List of
Documents presented to the Court (9)
of Governors of the Lunatic Asylum
by G Higgins Esq.r Dec.r 2nd 1813.

F. The statement given to me by Dr Best at Doncaster as an inducement to me not to publish the statement sent to the Courant, but to refer the whole to the ordinary Quarterly Meeting of the Governors –

K. Copy of a letter received from Dr Best by which I discovered a misunderstanding had taken place between us, respecting our agreement at Doncaster and my answer to it

G. Copy of Dr Best's letter, dated Nov.r 22nd in answer to mine K.

L. Copy of my Answer to the Doctors' of Nov.r 22nd

M. Frances Moats' evidence

N. Evidence of Sarah Vickars and Granada Hutchins on the their neighbours.

O Statement in the York Herald Nov.r 27

P. Statement in the Doncaster Paper

Q. Copy of a letter from Mr Naples Senr.

R. Do — Do —

T. Copy of Mr Popplewells' statement on oath of paupers at Pomfret & Kidds' confirmation. —

V. Mr Jepsons' letter

W. Mr Bransons' letter

X. Case of Thirkelds of Sherburn

Y. Case of Mr Wilson in Marrowgate —

Z. Mrs Schorey's case & Ann Bridgewaters' confirmation. —

York Nov.r 7th 1813

Sir

I transmit you a copy of the printed regulations of the Asylum, and also a copy of the advertisement which will appear in the paper of Thursday - I have made some verbal alterations in the latter, but have not in any ~~degree~~ respect deviated from the spirit of that which I wrote at Doncaster - I take this opportunity of expressing my obligations to you for your candid & ready acquiescence in my proposal of changing the mode of bringing forward the charges against the Lunatic Asylum

I am Sir
Your ob.t humble serv.t
Chas. Best

Then follows, the advertisement

Nov 8th 1813

Sir

This day received your letter, and I write by return of post, least you should, in mistake, perform what you consider one part of a supposed contract when I consider myself not bound to fulfil the other — not understanding it to be of the nature, understood by you — I consented to postpone the publication of the case for the present in order that you might not be exposed to the ~~shafts~~ malignity of anonymous enemies in the newspapers for a month without the power of repelling them — but I did not understand that I was not to publish the statement at all — I shall publish, all that has come before me publicly as a magistrate, and all I know upon the subject — I propose

to attend at York on the 2nd Decr to give my Statement to the Governors, and to afford them any information or explanation in my power, if they require it, and then leave them to examine into the matter. But I shall not consider myself as an accuser, bound to prefer a specific charge against you or any one else, the Governors being judges — If you do not approve the above understanding of the contract between us, do not perform your part, viz. do not publish the advertisement. ~~and~~ At all events, I will so contrive my publication as to expose you as little as possible to the shafts of anonymous calumny — Why should I wish to expose you, of whom I never heard ~~but with~~ respect in my life and against whom I can have no enmity — but the public must be the tribunal before whom this must come — I shall consider myself at liberty to publish the paper you gave me if I think proper — I remain Sir Yr obedt Servt

G H

To the Editor of the York Herald.

Sir,

I am informed, by a letter from Mr. Higgins, of Skellow, near Doncaster, dated Nov. 28, that his statement, relative to the supposed mal-treatment of a patient in the Lunatic Asylum, will be published this week. I am not informed whether the counter-statement, which I put into his hands three weeks ago, will appear at the same time, but conceiving that any explanation or defence on my part would be altogether premature and incorrect, before the matter has been fully investigated by the Governors of the Asylum, I shall, for the present, content myself with requesting the public to suspend their judgment, and desiring you to insert the following letter.

I am, Sir, &c.

C. BEST.

York, Nov. 26, 1818.

(Copy of a Letter, sent to Mr. Higgins, on the 21st Instant,)

Sir, York, Nov. 20, 1818.

The pressure of indispensable occupations during the last and the present week, has prevented me from sending an earlier reply to your letter. When I had the honour of conversing with you on the 6th of the present month, I certainly considered you as most *clearly* and *unequivocally* acquiescing in the proposal I made to you, that you should refer your charges to the consideration of a meeting of the Governors of the Asylum, instead of prejudicing the minds of the public by an ex parte statement against the Institution. I stated to you, at the same time, that it was my decided wish and desire, that the matter should undergo a *full* and *complete* investigation, as in the event of the existence of any abuses or improper practices at the Asylum, no person could have so much interest in their correction as myself.

