

FACULTY COLLOQUIUM

Wednesday

November 28, 2012

UC 222

12-12:50pm

My Travels in Lunacy: Mental Illness in the Early American

Dr. Sarah Swedberg

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Mental illness became a significant concern of Americans by the mid 18th century.

Discussions about mental illness and mental health increasingly appeared in debates over community, citizenship, and nationhood. Anxiety about madness wove its way into private and public writings, in everything from diaries to political speeches. This was not just popular neurosis; medical science increasingly hypothesized a link between civil freedom and insanity.

Lunacy	Eloped	9 mo. 13
Consumption	died	8 mo. 6
Lunacy	remains	
St.	cured	8 mo. 21
D.	ditto	9 mo. 18
Fever	Died	10 mo. 16
ditto	Incurable	8 mo. 4
Lunacy	Relieved	10
ditto	do	7
	do	4

	Admitted	of whom	Cured	Relieved	Retaken out by Friends	Eloped	Died	Remains	Total
Lunacy	74	13	13	1	5	2	40	74	74
Lunacy & epileptic fits	2						2	2	2
Melancholy	1		1					1	1
Epileptic fits	1		1					1	1
Palis	4		1		1		2	4	4
West Hillen (many of these only lost)	5	1	3				1	5	5
Dropsy	7	3				4		7	7
Plurisy	6	1	2			2	1	21	21
Lunacy	20	15			1	4	1	21	21

Please come with your lunch, bring your faculty and staff colleagues, and enjoy the last presentation of the fall Colloquium series