

Papers relating to Hannah Elvidge

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In Lunacy

In the Matter of Hannah Elvidge
alleged to be
widow a person of unsound mind and
~~so found by Inquisition~~

J. Bedford Pierce of The Retreat in the
City of York Doctor of Medicine of the London
University and Member of the Royal College
of Physicians London do solemnly sincerely
and truly affirm and declare as follows:-

- 1 I am the Resident Medical Superintendent of
The Retreat at York a Registered Hospital for the
care and treatment of the Insane.
- 2 On the 8th of February last the above named
Hannah Elvidge was received into The Retreat
aforesaid as a person of unsound mind under
the Order of a Magistrate. Copies of the said
Magistrate's Order and of the Petition and a
Medical Certificate upon which it was granted
are now produced and shown to me and are
marked B.P. 1 B.P. 2 B.P. 3 and B.P. 4
- 3 When admitted to the Retreat Mrs Elvidge
was in an excited state and troubled with
hallucinations of hearing. She said she heard
'voices' talking to her especially at night the
voices of her husband and those of some of her
neighbours.
- 4 After the said Hannah Elvidge had been
in the Institution about a fortnight she began

Jan 20/57

In the Matter of ^{alleged to be} ~~Thomas~~ ~~Chapman~~
Medical Officer of the Hospital for the
Insane at ~~St. George's Hospital~~

1. I am the Resident Medical Superintendent of
the Hospital at St. George's Hospital for the
Insane and treatment of the Insane.

2. On the 8th of February last the above named
Thomas Chapman was received into the Hospital
as a person of unsound mind under
the Order of a Magistrate. Copies of the said
Magistrate's Order and of the Petition and a
Medical Certificate upon which it was granted
are now produced and shown to me and are
marked P.P. 1, P.P. 2 and P.P. 3.

3. When admitted to the Hospital Mr. Chapman
was in an excited state and talked with
hallucinations of earing. He said the words
'noises' talking to him especially at night. The
noises of her husband and those of some of her
relatives.

4. After the said Thomas Chapman had been
in the Hospital about a fortnight she began

at 106

to shew signs of improvement in bodily health as well as in mind. This improvement was maintained and on the 15th May she was removed for a time to Gainsborough House at Scarborough a seaside Branch of the same Institution where she remained until July 30th. I frequently visited Gainsborough House in the ordinary course of my duty and saw the said Hannah Elvidge there.

5. As the improvement in the health both bodily and mentally of the said Hannah Elvidge was maintained I did not deem it necessary that she should remain a patient at Gainsborough House if she preferred to be in private apartments and I accordingly arranged for her to reside in private Lodgings in Crown Terrace Scarborough under the care of an experienced Lady as a Companion and under the supervision of myself or one of my Assistant Medical Officers
6. On the 24th of September last Richard Savell of the City of Sheffield (the said Hannah Elvidge's personal Medical Adviser) and Robert Baxter M.D. of 2 The Crescent, York the Consulting and Visiting Physician to the said Institution had a consultation regarding the condition of the said Hannah Elvidge and I in conjunction with the said Richard Savell and Robert Baxter came to the conclusion that she was not in a fit state of mind to be discharged from a Certificate and that she still required to be

to their signs of improvement in bodily health
 as well as in mind. This improvement was
 maintained until on the 10th day the
 removal for a time to Philadelphia those at
 "Barbours" or decided friends of the same
 institution where the remained until fully
 30th. I frequently visited Philadelphia
 those in the ordinary course of my duty
 and saw the said Thomas Clinch there.

2. As the improvement in the health both bodily
 and mentally of the said Thomas Clinch
 was maintained I did not deem it necessary
 that the school remain a patient at Philadelphia
 those if the preferred to be in private apartments
 and I accordingly arranged for her to reside
 in private lodgings in Queen Street Philadelphia
 under the care of an experienced lady as a
 companion and under the supervision of
 myself as one of my Assistant Medical Officers

3. On the 2nd of September last Richard Jewell
 of the City of Sheffield (the said Thomas Clinch's
 former Medical Adviser) and Robert Porter Esq
 of the present York the Consulting and
 visiting Physician to the said institution had
 a consultation regarding the condition of the
 said Thomas Clinch and in conjunction
 with the said Richard Jewell and Robert Porter
 came to the conclusion that she was not in a
 fit state of mind to be discharged from the
 institution and that she still required to be

care and
 at or about
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under care and supervision.

