

PRISON MUSEUM POST

The Official Newsletter of the Historic Burlington County Prison Museum Association
Incorporated in 1966

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August 17, 2011

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW ***SATURDAY, AUGUST 27 AT THE PRISON MUSEUM***

The Prison Museum Association is pleased to announce the purchase of a new full sized movie screen for use at the annual Haunt and also for summer movie events in the Exercise Yard in the rear of the Jail. *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* will be shown on Saturday, August 27 at 9 p.m. This 1975 parody of mid-20th century B-movie, science fiction and horror films has the longest-running theatrical release in film history. In 2005, the film was selected for preservation in the United States Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant". That is our story and we are sticking with it. Oakley Court, the English castle where the film was shot, is now a luxury hotel and Meat Loaf, who debuted in the film as Eddie, Rocky's brain donor, now jams with Mike Hukabee on Fox. Time apparently does in fact warp. Admission is \$7. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and props. No one under 16 will be admitted and everybody knows why.

Historic Burlington County Prison
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Prison Museum Post Editor: Janet Sozio, Esq.

Please help us preserve and promote the Prison Museum by joining the PMA. Our annual dues are only \$15(individual)/\$25 (family). Membership benefits include a quarterly newsletter, event updates, 10% off gift shop purchases, and free admission to the museum. Go on website for an application.

DONATIONS AND ACQUISITIONS

Many people have generously donated time, money, expertise and items to the Prison Museum in this, its Bicentennial year. Monetary donations by PMA members Kevin Walker, Esquire, Rocco Minervino, Esquire, Dave Kimball and the Henry Topel Foundation are gratefully acknowledged. Mr. Walker, who is the County Public Defender, made the donation in memory of his mother, Betty Walker, who worked in Mt. Holly as a reporter on the Burlington County Herald. Mr. Topel is a former vice-chair of Beneficial National Bank and former Delaware State Democratic Party chairman. An expert on tourism, he has been very supportive of the Prison Museum for many years. Retired Assistant County Prosecutor Rocco Minervino has also been a loyal PMA member and supporter for a long time.

We are also deeply indebted to the Philadelphia Ship Model Society for the tremendous amount of time PSMS members Mike Weaver, John Oddo and Jim MacIntyre donated to refurbish our model of the SS St Paul. Monetary donations received this year will be used to purchase a display case for the model. PMA members Gary Woodend and Regan Young are in charge of this project and have selected Vincentown artist and furniture maker William Robbins to design and construct the case, which should be completed and installed before the end of the year.

The PMA also gratefully acknowledges the donation by member Kenneth E. Smith, Esquire, of an 1821 warrant to levy. A copy is reproduced herein. It would appear that the defendant, Andrew Peterson, owed the plaintiff, Matthew McHenry, \$4.76. The judge issued a warrant on July 12, 1821, directing the sheriff to levy on Peterson's goods to recover the amount due as well as costs of 72 cents. It is the oldest artifact ever acquired by the PMA. Mr. Smith has practiced law in Burlington County (currently in Palmyra) for 48 years and is an esteemed member of the bar here. Like many attorneys, he is a history buff. He inherited this wonderful piece of our local past from his father, who was also a local lawyer.

We recently acquired yet another wonderful item from Mount Laurel resident Candis Clemence. It is a lovely oil painting of the Prison by her aunt, Ursula Marrolli. The artist was a Vincentown resident when she painted it in the early 1970s. The PMA plans to refurbish the painting and hang it in our office. We gratefully acknowledge Mrs. Clemence's unique donation.

SCAVENGER HUNT A SUCCESS

The Burlington County Parks Department sponsored a scavenger hunt of Mount Holly historic sites on July 16. The event was planned and executed by Jail Attendant Marisa Bozarth. Participants were given a list of items to find at various sites, including the Historic Prison Museum, Mount Holly Library, Olde Courthouse, Friends Meetinghouse, Shinn-Curtis Log Cabin and Old Schoolhouse. They were also given a list of questions to answer, including the following:

1. Find the original key to the Prison. What year was the lock installed?
2. Where is the charter of the Library, authorized by King George in 1765?
3. What was the date posted near the roofline of the exterior of the Olde Courthouse?
4. Find a carving with a person's name or initials and date in the Friends Meetinghouse.
5. Who was the original owner of the Shinn-Curtis log cabin?

The Burlington County Library System was established in 1921. The Mount Holly Library, still officially known as the Burlington County Lyceum of History and Natural Sciences, is today a member of the County Library System. Although still managed by a small association and supported by grants and fundraisers, the Mount Holly Library offers free membership to residents of most towns in the County.

