

HISTORIC BURLINGTON COUNTY PRISON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

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Gary F. Woodend, Esquire

MARK YOUR CALENDAR !!!

ELLIS PARKER TALK AND OLDE COURTHOUSE TOUR - Dec. 10

November 17, 2006

Dear Members and Other Friends:

Whatever you do, don't forget to set DECEMBER 10 aside for a great day of historical fun in Mount Holly! The PMA is excited to have John Reisinger speak about our County's colorful detective, Ellis Parker. Mr. Reisinger is the author of *Master Detective, The Life and Crimes of Ellis Parker, America's Real-Life Sherlock Holmes*. The talk will start at 1 p.m.

The Freeholders have not only allowed us to have the talk in the Olde Courthouse (where Parker's office was located), but the Superior Court of Burlington County has also agreed to conduct tours of the building. This is something you really should not miss. Because the Olde Courthouse is still in use, housing the Chancery Division of our County's Superior Court, it is not generally opened to the public. Tours will be conducted between noon and 3:00 p.m.

As if all this weren't enough, that day is also the date of the reenactment of the Battle of Ironworks Hill, which will take place in front of the Courthouse shortly after the Ellis Parker talk. Of course, the Prison will also be open. Details of the day's activities are outlined in the attached flyer. Also attached is some information about the Olde Courthouse.

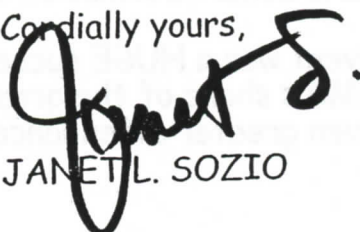
The Haunted Event was a HUGE success. We had approximately 3,500 in attendance. The PMA's share of the gross receipts exceeded \$15,000. We would have had even greater attendance had torrential rain not closed us early one night.

A tremendous amount of work went into this extraordinary theatrical event. Our producers, Clark Bish, Ken O'Rangers and Jim Reed, are three of the most creative people I've ever met. Jail Attendant Marisa Bozarth of the Parks Department continues to amaze me with her energy and determination. Special thanks go to the Burlington County Sheriff's Department; the officers who are assigned to this event are always the best. We extend our most heartfelt gratitude also to the Mount Holly Fire Department. Many PMA members came out to sell tickets, pizza, hot dogs, sodas and hot chocolate: Joan Boas, Michael Bright, Susan Dargay, Krissie and Natalie Freeman, Flo Gomez, Lynn Pitts, Rhondi Schwartz, Linda Hynes, Drew Sozio, Dave Kimball, Jeanette Sozio and Gary Woodend. Michael, Lynn and Gary put their spouses to work, too. Special thanks also go to Jackie, Melissa and Dani Szalma.

We had extra excitement on the second Saturday of the event. Just before we opened at 7 p.m., Marisa fell and twisted her ankle in the front yard. Approximately 200 people were already lined up out front to go in. The emergency squad arrived with the Mt. Holly police and made their way through the crowd to attend to our wounded leader. Our sheriff's officers and the firemen were already there. Every type of uniform was there except the Marines. When the actors out back heard that Marisa had a mishap, they all rushed to the front in full regalia. Blood soaked werewolves, chainsaw murderers and raving maniacs joined the law enforcement officers and medics to huddle around their fallen comrade. It was quite a scene, greatly adding to the drama of the evening. The word "bedlam" comes to mind. As she was being wheeled away on the gurney, Marisa bravely and with great authority barked out orders for everyone (including her straight-jacketed husband, Tim) to return to their posts: THE SHOW MUST GO ON !!! The ghouls and monsters lined up on the sidewalk and waived as the ambulance sped away. Being the VIPs that we were, the staff at Virtua's ER took care of us posthaste, sending Marisa back, on crutches, within the hour.

We had our annual meeting on November 4. In attendance were Dominick Ferrelli, Flo Gomez, Jeanette Sozio, Tom Faile, Kay Kline, Carole Melman and yours truly. We were too pooped out from the Haunted Event to discuss much, but we had a nice time.

