



CorrectionHistory.Org is honored to present  
The Westchester Historian's  
**Roberts J. Wright: The Story of  
Westchester County's First  
Commissioner of Correction**

By Anthony J. Czarnecki,  
Westchester DOC Chief of Staff (retired)

CorrectionHistory.Org is pleased and proud  
to be able to present retired Westchester

County Department of Correction chief of staff Anthony J. Czarnecki's  
[biographical essay about Roberts J. Wright, the agency's first commissioner.](#)

The Westchester County Historical Society (WCHS) and its quarterly  
publication, *The Westchester Historian*, graciously made available to this  
website from its Spring 2019 issue, the 25-page bio, with more than two dozen  
photos. The article helps to spotlight the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Westchester  
merging its correctional services into a single county department. *Historian*  
editor / Westchester County Historical Society executive director [Susanne  
Pandich's "Dear Reader" intro](#) explained:

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Westchester  
County Department of Correction. Its formation was a progressive idea  
to amalgamate the operations of the county jail, which was the  
jurisdiction of the Sheriff's Department; the  
Penitentiary, which was overseen by the Department  
of Social Services; and the Women's Unit, and put  
them under a new professional administration. Roberts J. Wright was  
chosen as the first commissioner . . . uniquely qualified by his experience in  
prison administration and his national reputation as a reformer . . . With the  
urgent conversation taking place in America today about incarceration,  
rehabilitation and social justice, it is interesting to read Commissioner  
Wright's enlightened views on many of these issues 50 years ago. His  
writings are still relevant.

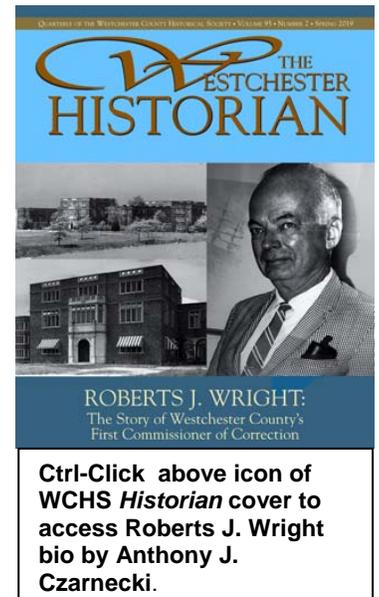


Anthony J. Czarnecki.

Long a booster of this website, Czarnecki helped it obtain in 2006 the okay to  
post a 9-part presentation of his ["A Proper Regard for the Unfortunates: The  
Origins of the Jail System in Westchester County, N.Y.,"](#) featured in that year's *Historian* Spring issue. The  
article marked the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first jail opening in the county. The 9-parter included data and  
photos relating to NYC Correction. Having served as Westchester DOC Chief of Staff 25 years, he now  
heads The Chartwell Group USA, a criminal justice consulting firm. Past president of the State Probation  
Officers Association and Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association, he serves on the WCHS Board  
of Trustees. We thank him, WCHS and its staff for sharing this significant work on our website.

The package of WCHS Spring 2019 *The Westchester Historian* quarterly materials made available to this  
website included a three-page section, [Books & Things](#), describing some of the Westchester history books  
available to order through WCHS. Among the authors of the listed works are the society's librarian and  
associate director Patrick Raftery and the well-known regional NY historian, Field Horn.

**LINKS NOTE:** In addition to the *Historian* cover image (above right) which, if Ctrl-Clicked, will access the historical  
bio, color highlighted underlined phrases also will access relevant material. **COPY RIGHT NOTE:** While granting this  
website permission to post the materials presented, WCHS still retains all its relevant copy rights re the materials.



Ctrl-Click above icon of  
WCHS *Historian* cover to  
access Roberts J. Wright  
bio by Anthony J.  
Czarnecki.