

A eugenics primer

February 2, 2016

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This is my father, Harold Abel Sandow. He was a WWII vet and 28 years old when this photo was taken in 1945.

The leisure time I had with my Dad was all too short. When he did have time to spare he would pack our small family into our car and drive us into California's Sierra Nevada mountains. I didn't think twice about the little free time we had. I understood.

My Dad owned a meat market, nestled inside a small corner grocery store, just down the street from our home. He would walk to work and back every day, Monday through Sunday. On Sunday, he would work half the day preparing the market for the next week's business. My brothers and I worked in his market everyday after school and half the day each Sunday.

Dad dreamt that his market would become so successful that its success would become the little grocery stores success. But a formidable business threat emerged in the 1950's and 1960's as the age of large convenience stores and ground zero for obesity and Type 2 diabetes was born. Food became cheap food and cheap food was unhealthy food.

Folks back then were drawn to the new super markets, bright and shiny with aisles so wide you could drive a Chevy station wagon down them. The meat was so cheap my Dad could never compete – not on price anyhow. Boy, did he ever put up a fight. Compete he did, knowing that the quality of his products were beyond comparison. He trusted his customers would come back and, as we'll see later, they eventually did. I'd give just about anything if he only could have lived to see his dream come true.

Like any kid, I loved spending time with my Dad. He was and still is my hero, the one I wanted to grow up to be like. The challenge to small markets by the new cheap food super markets worked but my Dad didn't give up. He worked through many hardships leaving our family in debt. I know this broke his heart, but, I really didn't notice. The failings he felt and adapted to were an example of his indefatigable strength of character and was an inspiration for me.

Cleaning the garage together on Sunday afternoon while we listened to the SF Giants on the radio was a real treat. Boy, you could just see Willie Mays running flat out toward the center field fence to make the basket catch that made him famous. Lon Simmons and Russ Hodges radiobroadcasts on KSFO along with the imagination of a ten year old boy cleaning the garage with his Dad was more entertaining then one could ever imagine.

I loved being with my Dad. We would watch movies together on our tiny black and white TV set. My Mom, tired from her radiation and chemo treatments for cancer, would go to bed early leaving Dad and I to occasionally watch a movie. And while they didn't come on often, every time a documentary or movie about the World War II Holocaust came on, he and I would watch it. The memories are still so vivid. At the end of the movie recounting the Holocaust, Dad wouldn't say a word but silently turn off the set before we both went to bed.

My brothers and I heard other men his age laugh and brag about the war. My brothers and I would try to pull him into the conversation, "*Hey Dad did you ever ride in a tank or shoot someone?*". We brothers would wait for his answer but it never came. Instead, he

would be quiet like he did after we watched those black and white films about the holocaust. He never elaborated and seemed as embarrassed about the war as he was about his struggling business. We were disappointed. Our father was not acting like the other fathers. There was no bravado and no celebration.

Sometimes it got awkward with my brothers and I hanging on to every word of the other men's stories short on truth and long on bravado. I was more aware of the awkwardness then interested in the war stories that were mostly about liberation, liquor and dancing with women who couldn't resist the "handsome American GIs".

I had been there late at night watching the documentaries of the holocaust and watching my Dad at the same time. The War had given some men stories and jokes they all could laugh about. I learned there was nothing about the War that my Dad could joke about or laugh at.

Many years after my Dad had passed, my sweetest niece and sister Julie, lent me letters my Dad wrote to my Mom, after he was drafted on March 6, 1943. He and my Mom couldn't catch a break. Shortly after his induction at Sacramento California and separation from my Mom, they discovered that she was two months along in her first pregnancy. By then he was on the east coast while she stayed in California.

When it looked like he would be stationed in South Carolina for quite sometime, he invested most of the money they had saved to rent a house and to purchase train tickets for my Mom and brother to join him. He was elated. My Mom packed all of their belongings in a trunk and shipped it a few days before their train departed. Then, Mom got a wire just before leaving for the train station. Dad was being transferred to Georgia for boot camp. His Commanding Officer, Captain Sullivan promised to look after the trunk that my Mom had shipped but it was lost in transit. It tore my Dad apart to think that his wife and son were missing all of their belongings and would have to move in with his parents.

Boot camp was tough. Nothing would fit my Dad's 4' 10" body and he suffered during long marches with full packs. The Army offered him a discharge but that just made him more determined. He wrote my Mom whenever someone would take an injury or sickness just to leave the Army and go home. He was furious when this happened.

There was plenty of fear to go around and the rumors changed every day. One day they thought they were shipping to the Pacific and the next day it would be Europe. Of course, both were very dangerous. He would write my Mom about meeting another soldier's wife who arrived for a short leave and was so sorry that he had spent their money on the rental property in South Carolina.

He was never sure she received his letters until she wrote back. All of his mail was opened and read by censors. Then, just as abruptly as he was sent to Georgia, he was sent to Louisiana where he received his orders to go to New York and embark for Europe. At the same time he received a letter from Captain Sullivan.

Good news! Captain Sullivan had found and returned my Mom's trunk. Not so good news! Captain Sullivan had filed papers for Dad to become an officer and stay in South Carolina. Unfortunately, once my Dad had his orders to ship out to Europe all other orders were rescinded, including the orders that would have him stay in the States.

It was not as if his instincts were wrong or his plans not well thought out. Moving my Mom and brother out to join him was the right thing to do. He knew that Captain Sullivan

liked him and thought that he would be a fine officer. A matter of a day or two separated him from his young wife and son. If Capitan Sullivan's orders had arrived two days earlier, my Dad's fate would have smiled on him and his young family.

Reading through his letters there was a postcard to Mom from New York and then a long break before the next letter came. He was in Europe headed for Germany and the front. On May 9 1945, shortly after his arrival, the Nazi's surrendered. Despite all of his bad luck and how intensely he missed his family, every single letter he wrote was written in beautiful flowing cursive hand writing on neatly folded clean paper until one particular letter where his ink splattered hand writing was a mess. Something was very wrong.

My Dad had traded a Scottish prisoner of war a pack of cigarettes for a Zeiss Icon box camera and began printing photos on any paper he could find. In one letter, he included photographs from Nordhausen, the location of one of the Nazi death camps. Looking at the black and white photographs, I could tell that the women and children had been recently killed. My Dad was visiting the Nazi death camps:

June 13 1945 Neustadt Germany

"I'm enclosing the Nordhausen atrocity pictures in this letter darling and when you come to number 6 honey you'll see the very last thing in inhumanity. This baby and little girl were gassed, beaten and machine gunned to death as were all the rest and hundreds more like them. I passed by the graves of people only last week and believe me darling that the ones you see in the pictures are only a small minority as compared to the graves. When you think of the other murder camps, Dessau, Buchwald, Dachau and the others you wonder how any of the refugees got away with their lives. I saw Dessau honey and it was one of the smaller ones compared to Nordhausen but I'll never forget it."

On the back of each photograph my Dad would add a caption:

*"Refugees leaving Nordhausen on the long trek home."
"Some of my buddies view of the gruesomeness of human 'cordwood'.
"Nordhausen's victims lay stretched out for blocks."
"More and more _____."
"_____ and still more."
"To the utter extreme of Nazi inhumanity."*

June 26 1945 my mother, Dorothy Sandow, replied,

"The ones of Nordhausen were like the movies I saw daring only the movies were worse. There are a few people I would liked to see these pictures as they don't believe the Germans did these things."

July 6 1945 my father replied,

"I have 16 rolls of film left for my camera honey and if the sun ever stays out long enough I will send you some more pictures. You said that George's mother believes the Germans never committed atrocities such as those at Nordhausen, Dachau, Buchwald and Dessau and other places and its easy to understand why they wouldn't. Its hard to believe honey but I seen it with my own eyes and what I've seen no one can make me deny. Do they think that for one minute the US would stand for pictures and stories as horrible as those to be released to the

public if they weren't true? This is the very lowest extreme of inhumanity and I doubt that even the lowest form of animal life ever equaled it in its torture and treachery."

My Dad's job was to manage supplies. As the mission changed from combat to occupation there was no Allied infrastructure for the movement of supplies in what a month before had been Nazi Germany. When it came to the death camps, he wrote my Mom, *"I've seen them all."* Following the retreating Nazi Army and the carnage they left behind, the War had taken my Dad's smile away whenever he was reminded of it and sometimes when he wasn't.

I get it Dad; you knew you never had to tell me. You couldn't. For you, there was no valor to be found in the cinematic war stories we heard as kids. Real valor and patriotism was, and still is a matter of living in the darkest of moments. Breathing in unimaginable pain and breathing out the last light of compassion and caring your soul has to offer those brutally tortured by unholy acts of aggression until you've given away those smiles you were saving for the future and for me.

I got those smiles Dad and I couldn't be prouder of you. You gave so much to stop the endless depravity of inhumanity. I wake each morning and look at two photos. One is of you and the other of you and Mom and I am inspired to live one more day like the Dad and Grandpa you were and still are in our hearts. God only knows how much I love you and miss you.

