



State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
**Tennessee State Library and Archives**  
403 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**STATE OF TENNESSEE  
PRISON RECORDS,  
1831-1992**

**PART 2: OVERSIZED VOLUMES**

**RECORD GROUP 25**

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**MICROFILMED**

## INTRODUCTION

This finding aid focuses on the records of the Tennessee penitentiary system that are contained within the oversized volumes of Record Group 25. These prison records span the years 1831 to 1980, along with two volumes of inmate records from the DeBerry Correctional Institute in Nashville, Tenn. which are from 1977 to 1992. These volumes consist of convict records, indexes, letter books, employee records, financial records, committee minutes and other prison records.

This collection was originally processed in 1973, and consisted of one hundred-eighteen oversized volumes and thirty-seven boxes of loose records. In 1999, the State Department of Correction transferred eighty-two volumes of prison records to the State Library and Archives. These records consist of convict records from 1933 to 1980, convict grade books from 1939 to 1960, indexes to convict books, indexes to discharges, prison employee records, a cash book and a visitors register to the Main Prison. Furthermore, two volumes of inmate records from the DeBerry Correctional Institute in Nashville, dated from 1977 to 1992, were received at TSLA from the State Records Center in 2000. The decision was made to completely reprocess Record Group 25, incorporating the most recent acquisitions into the collection.

The listed dates for the index books in this finding aid, used to search for convict records, are purely conjecture. Records keeping by the state penitentiary was not a priority in the first fifty years in the operation of the prison system. Prisoners were transferred among institutions many times during their sentences throughout the years, leading to further confusion. The dates used in this collection are based on spot-checks of various inmate records. Several index books may overlap among their dates. The researcher using this collection may be forced to utilize several indexes in order to find an individual. Volume 22, listed as an "unidentified" index book, could be possibly an index to "colored" prisoners in an unknown institution, but the only evidence of this is a vague pencil-mark on the cover indicating "colored." The particular volume could be a potentially valuable historical find, and deserves future research.

Series 3 of this collection contain letter books of the Advisory Board of Pardons and the Board of Prison Commissioners from 1897 to 1906. These letters were manufactured with a material that has deteriorated over time, and they are in extremely bad condition. They have also been attacked by insects and suffered from water damage. Their usefulness is doubtful for the researcher, however an attempt will be made to microfilm these volumes.

Series 4, Employee Records contain time records for prison employees from 1916 to 1963. Series 5, Financial Records contain payroll books for prison employees from 1907 to 1961. *Employment records for prison employees are confidential according to Administrative Rule 0420-1-20.06 (1989), Authority: Tennessee Code Annotated §§4-3-603, 4-3-606, 4-6-140 and 10-7-504.*

A note of thanks to Gordon Belt, formerly employed at Archival Technical Services, TSLA, whose research on the history of the Tennessee prison system was essential in the completion of this finding aid.

Aside from the employee records contained in Series 4, there are no restrictions on the use of this collection. This collection has been microfilmed in the interests of preservation of the materials, and it is strongly urged that researchers use the microfilm rather than the original record – due to its delicate condition and large, bulky volumes. Single photocopies of unpublished material in Record Group 25 may be used for purposes of scholarly research.

## **AGENCY HISTORY**

### *Tennessee Prison System*

- 1813 The State Legislature authorizes the taking of voluntary contributions for the purpose of erecting a state penitentiary, but the effort fails after only less than \$2,000 was raised.
- 1819 Governor Joseph McMinn recommends that the state fund the construction of a central prison. Again without public support, the concept fails.
- 1829 In his October 5, 1829 message to the State Legislature, Governor William Carroll recommends an overhaul of the state criminal code and the construction of a state penitentiary. The Legislature complies with an state-funded act “to provide for building a public jail and penitentiary house in this State.”<sup>1</sup> A site is selected one mile southwest of the county courthouse in Nashville, Tennessee. The state selects the “Auburn-style” prison system, as it calls for the opportunity for congregate work of the convicts in a factory system. This method was to assist the state in meeting one of its goals in the management of the prisons – that the system cost as little as possible and that it return a profit to the state if at all possible.<sup>2</sup>
- A five-person “Board of Inspectors” is created by the Legislature to oversee prison operations. Robert C. Foster, Sr., Joseph Woods and Moses Ridley were elected by the General Assembly as the first commissioners of the penitentiary, serving with ex-officio members – Governor William Carroll and Secretary of State Thomas H. Fletcher.
- 1831 January 1. Governor William Carroll opens the new state penitentiary. The prison becomes operational for both men and women. The penitentiary housed 200 cells, a warden’s residence, a storehouse, and a hospital. George W. Cook, a 21-year-old tailor from Jackson, Tenn., convicted of stabbing and sentenced to two- years’ confinement—becomes the first registered inmate of the state penitentiary on January 21, 1831.
- 1840 The first female convict is sentenced to the State Penitentiary.
- 1847 An eight-year-old white boy is sentenced to life in prison for the (later deemed accidental) murder of his four-year-old sister. The boy receives a pardon after years of abuse in the prison, from Gov. William Trousdale in 1850, when he was eleven years of age. Available records indicate that this child was the youngest convict to ever be sentenced to an adult penitentiary in Tennessee.
- 1848 Inmates from the State Penitentiary are employed in the construction of the State Capitol Building in Nashville.
- 1853 A new wing is built onto the Penitentiary to relieve severe overcrowding.
- 1858 State Legislature grants the Governor the power of executive clemency.

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<sup>1</sup> Public Acts of Tennessee, 1829, Chapter 23.

<sup>2</sup> Journal of the House of Representatives, State of Tennessee, 1829.

- 1863 The Union Army commandeers the state penitentiary for use as a military prison; the prison population triples, worsening an already decrepit situation. During the war, the Occupation Government of Tennessee leases inmates to the Federal Government to help pay for its growing debt.  
One of the prisoners held at the military prison was Mark Cockrill, a local Confederate sympathizer who refused to take an oath of allegiance to the Federal Government. Cockrill's West Nashville property will later be purchased by the state for use as the site of a new state penitentiary.
- 1865 The State Legislature employs three Directors to create and coordinate a convict leasing system in order to defray the costs of prison operations. Problems with this system develop, and by 1867, the state directors recommend abolishing the convict leasing system. However, by 1870, the system was reinstated.
- 1865 October 20. Champ Ferguson, a Confederate guerrilla fighter from White County, Tenn., was executed by hanging on the grounds of the State Penitentiary. This was the only execution by hanging within the walls of the penitentiary.
- 1866 Prior to the Civil War, African-American prisoners at the penitentiary rarely exceeded five percent. In the first year after the war, the African-American population jumped to fifty-two percent. By 1869, sixty-two percent of the total prison population of 551 inmates were African-American.
- 1870 Tennessee convicts are leased to the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company, the first convict leasing program in the country.
- 1871 The first revolt against the convict lease system occurs in Tracy City, Tenn., when white miners struck the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company for higher wages and an end to the convict leases. This effort fails, and the Company was successful in defeating the uprising. This was the first of many such revolts against the system in years to come.
- 1871 The State Legislature creates the Office of Superintendent of Prisons. Joel A. Battle is appointed the first superintendent, serving from 1871 to 1872. General Benjamin F. Cheatham serves as Superintendent from 1875 to 1879.
- 1873 A prison work farm for farming and mining is established at Brushy Mountain in Morgan County, Tenn.
- 1877 Gov. James D. Porter states his opposition to the convict lease system, but the system remains as an economic necessity. A ruling is made to limit competition between convict laborers and the free-market system to iron and coal mining. Porter also appeals for a new penitentiary to be built in Nashville to replace the inadequate old facility, but the burden of the post-War state debt prevents any action.  
The State Legislature enacts minor changes in the law governing convict discipline in the lease system.<sup>3</sup> The new law requires each lease camp to name a "whipping boss" who would then be the only person authorized to whip a convict. In reality, this law creates even more problems as each camp named a guard to the job who was considered the most brutal in practice.

