Vermont State Archives and Records Administration
Vermont State Hospital
3.0 cu. ft. and 1 microfilm reel (35 mm).

Scope and Content Note

Series consists of admission and discharge books (1891-1907; 1915-1969), admission books (1899-1953, bulk 1899-1941), register of admissions (1891-1909; 1916-1918), patient register (1891-1898) and patient ledgers (1891-1899) which document patients admitted to the Vermont State Hospital at Waterbury. Each series of registers records slightly different information and no one series is comprehensive. In total, however, the registers record all of the admissions and discharges from the hospital between 1891 and 1969.

Admission and discharge books (1891-1907; 1915-1969) are organized chronologically and were used for maintaining an accurate patient census. Information collected includes name, admission date, age, class of patient, town of origin, remarks and date of discharge.

Admission books (1899-1953, bulk 1899-1941) are organized chronologically with some alphabetically indexed volumes. The books document patient movement to and from the hospital. There are separate entries for admissions, discharges, elopements, visits, transfers and death. Information recorded includes date, name, register number, patient count for the year, town of residence, age, male or female count, patient total and remarks. There is one admission book for “Inebriates, dipsomaniacs, and criminally insane” for those undergoing treatment for alcoholism, drug abuse and those committed by the criminal courts.

The register of admissions (1891-1909; 1916-1918) is organized chronologically and has a single entry for each patient. The register tracks the supposed cause, duration and form of mental illness. Other information collected includes name, date of admission, class of patient, register number, number of patient for the year, number of previous admissions to the hospital, civil status, occupation, residence, supposed cause of disease and how the patient was committed. If the patient was discharged, the register of admissions notes the date, class and time of residence at the hospital.

The patient register (1891-1898) is organized alphabetically and serves as an index to the patient ledgers (1891-1899). The register records name, date of admission, sex, age and town of origin. The patient ledgers are organized by patient register number and document the medical history of early hospital patients. The ledgers record the patient number, notes, town, age, occupation, place of birth, religion, education, family history of mental illness, previous attacks or hospital admittance, duration of illness, patient description, alleged cause of illness, diagnosis and other medical information.