

PRISON MUSEUM POST

The Official Newsletter of the Historic Burlington County Prison Museum Association
Incorporated in 1966

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April 23, 2013

HELP PROMOTE THE TREASURE HUNT, SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2013

Please help us promote the Treasure Hunt by posting the enclosed flyer, telling friends on your email and Facebook lists, etc. We have been working feverishly with Museum Attendant **Marisa Bozarth** on plans for this year's event, which promises to be a real crowd-pleaser. The first Treasure Hunt, in 2011, was designed for young children. While our main event, October's Haunted Prison, is an award-winning masterpiece of theatrical gore and fright, it is definitely not for the small fries crowd. The Hunt was designed to be something we could do for them. (continued on Page 3)

TIME TO RENEW!

It's that time of year again: Please renew your membership! Like the Little Engine, the PMA really is the little volunteer organization that could. The Board is made up of very busy individuals, who, as luck would have it, work very efficiently and well together and, with the support of people like you, are able to accomplish a great deal.

JAIL TO BE FEATURED ON TRAVEL CHANNEL

The Travel Channel came to the Jail on April 12 to film a segment for their show "Mysteries at the Museum". The episode, scheduled for airing in the fall, features our favorite detective, Ellis Parker. (continued on Page 2)

WE ARE ON FACEBOOK!

Website Updates

We are now on Facebook, Pinterest and Twitter. Please "friend" us! Go on our website, www.prisonmuseum.net, to link up directly with our social media pages. **Lisa Kruczek**, our website/social media manager, has not only set up our social media sites, but is also updating our website. (continued on Page 3)

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Please help us preserve and promote the Prison Museum by joining the PMA. Our annual dues are **only \$15(individual)/\$25 (family)**.

Membership benefits include a quarterly newsletter, event updates, 10% off gift shop purchases, and free admission to the museum.

Go on website for an application.

TRAVEL CHANNEL (continued from Page 1)

PMA member **Andy Sahol**, who is a grandson of Ellis Parker, was interviewed, as was Parker biographer **John Reisinger**, whose excellent book can be purchased in our gift shop. The show is on Thursdays at 9 p.m. We will let everyone know when the show is scheduled to be aired.

THE TRIAL AND EXECUTION OF CHARLES BROOKS

We give our readers something special in this issue - the forgotten story of Charles Brooks.

Nine persons convicted of murder were hanged in Burlington County between 1811 and 1906. We have written about many of them in past editions of the *Post*. The last one featured was Philip Lynch, the Bordentown resident hanged in the Exercise Yard in 1860 for the murder of George Coulter. We have not, however, told the story of Charles Brooks, executed three years later for the murder of his father, Job. We knew little about it until the recent discovery of a treasure trove of newspaper articles (most from the *New Jersey Mirror*). We are pleased now to tell the story and to share some excerpts from these articles with our readers in this and the next issue of the *Post*. The articles were too voluminous for PMA President **Janet Sozio** to edit and condense into only one of our issues. We hope to get the next issue out in the middle of June. If the pieces are well-received, we will consider publishing all of the articles for sale in the gift shop. Let us know what you think.

Capital punishment isn't an easy subject. Whether one approves of the practice or not, everyone agrees that the worst thing a society can do is execute the wrong person. There were very few murders in Burlington County in the 1800s, and fewer executions. The murder convictions were well-founded for the most part, there having been eye-witness testimony in several of the cases. This case was different, as you will see.

STUDENT NEWS

People contact us from all over the country with inquiries about the Prison Museum. We love most to hear from students. An architectural drafting student at Northwest Technical Institute in Eagan, Minnesota, called us for help on his senior associates' degree project. A history buff, he wanted to do a model of our Jail. We told him this would be difficult, since every cell, window and wall is a different size. Undeterred, the student, **Dillon Stebbins**, went on to complete his project, for which he received an "A".... Lenape High School student **Lauren Clemence** has filmed a documentary about the Prison; she is still editing it. PMA Board members **Dave Kimball** and **Ian Johns** were interviewed.

TREASURE HUNT (continued from Page 1)

The 2011 Hunt was in fact a big hit with the tykes. Much to our delight, however, it was equally well-received by attendees ranging from teens to senior citizens. In 2012, the Hunt was expanded to include 12 sites outside the Museum, and attendance nearly tripled from the previous year.

