

PRISON MUSEUM POST

Official Newsletter of the Historic Burlington County Prison Museum Association

Volume VII, Issue I

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MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY!

Its time to renew your membership to our fine organization! Members receive four or five great newsletters per year. Each newsletter includes excerpts from old local newspapers. Members are also entitled to free admission to the Museum and a 10% discount in the gift shop. They also get the satisfaction of knowing that they are helping to preserve and promote a fantastic piece of local - and national - history. All for just \$10 a year!

Enclosed are two application forms. We ask that each member recruit one new member. Anyone who wants an application form need only call us at the numbers shown below.

PARANORMAL AND GHOST HUNTERS NEWS

We are told that the Ghost Hunters episode featuring the Prison Museum will air on Wednesday, March 5 on the SciFi Channel. Needless to say, we are anxiously awaiting our debut! We have received numerous inquiries about show. Our website receives an ever increasing number of hits. We believe that the show will put us on the map like nothing else. Keep your eyes peeled on your televisions and your fingers crossed...

Paranormal groups continue to flock to the Prison to conduct paranormal investigations. We have already had four or five groups this year. We believe that the increased interest is due in large part to the Ghost Hunters.

Historic Burlington County Prison Museum Association ("PMA")

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Attendant: Marisa Bozarth
Chief Volunteer: 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.

IRON WORKS A SUCCESS

The Battle of Iron Works Hill was reenacted on December 8, 2007. The PMA served refreshments to the actors and attendees in the Warden's Office. Everyone had a splendid time. The vibrations from the canon blast did not break any of our windows this year, which was a plus. The British won again.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS

The Board of Trustees met on February 9, 2008 and discussed several items. It was agreed that the **Haunted Event** should be held again in the Fall of 2008. The Board will contact the Freeholders shortly for permission.

The PMA is also going to attempt to coordinate **tours of historic sites** in Mount Holly for our county's fourth graders on a Saturday in May to coincide with **Law Day**. In the past, county schools traditionally had field trips to these sites for fourth graders. The schools have not had these trips in the last two years, however, citing a lack of funding. Anyone interested in helping with this event should contact Jail Attendant Marisa Bozarth at the numbers which appear on Page 1.

The Board also discussed the **preservation of the Association's History**. While the PMA is primarily concerned with preserving the history of the Prison, it has lost much of its *own* history. The PMA has newspaper clippings going back to the time it was formed in the 1960s. These clippings are getting old and tattered and will be lost if not preserved. The Board plans to enlist high school students to photocopy the clippings and organize them chronologically. This and other sources will then be used to document a history of the organization.

MOUNT HOLLY HERALD

August 7, 1897

State News. The possession of four pet robins, to which they were greatly attached, caused the arrest last week of Mattie Parden and Francesca Oclepo, of Passaic, and what was particularly hard for the girls was that they were fined \$20 each and costs, amounting in all to \$87.25. Though they gave the birds the best of care with plenty of food and the luxury of frequent baths, the little owners of the robins were charged with cruelty. In some way Vice President Vanderhoven, of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, heard that the birds were being kept in captivity. He swore out a warrant against the girls and Policeman Flynn was sent to make the arrests. The birds and cages were seized and the frightened girls were taken before Justice White. There they admitted that the robins were theirs, but tearfully declared that they had never been unkind to them. The birds, as they sat on their perches in the courtroom, seemed as sad as their owners, and did not volunteer to sing a note to soften the heart of the stern justice. After hearing the testimony, Justice White inflicted the full penalty of the law.

Local Affairs. Residents in the lower part of the first ward of Mount Holly have of late been annoyed by drunken men, who, after spending their money for drink, appeal to them for food, and failing to get it use some very abusive language... On Monday, Thomas Jordan, in the presence of a number of inquiring friends, took the pledge for a year. If he keeps it, he will receive a new suit of clothes, but at the fall from grace he goes to jail for 90 days... Charged with shooting Robert Anderson's cat, Morris Gaines was arrested on Monday and given a hearing by Justice Laumaster. Morris said he shot the cat because it had been stealing his chickens. He was fined \$1 and costs... Philip Haines, of Garden Street, has two great-grandchildren. One is the son of George Danz, of Springfield, and the other is the son of Oscar Sharp, of Gibbsboro. Danz's boy, John, Jr., has two great-grandmothers, two grandfathers, two great-grandfathers and two great-grandmothers, and all of them are living... One of the most ambitious men in these parts is William H. English, better known as "Murphy", who is employed by J. J. Fenstermacher at Hainesport. He gets up at daylight, feeds the horse and chickens, and then walks to Mount Holly, where he does chores and walks back, takes care of the horse and breakfast before 7 o'clock. This he does without fail in good or bad weather, besides doing a full day's work... The speakeasy business is still flourishing in the neighborhood of Ong's Hat, and crowds can be seen wending their way in that direction every Sunday. The proprietor argues that his place is up in the woods out of the way, and the folks who come for their liquor do not annoy anyone... A gay place was Brindle Park last Saturday. There were picnic parties there from Cream Ridge, Columbus and Wrightstown. Cream Ridge is famous for good looking girls, Columbus for desirable young men, and Wrightstown

