and two pounds Wool to be spun, and about four hundred weight of Junk to be picked into Oakum.

Paid Lydia McCulloch fifteen shillings in full for Nursing Child Bridget Nugent . . . $2.

Paid Mary Dixon eighteen shillings and nine pence in full for Nursing Child Elizabeth Dawson, two weeks . . . $2.50.

Cash Debit to Expences received of Ann Richards for One Week’s board of her Husband . . . $1.

Paid Sarah Ferry One pound two shillings and six pence in full for One week Nursing twins Henry and Richard Hickey . . . $3.

Eloped Thomas Scott who had liberty from Mister Cummings last Saturday to go and see his friends and has not returned since. This is the poor Man who fell from a three Story Window in Camptown. Admitted April 5th last past. Credit Northern Liberties.

Eloped Rachael Geddes a Black woman who was admitted the 22nd last May; at the same time had the smallpox—an advance of board and expences of Medical aid and Nursing said Rachel made the 26th instant inclusive was exhibited to Peter Thompson; amounted to fifteen Dollars, being five weeks from the 22nd May to the 26th June to be by him recovered from the Guardians of the poor for the Burrough of Wilmington, Delaware State. Credit City.

Cash Debit to Manufactury received of William Chambers seven pounds ten shillings for four hundred weight Oakum sold him at $5 per hundred . . . $20.
Admitted Elizabeth Conven an elderly woman, and decently clothed, seems a good deal deranged; she was sent here in August 1792 in the same deranged state as she is now in and sent to the Pennsylvania Hospital the day after her admission which was the 7th and has not been here since—till now per Order James Collings and James McGlathery. Debit Southwark.

Paid Mary Hudson by the hands of her sister eleven Shillings and three pence in full for One Week Nursing Child Mary Saunders . . . $1.50.

Discharged Thomas and William Stanfield, these Children were delivered to their Mother at her own request per Order of the Manager, she promising at the same time that she would take care and provide for them as a Parent ought to do. Admitted August 24th, 1799. Credit Southwark.

Tuesday, July 1st, 1800

Discharged Sophia Fister who was brought here from the Jail the 25th last March with a bad sore leg, is now gone out and decently clothed. Credit City.

Discharged Mary Ashman, she came here from Masters's Camp the 31st November 1798 and it may now be said the institution is rid of a troublesome body. Credit Northern Liberties.

Cash Debit to Manufactury received of Mrs. Elizabeth Powell five pounds one shilling and three pence for 27 yards Towelling sold her at $.50 per yard . . . $13.50.

Admitted Joseph & Christiana, alias Harriet, Arriet. Joseph is Three years and seven months old, Harriet One year and seven months old. These Children were discharged the 1st last April with their Father and Mother, the latter of whom is now dead, and the Father not being able to support them, has obtained an Order of Admission from Mr. Thomas Hockley and brought them here. Debit City.

Discharged Oliver Lynch, and notwithstanding his non-residency: has been a very troublesome to and fro Customer, too lazy to work out doors, or in doors, although he can eat two mens allowance and was punished with two days confinement for his idleness, but all to no purpose. Admitted the 15th May last. Credit Southwark.

Wednesday, July 2nd

Sent in per the Clerk of High street Market five quarts pickled Oysters, sent for being offered for Sale contrary to Laws, which was distributed [to the inmates].

Cash Debit to the Manufactury received of George Eyre seven pounds ten shillings for four hundred weight of Oakum sold him $5 per hundred . . . $20.

Admitted Jane Crawford hath legal residence and is much afflicted with the rheumatism, which renders her incapable of working for a livelihood, for which reason she is sent here with an Order signed James Poulteny. Debit City.

Admitted Amelia Corsign a Citizen born, came here the 12th last May by the Name of Cusine, and was discharged the 10th June, her complaint, much the
same then as now, but the place of her Nativity was in Chester County—upon
the whole it seems she is subject to fits at periodical times, and a little deranged
withal, so that there is no dependence on what she says. Sent in per Order
Henry Molier and James McClathery. Debit Southwark.

Admitted Ann Johnson and her Child Ann Johnson, Blacks who have legal
residence, the Child is Nineteen months Old, and the mother is much afflicted
with bodily complaints, which renders her incapable of doing any kind of work
for the support of herself and her Child, for which reason she is sent in here per
Order Peter Thomson who will pay One dollar per week for the Child, so long
as the Mother remains here, however as soon as she may recover or gets well she
will be at liberty to depart with her Child. Debit City.

Admitted Frances McCloud has legal residence and was here before, in
February 1799, and sent to Jail in a few days after her admittance for [?], is now
brought in a Cart, much in liquor & at the same time in a consumption. I. T.
Hopper. Debit City.

Thursday, July 3rd

Eloped Aaron Larkins a Mulatto Man who was admitted the 7th Ultimo
with a very highly venereal complaint, and for being made sound again has
taken this ungrateful method of acknowledging Thanks to his benefactors.
Credit Northern Liberties.

Eloped Matthew Richards, and notwithstanding his being seventy years of
age, scaled the fence this Morning, by break of day. He had been out but a short
time, when he was brought back in a Cart, and he has now jumped it again; said
Old man is much addicted to liquor for which reason and the disturbance he
makes in the streets when in that condition, has been often put into prison; he
has been here often, and always took this method in getting out; his Wife who is
a striving industrious body, but cannot live with him on account of his frequent
intoxications and abuse—but rather than he should expose himself, and his
family too, in the manner he does, she obtained an Order of Admission for him
the 31st last May from James McGlathery and James Collings on promising
them at the same time, that she would call at this house every week & pay One
dollar for his board, which she has done. Credit Southwark.

Admitted Martha Adams and her two Sons, Smith Adams—five years Old &
John Adams two years, both of them good looking Children. The Mother is very
sick of a Dropsy, which disables her from maintaining herself and Children.
They are therefore sent here per Order Richard Tunis (who hath legal
residence). Debit City.

Admitted Sarah Squire has legal residence, and is much afflicted with the
rheumatism. Daniel Squire a Mulatto man who died in this house the 15th
Ultimo (she is white) was her husband. Order I. T. Hopper. Debit City.

Admitted Ernest Beathgen, formerly a Clerk in this Office, is somewhat
flighty, and is now very sick and lame, he says he is something better than he has
been, not being able to contribute towards his support on account of his
indisposition, and being poor and friendless is sent here per Order I. T. Hopper.
Debit City.
Admitted James Cody of legal residence, has got a very bad sore leg also the Rheumatism; he's been here twice before this with the same complaint, and was discharged, so late as the 15th last April at his own request, finding himself so he thought cured. Sent per Order Thomas Hockley. Debit City.

Discharged Thomas Parmer who was admitted the 28th June ultimo, account of derangement in Mind, he is now gone out with his Wife who got permission of Mr. Ashley Visiting Committee to take him away. Credit Southwark.

Friday, July 4th

Cash Debit to Manufactury received of Stephen Beasly Nine pounds seven shillings and six pence for five hundred weight of Oakum sold him at $5 per hundred . . . $2.50.

