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TENNESSEE PRISON RECORDS 1831-1992

RECORD GROUP: 25

ROLL	START Volume	thru	END Volume
1	1	thru	3
2	4	thru	6
3	7	thru	9
4	10	thru	11
5	12	thru	14
6	15	thru	16
7	17	thru	18
8	19	thru	20
9	21	thru	27
10	28	thru	33
11	34	thru	38
12	39	thru	43
13	44	thru	46
14	47	thru	50
15	51		
16	52	thru	53
17	54	thru	55
18	56	thru	57
19	58		
20	59		
21	60		
22	61		
23	62		

8/3/2007

35mm film

TENNESSEE PRISON RECORDS 1831-1992*(Page 2 of 5)***RECORD GROUP: 25**

ROLL	START Volume	thru	END Volume
24	63		
25	64		
26	65		
27	66		
28	67		
29	68		
30	69		
31	70		
32	71		
33	72		
34	73		
35	74		
36	75		
37	76		
38	77		
39	78		
40	79		
41	80		
42	81		
43	82		
44	83		
45	84		
46	85		

35mm film

TENNESSEE PRISON RECORDS 1831-1992*(Page 3 of 5)***RECORD GROUP: 25**

ROLL	START Volume	thru	END Volume
47	86		
48	87		
49	88		
50	89		
51	90	thru	91
52	92	thru	93
53	94	thru	95
54	96	thru	97
55	98	thru	99
56	100		
57	101		
58	102		
59	103		
60	104		
61	105		
62	106		
63	107		
64	108		
65	109		
66	110		
67	111		
68	112		
69	113	thru	114

35mm film

TENNESSEE PRISON RECORDS 1831-1992*(Page 4 of 5)***RECORD GROUP: 25**

ROLL	START Volume	thru	END Volume
70	115	thru	116
71	117	thru	118
72	119		
73	120	thru	121
74	122		
75	123		
76	124		
77	125		
78	126		
79	127		
80	128		
81	129		
82	130		
83	131		
84	132	thru	133
85	Confidential, 134	thru	Confidential, 137
86	Confidential, 138	thru	Confidential, 141
87	Confidential, 142	thru	Confidential, 145
88	146	thru	148
89	149	thru	153
90	154	thru	155
91	Confidential, 156	thru	Confidential, 158
92	Confidential, 159	thru	Confidential, 161

35mm film

TENNESSEE PRISON RECORDS 1831-1992*(Page 5 of 5)***RECORD GROUP: 25**

ROLL	START Volume	thru	END Volume
93	Confidential, 162	thru	Confidential, 164
94	Confidential, 165	thru	Confidential, 167
95	Confidential, 168	thru	Confidential, 169
96	170	thru	174
97	175	thru	178
98	179	thru	187
99	188	thru	191
100	192	thru	197
101	198	thru	200
102	201	thru	204
103	205	thru	206
104	207		
105	208	thru	210

35mm film

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TENNESSEE PRISON RECORDS 1831-1992 **RG 25**

Volume No.

1. 1 thru 3	30. 69	59. 103	88. 146 thru 148
2. 4 thru 6	31. 70	60. 104	89. 149 thru 153
3. 7 thru 9	32. 71	61. 105	90. 154 thru 155
4. 10 thru 11	33. 72	62. 106	91. Confidential, 156 thru 158
5. 12 thru 14	34. 73	63. 107	92. Confidential, 159 thru 161
6. 15 thru 16	35. 74	64. 108	93. Confidential, 162 thru 164
7. 17 thru 18	36. 75	65. 109	94. Confidential, 165 thru 167
8. 19 thru 20	37. 76	66. 110	95. Confidential, 168 thru 169
9. 21 thru 27	38. 77	67. 111	96. 170 thru 174
10. 28 thru 33	39. 78	68. 112	97. 175 thru 178
11. 34 thru 38	40. 79	69. 113 thru 114	98. 179 thru 187
12. 39 thru 43	41. 80	70. 115 thru 116	99. 188 thru 191
13. 44 thru 46	42. 81	71. 117 thru 118	100. 192 thru 197
14. 47 thru 50	43. 82	72. 119	101. 198 thru 200
15. 51	44. 83	73. 120 thru 121	102. 201 thru 204
16. 52 thru 53	45. 84	74. 122	103. 205 thru 206
17. 54 thru 55	46. 85	75. 123	104. 207
18. 56 thru 57	47. 86	76. 124	
19. 58	48. 87	77. 125	
20. 59	49. 88	78. 126	
21. 60	50. 89	79. 127	
22. 61	51. 90 thru 91	80. 128	
23. 62	52. 92 thru 93	81. 129	
24. 63	53. 94 thru 95	82. 130	
25. 64	54. 96 thru 97	83. 131	
26. 65	55. 98 thru 99	84. 132 thru 133	
27. 66	56. 100	85. Confidential, 134 thru 137	
28. 67	57. 101	86. Confidential, 138 thru 141	
29. 68	58. 102	87. Confidential, 142 thru 145	