Treasure Hunt 2013 will feature 25 sites, including, of course, the Prison Museum, where visitors will be transported back in time almost 50 years, to an important point in the Jail's history. Other sites, many rarely open to the public, include the Mt. Holly Library, chartered in 1765 by King George III (one of the five oldest libraries in NJ), the newly renovated 1796 County Courthouse (one of the oldest continuously used courthouses in the nation), the 1775 Friends Meetinghouse (used by the British as a commissary during the Revolution), the 1759 Schoolhouse (the oldest school on its original site), the Elks Lodge located in the 1859 Slack House (where the past is known to come alive) and the Shinn-Curtis Log Cabin, uncovered in 1967 when a house on Water Street was demolished, revealing that it had been built around an early settler's log cabin dating from 1712. Several Mt. Holly businesses, many of which are housed in historic buildings, have agreed to join with us to make our event all the more special. You can have a bite to eat at Retro Joe's, Hebe Music & Backstage BBQ or Robin's Nest, and then continue hunting at the charming shops in Mill Race Village.

While the PMA's chief mission is to preserve and promote the history of the Historic Burlington County Prison, we strive to promote Burlington County (and by extension, New Jersey and American) history as well. We are proud to present that history in fun and interesting ways to those who reside in our County and beyond.

FACEBOOK/WEBSITE UPDATES (continued from Page 1)

Look for exciting new additions to our website in the next few months, including a posting of some of our prison art (graffiti), with comments by PMA Vice-President **Dave Kimball**, and copies of the Mills Plans. The original plans by Prison architect Robert Mills are housed in the Athenaeum of Philadelphia, which is an independent member-supported library and museum founded in 1814 to collect materials "connected with the history and antiquities of America" and which provides our region with a primary resource for architectural material, particularly for the period 1800 to 1945. The Athenaeum Building, designed in 1845 and located on 6th Street, is widely hailed as the seminal American structure in the Italianate Revival Style and is one of Philadelphia's first brownstone buildings. It is available for tours by advance registration. The Athenaeum was kind enough to provide the PMA with museum quality reproductions of the plans and also to allow us to use their copies of the plans for our website.

NEW JERSEY STATE HISTORY FAIR - SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2013

The Prison Museum will have a booth at the State History Fair on May 11 in Washington Crossing State Park in Titusville. Parking is only \$5. PMA Board Member **Ian Johns**, who serves on the NJ Living History Advisory Council, and his daughter, **Rachel**, will be in charge of our booth. Last year, over 100 historical societies were represented. There's something for everybody. Go on www.njhistoryfair.org for more information. Ian was happy to host the NJLHAC's March meeting at the Prison Museum. His fellow board members came from all over the state and were impressed with our Museum and PMA office.

ARMED FORCES DAY - SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2013

The Prison Museum will also participate in Mt. Holly's First Annual Armed Forces Day celebration. The Museum will be open for free to servicemen and their families and along with other businesses, professional services, churches and fraternal groups will celebrate the military and make those stationed at nearby Ft. Dix/McGuire feel at home. There will be banners, activities and celebrations all day long and a brief ceremony at 2 pm in front of the Jail at which Congressman Jon Runyan and former Congressman Jim Saxton are scheduled to speak. Come have a great time and help us say thanks to those who make us so proud - our fine men and women in uniform.

THIS 'N THAT

As you can see, we have been busier than one-armed paper-hangers lately... May will be a busy month. In addition to the Treasure Hunt, History Fair and Armed Forces Day, PMA President **Janet Sozio** is scheduled to pitch the Museum at a meeting of representatives from the hotels on Exit 5. They tell us that their guests often ask about tourist attractions in the area. As these hotels are usually booked solid, we are excited at the opportunity....**SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY, JUNE 29** in the afternoon - the **PMA and the Mt. Holly Elks** are planning a joint event at the Elks featuring Jim Davidson, co-author of a new book about the Lindbergh Kidnapping. This will be a lot of FUN! More in the next *Post*... A Camden County woman recently contacted us to see if we could help her uncover information about her great-grandfather. She had searched public records, newspapers and the web, trolled graveyards and contacted historical societies. Family rumor had it that he had been in jail. Within a day, Marisa was able to tell her that he had been incarcerated in our Jail for a few days in 1903 on a disorderly offense and died in 1906 at age 37.... Just another day at the Prison Museum....

THE TRIAL AND EXECUTION OF CHARLES BROOKS for the Murder of Job Brooks

Summary

(All quotes are from newspaper articles.)

