Locked Up! Ancestors in Jails and Asylums

Chuck Sherrill
Tennessee State Library & Archives

SAMPLE ENTRIES FROM PRISON AND ASYLUM REPORTS

Report of the Director of the Penitentiary
Bismark, Dakota Territory, 1884

Prisoners Discharged in 1883

sample entry

James Stanton, sent from Cass County for a sentence of 4 years and 6 months. Discharged March 2, 1883. Prison paid $13.40 for suit of clothes and shoes and paid train fare of $14.35. Gave the prisoner $5.00 cash. His place of destination was Fargo, Dakota Territory.

List of Pardons from State Prison Granted by Governor F.F. Low
Journal of the Assembly ...of the Legislature of California
Sacramento, 1866

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sentenced</th>
<th>Name of Prisoner</th>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 1863</td>
<td>Michael McDermott</td>
<td>Grand Larceny</td>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 1861</td>
<td>William P. Fisher</td>
<td>Assault/rape</td>
<td>Merced</td>
<td>5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1864</td>
<td>Ah Chew</td>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>Butte</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Petition praying for his pardon signed by Thomas Hayes, Peter Donahue and other well-known citizens of San Francisco … officers of the prison certify his exemplary conduct …. Therefore, let him be pardoned.

Petition for his pardon signed by numerous well-known citizens of Merced County including County Judge and District Attorney; and represented that Fisher bore a good character previous to his conviction…. Therefore, let him be pardoned.

Since the conviction the property which it was alleged he had stolen has been found, establishing his innocence; … petition signed by all the jurors and the judge stating they believe he is entirely innocent…. Therefore, let him be pardoned.

Statement of the ... Lunatics Confined in Jails and Other Places

sample entries


Margaret Wolf, Highland County. Age 40, race white. Duration of attack: 13 years, with lucid intervals. Confined in jail. Character of the insanity: Seems quiet and harmless. Remarks: Insanity dates from the time a negro was hung in the county, which affected her mind.
Sample Entries from Prison and Asylum Reports (continued)

List of Pupils in the Connecticut Asylum
for the Education and Instruction of Deaf and Dumb Persons
at the close of the year ending in April 1819

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names</th>
<th>Residence</th>
<th>Admission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alice Cogswell</td>
<td>Hartford</td>
<td>April 15, 1817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George H. Loring</td>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>April 15, 1817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson Whiton</td>
<td>Hingham Mass.</td>
<td>April 15, 1817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abigail Dillingham</td>
<td>Lee Mass.</td>
<td>April 16, 1817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Brewer, Jr.</td>
<td>Hampton</td>
<td>April 15, 1817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don Alzono Stanley</td>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td>April 23, 1817</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

and about 50 more

Annual Report of the Board of Trustees
of the Georgia Academy for the Blind
Macon, Georgia
November 1, 1862

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Male Pupils</th>
<th></th>
<th>Female Pupils</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Residence</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Residence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, A. Howard</td>
<td>Burke County</td>
<td>Barbee, Missouri</td>
<td>Jones County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astin, Charles</td>
<td>Campbell County</td>
<td>Barfield, Ceneth</td>
<td>Macon County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bailey, William T.</td>
<td>Gordon County</td>
<td>Bates, Mary Ella</td>
<td>Gordon County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balkum, M.L.</td>
<td>Twiggs County</td>
<td>Beaman, Pauline</td>
<td>Bartow County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnes, Josephus</td>
<td>Bibb County</td>
<td>Collins, Minner</td>
<td>Alabama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boddiford, Alex.</td>
<td>Decatur County</td>
<td>Coley, Nannie</td>
<td>Stewart County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burks, John J.</td>
<td>Clayton County</td>
<td>Coley, Susan V.</td>
<td>Stewart County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp, J.T.</td>
<td>Bibb County</td>
<td>Couch, Mattie</td>
<td>Jackson County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coley, J.T.</td>
<td>Stewart County</td>
<td>Ellington, M.P.</td>
<td>Wilkes County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibson, James</td>
<td>Twiggs County</td>
<td>Estes, S.E.</td>
<td>Paulding County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graves, Josiah S.</td>
<td>Floyd County</td>
<td>Hudgins, Sallie</td>
<td>Gordon County</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

and more

Report of the Court of Directors of the Lunatic Hospital at Williamsburg
January, 1832

Virginia Senate Document No. 28

Accounts Paid
1831, July  James H. Jones, jailor of Gloucester county, for bringing Edward A. Stubbs to lunatic hospital $ 24.00
1831, October Mary A. Galt, for salary as matron from July 1 to October 1 $100.00
" Mildred Bowden, account for fresh meats furnished in September $ 70.25
1831, December Emily Green, a discharged patient from Fredericksburg $ 15.00
" Francis P. Borris, a discharged patient from New Kent county $ 4.00

and more
SOURCES FOR PRISON & ASYLUM SEARCHING

Guide to Microfilmed Legislative Reports
Online at [http://babel.hathitrust.org](http://babel.hathitrust.org)

Links to State Archives Web Sites
*Directory of State Archives.* Council of State Archives (CoSA).
[http://www.statearchivists.org/connect/resources-state](http://www.statearchivists.org/connect/resources-state)

Sample State Archives Web Sites Listing Archival Holdings

Georgia
*Finding Aids @ Georgia Archives.* Georgia Archives.
[http://find.georgiaarchives.org](http://find.georgiaarchives.org)

Kentucky
*Search KDLA Worldcat Discovery.* Kentucky Dept. for Libraries and Archives.
[http://kdlia.on.worldcat.org](http://kdlia.on.worldcat.org)

South Carolina
*South Carolina Archives Catalog.* South Carolina Dept. of Archives and History.
[http://rediscov.sc.gov/scar](http://rediscov.sc.gov/scar)

Tennessee
*Alphabetical List of State Record Groups.* Tennessee State Library and Archives.

Civil War Prison Sources
*Union Provost Marshal's File of Papers Relating to Individual Civilians.* National Archives microfilm publication M345 (300 reels, alphabetical by name).

*Union Provost Marshal's File of Papers Relating to Two or More Civilians.* National Archives microfilm publication M416 (94 reels, semi-alphabetical by name).

*Selected Records of the War Department Relating to Confederate Prisoners of War, 1861-1865.* National Archives microfilm publication M598 (145 reels, by prison).