

# PRISON MUSEUM POST

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

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November 3, 2014

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Thanks to those who joined or renewed their memberships in the Prison Museum Association. If your name isn't on the list, we did not receive your renewal. Please also ask others to join us. Memberships and donations are all the more important now that we no longer have the Haunted Event. We have been lucky over the last several years to have been able to purchase computers, office equipment and supplies needed to launch our organization. To keep our website, publications and projects afloat, however, we will need moolah going forward. This will be the focus of our attention in the coming year. We continue to receive revenue also from the gift shop. We recently added a few new items, including new tee shirts, beverage/coffee tumblers and refrigerator magnets. These items make fun and unique gifts. Come check it out.



## IRON WORKS HILL

Sat., Dec. 13, 2014 - Save the Date!

The Prison Museum Association will again help to sponsor the Re-Enactment of the Battle of Iron Works Hill. Our members will be invited to watch the Battle from our office. Plans are underway for some truly wonderful attractions. More about it in the next issue of the Post.



## THANKS TO ERWIN APELL, ESQ.

We want to thank Browns Mills attorney Erwin Apell for finding the location of the home of Job Brooks, whose son Charles was hanged for his murder in 1863. We are producing a book about the case, and wanted to know the location of the victim's Vincentown home. Erwin is a long-time real estate attorney who has an unrivaled ability to search titles. We found out that three years after the murder, Job's widow and son-in-law (and possible murderer) lost the house in foreclosure. You know how they say that Ginger Rogers did everything Fred Astaire did, only backwards and in high heels? Well, Erwin sort of did the same thing, taking the sheriff's deed and tracing it backwards to the

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### Prison Museum Post :

Janet L. Sozio, Esq.

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 the website for an application.

future. We were also excited to meet the current owners of the property, and delighted to learn that they have their own special connection to the Jail. More about that in future *Posts*.

## ***THE STORY OF JOEL CLOUGH CONTINUES***

In this issue we continue the story of the trial of Joel Clough, who in 1833 was convicted of murder and hanged. He was infatuated with the young widow Mary Hamilton from the time he moved into her mother's boarding house in Bordentown in 1831. On the morning of Saturday April 6, 1833, he stabbed her to death after she spurned his advances. The murder took place on the second floor of the boarding house. Several people, including the victim's mother and sisters, were downstairs at the time.

In the last issue, we stopped with the testimony of Joseph Brown, who operated a bar in the boarding house. He and two other men who were in the bar ran up to Clough's room upon hearing Mary's screams. His testimony is interesting because it shows that the men themselves had to hold Clough in custody until someone went from Bordentown to Mt. Holly to get the sheriff - a trip which at that time took several hours by horseback.

Notice that some people are sworn to tell the truth, others affirm - Quakers and other religious groups forbade swearing (and still do).

We hope you don't get too queasy reading the autopsy testimony by the doctor. Can you imagine performing an autopsy of a victim on her living room sofa?

And can you imagine the poor jurors having to listen to six-hour summations? No wonder one of them had to be carried out of the courthouse!

The next *Prison Museum Post* due out the first week in December is our annual Revolutionary War/Iron Works Hill issue. We will finish up the Clough story with the first issue in 2015.

Finally, how do you pronounce "Clough"? We always said it to rhyme with "snow", though others pronounced it to rhyme with "plow". A recent visitor to the museum named Clough set us straight - it rhymes with "cough"!





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## TRIAL OF JOEL CLOUGH (continued from last issue of Prison Museum Post)

*Per Curiam:* In answer to questions, witness (Joseph Brown) said that in the yard Clough had no coat on and had blood upon him; his hand, wrist, and wristband were bloody, and blood was discovered on the back of his coat. Arrangements were made soon after the murder, to surround the house, to prevent his jumping from the window and escaping. There were persons watching him in the back yard and in the garden, until the sheriff came, near night, who took him into custody and carried him away to jail.

*Henry Segin, sworn.* I was at Mrs. Longstreth's on the day of Mrs. Hamilton's death, and saw the prisoner there. I went there on the 6th April, about 11 o'clock. I was in the bar room when I heard a noise, with Mr. Brown and Mr. Miller. The noise was screaming and seemed the effect of trouble. I went up stairs with Brown and Miller, and saw Mrs. Hamilton lying on the floor, and Clough over her, not quite on the floor. She was on his left, his elbow on the floor under her. He held a dagger in his right hand, the blade was in her body, and he made three movements with it, they were quick and rapid plunges, during which the dagger was not drawn entirely out, but part of it still remaining in her body. I went down stairs, and armed myself with a club that I had perceived before I went up...I think I heard Clough say (while engaged with Mrs. Hamilton on the floor of the entry) "will you, will you?" About the time he made the three thrusts with the dagger, I heard nothing else said. I next saw Clough in the back yard.