On Monday, March 9, 1863, two Southampton men traveling from Medford came upon a hat in the road in Vincentown. Nearby was a pool of blood and a stick with human hair on it. Following a trail of blood, they walked 30 feet to a ditch, where they found the lifeless body of Job Brooks. The spot was only approximately 15 feet from the man's property. He had received a blow to the head and a stab wound in the neck. Just nine months later, on Friday, December 11, 1863, Charles Brooks, son of the victim, having been convicted of the murder, was hanged in the Exercise Yard of the Burlington County Jail in Mt. Holly. The victim's wife, Keturah Ann, and his son-in-law, Tim Ridgway, had also been tried for the murder. Both had been acquitted.

At the time of his death, 50-year-old Job Brooks resided with his wife, Keturah Ann (known as "Kitty Ann") in Vincentown. She was a few years older than he. Job was a man of slight build, weighing only 135 lbs. He had worked for the last 30 years for Arthur Haines, a Vincentown merchant, as a tanner and shoemaker. He was relatively well-off, owning a home worth \$800, \$170 in personal property and a cow.

Job and Kitty Ann had two children. Their son, Charles, was 22. He was described as "a stout, compactly-built man, about 5'6" in height, and 165 lbs. He had bright eyes, a ruddy complexion... he had received a pretty good common-school education, wrote a plain hand, and spelled with general correctness". Several of those who testified in the three trials remarked, however, that he appeared "weak-minded" and "easily influenced". Charles worked as a farm hand and had recently been employed at a farm owned by Joseph Butterworth in Pemberton, where he also lived. For the last few weeks, however, he had been unemployed and was staying with his parents. Job and Kitty Ann's daughter, Sarah Ann, age 19, had been married the year before to Tim Ridgway. Born in Barnegat, he moved to Burlington County as a young man. After the outbreak of the Civil War, he served briefly in the Army, having "enlisted under the first call for three months' men". At the time of the murder, he was employed by the well-known local farmer, businessman and bank president, William Irick, as a farmhand. He and Sarah Ann lived in one of Irick's tenant houses located at the "fork of the road running to Medford, Eayrestown and Lumberton".

Job had last been seen Sunday evening, March 8, 1863, leaving the Methodist Church in Vincentown at about 8:30 p.m. after a service. Kitty Ann did not accompany her husband to church that evening. Charles attended the service, though he did not sit with his father. Upon the discovery of Job's body the next day, an investigation was commenced.

A week later, on Sunday, March 15, Charles left home, first stopping at a tavern in Ellisberg, Camden County, before going on to Salem, Ohio, where several of his relatives and friends from Burlington County had moved. The next day, March 16, the Coroner's Jury met at Colkitt's Hotel in Vincentown and found that Job Brooks had been murdered, probably by someone in his family. It obviously was not a robbery, they reasoned, since the deceased was found with his money (\$2.60), comb, watch and knife still on him.

Burlington County Sheriff Leeds, accompanied by Mr. George Hulme, left for Ohio on Saturday, March 28, to apprehend Charles. They arrived on Monday, March 30 and that afternoon, with the assistance of a local constable, they arrested him at a blacksmith shop, where he was working under the name "Lippincott". That evening, Charles confessed to Mr. Hulme. He said that his brother-in-

law, Tim, had badgered him relentlessly for the last six months to murder his father, so that they could "have the property all to themselves... (Tim) could move into the house, and have no rent to pay... he would trade father's cow for a horse, and he could have a team of his own and cart to the Shore". Charles went on to confess that he followed his father home from church and, at an arranged spot where Tim was waiting, hit him on the head with a stick. Tim then finished him off by stabbing him in the throat, and then threw him in the ditch. Charles said that he then ran home and went to bed, though he couldn't sleep after what he'd done.

Sheriff Leeds sent a telegram to Joseph Warren, the Constable of Southampton, directing Tim's arrest and then set off with Mr. Hulme to bring Charles back to New Jersey. They arrived at the Burlington County Prison the next day (April 1) and Charles was committed there.

The next day, April 2, Tim and Charles were brought together at the Jail for an examination by Justice Holeman. Mr. Hutchinson (the prosecuting attorney) and George Hulme were present. Charles repeated his confession. Tim denied any involvement in the murder. A week later, on April 8, Tim was again examined by Justice Holeman. This time he implicated his mother-in-law, Kitty Ann, alleging that she urged Charles to kill her husband because he was seeing two other women. One was Rebecca White, and the other was Kesiah Darwood, wife of a Union soldier off fighting the Civil War. Kitty Ann was immediately arrested and brought before Justice Holeman. She denied any involvement in the murder, and stated that she could not believe Charles "did the deed" and "alluded to two strange men who were said to have been seen in the neighborhood on the night of the murder". She denied any marital discord.

