

**HISTORIC BURLINGTON COUNTY PRISON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION**

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MARYBETH F. BARON, ESQUIRE  
CAROLE MELMAN  
GARY F. WOODEND, ESQUIRE

June 15, 2004

Dear Members:

Thank you for renewing your memberships. While only a handful failed to renew, we picked up more than twice that amount in new memberships. This was due mostly to the efforts of our attorney, JOHN DEVLIN, of Parker, McCay & Criscuolo. John was able to persuade ten of his colleagues at the firm to join our worthy cause. Most of you have already received your 2004 membership cards. I am enclosing cards for those of you who have not yet received them. If any of you still have not received a card, please call me.

Our museum curator, Marisa, was married on June 13. She will now be known as MARISA BOZARTH. Our best wishes go out to her and her husband.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce all of you to ERIC BARATTA, who has been hired by the Freeholders to serve as our County's Historic Preservation Specialist. A native of Delaware County, Pennsylvania, Eric has a Masters Degree in Historic Preservation from the University of Pennsylvania. One of the first problems he tackled when he came on board was that of our very wet basement. The tremendous amount of precipitation we had last summer and winter took quite a toll on the Jail. At Eric's suggestion, we purchased dehumidifiers at a cost of \$1,020. They turned out to be worth every penny. Both the wetness and the foul odor that went along with it are gone.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank PMA member RON REED for all of the time he devotes to the Jail. Ron serves as everything from docent to handyman to security guard. He recently obtained a computer for us at a cost of only \$75. He and Marisa, who are a dynamic duo, hooked the thing up themselves and have already started to enter the names of all the inmates from the 1860s. Thank you, Ron.

If you haven't been by the Jail lately, you definitely have to stop by to see the gallows. Yes, we finally have gallows, thanks to the carpentry students at the Burlington County Institute of Technology. Their masterpiece, which happens to be an exact replica of the gallows which were actually used up through 1905, were publicly presented on May 26. Freeholder VINCE FARIAS has presided over many ribbon cuttings in his day, but this had to be the most unusual. The students and their teachers were obviously very proud of their work, as they should have been. I was extremely gratified to see young people taking an active part in preserving and promoting our county's history.

Our general membership meeting on May 15 was a pleasant affair at which we sipped coffee in the exercise yard and enjoyed looking at the gallows and our new traveling exhibit. In attendance were yours truly, EDITH FREEMAN, DAN and DAVE KIMBALL, MARISA BOZARTH, CAROLE MELMAN, RON REED, SUSAN DARGAY, DOMINICK FERRELLI, TOM FAILE, and our newest members, MARYJANE and KEN PHILLIPS.

We christened the traveling exhibit at the EARTH FAIR at Smithville on June 13. The beautiful weather no doubt was instrumental in drawing a record crowd - - some 14,000. Most of the exhibits dealt with environmental concerns and were quite interesting. It really was a wonderful event. PMA members JOYCE GOLDSMITH and LYNNE PITTS of the Cultural and Heritage Commission are to be commended for their efforts in assisting event coordinator DEBBIE FOCARILE to pull it all off. County Clerk PHIL HAINES, also a PMA member, left his booth to visit ours for a spell. PMA member JEFF RABIN, who is an attorney in the County Solicitor's office, brought along his band to serenade the crowd with some very good music. I would like to thank members RHONDI SCHWARTZ, MARYBETH and RICHARD BARON and RON REED, all of whom joined me in manning our booth. It turned out to be a great way to advertise and promote the Jail, and, in addition, to raise a little money through the sale of souvenirs.

A Beverly resident and her sweet little girl stopped to look at our exhibit. She turned out to be a descendant (on her father's side) of Wesley Warner. Interestingly enough, on her mother's side, she is probably a descendant of E.P. Budd, the attorney who prosecuted Warner, and of W.A. Townsend, who was the warden of the Jail at the time.

Speaking of old Wesley, this September 6 marks the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his execution. The anniversary will serve as the backdrop for a wine and cheese party fundraiser on Friday afternoon, October 1, 2004. Invitations will be sent out in September. The proceeds will be used for a climate controlled exhibit case, the contents of which I am not at liberty to divulge at the moment. I will keep you advised of further developments!

As promised, newspaper excerpts from 1869 are attached. My research was a real eye opener. Most of the newspaper articles from the 1890s through the 1920s paint Burlington County as a generally pleasant, folksy place. It appears, however, that it was less idyllic in 1869. I imagine that our county, like the rest of the nation, was still recovering from the ravages of the Civil War. There was political unrest mixed with issues arising from the new status of African Americans. This is evident in the first excerpt. Children were not always protected as we today believe they should be. There are numerous accounts of children dying in accidents resulting from apparent negligence on their parents' part. One article reported a farmer who brought his two-year-old with him while he burned his fields; the child perished in the fire. When they weren't being hurt or killed, they were being thrown in jail, as was the case with the 12-year-old arsonist or the lad from Bordentown who stole \$2. There were countless reports of theft in various forms, no doubt based in part on generally bad economic times.

