Bibliography of First-Person Narratives of Madness In English (4th edition)

This Bibliography is in four sections: (1) personal accounts of madness written by survivors themselves; (2) narratives written by family members; (3) anthologies and critical analyses of the madness narrative genre; and (4) websites featuring oral histories and other first-person madness accounts.

Last revised in November 2008 with assistance from Cheryl McGraw, Catherine Riffin, and Moriah Silver.

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Personal Accounts of Madness by Survivors Themselves


----- *Bedlamiana: or, Selections from the "Asylum Journal."* Lowell, for the Compiler, 1846.


Bruckshaw, Samuel. The Case, Petition, and Address of Samuel Bruckshaw, who Suffered a Most Severe Imprisonment, for Very Near the Whole Year, Loaded with Irons, without Being Heard in his Defense, Nay Even without Being Accused, and at Last Denied an Appeal to a Jury. Humbly Offered to the Perusal and Consideration of the Public. London: The Author, 1774.


Crowe, Anne Mary. **A Letter to Dr. R. D. Willis: to Which are Added, Copies of Three Other Letters: Published in the Hope of Rousing a Humane Nation to the Consideration of the Miseries Arising from Private Madhouses: with a Preliminary Address to Lord Erskine**. London: The Author, 1811.


----- **The London-Citizen Exceedingly Injured: or, a British Inquisition Display’d, in an Account of the Unparallel’d Case of a Citizen of London, Bookseller to the Late Queen, Who Was in a Most Unjust and Arbitrary Manner Sent on the 23rd of March Last, 1738, by One Robert Wightman, a Mere Stranger, to a Private Madhouse. London: T. Cooper, 1739.**

----- **Mr. Cruden Greatly Injured: An Account of a Trial between Mr. Alexander Cruden, Bookseller to the Late Queen, Plaintiff, and Dr. Monro, Matthew Wright, John Oswald, and John Davis, Defendants; in the Court of the Common-Pl eas in Westminster Hall July 17, 1739, on an Action of Trespass, Assault and Imprisonment: the Said Mr. Cruden, Tho’ in His Right Senses, Having Been Unjustly Confined and Barbarously Used in the Said Matthew Wright’s Private Madhouse at Bethnal-Green for Nine Weeks and Six Days, till He Made His Wonderful Escape May 31, 1739. To Which is Added a Surprising Account of Several Other Persons, Who Have Been Mostly Unjustly Confined in Private Madhouses. London: A. Injured, 1740.**

Custance, John [pseud.]. **Adventure into the Unconscious**. London: Christopher Johnson, 1954.


Davis, Phoebe E. *Two Years and Three Months in the New York State Lunatic Asylum at Utica, Together with the Outline of Twenty Years’ Peregrinations in Syracuse*. Syracuse: The Author, 1855.


Denny, Lydia B. *Statement of Mrs. Lydia B. Denny, Wife of Reuben S. Denny, of Boston, in Regard to Her Alleged Insanity*. n.p., 1862.


Feurilly, Mary Heustis. *Diary Written in the Provincial Lunatic Asylum*. The Author, 1885.


Fleming, E. G. *Three Years in a Mad House*. Chicago: Donohue, Henneberry, 1893.


Gary, Looney Lee [pseud.]. **The Bridge of Eternity.** New York: Fortuny's, 1940.


Greene, Julie. **Breakdown Lane, Travelled.** Bloomingston, IN: Author House, 2002.


Greiner, S. **Prelude to Sanity.** Fort Lauderdale: Master Publications, 1943.


----- **A Secret Worth Knowing: A Treatise on Insanity, the Only Work of the Kind in the United States or, Perhaps in the Known World: Founded on General Observation and Truth, by G. Grimes, an Inmate of the Lunatic Asylum of Tennessee.** New York: W. H. Graham, 1847.


Johnson, Donald McIntosh. Bars and Barricades, Being the Second Part of "A Publisher Presents Himself." London: Johnson, 1952.

----. A Doctor Regents, Being the First Part of "A Publisher Presents Himself." London: Johnson, 1949.

----. A Doctor Returns, Being the Third Part of "A Publisher Presents Himself." London: John son, 1956.


Kinder, Elaine F. “Postscript on a Benign Psychosis.” *Psychiatry*. 3: 527-34, 1940.


Lee, Kate [pseud.]. *A Year at Elgin Insane Asylum*. New York: Irving, 1902.


----- *The Lunacy Laws and Trade in Lunacy in a Correspondence with the Earl of Shafesbury*. London: Burns, 1872.


----- *I, Mary MacLane, A Diary of Human Days*. New York: Frederick A. Stokes Co., 1917.


Nolan, M. J. Exposure of the Asylum System. 1928.