Saturday, July 5th

Took in the Week's Work:

Weaving: One piece 1000 Sheeting 53 yards by William Wilson. This piece took thirty six pounds of flaxen yarn.

Spinning: Twelve pounds flaxen yarn, thirteen pounds tow yarn and Two pounds Woolen yarn 7 Hanks.

Shoemaking: Four pair Womens Shoes per [John] Gavin—two pair Mens Shoes per Dickinson and two pair Mens Shoes per John Chatham—Mending and Cobbling as usual.

Oakum: About four hundred weight picked this week. Provisions issued this Week:

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<th>Meat</th>
<th>1456 lbs</th>
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<tr>
<td>Indian Meal</td>
<td>300 lbs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
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<td>Coffee</td>
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<td>140 gallons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chocolate</td>
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<tr>
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<td>12 bushels</td>
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<tr>
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Hogs: 55 Large and small, consisting of Boars, Sows, Barrows, Shoats and small pigs, were brought in at Seven different periods of the day by the Constables, in a Cart. Some of them are remarkably fine.

Sunday, July 6th

Eloped James Loddo the little english Cockney, who was admitted the 30th last January very sick, and a bad swelling in his Groin, and much distressed. This makes three times that he has scaled the fence, being the most ready and easiest way of getting his liberty. Credit Northern Liberties.

Died Catherine Beale, widow, an Aged infirm woman who was admitted the 20th March last, far advanced in a decay, & this day expired at 5 o'clock PM. Credit City.

Monday, July 7th

Materials issued to be Manufactured: Twelve pounds flax, eleven pounds
tow, and two pounds wool to be spun, also three pounds flax for sewing thread
and about four hundred weight of Junk to be picked into Oakum.

Died Frances McCloud, this woman was admitted the Second instant July far
advanced in a Consumption, and expired this day seven o’clock AM. Credit
City.

Paid Lydia McCulloch eleven shillings and three pence in full for One week
nursing Child Bridget Nugent . . . $1.50.

Paid Elizabeth Sisk One pound ten shillings in full for three weeks nursing
and boarding Children Daniel Moreland & Eleanor White . . . $4.

Paid Mary Hudson eleven shillings and three pence in full for one week
nursing Child Mary Saunders . . . $1.50.

Paid Sarah Ferry by the hands of her son One pound two shillings and six
pence in full for One week’s nursing twins Henry Hickey & Richard Hickey . .
$3.

Eloped William Wilson a Mulatto man, who was Admitted the 14th ultimo
in a very highly venereal condition, and finding himself almost cured,\(^{20}\) has
scaled the fence and gone off. Credit City.

Discharged James Shillingsforth who was admitted the 19th November last
very sick and much in liquor too. He says he is going to London in the Ship
America, Captain Swain, if so, the institution will not only be rid of an
incumbrance, but a very worthless, troublesome to and fro customer. Credit
Northern Liberties.

Paid Catharine Pruet two pounds five shillings in full for four weeks nursing
Child Anne Marie McGowan . . . $6.

Admitted Mary McClure Wife of John McClure who is also here, she being
poor, needy and destitute of friends, and not able to contribute towards her
support by any kind of work or employment is sent here per order Isaac Tatem
Hopper. Debit City.

Admitted George Sampson a Black man, who hath not legal residence, but has
a bad sore leg, and the smallpox too, and friendless withall, he is sent here per
Order Isaac Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Bound Maria Whitesides a Mulatto child to Matthew Carey of this City,
Printer, to serve him twelve years as per Indenture of this date. Admitted the 4th
last January. Credit City.

Bound Mary Brown a Black Child to Matthew Carey of this City, Printer, to
serve him twelve years and six months as per Indenture of this date. Admitted
the 1st last April. Credit City.

Tuesday, July 8th

Discharged George Sampson the Blackman who was admitted yesterday with
the smallpox and a bad sore leg. Agreeable to the Ordinance Rules and Bye
Laws of the institution of this House, that no person shall be admitted if known
to labour under any kind of infectious disease, and this being the case, said
George was sent back or returned to Mr. Isaac Tatem Hopper, but previous thereto, Mr. Cummings sent a letter by Mr. Lang advising of the same, in answer to which Mr. Hopper said that care should be taken of him at the place from whence he came. Note he had a few shirts & trousers given to him. Credit City.

Died Joseph Garret the Italian who was admitted the 16th Ultimo far gone in a Consumption, of which he died. Credit Northern Liberties.

Admitted Isaac Bassett who hath no legal residence, he was born in Bethlehem Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, is twenty years of age, poor and friendless, and sorely afflicted with an inflammatory Rheumatism, that he's not able to walk. Previous to his admission, he was visited by Doctor Samuel Duffield who reported him to have the above mentioned disorder, and is sent here until he may be fit to remove to his place of residence, per order James Poulney. Debit City.

Died Isaac Thomas, the foundling child that was brought here the 10th April last. Credit City.

Admitted Joseph Bringhurst is much deranged, and has been here twice before this in the same condition, he was discharged the 7th April last, seemingly and to all appearance, recovered, and is now returned as flighty as ever. Per Order James Poulney who says he ought to be confined as a Lunatic. Debit City.

Admitted James Williams a Labourer who hath legal residence. This poor Man being at work on board a Vessel got an unlucky fall, which has disabled him in such a manner that has rendered him incapable of labour and being indigent & without friends is sent here per Order James Collings and James McGlathery. Debit Southwark.

Admitted Catherine McCoy who was brought here this day by a Constable from the Jail where she had been confined better than a Week for being frequently intoxicated, abusive and troublesome to the people in the neighbourhood she lived in. She, her husband, and son James were all discharged the 10th of April last. He seems to be an Orderly well-disposed Man, and is well settled, and would make her life comfortable only for her own imprudence and bad temper. Order of admission signed Isaac Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Wednesday, July 9th

Discharged Eleanor Devier and her two Children, Charles and Mary, were admitted the 29th April, see daily Occurrences of that date. She has not patience to lay in the straw here, but perhaps not so comfortable a place may be her doom. Credit City.

Discharged William Decker who was admitted the 24th Ultimo and seems clearly recovered of the fall he had from a two story Window, on Market Street at night, in his sleep. Credit City.

Died Elizabeth Willis who was admitted the 5th February 1798 as a pay patient, but no pay has ever been made. Credit City.
Discharged Essex Waterford a Mulatto Man who was admitted the 5th May last, with a bad wound in one of his legs, which he is now cured of and gone. Credit Southwark.

Admitted Sarah Ferguson of legal residence, has the venereal disease and don't appear to be more than seventeen or eighteen years of age. She says her parents came to this City, from Ireland when she was but a suckling Baby, that they never bound her out, or took any care of her education, that they have been dead three years and upwards, & that ever since, she has been a wanderer through the streets having no place wherewith to lay her head, by which means she has been exposed to every vile temptations being thus situated. James Collings and James McGlathery sent her here. Debit Southwark.