Well, that's it for this edition. The next newsletter will issue in the early spring of 2007. Until then, I wish you the happiest and healthiest of holidays and I remain,

Cordially yours,

JANET L. SOZIO

MT. HOLLY HERALD 1897

June 19, 1897

Local Affairs. Robert Goldy has been suffering from a severe attack of quinsy... There are a number of males employed in the Mount Holly shoe factories, who live in the adjoining towns and they come and go to and from their work on bicycles ... A party of male and female bicycle riders boarded the eastbound train at Pemberton on Sunday morning, bound for New Lisbon where they spent the day. While on the train they entertained the passengers by singing "Hot Stuff" and other ballads of like character.

Along the Shore. On Thursday last two painters, named John Riley and George Bloomer, employed to paint the lighthouse at Barnegat, were working in a cage suspended about 100 feet above the ground when a sudden windstorm set in and blew with great violence for nearly an hour. The ropes of the cage became entangled and the men were compelled to remain prisoners in mid-air for nearly six hours before they were released. The frail cage was thrown against the brick wall of the lighthouse and the men were almost frenzied with fear.

Court Notes. The toilet room, on the second floor of the courthouse, is nearly completed. It will be a great convenience for women who are obliged to attend court . . . Since ball playing and rowdyism has been stopped in the courthouse yard, the Grant Street people are now able to secure an afternoon nap . . . The Board of Health should take a smelling tour around the courthouse yard, as there are some vile odors on tap there . . . The jury in the Connery case were out all night, and if any of them got any sleep they were more fortunate than anyone else living in the vicinity of the courthouse, as the racket they kept up was enough to throw a nervous person into fits. The jury stood 9 to 3 in favor of conviction, and there were no changes during the night ... When the appeal case of Peter DeCamp, appellant, and John Fox, appellee, was heard by the Court, Judge Gaskill announced that the decision of the Court below was affirmed, and that Fox was entitled to his judgment. Among the spectators in the courtroom was Justice Hagaman, of Juliustown, before whom the case was tried. Hagaman had a regular night-blooming jag on, and was so elated at the outcome of the trial that he advanced towards Judge Gaskill and said: "I desire to congratulate you, sir, on upholding my decision. I know what the law is, and I don't often get lost on it." Judge Gaskill rather chilled the enthusiastic 'Squire by informing him that the Court was not desirous of receiving congratulations.

Burlington. For insulting a young lady on Broad Street the other day, James Kelch was arrested and committed to jail for 30 days . . . The barn on the Heisler Farm was destroyed by a fire on Tuesday night. There were five horses in the barn, and all but one were rescued. About 50 chickens also perished in the flames. Mr. Heisler lost 150 bushels of corn, a lot of hay and farming implements. The loss is about \$3,000, partially covered by insurance.

Pemberton. A number of our farmers are harvesting their hay crop . . . The huckleberries are ripening in some quarters, and a few of them have already been gathered. A good crop is promised . . . We have an ordinance for the protection of pedestrians from bicycle riders, but what we need more is an ordinance that will compel our officials to put a stop to those persons who come to town, get filled up with rum and drive their horses up and down the streets at a break-neck pace and endanger the lives of our citizens. On Saturday last, this sort of thing was carried on to such an extent that it was dangerous to attempt to cross the streets.

Vincentown. A sensation was created here this week by the arrest of Newbold Prickitt, on the charge of visiting the household of Frank Foulks during the latter's absence. Newbold knew that Frank was going to be away, so he took a journey out to the house for a private seance with Mrs. Foulks, but it seems there were two men lying in wait near the house and when Newbold tried to hug Mrs. Foulks, they pounced right on him. Newbold says he is an innocent man, and we will have to take his word for it.