March 2, 2004



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Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives
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**PRISON RECORDS,
STATE OF TENNESSEE
1831-1992**

PART 2: OVERSIZED VOLUMES

RECORD GROUP 25

Processed by:

John A. Adamson (1973)
Archives Division, TSLA
David R. Sowell (2003)
Archival Technical Services, TSLA

Date Completed: August 20, 2003
Location: 8th Stack, TSLA

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.”¹ 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.²
- 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.

¹ Public Acts of Tennessee, 1829, Chapter 23.

² 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.³ 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.

³ 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 transfer 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.”⁴
- The State Legislature creates the position of a female “matron for the female department” of the state penitentiary⁵, however does not fund the position. It will be 1897 before this new position is filled.

⁴ Acts of Tennessee, Chapter 97, pp. 202-204, 1893.

⁵ Acts of Tennessee, Chapter 72, 1893.

- 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.”⁶
- 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. 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.

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

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.⁷

- 1907 The first juvenile court legislation is passed by the General Assembly. ⁸
- 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.⁹ 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.¹⁰ 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 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.

⁷ The Nashville Tennessean and the Nashville American, October 11, 1902.

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

⁹ Acts of Tennessee, Chapter 500, pp. 1810-1811, 1910.

¹⁰ Acts of Tennessee, Juvenile Court Act, Chapter 58, 1911.

- 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.¹¹
Congress passes the Hawes-Cooper Act of 1929, regulating the interstate transfer of prison-made goods.¹² 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.¹³
- 1935 The State Legislature authorizes the purchase of lands and construction of the Fort Pillow State Penal Farm in Lauderdale County.¹⁴ 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.¹⁵
- 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.¹⁶

¹¹ Acts of Tennessee, Chapter 70, 1929.

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

¹³ Acts of Tennessee, Chapter 15, 1934-35.

¹⁴ Acts of Tennessee, 1935.

¹⁵ Acts of Tennessee, Chapter 278, 1937.

¹⁶ Acts of Tennessee, Chapter 48, 1937.

- 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.¹⁷
The Legislature also enacts harsher criminal penalties, which increases an already burdened prison system. The prison classification system is created at the State Prison.¹⁸
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. 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.

¹⁷ Acts of Tennessee, Chapter 102, 1955.

¹⁸ Acts of Tennessee, Chapter 11, 1955.

- 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.¹⁹
- 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.

¹⁹ 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 its 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 its 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

SERIES TITLE

<u>SERIES</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>VOL. NO.</u>
1	Contracts & Specifications	
2	Convict Records	
	a. Convict Record Reference	1-2
	b. Indexes	3-15, 19-22
	c. Index of Discharges	16-18
	d. Branch Prisons & Work Camps	23-43
	e. Convict Records	44-89
	f. Grade Books	90-108
3	Correspondence	
	a. Letter Books	109-133
4	Employee Records	
	a. Time Books for Prison Employees	134-145
5	Financial Records	
	a. Accounts	146-148
	b. Cash books	149-150
	c. Stewards reports	151
	d. Monthly reports of Foundry castings	152-153
	e. Journals	154-155, 170-171
	f. Payroll books	91-169
6	Legal Records	
	a. Trial transcripts	
	b. Court records	
7	Minutes	172-178
8	Pardons & Commutations	179-180
9	Paroles	181-183
	a. Escapes & Parole Violators	186-187
	b. Prisoners Eligible for Parole	185
10	Prison Records	188-207
	a. Daily Count Books	189-194
	b. Deaths	195
	c. Discharges	196-198, 203
	d. Inventories	
	e. Reports	
	f. Requisitions for Supplies	
	g. Visitors Registers	206-207

Record Group Number: 25
Series Number: 2

Prison Records, 1831-1992
Series Title: Convict Records

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

Mf. Roll #2

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

Mf. Roll #3

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

Mf. Roll #4

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

²⁰ Also includes inmates from 1926-1933, but primarily years of 1933-1957.

²¹ Also includes inmates from 1926-1933, but primarily years of 1933-1957.

