



The Gazette



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Sponsoring Historic Bristol Day - Third Saturday of Each October
BCHF is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, all volunteer organization.

APRIL 2020

DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS

The March 29th Program,

“Little Street, Big City; How Elfreth’s Alley Tells the Story of Philadelphia”

AND

The Silver Anniversary Tea on April 19th, have been canceled.

President's Corner

Once again on the third Saturday of October, we will be hosting our annual “Historic Bristol Day”. This year there are two chairpersons; they are Mary Gesualdi and Nick Rizzo. Some of the members of the committee are Jesse Walker, Janice Rhodes, Sue Watkins, Bethanne Olczak, Helen Younglove, Anna Larrisey, Nancy Doyle, Mary McIlvain, Mary Kehoe, Lillian Kinney, Nancy Maren, Nancy Riccio, Cate Murway, Debbie Pinney, Kathy Barniskis, Sue Ligato, Harold Mitchener, Mike Crossan, and others.

The committee is starting to plan Bristol Day now because there are many details to be coordinated, many telephone calls to be made and many letters to be written. We need your help if you have a pick-up truck and/or someone who could help to deliver signs and set up the tables. We will need many tables for our BCHF items and one for the bakeshop (plus others). All of our leaders and volunteers receive no financial contribution. The work of planning and organizing Bristol Day is

done for the good of the town of Bristol and our organization. If you would like to volunteer, our telephone number is 215 781-9895. Please leave a message and someone will return your call as soon as possible. A letter can also be written to BCHF, P.O. #215, Bristol, PA, 19007

Harold Mitchener, President



Historic Bristol Day Co-chairs for 2020 - - above, Mary Gesualdi and to the left, Nick Rizzo

Notes on Historic Bristol Day

The next HBD meeting is on Tuesday, April 21 at 7 pm. We are still on the lookout for additional manpower. There is a real need for a few able-bodied men who have pick-up trucks to deliver and pick up the tables and chairs that day and place them at various locations. If interested, e-mail Nick Rizzo at nickandrew78@comcast.net

More news on the need for volunteers. Barry Fisher, who has been doing the delivery and pick up for many years has informed the committee that he can no longer assist with this task. Barry is one of those

unsung heroes of Historic Bristol Day. Without his help over these many years, HBD would never get off the ground. Thanks Barry!

Also thank you to Karen Dopson for her help the past few years with the food court. Karen is stepping down and Nancy Doyle & Mary Kehoe have offered to assist the food vendors this year.

It is important to remember that without the help of Bristolians, whether resident or as lover of all Bristol, HBD would become just a pleasant memory. Anyone is welcome at the planning meetings.



A Note from Ways & Means Trips On Tap For 2020

As of this writing, we can still take 2 more reservations for our **Jazzy Champagne Brunch Cruise** around Lower Manhattan on Saturday, May 30th. See the Calendar of events on the back of the Gazette for more information.

Our next BCHF trip will be in the fall on



Boyertown/Colebrooke Railroad

Saturday, October 3rd. Railroad enthusiasts will surely want to get aboard our **Boyertown/Colebrooke Railroad Trip**. We will experience a 2-hour trip on a Civil War-era railroad through some of the most beautiful valleys in our state. Come with us and enjoy the timeless splendor of dining on the rails in the early 20th century with a white glove lunch, all hand-prepared and served by white coat service stewards in the dining car.

Then we will tour the Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles. Pennsylvania's transportation history will come alive with dozens of displays that include horse-drawn carriages, bikes, cars and trucks, along with roadside architecture such as a 1938 diner and a 1921 Sunoco gas station. Please



Lyndhurst Mansion



Sunnyside on the Hudson

call 215 781-8591 to reserve and make payment. See the Events Calendar at the end of the Gazette for more information. Reservations will start on April 3rd.

In December we will be heading to Tarrytown, NY and a tour of the Lyndhurst Mansion. Lyndhurst is highly acclaimed for its holiday decor. We'll enjoy a family-style lunch, and a tour of "Sunnyside," the home of author Washington Irving. The cost is \$135 for BCHF members and \$138 for non-members.