*Cross examined:* I was not upstairs the first time more than two or three seconds...it was not the effect of fear of Clough, but he had a dagger, and I went down to get a club, which I had previously seen in the bar, to defend myself with.

*Hannah Herbert sworn:* I was at Mrs. Longstreth's on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April last, after the death of Mrs. Hamilton. I took off the clothes she had on when she died, left them on the floor of the room, and then I laid her out...

*Dr. Joseph H. Cook sworn:* I am a physician. I was at the house of Mrs. Longstreth about the time of Mrs. Hamilton's death. I examined the body, assisted by Dr. Duer, and discovered ten deep wounds in the body. I introduced the probe into one which had penetrated to the bone of the left arm. The second had struck the shoulder blade, and also penetrated to the bone. The third had struck and fractured the seventh rib, and completely broken it. The remaining seven had penetrated her chest, between the third and sixth ribs. On opening the chest, it was ascertained that seven had gone through the lung and penetrated the left ventricle of the heart. Several smaller punctures were discovered on her body, one of which, an inch long, appeared as if the instrument had slipped or glanced; and there were four or five, apparently caused by



the same instrument, which had penetrated only a short distance. The left cavity of the chest was filled with blood. Any one of the three wounds that touched the heart, must have produced death...The one which pierced the large artery, which takes the blood from the heart, and circulates it through the system, was inevitably fatal; and those in the lungs might have, and most probably would have, proved fatal. [The dirk was here shown to the witness.] He said, it would have taken the blade of an instrument as long as this is to have reached as deep as the wounds that were made in Mrs. Hamilton. She was a slender woman. I have no doubt whatever that the wounds were the cause of her death. A person could walk as far as she did after being wounded in the heart, owing to the smallness of the orifice, which would not permit the blood to escape; and her dress also would intercept its flow. The heart was not taken out, but carefully examined. She would be able to speak after being wounded in the heart, and it is a common occurrence in mortal wounds. She would retain her mental faculties until life was extinct.

**Cross Examined:** If a person had the lungs perforated in three or four places, still the voice would be retained for a short time, though it would be much weakened. In this case one lung was left untouched and sound.

**Dr. George S. Duer sworn:** I was present with Dr. Cook at the examination of Mrs. Hamilton's body. When I saw her she was lying on a settee, on her back, and was dead. We then removed the dress from about her, and counted the wounds...

**Luke Doughton sworn:** I was at Mrs. Longstreth's on the day of Mrs. Hamilton's death. I had been boarding there for about two weeks, and was sitting in the room reading, when I heard the scream of a lady in the upper part of the house... I then saw three young gentlemen, Brown, Miller and Segin, run upstairs out of the bar room in a great hurry, and I threw down my book and followed them...When I got two thirds of the way up the stairs, Segin called out for a pair of pistols.. I then went into my bedroom, No. 1, and got a pair of pistols... I came down and found Mrs. Hamilton in the arms of her mother, repeating the words "Oh mother, mother! I screamed for you and you would not come, and Clough has killed me because I would not consent to marry him; I must die, I must die!" Her mother took her into a little dining room opposite to the bar room (and held Mrs. Hamilton). The pistols were in my pocket, I took Mrs. Longstreth's place, fearing that she would go frantic. I held her about five minutes, when she expired. Mrs. Longstreth was taken out of the room before Mrs. Hamilton's death...The pistols were in my way when I held Mrs. Hamilton, and I told Segin to take them out of my pocket, which he did.

**Ann Reeves, affirmed:** I remember the day of Mrs. Hamilton's death, I was in my own house, when I heard the noise and disturbance. Our houses are about 8 feet apart, an alley between. I first heard some person scream, but I did not know who it was...my daughter and myself went into Mrs. Longstreth's house, and into the room where Mrs. Hamilton was, downstairs, where we found her sitting on the floor, in her mother's arms, and latter sitting on the settee. My daughter and a gentleman, named Doughton,

took her out of her mother's arms, and Mrs. Longstreth and myself went into the front part of the house, where I remained with her; and while we were there, Mrs. Hamilton died...

