



GARDNER PHOTO

THE BENEDICT HOME

REPORT  
OF THE  
Trustees and Superintendent  
OF  
BENEDICT HOME,  
TO THE  
GOVERNOR,

For the Biennial Term Ending August 31, 1895.

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PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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## REPORT OF TRUSTEES.

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*To his Excellency, F. M. Drake, Governor of the State of Iowa:*

The trustees of the Benedict home respectfully submit this, their sixth biennial report, accompanied by the report of the superintendent, physician and treasurer, for the period ending August 31, 1895.

During the period the board of trustees have held meetings at the home each quarter, at which time the institution has been inspected, the accounts audited, and the needs of the home considered.

By reference to the last biennial report, you will see that attention was then called to the imperfect sewerage which was endangering the health of the family. This condition resulted in an epidemic of typhoid fever in the summer of 1894. Steps were then immediately taken to put in a complete sewer system. The city council kindly extended a sewer to our boundary, which was speedily connected with the home sewer. The sewer system is giving perfect satisfaction.

In our official visits to the home, we have noted that the principle of doing unto others as ye would that others should do unto you, is the base of the discipline of the family. This principle constantly taught and exemplified has a great influence in reforming the character of the girls.

System, economy and thoroughness is the rule governing each department of labor, making the time spent in the home helpful to each girl, thus fitting her for the duties of life, when she shall go out from the institution.

We have been pleased with the school work, which is an important factor in moral as well as intellectual improvements; the non-sectarian Christian teaching has resulted in many giving evidence of sincere repentance of their sins, and, forsaking the old way, have begun new and better lives.

We have found the home supplied with a good variety of food of the best quality, healthfully prepared, and served at regular hours.

The increase in the amount appropriated by the Twenty-fifth General Assembly made it possible for us to rescue more of the unfortunate class for whom the home cares, than any previous period. On behalf of the home the trustees desire to express their gratitude to the Twenty-fifth General Assembly for the aid given to this worthy charity, and would also express their appreciation of the continued courtesy and kindness received from the state executive council.

The necessity of aid from the state for support of the institution is more imperative than ever, as the increase in numbers cared for will show. The legislature has heretofore made generous appropriations for this purpose, and we confidently hope the Twenty-sixth General Assembly will appropriate the full amount asked, ten thousand (\$10,000) dollars.

Mrs. S. R. Woods is still the superintendent of the home. With the exception of a few months, she has been the only resident official, or employe, during the biennial period. We consider the home fortunate in having a woman of such sterling character, and executive ability to manage and control the interests of the home, besides, at all times giving to each member of the numerous family the tender, motherly care they so much need.

Dr. Alice I. Ross has been the attending physician during the larger part of the period. She has been faithful to the duties of her position, and successful in her professional practice in the home.

Trusting that the Twenty-sixth General Assembly will continue to include this institution among the worthy charities receiving aid from the state, and thus lessen county expenses, prevent pauperism and crime, assist misguided but repentant citizens to honored and useful lives, and praying that "the blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich and addeth no sorrow with it," may be yours, we submit this report.

MRS. M. F. HINMAN,  
MRS. F. J. MALEY,  
MRS. ETTA LEE,  
MRS. M. J. CALLANAN,  
MRS. E. J. NORTH,  
MRS. M. A. HOLMES,  
MRS. S. C. SLAYTON

## REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT.

*To the honored Board of Trustees:*

LADIES—I have the honor of submitting herewith the sixth biennial report of Benedict home, for the period ending August 31, 1895.

I am thankful to say the period closes under favorable conditions. The health of the family is very good. The school is in successful operation. Many of the girls who have been discharged from the home are situated in permanent homes, and are giving evidence of leading upright lives. A number have been happily married, and the homeless infants have been adopted by good Christian people as soon as they were of proper age.

The funds for support are a little less than at the close of the preceding period, but there is on hand a small fund for enlarging the building, which will balance that.