Within a week or two, all three had been indicted for Murder in the First Degree. They were arraigned on April 16. "Each pleaded Not Guilty; Brooks and Ridgway simply pronouncing the words in a firm voice, and Mrs. Brooks adding to her plea, the expression: God only knows I ain't."

The trial of Charles Brooks started on Tuesday, April 21. Judge Elmer presided. The prosecutors (Attorney General F.T. Frelinghuysen for the State and Mr. Hutchinson, Prosecutor of the Pleas) reminded the Court that this was a capital case and that although the defendant had been told he would be assigned counsel, apparently no one had thought to do so, because he was sitting in court with no attorney. Judge Elmer then sent for attorney J. Stratton, who said he would undertake the defense if attorney J. Ten Eyck would agree to assist him. The Court then sent for Mr. Ten Eyck, who declined, explaining that he hadn't practiced law in two or three years, and felt he couldn't handle a murder case. "Judge Elmer remarked in reply, that he could well appreciate the feelings of counsel, having himself been placed in the same position. But the Court and Bar had their duties to perform... however disagreeable... Under the circumstances, he saw no other way than for the Court to insist upon the gentleman acting as one of the prisoner's Counsel." It was 11 a.m. Judge Elmer adjourned to 2 p.m. so that the defense attorneys could prepare to pick a jury. By the end of the day, 12 jurors had been empanelled and discharged until Friday, April 24, when the trial was scheduled to begin.

The trial started on April 24 and was concluded on Friday, May 1. The jury went out at 2 p.m. and came back at 5 p.m. with a verdict of Guilty.

The trials of Tim and Kitty Ann would have started immediately thereafter were it not for a motion made by Charles' attorneys for a new trial on the ground that the Court erred in admitting evidence of the confession. The Court certified the case to the Supreme Court for an advisory opinion. "The Presiding Judge then addressed the Prisoner, warning him not to indulge in any delusive hopes as to the final result of the investigation; the most that could follow would be a new trial, and he had just seen how one had resulted. He now had time for reflection and repentance, and he adjured him to improve the time allotted him – pointing him to the Bible and Christ. The trials of Tim Ridgway and

Kitty Ann Brooks were scheduled for September, pending the Supreme Court's decision regarding the admissibility of the confession.

The Supreme Court either declined to hear the matter, or else ruled the confession admissible (it's unclear which), and the trials of Tim and Kitty Ann were conducted in September. Both trials took three or four days each. Judge Van Dyke presided over both. Freylinghuysen and Hutchinson prosecuted both. Tim was represented by Ewan Merritt, Esquire. The jury deliberated for six hours before acquitting Tim. In Kitty's case, however, the jury went out on a Friday night, only return on Saturday at 10 a.m. to report that they were hung. After a lecture from the judge, they returned at 1 p.m. with a verdict of Not Guilty.

On Saturday, October 8, 1863, seven months to the day that the murder was committed, Judge Van Dyke sentenced Charles Brooks to be hanged. "Judge Van Dyke, in passing sentence, referred to the various and contradictory statements made by the prisoner in regard to the murder: his confession that himself and Timothy Ridgway committed the crime – then as a witness in the case of Ridgway, swearing that his previous statement was false, and that he knew nothing whatsoever of the murder – and again, as a witness in the trial of his mother, declaring that he, alone, committed the awful deed. The Judge alluded to the peculiar atrocity of the crime – the murder of his own father; knocking him down with a heavy club, cutting his throat, and then dragging him to a ditch, and throwing him in, as though he were a mere brute – and closing by pronouncing the solemn sentence of the law...On his way to prison, someone remarked that Sheriff Leeds would not have to hang him, when Brooks quickly replied, 'I don't care who does it, so it's done right.' When placed in his cell, he commenced dancing, and said he was ready, anytime."

