

PRISON MUSEUM POST

Official Newsletter of the Historic Burlington County Prison Museum Association

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August 18, 2009

PLANS UNDERWAY FOR FIFTH ANNUAL HALLOWEEN BASH

Summer's imminent demise means just one thing at the Old Jail: THE HAUNT IS COMING! The annual cyclone of activity is just beginning to gain force. This event is our chief fundraiser and promotional tool. *Prison Museum Post readers are urged to post the enclosed advertisement wherever permitted!* The event will be held on each Friday and Saturday on the last four weekends in October (9-10, 16-17, 23-24 & 30-31). Let us know which nights you will be available to help us. If you don't call us, we will be calling you...

BELATED 10TH ANNIVERSARY NOTE

Elections, recessions and baseball playoffs made 2008 come and go so quickly that we forgot to take note of the tenth anniversary of the current Prison Museum Association. The PMA was initially formed in 1965, when the Jail closed as an actual penal institution and opened as a museum. The Association

carried on, albeit in various permutations, until 1992, when the museum was closed for renovation. By 1998, the project was nearing completion, but the PMA had pretty much petered out. In April of 1998, past PMA president Dave Kimball invited remaining PMA veterans and other interested parties to a meeting at Robin's Nest Restaurant in Mount Holly. Dubbed the "Resuscitation Luncheon", it was the location of the rebirth of our fine organization. Twenty of the initial members remain on our roster today, ten years later:

Richard Andronici, Susan Dargay, Dominick Ferrelli, Glen Filippone, Edith Freeman, David Hasson, Warren Jones, David Kimball, Judy King, Stewart LaVine, Michael McHale, Michael

Historic Burlington County Prison Museum Association ("PMA")

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Carole Melman, Janet Sozio (Pres.),
Gary Woodend.

Curator: Marisa Bozarth

Prison Museum Post Editor: Janet Sozio
Associate Editor: Marisa Bozarth

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.

Mouber, Janice Myers, Robert Silcox, Carole Melman, Glen Kenny,
Barbara Westergaard, Gary Woodend, John Yetman and Janet Lynn Sozio.

We thank everyone who supports the PMA. Membership cards are being supplied with this issue. We are also enclosing reminders for those who have not yet paid their 2009 dues.

GIFT FROM RIVERFRONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The PMA extends heartfelt thanks to the **Riverfront Historical Society**, which presented us with copies of Beverly City municipal court records from 1898 to 1903. We have attached some excerpts. Of particular note were the entries of the December 3, 1901 and March 18, 1902 hangings of Charles Brown and John Young, respectively. They were hanged in the Exercise Yard for the robbery and murder of local farmer Washington Hunter. Young, a New York native, had been employed by Hunter. Young, Brown and three friends conspired to commit the crime. The three friends testified for the State, leaving Young and Brown to twist in the wind.

Burlington County is the home to several wonderful historical societies which keep our very colorful local past from being lost. The Riverfront Historical Society, which preserves Edgewater Park, Delanco and Beverly history, is one of the best. Edgewater Park resident Dennis Rogers has served as president since 2002 of this fine organization, which meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Coopertown Meeting House on Route 130 in Edgewater Park (behind the 45th Street Pub). **They are having a free open house on Saturday, September 12 from noon until 4.** While their eclectic collection of artifacts is simply fascinating, it's worth going just to see the wonderful old Friends' Meeting House and graveyard. Our famous murderer, Wesley Warner, is buried there in an unmarked grave. One of our friends in the Riverfront Historical Society recently uncovered evidence as his grave's location. More about that in future issues...

DON'T FORGET TO HELP US SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE HAUNT!

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.

