History of Poor Relief Legislation in Pennsylvania, 1682-1913

Heffner William Clinton
HISTORY

OF

POOR RELIEF LEGISLATION

IN

Pennsylvania

1682-1913

By

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by
WILLIAM CLINTON HEFFNER.
TO

ELLA SALTER-HEFFNER

IN

GRATEFUL MEMORY
PREFACE.

The poor relief legislation of Pennsylvania divides itself into two parts; that preceding the establishment of the County System, and that under it. The former is largely non-institutional; the latter institutional. While the year 1798 marks the introduction of the County Institutional System, the Institutional System, however, began much earlier, just as the non-institutional has perpetuated itself in certain parts of the state even to the present. A sharp dividing line is practically impossible.

In the preparation of this legal social history the author had in view the general reader rather than the legal practitioner, and the absence of legal technique and phraseology may be disappointing to the latter. The footnote references are to specific acts selected out of a multitude and serve also as an index to the important documents and works consulted in its preparation.

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tary material in its possession and to its attendants for their courtesies.

William Clinton Heffner.

Philadelphia, Pa.,
September, 1913.

Note: The word *district* as used in this treatise means, *a township, borough, or any other territorial or municipal division in which officers are charged with the relief and support of the poor.*
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