

HISTORIC BURLINGTON COUNTY PRISON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

2 GRANT STREET, P.O. Box 483
MOUNT HOLLY, NEW JERSEY 08060
TELEPHONE: 609-265-0202
TELEFAX: 609-265-1085

JANET L. SOZIO, ESQUIRE, PRESIDENT
DAVID KIMBALL, VICE-PRESIDENT
JUDITH KING, SECRETARY
SUSAN R. DARGAY, ESQUIRE, TREASURER

TRUSTEES:
MARYBETH F. BARON, ESQUIRE
CAROLE MELMAN
GARY F. WOODEND, ESQUIRE

November 17, 2003

Dear PMA Members:

This is the final newsletter of the year. I will be writing you again in March and asking for your renewals.

As promised, I am attaching some more newspaper excerpts. As an attorney, I was particularly tickled by the article on the local lawyers. I was also amazed to see so many references to the Peak family, long before Lizzie's demise at the hands of Wesley Warner. They must have been some bunch.

Attached is a copy of the minutes from the general membership meeting that was held on November 1, 2003. As you can see, the amendments to the Constitution, Certificate of Incorporation and By-Laws were approved. I want to thank those of you who participated in the vote. I generally want to thank everybody for your continued support of the Jail.

HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY AND A HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

Cordially yours,

JANET L. SOZIO

**PRISON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
2003 Members**

Hon. John A. Almeida
Catharine B. Armstrong
Richard E. Andronici, Esquire
Timothy E. Annin, Esquire
Senator Martha Bark
Marybeth Baron, Esq. & Richard Baron
Dan Barto
Joan Boas
Michael A. Bonamassa, Esquire
Pete & Karen Cawthon
Susan R. Dargay, Esquire
John Devlin, Esquire
Alan Domers, Esquire
David B. Edwards
Thomas Faile
Freeholder Vince Farias
Stan and Ellen Fayer
Hon. Dominick J. Ferrelli
Glen Filippone, Esquire
Brian Frampton, CPA
Edith Freeman
Kristen & Natalie Freeman
Kenneth H. Gilbert
Joyce Goldsmith
Florence Gomez
Freeholder Bill Haines
County Clerk Phil Haines
David Hasson
Barbara Hatfield
Ed Holloway
Charlie Holman
Marie Del Presto Jerlat
Warren S. Jones, Esquire
David A. & Daniel A. Kimball
Judith L. King
Kay Kline
Stewart LaVine
Pat LePre
Dianne Main
Ina M. McCrum
Michael E. McHale
Carole Melman & Glenn Kenny
Joan & Kenneth Milby
Rocco Minervino, Esquire
Michael L. Mouber, Esquire
Mount Holly Business Association
Janice Myers
Lynn Pitts
Jeff Rabin, Esq. & Laurie Rabin
Sheryl Richards, Esquire
Dennis C. Rizzo & Elizabeth Van Houtte
Michael Rothmel, Esquire
Attendant Marissa Sassaman
Rhondi Schwartz, Esquire
Robert Silcox
Delsea Sozio
Dena & Drew Sozio
Janet L. Sozio, Esquire
Jeanette Sozio
Hon. Karen L. Suter
Brooke Tidswell
Brooke Tidswell, III
Scott & Debra Vombrack
Barbara Westergaard
Gary Woodend, Esquire
Freeholder Jim Wujcik
John P. Yetman, Jr., Esquire

OFFICIAL MINUTES

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING HISTORIC BURLINGTON COUNTY PRISON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION Saturday, November 1, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Those in attendance: Janet Sozio, Jeanette Sozio, Barbara Hatfield, Carole Melman, Catherine Melman-Kenny, Daniel Kimball, Marissa Sassaman, Tom Faile, Richard Baron and Marybeth Baron.

A motion was made by Ms Melman and seconded by Mr. Kimball to approve the amendments to the Constitution, Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws. There was no discussion except that everyone agreed that it was wonderful of John Devlin, Esquire to do all this work for the PMA. Result of the vote: Of 73 members eligible to vote, 53 voted by proxy or in person to approve, one voted against and 20 abstained. The dissenting vote was from a member who is well into his nineties, and he may have checked off the "disapprove" line by mistake. In any event, all agreed that it is wonderful that he continues to participate in the PMA. While Catherine Melman-Kenny, at age 2 was ineligible to vote, she nevertheless also voiced her opinion that the amendments were as good as the sugar donuts she enjoyed at the meeting.

