

HISTORIC BURLINGTON COUNTY PRISON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 483
Mount Holly, New Jersey 08060
PMA Office Telephone and Telefax: 609-518-7667
Museum/Gift Shop Telephone: 609-265-5476
E-MAIL: pma1811@verizon.net

Janet L. Sozio, Esquire, President
David Kimball, Vice-President
Judith King, Secretary
Susan R. Dargay, Esquire, Treasurer

Trustees:
Michael Bright
Carole Melman
Gary F. Woodend, Esquire

February 21, 2007

Dear Members and Other Friends:

It is again that time of year when we ask that you renew your membership to our fine and unique organization. If you are not already a member, please consider joining our worthy cause. For a mere \$10, you get free admission to the museum, a 10% discount in our gift shop, a quarterly newsletter and the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to preserve our local history. The newsletters include excerpts from old local newspapers which are quite entertaining, if I do say so myself.

The big news this year is that the Freeholders have put the Warden's House into the care of the Parks Department, and so we have the use of the whole building. This caused a great deal of joyful excitement for many reasons. First of all, without the use of the entire space, it would be nearly impossible for us to operate the Haunted Event, which has become quite extensive. The event attracted 3500 people last year; we would have had more than 4000 had the weather not closed us down early one night. I think it is safe to say that the event is our most important promotional tool. It is of course also our largest income source.

We recently used some of the proceeds from the Haunted Event to clean and decorate the second floor of the Warden's House. We purchased supplies and small furnishings. We also gathered, cleaned and refurbished our eclectic collection of historic treasures, including items unearthed from the exercise yard during the renovation and donated to us over the years. Board member Michael Bright provided research for one of our artifacts, a WWI jacket. (I *told* you our collection was eclectic.) The items are now on display in a section of the second floor office. This little museum "annex" can best be described as quaint and quirky, and has completely delighted those who have seen it thus far. We would like to allow public access to it, but to do so we need volunteers to man the area. Please call us to let us know if you would be willing to volunteer a couple of hours per month for this purpose. The rest of the second floor is now a clean, comfortable and inviting office where we can conduct meetings, business and research. Our office also now has a copier which collates and copies on both sides, thanks to a donation by PMA member Richard Andronici. We thank Richard for his generosity.

We are in the process of creating a DVD of our graffiti to show in our annex. PMA board member Carole Melman has graciously accepted this mission, which she will complete once she has recovered from a broken foot and ankle. We all wish our comrade a speedy and complete recovery.

Carole is also chairing our Haunted Steering Committee, which will seek permission from the Freeholders to hold the event again in 2007. We will keep you advised of further developments.

Our December event, featuring John Reisinger, author of *Master Detective, the Life and Crimes of Ellis Parker, America's Real-Life Sherlock Holmes*, was a total success. Mr. Reisinger gave a fascinating presentation to a standing-room-only crowd in the Olde Courthouse. Attendees also enjoyed a tour of the Courthouse by Burlington County Court Administrator and PMA member Jude del Preore and his staff. Jude's presentation was extraordinary. As a lawyer, I was touched by the reverence which those in attendance showed our grand historic legal landmark. You could hear a pin drop during Jude's lecture. After the presentations in the Courthouse, everyone enjoyed the reenactment of the Battle of Iron Works Hill, complete with cannon blasts.

We hope to have at least one event this summer, perhaps a movie in the exercise yard. A party is also planned for Haunt volunteers. Further notices will be sent.

The articles are pretty wild this time. We have cows shooting each other and judges falling through barbershop windows. If you believe the story about the hoptoads, I have a bridge I'd like to sell you. I wonder if the "herb doctor" in Burlington who cured poor Cunningham was Peter Still, grandson of the famous African American Medford doctor. Peter Still practiced medicine in Burlington at that time, and was known for using herbal treatments, as did his grandfather. And don't you love the phrase "odor of boodle"?

Interestingly, it turns out that 1897, the year of our excerpts, was a pivotal time, according to American University professor W. Joseph Campbell. In his book, *The Year That Defined American Journalism*, he notes that "No other year...has produced more memorable and singularly important moments" in American journalism. This was the year that the most famous motto in journalism, "All the News That's Fit to Print" was moved to a permanent spot adjacent to the New York Times nameplate. The best-loved, most-beloved editorial, "Is There A Santa Claus?" was published in the New York Sun.

