The Prison Sentence Docket for 1795: Inmates at the Nation's First State Penitentiary

Leslie C. Patrick-Stamp
Bucknell University

Introduction

The Jail and Penitentiary House at Walnut Street in Philadelphia was the first institution in the United States designed to reform criminals. Commencing in 1790, Walnut Street Prison, as it is more familiarly known, was also the final stage in the legal process for those people convicted of criminal offenses in the Commonwealth. As such, the architecture and administration of the Walnut Street Prison has received considerable attention from reformers and philanthropists. However, only a few of these observers or commentators seemed aware of or interested in the people sentenced to the penitentiary. Their observations, for the most part, are impressionistic rather than based on the records documenting those who were incarcerated. Transcribed here are the records from the Walnut Street Prison for 1795, the first complete year for which such information is extant. These records offer a view of the prison population and represent the first step toward understanding a group that has yet to receive the sustained attention of scholars.

The Walnut Street Prison assumes singular distinction for numerous reasons, three of which are evident in the Prison Sentence Docket. Established by the legislature of Pennsylvania, Walnut Street Prison became the first state sponsored endeavor to replace corporal punishment with "unremitted solitude to laborious employment" to reform the offender and deter crime. Walnut Street's inception also set a precedent for penal institutions because the legislation authorized transporting convicted offenders from anywhere in the Commonwealth to serve their prison sentences in Philadelphia. Finally, the legislation establishing the prison did not assign penal practices based on an individual's race or gender. No longer did the law allow an individual such as Phoebe, a Chester County slave, to receive the sentence of death by hanging for burglary as was carried out in 1764. Had she been alive and convicted in 1790 instead of 1764, "Phoebe" would have been transported from Chester County to Philadelphia to be incarcerated. Presumably, she would have been "reformed" before returning to her county of residence.
Shortly after Walnut Street opened to admit prisoners, it became a popular attraction for philanthropists and reformers fascinated by this innovation in penal practices. During the first ten years, most reports were favorable. Visiting the penitentiary in 1799, Hipolito de Mendonca observed:

Naturally they have no pleasures, for convicted men do not deserve them, but on the other hand they do not suffer misery. They always acquire some measure of virtue, so that the Philadelphia prison is a true house of correction and its existence for so many years a proof of the possibilities of improvement of those infamous houses of corruption and schools of vice which bear the name of prisons in Europe.⁶

Ten years after its inception, Walnut Street Prison fell out of favor with most penal reformers and philanthropists. By 1800 Walnut Street Prison suffered from a demoralized management as well as "idleness, sickness, filth and disrepair of the buildings."⁷ Scholarly interest in the institution continued well into the twentieth-century, focusing generally on describing and analyzing the prison, detailing reasons for its emergence, and specifically examining the goals of reformers, in addition to problems of the prison's administration. Circumstances of individual inmates figure only indirectly, if at all, in most of these accounts.

To appreciate more fully the significance of Walnut Street Prison, it is instructive to begin by accounting for the individuals who constituted its population. With the exception of a few narratives, confessions, and studies conducted during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, little has been written about the people who inhabited the first prison and why they were there.⁸ Numerous questions can be asked about these inmates: What were their names and for what offenses had they received prison sentences? What were the lengths of their sentences? Where were they prosecuted, and by whom? How old were they and where had they been born or lived before imprisonment? What were the conditions of their release? These questions can be answered using the Prison Sentence Dockets, books in which clerks recorded this information with varying degrees of accuracy. These Docket books survive for the period between 1794 and 1835.⁹

Analysis of the information contained in these documents provides some answers to these basic questions, and allows some general conclusions as well. It is possible to discern whether an inmate served the sentence handed down by the court. In the case of the outlying counties, the record reveals how much time passed between the court handing down its verdict and when the individuals' sentences began. Although the legislation did not stipulate that an individual's race or place of birth should be recorded, the clerk almost always did so, hence allow-
ing for an analysis of the racial and ethnic composition of the prison. The same holds true for the age range of people sentenced to prison. Because the clerk recorded each individual's name, the number of males and females sentenced to the prison can be calculated. Furthermore, the extent to which solitary confinement was used can be discovered in these records.

On February 28, 1795 Margaret Price, 36 years old and born in England, received a prison sentence from the Court of Oyer and Terminer for the County of Lancaster [see record 11]. Price had counterfeited a five dollar note of the Bank of the United States. For this offense she received a five year sentence, four months of which were to be spent in the solitary cells, and she was required to "pay a fine of 50 dollars for the use of the Commonwealth and the costs of prosecution." Price was to remain committed to prison until her sentence had been completed. Although convicted in February, she arrived March 10, 1795 to begin her sentence. On April 26, 1796, a little more than one year after her sentence had begun, Price was pardoned and discharged by the governor, Thomas Mifflin.10

The information contained in these documents, however, does not allow certain other questions to be answered. Few entries reveal such specific details as those in Price's case. Therefore, it is virtually impossible from this record alone to derive conclusions other than the most general about the types of crimes that the imprisoned had committed. In cases of theft, the clerk rarely described what the item was that had been stolen. Nevertheless it is possible to conclude that most inmates were sentenced for crimes against property. The Prison Sentence Docket consistently fails to reveal where or under what circumstances an offense was committed. Finally, the Docket seldom discloses any details about these peoples' lives before, in, or after prison.

Despite these limitations, the Prison Sentence Docket is an essential source of information about the legal process in Pennsylvania. These records become especially illuminating when used in conjunction with other documents. G. S. Rowe and Billy G. Smith's transcription of the Prisoners for Trial Docket for 1795 provides additional information about some of the individuals who received prison sentences at Walnut Street. As a record of the legal process, the Prisoners for Trial Docket precedes the Prison Sentence Docket and it includes information specifying who was accused of what crime, provides some details such as what items were stolen, and discloses the outcome of the trial. If the court found the individual guilty, he or she was sent to "convicts docket," namely Walnut Street Prison. This method of augmentation is limited to examining only those
individuals sentenced from the Mayor's Court in Philadelphia, this being but one of the several criminal courts throughout Pennsylvania that sentenced people to Walnut Street.\textsuperscript{11}

These documents, when used together, can provide a clearer picture of the individuals who were convicted of crimes. For example, the Prisoners for Trial Docket records Robert Maury and John Fleming having been brought before the Philadelphia Mayor's Court on April 11, 1795. Ann Greer accused Maury and Fleming of stealing one gammon, valued at 10 pence.\textsuperscript{12} Both men were found guilty. Only Maurey, according to the Prison Sentence Docket, was sentenced to prison on June 17, 1795 [see record 47]. He was to be incarcerated four months, ordered to pay a fine of 10 shillings, pay the costs of prosecution, and remain committed until his sentence was completed. Maurey was 23 years old, and had been born in Ireland. A printer by trade, he was described as having short dark hair and a scar on the upper lip near the corner of his mouth. Five months later, not four, Maurey was discharged "his time being out and the fine being made and not worth petitioning."\textsuperscript{13}

There are some considerable discrepancies between the Prisoners for Trial and the Prison Sentence Dockets. Three discrepancies become apparent when both documents are examined simultaneously. The first type of discrepancy includes individuals listed in the Prison Sentence Docket as having been convicted in the Mayor's Court; but upon perusal of the Prisoners for Trial Docket the individual does not appear in that document.\textsuperscript{14} The second category includes individuals who appear in the Prison Sentence Docket while the Prisoners for Trial Docket indicates that the person was not found guilty and was discharged.\textsuperscript{15} The third involves an individual being accused of different offenses in each record.