Record Group Number: 25
Series Number: 2

Prison Records, 1831-1992
Series Title: Convict Records

Mf. Roll #5

<u>Volume No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
12	Index Book, A-K (reference: Convict Books C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J)	1954-1972
13	Index Book, L-Z (reference: Convict Books B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J)	1954-1972
14	Index Book, A-K (reference: Convict Books J, K-2, L-2, M-2, N-2)	1971-1977

Mf. Roll #6

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

Mf. Roll #7

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

Mf. Roll #8

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

Mf. Roll #9

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

Record Group Number: 25
Series Number: 2

Prison Records, 1831-1992
Series Title: Convict Records

<u>Volume No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
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 b. Cockrill's Farm, Davidson County c. Ensley's Farm, Shelby County d. Etna Coal Mines, Whiteside, Marion County e. Hatton Prison Camp f. Holston Prison Camp g. Inman Iron Ore Mines, Marion County h. Morrow's Farm, Davidson County i. Oliver Springs Coal Mines, Roane County j. Tracy City Coal Mines, Grundy County	1879-1890 1879-1880 1872-1885 1881-1890 1878-1883 1884-1886 1876-1885 1884-1890 1894-1890 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 ²²
30	Convict Records: Inman Iron Ore Mines, Marion County	1882-1890
31	Convict Records: Inman Iron Ore Mines, Marion County	1885-1887

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

Record Group Number: 25
Series Number: 2

Prison Records, 1831-1992
Series Title: Convict Records

<u>Volume No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
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; Tracy City Coal Mines, Grundy County	1868-1878 1878-1890
36	Convict Records: Tracy City Coal Mines, Grundy County	1876-1889
37	Convict Records: Tracy City Coal Mines, Grundy County; Main Prison, Nashville, Tenn.	1876-1890 1890-1896
38	Convict Records: Tracy City Coal Mines, Grundy County	1885-1890

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
Series Number: 2

Prison Records, 1831-1992
Series Title: Convict Records

<u>Volume No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
42	Convict Records: State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn. ²³	1831-1842
43	Convict Records: ²⁴ 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
<hr/> <i>Mf. Roll #13</i>		
44	Convict Records: State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.	1845-1869
45	Convict Records: State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.	1865-1875
46	Convict Records: State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn.	1865-1976

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

²⁴ Originally Volume 86, RG 25. This volume indexed by Charles A. Sherrill, "Tennessee Convicts: Early Records of the State Penitentiary, Vol. 2, 1850-1870."

Record Group Number: 25
Series Number: 2

Prison Records, 1831-1992
Series Title: Convict Records

Mf. Roll #14

<u>Volume No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
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
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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

Record Group Number: 25
Series Number: 2

Prison Records, 1831-1992
Series Title: Convict Records

Mf. Roll #18

<u>Volume No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
56	Convict Records: State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn. Book "I"	1894-1896
57	Convict Records: State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn. Book "J"	1896-1898 ²⁵

Mf. Roll #19

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

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

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

61	Convict Records: State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn. Book "N"	1908-1912 ²⁶
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Mf. Roll #23

62	Convict Records: State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn. Book "O"	1912-1917
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²⁵ Some convicts listed in Book "J" were received in 1873.

²⁶ Some convicts listed in Book "N" were received in 1900.

Record Group Number: 25
Series Number: 2

Prison Records, 1831-1992
Series Title: Convict Records

Mf. Roll #24

<u>Volume No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
63	Convict Records: State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn. Book "P"	1917-1922

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
Series Number: 2

Prison Records, 1831-1992
Series Title: Convict Records

Mf. Roll #31

<u>Volume No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
70	Convict Records: State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn. Book "W"	1937-1939

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
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Record Group Number: 25
Series Number: 2

Prison Records, 1831-1992
Series Title: Convict Records

Mf. Roll #38

<u>Volume No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
77	Convict Records: State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn. Book "D"	1957-1960

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
Series Number: 2

Prison Records, 1831-1992
Series Title: Convict Records

Mf. Roll #45

<u>Volume No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
84	Convict Records: State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn. Book "K-2"	1972-1974

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
Series Number: 2

Prison Records, 1831-1992
Series Title: Convict Records

Mf. Roll #52

<u>Volume No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
92	Grade Book #37 Convict #36,001 – #37,000	1941-1942
93	Grade Book #38 Convict #37,000 – #38,000	1942-1944

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

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

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

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
Series Number: 2

Prison Records, 1831-1992
Series Title: Convict Records

Mf. Roll #58

<u>Volume No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
102	Grade Book #48 Convict #47,000 – #48,000	1954-1955