**PRISON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION MEMBERS
2009**

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Senator Phil Haines	Lisa Post	

* ParkerMcCay Attorneys

Excerpts From
Beverly Court Records 1898-1903

April 13th
Spare Canine arrested for
being a dog to a post paid
under one hundred dollars
and to appear at Court

Justice Small

Marshall A. Austin

Sept 20th
Buss and Harry
arrested for shooting
in city limits fine \$4.00

Justice Small

Marshall A. Austin

Nov 15th
Chas. Frank arrested for
disorderly and battery on
H. Martin post paid \$3.00.
and for appearance at court

Justice Small

City Marshal Austin

Nov 15th
George Williamson summoned
for disorderly before the Justice
for being a dog to a post paid
under one hundred dollars
and to appear at Court

Justice Small

City Marshal A. Austin

Nov 18th
Dr. May arrested for shooting
on side walk fine \$2.50

Justice Small

June 21st
Arrested in Harry
Homer by order of Mayor
Adams to deliver his dog
or otherwise leave it, fine
a fine
City Marshal

Dec 1st
Archie McElroy m. s. Dyer
Georgeon not at court
not to remove dirt. Dyer
and from premises by
Dyer and Steadman
other
Geo. Dyer
City Marshal A. Austin

Dec 1st
Walter Steadman had notice served
on H. W. Mackery not to remove
any dog from his premises
Justice Small Abraham M. Austin

October 16. Emma Miller B. S. Adams was arrested for all treatment for being Person Money not belonging to her sent ordered to State's Debt of Hundred Dollar
A. Custer

May 18. S. Adams

December 3 Charles Brown was being by Sheriff Charles R. Tanton Hunter Mander
190

March 8 Edward Rens was arrested for drunk and disorderly conduct and committed to county jail 60 days
1902

May 18. S. Adams
A. Custer

March 18 John L. Young was being in County Jail by Sheriff Charles Tanton
1902

Witness A. Custer

June 16 James Menden was arrested for carrying concealed weapon, knife and cut-throat razor
Justice Frank Jones
1902

May 19. Edward Rens was arrested for drunk and disorderly conduct, by Ward Clerk for \$3 and cost
1903

Jones

May 19. Edward Rens was arrested for drunk and disorderly conduct, by Sheriff Charles Tanton
1903

Jones

June 4. Charles Slater Jones was arrested for carrying concealed weapon, knife and cut-throat razor, and \$300 Reward
1903

A. M. Custer

MOUNT HOLLY HERALD

Saturday, August 21, 1897

General and Political News...Counterfeit ten-dollar bills are in circulation, but they are not causing the large majority of people to lose any sleep...A mild Kansas cyclone might be welcomed in New Jersey if it would give a guarantee to drive away the mosquitoes...Since it has been discovered that whiskey can be aged by electricity, there is no longer any excuse for anyone drinking the new stuff...A naturalist says he has seen in New York on the hats of women the feathers of 173 different kinds of wild birds, including 40 species, of which 32 are protected by a law under fine of \$25...A New York man who was teaching people how to live on two five-cent meals a day joined the angels the other day. He had been living on ten-cents a day for five weeks, but just as he got used to it he died...Wheat continues to go up and silver to go down, a bushel of wheat being worth today about twice as much as an ounce of silver. Even the western farmers will learn pretty soon that prices are not regulated by the laws of Congress, but by the law of supply and demand...Among the foreigners that come to this country and commence to denounce our government as tyrannical almost immediately on their arrival, we frequently find the Russian agitator. In this county, the people are free to strike, and do pretty much as they please while on strike, but the other day the Czar sent 60 Russian strikers to Siberia for life. Nearly all our labor agitators are foreigners, who seemingly come here with the avowed purpose of inciting our working people to violence and bloodshed...

State News...Rabbits in Camden County are becoming a nuisance and the law that protects them under such conditions seems to be a hardship...A servant ringing a dinner bell from an upper window frightened away burglars who attempted to rob the house of former Congressman Jacob A. Geissenhainer, at Freehold, early Thursday morning...William Fash, of Washington, has a cat which gave birth to a kitten with two perfectly formed heads. There was only one eye in each head, but each head had a perfect nose and mouth. The freak lived only a few hours...Mabel Crosby, of Boston, who twice attempted suicide at Lambertville last Sunday, made enough money by singing for visitors to the County Jail to pay her way home. The woman claimed to be an actress, who was stranded in the West...The price of produce keeps going up beyond the most sanguine expectations of the farmers of South Jersey, and this is only attributed to the fact that the yield is below the average amount of other years. The average shipment of citrons this