As an example of the third discrepancy, "Ellen, a negress" was sentenced to Walnut Street on October 2, 1795 for "receiving stolen goods" [See record 86]. Her prosecutor was simply listed as M. C. Senechal. For this offense, Ellen received a sentence which included imprisonment for one year, a fine of $118, and the costs of prosecution.\textsuperscript{16} However, according to the Prisoners for Trial Docket, Ellen (as her named was spelled in this document) was charged by her mistress, M. C. Senechal, "with having stolen a Shift and handkerchiefs . . . and hath absconded from her Service."\textsuperscript{17} Apparently, the facts of the case were altered between the first accusation and sentencing by the court.

The Prison Sentence Docket allows an analysis of convicts from both urban and rural Pennsylvania. Since the 1790 legislation authorized all counties to send
convicted offenders to Walnut Street, combining records from these courts with
the Prison Sentence Docket is another method by which to discover additional
information about prisoners. An example of the rewards that result from combin-
ing these legal records is the case of Catherine Coleman.

On November 20, 1795 Catherine Coleman, a black woman aged 21 years,
was sentenced by the Court of Quarter Sessions for Chester County [see record
106]. The court found her guilty for “endeavouring the death of her bastard child.”
Coleman received a two year sentence “to be imprisoned and kept at hard labor.”
The Prison Sentence Docket also reveals that she was a black woman who had
been born in Pennsylvania and “brought up in James Carter's family in Bradford
Township.”

Using other county court documents it is possible to uncover additional
details about Coleman’s crime not otherwise evident in the Prison Sentence
Docket. The events in question occurred in the home of James Carter, presumably
the same household in which she had been “brought up.” On August 12, 1795
Coleman gave birth to a female child who died the same day, apparently “suffering
the said child to perish by her neglect.” Also that same day charges were brought
against Coleman. The next day an inquest was held whereupon the coroner, Dr.
James Bones, determined that indeed she had murdered the child. On August
14, a warrant was issued for Coleman’s arrest. Upon arriving to arrest her, “the
Constable found her sick and unable to be removed at that time.” Six days later,
on August 20, Coleman appeared in court and entered a guilty plea. Up to this
point the wheels of the justice system had sped along rather rapidly.

The alleged father of the child, Dennis Kean, also was indicted and brought
before the Court of Quarter Sessions on August 20. Charged with fornication and
bastardy, Kean entered a not guilty plea. The jury decided otherwise. Kean’s pun-
ishment, however, was only to “pay a fine of ten Pounds and costs of prosecution”
to the Commonwealth. Subsequently, it took almost four months before
Coleman would begin serving her sentence at Walnut Street, arriving there on
December 3, 1795. Like Price, Coleman did not serve the full term imposed upon
her by the court, being “pardoned and discharged November 1, 1796 uncondition-
ally.” Unfortunately, many questions remain about Coleman’s case, but the docu-
ments will not allow them to be answered. There seems to have been little interest
in committing her story, along with many others, to the historical record.

Although the Prison Sentence Docket used independently, or in conjunction
with other sources, provides somewhat limited information about the population
incarcerated at Walnut Street, it is the most logical point of departure for an
examination of the people in the prison. The Prison Sentence Docket is an impor-
tant step toward completing what presently remains a sketchy picture of the past.
It remains a valuable but underutilized resource for social and legal historians.\textsuperscript{23}

The Docket reproduced here has been transcribed from microfilm, the only
form in which information from the Walnut Street Prison is now accessible. Records for the Jail and Penitentiary House encompassed the years between 1790
and 1835. The first book containing information about individuals sentenced to
Walnut Street Prison between 1790 and 1794 has been missing for many years. The
extracted information follows the format used by the clerks who recorded it, organized according to its appearance in the Prison Sentence Docket books. In a
few instances the writing is not legible and ellipses have been used. Abbreviations
have been expanded where necessary, but the original spelling and capitalization
have been retained. Footnotes are used in instances where the individual also
appears in the Prisoners for Trial Docket article and where additional explanation
is required.

\textbf{The Prison Sentence Docket for 1795}

[1, 2] \textit{John Denby & John Dayley.} Burglary & Felony in breaking open the
House of H. Boden & Stealing sundry goods to the value of \textpound17.15.0. Court of Oyer
& Terminus & General Jail Delivery held at Carlisle for the County of Cumberland.
January 3, 1795. Received into the Jail of Philadelphia Jan. 31, 1795. To restore the
Goods if not already done, or pay the value thereof—to pay a fine of equal value
undergo a servitude of hard labour for seven Years, & to be fed & clothed as the
law directs; Pay costs of prosecution & stand committed untill this sentence be
fully complyed with. Hugh Boden: No other information. John Denby, 53 years;
Born in Ireland, a hair dresser, 5 feet 6 Inches high, short gray hair, slim made a
scar just above his mouth from the lip to the left corner of his nose. 1795 December 28:
Rushed out of the Sixth Street gate and escaped. April 26, 1796, Pardoned and dis-
charged on Condition of his leaving the state not to return.

[3] \textit{Thomas Allison.} Larceny, stealing one cow and three steers of the value of
\textpound25. Received in Jail 1795 20 Jan. Court of General Quarter Sessions held at
Chester for the County of Delaware, 27 Jan. 1795. 27 January, 1795. To pay a fine of
Twenty five pounds to the Governor for the use of the Commonwealth—to be
imprisoned two years — be fed clothed & treated as the Law directs pay Cost of
prosecution and stand committed until this Sentence be fully complyed with.
Jonathon Roberts. 27 Years, 17 March 1795. Born in Philadelphia, 5 feet 2½ inches high; now lives in Berkely County Virginia. 1796, March 7. Pardoned by his Excellency the Governor on condition of leaving the state.

[4] James Erwin. Larceny, in stealing wearing apparel and money. County Court of Quarter Sessions, March 2, 1795. 1795, March 3d. To restore the goods if not already done, pay a fine of £3.3.10; Be imprisoned one year fed and cloathed as the law directs—pay cost of prosecution and stand committed till this sentence be fully complied with. Nathaniel Butler. 21 Years. Born in Lewistown, Pennsylvania. 5 feet 2 In., Irish parentage short dark red hair, many freckled, was a servant to Mr. Montgomery of Dauphin County. 1796, March 25. Fine remitted by the Governor & discharged.

[5] George Thompson. Larceny, stealing a Mare. Same Court. March 4. To restore the goods if not already done, pay a fine of £12.15.0; be imprisoned for four years, fed & cloathed as the law directs; pay cost of prosecution and stand committed till this sentence be fully complied with. John McCalla. Time out & enough for him to pay the fine. See page 126.


[7] William Field. Receiving Stolen goods. Sam Court. Mar. 5. To pay a fine of £12.0.0 be imprisoned one year, fed and cloathed as the law directs, pay cost of prosecution and stand committed till this sentence be fully complied with. Jonathan Penrose, Esq. about 45 years. Born in Ireland; Labourer, about 5 feet 5 In. 1795 Sept. 11. Pardoned by the Governor & fine remitted, condition of his leaving the state forthwith not to return.


