



State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives
403 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**TENNESSEE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL
RECORDS,
1886-1920**

**RECORD GROUP
295**

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MICROFILMED

INTRODUCTION

These records for the Tennessee Industrial School consist of 20 bound volumes covering the years 1886-1920. The school was later renamed the Tennessee Preparatory School. The records include 13 bound volume journals that list the school's students alphabetically by gender; 6 volumes referred to as "county ledgers"; and a ledger of daily admissions and removals. Single copies may be made for individual or scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

These twenty bound volumes from the Tennessee Industrial School record student information for the years 1886-1920. The volumes are broken down into four components: ten volumes of "Boy's Journals," 1886-1917; three volumes of "Girl's Journals," 1891-1919; six volumes of "County Ledgers"; and a one volume "Record of Daily Admissions," 1909-1919.

Information recorded in both the Boy's and Girl's Journals consists of: Date of Commitment; Cause of Commitment; Court; Form of Commitment; Birth; Age; Parentage (i.e., American, Jewish, etc.); Family History; Education; Employment; Religion; Cause of Delinquency; General Description; When and how Released; Physical Condition; and General Remarks.

The County Ledgers are a census of students broken down by the county from which they came. The Record of Daily Admissions is a record of students admitted to and removed from the school.

NOTE ON RESTRICTION:

While the 70-year restriction on student records in this collection has expired, there are occasional references in the records of individual students to mental health and adoption. Access to these records will need to be screened by TSLA archivists. Anyone wishing to inspect or copy a student record from this record group will need to provide a Public Services archivist with the individual's name so that the record can be checked for said confidential information before copies are made. Microfilm of Record Group 295 will not go out on Interlibrary Loan or be generally available in the reference area.

AGENCY HISTORY

The Tennessee Industrial School began as the brainchild of Davidson County Judge John C. Ferris. The Nashville cholera epidemic of 1873 caused scores of children to become orphans or abandoned children when one or both parents stricken by the epidemic ultimately died. At the time, the jurisdiction of the court extended to orphans, legitimations, adoptions, name changes, binding of apprentices, general supervision of county charitable institutions, and provision for the poor and unfortunate. During the epidemic the local press took up the subject of providing homes for these children and Judge Ferris began to get requests from potential adoptive parents for children of all ages and both sexes. While the demand for adoptees was great, Judge Ferris soon realized that there were far more needy children than could be adopted and that an institution, especially for boys, was needed.

After several attempts to get the State legislature to authorize a bill for the development of such an institution one was passed, and with the financial aid of Colonel Edmund W. Cole and others, 106 acres of land with buildings was purchased. In 1885 a Board of Directors was appointed, officers were elected, and a superintendent hired. The school was named the Randell Cole Industrial School in honor of Colonel Cole's recently deceased son.

Professor W.C. Kilvington, employed as the school's first superintendent, served the institution through the change in 1887, when the State began operating the school as the Tennessee Industrial School, until his retirement in 1918.

When the school was first operated by the State, it was under the jurisdiction of the Tennessee State Board of Directors. From 1915 until 1919 the school was under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Control; from 1923 until 1935 the school was under the jurisdiction of the Department of Institutions; and from 1935 until 1947, the school was under the jurisdiction of the Tennessee State Department of Education.

In 1947 the school came under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Education, and in 1955 the State legislature changed its name to the Tennessee Preparatory School. In 1996, under State Senate Bill 3176, the school, along with all other State services to children, was placed under the newly-created Department of Children's Services.

Information for the introduction was gleaned from:

Tyree, Forrest Hill. *A Centennial History of the Tennessee Preparatory School*. Nashville Printing and Office Supply. 1985. TSLA call number: LC 4092.T35T97

Additional information on the school can be found in:

Danley, Elzie. *Evaluative Study of Tennessee Preparatory School, March 20, 21, 22, 1974*. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. 1974. TSLA call number: LC 4092.T35T2 1974a

Tennessee Department of Education. Status Report: *Tennessee Preparatory School*.

State of Tennessee, Department of Education. 1974. TSLA call number: LC4092.T35T2 1974c
1-2

Tennessee Department of Education. *Tennessee Preparatory School: Interim Report*
State of Tennessee, Department of Education. 1972. TSLA call number: LC4092.T35T2 1972

Tennessee Industrial School. *The Beacon*. 1935. TSLA call number: LC4092.T2B4

CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Roll #1

BOYS' JOURNALS

BOX 1

Bound Volume 1886-1887—Typed index: John Abbuchi-Edwin Zimmerman

BOX 2

Bound Volume 1886-1890—Typed index: Allen Allsbrook-Ed Zimmerman

Microfilm Roll #2

BOX 3

Bound Volume 1887-1896—Typed index: Allen Allsbrook-Ed Zimmerman

BOX 4

Bound Volume 1895-1898—Typed index: Earl Allsbrook-Aaron Yracker

Microfilm Roll #3

BOX 5

Bound Volume 1898-1902—Typed index: Samuel Anderson-Thomas Yost

BOX 6

Bound Volume 1891-1893—Tab index: Binton Burton-Robert M. Young

Microfilm Roll #4

BOX 7

Bound Volume 1902-1907—Typed index: J. B. Scott Alwider-Turner Young

Microfilm Roll #5

BOX 8

Bound Volume 1907-1911—Typed index: James Allen-Collis Zemer

Microfilm Roll #6

BOX 9

Bound Volume 1911-1915—Typed index: James R. Albert-Willie Zeck

Microfilm Roll #7

BOX 10

Bound Volume 1915-1917—Typed index: Grant Archler-Harry Zeitlan

GIRLS' JOURNALS

BOX 11

Bound Volume 1891-1902—Typed index: Minnie Adams-Mamie Wesmoreland

Microfilm Roll #8

BOX 12

Bound Volume 1902-1911—Typed index: Mamie Adams-Mary Zachary

BOX 13

Bound Volume 1911-1919—Typed index: Eva Adams-Alice Youngblood

COUNTY LEDGERS

Microfilm Roll #9

BOX 14

Bound Volume 1887-1896

Bound Volume 1889-1892

Bound Volume 1898-1900

Bound Volume 1904-1916

Bound Volume 1909-1918

Bound Volume 1912-1920

RECORD of DAILY ADMISSIONS

BOX 15

Bound Volume 1909-1919