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<sup>3</sup> Acts of Tennessee, 1877.

- 1879 A crowd estimated at 11,000 followed a condemned murderer through the streets of Nashville to the gallows located outside the city limits to view the execution. Local parents write notes to teachers for their children to be excused from school to attend the hanging.
- 1883 Legislative act passed allowing deduction of “good time account” from inmates original sentences.
- 1885 Legislative act passed allowing “convicts good time in diminution of their sentences,” and providing a statistical table for convict time to allow for the implementation of this act.
- 1891 July 14. Three hundred miners launch a series of attacks against the Tennessee Coal Mine Company mines in Briceville, protesting low wages, payment in script instead of currency, and the use of convict labor. The insurgent miners attack and hold the convict stockades at Briceville, and gather the convicts to be shipped via railroad from Coal Creek to Knoxville. Miners call for intervention by Governor John Price Buchanan, who sends three companies of state militia to the area to suppress the insurrection. After another outbreak on July 20, Buchanan agrees to miners’ demand to call for special session of the State Legislature to deal with convict leases. In August, General Assembly meets in Nashville, but fails to accomplish any action dealing with the convict lease system. Miners conduct another raid on the Briceville mine on Oct. 31, and a raid at Oliver Springs, Tenn.
- 1892 August. Miners revolt at two sites operated by the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company in Grundy County – the Inman and Tracy City mines. After another attack at Oliver Springs, the outnumbered state militia surrenders, the convicts were shipped to Knoxville, and the prison stockade was torched. With the public perception that Governor Buchanan could not resolve the miners’ insurrection in East Tennessee, or the failure of the convict leasing system, Buchanan fails to win nomination from the Democratic Party, and ultimately fails to win re-election as an independent candidate. The Democratic nominee, Chief Justice Peter Turney of the Tennessee Supreme Court, wins the gubernatorial race, pledging an end to the convict leasing and reform of the penitentiary system.
- 1892 One wing of the State Penitentiary is officially declared the “female department,” thus finally separating male and female inmates. However, months later after the coal miners’ uprisings in East Tennessee force the transferal of male prisoners back to Nashville, causing horrible overcrowding conditions. Women were again housed along with male convicts.
- 1893 The State Legislature passes the Penitentiary Act of 1893, calling for the abolition of the convict leasing system at the end of the current contracts, construction of two new penitentiaries in Tennessee, and the acquisition of lands suitable for the mining of coal “in order to keep the maximum number of convicts employed at all times.”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Acts of Tennessee, Chapter 97, pp. 202-204, 1893.

- The State Legislature creates the position of a female “matron for the female department” of the state penitentiary<sup>5</sup>, however does not fund the position. It will be 1897 before this new position is filled.
- 1895 Brushy Mountain Prison located at Petros, Tenn., is completed.
- 1898 February 12. The new state prison opens to receive prisoners. Located on twelve hundred acres of land in the Cockrill Bend area of Davidson County, the new prison is designed with 800 single-occupancy cells. However, on opening day, 1,403 prisoners are admitted to the prison, creating immediate overcrowding. Overcrowding will be a problem for this penitentiary throughout the century. The original state penitentiary off Church Street in Nashville was demolished in June 1898, and materials from the old “pen” were used in the construction of outbuildings at the new facility, creating a physical link from 1831 to 1898. These outbuildings housed workshops ranging from soap and tobacco factories, a foundry (operated by Duncan & Co.), several hosiery mills (one operated by Jacob May & Co.), a paper box factory, a baby carriage and wicker chair plant (operated by the Nashville Chair and Carriage Co.), a tannery, a shoe shop, a saddlery, and a commercial laundry. An adjacent prison farm of 1,200 acres was designed to provide upkeep for the prison population, as well as work for female inmates and inmates unable to because of physical condition or age to labor in prison factories or East Tennessee coal mines. The farm operated it’s own dairy, a cannery for fruit and vegetable processing, and a slaughterhouse for livestock operations. The state intended for every inmate to contribute to their own upkeep by forced labor, and provide an alternative to idleness and boredom while in confinement.
- 1898 A separate women’s building is constructed on the grounds of the new state penitentiary. Built in the northwest corner of the grounds and as far from the men’s block as possible, surrounded by a strong wood fence. The General Assembly finally funds a matron for the women’s department; Mrs. Jennie Campbell is employed as the first matron in 1898. The American Prison Association holds its annual meeting in Nashville, shortly after the opening of the new state penitentiary. The Association members are given tours of the facility, among them is Theodore Roosevelt, who declares the penitentiary would put “Tennessee at the head of the nation in modern prison construction.”<sup>6</sup>
- 1899 In order to generate income, the State Legislature approves a resolution allowing Federal inmates from Tennessee and surrounding states to be housed at the state penitentiary.
- 1902 September. A fire destroys the chair and carriage manufacturing plant at the State Prison, and it is not rebuilt. The inmates employed by the plant are transferred to the coal mines at Brushy Mountain.

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<sup>5</sup> Acts of Tennessee, Chapter 72, 1893.

<sup>6</sup> Annual Proceedings of the American Prison Association (Nashville: Parker Printing Company, 1898).

