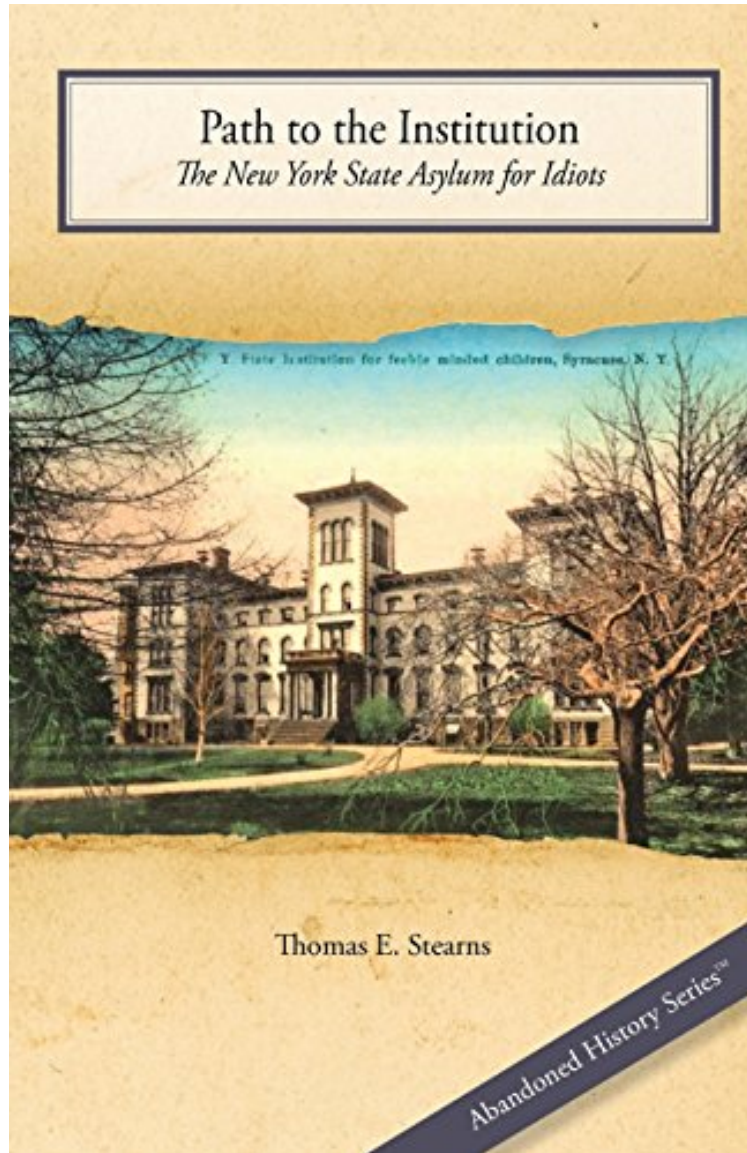


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## Path to the Institution: The New York State Asylum for Idiots

*Thomas E. Stearns*

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**Thomas E. Stearns : Path to the Institution: The New York State Asylum for Idiots** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Path to the Institution: The New York State Asylum for Idiots:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I must be honest in saying that I was disappointed overall with this

bookBy sirwilliamAlthough well-researched and well-written for the most part, I must be honest in saying that I was disappointed overall with this book. In my opinion, I really don't think that the author needed to spend as much time as he did on *The Wild Boy of Aveyron* and the work of Dr. Seguin. Yes, French specialists like Itard and Seguin did have an influence on Dr. Wilbur in the way he conducted affairs at the asylum, but one chapter covering all of these influences would have been sufficient. The chapters on Dr. Wilbur and a few of his successors provided a good insight into how the hospital functioned and evolved into one of the best of its kind. The many good pictures were illustrative of that. The book ended abruptly, however, in that the last three or four decades of the institution's existence were glossed over quickly, limited to generalities, and only naming the superintendents serving toward the very end.

The New York State Legislature voted in 1851 to establish the New York State Asylum for Idiots. At the time, idiot was a generic term used by physicians, educators, lawmakers, and the public to identify people who today would be described as having moderate to severe intellectual disabilities. This book explores the schools fascinating historyincluding the origins of the schools first educational method, the legislative struggle to create the school, the people who were the most influential in the schools development, and how the school evolved over its 147 year existence. Featuring rare and never before published images, this book provides a unique glimpse into New Yorks first state-sponsored school for people with intellectual disabilities.