The Langstaff Mansion, a Georgian mansion built in 1829 by plantation owner James Langstaff, was purchased as a permanent home for the Library in 1957. The Mount Holly Library has been located there ever since. The building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and features original marble fireplaces, crystal chandeliers and hand-painted glass panels. The mansion is surrounded by over two acres of landscaped grounds including an historic boxwood maze.

This wonderful place is in danger of closing because of financial and budget constraints on funds it receives from local government. Fundraisers will be planned in the future, and we hope that all our members and readers participate. The next fundraiser is a garden party that will be held on Saturday, September 10 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. For further details, contact the Library at mthollylibrary@comcast.net or call 609-267-7111. The website is www.mtholly@bcls.lib.nj.us.

THE HAUNT 2011

PMA Board member Clark Bish is gearing up for yet another Haunt. He has already had several meetings with his co-producers, PMA members Jim Reed and Ken Orangers. *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, which Clark is also organizing, will serve as a kick-off to what we hope is the best Haunt season yet. It is a great undertaking every year because we change it every year to keep it fresh. They've come up with a few surprises this year. We always need helpers to build the set, act and work behind the scenes. We ask that all our members keep on the lookout for those who might be interested, who should be directed to email us at pma1811@verizon.net. Of course, we should all do whatever we can to promote the event, even if it is only posting a flyer in our offices or passing along a copy of the *Post*. Word of mouth is the best advertisement.

REENACTMENT OF THE BATTLE OF IRON WORKS HILL

The PMA is happy to announce that it will be co-sponsoring the 2011 Re-enactment of the Battle of Iron works Hill, scheduled for December 10. Save the date for this wonderful event! No student in this County should miss it. We also welcome PMA member Ian Johns, one of Ironworks' organizers, to the PMA Board.

THIS 'N THAT

Long-time and devoted PMA Board member Tom Faile suffered a stroke in June and has been on the mend ever since. He has made great progress but still has a way to go, and our prayers and thoughts are with him... County Historian Joe Laufer is on a roll with the Historians' Roundtable, an organization he has developed in which local historical societies can meet, exchange ideas, and cross-promote. PMA Vice President Dave Kimball represents our organization at the Table. Go on www.burlcohistorian.com for more information. This was a great idea and will undoubtedly benefit the residents of Burlington County. Joe planned and executed a History Tent at the Farm Fair last month. There were some kinks, as one would expect the first year of anything. But we have some great ideas for next year. Let's just hope that next year it's not hot as Hades, like it was this year. Ian Johns and Clark Bish are to be commended for the work they did in connection with our representation at the Farm Fair.... Our archivist, Lisa Kruczek, is still busy scanning our documents and investigating possible grants for digitization of the old commitment books.... We now have a part-time secretary/bookkeeper, Cinnaminson resident Brenda Marris, whose first job will be to straighten out and computerize our contact and membership list. The current membership list is attached. If you are not on the list, we have not yet received your 2011 dues. Or we did receive them and missed your name, in which case you should email us.... Carole Melman continues to monitor our email and oversee our website issues, and we thank her for her service... We hope everybody saw the great article in the Inquirer by Jersey Side columnist Kevin Riordon about our ship model. Copies are available at the Museum. A video of part of his interview of the ship modelers can be seen at www.philly.com/ship society.

Answers:

1. 1811
2. Second floor
3. 1796
4. On bench under cushion
5. Thomas Shinn
6. Wood, metal, ceramic
7. George Washington (he served from 1789 to 1797)
8. Virginia, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maryland, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Kentucky, Vermont

2011 Prison Museum Members List

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*Parker McCay attorneys

STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
County, ss.

TO ANY CONSTABLE OF SAID COUNTY.

WHEREAS Judgment was given by me on the 19 day of April 1821, against Andrew Peterson at the suit of Matthew M. Henry Esq. for Four dollars & seventy five cents debt, and 72 cents cost-- you are therefore, agreeably to law, to levy upon the goods and chattels of the said Andrew Peterson and sell as much as to pay the debt and all legal costs: and if you cannot find whereon to levy, take the body of the said Andrew Peterson and deliver him to the gaoler of said county, who is required to receive and safely keep until discharged by law: and, within thirty days, you are to make return to me of your proceeding herein. Witness my hand and seal, this 12 day of July A. D. 1821.

Matthew M. Henry Justice.

Twelve days after date
of return to pay the amount
of this and last
Matthew M. Henry Esq. vs. Peterson
J. M. Henry

Execution on Warrant
Matthew M. Henry Esq.
vs. Andrew Peterson
of the County of Hudson
Judgment of \$4.75
costs 72
1821

COPY OF 1821 WARRANT TO LEVY

DONATED TO THE PMA

BY KENNETH E. SMITH, ESQUIRE

MOUNT HOLLY HERALD
Saturday, August 28, 1897

Freeholders Meeting ...Committees were appointed to view bridges: King Street drawbridge in Mount Holly, Riggs Mill Pond in Burlington and the bridge on the Moorestown and Haddonfield Road.... The following resolution was adopted: "Resolved that permission be given the order of Junior American Mechanics of the County of Burlington to erect a staff or pole on the Courthouse or grounds adjacent thereto, on which to place the American flag, provided the County is not put to any expense for same."

