

Vol IV Issue 3

HISTORIC BURLINGTON COUNTY PRISON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
ANNUAL MEETING - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2005 at 10 a.m.
HALLOWEEN EVENT - OCTOBER 28, 29, 30, 31, 2005

September 8, 2005

Dear PMA Members and Other Friends:

BIG NEWS - It looks like the Halloween event is actually going to happen on the above dates. Clark Bish and his cohorts are virtual whirling dervishes, working like crazy and cooking up all kinds of scary stuff. And I mean scary - this thing really will not be for little kids.

Of course, we need help. I am happy to report that PMA volunteers will not be asked to dress up and/or perform unless they want to. We need grown up types to handle money and serve as safeties and monitors. Please call me at my office (609-265-0202) or Jail Attendant Marisa Bozarth at the PMA office or the Jail (609-265-5478) if you can help out on one or more of the nights.

Our by-laws require us to have an annual meeting the first Saturday in November. So come on out and join us. Between now and then I'll peek at the by-laws and figure out what we're supposed to do at the meeting. I suspect we'll be too pooped out from the Halloween event to be up to doing much more than downing a coffee and a donut.

Things went pretty well at the Jail this summer, despite the horrendous heat. We had 535 people through on the day of the car show in May and 230 on the day of the bike race in July.

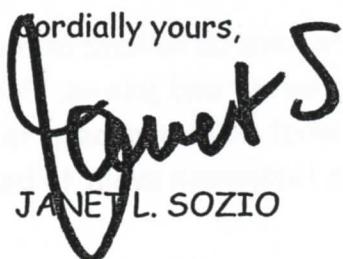
Our membership meeting in May was very nice. We unveiled the vegetable garden at the meeting. It's a good thing that Tom Faile took a picture of it inasmuch as it was devoured by some varmint just a few days after the meeting. Our Jail Attendant, Marisa, our summer volunteer, Laura Hicken, and I were simply crestfallen. Well, there's always next year.

Ghost hunters continue to flock to the Jail. One of the Philadelphia network news shows did a long piece on the Jail via the ghost angle. I really think its 99% hooey, but you can't argue against the free advertising.

I hope you like the newspaper excerpts. The winter of 1896-97 was a rough one in our County. It was freezing cold and there was a drought. There are numerous reports of ice skaters falling through. I think its interesting that the phrase "blowing money" apparently has been used for at least 108 years! I wonder if Walter Asay, the poor kid who smoked away his brain (?) , is related to the Asay who killed Warden King in 1920. The Barclay Peak who murdered his girlfriend was the brother of Lizzie Peak, who was also murdered by her boyfriend. What a gang they must have been. I hesitated to include the excerpt on Moorestown for fear of tarnishing its sublime reputation: can you imagine speakeasies and tax collecting thugs in the best place to live in America? I assume a "grass widow" is a married woman who does not live with her husband. But does anybody know what it means exactly? And does anybody know what "paris green" is?

Again, please give us a hand at the Halloween event. It should be a lot of fun and, if it goes as planned, we'll make some dough which we can use to help display the Robert Mills plans if we ever get them. (HINT HINT)

Looking forward to hearing from you, I remain,

Cordially yours,

Janet L. SOZIO

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MT. HOLLY HERALD 1897

January 2 State News. Daniel Lynch, of Camden, while insane, chased people through the streets with an open razor... A woman's hand frozen and in good condition was found in a tin can near the Atlantic City beach . . . Walter Asay, 20 years old, of Long Branch, is very sick with brain trouble at the Memorial Hospital. He is a victim of the cigarette habit and his recovery is doubtful . . . The Morris County Jail has been supplied with bathtubs for the prisoners, and also a system of electric lighting and bells by means of which the sheriff can detect any outbreak among the prisoners.