past week from Salem has been about 200 barrels per day, which is considered light. It is said that this season's yield of white potatoes has been the smallest in 40 years. The prices the past week have been as follows: sweet potatoes, \$2.75 to \$3.25 per barrel; watermelons, \$10 per 100, citrons, 50 cents per barrel; Jenny Lind variety, \$1.25; eggplants, 40 cents per barrel; white potatoes, \$1.75; tomatoes, 40 cents per crate. The latter sold for 5 cents and 10 cents last year...Rev. G.D. Coleman, who mysteriously disappeared with his bicycle last October, and whose whereabouts were unknown for several months, has returned to Hammonton. After he left Hammonton, it was generally supposed that he had gone to fight in the Cuban War, but afterwards he turned up in the City of Mexico. Having left Hammonton to ride a bicycle to a neighboring town, he decided to go to Washington Park to hear Bryan, who was billed to speak. After that he went through the Southern states in search of employment, and finally landed in the above named city. Here, on account of his knowledge of the Spanish language, and of civil engineering, he secured a position with a railroad company. Working at this until recently, he longed for his wife and family, and consequently returned to Hammonton...A movement is on foot looking to the organization of a Camden County historical society. We hope it will receive the support it merits and speedily be brought into existence. We have a number of old residents who are well posted on historical points connected with Camden County, but no means of getting their several stories of knowledge compiled, as it were, so that they may be handed down to coming generations in correct form. When our old friends pass away, too often their historical papers come into the hands of persons indifferent to their value and are eventually lost. Thus we lose the documents as well as the benefit of the minds of persons who could contribute important records which would be preserved on the books of the association...

Local Affairs...The colored camp meeting in Mount Laurel has been drawing large crowds lately. The exhorters have been doing good work, but have been annoyed by the usual crowd of triflers, who play all sorts of freaks while the meetings are in progress. The other night a mule with a sleigh bell attached to his tail went through the camp on a dead run with the words "Mr. Johnson turned me loose" pinned to his bridle. The mourners flew in all directions shouting "De debbil am loose!" Finally, quiet was restored and the choir sang. When the collection was taken up, a number of lead five-cent pieces were put in the hat. This angered the preacher, who said; "De folkses what put dem counterfeit coins in de hat is jiss like de coins, and when dey comes to de "Great Camp" on de

odder side of de ribber, ole Peter will say, "Clar out, yous a counterfeit, you can't git in wid dat kind of stuff. We will now pass de hat around again." ...The interior of the Washington Hotel is being repainted by Robert Nixon...Door mat thieves have been around again, a number having been stolen the past week...Deputy Surrogate Huff and Samuel Shinn came home for Barnegat Pier last week with a fine lot of blue fish...Peter Mornen, a well known resident of Water Street, Mount Holly, died last Thursday night of consumption...A mule belonging to Eli Parker, of Lumberton, while cavorting around on Monday, jammed a rail in its breast to the depth of over a foot. Dr. J.H. Carter dressed the injury and the mule bids fair to recover... The tall tower at Smithville is to be utilized as a water tower. A large water tank is to be built on the top for the purpose of supplying the town with water, a plentiful supply of which has just been secured from an artesian well... Two Indian medicine fakiers who were Chesterfield residents, have disappeared, leaving a two-weeks' board bill owing John Murphy. The latter also missed a number of valuables after the disappearance of the fakiers...An effort is being made for the four oldest children of Mrs. Anna Robinson, of Fieldsboro, who was murdered by her husband, to be placed in the Burlington County Home for Friendless Children at Mount Holly. Relatives will care for the youngest child... Owing to the reckless shooting of a number of gunners lately, many of the farmers in the vicinity of Mount Holly have posted up notices forbidding all persons from trespassing on their farms with dog or gun. Several cows have been shot recently by these reckless gunners... There will be no Mount Holly fair this year, because it has not been paying expenses. The old racetrack grounds at this place would perhaps furnish a model location for an agricultural exhibition, being within less than a half hour's ride of 1,500,000 people, and at the same time situated in the midst of a farming community...The tax delinquents in Lumberton township have got to settle up this season, as Barzillai L. Thompson, the famous Medford constable, has taken the contract to collect them. The men who will not pay their poll tax will be locked up if necessary...