

HISTORIC BURLINGTON COUNTY PRISON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

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Marybeth F. Baron, Esquire
Carole Melman
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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
MEETING - SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2006 at 10 a.m.**

March 10, 2006

Dear PMA Members and Other Friends:

Its that time of year again. Please renew your membership. For those of you who are not members, please consider joining our worthy cause. Membership is an extraordinary bargain at just \$10 per year. You get a 10% discount in our nifty gift shop and a quarterly newsletter which I believe is unique if I do say so myself. Please fill out the enclosed application and return it with your cheque in the envelope provided.

"Cheque"?!! Well, I'm being very British because I'm on my way to England for a vacation. Of course I plan to visit the Tower of London. I'm bringing some material on our Jail to give to the guides there.

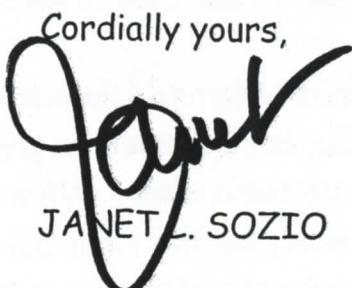
A new member is about to join our ranks - a very little member. Our jail attendant, Marisa, is scheduled to give birth to her soon. Marisa will be out on maternity leave for a while. We wish Marisa, her husband, Tim, and the baby well. She won't be the first baby in our jail. As many of you know, in days past female inmates often brought their infants with them during their incarceration. It was sort of a necessity in days before baby bottles and DYFS placements.

Our major area of concern this year will be the Robert Mills plans. They were put on the back burner last year, when we were so involved in the haunted event. I hope that someone from the County Solicitor's office will be able to report to us as to the status of the plans at our June meeting. The meeting will be held on Saturday, June 17 at 10 a.m. Weather permitting, we'll meet in the exercise yard. As always, business will be kept to a minimum, and coffee and donuts will be served.

The newspaper articles seemed "dark" to me this time. Economic times were bad, and there was a lot of theft. No matter how bad the times, however, men always found time to go fishin'. During fishing season, there's mention every week of what fish were caught by whom and in what cricks and streams. The Reverend Hare who married the couple in Rancocas had to be the same parson who comforted Wesley Warner before his execution a year earlier. Wouldn't you love to know what services Nellie Badminton performed for which she apparently had not been paid? Who the heck were the Kickapoo Indians and what where they doing in the Florence Town Hall? And I wonder what "doing the couchee couchee" might involve.

I was especially interested in the domestic violence case. I wonder how Mrs. Barnes, and other abused women in 1897, called the police. There were no phones. Did they just jump in their wagons and ride into town? And how do you like the Haines/Huston dispute. The reporter complained that people were too litigious, and would pay more to fight over something than what it was worth. Some things never change.

See you in June. Until then, I remain,

Cordially yours,

JANET L. SOZIO

**PRISON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
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Catharine B. Armstrong
Kathleen Aspell
Senator Martha Bark
Joan Boas
Attendant Marisa Bozarth
Michael Bright
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David Edwards
Thomas Faile
Freeholder Vince Farias
Hon. Dominick J. Ferrelli
Glen Filippone, Esquire
Edith Freeman
Kristen & Natalie Freeman
Kenneth H. Gilbert
Joyce Goldsmith
Florence Gomez
County Clerk Phil Haines
David Hasson
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MT. HOLLY HERALD 1897

April 3, 1897

Mt. Holly. Robert Haines, the mason, has been repairing ex-Sheriff G. F. Harbert's brick hotbeds on his new farm at Newbold's Corner... A Church Street woman takes a horseshoe to bed with her with hope that it will drive the rheumatism out of her feet. If the thing works that horseshoe will be worth something...Benjamin Dunn, of Browns Mills, has been granted an increase of pension. He is a survivor of the Mexican War, and is remarkably well preserved for his years...This week Jonty Barnes has been occupying one of the spare rooms at the jail. He went home badly specked on Monday night, tried to kick in the front door of his house and then wound up by abusing his family. For this he was given four days...While no one was looking, a dapper-built terrier walked into a Main Street butcher shop the other day, picked up a juicy porterhouse steak and trotted off home, where it made a full meal of it. Someone notified the butcher, who thereupon sent a bill for the amount to the owner of the dog. The amount was promptly paid, but the owner specified that no more meat should be delivered to the dog without a written order...A crowd of people assembled on the iron bridge on Washington Street on Thursday to witness a party of men in a boat capturing suckers. The water was fairly alive with them. It was the largest run of fish seen in the creek for some time... Captain Elton Smith has purchased the interest of his brother in the real and personal estate of H. B. Smith at Smithville, and is sole owner of the property. Captain Smith has already arranged to make a number of improvements to the property and hopes to have the shops running on full time before many months.