June 26, 1897

Local Affairs. Farmers in various sections of Burlington County report that their fruit and vegetables, which gave much promise in the early spring, are being destroyed by insects of a kind never known before in the vicinity. The cherry crop was almost a failure in this vicinity. The trees are heavily laden with fruit but are infested with miniature black insects, which swarm in millions upon a tree and feed upon the fruit and tender branches. Trees that are infested by these insects have the appearance of being scorched by fire . . . A few years ago a young married man of Mount Holly, failing to get work in his trade went to now greater New York where he secured a good position for which he was well paid. He left a wife and four small children living here, and for quite a while provided for them well and quite often visited them, but in the past two years has not done so well and in the past six months has scarcely done anything for them which necessitated his wife seeking employment until she was unable to do more. Being a sagacious woman she learned his address and packed her trunk, prepared the children and went where he was some days ago. This shows what a spunky woman can do.

THE HISTORIC BURLINGTON COUNTY PRISON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
AND THE BURLINGTON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO

TOUR THE OLDE COURTHOUSE

and to attend a

PRESENTATION ON ELLIS PARKER,

the famous Burlington County Detective (1897 to 1937)

by John Reisinger,

Author of *Master Detective, The Life and Crimes
of Ellis Parker, America's Real-Life Sherlock Holmes***

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 AT 1 to 1:30 PM

at the Olde Courthouse
High Street, Mount Holly

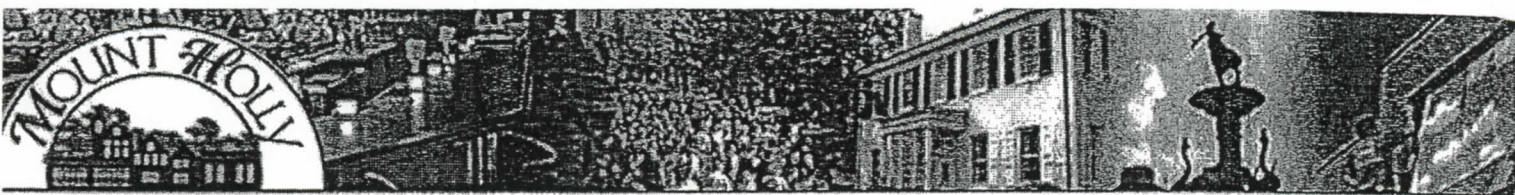
- FREE -

**Tours of the Olde Courthouse will be available
from noon through 3 p.m.**

*Don't miss this opportunity to hear about one
of Burlington County's most interesting historical
figures and to see the interior of the great Olde
County Courthouse, rarely opened to the public !*

**On the same day you can also enjoy the commemoration of the
Battle of Ironworks Hill. See over for more details....**

** The book is for sale in the Prison Museum's Gift Shop. The author will be available
after the presentation in the Gift Shop to autograph copies of his book.



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Battle of Ironworks Hill

Mount Holly is rich in 18th and 19th
century history! Explore living history
in your backyard!



Join us for the historic Battle of Ironworks Hill!

December 10th, 2006

11-5 pm

Downtown Mount Holly, Mill Race Village, and High Street

Main Street Mount Holly will be presenting the 3rd annual commemoration of the Battle of Ironworks Hill. The battle which took place originally 230 years ago was Mount Holly's contribution to the Battle of Trenton. Over 100 period living history interpreters in full regalia will be in town on Sunday, December 10th. There will be drill and musket firing demonstrations, campfire cooking, period crafts, surgical field hospital demonstration, and camp activity in the yard of the Burlington County Prison Museum along with other historical sites will be open that day. The Friend's Meeting House will host presentations by authors and historians during the day. In addition to living history, period craft demonstrations and lectures, the downtown will be the site of a cannonade and skirmish between Hessians and militia from 2 - 3pm on Sunday. The primary goal is to educate the public on the importance of this event in the success of Washington's victories at Trenton and Princeton.

There is no admission fee to the public or participants. Many shops will be open for holiday shopping. Press coverage is welcome and there will be many photo opportunities.

Partners include Main Street Mount Holly and the Burlington County Parks and Recreations Department.

For More Information about the event, contact our Events Coordinator at events@mainstreetmountholly.com, or call (609) 914-0811.

