

PRISON MUSEUM POST

Official Newsletter of the Historic Burlington County Prison Museum Association

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May 3, 2010

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Well, that was one long, rough winter, wasn't it? But we all made it through just dandy and the Prison Museum Association is again up and running, and looking forward to a very busy, exciting year ahead. We are fast approaching the 200th anniversary of the opening of the Jail and ideas for all types of swell things to commemorate same are in the works. If there was ever a year to be a member of the Prison Museum Association, this is it! Please join up and try to recruit a new member or two. An easy way to spread the word about the PMA and the Museum is to pass your issue of the Post along to someone else.

CHECK OUT OUR GIFTSHOP

Membership bennies include free admission to the Museum and 10% off gift shop items. Don't forget keep our gift shop in mind when you want to give a unique gift. We have a selection of fun tee-shirts which sell for between \$10 and \$14 in children's to XXL sizes. Our Haunt tee-shirts also come in long sleeves.

We have a nice selection of books for sale, including local author Dennis Rizzo's *Mt. Holly, Hometown Reinvented*, which features the Revolutionary War skirmish waged here and guides readers from the town's origins to development. We also carry Mr. Rizzo's *Parallel Communities: The Underground Railroad in South Jersey*, which describes the formation of communities on the edges of several Burlington County towns by free blacks and runaway slaves. Jan Bastien's *Ghosts of Mount Holly*, which of course features our Jail, is a favorite. No history buff

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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.

should be without a copy of Henry Shinn's *History of Mount Holly*. It's full of all sorts of interesting information about our local area's past, such as a history of our local newspapers, including the *Mount Holly Herald*. We have old copies of the *Herald* and attach excerpts from same to the *Prison Museum Post*. Shinn reports that the *Herald* was founded in 1826 as the *Chronicle*. The first owner, Alexander Young, was a tinsmith by trade, and his paper was derisively called the "*Tin Chronicle*". The paper changed hands several times over the years. Moreton Still bought it in 1850 and named it the *Mount Holly Herald*. In 1915 it was purchased by George Sleeper, whose great grandson, a South Carolina resident, recently visited the Museum.

PMA ACQUIRES OLD MODEL STEAMSHIP

The PMA recently acquired a 48 inch long by 42 inch tall model of the SS St. Paul. Until 1993, the model had been in the family of Joseph Fleetwood, Sheriff of Burlington County from 1896 to 1899. According to family tradition, it was made in our Jail by an inmate and presented by him to the sheriff. The SS St. Paul was built by the Kensington Shipyard and was christened by Frances (Mrs. Grover) Cleveland on April 10, 1895, during her husband's second presidency. (Cleveland was president twice, from 1885 to 1889, and again from 1893 to 1897. He was the only president to serve two non-consecutive terms be married in the White House. He went in single and came out married whereas others went in married and almost came out single. He was a lawyer. He was born in New Jersey but ended up in upstate New York, where he served as a county sheriff. During his term, he served as an executioner at least once. He and Frances had a baby girl named Ruth who some say the candy bar, Baby Ruth, is named for.)

The SS St. Paul was the first ship to have a wireless installed - by Marconi himself.

If you like historical research, and who doesn't, we can suggest topics and sources to help us flesh out the St. Paul model story. We would really welcome help.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
ON SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2010 AT 11 A.M.

A general membership meeting will be held on Saturday, May 15 at 11 a.m. The most important thing we will do is brainstorm with regard to events to commemorate our 200th anniversary. We really want you to come out for this one, and bring a friend. We'll have pizza afterward.

PMA MOVES AS WARDEN'S HOUSE IS RENOVATED

Plans are underway for the renovation of the Warden's House. The PMA must vacate the building while it is being renovated. We have decided to rent a small space at the Mt Holly Library, which is practically across the street. The move will take place within the next two months. We welcome everyone to check out our new digs after we move. This will provide a great opportunity to check out the Library, which is itself a wonderful historic site.

Thanks go to the Freeholders and the Parks Department for their enthusiastic support of the PMA and its chief fundraiser, the haunted event, during the renovation process.