After this conversation, and supposed arrangement, I was in no small degree surprised to receive your letter, which informed me of your intention to publish every thing you knew, or that had come before you on the subject, and, disregarding the jurisdiction of the Governors of the Asylum, to refer the matter to the tribunal of the public.

Before you come to a definitive decision upon this point, I trust you will consider well, how far such a step is compatible with the common principles of equity and justice. I apprehend, that in all other cases of supposed injury, application is first made to the tribunal, whose express business it is to hear the complaint and redress the wrong, and that only in case of the neglect of that tribunal to perform its duty, is it considered as justifiable to appeal to another court.—Should you, however, persist in your intention of publishing your statement, your candour will, I hope, induce you to make a public avowal of your reasons for questioning the competency or the integrity of the tribunal to which you are referred for redress, and to advance sufficient grounds for your implied belief, that the Governors of the Asylum are either unable or unwilling to acquit themselves of their duty with impartiality and justice.

I also hope you will duly consider whether you are not lending your name as a Magistrate to a purpose most foreign to your official situation, and giving force and effect, however unintentionally on your part, to a malicious conspiracy against myself and the Asylum. This suggestion, as you will perceive, is strongly supported both by the internal evidence of some of your documents, and by the *time* selected for bringing them forward.

I have further to request that the deposition of the Apothecary at Thorne be taken on oath, before it is brought forward as an authentic document. The publication of this paper in its present form, before the matter has been fully investigated, will hardly, I think, be considered as a fair proceeding, by any candid or unprejudiced person. So far from tending to promote the ends of justice and truth, which are the only legitimate objects in every similar enquiry, it is evidently calculated to counteract and defeat them. It is intended to produce an impression on the minds of its readers, that the situation in which Wm. Vickars was removed from York, was the result of neglect and improper treatment at the Asylum; and not, as I apprehend will be fully proved by evidence, the unavoidable consequence of the lamentable and dangerous illness under which he had recently laboured, and from which he was but then in an early stage of convalescence. It is also calculated to disseminate a belief, that the Asylum at large and its inmates, are kept in a state of uncleanliness and neglect, and that due attention is not paid either to the health or the comfort of the patients, the contrary of which notion, as I venture to affirm with the utmost confidence, will be established by the most ample and satisfactory evidence.

As I express so much confidence of being able to rebut these charges, and to bring forward a satisfactory explanation of the circumstances mentioned in your statement, you will probably ask, why I should so strongly object to the publication of your documents? My answer is briefly this—that they are not fitted to further the ends of *justice*, but to raise a most *unjust* outcry against the Lunatic Asylum—that popular clamour though easily raised is with difficulty repressed—that numerous individuals who read your charges, will not be at the trouble to attend to their refutation—and lastly, that when the public mind has been poisoned and prejudiced on any particular subject, no subsequent explanation, however satisfactory in itself, can efface the impression which has once been produced.

Should you, after all, decide upon publishing your statement, from which a sense of justice and candour will, I trust, still dissuade you, you are at liberty to make what use you think proper of the paper I put into your hands, explaining, of course, in case of its publication, that it is to be considered merely as a partial and imperfect explanation of the circumstances, taken down hastily on the spur of the occasion, and as by no means comprising the whole of the evidence to be brought forward on the subject.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient humble Servant,
CHARLES BEST

TO THE EDITOR OF THE YORK HERALD.

Sir,

I think it my duty to inform the public, that I have presented the following Statement to the Governors, at the Asylum, this day. I am not at present informed, what is the decision of the Court. I shall therefore make no comments, nor give any opinion upon what has passed, but I do most confidently hope, if the Governors have thought it right to come to any decision; that, at least, the nature of the evidence upon which that decision is founded will be stated to the public. However, I care little what is their conclusion, so that it only produce such wholesome Regulations, (the appointment of Visitors, &c. &c.) as may prevent even the suspicion of such things occurring in future.

I remain, Sir, your humble Servant,

GODFREY HIGGINS.

