

# **PRISON MUSEUM POST**

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

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## **HAUNTED PRISON 2013**

PMA Board member **Clark Bish** and his cohorts, PMA members **Jim Reed** and **Ken Orangers**, are busy planning this year's haunted event, scheduled for every **Friday and Saturday night between October 11 and November 2**. The Exercise Yard is being transformed into **Hellsgate Prison**, where an infection is driving the inmates and guards to cannibalism. Those in the Prison cemetery are not resting in peace, and the Slaughterhouse, operated by a creature known as **Porkchop**, is not exactly FDA approved. Those who dare to enter will be met with many other horrors as well. This is not recommended for children under 10. We will have a live disc jockey every night, as well as performances by the award-winning **Rancocas Valley High School Dance Team**. Ticket prices range from \$15 to \$20, depending on the night.

See [www.prisonhaunt.com](http://www.prisonhaunt.com) for further details. This is our primary fund-raiser and all our members are urged to promote it.

## **BATTLE OF IRON WORKS HILL**

PMA Board member **Ian Johns** is busy planning The Re-enactment of Iron Works Hill. Much more information will be provided in the next issue of the *Post*, which will go out at the end of November. For now, though, please save the date: **Saturday, December 14**. This all-day family event is topped off by a re-enactment of the Revolutionary War skirmish which led up to the Battle of Trenton. There's something for all ages, and IT'S FREE. We are very pleased to announce that this year's event will include a musical performance at the Friend's Meetinghouse. All

### **Historic Burlington County Prison Museum Association ("PMA")**

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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.

PMA members will be invited to stop by the PMA office for refreshments.

## ***THANK YOU FOR YOUR RENEWAL***

We thank everyone who joined the PMA or renewed their application. All current members are listed on our membership roster, which is attached. We try to issue at least four *Posts* per year, in March, June, September and November. We were able to get two out this year, in March and April, but circumstances beyond our control made it impossible to get the June issue out. We apologize for that. We normally request renewals in the March issue and include membership cards in the June issue. Because the year is more than half over, we will dispense with membership cards. Museum attendants have the roster, however, and so members will still be able to be admitted to the museum for free and receive other membership benefits.

Membership dues, along with museum admissions, profit from the Haunted Event ticket sales and gift shop receipts, are used to promote the museum through our website, publications and special events.

## ***WEBSITE AND LESSON PLAN UPDATE***

We are pleased to report that our lesson plan project is moving along very nicely. Westampton Chief School Administrator **Virginia Grossman** and Curriculum Coordinator **Jennifer Murray** have completed lesson plans for 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 7<sup>th</sup> grade and gifted students, and we are about to post them on our website. Our website manager, **Lisa Kruczek**, has been working feverishly for the last few months in preparation for the addition of the lesson plans. She has already posted copies of the Mills Plans on the site, and is working on an exhibit of the prison graffiti. The Plans and the graffiti are needed for the students to complete the lessons. PMA Vice-President **Dave Kimball** has been assisting Lisa on this endeavor. Once completed, it will be the job of PMA President **Janet Sozio** and the Board to spread the word that the lesson plans are available for teachers in Burlington County and beyond. It is our hope that this will bring many more visitors, especially students, to our museum. If things go as planned, we will be looking to get high school lesson plans up on the site next year. Check the website ([www.prisonmuseum.net](http://www.prisonmuseum.net)) for this great update.



## ***THE TRIAL OF CHARLES BROOKS CONTINUES***

In the last issue of the *Post*, we presented the first part of the story of Charles Brooks, who was executed at our Prison in 1863 after having been convicted of the murder of his father, Job Brooks. He was the second of nine people executed here. We never knew much about his story until recently, when we discovered a treasure trove of old newspaper articles. Job's wife and son-in-law were also tried for his murder; both were acquitted. This issue includes articles about their trials.

Since the last issue, we learned that the Methodist Church that Job attended the night of his death is still standing in Vincentown. We plan to take some photographs of the church and cemetery, and to do some investigation with a view toward finding out where Job and the other characters in the story lived. Eventually we would like to publish a booklet of all of the articles with the photographs for sale in the gift shop. PMA President **Janet Sozio** will head up this project.