[9] Joseph Price. Counterfeiting a Ten dollar Bank Note of the Bank of the United States. Court of Oyer & Terminer held at Lancaster for the County of Lancaster the last Monday in Nov. 1794 & continued to 28 Feb. 1795. 28 Feb. 1795. Received into Jail 20th Mar. 1795. To undergo an Imprisonment in the Jail & penitentiary house of Philadelphia for the term of eight years, to be kept & treated as
the law directs and be kept in the solitary cells of the said Prison for eight Months of the time—pay a fine of one hundred Dollars & costs of Prosecution and stand committed till this sentence be complied with. Commonwealth. 51 years. Born in Staffordshire in England—5 feet 6 Inches high—by trade a Master of Gunsmith—short black hair—speaks with the English accent. 1797 June 24. Pardoned & discharged on condition of leaving the state not to return.

**The Same [Joseph Price].** Received into Jail 20 Mar. 1795. Counterfeiting 2 ten Dollar notes of the Bank U States. Same Court. Ditto. To undergo a term of eight years imprisonment from after the 28 Feb. in the Year 1803 and the same as above sentence in making in the whole 16 years imprisonment, 16 months of which in the cells—Ditto; pay a fine of 200d—cost of prosecution. Ditto.

[10] **Ben . . . a negroe.** Larceny—stealing a silver watch value £10.0; 1 gold watch seal value £5.0.0. Same Court. 28 Feb. 1795. Received into Jail 10 Mar. 1795. To undergo a servitude of three years, make restitution of the property or pay the full value, pay a fine of Ten Pounds 10/ to the Commonwealth and be kept at hard Labour & fed as the law directs. William Pitt Atlee. 25 years last March. Born in Pennsylvania in Mr. Wallace family. 5 feet 9½ inches—very Black. 1797 June 10. Pardoned & discharged by his Excellency the Governor.


[12] **Robert Hancock.** Counterfeiting 1 Ten Dollar note of the Bank of the United States. Court of Oyer & Terminer held at Lancaster for the County of Lancaster on February 28 1795. Received into Jail 10 Mar. 1795. To undergo an Imprisonment for the space of five years & be kept in the solitary cells five months of the said term of five years. Pay a fine of 100 Dollars for the use of the commonwealth, pay cost of prosecution and stand committed until this sentence be fully complied with. Commonwealth. 63 years. Born in England in that part of Great Britain called Wales & by trade a plate worker. 1799 February 14. Pardoned & discharged unconditionally by the Governor.

**Ditto [Robert Hancock].** Same, 1 other ten Dollar ditto. Same Court. Ditto. To
undergo an imprisonment of Five Years from and after the 28th Feb. 1798 1800, kept in the cells 5 months &c (same as above in every particular). Commonwealth.

[13] William Shaw. Same—1 Ten dollar Note of the bank of the United States. Same Court. 1795 Feb. 28th. Received into Jail 10 Mar. 1795. To undergo an Imprisonment of five years, and be kept in the solitary cells of the Prison for the term of five months of said five Years, Pay a fine of one hundred Dollars for the use of the Commonwealth & cost of prosecution and stand committed till this sentence be fully complied with. Commonwealth. 1798 Sept. 13. Died of the prevailing fever.

Ditto [William Shaw]. Same, one five dollar note of the Bank of U. States. Same Court. Ditto. To undergo five years imprisonment from and after the 28th of Febry. 1800; kept in the cells 5 months &c. Same as above in every respect. Commonwealth.

Ditto [William Shaw]. Same, another Ten Dollar Bank Note of the Bank U.S. Same Court. Ditto. To undergo five years imprisonment from and after the 28th of February 105; kept in the cells &c (same as above in every respect—Making in the whole 15 Years imprisonment 15 months of which time be kept in the cells—Fines 300D & costs of Prosecution.

[14] William Gregg, a negro. Larceny—Stealing 24 dollars & one french Crown and more at other times, 17.8.3. Mayor's Court, March 1795. 1795 Mar. 20. To restore the Goods stolen or pay the value, pay a fine of 17.8.3 be kept at hard labour one Year pay cost of Prosecution stand committed until this sentence be fully complied with. Christian Debiger. About 34 yr. Born in Jersey, thin visage, long straight hair for a black man and bushy; 5 ft 1½ inches high bowlegged very pleasing countenance.


[18] Peter Nixon a negro. Uttering a counterfeit check. Same Court. Mar. 20. Pay fine of 1 shilling be kept at hard labour one year; pay cost of prosecution & stand committed &c. Bank of Pennsylvania. 41 years 2nd of May. A black man born in Dover, Delaware State. Thick chunky man 5 feet 4½ inches high, a small black mole on the right side of his nose, fair spoken but a great Hippocrate. 1796 10 Mar. Pardoned & fine remitted by the Governor—without condition.

[19, 20, 21] Lyddia Duffield, Elizabeth Wilson, Lucretia Roberts. Larceny. Same Court. Mar. 20. Sentence of each is to restore the goods stolen or the value, pay a fine of One hundred & fifty seven pounds 18/9; be kept at hard Labour for two years & pay costs of prosecution & stand committed till the sentence &c. Samuel Middleton [I forgive the Restitution in full in the case of Lucretia Roberts & Eliza. taken witness my hand the 20 September 1797 Henry Higart]. Lydia Duffield 25 years. Born in Chester County, served her time with squire . . . . long black hair—grayish eyes. 1796 Ap. 29. Pardoned on condition of leaving the state not to return. Eliza. Wilson 21 years the 15 Oct. next. Born in Burlington County; brought up in the family of James Cooper; pale Blue eyes light Hair. 1796 April 29. Pardoned & discharged on condition . . . Lucretia Roberts escaped with Phebe Mines 4 May 1796 see her page 35—& was retaken & received in Jail 1 Sept. 1796. L. Roberts Born in New Jersey about 19 years—full face pale blue eyes—fine remitted of restitution forgiven by the Gov. & discharged . . . . . [I do hereby forgive so much of Restitution or Demand as I may have against Lydia Duffield and Elizabeth Wilson and agree that they be discharged provided their pardons are given witness my hand this 24 April Sam. Middleton.


[24] **Richard O'Daniel.** Horse stealing. Same Court. Mar. 20. Restore the goods or value pay a fine of £45—be imprisoned four years pay cost of prosecution and stand committed till this sentence &c. Aaron Mundenhall. [Note . . . . . . . . sentenced to . . . by the court as above] 20 Years. Born in Maryland, long darkish hair—Butcher by trade, 5 feet 7½ inches high pitted on the nose with the small pox. 1796 Jan. 21. Pardoned & discharged by the Governor on condition of leaving the state not to Return.

[25] **John Bryant.** Larceny. Same Court. Mar. 21. Restore the goods which is done, pay a fine of six pounds, be imprisoned one year & stand committed &c. Benjamin Miller. 24 Years. Born in Ireland about 5 feet 11½ Inches—stout well made, pock marks &c a carpenter by trade. 1796 Jan. 21. Pardoned & discharged by the Governor on condition of leaving the state not to Return.


[27] **John a Negroe.** Larceny. Same Court. Mar. 21. Restore the goods or value pay a fine of £3.15.0 be kept at hard labour six months, pay costs of prosecution & stand committed &c. Demsey Borus [he forgave the Restoration in John's note to that effect given] About 25 years. A Guinea negro about 5 feet, a Labourer. 1795 June 15. Fine remitted by the Governor & discharged on no condition.