On December 11, 1863, Charles Brooks was led to the gallows in the Exercise Yard by Sheriff William Lippincott, who asked him if he had anything to say. He proceeded to speak in a voice slightly tremulous, nearly as follows: "I stand here upon this platform to be executed for the murder of my father. I have been led to this dreadful crime by Timothy Ridgway. He is the guilty man of this murder... I struck the first blow. I acknowledge it; and that is all I done. Tim Ridgway was at the corner of the lot when I come up. I was drunk. He gave me the club and I knocked my father down and Tim put him out of the way. I have been urged ever since November, 1861, to do this deed. I have been urged by Tim and my mother both. Tim Ridgway is the one that should stand here to be executed. Tim and my mother have talked to me about this affair. Tim Ridgway has coaxed me all the time to kill my father... Since I was in that prison and had my trial, Tim Ridgway and I talked about this affair. Tim made me believe if I said I knew nothing about it, they would have to give me a new trial. He said there was no help for it. My mother used to write letters to me over and over again, and she has offered me fifty dollars to say she had nothing to do with it. Tim told me to say I was put up by George Hulme and Sheriff Leeds to say what I did before I got back to New Jersey. Tim Ridgway and my mother are ... two guilty rogues, or rascals, or whatever else you may call them, who should stand in my place today. I know that Tim Ridgway and my mother have talked a long time about killing my father. My mother has tormented my father for years. She has been to fortune-tellers and believes everything they say. She believes in witchcraft too. She used to cut pieces off of my father's coat, and cut off his hair. I never knew what it was done for, I never heard her say."

Charles Brooks was then hanged. After hanging about half an hour, the body was taken down and placed in a coffin, and shortly after conveyed in a hearse to Vincentown, where it was interred in the family lot in the Methodist Burial Ground.

Newspaper Excerpts
(March 19, 1863 – May 7, 1863)

The murder of Job Brooks, near Vincentown, continues to create considerable excitement in the neighborhood, and the citizens are making every effort to bring the murderer to justice... So cold-blooded and inhuman a crime is seldom committed, and it is the sincere wish of every one that the perpetrator may be speedily detected. Mr. Brooks was a reasonably temperate man, of a kind and amiable disposition, always meeting his friends with the same pleasant countenance and cheerful salutation, and he was the last one who it was thought would fall by the murderer's hand.

The final examination of Charles Brooks and Timothy Ridgway, charged with the murder of Job Brooks, near Vincentown, took place in the prison, on Thursday morning, before Justice Holeman. Mr. Hutchinson, the Prosecuting Attorney, was present. Mr. George Hulme, who accompanied the Sheriff to Salem, Ohio, for the purpose of arresting Brooks, made the following statement: "I went with Sheriff Leeds to Salem, Ohio, for the purpose of arresting Charles Brooks... We learned that Brooks was employed in a blacksmith shop, three miles from the town, and passed under the name of Lippincott. We procured a Constable, also a son of Franklin Hilliard, who knew Brooks and had played with him, when they were boys, in Vincentown. I left the Sheriff in Salem, and proceeded with the constable and young Hilliard to where Brooks worked. We found him in the shop at work. The constable immediately arrested him. He asked what we wanted him for. I told him to go back to Jersey with us. Young Hilliard spoke to him and called him Charley, and Brooks turned round and recognized him. I remarked to him, "Charley, you have two names." He made no reply. I said, "You call yourself Lippincott here." He replied, "Yes, for I have such a fuss over there. I thought they wouldn't know me if I called myself Lippincott." We took Brooks back to Salem, at once. On our way, I asked him why he left. He said everybody accused him of killing his father, or knowing all about it. That he thought he had better leave for awhile. I said to him that he had told two drovers in the cars, that his name was Brooks, but that he was going to call himself Lippincott, in Ohio, because he was accused of killing his father, but that he didn't know anything about it. I then commenced a conversation with him upon the importance of relying upon the truth and adhering to it, and that the community suspected him of being concerned in the murder, but believed there were others who knew as much about it as he did. He ...then said, "Mr. Hulme, I'll tell you all about it -- I can't keep it any longer." His first remark, was, "I'm the boy that done it." He then added, "I struck the first blow. I hit him but once. I threw the stick of wood down, started and ran home and went to bed -- but Tim finished the old man." I said, "Who do you call Tim." "Why," said he, "Tim Ridgway, my brother-in-law." I then asked him how he came to do such a thing. His reply was, that Tim had been at him for six months to do it and then said, do you remember when the 23rd regiment was at Beverly. It was a month before that, that he first proposed getting rid of the old man -- that he has never met him since, by themselves, that he has not broached the subject, and he never gave him any peace, when they were together... They finally agreed to meet that night and do it. He met the old man going home. He walked with him a little ways, then stepped behind him, struck him but once, dropped his club and ran, and that Tim finished him. I then asked him, "Charley, how could the old man have got to the ditch." He replied, "I don't know, without Tim threw him there, for I didn't touch him." I then said his throat was cut, also. "Then," said he, "Tim done it, as I did not stop a minute. I was so scared I ran immediately home." I asked him if his mother knew anything about this. He answered, "Not that I know of. If she did, it was through Tim. She never opened her lips to me about it."