Burlington. A middle-aged man on a bicycle attracted considerable attention here the other day. He came all the way from Utah and was bound for Canada. He says he has paid all the expenses of his journey thus far by pulling teeth and cutting hair. Edward Rigg gave him a testimonial as a hair cutter . . . Daland and Gilbert, soap manufacturers, brought suit against Herbert Wells before Justice Maires to recover about \$70, alleged to be due them for merchandise. Wells had refused to pay the bill because he claimed the goods were not up to the standard. The court was adjourned at noon for dinner and upon reassembling it was found that one of the jurors, a Mr. Burns, had gone home to pick strawberries, and would not return. Despite the objections of counsel, the case went on and the plaintiff got a verdict for the full amount. Wells will appeal . . . Four boys, all under 14 years of age, have been committed to the County Jail at Mount Holly by Justice Baker, on a charge of setting fire to the barn of William Sampson. The mothers of two of the lads fainted when they were arrested.

Moorestown. A civil case in Justice Evans' court on Friday had rather an unusual termination. The case was a suit on breach of contract. The lawyers on both sides had made their argument and the case went to the twelve men early in the afternoon. The jury was locked up in the jury room, in charge of Constable Watson. Up to 10:00 o'clock at night they were unable to come to an agreement, and stood 7 to 5 in favor of the plaintiff. A vote was then taken on the question of agreeing to disagree, but they could not even agree to this. A wrangle then occurred among the jurymen, when suddenly one of them, William Magee, leaped on out of the window and did not return. After waiting until midnight, Justice Evans discharged the rest of the jury. The case will be tried before a new jury next week.

July 3, 1897

The four young boys who were sent to the County Jail by Justice Baker on the charge of having attempted to burn the barn of William Sampson, near Burlington, were last week released by Judge Gaskill and sent home. The Judge said they were too young to be held . . . The recent demand for pine snakes by a certain Philadelphia dealer has excited considerable curiosity as to what use anyone could make of these reptiles, and the fact has been learned that many of them are sold to snake charmers, who advertise them as deadly cobras and other venomous snakes.

The Best Way out of it. On Monday, Theodore Trumbauer, the sewing machine agent living on Shreve Street, Mount Holly, was invited to call at the office of Justice Slack on business of importance. Theodore is a good looking chap and has seen a great deal of life in his journeys

around the country all of which has a tendency to make him rather gay. When he reached the Squire's office, he learned that a rather serious charge had been preferred against him by Miss Haddie Gauntt of Green Street. The suit was for breach of promise. It seems that Theodore had been a boarder at the Gauntt mansion, and during his stay Miss Haddie became ill. Theodore has a good heart in his 36 inch bosom and he showed the girl a number of kindly attentions that she appreciated, and the result was their friendship soon ripened into love. Then he proposed marriage to her and she accepted, but her father's consent could not be secured and the result was Theodore had to seek a new boarding place. Afterwards, he met the girl at Lumberton by appointment. She suggested that they had better get married before confidence was restored, but he wouldn't have it that way and cast her off. Then she went before Justice Slack and began legal proceedings against him. The 'Squire said it would cost him \$50 cash down and \$2 per week to keep peace in the family, but Theodore said no. He wouldn't have it that way. The next thing for him to do was find bail. This is not an easy matter. People, as a rule, are not hunting for an opportunity to increase their liabilities and Theodore soon found that it was like looking for diamonds in an ash heap. The result was he had to go to jail, but it didn't take a very long sojourn there to convince him that matrimony was a heap sight better, so he collapsed. The ceremony was performed by Justice Slack at his office in the presence of a few witnesses. The bride is quite an attractive young woman and seemed relieved when the ceremony was over.

Masonic Home may not be located here. The option secured by the Masonic Fraternity on the Ashhurst property in Mount Holly expired on Thursday. The committee agreed that it was in every way desirable for the purpose of being converted into a Masonic Home, and that the location was a delightful one, but the price asked them was more than they felt like paying. The representative of the Ashhurst estate fixed the price at \$25,000, and was unwilling to make it any less, consequently the deal was declared off for the present. Another property has just been located in this County that may suit the committee, provided it can be secured at a reasonable price. This is the Taylor property on Oxmead Road, near Burlington. It has a magnificent location, ample grounds and the house is already furnished and ready for occupancy. All the buildings are in excellent repair, so that but little money need be expended on it.

