

William (Wm) P. Norris

William P. Norris was admitted to Ward 4 of Friends Hospital on May 25, 1919.¹ On his first day he began a special diet that would continue throughout the rest of his time at the Hospital. According to Hospital records, William was “unclean in habits.” He began with a moderate level of participation in activities and read books daily. During the summer and fall months of 1919, William’s condition was fairly steady, and he occasionally took part in horseback riding and industrial classes. His daily routine revolved around outdoor walks with an attendant and reading.

By February 1920, William’s condition had deteriorated. During the month of January, William stopped taking part in all activities besides reading, and beginning on March 24, he was secluded from the Hospital population for the remainder of his stay. He continued to read daily until April 17, after which William was recorded as having spent time reading only sporadically. In May, William began to be recorded as “destructive” and was given medicine. This pattern of medication, seclusion, and “destructive” tendencies would continue throughout the rest of William’s time at the Hospital. From November 11 until November 19, 1920, William received daily visits from family members and friends, likely as a counseling method. These efforts were seemingly unsuccessful, as William was transferred to Norristown State Asylum on November 20, 1920.

Ward 4 - Admitted May 25 1919?

- On a special diet, secluded first day (May 25)
 - Rest of month: On a special diet, unclean in habits, occupied in indoor games, reading
- June 1919
- Unclean, indoor games, special diet, secluded most days, indoor games

¹ All following information is from Daily Record Book, 1919-1921, MC-1261, Item 116, Friends Hospital Records, Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections, Haverford, Pennsylvania.

July 1919

- Same as previous month, occasional industrial class and outdoor walk w attendant

August 1919

- Same pattern

September 1919

- Same pattern, no seclusion, goes horseback riding 9 times
- Reading

October 1919

- Same pattern, no riding

December 1919

- Same pattern

January 1920

- Special diet, unclean in habits, reading
- At the beginning of the month he goes on walks with an attendant, gymnastics class, goes riding/ Condition then seems to deteriorate as he stops taking part in activities

February 1920

- Special diet, unclean in habits, reading

March 1920

- Begins the month on a special diet and unclean in habits
- Beginning March 24, secluded
- March 29-31 destructive
- Reading daily

April 1920

- Special diet, unclean in habits, secluded
- Daily reading until April 17

May 1920

- Special diet, **destructive**, unclean in habits, secluded
- Medicine towards the end of the month
- Reading occasionally

June 1920

- Special diet, destructive, unclean in habits, secluded
- Reading occasionally

July 1920

- Special diet, destructive, unclean in habits, secluded

August 1920

- Special diet, destructive, unclean in habits, secluded
- Has a P for unattended walk on august 25 but i honestly don't believe that????
- May have been given medicine on August 26
- May have been restrained on August 12

September 1920

- Special diet, destructive, unclean in habits, secluded
- Reading on September 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7

October 1920

- Special diet, destructive, unclean in habits, secluded

November 1920

- On a special diet, destructive, unclean in habits
- Has an h every day but no number next to it? Secluded for some part of the day
- November 11-19 receives visits from Friends
- "Left here (N.S.H.) 11-20-20" transferred to Norristown on 11/20/1920