

PRISON MUSEUM POST

Official Newsletter of the Historic Burlington County Prison Museum Association

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January 21, 2009

HAPPY NEW YEAR - GOALS FOR 2009

The Prison Museum Association wishes everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year. We have several goals to meet this year, the most important of which is to increase the number of visitors to the Jail and to develop programs. PMA members can help simply by SPREADING THE WORD about our great historic site. We will have a general membership meeting on April 18, 2009. Notice of the meeting will go out again in the next issue of the *Post*. The purpose of the meeting will be to brainstorm for ideas for increasing visitors.

2008 HAUNT A SUCCESS

We faced a lot of challenges this year relative to the Haunt. The elections, the Phillies' playoffs, the economy and bad weather kept many away or otherwise occupied. The event was a great success nevertheless. Our producers, Clark Bish, Jim Reed and Ken Orangers, outdid themselves this year with a truly fabulous show. A photo of the actors and staff is included in this issue.

Historic Burlington County Prison
Museum Association ("PMA")
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Board of Trustees:
Joan Boas (Secy.), Michael Bright,
Susan Dargay (Treas.), Thomas Faile,
David Kimball (Vice-Pres.), Kay Kline,
Carole Melman, Janet Sozio (Pres.),
Gary Woodend.

Curator: Marisa Bozarth
Jailkeep: Ron Reed

Prison Museum Post Editor: Janet Sozio
Associate Editor: Marisa Bozarth

Please help us preserve and promote the Prison Museum by joining the PMA. Our annual dues are only \$10. Membership benefits include a quarterly newsletter, event updates, 10% off gift shop purchases, and free admission to the museum. For an application, call the PMA office.

ANIMAL NEWS

In the last issue, we reported mysterious poop in the basement. We have since discovered the source, to wit, squirrels. Yes, Rocky is back, and in force. We have to date trapped four (4) squirrels in the PMA office. We set 'em loose on the Mount.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

We welcome new members Heather Berry and Charles Catell, and Robert and Elena Ziccardi.

Dr. Robin Plumer, who is spending the year in New Zealand, visited a prison museum there. If you would like to read about it, go on www.napierprison.com. It's amazing to think that halfway around the world, people love some other old jail as much as we love ours. PMA member and former prison museum intern **Laura Hicken** has taken a position with the Spy Museum in Washington, D.C. **Warren Jones, Esquire** has moved his Mt. Holly law office from the Washington House to The Red Barn on Trinity Lane, which was the site of a skirmish waged by the Battle of Iron Works Hill re-enactors on December 13. We are in the process of editing **Dave Kimball's** book about the Jail and hope to have it published for sale in the gift shop this year.

ELECTRIC CHAIR TO BE FEATURED IN LOCAL PRODUCTION

The electric chair which we use for the Haunt will be featured in the play *A Lesson Before Dying*, which will be presented by the Bridge Players Theatre Company next month. PMA members will receive a \$2 discount on tickets. See the ad for the play in this issue. Don't miss it!

THIS 'N THAT

The Battle of Iron Works Hill went off without a hitch, despite the fact that the weather was almost as cold as it was when the actual battle took place. And that means COLD. (Remember the picture of George Washington crossing the Delaware, with all the ice?) Despite all the politicians promising us change this year, the British won yet again... Thanks go to Dave Kimball, who did the research this month for the attached articles... It is interesting to note that in 1851, the manure was apparently *outside* the courthouse...

Museum Hours: Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday noon to 4 p.m.
(No admission after 3:30 p.m.)

Admission Fee: \$4 for adults, \$2 for students and seniors over age 55, and free for children under age 5. The tour is self guided. Guided tours and groups rates are also available. Call for further information.



The Haunt 2008



Iron Works Hill Reenactment, December 13, 2008



Bridge Players Theatre Company proudly presents

A Lesson Before Dying

by Romulus Linney
Based on the novel by Ernest Gaines

Directed by Pat Marotta
Produced by Debbie Focarile

A Lesson Before Dying is set in the fictional city of Bayonne, Louisiana in the late 1940s. An engrossing and gripping drama which chronicles the transformation of a young African-American man unjustly accused of murder.

February 6, 7, 13, 14, *20, 21 – 8PM

February *8 & 15 – 3PM

**Broad Street Methodist Church
36 E. Broad Street
Burlington, New Jersey**

Ticket price \$15

An optional Dinner/Theater package is also available for \$45, which includes dinner at the acclaimed Café Gallery restaurant in Burlington.

May not be suitable for younger audiences.

**For tickets or more information please call (856) 303-7620
or visit: www.bridgeplayerstheatre.com**



* The performances on February 8th & 20th will be shadow-interpreted.
Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs) will be available upon request on February 6th, 7th, 8th, 20th & 21st.
Persons in need of special accommodations are requested to give two weeks advance notification.



Funding is made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts from a grant to the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Department of Resource Conservation, Division of Cultural Affairs & Tourism.