- Officials institute a grading system for prison inmates at the State Prison. Under the new grading system, convicts were given “marks” for each infraction of the rules, the number of marks given depended upon the seriousness of the infraction. There were three grades – upper, middle, and lower. All incoming inmates were assigned the middle grade. Convicts received privileges such as family visits, correspondences, based upon their grade.
- Sixteen inmates successfully dynamite a hole in the outer wall of the prison housing unit and escape. One inmate, Ed Carney – serving a seventeen-year sentence for robbery, was shot and killed by guards during the escape. Local newspapers carry editorials condemning prison officials for allowing such an incident to occur “within site [sic] of the Capitol.” The editorials call for a complete investigation of the event, and prosecution of any official involved in the escape.<sup>7</sup>
- 1907 The first juvenile court legislation is passed by the General Assembly.<sup>8</sup>
- 1910 The General Assembly modifies the criminal code of Tennessee to force all death penalty hangings to be conducted in private rather than in public.<sup>9</sup> Brice McDonald, an African-American inmate convicted of murder from Madison County, is the first inmate executed privately at the State Prison under this new statute.
- 1911 The General Assembly enacts a law prohibiting the incarceration of juveniles, by statute, anyone under the age of eighteen, in adult penal institutions.<sup>10</sup> The Legislature authorizes the construction of reformatory-type institutions to house and educate juveniles. The Tennessee Reformatory for Boys (“Jordonia”) opens in Nashville, along with the Tennessee Industrial School, and the Tennessee State Training and Industrial School for Colored Boys in Pikeville.
- 1913 The State Legislature enacts major reform. First, it abolishes the system of determinate sentencing and established for all offenses a range of minimum and maximum terms to be served for a crime. Secondly, a system of parole is created, authorizing the release of a convict at any time after the service of the minimum portion of his sentence upon the recommendation of the Governor and a board of paroles. Thirdly, the administration of the death penalty is changed from death by hanging to electrocution. The General Assembly also enacts legislation authorizing the use of convicts on road crews throughout the state.
- 1915 The State Legislature enacts a bill replacing the Board of Prison Commissioners with the Board of Control.
- 1916 The electric chair, authorized by the General Assembly in 1913 for executions, is installed at the Main Prison. Its first use occurs on July 13, 1916 when death row

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<sup>7</sup> The Nashville Tennessean and the Nashville American, October 11, 1902.

<sup>8</sup> Public Acts of Tennessee, Chapter 599, Sections 1, 4, 11 (1907).

<sup>9</sup> Acts of Tennessee, Chapter 500, pp. 1810-1811, 1910.

<sup>10</sup> Acts of Tennessee, Juvenile Court Act, Chapter 58, 1911.



- inmate Julius Morgan – an African-American male convicted of rape of a white woman in Dyer County, was executed.
- 1917 The inmate population of the two state prisons totaled 1,989 convicts – with 1,259 at the Main Prison, and 730 at Brushy Mountain. Tuberculosis is a serious problem among inmates, with over 400 with the disease. The General Assembly allocates \$41,500 for a tubercular care facility of 200 patient beds. American's entry into World War I provides a windfall for Tennessee's prison system, whereas most every ton of coal and every piece of clothing produced by prison industries were immediately purchased for the best prices in its history.
- 1918 The Highland Rim School for Girls opens in Tullahoma, Tenn. Its counterpart, the Tullahoma Training School for Colored Girls, opens in 1921.
- 1928 National prohibition against the distillation and sale of liquors becomes a major factor in Tennessee's prison population, as over 200 men are convicted of producing illegal liquor and just over 100 men convicted for transporting illegal spirits.
- 1929 The State Legislature enacts laws to create the Board of Pardons, replacing the Advisory Board of Pardons. Governor Henry Horton appoints one citizen from each grand division to serve on the Board.<sup>11</sup> Congress passes the Hawes-Cooper Act of 1929, regulating the interstate transfer of prison-made goods.<sup>12</sup> This Act would be a major influence on Tennessee prison labor throughout the remainder of the century as it would forbid the sale of convict-made goods on the open market.
- 1930 A new building for women prisoners is constructed on the grounds of the State Prison in Nashville, approximately one and one-half miles from the men's prison.
- 1934 The State Legislature authorizes funds for the construction of a new modern facility at Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary.<sup>13</sup>
- 1935 The State Legislature authorizes the purchase of lands and construction of the Fort Pillow State Penal Farm in Lauderdale County.<sup>14</sup> The facility is completed and operating by 1940.
- 1937 In response to the Hawes-Cooper Act, the State Legislature passes a law mandating the use of prison-made goods at state institutions, although this is not a requirement of institutions.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Acts of Tennessee, Chapter 70, 1929.

<sup>12</sup> Statutes at Large of the United States, Seventieth Congress, Session II, Chapter 79, Section 1 and 2, 1929.

<sup>13</sup> Acts of Tennessee, Chapter 15, 1934-35.

<sup>14</sup> Acts of Tennessee, 1935.

<sup>15</sup> Acts of Tennessee, Chapter 278, 1937.

- 1937 The State Administrative Reorganization Act is amended by the Legislature, creating the Department of Institutions and General Welfare, which includes the Tennessee Industrial School at the Tennessee State Prison. The Board of Pardon and Paroles is created by the General Assembly. Appointments are made by the Governor, and the board is chaired by the Commissioner of Institutions and General Welfare. The State Legislature authorizes the construction of a facility for the criminally-insane.<sup>16</sup>
- 1939 The Department of Institutions and Public Welfare is divided into two separate government agencies.
- 1941 With the entry of the United States in World War II, a severe employment shortage of qualified prison guards occurs within Tennessee prisons. Particularly hard hit is Fort Pillow State Penal Farm in West Tennessee. Inmates are employed in as many jobs possible outside the security department.
- 1949 The General Assembly places some employees of the state prison system under civil-service procedures, requiring standardized examinations and verifiable skills prior to employment. However, it is decades before political patronage is weeded from prison hiring practices.
- 1955 The State Legislature reorganizes the state's administrative departments and separate the operation of state prisons from state hospitals and mental institutions. The Department of Correction is created, replacing the Department of Institutions.<sup>17</sup>
- The Legislature also enacts harsher criminal penalties, which increases an already burdened prison system. The prison classification system is created at the State Prison.<sup>18</sup>
- The State Training Schools for Boys are renamed the State Vocation Training School for White Boys (Jordonia), and Colored Boys (Pikeville).
- 1957 The State Legislature creates the Division of Juvenile Probation. The reform of the juvenile rehabilitation system begins in 1958.
- 1958 The maximum security building is built at the Tennessee Main Prison in Nashville.
- 1960 November 7. William Tines, an African-American male inmate trusty on timber duty, convicted of beating and raping a white woman in Oliver Springs, Tenn. – is the last person executed in the State of Tennessee, prior to the 1972 United States Supreme Court decision. Tines was the one hundred twenty-fifth inmate executed in the history of Tennessee.
- 1963 The State Legislature creates the Division of Youth Services with the Department of Correction, and provides for the office of Assistant Commissioner.

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<sup>16</sup> Acts of Tennessee, Chapter 48, 1937.

<sup>17</sup> Acts of Tennessee, Chapter 102, 1955.

<sup>18</sup> Acts of Tennessee, Chapter 11, 1955.