Local Affairs. On Monday last, Joseph Witcraft, a farm hand in the employ of Japhet Deacon, was sent to Bridgeboro with a load of hay. After being paid the money due for the load, Witcraft drove to Beverly and then took the train for no one knows where. He received about \$23 for the hay, which he is now engaged in blowing. The chances are that he will be captured in due time and given a term in state prison . . . Another effort is being made to secure the pardon of Barclay Peak, the murderer of Katie Anderson, on the ground that his health is failing and that he cannot live much longer if confined to prison . . . A combination party was given at Rancocas on Thursday evening. Until midnight it was a leap year affair, and the girls had to select the male partners they desired to dance with. As soon as the New Year dawned the men went out to the front and selected their partners in the good old way... A man by the name of Taylor, who is in the employ of William Rodgers, of Willingboro, went out for a drive the other day, and a few hours later the horse came home on a dead run with Taylor hanging out of the back of the wagon yelling murder. A man in the tenant house stopped the horse before any further damage was done. Taylor was bruised about the back and head. He is said to have been assaulted by footpads.... Samuel Scott and Warren Glass, two young men who resided in a tenement house on the farm of Joseph Tallman, near Burlington City, were arrested last Tuesday night on the charge of petty larceny. The men had been in the habit of tieing their horse under the sheds of one of the churches and, going into the church, would leave just previous to dismissal. When the owners of the several teams would make preparations to go home, several whips and blankets would be missing. This occurred on Sunday night, at the First Baptist Church. Magistrate Smith committed both men to the Burlington County Jail.

Red Lion. A young man came in town with a chocolate colored turkey on Saturday night and put him up at \$2 for a raffle. He bought him back for

\$1, put him up again for \$2, and then won him himself. The turkey and the young man still gobble.

Moorestown. A contract to collect delinquent taxes has been awarded to Justice Pettit, who is determined to make some of them come to the front with the amount due or else go to jail. In order to make himself look as fierce as possible, the 'squire will cut off his side whiskers, have his beard sharpened to a point and wear a set of brass knuckles. If this don't bring them he will resort to harsher measures . . . A Sunday speakeasy has been in operation on the quiet for some time, and it will probably be raided before long, as some of the people who frequent it do not wait for the shades of night to fall before making their appearance on the streets, and as they are frequently very much the worse for their potations, the neighbors have a chance to get a good view of them. One of these chaps is a married man with a family, and his relatives do not propose to permit this thing to go on much longer.

Vincentown. There is something very rejuvenating about the air in this vicinity. It seems to contain a large proportion of ozone and ginger, making the young people retain their youth and the elder ones their spryness. On Saturday last, Noah Peacock, who is in his 70th year, was seen skating on the millpond here with children of 10 years and upwards, and while he did not cut any highland flings, he certainly did some high kicking for a person of his age . . . Considerable excitement was created on Monday night by a female mendicant, who had been going from door to door asking for alms. She had a sad story to tell, and at one place tried to excite sympathy by drinking the contents of a bottle of laudanum. It didn't kill her though, as she was probably used to the medicine, but it created quite a stir in town for a while.

Pemberton. On Christmas night, William Bennett, Arthur Jones, Lidie Thomas, and Annie Wells started out for a sleigh ride. It was a perfect night. The man in the moon wasn't looking, the stars winked in the good old way, and the wind that came howling down on its journey from the north pole had a blustering way about it that made the young people sit close for mutual protection. Their hearts were light and their joyous laughter made music as they passed along. Just then a change came o'er the scene as if by magic. As they reached a railway crossing they discovered that there was a patch of ground that was entirely clear of snow. The next moment the sleigh came in contact with the earth. A crash followed, and before anyone could even utter a shriek the venerable sleigh succumbed to the strain and fell apart. No one was hurt, and all were on their feet in a moment. They gathered up the

fragments and tenderly bore it back to the owner . . . At a hog killing tournament here recently, A. Lincoln Johnson and Buffalo Bill Bowers were the executioners, assisted by Denny Green. There was a guessing box in operation as it contained \$2.65, Bill and Denny were very anxious to get it. George Early was employed to act as weigh master, as he was known to be honest, but it was necessary to get rid of him for a few moments, so he was sent to the house on a trivial errand. During his absence the sports decided to weigh the porker in order to make sure of capturing the contents of the guessing box, but they made a mistake after all, as they looked on the wrong side of the scales, which showed the weight to be 125 lbs. The hog was then hastily lowered and the sports looked as innocent as lambs when Early returned. They put a guess in the box for 124 lbs. When the hog was officially weighed it was found to tip the beam at 134 lbs. This was General Brittain's guess, and he captured the guessing box to the complete discomfiture of the sports who thought they had the thing down fine.