Thursday, July 10th

Admitted William Swaine an Irishman and hath legal residence, is a Baker by trade, has got a very bad sore leg, was here with the same complaint in December 1796 and was discharged the 4th April following; is now come in per Order Thomas Hockley. Debit City.

Admitted Jane McAllister and her Child Margaret, who is four months Old, said Jane has a Husband but on account of his drunkenness, frequent intoxication and abuse, she cannot live with him, neither is it in his power to support them, in the situation and condition he continually is in. Order of Admissions I. T. Hopper. Debit City.

Cash Debit Manufactury received of John Delavor five pounds twelve shillings & six for three hundred weight of Oakum sold him at $5 per hundred ... $15.

Admitted Maria Yost a young woman, seventeen years of age, who hath legal residence, and is much infected with the Venereal disease; also a bad breaking out with the itch, all of which renders her incapable of working for a livelihood, and being poor and friendless withall, she is sent here per Order James Poultnney. Debit City.

Friday, July 11th

Died Mary Rennet who was admitted the 18th October 1796 in a sickly infirm condition, and lingering a considerable time, when she expired this day. Credit City.

Died Elizabeth Dickups, One of the Mulatto Orphans that was admitted the 4th of last January. Credit City.

Admitted Cato a Mulatto man, was formerly a Slave to Charles Pettit and says he was manumitted in the time of the revolutionary war, his complaint is weakness in his knees that renders him unable to contribute to his own support by labour. Sent in per Order Mr. David Lapsley. Debit City.

Saturday, July 12th

Took in the Weeks Work:

Weaving: One piece 800 Shirting 59 yards by John Story, this piece took
nineteen pounds flaxen yarn for Chain and twenty six pounds tow yarn for filling.

Spinning: Twelve pounds flaxen yarn, twenty pounds tow yarn and two pounds woolen yarn 6 Hanks.


Oakum: perhaps four hundred weight picked this week. Provisions issued this week:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meat</td>
<td>1424 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Meal</td>
<td>300 lbs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>220 lbs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coffee</td>
<td>6.5 lbs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Molasses</td>
<td>29 gallons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indian Corn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chocolate</td>
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<td>Flour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tea</td>
<td>33.2 lbs</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Shells</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>20 bushels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pease</td>
<td>0 bushels</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Died Jane Daugherty, Mary Jefferts Child, that was admitted the 31st last May. Credit City.

Died Henry Hickey one of Alice Vancamps Twins, that she was delivered of the 20th November last, and survived only five days, the 25th when she died, and the 27th same month said Henry and his Brother Richard were put to Nurse with Sarah Ferry and with whom he now died. Credit Northern Liberties.

Paid Sarah Ferry One pound two shillings and six pence to her son Thomas for One Week nursing twins Richard & Henry Hickey ... $3.

Admitted Margaret Potts a nonresident, came to this City about six months ago from Norfolk, Virginia, is far gone in a Consumption, that she appears not many days for this world, and being poor, and destitute of friends, is sent here per Order James McGlathery and James Collings. Debit Southwark.

Admitted Ignatius Waterman, his wife Elizabeth and two Children William and Elizabeth Waterman. William is between five and six years of age, Elizabeth near seven months Old, they were all here last winter, and Elizabeth born then, and all discharged in the spring following. Said Ignatius is much afflicted with the rheumatism and has a violent pain in his breast, which renders him incapable of following his business, and being poor, needy and destitute of friendly assistance, had no other alternative for relief and support of himself and family than by applying to Isaac Tatem Hopper for an Order to come here, which he granted. Debit City.

Sunday, July 13th

Admitted Elizabeth Fitzpatrick who hath no legal residence, it being only six days since she left her Father, who lives about one Mile on the Road from Woodbury, New Jersey, and Came to Philadelphia and lived with Doctor Parcallas the above time of six days; she is a young woman and dont appear to be more than seventeen or eighteen years of age, and from the outrageous and
desperate attempts she had made in being accessory to her own death, having
taken a poisonous draft and plunging herself into the river off South street
Wharf, it is presumed that she has been guilty of some imprudent conduct or
other, that has rendered life a burden to her, and rather than survive a lost
reputation, would sooner put an end to her own existence. Ebenezer Ferguson
Esquire and two Constables conducted her here with an Order signed James
McGlathery and James Collings. Debit Southwark.

Monday, July 14th

Materials issued to be manufactured: Twelve pounds flax, Twelve pounds
tow and two pounds wool to be spun and about four hundred weight junk to be
picked into Oakum.

Admitted Peter Conner who hath legal residence, is an old and frequent
customer and is come in now with his old complaint of Rheumatism, lameness,
and sore legs; his Wife and two Children are here also, he was discharged the
14th April last—his Order of admission signed Thomas Hockley. Debit City.

Admitted John Smith an Irishman, and hath legal residence, is much afflicted
with the Rheumatism, violent pains in his breast, spasm or cramp in his limbs,
which renders him incapable of contributing towards his support by labour, and
is sent here per Order Isaac Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Paid Lydia McCullock eleven shillings and three pence in full for One Weeks
Nursing Child Bridget Nugent . . . $1.50.

Paid Mary Dixon eighteen shillings and nine pence in full for two weeks
nursing Child Elizabeth Dawson . . . $2.50.

Paid Mary Hudson eleven shillings and three pence in full for one week
nursing Child Mary Saunders—at the same time delivered her a Couple of
Gowns for the said Child Mary . . . $1.50.

Eloped Mary Carlile, she had liberty to go out last saturday and has not
returned. Admitted December 19th 1799. Credit Southwark.

Admitted George Young of legal residence, has followed the Seas, and sailed
out of this port many years in different Merchants employ, is now in a lame,
palsied and speechless condition which renders him not only incapable of
contributing towards his support by labour, but a suffering Object of pity and
compassion—Sent in per Order James Collings and James McGlathery. Debit
Southwark.

Admitted James Blade who had legal residence, is very lame, having both legs
very sore, he with the two undermentioned, was brought from Jail by a
Constable per Order Isaac Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Admitted John Howell, known by the name of crazy Jack The Sailor, who
has been forty days confined for (as he says) “having a brush with the Mayor in
the publick Market”; he is an old customer, and brought by the same Constable
as above per Order Isaac Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Admitted Rachel Patton a nonresident; is in a very highly venereal condition,
though not more than seventeen years of age. She was born in Sunbury,
Northumberland County, State of Pennsylvania, was two days in Jail, and brought here by the same as above per Order Isaac Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Bound William Barton to James Buck of Whitpaine Township Montgomery County, Weaver, to serve him fifteen years as per Indenture this date. Admitted the 1st August, 1798. Credit Southwark.

Bound Mary Johnson to William Hill of Kingsessing Township, Philadelphia County, Farmer, to serve him thirteen years one month and fifteen days as per Indenture of this date. Admitted September 1st 1798. Credit City.

Tuesday, July 15th

Discharged Thomas Anright an Irishman, who was admitted last May in a highly venereal condition, and is now gone out cured and decently clad. Credit Southwark.

