

Foreword

ON October 25, 1954, the American Congress of Correction held its eighty-fourth annual meeting in Philadelphia. By coincidence, on that same date, 125 years earlier, in 1829, prisoner No. 1 entered the Prison at Philadelphia to serve a two-year sentence for larceny. Since that date fully 56,000 convicted felons have served terms of imprisonment in this institution. On several occasions during the last quarter century it has been recommended that the formidable old bastille be demolished, but it still survives. It will probably continue with its grim responsibility for many more decades.

This book, dealing with the greater part of the history of Cherry Hill prison, has been in process over a long period of years. The writers, who have been friends for 30 years, have spent many hours together talking about the Eastern State Penitentiary's architecture, administration, prisoners, wardens, and other of its characteristics. Both writers know this prison, each in his own field of competence, with a certain intimacy. This book has grown out of this association.

Much of the material has its sources in the voluminous records that, until 1954, were stored in the towers of the prison. In that year the more significant documents were transferred to the State Record Office at Harrisburg, the capital of the Commonwealth.¹ Mr. Henry Howard Eddy, Chief Record Officer of the Commonwealth, has stated that the records of both the Eastern and Western State Penitentiaries of Pennsylvania, the latter located at Pittsburgh, are remarkably complete. This is a tribute to the many inspectors and wardens of the prisons who must have approached their guardianship as a sacred trust. The president of the Board of old Eastern for 40 years, Richard Vaux, writing in 1872, stated that one of the two volumes of the minutes of the Building Commission had been

¹ See Appendix I, pp. 235-36, for a list of these records.

“mislaidd and not yet been found.” The volume was in the prison as he was writing this. It was found by Mr. Shearer in 1952, carefully tucked away among the records in one of the towers.

A word of appreciation to helpful people is always a pleasure to record in a preface. Former Warden C. J. Burke showed more than a passing interest in the compilation of this book. He made it an easy task for the writers to have access to the many volumes of records. The late Frank G. Martin, who died while this book was in press and who retired only recently as warden, was especially interested in the history of the prison. He was identified with its administration for over 30 years and on many occasions expressed his opinion about the unique significance of Cherry Hill. He was highly regarded by the staff and by hundreds of the prisoners who valued his wise counseling. Joseph Brierly, major of the custodial staff, has also shown his interest.

For the pictures that embellish the book appreciation is extended to: the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, for the excellent painting of the architect, John Haviland; to the editors of *Pennsylvania History* for the use of a cut of the prison in its early days, which is a reproduction of an oil painting still found in the prison; and to the Pennsylvania Prison Society for the use of several cuts reproduced herewith.

To the Faculty Research Committee of Temple University for a fund to assist in pre-publication costs, a word of appreciation, and to Temple University Publications for financing the printing of the work, deep appreciation is due.

For the Introduction a word of thanks to Professor Max Grünhut of All Souls', Oxford University. Professor Grünhut has long been interested in historical penology and shares with the writers a genuine scholarly attachment to the old system of separate confinement as an experiment in penal discipline.

NEGLEY K. TEETERS

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