You may remember that last March was Women's History Month. This year we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and the women who fought for women's rights. On Sunday, May 3rd at 2 pm there will be a FREE theatrical presentation at the Anna Mary Williamson Library and Museum (headquarters of Historic Langhorne Association) at 160 W. Maple Ave., Langhorne Borough. The program will be: "A Visit with a Suffragette: Carie Chapman Catt". Please call 215 752-0854 for more information.

Ways & Means meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7 pm at the BCHF headquarters on Cedar Street. Call Kathy Barniskis 215 943-0258 for more information. Come join us!

Winder Village

During the summer of 1941, the local newspaper ran several articles about a building boom that was developing in Bristol Township. The area was the Winder Farm, a tract of about 60 acres. This was the property of Jacob M. Winder whose farm ran along the present Rodgers Road (Route #413). The farm was surveyed and subdivided into about 240 lots. The water mains of Bristol Borough were extended to the site; the water was supplied from the Bristol Water Works.

The first houses were erected in 1940; ten houses were built and ten more were to be started in 1941. The demand for this type of property in this location went on for several years. The former Winder farmhouse, with five acres of ground adjoining, had been converted into four modern apartments; all were occupied. The new houses were of cinderblock construction with hot air heating and contained a living, kitchen and attached garage on the first floor and two finished bedrooms and bathroom on the second floor with an unfinished bedroom over the garage. Bristol Township took over the streets. One block fronted on Rodgers Road, adjoining the property, and was reserved for business properties. The rest of the tract was restricted for residential development.

The Bristol Township School Board had recently purchased eighteen acres adjoining the development to the northwest in order to construct a

Township Junior High School. The school property was large enough for athletic fields and playgrounds.

Jacob Winder was born in Bristol at 401 Radcliffe St. in 1858. He was educated in the local public schools and at the Friends' Select School, and the Bryant and Statton Business College of Philadelphia. He was first employed by the Landreth Seed Co. at their Bloomsdale farm and later he held positions with C.W. and J. Peirce, Rogers' Mill, and Leedom's Carpet Mills. He served on the Bristol Council 1883-84. He was named Bristol's Postmaster in April 1895 under President Cleveland's administration. After retiring from the postmastership, he entered the grocery and meat business at Pond and Mill Streets (328 Mill St.). He continued the grocery business and then procured the wholesale liquor license. When Prohibition became effective, Mr. Winder closed his liquor store and retired.

He devoted his interests to horseracing. In 1905, Mr. Winder entered horse racing as a pastime. He purchased his first racing horse from a catalogue as a driving horse for his wife, Maggie. He became the owner of a number of notable horses, but he never rode any of them. He owned the famous Maggie Winder, which developed into a phenomenal racing filly during the season of 1909. In the first year of her career as a 3-year-old, she established four

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Look Around Town and See What Has Changed

These were the locations in Bristol of things from the past. What is there today?

1. Bath Street School - 1881
2. Otter Street School - 1854
3. Washington Street School - 1879
4. Site of Grundy Home at Jefferson Avenue and Pond Street - 1879
5. Harriman School built by Averell Harriman for the shipyard town of Harriman.
6. Samuel Carpenter's Mill - (1701) at the foot of Pond Street and the Canal Basin. Other owners were John Dorrance and the Rogers Brothers.
7. Gilkeson House built 1875 and the Keene Home built in 1816
8. Grundy Skating Rink on Jefferson Avenue (1970 - 1995)
9. Pennsylvania Railroad Freight Station on Pond Street opposite the Municipal Building.
10. Wilson & Fenimore Paper Hanging Co.,

Landreth Seed, Barker & Williamson at Beaver and Canal Streets.

