

PRISON MUSEUM POST

Official Newsletter of the Historic Burlington County Prison Museum Association

Volume X, Issue I

February 1, 2010

FIFTH ANNUAL HAUNT A SUCCESS!

The fifth annual Haunted Event was a great success, despite incredibly bad luck with the weather. We were rained out two and a half of the 8 nights we were open... all Saturday nights. We added an extra Sunday night to try to recoup some of our losses; 300 showed up, even though the extra night was advertised only on the internet, on road signs and by word of mouth. We ended up with 3500 visitors. There is no doubt that we would have had the 5000 we expected had it not been for the rain. There's always next year. Special thanks go to the Highway Department, which let us use their road sign. The first day it was up, we had 11,000 hits on our website. As always, we thank faithful PMA members Jeanette Sozio, Flo Gomez, Joan Boas, Dave Kimball and Janet Sozio for operating the concession stand. This year, Delsea Sozio managed the gift shop stand. Curator Marisa Bozarth did a yeoman's job overseeing the operation, especially managing online and credit card sales. Her husband, Tim Bozarth, is not only instrumental every year in the construction of the event, but also is a principal actor. Our producers, Clark Bish of Eastampton, Jim Reed of Mt. Holly and Ken Orangers of Pemberton continue to

amaze us with their creativity and energy. Many thanks go to their wives and children, who also work tirelessly to make our event the major area haunt it has become. We are known by many as the scariest haunt in the tri-state area and the one which gives the most bang for the audience's buck. We feature in this issue a photograph of the surgical operating room, which is one of the most graphic stops along the Haunt tour. No need to worry if Congress doesn't pass a healthcare bill; just come to the Haunt... as you can see, we'll take care of you!

Historic Burlington County Prison
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Prison Museum Post Editor: Janet Sozio
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Please help us preserve and promote the Prison Museum by joining the PMA. Our annual dues are only \$10. Membership benefits include a quarterly newsletter, event updates, 10% off gift shop purchases, and free admission to the museum. For an application, call the PMA office.

**SAVE THE DATE: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING SATURDAY, MAY 15, 10 A.M.**

IRON WORKS HILL & FIRST NIGHT

Right on the heels of the Haunt came the reenactment of the Revolutionary War Battle of Iron Works Hill on December 12 and First Night on New Year's Eve. The Museum was open for free for both events. We are happy to be part of these wonderful, family oriented events and hope to continue to participate in the future. A photo from Iron Works Hill is featured in this issue.

POST ARTICLES

For new Post readers, we want to explain that we attach to almost each issue excerpts from the old Mount Holly Heralds. We have been featuring excerpts from 1897 for a few years now. We select that period because sensational journalism was popular, which makes for interesting reading. More than anything, the articles prove that the more things change, the more they stay the same. Today's Chancery Court is still full of cases in which adult children scramble to take control of their parents' money, men still fight over women, etc. A free gift shop item for the reader who describes for us a shoot-the-chute, which we will feature in the next issue.

SAVE THE DATE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2010 AT 10 A.M.

A general membership meeting will be held on Saturday, May 15. Save the date. It will be advertised again in the next *Post*, which will issue in April. That issue will also include PMA renewal forms. We intend to try to do some brainstorming to come up with new ways to utilize our great site, to generate interest in our own and other local history, and to generally serve the public. We also need to recruit new blood to operate the PMA. The current Board members, many of whom are getting somewhat long in the tooth, have been at it for ten years now and need help.

GREAT HISTORICAL SOCIETIES ABOUND IN BURLINGTON COUNTY

Burlington County is the home to many historical societies, most of which offer wonderful things for our residents, especially our children, to do at minimal cost. One of our favorites is the Air Victory Museum on Stacy Haines Road in Lumberton. Go on www.airvictorymuseum.org for information. They are featuring a Family Night on May 2 and a Living History Day on June 21. They have stunning displays of aviation history. Another favorite is Peachfield, the 1725 farmhouse operated by our friends, the Colonial Dames. Located right next to the Burlington County Club on Burrs Road in Westampton, they have wonderful programs which you can read about on www.colonialdamesofnj.org. We understand that George Washington will be stopping by later this month. And of course, there is the Burlington County Historical Society in Burlington City. Go on www.burlingtoncountyhistoricalsociety.com to see all the things this great organization has to offer. We like to think that the silver lining to these troubled economic times might be that people discover that they don't have to spend a lot of money or go far for entertainment for themselves and their families.