### ***THIS 'N THAT***

The wall surrounding the Exercise Yard has been renovated, the Jail's chimneys have been repaired, an electrical system has been installed out back and the Jail has been outfitted with a fire alarm system. We very sincerely thank the **Freeholders** for having these repairs done. **Joe Donnelly** is the Freeholder in charge of Parks and has been very supportive of the PMA. We are particularly excited about the new electric system and can't wait to try it out at the Haunt. We used to have to use generators, which were very loud. Without the noise from the generators, we will have a quieter, and thus *creepier*, haunt experience.... Kudos to jail attendant **Marisa Bozarth**, who did a yeoman's job on the Treasure Hunt in May, which involved a lot of logistics - maps, prizes, clues, etc..... We all had fun in June at the Elks, where author Jim Davidson discussed his new book about Charles Lindbergh. At the end of the evening, PMA member **Andy Sahol**, grandson of the great Burlington County detective Ellis Parker, donated a portrait of his grandfather to the Elks. Another portrait donated by Andy hangs in the Warden's Office in the Jail. We thank our friends at the **Mt. Holly Elks Club** for having this event and inviting us. We hope this is the beginning of a long and productive friendship.... PMA member **Mike Rearden** has offered to do some research on our ship model. Mike, the owner of **Broadway Glass Company** in Mt. Holly, made the glass case for the model..... Don't forget to "friend" us on Facebook - or tell your kids and grandkids to do so. Go on the website for the Facebook link..... **AND DON'T FORGET TO TELL EVERYONE YOU KNOW ABOUT THE HAUNT!**



## THE TRIALS OF TIMOTHY RIDGEWAY AND KETURAH BROOKS for the Murder of Job Brooks

In the last *Post*, we presented excerpts of newspaper articles about the trial of Charles Brooks for the murder of his father, Job Brooks. In this issue, we will present articles about the trials of Job's wife and son-in-law. First a summary of the case:

### *Summary*

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 found the lifeless body of Job Brooks in a ditch. 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 Coroner's Jury had already 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 left for Ohio on Saturday, March 28, and apprehended Charles. 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 sheriff officer George Hulme were present. Charles confessed. 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 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 a 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 and October. 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.

On December 11, 1863, Charles Brooks was 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**

**Sep 24, 1863:**

**On Monday morning, in the Oyer and Terminer, the case of Timothy Ridgway, indicted at the April Term, for the murder of Job Brooks, in Southampton, on the 8th of March last, was moved.** F. T. Frelinghuysen, Esq., Attorney General, and M. Hutchinson, Esq., Prosecutor of the Pleas, appeared for the State, and Ewan Merritt, Esq., on behalf of the Prisoner. [Twelve] gentlemen were selected as the Jury in the case

In the afternoon, Dr. Elwell, James Lippincott, Philip S. Lippincott, Martha Perrine, William T. Jones and Mark Venable were examined as witnesses on the part of the State, in the order named. Their testimony was nearly the same in substance, as that of the same witness on the trial of Charles Brooks, and which we published at the time.

On Tuesday morning, Joseph N. Gibbs was called and testified that he was one of the Jurors in the case of Charles Brooks, at the last Term. He examined the stick of wood produced in Court... found a human hair on the end of the stick: folded it in a piece of paper and gave it the Prosecuting Attorney. Believed that to be the hair in question -- it was folded up as he had folded it. On cross-examination, witness said he was a carpenter by trade; was certain the hair found on the stick was human hair.

**Mary Gibbs, sworn:** Heard Timothy say on one occasion, that if he had his will of Job Brooks, he would chop his heart as fine as mince-meat and fry his liver on a gridiron ...

**Catharine Stiles testified.** Corroborated the testimony of the previous witness in reference to Ridgway's remark about the old man Brooks... On cross examination, she said ... she thought the remark a piece of fun, at the time.