YORK, *Thursday Evening, Dec. 2, 1813.*

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

I think it my duty to lay before you the following statement of certain facts, which came publicly before me as a magistrate, respecting a lunatic of the name of Wm. Vickars. I have done myself the honour of presenting them to you in person, in consequence of a conference I had some time ago at Doncaster with Dr. Best, and of the advertisement published by him, the result of that conference; and also, in order that I may verify the documents as far as in my power, and be ready to afford you any explanation which you may require. The object of this statement, Wm. Vickars, was sent to the Asylum by my orders, against his friends' consent; the evidence respecting him was given publicly in the Town's Hall, at Doncaster, and I think I am bound, in justice to myself, as well as to this poor but respectable and unfortunate man, to shew that I will not connive at the injustice with which he appears to me to have been treated; his friends at least shall be satisfied, that if justice be not done to him, the fault is not mine. It has been represented to me, that I ought to have sent the statement first to Dr. Best, before I published it. I think otherwise. But it may be well for those who are of that opinion to recollect that, in consequence of Mr. Peacock's conduct, the doctor had all the opportunity he could require of rendering a satisfactory explanation. He took the opportunity afforded to him, by coming and talking with me at Doncaster, and by giving me a written statement, in defence of the Asylum, marked E. which, to say the least of it, is not satisfactory to me.

At the time I first wrote the statement which I sent to the Courant, marked G, I did not know the name of any person connected with the Asylum: I had never read any of the letters which have lately been published in the York papers respecting it; nor have I to this day read more than three or four of them, and I never have had, until this week, any communication, directly or indirectly, on this subject, with any person in the City of York or its neighbourhood, except Dr. Best and the Editors of the two York papers. I should not have said a word of my own motives or conduct in this affair, had it not been for something like an insinuation contained in Dr. Best's letter marked H, of Nov. 20, that I was lending my name as a magistrate to encourage a malicious conspiracy against him and the Asylum: but I hope and trust no one will believe that I would so far forget myself and the situation I have the honour to hold. No one, surely, will suspect me, of wishing, wantonly, to hurt the feelings of any man, much less of a man like Dr. Best, whom I had never seen, and of whom I had never heard any one speak, but with esteem and respect. He may think it policy to turn the attention of the public to my offences instead of the offences of the Asylum, but I do not think it will avail him much. I cannot think, that in attacking me, he has taken the best method of defending himself.

By Dr. Best's account, the only difference in opinion betwixt him and myself, seems to be, that *he* wanted a full and complete investigation in private—*I* wanted one in public. In consequence of the Doctor's journey to Doncaster, I have had a great deal more trouble than I should otherwise have had; but I should have been amply repaid, if my trouble had been ten times as great, by the thanks of numbers, for taking up the cause of their relations and friends. Yet, in several instances, when I have urged them to let me bring forwards their individual case, the answer has been, I can take care my friend shall be ill used no more, but I will not advertise him in all the York papers for a lunatic. I shall now probably be told, I am raising an outcry again—be it so; but what I say is true. I think no one will deny, that the case of Vicars is a very strong one in its present appearance. Having brought it before the public, I have done my duty, and I shall be very glad, if the gentlemen connected with the institution can be able to shew that they have done theirs, and to convince the friends of Wm. Vicars and the public, upon *unquestionable* evidence, that his case has been mistaken; but I apprehend nothing short of the whole evidence being laid before the public will be deemed satisfactory—less than that will not satisfy me. Upon the document marked F, Dr. Best's defence, which he might have published, if he had thought proper, along with mine, I think it right to observe, that it seems to me incredible that any inferior servant of a mad-house should be found so humane as to lend his clothes for six weeks to a lousy and itchy pauper, who, if not lousy and itchy at that time, was so mischievous as, in spite of all restraint, to destroy his own clothes as fast as they were given to him, and for whom the opulent township of Fishlake was bound and willing to find every necessary. I may possibly err in my judgment, but I cannot admit such interested and incredible evidence as the above to stand in competition for a moment with the disinterested and unobtruded evidence of Francis Moat and the two Maples's.

I *sought* their evidence it was not *offered* to me.

I think it right to correct a mistake which took place in the copying of my first statement in the Herald; the words, "except Mr. Branson," ought to have been inserted in the tenth line from the bottom, after the word "agree."

I called on Mr. Branson *twice* on Saturday last, and sent a special messenger over to him on Sunday with a note, to apologize for the mistake, and to inquire whether he recollected any thing more respecting Vickars: he was unfortunately from home, but I received a letter yesterday, to inform me he now recollected that Vickars was sufficiently violent at his

house to justify and require a recommendation to the Asylum. I certainly never doubted the man's insanity; I believe Mr. Branson never saw him after his return—Mr. Maples never before his admission.

The cases of Wilson, Schorrey, Kidd and Thirkeld, appear to me to demand your serious attention.