In this connection I think a brief history of the institution may be interesting, and will continue my report in that form.

Benedict home (Iowa's Bethesda) is situated in North Des Moines, between Third and Fourth streets, and Orchard and Forest avenues.

It is a semi-state institution, being supported by public and private charity, and admitting inmates from all parts of the state.

In its management it is non-partisan and non-sectarian, receiving sympathy, co-operation and support from all parties and denominations alike, and the inmates represent all nationalities and religions.

The home was founded in 1882 by "The Women's Christian Temperance Union of Iowa." The property is held in trust by a board of trustees, elected by that body who has the general management of the institution. The direct management and government is under the control of a lady superintendent, who resides in the home.



The object of the institution is to furnish a voluntary Christian home for unfortunate girls, who give evidence of a sincere desire to return to virtuous and honorable lives.

Believing that pauperism is near of kin to crime, and "idleness the parent of vice," an earnest effort is made to inspire the family with an ambition to be self supporting, and to look upon labor as ennobling. As a means to this end, they are busily employed with work or books.

The various departments of house work is done by the family, as far as possible, making the home a domestic training school, preparing each one to earn an honest living.

Many of the inmates have had very poor educational advantages previous to coming to the home. Some are very young; others have been educated in a foreign language, and a few have not had any school privileges at all. To these the opportunity of studying in the home school one half of each day throughout the entire year is of great value, and the advancement made in many cases very gratifying.

The family also have the use of a good circulating library, which is open every Saturday for the exchange of books.

Relying upon Christianity and intelligence as the foundation of permanent reformation, a constant effort is made to develop Christian character.

Each morning and evening, chapel services are conducted by the superintendent, the family joining in responsive reading and the Lord's prayer.

Christian ladies of the city hold a bible reading, prayer and song service on Thursday evening, each week. The ministers of the various churches preach a sermon each Sabbath to an attentive and appreciative audience of repentant hearers.

The Sabbath school for the study of God's word, under the direction of the superintendent, is an interesting and profitable part of the Sabbath day's exercises.

During the thirteen years since the home was opened, eleven hundred and five (1,105) have received the fostering care of this refuge. A very large per cent are known to be living honorable lives, a blessing to their friends and society.

The homeless infants, through the instrumentality of the institution, have been adopted by Christian people, who are giving them good social and educational advantages, and training them for useful citizens.

Without the home and its privileges many would have developed into paupers and criminals.

When the institution was opened the building contained but eight small rooms. Soon arrangements were made for enlarging the building, and from time to time additions have been made, but the capacity is yet far too small for the reception of all who need the shelter and reformatory influence of the home. Indeed, in its crowded condition, it is not possible to give the family many advantages the management desire. Especially is this true in regard to the school. We had hoped, before this, to have been able to report an addition suitable for chapel and school room, with sleeping apartments above, but owing to the hard times, it has been impossible to secure sufficient funds for this purpose. It is encouraging to say that there is a fund of \$470.80 on hand for this improvement, and we hope in some way funds will be provided for this addition, to enable us to do better school work, and to be able to receive all worthy persons who apply for a home here.

By reference to my last biennial report, you will see that I then called attention to the necessity of better sewerage, but not fully realizing the danger to the health of the family, and knowing the need of economy in the use of the limited funds of the institution, steps were not taken to replace the old tile drains by proper sewerage until an epidemic of typhoid fever broke out in the home. From July, 1894, until the middle of November of that year, there was not any time that some of the family were not suffering with that terrible disease. At one time eight were dangerously ill with the fever. Only four adults died, but the infants were even more seriously affected by the sanitary conditions than the adults, and many of the little ones faded and died. There is no doubt that for several years the health of the family has been unfavorably affected by the defective sewerage, although we were not conscious of the fact at the time.