CRADLE ROCK

Congratulations to Museum curator Marisa Bozarth and her husband, Tim, the proud parents of Joshua Timothy, born on April 23. He joins his sisters, Sara and Abigail. Mother and baby are doing well and we look forward to seeing Marisa again when she returns to work this summer.

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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MOUNT HOLLY HERALD
Saturday, August 21, 1897

Jobstown... About 2 o'clock on Saturday morning, fire broke out in the large barns on the farm of Mrs. Charles N. Black on the Monmouth Road, about 2 miles from here, and in a comparatively short space of time, all except the carriage house and pig pens were reduced to ashes. No damage was done to the handsome mansion and farmer's house. As soon as the flames were discovered, a rush was made for the stables and all the calves, 29 in number, horses and mules, wagons and some harnesses were taken out in safety, but nothing else of any value was saved. About 1,100 bushels of grain, about 100 tons of hay, farm implements, etc. were destroyed. The loss is estimated at \$7000. There was no insurance. Insurance agent Walter Borden was on the premises on the previous Wednesday and gave the rates, but Mrs. Black preferred to wait until the return of her son, James Black, who was on a pleasure trip with his sister in Canada. Mrs. Black was also away at the time of the fire. It is generally believed that the fire was of incendiary origin, but thus far there is no clue to the author. Two young men employed on the farm were asleep in the barn at the time of the fire and narrowly escaped with their lives. Some sparks from the burning buildings were carried a considerable distance and the safety of the buildings on the adjoining farm was threatened. Some live sparks were carried over a mile but the heavy dew prevented them from doing any damage.

Pemberton... Charles Bodine, the banker, who is spending the summer here, is learning to ride a bicycle. He has barked nearly every tree in town and everyone gives him a wide berth when they see him approaching, as he hasn't got the machine under thorough control yet... William Warton, Sr., died at his residence here last Thursday morning. He had been in failing health for some time and his demise is said to be due to heart failure. He was a carpenter by trade, and was not only an excellent mechanic but a good citizen... Prof. Bowers, assisted by Howard Ballinger, performed a very successful surgical operation on Milton Norcross's dog last week. The animal swallowed a couple of pieces of bone that would not be digested, and these were removed. The dog is now as well as ever... Quite a stir was created this week by the finding of the book in which the ballot markers kept the list of the list of the people they handled on election day. The manner in which it was secured is a secret, but the law and order society will use it all the same. The fact is that the names of a good many respectable men are on the list, and it is

not right to expose them to the public when they are innocent of being sold out. This list will make trouble for the ballot markers, and they deserve it... Certain cranberry growers of this community seem to be very anxious to create the idea that the cranberry crop is almost an entire failure in this township. Their statements, however, do not agree with other large growers. One of the largest growers in this county reports a heavy crop. Other report good, fair, and middling. The question comes up, why are these men so anxious anyway to report such poor crops at this time? Does it mean more tax reduction on account of less crops? And heavy tax for the farmer and laborer? There are those who take this view on the question. Say anything to them about taxing a cranberry bog for over \$10 per acre, and they will tell you their crop is a failure; they never have more than a quarter of a crop, and that "cranberries are so uncertain". But try to purchase some of those same \$10 bogs and the priced asked will range anywhere from \$200 to \$400 per acre...Large delegations of tramps pass through here daily on their way to the cranberry bogs. Picking will begin on the tenth of next month.

Riverton... A number of brick sidewalks are being laid on the south side of Main street, between Fourth and Broad...The Board of Health is strongly in favor a public sewer system for the borough, and the sooner it is built the better for the general health...Last week James Coale was arrested for riding on the sidewalk. As it was after bank hours, Judge Coddington decided not to impose a fine.