It really surprizes me, considering the general difficulty of substantiating particular charges in regard to the treatment of Lunatics and the delicacy which generally exists in exposing the instances of this disease, that I have been able to collect such a mass of important evidence in *one day and a half.*

There is one other fact, of which no separate document is laid before you, to which I must call your attention. Since the 1st of January last, 23 or 24 persons appear to have been buried at St. Olave's church from the Asylum. You will naturally inquire whether all the patients who die in the Asylum are interred in this place.

Surely, my Lords and Gentlemen, if you dispassionately discuss the circumstances which I have laid before you, you must agree with me that public investigation into the state of the Asylum, of which you are the guardians, is absolutely necessary; and that the institution ought to be placed on such a footing, as, by the purity of its principles, the frankness of its proceedings, the wide extension of its doors to the insane poor, might challenge and command the approbation, the confidence, and the continued patronage of that liberal public to whom it is indebted for its origin and support.

GODFREY HIGGINS.

York, December 1, 1813.

This address having been read to the Court, the foll.g "Statement" was read which had been published in the Herald of Nov.r 20th with the following prefatory remarks

YORK ASYLUM.

Mr. Editor,

The following statement would have appeared in the Courant of November 8, if the Editor had not shown it, before it was published, without my knowledge, to Dr. Best; who came over to me at Doncaster, on November 6. I was induced to suspend its publication till this time on the Doctor's request, and on his promising to publish the Advertisement, which appeared in the Papers, calling a Meeting of the Governors on December 2. When I first wrote the statement for the press, I had never seen the letters which have lately been published in the York Papers respecting the Asylum; nor did I know the name of any one of the Governors or Persons connected with the Institution; but I did not think it proper to conceal the facts publicly sworn to before me; more particularly as Vicars was ordered by me to be sent to the Asylum against his friends consent, who were afraid that he should receive ill usage there. I examined W. Vicars, in company with a friend, on the 5th of November, and in consequence of a statement given to me by Dr. Best, I examined his body very carefully again on the 8th; he appeared at that time to have a great many yellowish black marks upon him, which had it not been for the statement of the Doctor, I should not have had the least doubt were the effects of bruises. Whenever I have seen him he has been perfectly quiet, except in the case of the assault on the old woman, who had given him very great provocation.

I have inquired of Mr. Branson, Surgeon, of Doncaster, who first attended him, of Francis Moat, who took him and brought him from the Asylum, of his wife and her two sisters, who saw him twice during his confinement, and of his nearest neighbours, and they all agree in stating that they never saw or heard of the least violence, except in the case of the old woman alluded to above; they all agree that he had the black marks on his return from York, a great part of which had disappeared on the 5th and 8th inst when I viewed him.

I propose to attend at the Asylum on the 2d December, to afford the Governors any explanation they may wish for, and also to communicate several other particulars too long for insertion in your paper.

I remain, Sir, your humble Servant,

GODFREY HIGGINS,

Acting Magistrate for the West-Riding of the County of York.

Skellow-Grange,

Near Ferrybridge, Nov. 20th, 1813.

STATEMENT.

A few days previous to the 17th April, 1813, complaint was made to me by an old woman, that William Vicars, of Fishlake, had assaulted her, &c. in consequence of which I granted a warrant to apprehend him, and upon his being brought up, I found he was insane. He being a Pauper, I ordered the Overseer of the Poor, Thomas Leach, to take proper measures for conveying him to the Asylum at York; to which place he was taken on the 17th of last April; and from which he was brought away on the 13th of last October. When I saw Vicars before he went, he appeared in good bodily health, no ways weak or emaciated.

About a fortnight ago, application was made to me, by Sarah, the wife of William Vicars, for an order for more relief from the Overseer of the Poor. I summoned him to the Town's Hall, in Doncaster, and upon inquiring into Vicars's situation, the following documents marked A B C D E, were sworn to be true by Sarah Vicars, and the Overseer, Thomas Leach, in the presence of W. Wrightson, Esq. and myself:—

A. Inventory of what cloaths Wm. Vicars took into the Asylum, and also of what he brought back with him.

He took with him a good and nearly new blue coat, a new scarlet silk shag waistcoat, a pair of good velveteen breeches, a new down hat, cost 15s. two pair of blue stockings, never been mended a pair of new shoes, two new blue and white striped shirts, a short velveteen jacket, another scarlet waistcoat, spotted with black, another pair of velveteen breeches, two neckkerchiefs, one of silk, and one of cotton, two pocket handkerchiefs and two night caps.

He brought back with him, one short jacket and one waistcoat, two white shirts, two pair of stockings, an old hat, not the hat he took, and a pair of bad shoes: He has not brought back one article he took with him.

Bill paid by the OVERSEER.