THIS 'N THAT

We are seeing more and more visitors as years pass. They continue to come in large numbers from surrounding counties, especially Ocean and Camden Counties... we've had visitors from as far away as London and Texas in recent months... paranormal researchers continue to find our museum to be a favorite site for their activities... we will keep readers advised of plans which are still underway for the renovation of the Warden's House... we are coming up on the 200th anniversary of the Jail in 2011, one of the items which will be discussed at the May 15th meeting... congratulations to our new Freeholders, Mary Ann O'Brien and Bruce Garganio.. the PMA looks forward to working with the County to make 2010 the best year yet for the Prison Museum.

Museum Hours: Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday noon to 4 p.m.
(No admission after 3:30 p.m.)

Admission Fee: \$4 for adults, \$2 for students and seniors over age 55, and free for children under age 5. The tour is self guided. Guided tours and groups rates are also available. Call for further information.

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MOUNT HOLLY HERALD
Saturday, August 21, 1897

Burlington... If the crowds who loaf around the cigar stores were to dispersed by the police, there would be a general feeling of gratitude toward to guardians of the peace, as many complaints have been made by women of the annoyance they have been subjected to by some of the loungers... A combination moonlight excursion was given by the Baptist and Methodist Churches on Thursday night, and owing to the trick of a sharper, the receipts from the excursion were considerably reduced. A number of tickets were worked off on the unsuspecting ticket taker, the trick not being discovered until Friday when the committee began the work of settling up... While out sailing on the river on Tuesday, Lawrence Ashby was upset by a sudden squall and would have been drowned but for the good offices of Oliver Hewitt, who is a member of the volunteer life saving crew...

Bordentown... D.R. Brown paid a fine of \$2 imposed by Justice Steele for riding his wheel at night without a lamp... When the choirboys of Christ Episcopal Church returned from their camping trip, they didn't have that angelic look they had when they started. The sun and the mosquitoes were the cause of it... A valuable cow belonging to Mrs. N. Warner escaped from the barnyard on Thursday and went out to Edward Newell's barn about a mile out of town and ate a bushel of new rye from the affects of which she died the following day... Isaiah Disborough, an old resident of Bordentown, has filed a bill in the Court of Chancery against his daughter, Anna Thomas and her husband. They, too, reside in Bordentown, and the suit is brought to restrain them from disposing of property claimed by Disborough. Several years ago, Disborough married a second time, and shortly after trouble arose between the husband and wife because Disborough would not live in style. He was worth over \$20,000, consisting mostly of bonds and mortgages, and his second wife did not feel like living in the house where he had lived for 30 odd years. After a few months of married life, Disborough one day was taken very sick, and on an analysis being made of some material he found in his wife's chest of drawers, the chemist declared it to be poison. Disborough then became alarmed for his life, and had his wife arrested, but the matter was allowed to drop. He then turned over all of his property to his daughter, Anna Thomas, and he now alleges that when he did so he had an understanding with her that she was to pay over all the proceeds to him year by year, and if he should at any time desire, he

was to have the property redelivered to him. His wife brought suit for alimony but the case was decided against her. She brought a second suit of the same character, but was again defeated. Later she died, and Disborough began to feel like himself again and demanded his property from his daughter, which she declined to give up. Disborough claims his daughter allows him only \$25 per annum. Several of the bonds and mortgages have been disposed of by Mrs. Thomas, therefore a restraining order was asked for, which vice chancellor Gray immediately granted, which will prevent any further disposal of the property until the rule to show cause why an injunction should not be granted is argued, which will be September 7, 1897.

