

PRISON MUSEUM POST

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

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March 11, 2013

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! 3rd ANNUAL TREASURE HUNT, MAY 4, 2013

Our annual New Year's resolution is to get the year's first *Post* out before the end of February. Alas, it almost never happens, as we are usually too pooped out from the Haunted Prison, Iron Works Hill and First Night to get much ambition up before March. So here we are now, raring to go, full of new ideas to promote our great old Historic Jail for the benefit of residents in Burlington County and beyond.

First up will be the 3rd Annual Historic Treasure Hunt on Saturday, May 4. Attendance more than doubled from 2011 to 2012, and we hope to continue that trend this year. This is a great experience for all ages. Jail Attendant Marisa Bozarth has lined up approximately 25 historic sites and businesses in Mt. Holly to participate in the Hunt, which starts at the Jail. Save the date and look for more detailed information in the next *Post*, which will be issued at the end of April.

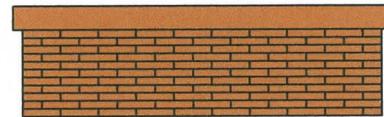
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Prison Museum Post Editor: Janet Sozio, Esq.

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 website for an application.



MOVIE SERIES SUSPENDED AS WORK BEGINS ON EXERCISE WALL

We are happy to announce that the Freeholders are having the wall surrounding the Exercise Yard repaired this spring and summer. We are thrilled that this project is underway, even though it necessitates the cancellation of our summer outdoor movie series. We plan to start it up again in 2014, including a bigger and better Rocky Horror Show night.

The renovation of the Wall will be an important part of the Jail's history and we intend to chronicle it for posterity. We will keep you advised of its progress.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL IRON WORKS HILL AND FIRST NIGHT!

PMA Board Member Ian Johns is to be commended for the fine work he and his cohorts in the Loyalist American Regiment did in producing this year's Reenactment of the Battle of Iron Work Hill. Likewise, kudos to PMA Board Member Regan Young, who organized yet another delightful Main Street Mount Holly First Night on New Year's Eve. The PMA is proud to help sponsor both events, which not only offer wholesome, educational and FUN entertainment to people of all ages in our county and beyond, but which also showcases the Jail.

LOTS OF PLANS FOR 2013

We have lots of irons in the fire for 2013. In an effort to attract more teachers and students to our site, we have embarked on a project to create lesson plans to be posted on our website. Westampton Schools superintendent Virginia Grossman has graciously agreed to partner with us in this endeavor. The project will include exciting additions to our website. Our archivist/website coordinator, Lisa Kruczak, is already busy at work on same. Ms Grossman's and Lisa's enthusiasm and ideas have given the PMA quite a boost and we are grateful for their guidance.



Lisa is also bringing (dragging?) us into the 21st century with regard to social media. Whether we like it or not, Facebook, Twitter and all the rest is where it's at these days if you want to communicate to a large audience. It looks like the PMA will be joining the crowd. More on this in the next *Post*.

THIS YEAR'S ARTICLES

As our old readers know, we attach to each *Prison Museum Post* newspaper clippings from the past about the Old Jail and other topics of interest. In this issue, we invite you to travel with us back in time to the 1870s to the home and manufacturing plant of the celebrated H.B. Smith. Known as "Smithville", the property is located in Eastampton and is currently, like the Prison Museum, part of the Burlington County Parks system. We thank PMA Board Member Dave Kimball for researching these articles. PMA Board Member Janet Sozio is currently researching articles about Charles Brooks, an inmate executed for murder in 1863. These very interesting articles will be offered in the next *Post*, which will also be our membership renewal issue. Look for it at the end of next month.

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MOUNT HOLLY HERALD

March 8, 1873 H.B. Smith has purchased the houses above the railroad station at Smithville, and will build several new houses in the Spring. W.S. Bullock of Mount Holly, has contracted to build them.

March 29, 1873 On Monday afternoon (24th), the axle of a freight car loaded with lumber broke soon after leaving Mount Holly station for Smithville. Several cars were thrown from the track but no one was injured. It was some time before matters were righted.

July 26, 1873 Last Thursday, a party of five young men employed at Smithville went into the creek near that place to bathe. One of them, Abraham Harker, wanted to get dressed but the other four, John Barry, William Barry, Horace Atkinson and Frederick Warner prevented him from doing so by throwing clods of dirt, etc. at him injuring him so that he was unable to work for two days. Harker preferred a complaint against the quartette for assault and battery. They were arrested by Officer Pitcher, brought before Justice Naylor and by him put under bonds to answer at court.

October 25, 1873 Great complaint is made in regard to the inefficiency of our special police in neglecting to keep Main Street from Water Street to the iron bridge, on Washington Street, in a better state of order at nights, when it is hardly safe for a respectable lady to pass along the street without being rudely jostled or grossly insulted by the gangs of loafers and rowdies that infest that thoroughfare using the most blasphemous epithets. We were told that the object of having a special police force (at an additional expense to the township) was for the purpose of obviating this very evil. The only visible action of this special police force was their raid on a few innocent fish wagons last spring. We trust that our township committee will look into this matter and see that this great and still growing greater evil is speedily abolished.