May 1976 Medical Lake Washington

Before ever seeing my father's letters, I was attending the University of Idaho. One of my classes began in a mysterious way. We were instructed not to go to our classroom, but, to meet outside the College of Education and wait for a bus. Soon an old classic yellow school bus pulled up with no sign of our instructor. When we were ten miles from the University, we stopped in front of a rural mailbox where our professor, Ferris Henson II was waiting for his students. With a kind smile and casual wave hello, he boarded the bus and told us that we were going to Lakeland Village at Eastern Washington State Hospital outside of Spokane Washington.

I was pleasantly surprised as our bus rolled across Eastern Washington and into Lakeland Village. The campus was spacious with lush green grass and towering Fir trees of the Pacific Northwest. Our small class of 15 or so followed professor Henson off the bus and into Lakeland's administration building. The hospital's Superintendent greeted us and presented us with an introduction to the Medical Lake asylum. I cannot recall all that he shared with us because my attention was drawn to a small potted plant. The plant was just beginning to bloom with a half dozen buds or so. My gaze travelled down from the buds, along stems and to the stalk of the plant where a smoldering cigarette lay. I could not help but wonder why anyone would do such a thing. It seemed so disrespectful. What I did not realize was that this would become the metaphor for our field trip.

My attention to the plant was suddenly broken by the words of the Superintendent. He was issuing a warning before we began our tour telling us that the young men of the class might want to look after the young women of the class and protect them from the *"retarded people"* we were to meet. *"When you get to the locked wards of the men with severe and profound mental retardation you boys might want to form a ring around your female classmates just to make sure that they are safe."*



Lakeland Village, Washington

Our tour began by visiting a small classroom where adult men and women were learning simple skills like ironing, doing laundry and setting tables. Then we visited a small wood working shop where others were being trained to sand and paint wood products. This all appeared idyllic in the warm spring sun as we strolled through the lush green grounds and visited with the happy well dressed folks with very mild cognitive disabilities. They were happy and friendly, greeting us while staying focused on their tasks. This left me wondering about the Superintendent's subtle threat. As far as I could, see the women of our class needed no protection at all.

After lunch and toward the end of our visit, the situation changed dramatically. Gone were the majestic Fir trees, rolling green lawns and the simulations of "normal life" being taught by instructors and aides. Lakeland Village was designed as two halves (one for women and the other for men) with a tall administration building between the two. We walked into a men's ward. It looked more like a hospital than a classroom or woodshop. The halls were empty save the occasional nurse or aide making their rounds. Lining the halls were locked doors with small windows or "peep holes" one could look into. Our tour guide had a key ring with dozens of keys on it. Finding the proper key, she unlocked the door and ushered us inside. Entering the day room was more like entering a penitentiary than a hospital or training facility, only far worse.

We were in a concrete day room. It had no windows, furniture or wall coverings and was about 20' square. Inside were 30 men some partially clothed and some naked. For the most part, they acted as though we were not there. None of the men possessed verbal skills. Instead, we heard crying, sobbing, grunts, moans and an occasional scream. I watched one man with a large red bulbous scar on his forehead. He was sitting on the cement floor facing a wall. I soon discovered how his forehead had become so deformed. With a rhythmic cadence, as if he was counting the seconds, minutes, hours and days of his life sentence, he slammed his head into the wall. The sound of his head hitting the concrete wall was accompanied by his quiet moaning. Another man walked in a circle along the perimeter of the day room. With his hand held to his chin, he gazed at his flickering fingers oblivious (perhaps intentionally) to his surroundings.

At the center of the floor was a drain and we could see that occasionally an aide would bring in a hose to spray down the men and the urine and feces that had accumulated since the last hose down. While the day room was kept relatively clean, no amount of Lysol or Clorox could mask the smell of human waste and only contributed to the foul stench.

At first, I attributed the wailing, cries and constant moans to the developmental delays of the men. After all, they were considered to be men with severe and profound mental retardation. Then I realized that the source of their cries was the same as the source of our cries when we realize the pain and trauma in our lives. There was one significant difference. Our cries elicit love and support from our friends and family and bring us

comfort. For these men their cries were not heard, would not be answered and had no end.

Mr Superintendent, the women of our class needed no protection that day from the men on the ward. Our only assault came from bearing witness to unimaginable atrocities in your institution. The institution you were responsible for.

We rode back to the University in silence. Just as the death camps had stolen my father's smiles and laughter, we had temporarily lost our joy. Professor Henson need not say a thing. His lecture had been delivered without him speaking.

My Dad and I were tethered by fate to a terrible "secret", a puzzle that would take me a lifetime to understand. A cloak of invisibility had been thrown over a history of diabolical social actions defended by scientists, philosophers, jurists, mathematicians and politicians as being the application of Darwin's theory of evolution. Fate had removed this cloak for my father to see the "lowest extreme of inhumanity" and for me to see the warehouses of atrocities.

Chapter 2 “Keeping the life stream pure”¹ -

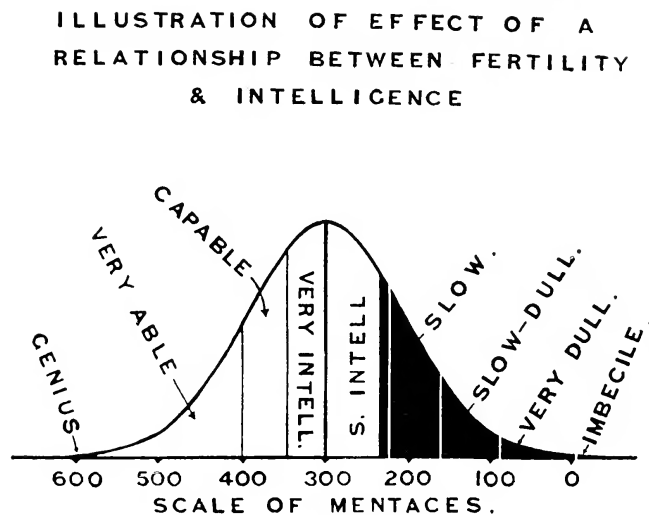
¹ Eugenical Sterilization in the United States: A report of the Psychopathic Laboratory of the Municipal Court of Chicago (1922)

The older I get the more I appreciate that while understanding occurs in the present, it can take many years to grow to fruition. It wasn't until 2009 that I began to understand the common origins of my fathers experience in Germany and my own at Lakeland Village. This coincided with the 150th anniversary of the publication of On the origins of the species by means of natural selection or the preservation of favoured races in the struggle for life by Charles Darwin [1]. Darwin's book inspired many including the English philosopher Herbert Spencer who wrote of the "*survival of the fittest*" in 1864 [2]. Almost twenty years later Darwin's second cousin, Francis Galton, invented eugenics as a social action method influencing the production of good human offspring to ensure the survival of the fittest [3, 4].

Galton was a polymath and his contributions spanned many disciplines. He was accomplished in mathematics (statistics, correlation and regression), genetics, meteorology, geography and psychology, where he is known for pioneering work in differential and experimental psychology. To make the case for his eugenics, Galton needed to determine "*whether and to what degree natural ability was hereditarily transmitted.*" [4].

Galton elaborated upon one of the "fathers" of sociology, Adolphe Quetelet, who created a theory that human perfection in intelligence, physical stature and morals lie in the statistical mean where the perfect man is the average man [5]. This was the era that gave birth to the Intelligence Quotient (IQ) where it was thought that intelligence was statistically distributed around a mean.

Quetelet's statistical distribution of intelligence became the foundation for Pearson's intelligence distribution curve [6] and French psychologists Binet's IQ test [7].



Pearson's Study of Fertility and Intelligence [6]

Binet's Intelligence Quotient was used to determine those children that could be categorized as idiots, imbeciles or morons [8]. On the issue of intelligence, Galton tried to persuade Darwin to accept its mathematical definition causing Darwin to reply:

“You have made a convert of an opponent in one sense for I have always maintained that accepting fools, men did not differ much in intellect, only in zeal and hard work; and I still think (this) is an eminently important difference.” [9]

The purpose of Galton’s eugenic studies of human differences was to explain why some people are different than others and that social actions were necessary to control human breeding. The Preface to his book Hereditary Genius reveals his racist logic:

“The natural ability of which this book mainly treats, is such as a modern European possesses in a much greater average share than men of lower races. There is nothing either in the history of domestic animals or in that of evolution to make us doubt that a race of sane men may be formed who shall be as much superior mentally and morally to the modern European, as the modern European is to the lowest Negro races.” (X:[4])

Writing for the American Journal of Sociology Galton laid out his approach for making eugenics a matter of national importance:

“It must be made familiar as an academic question until its exact importance has been understood and accepted as fact.

It must be recognized as a subject whose practical development deserves serious consideration.

It must be introduced into the national conscience, like a new religion.” (5:[10])

The logic and rationale for eugenics was influenced by Gregor Johann Mendel’s research on the hereditary and traits of pea plants. Mendel’s studies showed that if a defective pea plant could be identified, it then could be eliminated, thus strengthening the species. In 1903, the American Breeding Society (ABA) was established to apply Mendel’s research. Then in 1907, the ABA expanded this application to include eugenics and advocated for positive eugenics or the breeding of the fittest humans [11]. In this expansion, the leadership of the ABA formed the social center of eugenics in the US. Note worthy cultural leaders included Alexander Graham Bell (the inventor of the telephone), the botanist Luther Burbank, cereal inventor John Harvey Kellogg MD and someone we shall meet later, Harvard biologist Charles Benedict Davenport [11].