Have a great summer. In the fall, look for the notice for the wine and cheese fundraiser and our last newsletter of the year. Until then, I remain,

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet".

JANET L. SOZIO  
President

**PRISON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION  
2004 Members**

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## MOUNT HOLLY HERALD

January 2, 1869 We find that (Ulysses) Grant has a majority of 338,916 (votes). How was this "popular" majority rolled up for the "sashed and epauletted sphynx", as Greeley called him? It was brought about by such a sham as this: in Georgia and other Southern states, the total vote for Grant is 443,960. It would be safe to say that of this vote, 100,000 was white, and we find 343,000 Negroes holding the balance of power and electing Grant to the office of President. We do emphatically say that Grant is not the choice of the majority of the white men of these United States, for the highest office at their disposal.

February 6, 1869 Levi Rogers, Esquire, has kindly furnished us the following list of sales of real estate which have taken place recently in the townships of Evesham, Chesterfield, and Willingboro. Thornton W. Sharp's farm, near Mount Laurel, of 31 acres sold to Chalkley Ballinger for \$175 per acre. Chalkley Ballinger's farm near Fellowship, 90 acres, was bought by Albertson Lippincott for \$132 per acre.

March 6, 1869 Riverton is a beautiful little village, situated on the Delaware River in the Township of Cinnaminson. It was settled principally by citizens of Philadelphia, a majority of them only living there during the summer season. The place improved very slowly as there is a disposition on the part of the landowners to discourage all kinds of mechanical business, the consequence is that there are no manufactures in the town, but little business of any kind, not even a good store. One redeeming quality they have to perfection, in the estimation of some, that is they are warm friends to the colored race. Indeed, Riverton would be an admirable place for the wealthy gentleman of African descent to settle in, as they would be welcomed into the polite society of the pale faces.

March 27, 1869 Delanco is a thriving town, and is destined to be an important point on the Delaware, both for residences and business. Mr. Charles Riley has built a fine house on a 10 acre lot on the Beverly Road, just out of Delanco. There is one very important and much needed improvement, which we wish to agitate through your columns, and we do not propose to give it up until the people of Burlington County, through their Freeholders, shall see the necessity of granting our petition; that is, a good substantial bridge across the Rancocas Creek.

May 1, 1869 The following persons were arraigned and pleaded guilty: W.M. Albright, Evesham, assault and battery on wife. Fined \$1 and costs. John Polk, Cinnaminson, petit larceny: sentenced to 60 days imprisonment in County Jail.

June 5, 1869 Last week, Abraham Perkins, E. Budd Marter and Joseph Wills, the committee appointed by the Freeholders to build the bridge across the Rancocas, connecting Delanco and Riverside, met at Delanco, and examined several plans for the proposed structure. The completion of this bridge will make a direct road from Burlington to Camden - a route which will be taken by all the residents along the river.

June 12, 1869 William Henry Ridgway from Bordentown was committed on the authority of a Bordentown magistrate on Saturday for appropriating clothing of which William Henry was not the rightful owner. He will have an opportunity to keep cool in the county boarding house during the hot weather. Edward Smith, of German extraction, hailing from the classic regions of Shamong, where pine trees, scrub oaks and cranberries do exist, was safely ensconced in jail on Monday, for stealing a sum of money from a neighbor. ...there is a terrible supply of street music afloat. Two bands of Italian music makers have been promenading our streets for weeks...this is getting to be a nuisance and people do wrong when encouraging this kind of vagrancy by word, look or deed. So far we have been enjoying a happy freedom from organ grinders and their monkeys.

June 26, 1869 A report gained extensive circulation last week that a matrimonial jar had occurred on Water Street, which ended in the removal of the household goods and kitchen furniture of the family out of doors at the hands of the male member of said family. The same individual threatened to take the life of his spouse, and accordingly clasped her throat in anything but an affectionate way. The offender was brought before a magistrate, and would have been dealt with severely had not his wife interceded in his behalf.

July 10, 1869 Many of our citizens and surrounding villages celebrated the Fourth of July over three days. On Saturday night especially, did they pour out the patriotic ardor. A band of Young Americans set up a wild hullabaloo which it would be impossible to describe. Bells, bands and balls were mingled in a mighty mass, and night was made hideous by reports of cannon, firecrackers, and pistols. It was thought at first that a pack of demons had ascended to the upper air, and were performing their orgies in our streets, but on remembering that it was July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1869, the thought vanished. With dawn the dissipated and drunken crowd crept away to sleep and snore over last night's debauch, and well they needed repose.