York, July 5th, 1813.

B. Wm. Vicars,

Bought of John Hodgson,

	£.	s.	d.
4½ yrds Dark Cloth, 3s. 9d.	0	16	11
2½ yrds Stout Cord, 3s. 9d.	0	9	5
4½ yrds ditto Cotton, 1s. 2d.	0	5	3
Pocketing for 3 Coats	0	1	10
3½ Dozen Buttons, 8d.	0	2	4
	1	15	9

Bill paid by the OVERSEER.

C. Mr. Vickers.

Shirts mended	0	1	6
7½ yrds Cloth	0	13	9
2 Shirts made	0	2	9
2 pair Stockings	0	6	0
	1	4	0

Bill paid by the OVERSEER.

D. The Overseers of Fishlake, Dr.

To the Governors of the York Lunatic Asylum, October 13th, 1813.

Board, &c. of Wm. Vicars, 4 weeks 3 days, 9s.	1	19	9
Letter 1s. 9d. Shaving 5d. Stamp 2d.	0	2	4
Paid Short	0	0	6
Received, Geo. Surr,	2	2	7
Allowing deposit	1	1	0
	1	1	7

E. This is to certify that I was sent for, by Mr. Hopwood, of Thorning Hirst, on Thursday the 14th instant, to examine the state in which William Vicars, of Stainforth, was dismissed from the York Asylum. He had the itch very bad, was also extremely filthy, for I saw his wife not only comb several lice from his head, but take them from the folds of his shirt neck; his health was so much impaired, that he was not able to stand by himself; his legs were very much swelled, and one of them in a state of mortification. He is now much recovered, both in mind and health, by bark and a generous nourishing diet. Witness my hand this 29th day of October, 1813.

CHARLES MAPLES, Surgeon.

~~The fo~~ Dr. Best's Counter statement.

The following statement will be verified on oath by the individuals whose names are mentioned below, and by the medical officers of the York Lunatic Asylum.

Charles Holgate, a keeper in the asylum, had the especial charge of Wm ~~Holgate~~ Vickers from his coming to the Asylum on the 17th of April to the middle of the Summer, during the whole of which time, he was in a state of almost

incessant ~~[illegible]~~ violence, & when his hands were confined, was in the habit of tearing his cloths with his teeth — During this period he tore both his suits of clothes entirely to pieces — Some time afterwards he was provided with a new suit of clothes; the said Charles Holgate in the mean time viz. for about six weeks, supplying him with clothes of his own. —

About the middle of the Summer, Samuel Winn, another keeper* in the Asylum, was appointed to take care of W. Vickers. — Soon after this time he became less violent, being much weaker, and showing a strong tendency to palsy — He continued however

to tear his clothes, and within a very short time completely destroyed his new suit, with the exception of 2 shirts and 2 pair of stockings. During the remainder of the time he was in the Asylum he was supplied with different articles of clothing by the keepers — About the end of September he had an apoplectic fit, laying speechless and senseless for 2 or 3 days; from which he was recovered by suitable treatment, and from the effects of which, he was only convalescent at the time he left the Asylum.

During his illness he had a fire always in his room, and had a special attendant constantly sitting by him; and, besides the assiduous medical treatment he received;

he was abundantly supplied with nu=
tricious food, mulled ale, and every

f. S. Vicars says Dr Best told her, her husband would not live many days, and this is confirmed by the folld ~~a~~ copy of a memorandum made by G H Esqre "Mr Maples Senr told me on Friday last that in his opinion the mortification in Vicars' leg might have readily fulfilled Dr Best's prediction and killed him in a few days —

he was abundantly supplied with nutricious food, mulled ale, and every thing which was judged likely to be conducive to his recovery. The Ulcer on his leg broke out during his confinement to bed, and was dressed daily by the surgeon; and though it at one time threatened mortification, yet he was both in an improved, and improving state, when he left the asylum. A trifling eruption broke out on his thighs, arms and sides on the second week of his illness; but it appeared to depend entirely on the state of his constitutional health & had none of the character of the Itch. — He was kept as clean as possible in the

deplorable condition in which he lay; but as his discharges were generally involuntary, it was absolutely impossible to keep him in a state of complete cleanliness — Chas Best