*John B. Shinn, affirmed:* I went into the room and took hold of each of his wrists; he then told me that in the drawer of the table of the room I would find a miniature; to take it and send it and write to his mother. I got the miniature out of the drawer; I asked him what made him think he would die so soon, and he pointed to a stand that stood in the corner of the room. I saw a tumbler on the stand and in it an ounce phial which had contained laudanum. I then got some tartar emetic from my shop, mixed and offered it to him.. As he refused to take it by compressing his lips, I proposed to make him take it, and several of the bystanders took hold of him and made him take it, which he did, spilling about one half of it. He was then taken down into the yard, the men about half carrying and half dragging him, he refusing to walk. I gave him in the yard five grains more of the emetic, and then after some time an additional five grains. I met Dr. Milnor, and he told me if it had not operated to give him ten grains of sulphate of zinc, which I got and gave him. He was then moved about. Dr. Duer advised giving him, as the other did not operate, ten grains of sulphate of copper in two doses, but before it was administered the former emetics had operated. I saw nothing more of him until the Sheriff had him in custody.

*The prosecution here rested.* Mr. Hazlehurst, for the prisoner, opened the defense to the Court and Jury, in a very eloquent and pathetic speech.

A number of letters and a pocket-book, found in possession of Clough, were admitted by the counsel for the prosecution to be genuine, and to be evidence.

*Charles L. Bartlett, sworn:* I reside at Princeton, NJ, I was acquainted with Mr. Clough from a child; I knew him first at Unity, in New Hampshire. He resided there with his father. I lived in the neighborhood; and often visited the house. I knew the members of the family well. The prisoner had a brother Benjamin, one named Jeremiah, and another Westley, these are all I recollect. I was a schoolmate of Joel Clough; his father was a farmer and a respectable man. Joel was a bright active boy at school, a very mild, and of a fine warm temperament. A brother of the prisoner died while I resided in New Hampshire. He had been in the late war, but was a farmer before. I saw him before his death not many days. He was very weak - he had received a wound while in the Army. I saw him often while ill, his death was supposed to hastened by the wound. I knew Benjamin. His character was good. I have heard it said, that he was at times deranged. I knew his cousins. Miss Mann was one of them. She was a long time deranged, or as, as the people then said, "bewitched." I am connected with the Theological Seminary at Princeton, of which I am a student. I am well acquainted with the family of Clough. It is very respectable. I am not subpoenaed; but it was said that I must attend, which I did. I came to Mount Holly solely to see the prisoner, and was then told I must remain. Mr. Clough did not know of my residence until I came here.



He recognized my countenance when I was in the court. I was spoken to by Mr. Brown, his counsel, to attend at this trial as a witness.

*Henry J. Pyle, sworn:* I live in Philadelphia; and first became acquainted with the prisoner about 12 months since, at Mrs. Longstreth's in Bordentown, where he was boarding; I was boarding there at Mrs. Longstreth's, two or three weeks, with my wife. I thought Clough was attached to Mrs. Hamilton, as he always appeared to wish to be where she was. I have seen them walk together. After I left Bordentown, I next saw Clough at my house in Philadelphia, alone. He has been there also with Mrs. Hamilton. I was out when they came, but found them there on my return; and that evening, Mrs. Hamilton, Mr. Clough, and myself and wife, went to the theatre. I went out board with Mrs. Longstreth in June or July, 1832.. The attentions Clough paid to Mrs. Hamilton were kindly received, as far as I could judge, but much more kindly at some times than others. After going to the theatre, we all went to my house, between 12 and 1 o'clock in the morning, and they staid nearly an hour, when Mr. Clough went with her from my house, to where she stayed. I have frequently conversed with Mrs. Hamilton about being married to Clough, and about three weeks before her death I had the last conversation with her upon the subject, when I requested that I might be bridesmaid, (corrected by saying I might be groomsman) when she married Mr. Clough. She laughed and told me I should be groomsman when she married him. Mr. Clough presented her with an Album. I asked her if the gold watch she wore did not once belong to Mr. Clough; she said it did, and that it was the one he used to wear. I told her that Clough thought a great deal of her. She said "she hoped he did and everybody else."

*Edward L. Dubarry, sworn:* I have known the prisoner about two years; his general character for propriety, moderation, and c. was always very good until this last affair.

*Humphrey P. McMyckle* – Also testified to the mildness and moderation of his character, and that he never saw anything very striking between him and Mrs. Hamilton.