**Sarah Mason (quite an old woman and mother of Mrs. Brooks) testified** that she heard Ridgway say that he had sworn to a lie at the Coroner's Inquest, and that no one could hang Charley but himself (Ridgway). It was said at Job Brooks' house; Ridgway's mother and her mother were present... the Defence objected to the testimony of Mrs. Mason-- it was admitted and exception taken.

**Catharine Carrigan testified.** Corroborated the testimony of Mary Gibbs and Catharine Stiles, about the remark of Ridgway, at Stiles' house. Remembered saying to him he ought to be ashamed of himself; couldn't say whether Mrs. Brooks was present or not; didn't remember anything else that was said.

**Samuel Norcross testified** to the fact of Ridgway and young Brooks taking tea at his house on Sunday afternoon--the day Job was killed in the evening. They left just before sunset.

**Dean Bowker testified** to going from Wm. Irick's to Burlington in company with Ridgway on the morning of Monday before the murder was made public; Defendant seemed very quiet--he was mostly pretty lively.



**Charles Brown testified** that sometime in September, 1862, he had a conversation with Ridgway, in which he said he didn't know what to make of the old man Brooks -- he did not think he (Brooks) would live long. Witness saw Job that evening and he said he was very well.

**Solomon Simons testified** that about the last of February or first of March, Ridgway told him he was going to move in with his father-in-law; said he would have less rent to pay then; said he and the old man couldn't get along very well, but he would fetch that all right in a little while.

**Robert Wilson testified** that Defendant moved into Job's house within about ten days after the murder; about two weeks after Job's death, witness traded him a horse for a heifer; said he wanted the horse to cart to the shore; talked of moving to the shore; said he was not satisfied where he was.

**Elizabeth Montgomery testified** that Ridgway worked for her husband and ate at their table, at the period of the murder; the morning the body was found, he was late to breakfast, and she noticed he did not eat as much as usual; thought this was owing to his being out of humor with her husband, who had scolded him for being so late about taking care of the horses; they had breakfast later than common that morning, and Ridgway was later than they were. Witness was at the house of deceased after the body was brought in; Ridgway was down in the woods at the time; he came up to the house with his team, went round to the back part of the house, where he was met by Mrs. Brooks, and the two had a few minutes' conversation in the back shed, which witness did not hear..

**Burr Montgomery--the husband of the preceding witness -- testified.** Confirmed the testimony of his wife in relation to his finding fault with Ridgway for feeding his horses so late on the morning the body was found. He further testified that the next day he asked Timothy if he had any idea who did the deed; to which the latter replied, he didn't know--some thought it was John Brooks; witness thought he said also, that his mother (Mrs. Brooks) thought it was John Brooks. One morning after Charley had gone away, witness said to Ridgway that that would make people think he (Charles) had something to do with the murder. Ridgway said, yes, it did look rather dark.

Adjourned till Wednesday morning. The prisoner preserves an apparently unconcerned demeanor, and does not seem to have suffered from his protracted confinement, looking better than when we saw him the morning after his arrest.

**Oct 1, 1863:**

**Barzillai McIntosh sworn:** The Monday evening after Charles had gone away from home, Timothy's wife came out to where he and I were spreading marl and had some talk with him; when we got to the stable, Tim said, God! Charley has gone away -- it looks dark on him -- it makes me think he did the crime. This was the Monday night after the burial.

**Thomas McNinney, sworn:** Am a Justice of the Peace; held the Coroner's Inquest over the body of Job Brooks; the first meeting was held on the 9th of March; found a watch, two dollars and sixty odd cents in money, a comb and knife, on the person of deceased; the Inquest was adjourned from Monday the 9th to the next Monday; on the first Monday, Timothy and Charles

were before the (Grand) Jury in the evening... one of the Jury asked Ridgway if he had a knife; he said he had; he was asked to show it; he pulled it from his pocket and handed it to them...

**Dr. Elwell was recalled** and described the wound on the neck of the deceased; had said on his previous examination that it was given with a knife or a dirk; thought the instrument with which the cut was made was sharp pointed, but that both edges were not sharp.