Eugenicists invented negative eugenics when positive eugenics seemed to fail their cause. Positive eugenics was a social control action that encouraged the breeding of the fittest. Negative eugenics called for a different social action with a preference for controlling the breeding and marriage of the weakest humans. Statistician Karl Pearson shared his concern that the unfit were breeding more than the fit:

We are ceasing as a nation to breed intelligence as we did fifty to a hundred years ago. The mentally better stock in the nation is not reproducing itself at the same rate it did as old; the less able and the less energetic are more fertile than the better stocks. No scheme of wider or more thorough education will bring up, in the scale of intelligence, hereditary weakness to the level of hereditary strength. The only remedy, if one be possible at all, is to alter the relative fertility of the good and the bad stocks in the community.” (159:[12])

I wondered if Pearson considered his irony? Eugenics was founded on the theory that Nature selects races based on the races strengths to survive. Had Nature chosen the mentally “bad stocks” that Pearson feared to be more fertile?

Putting Pearson into practice triggered the invention of broad scale social actions beginning with the identification and selection of “bad stock”. This required the first step of identifying the weak. Galton used exhaustive human measures such as skull size and shape, lung capacity, arm length and hair texture to study human differences as a method for identifying the weak. He was not alone in inventing eugenic research methods.

In his book, *Groundworks of Eugenics*, Pearson began by reflecting upon the role of observers of the biology of the evolution of human societies. He realized humans are “members of the herd” he wished to study. Pearson called for a “higher type of medical man” to “repress sternly the personal and place himself outside the herd for the advancement of science and effectiveness of his craft.” [6].

In laying the groundworks for eugenics social practices Pearson argued for the separation of the observer from the observed. When this is done the opportunities for ethical actions diminish simply because we have lost the spirit to “Do unto others.”

Expand

Pearson also wanted to replace human narrative with statistical facts and apply new statistical methods that formed a new calculus. In his writings he drifted from his primary purpose to describe the ultimate work of the eugenicist:

“The conception of the destruction of the less fit as a beneficent factor of human growth must become part of our mental atmosphere, we must work upon it as its own ethical cause of the mental and physical growth of mankind in the past, not as a blind and hostile natural force carelessly crushing the single life, but as the source of all that we can value in the intellect and physique of the highest type of mankind today.” (23:[13])

He wanted humans to assist Nature in her selective death rates with the “the skillful marksman whose aim is planned” and concluded his “wandering” by presenting martyrdom as an outcome of eugenics social actions:

“On the martyrdom of men is built the triumph of mankind.” [13]

In Pearson’s writings, we find the both the case being made for negative eugenics and his methodology separating the observer from the observed and replacing human narrative with statistical algorithms.

The English philosopher Bertrand Russell wrote about biological and social scientific methods 5 years after Pearson, contributing to the foundation of eugenics [14]. He described two motives that led him toward his philosophical questions. One motive was derived from religion and ethics, and the other from science. Russell choose science over ethics, discrediting ethics as being anthropocentric and “never impartial and thus never scientific.” [14]. He did see the value of a new way of feeling towards life and the world ethics spawns, but, thought that the value was limited to practice and not theory. Russell advocated for his philosophy of “logical optimism” where he maintained that while there were many factors for science to consider, a “whole” composed of those factors should be denied:

“The essence of philosophy as thus conceived is analysis, not synthesis.” [14]

Another British philosopher, Herbert Spencer wrote, “passion perverts judgment” and that emotions created “subjective difficulties” [15].

Galton addressed the problem of morals:

“We must therefore leave morals as far as possible out of the discussion, not entangling ourselves with the almost helpless difficulties as to whether a character as a whole is good or bad.” (1:[10])

Galton, Spencer, Pearson and Russell were laying down the foundation for eugenics scientific methods.

The seven guidelines established by the founders and promoters of eugenics are:

1. The separation of the observer from the observed.
2. The negation of emotions.
3. The replacement of human narrative by a new statistical calculus.
4. The removal of ethics and religion from science and scientific method.
5. The dismissal of wholeness.
6. The elimination of morals.
7. Analysis, not synthesis, as a foundation of scientific philosophy.

Eugenics ontological position is that the nature of our being is such that only the fittest survive. This is nature as Charles Darwin revealed in his studies of the western coast of Chile. But Darwin never wrote of eugenics. It would take his nephew Francis Galton 50 to 60 years after his uncles' *Origins of the Species* to do so.

Philosophers played an important role in applying Darwin's biological studies to social policies and practices. I've mentioned two, Herbert Spencer and Bertrand Russell. Spencer reduced Darwin's theory to a single law that inspired eugenics – survival of the fittest. Both Spencer and Russell contributed to the criterion of social “science” thus establishing the epistemology of eugenics. Eugenics theory of knowledge used the statistics of Pearson, Quetelet, and, Galton in their vain attempts to prove that human racial characteristics were distributed around an arithmetic mean.

This is where we find the failure of eugenics as a science. The ontological claim that the nature of our being is to promote the reproduction of a single race of humans in order to assure that the fittest will survive is easily dismissed. Despite the social actions of eugenics today we see that years of inner racial love and marriage has not resulted in the demise of humankind. Similarly, human traits, like intelligence being distributed around a mean, have not advanced our understanding of humankind or our social nature.

In other words, the claims of the promoters of eugenics are invalid from both an ontological and epistemological perspective. This has me question whether or not and to what extent have we conserved the ontological and epistemological groundings of eugenics in the training and education of those studying social and behavioral sciences? If we have, is there an opportunity for social science to innovate and move towards social actions whose purpose is to generate and conserve social health and wellbeing? This has been my guiding light, illuminating my professional path – a secret of its own waiting to be revealed at the appropriate time. That time is now.

Chapter 3 “*Maximum speed is necessary*” - Financing and organizing eugenics

On June 26, 2015 the US Supreme Court ruled in favor of same sex marriage writing, *“Changed understandings of marriage are characteristic of a Nation where new dimensions of freedom become apparent to new generations.”*[16]. The decision was the end of eugenics social controls on marriage influenced by Galton, Davenport and Laughlin and implemented in states like Oregon at the turn of the 20th Century.

From Galton’s Hereditary Genius:

“I propose to show in this book that man’s natural abilities are derived by inheritance, under exactly the same limitations as are the form and physical features of the whole organic world. Consequently, as it is easy, notwithstanding those limitations, to obtain by careful selection a permanent breed of dogs or horses gifted with peculiar powers of running, or of doing anything else, so it would be quite practical to produce a highly gifted race of men by judicious marriages during several consecutive generations. I shall show that social agencies of an ordinary character, whose influences are little suspected, are at this moment working towards the degradation of human nature, and that others are working towards its improvement. I conclude that each generation has enormous power over the natural gifts of those that follow, and maintain that it is a duty that we owe to humanity to investigate the range of that power, and to exercise it in a way that, without being unwise to ourselves, shall be most advantageous to future inhabitants of the world.” (1:[4])

Before Russell and Pearson proposed their quasi-scientific methods, the organization of eugenic social actions had begun. In an article on how to *“grow a better crop of boys and girls”* the author wrote that those with human differences such as mental illness, disabilities, sex outside of marriage, tuberculosis, physical abnormalities, alcoholism, drug addictions, and criminal histories, should be denied *“the one privilege of becoming progenitors of the race.”* [17]. This attention to human breeding formed the legislation of the social policies of eugenics in the absence of any scientific evidence.

The barons of the Industrial economy quickly embraced the notion of eugenics of eugenics and its proposed threat to the human species by people with differences. More than most, the Harvard biologist we met in the last chapter, Charles Davenport, became their benefactor.

With funding from the Carnegie Foundation, Davenport became the Director of the Station for Experimental Study of Evolution located at Cold Harbor Spring, NY in 1904 [18]. Its purpose was to collect large amounts of data on the genetic characteristics of plants, animals and humans and to store them in a central location [19].

Two years later Davenport co-founded the Race Betterment Foundation in Battle Creek Michigan with the cereal inventor JH Kellogg. Kellogg contributed a large amount of his common stock to the Foundation. The first conference of the Foundation was held in 1914. Its purpose was to assemble evidence as to the extent to which degenerative tendencies were actively at work in America and to promote agencies for Race Betterment. Kellogg gave the opening remarks at the conference:

“If race is degenerating, it is highly important that the world should know it and that such agencies should be set in operation as will save the race of man from the common fate of all other living forms as told and foretold by the geologic records of the earth’s crust.” [20]

Davenport was a prolific fundraiser. In 1904, he had obtained funding from the Carnegie Foundation for his Station for Experimental Study of Evolution. In 1906, came the financing of the Race Betterment Foundation with Kellogg's common stock fortunes. Then with the support of the widow of the railroad baron, EH Harriman Davenport opened the Eugenics Record Office on October 1, 1910. Alexander Graham Bell chaired the Eugenics Record Office Board of Directors. Charles Davenport served as its Director and Harry Laughlin was employed as Superintendent. After its opening, Davenport convinced JD Rockefeller to also contribute to the Eugenics Record Office.