*William McKnight, sworn:* I have known Clough more than a year, and never knew anything against his character before this affair. I came on with him from New York two or three days before the murder. We took something to drink. I saw nothing extraordinary in what he said or did; I saw no evidence of alienation of mind; I pitied him, and said, how could you do so? He said, Oh! It is woman.

*James Wallace:* I have known the prisoner since September, 1829. He was then a mechanic, doing contract work, and had a subcontractor under me on the Morris Canal. I inquired into his mechanical and moral character, and found it to be good. I thought him more than ordinarily mild and forbearing. I saw him last of March or beginning of April last; I observed a change in him; not so much when I first saw him as after a little. He showed a disposition to drink more than before, and to press me to drink also. His mind appeared to me to be rather unsteady. I met him in Albany on my way to New

York; on board the boat; he caught me round the hand or wrist, until I had to tell him to let me go. We left Albany the Sunday before the 6<sup>th</sup> of April; we drank two or three times at the bar in the afternoon; he wanted to drink every eight or ten minutes; I told him he must be beside himself, for it is not more than five minutes since you drank. When I was going to bed he pressed me to take a glass of whiskey punch; I refused, and putting my hand upon his collar, said, Mr. Clough, I don't see what the devil has got into you, you are more like a crazy man than anything else. He said, Oh! Never mind, I am so glad to see you. He did not seem natural to me, and I could not tell why. He looked fatigued. He was dull and stupid, and seemed to be a different man from what he was before. Clough was to take charge of my contract, if I made it. I thought he had become intemperate, or that something was the matter with him, and I abandoned the idea, and returned home. I left him in New York on the dock or boat, just as I found him, except that he shed tears.

*Cross Examined:* We arrived in New York on Monday, and same day I went to Burlington. I went back on Wednesday, and found him in the custody of an officer, on a charge of taking some jewelry from a girl, the Thursday evening before; I do not remember her name. I presume the jewels were given up. I know of no officer but Merritt; I know nothing of Brink. He was discharged on Wednesday; Wilie was employed by him, and he gave him \$50. His watch and a set of jewelry that he had bought to present to Mrs. Hamilton were given. I recovered the watch and jewelry, and have them yet. I told Merritt I would rather pay \$10 of my own money than to see him confined. I asked him how he came to get into such an affair; he said he saw a girl in the theatre, hired a carriage, and took her home. She jilted him. He took the jewels, cleared the house, absconded, and went to Albany. He was discharged from the Police on Wednesday, and that evening I left him. The jewels he bought were designed for Mrs. Hamilton.

Letters read, in which he complains of her obduracy, and looks forward to a visit to Philadelphia, as the last privilege of her society.

*Charles Green* – I have known the prisoner eight months; his character is good, as far as I know. I have seen him and Mrs. Hamilton together, but not alone; but saw no particular attentions. If she had answered me as I have heard her answer him, I should have troubled her no more. She seemed to care nothing about his questions, often took no notice of them, and perhaps answered somebody else.

*William Arnold*, testified to the prisoner's good character.

*Mrs. Longstreth* – I have seen these letters, or part of them, in Mrs. Hamilton's possession; said these letters were returned to him a few weeks before the catastrophe. I saw Clough a few minutes afterwards. Clough stated in his interview with her that he had given up all hopes of gaining her affections, had demanded his letters, and they had been returned to him. He respected the family, and ever should. I did not tell him that my daughter had made to me any communication concerning him. After the



letters were returned to him, I understood that from that time his attentions would cease. He wished her to go a sleighing with him; she refused, and went with others. He was much affected at this. They disputed pretty loud, and he was very angry. She told him it was nothing to him where she went or with whom she rode; he had nothing to do with it. I do not recollect that he made any reply. I recollect there was a baptism, and she walked with him there, and returned with Mr. Lippincott; at which he was offended, and said some ill-natured things. When Clough first came to my house, he was mild and pleasant; towards the latter part of the time, I saw him much out of humor, and he talked very cross. He was very angry one day with Mr. Wells, and if Wells had not explained, or been humble, or made acknowledgements, Clough would have killed him. I furnished Mrs. Hamilton with \$17 in money, for purpose of getting the watch.