A motion was made by Ms Melman and seconded by Mr. Kimball to investigate the purchase of audiotour equipment for approximately \$4,000. Ms Sassaman reported that her investigation of the subject revealed that an outfit called Acoustiguide out of New York City could produce a tour and provide 25 tape machines for approximately \$4,000. Ms Sassaman and Ms Sozio will contact this company with a view toward having the guides up and running by the springtime.

A motion was made by Ms Melman and seconded by Mr. Kimball to hire Exhibitus to produce a new travelling exhibit at a cost of up to \$2,000. Ms Sozio will contact Exhibitus with regard to same.

A motion was made by Ms Melman and seconded by Mr. Kimball to have a Haunted Event. There was some discussion on this. It was generally agreed that a Haunted Event in October was wrought with problems, in particular, the great deal of competition from other events. A decision was made to meet in January, 2004 to discuss having the event in April and to bill it as an "April Fools" rather than "Haunted" event.

A motion was made by Ms Melman and seconded by Mr. Kimball to shelve the Ghost Tour at this time. It was unanimously agreed that a weekly event requiring many volunteers who would be required to act, in costume, the parts of historic figures related to the Jail is simply not feasible.

The meeting was over at approximately 10:35 a.m.

MT. HOLLY HERALD

July 9, 1887 - On Saturday last Zachariah R. Hinkle left Mt. Holly for the wild west without leaving so much as a lock of his hair, or saying when he intended to return. Zachariah has been employed in the iron foundry at Florence. He is married and has one child. It seems that Barclay Peak, a young man convicted of the murder of Mary Anderson, had called on Mrs. Hinkle before her marriage, and one day she told her husband if Barclay had married her there wouldn't have been any murder, and he wouldn't now be in jail. This excited Zachariah's jealousy, and a hymeneal spat ensued. He then sent Mrs. Hinkle down to Camden on a visit to her father and after her departure he packed up a lot of household goods, broke up housekeeping and took the train for the west where he will probably begin life on a new basis of single blessedness. (*Note from Janet: Barclay Peak was the brother of Lizzie Peak, Wesley Warner's victim.*)

August 27, 1887 Boys Who Play Baseball on Sunday Will Never Grow up to Become Bank Cashiers... The first Monday in September, known as Labor Day, has been declared a legal holiday... At the courthouse next Sunday morning Reverend Dayton Roberts will tell the congregation why he is not ashamed of being a Presbyterian... The renowned Owley Lemon passed through town on Wednesday morning perfectly sober. This circumstance gave rise to considerable remark... Last Friday, James, brother of Barclay Peak, was released from the state prison where he has served a term of one year for assaulting Officer Carr of Mount Holly... A caterpillar crawled over the bald pate of a man in church last Sunday and just took everybody's attention from the sermon until it completed the circuit of the bald spot, and dropped on the floor... Some of the residents of Merchantville were startled a few days ago by a strange sight. Galloping through the streets of the town on a stylish iron gray horse was a young and beautiful woman, whose long silken tresses were unbound and floated loosely in the wind, hardly concealing a scanty costume. It was well nigh as scanty as that of Lady Godiva centuries ago in Coventry. It was only an undergarment that flapped loosely as she rode along. The phantom horse woman dashed out the main turnpike, leading from Camden to Moorestown, with the speed of the wind. On reaching the grounds of the Merchantville Driving Park, she dismounted at the clubhouse with the remark that her "horse need tow weights" and walked in and took a seat. All noticed that she was laboring under great mental excitement,

and endeavored to induce her to retire to another part of the house in charge of the matron, but she would not listen to it. She was taken into custody. She proved to be the daughter of a wealthy railroad man of Philadelphia, and had been in company with her mother under medical treatment at the sanitarium in Merchantville.

