

Vol V Issue 2

## **HISTORIC BURLINGTON COUNTY PRISON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION**

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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR - MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
Saturday, June 17, 2006 at 10 a.m.

June 5, 2006

Dear Members and Other Friends:

I sincerely thank those of you who have joined or renewed your membership with the PMA. If your name does not appear on the attached Membership List, we have not received your dues or else do not have a record of receipt of same. If you have not yet done so, please consider joining our worthy cause and/or encouraging someone else to do so.

I particularly want to thank my comrades at the bar for supporting me and the PMA. Ten of our members are attorneys at Parker McCay, all of whom are roped in annually by their colleague, our attorney, John Devlin. Thanks, John.

I am very sad to report the passing of yet another of our members. Ken Gilbert passed away on July 31, 2005. Its bad enough when our elderly members leave us, and particularly sad when those, like Ken, die before their time. Ken once worked as a guard in our Jail, and was able to give us much valuable information. He will certainly be missed.

As you can see from the attached Benefactors List, we have been extremely fortunate to have received several very generous donations. We are most grateful not only for the donations but also for the esteem which they represent.

As a result of donations, gift shop and entrance fee receipts and profits from events, our treasury has grown significantly. We are in a position to start discussing a contribution to the cost of properly displaying the Mills Plans. I apologize that I am still unable to report further as to the status of the Plans. A committee has been appointed to work with the County on this endeavor and our goal is to be able to report substantial progress by the next newsletter. This matter will be the primary topic of discussion at the next meeting. As always, however, business will be kept to the barest minimum. Please join us at the meeting on June 17. Coffee and donuts will be served.

The Jail has been hopping recently. On May 4, the Burlington County Court used the Exercise Yard for a ceremony acknowledging the success of "Drug Court". This is an experimental program in which selected drug offenders are offered rehabilitation in lieu of traditional penalties. It was certainly appropriate to hold such a ceremony at our facility, which was in fact built to promote such ideas.

On May 12, the Exercise Yard was also the site a lively party in honor of a courthouse employee who had retired after 25 years of service. Those in attendance made a significant donation to the PMA, as is noted on the Benefactors List. Guests had a wonderful time and were extremely impressed by the service rendered by the Parks Department, including the erection of tents, tables and chairs and excellent, professional assistance of Parks Department personnel.

One of our trustees, Michael Bright, was recently able to purchase on eBay glass negatives of photos taken of the interior of the Jail in the early 1900s. Needless to say, this has stirred up a lot of excitement. We have not seen the prints yet, and are looking forward to doing so. I hope to be able to report more about them in the next newsletter.

Congratulations to Jail Attendant Marisa Bozarth, and her husband, Tim, on the birth of their adorable little baby girl, Sara Elizabeth, in early April.

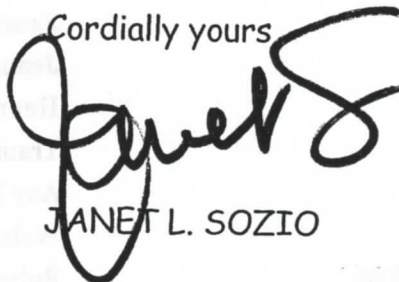
Lets hope Marisa doesn't give the child Po-Melia or act like the lady in Wrightstown. (Only kidding, Marisa!)

The newspaper articles really are a hoot this time. My favorite is the one about the cowardly court stenographer who directed the maniacal murderer right to the prosecutor. Not so funny is the blatant display of bigotry in Marlton. On the other hand, the newspaper reporter didn't think twice about characterizing the racist Committeeman as the horse's fedora that he was. It appears that race relations was a complicated issue, as it is now.

You'll notice that a lot of the characters in the Wesley Warner story are mentioned in the articles. Mr. Budd, the prosecutor who was almost done in on the courthouse steps, was the one who put poor Wes on the scaffold. Melcher, the doctor who fought for the political plum, declared him dead. Almshouse resident George Peak was the brother of Wesley's victim, Lizzie Peak.