for both, consequently there was nothing lacking to make the occasion an enjoyable one. The music for the dancing was furnished by Ellis H. Parker, and it was nearly midnight when he hung up the fiddle and the bow. There was a heavy shower during which considerable hail fell in the afternoon.

Browns Mills. A colored camp meeting is now being held here by Reverend Peter Wilson and Reverend John Fisher. They have a full choir and are attracting large crowds. Reverend Wilson was formerly a horse dealer, and he has a very clear way of dealing with sinners... The danger signal has been posted on the bridge recently built here, and it will probably have to be rebuilt. This sort of work should not be tolerated. The county pays out enough money for bridges and they should be built in such a way that there will be no danger of their collapsing before the nailheads begin to rust.

Pemberton. When Charles Newell went out to round up his cow on Saturday night he was unable to find the animal, but later on found it dead. It had gotten into a neighboring corn field and death was due to overfeeding... The mysterious quartette of ballot markers had a meeting at the home of the Boss on Sunday night in order to fix up the slate on the quiet, but one of them afterwards inadvertently gave the thing away. It is supposed that they discussed the advisability of straightening the kinks out of the tax duplicate in order to properly dispose of that item of \$200,000 that dropped out of sight.

Burlington. It is said that "Bud" O'Neill is preparing to enter the matrimonial arena under the direction of Daniel Finegan. The latter is not a married man himself, but he has a good many married friends from whom he has picked up a good deal of information. O'Neill has already taken one of the degrees, but says he is not altogether pleased with it... The funeral of William Heilman took place on Sunday from his late residence on Pearl Street. The pallbearers were: Charles Hammell and William Birkmire, representing the Post Office Department; Charles Thompson and William Smith, of the Hope Fire Company; George Whomsley and Jacob Applegate, of the Burlington Lodge; Frank Stockton and G.W. Jones, Knights of Pythias. Interment was made in Odd Fellows Cemetery. The burial right of the lodges was said at the grave after the burial service of the church was concluded... Mr. and Mrs. John Newman, of Philadelphia, on Saturday night were visiting Mrs. Kalaskey, who is Mrs. Newman's sister, when their child died from cholera infantum. The half-frantic mother took the baby in her arms and started for the Philadelphia train. She was stopped by the authorities, who told her that she must first procure a certificate of death. This was only the work of a few minutes, and the woman was then allowed to proceed. The passengers on the train did not suspect that it was a dead body the woman clasped so tenderly.

Jobstown. Jacob Lorillard, Jr., has been disinherited by his mother, Frances U. Lorillard, who died a year ago in New York. Her Will, executed on July 1, 1896, a month before she died, was filed for probate on Saturday. The value of her estate, as given by the petition, is \$45,000. A clause in the Will is as follows: "Whereas my son Jacob has disgraced me, I hereby disinherit him from any part of my estate." Jacob had been estranged from the family for several years, owing, it is said, to the fact that he married a woman who was considered to be much below his station in life. This marriage occurred in Florida about four years ago, without the knowledge of any of the other members of the family. It was very distasteful to his mother, who had hoped that there was a bright social future in store for her son. She never forgave him. The young man, since his marriage, had seldom been in New York, and his means have been limited. He has, however, been engaged by his Uncle, Pierre Lorillard, on several occasions in the performances of various duties for him, but recently he was given notice to quit, so he left Jobstown and is now living near Moorestown.