- Major legislative changes to the Board of Pardons and Paroles – board increased to five members; the first African-American is appointed to the Board.
- 1965 Juvenile institutions are desegregated and classified by age.  
The state prison school is established and accredited.  
Mining operations by inmates are abandoned at Brushy Mountain due to unsafe conditions.
- 1966 Prison cellblocks are integrated at all adult institutions for the first time in Tennessee history.  
Corporal punishment is abolished for adult inmates.  
The new Tennessee Prison for Women in Nashville becomes operational.
- 1967 A system of work release is created at the Shelby County Penal Farm.
- 1969 Three adult penal institutions are reclassified: Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary becomes a maximum security facility. The Main Prison in Nashville is classified as medium security. Fort Pillow State Penal Farm is reclassified as minimal security.
- 1970 The General Assembly passes an act relieving the Commissioner of the Department of Correction as chairperson of the Board of Pardons and Paroles. The Board Chairman is elected by its' members.
- 1971 The Turney Center for Youthful Offenders, located in Only, Tenn., becomes operational. The facility is named in honor of Governor Peter Turney, who in 1893 advocated the rehabilitation of prisoners and the separation of juvenile offenders from adult inmates.
- 1972 The General Assembly reformulates the Board of Pardons and Paroles – the Chairman is appointed by the Governor; members are now full-time professionals appointed by the Governor.  
Labor problems at Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary forced the closure of the facility.  
June 29. The United States Supreme Court, in *Furman v. Georgia*, rules the death penalty unconstitutional. All death row inmates sentences are commuted to life imprisonment.
- 1973 The State Legislature enacts legislation imposing a mandatory death penalty imposed on those convicted of first-degree murder. This law is ruled unconstitutional the following year.
- 1974 Department of Correction commences new prison construction in Memphis and Morristown. Local opposition in Hamblen County forces the cancellation of the project in Morristown.
- 1976 The United States Supreme Court rules Georgia's death penalty constitutional. Several states, including Tennessee, follow suit modeling their efforts after Georgia's.  
Brushy Mountain Prison is reopened. The Fort Pillow State Penal Farm (currently, the Coal Creek Correctional Facility) is reclassified as medium security.
- 1977 The Lois M. DeBerry Correctional Institute for Special Needs Offenders opens in Nashville.  
The death penalty is ruled constitutional by the United States Supreme Court, and the death penalty is reinstated in Tennessee.

- 1978 Corporal punished is abolished in juvenile institutions.
- 1979 The Board of Pardons and Paroles is separated from the Department of Correction and becomes an autonomous unit.
- 1982 After a series of inmate riots over living conditions during the 1970's and 1980's, the federal district court in *Grubbs v. Bradley* declared overcrowding in parts of the prison system unconstitutional and appointed a special prison master to oversee improvements in the system.
- 1985 The General Assembly is convened in special session to address prison problems. As a result, the Legislature approves The Comprehensive Correction Improvement Act of 1985 that addressed the issues in *Grubbs*, and appropriates over \$320 million to improve then-current facilities and build new ones.<sup>19</sup>
- 1989 The Riverbend Maximum Security Institution opens to replace the aged Tennessee Main Prison at Cockrill Bend.
- 1992 June. The old Tennessee State Penitentiary in Nashville, opened in 1898, closes permanently. The following year, Federal Judge Thomas Higgins ruled that Tennessee's correctional system in compliance with court order, and lifts the court-ordered oversight.

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<sup>19</sup> Tennessee Public Acts and Resolutions, Ninety-Fourth General Assembly, First Extraordinary Session, Chapter 3, 1985.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Record Group 25 consists of various prison records of the State of Tennessee dating from 1831 to 1992. Part Two of this collection consist of volumes of inmate records, correspondence, financial records, board minutes, inmate pardons and commutations, reports , and other related prison records. Convict records and indexes comprise the largest series of the record group.

The penitentiary system in Tennessee was created in 1829, under the administration of Governor William Carroll. The first state penitentiary was built in Nashville and opened in 1831. Almost immediately, the prison began having serious problems with overcrowding and prisoner control, as many county law officials insisted on shipping their criminals for incarceration at the new state prison. Efforts to reform criminals and lead them in a better way of life were tried in Nashville, however , problems at the prison prevented any noticeable results among the population. Attempts at establishing prison industries in the early years were inconsistent, and many proved to be failures. The attitude of the day was that prisoners should pay for their sentences by hard labor, and the state should profit from this system. Several categories of criminals were housed at the penitentiary simultaneously; among these were female convicts, juvenile offenders and those individuals with mental problems. In many instances, young male offenders were housed with hardened criminals, resulting in little, if any, rehabilitation.

The convict records found in Series 2 of this collection contain an interesting record of those prisoners kept at the state penitentiary in the early years of the institution. George W. Cook, a 21-year-old tailor from Jackson, Tennessee, convicted of stabbing and sentenced to two-year's incarceration at the prison, is the first recorded inmate at the first state penitentiary. He used his skills as a tailor to help manufacture the prisoner clothes, and to train other offenders in his craft. His record and others from the early years are found in Volume 42.

After the Civil War, under the crushing burden of state debt, Tennessee enacted a system of convict leasing to companies in order to raise much needed funds. Inmates were contracted out to mine coal and ore, repair or construct railroads, work in tanneries, and work on private farms. Conditions that convicts were forced to live under were brutal, often they were reduced to chattel in the records of the companies they worked for. Several volumes within Series 2 contain records of these inmates; inmates that were employed in the Coal Creek Mines of Anderson County, the Etna Coal Mines and the Inman Iron Ore Mines of Marion County, the Tracy City Coal Mines of Grundy County, Ensley's Farm of Shelby County, the Monterey Prison Camp located in Overton County, the Cumberland & Ohio Railroad Company, the Cincinnati & Southern Railroad, and many others. The convict leasing system was abolished under the administration of Governor Peter Turney in 1893.

The State Legislature created a "Board of Prison Commissioners" after the Civil War, in order to govern the state prison, and make recommendations to the Governor. Series 3 contains several letter books of correspondences from the commissioners and are interesting in their content. However, many of the letter books are deteriorated to the

point that much of the correspondence is unreadable. This series also contain books of correspondence from the Advisory Board of Pardons, which made recommendations for executive clemency to inmates in the prison system from 1897 to 1919. Volume 120 is a letter book of the Board of Prison Inspectors, 1898-1899, and is also interesting in it's content.

Series 5, Financial Records, contain many account records and statistics involved with the operation of the state prisons and prison farms in the late Nineteenth Century and early Twentieth Century. Of interest is Volume 151, which contain steward' s reports on the maintenance of convicts from 1896-1897. Also interesting are the monthly reports of foundry castings made at the prison workshops from 1897 to 1903.