PRISON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION MEMBERS
2008

Richard E. Andronici, Esquire	Dr. Betty Hicken	Dr. Robin Plumer
Timothey Annin, Esquire	Laura Hicken	Joe Poplawski
Jeffrey Apell, Esquire	Hon. Michael Hogan	Lisa Post
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F.O.P. Lodge 166	Mt. Holly Historical Society	Dr. Paul Vernon
Peggy Francis	Stephen J. Mushinski, Esquire *	Kevin Walker, Esquire
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Kristen & Natalie Freeman	Paul O'Brien	Robert P. Weishoff, Esquire
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David Hasson of Terra Assoc.	Drew Parker, Esquire	
Nanci Henrich	Parker, Young & Antinoff	
Robert Hicken, Esquire	Lynn Pitts & Joe Smith	
	Carol & Art Plumer	

* ParkerMcCay Attorneys

MINUTES OF THE BURLINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSSEN FREEHOLDERS

February 18, 1850. On motion, resolved that the inspectors of the prison be required to cause the Court House lot to be planted with ornamental and shade trees and erect suitable protection for same.

And that they be required to keep all horses, cows, sheep and swine out of such lot except it be at the time of the Annual exhibition of the Burlington County Agricultural Society.

And further, that the resident inspectors use all proper means to prevent as far as possible the use of said lot by the Boys of the town as a play ground.

May 8, 1851. Resolved, that the inspectors of the prison be authorized to cause the County lot back of the jail to be dressed with manure the coming fall and sowed with grass and keep the same unplowed until ordered by this Board.

And also that they be authorized to cause the lot back of the Court House to be manured with sheep manure during the present season.

May 12, 1856. Ordered, on motion, that the Bill of Dr. Samuel Woolston for analyzing the Stomach of a Horse be dismissed.

November 11, 1896. The Committee appointed at last meeting to investigate the injuries received by a Mule belonging to William Gardiner of Medford by breaking through a Bridge on Stone Road reported that the claim of \$100 was just. It was on motion ordered paid.

August 15, 1867. A letter from Dr. Rogers with accompanying papers was read by the Clerk returning the \$50 check voted him by the Board at a former meeting and insisting on his original charge of \$200, for the chemical analysis of the stomach of Bridget Forbes. Dr. Rogers presented no claim against the County as he would rather lose money than have his bill treated with the contempt that has been the custom. He thought medical examinations necessary, not only

that Criminals be brought to justice but that suspected persons may not be unjustly held.

Drs. Gauntt, Melcher and Parsons, a Committee from the Burlington County Medical Society, presented the following fee bill for Services hereafter rendered the County, by order of the proper Authorization:

Viewing Body	\$ 5.00
Post Mortem - head	\$15.00
Post Mortem - thorax	\$15.00
Post Mortem - abdomen	\$10.00
Post Mortem - all three	\$30.00

Contagious and exhumed cases within the ten days after death fifty percent more. Each consultant shall be entitled to a like fee.

September 2, 1908. A communication from the Board of Health of the State of New Jersey that prior to the 1st day of May, 1909, the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Burlington must cease to pollute the waters of Rancocas Creek at Poor Farm at New Lisbon and make such other disposition of their Sewage as shall be approved by the Board of Health was referred to the Almshouse Committee.

January 1, 1909. A communication from County Detective Parker asking the Board make appropriations to buy gasoline, grease, etc. for his automobile when it was being used to do County work was referred to the Finance Committee, who recommend that the repairs, gasoline, grease, etc. shall not exceed the sum of \$200 - which was approved. The committee, stating in defense of the recommendation, that the taxpayers would be benefited if considerable of the Sheriff's work could be done by the use of this machine as was suggested by Detective Parker.

BURLINGTON MIRROR, MT. HOLLY
Advertisements

A. SHIRAS, Dentist Respectfully informs his friends and the public in general that he has recommenced the practice of his profession; and that any thing in the line thereof, will be attended to with pleasure. At his STORE will be found a general assortment of DRY GOODS – GROCERIES, CROCKERY, etc. which will be disposed of on the most liberal terms. *Mt. Holly, October 7, 1818*

Taunton Furnace
STOVES
For sale

Next door to George Haywood's Store;
In Mount Holly.
November 4, 1818

SIX CENTS REWARD

Ran away from the subscriber, living in Evesham, on the 25th of October, an Apprentice Boy, named John Reilly - about 13 years of age, 4 feet 2 or 3 inches high: had on when he went away a wool hat, a pair of linen trousers, woolen roundabout, a dark waistcoat, and a pair of thick shoes; of a bold countenance and guilty both of lying and stealing. I forewarn all persons harboring said apprentice at their peril.

The above Reward will be given for apprehending said apprentice and delivering him to his master- but no charges paid.

James Mason
Evesham, Oct. 25, 1818

FATAL QUARREL

A Coroners inquest was held over the body of Luke Owen, (a colored man) on the 19th instant. The Jury decided "that the repeated blows given him by Richard Denby [a colored man] in a affray near Lumberton, on the 14t inst., occasioned his death." Denby has not yet been taken. *November 23, 1818*