11. Harriman Hospital opened 1916 as a medical facility for the Merchant Shipyard in Harriman.
12. Keystone Aircraft Corporation once occupied this site; the building housed Manhattan Soap Corp., Purex, and Dial Corporations.
13. Closson House Hotel and Later the Keystone Hotel at Bath and Otter Streets.
14. In front where a bicycle shop was located at Bath Street and old Route #13 at the PA Railroad that passed through town.
15. German ambassador's House, Beaver Meadow House for canal workers, the Elks' home on Radcliffe Street.
16. Old Town Hall (1831-1938) at the intersection of Radcliffe and Market Streets.
17. Pennsylvania Railroad Passenger Station at Market and Pond Streets.

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Winder Village . . . continued from page 3

world's records. Maggie Winder died Oct. 1930 at age 25 and was buried on the Winder farm. Her grave was decorated with an American flag. Mr. Winder also owned several other racehorses of note; all were offspring of Maggie Winder.

Jacob Winder died at his home on January 24, 1932 and was buried in St. James churchyard. When the estate was finally settled, Jacob Winder had given a practical thought to his love of horses which brought him fame and fortune in racing circles; he incorporated in his will a sum of not exceed-

ing \$200 annually to be provided for each of his three favorites: Maggie Winder, Clara Direct and Windermere. Windermere, the only one of the three horses surviving, had lived a life of ease at the Winder farm for several years. Other provisions of Jacob Winder's will were of the usual type. They provided for the widow of the deceased and a few friends. But the provisions of the will could not be carried out due to the shrinking value of his estate and lack of assets.

Answers to "Look Around Town"

1. Six homes
2. Now commercial use
3. Now parking lot for St. Ann Parish at Dorrance Street
4. The Jefferson Apartments
5. Present-day Bristol High School on Wilson Avenue and Garfield Street
6. Only concrete and stone foundation appears.
7. Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Library at 680 Radcliffe Street
8. Restored lagoon area
9. The Grundy Tower Apartments.

10. Canal works offices and artists' studios
11. Being restored as an assisted living facility
12. Now Lenox China office headquarters, plus several other businesses
13. Now houses the District Justice offices on Bath Street
14. Now a doctors' office
15. Fountain and mile market - T19 at Walnut and Radcliffe Street
16. Now simply the intersection of Radcliffe and Market Streets
17. Now Fidelity Savings & Loan Association Bank

Out of the Past (continued)

last week when Miss Violetta Vanhorn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Vanhorn of Pond Street, was married to John P. Dugan of 322 Buckley Street. A dinner was held at the bride's residence after the ceremony, and later the newly married couple left for Atlantic City to spend their honeymoon. They will reside with the bride's parents.

LIBERTY LOAN WORKERS HARD AT WORK HERE. The Liberty Loan workers of Bristol and surrounding districts are working hard for the coveted stars in their service flag and every effort will be made to meet the quota. All of the wards in Bristol have been on the jump. Today has been designated as Liberty Bond Day, and the fact that the bonds can now be secured at the bank will likely bring in a lot of new names.

LANDRETH SEED FIRM BUYS WALL PAPER MILL. Sold by Bristol Improvement Company for \$55,000. The mill will be used by the Landreths for their business office and for the packing and shipping of seeds. The sale of the buildings marks the passing into other hands of all but one of the mills that were built by the Bristol Improvement Company. The main buildings of the Wall Paper Mill were erected in 1878.

BOY DROWNED IN CANAL BASIN. Little Chester Ludwig, 4 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ludwig, in some manner fell into the canal basin on Sunday after-

noon and was drowned. The Ludwig family moved to Bristol only recently from Bethlehem, and the father was employed at Grundy's Mill.

MAN LOCKED UP FOR SEDITIOUS REMARKS. A resident of Lafayette Street, who claims to be a Russian, used such hard language against the U.S. Government on Monday evening that the Chief of Police, James Sackville, locked him up to prevent him from rough handling by bearers of his abuse. The Dept. of Justice at Philadelphia was notified and they came and took the man out of town.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

The canal has opened from Easton to Bristol and it will only be a short time before coal boats will be coming to Bristol.

A number of local boys in the service have been home the past week, among them being William Stroble, Theodore Roper, Robert Fox, Philip Mahan, and others.