Riverside... Conrad Grob, the bicycle rider who was matched to race Fred Schwoepper of Palmyra, at Mount Holly on Saturday is now under \$200 bail for assault and battery on Joseph Himes' pretty daughter Katie. Both are employed at Tauble's Stocking Factory where the hands chip in three cents per week to pay for ice water. Grob had not paid his share, and Katie Himes, who was doing the collecting, called on him to settle. He said he wasn't going to drink ice water anymore, so she asked him to pay for what he had consumed. This made him very angry and he gave her a violent push that sent her against the machinery with considerable force. She faded as she fell to the floor and had to be conveyed to her home. She has not yet fully recovered from the shock. Grob confessed his guilt on being arrested. His father, George Grob, went his bail... There was a lively fracas on Saturday night at Delanco in which John Hippensteil, the insurance agent and conveyancer, assaulted Lewis Myer. The affair grew out of a transaction between Hippensteil and Myer's mother. The latter had her property insured in the Medford Insurance Company, and alleges that Hippensteil

had the policy cancelled without her knowledge and gave her a new policy in the Fire Association of Philadelphia. In the quarrel over the matter, Hippensteil is said to have committed the assault. He was arrested and held in \$300 bail, which was furnished by Joseph Miesch.

Along the Shore... Another old resort on Long Beach was the once famous "Mansion of Hell" at the spot that is now Long Beach City. Then there was "Bond's", two miles below Beach Haven, which was a very popular place when Atlantic City was in its infancy, and at one time had more guests each summer than any other spot between Cape May and Long Branch, Atlantic City excepted. Now the old hotel is untenanted and Beach Haven entertains the descendants of many of its frequenters... Sea Haven, with its two good sized hotels, started at the same time as Beach Haven, is another instance of a summer resort gone wrong. It is only a half dozen miles below Beach Haven, situated on a high knoll and with the advantage of plenty of cedar trees, but it has no railroad facilities and hence was doomed. Should the railroad push down from Beach Haven, it may take another start. If not, then it will probably be let to the Keeper Rider of the lighthouse, his son Keeper Rider of the station house and his crew, and such lovers of nature as Commodore Evans.

Florence... Clara Green, the little girl who has been troubled with fits, was taken to the pines by her mother, where a change may prove beneficial... You should have seen Charlie and Wilbur swing the girls at the Baptist picnic. Their arms will not resume their normal condition for a week at least... Charles Camp, who for a long time worked at the foundry, will open a grocery store here, having built an addition to his house for that purpose. We wish him success in his new calling and trust the sugar will be free from any overdose of sand and sticks. Stones and beans will be kept remote from coffee.

Why She Couldn't... "No, I didn't have a very good time," she said. "I wanted to talk, and there wasn't a man there."

"But there were plenty of other girls."

"Oh, of course, but that was no satisfaction, for they all wanted to talk, too."

Advertisement... Consumption kills in a year more people than smallpox, cholera, and yellow fever and all other known plagues kill in fifty. Tens of thousands of intelligent people recognize that they are threatened by this deadly disease, but take no precautions against it.

Consumption approaches victims step by step. First there is a little "out of sorts" feeling, the digestion isn't just right, the appetite falls off, the liver is inactive, the assimilation of the life giving elements of the food is imperfect, the blood gets impure and the body is improperly nourished. These conditions get worse and worse. The heart through the arterial system is pumping thin, poisonous blood into every organ of the body. The organs that are inherently weakest break down first, ordinarily the lungs. As the last straw the breaks the camel's back comes a cold, however slight. This, with the accompanying cough, completes the work and an invasion of the germs of consumption follows. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery cures 98% of all cases of consumption. It corrects the conditions that lead up to it. It is the greatest blood maker and flesh builder known.

Saturday, August 28, 1897.

State News... The little town of Elmer seems to be one of the most prosperous in South Jersey. The capacity of the two glass factories has been increased, a new show factory is in construction, and ground has been staked out for another new glass factory, which will be erected in time to begin work the coming fall... Peter Crozer, secretary and treasurer of the Mercer and Mechanics Building and Loan Association at Trenton, is short \$89,740.58 in his accounts, if the report on Monday by the Committee of Investigation quietly appointed several weeks ago is well-founded. About 300 shareholders of the two companies met at Library Hall to hear the report, and there was a stormy scene when the facts were disclosed. The shareholders were angry, threatening language was used and one woman became hysterical. Crozer, who was about 65 years old, has not been arrested. He has a wife and family and until recently stood high in the community. His only answer to the charge thus far made known is a denial of the correctness of the figures...Mrs. Liza Mott, ago 112 years, familiarly known as "Aunt Liza", died at Hammonton on Wednesday. Mrs. Mott was a slave for many years, and upon her liberation she came to Hammonton. She leaves a large family.