

Frank Atwood

Ward 3

Francis “Frank” Calhoun Atwood was born on January 27, 1883 in St. Paul, Minnesota.¹ He was the son of Dr. Francis Atwood, a successful eye doctor who died in the year before Frank was born. In his early 20s, Frank was diagnosed with an unspecified mental illness, which led to his admittance to Friends Hospital.² He was at Friends Hospital throughout the entire 1918-1921 period,³ and was moved to the Allentown State Hospital for the Insane sometime between 1921 and 1930.⁴

During the 1918-1921 period, Frank lived in Ward 3. His routine and condition varied very little throughout this time. Every day, Frank went on a walk with an attendant and read. He often took part in gymnastics class, entertainment, or indoor games. During the warmer months, Frank also went out horseback riding. Frank began taking medicine for his condition in October 1919, and remained on medication for the rest of the daily record period.

One notable aspect of Frank’s time at the hospital was his religious activity. From 1918-1921, Frank attended sabbath readings regularly. For 20 out of the 27 months that Frank appears in the daily record book,⁵ he attended all weekly sabbath readings. The major exceptions from his regular attendance were August-November 1919. In August 1919, Frank didn’t attend any Sabbath readings, in September he attended 2, in October only one, and in November he once again attended two sabbath readings. It is unclear why Frank stopped attending every sabbath reading during the period — not only does the record book not record any significant variation in Frank’s other behavior during this period, but the record for his activities during July 1919, right before the recorded period of decreased sabbath attendance, is missing. It is possible that Frank’s religious observance was impacted by World War 1, which ended in November 1919 — soon after, Frank began attending sabbath readings regularly again.

Frank remained institutionalized for the rest of his life. After being moved to Allentown in the 1920s, Frank was then transferred to Harrisburg State Hospital in the 1930s.⁶ He remained at Harrisburg until his death on January 12, 1955, from tuberculosis and a stroke.⁷ He was 71.

¹ “Pennsylvania, U.S., Death Certificates, 1906-1969,” digital image s.v. “Francis C Atwood” (died 12 Jan. 1955), *Ancestry.com*.

² “Pennsylvania, U.S., Death Certificates, 1906-1969,” digital image s.v. “Francis C Atwood” (died 12 Jan. 1955), *Ancestry.com*. The death certificate lists “mental illness” as a contributing cause of death, and says that it began 50 years before Frank’s death. 50 years younger than 71, Frank’s age at death, is 21 years old.

³ All following information, unless otherwise noted, is from Daily Record Book, 1918-1921, MC-1261, Item 116, Friends Hospital Records, Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections, Haverford, Pennsylvania.

⁴ “1930 United States Federal Census,” digital image s.v. “Francis C. Atwood” (born 1883, residing in Pennsylvania), *Ancestry.com*

⁵ Records from July 1919 are missing for Men’s Ward 3.

⁶ “1940 United States Federal Census,” digital image s.v. “Francis Atwood” (born 1883, residing in Pennsylvania), *Ancestry.com*

⁷ “Pennsylvania, U.S., Death Certificates, 1906-1969,” digital image s.v. “Francis C Atwood” (died 12 Jan. 1955), *Ancestry.com*.

28 total months

20 where he attends 4 sabbath readings

1 month data is missing

October 1918

- Occupied in ward, walk with attendant, reading everyday
- Indoor games some days
- Entertainment, gymnastics class
- goes riding once
- Attends 4 sabbath readings

November 1918

- Occupied in ward, walk with attendant, reading everyday
- Indoor games some days
- Entertainment, gymnastics class, goes riding
- Attends 4 sabbath readings

December 1918

- Occupied in ward, walk with attendant, reading everyday
- Indoor games some days
- Entertainment, gymnastics class
- Attends 4 sabbath readings

January 1919

- Occupied in ward, walk with attendant, reading everyday
- Indoor games some days
- Entertainment, gymnastics class
- Attends 2 sabbath readings

February 1919

- Occupied in ward, walk with attendant, reading everyday
- Indoor games most days
- Entertainment, gymnastics class
- Attends 4 sabbath readings

March 1919

- Same as feb

April 1919

- Occupied in ward, walk with attend, reading
- Gymnastics, indoor games, entertainment
- Attends 4 sabbath readings

May 1919

- Occupied in ward, reading, walking
- Gymnastics class pretty frequently, entertainment, indoor games, out riding
- Attends 4 sabbath readings

June 1919

- Attends 4 sabbath readings

- Constants are occupied in ward, walking, reading
- Occasional riding, indoor games

July 1919

- Where are these records????

August 1919

- Occupied in ward, walks with attendant (except one day) are constants
- Indoor games, lots of reading
- No sabbath readings

September 1919

- Reading, occupied in ward, out riding, reading, indoor games
- Attended sabbath reading twice

October 1919

- Less activity, just walking, reading, occupied in ward, **needlework**
 - Needlework seemed to be a largely female activity!!!!
- Attends one sabbath reading
- Begins medication october 2nd

November 1919

- Walks with attendant, occupied in ward, medication,
- Attends entertainment once, indoor games once, sabbath reading twice, out riding once

December 1919

- Constants are walking and occupied in ward
- No meds dec 13-18, meds rest of month
- More active – occupied in entertainment, indoor games, reading, 4 sabbath readings

January 1920

- Walking, occupied in ward, medication
- Attends 4 sabbath readings
- Begins gymnastics classes
- Indoor games, reading, entertainment

February 1920

- Medicine, walks with attendant, occupied in ward
- Lots of reading, gymnastics
- Sabbath readings
- Entertainment

March 1920

- Medicine, walks with attendant, occupied in ward, reading
- Attends 4 sabbath readings
- Entertainment, gymnastics class

April 1920

- Medicine, walks with attendant, occupied in ward'
- 4 sabbath readings
- Entertainment, gymnastics class

May 1920

- Medicine, walks with attendant, occupied in ward
- Visit from quakers on May 27

- Entertainment, gymnastics class
- Attends 4 sabbath readings

June 1920

- Medicine, walks w attendant, occupied in ward, reading every day
- Attends 4 sabbath readings
- Gymnastics class

July 1920

- Walking, occupied in ward, medicine all month
- Attended all 4 sabbath readings

August 1920

- Medicine, occupied in ward, walking, reading all month
- No sabbath readings

September 1920

- Attends 3 sabbath readings
- Occupied in ward, medicine, walking, reading all month

October 1920

- Occupied in ward, medicine, reading, walking all month
- Attends 4 sabbath readings
- A few gymnastics classes

November 1920

- Medicine, reading, walking all month
- Frequent gymnastics
- Art class, entertainment
- 3 (4?) sabbath readings

December 1920

- Medicine, walking, occupied in ward all month
- Frequent reading
- Gymnastics, entertainment

January 1921

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