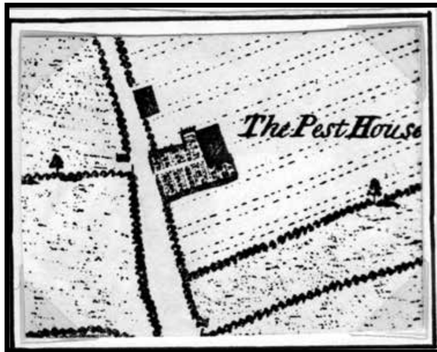



1767. The Pest House, Love Lane, Chichester. Note cottage to North. Source: 1920 (retro) Estate Plan

1908. (**Right**) A gateway in above field, opposite the Pest House site, led into Chichester, 17th century Cawley's workhouse rear gardens, and its Labour Yard. The leafy Love lane (later College Lane) led upwards to Summersdale and, from 1897, the drive of Grayling Wells Farm House and, adjacent, West Sussex County Asylum hospital.
Source: Picture Postcard of the period

Entrance to College Lane, aka Love Lane, around the 1900s. Bishop Otter College can be seen through the gate on right.
Source: Picture Postcard of the period.

## Victorian and Edwardian Case Histories

Abstracts taken from the first 19th century volumes of *Graylingwell Medical Records*, in the early 1980s; (held in the front of the *First Volume* is a copy of the *Rules of Commissioners in Lunacy* 26th June 1895). The surnames of female and male 1897 patients, and later 1910, admitted patients referred to below, have been deliberately withheld — by me. In common with most large late Victorian Asylums of that time all *certified* patients were photographed in the hospital's own dispensary studio (near the front entrance); on admission and discharge, the patient's portrait was attached to the admitting officer's report, and added to the notes with the Medical Superintendent Dr H.A. Kidd's (or his deputy Dr Steen) own case notes, following personal examination of *all* new patients — in the early years. Graylingwell Hospital's archives (in 1982) still possessed those early Medical Records, now bound in leather for safekeeping. The practice of keeping photographs of all admitted (and appropriate pics — on discharge) patients, appears to have been abandoned by the First World War years and not restarted. The photographic studio too was disbanded and put to other use.

The following summaries are illustrated from those first Medical Records; with original photos still attached to all these patients' case notes. Included with introductory particulars are *Medical Notes*, and relevant documents, a Poor Law *Reception Order* (for new certified admissions), with personal 'particulars' on the one side, and a signed *'Medical Certificate*' on the reverse side: and coroner's *Death Certificate* where appropriate; but, soon, discharges too started to appear on record.The age of the patients, their parents and grandparents encompassed the entire 100 years era of Charles Dickens and Queen Victoria's Nineteeth Century England; its fortunes and, as here well introduced, its dire misfortunes; as seen in the following few illustrated abstract cases. There was no cure for tuberculosis (aka consumption and phthsis). Consider Female Case 9, twenty-six year old Harriet Matilda in 1897, whose Grandmother had died in an Asylum after losing five children (one Harriet's mother?) to consumption; dying herself from rheumatic fever, and more ... And no cure for the progressive General Paralysis Of The Insane (GPI), as Male Case 16, fifty-two year old Frederick W, in 1910.... And little to zero facilities for the stress and results of war and exteme poverty; except, Pest Houses for the infectious diseases, few charity Dispensaries, The Workhouse Infirmaries, Private Licensed Houses (then called Madhouses) and very few County Asylums. And the inadequate harsh poor law (till 1948 !!), which treated suffering para-suicides as criminals, putting such poor souls into prison with thieves and murderous felons; (a felony till 1961!!) . Consider Female Case 14, thirty-nine year old Kate in 1898, who was brought to The Asylum (Graylingwell) from Lewes Prison committed on a charge of having attempted 'suicide'. She, with acute melancholia (depression), would soon die of (early) dementia in 1899. As the many hospital records record, in detail, all their patients received, from the outset, excellent compassionate care, for such few remaining days of their previous unhappy lives. Graylingwell Longstay Hospital would sustain its good reputation, in its duty of care, with its devotion to kind care and attention till its closure in the late 1990s; as even a perusal of its social history soon reveals.