**Charles Brooks was then brought from the prison and placed upon the witness stand. Having been duly sworn, he was examined by the Attorney General, and testified as follows:**

Charles Brooks, sworn: I will be twenty-three years old on the 21st of December; was born in this County; am the son of Job Brooks; my father is dead; lived at Joseph Butterworth's, the last place; had been at home for about three weeks before my father's death; one week after his death I went to New Albany, Ohio; my sister married Timothy Ridgway; I was at McIntosh's the Sunday of my father's death ... I took \$22 or \$23 with me to the West; mother gave it to me; don't know where she got it; no one told me to get it of her; wore to the West the clothes I now have on...

Question--Do you know that the Supreme Court have refused you a new trial? (objected to by Defence -- allowed.) Answer: I heard that they had. I did not meet or overtake my father as I was going home from church; got home before my father was murdered.

Question: How do you know that? Ans.-- I don't know only what people said--they said it was done at a quarter to nine o'clock or later; looked for my father at home that night.

**Peter Salter (colored) sworn:** Was in Jail when Defendant was brought in there. Brooks' cell is on the second floor-- Ridgway's on the third -- right over Brooks'; have heard them talk through the heater; couldn't hear what they said; I was in my own cell; I heard down the heater. Ridgway told me twice to ask Brooks if he had anything to do with the murder or not; I asked him and he said neither he nor Tim either. Once when I was in the yard, I heard Mrs. Brooks halloo across for Tim not to betray her or Charley; heard no reply; then she would tell Charley not to own up to anything; heard Timothy say, no danger; this was in reply to what Mrs. Brooks had said; this was in August, one evening about dusk. Heard the same conversation three or four different times.

Cross- examined: When Brooks had been in eight days, he told me one morning when I took him his breakfast, that neither he nor Tim had anything to do with it; he said he was scared and worked up, and thought it would make it better for himself, was the reason that he told what he did. Ridgway and Brooks were not then where they could communicate.

**Lydia Leeds, sworn:** Am the wife of the Sheriff; I heard a conversation between Mrs. Brooks and Ridgway, not long ago -- cannot remember the exact time; it was in the evening about dusk; the first I heard, Tim said he had a basket his wife might as well have -- from what he could find out, they were going to send him to Hell or somewhere else. Mrs. Brooks told him not to believe anything he heard; told him not tell anything he heard; told him not tell anything on her or Charley-- just to say they were innocent, and not to fear a witness that could be brought against them. She halloo'd to Charley and told him not to tell anything on her or Timothy. I was in my own bedroom.

**The State here rested.**



**Mr. Merritt then opened to the Jury the evidence to be adduced upon the part of the Defence--** stating that they would prove that the Prisoner could not have been present at the time the murder was alleged to have been committed -- in short they expected to prove an alibi. Mrs. Brooks was then placed upon the stand.

**Keturah Ann Brooks, sworn:** Am the widow of Job Brooks; he left home the night of the murder between 6 and 7 o'clock; went toward Vincentown; I was in the house--washing dishes, I believe, when he started; didn't go out till I went down to the ditch opposite Wm. Doran's house after my ducks... I met Timothy and Sarah Ann going to meeting; instead of going to meeting they went home with me; it was very muddy and very dark; they stayed till 20 minutes past eight; I looked at the clock after they went away; neither of them were out of the house from the time they came in with me till they went away. When they went from our house that night they went right on home... Job had rented Tim a part of the house, and lots; he expected to move there; the rent was to be \$20, I think; Job and he were not unfriendly at that time.... Charles came in and went to bed... I had been in bed about half an hour; was not asleep; as Charles went through he said, mother I guess I will go to Mt. Holly in the morning, and get some worm medicine; I said, you had better go if the walking is good.... I said to Charles in the morning, your pappy didn't come in last night; he said no, he has got to staying out often.