Have a great summer. Another newsletter will issue in the fall. Until then, I remain,

Cordially yours



JANET L. SOZIO

## BENEFACTORS

The PMA gratefully acknowledges the generous gifts of

\$500 from Walmart Store No.2040

\$300 from Mr. Henry Topel

\$200 from the Friends of Mary Jarvis

\$100 from the Carole Melman/Glenn Kenny Family



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## MT. HOLLY HERALD 1897

May 1, 1897

**Drunken English Women.** "Drunk as a Duchess" is a popular phrase in the mouth of the English people just now, and it is phrase powerfully suggestive of a striking and shocking condition of affairs in English society .... Drinking among women in the higher and highest social ranks of English society is developing into a national scandal. "A national shame" is how the *London Daily News* characterizes the startling revelations that have been made recently through public meetings, official reports, and a general investigation and open discussion concerning the great evil. It was made a subject of special inquiry by a Committee of Parliament this year, and startling testimony as to prevalence of the vice among women was given by magistrates, coroners and medical men of high standing. Of an average of 33,000 women committed to prison annually in the United Kingdom in the past few years, 80% were sent there for drunkenness, or for offenses arising from or allied to drunkenness.

**Mt. Holly.** A cock fight in the meadow on Kearney Street drew a large crowd on Sunday morning, who viewed it with delight from the railroad... The three year old child of Frank Herbert got a button lodged in his nose on Tuesday, and the services of a physician were required to remove it... A Garden Street citizen has been alarming his neighbors by shooting cats at all hours of the night, and as his aim is good the cats are becoming scarce in that locality... Samuel Frake, the night watchman at the railroad station, was operated on at the Hahnemann Hospital in Philadelphia this week for the removal of a malignant growth on his neck... Caleb Adams, ex director of the Board of Freeholders, died suddenly of apoplexy on Tuesday, at his home near Woodmansee... Joseph Haines, of Masonville, who was recently committed to the Newton Insane Asylum, was found unconscious in his room there last week, and died soon afterward. For several weeks past he has been suffering with softening of the brain... The remains of Hezekiah B. Smith are to be removed from their present resting place at St. Andrew's graveyard to the family plot at Woodstock, Vermont. The wooden coffin is enclosed in a heavy iron gasket. There is no stone to mark his grave here. The grave of Agnes Gilkerson, which is alongside of his, will not be disturbed, the Smith heirs have given the lot to her family.

**Political News.** Things are gradually being shaped up for the Republican nomination for County Clerk. This is a nice position and one that



a good many patriots would like to get their hooks on, but its said the deal has already been made... There is a story in circulation that a certain few alleged Democratic postmasters, who have been standing in with the Republican leaders, are not to be fired out of office when their terms expire. These renegade Democratic officials are already chuckling at the prospect of being retained in office. These hamfat Democrats say they wouldn't accept a Republican appointment, but all the same, when they get a Democratic appointment they try in every way to work the Republicans so as to enable them to hold on to the job. These hamfatters ought to be retired for good. But they won't be as long as the Republicans can use them.

*Put the Screws to Him* A rather singular instance of the manner in which the legal machinery in this country is sometimes used to compel people to come to terms, has just been made public by the arrest of Joseph Haddon, a hard working man, who has for several years lived in Bogley Wallow in Pemberton Township. Haddon is unmarried, about 40 years of age and bears a good reputation among the people residing in that vicinity. In November last, Sarah Herbert, a women 73 years of age, living in Mansfield Township, applied to Haddon for the position of housekeeper, and he agreed to take her. She stored some of her household goods in Haddon house, and then left the next day without a word of explanation. Sometime afterwards she returned to house to get her goods. Haddon was provoked at her refusal to keep her promise with him, and refused to let her have the goods unless she paid storage charges, which she refused to do, so he brought suit against her. While this was pending she began proceedings against him for rape, which she alleged was committed in November. He was arrested and taken before Justice Hagaman at Juliustown, where he was informed that if he gave up the woman's goods the charge against him would be withdrawn, otherwise he would be committed to jail. He thereupon agreed to give up the goods. When Ms. Herbert sent after the goods Haddon was away from home, but they broke in his house and carted off the goods. As soon as this was done Haddon was rearrested on the old charge of rape and is now confined in the County jail. He says he demanded a hearing of Justice Hagaman, but this was refused. If this statement is true, and Haddon says it is, there should be investigation of the matter by the proper authorities.