Discharged James Jemison a Sailor who was admitted the 4th Ultimo with the Rheumatism, and is now discharged cured. Mr. George Latim is accountable for said Jemison's board and Medical assistance. Credit City.

Sent to Jail William McElroy for intoxication, disorderly conduct and aggravating, abusive language and expressions, contrary to the good order and express rules of the institution, was committed, under precept of William Jones Esquire to suffer thirty days imprisonment in the Work House.

Admitted Ann Wallace of legal residence, was here in June 1797 very bad with the Venereal disease and for clamorous and disorderly conduct was sent to Jail on the 19th of July succeeding for ten days and returned on the 29th and behaved as bad as before, and for the support of Order and peace of others, she was turned out of the building. Her name then was Mary Ann Kelly, but has been married since to One Wallace, and is now no more than twenty years of age. She is now afflicted with a Cancer in her nose, and is not able to contribute towards her own support, at the same time being poor and destitute of friends is sent here per Order David Lapsley. Debit City.

Discharged Charles Knockenhower who was admitted the 26th Ultimo very much bruised by a fall out of a window. Credit City.

Wednesday, July 16th

Cash Debit to Expences received of the above named Charles Knockenhower three pounds seven shillings & six pence for three weeks board at $3 per week... $9.

Admitted Susannah Kirk who has legal residence, she came from Ireland about seventeen years ago and served her time with Abner Lukens of Upper Dublin Township, Philadelphia County then, now Montgomery County, and since her freedom has worked out at service for six years past with different families in this City, and is now come in here very sick with a bad lax, which causes a coming down of the body, whereby she is rendered incapable of helping herself and is sent in per Order James Collings and James McGlathery. Debit Southwark.

Admitted Christian Shultz a Hanoverian, who had no legal residence, but
being extremely afflicted with a sore leg, poor, needy and no friends, is sent here per Order James Poultney. Debit City.

Admitted Eleanor Husbands of lawfull residence, and is far advanced in her pregnancy, says her Husband, James Husbands sails in the employment of Jesse and Robert Waln in The Ship Dominick Terry—the Captain's name she cannot recollect, her (?) of matters may be necessary, sent in per Order James Poultney. Debit City.

Thursday, July 17th

Admitted Charles L. Robou, a French Man, who has no legal residence, being but ten or eleven weeks in this City; says he came to Richmond, Virginia about three years ago from Port au Prince, his appearance is decent, though at the same time, he appears to labour under a derangement of mind, which rendered it absolutely necessary that care should be taken of him, & he was accordingly brought here by a Constable with an Order signed Isaac Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Admitted James Haney has legal residence; has been before in April last with the Venereal disease, and was discharged the 6th June ultimo as it was thought cured, but time has manifested the reverse as he is now come in with the same complaint and addition of a sore leg. Order I. T. Hopper. Debit City.

Admitted William Wooten an Old Man aged eighty five years, born in Old England, and came to this City about seven years ago, and has lived in and about it ever since, striving to make a living by picking and gathering of rags, but now being feeble and unable to contribute towards his support by that or any other way of employment, and at the same time destitute of friends, is sent here with an Order signed Isaac Tatem Hopper. Credit City.

William Wilson, one of the hired Weavers, went out yesterday and returned in the evening of same day, in his old accustomed state of intoxication, jealous and in provoking language and abuse, so much so that it was absolutely necessary, as well as a duty incumbent on Mr. Cummings (for the support of the rules and good order of the institution) to have him confined in one of the Cells. But some time in the night, he effected an escape by forcibly breaking through three apartments, and being fearfull of returning again after such conduct, he went first to William Jones, Esquire, President of the Board, who wrote a letter to Mr. Cummings to receive him, and let matters rest untill Monday next, when the board will meet and determine the same.

Friday, July 18th

Admitted Hannah McFurle, a Child two years old, and very sick with a fever & lax. The Mother Elizabeth McFurle who brought the Child is not able to maintain it herself and another one that she has and obtained an Order from Abel Evans and Frederick Hockley. Debit Northern Liberties.

Admitted Alexander Watson his Wife Jane and two Children Jane and Alexander Watson. Jane is four years and Alexander one year. They have legal residence. The poor husband is blind, poor, needy and friendless, not being able to follow his business, which is a bonet Maker, and the Mother having nothing
in her power to support herself and the two Children. I. T. Hopper hath sent them all here. Debit City.

Admitted Martha Young who hath legal residence and has been here before, was only discharged the 24th Ultimo, is now returned with a bad gathering in one of her hands, insomuch that it renders her incapable of working for her support, and is sent in per Order Henry Molier and James McGlathery. Debit Southwark.

Discharged Mary Turner who was admitted the 23rd last May very bad with the St. Anthonys fire,22 she is now gone out cured. Credit Southwark.

Saturday, July 19th

Took in the Weeks Work:

Weaving: One piece of 800 Shirting 55 yards of William Wilson. This piece took 19 lb flaxen yarn for chain and 26 lb tow yarn for filling.

Spinning: Ten pounds flaxen yarn and Twenty pounds Tow yarn.

Shoemaking: Three pair womens Shoes per John Gavin. Two pair Mens Shoes per John Chatham. Mending and Cobbling as usual.

Oakum: Perhaps four hundred weight picked this Week.

Died George Syses an Old German who was admitted the 30th December 1799 in a weak and distressed condition and expired this morning. Credit City.

Birth Jane Craig has been in labour these two weeks past and was last night delivered of a still born Child.

Discharged John Chatham a Shoemaker who was admitted the 16th Ultimo very sick with various complaints, is now gone out relieved. Credit Northern Liberties.

Admitted Elizabeth Campbell who hath legal residence, and is very sick with a pain and disiness in her head. Her husband Charles Campbell and who is a labourer was in the Country, and no person to take care of her, she was sent here to be provided for by Order Isaac Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Sunday, July 20th

Nothing Occurred this day.

Monday, July 21st

Discharged Arthur Campbell an elderly man, blind of an eye, who was admitted the 6th July 1798. Credit Southwark.

Paid Lydia McCulloch eleven shillings and three pence in full for one week nursing Child Bridget Nugent . . . $1.50.

Paid Sarah Ferry eleven shillings and three pence in full for one week nursing Child Richard Hickey . . . $1.50.

Died William Wooten the poor old Englishman who was admitted the 17th instant July. Credit City.
Admitted Bobinjay an East Indian, has been here before and was discharged the 26th last May, is now returned very sick with an Order signed Isaac Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Admitted Francis Ogleby a Ship Carpenter who has worked with Joshua Humphreys, is now very sick and disabled, that he cannot get a living by his labour. Order of admission Samuel Bowers & Abel Evans. Debit Northern Liberties.

Discharged Anthony Dawson and an old Taylor who was admitted the 6th ultimo with the rheumatism and is now gone out cured and decently cloathed. Credit Southwark.