*Wednesday, June 5, 1833*

*Arthur Stewart, sworn:* I am acquainted with Clough, and have known him for about two years, when he lived in Bordentown..... One instance, when a walk was proposed, and she walked with another, he tried to get along side of her. Last August, my wife, who lives in Philadelphia, came up... Clough asked me how I meant to spend tomorrow (Sunday), I told him I would take Mrs. Stewart and go a-riding. H wished to join the party, and said he would take Mrs. Hamilton. In the evening, I asked Mrs. H at Mr. Clough's request, to ride out with Mrs. Stewart, Mr. Clough, and myself. She finally agreed. Clough succeeded in getting "the Count's" carriage, while we dined. It came – when we were about to get in, she disappeared and was found in her room in tears, where I found her. I told Clough what Mrs. Hamilton had said, that she was sorry about going out in the carriage with him, and the people of the place would raise a talk that they were going to get married. He insisted I should go back, and she refused to come. He then said he would not go, and wished me to ask her if she would go with me alone. She consented, if I took my sister-in-law in. She would not go, and Clough got in and we took the ride. She did not enjoy it. It was in August last. Mrs. Hamilton told me more than I told to Mr. Clough. Clough told me he was a-going away to New York to see his mother, and thought he should not return, but send for his effects. After Clough returned from New York I saw him, he said he was very well. Next morning I saw, and asked him if he had been to visit his mother, at Rochester, he said no, he had been no further than Albany.

*Lee Wells* – I had an interview with Clough in the spring of 1832. At his instance I went into a room with him, and he shut the door. He wished to know my intentions in relation to Mrs. Hamilton. I told him I must know his right to inquire. He said he wished to know my intentions with Mrs. H. and whether any engagement had been made. I told him none. Previous to this he became very angry, and said, Wells, you must discontinue your attentions to Mrs. Hamilton, or else you or I must die.

*The Prosecution here rested.*

The Counsel, for the prisoner, read a certificate of Ogden Mallary, dated 4<sup>th</sup> April, 1827, appointing Joel Clough, the prisoner, sole superintendant of the Aqueduct of the Farmington Canal; and also a second paper, purporting to be an estimate of the stone work on the canal, both of which were offered as evidence to show the prisoner's good standing.

The testimony here closed on both sides, and Mr. Hazlehurst, one of the counsel for the defendant, proceeded to read, from several authorities, copious extracts on the subject of mental maladies. First – Paris & Pendblanck's Medical Jurisprudence, on the subject of insanity, from pages 307 to 317; and from 324, on the predisposing causes of insanity. Second – From Haslem, on madness and melancholy, pp. 43, 225, 229, 230; Beck's Medical Jurisprudence, pp. 369, 372; Rush on the mind, pp. 36, 44, 45, 153 and 312; Cooper's Jurisprudence, p. 252; Seymour on insanity, p. 31.

Mr. Southard, for the State, cited Russell, on crimes, vol. 1., pp. 421 and 422, also 7, 10, and 11.

The cause, on part of the prisoner, was summed up with great energy, eloquence, and zeal, by Messrs. Hazelhurst and D.P. Brown, the former in a speech of two hours, and the latter of more than three hours, in which every effort of reason, pathos, and argument, was used to convince the Jury of the insanity of the defendant, and to make an appeal to them of the justice of his acquittal, on the ground that he was at the time laboring under an aberration of mind. The cause, on behalf of the State was summed up by Messrs. J. W. Scott and S. L. Southard, with that masterly eloquence, energy, power, and sublimity of reasoning and of pathos for which they are so pre-eminently distinguished; the former in a speech of about two hours, and the latter concluding in a speech of about four hours, during the delivery of which, the question of the prisoner's insanity was met and overcome with skill, learning, law, and talent, which completely broke down this barrier of defense, and carried conviction to almost every mind that the murder was the effect of premeditated purpose, growing out of disappointed, unrequited and despised love, and jealousy, which prepared the prisoner's mind for the commission of the horrid crime. While delivering these powerful addresses to the Court and Jury, the learned counsel were several times overcome with their own feelings so completely that tears "denied their utterance"; and which communicated to almost all around; the prisoner covering his face, and appearing to agonize to his very soul. Mr. Southard took the floor in reply to Mr. Brown at 6 o'clock in the evening, and would have brought this important trial to a close at that time had it not been for the unfortunate illness of one of the jury, who was taken out of the court house three different times, but it was evident that he was too seriously indisposed to be able to sit out the argument, if it were to be finished that evening – and the Court adjourned until eight o'clock the next morning, when Mr. S. concluded his remarks.