Moorestown. About 3 o'clock Sunday morning, Mrs. Christiana French attained the age of 103 years. During the day her descendants gathered at her home and held a family reunion, and many friends and neighbors called and paid their compliments to the venerable old lady. The fact of her anniversary falling on Sunday was the only thing that prevented a public demonstration by the citizens. Mrs. French rose bright and early, and though the fatigues of such an exciting day were calculated to weary the most robust system, she was ready to thoroughly enjoy visitations of friends even after nightfall. Mrs. French was born August 1, 1794, and was the youngest of six children born to Hannah and Samuel Slim, early settlers in this locality. She has eight grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren, the eldest being 19 years and the youngest 1 year. Mrs. French's health continues excellent and she retains her faculties to a surprising degree. Her eyesight is fairly good and she enjoys at all times a good appetite...The meeting on Tuesday night to consider the plan for the improvement of Main Street was well attended. Road Commissioner Henry I. Budd was present, as was also Director Horner, of the Board of Freeholders. The Road Committee reported that the section of the road to be improved had been purchased by the Turnpike Company for \$2,500. Commissioner Budd was strongly in favor of a macadam road, but the majority of those present could not agree on any particular plan, so a committee consisting of Dr. Joseph Stokes, George Brock, Henry Moore, Joseph Sullivan and Samuel Allen were appointed to inquire into the various methods of road building and report at an adjourned meeting.

Columbus. Nothing has been learned of the whereabouts of James Marlin, who recently robbed Ellis Adams's house. Marlin is said to be an old offender, and while

here he boasted that no one could ever catch him if he made up his mind to get away...Word has been received from William Dubell, who is in the Klondike Gold region, and he reports that the stories published about the discovery of gold there have not been exaggerated in the least. Provisions of all kinds are high and he has already made \$1,100 from the sale of eggs... Some folks were too fresh about condemning the new stone road. This is the opinion of Freeholder David Sharp, who says the road is being properly built and has already met with the approval of Road Superintendent Henry Budd. The taxpayers will be glad to hear this. They are paying for a good road and that is what they propose to have... Some time ago Charles Horner bought a team of black horses from A.K. Dubell for which he gave a note in payment. Before the note matured Horner claimed there was something the matter with one of the horses, so he took the team back and left it at Dubell's stables. Mr. Dubell found the horses were all right, so he took care of them and fed them. Finally the note fell due, and Horner was notified to pay it, which he finally did, whereupon Mr. Dubell sent the horses back to him. On Monday, Horner brought the horses back to Mr. Dubell, who refused to accept them, and they were then turned loose in the street. The incident created considerable talk around town for awhile. The probability is that Mr. Horner will eventually take the team home.

Juliustown. Bert West and two others bagged thirty plovers on Monday. Most of the birds were in very good condition for so early in the season...The Juliustown baseball team succeeded in winning both games at Browns Mills on Thursday last, defeating the Magnolia in the morning by a score of 13 to 2, and in the afternoon the Cookstown team by a score 6 to 2. The Cookstown boys did not score until the 9th inning, when with two men out and two on bases, they succeeded in scoring two runs. Hann, who pitched for Juliustown, struck out 13 men in each game. The Juliustown boys batted Lippincott out of the box in the morning game, and Scull, who took his place, was batted hard.

Marlton. A farm hand in the employ of Harvey Shivers walked off with the latter's gold watch on Sunday, and thus far has not been recaptured. He was traced as far as Mount Holly, but there the trail was lost. The watch had Mr. Shivers' name engraved on the case, which will make it an easy matter to identify it...A runaway horse belonging to Harvey Rockhill was captured last Thursday night, by Clarence Lippincott, who followed the horse on his bicycle for about a mile out of town and when he came up with the animal he jumped off his wheel, seized the horse by his bridle and brought him to a standstill...A meeting of the citizens interested in the new water company was held on Monday evening, when an opportunity was given everyone to subscribed to the stock. This is not intended to be a close corporation and no one needs stay away who desires to come in. It is for the general benefit of the town, not a money-making scheme.

BUDDING ARTIST PHOTOGRAPHS JAIL

Pemberton resident and Art Institute of Philadelphia student Jessica Harp has taken wonderful black and white photographs of the Prison for a class project. Jessica is one talented young lady and has a bright future as a photographer. The photos are available for viewing in the gift shop.

MILLS PLANS UPDATE

The Mount Holly Library has sold Robert Mills' original plans of the Prison to the Athenaeum of Philadelphia. The Athenaeum has agreed to provide the PMA with museum quality digital copies. Once they are received, a committee will be formed to investigate reproducing them for sale in the gift shop.

THIS 'N THAT

We discovered a few mice in the PMA office this month and dispatched our ever faithful chief volunteer, Ron Reed, to deal with the situation. Without getting into all the grisly particulars, suffice it to say that two mice have met their maker. Since the deceased expired in our office, we are exploring the possibility of a Mouse Ghost Hunt....

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.

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