March 31, 1888 Local Affairs. A lame tramp made a tour of Mt. Holly on Monday and collected enough money from the charitably inclined to procure a shave, hair cut, pair of shoes, a flannel shirt and a quart of whiskey. This is what charity does some times.

March 31, 1888 Stag Hall Captured. A raid was made on that classic resort known as "Stag Hall" at Shamong Station on Monday night. The hour fixed was just at a time when music and mirth were doing their level best, and joy had been unconfined for three mortal hours. Just as the hands on the clock over the bar were getting weary of calling time for a lot of folks who didn't care what o'clock it was, the stalwart form of Constable A. A. Adams darkened the doorway. He had a warrant in his clothes for the arrest of Conrad Estill and Daniel Dellett for assault and battery on Charles Beebe, who was knocked down while on a recent visit to Stag Hall and had one eye knocked out with a poker.

March 31, 1888 About the Lawyers. People living outside of Mt. Holly who do not often visit the county seat, frequently display a laudable desire to know what kind of lawyer so and so is, what he looks like, how he talks and whether he is a rattler or not when he gets into court. For the benefit of these anxious ones we now propose to give a brief sketch of the members of the bar in order to enlighten those ignorant of the facts. Tall, slender and wiry Mark R. Sooy looks more like a minister than a lawyer. But there is no brighter man at the bar than he. Clear, logical and earnest he always commands the attention of the court and jury, and often a good many people attend court to hear him plead. Martin L. Haines is tall, slender and looks like a genius. His only facial adornment is an iron gray moustache, and he is known as a man who always speaks what he thinks under all circumstances. He has a good office practice, which he prefers to whooping up the air in the courtroom. (*Note from Janet: Martin L. Haines was the grandfather of former Burlington County Assignment Judge Martin Haines and the great grandfather of Freeholder Bill Haines.*) A pair of light side whiskers and a blond mustache are worn

by Jerome Grigg, whose office is on upper main street, where he can be generally found six days in the week. Mr. Grigg has achieved an excellent reputation, and when he gets started generally surprises the audience in the courtroom.

July 28, 1888 Caught at Last. An important capture was made on Thursday night by Officer Gilbert of Masonville, who with Officer Burr, of Moorestown, have for a long time been on the lookout for a gang of thieves that have been operating all along the Rancocas Creek and Delaware River, robbing houses, barns and horses. The ring leader of the gang was supposed to be Lorenzo Atkinson, who has for some time past been living with Thomas Wells, near Centerton, and on Thursday evening he made his appearance at the Masonville Station lugging a heavy valise. Officer Gilbert had a description of the man, and Atkinson answered it to perfection, so it was decided to arrest him. "Is your name Atkinson?" said the officer. The man made no response, and pretended he didn't understand. When the question was repeated, he walked away. He was then arrested. On being questioned he said he was going to Burlington to see his brother, who lives on Burlington Island. Atkinson's valise was next examined, and its contents showed that the right man had been captured. It was filled with silver and plated ware, boots, shoes, underwear and goodness knows what else. Atkinson was locked up for 90 days under the Disorderly Act. Before his sentence expires it is thought there will be enough evidence against him to send him to state prison for a long time. That night, Officers Burr and Gilbert went to Burlington for the purpose of hunting up some of the rest of the stolen property. Procuring a boat they rowed over to Burlington Island and went directly to the house of George Atkinson, who is a respectable farmer, and told him their errand. He was perfectly willing to allow them to look for the goods, and in a short time their search was rewarded by the discovery of a quantity of silverware under a lot of hay in the barn. Before leaving the premises a search was made of the attic, which resulted in the finding of a lot of new clothing, underwear, and women's dresses, all of which had been stolen. The prisoner, Lorenzo Atkinson, has been in state prison two or three times, and is a bad one. He says he bought the goods of a tramp, and denies having stolen them. (*Note from Janet: 11 years earlier, this same Lorenzo Atkinson was incarcerated in our jail on another offense. He was visited by his friend's wife when the two switched clothing, allowing Atkinson to walk out of prison in disguise. In 1892, Atkinson was again incarcerated on another offense, and escaped again, taking another prisoner with him through a hole in the wall.*)