[28] **John Johnson.** Larceny. Same Court. Mar. 21. Restore the goods stolen which is done, pay a fine of £7.10.0 be kept at hard labour two years, pay cost of Prosecution & stand committed &c. Vide Docket A folio 121. About 35 years. Born in Ireland, a millwright, about 5 feet 7 inches, thin visage long dark hair. 1797 March 30. Fine remitted by the Governor & discharged accordingly.

[29] **Mary Bell.** Larceny. Mayor's Court March 1795. Mar. 18. Restore the goods or value pay a fine of 15/l be kept at hard labour one year pay cost of Prosecution & stand committed &c. 50 years of age next May. Born in Ireland—see description in Dockett No. 1—132. 1796 Mar. 13. Discharged time expired.


[31] **John Seiffner.** Forgery. Court of General Quarter Sessions held at Easton
for the County of Northampton 15 Ap. 1795. 1795 April 15. Received 20 April 1795. Pay a fine of seven pounds five shillings to the Commonwealth be imprisoned one year at hard labour, fed & cloathed as the law directs, pay cost of Prosecution & stand committed till this sentence be fully complied with. Commonwealth. 59 Years. Born in Germany, very small, by trade a weaver. 1797 April 19. Fine remitted & discharged by the Governor this day.

fine & costs.

[32] Thomas S. M'Cloud. Felony. Court of Quarter Session held at Carlisle for the County of Cumberland on the 9th April 1795. 1795 April 9. Received in Jail 16 May 1795. Pay a fine of 24/6 be kept imprisoned at hard labour for one Year, pay cost of prosecution, & stand committed till this sentence is fully complied with. Lephanial Anderson. 37 years. Born in Ireland but raised in Cumberland County he is about 5 feet 10 or 11 inches. 1796 April 17. Pardoned by his Excellency the Governor on condition of his leaving the state forthwith not to return.

[33] Daniel Beckwith. Felony. Court of General Quarter Sessions held at Reading for the County of Berks. 1795 April 9. Received in Jail 16 May 1795. To be imprisoned at hard labour for the space of eighteen months, be fed cloathed and treated as the law directs—give 10£ so says sheriff. Commonwealth. 22 on April 11. Born in Connecticut—labourer, dark short hair—pitted with small pox 5 feet 7 inches high—narrow face. 1796 Feb. 29. Pardoned & discharged on condition of leaving the state not to return.

[34] John Pett's. Felony. Same Court. 1795 April 9. Received with Beckwith. To be imprisoned at hard labour for the space of one year, bed fed cloathed and treated as the law directs—fine 10£ so says sheriff. Commonwealth. 23 years. Born in Pottsgrove in the State of Pennsylvania, a Mulatto, strait hair very black. 5 feet 8½ in. high, good countenance & slow spoken. 1796 Mar. 1. Pardoned & discharged on condition of his leaving the state not to return.

[34] John Pett's. Felony. Same Court. 1795 April 9. Received with Beckwith. To be imprisoned at hard labour for the space of one year, be fed cloathed and treated as the law directs—fine 10£ so says sheriff. Commonwealth. 23 years. Born in Pottsgrove in the State of Pennsylvania, a Mulatto, strait hair very black. 5 feet 8½ in. high, good countenance & slow spoken. 1796 Mar. 1. Pardoned & discharged on condition of his leaving the state not to return.

[35] John Lloyd. Bigamy. Quarter Sessions Philadelphia June 1795. 1795 June 4. To be imprisoned and kept at hard labour for the space of two years pay a fine of


[37] Noah Penrose. Larceny. Same Court. 1795 June 4. To be imprisoned one year at hard labor, pay a fine of five pounds pay cost of prosecution & stand committed &c. Daniel Dennan. 29 years 12 May next. Born in Philadelphia served his time to Clifford a merchant—5 feet 6½ inches high. 1796 Feb. 29. Pardoned and discharged 28 Febb 1796 on condition of his leaving the state not to return—1796 March 10: Returned to his former Sentence by the Court.


[39] Ann M'Kinzie. Larceny. Same Court. 1795 June 4. To be imprisoned one year restore the goods or the value twelve shillings pay a fine of eight pounds pay cost of prosecution & stand committed &c. Francis Willson. About 28 years. Born in Ireland. 1796 January 18. Pardoned by the Governor on condition of leaving the State.

[40, 41] John Lea, John Clarke. Disorderly Houses. Same Court. 1795 June 4. To be imprisoned at hard labour six months each pay a fine of £25.0.0 & pay the cost of prosecution & give security themselves each in £100 & two securits of £50 each to keep the peace. Commonwealth. [Lea] About 35. Born in Ireland 5 feet 10 inches high pocked marked. 1795 June 24. John Lea pardoned by the Governor his fine remitted & costs paid by M. Baker the High Sherrif and his order filed. [Clarke] About 54 years. Born in Chester County Maryland about 3 miles from head of Elk. 1795 Aug. 20. Pardoned by the Governor (see pardon).

[42] John Orr. Felony. Court of Quarter Sessions held at Franklin May 1795. 1795 May 4. Received in Jail 11 June 1795. To be one year & one month imprisoned at hard labour pay a fine of 33/ pay costs of prosecution & stand committed


[44] John Stewart a negro. Larceny. Mayors Court June 1795. 1795 June 16. To be one year imprisoned restore the goods or value 15/ pay fine of 15/ pay the costs of prosecution & stand committed &c. Michael Shanahan. 22 years old. Born in Kent County Delaware lives with Thomas Morris of Rich Neck a Black man Right eye out, about 5 feet 1¾ inches high. 1796 June 22. Discharged by order of the Board on the 21 Instant—their minutes—his time having expired.


[47] Robert Maurey. Larceny. Same Court. 1795 June 17. To be imprisoned four months—pay a fine of ten shillings & pay cost prosecution & stand &c. Ann Greer. 23 years. Born in Ireland, has a large scar on the upper lip near the corner of his mouth—short dark hair, a printer by trade. 1795 Nov. 17. Discharged his time being out—& the fine being made & not worth petitioning.

[48] Peter Grant. Larceny. Same Court. 1795 June 16. To be imprisoned two years, pay a fine of £32.0.0—pay the cost of prosecution & restore the goods which is done. Secondo Bossio. 21 Years. Born in Mariabou on the coast of Guinea 5 feet 5 in high—long hair combed up very high before scar on the right cheek near his ear, speaks very bad English is a waiter. 1797, 19 Feb. Pardoned by the Governor on condition of leaving the state forthwith and not to Return.

[49] Souison. Mayors Court June 1795. 1795 June 14. To be 6 months imprisoned pay a fine of 32 dollars restore the Goods which is done, & pay the Costs of Prosecution—& stand committed till this sentence be fulfilled. Jacques.
Ambros de Glos. 29 Years. Born in Point Petre about 6 feet high & speaks a little English. 1795, 21 Sept. Pardoned by the Governor on condition of his leaving the State forthwith not to return.


[54] Barney Haines. Larceny. Same Court. 1795 June 17. To be eighteen months imprisoned, restore goods or value which is done pay a fine of £5.0.0 pay costs prosecution &c. Samuel Wiggins About 39 years of age. Born in Ireland, See his Description Docket A, page 123. 1796 July 26. Pardoned & discharged on condition of leaving the state forthwith not to return.