**Barzillai McIntosh recalled:** Lived in part of the house that Ridgway lived in; my wife and self went into Ridgway's part the Sunday night of the murder; I wanted to see him to tell him what we had to do in the morning; he and his wife were not at home; he got home at five minutes of 9 o'clock by my clock... he behaved as usual that evening... saw Tim next morning first, at the stable on Irick's farm; we went into the pines, three miles beyond Burr's Mills, and got some wood; Tim left his load in Vincentown, on our return; in going to the Pines we came past the place where Job was murdered; Tim's conduct that day was as usual; I was at home and unloaded my wood before sunset. I was at the last Coroner's Inquest in Vincentown; went with Tim; went home as far as his mother-in-law's with him; was present when Tim's knife was demanded; saw him produce it; he and I went away from the Inquest together, as soon as they were done with him...

**The Defence here rested** -- and all the evidence being taken, Mr. Hutchinson commenced summing up on behalf of the State. He had not concluded at one o'clock when the Court adjourned. In the afternoon, Mr. Hutchinson concluded his argument, and was followed by Mr. Merritt for the Prisoner. At the conclusion of Mr. M.'s speech, the Court adjourned till 9 o'clock on Friday morning, when the Attorney General made the closing argument on behalf of the State. Judge Van Dyke charged the Jury and they retired to deliberate about 12 o'clock.

**VERDICT OF ACQUITTAL.** At six o'clock in the evening they returned into Court and rendered a verdict of NOT GUILTY. The Accused manifested his gratification at the result by a smile and a suppressed exclamation of "Good!"

#### **Oct 8, 1863: Sentencing of Charles Brooks**

Charles Brooks, convicted of the murder of his father, Job Brooks, at the April term of Court, was sentenced on Saturday last, to be hung on Friday the 11th of December next...



**The taking of evidence in the case against Keturah Ann Brooks was commenced on Wednesday morning.**

**Mark Venable was the first witness called.** After giving an account of the finding of the body of the deceased in the ditch, as in his previous examinations in the cases of Charles Brooks and Timothy Ridgway, he further testified to his going to the house, and to the conduct of Mrs. Brooks. As he turned to go into the lane, he saw the kitchen door a little way open and the arm of Mrs. B. at the door; when he got to the door it was closed; he knocked and there was no reply; knocked harder the second time; Mrs. Brooks then opened the door; he said Good Morning Mrs. Brooks, is Job in? She stepped back a little, and "looked very revengeful," but made no reply; he told her he would like to see him; she then nerved herself up (in witness' language) and stepped up towards him; he looked to see what she had in her hand; saw she had something like a bunch of feathers, as if she had been sweeping off the stove hearth, or something of the kind; asked her when Job went away; she said the last she saw him, was down at the end of the lot; she supposed he had gone to meeting--she sat up till half-past nine--he didn't come in--she then went to bed, and between one and two o'clock she got up and fastened the door; then she said I expect he has gone a tinkering clocks; witness then said--Good afternoon Mrs. Brooks--when Job comes, tell him I'd like to see him; he then closed the door. Witness visited the house again in about 15 minutes; he went to let Mrs. B. know Job was dead; when he knocked, there was no reply; heard steps of a person coming down stairs and walking across the room floor; knocked a second time and then she (Mrs. B.) invited him in; he said to her, Mrs. Brooks, I have got bad news to tell you and I want you to bear it as well as you can-- Job is dead; her reply was "you don't say"; he said "yes, he has been murdered at the end of the lot" said she, "he haint"; she threw up her apron and gave a boo-hoo; he pointed to a chair and said Mrs. Brooks you had best take a chair; he put his hand on her shoulder, and she sat down on the chair; Harriet Joyce came in about that time; after she sat down she took her apron from her face, and said: How came you to find him? Witness replied: By seeing his hat in the ditch. Isaiah Robbins came in then, and witness asked him if they were bringing the body in; he said they were; he then told Mrs. Joyce she had better take Mrs. B. upstairs; as the two started out of the kitchen, the corpse was being brought into the house; about the time they got to the room door, the corpse was lain on the floor; as Mrs. B. passed the body, she looked down on it as she walked along and went upstairs. A coverlid was asked for to lay on the carpet; witness called Mrs. Joyce and asked her to hand down something to put on the floor; he heard Mrs. B. say, I'll get it; it was thrown down and witness gave it to the men, and they placed it under and around the body...