Columbus. Ellis Parker went down to Waretown on a gunning trip last week and brought home a number of ducks. He says the bay was literally alive with wild fowl, but most of them kept at a safe distance from the gunning points. Ex-Sheriff Townsend is just recovering from the effects of a carbuncle that has caused him great pain and suffering. He is satisfied that one such visitation is enough for a lifetime.

Florence. *Sunshine*, a weekly newspaper, began gleaming over Florence last week. Eugene de la Roi is editor and proprietor... The Delaware River is frozen over.

Hainesport. The Iron Foundry has been shut down for two or three weeks while annual account of stock is being taken, and while repairs are being made to the smelting furnace.

January 9 State News. Orange is raising a calvary troop to fight for free Cuba, and, as soon as 100 men are enrolled, they will start for the scene of action. A burglar broke into the West Jersey station at Pleasantville, and after stealing 30 cents, left a note wishing the agent a Happy New Year... The Hotel Piermont of Cape May was totally destroyed by fire Sunday. The loss is estimated at \$20,000 ... Owing to the scarcity of water in the ponds of some sections in Gloucester and Salem Counties, people have been unable to fill their ice houses. George Yeager, who had his wife and brother arrested in Camden on Monday after a long search for them, brought a charge of bigamy against the pair on Friday. He claims to have discovered that they had been married in Camden.

Local Affairs. A man with a worried appearance and who seemed to act as though he had lost something valuable, stole silently up the stairs in the YMCA building on Saturday night and knocked carefully at the office door and in a soft voice asked secretary Lynch "ef that thar wuz the place they teached dancin', and wot wuz hit fur jist a lessing". He was informed that dancing wasn't taught there and he quietly retired, much disappointed... On Wednesday, Samuel Applegate, of Springfield Township, left his team under Horner's hotel sheds at Juliustown when along came William Test and William Schaffer, two citizens of Ocean County, and stole a robe from the wagon. They were captured soon afterward and committed to the County Jail.... Thieves paid two visits to Phillip B. Lippincott's farm on Wood Lane this week. On Monday night 10 bushels of corn were stolen, and on Tuesday night 32 chickens were taken.

Moorestown. Martin Dugan, the blacksmith and carriage builder, has made a general reduction in the wages of all his employees.... The Mineola Tribe, No. 57, I. O. R. M. elected the following officers: Prophet, Frank Ellis; Sachem, Scott Wonderland; Chief of Records, L. Hansen; Keeper of Wampum, S. Chambers.... A man who has been in the employ of Johnson Goodenough was arrested on Wednesday by Aaron Burr on a warrant charging him with bigamy. The prisoner looked as if one wife was all he was entitled to, but the evidence was that he had another wife living in Maryland, so he was taken down there for trial.

Burlington. On Friday last Will Addis had a narrow escape from drowning. He was skating on the creek when the ice gave way. Bernard Smith went to his aid, and he, too, was precipitated in the water by the breaking of the ice. Both were finally rescued in a very much exhausted condition... The Bristol-Burlington Ferry Boat made its way through the ice in the Delaware on Monday.

Marlton. While suffering from the effects of a debauch last Wednesday, Phillip Carr of Evesboro swallowed a quantity of paris green from the effects of which he died soon afterward.

Jacksonville. The burning question of the hour around the stove at the grocery exchange is: "who will get the contract to carry the mails between this place and Burlington?" The price is low, but there are several willing to cut under it in order to secure the job.