The Eugenics Record Office had nine functions:

1. To serve eugenical interests in the capacity of repository and clearing house.
2. To build up an analytical index of the inborn traits of American families.
3. To train field workers to gather data of eugenic importance.
4. To maintain a field force actually engaged in gathering such data.
5. To cooperate with other institutions and with persons concerned with eugenical study.
6. To investigate the manner of the inheritance of specific human traits.
7. To investigate other eugenical factors such as (a) mate selection, (b) differential fecundity, (c) differential survival, and (d) differential migration.
8. To advise concerning the eugenical fitness of proposed marriages.
9. To publish the results of the research. [11]

After Galton's death, the American eugenics movement began to spread globally, with Davenport frequently at the center of action. In Germany the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Psychiatry, like the Eugenics Record Office, began to collect human remains, or "*inheritance data*", to form the neurological basis for understanding criminal behavior and mental illness. It became the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute of Anthropology with the contribution of \$350,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation [21].

Financing accelerated the social actions of eugenics enabling Davenport's Eugenics Records Office to have a far reach. One of the offices functions was to "*train field workers to gather data of eugenical import*". Some of those field workers travelled to Oregon and began what would become a pattern of social actions. These social actions formed an interesting social network of scientists, mathematicians, philosophers and investors fueled by a sense of irrational urgency.

The first step was to identify those with criminal behavior, mental illness and other differences with aide from the Eugenic Records Office fieldworkers. The second step was to isolate them by putting them into asylums. The third step was to involuntarily sterilize them. It would take 10 years after the opening of the Eugenics Record Office for states like Oregon to pass their own marriage and sterilization legislation. These social procedures needed sponsorship and legislation to become policy. Oregon's social policies and practices were becoming the "poster child" for eugenics.

Almost 100 years before my tour of Lakeland Village an Oregon pioneer, Bethenia Owens-Adair, toured the ward of an asylum in 1880. To Bethenia it was a "*pitiful and loathsome ward*" leading to her conclusion that the "*poor and miserable creatures*" residing there should be sterilized for their "*only chance of safety.*" The Superintendent responded with "*perfect amazement*" and told her not to make her shocking viewpoints public. Bethenia remained strident:

"I hope that the time will come when I will be permitted to use my pen and my voice in this direction for the purification and the preservation of our nation."
(109:[22])

Bethenia believed that *"the trail of the feeble-minded is inevitably transmissible"* and could *"in any generation, turn into insanity or criminality."* Her determination helped Oregon to pass Chapter 279 of the 1917 General Laws of Oregon that Laughlin, the Assistant Director of the Eugenics Record Office, featured in his book on eugenical sterilization in the US [23]. The purpose of Oregon's act was to:

"To prevent the procreation of feeble-minded, insane, epileptic, habitual criminals, moral degenerates and sexual perverts, who may be inmates of institutions maintained by public expense, by authorizing and providing for the sterilization of persons with inferior hereditary potentialities."

The act established the Oregon State Board of Eugenics that would oversee the involuntary sterilizations:

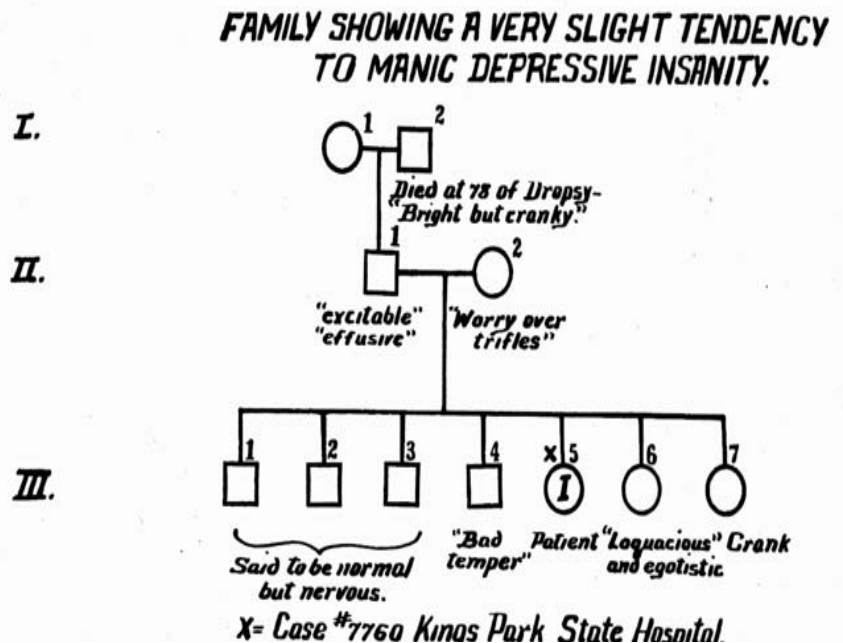
"... for the betterment of the physical, mental, neural, or psychic condition of the inmate, or to protect society from the menace of manner as a punitive measure; and no person shall be emasculated under the authority of this Act except that such operation shall be found to be necessary to improve the physical, mental, neural or psychic condition of the inmate."[23]

Theodore Roosevelt, wrote a Oregon Senator praising the bill [24].

Davenport's industry was paying off. He had created a network of systemic social change to implement eugenics actions. The Research Committees of the Eugenics Section of the American Breeders Association commissioned a project to *"to study and report on the best practical means for cutting off the defective germ-plasm in the American population."* [25] Committee's Secretary Harry Laughlin, who was also the Superintendent of the Eugenics Record Office, would conduct the work. The Eugenics Record Office would publish the report

Laughlin's report included an important new practice preferred by Davenport. Instead of using the IQ bell curve to measure feeble-mindedness, the report presented a tree of degeneracy. This relaxed the statistical rigors of Quetelet, Pearson and Binet in their studies of intelligence and defied empirical processes that define scientific methods. The method of IQ testing was replaced with observations made by field workers of the Eugenics Record Office who were trained by the American Psychologist Goddard [26]. We'll meet Goddard later in a sweeping Supreme Court ruling paving the way for involuntary sterilization.

Laughlin's charting of a family showing *"great susceptibility to manic depressive insanity"* is an



example of the field workers identification of the unfit.

His report recommended the system of social action adopted by Oregon:

1. *Life segregation (or segregation during the reproductive period).*
2. *Sterilization.*
3. *Restrictive marriage laws and customs.*
4. *Eugenical education of the public and of prospective marriage mates.* [25]

The relationship between Bethenia's advocacy for Oregon's sterilization laws and Laughlin's advocacy for identification of the undesirable through field observations, isolation and sterilization is obvious. Davenport's social agenda was playing out across the US in similar ways. He had established a flow of wealth and started training a new form of social work he called field work. Field workers collected "pedigree" data. Davenport and Goodard saw these field workers as human "naturalists" who could observe and classify traits such as feeble-mindedness in the "field" [26].

Systems are networks of networks of relationships. They occur spontaneously and are conserved in circular relations of reflection, collaboration and co-inspiration. We can see these processes in the eugenics system working well in Oregon. Inspired by the work of the Eugenics Record Office led by Davenport and Laughlin, Bethenia brought eugenic actions to Oregon. Inspired by Bethenia and Oregon's actions, Davenport used Oregon as an example of eugenic actions to spread eugenics internationally. Laughlin was also inspired by Oregon and referred to its model legislation. This inspired Oregon to expand its eugenic actions. With the investment of the industrialists, the system of eugenics launched in early 1900's grew as a set of policies and actions in the 1920's.

In 1922, Laughlin featured Oregon's eugenics laws and laws from other states that paving the way for eugenic practices. The purpose of Laughlin's book include the social actions of neighbors reporting suspects to authorities for eugenic treatment:

"First, to law-makers who have to decide upon matters of policy to be worked out in legislation regulating eugenical sterilization; second, to judges of the courts, upon whom, in most of the states having sterilization statutes, devolves the duty of deciding upon the constitutionality of new statutes, and of determining cacogenic individuals and of ordering their sexual sterilization; third, to administrative officers who represent the state in locating, and in eugenically analyzing persons alleged to be cacogenic, and who are responsible for carrying out the orders of the courts; and fourth, to individual citizens who, in the exercise of their civic rights and duties, desire to take the initiative in reporting for official determination and action, specific cases of obvious family degeneracy." (vii: [23])

Bethenia Owens-Adair and Harry Laughlin obliged Davenport in his desires to abandon intelligence testing in favor of observational fieldwork. The remotest notion of a

scientific approach to eugenics was tossed aside in favor of social control actions. Bethenia wrote of this development in reference to the American psychologist Goddard's method used by Laughlin and his fieldworkers.

"I shall not attempt a discussion of the laws of heredity but shall assume an acceptance of them. That mental defects and criminal tendencies are transmissible has been forcibly established by scientific investigators. There is a great quantity of statistical evidence proving this fact. Studies have been made of the genealogies of many different families, good and bad, and the results given the world." (11:[24])

As we will see, Bethenia left her mark by influencing not only those in Oregon but many famous eugenic leaders around the world. Without any supporting evidence, Bethenia created social policies in Oregon that would enable the new social practices of eugenics.

