

**LOCAL HISTORY**

# First prisoners took the train to Jamesville

Each week, the Onondaga Historical Association looks back at important events:

**115 Years**

**Ago:** On April 15, 1901, the first prisoners were moved by train to Onondaga County's new penitentiary in Jamesville. It was so new, in fact, that it wasn't even finished. These 20 prisoners were transferred early to help work on the project by providing physical



labor with tasks such as grading and cleaning up the penitentiary grounds. The penitentiary wouldn't be completed until the fall of 1901 and the remaining prisoners were transferred shortly after. This new penitentiary was needed because the old one had outgrown its capacity considerably.

— Dan Connors for the OHA