Series 7 contain board minutes of the Board of Prison Inspection, Board of Buildings and Purchasing, Board of Prison Commissioners and Board of Control from 1877 to 1922. Volume 174, Minutes of the Board for Disposing of the Old Prison Property, 1902, are quite interesting. This Board was established to determine the fate of the property of the first state penitentiary in Nashville. In 1893, Tennessee authorized the construction of a new state penitentiary in Davidson County to replace the antiquated prison, located off Church Street in Nashville. Gov. Benton McMillan presided over the board to determine what should be done with the properties and facilities located at the site. The site was sold to the City of Nashville for future developments, and the old prison was demolished in 1898, many of it's materials used in the construction of the new penitentiary.

Series 10 consists of various prison records such as daily count books, prisoner transferal records, inmate deaths, discharges, inventories and visitor registers. The record of inmate deaths is somewhat disappointing in that it contains only a limited amount of entries, from 1894 to 1924. It is assumed there are other inmate death records to be discovered in the prison system, however, only one volume is found in this collection. Part One of Record Group 25 consists of loose records and documents dealing with the history of the Tennessee prison system. Much of this addition is in fragile condition, and is undergoing conservation procedures in the State Library and Archives. When available, these records will be added to the collection as an addition.

This collection is a valuable reference for the history of the Tennessee prison system, containing subjects relating to the utilization of the convict labor system, prison discipline, prison reform, African-American history in Tennessee, and genealogy. The researcher is encouraged to also consult Record Groups 8: Board of Administration, 1919-1922; Record Group 9: Board of Control, 1915-1919; Record Group 11: Department of Institutions, 1922-1953; and Record Group 277: Department of Correction, 1900-1989 – all of which also contain records of the Tennessee prison system. Record Group 261 contain clemency records for inmates from 1840 to 1925. Record Group 280 also contains pardons and parole records, dating from 1938 to 1962.

**Record Group Number: 25**  
**Record Group Title: Prison Records, 1831-1992**

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**SERIES TITLE**

<b>SERIES</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>VOL. NO.</b>
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**Record Group Number: 25 Prison Records, 1831-1992**

**Series Number: 2 Series Title: Convict Records**

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<b>Volume No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1	Convict Record Reference (Index)	1872-1896 (reference: Convict Books B, C, E, F, G, H, I, J)
2	Convict Record Reference (Index)	1877-1891 (reference: Convict Books B, C, E, F, G, H, I, J)
3	Index Book, A-K	1887-1912 (reference: Convict Books F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N)

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***Mf. Roll #2***

4	Index Book, L-Z	1887-1912 (reference: Convict Books F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N)
5	Index Book	1898-1926 (reference: Convict Books J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T)
6	Index Book, A-K	1908-1929 (reference: Convict Books N, O, P, Q, R)

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***Mf. Roll #3***

7	Index Book, L-Z	1908-1929 (reference: Convict Books N, O, P, Q, R)
8	Index Book, A-K	1926-1939 (reference: Convict Books R, S, T, U, V, W)
9	Index Book, L-Z	1926-1939 (reference: Convict Books R, S, T, U, V, W)

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***Mf. Roll #4***

| 10 | Index Book, A-K | 1933-1957<sup>20</sup> (reference: Convict Books R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z, A, B, C) |
| 11 | Index Book, L-Z | 1933-1957<sup>21</sup> (reference: Convict Books Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z, A, B, C) |

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<sup>20</sup> Also includes inmates from 1926-1933, but primarily years of 1933-1957.

<sup>21</sup> Also includes inmates from 1926-1933, but primarily years of 1933-1957.



**Record Group Number: 25 Prison Records, 1831-1992**

**Series Number: 2 Series Title: Convict Records**

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***Mf. Roll #5***

**Volume No. Description Dates**

12	Index Book, A-K	1954-1972 (reference: Convict Books C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J)
13	Index Book, L-Z	1954-1972 (reference: Convict Books B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J)
14	Index Book, A-K	1971-1977 (reference: Convict Books J, K-2, L-2, M-2, N-2)

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***Mf. Roll #6***

15	Index Book, L-Z	1971-1977 (reference: Convict Books J, K-2, L-2, M-2)
16	General Index to Discharges, L-Z	1935-1962 (reference: Convict Books V, W, X, Y, Z, A, B, C, D, E)

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***Mf. Roll #7***

17	General Index to Discharges, A-K	1960-1979 (reference: Convict Books E, F, G, H, I, J, K-2, L-2, M-2, N-2, O-2)
18	General Index to Discharges, L-Z	1960-1979 (reference: Convict Books E, F, G, H, I, J, K-2, L-2, M-2, N-2, O-2)

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***Mf. Roll #8***

19	Index by County, Anderson-Johnson	1894-1898
20	Index by County, Knox-Wilson	1894-1898

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***Mf. Roll #9***

21	Index Book, unidentified	undated
22	Index Book, unidentified	undated ( <i>Index to 'Colored' Prisoners?, unconfirmed</i> )

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**Record Group Number: 25 Prison Records, 1831-1992**

**Series Number: 2 Series Title: Convict Records**

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**Volume No. Description Dates**

23	Convict Records: Brushy Mountain Coal Mines, Morgan County	1885-1897
24	Convict Records: Brushy Mountain Coal Mines, Morgan County	1893-1897
25	Convict Records: Coal Creek Mines, Anderson County	1879-1890
	b. Cockrill's Farm, Davidson County	1879-1880

- c. Ensley's Farm, Shelby County 1872-1885
  - d. Etna Coal Mines, Whiteside, Marion County 1881-1890
  - e. Hatton Prison Camp 1878-1883
  - f. Holston Prison Camp 1884-1886
  - g. Inman Iron Ore Mines, Marion County 1876-1885
  - h. Morrow's Farm, Davidson County 1884-1890
  - i. Oliver Springs Coal Mines, Roane County 1894-1890
  - j. Tracy City Coal Mines, Grundy County 1875-1885
- 26 Convict Records:  
Coal Creek Mines, Anderson County 1890-1895
- 27 Convict Records:  
DeBerry Correctional Institute, Davidson County 1977-1983

***Mf. Roll #10***

- 28 Convict Records:  
DeBerry Correctional Institute, Davidson County 1983-1992
- 29 Convict Records:  
Ensley's Farm, Shelby County 1872-1891<sup>22</sup>
- 30 Convict Records:  
Inman Iron Ore Mines, Marion County 1882-1890
- 31 Convict Records:  
Inman Iron Ore Mines, Marion County 1885-1887

**Record Group Number: 25 Prison Records, 1831-1992**

**Series Number: 2 Series Title: Convict Records**

**Volume No. Description Dates**

- 32 Convict Records:  
Inman Iron Ore Mines, Marion County
- a. Names of Prisoners Shipped to Inman Mines, August 29, 1883
  - b. Daily Record of Prisoners on Hand 5/25/1883-5/30/1884
- 33 Convict Records:  
Monterey Prison Camp, Overton County 1893-1895

***Mf. Roll #11***

- 34 Convict Records:  
Pikeville Prison Camp, Bledsoe County 1886-1895
- 35 Convict Records:  
Sewanee Coal Mines, Franklin County; 1868-1878  
Tracy City Coal Mines, Grundy County 1878-1890
- 36 Convict Records:  
Tracy City Coal Mines, Grundy County 1876-1889

<sup>22</sup> Includes transfers to Tracy City Coal Mines, 1891-1892. Also includes some discharges, pardons of convicts.