Prior to Oregon's eugenic legislation, Professor Glenn Johnson was teaching at Reed College in Portland Oregon. He described "feeble-mindedness" as a *"teen that has been used to designate all degrees of mental defectiveness, from one who is merely dull and unable to learn fast to the one who is a gelatinous mass that simply lives and eats"*. Johnson referenced 1913 World Almanac data claiming that over 20,755 feeble-minded people were institutionalized in the US. He estimated that only 1,820 "defectives" lived in Oregon because of the young states sparse population. Here again we see the collaboration between States and the Eugenics Record Office as Johnson joined Laughlin in calling on Oregonians to report on any neighbors who appeared different.

Although he thought the population was small, Johnson felt that the "feeble-minded" needed to be combated in Oregon through *"proper marriage laws, segregation of defects and sterilization."* He requested that anyone who knew a *"feeble-minded person or defective living in the State of Oregon who is not in some institution used purposively for the feeble-minded, to communicate the facts to me."* [24]

Civic concerns over sexually transmitted diseases and eugenics overlapped. The Oregon Social Hygiene Society organized in Portland, Oregon to educate citizens on eliminating the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and social vices. A good example of this intertwining of public health and eugenics can be found in The Social Emergency [27] written by the President of Reed College, WT Foster. In his book Foster called for social actions concerning prostitution and sexually transmitted diseases based on Spencer's notion of the survival of the fittest:

"Biologically the all-inclusive issue concerns the survival of the race. Nature has no favorites: the fittest of the human stock will survive after others have degenerated and disappeared; the fittest animals will ultimately people the earth. Sexual degeneracy is the surest road to race extinction. "

Meanwhile, Oregon's efforts to identify the unfit using field surveys continued. In 1920 over ten thousand volunteers including teachers, religious leaders and prominent citizens turned in the names, ages and *"reason for the person's trouble"* of over 45,000 Oregonians. The University of Oregon's President PL Campbell, serving as Vice-President of the Oregon Social Hygiene Society, commented on the survey results – *"The survey indicates very clearly the mutual interdependency of delinquency, dependency and mental defective"* [28]. US Surgeon General Gummig presented Oregon's survey results *"with the hope that facts contained in the survey, collected without expenditures of State*

appropriations by the voluntary efforts of the citizens of Oregon will assist the State government to advance its already high ideals of citizen health and community standards of living.” (v:[29]).

American Public Health had joined the eugenics movement [30].

The survey conducted for the Oregon State Legislature by the US Public Health Service reported over 60,000 feeble-minded lived in Oregon. In 1920, Oregon taxpayers spent \$1 million for the maintenance of six state institutions. Bethenia wrote that the “*number to be cared for grows faster than the accommodations*”, and asked, “*Shall we ask the normal people of our state, in addition to supporting themselves, to carry the burden of maintaining a disproportionate and ever increasing number of defectives and degenerates?*” [22].

The First International Congress on Eugenics was held at the University of London in 1912. Charles Darwin’s son, Leonard Darwin, presided over the Congress entitled “Problems in Eugenics”. Traveling to London for the Congress were the Chairman of the Eugenics Record Office, Alexander Graham Bell and the Director Charles Davenport. In his “Presidential Address” Darwin urged the eugenics Congress to act:

“Ultimately it may be possible to induce Society to adopt a well considered eugenics policy and to carry out reforms on eugenic lines. To attain these ends, however, it is necessary that those who are alive to the dangers of the present social situation should come together for the purpose of exchanging views, and of discussing concerted social schemes of actions. This is the basis on which this meeting is about to assemble.” [31]

At the Congress, Davenport presented a paper on “Marriage Laws and Customs”. He spoke about his Eugenics Record Office field workers who observed that the offspring of a criminal man included an “*epileptic*”, “*two imbeciles*”, and an, “*encephalic monster*”. He also applauded Oregon’s recent marriage laws passed in part due to Bethenia’s tireless efforts, and Oregon’s law prohibiting marriage between “*negroes, Chinese, Kanakas, Indians and white settlers*”.

At the same Congress, Darwin issued his call for action, Davenport said the “*biological basis is doubtless and appreciation of the fact that Negroes and other races carry traits that do not go well with our social organization.*” He concluded his paper with his own eugenic call to action- “*Then, by sterilization, prevent the reproduction of the socially inadequate*”[32]. It would take over 100 years until the US Supreme Court ruled against the last legal barrier to marriage between citizens of the same sex [16].

By 1924, the Kaiser Wilhelm Society had taken over the Institute for Psychiatry in Munich. The founder of Standard Oil, JD Rockefeller’s foundation funded the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Anthropology and the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute of Cell Physiology [33].

Davenport became the President of the International Federation of Eugenic Organizations where he celebrated the openings of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute in 1927. At that time the Director of the Institute was Eugen Fischer. In his celebration of the opening, Davenport forwarded Mussolini a memorandum written by Fischer that surely echoed Davenport’s own call to action – “*Maximum speed is necessary: the danger is enormous.*” [33].

Davenport suggested that Fischer succeed him as President of the International Federation of Eugenics Organizations, but Fischer declined in favor of playing a critical role in bringing eugenics to Nazi Germany.

Chapter 4 “*Three generations of imbeciles are enough*” US Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendall Holmes

The fuel of finance accelerated eugenics and its own dark social actions guided by the Directors of biometric laboratories including Davenport in the US, Galton and Pearson in the UK and Fischer in Germany. At the same time the Directors were struggling to find a suitable “scientific” method to legitimize eugenics as a science, Galton and Pearson used biometry, an application of statistics to biological phenomena, to study eugenics. Inspired by the statistics of Quetelet [4], Galton had begun to collect data on the physical differences of humans such as hair color and texture, skull shapes and sizes and body height and weight ².

The enormous task of correlating the massive data set was beyond Galton’s capabilities. In 1907, he described new statistical methods for calculating standard deviation, skew, mean, binominals and correlation. He wrote that there was insufficient evidence to justify eugenics legislation; this was apparently not a concern of Bethenia Owens-Adair or Harry Laughlin. In his book Galton reached a chilling and zealous conclusion:

“When the desired fullness of information shall have been acquired, then, and not before then, will it be the fit moment to proclaim a ‘Jehad’ or Holy War against customs and prejudices that impair the physical and moral qualities of our race.”
(30:[34])

Back in the US in 1927, advocates for eugenics won a legal case for the involuntary sterilization of Carrie Buck a “moral imbecile” and daughter of a “feeble-minded” mother who had been institutionalized. The court case relied heavily on the Psychologist Goddard’s case study of a resident in his institution originally called the New Jersey Home for the Education and Care of Feeble-minded Children.

Goddard’s evidence of feeble-mindedness was displayed in a family tree or pedigree chart. The case study of “*Deborah Kallikak*” featured Goddard’s pedigree chart showing that Martin Kallikak’s marriage to his lawful wife resulted in healthy, or “normal”, offspring (N) while his children from a “*Nameless Feeble-minded Girl*” he did not marry, was the lineage of feeble-mindedness (F) Deborah supposedly inherited. Out of the nine children Martin Kallikak had with his “legal wife” all were “normal” while out of the nine children he had with the nameless feeble-minded girl out of wedlock, seven of the nine were “feeble-minded”.

The pedigree chart used as evidence for the Supreme Court case had become a new psychological tool for identifying the “feeble-minded”.

² Quetelet used body height and weight data to invent body mass index a measure still used today to measure obesity.