Novr 5 _ 1813 —

The Parish Officer

F. Moats' Evidence — M.

F. Moat used no coercion to take Veekens to the Asylum — he slept with him two nights before he went: does not believe he had the Itch — He fetched him back again — was no ways violent — he was in a miserable state — they sat up all night as they came home because he had the Itch so bad, at Mr Batson's Selby, near the bridge, he thinks it is the sign of the Anchor — He had a bed

of Sacks and packsheets on the floor
for Vickers — The Inventory was
was true as delivered —
He told the +man at the Gate, that
he should make a complaint to the
Magistrates about his clothes and his
ill usage — He told the housekeeper
also that he would report it and
she said she hoped he would say
nothing about it, she had done her
duty to him — He found fault with
the shirts, saying he was charged for
seven yards & half when there was
not any such quantity in them —
They are very small in length, width,
and in the sleeves —
He heard Vickers say they whipt him
He could not walk by himself
He waited a long time before they

+ I suppose Serr

brought Vickars to him —
When F Moat was in the room, a woman came in called Deborah Thompson — F Moat had got a certificate from Dr Best to see her.
† Sarah Vickars asked her if the clothes she had on were her own, and she said no. — The woman that brought her said, she had torn them all to pieces — She replied — it is a lie — I never tore anything but my bed gown down the back, when you were whipping me —
† The wife of V — who I suppose accompanied Moat to remove her husband
F Moat ‡ He asked the man (who had the care of Vickars to show the clothes — he refused and gave him saucy language — Moat said to the keeper he cannot have torn his hat & shoes

Sworn before me
G Higgins

Francis Moat
Doncaster 13th Nov. 1813 —

Granada Hutchinson & Sarah Vicars statement N.

G.H. says she went with her sister Sarah Vicars to the asylum the first time she went, about the forend of July — Wm Vicars was very quiet at that time although in a strait waist coat — He was without shoes or stockings; he had a pair of breeches on, which were not his own that he took with him; he had no shirt on, but a bit of rag hung round his neck. — He had not the itch when he went, nor lice about him, nor any marks about him, nor any sore legs. He never made any attempts to destroy his ~~life~~ clothes, either before he went, or since his return from York — When she went to see him with her sister,

she was not taken to him; but, after waiting about an hour, he was brought to her — That he was in a miserable state of rags and filth; that he complained of being ill-used, that he was horsewhipped. He did not know his wife the first time she went to see him, until she made herself known to him; she supposes from her being better dressed than usual, and because he is almost blind. — The keeper said he had put him on a new shirt the day before, and that he had torn it to pieces; to which he replied, it was a lie, for it was torn before he got it — He was lousy at that time, she never saw him violent —

Wife of W. V.

Sarah Vicars confirms the above statement in every respect, & adds that Dr Best told her, her husband would not live many days — She says that Charlotte Allsop her other sister, and John Vicars the Lunatics' father of Lakehouse ferry, went with her about six weeks after the first time the second time — He had no shirt on on the Sunday Morning — they found lice on him — The Itch was all over between his fingers — He was very peaceable —

The above was declared to be true by Granada Hutchinson & S. Vicars, in my presence —

J. Higgins —

Memorandums taken Nov.r 5th. 1813
— by G.H. Esq.r —

I called at Stainforth along with Mr. Gosip on W. Vicars — I found him very quiet and docile — I examined his thighs &c — He appears evidently to have been much bruised — On his left thigh is a circular mark as if he had been bound or ironed —

The nearest neighbours, Mr. Green &c, state that he has appeared to them, whenever they have seen him, to be very quiet and manageable, both before & since his return from York —

Beckwith's Statement of the Cases of Arundel & Kidd —

I Benjamin Beckwith, Master of the Workhouse at Pontefract, declare, that George Arundel & Martha Kidd, paupers of the town of Pontefract aforesaid, were, on the fourth day of October 1812, brought to my care from the York Lunatic Asylum in the following state; viz. Martha Kidd very filthy, in short extremely lousy; and her clothes, consisting of a black stuff Gown, part of a red serge petticoat & a shift much torn & dirty; George Arundel, his clothes both ragged and in an un=wholsome condition. So much so, that my wife, Margaret Beckwith, attributed an illness with which

she was afflicted immediately afterwards, to the disagreeable smell from them at the time they were cleansed by her, previous to their being admitted amongst the rest of the paupers in the work-house. And I further certify, that both the above paupers have, since under my care, conducted themselves peaceably & orderly, & have not manifested any disposition to destroy their apparel

Here follows a statement of charges in the orig.l document amt.g, for both the paupers, to 28.16.3 for 31 weeks

The Certificate & declaration of the Rd. B. Bickwith sworn to before me at Pontefract, the 28th day of Nov.r 1813

Ben.n Bickwith master, Pontefract workhouse

Mich.l Milton
Mayor

Wm Popplewell, late Overseer of the poor at Pomfret states, that Martha Kidd & George Arundele were both sent home from the Asylum in a lamentable state of rags & filth — In the course of the last year Mr Kidds husband ~~states~~ says that he washed for her, and occasionally supplied her with clothes, and that whenever he went to see her, he always found her in the same state of rags & filth; the people telling him that she destroyed her clothes

Wm Popplewell

Martha Kidd's hip was Dislocated
during her being in the asylum
On enquiry respecting the occurrence
it was said, the Billy-goat
had done it!!!