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
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Record Group Number: 25
Series Number: 3

Prison Records, 1831-1992
Series Title: Correspondence

Mf. Roll #65

<u>Volume No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
109	Letter Book: Advisory Board of Pardons	1897-1898

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

Mf. Roll #70

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

Mf. Roll #71

117	Letters of Recommendation: Advisory Board of Pardons	1911-1912
118	Letters of Recommendation: Advisory Board of Pardons	1912-1914

Record Group Number: 25
Series Number: 3

Prison Records, 1831-1992
Series Title: Correspondence

Mf. Roll #72

<u>Volume No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
119	Letters of Recommendation: Advisory Board of Pardons	1914-1919

Mf. Roll #73

120	Letter Book: Board of Penitentiary Inspectors	1890-1891
121	Letter Book: Board of Prison Commissioners	1898-1899

Mf. Roll #74

122	Letter Book: Board of Prison Commissioners	1899
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Mf. Roll #75

123	Letter Book: Board of Prison Commissioners	May-December 1899
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Mf. Roll #76

124	Letter Book: Board of Prison Commissioners	9/1899-6/1900
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Mf. Roll #77

125	Letter Book: Board of Prison Commissioners	9/1899-6/1901
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Mf. Roll #78

126	Letter Book: Board of Prison Commissioners	1/1900-3/1900
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Mf. Roll #79

127	Letter Book: Board of Prison Commissioners	4/1900-5/1900
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Record Group Number: 25
Series Number: 3

Prison Records, 1831-1992
Series Title: Correspondence

Mf. Roll #80

<u>Volume No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
128	Letter Book: Board of Prison Commissioners	6/1900-10/1900

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

Record Group Number: 25
Series Number: 4

Prison Records, 1831-1992
Series Title: Employee Records

Mf. Roll #85

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

<u>Volume No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
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

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

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
Series Number: 5

Prison Records, 1831-1992
Series Title: Financial Records

Mf. Roll #88

<u>Volume No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
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

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

Mf. Roll #90

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

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

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
Series Number: 5

Prison Records, 1831-1992
Series Title: Financial Records

Mf. Roll #93

The following records (Payroll Books) are confidential:

<u>Volume No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
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

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

Mf. Roll #95

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

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
Series Number: 7

Prison Records, 1831-1992
Series Title: Minutes

Mf. Roll #96

<u>Volume No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
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

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
Series Number: 8

Prison Records, 1831-1992
Series Title: Pardons

Mf. Roll #98

<u>Volume No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
179	Pardons	1894-1915
180	Commutations	1905-1915

Record Group Number: 25
Series Number: 9

Prison Records, 1831-1992
Series Title: Paroles

Mf. Roll #98

<u>Volume No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
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 <i>(includes "Holdovers" in Other Institutions, Wanted at Expiration of Term, Deceased, Discharges, Pardons and Transfers)</i>	1930-1938

Record Group Number: 25
Series Number: 10

Prison Records, 1831-1992
Series Title: Prison Records

Mf. Roll #99

<u>Volume No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
188	Convict Records for the State Penitentiary and Prison Camps, Mines & Work Farms (Includes Commutations, Deaths, Escapes, Pardons, Paroles, etc.)	1873-1892
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 b. Prisoners Received & Discharged at State Penitentiary	7/17/1895-1/29/1896 1873-1896

Mf. Roll #100

192	Daily Convict Count Book, Tennessee State Penitentiary	1896-1897
193	Daily Convict Count Book, Tennessee State Penitentiary b. Prisoners Received at Newsom's Quarry	3/04/1897-8/27/1897 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 Labor	1/1898-11/1910
200	Distribution of Convict Labor	12/1910-10/1919

Record Group Number: 25
Series Number: 10

Prison Records, 1831-1992
Series Title: Prison Records

Mf. Roll #102

<u>Volume No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
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

