

# SHADOWS ON STONE

## Identifying Sing Sing's Incarcerated

From 1865-1925, Sing Sing prison keepers maintained a detailed record of each newly sentenced person to enter the prison – over 50,000 records in total. Each register offers a short, fragmentary biography of every person incarcerated at Sing Sing. When taken together, these fragments animate the lives of the past and render incarcerated people visible.

*Shadows on Stone: Identifying Sing Sing's Incarcerated* is a new, crowdsourced project that calls on volunteers to transcribe Sing Sing's prison registries through the citizen-science platform Zooniverse.

Not only will volunteers provide the essential data for a more informed public debate about the moral crises of mass incarceration, prison abolition, and the very

definition of the criminal. They will also gain an intimate look at the people behind the data and forms while becoming familiar with archives that are typically inaccessible and difficult to contextualize. After doing this work, you will never again be able to see the phrase 'inmates' or 'criminals' without considering the individuals behind those terms.

Our efforts at transcription will provide scholars, researchers, and the public with open source, accessible data that challenges ossified views of the incarcerated.

*Shadows on Stone* is an essential contribution to modern-day prison reform and abolition movements, and we invite you to join us in the challenge of historical discovery.

Transcribe Sing Sing Registries and learn more at:  
[www.zooniverse.org/projects/panettafordham/shadows-on-stone-identifying-sing-sings-incarcerated](http://www.zooniverse.org/projects/panettafordham/shadows-on-stone-identifying-sing-sings-incarcerated)



## Example classroom research modules using the Shadows on Stone Zooniverse project:

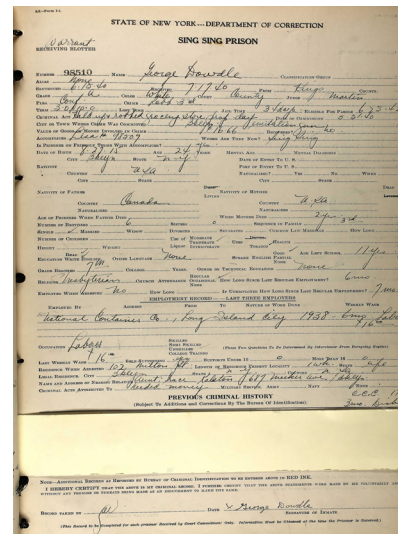
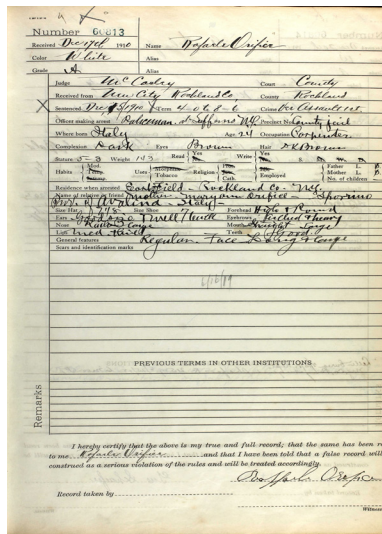
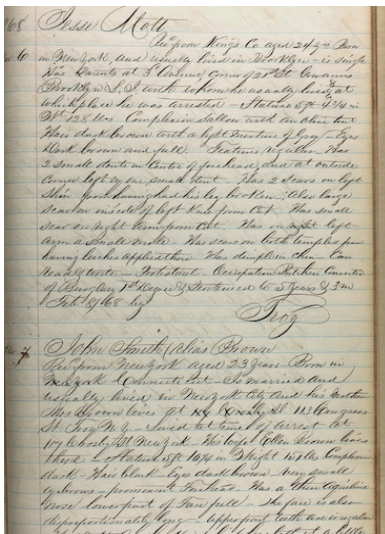
After completing 10 transcriptions, try creating a composite biography. How did it go?

Does the form itself change over time? If so, how? What might these changes, or lack of changes, reflect?

Study a single characteristic from the Registers over an extended period of time and explore any patterns of continuity and change.

Compare and contrast multiple individual entries in selected categories such as crime and sentence, age and education, temperance and occupation, and residence and family.

## Transcribe admission registers and uncover the hidden histories of those incarcerated at Sing Sing Prison from 1865-1925



Sing Sing Prison Register Entries dated, from left: 1868, 1910, 1920. Between 1865 - 1920, the registers progressively collected more data on those entering the prison, in more regulated and standardized formats.

Transcribe Sing Sing Registries and learn more at:

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