



*To pursue, preserve and promote the history of correctional services in the city, state and counties of New York.*

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This issue reports New York Correction History Society web site presentations and features added during 2005.

New York Correction History Society  
newsletter December 2005 Number 7  
*Special Issue*



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## www.correctionhistory.org now 7,000+ files, 460 Megabytes

During the calendar year 2005, [www.correctionhistory.org](http://www.correctionhistory.org) -- that serves as the New York Correction History Society (NYCHS) home on the Internet -- increased the number of its image and text files to more than 7,000. The amount of server storage space they occupy increased to more than 460 megabytes.



Above is image of the top of a newly designed menu page specifically for NYC correction history.

The increases result chiefly from entirely new presentations and features added to site throughout the year. Because the site serves as a historical resource, most previously posted materials remain, some with additional data and images.

## Besides new presentations, site features new interfaces

Besides more presentations and features posted on [www.correctionhistory.org](http://www.correctionhistory.org) in 2005, the NYCHS site began sporting new interfaces -- more user friendly connections for navigating, finding, and accessing information.

Among the new interfaces were cursor rollover icons, new and redesigned menu pages, mapped images and floating site links. Examples:



The 4 original 1999 home page key icons -- eg. About Us -- were converted during 2005 into rollovers listing details.

The menu page for major NYC correction history presentations received a complete makeover.

The four 1999 home page icons -- About Us, Chronicles, Timeline, (continued Page 2)



When NYCHS and [www.correctionhistory.org](http://www.correctionhistory.org) formally debuted together July 13, 1999, the files numbered fewer than 100 and the space they took up amounted less than 10 Mbs. Since then, the site has become the single largest source of New York correction history images and information on the Internet.

Google regularly lists [www.correctionhistory.org](http://www.correctionhistory.org) pages among the first 10 results returned in response to search terms related to (continued Page 2)



# Besides new presentations, site features new interfaces

Seven separate presentations related to Governors, Rikers, and Hart Islands' use as military bases and POW camps during the Civil War were added to the site during 2005.



**NYCHS tour of USCT memorial.**

One factor that prompted giving such attention to these islands' Civil War role was awareness that 2005 marked the 140th anniversary of triumph by Union forces.

Although the warfare ended in 1865, Hart's role as a Union military base continued well into 1866. One of the new presentations lists the 64 Union units that NYCHS research found represented among troops on the two islands which eventually became NYC DOC facilities.



**USCT Chaplain B. F. Randolph**

Among those who trained on one or the other of those two island were New York State's only three U.S. Colored Troops regiments. Two of the 2005 presentations relate to them:

- ✍ A virtual tour of the USCT memorial in Washington, D.C., and
- ✍ The stories of two chaplains with Rikers-trained USCT units.

(Continued from Page 1) Museum -- became rollovers listing details when the cursor moved over them.

New menu pages introduced during 2005 include the Civil War & Correction history list and the Sing Sing history list.

Most recent presentations display an ever-present navigation menu that floats up or down as the viewer scrolls up or down the page.

The search form to explore Google's inventory of [www.correctionhistory.org](http://www.correctionhistory.org)



files has been given its own page linked to the floating menus.

Presentations featuring large scene images (a group photo or a mural) have been mapped so a click on a particular section produces a close-up view.

***correctionhistory.org***  
**7,000+ files, 460 Mbs**

(Continued from Page 1) New York correction history -- city, state or county.

## Sing Sing sermons made history

Among the 2005 presentations listed on the Sing Sing history menu interface are two about 19th Century sermons there that still impact lives.



**Maud Booth**



**Jerry McAuley**

Convict Jerry McAuley heard a prison chapel sermon in 1863 that led him, after release, to launch in 1872 on NY's East River waterfront the first urban rescue mission in the U.S. In 1896, Volunteers of America co-founder Maud Booth was invited to preach at the prison. It led her to launch V.O.A. into prison reform work still going on.

Consequently, the site has drawn and generated throughout its six and half years years literally thousands of emails from and to historians and other scholars, students, authors, publishers, journalists, documentarians, genealogists, current and former correctional professionals and their kin, sundry officials as well as interested members of the general public.

These email exchanges, in turn, often generate yet more images and information being added to the ever expanding site. The new images and information thus added attract still more interested readers who often continue the process. The NYCHS web pages represent the most visible embodiment of the society's mission:

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## Deadly 1941 Sing Sing Escape

The 1941 Sing Sing breakout that left a guard, a policeman and one of three inmate escapees dead and that helped end of the career of famed Warden Lewis E. Lawes is revisited in a 7-page presentation featuring extensive excerpts from 4 authors and the texts of 3 court rulings.

The 2 surviving escapees were executed. The 2 outside accomplices received life terms but years later had their convictions vacated because courts found their "confessions" had been coerced by "torture."



Warden Lewis E. Lawes

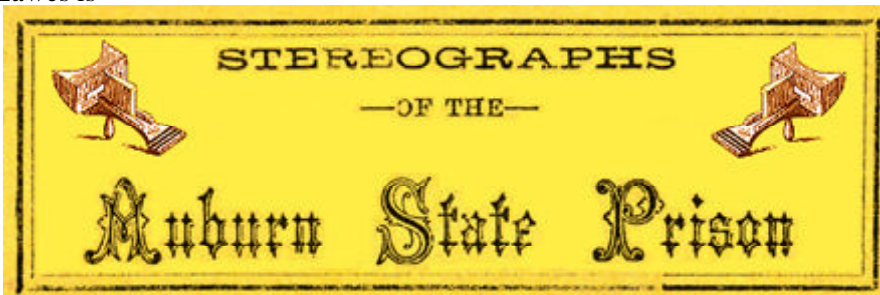
## NYCHS presentations added to site in 2005

This special year-end issue of *The Key* lists but a few of the many NYCHS presentations that were added during 2005 to [www.correctionhistory.org](http://www.correctionhistory.org)

Among the most visually interesting were three pages added to the site's "Treasury of Auburn Images" featuring scans by Bill Hecht in cooperation with Bernie Corcoran, coordinator of the Cayuga County NY Gn Web Projects.