Campbell also notes that three rival visions for the future of journalism emerged that year. The first vision, that of William Randolph Hearst, was that journalism should be activist and change the status quo. The second, that of The New York Times, was that journalism should be detached and objective. The third, developed by the New York Commercial Advertiser, was an eccentric experiment in literary journalism; news reporting as entertainment. The Times' model of detached, impartial newsgathering won out and remains the standard for mainstream American journalism. Things appear to be changing, though, in this era of online journalism, blogs, podcasting, HDTV, and round the clock cable "news". It looks like our ancestors at the Mount Holly Herald, with their wild stories and colorful language, might have been way ahead of their time.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet L. Sozio". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "J" and a cursive "S".

JANET L. SOZIO

PRISON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
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MOUNT HOLLY HERALD

July 24, 1897

Local Affairs - For threatening to put Bernard Quinn "on the lodge," William Edmunds was arrested on Monday and held to bail by Justice Slack.... Prosecutor E. P. Budd has arranged to be at his office in Mount Holly every Monday and Friday from now until the first of September. This is official.... If a proper effort was made, the free delivery system could be inaugurated at the Mount Holly Post Office. This is the opinion of one who is supposed to know.... 36 turkeys were destroyed by dogs on the farm of William I. Tomlinson in Eastampton recently. The damage has been appraised and the Township will have to pay the bill.... Leonard Cohee, of Charleston, while stropping his razor, ripped the end off a finger. Then he fainted, fell against a stove, cut his jaw badly and knocked out two teeth... Those who travel early in the mornings along the Hainesport-Stone Road have seen large numbers of young rabbits between Nack's Lane and Clough's Hollow. Many have also been seen on both the upper and lower part of Wood Lane... A homemade hammock constructed of heavy wire and barrel staves, has been swung between two large birch trees along the creek near the power house of the electric railroad, and it seems to be just the thing for tired men to lounge upon.... On the farm of Martin L. Haines, between Mount Holly and Vincentown, the wheat crop this season will be the largest known for years, aggregating fully 1,500 bushels, an average of 30 bushels to the acre. The farm is conducted by Howard Haines, and he evidently knows how to do it... Quite a change has taken place at Love's Grove between Hainesport and Lumberton. Manager John J. Fenstrmacher has determined that the young people shall have a place to enjoy themselves and has cleared roads, laid a spacious dance floor, set up a refreshment stand with benches and tables surrounding it and, also, cleared a place for wagons, and has roped off a large space where bicycles may be checked and safely cared for. On Saturday night the first dance took place and was largely attended. The grove will be used for Sunday School and other picnics.... A second ward couple somewhat advanced in years have a pretty daughter who has been receiving the attentions of a young man for many moons. The other evening the young man called as usual, and he and the girl occupied the parlor while the old folks sat out on the porch trying to keep cool. After awhile things became very quiet in the parlor, whereupon the old lady significantly remarked, "It seems rather quiet in there." "Yes," replied her husband, "When I was soldiering down on the Potomac I noticed that it was always quiet just before an engagement." The young man took the hint and his engagement may be announced very shortly... A singular incident occurred on Monday on the farm occupied by a German, living opposite William Eckert's place at Flourtown just south of Masonville. The man had gone down in the fields to hoe some sweet potatoes and took his gun along with the idea of shooting out the loads. He placed the weapon against the fence and proceeded to cultivate his crop. In the adjoining field were two cows. One of them stuck its head through the fence to secure a stalk of corn. In so doing the stalk was drawn against the hammer of the gun, which was discharged, the load striking the other cow in the jaw. The injured animal was removed to the barn where the shot was picked out of its jaw and the wound dressed. It is now nearly as well as ever.