**On Cross-examination, witness was asked** --What do you mean by nerving herself up ? Answer-- She appeared to nerver herself up as if she was angry; thought from the appearance of the woman, that she had some weapon in her hand; I was afraid she might attack me... In reply to inquiries by Counsel of the State, witness further said he did not see Mrs. B. shed any tears-- she "boo-hooed" behind her apron.

**Timothy Ridgway, who had been confined in Jail as a witness, since his acquittal, was then placed on the witness stand. Timothy Ridgway, sworn:** (Knife shown) Question--When did you last see that knife--under what circumstances? Answer-I saw my mother-in-law kill a chicken with it. I had a conversation with Mrs. Brooks about the murder, about the 29th of March last; I said to her, I'd like to know who did that deed; she said, she was afraid Charles had done it--she had heard him say his will was good enough, if he only dare; I told her I hoped they would find out who did it; then she told me to come to her; I then went close up to her; now, said she, I'll tell you, but for the world never say anything about it; I told her I wouldn't; said she, if you do, I'll take everything away from you that I ever gave you, and Sarah Anna shall not live with you; I told her I wouldn't mention it; said she, you remember the night that Job was killed--you and Sarah Anna started to go to Church; said she, you met me down



yonder by the bridge; she said, that was the errand she and Charles had been on then--they tried to catch the old man when he was on his way to Church, but they couldn't; as soon as you and Sarah Anna started out to go home, I started out and went down to the bridge; she said, she waited there till Charles and his father came along from Church; she said, when they came along, Job asked her what she was doing down there; she told him she was looking for her ducks--she was afraid they would lay down there and she wouldn't get any eggs; Job said to her he thought it was a pretty time of night to be looking for the ducks; he started on a piece, and Charles ran up behind him with a club and knocked him down; she said she handed Charles the knife and he stuck it in his throat; she helped Charles carry him to the ditch; she said the reason she done it, she was going to stop him from running after Keziah Darwood; she said the knife it was done with was the knife Job fixed for her to stick chickens with; (knife again shown witness) that's the knife she used for that purpose. Sarah Anna is my wife and the daughter of Job Brooks; I believe I have stated the whole conversation that took place at that time. The day Job was found, I had a conversation with Defendant; when I came home out of the Pines. I came along there and stopped; she called me out in the pump-shed; she asked me first if I had to go before the Inquest; I told her yes; she said Charles was judged for it; she said she went me to go before the Inquest and swear that Charles was at home a little after 8 o'clock, and abed; I told her I wouldn't do it; I passed on through the house, went in and looked at the corpse, and then went on home with my team... My wife and myself started to go to Church on the evening of the eighth of March; we stopped at father-in-law's as we were going past; we found the house fastened; my wife took a broom and brushed the mud off her shoes and we started on; we got down between where he was killed, and the bridge, and met mother; we asked where she had been; she said she had been to look for her ducks--she met them a coming home and she went into Mr. Doran's; she said, it is very dark and muddy, you had better turn round and go home with me--so we did so; we stayed there till 20 minutes past eight o'clock; then we went home--I and my wife. Mrs. Brooks has said something to me since I have been in prison about this murder; she told me she didn't want me to tell on her and Charles this court(sic.); she didn't want me to tell what she had told me about her and Charles; she was at the window right opposite me, only she was lower down-- a story lower; I believe she told me no more.

Cross-examined: I was 22 years old the 9th day of last May; I was born at Barnegat, Ocean County. (Witness was here questioned and testified in reference to the different persons he had lived with and worked for prior to the time of his coming to Burlington County). When I first came into this County, I worked at blacksmithing for Clayton Sapp, at Vincenttown; I worked for him a while and then was in the Army three months, and then worked with him again; think I was with him between two and three years; I enlisted under the first call for three months' men; worked for Ambrose Dobbins this Summer a year ago; have also worked for Gen. William Irick; worked for Amos Hueston a little while before I went to Irick's; was working for Gen. Irick at the time of the murder; think I had been there seven months; lived in his tenant house at the forks of the road; the roads run to Medford, Eayrestown and Lumberton; was engaged in farm work; think it is half a mile on the map here from the tenant house to the place where Job was murdered; I had been acquainted with Job's family between two and three years; his family consisted of his wife and two children; I don't recollect when I married his daughter; it is going on two years now; I don't know about what property he had--only I know he owned the house and lot where he lived; he had a cow and hog, and a heifer he gave my wife; Charles was at work at Mr. Butterworth's at Pemberton, previous to his father's murder; think he had been at home two or three weeks--I won't be certain; I saw him frequently--he was often at my house--always has been since my marriage.