Charles Brooks, the son of the deceased, was then brought in and examined, his statement being as follows: "I have been coaxed and persuaded for the last six months, to kill my father, by Tim Ridgway, I went to meeting that night, and had no thought of killing father. On my way home, father overtook me... I had a stick of wood in my hands, but did not expect to use it, when I got it. We walked together about a hundred yards, when father said there was someone coming. I looked back and saw someone I believed to be Tim. He was about twenty-five yards behind. When we got near the spot where Tim said he would be, I struck father the blow... After I struck father, I started and ran home.. I saw Tim, or someone that looked like him, coming up as I left. He called to me and said, either Charley or Brooksey, I don't know which, but I did not stop... I was at Tim's house on Sunday morning before I left, and he said I had better go away, as I was in danger of being put in prison. I told him I had no money to go with. He said mother had some money. I told him she would want it worse than I would, and he said if she would give it to me, he would see that she did not want for anything. I got the money from mother... Tim said he would look out for himself, that he had been on three or four trials and was posted, and knew how to handle himself. Tim said, get father out of the way, and he could then move in the house, and have no rent to pay, and live easier than he had done. He would trade father's cow for a horse, and he could have a team of his own and cart to the Shore.

Brooks having made his statement, he was taken back to his cell, and Timothy Ridgway, his brother-in-law, was brought in. He was told that he stood charged with being connected with the murder of Job Brooks... he said that he was entirely innocent, and knew nothing of the murder....Brooks was again brought in, and the two were face to face. It was a strange, sad meeting.. Brooks was seated fronting Ridgway, and within a few feet of him. The former, as he sat down, turned his eyes to the floor, but in a few seconds raised them, while the latter looked with a stern countenance upon his accuser, the pressure of his lips and a slight trembling of his frame, indicating a severe inward struggle -- but for one in so dreadful a position, he was unusually self-possessed... The remark was then made to Brooks that there was a great difference in their statements. "Ah," said Brooks, "he's sharp. He knows a good deal more than I do." They were both committed to await the action of the Grand Jury. The case is a terrible and singular one, and develops a state of things dreadful to contemplate. Brooks is about 21 years of age, and evidently a little weak-minded -- one who looks as though he could be molded to suit the purposes of another... Ridgway, although having but little or no education, has considerable shrewdness, is quick of perception, and answers prompt and decided, all questions put to him, and we should judge, could not be easily thrown off his guard. He is quite a young man.

On Wednesday last, in consequence of some statements made by Timothy Ridgway, in the prison, he was a second time examined before Justice Holman, when he made the following statement: "... On Sunday, March 29th...I went to see my mother-in-law at her house, and .. she remarked, she would tell me(about the murder), but for the world I must say nothing about it... if you ever name it, I will take from you all your goods .. and Sarah Ann shall not live with you...(she said) she started out and went down to the Bridge and waited there until Charles and his father came up from Church... she handed him (Charles) the knife and he stuck it in his (Job's) throat and she helped carry him to the ditch... She said that she done it, to stop him from going after Kesiah Garwood. She said it was done with a knife that her husband fixed for her to stick chickens with.. The reason I did not make the foregoing statement in my previous examination, was on account of my wife. Sometime ago, my mother-in-law accused the deceased with going after Kesiah

Darwood, and he struck her. At another time she accused him of going after Rebecca White; he then threw a bowl of tomatoes at her.