[57] John Thompson. Larceny. Same Court. 1795 June 17. To be two years imprisoned pay a fine of £8.10.0 & pay costs of prosecution &c &c; in all 4 years each pay fine of £15 &c. Joseph Hopkinson. 1797 April 19. John Thompson rushed out at the South Street Gate & escaped.

[58] Barbara Young. Concealing the death of her bastard child. Oyer & Terminer & General Jail delivery at Easton for Northampton County. 1795 June 22.
Received in Jail 24 July 1795. To be imprisoned & kept at hard labour for the space of three years be fed & cloathed & treated as the law directs. Commonwealth. 22 Years. Born in Bethlehem, long dark hair pitted with the small pox. 1797 April 30. Pardoned by his Excellency Thomas Mifflin Esq. Governor &c—unconditionally.

[59] Archibald Bruister. Larceny. Court of Quarter Sessions, Berks County. 1795 August 5. Received in Jail 5 Aug. 1795. To be imprisoned three years at hard labour, fed and cloathed as the law directs—restore the goods or value pay a fine of. Commonwealth. 25 years. Born in the State of New York, five feet 7 1/4 inches, long dark hair—a small scar on the right cheek & a small scar on his forehead, both not plain but . . . already examined. 1796 Sept. 7. Pardoned by his Excellency Thomas Mifflin Esq. Governor &c & discharged this day.

[60] Daniel Docherty. Robbing James Ross on the High Way. Court of Oyer & Terminer & General Quarter Sessions at West Chester for the County of Chester August 17 1795. 1795 August 18. See another Sentence page 63. Received in Jail 26 Aug. 1795. To be imprisoned and kept at hard labour, confined, fed, cloathed and treated as the law directs for and during the term of twenty five years, pay the cost of prosecution and stand committed till this sentence be fully complied with. James Ross. For description see this book, folio 53. 1796 July 14 made escape over the wall he being left in the yard & not locked up Oct. 20 1796 retaken by . . . Weed. 1800 Dec. 27. Pardoned by the Governor Thomas Mifflin & he discharged accordingly this day.

[Daniel Docherty]. Larceny. Same Court. 1795 August 18. To restore the goods or value seven shillings & sixpence, pay a fine of nine shillings to this Governor for the use of the Commonwealth be three months imprisoned & to commence from and after the 18th day of August 1820, pay the cost of Prosecution &c &c. Thomas Armetet.

[61] Daniel Ridge. Larceny. Court of Oyer & Terminer & General Quarter Sessions at West Chester for the County of Chester—August 17 1795. 1795 August 18. Received in Jail 24 Aug. 1795. To restore the goods stolen if not already done, pay a fine to the Governor for the use of the Commonwealth of seven pounds, seven shillings & 6 pence he imprisoned three years, pay the costs of prosecution & stand committed &c &c. James Lloyd, 32 Years. Born in Chester County, 5 feet 8 inches high, short brown hair culed on the neck, a small scar ovr the corner of the left eye, lived with . . . 1797 June 20. Pardoned by his Excellency the Governor on condition of leaving the state not to return—folio changed accordingly.

August 31. Received 16 Sept. 1795. Be one year imprisoned and kept at hard labour, pay a fine of fifty pounds to the Governor for the use of the State, pay the costs of prosecution & stand committed till this sentence be fully complied with. Robert McDowell. In the 22nd year of his age. Born in Ireland, a weaver by trade, thin visage—blue eyes—five feet 8 inches high—light long hair. 1796 Sept. 6. Fine remitted & time expired. By his Excellency the Governor.

[63] Elizabeth Blander. Larceny. Court of Quarter Sessions Lancaster. 1795 August 31. Received 16 Sept. 1795. Be one year imprisoned & kept at hard labour, pay a fine of three pounds eighteen shillings to the Governor for the use of the State, pay the costs of prosecution & stand committed till this sentence be fully complied with. Jacob & John Fry. About 23 years. Born in the Town of Reading—a small woman black eyes & hair. 1796 Sept. 6. Fine remitted by his Excellency the Governor & discharged this day.

[64] John Bergenhorf. Rape. Oyer & Terminer Philadelphia County 24 Sept. 1795. 1795 September 24. To be 10 years imprisoned, be kept at hard labour, fed & clothed as the law directs, pay the costs of prosecution and stand committed till this sentence be fully complied. Elizabeth Bemper. 19 years in July next. A painter by trade born in German town—his face much pitted by the severity of the small pox. 1796 Nov. 5. Pardoned by the Governor & discharged.


Tryer & Johnson. Larceny. Same Court. Same Date. Each to be imprisoned from the expiration of the above sentence till 1 May 1798; restore goods or value £61.7.6 & costs. Daniel Lee King.

Tryer & Johnson. Larceny. Same Court. Same Date. Each to be imprisoned from and after the 1st May 1798 to the first of May 1800; restore goods or value 8 dollars pay a fine of 8 dollars & the costs of prosecution & stand committed &c. Elizabeth Jordan. Vide Docket A page 120. 1797 Nov. 10. Fine remitted & discharged accordingly.

Joseph Barnsly. Larceny. Same Court. 1795 Sept. 22. To be imprisoned at hard labour &c for the space of two years, restore goods or value fifteen shillings pay a fine of 15/ & costs of prosecution & stand committed &c. Samuel Boys. Vide Pages of Docket A—old convict. The fine remitted & discharged March 25 1796.

Peter Ramilier. Larceny. Same Court. 1795 Sept. 23. To be imprisoned at hard labour &c two years, restore goods or value 500 dollars 430 D of which is done pay a fine of 500 D & costs of prosecution & stand committed &c. W. Rabb (merchant). 38 years 9 May 1796. Born in Dunkirk, a mariner; about 5 feet 5½ inches high short light hair on his right arm marked ( . . . ) in blue letters. 1796 Sept. 19. Pardoned & discharged by his Excellency the Governor—on condition of leaving the state forthwith not to return. Mr. Thomas Britton of John D. Blanchard both forgive the restitution of the Linnens as they paid Mr. Rabb for them— . . . the ship Armada Washington.

Robert Hayes. Larceny. Same Court. 1795 Sept. 23. To be imprisoned at
hard labour &c till 1 May next, restore the goods or value 4 dollars, pay a fine of 
4 dollars & the costs of prosecution & stand committed &c. James McGlassin. 1796 
24 years. Born in Ireland, about 5 feet 7½ inches, Seaman, long brown hair. 1796 

1795 Sept. 24. To be imprisoned at hard labour &c for the space of one year & six 
months, restore goods or value which is done, pay a fine of 11 dollars & the costs 
of prosecutions, & stand committed &c &c. Mary Maginnis. 33 years in April. Born 
in Delaware, in the family of Charles Hillard near Dover—well known in this city. 
1797 Feb. 19. Pardoned & discharged by his Excellency the Governor on condition 
of leaving the state forthwith not to return.

[77] Pierre a negro.60 Receiving goods knowing them to have been stolen. 
Mayor’s Court—Sept. 23 1795. 1795 Sept. 29. To be imprisoned at hard labour &c 
for the space of two years, restore the goods or value, 304 Dollars, pay a fine of 304 
Dollars & the costs of prosecution & stand committed &c. Fiette La Garde. 28 
Years. Port a Prince Born at—cook by profession—5 feet 9½ inches high. 1797 
April 4. Pardoned & discharged by the Governor; no restoration required as the 
law does not direct restoration where stolen goods are only received.