Bound Rebecca Brice to John Maesner of this City, Taylor, to serve him fifteen years as per Indenture of this date. Admitted the 4th of last January. Credit City.

Tuesday, July 22nd

Admitted Bartholemew Vanhorn an Old German who hath legal residence, and has been in the American Army in the revolutionary War, is now much afflicted with nervous and rheumatick complaints, which renders him incapable of contributing towards his support by his labour and is sent here per Order Able Evans & Frederick Hockley. Debit Northern Liberties.

Discharged Ann Johnson and Child, blacks, they were admitted the 2nd instant and Peter Thomson one of the Guardians of the Poor was to pay one dollar per week for the childs board during its stay in this house, on account of which is drawn out to this date is three weeks at $1 . . . $3. Credit City.

Discharged Hugh Haggerty an old Ordinary, venereal, to and fro customer who was admitted the 23rd ultimo and is now discharged cured of his disorder. Credit Southwark.

Wednesday, July 23rd

Sent in per the Clerk of High street Market forty nine undersized rock fish and six lumps of Butter which was distributed among the paupers.

Admitted Sophia Fitzpatrick and her child Catharine Morrow who was born in this house the 3rd ultimo, her admission dated the 6th May; and pregnant with said child, the Occurrences will show. Her being premature with regard to her anticipation of bettering herself is one convincing proof that such unhappy fellow creatures, perhaps innocent, but opportunity and importunity will often prevail. She thought herself well recovered, and striving to live by her industry, such as washing of cloaths, so soon, has been the cause of her present indisposition, and is now sent here per Order Henry Molier and James McGlathery. Debit Southwark.

Admitted Biddy or Bridget Miles was here in August 1796. She is but a so so sort of a body, and was much intoxicated with liquor when she came in now, has a bad lax and other ways indisposed, sent in per Order H. Molier & J. McGlathery. Debit Southwark.

Sent to Jail Ann Wallace for clamorous, disorderly conduct and abuse of the
Matron, was under hand & seal of William Jones esquire sent to Jail for thirty
days, and to be kept to hard labour during that time.

Thursday, July 24th

Died Ann Barber after a long and tedious consumptive indisposition expired
this afternoon. Admitted Feb. 15th 1797. Credit Norther Liberties.

Discharged Jacob Felsy, who was admitted the 23rd ultimo with the Venereal
disease and is now gone out and George Latimer Esquire is responsible for
medical assistance and nursing him from the time of his admission to this
data—is 4 weeks & a half at $3 per week ... $13.50.

Friday, July 25th

Admitted Rosannah Sparks a Child about five years old, her Father is dead,
and her Mother having deserted her; one Elister Smith, Wife of Thomas Smith,
Sail Maker, brought said Rosannah with an Order of admission signed Isaac
Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Saturday, July 26th

Admitted Susannah Conrad, has been here before, of a very indifferent
character; she's the daughter of Henry Conrad who is also in this house. Her
disorder is a lax and weakness in the limbs, so much so, that she was brought in a
Cart and carried into the sick ward. Order of admission James Collings and
James McGlather. Debit Southwark.

Discharged Richard Crosby who was admitted the 8th June 1796 and hath
been for a considerable time past useful in attending to the Oakum picking,
sweeping and cleaning the yard. Credit City.

Cash Debit to Manufactury received of William and Abiah Brown nine
pounds seven shillings and six pence five hundred weight of Oakum sold them at
$5 per hundred . . . $25.

Sunday, July 27th

Died Margaret Potts who was admitted the 8th instant July, far gone in a
Consumption, and expired this day.

Died Grace Haggerty one of the Orphan children, brought from the Orphan
House January 4th 1800. Credit City.

Monday, July 28th

Paid Sarah Ferry eleven shillings and three pence in full for one week nursing
Child Richard Hickey . . . $1.50.

Paid Lydia McCalloch one dollar and an half for one week nursing Bridget
Nugent . . . $1.50.

Died Margaret McAllister, child of Jane McAllister, the Mother and child
were both admitted the 10th instant. Credit City.

Admitted James Were, dont appear to have legal residence, but being very
sick, and far gone in a Consumption, has a bad pain in his breast, accompanied
with a Cough, and his legs very much swelled, is sent in per Order Thomas Hockley. Debit City.

Admitted Mahlon Williams, a Black man hath legal residence, has got a heavy Paralytical stroke that has almost deprived him not only of his speech but entirely of the use of his limbs. Order of admission Thomas Hockley. Debit City.

Admitted Abel Evans has legal residence, is aged and consumptive and dont appear to be long for this world, and being poor and friendless, Thomas Hockley hath sent him in here. Debit Northern Liberties.

Bound Hugh Cox to George Roberts of Gevinned Township, Montgomery County, Farmer, to serve him sixteen years agreeable to Indenture of this date.

Tuesday, July 29th

Discharged James Bonsel, was admitted the 7th ultimo very much afflicted with a rupture and [?] and is gone out now relieved of his complaint. Credit Northern Liberties.

Admitted Sarah Williams, was here the 2nd November last, with the Venereal disease & was discharged the 6th March following, is now returned with the same complaint with the addition of Ulcerous and rheumatick complaints in her legs and arms, with an Order signed Frederick Hockley & Abel Evans. Debit Northern Liberties.

Admitted Soloman Kelley, a Young man, has legal residence, a Ship Carpenter by trade, was brought here by two Constables from the Jail or Workhouse, has got a Sore leg, but dont seem to be very bad and is sent in per Order Isaac Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Admitted William Wilson the Weaver who was employed by the Managers and is also Husband to the Nurse in the sick Ward on the Womens side. He is come in very sick with an Order signed Isaac Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Cash Debit to Expenses received of Mr. Cox One pound ten shillings for two weeks board of his Sister in Law Margaret Potts who died in this house the 27th instant . . . $4.

Thursday, July 31st

Discharged John Smith, was admitted the 14th instant with rheumatick pains and is now gone out cured. Credit City.

Friday, August 1st

Died Susannah Conrad, Daughter of Henry Conrad. She was admitted the 26th ultimo very sick indeed. Credit Southwark.

Died Samuel Painter son of Martha Reading. He was born in this House the 12th August 1799. See daily Occurrences of that date. Credit City.

Discharged Mary Griffey and her Child Catharine Donoghue, both of whom were admitted the 12th last June. Credit City.

Admitted Elizabeth Stanford, came here the 19th of February last very sick,
and was discharged the 12th May following, and to all appearance cured, but is now returned (not only worse in health than when admitted before this), most shamefully ragged, dirty and swarming with Vermin with an Order signed James Collings and James McGlathery. Debit Southwark.

Admitted Charles Henderson, a Dane, has been here before, is a little foolish and incapable of contributing towards his support by labour, is sent in per Order Henry Molier & James McGlathery. Debit Southwark.

Admitted Philip Weiss at times deranged, so as to endanger the safety of his family, has been here before, in November 1797 and is brought in now on the same occasion by a Constable with an Order signed Thomas Hockley. Debit City.