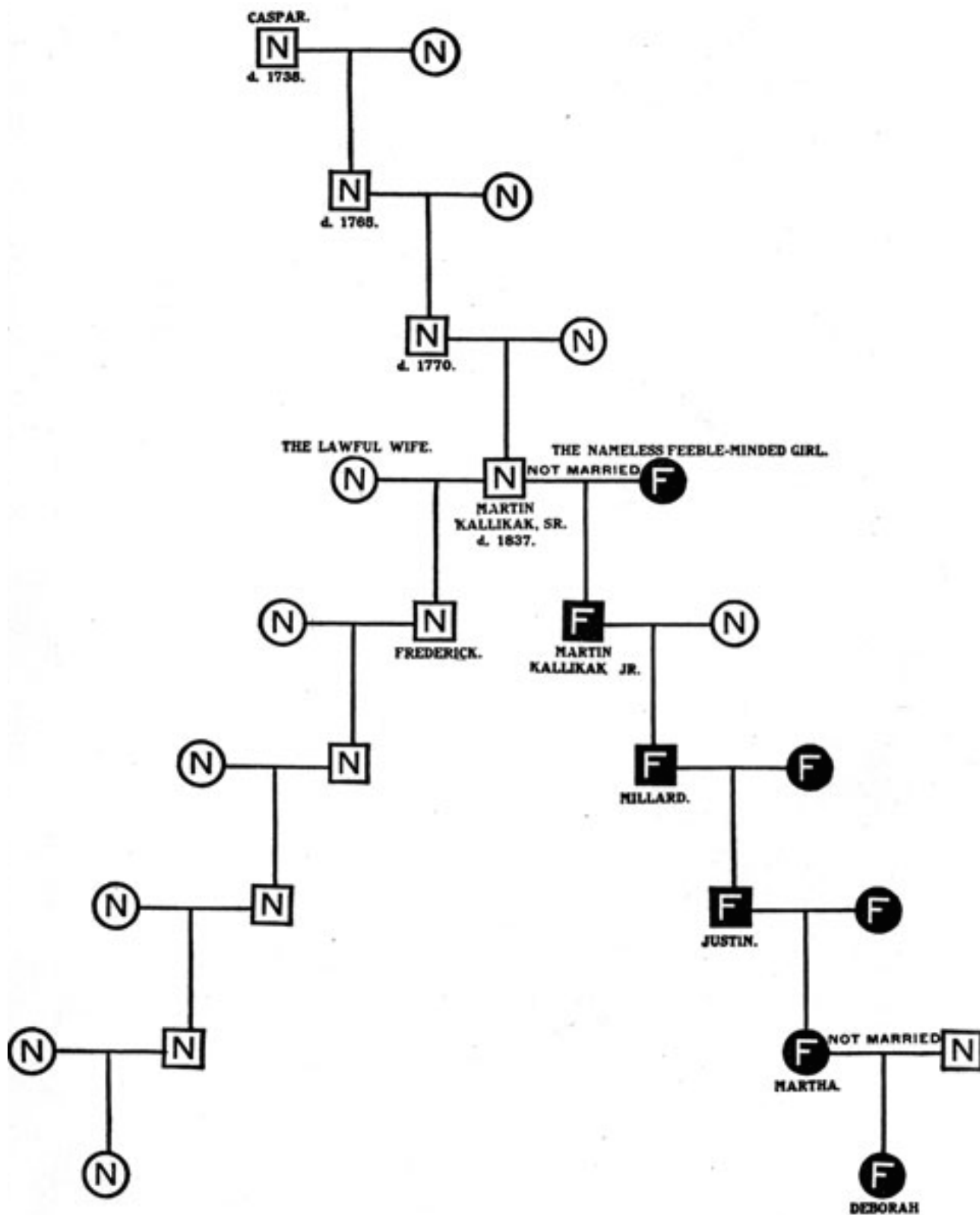


CHART I.

Harry Laughlin had become the Director of the Eugenics Record Office and was an expert witness at the trial. He sent a Red Cross field worker to visit Carrie's seven month old baby. The field worker testified that the baby had a look that "*was not quite normal.*" The US Supreme Court voted 8 to 1 against Carrie claiming her family was afflicted with "*hereditary feeble-mindedness*". Commenting on the 1927-landmark Buck v. Bell case in support of sterilization Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes gave the majority opinion:

"We have seen more than once that the public welfare may call upon the best citizens for their lives. It would be strange if it could not call upon those who already sap the strength of the State for these lesser sacrifices, often not felt to be such by those concerned, in order to prevent our being swamped with incompetence. It is better for all the world, if instead of waiting to execute degenerate offspring for crime, or to let them starve for their imbecility, society can prevent those who are manifestly unfit from continuing their kind. The principle that sustains compulsory vaccination is broad enough to cover cutting the Fallopian tubes. Jacobson v. Massachusetts, 197 U.S. 11, 25 S. Ct. 358, 3 Ann. Cas. 765. Three generations of imbeciles are enough. [274 U.S. 200, 208] But, it is said, however it might be if this reasoning were applied generally, it fails when it is confined to the small number who are in the institutions named and is not applied to the multitudes outside. It is the usual last resort of constitutional arguments to point out shortcomings of this sort. But the answer is that the law does all that is needed when it does all that it can, indicates a policy, applies it to all within the lines, and seeks to bring within the lines all similarly situated so far and so fast as its means allow. Of course so far as the operations enable those who otherwise must be kept confined to be returned to the world, and thus open the asylum to others, the equality aimed at will be more nearly reached." [35]

The Supreme Court ruling hastened the growth of the eugenics movement in the US. Field work observation along with the Binet-Simon Intelligence Quotient test became the preferred tool for measuring intelligence and identifying "*idiots, imbeciles and morons*". [7, 8]

One sad irony is worth mentioning. While the Buck v. Bell Case was being deliberated in 1927 and influenced by Goddard's case study on the "Kallikaks", Goddard fundamentally changed his views. The year before the Supreme Court case, Goddard began thinking about what he meant when he used the term "*moron*".

Those who measured as twelve years or less on the Binet-Simon scale had been diagnosed as "*feeble-minded*". In 1926, Goddard wrote for those who tested below the mental age of twelve, "*to call them all feeble-minded was an absurdity of the highest degree.*" I admire Goddard's responsibility in declaring that his methods needed to be rebuked:

"And now must our nakedness be exposed! In this year of grace, nineteen hundred and twenty six, after three quarters of a century of intensive study of it we are still limited to a definition of feeble-mindedness that is unscientific and unsatisfactory."

The "science of intelligence" had failed according to Goddard because practitioners used subjective judgments to define "*feeble-mindedness*":

"Such a definition is not scientific because it is not defined."[26, 36]

Eugenics as a pattern of social actions continued despite leaders, such as Galton and Goddard, concerns that the actions were not supported by science. The actions also had a consistency in their application. The unfit were identified (through IQ testing or field observation), isolated (in state operated institutions) and sterilized (without consent). Finally, they were abandoned to a life as a sub-human resident of state hospitals and subjected to endless atrocities including physical torture, rape and murder.

In Germany, six years before becoming the Director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute of Anthropology, Eugen Fischer co-authored a book with Erwin Baur and Fritz Lenz inspired by the eugenics movement. The Principles of Human Heredity and Race Hygiene [37] was read by Adolf Hitler when he was imprisoned in Landsberg, where he incorporated many of the racial views in his own book, Mein Kampf [38].

In 1933 Hitler became the Chancellor of the Third Reich and appointed Eugen Fischer the Rector of Frederick William University of Berlin [33]. The Nazi's established goals similar to American eugenicists to identify, isolate and sterilize the “*unfit*” and added “removing” (killing) to the social practice [33].

In 1937, ten years after the Buck v. Bell decision, Hitler's Chancellery handed down a decision to sterilize “*colored children*”. In 1938 the scope for sterilization expanded to include those with “*hereditary defects, asocials and unsocials*”. They would be committed to concentration camps upon the recommendations by a tribunal of hereditary health.

An estimated 350,000-400,000 were sterilized by the Third Reich between 1934-1939 as the ripple of racial rejection continued to expand. Professor Fischer, once nominated by Davenport to head the International Federation of Eugenic Organizations in 1932, lectured in 1939:

“When a people wants, somehow or other, to preserve its own nature, it must reject alien racial elements, and when these have already insinuated themselves, it must suppress and eliminate them. The Jew is such an alien and therefore, when he wants to insinuate himself, he must be warded off. This is self-defence. In saying this, I do not characterize every Jew as inferior, as Negroes are, and I do not underestimate the greatest enemy with whom we have to fight. But I reject Jewry with every means in my power, and without reserve, in order to preserve the hereditary endowment of my people.” (12:[33])

The Kaiser Wilhelm Institute of Anthropology began teaching government medical doctors and Hitler's paramilitary SS in anthropology and genetics. Dr Friz Lenz (one of Fischer's co-authors on The Principles of Hereditary and Race Hygiene) was responsible for the scientific training. He collaborated with psychiatrists, mental hospital directors, medical civil servants and SS doctors in creating a draft law for euthanasia permitting for the necessary killing of psychiatric patients. The draft law was aimed at efficiency. It was used to empty the majority of mental hospitals and homes. This dealt with the “problem” of current hospital residents but not the flow of future residents being referred to them.

The “Reich Commission for the Registration of Severe Disorders in Childhood” formed to establish the criteria for killing children with mental retardation and disease. From, 1939-1940 the Commission focused its efforts on killing children under the age of 4 but later included adolescents as well. “Patients” would be taken to an intermediary “observational institution” and then transferred to an extermination center where they were stripped naked and murdered with carbon monoxide gas [33].

1934 marked the beginning of the eugenics movement in Nazi Germany and by 1939, 50,000 people identified as “*feeble-minded, deformed, or, insane*” were put to death in gas chambers [18] along with almost 290,000 psychiatric patients. By the time the war ended in 1945 4-6 million Jews were put to death in one of six euthanasia centers. PFC Harold Sadow, witnessed the horror first hand and sent photos of the holocaust to my mother.

The circle of the eugenic social actions was complete when the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute of Brain Research proceeded to harvest the brains of “*feeble-minded children and idiots*”. At the mental hospital in Gorden Professor Hallervorden gave the grim instructions:

“Look here now, boys, if you are to kill all of these people at least take the brains out so that the material can be utilized.” [33]

Chapter 5 “*Will anything happen to me?*” Sister Worle, Kaufbeuren Asylum

1945 April 30

Adolf Hitler commits suicide when he realizes his armies could no longer defend Berlin.

1945 May 08

Victory in Europe (VE Day) is recognized in the US and Great Britain.

1945 June 13

PFC Harold Sadow sends photos of the Nordehausen death camp to his young wife.

1945 Stars and Stripes article [39]

The war was over but even the defeat of Nazi Germany wouldn't stop eugenics and the atrocities rolled on. My Dad sent a copy of a July 5, 1945 Stars and Stripes article to my Mom:



Kaufbeuren Institution

1945 July 5 Stars and Stripes [39]

Nazi Murder Camp is Found Operating After U.S. Conquest

By Howard Byrnes, Staff Correspondent

Kaufbeuren, Bavaria July 5- More than one month after American troops occupied this town, imbecile German children and mentally deranged adults in Kaufbeuren asylum were still being exterminated by German doctors, nurses and Nuns for the improvement of the German race.