**Burr Montgomery, sworn:** I recollect Mrs. Brooks being at my house and having a black eye; it was sometime in the early part of the winter of 1862. (Objected to by Defence--objection)



overruled and exception taken.) I said you have been in a battle; she said yes; that was all that was said at that time...

**Samuel B. D. Prickitt, (Deputy Sheriff) testified** to obtaining the knife produced in Court, at the house of the Prisoner, the day she was brought to Jail; it was handed to him by Mrs. Ridgway, when he inquired for it; Charles and Timothy were then in Jail. One afternoon last Summer, witness saw the Prisoner at a Jail window, twisting her handkerchief around, putting it under her chin and raising the two ends above her head; she would then shake her head very strongly; the motions were repeated again and again; Charles and Tim could see it if they were looking.

**Crispin Lippincott testified** that he was a trustee of the Methodist Church at Vincentown; Mrs. Brooks was a member--Job was not. About a year ago he went to see Mrs. Brooks, and told her Job said he could not live in the way he lived--that if things wasn't better he would make a vendue and break up. Mrs. B said if Job would do his part, she would do hers.

**Samuel Ross, affirmed:** Went with Alfred Moore to Mrs. Brooks' house, after Ridgway was arrested, to inform her of the fact; he was arrested about dusk and we went out immediately afterwards; when she came to the door, Alfred told her they had arrested Timothy and taken him to Mt. Holly; she said, "they have?" he said yes--they have caught Charley and are on their way home, and have sent in for Timothy to be immediately arrested; she replied "you don't say;" she then commenced talking of Charley--said he was innocent--she knew he was; said he was at home and abed that night before nine o'clock and not out afterwards. Alfred then said it looked very strange--his going away--it looked as if he had done it; she said he would not have gone away had it not been for some persons the day before, down along the ditch, looking at the place, and they advised him to go away; Alfred told her it was very strange a man should be murdered so near his own house and no one know who did it; she then said, if the truth was known, it was two strange men who did it; there was two strange men seen to come up the road that night, and she thought they did it; whoever they were, they slept in their barn that night; she went in there in the morning and saw where they had laid...

**Ann Bowker, sworn:** Was at Mrs. Brooks' house the day the body was found; while it was being laid out, witness sat down by Mrs. B. and said she did not expect Job had an enemy in the world--he was such a pleasant, smooth man. Mrs. B. said, yes he has enemies since he got to running to that house over there after Keziah Darwood; she said "he was a very smooth-tongued man; I told him on Saturday that he had licked the blarney-stone pretty near clean and his time was short."

**Elizabeth Montgomery, sworn:** Wife of Burr Montgomery: Mrs. B. frequently spoke of her husband, at my house; don't recollect anything serious that she said only about the time she had a black eye; she said her man had hit her; I told her I would sue him; she said if she did she was afraid he would do something worse; remember her once saying something about his throwing a cup of coffee at her. Mrs. Brooks told me about her having her fortune told; can't tell the time--it was in cold weather; said she expected to lose her mother and her husband in the Spring; her mother was to die first. She often talked about Job's running after Keziah Darwood and Becky White...

**Sarah Mason, sworn:** Am the mother of Mrs. Brooks; was eighty-three years old last month; lived with Timothy Ridgway at the time of the murder; after the murder, went down to Job's--the day the body was found; stayed there till after Keturah was brought here; Timothy and his wife moved in after awhile; I was present on one occasion when he said he was the instigation of



Charles' going away; I was present when Charles said he was going away; his mother opposed his going.