## EARLY FEMALE CASES

1. Date of admission 25th October 1897. Helen C. Age 45 yrs.
   Single. Domestic Servant. C of E.
   Cause of Insanity- Hereditary – duration of existing attacks – dementia ordinary 1 (23 years)
   Chargeable to Midhurst Union – Transferred from Camberwell House (There 2 &1/2 years). Admitted into Haywards Heath in '74. Two uncles insane (on her father's side).
   Father inclined to drink.
   On admission into C2 ward. (Patient died 22.11.1905)

2. Date of admission 25th October, 1897. Ann D. Age 78 yrs.
   Melancholia. Suicidal.
   Transferred from Camberwell House (There 2 & 1/2 years).
   Previous attack treated at Haywards Heath in 1894.
   Died a widow 85 years – formerly coffee house keeper.
   Chargeable to Horsham.

3. Date of admission 25th October 1897. Ann E. Age 61 yrs..
   Melancholia. Single. Lodge House Keeper. Wesleyan.
   Previous attack –
   Chargeable to Steyning. Hereditary.
   Transferred from Camberwell House (from cousin, informant).
   Mentally afflicted (2 years) at age 21 though an abcess on her brain. Has several headaches for years. Business anxieties supposed cause. General relations, (distant) mentally afflicted
   .

4. Date of admission 25th October 1897. Mary G. Age 47 yrs.
   Married. Occupation – Housewife. C of E .
   Cause of Insanity – hereditary – Puerperal – Melancholia.
   Transferred from Camberwell House (2 & 1/2 years)
   St. Lukes '92 – '93. (And) Haywards Heath where present attack commenced in Jan. '92 – '93 – '95 with general listlessness.
   Much subject to headaches in early life.
   Cause after birth of youngest child (August '91) she was very ill, was advised change of air and came home much worse mentally.
   Married 5 years, children 5 — youngest 6 yrs. old.
   Much affected in mind – Admitted to BI Ward; (later, 26th March 1915 transferred to Portsmouth Borough Mental Hospital Milton 22nd Sept. 1919 re-admitted from Portsmouth this day and case transferred to CB.
   Summary 35.

5. Date of Admission 25th October 1897. Emmie H. 35 yrs.
Single. Domestic Servant. C of E.
Secondary dementia 1 (died 20.3.1911)
Transferred from Camberwell House (2 years).
(original) supposed cause disappointment in love.
Dangerous to others. Westbourne Union.

6. Date of admission 25th October 1897. Florence K. Age 33 yrs.
Single. Occupation nil.
Epilepsy. Dementia ordinary. C of E
Transferred from Camberwell House, On admission to B1 ward.
Union Cuckfield (Note 1909 Oct.13 transferred to East Sussex Asylum)
Hellingly and (discharged' as not improved).

7. Date of Admission 25th October 1897. Mary Ann L. Age 47 yrs.
Single. Domestic Servant.
Epilepsy. Duration 18 & 1/2 years. Ordinary Dementia.
Transferred from Camberwell House (2 & 1/2 years) admitted into
Haywards Heath in '79.
History form returned with little information on it.
On admission to BI ward. Death 19.5.98. Phthisis.
Previously at Thakeham Workhouse – Mr. Moase the (Workhouse) Master informs me that she is very violent and threatens to kill the children.
She is very violent with the other women

8. Date of Admission 25th October 1897. Ellen L. Age 45 yrs..
Widow. Labourers widow C of E.
Cause previous attack hereditary – indeterminate Ordinary Dementia
(death 22.1.1904). Epilepsy. Physical family history.
Transferred from Camberwell House (2 & 1/2 years).
At Haywards Heath in '89 Previous attack at Haywards Heath in '83
From sister informant – cause family trouble, married 19 years.
4 children youngest 9. An uncle in asylum; family history of consumption.
On admission to BI Ward. Westbourne Union.
(Attached notes: Medical Cert – Martha D accuses Mrs. D of giving her poison and of acts of immorality; also her daughter who is living away and various other people have threatened her with violence and is continually wondering about the cottage and accusing her neighbours of various crimes as murdering her children).

