

Vol IV Issue 1

HISTORIC BURLINGTON COUNTY PRISON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 483
MOUNT HOLLY, NEW JERSEY 08060
TELEPHONE: 609-518-7667
TELEFAX: 609-265-1085
E-MAIL: PMA1811@VERIZON.NET

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - SATURDAY, MAY 21 at 10 A.M.

February 25, 2005

Dear PMA Members and Other Friends:

Winter may still be with us, but spring is just around the corner. With spring comes our annual membership drive. Membership renewal forms are enclosed. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. For those of you who are not members, please consider joining our worthy cause. You can't go wrong joining the PMA - - you don't have to do much and you get great bennies, including free admission to the Jail, 10% off in the gift shop and my terrific newsletters three or four times a year.

Due to a little snafu, the minutes of the recent Board of Trustees meeting went out to all the members instead of just the Board members. Generally, I simply summarize what is discussed in the newsletter for the general membership. All of you should be EXTREMELY well informed about the issues we want to address this year, and so I won't repeat them here. If any of you did not receive the minutes and want a copy, just leave a message on our answering machine.

A general membership meeting will be held on Saturday, May 21 at 10 a.m. Weather permitting, we will meet outside in the exercise yard; otherwise, we'll meet in the PMA office. Coffee and donuts will be served. We will discuss progress that has been made on the issues outlined in the minutes.

Actually, there is already news to report. The Freeholders and the Parks Department responded immediately to our concerns about the building. The electrical problem has already been resolved. Our county officials have made

their dedication to the promotion of the Jail quite clear over the last few years, and I am confident that all our concerns will be properly addressed.

Jail attendant Marisa Bozarth is halfway done the graffiti project, and we hope to be able to present the finished product at the meeting in May. We also hope to have the Joel Clough Confession printed and on sale in the gift shop by then. I will send another newsletter in April which will include a reminder about the meeting and any further updates.

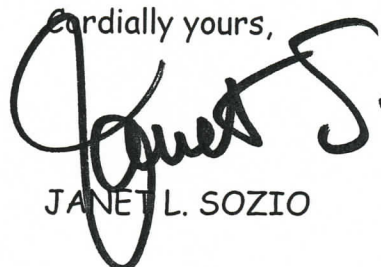
I am sad to report that we have lost one of the PMA's original members, Brooke Tidswell. Mr. Tidswell was a fine gentleman whose life spanned almost a century. He was a longtime Mt. Holly resident and was involved in many civic pursuits, including the drive in the 1960s to keep the Jail from being razed. What a great guy he was. Our sympathy goes out to his son, PMA member Brooke Tidswell, III, and the rest of his family.

As most of you know, after 30 years of service, County Administrator Fred Galdo retired at the end of 2004 and has been replaced by Augustus ("Gus") Mosca. Fred was a great friend to the PMA. We want to publicly thank him for that and also for the exemplary way he ran our county for so many years. We also want to offer congratulations and to pledge support to Gus, who we are confident is up to the task he has taken on.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our current Jail Warden, Juel Cole, for thinking of us recently. He dug up some very interesting old records which he has donated to the Jail and which will be available for perusal at the meeting in May.

Our newspaper excerpts this time are from 1918. How do you like the article about the Jail? It was woefully outmoded even then, but it would be another half century before it was closed. My favorite story is the one about the peep show in Burlington. A later article reported that all involved pleaded no contest and were fined. By then it was referred to as the "cherry smoker" since the only thing the Princess had worn was a cherry (don't ask).

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet L. Sozio". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

JANET L. SOZIO

PRISON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
2004 Members

Hon. John A. Almeida	Hon. Marie E. Lihotz
Catharine B. Armstrong	Pat LePre
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Attendant Marisa Bozarth	Stacy L. Moore, Esquire
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Pete & Karen Cawthon	Michael L. Mouber, Esquire
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Hon. Dominick J. Ferrelli	Dennis C. Rizzo & Elizabeth Van Houtte
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Kristen & Natalie Freeman	Rhondi Schwartz, Esquire
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Joyce Goldsmith	Robert Silcox
Florence Gomez	Delsea Sozio
County Clerk Phil Haines	Dena & Drew Sozio
David Hasson	Janet L. Sozio, Esquire
Barbara Hatfield	Jeanette Sozio
Charlie Holman	Brooke Tidswell, III
Michael C. Hovdestad, Esquire	Traub & Trumaian
Marie Del Presto Jerlat	Any Trumaian
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Judith L. King	Gary Woodend, Esquire
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Stewart LaVine	

MT. HOLLY HERALD

January 5, 1918

At a recent meeting of the Burlington County Board of Education at Pemberton, Maurice R. Massey, of Beverly, spoke on "Policies of Boards of Education." He stated in part; "I wish to say that I am in favor of electing women as members of a board of education, but in a board of five there should only be two women, they should always be in the minority. They are as a rule poor in executive capacity, but highly efficient in other work, such as care of property, looking after the supplies and of excellent help to the staff of teachers in building up the morals of the child."