Pemberton. A good many people are wondering how it is the tax rate was so high in Pemberton last year, as a report shows the township has a surplus in the treasury of about \$10,000. As a rule it is not considered good business to shove the tax rate high enough to accumulate a surplus, which is nothing more or less than an incentive to extravagance. The boodle grabbers soon play havoc with a surplus when they find there is such a thing available.

Moorestown. The Moorestown and Camden Turnpike Company has agreed to sell the mile of pike through Moorestown to the citizens for \$2,500. The street is to be paved from curb to curb at an expense of about \$10,000.

Medford. A number of improvements have been made to the interior of the bank at Medford. This institution has been ably managed and is as solid as a rock, but unless some of our men show more enterprise the stockholders

will elect one or two women members of the Board of Directors. The stock is largely held by women, who know a good thing when they see it.

Rancocas. A gang of thieves made a raid on the town of Rancocas last Friday night, and though they got into several houses and turned things topsy turvy, they secured little bootie...Charles E. Shinn and Ms. Ada Mathis, both of Rancocas, were married at the home of the bride last Tuesday evening, by Reverend J. Madison Hare.

April 10, 1897

Mt. Holly. Harry Robertson had the first sturgeon of the season on sale on Thursday. The first shad of the season was caught in the Rancocas Creek near Bridgeboro on Monday...Charles Bennett, auctioneer, will sell nine shares of H. B. Smith Machine Company stock - par value \$100 per share - at public auction on Saturday, at Zelley's Hotel. Investors wanting stock in this company had better buy before business booms there...The only phosphorus works in the U.S. are located on the Rancocas Creek at Centerton, and this plant is to be shut down within a few days for an indefinite period, thereby throwing a number of employees out of work. The concern is owned by the Diamond Match Company, which is said to have entered into an arrangement with the English match syndicate to import from England hereafter all the phosphorus used in the various manufactories under its control. A few farmers in Westampton have not only got their plowing done, but have all their early corn planted...A social dance was given at William Sager's residence near Jobstown on Wednesday night. Music was furnished by Hoffman's Georgetown Orchestra and the lads and lasses from the country round about tripped it on the light fantastic toe...The recent prize fight between Fitzsimmons and Corbett has stirred up all the pugilistic blood of the young fellows in the upper end of the county. The sparrings of Jacobstown, Recklesstown, Georgetown, Wrightstown and Jobstown are all training and scarred faces and general soreness are frequently to be seen...On Friday night, Nellie Badminton, accompanied by Mrs. Frank Hurto and a colored man, went to W. R. Porter's farm to assist Nellie in collecting some wages alleged to be due her. The colored man tried to shoot Mr. Porter and also swung a razor at him, but the latter beat the fellow off and then gave Nellie a wack over the head with a lantern.

Vincentown. Never since the time when the kettle of snapper soup exploded in the camp woods has there been so much excitement as has been seen this week. The first event was the dispute between C. Henry Haines and J. S. Huston over the boundary line between their two properties. It seems that Haines had the water pipe laid to supply his house with liquid

refreshment, he buried a portion of the pipe on his neighbor's property, without so much as saying by your leave. This is also said to have been done during the latter's absence from home, which naturally had a tendency to stir up a feeling of unpleasantness, and the more it was discussed by the people who had no concern in it, the worse it appeared to both the parties in interest. The outsiders, who enjoy seeing a fight, kept stirring up the ill feeling, until finally it was determined to tear out the offending water pipe, root and branch. Mr. Huston was sick, and couldn't attend to it, so Mrs. Huston tried to secure some workmen to do the job for her, but none seemed to yearn for employment just then, as they probably realized that trouble would follow. But Mrs. Huston is a plucky woman, and does not believe in delaying matters that need attention, so she procured a shovel and went to work to dig out the pipe herself. Haines then started in to get satisfaction by bringing suit for damages against Mrs. Huston, which will probably be tried soon. Other suits may follow, as there seems to be plenty of material. Both parties seemed determined to have satisfaction, no matter how much it costs.

Burlington. Robert Stacy many years ago was a wealthy and honored resident of Burlington. He looked into the future and saw the necessity for increased facilities for educating the youth of the growing town. He owned considerable real estate, among which was Matinicunk Island, more familiarly known as Burlington Island. The proposed new bridge across the river will connect with this island. At his death, Robert Stacy bequeathed the island to "Burlington for the education of her youth." This all happened before the city of Burlington was incorporated. The Burlington township committee now claims that when Burlington was incorporated as a city, the phraseology of the charter was juggled in such a manner as to the island fund applicable "for the education of the youth of the city of Burlington". The township committee claims that this was not the intention of the donor and they will have the matter thoroughly investigated. They believe they will not have much difficulty in establishing their claim to a portion of the island fund to assist in the maintaining of the schools of the township. If the township committee succeeds, they will have the right to elect one or two representatives on the Board of Managers of the island fund.