9. Date of Admission 8th November 1897. Harriet Matilda C. Age 26 yrs.
Single. Occupation – Domestic Servant.
Previous Attack Hereditary. Melancholia.
Phthisical family history. Previous history.
She has previously twice been at Haywards Heath, and twice been at Salisbury. Came out from Fisherton House about two years ago. Since then has been in service 'off and on'. She left her last 'place' 7 months ago and has been living at home since. About six weeks ago she became peculiar and 'heard voices'.
Rheumatic fever 10 years ago. Grandmother died in an asylum after children, 5 children (sisters and brothers) died of consumption and one of 'Galloping consumption'. On admission to CI ward.
Residence The Kennels, Myrtle Grove, Clapham. Age on first attack 19 years when and where previously under care and treatment as a lunatic, idiot or person of insane mind – 1894 Salisbury. Union East Preston – Chronic Mania. 'Ad of relatives – Patching, Worthing.
Died in Kent County Asylum Chatham. December 4th 1917.

10. Date of Admission 25th October 1897. Hannah OL. Age (not given).
Single. Occupation – Unknown. C of E Cause hereditary –
Duration 2 years and Mania 1. Dangerous to others – yes.
Transferred from Camberwell House (2 years). A brother is stated to be in an asylum. On admission to C2 Ward. Union East Preston. Chronic Mania.
Previous Residence c/o Mrs W., West Tarring, Worthing (Notes for Medical Cert.?
'She has delusions, hears voices in the rooms which she inhabits which continually insult and annoy her. Thinks she is being persecuted by people living near her as well as a clique of persons at a distance. Facts communicated by Doyle Evan Police Sergeant Worthing; that is he found her wandering on the street at West Tarring at 5a.m. and that she had slept out for the last three months (2). By Maurice Gooseman Solicitor Worthing, that he was informed by Mr. West whom the patients lodged with until the beginning of this week.

11. Date of Admission 25th October 1897. Sarah T. Age 21 yrs.
Single. Ocupation – Nil. C of E
Hereditary – Epilepsy. Congenital Insanity including idiosy.
Physical family history.
Transferred from Camberwell House (2 & 1/2 years). Has had fits since infancy. Father and mother died of consumption. 4 cousins died in Earlswood Asylum and she had epileptic fits. An aunt is 'peculiar' but not interned.
Union Horsham.
Idiosy and Epilepsy. Died 24.4.1913 of '1) Valvular (nocturnal) disease of the heart and (2) acute bronchitis.
Previous abode The Workhouse Horsham.
(Note: Some patients transferred in April 1915 to Barming Heath Asylum Kent.)

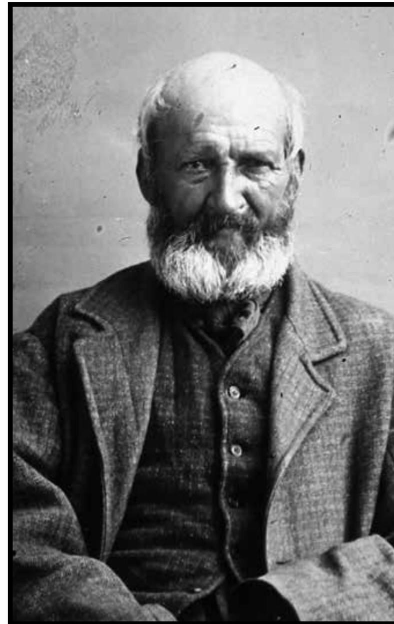
12. E.W. (1898 Age 50) of East Preston Union.
19th March 1915 Transferred to Kent County Asylum Chatham where she died in 22nd December 1916 of Tuberculosis.