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

Mf. Roll #104

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

NAME INDEX

- Albright, Dr. J. A. 6-9, 11
 Anderson, S. F. 11-6
 Ashley, George H. 5-4
 Austin, Richard W. 10-1
 Avent, Frank. 8-3
 Barham, E. A. 3-1
 Baugh, A. T. 3-1; 6-4
 Bearden, C. E. 3-4
 Black, Dr. W. G. 5-4
 Blevins, R. L. 3-4, 8;
 4-1, 4; 6-4, 9; 7-4
 Bowling, J. H. 4-4; 6-9;
 7-1
 Brown, Charles S. 3-6, 8;
 4-1; 6-9
 Brown, Enloe. 4-4; 7-8
 Brown, Lucius P. 8-9
 Brownlow, W. P. 3-8; 6-4;
 7-6
 Burrow, Robert. 3-6; 6-11, 9
 Carden, L. A. 10-1
 Carroll, Governor B. F., Iowa
 5-4
 Carter, William A. 11-3
 Cason, H. H. 4-1
 Cates, Charles T., Jr. 7-8;
 8-1, 5, 10; 9-5; 10-2
 Cleage, W. B. 7-6
 Cobb, P. L. 3-4
 Cockrill, B. F., Jr. 7-6
 Cory, H. L. 4-5; 5-1;
 7-1, 2, 4
 Cox, Governor Joh. I. 3-8;
 4-1, 5; 7-6; 8-1, 3, 4, 4;
 11-4
 Denton, John S. 3-9; 4-2;
 7-4, 7; 11-1, 9
 Dibrell, Frank. 8-9
 Edwards, John T. 3-6, 9;
 4-1; 6-5, 9
 Elliot, E. G. 6-1
 English, W. F. 5-5; 8-9, 10;
 9-5; 10-1
 Enloe, B. A. 8-3
 Essary, John T. 3-9; 4-5; 6-5
 Evans, A. W. 5-1
 Farris, G. W. 3-6
 Folk, Reau E. 7-8
 Fort, R. E. 6-1, 2
 Foster, R. A. 6-10; 7-2
 Foster, W. R. 3-4, 6
 Frazier, Governor James B. 6-5; 7-6;
 8-6
 Gaines, John W. 6-4; 7-5
 Gammon, M. H. 3-4, 9; 4-1; 5-3; 6-5;
 7-9; 8-2; 11-3
 Gillenwater, P. K. 11-4
 Gillenwater, W. E. 8-6; 10-2
 Goodloe, Hallum W. 9-5
 Gott, John R. 4-1; 7-2
 Graves, H. B. 5-3; 7-8; 8-1
 Harris, James H. 6-10
 Hart, J. F. 3-1
 Hartford, William H. 7-2; 8-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10;
 9-6
 Haskins, J. B. 3-1; 6-2
 Helms, John E. 4-2, 6; 7-2
 Hill, J. T. 3-4; 6-6; 10-5
 Holliday, O. K. 9-1
 Hooper, Governor Ben W. 5-5, 7; 11-6
 Jones, T. A. 3-1, 4, 7; 6-7
 Kittel, J. Otto. 8-7; 9-1
 King, Thomas F. 7-5, 6
 Lewis, E. C. 3-3, 5; 6-7
 Lindsley, John Berrien. 3-5
 McClellan, Andrew. 3-5
 McCorkle, A. A. 5-4; 8-5, 9; 9-4, 6; 10-1, 2
 McMenaway, Luke. 7-9; 8-4
 McMillan, Governor Benton. 3-9, 10; 4-2, 6; 5-2;
 6-11; 7-2, 5, 7
 McWhirter, A. J. 4-1, 6; 7-2, 5
 Mackey, Dr. J. L. 4-6; 7-7
 Mann, Governor William Hodges, Virginia
 5-5, 6
 Mann, Homer. 4-6
 Marshall, M. M. 8-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10;
 9-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8; 10-1, 2; 11-2, 4
 Meriwether, F. A. 5-1; 7-7, 8
 Morgan, R. J. 6-3
 Morrow, H. B. 9-4, 5
 Morrow, William. 6-11
 Murray, W. T. 3-10; 5-1, 3; 7-4, 5, 7, 8, 9; 8-2;
 10-1, 3; 11-10
 Neil, Dr. James B. 5-2; 7-3
 Nelson, Thomas A. R. 7-3
 Nelson, W. H. 4-2, 7; 5-3; 7-1, 3, 9; 11-2
 Nixon, G. W. 3-2, 5, 7; 4-2; 6-7; 7-3
 Nixon, W. M. 6-1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11; 7-1, 2, 3, 7;
 10-3, 5