[78] Henry Grimm.61 Larceny. Same Court. 1795 Sept. 30. To be imprisoned 
at hard labour &c for the space of two years, pay a fine of £12.0.0 & the costs 
of prosecution & stand committed &c. John Reiley. About 28 years. Born in German 
Town in the State of Pennsylvania—6 feet high slender made, long dark hair—thin 
visage, a Tabacconist. 1797 Feb. 19. Pardoned by the Governor on condition 
of leaving the state forthwith not to return.

[79] Peter Dougherty;62 Larceny. Same Court. 1795 Sept. 29. To be impris-
oned 6 months at hard labour &c pay a fine of two dollars, restore 2 dollars & pay 
the costs of prosecution & stand committed &c. Goods are restored. 1796. Same as 
Page Docket A page 128. Discharged again time out for description see Docket A 
folio 128.

[80] William Dunn.63 Larceny. Same Court. 1795 Sept. 29. To be imprisoned 6 
months at hard labour &c pay a fine of 7/6 & the costs of prosecution, restore the 
goods or value 7/6 and stand committed &c. Benjamin Lord. Same as Page 128 
Docket A. Discharged again time out—for description see Docket A folio 125.

[81] John Bentley.64 Larceny. Mayors Court Sept. 28 1795 Oct. 1. To be impris-
oned & kept at hard labour for the space of nine months, pay a fine of 1/6 & the 
costs of prosecution & stand committed till this sentence be fully complied with.
Jeremiah Fisher. 57 years last Jan. Born in Germany—has a scar over his left eye which was occasioned by his falling off the Plaster Mill—5 feet 6½ inches high. 1796 Mar. 7. Pardoned on condition of his leaving the state forthwith not to return.

[82] Job Beef. Larceny. Same Court. 1795 Oct. 2. To be imprisoned & Kept at hard labour for the space of five years; restore the goods or value £15.0.0—pay a fine of £15.0.0 & the costs of prosecution & stand committed &c. William Lesher, 3rd Street; Mr. Lesher forgave to . . . Weed. 26 years. Born at Montreal, in Canada, 5 feet seven inches high long black hair—dark complexion—lame in the left arm a labourer. 1797 February 19. Pardoned by the Governor on condition of leaving the state forthwith not to return.

[83] Mariane. Larceny. Same Court. 1795 Oct. 1. To be imprisoned & kept at hard labour for the space of one year, restore the goods or value 200 Dollars pay a fine of 200 Dollars & the costs of prosecution & stand committee &c. Elizabeth La Garde. 1795, 23 years. Born at Aux Cay in Cape Francoise. 1796 Jan. 4. Pardoned by the Governor on condition of her leaving the state forthwith not to return—Restoration of goods forgiven by Prosecution.

[84] William Thompson. Larceny. Same Court. 1795 Sept. 29. To be imprisoned & kept at hard labour for the space of two years restore the goods or value £6.0.0 pay a fine of £6.0.0 & the costs of prosecution & stand committed till this sentence be fully &c &c. T. Shreve & M. West. 27 last March. Born in Amsterdam, 5 feet 9½ inches high long dark hair, broad face stout made, hazel eyes. 1796 December 10. Pardoned by Governor on condition of leaving the state forthwith not to return & discharged. [Note: The proprietor agrees to the discharge of William Thomson tho the goods are not restored.]

[85] Sarah Darley. Larceny. Same Court. 1795 Oct. 1. To be imprisoned & kept at hard labour six months restore goods or value 24/6 pay a fine of £1.4.6 & costs. John Curtis. 72 years last Easter Monday. Born in Lancashire in England, lived at Caden Point in Virginia. 1796 May 5. Pardoned & discharged by his Excellency the Governor.

Sarah Darley. Ditto. Ditto. 1795 Oct. 1. To be imprisoned & kept at hard labour 18 months & to commence at the expiration of the said term of 6 months restore goods or value £10.1.5 pay a fine of £10.1.5 & the costs of prosecution. Thomas Luzenby. I hereby certify that I do forgive the Mrs. Sarah Darley the restitution mention of £10.10 as witness my hand this 2 of May 1796. Thomas Luzenby. I direct Sarah Darley to be discharged as I . . . . . . . . . . . one pound . . . . . . . . [Smeared ink]

1795. 1795 Oct. 2. To be one year imprisoned & kept at hard labour, pay a fine of 118 dollars & the costs of prosecution & stand committed till this sentence be fully complied with. M. C. Seneschal. 23 years. Born in Aux Cayes a black woman about 5 feet 2 inches high. 1796 Mar. 9. Pardoned & discharged by his Excellency the Governor.

[87] Sarah Weaver. Larceny. Same Court. 1795 Oct. 1. To be imprisoned one year and kept at hard labour pay a fine of £2.15.0 & the costs of prosecution & stand committed &c. Goods are restored. 18 years. A negress—Born in Maryland or Virginia; brought up in the family of Doctor Anderson of this city—a small woman, 1796 Sept. 6. Pardoned & discharged by his Excellency Thomas Mifflin Esquire.

[88] Oliver Hazard a negro. Larceny. Same Court. 1795 Oct. 2. To be imprisoned one year at hard labour pay a fine of £11.5.0 & the costs of prosecution restore the goods or value £11.5.0 & stand committed &c. Bailey Evans. 22 years the 10th August 1796. Born in Rhode Island a black man, five feet 2½ inches, thin visage, Mariner. 1796 Sept. 6. Pardoned & discharged the 6 Sept. 1796 by his Excellency the Govern on condition of leaving the state not to return.

[89] Cuff alias Jack Smith a negro. Larceny. Same Court. 1795 Sept. 30. To be imprisoned 9 months & be kept at hard labour pay a fine of £0.8.9 & the costs of prosecution & restore the goods or value & stand committed &c. Toby White. 1796 June 30. He was pardoned by the Governor & his fine remitted but being an old convict was returned until the term of his servitude expired on which day being employed in sawing wood on the outside he eloped without the knowledge of any person.


[90] Frederick. Larceny. Same Court. Sept. 30. To be imprisoned one year & kept at hard labour pay a fine of 99 Dollars & the costs of prosecution & stand committed &c. Marie Dennis La Poule. A negro very small. 1796 June 25. Pardoned & discharged on condition of leaving the state by the Governor. This man was discharged by Mr. Weed. Therefore no discription [sic] was taken.

[91] Charles Bremen. Forging a check on the Bank of the United States in the name of Peter Borger. Same Court. 1795 Oct. 3. To be imprisoned eighteen months at hard labor pay a fine of 5/ & the costs of prosecution & stand committed &c. Bank U. States. 24 years. Born in Hildersheim—about 5 feet 7 inches
high—a German, short dark hair. 1796 Jan. 29. Pardoned by the Governor on condition of leaving the state not to return.


[94] John Young. Larceny. Same Court. 1795 Oct. 1. To be imprisoned one year at hard labour, restore the goods or value £10.0.0 pay a fine of £10.0.0 & the costs of prosecution & stand committed &c. George Jenkins. 27 Years. Born in Ireland, by trade a shoemaker—five feet 1½ inches high, long dark hair—a scar over the left eye running on a line with the brow. 1797 April 19. Pardoned by his Excellency the Governor on condition of leaving the state not to return.