The mass murder factory was discovered two days ago by two public health officers of the Munich Military Government.

The bodies of the victims, who before they died, were used for months as human guinea pigs in scientific experiments, were cremated on the premises.

Killed 211 Children

The head nurse of one of the children's wards, Sister Worle, confessed to having poisoned or killed by intra-muscular injection at least 211 minors. She drew a monthly bonus of 35 marks from the German government for her extra services. When arrested, she asked innocently, 'Will anything happen to me?'

Dr Valentin Falthausen, 69, who directed the institution and another at nearby Irsee, has been arrested along with other members of the hospital staff. Dr Lochar Gartner, second in charge, hanged himself before American soldiers entered.

Starvation Experiments

In the hospital's uncooled morgue, Americans discovered bodies of men and women who had died from 12 hours to three days before. All were skin covered skeletons, some weighing less than 60 pounds. They had been used for poison and starvation experiments.

Among the 360 nurses and medical attendants, who supervised the 2,046 patients found living in the two institutions, were many Catholic and Lutheran Sisters. Sister Olga Hittler, who stonily confessed to the poisoning of 'at least 30-40 persons', was asked whether she was a Christian and believed in God. She answered briskly:

'I am a Lutheran, and that is a personal matter which does not concern you.'

Threatened with Dachau

Employees stated they knew what was happening around them, but they said they had been threatened with shipment to Dachau if they spoke of it.

One Lutheran minister and a Catholic priest were discovered on the premises.

The patients were recruited from all parts of Germany, and office files revealed numerous pitiful letters from patients and their relatives.

It was the custom of the institution to wire the next of kin before the murders were committed, saying that the patient had taken a turn for the worse. Several days later, another wire was sent saying that the patient had been buried at Kaufbeurn cemetery or had been cremated.

One theory advanced for the starvation experiments was that the Germans wished to determine how low a human diet could be reduced before death resulted. Conceivably, this knowledge might have been useful to them in plan- (Continued on Page 8) [39]

1974 Testimony to the 93d Congress Senate [40]

Dr Robert Cook – *“The institutionalized mentally retarded are the most neglected of all persons in our society. They have been subjected to ethical and legal abuses, with loss of right, both civil and personal, frequently occurring without a semblance of due process. Such abuses have recently been recognized, class action suits through the courts and some change can be expected. Some of the dehumanizing aspects result from gross inadequacies of institutional facilities, programs and personnel are not a necessary consequence of residential care.*

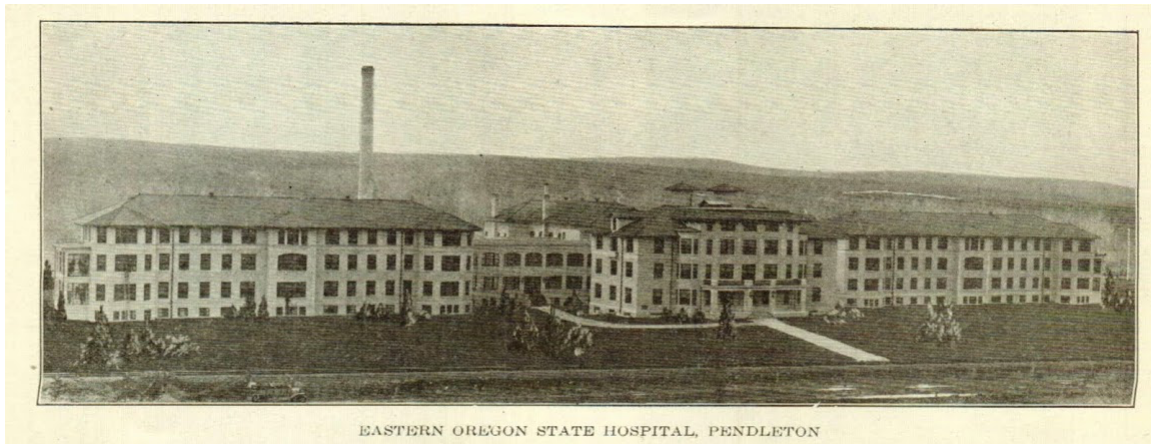
There is no question but residential care outside the parents home is necessary in some instances. Families for a host of reasons may not be able to cope. Families may disintegrate from illness: physical, mental or social. The retarded or disabled may present management problems far greater than any parent can take care of, or the retarded may age, and move into adult life without parental care. Thus, we will need residential care for many, many years to come.”

United Cerebral Palsy Association – *“It is particularly distressing to us to visit adult wards of institutions for the retarded and recognize individuals we have known as a happy bright child in one of the United Cerebral Palsy Centers severely handicapped but responsive to therapy and with potential for some measure of independent living and work under sheltered conditions. There he lies – his contractures have been allowed to take over. His body pulled into a weird nonfunctional position. His muscles have atrophied through disuse, his decubiti are ulcerating, his sad eyes stare at the ceiling with nothing to look forward to but an endless succession of purposeless tomorrows! What a waste of human potential, of time, of money! What an indictment of society that would allow this to happen to a fellow human being.”*

Geraldo Rivera – *“... I don't know the differences in distinctions in between the moderately and mild and profound mentally retarded, but I do know when you walk into a room that is about half the size as this one that has 200 children in it and these children are smeared with their own feces and they are naked and dressed in rags and knocking their heads against the wall and there are only three or four attendants to take care of these kids, I don't have to be a specialist to know that there is something wrong there.”*

American Association on Mental Deficiency Evaluation Report on Portlow State School (Tuscaloosa, Alabama) – *“Ground food was brought into the day room in a very large aluminum bowl with nine metal plates and nine metal spoons. Nine working residents were sent in to feed these 54 young boys from this one bowl of food and nine plates and nine spoons. The feeding was accomplished in a total state of confusion. Since there were no accommodations to even sit down to eat, it was impossible to tell which residents had not been fed with the system.”*

1979 Eastern Oregon Hospital and Training Center Fact Sheet [41]



EASTERN OREGON STATE HOSPITAL, PENDLETON

Eastern Oregon State Hospital

“In June 1979, a moderately to severely retarded, 51 year old man was found severely beaten, he nearly died.”

“In the Spring of 1979, a severely retarded woman was raped and impregnated on an all locked women’s ward.

“In February 1980, an undercover investigation by staff of the Attorney General’s office on one hospital ward resulted in the documentation of 37 incidents of abuse. Fifteen direct care staff were dismissed and seven employees were criminally indicted for their actions.”

1980 Oregon Statesman article [42]

Pendleton Hospital Patients reported victims of atrocities.

B. Bartley (1980)

State investigators say patients at the Eastern Oregon Hospital and Training Center frequently were called obscene names, choked into unconsciousness and slapped, bit, and kicked for no apparent reason.

According to the state complaint against her, Handley kicked a resident in the crotch and head after he took some bread from another patient.

A favorite exercise of several aides was to throw a basketball into the face of a patient while the residents were playing in the gym.

Aides were said routinely to have choked patients unconscious at the slightest provocation, leaving the victims twitching in convulsions.

One aide is accused of using a retractable key chain to pinch the penis of a patient for 10-15 seconds. The attack caused 'extreme pain' to the resident 'as evidenced by the distressed sounds he made, and failing his legs and arms' investigators reported.

One aide reportedly told another that it didn't hurt the patients because they don't know what was happening to them.

... patients were encouraged by aides to strike one another - which they did. Several aides were accused of forcing patients to use their own hands or fists to strike themselves.

After offering a handshake an aide squeezed a patients own hand so hard as to cause geat pain. "The resident finally became so upset he started biting himself," one complaint said.

A hard plastic bucket was placed over one patients head and an aide pounded on it, in another reported instance.

When a trainee asked a question in a training session, he allegedly was told by a supervisor, 'That's the trouble with you new aides; you come up here and see a few things that you think are not right or abusive, the you go around shooting your mouth off when you don't know what your talking about.' [42]

2002 Fairview Hospital and Training Center (Salem, Oregon)



Fairview Hospital and Training Center

**EW Lavrien,
Retired**

Geneticist living at Fairview – *“We did the best job we could for the individual as well as society.”*

Fairview Residents –

“I was handicapped, but it made me sicker to be there. It was like prison. Handcuff. Shut door.”

“I didn’t like it there. People mean.”

“They were strict at Fairview. You got beat up, yelled at. They put us in closets.”

“They used their shoes to spank us also.”

“If you don’t behave yourself, they would get you with scalding water.”

2002 Oregonian article [43]

Eugenics Records Shredded: Documentation of the last 20 years of forced sterilizations in Oregon has mysteriously disappeared from State archives

By Julie Sullivan
Edited by myself 9/20/15

Records chronicling the forced sterilization of 2,650 Oregonians have disappeared or been shredded, erasing proof of one of the state's most troubling chapters that advocates now want addressed.

Extensive searches for the records of the Board of Eugenics and its successor, the Board of Social Protection, have so far turned up little beyond annual two-page reports issued before 1950.

