

## Capital Punishment in Ohio

Capital punishment has been a part of Ohio's justice system since early in the state's history. From 1803, when Ohio became a state, until 1885, executions were carried out by public hanging in the county where the crime was committed. In 1885, the legislature enacted a law that required executions to be carried out at the Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus. The first person to be executed at the Ohio Penitentiary was Valentine Wagner, age 56. Wagner, from Morrow County, was hanged for the murder of Daniel Shehan from Mt. Gilead. Twenty-eight convicted murderers were hanged at the penitentiary.

In 1897, the electric chair, considered to be a more technologically advanced and humane form of execution, replaced the gallows. The first prisoner to be executed by electrocution was William Haas, a 17-year-old boy from Hamilton County, for the murder of Mrs. William Brady. The last person to be executed by electrocution in Ohio was Donald Reinbolt, a 29-year-old inmate from Franklin County, for the murder of Edgar L. Weaver, a Columbus grocer. He was executed on March 15, 1963. From 1897 to 1963 there were 315 persons put to death in the electric chair including three women.



### Cuyahoga County Ohio Executions - 1812 – 1943

Name	Age	Race	Occupation	Crime	Method	Date
O'Mic, John	21	Nat. Amer.	Trapper/Misc	Murder/Robbery	Hanging	23 Jun 1812
Parks, James	25	White	??	Murder/Robbery	Hanging	1 Jun 1855
Hughes, John	43	White	Surgeon	Murder	Hanging	10 Feb 1866
McConnell, Alexander		White	Laborer	Murder/Robbert	Hanging	10 Aug 1866
Davis, Lewis	28	White	Blacksmith	Murder/Robbery	Hanging	5 Feb 1869
Hood, Stephen	30	White	??	Murder/Robbery	Hanging	29 Apr 1870
Cooper, John		Black	??	Murder	Hanging	25 Apr 1871
Williams, Adin	57	White	??	Murder	Hanging	22 Jun 1876`
McGill, Charles	27	White	??	Murder	Hanging	13 Feb 1879
Leuth, Otto	16	White	??	Murder/Rape	Hanging	29 Aug 1890
Prince, Lafayette	48	White	??	Murder	Hanging	29 May 1895
Molnar, John	22	White	??	Consp. To Murder	Hanging	26 Jun 1895
Ruthven, Edward	30	White	??	Murder	Electro.	28 Jun 1901
Kinney, Frank	55	White	??	Murder	Electro.	12 Dec 1913
O'Neil, Robert	26	Black	??	Murder	Electro.	7 Jan 1921
Dell, Joseph	25	White	??	Murder	Electro.	7 Jan 1921
Cross, Charles	27	Black	??	Murder	Electro.	20 Jan 1921
Moto, Frank	26	White	Gang Member	Murder/Robbery	Electro.	29 Aug 1921
Purpera, Samuel	19	White	Gang Member	Murder/Robbery	Electro.	19 May 1922
Benigno, Dominic	26	White	Gang Member	Murder/Robbery	Electro	14 Jun 1922
Habig, Charles	32	White	Gang Member	Murder	Electro.	16 Feb 1923
Prymas, Joseph	24	White	??	Murder	Electro.	24 Apr 1925
Ferranto, Cosmo	45	White	Plumber	Murder/Rape	Electro.	4 Sep 1925
Todor, Bucor	39	White	??	Murder	Electro.	20 Nov 1925
Liska, Frank	42	White	??	Murder	Electro.	25 Jun 1926
Ross, Emanuel	18	Black	??	Murder/Robbery	Electro.	26 Nov 1926
Nevins, James	40	White	Convict	Murder	Electro.	1 Jul 1929
Akers, Lee	18	Black	??	Murder/Robbery	Electro.	13 Jun 1930
Glasscock, John	35	White	Ex-convict	Murder	Electro.	22 Apr 1932
Enzulas, William	23	White	??	Murder	Electro.	7 Jan 1933
Brown, Athay	26	Black	Gangster	Murder/Robbery	Electro.	10 Mar 1933
Treadway, Peter	38	White	Gas Sta. Attend.	Murder/Rape/Robb	Electro.	1 Jun 1935
Pleyer, John	31	White	Cook	Murder/Robbery	Electro.	5 Aug 1936
Brown, James	26	Black	Tramp	Murder	Electro.	4 Dec 1936
Peters, William	43	Black	Porter	Murder	Electro.	26 Sep 1938
Ferrito, Carl	21	White	Parolee	Murder	Electro.	3 Nov 1938
Caldwell, Willie	23	Black	??	Murder/Robbery	Electro.	14 Jun 1939
Cirasole, Anthony	31	White	Armed Robber	Murder/Robbery	Electro.	14 Jan 1941
Ralph, Edward	32	White	Parolee	Murder/Rape	Electro.	4 Jan 1943

Sources: Ohio Dept. of Rehabilitation and Correction; [www.drc.gov/public/capital.htm](http://www.drc.gov/public/capital.htm)

and [www.blacksheepancestors.com](http://www.blacksheepancestors.com) - From 1792 to 1963 there are 438 Ohio Executions in this database – all Ohio counties.