Patterson, Governor Malcolm R.
 5-5; 7-9; 8-7,8,10; 9-1,2,4,5,6;
 10-1,2,3
 Peay, Governor Austin. 7-7
 Pickle, G. W. 3-7; 4-2,7; 5-2;
 6-3,11; 7-3,5
 Ragsdale, P. H. 6-7
 Ransom, S. R. 4-3; 7-3
 Reynolds, N. L. 8-2; 9-3
 Rice, B. M. 3-3,5; 5-6; 9-2
 Rippy, J. M. 9-4,7
 Rogers, Henry F. 8-2,3,4,5,7,8,9;
 9-3; 10-2
 Roosevelt, President Theodore
 8-2,8
 Royston, C. A. 7-6
 Rucker, W. G. 6-3
 Rye, Governor Tom C. 7-9; 11-10
 Sangree, Ernest. 6-10,11
 Seay, Ed. T. 6-11
 Sims, Thetus W. 7-3
 Southgate, William W. 7-9
 St. John, Dr. George. 8-5;
 10-4
 Taft, President William H.
 5-6,8; 9-8
 Taylor, Dr. James P. 4-3
 Taylor, Governor Robert L.
 3-5,7; 6-8,11
 Thomas, Governor Charles S. Colorado
 4-6
 Trice, John H. 3-3,4,9,10; 4-2,7;
 6-3,8,11
 Turney, Governor Peter. 3-3,10;
 4-3; 6-1,3,11
 Wilcox, T. S. 5-4; 10-4
 Wood, A. H. 3-7,8,9; 4-3; 6-11
 Worley, J. Parks. 10-4
 Wright, Will D. 3-7

SUBJECT INDEX

- Bertillon System. 10-1; 11-10
 Brick--Quality. 5-2
 Brick--Transportation. 6-10;
 7-4,6
 British Consulate. 5-3
 Brushy Mountain Mines--Accidents
 4-3,5; 7-2,4; 10-1
 Brushy Mountain Mines--Bulk Coal
 Sales. 3-4
 Brushy Mountain Mines--Coal
 Output. 6-6,7,9; 7-2; 8-2; 9-3,4
 Brushy Mountain Mines--Coal Quality
 4-5
 Brushy Mountain Mines--Coal Reserves
 7-2
 Brushy Mountain Mines--Contract--Timber
 Cutting. 6-11
 Brushy Mountain Mines--Electric Haulage
 System. 4-6,7; 7-3,7; 8-2
 Brushy Mountain Mines--Escapes. 3-1,3;
 4-7; 6-4; 7-9; 8-2; 9-5
 Brushy Mountain Mines--Fires. 4-5; 7-8;
 9-9; 10-1
 Brushy Mountain Mines--Natural Gas Seepage
 9-3
 Brushy Mountain Mines--Operation Reports
 5-1; 7-2,4,7; 10-5,6
 Brushy Mountain Mines--Overhead Mine
 Trolley. 4-5
 Brushy Mountain Mines--Structure
 Section--Bituminous Coal. 5-1
 Brushy Mountain Mines--Telephone
 Lines. 4-1,3,7; 6-11; 9-4,6
 Capital Punishment. 10-2; 9-5; 11-5
 Carroll County--Politics. 5-8
 Coal--Contracts. 3-4,6,8,9; 4-5;
 5-1,4; 6-1,2,4,7,9; 7-1,2,4,7,9;
 8-1,5,9; 9-2,3,4; 10-1,2,5
 Coal--Land Acquisitions. 3-7; 5-1,2;
 7-7; 8-3,4,6,7,8,9,10; 9-2,3,4,5
 Coal--Market Conditions. 3-4; 4-5;
 5-4; 6-6; 7-1,2; 8-9; 10-1,5
 Coal--Transportation. 3-4; 4-3,5,7;
 5-4,5; 6-1,2,3,5,6,9,11; 7-1,2,4,5,
 7; 8-1,3,5,9; 9-2,4; 10-1,5,6
 Coal Creek Mines--Escapes. 4-2; 7-6
 Coal Creek Mines. 4-5
 Coal Screens. 10-6
 Coke--Appalachian Exposition Award. 5-6
 Coke--Contracts. 10-1
 Coke--Keneval Desulphurization Process
 4-1
 Coke--Output. 8-9
 Coke--Transportation. 4-4,5; 8-9; 9-4
 Convict Labor. 3-1,2,4,5,6,7,8,9,10;
 4-1,2,3,4,6,7; 5-1,3,5,6,4; 6-1,2,3,4,6,7,9;
 7-1,2,3,4,6,7,9; 8-2,6,8; 9-4,6,7; 10-1,3,4,
 6; 11-4,5,10
 Convict Labor--Contracts. 5-2,3; 3-2
 Convict Labor--Legislation. 5-2,3; 7-1
 Convict Money. 5-5; 6-3; 9-2; 8-1; 11-10
 Drug Abuse. 10-2
 Dyer County--Supreme Court Nomination
 Convention, 1910. 10-3
 East Tennessee Land Company--Reorganization
 Committee. 6-3
 Elections--Gubernatorial, 1894. 7-8
 Elections--Gubernatorial, 1912. 5-7,8
 Elections--Gubernatorial--Warren County. 6-8
 Elections--Presidential--Morgan County. 3-1
 Explosives--Management. 6-3
 Fall Creek Prison Camp. 6-3
 Fayette County--Politics. 5-8
 Forest Management. 3-7; 7-2,1
 German Consulate. 8-3
 Giles County--Convict Labor--Roadbuilding.
 6-3
 Good Time. 4-1,2,6; 5-1,3,6; 9-6
 Grade System. 5-2; 8-3; 11-5
 Herbert Domain--Bledsoe County. 5-4,5,6; 7-7;
 8-5,7,10; 9-1,2,3,6; 10-4
 Inman Iron Ore Mines. 3-2,3,4,8
 Inman Iron Ore Mines, escapes. 3-3,6,9; 6-5;
 7-3
 Iron Ore--Transportation. 3-5; 6-5
 Legislation--Acts of 1899, Chapter 405
 Legislation--Acts of 1903, Chapter 278. 5-6
 Legislation--Acts of 1903, Chapter 378. 5-5;
 8-3
 Legislation--Acts of 1907, Chapter 430. 5-5
 Legislation--Acts of 1907, Chapter 506. 5-5
 Legislation--Acts of 1909, Chapter 500. 9-5
 Little Fork Mountain--Bituminous Coal. 5-1
 Main Prison--Accidents. 11-2
 Main Prison--Boilers. 4-4,5,6; 7-1; 8-1
 Main Prison--Chair Factory. 4-4; 5-1; 6-4