Indian Mills. The crack bicycle rider who made a trip to Elm the other day to see the girl who holds a mortgage on his affections, was obliged

to retire from the scene, as another young man had secured an option on her for the evening . . . A young man from Red Lion who makes this place a visit regularly every Sunday evening, failed to meet the object of his affections last Sunday evening at the trysting place, so he gave a peculiar yell that resembled the call of the Dodo to its mate. The next moment a young woman appeared, jumped in the carriage and they drove off. After they had gone about a mile he discovered that his companion was not the girl he was looking for and she was expecting a caller about the same time and had gone off with him by mistake. It was a funny break for both.

January 16 Samuel Scott and Warner Glass were tried before Judge Gaskill on the charge of stealing blankets from carriages under the Baptist Church sheds at Burlington. Scott was convicted and sentenced to three months in the County Jail. Glass was acquitted.

Browns Mills. Much discomfort is caused by the fact that more than one half the wells here abouts are dry.

Moorestown. The report that Martin Dugan had reduced the wages of the men in his employ was untrue. Only one man had his wages reduced and that was the result of his failure to attend to his duties. There has been no reduction in the working force at the shops and all of the rest are receiving the same wages as before.

January 23 Local Affairs. A number of blue jays and red birds have been seen in Bispham's Bog the past few days... There will be quite a departure of mechanics from Mt. Holly if times are not better in the Spring... The Madison Hotel, at the corner of Washington Street and Madison Avenue, Mt. Holly, was sold on Friday by the Sheriff to the North Camden Building and Loan Association for \$3,800... The tongues of the gossips are again waging about a prominent young man, who promised to marry a young girl, but who failed to assist her at the request of her parents and friends, and has gone to housekeeping with a grass widow... People who are somewhat advanced in life and have been residents of these parts for a number of years past, may remember that it hasn't been many years since Mt. Holly was a good market for the pelts of muskrats that were trapped or shot in very large numbers along the streams in this part of Burlington County. There is living in Mt. Holly a middle-aged man who from his youth has been engaged trapping these animals at the proper season of the year, and has been quite a success at it. From the King Street bridge to what is known as Joel Haines Wharf on the Rancocas Creek are his best trapping grounds, and the cold weather is the best time to get them for they are driven from the smaller

streams to the creek, where they can get the succulent candelock roots for food. For those caught in the Spring he gets better prices for their pelts.

Moorestown. A woman giving her name as Annie Gunn, who said she lived in east Moorestown, was arrested in Camden on Saturday night for being very much under the influence of liquor. She was locked up in the city hall until the "funny feeling" passed off.

Chatsworth. The demise of Charles Pittman's pet dog, "Ginny" caused a general feeling of gloom at Mt. Relief last Sunday. The dog was an unusually intelligent animal and a general favorite. It had been sick for several days and when its master returned to the house on Sunday morning it crawled feebly up to his feet, looked up in his face, whined pitifully a few times and then fell over dead. Its last effort was an attempt to show its deep affection for its master, and the entire family sincerely mourned its death. As a mark of respect the animal was given a Christian burial. Charles Mason made a neat coffin for it, and the grave was dug by Charles Hicks. As the body was lowered into the tomb the entire family shed tears . . . A \$3,000 railroad station is now being built here by the Central Railroad Company, and will be one of the greatest improvements the town has had... A large Hebrew colony will in all probability soon be established by a company of gentlemen who have been very successful in that line elsewhere. If the deal goes through it will make Chatsworth a busy place.

January 30 Margaret Hoover, a tramp, was found in a very critical condition in the tenant house of Richard Woolston near Smithville last Thursday. Dr. Webb, an alms house physician who happened to be in the neighborhood, was called in and pronounced her to be suffering from the effects of the debauch. Overseer of the poor Applegate was notified and he wanted to take her to the alms house, but she protested against going there and insisted upon being taken to the hospital or county jail. As the hospital authorities do not receive such cases she was taken to the jail, where she died Friday morning..... Senator Parry introduced a freeholder bill on Tuesday which will revolutionize the system of electing freeholders in several counties, including Burlington County. The bill provides for the election of five freeholders for terms of three years and with salaries of \$700 per year. Each political party names six candidates, and the five having the highest voter elected, but there must be three of one party and two of another. This is similar to the Pennsylvania system.