That's because the records were shredded at the request of a state employee -- whose identity remains a mystery -- and in violation of state law.

"We destroyed them," said John Murphy, president of the nonprofit Portland Habilitation Center, which held the state contract to shred the records. "I remember them very clearly. We had to decide ethically because we had an obligation to destroy them, but we were thinking, 'Someday these could be the evidence of an atrocity.' "

On Monday, state employees, acting at The Oregonian's request, completed a fruitless search of the Oregon State Hospital basement in Salem as student archivists scrutinized microfilm of board minutes from prior to 1963. Missing are case files, consent forms and any record of the last 20 years' work of the Board of Eugenics and Board of Social Protection.

No trace remains of two cases that reached the Oregon Court of Appeals in the early 1970s, including one that the U.S. Supreme Court later declined to hear.

Murphy and his employees remember shredding the records from the state mental health division because the contents were so disturbing. Inside "nicely bound volumes," Murphy said, were the analysis, discussion and conclusion of board members who referred to people in the medical terms of the time: idiots, mongoloids and cretins.

"All the playground insults you've ever heard in your life seemed to be the categories that they put people in," Murphy said. "Every ugly term you can think of for human beings. . . . This wasn't a book or two. This was a bunch of stuff."

The memory sticks with Murphy for another reason. Portland Habilitation Center is one of the state's largest employers of people with disabilities and mental illness.

"The very people who at one time would have been put in harm's way by the board, instead made a living wage shredding the remnants of its work," said Peter Bragdon, senior counsel for Columbia Sportswear Co.

and a former member of the Portland Habilitation Center board. Murphy said his staff assumed that the documents, like the canceled checks and other records they routinely handle, had been microfilmed. But no such microfilm has been found.

One of the chief legal and historical experts of eugenics said records have disappeared nationwide. Paul Lombardo, a University of Virginia law professor and historian whose research has driven much of the eugenics discussion nationwide, said the destruction of such records represents "the worst kind of bureaucratic negligence."

"Now there is no evidence that would allow government to reflect and say, 'We did this' or for people to look at it and learn from it, or for the people involved to make the case they've been harmed or even document the fact it happened," Lombardo said.

"It's a tragedy and a terrible way to conduct public policy." In the hushed halls of the Oregon State Library, librarian Merrialyce Blanchard oversees a eugenics collection that includes more than 80 items, only a single page of which records what happened in Oregon. Blanchard, who said she has gone out of her way to preserve and protect the collection, is disturbed by news of the records' destruction. "If we lose this information, we could rewrite our own history."

2012 CNN report [44]



Sonoma State Hospital (now Sonoma Developmental Center)

California'

s dark legacy of forced sterilizations

By Elizabeth Cohen and John Bonifield, CNN

Six decades ago, Charlie Follett was a teenager living in California's Sonoma State Home. As he did most days, Follett sat in a field, singing popular songs to himself, enjoying the sunshine and the solitude.

Suddenly, someone came outside to get Follett and brought him to the hospital. They told him to lie down on an operating table, and then the needle came out.

"First, they shot me with some kind of medicine. It was supposed to deaden the nerves," he said. "Then the next thing I heard was snip, snip, and that was it."

The doctors didn't tell Follett what they were doing, but he knew anyway. Other boys at the Sonoma State Home had told him how much it hurt to have a vasectomy. Now it was his turn.

"When they did (my right side), it seemed like they were pulling my whole insides out," said Follett, now 82 and living in Stockton.

California: Leader in forced sterilizations

Follett was one of 20,000 Californians forcibly sterilized by the state from 1909 to 1963.

The goal was to rid society of people thought to be undesirable: people labeled "feeble-minded" or "defectives."

"It's one of the most horrific and shameful chapters in California's history," said Los Angeles civil rights attorney Areva Martin.

Thirty-two states had eugenics programs, but California was in a league of its own.

The Golden State sterilized more than twice as many people as the next state, Virginia, which sterilized 8,300, according to Paul Lombardo, a professor at Georgia State University's College of Law.

The law said that wards of the state like Follett had to be sterilized in order to be discharged from institutions like Sonoma, according to Christina Cogdell, a cultural historian at the University of California-Davis and author of "Eugenic Design."

Men and women, boys and girls, were sent to state institutions for all sorts of reasons. Some had serious developmental disabilities. Follett ended up at Sonoma because his parents were alcoholics and couldn't care for him.

In the mid-20th century, the country's intellectual elite such as doctors, geneticists and Supreme Court justices supported forced sterilizations.

In California, the eugenics movement was led by figures such as William Starr Jordan, president of Stanford University, and Harry Chandler, publisher of the Los Angeles Times.

In other states, the sterilization program would stop and start due to legal challenges, but California's ran strong for more than half a century, Cogdell said.

"If you were deemed worthy of being sterilized by a doctor, there was no board where you could have a hearing to protest," he said.

California's movement was so effective that in the 1930s, members of the Nazi party asked California eugenicists for advice on how to run their own sterilization program.

Germany used California's program as its chief example that this was a working, successful policy," Cogdell said. "They modeled their law on California's law."

In 2003, then-Gov. Gray Davis apologized for the forced sterilizations, but Follett wants compensation for not being able to have children of his own.

"What really ticks me off is, it kills my last name," Follett said. "If I should die tomorrow, everything's died." Over the past few years, a friend of Follett's has tried to help him seek justice. Rudy Banlasan, a nursing student, has written letters and e-mails on Follett's behalf to Gov. Edmund "Jerry" Brown and other state politicians and officials.

He has not succeeded in getting any of them to speak with him. Banlasan keeps a file of the e-mails he's sent to politicians and the form letters he's received in return.

"I hate to sound so cynical, but I think they're just waiting for the victims to die and forget this whole thing ever happened," Banlasan said.

"There's nothing more to add"

CNN's attempts to contact politicians have been unsuccessful. The governor's office referred CNN to the state Department of Developmental Services, which sent a two-sentence statement: "The State of California deeply regrets the harm caused to victims of involuntary sterilization that occurred through the first half of the 1900s. This was a sad and painful period in California's history, one that should never be repeated."

When CNN asked Brown for his stance on reparations for sterilization victims, press secretary Gil Duran sent an e-mail referring to the statement. "There's nothing more to add," he wrote.

CNN also sent e-mails and made phone calls to the office of John Perez, speaker of the California Assembly. When no response was received, CNN visited his office in Sacramento. His spokesman, John Vigna, said the speaker was tied up in meetings.

"This is an issue I personally am just learning about and looking into," Vigna said.

California's response to victims stands in stark contrast to North Carolina's.

North Carolina task force recommends \$50,000 for sterilization victims

In that state, Gov. Bev Perdue has sought out victims and held hearings where she apologized personally and heard their stories. She also set up a task force to help the victims and recommended that each receive \$50,000 in reparations.

"That's not happening in California," said Martin, the civil rights attorney. "To think that we're behind on this issue instead of leading on this issue is very troublesome."

"California has not done right"

Art Torres is the former California state senator who wrote the 1979 legislation outlawing sterilization.

He said he's not surprised politicians are reticent on the subject.

"I would venture to say most people in this legislature -- and most people in California -- aren't even aware there was a eugenics movement in California," Torres said.

Californians, he added, need to face their history and at least hold hearings and invite victims to tell their stories.

"California has not done right by these victims," Torres said. "But I think California and Californians need to be aware of their history." [44]

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Abuse, neglect caused 13 deaths at California state-run developmental centers

By Jennifer Velez April 07, 2015

State-run homes for the developmentally disabled have been directly responsible for 13 deaths of patients since 2002, [according to records](#) from the California Department of Public Health. The documents obtained by the [Center for Investigative Reporting](#) show abuse, lack of supervision and neglect led to the deaths in the homes, which provide services for men and women with serious cases of autism, cerebral palsy and other disabilities.

Six of the 13 deaths occurred at the Fairview Developmental Center in Costa Mesa. A 2009 case at Fairview, where a teen patient smothered another girl with a pillow, was ruled a homicide that was not entirely the facility's fault, though the state said Fairview's "practices posed 'imminent danger' of death or injury," according to CIR.

CIR says the department had shielded information on the deaths from the public for years, using patient privacy concerns to keep them hidden:

The documents paint a disturbing portrait of life inside California's five developmental centers, where 1,115 patients are housed at taxpayer expense because their guardians are unable to provide round-the-clock care or the patients have no family at all. Few populations are more vulnerable to abuse – many are unable to form sentences or communicate clearly – or more difficult to supervise.

In February, [the Supreme Court ruled](#) that the public health department make the documents public. According to CIR, citations from the time detail a history of resident mistreatment: They show that the centers often not only failed to protect residents from harm, but also had an active hand in resident mistreatment and deaths.

In total, the public health department fined developmental centers for their actions in the deaths of 22 residents since 2002.

The incidents in the documents ranged from death to verbal abuse.

Centers that were fined include the Sonoma Developmental Center, Pomona's Lanterman Developmental Center and the Fairview Developmental Center in Costa Mesa.

"DDS is fully aware of the need for continuous improvement in the delivery of services at the developmental centers," spokeswoman Nancy Lungren told the CIR via an email.

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