13. Rosa V. (from folio 60) – 26th March 1915.
Transferred to Milton Asylum Portsmouth.
Re-admitted to Graylingwell 22nd September 1919. Of Westhampnett Union.

14. DOA 1898 28th Sept. Kate C. Age 39 yrs. OCC nil. C of E.
Melancholia. Suicidal. She was brought to the Asylum from Lewes Prison. She was committed to Lewes on a charge of having attempted 'suicide'.
Union: Prison Commissioners. Acute Melancholia. Died 4th November 1899 of Dementia – epileptic convulsion with coma. Note Med. Certificate: states she is unclean, absolute silence for days together. Refusal of all food, attempted suicide (information from Magistrates' Clerk)

    27th September 1898. Newspaper Cutting Insert (incl.) said,
    "A sad case – In the case of Kate C, aged 39, indicated for attempted suicide, at Shermanbury on 22nd August, a true bill was returned by the Grand Jury; but Mr. Hurst explained that the prisoner had been an inmate of the Asylum since the 28th September. The court ordered the records to remain on file.

15. DOA . 4th January 1897. R.B. Age 19 yrs.. Horsham Union.
Casenote, dated, 1899 January 14th ·Cause: Exciting Love affair. Melancholia. “She has been ordered a shower bath on mane for one week.” RHS. January 21. Shower bath discontinued after 4 days. Very little improvement. Sullen and obstinate. Hears voices.
Feb. 7th. This day she attempted to escape and shortly afterwards she smashed three panels of glass. Ordered a shower bath after which she attempted to tear her hair. Refuses to speak. March 4th. Since last entry has improved. June 30th. She was this day discharged by order of the Committee of Visitors as Recovered.



Early admissions in 1897.
Photos taken in the hospital dispensary.

**Early Male Cases**

16. Date of Admission Name
1910 15th November Frederick W.
Age 52 yrs. Registered No. of Admission – 2457

Civil State – Not known. Occupation – Not known. Religion – Not known.
Exciting. Indeterminate.
No. of attacks – 1. Duration of existing attacks – Y-. M-. D-.
Form of Mental Disorder (one entry and only one. To be made in each case.)
Congenital or Infantile Mental Deficiency –
Mania either acute, chronic or recurrent. 1
Melancholia either acute chronic, or recurrent 1
Delusional Insanity
Dementia Primary – Secondary – Senile – Organic –
Suffering from Epilepsy — No.
Having Suicidal Propensity — No.
Whether dangerous to others — No.
Having Pthsical Family History — No.
Having Family History of Intemperance — No.
Union – East Preston
Diagnosis – Mania and General Paralysis
Previous History – from Wife. First attack gradually developing for some months. Has recently been in East Preston Workhouse. Separated from wife for five years. Married 14 years no children. No history of alcohol consumption or insanity obtained.
On admission to E1 Ward. Height 5ft 7º" Weight list. 2
Physical Condition. Fairly well nourished and developed. Dark brown hair and moustache; blue eyes; pupils unequal; left larger than right, irregular and inactive to light and accommodation; tongue furred, flabby and ataxic. Superficial and deep reflexes much increased. Small burn near left tibia, blister on right foot. Eczema inner side both thighs.
Height and lungs apparently normal. Temp 97.6 Pulse 76 Resp 16
Mental Condition. He is dull, slow and weak minded, slurred, hesitating speech, quite unable to converse rationally e.g. says his age is 100 and that he has been here 2 weeks.

Case Notes.
Nov. 17th He was quiet and slept well during the night; takes food fairly well, inclined to be dirty in his habits. Says he is happy and contented. A.K.