About 25-30 Finnish shipbuilders, whom it is alleged refused to buy Liberty Bonds and uphold the U.S. Government, were laid off at the North Bristol Shipyard.

TRANSFERS OF REAL ESTATE. Bloomsdale Estate Company to W. Averell Harriman, April 16, 1918, 122 a., \$1,000.

Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from **APRIL 1918** issues of THE BUCKS COUNTY GAZETTE

Please note that sections of the "Local Intelligence" column were missing on the microfilm.

4/5 - - **FOUR KEELS LAID AT SHIPYARD SATURDAY.** Local Company Has Eight Keels Now Ready for Work. Four more keels were laid for shipping to help defeat the Kaiser at the North Bristol yard of the Merchants Shipbuilding Corporation last Saturday.

RIVER BOAT COLUMBIA GOING UNDER HAMMER. Will be Sole with Two Others of Bankrupt Company. The old ship Columbia, battle-scarred veteran of the Delaware, is to be sold at a public sale. It was built in 1876 and, at one time, was the fastest boat on the river.

PRICE OF MILK FOR APRIL. The price of milk for April for members of the Inter-State Milk Producers Association will be 7 3/4 cents per quart, f.o.b. Philadelphia.

UNDERTAKER MURPHY MOVES TO JEFFERSON AVENUE. William I. Murphy, the undertaker, has moved from Wood Street to 316 Jefferson Avenue, where he will still be engaged in the undertaking and taxi cab business. Mr. Murphy has purchased the house on Jefferson Avenue.

"Don't Miss This **New BRISTOL THEATRE, WOOD ST., ABOVE JEFFERSON AVE.** Every Friday and Saturday Night at 8:30; Saturday Matinee at 2:30. Commencing this Friday and Saturday, April 5 & 6. A Big Double Show! Orchestra, 25¢; Balcony, 15¢."

"The Path to Victory. Liberty Bonds Pave the Way to Victory in War. If we are to win the war abroad, we must first learn to spend wisely, to abandon luxury, and invest every dollar we possibly can in the Bonds which provide the materials and equipment without which the war cannot be won. Save and Serve! Buy Liberty Bonds! (Paid for by J.S. WRIGHT, DRUGGIST)

4/12 - - **SHIPYARD BAND IS BECOMING BIG SUCCESS.** The new band, which has recently been organized at the shipbuilding plant of the Merchants Shipbuilding Corp., is fast becoming a "crack" musical organization, under the capable leadership of John J. Harris. The organization is currently composed of 45 men.

DAYLIGHT SAVING SCHEME. We are getting accustomed to the new time, as many call it, and, from the expressions we heard, everyone is glad the innovation has been adopted.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

During the heavy wind of Wednesday afternoon, the trolley waiting shed at Edgely Avenue and Radcliffe Street was blown over and carried about one hundred feet onto Landreth's field.

"**WRIGHT'S SERVICE GARAGE, Otter Street . . . OVERLAND, f.o.b. Toledo, \$965.** The solid comfort of the 35 horsepower Overland, combined with unusual power and unusual economy, has made it for years the most suc-

cessful car of its size by far.

4/19 - - **SHIPYARD Y.M.C.A TO OPEN TONIGHT.** One of the biggest events ever here at the plant of the Merchants Shipbuilding Corp. will be staged tonight when the opening of the temporary Y.M.C.A. building will take place. Membership fee is one dollar and excludes no one. The building is finely equipped with bathing facilities, pool tables, reading and writing rooms, library, a Victrola, piano and piano player.

POPULAR SCHOOL TEACHER MARRIED. Ellis E. Ratcliffe and Miss Edna L. Groom, both popular young people of the town, were married in Camden on Sunday. Mr. Ratcliffe is employed in the office of William H. Grundy & Co., Inc., and Miss Groom is one of the popular school teachers of the town.

