

# PRISON MUSEUM POST

Official Newsletter of the Historic Burlington County Prison Museum Association

Volume VI, Issue V

November 28, 2007

## HAUNTED PRISON A HUGE SUCCESS FOR THIRD YEAR IN A ROW

The Prison rocked and rolled the last two weekends in October as close to 4,000 visitors descended on the Exercise Yard to be soundly terrified out of their respective wits.

We want to take this opportunity to thank some special friends who were instrumental in making our event the success it was. William Dunn, the Executive Director of the Mt. Holly Municipal Utilities Authority, enclosed fliers advertising "The Prison" in sewer bills sent to approximately 12,000 residences. The Courier Post ran articles before and after the event and sent one of the best photographers we have ever seen, Chris LaChall, to take some fabulous shots. The Discovery Church in Washington Township donated delicious pretzels which we sold at our concession stand. Proceeds were donated to Katrina victims.

## POLITICAL NEWS

The PMA congratulates long-time PMA member Phil Haines on his successful bid for state senate. Phil will be representing the 8<sup>th</sup> District, replacing Senator Martha Bark. As a Freeholder, Martha was a staunch supporter of the Prison and continues to be a loyal PMA member. We wish her well in her new pursuits. We also extend a fond adieu to Freeholder Dawn Addiego, who will be moving on to the State Assembly now that she has won one of the 8<sup>th</sup> District seats. Finally, we welcome Freeholder-elect Joe Donnelly of Cinnaminson and look forward to working with him, the rest of the

### Historic Burlington County Prison Museum Association ("PMA")

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Attendant: Marisa Bozarth  
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Prison Museum Post Editor: Janet Sozio  
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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.

Freeholders and the Parks Department in our continuing efforts to provide a unique historical center for our fellow Burlington County residents.

## **BATTLE OF IRONWORKS HILL SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2007**

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Re-enactment of the Battle of Ironworks Hill, which will take place on High Street in front of the Jail in the afternoon. Activities are planned throughout the day in Mt. Holly. The Jail and Warden's House will be open for free all day. Go on [www.mainstreetmountholly.com](http://www.mainstreetmountholly.com) and [www.ironworkshill.org](http://www.ironworkshill.org) for further information.

The British Army was riding high in the fall of 1776 after pushing George Washington out of New York and through New Jersey. By December, Washington had retreated to Newtown, Pennsylvania, and the British were settling in for the winter, mostly in New York. They also had some troops in New Jersey, including 1500 Hessians in Trenton and 2000 more Hessians in Black Horse (Columbus) commanded by Colonel von Donop. The British assumed that Washington would spend the winter licking his wounds. They assumed wrong.

On December 17, on orders from Washington, Colonel Samuel Griffin set out with a ragtag band of 600 patriots from Pennsylvania to Mount Holly, where they set up artillery pieces on Iron Works Hill, on the far side of town, south of the Creek. Based on faulty intelligence that the rebel force was five times greater than it was, von Donop decided to follow the Americans to Mount Holly with his entire brigade. On December 24, he dragged his artillery to the top of the Mount and attacked American posts on Pine Street and along the Creek. The Americans responded from Iron Works Hill. After a day-long cannonade, the outnumbered and outgunned patriots evacuated their positions that night and marched to Moorestown.

The Hessians stayed and partied in Mount Holly. Their cohorts in Trenton were likewise celebrating the holiday when Washington and his men took a little boat ride over the Delaware on Christmas night. You know the rest. Had von Donop's men not been lured to Mount Holly, they would have been available to reinforce the King's troops in Trenton. What a different story it might have been...

## HISTORICAL SITES JOIN FORCES

On November 3, the Burlington County Historical Society hosted "Heart to Heart with History", a symposium of local historical societies. Approximately 80 participants representing 20 groups from as far away as Tuckerton and Bass River exchanged ideas about the successes and challenges of historical societies, and the possibility of coordinating programs and services. The PMA strongly supports efforts in this direction and will keep you advised of further developments.

## THIS 'N THAT

The museum annex continues to delight visitors. We have two new acquisitions, including a 1930s-era night stick from a Mercer County jail and two bullets taken from the brain of a murder victim in 1935 .... We are waiting to hear from TAPS to find out when the show featuring our Jail will be aired ... This month you will learn that in 1897 you could obtain an artificial eye for 13 cents... The next *The Prison Museum Post* will issue in the next year. Until then, HAVE A HEALTHY AND HAPPY HOLIDAY.

**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 Fees:** \$4 for adults, \$2 for students and seniors over age 55, and free for children under age 5.

Tours are self-guided. Guided tours and group rates are also available. Call 609-265-5476 or 609-518-7667 for further information.



***THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MADE OUR  
2007 HAUNTED EVENT A ROUSING SUCCESS!***

**Producers:** Jim Reed, Clark Bish and Ken O'Rangers

**Coordinator:** Jail Attendant Marisa Bozarth

**Chief Production Assistants:** Stacy Reed, Tim Bozarth,  
Adrienne Gamble

**Safety:** Burlington County Sheriff's Officers  
The Relief Fire Engine Company No. 1 of Mount Holly

**Performance Art:** Brittany Van Meter, Anthony Terry  
and The Prison Players

**Maintenance:** Ron Reed

**Accounting & Supply Acquisition:** Janet Sozio

**Pretzels & Security:** Michael Bright

**Ticket Sales:**

Susan Dargay  
Dave Kimball  
Carole Melman  
Alan & Linda Hynes  
Lynn & Joe Pitts  
Anthony Tallarico  
Mary Ann Rivell

**Concessions:**

Wendy Schmidt	Marilyn Bright
Carson Schmidt	Bo Jones
Donna Sharkey	Don Sozio
Paul Moyer	Terry Ezzo
Peter Blust	Joan Boas
Jeanette Sozio	Flo Gomez
Amy Filippone	

## Scenes from THE PRISON, October 2007



*Left:*  
**THE PRISON PLAYERS**



*Above: Rich, The Family Butcher*

*Right: The Guard greeted guests  
at the door. The Nurse was waiting  
inside .....*





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## MOUNT HOLLY HERALD

Saturday, July 31, 1897

**Burlington.** Last Friday, Leon Silpath and William Farner left here for a bicycle tour to Atlantic City... On Sunday afternoon, William Stow, who has been employed to look after the Evans' estate, was stricken with apoplexy and died in a few minutes... The house and lot on Federal Street belonging to the estate of John VanSciver, deceased, was sold on Saturday by the executor to George Allinson for \$800... A narrow escape from drowning was had by Joseph Ellis, of Jones Avenue, on Wednesday. He had not been feeling well and went down to the wharf hoping to get some fresh air. On reaching there he fainted and fell overboard, but the shock restored him to consciousness and he managed to swim to the wharf and crawl out. In his fall he lost his teeth and eyeglasses, which were recovered at low tide the next day... Two men stole a ride on a freight train from Jersey City to Burlington on last Friday night, and their lives was the price paid for fare. The men were well dressed, had money and were not of the class that usually ride the freights. The westbound train on which the men were riding stopped at East Burlington to allow the eastbound train to pass, and, evidently fearing arrest, the men jumped from the bumpers and landed directly in front of the eastbound locomotive. Both were instantly killed, being mangled to bits. In the clothing of one of the victims was found several letters bearing a foreign postmark, addressed Stanislaw Koztoski, Baltimore, Maryland. He was about 35 years of age. In the clothing of the other victim was found a memorandum book containing a certificate that Stanislaw Whittowski had sailed from Hamburg to New York on the steamer Persia on April 5, last... The Christian League has notified the druggists to stop selling soda water on Sundays unless they wish to be prosecuted... A carrier pigeon was found at the Sylvan Lake Woods on Saturday, and died soon afterward. It had evidently been on a long journey and death resulted from exhaustion... A number of trees were struck by lightening and others blown down during Friday's storm. A small steam yacht belonging to Frank Carter, which was moored along the Green Bank, was blown over. It filled with water and sank. Work in the country is at a standstill. So much rain has fallen the past few days that it is impossible to drive in the fields without miring. It was feared on Friday that the Sylvan Lakes, a mile from the city and nearly 100 feet higher, would overflow their banks. Workmen were sent out to strengthen the banks and enlarge the outlet.

**Vincentown.** The roof was blown off Frank Bowker's barn by the storm on Friday of last week, and a number of trees were leveled with the ground on the John B. Irick farm... Those who give the orders for groceries to the clerk who calls for them have had occasion to find considerable fault lately. They say the delivery man never has an itemized bill. He says the amount is so much, and that's all. If you want to learn the cost of certain items, you will have to make a journey to the store to find out. One clerk refused an itemized bill to a certain customer, his excuse being that he had the items on his order book and that was enough for him to know. The people nowadays are not satisfied with this way of doing. They want to know the cost of each article in order to compare prices if necessary.