- Main Prison--Commissioner's Manufacturing Department. 3-1,4,7; 6-7
 Main Prison--Construction. 3-4; 4-2; 6-1
 Main Prison--Escapes. 3-1,5,9; 4-4,7; 6-6; 7-8; 8-8; 11-2
 Main Prison--Fire Prevention. 3-7; 4-1; 6-8; 9-3
 Main Prison--Foundry. 3-6; 4-7; 5-3; 6-4,8,9; 7-5,7; 8-8; 9-3,4,8; 10-2; 11-2
 Main Prison--Harness Factory. 3-7,10; 5-3; 6-8; 8-8; 9-3,8
 Main Prison--Hosiery Mill. 3-7,9,10; 4-3,7; 6-11; 7-9; 8-7; 9-3,6
 Main Prison--Knitting Mill. 3-1; 4-4
 Main Prison--Paper Box Factory. 4-3; 5-3
 Main Prison--Religious Life. 3-9; 4-6; 5-5
 Main Prison--Shirt Factory. 3-10
 Main Prison--Shoe Factory. 3-2; 4-3, 4; 5-3,4,6; 6-5,7; 7-3; 9-3
 Main Prison--Steamboat Landing. 6-1; 6-3
 Main Prison--Telephone Service. 6-1
 Main Prison--Water Filtration Plant. 6-8,9,10,11
 Maury County--Politics. 5-7
 Morgan County--Politics. 3-1
 Morrow -vs- Board of Prison Commissioners 4-2
 Morrow's Farm--Brick Plant. 3-6,9; 4-6; 5-2,4; 6-1,5,10; 7-6; 10-2; 11-2
 Morrow's Farm--Texas Fever--Quarantine. 6-11
 Nashville Interurban Railway--Extension to Main Prison. 3-5; 8-7
 Newsom's Quarry, escapes. 4-2
 Old Main Prison--Sale. 3-7; 7-8
 Old Main Prison, escapes. 3-6
 Old Main Prison--Lease Contract. 4-2
 Patton, S. M.--Bronze Bust. 5-1
 Pikeville Branch Prison. 6-1,2
 Pikeville Branch Prison, escapes. 3-1; 6-2
 Prison Discipline. 3-1,5,6,8,10; 4-3; 5-6; 6-10; 7-2,3,7; 8-1,3,10; 9-4
 Prisoners, Education of. 7-3; 9-7; 10-3; 11-5
 Prisoners--Federal--Government Subsidy. 9-1
 Prisoners--Minors. 5-5; 8-6; 10-3
 Prisoners, Transportation of. 4-4,5,7; 5-5,6; 6-9,10,11; 7-3; 8-3,8; 10-3; 11-1,2
 Prison Labor--National Committee--Leaflets 5-6
 Prison Releases Gratuities. 3-5; 8-2,9; 9-7
 Queen & Crescent Coal Company -vs- Board of Prison Commissioners. 8-10; 10-2
 Queen & Crescent Coal Company -vs- Harriman & Northeastern Railroad Company. 8-1
 Reformatory for Boys--Recommendation Against Establishment. 8-6
 Republican Party--Dual County Committees 5-7,8
 Republican Party--Dual State Delegate Conventions. 5-7
 Republican Party--Factionalism. 5-7,8
 Republican Party--National Convention. 5-7,8
 Republican Party--Patronage. 5-7,8
 Republican Party--State Executive Committee. 5-7,8
 Rewards. 4-5,7; 5-4; 6-1,2,8,9; 7-7; 9-7; 10-5; 11-5
 Scott County--Politics. 5-7
 Sevier County--Politics. 5-7
 Smallpox. 5-2,4; 8-9; 9-4,8; 10-1; 11-5
 Steam Coal. 3-4; 4-5
 Tennessee Centennial Exposition. 3-3; 6-4
 Tennessee Coal Iron and Railroad Company-- Contracts--Operate Inman Mines. 3-4
 Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railroad Co.-- Strike. 6-7
 Trabue, J. C. -vs- Board of Prison Commissioners 5-6; 8-4,8; 9-3,8; 10-4
 Tracy City Mines, escapes. 4-2; 7-8
 Transportation--Railroads--Separate Coach Law. 5-6
 Tunnel Prison Camp. 6-3
 Warren County-- Political Patronage. 6-8