Columbus. The appointment of Ellis H. Parker as state detective was in every way a credit to the Governor, as the young man has in many ways demonstrated his fitness for the position. He was sworn in on Saturday, having given bond for the necessary amount, and is now duly commissioned and ready for business. That he will give a good account of himself there is no doubt.

PRISON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
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Jennifer C. Apell
Kathleen Aspell
Senator Martha Bark
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Attendant Marisa Bozarth
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Matthew Doonan
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Glen Filippone, Esquire
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Kristen & Natalie Freeman
Fred Galdo
Joyce Goldsmith
Florence Gomez
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Walmart Store #2040
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Gary Woodend, Esquire
David Wyche
Janice Yates
John P. Yetman, Jr., Esquire

OLDE BURLINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

In 1795, the State legislature passed a law authorizing the construction of a new courthouse for Burlington County and enabling the citizens to vote as to where it should be located. Candidates for the honor were Blackhorse (present day Columbus), Mt. Holly and Burlington.

A special election was held in February of 1795. The polling place was the Town Hall in Mt. Holly. After the 3,250 votes were counted, Mt. Holly won with 1,676 votes compared to 1,432 for Burlington and 142 for Blackhorse. Cross charges of fraud were hurled between Mt. Holly and Burlington. Legend has it that the "charcoal burners" from the Pine Barrens came to the poles to vote in the morning with blackened faces, cast their votes in favor of Mt. Holly, returned in the afternoon freshly washed and voted for Mt. Holly again. Mt. Holly did prevail in the vote, was declared the new seat of county government and the site of the new courthouse.

Land was purchased from Joseph Powell for 210 pounds. Three commissioners from Mt. Holly, Joseph Budd, a clock maker, Richard Cox, a mill owner, and Zacharia Russell, proprietor of the Blackhorse Tavern, were empowered to draw up plans for the new courthouse. Michael Rush, a carpenter from Mt. Holly, was employed, and was supervised by Samuel Lewis, a master carpenter, who had helped build Congress Hall in Philadelphia. It is believed that the cost was approximately \$15,000.

Although the interior of the building has been greatly altered over the years, the original trim remains over the doors and windows as does the beautiful interior stairway. Two plentiful, regional materials, marble and brick, compose the building's exterior facade. The brick building was initially decorated with white trim. Later, the brick was painted white and the trim was changed to dark green. The inclusion of decorative detailing along the roof line, and elliptical dormer window, and the building's symmetrical plan identify the courthouse as Federal in style. Across the lower level on the front face of the building, two large round-headed windows evenly flank the central doorway and a marble coat of arms is displayed within a classical pediment. With its narrow sidelights, pilasters, thin frame and elegant ornamentation, the entrance serves as a focal point for the courthouse. The fanlight above the doorway further emphasizes this area of interest.

The building has an octagonal open cupola which houses the courthouse bell, "The County Bell", which was cast in England in 1755 and purchased for 29 pounds 10 shillings. The Bell was first located in Burlington, where tradition maintains that it rang to announce the Declaration of Independence in 1776. When the county seat was relocated to Mt. Holly, the Bell was moved by horse and wagon and installed in the new courthouse, where it still remains.

In 1807, the "Surrogate's Office" on one side of the courthouse and the "Clerk's Office" on the other side were built; similar in configuration to the famous grouping of Independence Hall, Congress Hall and the Supreme Court building in Philadelphia. There is a revolutionary war cannon mounted in the courtyard.

The Olde Courthouse at Mt. Holly has been described by Fenimore C. Woolman, a noted architectural historian, as *"...one of our priceless American architectural inheritances, standing virtually as it was built, and enduring memorial to the most elegant period in early American architectural history. Its very dignity precludes any idea of unseemly conduct or lack of majesty in the administration of the business of meeting out Justice."*