Saturday, August 2nd

Took in the Weeks Work:

Weaving: One piece Linsey 78 yards by John Story, this piece took twenty pounds flaxen yarn for chain and forty pounds woolen yarn for filling, and also 16 yarns 800 Shirting.

Spinning: Thirteen pounds flaxen yarn, nineteen pounds tow yarn and three pounds sewing thread.


Oakum: Perhaps four hundred weight picked this week.

Admitted Caleb Offley and his Wife Elizabeth Ann, of legal residence, they being in the habit of getting so intoxicated as to render them entirely incapable of supporting themselves, are sent here per Order Isaac Tatem Hopper, who says their board will be paid for. Debit City.

Died Ann Southerland who was admitted the 25th June last, very sick, and expired this day. Credit City.

Died Elizabeth Stanford the poor miserable creature that was admitted yesterday. Credit Southwark.

Sunday, August 3rd

Eloped Ann Wilson, a black, who is said to belong to Thomas Ryerson, and was admitted January 1, 1798. Credit Northern Liberties.

Monday, August 4th

Admitted Richard Cowan of legal residence, is a poor, sick infirm creature, not able to contribute towards his support and is sent here per Order Frederick Boller. Debit City.

Paid Lydia McCulloch eleven shillings and three pence in full for one week nursing child Bridget Nugent . . . $1.50.

Paid Catharine Davis One pound fifteen shillings in full for seven weeks nursing child called Hospital child . . . $4.67.
Admitted Joze Carreio, Manuel deSouza, Manuel Antony, Joaquim Jose, Joze Carrcio, and Manuel Carreio, all of them Portuguese, and have been Ship wrecked, and from enquiry it appears that they were brought into Norfolk, Virginia about three months preceding their admission into this house, all of them well and hearty. Order of admission on file by Mr. Thomas Hockley. Debit City.

Admitted Eleanor Rain, appeared to be intoxicated with making too free with liquor, and at the same time, said her husband & her daughter used her ill, and the appearance of the bruises in her face and the hurt in her arm may be correspondent with the intoxication or abuse as she says of her husband and Daughter. Order of admission James Collings & James McGlathery. Debit Southwark.

Admitted Hannah Lowdie, was born in Germany, hath legal residence, and lived with Mr. Stroaps three years, also with Mr. Hemp both of whom lives in Water Street between Market and Arch Streets. She was delivered of a Child last Thursday, which is not mentioned in the order of admission, though came in with her, the Father of the Child she says is run away. Her Order of admission is signed Thomas Hockley. Debit City.

Admitted Christiana Candle, Pregnant but having no legal residence, was inadmissable and back per Order of the board of Managers to Mr. Richard Tunis the Guardian who sent her here. Her legality of Citizenship is in Lancaster County, where her parents are, as also the reputed Father of her Child, with which she is now pregnant, resides. His name she says is Samule Styre; said Christiana lived about fifteen Miles on this side of the Town of Lancaster near the road side. Debit City.

Died Michael Bettinger who was admitted the 7th November 1799 and expired this day after a short illness. Credit City.

Tuesday, August 5th

Died Rosannah Kirk who was admitted the 16th July last in a very low state of health and expired this day. Credit Southwark.

Admitted James Massingale, Born in England, has gained a legal residence, is a labourer, but being much reduced in his health which renders him incapable of contributing towards his support by his labour, he is sent in here per Order James Collings and James McGlathery. Debit Southwark.

Admitted Hugh Stewart an elderly man who hath legal residence, has been here before and is now come in again with lameness and rheumatick complaints with an Order signed Isaac Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Admitted William Bird hath legal residence, but being afflicted with sore legs which render him incapable of labouring for a living; he is sent here by Mr. Thomson. Debit City.

Discharged Mary McNeal who was admitted the 29th June ultimo with a fractured leg, is now taken out by her Son in a Cart, she not being able to Walk, as was the case when she was admitted. Credit Southwark.
DAILY OCCURRENCE DOCKET

Discharged George Pearsman or Peasman who was admitted the 17th last April highly Venereal indeed, and is now discharged cured. Credit City.

Discharged Thomas Smith admitted the 4th of June last, with a sore leg and a consumptive complaint; however, he says, that he's relieved, and taken his departure. Credit City.

Wednesday, August 6th

Admitted [and Discharged] Roberty Connelly and his Wife Ann; they came here the 29th last November. He is blind, and an old frequent customer, they were discharged the 1st of April last, and as he has made a practice of going out in the moderate season for the purpose of pecuniary relief, and judgmatickly supposed by the Steward that his chest was well stored, for which reason he would not allow them to bring it in, [and] they both concluded to proceed as far as Baltimore, wether they will or not time will make manifest but at present the institution is not burthened with them. Debit and Credit City. Order signed by Thomas Hockley.

Sent in per the Clerk of High-street Market five lumps of Butter which was distributed among the paupers.

Admitted Moses Gordon, a Black man, and hath legal residence, has been struck with the Palsy, but seems on the recovery, and not able to work for a livelihood is sent in per Order Isaac Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Admitted Mary Ann McFerren about two years Old, and is very Sick, her Mother's confined in the Work house, and the Child was brought from there to this House by Mr. Facundus the Constable. Order signed Isaac Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Thursday, August 7th

Admitted Richard Crosby, was only discharged the 26th ultimo and now come in with exceeding sore legs, and sick. Order of Admission James Collings & James McGlathery. Debit Southwark.

Friday, August 8th

Discharged Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, who was admitted the 13th last July in a deranged state of mind, and is now gone out to all appearance perfectly reinstated in the talents of reason and sense. Credit Southwark.

Saturday, August 9th

Admitted David McCartney, is an Irishman, has been in this City eighteen months, and followed Marble stone Sawing for a living; he's afflicted at this time both with a sore leg and arm which renders him incapable of working, at the same time being poor is sent here per Order Fredrick Hockley & Abel Evans. Debit Northern Liberties.

Admitted Malcom McClain his Wife Mary and Son Samuel who was one year Old the 5th last month. The Father is blind, and the Child not well. The Mother but a so so body. They were brought here from Jail by two Constables, Order of Admission I. T. Hopper. Debit City.
Admitted Margaret Bailey hath legal residence, is poor and needy and afflicted with the Venereal disease and was brought here from Prison by two Constables at the recommendation of Doctor Church. Order of admission signed Isaac Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Admitted Sarah Bradley has legal residence, is poor and needy and afflicted with the Venereal disease, and was brought here from Prison by the above mentioned Constables at the recommendation of Doctor Church. Order signed as above. Debit City.

Sunday, August 10th

Eloped James McClaskey who had liberty to go out yesterday and did not return. Admitted the 26th June last. Credit Southwark.

Monday, August 11th

Materials issued to be Manufactured: Eleven pounds flax, thirty two pounds tow to be Spun and two pounds Wool to be spun, also three pounds Flax for sewing thread, and four hundred weight Junk to be picked into Oakum.

Eloped William Wilson the Weaver, some time in the night scaled or jumped the fence. Admitted the 30th ultimo. Credit City.