RED CROSS PARADE TOMORROW. All women engaged in any form of war work in Philadelphia and vicinity are to make a demonstration in force in the form of a great Women's Parade on Broad Street, Philadelphia, tomorrow. The parade will be under the direction of the Women's Liberty Loan Committee of the Third Federal Reserve District. The Bristol branch is going to be there.

WELCOME ACCORDED TO NEW M.E. PASTOR. Despite the inclemency of the weather, a good sized audience was present last Wednesday evening at the Methodist Church when the members and friends of the congregation extended a hearty welcome to the newly appointed pastor, Rev. Francis H. Tees, and family.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

Rev. Henry M. Hartman, newly-elected pastor of the Bristol Presbyterian Church, preached his first sermon in his pulpit here last Sunday and his congregation was delighted with his discourse.

A card has been received by Rev. A.W. Anderson from Private Charles Rathke, thanking the Red Cross for their luncheons and Mr. Anderson for the smokes received by the boys on their recent departure for Camp Meade.

The game of baseball on Saturday at the Hollow Creek grounds between the Shipbuilding Nine and a team from the company of soldiers stationed at the barracks there resulted in a fourteen inning tie, with the score 14-14.

"All -Leather Shoes is the American Idea. Leather soles and every layer in the heel of this shoe is still in evidence here. **WHITAKER'S FAMILY SHOE STORE, 218-220 Mill Street.** Trolley cars pass this door.

"Bristol on the Delaware! Beautiful homes in a residential park. **BLOOMSDALE ESTATE CO.** The Bristol Trust Co., local agent,"

4/26 - - **CLAY TARGET SHOOTING BECOMES POPULAR HERE.** A good sized crowd of local devotees of the clay pigeon shooting turned out on Saturday afternoon when the newly-organized club of the Merchants Shipbuilding Corp. met some of the local boys on the grounds of the Y.M. Gun Club on Jefferson Avenue.

DUGAN-VANHORN WEDDING. A pretty wedding was solemnized in St. Mark's rectory on Wednesday of

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**Bristol Cultural &
Historical Foundation, Inc.**
Post Office Box 215
Bristol, PA 19007



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BCHF Calendar of Events For 2020

MAY Sat., 5/30. Bus trip to Manhattan for a “Jazzy Champagne Brunch Cruise” and free time at the popular Chelsea Market. \$155 for BCHF members; \$158 for non-members. For flyer/reservation form, call 215 788-9408. Reservations close on April 25!

AUGUST Sun., 8/9 anytime between 2 & 4 p.m. Annual Peach Social. Angel food cake topped with fresh peaches & ice cream, plus beverage. Takeouts available. Baked goods table. \$5/adult, \$3 under age 12. Benefits BCHF awards to four Bristol High School graduates. BCHF’s air-conditioned headquarters.

OCTOBER Sat., 10/3. Bus trip to Boyertown, PA for 2-hr. train ride on the Colebrookdale Railroad, incl. full-course luncheon in the Dining Car, and a visit to the Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles. \$127 for BCHF members; \$130 for non-members. For flyer/reservation form, call 215 781-8591.

OCTOBER Sat., 10/17, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 44th Historic Bristol Day. Private homes open & Riverfront Tea, free entertainment, car show, boat show, sailboat regatta, chil-

dren’s activities, food court, bake sale, exhibits, crafters & merchandise vendors, and more. Ticket required for House Tour & Tea. Details at www.bristolhistory.org.

NOVEMBER Wed., 11/18, 7:30 p.m. BCHF’S annual meeting, incl. election of Board members. Program TBA and refreshments follow. The public is invited. BCHF headquarters. Call 215 788-6912 for info.

DECEMBER Thurs., 12/3. Bus trip to Tarrytown, NY, for tour of the Lyndhurst Mansion, highly acclaimed for its holiday decor, lunch, and tour of “Sunnyside,” the home of author Washington Irving. \$135 for BCHF members; \$138 for non-members. Check future Gazettes for reservation info.

- BCHF Headquarters are at 321 Cedar Street, Bristol.
- For current information about activities and events, check out our web site at www.bristolhistory.org.

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