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### Arkansas Department of Correction, Cummins Unit collection, 1900-1998

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#### Recommended Citation

Arkansas Department of Correction, Cummins Unit collection, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

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**Arkansas Department of Correction,  
Cummins Unit collection  
MS.000679**

**Finding aid prepared by the Arkansas State Archives**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Arkansas State Archives
<b>Title</b>	Arkansas Department of Correction, Cummins Unit collection
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1900-1998
<b>Extent</b>	0.25 Cubic feet 1 box
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Language of Materials</b>	Materials entirely in English.
<b>Text [Box]</b>	1

### Preferred Citation

Arkansas Department of Correction, Cummins Unit collection, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

## **Biographical/Historical Note**

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The Arkansas Department of Correction, Cummins Unit is located just southeast of Grady, Arkansas. The state of Arkansas originally purchased 10,000 acres from the Cummins and Maple Grove plantations in order to build Cummins farm prison in 1902. By using inmate labor to pick cotton and raise crops, Cummins was supposed to make enough money to pay for its own operation. Inmates lived in military type bunks lined up next to each other in order to fit more inmates into a smaller space. Arkansas Department of Correction, Cummins Unit is still in operation today. The prison is a low security facility where inmates are housed in dormitory style cells.

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## **Scope and Contents**

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This collection contains miscellaneous documents on inmates at Cummins Prison as well as photographs.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Arkansas State Archives 7/29/2015

### **Conditions Governing Access**

This collection is open for research use.

### **Conditions Governing Use**

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### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Charles A. Yaerger, Judsonia, Arkansas, 2015.

## Collection Inventory

Circuit Court, Jim Smith

Correspondence: To J.B. Furguson, From William Young

Description of convict when received, Jim Smith

List of persons sentenced to death by Arkansas, 1913 September 5-1960 September 16

Notice of Escape, Dave Edgerson

Photocopy of armed trusty guard at Cummins, circa 1960s

Release Notice

Will McFarland

Jim Smith

Photographs

PH.Cummins.01. 1922: Rachel Bonner inmate number 19003; Convicted of manslaughter at age eighteen she lived in Stuttgart, Arkansas. Black and white

PH.Cummins.02. 1922: Joseph Ray inmate number 19015; Convicted of grand larceny at age twenty-seven he lived in Earle, Arkansas. Black and white

PH.Cummins.03. 1921: J.D. Williams inmate number 18695; Convicted of possessing a still at age twenty-four he lived in Clarendon, Arkansas. Black and white

PH.Cummins.04. 1921: Tanzel Mitchell inmate number 18694; Convicted of manslaughter at age twenty-eight he lived in Brinkley, Arkansas. Black and white

PH.Cummins.05. 1906: Joe Butler inmate number 7865; Convicted of murder age twenty-five he lived in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Black and white

PH.Cummins.06. 1921: George Payne inmate number 18688; Convicted of selling liquor at age forty-one he lived in Freda, Arkansas. Black and white

PH.Cummins.07. circa 1900s: Inmate number 21094. Black and white

PH.Cummins.08. circa 1900s: Robert Brown inmate. Black and white

PH.Cummins.09. circa 1900s: Profile image of unknown African American man in a sports jacket. Black and white

PH.Cummins.10. circa 1900s: Profile image of unknown Caucasian man in sports jacket. Black and white

PH.Cummins.11. circa 1900s: Unknown Caucasian inmate dressed as a cowboy standing in the prison yard. Black and white

PH.Cummins.12. circa 1900s: Unknown African American inmate on his knees outdoors. Black and white

PH.Cummins.13. circa 1900s: Unknown African American inmate on his knees outdoors in the prison yard. Black and white

PH.Cummins.14. circa 1900s: Unknown African American inmate standing outdoors. Black and white

PH.Cummins.15. circa 1900s: Unknown African American inmate in sports jacket standing outdoors in the prison yard. Black and white

PH.Cummins.16. 1972: Chaplain Charles A. Yaerger is in the middle of the photograph, with his Saturday morning Bible class at Cummins Prison. Black and white

PH.Cummins.17. unknown date: The electric chair at the Arkansas State Penitentiary Cummins Unit in Grady, Arkansas. Black and white

PH.Cummins.18. 1978: Inside view of the Cummins Chapel. The communion table doubled as a baptistery when the top was removed. Black and white

PH.Cummins.19. circa 1900s: Unknown close up of a Caucasian inmate taken at Arkansas State Prison. Black and white

PH.Cummins.20. circa 1900: Unknown African American inmate kneeling outdoors outside of Arkansas State Prison in Little Rock, Arkansas. Black and white

PH.Cummins.21. circa 1890-1900: Unknown close up of a Caucasian inmate kneeling outdoors outside the Arkansas State Prison. Black and white



PH.Cummins.22. circa 1900: Unknown African American inmate kneeling outdoors outside of Arkansas State Prison in Little Rock, Arkansas. Black and white

Ph.Cummins.23. 1998: Image of the front of the Chapel at Cummins Prison. Black and white