Beverly ...A bicycle rider on Saturday evening put away six bottles of beer and as many plates of ice cream before he was ready to continue his journey to Burlington... George Smith, a farmhand, employed near Beverly, was committed to the City Hall early Sunday morning on a charge of stealing \$62 from William Walton, a companion. It appears that the two men visited Burlington on Saturday night, and on their return, Walton gave Smith his pocketbook to take care of. When they reached Beverly, Walton alighted from the one side of the car and Smith left by the other and ran down the road. Walton then made inquiries as to the whereabouts of his friend, and was informed that he was seen running down the road. A telegram was sent to Camden, and Smith, who had boarded the midnight train at Delanco, was taken into custody at Haddon Avenue station.

Along the Shore ...A fine lot of blue fish were caught on Saturday and Monday in Barnegat Bay. The fish are fat and fine...Negotiations are said to be in progress for the sale of the Harvey Cedars property. This is one of the most popular resorts on Long Beach... A good deal of lumber has been coming ashore on Long Beach during the past few days. Some vessel has probably lost her deck load in a gale... The other day a party of fishermen arrived at Barnegat Pier a few minutes before train time. They had a barrel full of fish that they were desirous of having put aboard the train, but the man who tried to get the barrel out of the boat was just about as full as the barrel. Just as he got the edge of it on the wharf, his foot slipped and overboard he went, the barrel on top of him. "Save the fish!" yelled the rest of the party in a chorus. Just then the inebriate came to the surface, puffing and blowing. "To hell with the fish," he cried. "I'm the one to be saved!" They fished him out and then all boarded the train swearing over their ill luck in losing the fish.

Burlington... The members of Parker Grubb Post are trying to secure from the government one of the old cannons, which they will place in position at the foot of Wood Street in honor of the memory of the Burlingtonians who fell in the defense of their country...

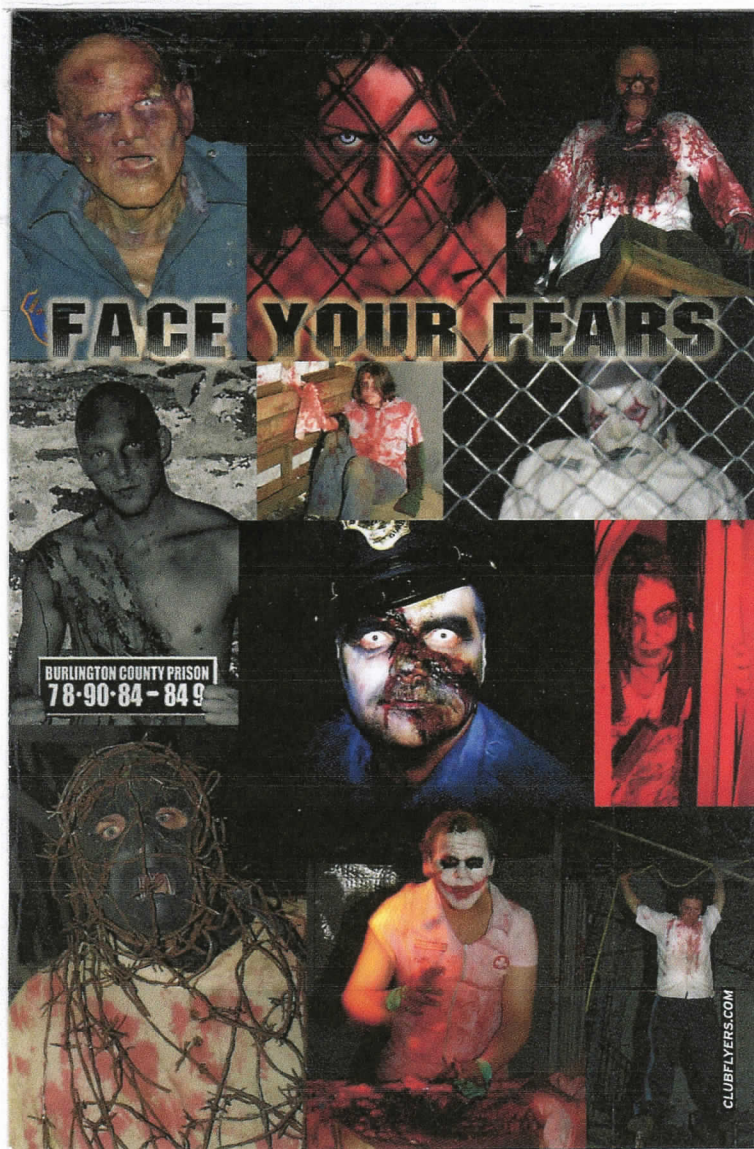
Moorestown... Harry Burns was arrested on Monday by Marshall Austin, of Beverly, on a charge of having failed to keep a matrimonial engagement with a fair damsel living along the river shore. He had to secure \$300 bail in order to avoid going to jail... At the meeting of the Township Committee on Monday night, Chief of Police Aaron Burr was peremptorily discharged from the force, and Caleb Wright was appointed his successor, with Thomas Murray and Albert Bispham as assistants. This action is the outcome of the recent altercation the Chief had with Thomas Seaman, in which he was assaulted. The committee claimed to have evidence that Burr was equally at fault in that affair, and that the dignity of the town demanded his removal.