August 21, 1869 The price of coal is still advancing at a rapid rate, selling here for \$9.50 per ton...several of the mines have suspended work, and another strike is anticipated, started no doubt by the speculators. Whether or not it will be any cheaper before winter we can't say, let each one think for himself and act accordingly...the sale of bank stock belonging to the Estate of James Logan was sold at public venue, on Wednesday. Shares of the First

National Bank of Vincentown, brought \$111, \$110 and \$108. The purchasers were Messrs. Haines, Doran and William Irick.

August 28, 1869 On Wednesday afternoon of last week, a jury of 12 men was impanelled by Justice Powell to decide upon the merits of a case wherein James E. Bell was plaintiff and D.P. Cubberly, defendant. From the evidence it seems that the defendant had placed some property in the hands of Bell, a real estate agent, for sale, among which was a building lot on the corner of Church and Jenning Streets, for which he wanted \$2,000. A purchaser for the lot was found by Mr. Bell and the terms agreed upon between the buyer and seller, upon the rendition of the bill for commissions by Mr. Bell, Mr. Cubberly refused its payment chiefly on the grounds that he had bought the lot back again, and offered to settle at 25% to pay for any trouble Bell had been at to effect the sale. The offer was declined and After able argument pro and con, the jury, after a few minutes deliberation, returned a verdict giving the agent full commissions and the defendant pay the costs. suit brought to recover in full. C.E. Hendrickson appeared for Mr. Bell, and J.D. Bennett for Mr. Cubberly.

August 28, 1869 A girl named Mary Ellison, aged 12 years, set fire to the buildings of her employer, Thomas R. Zelley, living near Mount Laurel, on Thursday fortnight ago. A large barn and two hay houses with their contents were consumed. Nine fat calves, 50 tons of hay, wagons, harness and implements were destroyed, making a loss of \$3,000. There was \$400 insurance on the property. The girl is now in jail.

September 4, 1869 Action was brought against John F. Pancoast, to recover a debt of \$20, for straw rails and rent of barn. The defendant disputed the last two items, saying that the rent of the barn was agreed upon to be 25 cents per month with the manure. The plaintiff said that the rent was to be 25 cents per week. The jury was out all night but could not agree upon a verdict, they were therefore discharged. Voorhees for Norcross; Hendrickson for Emmons and Pancoast.

September 11, 1869 There was a movement on foot in our town to organize a Young Men's Christian Association. We hope the effort will be successful as it is time the morals of our young men were amended. If the crowds of young men who nightly congregate along our streets and on the street corners had some place where their moral education might be attended to, it would be a great blessing to themselves and the community.

December 11, 1869 The Burlington Gas Company intends to lay three miles of pipe from that city to Beverly, and thus supply the latter place with Burlington gas. Such a project

would require an outlay of much money, and will hardly be done. Why don't Beverly manufacture its own gas?

March 19, 1870 Some scoundrel on Wednesday night last pried off the hasp and lock on the stable door of Joseph Franklin, near Hainesport, entered the building and carried off a set of harness valued at \$40. The harness had never been used. No traces of the thieves can be found....work on the Delanco bridge has been going on for several weeks and the first span on the upper side has been put in position. The structure it is thought, will be completed by May 1...

April 30, 1870 The prosecutor charged the following criminals who pleaded guilty: William P. Haines, of Southampton, entering by day the dwelling house of his father, William D. Haines and stealing therefrom butter and hams of the value of \$13.50. He sold the articles to W.C. Amish, at Red Lion. Peter C. Vondercrone, Beverly, one indictment for keeping a disorderly house, another for selling liquor on election day.

October 8, 1870 Sentences were passed on Monday morning as follows: Ralph Wilke, a lad, stealing two dollars in Bordentown. Sent to the reform school at Jamesburg. William Riley, colored, stealing clothing in New Hanover. State prison, one year. Charles Dilks, stealing cow in Chester, and buffalo robe in Burlington. County Jail, six months. Wright E. Rodman, of Burlington, fornication, \$14 fine and costs, and for attempting to produce abortion, he was sentenced to the state prison for one year, or pay a fine of \$300 before the adjournment of Court. We understand he paid the fine, thus saving a visit to Trenton. Leo Probst, stealing harness in Medford. State prison, one year. William McFarland, stealing boat hinges, ninety days in county jail.

ADVERTISEMENT Marriage guide. Being a private instructor for married persons or those about to be married, both male and female, in everything concerning the physiology and relations of our sexual system, and the production and prevention of offspring, including all the new discoveries never before given in the English language, by Dr. Young. It is written in plain language or the general reader, and is illustrated with numerous engravings. It discloses secrets that everyone should be acquainted with; still it is a book that must be locked up and not lie about the house. It will be sent to any address on receipt of 50 cents.