37	Convict Records: Tracy City Coal Mines, Grundy County; 1876-1890 Main Prison, Nashville, Tenn. 1890-1896
38	Convict Records: Tracy City Coal Mines, Grundy County 1885-1890

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***Mf. Roll #12***

39	Convict Records: Tracy City Coal Mines, Grundy County 1887-1893
40	Convict Records: Tracy City Coal Mines, Grundy County 1890-1895
41	Convict Records: Tracy City Coal Mines, Grundy County 1892-1895

**Record Group Number: 25 Prison Records, 1831-1992**

**Series Number: 2 Series Title: Convict Records**

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<b>Volume No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
42	Convict Records: State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn. <sup>23</sup>	1831-1842
43	Convict Records: <sup>24</sup> a. State Penitentiary, Nashville 1831-1875 b. List of Convicts at Tracy City (Sewanee Coal Mines) 1868-1875 c. List of Convicts at Vulcan Coal Mines (Marion County?) 1866-1874 d. List of Convicts at Battle Creek Coal Mines 1867-1874 e. List of Convicts at Work on Cumberland & Ohio Railroad 1870-1874 f. List of Convicts at Work on the Paducah Railroad 1867-1874 g. List of Convicts at Work on the North-Western Railroad 1868-1874 h. List of Convicts at Work at J. C. Harlan's, Maury County 1872-1874 i. List of Convicts at Work on the Tatallion N. & C. Railroad 1872-1874 j. List of Convicts at Work at Hatsboro 1871-1874 k. List of Convicts at Work on the Cincinnati & Southern Railroad 1874-1875 l. List of Convicts at Work at General Forrest's, re: John Hobson 1875	

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<sup>23</sup> Originally Volume 45, RG 25. This volume indexed by Charles A. Sherrill, "Tennessee Convicts: Early Records of the State Penitentiary, Vol. 1, 1831-1850."

<sup>24</sup> Originally Volume 87, RG 25. This volume indexed by Charles A. Sherrill, "Tennessee Convicts: Early Records of the State Penitentiary, Vol. 2, 1850-1870." [short, tabular version]

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**Mf. Roll #13**

- 44 Convict Records: <sup>25</sup>  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn. 1845-1869
- 45 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn. 1865-1875
- 46 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn. 1865-1976

**Record Group Number: 25 Prison Records, 1831-1992****Series Number: 2 Series Title: Convict Records**

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**Mf. Roll #14****Volume No. Description Dates**

- 47 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn. 1885-1897
- 48 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn. 1891-1893
- 49 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn. 1890-1898
- 50 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn. 1869-1877
- 

**Mf. Roll #15**

- 51 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "B" 1877-1882
- 

**Mf. Roll #16**

- 52 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "C" 1867-1884
- 53 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "E" 1886-1887
- 

**Mf. Roll #17**

- 54 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "F" 1887-1890
- 55 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "H" 1892-1894

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<sup>25</sup> Originally Volume 86, RG 25. This volume indexed by Charles A. Sherrill, "Tennessee Convicts: Early Records of the State Penitentiary, Vol. 2, 1850-1870." [long, longhand version]

**Record Group Number: 25 Prison Records, 1831-1992**

**Series Number: 2 Series Title: Convict Records**

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***Mf. Roll #18***

**Volume No. Description Dates**

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 56 | Convict Records:<br>State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.<br>Book "I" 1894-1896               |
| 57 | Convict Records:<br>State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.<br>Book "J" 1896-1898 <sup>26</sup> |
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***Mf. Roll #19***

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|----|--|
| 58 | Convict Records:<br>State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.<br>Book "K" 1879-1900 |
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***Mf. Roll #20***

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|----|--|
| 59 | Convict Records:<br>State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.<br>Book "L" 1900-1904 |
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***Mf. Roll #21***

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|----|--|
| 60 | Convict Records:<br>State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.<br>Book "M" 1887-1908 |
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***Mf. Roll #22***

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|----|--|
| 61 | Convict Records:<br>State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.<br>Book "N" 1908-1912 <sup>27</sup> |
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***Mf. Roll #23***

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|----|--|
| 62 | Convict Records:<br>State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.<br>Book "O" 1912-1917 |
|----|--|
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**Record Group Number: 25 Prison Records, 1831-1992**

**Series Number: 2 Series Title: Convict Records**

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***Mf. Roll #24***

**Volume No. Description Dates**

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|----|--|
| 63 | Convict Records:<br>State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.<br>Book "P" 1917-1922 |
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<sup>26</sup> Some convicts listed in Book "J" were received in 1873.

<sup>27</sup> Some convicts listed in Book "N" were received in 1900.

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**Mf. Roll #25**

64 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "Q" 1922-1926

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**Mf. Roll #26**

65 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "R" 1926-1929

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**Mf. Roll #27**

66 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "S" 1929-1931

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**Mf. Roll #28**

67 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "T" 1931-1933

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**Mf. Roll #29**

68 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "U" 1933-1935

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**Mf. Roll #30**

69 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "V" 1935-1937

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**Record Group Number: 25 Prison Records, 1831-1992****Series Number: 2 Series Title: Convict Records**

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**Mf. Roll #31****Volume No. Description Dates**

70 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "W" 1937-1939

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**Mf. Roll #32**

71 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "X" 1939-1941

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**Mf. Roll #33**

72 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "Y" 1941-1945

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**Mf. Roll #34**

73 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "Z" 1945-1948

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**Mf. Roll #35**

74 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "A" 1948-1951

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**Mf. Roll #36**

75 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "B" 1951-1954

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**Mf. Roll #37**

76 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "C" 1954-1957

**Record Group Number: 25 Prison Records, 1831-1992****Series Number: 2 Series Title: Convict Records**

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**Mf. Roll #38****Volume No. Description Dates**

77 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "D" 1957-1960

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**Mf. Roll #39**

78 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "E" 1960-1962

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**Mf. Roll #40**

79 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "F" 1962-1964

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**Mf. Roll #41**

80 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "G" 1964-1967

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**Mf. Roll #42**

81 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "H" 1967-1969

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**Mf. Roll #43**

82 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "I" 1969-1971

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**Mf. Roll #44**

83 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "J" 1971-1972

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**Record Group Number: 25 Prison Records, 1831-1992****Series Number: 2 Series Title: Convict Records**

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**Mf. Roll #45****Volume No. Description Dates**