John Young. Ditto. Ditto. Ditto. To be imprisoned one year at hard labour, in addition to the above, pay a fine of £15.15.0 & costs of prosecution restore the goods or value & stand committed &c. George Kepple.

[95] Robert Martin. Larceny. Same Court. 1795 Oct. 1. To be imprisoned one year and kept at hard labour restore the goods or value £15.15.0 pay a fine of £15.15.0 & the costs of prosecution & stand committed &c. George Kepple. 1796 about 33. Born in Ireland, 5 feet 10 inches high, a scar on the left side of his neck, escaping . . . the coarse part of his arm bone, short dark hair, blue eyes, thin visage—labourer. 1796 July 15. Pardoned & fine remitted by his Excellency Thomas Mifflin Esq. Governor of the Commonwealth on condition of his leaving the state not to return.

[96] Silas Roberts. Larceny. Same Court. 1795 Oct. 1. To be one year imprisoned at hard labour, pay a fine of £6.10.0 & the costs of prosecution & stand committed &c. Richard Thorne. 23 years last Sept. Born in New Jersey, 5 feet 7 inches high, light long hair, blue eyes, labourer. 1796 June 25. Pardoned by his Excellency Thomas Mifflin Esquire on condition of leaving the state not to return. [Note under name not legible]

[98] **Thomas Drake.** Larceny. Mayors Court Sept. 1795. 1795 Oct. 1. To be imprisoned two years and kept at hard labour pay a fine of 14 dollars & the costs of prosecution, restore the goods or value stand committed till this sentence be fully complied with. John Rene Barde. A Black man. 1796 Mar. 8. Died of an inflammation of the bowels.


[100] **Lewis a negro.** Receiving stolen goods. Same Court. 1795 Oct. 2. To be imprisoned 6 months and kept at hard labor pay a fine of 35/ & the costs of prosecution & stand committed &c. M. C. Seneschal. 28 years. A Black man born in Cape Francoise, five feet 3 inches ... half high. 1796 March 25. Discharged fine remitted by the Governor.

[101] **Abram Andrews.** Uttering a counterfeit check on the Bank U. States. Same Court. 1795 Oct. 3. To be imprisoned and kept at hard labour, for the space of nine months pay a fine of & the costs of prosecution & stand committed &c. Bank U. States. Dutch extraction. 1795 Nov. 28. Pardoned by the Governor upon order from John Baker Esq. is fettered ... with the commitments of this month.

[102] **Joseph Lewis a negro.** Larceny. Quarter Sessions Delaware County. 1795 Oct. 27. To be imprisoned two years at hard labour, &c restore the goods or value £11.7.6 pay a fine of £11.7.6 and the costs of prosecution and stand committed till this sentence be fully complied with. Isaac Hibbert. 1795 Nov. 1. Broke out of the cells & escaped.

[103] **Hugh Paxton.** Arson. Oyer & Terminer for York County 11 Sept. 1795. 1795 Sept. 11. Received in Jail ... To be five years imprisoned and kept at hard labour or in solitude & to pay the costs of prosecution & stand committed till this sentence be fully complied with. Commonwealth. 26 years. Born in the County of York of state of Pennsylvania—6 feet one & one half inches high—long dark hair— a ... scar just over the left ...; thin visage and freckles. 1797 June 19. Pardoned by his Excellency on condition of leaving the state not to return & discharged accordingly.

[104] **Francis Smith.** Horse stealing. Quarter Sessions Bucks County. 1795
Nov. 2. Received in Jail 17 Nov. 1795. Restore a saddle or the value four pounds ten shillings pay a fine of forty pounds to the Governor for the use of the Commonwealth be five years imprisoned & kept at hard labour & pay the costs of prosecution. Joseph Wilson. About 31 years. Born in Ireland, 5 feet 5½ inches high—short black hair inclining to baldness on the back of his head a small scar between his eye brows . . . —a labourer—blue eyes. 1798 May 23. Pardoned by the Governor on condition of leaving the state forthwith not to return & discharged accordingly.

[105] William Percy. Horse Stealing. Quarter Sessions Chester County. 1795 Nov. 20. Received in Jail 3 Dec. 1795. Restore the horse or value one hundred dollars—pay a fine of one hundred dollars, be imprisoned for & during the term of five years in Jail & penitentiary house of Philadelphia, and be fed, cloathed and kept at hard labor, pay the costs of prosecution & stand committed &c. Gideon Melin. 1795 Dec. 28. Rushed out of Sixth Street gate & escaped.


[106] Catherine Coleman a negress. Misdemeanor in endeavouring the death of her bastard child. Quarter Sessions Chester County. 1795 Nov. 20. Received in Jail 3 Dec. 1795. To be imprisoned and kept at hard labor for the space of two years, & pay the costs of prosecution & stand committed till this sentence be fully complied with. Commonwealth. 21 Years. Born in Pennsylvania A Negress—chunky well made woman was brought up in James Carters family in Bradford Township. 1796 Nov. 1. Pardoned & discharged 1 Nov. 1796 unconditionally.

[107] Anthony Murray a negroe. Larceny. Quarter Sessions December 1795. 1795 Dec. 9. To be imprisoned and kept at hard labour, for the term of three years, pay a fine to the Governor &c of sixteen pounds & the costs of prosecution. Thomas Smith Esq. A Black man. Pardoned & discharged on conditioned of leaving the state forthwith not to return.

[108] Cato Williams a negroe. Same Court. 1795 Dec. 9. To be imprisoned & kept at hard labour for the term of eighteen calender months, pay a fine to the Governor &c of sixty nine dollars, restore the goods or value sixty dollars & pay the costs &c. Thomas Cash forgives the restitution before me Philip Edward March 4 1797. About 30 years. Born in Dover Town State of Delaware (A Negroe), 5 feet 6¼ inches high—long hair for a Negro—He was raised in the family of James Blander. 1797 March 5. Pardoned & discharged on condition of leaving the state forthwith not to return.
[109] Daniel Hunter. Larceny. Same Court. 1795 Dec. 10. To be imprisoned & kept at hard labour for the term of three years, pay a fine of 10 dollars to the Governor & restore the goods or value 10 dollars & pay the costs of prosecution &c. James Napper Tandy. 1798 Oct. 30. Died of the prevailing fever.


[111] Thomas Russell. 1795 Horse Stealing. Quarter Sessions Lancaster County last Monday in November 1795. 1795 Nov. 30. Received in Jail 11 Dec. 1795. To be imprisoned and kept at hard labor &c for the term of five years, pay a fine to the Governor &c of forty five pounds & the costs of prosecution—stand committed &c. John Miller. 1796 about 27. Born in Ireland, about 5 feet 10 inches high. 1796 Jan. 29. Pardoned by the Governor.

[112] Daniel Cole. Horse Stealing. Same Court. 1795 Nov. 30. Received in Jail 11 Dec. 1795. To be imprisoned and kept at hard labor &c for the term of seven years, pay a fine to the Governor &c of Seventy two pounds—restore the goods or value which is seventy two pounds & pay the costs of prosecution—& stand committed &c. Jacob Hesst. About 55. Discharged no description taken. 1800 Mar. 28. The costs remitted by the Court of Common Pleas for Philadelphia County 24 January & he discharged in virtue of a pardon 12 months past & now in the hand of Judge Henry Lancaster County.

