Horace Hollister, the first superintendent of the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, came to Romney in 1870 from the Ohio School for the Deaf at Columbus, where he had been teacher for many years. Having served the school three years, Hollister resigned in October 1873. He returned to Columbus to take up the study of medicine.

Hollister was admirably fitted for the difficult task of launching the school, having had several years of experience of a similar institution in Columbus, Ohio. The records of his administration as well as those of his successors testify that Hollister fulfilled the expectations of all.