84 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "K-2" 1972-1974

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**Mf. Roll #46**

85 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "L-2" 1974-1975

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**Mf. Roll #47**

86 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "M-2" 1975-1977

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**Mf. Roll #48**

87 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "N-2" 1977-1978

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**Mf. Roll #49**

88 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "O-2" 1978-1979

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**Mf. Roll #50**

89 Convict Records:  
State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.  
Book "P-2" 1979-1980

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**Mf. Roll #51**

90 Grade Book #35  
Convict #34,001 – #35,000 1939-1940  
91 Grade Book #36  
Convict #35,003 – #36,000 1940-1941



**Record Group Number: 25 Prison Records, 1831-1992**

**Series Number: 2 Series Title: Convict Records**

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***Mf. Roll #52***

**Volume No. Description Dates**

92	Grade Book #37 Convict #36,001 – #37,000	1941-1942
93	Grade Book #38 Convict #37,000 – #38,000	1942-1944

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***Mf. Roll #53***

94	Grade Book #39 Convict #38,001 – #39,000	1944-1945
95	Grade Book #40 Convict #39,001 – #40,000	1945-1946

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***Mf. Roll #54***

96	Grade Book #41 Convict #40,001 – #41,000	1946-1948
97	Grade Book #43 Convict #42,000 – #43,000	1949-1950

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***Mf. Roll #55***

98	Grade Book #44 Convict #43,001 – #44,000	1950-1951
99	Grade Book #45 Convict #44,001 – #45,000	1951-1952

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***Mf. Roll #56***

100	Grade Book #46 Convict #45,001 – #45,799	1952-1953
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***Mf. Roll #57***

101	Grade Book #47 Convict #46,000 – #47,000	1953-1954
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**Record Group Number: 25 Prison Records, 1831-1992**

**Series Number: 2 Series Title: Convict Records**

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***Mf. Roll #58***

**Volume No. Description Dates**

102	Grade Book #48 Convict #47,000 – #48,000	1954-1955
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***Mf. Roll #59***

103	Grade Book #49 Convict #48,000 – #49,000	1955-1956
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***Mf. Roll #60***

104	Grade Book #50 Convict #49,000 – #50,000	1956-1957
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***Mf. Roll #61***

105 Grade Book #51  
Convict #50,001 – #51,000 1957-1958

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***Mf. Roll #62***

106 Grade Book #52  
Convict #51,000 – #52,000 1958-1959

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***Mf. Roll #63***

107 Grade Book #53  
Convict #52,001 – #53,000 2/1959-11/1959

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***Mf. Roll #64***

108 Grade Book #54  
Convict #53,000 – #53,575 11/1959-4/1960

**Record Group Number: 25 Prison Records, 1831-1992****Series Number: 3 Series Title: Correspondence**

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***Mf. Roll #65*****Volume No. Description Dates**

109 Letter Book:  
Advisory Board of Pardons 1897-1898

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***Mf. Roll #66***

110 Letter Book:  
Advisory Board of Pardons 1898

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***Mf. Roll #67***

111 Letter Book:  
Advisory Board of Pardons 1899-1905

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***Mf. Roll #68***

112 Letters of Recommendation:  
Advisory Board of Pardons 1899-1902

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***Mf. Roll #69***

113 Letters of Recommendation:  
Advisory Board of Pardons 1902-1904  
114 Letters of Recommendation:  
Advisory Board of Pardons 9/1904-4/1906

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***Mf. Roll #70***

115 Letters of Recommendation:  
Advisory Board of Pardons 1906-1907  
116 Letters of Recommendation:  
Advisory Board of Pardons 1907-1908

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**Mf. Roll #71**

- |     |   |           |
|-----|---|-----------|
| 117 | Letters of Recommendation:<br>Advisory Board of Pardons | 1911-1912 |
| 118 | Letters of Recommendation:<br>Advisory Board of Pardons | 1912-1914 |

**Record Group Number: 25 Prison Records, 1831-1992****Series Number: 3 Series Title: Correspondence**

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**Mf. Roll #72****Volume No. Description Dates**

- |     |   |           |
|-----|---|-----------|
| 119 | Letters of Recommendation:<br>Advisory Board of Pardons | 1914-1919 |
|-----|---|-----------|
- 

**Mf. Roll #73**

- |     |  |           |
|-----|--|-----------|
| 120 | Letter Book:<br>Board of Penitentiary Inspectors | 1890-1891 |
| 121 | Letter Book:<br>Board of Prison Commissioners    | 1898-1899 |
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**Mf. Roll #74**

- |     |   |      |
|-----|---|------|
| 122 | Letter Book:<br>Board of Prison Commissioners | 1899 |
|-----|---|------|
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**Mf. Roll #75**

- |     |   |                   |
|-----|---|-------------------|
| 123 | Letter Book:<br>Board of Prison Commissioners | May-December 1899 |
|-----|---|-------------------|
- 

**Mf. Roll #76**

- |     |   |               |
|-----|---|---------------|
| 124 | Letter Book:<br>Board of Prison Commissioners | 9/1899-6/1900 |
|-----|---|---------------|
- 

**Mf. Roll #77**

- |     |   |               |
|-----|---|---------------|
| 125 | Letter Book:<br>Board of Prison Commissioners | 9/1899-6/1901 |
|-----|---|---------------|
- 

**Mf. Roll #78**

- |     |   |               |
|-----|---|---------------|
| 126 | Letter Book:<br>Board of Prison Commissioners | 1/1900-3/1900 |
|-----|---|---------------|
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**Mf. Roll #79**

- |     |   |               |
|-----|---|---------------|
| 127 | Letter Book:<br>Board of Prison Commissioners | 4/1900-5/1900 |
|-----|---|---------------|

**Record Group Number: 25 Prison Records, 1831-1992**

**Series Number: 3 Series Title: Correspondence**

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***Mf. Roll #80***

**Volume No. Description Dates**

128 Letter Book:  
Board of Prison Commissioners 6/1900-10/1900

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***Mf. Roll #81***

129 Letter Book:  
Board of Prison Commissioners 10/1900-2/1901

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***Mf. Roll #82***

130 Letter Book:  
Board of Prison Commissioners 2/1901-5/1901

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***Mf. Roll #83***

131 Letter Book:  
Board of Prison Commissioners 5/1901-4/1902

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***Mf. Roll #84***

132 Letter Book:  
Board of Prison Commissioners 4/1902-10/1906  
133 Letter Book:  
Wardens of the State Prison 7/1901-12/1903

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**Record Group Number: 25 Prison Records, 1831-1992**

**Series Number: 4 Series Title: Employee Records**

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***Mf. Roll #85***

***The following records (Time Books for Prison Employees) are confidential:***

**Volume No. Description Dates**

134 Time Book for Prison Employees 12/1916-12/1922  
135 Time Book for Prison Employees 1/1923-1/1929  
136 Time Book for Prison Employees 2/1929-6/1933  
137 Time Book for Prison Employees 7/1933-8/1936