[113] John McMachen. Larceny. Same Court. 1795 Nov. 30. Received in Jail 11 Dec. 1795. To be imprisoned & kept at hard labor &c for the term of two years, pay a fine to the Governor &c of six pounds, & pay the costs of prosecution &c &c—& stand committed. Michael Gundacher. About 42 years. Born in Ireland, by trade a weaver over the right eye a scar thus x full face short dark hair. 1797 April 19. Pardoned on condition of leaving the state not to return.

[114] Catharine Sterkins. Larceny. Same Court. 1795 Nov. 30. Received in Jail 11 Dec. 1795. To be imprisoned & kept at hard labor &c for the term of two years, pay a fine to the Governor &c of twelve pounds two shillings & three pence, pay the costs of prosecution & stand committed &c. John Carpenter. About 50 years. Born in Germany—gray hair, served her time Lancaster. 1797 June 20. Pardoned by his Excellency the Governor on condition of leaving the state forthwith not to return—& discharged accordingly.

County 14 Dec. 1795. 1795 December 14. Received in Jail 31 Dec. 1795. To pay a fine of thirty five pounds to the Governor & be seven years imprisoned &c—pay the costs of prosecution &c. Another sentence vide folio 57 . . . [Light ink] For description & discharge in the book folio 57.
The author wishes to thank Ward Childs of the Philadelphia City Archives, Barbara Weir of the Chester County Archives, Phillip Lapsansky of the Library Company of Philadelphia, Dirk Obbink, and Mary Lanser.


4. Section 4 of the 1780 "Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery" eliminated special courts and punishment for black people. Mitchell and Flanders, Statutes, 10: 70. Although prior to 1790 women received the same punishments as men, the 1790 Statute departed from earlier incarceration efforts in that it mandated separation of the sexes. Mitchell and Flanders, Statutes, 13: 516-17; Negley K. Teeters, "Public Executions in Pennsylvania: 1682-1834," Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society, 64 (1960): 85-164.


Studies which documented information about the inmates at Walnut Street include La Rochefoucauld Liancourt, op. cit., Roberts Vaux, Notices of the Original, and Successive Efforts to Improve the Discipline of the Prison at Philadelphia, and to Reform the Criminal Code of Pennsylvania; With a Few Observations on the Penitentiary System (Philadelphia: Kimber and Sharpless, 1826); G. de Beaumont and A. de Tocqueville, On the Penitentiary System in the United States, and Its Application in France; with an Appendix on Penal Colonies, and also Statistical Notes, trans. Francis Lieber (Philadelphia: Carey, Lea and Blanchard, 1833); William Crawford, Report of William Crawford, Esq., on the Penitentiaries of the United States, Addressed to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department (1835) and the various reports by the visiting committee of the Pennsylvania Prison Society.

9. The Prison Sentence Docket books, of which only three remain, are in storage at the City of Philadelphia's Archives. These records are in such fragile condition that they are no longer in circulation.


11. The Court of Quarter Sessions and Court of Oyer and Terminer were the two courts in all counties throughout Pennsylvania that were authorized to send offenders found guilty to the state prison. For Philadelphia, in addition to these two courts, the Mayors Court also was authorized to try, convict, and punish criminal cases; hence accounting for inmates at Walnut Street from the Mayors Court.


13. Inspectors, Prison Sentence Docket, Mayors Court, June 17, 1795. Petitions were submitted monthly by the Board of Inspectors and addressed to the governor, requesting an inmate's release before his or her term of servitude officially expired. A record of petitions submitted in 1795 can be found in Board of Inspectors of the Jail and Penitentiary House, Minutes, Volume 1 (Philadelphia: City Archives, 1794-1801), pp. 7-43.

14. Individuals not listed in the Prisoners for Trial Docket between dates examined by Rowe and Smith, "Prisoners for Trial Docket": William Gregg [record 14], Elizabeth Ellis [record 15], Peter Nixon [record 18], Lydia Duffield [record 19], Elizabeth Wilson [record 20], Lucretia Roberts [record 21],
Mary Bell [record 29], Abraham Tuggo [record 30].

15. Persons discharged according to the Prisoners for Trial Docket but sentenced to Walnut Street: James Erwin [record 4], Thomas Hines [record 6], James Reiley [record 45], John McDonald [record 46], John Bentley [record 81].

16. Inspectors, Prison Sentence Docket, Mayors Court, October 2, 1795.

17. Rowe and Smith, “Prisoners for Trial Docket,” p. 315. The authors suggest these discrepancies “raise important questions about the specific sequence of the resolution process, the personnel responsible for each level of that process, and the protections accorded—or not accorded—defendants.” Ibid., p. 290.

18. Inspectors, Prison Sentence Docket, Chester County Court of Quarter Sessions, 20 November 1795.

19. Chester County Historical Society, Court Records, Grand Inquest: Commonwealth vs. Catherine Coleman, Court of Quarter Sessions (12 August 1795).

20. Chester County Historical Society, Court Records, Indictment: Commonwealth vs. Catherine Coleman, Court of Quarter Sessions (14 August 1795).

21. Chester County Historical Society, Court Records, Sentence: Commonwealth vs. Catherine Coleman, Court of Quarter Sessions (20 August 1795), p. 143.

22. Chester County Historical Society, Court Records, Sentence: Commonwealth vs. Dennis Kean, Court of Quarter Sessions (20 August 1795), p. 143.


25. Ibid., p. 292.

26. Ibid., p. 291.

27. Ibid., p. 291.

28. Ibid., p. 291.

29. Ibid., p. 291.

30. Ibid., p. 292.

31. Ibid., p. 295.

32. Ibid., p. 295.

33. Ibid., p. 296.

34. Ibid., p. 296.

35. Ibid., p. 300.

36. Ibid., p. 302.

37. Ibid., p. 293.

38. Ibid., p. 293.

39. Ibid., p. 293.

40. Ibid., p. 297.

41. This is the first volume of the Prison Sentence Dockets and it is missing.

42. Ibid., p. 298. On Prisoners for Trial Docket with John Fleming.

43. Ibid., p. 299.

44. Ibid., p. 300.

45. Ibid., p. 300.

46. Ibid., p. 300.

47. Ibid., p. 301.

48. Ibid., p. 298.

49. Ibid., p. 298.

50. Ibid., p. 298.

51. Ibid., p. 296. With George Wirtz & Elias Boyer.

52. Ibid., p. 314.

53. Ibid., p. 298.

54. Ibid., p. 303. With Margaret Barry and Francis Baker “charged with being suspicious.”

55. Ibid., p. 305.


57. Ibid., p. 305.

58. Two entries in Rowe and Smith, pp. 305, 309. First entry spelled Reimler.

59. Ibid., p. 313.

60. Ibid., p. 297.
61. Ibid., p. 301.
62. Ibid., p. 306.
63. Ibid., p. 306.
64. Ibid., p. 308.
65. Ibid., p. 312.
66. Ibid., p. 313.
67. Ibid., p. 313.

68. Ibid., p. 314.
69. Ibid., p. 315.
70. Ibid., p. 315.
71. Ibid., p. 316.
72. Ibid., pp. 316-17.
73. Ibid., p. 318.
74. Ibid., p. 318.