Keturah Ann Brooks, widow of the murdered man, was arrested on Wednesday afternoon, and lodged in Jail. On Thursday morning, she had an examination in the Jail, before Justice Holman... The Prosecuting Attorney, Mr. Hutchinson, being present... The young man Brooks, and Ridgway, were brought in and Ridgway's last statement, implicating the woman as given above, read in the presence of them all. As soon as the Justice had finished the reading, Ridgway turned to his mother-in-law and said: "Mother ain't that true." She immediately replied "No, Timothy, you know it ain't... I wasn't outside the door (that night)... I went right to bed -- and Charles came home soon after... In reply to questions put to her by the Justice, Mrs. Brooks said: She never was jealous of her husband and never said she was. She had told him she thought it would look better for him to be at home with his family, than to be at the houses of other women. Even after the statement of young Brooks was read to his mother, she said she could not believe that Charles did the deed... she thought it was somebody out of the family, and alluded to two strange men who were said to have been seen in the neighborhood, on the night of the murder...

At the opening of the Court on Tuesday morning, at ten o'clock, the Court Room was crowded with persons desirous of hearing the trial of Charles Brooks, which had been set down for that time. Among the audience was quite a number of females....

Joseph B. Butterworth (testified that he) saw Defendant in Pemberton, the evening after the murder.. I asked if he was aware his father did not get in the night before; he said his mother told him so; asked if he was not surprised at his father's not coming in; said he was not, as he was in the habit of staying out at nights; asked what places his father frequented -- I had always understood he was a very temperate man; he said people didn't know him; he was in the habit of going to a certain place, to visit the wife of a soldier in the army... Witness further stated that Charles had worked for him, and had boarded at his house; that he had an opportunity of becoming pretty well acquainted with him, and that he considered him of rather weak mind.

Martha Perrine, sworn: I and Keziah Darwood went to Church; saw Job there -- and Charles. (After church) Job and we went together as far as the turnpike; we parted from him near Caleb Ridgway's gate; he went towards his home, and we went towards ours. When we got mid-way of the railing on the side of the pike, not half-way home, I heard someone halloo, "Brooksey," three times in quick succession; I asked Mrs. Darwood if she heard that noise; she said not...

William H. Mason testified that he was a half-brother to Mrs. Brooks; that he lived in Mt. Holly; that he met Charles in Mt. Holly, on Monday morning, about 10 o'clock; said his father went to Meeting the night before; he was there too; said his father did not come in the night before; his mother kept the door open, I think he said, till 2 o' clock, and then went and locked it.

Clayton Sapp, sworn: Live at Vincenttown; the day after the murder I was at my mother's, near Pemberton; Charles Brooks and my brother William came there in a wagon about 4 o'clock, in the afternoon.. Some two or three weeks before the murder, he said in my shop, that his father and mother had had a spree -- and if he(the father) didn't look out, he would be the death of him -- he would give him the d-----t licking he ever had; took more notice of it on account of a man in the shop taking him to do for his talk, and telling him he ought to have more respect for his father.

Cross examined: Clayton W. Mathis was the man who Charles to do; I did not pay much attention to Charles' talk -- because he was something of a blower -- until Mathis took him to do.

Benjamin Johnson testified that on one occasion, when he and Defendant were talking about their folks, and being out at nights, Brooks said his father was the d-----t ornaryest man that lived. Couldn't tell exactly when it was.

Samuel Stiles, sworn: Live about two miles from Vincentown; have known Brooks a good while; recollect a conversation at my wood pile a month or two after Harvest; Charles held a knife in his hand and he and his father had had a spree; he said if he could only get him along (sic.) between Ridgway's Lane and his (Brooks) house, what he would do to him; said he would shoot him but for the alarm of the gun; he had his knife out whittling with it at the time.

Catherine Stiles -- wife of the preceding witness -- confirmed his testimony. On her cross-examination she said she didn't tell anybody till after the murder a about Defendant's threats; she didn't think much of them at the time, because Charley often talked his foolishness.

Mary T. Jones was sworn: Live at Caleb Ridgway's; knew Job and Charles; heard Charles say his father was a d---d ornary(sic.) man--

Dean Bowker testified to his being sent after the Defendant on Monday evening, the day after the murder -- and to his arresting him as he was walking from Vincentown towards his home. Witness told him they wanted him at Colkitt's Hotel; he asked what for? Witness said he didn't know, exactly; the prisoner then said "I spose they judge me for killing my father, but I don't care a G--d d--n anyhow." Witness took him to the hotel. He (Brooks) had been there before that evening.

William Sapp testified to meeting Brooks in Mount Holly on Monday -- the day after the murder; that Brooks asked him to let him ride with him to Pemberton which he did.