Moorestown. Charles Stokes of Moorestown and his daughter are suffering from the whooping cough...John Albright of Moorestown, 14 years old, was Monday committed to the Jamesburg Reform School...Carlton Gardner has been awarded the contract to carry the mails between Moorestown and Mt. Laurel.

Pemberton. At the annual Pemberton town meeting the sum of \$1,000 was appropriated for the use of the poor, and the overseer of the poor insists that this amount should be turned over to him, as he has given a bond for the faithful performance of his duty, but the township committee don't see it that way. They think it is their duty to hand the money out in small dribs as it is needed.

Florence. Diphtheria is again a visitor in town...John Petty has purchased a bicycle...The river road is rapidly developing into an open air beer garden...The Kickapoo Indian Medicine Men have been occupying the town hall for two weeks are seemingly well patronized...A young lady gave a party recently, but by some miscarriage of notes, the girls failed to get theirs. In consequence of this fact there were 10 boys and two girls present at the party. We wish them better luck next time.

April 17, 1897

Mt. Holly. On Thursday last, the Board of Pardons released on parole Albert Applegate, of Burlington County, who was sentenced in November, 1895, to two years for indecent assault...The many friends of Joseph Haines, Jr., of Masonville, will regret to hear that he is suffering from softening of the brain, and that his mind is seriously affected. He will probably be removed to the asylum this week...On Tuesday evening policeman Dennis of Mt. Holly made his first arrest, and as luck would have it, his prize was a woman, and she was completely under the influence of the stuff that makes a man lie down on his back and feel up in the air for grass. The policeman handled her very gingerly, and finally managed to get her to Justice Slack's office where she gave an assumed name and was committed to jail for 30 days.

Pemberton. A few days ago, Edward Lucas of Pemberton drove in from the mount to do some shopping. While his wagon was standing in front of one of the stores a hen suddenly made her appearance from under the back seat of the vehicle and announced in stentorian cackles that she had laid an egg after which she hopped down on the sidewalk and began to talk politics with a rooster from Hanover Street. Mr. Lucas had to hire a boy to recapture the hen, which was finally accomplished after a long chase. The next time he comes to town he will see to it that this particular hen is left at home...A young man about 17 years of age has been making a fine reputation for himself in Pemberton lately, and he stands a good chance of being landed in the County Jail. He has been in the habit of enticing small boys to a secluded spot known as "the basin" and there instructing them in all sorts of vileness and in corrupting them in various ways. This sort of thing has been going on

for some time, and the parents of one of the lads has at last discovered the fact. He says such a bestial specimen should not be permitted to remain where he could contaminate the young, and he for one proposes to have a stop put to it.

Vincentown. As was predicted last week, the contest over the boundary lines between the Haines and Huston properties has stirred up the town and started scores of people on the warpath. Everybody is full of the idea that they must have a rumpus with someone. It used to be that when a man got drunk he would want to fight with everyone he met. Now when he gets drunk he talks about going to the law. Even Owly Lemon has caught the fever. He is going to sue the government for damages to his liver, as he claims that the fusel oil in the whiskey nowadays is the direct result of the government tax, and that the oil in question has gummed his liver up so that he can't strain his whiskey through it with any satisfaction...The infant son of Mrs. John Smith of Wrightstown narrowly escaped climbing the golden pole the other day. His mother had occasion to use some ammonia and thoughtlessly placed the bottle within the reach of the child. As her back was turned for a moment the youngster picked up the bottle and took a drink of the fiery liquid. As soon as this fact was discovered Dr. Alan of New Egypt, was sent for, and prompt action on his part saved the child's life...One of the citizens, who devotes a great deal of time and attention to the young girls, would be more highly appreciated if he would give some of the single men a chance.

April 24, 1897

Mt. Holly. A seedy tramp went into a bar room early on Saturday morning and asked for a drink on trust, but was refused by the bartender, which caused the tramp to bristle up a remark: "Your refusal, sir, to trust me to one paltry drink starts my irascibilities and fills me with indignation." The bartender eyed him for a few moments and replied as only a Mt. Holly man quietly can: "I am perfectly willing that you should fill yourself up with as much as indignation as you want to, for it don't cost you one red cent, but if you want to fill yourself up with whiskey you will have to pay cash"

Columbus. The Columbus gun club will go to Florence on Thursday to have a shooting contest with the club there, the prize to be a supper. In a previous match, Columbus won by a single bird... Another ball was given in the "Molasses House" at Columbus on Saturday night, on account of Easter. A keg of beer, some eggnog, and milk punch were set out, and they did the couchee couchee in great shape.