Eloped Ulerick Ulerson a Dane who was admitted the 19th January last. Credit City.

Paid Catherine Bristol by the hands of Elizabeth Christine fifteen shillings in full for two weeks nursing Child Catherine Miller . . . $2.

Paid Sarah Ferry by the hands of her Son eleven shillings and three pence in full for one weeks nursing child Richard Hickey . . . $1.50.

Paid Mary Hudson eleven shillings and three pence in full for one week nursing Child Mary Saunders . . . $1.50.

Bound Samuel Grace to Jonathan McCondy of this City to serve him five years, eleven months & seventeen days as per Indenture of the 21st July last. Note the above mentioned Samuel was bound by a former board to Jeremiah Condy brother of said Jonathan, the 8th July 1799.

Discharged Sophia Fitzpatrick and her child both of whom were admitted the 23rd ultimo. Credit Southwark.

Discharged Eleanor Rain who was admitted the 4th instant August. Credit Southwark.

Cash Debit to Expences received of Mary Jackson eleven shillings & three pence for One Week boarding of the above Named Eleanor Rain . . . $1.50.

Tuesday, August 12th

Cash Debit Expences received of George Waltman Thirty four pounds six shillings for Ten Hogs sold him this day weighing 2058 lbs at 4 pence per pound . . . $91.47.

Eloped James McClaskey, he had liberty to go out on Saturday last but did
not return till Monday, when he asked the Managers for a discharge, but they
found upon enquiry of Dr. Griffiths that he was not well enough recovered, and
granting him his request at the same time advised him to stay till he got well.
However he escaped some time in the night by scaling or jumping the fence.
Note said James was entered last Sunday in the Occurrences as eloped on
account of his not returning on Saturday night. Credit Southwark.

Admitted Elizabeth Moffett an elderly Woman who hath legal residence, is
very sick and much afflicted with rheumatick and other pains (effects of the
Venereal disease), which is generally the companions of old age. Sent in per

Discharged John Hitzler the Old German who was admitted the 16th
December 1799. Credit City.

Wednesday, August 13th

Birth Eleanor Husbands was last night delivered of a still born infant; said
Eleanor was pregnant when admitted on the 16th ultimo. Credit City.

Admitted John Munrow, a Shoemaker by trade, is a Scotchman and hath
legal residence, has had a slight stroke of the Palsy in his right side, and is
otherwise afflicted with rheumatick pains and swelling in his legs, all of which
renders him entirely incapable of working for a livelihood for which reason he is
sent here per Order Abel Evans & Frederick Hockley. Debit Northern
Liberties.

Admitted Daniel Fennel an Irish man born in the City of Dublin, has been in
Philadelphia ever since 1773, is a Labourer but being afflicted with sore legs
renders him incapable of contributing towards his support by labour; and being
poor and destitute of friends is sent here per Order James Collings & James
McGlathery. Debit Southwark.

Admitted Christiana Candel a non resident; and near the time of lying in,
being far gone in her pregnancy. One dollar per week for her board is to be paid,
but there has been no security taken for it by Mr. Richard Tunis who sent her
here. Debit City.

Birth the above named Christiana Candle after an elapse of one hour in the
lying in room, was delivered of a fine male infant, who she names Samuel Styer
or Hyer, the name of the reputed Father. Both the Mother and Child are in a
fair way of doing well. Debit City.

Thursday, August 14th

Admitted Jane Logan who hath legal residence, she seems to be far gone in a
Consumption, and dont appear to be long for this World. Her husband whose
name is John Logan, is a Bricklayer by Trade but being subject to dissiness in
his head, is not capable of working on the scaffold, as she says he fell off of one
and broke his arm by which he's rendered incapable of supporting himself and
her, therefore she's sent here per Order James Collings & James McGlathery.
Debit Southwark.
Discharged Rosannah Davis, was Nurse in Lying Room. Admitted the 13th last March. Credit City.

Discharged William Adams a Sailor who was admitted the 14th June last with a bad sore leg & is now gone out cured. Credit Southwark.

Friday, August 15th

Admitted Dinah Kearney a young black Woman eighteen years of age, and hath legal residence, she last lived with Joseph Lynn at Point no Point, Northern Liberties. She seems to be far gone in a Consumption having a constant pain in her breast attended with a bad cough and other concomitant complaints. Sent in per Order Fredrick Hockley and Abel Evans. Debit Northern Liberties.

Died Mary Lamb after a tedious indisposition of three months expired this day; she was admitted the 7th May last. Credit City.

Died Mahlon Williams a Black man, was admitted the 28th ultimo with the Palsy and expired this day. Credit Northern Liberties.

Saturday, August 16th

Eloped Maria Yost, she was admitted the 10th ultimo much infected with the Venereal disease, and bad breaking out with the Itch. Monday last she made application to the Managers for a discharge, when they for good reason thought proper not to grant it, and last night she scaled or jumped over the fence. Credit City.

Discharged Martha Reading was yesterday discharged per order Mr. Morris & Mr. Jolly, Visiting Committee. Admitted March 8th 1797. Credit City.

William McElroy returned yesterday evening from Jail where he had been confined ever since the 14th ultimo for malconduct.

Admitted Rachel Johnson and Child (Blacks), she's pregnant & near her time of lying in, her Husband Job Johnson is confined in prison for being too light fingered. The Child is named John Johnson and is two years & eight months Old. Sent in per Order James Collings and James McGlathery. Debit Southwark.

Admitted Mary Harper a Black Woman, hath no legal residence but being poor and very sick is sent her per Order Isaac Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Admitted Ruth Johnson a Black, is not eighteen years of age, and is highly Venereal, brought here from Jail (where she had been three months) by a Constable with an Order signed Isaac Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Admitted Elizabeth Perkins a Young Woman twenty three years of age, and has the Venereal disease, brought here from Jail (where she had been three weeks) by a Constable with an Order signed Isaac Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Admitted Isabella Johnson; this Child was bound by the Managers the 2nd June last to John C. Schneide of this City & the Mother of said Child, finding to whom it was bound, went and took her away by force. She is now in Jail and the
Child was brought from there to this House by a Constable with an Order signed Isaac Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Admitted John Wansey a Child about sixteen months Old and is very sick. The Mother of this Child is in Jail. He is named in same Order as above. Debit City.

Admitted Joseph Martin a Black Child about twelve months Old, whose Mother is also in Jail, brought in as above with an Order signed Isaac Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Admitted John Peterson a Child about four years Old, poor and destitute of Parents & friends, the Constable who brought him here from Jail said that the said Child went there of his own accord and continued four or five days, till they procured an Order from Isaac Tatem Hopper and brought him here. Debit City.

Admitted Martha Reading; she was only discharged but yesterday, and is now returned very sick, with an Order signed Isaac Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Sunday, August 17th

Died James Cody, who was admitted the 3rd Ultimo very bad with pains and sore legs, and has lingered till this day, when he expired. Credit City.