Pontefract Dec.r 2. 1813

Sir

At the request of Mr. Britton, I have, this evening examined — Kidd's wife, & am of opinion, that the dislocation of the hip, which took place a year or two ago, has never ~~been~~ recovered its original situation; but at the same time, it is necessary to observe, that in all cases of this description, occurring to Lunatics, the result is always very uncertain, & in some cases, the cure impossible.

I have the honour to be Sir, Your most hble Servant,

J Wainwright
Surgeon

To G Higgins Esq.r

To Godfrey Higgins Esqr

I have no hesitation to declare, ~~that~~ in reply to thy inquiries, that during the early 17 years, in which I have superintended the Retreat, no instance has occurred in which the usual attention to cleanliness have not preserved the patients free from lice — They have been found on a very few patients at the time of their admission, but were easily removed by the usual methods: nor does my experience furnish me with any reason to believe, that the taste of this insect inclines it to prefer the bodies of insane persons to those of any other class —

We do at times use the strait waistcoat when it appears necessary to prevent the patient from doing mischief: but I do not recollect one instance where a patient, under such confinement has torn his clothes

I am very respectfully Geo: Jepson

Thirkell's Cases

About 10 yrs ago a John Thirkell of Sherburn was said to be murdered by a fellow patient –

About 3 yrs ago a Robt Thirkell was sent to the Asylum & after being in only a few days was also said to be murdered by a fellow patient –

Another John Thirkell of Sherburn was sent to the asylum in Augt 1810 –

On Friday in the week before Cand Cmas he was said to abscond & has never since been heard of –

Mr C. Place some time in Feb asked Atkinson what he was to tell he replied – After considerable recollection – Oh he is gone away to die some time ago

Wm Welborne Case

Mrs Schorrey's Case & Mr Bridgewater's confirmation — 7.

Upon my coming to York I was directed ~~by the~~ some of my friends to the house of the Revd J Richardson who reluctantly informed me that a Mrs Schorrey had some time ago, a husband in the Asylum that she came to Mr R to ask for work; and she informed him that she was very unhappy about her husband — that she thought him ill used & that his linen was very lousy — One of the keepers sent to Mrs Schorrey and were very abusive, because she had complained to Mr R —

Mrs Schorrey went afterwards to Mrs Bridgewater, a washerwoman

in North Street, because the keeper said he was not lousy, and Mrs B— came along with Mrs Schorrey to Mr Richardsons and certified the clothes were lousy — They went together to the Asylum and to Mr Surr to prove the fact — She told Mr Richardson Mr Surr behaved very ile to her and shut the door in her face

She also complained of the bratal treatment of Mrs Schorrey when first taken to the Asylum; and that on once visiting him there, she saw a keeper kick him down stairs !!!

Mrs S. also frequently mentioned to Mr. R, his having lost a gold ~~watch~~ hunting watch, which the keepers occasionally took

from him and returned, but which at last disappeared entirely, and cannot now be traced, though Mr Wrook was requested, & did apply to the Court of Governors on the subject —

Mr. Schorey may be heard of at Mr. Spencer's Brompton near Allerton at Thompson & Wezlesworth's Solicitors Halifax —

Mrs. I will state many other facts

Ann Bridgewater says she washed the clothes which Mrs Schorrey brought from the Asylum belonging to her husband; that they swarmed with lice. — her husband desired her to take the waistcoat into the house, for fear the neighbours should see it; and they should think ill of them for being so filthy.