- 7 At or about the end of October last the said Hannah Elvidge had a relapse in her mental condition and again complained of hearing voices and so on as before and on the 5th of November instant I deemed it necessary to order her immediate removal from Scarbro' to The Retreat at York where she now remains.
- 8 On the 12th of November instant I had a further consultation with the said Richard Favell at The Retreat at York and after he had carefully examined the said Hannah Elvidge we then came to the conclusion that her state of mind was such that she required to be kept under strict supervision and control.
- 9 I have come to this conclusion on the following grounds, namely. The said Hannah Elvidge told me that she dare not mix in Society as she could not meet men, that she heard voices at night, voices which she told me were those of her deceased Husband and of other people, that she had unpleasant suggestions made to her and that she struggled with all her might to control herself. She labours under delusions of a Sexual nature and she tells me she cannot pass a man in the Street. She has complained of men being in her Room and in consequence she has been moved to a dormitory where a Nurse sits up all night.

under case and circumstances

11
 At or about the end of October last the said
 Thomas Gudge had a relation in his mental
 condition and again complaint of hearing
 voices such as were before and on the 5th in
 November instant of himself it necessary to
 refer the immediate removal from board
 to the Board at York where the same remains.
 8 On the 12th of November instant I had a
 further consultation with the said Richard
 Gudge at the Retreat at York and after the
 had carefully examined the said Thomas
 Gudge we then came to the conclusion that
 his state of mind was such that it appeared
 to be best under such circumstances and control
 of have come to this conclusion on the 11th
 following grounds. - namely. The said Thomas
 Gudge told me that the day next morn in
 society as the could not well there, that the
 heard voices at night, voices which the told
 me were those of his deceased husband and
 of other people, that the had unpleasant
 suggestions made to him and that the
 stupified with all the night to control
 herself. The labour under delusions of
 a peculiar nature and she tells me she
 cannot pass a hour in the street. She has
 complaint of men being in her room and
 in consequence she has been moved to a
 dormitory where in these days all night

Her delusions in this direction are mentioned in
a letter to me written on the 27th of October last
when she writes me as follows "I have and
" am still hearing voices at night. It is not the
" voices I fear I have been able to fight them it
" is my own condition. I have been struggling
" to resist a man whose face I have not seen but
" I heard his voice who has been staying in
" this house x "x" On Saturday night as I
" was intently looking at the violin of a soloist
" the bow seemed to go into the upper part of
" my womb and through before I could think"

10 Since her return to York the said Hannah
Elvidge has been sleeping badly at night -
she is at times seriously depressed.

11 I say from the conduct manners and
discourse of the said Hannah Elvidge I am
of opinion and have no doubt that she is of
unsound mind and unfit to manage or
control her affairs.

Affirmed at the City of
York this day of
November 1897 before me

A Commissioner for Oaths

The decision in this direction was mentioned in
 a letter to me written on the 2nd of October last
 when the words were as follows "I have and
 am still hearing voices at night. It is not the
 voices I fear, I have been able to fight them if
 it is my own condition. I have been struggling
 to resist or even escape but I have not been able
 to do so. I have been hearing voices
 this time x x On Saturday night as I
 was in bed looking at the picture of a child
 the boy seemed to go into the upper part of
 my mouth and through before I could think
 to give my return to fight the said sounds
 which has been sleeping back at night -
 this at times severely distressed.
 I say from the conduct manners and
 discourse of the said Thomas Childs I am
 of opinion and have no doubt that she is of
 unsound mind and unfit to manage or
 control her affairs.

Affirmed at the City of
 York this
 day of
 November 1871 before me
 A Commissioner for Yorks



In Lunacy

In the Matter of Hannah
Elvidge (Widow) a person
of unsound mind &c

Press Copy
Affirmation of Dr.
Bedford Pierce.

pt 13.



Brookhead Wightman & Moore
Sheffield