November 29, 1873 Mr. H. B. Smith, of Smithville, closed his works on Saturday night, and discharged his hands with the exception of a few to attend to shipping orders and taking care of the works. This will throw nearly two hundred workers out of employment at the commencement of winter. (*No doubt this was caused by the panic of 1873.*)

December 20, 1873 An interesting revival of religion is now in progress at the M.E. Church in Smithville. About 25 have professed conversion and a number are at the altar each night.

January 16, 1875 Sheriff Hall sold on Saturday the foundry property of Allen M. Harnes at Hainesport at the suit of H.B. Smith.... A patent has been granted to B. W. Storey, foreman of the wood-working department in the works at Smithville, for bread slicers. The knife is so pivoted that it forms the upper portion of a rectangular frame, and moves horizontally, being guided by passing through a slot in the side frame. More patents are granted to Smithville inventors than to the rest of the County put together.

February 6, 1875 Letter to the Editor dated February 3, 1875 from a Tuckerton resident: There is not much going on down this way, but if you will accept what I have to send I will try to tell you the news to the best of my ability. Our bay has been frozen over for nearly a month and our gunners have been having a fine shooting among the black ducks, broadbills, etc. Joseph and Walter Sapp have been the most fortunate, having killed over 500 ducks in less than three weeks. Some of the gunners killed as high as 56 in one day. Samuel Shownds, one of our old gunners, had his forefinger shot off while gunning last month.

February 16, 1875 Mr. A.B. Cherry, United States gauger for this district, has placed us under deep obligation to him for so kindly furnishing us the statistics in reference to the operations of the Burlington County whiskey distillers the past season. The aggregate production of the fourteen establishments was 56,585 gallons, on which the government tax was \$39,585. The largest amount manufactured was by Charles Eway Jr., 8,986 gallons.

May 1, 1875 Smithville is soon to have a steam pleasure boat running on its pond. The craft is owned by Joseph Will, bookkeeper in the works. A commodious boat house is already erected for its occupancy and it will not be long before the machinery will be put in the vessel. Excursion tickets to Birmingham and return sold at reduced rates.

January 24, 1875 Captain Temple of the steamer Clara says he will visit Mount Holly in his vessel the latter part of next week. The Clara draws but four feet of water when loaded and is a stern-wheeler. Should he meet with sufficient encouragement from our merchants and shippers, the boat will run regularly from Mount Holly to Philadelphia.

May 29, 1875 On account of the scarcity of coal, the Smithville works have suspended operations temporarily. The following are the statistics of H.B. Smith's manufactory of wood working machinery: capital, \$305,500; value of land on which buildings are erected, \$5,000; value of buildings, \$50,000; value of personal property exclusive of stock and machinery, \$150,000; value of machinery, \$75,000; value of stock on hand, May 1, 1875, \$5,000; value of raw materials consumed annually, \$20,000; value of annual product, \$300,000; hands employed, all males, 200; hands employed under 18 years old, 20; average weekly wages paid out, \$1900; value of manufacture products for the year ending September 1,

1873, \$300,00; average number of hands employed in 1873, 200. Samuel E. Rogers, Jr., assessor.

January 29, 1881 Daniel A. Sweeney, who is employed at the machine works here, had his hand badly cut by a band saw Wednesday.... The H.B. Smith Machine Company have taken a contract to build the American Star bicycle and commenced work on them Wednesday.

Mrs. Agnes M., wife of Rep. H.B. Smith, died at her home in Smithville on Wednesday. Though she had been ill for some time, she was not confined to her house until two weeks ago. Mrs. Smith was a lady of culture and refinement, very pleasing in her conversation and sociable. Her death is deeply felt by her husband and friends, to whom she was endeared by her many excellent qualities. Rep. Smith was summoned home from Washington last week and was at her bedside when she died. The funeral takes place on Saturday at one o'clock and the remains will be interred in St. Andrews burying ground.

March 19, 1881 The freight depot at Smithville is to be enlarged... Since taking the contract for making the American Star bicycle by the H.B. Smith Machine Co., several of the employees have been trying to learn how to ride the machines, and several of them have had miserable luck. The other day Timekeeper Hall attempted to revolve one of the vehicles and was thrown from the lofty seat into a coal heap and had all the skin knocked off his eye sight. This should have proved a warning to other daring young spirits, but it did not. On Saturday, young Barnes essayed to ride the machine and after repeated trials got it fairly started, when he suddenly lost control of the brake entirely and went crashing through a window, tearing out sash and all, doing considerable damage. He was picked up by his comrades and found to have sustained numerous bruises. There were bits of broken glass combed out of his hair, and his clothing looked as if it had been pawned for a quart of kerosene oil. He will not repeat the experiment.