**Moorestown.** The carpet mill at Stanwick is now running on full time. Fifty people are employed there and the manager says the outlook for the future is very promising... The township collector has been notified that he will be responsible for all delinquent taxes, and that if necessary he must commit to jail all who refuse to pay up. This job will not be a pleasant one,

but the Township Committee is determined to put a stop to the dillydallying that has been going on for years.

**Marlton.** There is trouble brewing over the road from Kresson to Evan's Mill. It has been encroached upon from time to time until now it is very narrow in some places. The Germans and colored people living in that vicinity are tired of this sort of thing, and have employed Charles Chambers, of Mt. Holly, to protect their interests. The Township Committee do not seem inclined to act in this matter. Someone when referring to the trouble remarked "no one but a lot of Dutch and n-----s who are making the kick", but this person will be apt to discover that the persons referred are taxpayers and entitled to just as much protection as any other class of people and they do not propose to be ignored.

**Chesterfield.** There are four houses in this enterprising village standing idle. This is greatly to be wondered at, as everything intellectual, spiritual and healthful are to be obtained here if one only knows just where to seek it... A big frost struck this unassuming and modest spot on April 21, which it is feared caused much damage to the fruit crop. Some of the thrifty inhabitants actually stripped the floors of carpet in order to protect their strawberries from the searching gaze of Jack Frost.

*Advertisement.* Have you a baby? Give it Po-Melia. It will make it pink and plump. Po-Melia, a perfect food. Discovered and perfected by the Turners, of Philadelphia.

**Hainesport.** T.W. Pepper and his wife spent a few days in New York viewing the dedication of Grant's Monument and visiting some of their friends. Both are perfectly satisfied with their trip and say they witnessed one of the most memorable events of their lives... Pinkey now goes around without crutches. Bert gets his mess everyday now... One of the peculiarities about the Russian Poles is that they send for so many women from the old country and before they get here they have husbands picked out for them, in which case it is a forced marriage. One girl nearly cried her eyes out because her man was so homely... Ike says he enjoys working for Albert Haines in all but one thing, and that is he is afraid of Bert, the famous horse noted for ability to strike, bite and kick at the same time. Ike is training the animal with great care.

**Medford.** Constable Thompson made a journey to the Monmouth County Almshouse a day or two ago for the purpose of transferring George



Peak to the Almshouse of Pemberton, he being resident of this County. Peak is suffering from paralysis and is entirely helpless.

### **May 8, 1897**

**Mt. Holly.** A meeting of the Burlington County Association for Insurance, of Medford, held on Monday, the following Directors were elected: Charles Stokes, Issac Stokes, Levy Troth, John Darnell, Joseph Brick, Henry Thorn, Doctor Reeve, Henry Irick, Joshua Wills... The final meeting of the old Board of Freeholders was held on Wednesday. The report of the Almshouse Committee showed that the Venerable Institution is still in first class condition and inmates "reasonably happy". Freeholder Darnell thought the bills for the transportation to the Almshouse should be paid by the respective townships. This view was coincided in Solicitor Chambers, who said such bills should be paid by the townships. The bills were accordingly sent back the respective townships. This being the case, Freeholder Jones suggested that the committee on paupers' bills be abolished, as there was no duty to perform... The standing committee on courthouse and grounds was instructed by resolution to hereafter place all insurance on the county buildings and American companies and that none be placed in foreign companies.

**Florence.** Cavalcades a female bicyclists nightly line the River Road for a spin to Burlington and Beverly... The wife of Thomas Mueller, of Florence, while in a somnambulistic state, climbed out a second story window and fell to the ground Wednesday night. She was found in the yard by neighbors with no bones broken. Her husband had to be awakened to open the door.

**Wrightown.** The new woman is very much in evidence here. After putting her half dozen children to bed she goes to the Lodge, takes a prominent part in the proceedings and arrives home in good shape about midnight.

**Cookstown.** A sensational case was tried here on Wednesday before Justice Haines and a jury. The plaintiff in the case was the overseer of the poor, who sued W. Harry Page, of Columbus, under the Bastardy Act. The actual plaintiff was Ida Nailer, daughter of Charles H. Nailer, of Jacobstown, and she is a very attractive looking girl. She alleged that while



she was employed in the household of Davis C. Wells at Columbus, Page began calling on her, and was so devoted in his attentions that she finally became convinced that he was in love with her. After that he became a sort of privileged character, as it were. Finally their relations became public, where upon the gay suitor turned his back on the girl and declined to call her anymore. She wouldn't stand this sort of treatment and began legal proceedings. The trial was a spicy one, and resulted in a victory for the girl. The defendant will appeal. Samuel A. Atkinson was counsel for the plaintiff; Samuel W. Shinn for the defense.