Moorestown... On Monday night, Chief of Police Aaron Burr was the victim of a brutal assault at the hands of Thomas Seaman, a blacksmith who formerly resided here but who has lately been living in Riverside. He called Burr out of Justice Pettit's office under the pretense of having a confidential talk, but no sooner was he outside the door then Seaman knocked him down and thumped on him in a most brutal manner, breaking one of the bones of his leg and cutting him about the face. Seaman then made his escape and the injured man was conveyed to his home where he is still confined. The assault was entirely unprovoked. Seaman had been drinking heavily for some time, and treated his wife so badly that she was unable to live with him. She then put her case in the hands of Mr. Burr who proposed to call Seaman to account for getting away with some furniture belonging to Mrs. Seaman. There was talk of a reconciliation between the couple, so Mr. Burr arranged for them to meet at Justice Pettit's office at 9 o'clock on Monday night. The understanding was that Seaman was to sign the pledge and that he and his wife were to live together again. Instead of that Seaman loaded up with liquor and went deliberately to the 'Squire's office and committed the assault. A warrant has been issued for his arrest. He was formerly a hard working, industrious citizen, but since he has been drinking heavily he has been neglecting his business and ill treating his wife... A bicycle watermelon party was given at the residence of J.C.D. Belton for a number of Riverton young people on Tuesday evening. The lawn was decorated with Japanese lanterns, and the guests had a heartily good time... The assault in front of Justice Pettit's office on Monday night has led to two arrests. Chief of Police Burr has been arrested for assault and battery on Thomas Seaman. The warrant was served on Tuesday by Constable Rine, of Riverside, and Justice Pettit fixed the bail at \$100 which Chief Burr furnished himself. Thomas Seaman was also arrested on Tuesday at Riverside and held in \$100 bail.

C.J. Ruff is his bondsman. Seaman said he went to 'Squire Pettit's office in order to meet his wife and have a reconciliation, but that Burr stepped forward and said he was Mrs. Seaman's counsel. They had a few words in the midst of which Seaman says Burr knocked him down and bruised him up. Seaman thereupon got the upper hand and pummeled Burr. Seaman says he was the first one to get out a warrant. This is the other side of the story. It is said one feature of the case that has not been published yet, but which will be given an airing when the case comes up for trial.

Columbus...John Gibbs, who swallowed a quantity of paris green with suicidal intent, is now considered out of danger... Harold Wells is making a good recovery from the injury he received while playing baseball at Juliustown... Edward Quigley has returned from a visit to Trenton, and speaks in glowing terms of Broad Street Park, which he says is a great resort for pretty girls... Arrangements are being made for a trotting matinee here on the first of September, at which there will be some good horses to face the starter. In the meantime, the track will be put in first class condition... On Monday night, William DeWorth came to town with his merry-go-round, which he soon placed in position, and on the following evening gave the town a free ride. William has an eye to business and is never happier than when he can get the outfit loaded down with good looking girls... State Detective Ellis H. Parker and Detective Tate, of Philadelphia, recently arrested James Martin, who was wanted in this county for robbery. Martin was also wanted in Philadelphia for a similar offence, and was sentenced there to one year in Prison. When his term expires he will be in Mt. Holly for trial. He is a noted crook and is considered very clever in that line of work... Almost every Saturday night the townspeople are annoyed by a crowd of drunken men who seem determined to have a high old time without the slightest regard for law or order. They sing vile songs and fire a volley of profanity at passers-by without regard to age or sex. No one interferes with them, and the result is that they have become worse than ever. If the proper officers would arrest one or two of these offenders and make an example of them there would soon be an abatement of the nuisance... The parents of William Dubell have received a letter from him dated at the Klondike goldfields. He says he is not digging gold, but using his horse, for which he has been offered \$700, to take supplies to the miners. He charges 20 cents a pound for transporting these goods, and his profits amount to about \$30 per day. He and his companion, after laying in a year's provisions, had \$50 left, which they invested in eggs, for which they got \$500 after they arrived at the diggings.