Palmyra... That nice looking woman who has been passing bogus \$20 bills around the county managed to work on in on druggist Williams, who has been hunting high and low for her ever since. But he wouldn't prosecute her if he found her, for he has too large a heart... The harvest home and cake walk in Palmyra on Thursday night resulted in a free fight. Bill Williams slashed William Polk, of Jordantown, with a razor, where upon Polk seized a baseball bat and swung it against Williams' head. Just then other razors drawn and all hands made a rush for a place of safety. Hereafter the folks who attend these celebrations should be searched by the police beforehand, as this razor business is becoming too frequent.

Marlton... The special officer at the Milford Speakeasy has been discharged because of dullness of in business. They sold only twenty boxes of beer last Sunday! One of the most prominent men at the farmers' picnic at Washington Park was George Middleton, whose white duck trousers and flowing whiskers created a furor as he shot the shoot... Rosello, the new barber from Vineland, is quite an addition to the town. He has already had two offers of marriage from a girl who has a farm and plenty of money. The offer is not good, however, unless he will join the church. He said that's just about what he'll do... Nearly 1,500 people attended the revival meeting in the big tent here on Sunday night. Rev. Moore and wife preached, assisted by Rev. Dellinger, who one of his parishioners referred to as Mr. Dingaling. About 25 persons were converted. One young woman, one of three in blue, who are boarding on

a farm near here laughed aloud during the service, whereupon Rev. Moore gave her one of the greatest "calldowns" probably ever heard from the pulpit. But she was game clear through, and sat unmoved through it all... John Green gave a ball in Pythias Hall last Saturday night. After the ball was over, Ellis Reed, Harvey Braddock and "Bees" Fowler took a lot of the girls home in a wagon to which Reed's celebrated horse "Milkshake" was attached. The trip must have been an eventful one, as someone kissed Fowler by mistake and he threatened to put the law on the whole party. Reed drove the animal and Braddock sat on the backseat to keep the girls from falling out, as they were all subject to vertigo. The next morning "Chunk" Morrison had the whole outfit in tow, and the other boys were heartbroken.

Columbus... The town has been stirred from center to circumference this week over two arrests which have the effect of solving a mystery and furnishing material for a lively romance. The first event was the arrest of George Carr, the crate maker, who, while under the influence of liquor, a few days ago, proceeded to create a general disturbance at his home. When his wife remonstrated with him, he tore the family Bible into bits, split his favorite autoharp up the back, jerked the intestines out of a fiddle and chanced his own shadow out into the woodshed. Now Columbus is not naturally a gay town, and this sort of thing is considered a breach of the peace, so Mr. Carr was summarily hustled off to the county jail. On the following day Annie Haines, who was also an inmate of his household, was arrested for disturbing the peace. She demanded a hearing, which was refused, and she was also committed to jail. Now comes the story. It seems that Annie Haines is a resident of Johnstown, PA, and through the medium of a matrimonial agency she began a correspondence with George Carr's brother. This kept up until both became very fond of each other, or at least they thought so. George knew of the correspondence and it finally entered his head that it would be a good joke to meet the girl, impersonate his brother, and bring her on to Columbus. He secured an advance of \$60 from the firm in Trenton for whom he manufactures crates, and with this amount went out to Johnstown and brought the girl, who was rather attractive looking, to his home in Columbus. She had been there for a week for the reason that she had been wanting to pay her fare home, and was finally arrested. She has now secured a lawyer and will bring an action for false imprisonment against those who had her locked up.



THE HAUNTED PRISON

**OCT. 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22
28, 29 Dusk to 10:00**

THE HISTORIC BURLINGTON COUNTY
PRISON MUSEUM, 128 HIGH ST. MT HOLLY

WWW.PRISONHAUNT.COM

ACTORS WANTED

A man in a white shirt and blue pants, possibly a prisoner, standing in a dark, industrial setting. He is looking towards the camera with a serious expression. The background is dark and appears to be a prison interior.