

W. R. Branham to the Kansas State Prison Commission

Oxford, Georgia resident, W. R. Branham, writes the Kansas State Prison Commission of Topeka (Shawnee County) for information on the effect the abolition of capital punishment has had on murder rates in Kansas. Kansas abolished its first capital punishment law in 1907 and did not reinstate legal executions until the 1935. Prior to 1907, the state hanged nine persons under state law between 1863 and 1870. No state executions occurred between 1870 and 1932, although historians suggest that as many as ninety illegal executions (lynching) occurred in the state during that period. See William Eaton Hutchison to W. R. Branham, March 23, 1925.

Creator: Branham, W. R.

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W. R. Branham to the Kansas State Prison Commission

Prison Commission
Topeka Kansas
Gentlemen:

I see from reliable data that the State of Kansas
abolished Capital punishment in 1907 and that there have
been no executions in your state since 1892.

Will you kindly let me know what effect, if any,
the abolition of Capital punishment has had upon
the commission of the crime of murder in your state?
Has it increased or decreased or remained about the same?

Thanking you in advance I am
Very truly yours

W. R. Branham

Oxford
Georgia

3-20-25
Answered stamp to reply