There was another adult death, in a case of accouchement, where an operation by Cesarean section became necessary. The patient lived six days, and died from blood poisoning. Twins were born, and both were females, and are in the home now. We are hoping they may be adopted together, as the dying mother requested that they should not be separated.

With the exception of the sewer, there has not been any property improvements. The grounds have been well cultivated. The garden has furnished summer vegetables, and some fruit has been canned for family use.

The Twenty-first General Assembly was the first to appropriate funds for the care and reformation of this class of the state's unfortunates not otherwise provided for. The total amount appropriated by the several general assemblies amounts to \$34,000. The twenty-fifth appropriated \$9,000, or as much thereof as might be necessary for the support of the home.

## MOVEMENT OF POPULATION.

Number of adults in home August 31, 1892.	42
Number of infants.	19
Total.	61
Adults admitted during the biennial period ending August 31, 1892.	146
Infants born.	93
Came with their mothers.	4
Total number receiving care during the period.	304
Adults remaining in home August 31, 1892.	42
Adults discharged.	125
Adults married.	16
Adults died.	5
Total.	188
Infants remaining in home August 31, 1892.	24
Adopted during the period.	30
Went with mothers.	21
Died.	35
Still-born.	9
Total.	604
Adults receiving care.	188
Infants receiving care.	116
Total.	304

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Parents of adults living.	75
Orphans.	100
Parents of adults separated.	12
Total.	188

## NATIONALITY.

American	101	Irish	12
Bohemian	4	Norwegian	12
Canadian	3	Poland	1
Colored	3	Swede	7
Danish	4	Swiss	1
English	5	Scotch	2
German	28	Welsh	1
Holland	2	Total.	188

## REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT.

## RESPECTIVE AGES WHEN ADMITTED.

Thirteen	3	Twenty-one	15
Fourteen	1	Twenty-two	21
Fifteen	11	Twenty-three	12
Sixteen	13	Twenty-four	9
Seventeen	23	Twenty-five	4
Eighteen	22	Twenty-seven	3
Nineteen	29	Twenty-eight	1
Twenty	21	Total	188

## RESIDENCE BY COUNTIES.

Adair	3	Johnson	4
Allamakee	2	Keeokuk	2
Benton	2	Lee	1
Black Hawk	1	Linn	3
Boone	4	Lucas	1
Bremer	3	Madison	1
Buchanan	2	Mahaska	6
Calhoun	1	Marion	1
Carroll	1	Marshall	9
Cass	7	Mills	1
Cedar	2	Monona	2
Cerro Gordo	1	Monroe	2
Cherokee	2	Montgomery	1
Clark	1	Muscatine	4
Clay	1	Pace	1
Clinton	1	Palo Alto	2
Dallas	6	Pocahontas	2
Decatur	2	Polk	9
Delaware	2	Pottawattamie	2
Dickinson	1	Poweshoke	8
Dubuque	1	Sac	1
Emmet	1	Scott	1
Fayette	4	Stor	1
Franklin	4	Tama	1
Greene	3	Union	2
Grundy	1	Van Buren	2
Guthrie	1	Wapello	1
Hamilton	7	Warren	3
Hancock	1	Washington	2
Hardin	1	Wayne	1
Henry	3	Webster	1
Humboldt	4	Woodbury	3
Jackson	3	Wright	3
Jasper	8	State	4
Jefferson	1	Total	188

## NECESSITIES OF THE INSTITUTION.

The most pressing need of the home is more room and funds for support. The number who have applied for care has been much larger than during any previous period. We have reason to believe this has been to a great extent due to the presence of the saloon. For want of rooms and funds for support we have been compelled to turn many away, although we feared that when the home could not receive them, the last ray of hope for them was gone.



To enable us to do effective school work, we should have suitable rooms, which could be used for chapel exercises. An addition for this purpose, with two stories above for sleeping apartments would, I think, supply the present demand for room.

Notwithstanding our limitations, the number receiving care was 314, fifty-two more than the total number cared for during the previous period.