She went to the Asylum, and found lice upon her stock —

The servants were very uncivil to her, and Mrs Schorrey at the Asylum, ~~and~~ particularly the old Man at the gate, he shut the door in their faces & bid them be gone

Ann
her + Mark
Bridgewater

Witness
G Higgins

1 Decr 1843 —

not presented

Edward Hanson of Longwood near Huddersfield –

When first ill in my mind, I went to Dr Chew's in Lancashire. When ill the second time, I came to the York Lunatic Asylum, because I knew Mr Backhouse & Mr Cuthbert. I was then very well used – Dr Hunter was then living – I came to York Asylum about two or seven years ago – Dr Best then attended – I was then treated much the same way as before –

2nd time

I came the third time to York ~~Lunatic~~ Asylum the first of May 1881 – I expected the same treatment as I had before. I went in with the strait waistcoat on – Mr Atkinson and servants shook hands with me; they gave me a good supper. At first was treated much as before.

After 2 or 3 weeks, was put in the cells. I was then stripped quite naked — The cell had no bed, only a small coverlet & a little straw. I think I was there naked about a week — Sometimes another patient was put in with me in the same condition, for a short time — During the first time of being in the cell, no person struck me. My food was regularly given me, but in scanty quantities — I was in the cells several times, some of which had not even a coverlet in them — My clothes were always taken from me, except, I believe, twice, when, by promising Henry a present, he allowed me to have my shirt and a blanket — I did the necessary business of nature in a corner of the cell, which remained

... Dear. Mann of the Lunatic asylum corroborate the fact of the patients' being in the cell. —

all the time I was in the cell, and which I covered with a little straw.

In consequence of having struck another patient in the Yard, Benjn Batty & Chas Cuthbert came, and both struck me severely several times with their fists on the breast; of which the marks remained a long time.— Never was so beaten in my life.— Dr Best never visited me in the cells; I do not recollect whether Wm Atkinson visited me.— They gave me several times medicines, when in the cells as well as out, which acted as emetics and purgatives—

I complained to my brother and Mrs Greaves and Mrs Marshall that I was not treated well (as I had been formerly) and my friends took

Hamsons, Brothers, gentlemen, declare the existence of marks, of violence on the Breast—

me out ~~of~~ the 2nd or 3rd of September I went ~~to~~ Scarboro', staid about ten days with my brothers — I then went home with ~~my brothers~~ them and not being recovered was sent to Newton Heath near Manchester, where I was well treated. I staid sixteen weeks, when I came out recovered and have followed my usual business ever since —.

I declare the above
to be all true

E H

Sworn in
my presence
J. Higgins
York 2nd Dec.
1813 —

Mary Booth, Water lane, was taken to the Asylum in March 1811. Returned home very much improved on the 6th of August —

When she went into the house, the servants took her gown, handkerchief, stays, ~~t~~upper petticoat, stockings & shoes from her — They only gave her a bedgown — the other parts of her dress were a shift under petticoat and Cap — She was put into a room with about 18 other women patients, many of them with less clothes than herself — She says that no servant attended them except to bring the meals three times a day — that then they brought a plate for each patient & left them to eat it — that some of the other patients frequently took

her dinner as well as their own —
~~that the patients frequently fought~~
that she has seen patients eat
their own excrements in the room — that they
frequently fought & hurt each other
severely and that it was impossible
by calling or any other means to induce
a keeper to come into the Room —
That this Room had a stone floor,
and she was often turned into it
without shoes or stockings immediately
after it had been washed — That she
was frequently turned out, with the
other patients at 8 o Clock in the morning
& remained all the day, dressed as first
described, when the weather was very
cold & sometimes when it rained — On
some occasions, when it was very
stormy, a keeper opened the door &

let the patients into the room —
She believes her constitution is very
much injured by the exposure & she
sustained at the want of proper clothing
About 2 months before she left the
Asylum, she was removed into a
better room among a better class
of patients — Here she was comparatively
comfortable. — Previous to her removal into this room
~~Being much improved~~ her husband
~~Booth~~ came to see her or inquiring for her clothes were toilet by
one of the nurses that she had destroyed them ~~clothes~~.
She said she was sure she had not,
they were too dear to tear in bits
& that she had seen them in ~~the~~ closet
upstairs — Upon this they were produced.
& she wore them afterwards during her stay in the house
M. Booth further declares that in the
better room, a man of the name of
Henry carved the meat for them at

dinner, that one day, a woman patient
left a little sallad on her plate
Sally & Hannah (Betty's wife) threw her
down on her back & with an iron
spoon forced the sallad down her
throat — Henry then dragged her
out of the Room & taking up her
clothes flogged her severely —
Mr B. happened to be coming by
the place when this occurred — Sally
& Hannah stood by laughing —
She thinks the patients name was
Smith. — This circumstance
occurred 2 or 3 weeks prior to her
removal at which time she was
generally employed in domestic
services in the house —