**Moorestown.** Moorestown's centenarian, Mrs. Christianna French, will be 103 years old on Sunday, August 1. She still enjoys good health and looks forward with keen anticipation to the celebration of her anniversary, when her descendants will have a family reunion... A large and handsome pine tree in front of William Matlack's residence was twisted off by the storm on Friday last... Horse Leconey's house at Stanwick was struck by lightening last Friday and a



large hole torn in the roof, but the building did not take fire... The boys who have been in the habit of bathing in the creek leading to the waterworks will have to discontinue the practice, as a complaint was made to the Township Committee on Monday, and the result will be the posting of proclamation forbidding all such exercises in the future. It is alleged that whenever the boys have been in swimming the drinking water always tastes badly. If this is the case, the Board of Health should provide a swimming tank for the youngsters... Theodore Chamberlain lost 12 fine large trees, Will Roberts a weeping willow, and three trees in front of the Friends' High School were uprooted. A great ancient tree in the yard of Mrs. Maggie Robinson was broken off near the ground and fell across the house, breaking through the roof. It is reported that Mordecai Hunt lost thirty fruit trees and eight ornamental ones. Apart from blowing the corn to the earth, the hail did very little damage.

**Bridgeboro.** The bridge committee are preparing to give the old county bridge here an overhauling. Some very dangerous places have been found to exist... There are at present living in this place a nest of widows who are mortally concerned about their happiness and who propose to declare war on the hallucinations of a bachelor whose spirit seems constantly disturbed by unrequited love... An old catalpa tree that formerly graced the lot of James Anderson, and other whose boughs merry groups of children spent many happy hours, has at last succumbed to fate, and Sunday night without warning fell to the ground with a loud crash. The noise occasions no little excitement... William Downing, nicknamed "Sheriff", caused his family some uneasiness one night last week by trying to get some new fangled trouble from promiscuous eating of which raspberries formed the basis. Dr. Taylor, of Beverly, took out the kinks and William is all right now.

**Medford.** One of the greatest living curiosities in the Township is owned by Joshua B. Peters, and it is nothing more or less than a four-legged duck that beats anything in the aquatic line that has made its appearance here. The duck was hatched out of an ordinary looking egg after the usual process of incubation, but its mother was so surprised at its appearance that it absolutely declined to give it the proper sort of attention. But the duckling wasn't in the least bit depressed, evidently thinking that the old lady would only be too glad to claim relationship when fame and fortune had been won by the neglected offspring. And that's just what happened. The four-legged duck is now on the high road to success and Mr. Peters is as proud of it as if he had laid the egg himself. The duck can swim on its back as easily as he can right side up, and he can scull along on either side with the utmost dexterity, and, like a cat, he is always bound to alight on his feet. He will be in a museum before long.

**Railroad Notes.** Passengers on the Pennsylvania Railroad train which left Trenton at 2:52 o'clock had a thrilling experience in the storm on Friday. The train was speeding between Riverton and Palmyra, with the hailstones battering and every minute threatening to crush every pane of glass on the west sides of the cars. The frozen particles came pouring in the ventilators, dropping among the riders and covering the floor. The vivid lightening and heavy thunder added their terrors and in the midst of it all the passengers heard a terrible crash, followed by a jarring of the train, which frightened them. When the train pulled up at Palmyra, it was discovered that two trees had been blown down upon the baggage car, which, by a fortunate circumstance, happened to be attached to the rear of the train, instead of in its usual position at the front piering. The fallen trees had crushed in the roof and one side of the baggage car, but no one was injured. The train proceeded cautiously til the track of the storm was passed.



**Palmyra.** The newly appointed postmaster, George Wimer, has been receiving congratulations all this week, but for all that he doesn't appear to be happy. If he could only secure the Assembly nomination now he would come pretty close to being in a good humor... Wayman Beechman, a driver in the employ of Henry Kerswill, was arrested on Wednesday, on a warrant sworn out by his wife charging him with assault. He was given a hearing before 'Squire Scheidell, who held him in \$300 bail to answer to the charge. His employer became his bondsman.

**Florence.** Since Saturday last three of the five children of James Park have died from diphtheria. One died Saturday night, another Sunday morning, and Monday morning the third, an infant of seven months, passed away. The saddest feature of the pitiable affliction is that the mother and wife has been under treatment in the state hospital for the insane at Trenton for five months. The unhappy father is a poor iron worker employed at the Florence Iron Works...The Board of Health held a red hot meeting on Saturday night. Dr. D. Baird indulged in sharp undiplomatic language, but the situation demanded it and more. In an old condemned rookery, owned by the firm of Wood and Company, was a family stricken with diphtheria. The home was on the ground, the walls were wet, and even the bed on which the sick children lay was wet. Was it possible under such circumstances for them to recover? The house had been condemned by the company and the occupants requested to move, but with a mistaken idea of economy had remained. Stagnant water lay in many places, and there had been several cases of typhoid fever, some ending fatally. No wonder a physician who had charge, as it were, of the whole town, became alarmed. The result is that drainage must be enforced, yards and buildings cleaned, and the town put in a good sanitary shape. An inspector was appointed to attend the matter.

