

June 3, 1898 Chester Times

THE ELWYN SCHOOL – Contributors' Day Observed at the Institution Yesterday – Visitors Inspect Buildings

The first celebration of "Elwyn Day," at the Pennsylvania Training School for Feeble Minded children took place yesterday afternoon and was a grand success. The father of the resolutions settlers, Burgess Edward A. Price of Media, as well as the other members of the Board of Directors, and all connected with the institution have cause to feel proud of the gratifying results of the occasion, and in future years "Elwyn Day" will be looked forward to with considerable pleasure. A special train leaving Broad Street station at 1:15 stopping at South Street, Lansdowne and Media, conveyed nearly three hundred visitors to Elwyn station where many were in waiting and conveyed them to the main building. Many persons used their own private conveyances and before the work of inspecting the various departments, nearly four hundred persons had gathered in front of the main building. The crowd was kept in a good humor by a number of selections rendered by the band in a most creditable manner.

The committee on arrangements consisted of Edward A. Price, Esq., Chairman William H. Miller, Norris J. Scott, Hon. William N. Ashman and Amos Bunsall. Shortly after two o'clock Mr. Price welcomed the guests in a pleasing speech. He referred to the brief time which was given for the visitors to inspect the different departments, and said if anything interested them, they would be welcome to visit the institution at any future time. The line of march was then taken up with President S.A. Crozer and Superintendent Bar leading the way. The inspection of the work and buildings was necessarily hurried. Many articles, the work of the inmates, were exhibited under canvas on the beautiful knoll in the rear of the main building. It was the first visit of many of those present, and all were highly pleased with what they saw.

AN EXHIBITION DRILL – After the inspection of the buildings and work, a most enjoyable battalion drill was given by the three companies on the camps. This was a most delightful part of the afternoon's program. While the boys went through the various movements with almost the precision of regulars, the band discoursed popular airs. The boys were then brought to parade rest and President S.A. Crozer introduced the orator of the afternoon, Hon. William N. Ashman. He was given a rousing reception, but owing to the hour for departure drawing near, spoke briefly and in part said: "I hardly know how to characterize this occasion. I want you to feel as though it is a festal day, while we are standing in the midst of a tragedy. The little waifs just before us, the world has no place for, and the future no promise. If I were to answer the question as to who reaps the benefit of this splendid institution, I would say those who founded the charity and not the children confined there. The institution had its origin in a small way in 1852, when one or two citizens went in a lawyer's office in Philadelphia. It was a strange place to found the birthplace of such a grand philanthropic movement. A school was started in a

small way, and later moved to Germantown. There was one man who got inspiration at the little meeting and who was so successful with the institution in late years – Dr. Kerlin and you all know what a great man he was.”

Keith Lockhart Collection