Sporting Notes - The opening day at the Columbus driving park last Thursday proved to be a very successful one, and there was a good crowd in attendance. The track was in pretty good shape, as were the horses, and the finishes were close enough to arouse considerable enthusiasm. The judges were: D. W. Ridgway, D. Ford and ex-Sheriff C. H. Shinn. No time was announced in any of the races. In the three minute class, Elwood Mount's horse ran away in the second heat, and was afterwards withdrawn....E. S. Troth makes an excellent umpire. He gives the visiting teams the decision whenever they are entitled to it.... The Cuban Giants will play at Mount Holly on Friday, July 30th. This will be worth going to see. The Mount Holly Club will put up a better game than they did before when the Giants were here.... Many of the ladies in the grandstand were annoyed on Saturday at the actions of a citizen who had evidently been taking a post-graduate course in inebriety. He should have been ordered to vacate.... The Highland Club were rather too much for the Mount Holly baseball team on Saturday. Stecher pitched for the home team, and a fine mess he made of it. He gave five men their bases on balls and plunked four others in the ribs. For a star performer this is a trifle gay. The rest of the team played the game all right, but Stecher rather took the snap out of them. Jones scored a three-bagger that pleased the multitude. One of these days he will have to make a speech when the rooters call on him. The score was 7 to 4.

Political Notes - The battle for the Republican nomination for Senator in Burlington County goes merrily along. The principal contestants are the same as when it first begun. Assemblyman Borton continues in the lead. Senator Parry has not yet given up hope for success, and Colonel Haines' name is still on the list. A prominent Republican leader, in describing the situation recently, said: "If the convention was held tomorrow, "Josh" Borton would be nominated without much trouble. While Senator Parry is making quite a canvas, yet it is apparent that he is far behind Mr. Borton. Colonel Haines is not exerting himself to any marked extent. The politicians are with Mr. Borton, and that fact in itself is worth half of the battle.".... The Republican convention to be held on Saturday to revise the rules will probably be free from the odor of boodle unless one of the candidates for Senator thinks it will be to his advantage to have the assembly nominees named at a separate convention in which event an effort will be made to have the rules so amended. All efforts cost something. Political efforts generally cost money. This being the case some of the delegates may manage to snake in something over their car fare.

Town Topics - No new cases of diphtheria have been reported this week, and it is to be hoped the disease has been stamped out.... In accordance with the orders of the Board of Health, every precaution has been taken to prevent the disease spreading. A citizen commenting on the outbreak said it was noticed that in nearly every instance where the disease occurred, the house occupied by the patient was not connected with the sewer...The traveling salesmen who are coming and going all the time say business seems to be better everywhere with the exception of Mount Holly. This is to a certain extent true, but Mount Holly will also begin to improve before long. It has many natural advantages and there is no reason why it should not share in the general improvement. Let everyone do his share to help the town along. Instead of saying that it is dead and that there is no enterprise here, speak a good word for it. It has been prosperous in the past and will be again if it is given half a chance. Because an individual has been unsuccessful for a period, it does not follow

that he is incapable of achieving success. But if all his neighbors and acquaintances make it a point to hound him down and belittle his efforts he will have a hard struggle to regain his lost ground. A little encouragement is helpful to a town as well as to an individual, and a businessman cannot sell his goods by telling his customers they are worth buying.

Vincentown - Captain Martin L. Haines is building a dwelling house on his cranberry bog near Goose Pond. Thomas Waters is the master mechanic, but Captain Haines and his son Bert are doing a large part of the work of construction.... The most distinguished looking citizen on the street on Sunday was conductor Byron Grigg, whose manly form was set off to advantage by a pair of white pantalettes. It is unnecessary to remark that he was the observed of all observers. The report that a permit to wear this garment was obtained from the township committee is denied.... While sawing off a board the other day, Captain Martin L. Haines sliced off the end of his little finger. The Captain has a prospect of a large crop of cranberries this year.

Jobstown - The trouble that has been brewing in the public school at Upper Springfield has caused no end of ill feelings. The teacher, Miss Patterson, was a general favorite with the scholars, but for some reason Samuel Fort, one of the trustees, took a dislike to her and finally gave her notice to retire after which he secured another teacher. The taxpayers living in the district signed a petition for the retention of Miss Patterson, but no attention was paid to it, and she has arranged to take charge of the school at Browns Mills... A lively fight occurred here this week between a raccoon and three dogs. The coons have been killing James Barry's chickens, and he killed two of them in the act. The third one was caught in a trap. It was a pretty lively animal in full of fight. James tied it fast in the stall, but it got away and took refuge in a hole under the floor. Howard Cook's two dogs were sent for and for half an hour tried to dislodge the coon, but it made a game fight and scarred both dogs up pretty well. Finally Barry's own dog, "Spotty Boy", appeared on the scene. He had not much for looks, but there is plenty of action about him and in less time than it takes to tell it he had the coon by the hind leg and yanked him to the surface, where he was soon disposed of. Cook's dogs were so badly cut up that they have since retired from the turf.