----- **Marital Power Exemplified in Mrs. Packard’s Trial and Self-Defense from the Charge of Insanity; or, Three Years Imprisonment for Religious Belief, by the Arbitrary Will of a Husband, with an Appeal to the Government to so Change the Laws as to Afford Legal Protection to Married Women.** Hartford, CT: Case, Lockwood, 1866.


----- **Mrs. Olsen’s Narrative of Her One Year Imprisonment, at Jacksonville Insane Asylum; with the Testimony of Mrs. Minard, Mrs. Sheed, Mrs. Yates, and Mrs. Lake, All Corroborated by the Investigating Committee of the Legislature of Illinois.** Chicago: A.B. Case, 1868.

----- **The Mystic Key: or, The Asylum Secret Unlocked.** Hartford: Case, Lockwood & Brainard, 1886.


Penn, Arthur. *California Justice: Is This Supposed to Be a Democracy?* San Francisco: 1941.


----- **Another Section of the “M.S.B.” by L.C.P. A Boomerang for a Swarm of B.B.B.’s.** Boston: n.p., 1884.

----- **Prospectus of Hospital Revelations: How Opinions Vary.** n.p., 1885.

----- **This Red Book is Partly a Reprint of What Was Published in 1883, and Later. And Earlier Letters from Prominent Men. Instructions to Dr. Harlow, from Springfield, His Letters from the Hospitals, and Much Else.** Boston: n.p., 1886.

----- **Hospital Revelations.** n.p., 1888.

----- **An Explanation to the Public as to Why Mrs. Lemira Clarissa Pennell Was Confinced in the Insane Hospital and the Portland Poor House.** Augusta, Maine: n.p., 188[?].

----- **New Horrors.** n.p., 1890.

----- **Leave to Withdraw.** Boston: n.p., n.d.


Stafford, Chad. The Sublime Detour: My Experience with Madness, the True Story of Chad Stafford's Hallucinations. Frederick, MD: Publish America, 2004.


Stone, Elizabeth. *A Sketch of the Life of Elizabeth T. Stone, and of Her Persecution, with an Appendix of Her Treatment and Sufferings While in the Charleston McLean Asylum Where She was Confined Under the Pretence of Insanity*. Boston: The Author, 1842.

--- Remarks by Elizabeth T. Stone, upon the Statements Made by H.B. Skinner, in the Pulpit of the Hamilton Chapel, on Sunday Afternoon, 18th of June 1843, in Reference to What She Had Stated Concerning His Being Chaplain in the Charleston McLean Asylum; and Also a Further Relation on Her Suffering While Confined in That Place for 16 months and 20 days. Boston: The Author, 1843.


Thaw, Harry K. *The Traitor—Being the Untampered with, Unrevised Account of the Trial and All that Led to it*. Philadelphia: Dorrance, 1926.


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Turner, Cyrus S. Eight and One-Half Years in Hell. Des Moines: Turner, 1912.


Wilson, W. *They Call Them Camisoles.* California: Lymanhouse, 1940.


Narratives by Family Members


**Anthologies, Narrative Analyses, and Criticism**


Bridges Creative Writing Group. *I am God's Goldfish and Other Writings*. UK: Breckland Print Solutions, 1999.


Websites Featuring First-Person Madness Narratives

Alaska Mental Health Consumers Website: http://www.akmheweb.org
Antipsychiatry Coalition: http://www.antipsychiatry.org
Asylum Magazine: http://www.asylumonline.net
ECT: http://www.ect.org
Freedom Center: http://www.freedom-center.org
Hearing Voices Network: http://www.hearing-voices.org
Icarus Project: http://www.theicarusproject.net
Institute for the Study of Human Resilience: http://www.bu.edu/resilience
International Guide to the World of Alternative Mental Health: http://www.alternativementalhealth.com
International Community for Hearing Voices: http://www.intervoiceonline.org
Law Project for Psychiatric Rights: http://psychrights.org
M-Power: http://www.m-power.org
Mad Not Bad: http://www.madnotbad.co.uk
Mad Pride: http://www.ctono.freeserve.co.uk
Mental Health Client Action Network of Santa Cruz County: http://www.mhcanc.org
Mental Health Media: http://www.mhmedia.com
Mental Health in the UK: http://www.zoo.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk
Mind: http://www.mind.org.uk
Mind Freedom International: http://www.mindfreedom.org
National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy: http://www.narpa.org
National Empowerment Center: http://www.power2u.org
Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers Association: http://www.pmhca.org
People Who: http://www.peoplewho.org
Prinzhorn Collection: http://prinzhorn.uni-hd.de/index_eng.shtml
Psychiatric Survivor Archives: http://psychiatricsurvivorarchives.com
Successful Schizophrenia: http://www.successfullschizophrenia.org
Survivors Art Foundation: http://www.survivorsartfoundation.org