Monday, August 18th

Paid Sarah Ferry eleven shillings and three pence in full by the hands of her son for One week Nursing Child Richard Hickey... $1.50.

Paid Mary Hudson eleven shillings and three pence in full for One week nursing Child Mary Sauna... $1.50.

Paid Mary Dixon eighteen shillings and nine pence in full for two weeks Nursing Child Elizabeth Dawson... $2.50.

Admitted Mary Tatem Street a Child about four years of age, was found in the Street destitute, and no name given in the Order of admission. Her condition required a thorough cleansing and change of cloathing which was done and the Child looked quite another thing. Note: the mother has been here and says the Childs name is Mary Crawford. Sent in per Order I. T. Hopper. Debit City.

Admitted Washington & James Ewing whose Father and Mother are both in Jail, Washington is called six years and three months Old and James three years and ten months Old. J. Facundus, Constable, brought them from Jail with an Order signed Isaac Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Admitted William Blake, a boy about eight years of age and of legal residence. The Mother of this Child whose name is Catharine Blake gets shamefully drunk and in those fits of intoxication she would unmercifully beat and bruise him, the effects of which clearly demonstrated by examining the Child when he came in, being black and blue all over his body. For the above reason Abel Evans and Fredrick Hockley two of the Guardians of the Poor sent him here. Debit Northern Liberties.
Admitted Thomas Brown a Seaman who has legal residence in Charestown, South Carolina. He arrived in this City seven weeks ago, in the Ship Swanwick from Liverpool and says he has Sailed out of this Port in different vessels before; is now afflicted with a Sore breaking out in his body and arms, being the effects of the Venereal disease, the Doctor says, and being poor and destitute of friends he is sent here with an Order signed David Lapsley. Debit City.

Discharged Catharine Wymant, this Woman was admitted the 22nd last February, Lame and much afflicted with the rhumatism, and to all appearance she is now gone out cured. Credit Southwark.

Tuesday, August 19th

Admitted William Scantlebury, a nonresident Barbadian, is lame and afflicted with a bad sore foot which renders him incapable of contributing towards his support by labour and being poor and friendless is sent here per Order Fredrick Hockley and Abel Evans. Debit Northern Liberties.

Eloped Bobinjay an Eastindian or Lascar that was admitted the 21st last July, he had liberty to go for his Cloaths & has not returned. Credit City.

Discharged James Irwin an Old Blacksmith who was admitted the 20th last February. Credit Northern Liberties.

Admitted Mary McGlaughlin, hath legal residence, about eighteen years of age, she came from Ireland nine years ago and has lived in this city ever since, is now pregnant and has sworn the Child (before John Jennings Esquire) to Robert Goolsberry, a Young Man who writes in the Navy Office of the United States, to be the Father of the Child. Sent here per Order Isaac Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Admitted Eleanor Williams, Sick with the Venereal Disease. She was born in Bohema Mannor near the Blackbird Tavern, Delaware State, says she has lived in this City near upon twelve months, and is Married to one Robert Williams, a Sailor, who is now gone to Sea in the Brig Norfolk, Captain Calbert, has two Uncles John & James Oxter living between Duck Creek and Middletown in said State; wishes she could get to Mr. Thomas Bens who keeps said Tavern and whom she says would be her friend. Sent in per Order Isaac Tatem Hopper. Debit City.

Discharged William McElroy the Old Butcher and has been usefull as such, in killing Hogs and cutting up the Meat. Admitted September 21st 1796. Credit Southwark.

Died Abel Evans who was admitted the 28th July Ultimo far gone in a Consumption. Credit Northern Liberties.

Cash Debit to Manufactury received of Stephen Beasley five pounds twelve Shillings and six pence for three hundred weight Oakum sold him at $5 per hundred . . . $15.

NOTES

The authors wish to thank the Philadelphia Center for Early American Studies for assistance in transcribing this document.
1. There are, for example, hundreds of volumes of records of the Guardians of the Poor stored in the Philadelphia City Archives, City Hall Annex.

2. The almshouse was constituted by two institutions. The east wing contained the almshouse portion in which paupers unable to work resided. People capable of working occupied the west wing, or the house of employment section. The terms "almshouse" and "house of employment" were used interchangeably, and the entire institution also was referred to as the "bettering house." For a detailed description of the almshouse, see John K. Alexander, *Render Them Submissive: Responses to Poverty in Philadelphia, 1760-1800* (Amherst, 1980), chapters 5 and 6; and Alexander, "Institutional Imperialism and the Sick Poor in Late Eighteenth-Century Philadelphia: The House of Employment VS. The Pennsylvania Hospital," *Pennsylvania History*, 51 (April 1984), 101-117.


4. These records are contained in the Philadelphia City Archives, City Hall Annex. We appreciate their kind permission to publish excerpts from them.

5. We have infrequently changed some intermediate and terminal punctuation but have left other punctuation unaltered. Following the clerk's practice, for example, we have not put quotation marks around the names of ships.

6. The room and board of most almshouse inmates were paid for by the Guardians of the Poor. Only rarely, as in this case of a master paying for his slave or servant, did private individuals pay for the care of an inmate.

7. In order to be admitted to the almshouse, an individual had to obtain a signed order from an official of the Guardians of the Poor for the city of Philadelphia or one of its suburbs, Southwark or the Northern Liberties.

8. The admission or discharge of each inmate was debited or credited, respectively, to the city of Philadelphia or one of its suburbs, depending on the individual's legal residence.

9. Some paupers were required to "pick Oakum," a process which involved untwisting old ropes into loose fibers. These then were sold for calking material for ships.

10. Instant: of this month.

11. Consumption: a progressive wasting away of the body, particularly by tuberculosis.

12. The rules of the almshouse required inmates who were physically capable of working to undertake a variety of tasks, including spinning, weaving, shoemaking, and picking oakum.

13. "Legal residence" in the city or its suburbs was acquired by paying taxes or rent for a specified period of time, usually varying between six and twelve months. Individuals who did not meet the city's residency requirement could be admitted only if the Guardians of the Poor of their place of legal residence paid for their stay in the almshouse.

14. While the stay of most inmates numbered in months, it was not unknown for some old or sick paupers to remain in the almshouse for years.

15. In 1800, 7 shillings and 6 pence equaled one dollar.


17. Girls younger than 18 and boys less than 21 were liable to be apprenticed by the Guardians of the Poor until they reached their age of majority, even without the permission of the child's parents. For an example of a mother who resisted this action, see the entry for Isabella Johnson on Aug. 16.

18. Ultimo: of or occurring in the month preceding the present.

19. Hogs which roamed the streets uncontrolled by their owners, and various foodstuffs sold illegally at the city markets were liable to confiscation by the constables who took the items to the almshouse to be distributed among its inmates.
20. Mercury was the only effective drug for treatment of syphilis, although it only suppressed the symptoms rather than cured the disease. Although it was commonly used, the toxic effects of mercury on the skin and intestines often outweighed its therapeutic value.


22. St. Anthony's fire: any of several inflammations or gangrenous conditions of the skin.