### **May 15, 1897**

*Meant to Kill Court and Prosecutor.* Considerable excitement was caused in Mt. Holly on Wednesday by the actions of Frank Hess, an insane criminal who was recently discharged from the State Insane Asylum. He was evidently under the influence of liquor and walked into Prosecutor Budd's office soon after he arrived in town. There was no one there but Watkins, the stenographer, whom he mistook for the prosecutor. "I'm going to kill you, and I'm going to do it now," he said. Cold perspiration came out Mr. Watkins, and his hair stood up on end. He was afraid to move and sat perfectly motionless for a minute as the maniac glared at him. "You're Budd, the prosecutor, ain't you?" said Hess. "No, indeed," replied Watkins, as he saw a chance of escape. "Mr. Budd is up at the court house." Hess thereupon marched up the street and sat on the court house steps until the prosecutor came along, where he made an attempt to assault him, but was quickly seized by Constables Brown, of Mt. Holly, Wright, of Moorestown and Court Crier Thompson, who conveyed him to jail, but he fought every step of the way and said he had come to Mt. Holly on purpose to kill the Judges. After he got in jail he tore everything up that he could. Hess was sentenced to prison over a year ago for assaulting Councilman Harmer, of Burlington. He arrived in the latter place Wednesday, and Harmer, with a lively consideration for his own safety, bought Hess a ticket for Mt. Holly. Hess should not be turned loose again. He is a dangerous man to be at large.

*A Rebuke to the Court.* The members of the Grand Jury were in a very indignant frame of mind on Wednesday. They had completed their labors, having found 12 true bills of indictment, and were ready to make their final presentment and depart for their respective homes with a customary "thanks of the court," but the trouble was there was no court to be found. A messenger was dispatched with instructions to find one of the judges, but he returned with the information that none of them was to be found. The jurors

waited patiently for an hour or so, then they began to get hot. One expressed the opinion that it was an outrage. The idea of the county being called upon to support three judges each in receipt of a big salary, and yet not one of them was able find time to attend court long enough to receive the final presentment was a little too much of a good thing, and it was high time that some action was taken to remedy matters. But no one seemed to know just what to do under the circumstances. Finally it was suggested that the Grand Jury could administer a proper rebuke by adjourning for three months, but as this would necessitate the postponement of the trial of all indictments until August, it was finally decided to adjourn the 25<sup>th</sup> of May. Before the parting for their homes several members of the grand jury discussed the matter on the streets, and one of them said: "It is time some attention was given to this subject. The taxpayers have frequently complained of the expense of running our courts, and there is no excuse for the absence of the judges. The entire panel of petit jurors came here today, but found no court in session, no cases ready for trial and county clerk had to discharge them until Monday. Isn't this a fine state of affairs?"

*Board of Freeholders.* The first meeting of the new Board of Freeholders was held in the court house on Wednesday, and there was the usual delay incident to such occasions. The Democrats were in a minority, but they did not propose to be denied the privilege of going through the motions in the good old way. The Republicans had a comfortable majority, but it does not always follow that this is a good thing to have. There are always more mouths to feed than there is grub to feed them, and this is why the caucus was rather lengthy. The new members modestly kept in the background. They wanted the plums, but felt that the older members had the better claim. The principal contest was over the position of prison physician between Dr. Melcher and Dr. Whitehead, which was won by the former. There was also a wrestling match over the position of County Supervisor of Roads. The Democrats, as a rule, were opposed to the appointing of anyone to this position, as they thought it was an unnecessary expense. The Court House Committee asked to be authorized to put a steel cage in the jail at an expense of about \$245. The sheriff thoroughly approved of the plan. These cages are carefully constructed and no prisoner can escape. Freeholders Tallman and Darnell opposed the buying of the steel cage, as they thought the jail was strong enough to hold any criminal. This knocked down the steel cage scheme.