The additions included:

- ✍ 24 postcard images of Auburn prison scenes.
- ✍ 42 late 19th & early 20th Century photo images.
- ✍ 60 stereographic (3D) views of Auburn prison.



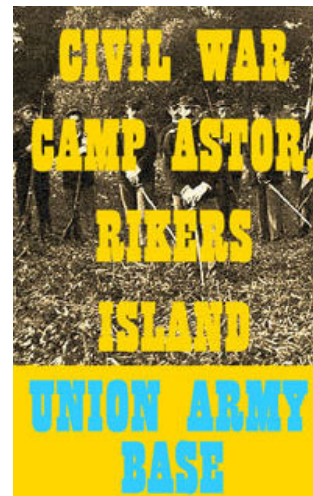
## Hart Island items

The "Treasury of Auburn Images" was not the only previously existing menu expanded by additions in 2005. The list of pages related to City Cemetery aka Potter's Field on historic Hart Island also increased.

At the request of the Picture The Homeless (PTH) organization and the family of its co-founder Lewis Haggins Jr., the web site worked with them to create a memorial page for him.

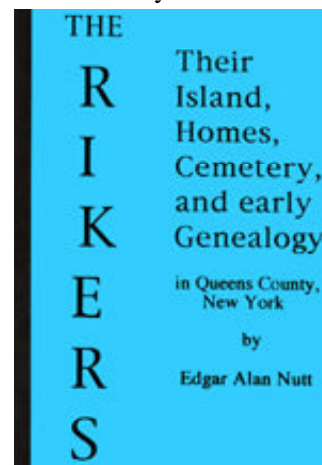
When the PTH-sponsored group, Interfaith Friends of Potter's Field, held a memorial service on Hart Island for Lewis Haggins Jr., the NYCHS site reproduced as a web page the printed program of the service. It was illustrated with a graphic pen sketch of the scene.

That memorial service happened to coincide with a closure visit by the family of Maria Carmela Tartaglione. The visit story is retold in their own words and in photos they took.



NYCHS unveiled in Spring a 3-page presentation of Rikers Island/Civil War notes from Pages 41 - 47 of *The Rikers: Their Island, Homes, Cemetery and Early Genealogy in Queens County, NY* by permission of its author, an 11th generation Abraham Rijcken vanLent descendant, Edgar Alan Nutt.

On this New Year's Eve, the site uploaded 15 web pages derived from 120 printed pages of his book on Rikers family and island history.





A 17-page 2005 presentation explores the missing Riker WPA-commissioned mural *Daily Bread* by Herbert Lehman.

**NYS  
Prison  
History  
& NYC  
Jail  
History  
Linked**



Frank Bryant

The story of how Sing Sing guard Frank Bryant helped artist inmate Joe Bendix sell his paintings to support the Bendix family illustrates how the histories of NYS and NYC correction systems so often connect and merge.

The presentation includes background on Bendix as a pivotal figure in the deadly riot at the NYC Penitentiary on Welfare Island October 1932 when Warden Joseph McCann's attempt to broker peace between rival inmate gang leaders backfired.



NYC Penitentiary Warden McCann.

In 1936 Bendix played a key role helping DA Thomas Dewey convict Lucky Luciano.

**Up Close & Personal!**

"Mapping" a large image so that clicking the cursor on a section accesses a close-up view of the respective detail was used in a number of 2005 presentations:

- ✍ The Rikers Penitentiary mess hall mural above.
- ✍ The earliest known NYC Prison Keepers Training School Graduation Photo - 1930. (12 pages)
- ✍ A circa 1930 Sing Guards Photo. (4 pages)
- ✍ A circa 1935 Sing Guards Photo. (5 pages)



**Sound on the Site. . . at last.**

After much searching, the web site finally found in early 2005 a sound befitting the home page -- the roll and slam of cell doors on a prison tier. Thereafter sound files were included in 2005 presentations about Governors Island (above) about the link between Hart Island and the haunting *Ashokan Farewell*, and the excerpts from *The Rikers: Their Island, Homes, Cemetery and Early Genealogy in Queens County*.



A 32-page 2005 presentation tells in his daughter's words and family album images the life story of famed Notre Dame football captain John Law who later coached at Sing Sing and became a NYS Correction Commission member.



Commissioner Anna M. Kross

**AMK's  
foreword  
to report  
on her 12  
years  
running  
NYCDOC**

The 2005 presentation of the complete text from Commissioner Kross' 4-page *Foreword* to her massive report on her 12 years heading the NY City Department of Correction, *Progress Through Crisis*, is illustrated with 32 images taken from the report's 742 other pages.

**A slight correction**



Digitally, the Women's History Month presentation of a prison matron list from a 1930 booklet listing prison keepers added their job title to the cover image. The presentation showed the double standard in pay.

**Captive Spirituality**

In 2005, *Fortune News* excerpts began with an inmate article about prison theology.



[www.correctionhistory.org](http://www.correctionhistory.org)