William C. Champion, sworn: Live at Vincentown; was at Ellisburg, 6 miles from Camden and 15 from Vincentown, on Monday, the 16th of March; someone knocked at the door of the hotel about a quarter to 4 o'clock in the morning, and wanted to come in, saying he was cold; he was let in; when I came down stairs, about half past 5, the prisoner at the bar was sitting by the stove, snoring like a good fellow; when he woke up we had a conversation; he said he was going to Philadelphia, to be driver on the passenger railroad cars down Market street; I asked why he walked such a stormy night; he said he had business on the road -- asked where he had been living; said at Pemberton, at Joseph Butterworth's; asked him if he knew young Brooks they suspected of killing his father; he hesitated a good bit, and then said no, he didn't; I told him that was strange, as they both lived at Butterworth's; said he couldn't recollect him at all; I said I believed they rather suspected old John Brooks of killing him; he said, he is my father; I said then I supposed he was a cousin of Job Brooks; first said he was and afterwards that he was not. He then pulled up his pantaloons and said he was sick at his stomach. I went out a few minutes and when I came back, I saw him going down the road toward Camden. He had called for breakfast, but did not stay to get it.

J. Howard Shinn testified that he knew Defendant; the next Sunday after the murder Charles came down from the house and spoke to me; he said it was hard enough to lose his father, without being judged for it..

James Romas (colored) sworn: Charles came to the jail since I have been there. Counsel for defence objected to the admission of the testimony of this witness, understanding it to be the intention to prove an attempt at suicide by the prisoner. Evidence admitted. Exception taken. Charles told me when he first came to jail, that he wasn't going to give them a chance to hang him -- was going to starve himself to death; afterwards wanted me to get him a rope, and after that wanted me to go to get him some laudanum; said he knew Tim was innocent.

George Hulme was then called to the stand and gave his testimony regarding the confession. ...the Defence objected to the admission of the testimony as to the confession, and proceeded to discuss the question at some length. They contended that the course pursued by Hulme was not a legal one, however good his intentions... In this case, there was, if not a direct, at least an implied promise of favor. A case was cited of the rejection of a confession where the officer had said to the prisoner, "if you are guilty, you had better own it." Any advice by a person in authority to a prisoner, that he had better confess, vitiates a confession. Here Hulme was acting, for the time, as the Sheriff...On the other side the Counsel for the State contended that in this case there was no threat or promise made; but an appeal to the prisoner's moral sensibilities, with a mere general statement that by telling the truth he would have friends...

At 10 o'clock, the Court took a recess, and the Jury in a body accompanied by the officers in attendance upon them, went to the Baptist Church. (*April 30th was to be a day of fasting and prayer by recommendation of a resolution of the U.S. Senate.*)

Sheriff Leeds testified. Confirmed the testimony of George Hulme, in relation to the statements of the Prisoner, so far as they were made in his presence.

In the afternoon, Dr. Samuel Woolston testified to taking part in the post-mortem examination of the body of deceased. He thought the wound above the right ear was a mere scalp wound; did not see that it depressed the skull to the brain; the only wound he considered mortal was that on the left side of the neck.

Thomas McNinney, sworn: I was at Brooks' house while his body lay there; Charles was not there at that time; he was there on Wednesday after the murder; his mother, grandmother, and Mr. and Mrs. Joyce were there; the murder was talked about... Mrs. Brooks wanted to know if Charles would have the privilege of subpoenaing witnesses at the inquest, as some persons likely to swear against him were not credible witnesses; told her I didn't think he would. I afterwards had an interview with Charles in prison -- I think on the 15th of April; I spoke of his going West; most think he said he shouldn't have gone, but he was persuaded to do so...

This closed the evidence on the part of the State.

The Defence offered in evidence the deposition of Keziah Darwood, before the Coroner's Jury, to show discrepancy between her statement then and now, about where she first saw the two men who followed her and Mrs. Perrine and the deceased. Also, the deposition of Dr. Elwell, before the Inquest. Mr. Hutchinson then commenced summing up on the part of the State, and was followed by Mr. Ten Eyck in behalf of the prisoner.

At the conclusion of Mr. T's speech, the Court adjourned. On Friday morning, Mr. Stratton spoke for the prisoner, and the Attorney General made the closing argument on the part of the Prosecution. The Court then adjourned till 2 o'clock, P. M., when Judge Elmer delivered a charge to the Jury of about half an hour's length, and they retired.

At a quarter to five, they returned a verdict of Guilty of Murder in the First Degree.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE POST – THE TRIALS OF TIM RIDGWAY AND KETURAH ANN BROOKS

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