**Sarah Anna Ridgway, sworn:** I am the daughter of Keturah Ann Brooks, and the wife of Timothy Ridgway; I was nineteen years old the 20th day of last June; was married a year ago the 9th of last March; I was at my father's house in the afternoon of the day he was murdered; it was about 2 o'clock I guess, when I got there; found mother and father there; Timothy and I were there again in the evening; he invited me to go to meeting; we went to mother's first; the house was fastened; we then concluded to go on to meeting; when we got between the house and the bridge, we met mother; Tim asked if I cared about going to meeting and I said not; we went back to mother's; stayed till after 8 o'clock and then went away; I went down to mother's the next day, between 2 and 3 o'clock. Charles was at our house the Sunday after the murder, in the morning; Timothy was there besides me and Charles; I knew that Charles was going away from home; heard Timothy persuade him to go away; Charles agreed to go, in Timothy's presence...

Cross-examined: Mother saw us out that Sunday night; my husband and myself went right home; we remained at home; went to bed together; left mother's as near as I can tell, 20 minutes past eight; we got home a few minutes before 9.... I have been four or five times to see mother in jail; have seen Timothy across the jail yard from the entry-window; haven't been close to him to shake hands or anything; haven't seen mother since the trial was going on--not for better than four weeks.

[Questions were asked witness, whether she was not offended with Timothy for testifying against her mother; whether she hadn't said she wouldn't live with him again &c., and were overruled by the Court.]

**Charles Brooks, sworn:** I am a prisoner confined in Jail; I was indicted at the last term for the murder of my father; I was tried and found guilty; my mother was not present when my father was killed; she did not aid or assist in his murder in any way:

Question--Do you know who killed him ? Answer--

-I expect I done it.

Q - Haven't you made a different statement from what you did to Hulme, Holeman and McNinney ?

A - I thought there was some chance of getting clear--but I find there ain't, and I might as well come out and tell the truth.

Q - What induces you now to tell what you do ?

A - Well, I thought awhile there might be some chance to get clear or go to State's Prison; but I find there ain't, and so I made up my mind to come out and tell the truth, and that's what I have done.

Q - How did you get him to the ditch ?

A - I took him by the shoulders and drug him.

[Answer to question by a Juror.] I got no blood on my clothes except on my pocket where I put the knife. My father did not speak after I struck him; don't think I said anything to father before I struck him; stood behind him; I don't know how I came to fix on that night to kill him--spouse the notion took me; after I put him in the ditch I took the hat and laid it on his head; don't know whether the hat came off when I struck him or not--guess it did though; I don't know why I took

him to the ditch; after I got him to the edge of the ditch, I took him by the heels and pulled him down; the knife was father's; I got it off the mantel-piece at home; I had carried it for several days; No one advised me to make the statement I have made here today.

To the Court: I don't remember mother ever telling me not to tell on her.

You say you find now that you have no chance, and so you tell the truth--do you remember my telling you when you were on the witness-stand, last week, that it would be the painful duty of the Court to sentence you to death at the present term, and my adjuring you to tell the truth?

Ans.--I believe there was something said like that.

Does your position differ now from what it was at that time?

Ans.--I don't know that it does.

Brooks was then taken back to prison.

Catharine Carrigan testified that she went to the house Monday afternoon; remained till the next Sunday; assisted in the washing the day after the funeral; washed the clothes Job was murdered in; saw no other bloody clothes.

The Defence offered in evidence the two depositions of Ridgway before the Coroner's Inquest and his first examination before Justice Holeman. They were read and the Defence rested. Adjourned till morning. The arguments of Counsel occupied the time of the Court's sitting on Friday. Judge Van Dyke concluded his Charge to the Jury, and they retired at 6 1/2 in the evening. They came into Court about 10 o'clock, on Saturday morning, representing their inability to agree upon a verdict. The Court addressed them a few words upon the importance of the case being decided, and they again retired.

**At 1 o'clock they rendered a Verdict of NOT GUILTY.**



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