



*New York State Archives*

**New York State Department of State Lists of Convicts  
Discharged by Expiration of Sentence or Pardon B0043**

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## Overview of the Records

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<b>Repository:</b>	New York State Archives
<b>Summary:</b>	The series consists of printed returns of convicts discharged from state prisons, either through expiration of sentence or pardon. Returns were compiled by the clerks of Mt. Pleasant (Sing Sing), Auburn, and Clinton prisons. While they vary in specific format, returns typically provide data on most recent conviction, prior criminal history, and discharge. Basic physical characteristics and limited personal history information are also provided.
<b>Creator:</b>	New York (State). Department of State
<b>Title:</b>	Lists of convicts discharged by expiration of sentence or pardon
<b>Quantity:</b>	3 cubic feet
<b>Quantity:</b>	7 volumes
<b>Inclusive Date:</b>	1819-1853, 1873-1891
<b>Series:</b>	B0043

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## Scope and Content Note

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The series consists of (formerly bound) printed returns of convicts discharged from state prisons, either through expiration of sentence or pardon. The returns were compiled by the clerks of Mt. Pleasant (Sing Sing), Auburn, and Clinton prisons and submitted to the secretary of state's office pursuant to Chapter 83 of the Laws of 1819, and Section 57, Subdivision 8 of Chapter 460 of the Laws of 1847.

Returns vary in format but usually provide felon's name; date of discharge; county where convicted; date of conviction; court; crime; sentence; felon's former trade or occupation; employment in prison; whether so employed when arrested; color; age; sex; birthplace; degree of instruction; height; number of times confined in state prison; number of times confined in county prison; crime for which confined before in state prison; duration of punishment when before in prison; to what prison previously sent; date of present pardon; how discharged; by whom pardoned; marital status; parents (both, mother or father, neither); children (if married); habits of life (temperate, moderate, intemperate); cannot read, read only, read and write; well educated, classical education, religious instruction; how committed; by whom committed;

unexpired time; conditions of pardon (if any); state of health when committed or discharged; and value of articles stolen.

There are major gaps in this series: 1838-1847, 1854-1872, 1874-1875, and 1877-1879 inclusive. There are no name indexes. Volumes three and four are duplicate volumes.

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## Use of Records

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### Access Restrictions

Restricted: records are very fragile and may be handled only with supervision of an archivist. No photocopying.

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## Administrative Information

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### Existence and Location of Originals

Volume for 1850 (Mt. Pleasant, Auburn, and Clinton) also in the New York State Library.

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## Access Terms

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- Prisoners
- Crime
- Pardon
- Releasing prisoners
- Pardoning convicts
- Criminals
- New York (State)
- Clemency