16. Case Notes (cont).

Nov. 20th. Statement: mania and general paralysis. He is weakminded and confused, rambling and irrational in conversation; his memory is bad e.g. says he has been here 3 weeks and is age is 100. Poor health. H.A. Kidd.
Nov. 23rd. He is now sleeping and taking his food very well; very irrational ... conversation. A.H.S.
Nov. 30th. The reaction of his blood for e was positive. A.H.S.
Dec. 5th. No mental or physical Lungs (?) A.H.S.
1911 Jan. 5th. Remains in much the same condition, is feeble in his legs and very tomubous. A.H.S.
Feb. 8th. He has had ten congenitive seizures within 24 hours, amd is at present in a feeble condition, but is able to pass his water and take nourishment. A.H.S.
Mar. 14th. He has been moved to A Ward. A.H.S.
April 30th. He has had a sequence of ten seizures and his water has had to be drawn off with a catheter. A.H.S.
July 12th. He is in an exceedingly feeble condition. A.T.H.
Aug. 7th. His condition has become steadily worse, and he has lost flesh considerably. He has had a small sore on the buttock which has not healed.
He died today at 7p.m. M.

(Documents)

Cause of death as certified to the Coroner and Commissioners of Lunacy. General Paralysis of Insane.

Copy of Notice of Death Sent to Coroner – I hereby give you notice that Frederick W. a pauper patient, received into this Asylum on the 15th November 1910 died therein on the 7th August 1911 – Signed W.M. Tangay. Acting Clerk. Dated the 8th Day of August 1911.

Document:
Statement respecting the above named Patient.
Name Frederick W.
Sex and Age Male, 52 years.
Married, single or widowed — not known
Profession or occupation — not known
Place of abode immediately before being placed under care and treatment (if known) — East Preston Workhouse
Apparent Cause of Death — General Paralysis of the Insane
Whether or not ascertained by post mortem examination — by PM

Time and any unusual circumstances attending the death; also a description of any injuries known to exist at the time of death or found subsequently on body of deceased – None.

Duration of disease of which patient died – 2 years
Names and descriptions of persons present at death. Henry Yeall – attendant.
Whether or not mechanical restraint was applied to deceased within seven days previous to death, with its character and duration if so applied – No.
Signed H.A. Kidd. Med. Supt.

Document (front) Reception Order by W.H. dated 15th November 1910

Statement of Particulars
The following is a Statement of Particulars relating to the said.
Name of Patient, with Christian name at length – Frederick W.
Sex and Age – Male 52 years
*Married, Single or Widowed – Not known
*Rank, Profession or Occupation (if any) – Not known
*Religious persuasion – Not known
Residence at or immediately previous to the date thereof – East Preston Workhouse.
*Whether first attack – so far as known.
Age on first attack – 52 years.
When and where previously under care and treatment as a lunatic, idiot or person of unsound mind – Never.
*Duration of existing attack – off and on for several months.
Supposed causes – Unknown.
Whether subject to epilepsy – no.
Whether suicidal – no.
Whether dangerous to others, and in what way – no.
Whether any relative has been afflicted with insanity – Not known.
Union to which lunatic is chargeable – East Preston.
Name and addresses of relatives – Not known.

Document R.O. – reverse side.
Medical Certificate

(a) Facts indicating insanity observed at the time of examination viz: He has delusions that several people are sleeping in his room. That he was in an Inn last night and had seen a Doctor. He cannot give any consecutive account of things that have happened to him.

(b) Facts communicated by others viz: Mary Eileen Dulig, Probationer Nurse, East Preston, says that he gets out of his bed and chases the bed rails and calls them yellow boys.

Signed by (Dr) Robt. M. Going. Dated 15th November 1910.
Note. Photograph (head & shoulders) shows a broad faced man with large protruding ears. High forehead and thin hair (shorn?). Eyes staring (into corners). Large bushy moustached, uneven.
Dress. Appears to be a corduroy overcoat over a corduroy jacket with a collarless shirt just noticeable over the collar of the jacket.

17. DOB 1910 October. Union West Hampnett. Melancholia. Lionel L. (about 21 yrs)
Occupation Bank Clerk. RC. 24th March 1915, transferred to Hants County Asylum, Fareham, 10th November 1920.
Re-admitted from Fareham and transferred to CB. Summary 103