January 12, 1918

Since George Coleman resigned as one of the night wardens at the county jail, Sheriff Haines has made the statement that he does not propose to make an appointment to fill the vacancy unless there is more demand than he can see at the present time. He also states that he sees no reason for inserting in the budget an item of \$625 for a matron at the jail, as there is no demand for a woman regularly on duty. If the services of such an official are needed, Mrs. Haines will give the County the benefit of her ability and willingness, and the expense will not be worth mentioning. Sheriff Haines is to be commended for the stand he takes in practicing economy for the taxpayers.

February 2, 1918

A public meeting will be held in the courthouse on February 8 to bring before the people of this community developments which led to the establishment of the colony for feeble-minded males at four mile and to arouse interest in pending legislation....A meeting was held at the courthouse on Tuesday for the final hearing on the 1918 budget. After the public meeting, the freeholders held an executive session. Upon returning, the changes were announced with all salary increases granted as follows: Clerk, \$500 - \$750; Supervisor of Roads, \$1,700 - \$2,200; Janitor of Courthouse, \$500 - \$600; Asylum Physician, \$500 - \$600. The total of the budget is \$338,000. . . . A comprehensive state road building program has been mapped out in compliance with the referendum of last year including a provision for the building of a modern highway along the Delaware River from Bordentown to Camden, by way of Fieldsboro, Roebling, Florence and Burlington.

February 9, 1918

The conviction of Charles E. Joyce, of Vincentown, at present Director of the Burlington County Board of Freeholders, under a charge of driving his automobile in Mt. Holly a year or so ago while he was alleged to be intoxicated, has been upheld by the Court of Errors and Appeals. The original sentence that now stands calls for 30 days imprisonment in the County Jail.

March 2, 1918

An order directing the guardian of Adam Karge, a lunatic, formerly of Smithville, to pay his wife, Mrs. Mary Karge, \$7.50 a week for her support was made by Vice Chancellor Leaming in Camden on Tuesday. Karge is 65 years old and his wife is 29. It was stated in Court that he has an estate

valued at \$16,000. This matter came up before Judge Lippincott at Mt. Holly a short time ago and the testimony taken afforded considerable amusement for the audience.

March 9, 1918 At the March meeting of the Board of Freeholders on Wednesday Sheriff Haines was authorized to secure ground for raising garden crops for feeding the inmates of the County Jail.

March 16, 1918 A woman is said to be going around posing as a government representative to see how much flour housekeepers have in their homes. The admittance of such a person to homes should be denied. When the government wants to know how much flour people have on hand, it will go about the matter in a businesslike way. . . . Medford barbers, under pressure of present conditions, have joined the ranks of price increasers and shaves are now 15 cents and haircuts 25 cents. In the larger places in other parts of the county these prices have been enforced for some time.

March 30, 1918 Lt. Clifford R. Powell of Mt. Holly, now with the Aerial Squadron with the American Expeditionary Forces in France, recently had the experience of being dumped into the ocean while making observations from higher up. The pilot experienced difficulty in handling the machine when trouble developed and the consequent sudden descent was not according to schedule. The Mt. Holly young man is evidently having some novel experiences over there.

April 6, 1918 Douglas Fisher, who escaped from a county jail road gang sometime last fall while he was under sentence of 300 days for making a general nuisance of himself with his family, appeared in town on Friday night and was quickly taken in by Policeman Hall after it was reported that he had landed at his home again with every evidence of a determination to make more trouble for his wife, who has been afraid of him for a long time. On the way to jail, Doug became ugly and had a notion that he was going to give Policeman Hall some annoyance, but he soon found out that he had tackled the wrong proposition. Just about the time he was being straightened up and made to walk turkey, Powell gave the reinforcement necessary to make the trip more orderly. Doug will probably find himself in a bad way when he gets before the Court.... The Grand Jury of the December term of Court has finished its work as a result of two sessions during the past week, one on Saturday morning to visit and inspect the county institutions in Mt. Holly and another on Thursday night to formally present to Judge Lippincott a report on the inspection. The report is clean all the way through, attacking nobody and doing nothing beyond making timely recommendations for the betterment of certain departments of the County's business. It is given in full as presented to the Court on Thursday night, April 11, 1918: We, the Grand Jury of the December Term, 1917, desire to submit to Your Honor the following comments and recommendations concerning the various departments and institutions of this County. After a careful inspection of the County Jail both by the Jury as a whole and by a subcommittee appointed by our number, we are unanimously of the