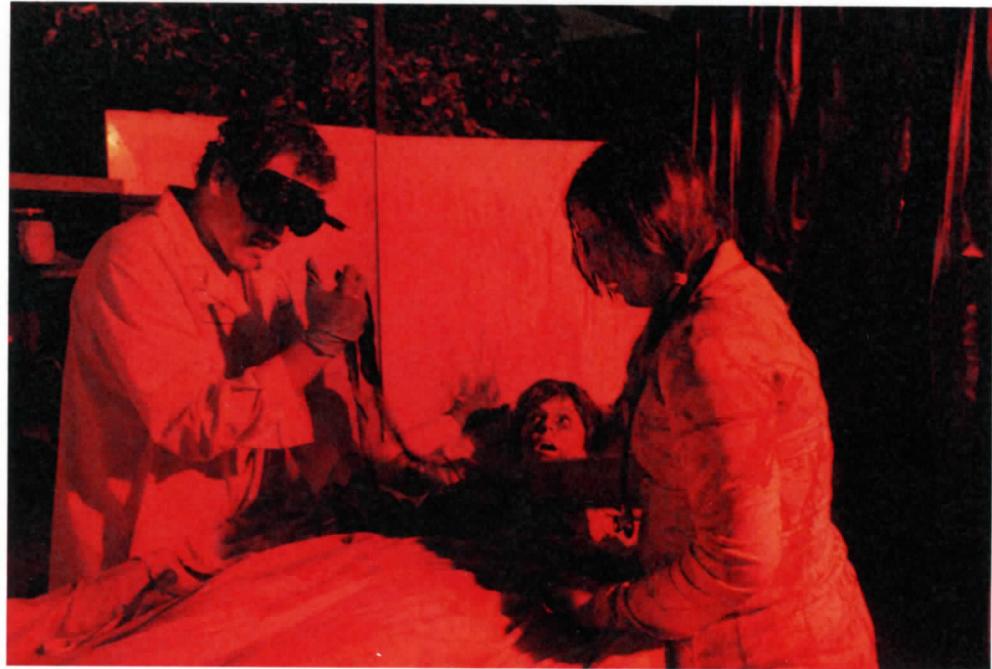
Vincentown... One of the fair damsels of the town has a pet monkey that accompanies her wherever she goes to the great amusement of the children and the disgust of the elders. What's the use of a girl full time with a monkey when there are so many cigarette eating dudes just waiting for a chance like this?...While in Philadelphia on business the other day, Wilmer Cowperthwait and Job Jones concluded to take a run over to Washington Park. They listened to the music of the band, glanced at the various amusements, etc., and then Job suggested that they take a trip on the shoot-the-chute, but Wilmer said no; he would rather take his chances with a team of runaway mules then trust himself in any such contraption as that.

Beverly... A.J. Hollembaek, who was for many years connected with the Burlington "Enterprise", is now employed by the "Banner"...Elsworth S. Adams has sold three lots of ground on Spruce Street to Susan Zigenfuss for \$300... The report is that game warden Wise will make an example of the chaps who have been in the habit of shooting redbirds before the season comes in... There is talk of a divorce case here, the particulars of which will soon be made public, provided a reconciliation is not effected. It is said that the co-respondent is a well-known citizen of Mt. Holly, who is a married man with children.

Pointville... What makes the horses stumble on Main Street? On Friday, the Caponizer's horse fell down and broke the shafts. The day before, Jake Nixon's horse fell near the same place. After unfastening the harness, Jacob administered a severe castigation and when some of the onlookers said he ought to be arrested, he fired his whole stock of assorted cusswords into the crowd and struck for Browns Mills with a full head of steam...

Medford... On Thursday, Constable Thompson brought Gotlieb Moisell, of Medford, to jail for making threats against William Somers, who was a witness again Moisell at the trial at which he was convicted of arson and sent to State Prison for two years. Justice Wright was the committing magistrate. The bail was fixed at \$200 but Gotlieb couldn't give it...On Wednesday of last week, a strange mad dog bit several hogs belonging to Benjamin Mingen. One has since died, another has convulsions. He also bit several dogs. The bad dog was shot by John Estelow...The township committee passed an ordinance on Tuesday night requiring all dogs be muzzled otherwise they may be killed by anybody who can shoot straight.

THE HAUNTED PRISON 2009



BATTLE OF IRON WORKS HILL 2009