Prison Records, 1831-1922

Correspondence, financial records, minutes, pardons, paroles, commutations, convict identification records, prison record books, and reports.

See descriptive register, Record Group 25.

Subject Headings:

Building and Purchasing Committee
Inspectors of the Tennessee Penitentiary, Board of
Reformatory for Boys
Prison Commissioners, Board of
Politics
Capital Punishment
Land--Coal Mining
Fall Creek Prison Camp
Good Time
Grade System
Herbert Domain
Newsom's Quarry
Pikesville Branch Prison, Bledsoe County
Prison Release Gratuities
Communicable diseases--Smallpox
Tunnel Prison Camp
Baugh, A. T., Warden
Blevins, R. L., Warden
Carter, William A.
Cason, H. H., Warden
Denton, John S.
Edwards, John T., Warden
Elliot, E. G., Warden
English, W. F., Warden
Farris, G. W.
Gammon, M. H., Warden
Hart, J. F., Warden
Hartford, William H.
Helms, John E., Warden
McClellan, Andrew, Warden
McMenaway, Luke, Warden
McWhirter, A. J.
Marshall, M. M.
Morgan, R. J.
Morrow, William
Murray, W. T.
Nixon, W. M.
Ragsdale, P. H., Warden
Ransom, S. R., Warden
Rice, B. M., Warden
Rogers, Henry F.
Rucker, W. G., Warden
Trice, John H.
Roosevelt, President Theodore
Taft, President William H.

McMillan, Governor Tom C.
Turney, Governor Peter
Frazier, Governor James B.
Hooper, Governor Ben W.
Taylor, Governor Robert L.
Patterson, Governor Malcolm R.
Peay, Governor Austin
Contracts
Architectural Drawings
Railroads
Black History
Convict Labor
Prison Discipline
Escapes
Rewards
Bertillon System
Prisoners, Transportation of
Pardons and Commutations
Paroles
Prison, Old Main (Nashville)
Prison, New Main (Nashville)
Brushy Mountain Coal Mines, Morgan County
Coal Creek Mines, Anderson County
Cockerill's Farm, Davidson County
Hatton Prison Camp
Holston Prison Camp
Ensley's Farm, Shelby County
Inman Iron Ore Mines, Marion County
Sewanee Coal Mines, Franklin County
Tracy City Coal Mines, Grundy County
Monterey Prison Camp
Morrow's Farm, Davidson County
Davidson County
Morgan County
Anderson County
Shelby County
Marion County
Bledsoe County
Franklin County
Grundy County
Elections
Republican State Executive Committee
Patronage
Coal Mines and Mining
Iron Mines and Mining
Tennessee Centennial Exposition
Tennessee. Prison Records
Nashville Chair & Carriage Company
Duncan & Company
W. D. Trabue & Company
Tennessee Harness Company
Rock City Hosiery Mill
Rock City Paper Box Factory
Tennessee Shoe Manufacturing Company
Fizer Brick Company
Commissioner's Manufacturing Department

Supreme Court Opinions

Transcripts, Trial