For the preservation of the buildings, they should have a coat of paint soon. The shutters and spouting, and some of the roof should be repaired.

The barn is falling into decay, and must be put in better condition soon. These improvements will require an expenditure of about six thousand dollars (\$6,000), and ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) will be needed for support.

With abiding confidence in the sympathy of the people of the state toward this charity, as expressed by past legislatures, we will pray that the Twenty-sixth General Assembly will include this institution among the worthy charities receiving aid from the state, and thus aid many of its erring but repentant citizens to honored and useful lives, decrease court expenses, and prevent much pauperism and crime.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

On behalf of the institution, we wish to tender our sincere thanks to the ministers of the various churches of Des Moines for preaching each Sabbath, and to the Christian women who have held bible reading, prayer and song service each week. These services have been of great value to the home family, and we pray that the Lord will abundantly bless those who have aided the home.

We are also under obligations to the publishers of the following:

Pacific Health Journal, San Francisco, Cal.....	Monthly
Medical Missionary, Battle Creek, Mich.....	Monthly
Western Penman, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.....	Monthly
The Iowa Capital, Des Moines, Iowa.....	Daily
The Iowa State Register, Des Moines, Iowa.....	Weekly
The Saturday Review, Des Moines, Iowa.....	Weekly
The Mail and Times, Des Moines, Iowa.....	Weekly
The Anita Republican, Anita, Iowa.....	Weekly
The West Liberty Index, West Liberty, Iowa.....	Weekly
Sabbath Reading, New York city.....	Weekly

To the friends of the home all over the state, who have so substantially aided the institution by donations of cash and goods, we are very grateful; and are not unmindful of the moral support received through all the years of the existence of the home from these devoted women, who, like their Divine Leader, have not condemned the repentant ones, but like him have said, "Go thy way, and sin no more."

The past term has been laden with responsibilities and care beyond anything I have previously experienced, and to those ladies of the board who, by their counsel, sympathy and co-operation have made it possible for me to bear the burdens which have fallen so heavily upon me, I wish, from the depths of my heart, to return thanks.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. R. S. Woods,

*Superintendent*

## REPORT OF PHYSICIAN.

From September 1, 1893, to September 1, 1895.

The number of births during the period was ninety-three. Of these nine were still-born. The number of deaths were forty-one, of which thirty-six were infants and five adults.

The causes of death were as follows:

Malnutrition.....	7	Typhoid fever.....	3
Jaundice.....	2	Smothered.....	1
Uncertain.....	4	Septicemia following childbirth.....	1
La grippe.....	1	Rickets.....	1
Hydrocephalus.....	1	Tuberculosis.....	1
Laryngitis.....	1	Gastro enteritis.....	1
Cholera infantum.....	6	Hemorrhage.....	1
Ill health of mother.....	1	Convulsions.....	1
Capillary bronchitis.....	2	Gastritis.....	1
Prematurely born.....	2	Bronchitis.....	1

ALICE I. ROSS,  
Physician.

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

## Statement of Receipts and Expenditures.

Balance on hand August 31, 1895.....	\$ 393.56
Undrawn from appropriation of Twenty-fourth General Assembly.....	1,758.01
Total available.....	\$ 2,091.57
Received from Twenty-fifth General Assembly.....	6,321.23
Received in donations.....	1,533.12
Received from Benedict home committee.....	698.82
Total.....	\$ 10,735.75
Received for building fund.....	470.50
Total.....	\$ 11,206.25
Total for support.....	\$10,190.57
Balance paid for addition to home grounds.....	443.90
Total expenditures.....	\$ 10,634.47
On hand to balance.....	\$ 571.78
Total.....	\$ 11,206.25
Remaining undrawn from appropriation of Twenty-fifth General Assembly.....	\$ 1,758.01
On hand.....	572.48
Total available and not expended.....	\$ 2,330.49

Respectfully submitted,

M. C. CALLANAN,  
Treasurer.