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***Mf. Roll #86***

138 Time Book for Prison Employees 9/1936-1/1940  
139 Time Book for Prison Employees 1/1940-5/1943  
140 Time Book for Prison Employees 6/1943-7/1947  
141 Time Book for Prison Employees 8/1947-11/1951

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***Mf. Roll #87***

142 Time Book for Prison Employees 12/1951-2/1956  
143 Time Book for Prison Employees 4/1956-10/1959  
144 Time Book for Prison Employees 11/1959-7/1962  
145 Time Book for Prison Employees 8/1962-12/1963

**Record Group Number: 25 Prison Records, 1831-1992**

**Series Number: 5 Series Title: Financial Records**

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***Mf. Roll #88***

**Volume No. Description Dates**

146	Accounts: Board of Directors, State Penitentiary	1866-1867
147	Accounts: Board of Prison Commissioners	1896-1897
148	Accounts: Board of Prison Commissioners	1896-1900

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***Mf. Roll #89***

149	Cash Book	1902-1903
150	Cash Book, Tennessee State Prison	7/1945-2/1961
151	Steward's Reports: Maintenance of Convicts	1896-1897
152	Monthly Reports: Foundry Castings	6/1897-2/1903
153	Monthly Reports: Foundry Castings	2/1898-2/1903

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***Mf. Roll #90***

154	Journal: State Penitentiary	1868-1873
155	Journal: Board of Prison Commissioners	1895-1896

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***Mf. Roll #91***

***The following records (Payroll Books) are confidential:***

156	Payroll Book, Book 1	7/1907-4/1914
157	Payroll Book, Book 2	5/1914-9/1919
158	Payroll Book, Book 3	1/1919-9/1924

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***Mf. Roll #92***

159	Payroll Book, Book 4	10/1924-10/1928
160	Payroll Book, Book 5	11/1928-12/1932
161	Payroll Book, Book 6	1/1933-7/1936

**Record Group Number: 25 Prison Records, 1831-1992**

**Series Number: 5 Series Title: Financial Records**

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***Mf. Roll #93***

***The following records (Payroll Books) are confidential:***

**Volume No. Description Dates**

162	Payroll Book, Book 7	8/1936-3/1940
163	Payroll Book, Book 8	4/1940-10/1943
164	Payroll Book, Book 9	11/1943-11/1947

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***Mf. Roll #94***

165	Payroll Book, Book 10	12/1947-4/1951
166	Payroll Book, Book 11	5/1951-8/1954
167	Payroll Book, Book 12	9/1954-6/1957

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***Mf. Roll #95***

168	Payroll Book, Book 13	7/1957-1/1960
169	Payroll Book, Book 14	2/1960-10/1961

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***Mf. Roll #96***

170	Record of Vouchers Issued at Main Prison, re: Maintenance	11/1930-5/1938
171	Voucher Journal	1939-1963

**Record Group Number: 25 Prison Records, 1831-1992****Series Number: 7 Series Title: Minutes**

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***Mf. Roll #96*****Volume No. Description Dates**

172	Board of Prison Inspection	1877-1892
173	Board of Buildings and Purchasing	1893-1895
174	Board for Disposing of the Old Prison Property, Gov. Benton McMillan, presiding.	1902

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***Mf. Roll #97***

175	Board of Prison Commissioners	1895-1913
176	Board of Prison Commissioners	1913-1915
177	Board of Control	1915
178	Board of Control, re: Boy's Reformatory	1915-1922

**Record Group Number: 25 Prison Records, 1831-1992****Series Number: 8 Series Title: Pardons**

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***Mf. Roll #98*****Volume No. Description Dates**

179	Pardons	1894-1915
180	Commutations	1905-1915

**Record Group Number: 25 Prison Records, 1831-1992****Series Number: 9 Series Title: Paroles**

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***Mf. Roll #98*****Volume No. Description Dates**

181	Paroles	1906-1915
182	Paroles	1913-1919
183	Paroles	1915-1919
184	Earnings and Expenditures of Paroled Prisoners, Tennessee Main Prison	9/1913-11/1914
185	Prisoners Eligible for Parole in year 1919	1913-1914
186	Parole Violators	1914-1919

- 187 Escapes and Parole Violators 1930-1938  
*(includes "Holdovers" in Other Institutions,  
 Wanted at Expiration of Term, Deceased,  
 Discharges, Pardons and Transfers)*

**Record Group Number: 25 Prison Records, 1831-1992**

**Series Number: 10 Series Title: Prison Records**

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***Mf. Roll #99***

**Volume No. Description Dates**

- 188 Convict Records for the State Penitentiary and  
 Prison Camps, Mines & Work Farms 1873-1892  
*(Includes Commutations, Deaths, Escapes, Pardons,  
 Paroles, etc.)*
- 189 Daily Convict Count Book,  
 Tennessee State Penitentiary 3/30/1891-6/25/1892
- 190 Daily Convict Count Book,  
 Tennessee State Penitentiary 3/11/1893-6/30/1894
- 191 Daily Convict Count Book,  
 Tennessee State Penitentiary 7/17/1895-1/29/1896  
 b. Prisoners Received & Discharged at  
 State Penitentiary 1873-1896
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***Mf. Roll #100***

- 192 Daily Convict Count Book,  
 Tennessee State Penitentiary 1896-1897
- 193 Daily Convict Count Book,  
 Tennessee State Penitentiary 3/04/1897-8/27/1897  
 b. Prisoners Received at Newsom's Quarry 1895-1896
- 194 Daily Convict Count Book,  
 Tennessee State Penitentiary 7/1928-11/1933
- 195 Deaths 1894-1920
- 196 Discharges 1896-1910
- 197 Discharges 5/1910-6/1919
- 

***Mf. Roll #101***

- 198 Discharges 7/1919-10/1921
- 199 Distribution of Convict Labor1/1898-11/1910
- 200 Distribution of Convict Labor2/1910-10/1919

**Record Group Number: 25 Prison Records, 1831-1992**

**Series Number: 10 Series Title: Prison Records**

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***Mf. Roll #102***

**Volume No. Description Dates**

201	Good Time Record, New Main Prison	1880-1900
202	Record of Prisoners Received and Transferred <i>(Also contains some monthly prisoner statistics from work farms, 1870-1871)</i>	12/1883-6/1892
203	Record of Prisoners Received, Transferred, Discharged, etc.	12/1906-12/1926
204	Unit Records, Unit #1, Tennessee State Prison	1/07/1989-7/25/1989

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***Mf. Roll #103***

205	Warden's Record of Receipt and Disposition of Valuable Letters for Convicts	1/18/1896-1905
206	Visitor's Register, Tennessee State Penitentiary	7/1930-4/1933

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***Mf. Roll #104***

207	Visitor's Register, Tennessee State Penitentiary	1/1936-7/1939
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