Pemberton - Coroner Grobler has returned from a fishing excursion at Tuckerton, and distributed a number of fish around town. This is construed to mean that he will be a candidate for Sheriff next time. One or two fishing trips of this sort will put him in the front rank for that office.... The sidewalk recently constructed on the edge of the borough has almost entirely disappeared from view. And no wonder. It was made up of sand and decayed railroad ties, and, like the Biblical house that was built on the sand, it collapsed when the wind and rain struck it. As usual in such cases the taxpayer will have two bills to pay instead of one. If the walk had been properly built at first this extra expense could have been avoided.

Palmyra - On Tuesday last, Laura Starn was badly burned by the explosion of gasoline. The gasoline stove has been very much in evidence here lately, and the impression is gaining ground that they are a dangerous thing to have in a house... William Slocum, an aged and respected resident of the town, was a bit late when he started for the

train to take him to Philadelphia, on Wednesday morning. He was hurrying along the track toward the station. He failed to notice an eastbound train and was struck by the engine. He had two ribs broken and a bad gash in his head, but may recover.

Moorestown - The dispute between Lizzie Kelley and William Sexton as to whether the proposal of marriage was made by William, or whether Lizzie popped question herself, will not be aired in court after all. Through the intervention of mutual friends, both parties to the action had a conference at which it was decided to settle the case without further publicity, so William paid a reasonable amount and got a receipt in full....While in Mount Holly the other day, 'Squire Pettit sat down to rest himself in front of a barber shop, and in order to be more comfortable tilted his chair back. The weight was too much for the chair, the legs of which gave way and the 'Squire went through the window with a crash that aroused the neighborhood. He was removed from his uncomfortable position by sympathetic bystanders, who picked the broken glass from his whiskers and offered to go his bail, but it was not necessary, as he said he was perfectly willing to pay for the damage. The shock, however, was a severe one. His Honor is a heavy man and his nervous system was pretty well jarred by the incident.... John Cunningham, who works for George Brock, has been in failing health for some time and became very emaciated. He imagined he could feel things crawling in his stomach, and finally became convinced that there was something wrong, as every time he started out for a walk his interior felt like an animated aquarium. After a rain he felt an irresistible desire to get down in the grass and hop around after flies. Finally he could stand it no longer and took a journey to Burlington to consult a famous herb doctor there. The latter gave him some medicine that worked like a charm. A short time after taking it Cunningham was relieved of 67 hoptoads varying in length from 1/2 to 1 inch. All of them were dead. He thinks he must have swallowed them while drinking at a spring. Since he unloaded them his health has rapidly improved.

Burlington - On Saturday afternoon Mrs. Frederick Brown caught her foot in a rent in her skirt and was thrown violently to the sidewalk, dislocating her shoulder...On Sunday, Mason Brower was held up by Justice Baker on the charge of abusing Al Jobes at the Merchant's picnic. Brower had to hunt up \$7.75 to pay the fine...In order to silence the reports that he has been selling liquor on Sundays, William Atkinson has offered to donate \$25 to the old ladies' home if the reports can be verified....On Tuesday, George Scott was arrested and committed to the County Jail for having brutally assaulted Anna Dorsey, who keeps a lodging house on Delaware Avenue. Scott boarded with her, and when she demanded that he pay for his room rent he knocked her down and nearly choked her to death.... Circuit Court Justice R. T. Miller, of Camden, heard testimony on Monday as Master in Chancery in the case of Archer v. McNeal. The case is the one in Chancery for an accounting between Benjamin Archer, of Camden, and Andrew McNeal, of Burlington, who were over 14 years ago joint owners of what are now known as the McNeal Ironworks. The case has become famous owing to the fact that while it has been pending 14 years, three of the counsel who have had it have been compelled to drop it to accept promotions to the bench. The lawyers who have thus been compelled to leave the case are Judge Miller, who was first counsel; ex-Judge Hugg, who was appointed Law Judge of Camden County while counsel for Archer, and Vice-Chancellor Martin P. Gray.