opinion that it is poorly planned and out of date. Some of the cells are insufficiently lighted and ventilated, the sanitary arrangements are antiquated, the provisions for safely caring for prisoners confined for higher crimes are inadequate and it is not what such a penal institution should be. When building conditions become more favorable, it is the belief of this Grand Jury that the County should look toward remodeling the whole interior of the building to conform as nearly as possible to the best modern standards for such an institution. Such radical alterations in this structure at present, however, seem to be out of the question and we therefore recommend the following minor improvements: (1) That a cement floor be laid in the portion of the basement now paved with bricks. Such a change will make it far easier to keep clean the cells and corridors in that part of the building. (2) That in the basement cells, raised platforms be constructed of cement or in some other suitable way upon which the sleeping mattresses may be placed instead of upon the floor as at present. (3) That a hot water supply pipe be run in every bathtub in the institution, that these tubs be kept clean and that all prisoners be compelled to bathe and to wash their clothing at frequent intervals during their stay in jail. At present only cold water can be run into the bathtubs and such a condition does not conduce to personal cleanliness. (4) The law directs that "all persons under the age of 18 who are put in jail shall be kept separate and apart so that no communication can take place between them and other persons above such age confined therein on a charge or conviction of crime." No adequate arrangements at present exist in our jail for the incarceration of young persons where they cannot communicate with other prisoners and we recommend that some proper way be found to comply with the law in this respect. From the examination of the jail records, it appears that some justices of the peace in our county frequently sentence prisoners arrested for drunkenness and disorderly conduct to 6 or 9 months in the county jail. While they appear to have the legal right to do so, we believe that many times these sentences are unnecessarily long and we recommend that a policy for shorter terms for such minor transgressors be adopted.

May 4, 1918

When Judge Lippincott held a session of Court on Friday, the names of the young men of Burlington who were indicted by the Grand Jury last week in connection with the sensational smoker held by Hope Fire Company on February 21 became publicly known for the first time and curiosity about the matter was satisfied. The five were charged with conspiracy and assisting in lewdness as the outcome of the exhibition of a woman in nakedness at the social affair. Through their counsel, former Assemblyman Peacock, all entered pleas of not guilty and furnished bail of \$500 each. Also indicted were the woman performer, "Princess Kay" and her husband, both of whom were charged with lewdness, it having been understood that the man was just as guilty as the woman, he having acted as her manager and made the suggestion that the Princess would do something better than appear in scanty attire as she did for her first "turn", if there was sufficient financial inducement. The exhibition that is reported to have followed indicated most clearly that a collection taken among the audience was the sufficient inducement that met all the requirements. The couple were not in court,

officers having thus far failed to apprehend them. . . . Another raid on crap shooters was made by the police on Sunday and 14 of the "Come 7" crowd were lined up on Monday night for a hearing. The names were not published, but most anybody who wants to find out who the fellows were may get the information from the justice's docket. The Judge gave the offenders a little lecture right off the griddle and then touched each of them for \$5 in costs.

June 22, 1918 On account of its supposedly German name, sauerkraut seems to be losing its popularity as an American dish. No matter what name it may be known, sauerkraut is a valuable food and its use should not be curtailed as a result of over zealous and ill advised patriotism.

July 6, 1918 Instructions received from Washington on Saturday advised the Hungarian Society of Roebling that their members would not be permitted to carry their flags or parade in their uniforms on July 4.

October 26, 1918 There is no place in Burlington County that has been harder hit than Riverside during the influenza and pneumonia epidemic and death has been recorded at an appalling rate. More than half the population has been sick at one time during the month that the epidemic has been in progress. It is reported that the town has had between 50 and 60 deaths during the outbreak.

November 9, 1918 Like every other place in civilized creation, Mt. Holly went wild with enthusiasm in celebration on Thursday afternoon after the unofficial news was received that Germany had surrendered. The whole town cut loose in a few minutes, all kinds of business stopped, Judge Carrow adjourned his court and hundreds of other things happened when bells were rung, whistles were blown and thousands of contrivances that would make a noise were put in action. The report of a great victory was not confirmed by inquiries made of Philadelphia newspaper offices during the afternoon and it is now stated in Washington that the report was a fake.

November 16, 1918 For the second time within a week, Mt. Holly went wild again on Monday after authentic news was received that hostilities had ceased and the world war had come to an end through the signing of an armistice by Germany.

November 30, 1918 Undertaker H. H. Earnest, of Mt. Holly, had a rather distressing situation to handle on Tuesday when his heavy auto hearse was struck and knocked over on its side at Sykesville while he was on his way to the burial ground at Jacobstown with the funeral of Solomon H. Bruner of Mt. Holly. When Mr. Earnest reached the crossroads at Sykesville a jitneur driving a Hudson touring car from Camp Dix to Trenton struck the hearse amidships, knocking it on its side and rolling the casket over with it. The excitement that would naturally be expected quickly followed and the incident added to the grief of the mourners.