**Riverton.** An unusually severe rainstorm accompanied by high winds and a heavy fall of hail, visited Riverton on Friday last and lasted about an hour, during which time the streets were strewn with broken tree limbs and other debris. The crops in the surrounding country were badly damaged. Small truck and corn were terribly cut and torn by the heavy hailstones and the furious wind...While returning from Philadelphia on Monday morning, George Mennell was thrown from his wagon and badly hurt by Thew Heels passing over his back. Mennell lives at Five Points and works for Isaac Richmon at Union Landing, near which the place the accident happened. His companion driver, Samuel Coleman, who had charge of the wagon, was arrested in Riverton and fined \$5 for reckless driving. Both men had been drinking.

**Marlton.** Farmers in this section are agitated over the repeated theft of truck and fruit from their fields during the night, and are prepared to give these midnight marauders a warm reception should a meeting take place. It has been the custom of farmers to place potatoes and other truck in baskets and leave them in the field overnight ready for loading in the morning, but now this is not safe, as baskets of stuff have been stolen within the last month, among the heaviest losers being Samuel Griscom, whose field was robbed of 50 baskets of potatoes...A tumor was successfully removed from the arm of Mrs. Harry Wood last week, the operation being performed by Dr. J. Reeve, of Medford.

**Columbus.** On Tuesday, Allen Bishop came to Columbus to swear out a warrant for his wife's arrest for assault and battery, when to his surprise the Constable served a warrant on him that was sworn to by his wife on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. This made matters rather interesting. After hearing the testimony the Justice saw that both Bishop and his wife were still in fighting trim, so he discharged the latter and held Bishop in \$50 bail. After considerable difficulty this was

secured, and he then started to hunt up his partner, Charles Ross, with the idea of starting at once for Alaska. About that time Bishop learned that his wife, in anticipation of being locked up, had secured another mate, so he decided not to take the Alaska trip until he had challenged to mortal combat the man who broken up his home and taught his wife how to throw a poker with unerring accuracy.

**Juliustown.** The local baseball team won a creditable victory from the Crescent team of New Egypt, by the score of 10 to 7. The main feature of the game was the pitching of Hann, who officiated in the box for the Juliustown boys, his playing being of the brilliant order. A very distressing accident occurred in the 8<sup>th</sup> inning when Harold Wells, who was playing second base for Juliustown, ran to first base to head off Dunfee, both colliding and breaking Wells' leg. The team was completely broken up over it. Not many would have taken the chances that he did, and his putting the man out did considerable toward winning the game.

### August 7, 1897

**State News.** State dairy inspector Peter Vandegrift made a complaint before Justice Phillip Schmitz in Camden on Friday against William Travis, an oleo margarine dealer, at 129 Main Street, on the charge of selling the imitation butter without stamping the package...Frank Wear, of Atlantic City, was held under \$750 bail for trial in the United States Court, by Justice Perkins on Friday, on the charge of using the mails for an improper purpose. His alleged offense was sending an obscene letter to a young lady in Philadelphia. Wear was unable to furnish bail and was committed to prison...Prosecutor Winfield has called the attention of the Jersey City Police Authorities to the prevalence of Nickel-in-the-Slot gambling devices in that city. He says any person who keeps any gambling device on his premises is guilty of maintaining a disorderly house. Chief of Police Murphy instructed the police to report all places that maintain slot machines, and it is said he will order a general raid...U.S. Marshal Alcott made the largest sale of artificial eyes on record last Thursday at Jersey City. He sold 7,126 in all to three purchasers, the smallest taking 1,000. They brought about 13¢ a piece. The marshal was unable to learn what was a fair price for them. He has since found out by the record that a smaller lot was sold by a former marshal for 85¢ each. The buyers were New York wholesalers...James Fisher, an Englishman, 35 years old, was found dead on Sunday in a cave on a beachfront, near Deal Lake. Fisher had occupied the weird abode for a number of years, and was known as "The Hermit of the Sea". He was recluse, but deemed to have enough money to support himself frugally. Six months ago he was taken to the Memorial Hospital at Long Branch, suffering from heart disease. He returned to his cave a month ago. The body was discovered by a member of the Deal Beach life-saving crew...A guest of one of the leading hotels at Atlantic City found himself in a funny predicament - funnier to others than to himself - by leaving his entire fine suit of clothes and patent leather shoes stolen while in bathing. A tramp appropriated the outfit. While the tramp was strutting along the boardwalk in the stylish get up of a gentlemen, the owner was obliged to don the tramp's discarded garments - as little of them as he could decently appear in and go to a clothing store for rehabilitation. Up to last evening the clothes had not been recovered, and the tramp is in all probabilities still doing the town in his spotless new apparel.