1912 – Vermont legislature authorizes funding for Vermont State School for Feebleminded Children

1913 – Sterilization bill passes both houses of Vermont legislature but is vetoed by Governor Allen

1915 – Brandon Training School begins operation, serving “feebleminded” children ages 5-21

1918-- Truman J. Allen becomes Superintendant of VSS, succeeding F. Russell

1919 – Age of admission changed from 5-45 for women

1920s – Emphasis is on segregation of the “feebleminded”; eugenicists in the state argue for sterilization as a means of relieving pressure on state institutions like Brandon Training School. Jin *Inventing the Feeble Mind,* historian James Trent calls this “Sterilization for Institutional Population Control” (198).

1923—Vermont Department of Public Welfare is established (replaces VT Board of Charities and Probation, which was established in 1917).

1925 – Rutland Colony House established with Lena Ross as director until 1936.

1925 – Vermont Eugenic Survey begins its work investigating pedigrees of individuals in Vermont state institutions, including Brandon.

1927 – Vermont Eugenic Survey publishes first annual report focusing on three families, which illustrate the benefits of sterilization.

1927 – Another eugenics bill was proposed and passed in the Vermont Senate but not in the House.

1929 – Brandon’a name is changed from Vermont State School for Feebleminded Children to the Brandon State School.

1931 – Vermont enacts a voluntary sterilization law.

1936 – Katherine Dolan takes over as head of RCH

1936 – Eight-hour day legislation interferes with parole and discharge policy because it necessitates retaining inmates as a secondary labor force within the institutions. (Trent, 220)

1937 – Superintendent Truman J. Allen dies; he is replaced by \_\_\_

1939 – Superintendent \_\_\_ dies; he is replaced by a dual administration composed of Frederick Thorne, M.D., who acts as Medical Director, and Albert Barnard, who acts as Operational Superintendent.

1941 – Lillian Ainsworth published “Vermont’s Feeble-Minded Problem,” in which she proposes that Vermont follow the example of South Dakota in implementing an aggressive sterilization lpolicy (Gallagher, 171).

1941 – in response to Ainsworth, the Vermont State General Assembly sets up the State Board of Control of Mentally Defective Persons” (Gallagher, 171).

1941? – epidemic o bacillary dysentery kills many in the low-grade dormitories.

1941-45-- evidence of diminishing support for sterilization and segregation during the war and in the wake of revised welfare policies of the New Deal era – see *An Anthropological View of a Submarginal Culture*

Gallagher notes that social workers with Child Welfare Services and Aid to Dependent Children saw “interventions by the DPW from 1928 to 1942 to have been costly, ineffective, and inhumane.” (Gallagher, 171) Also blamed “Perkins’ negative publicity on the sources of Vermont ‘degeneracy’ in the early annual reports [for complicating] the new agenda to secure community cooperation and acceptance of the previously condemned families. (171)

Gallagher writes, “The Dolesses, in the 1940s diagnosis, were not congenitally feebleminded but suffered from ‘infantilism,’ a developmental disability of many families of the ‘submarginal’ and isolated mountain culture.” (173)

1946, Frederick Thorne, state psychiatrist and superintendent of the BTS, attributed the [Nazi] genocide to the failure of a society o provide a compassionate and scientifically enlightened means to prevent the reproduction of ‘hereditary defectives.’” (174)

Gallagher continues: “Thorne and other mental health officials understood sterilization under VT law to be one enlightened option for some retarded persons, including the twenty who had been sterilized in his own facility over the previous two years.” Gallagher comments,”It would appear that the best defense against fascist eugenics in 1946 was to expand the American version of it”(174). These comments come from the Thorne’s report on the BTS in the Biennial Report of the Department of Public Welfare for 1946.

1946 -- Comprehensive Welfare Program for Vermont – this includes a proposal for the expansion of RCH. Also proposes the creation of an intermediate training facility for boys from Weeks School and Windsor Reformatory ages 16-21 that would be housed in the Riverside Reformatory building (building is too big for current use – proposes building a smaller women’s reformatory).

As the era of the menacing feeble-minded woman wanes and new concerns about juvenile delinquency emerge, the disposition of male inmates becomes a more pressing issue?

1947? – Thorne resigns under a cloud of controversy