



# The Gazette



Published by Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Box 215, Bristol, PA 19007

VOL 38

Sponsoring Historic Bristol Day - Third Saturday of Each October

No. 1

BCHF is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, all volunteer organization.

JANUARY 2020

## President's Corner

Janus was the Roman God that began the new year: hence the name January. It was chosen because it had two faces and looked back at the previous year and looked forward to the New Year. I would like to recognize all of the things that KATHY BARNISKIS did this year in leading the Ways and Means Committee. I also would like to recognize SHEREE NAPOLI and the work she did to secure the street vendors for this year's Historic Bristol Day.

This year at our Annual Meeting, our speaker was Dr. Joseph Gowaskie, Emeritus Professor of History at Rider University. Dr. Gowaskie's topic was the "Five Worst Decisions made by the U.S. Supreme Court." They were, in his opinion, 1st. Scott vs. Sanford - 1857; 2nd. Plessy vs. Ferguson - 1886; 3rd Korematsu vs. US - 1944; 4th. Bush vs. Gore - 2000; and 5th. Citizens United vs. FEC - 2010. The topic and delivery were well received and we were pleased to have had Dr. Gowaskie as our speaker. He



*Dr. Joseph Gowaskie talks about the Five Worst Decisions Made by the U.S. Supreme Court*

also lives in Bristol with his family and is a member of BCHF. Looking forward to the year 2020 - - we are pleased to welcome the BCHF Board of Directors. It has been some time since a picture of the Board of Directors of BCHF was published. The last time was in 1983. Here is the picture of the present Board of Directors.



Bottom Row left to right: Mary Kehoe, Nancy Doyle, Helen Younglove, Nancy Maren, Mary McIlvain, Anna Larrisey. Top Row left to right: Nick Rizzo, Harold Mitchener, Anthony Russo, Deborah Pinney, Jesse Walker, Susan Watkins, Jan Ruano, Michael Crossan and, Kathy Barniskis (not pictured).. I look forward to being part of this Board and know that they have the best interest of BCHF in their work.

I would also like to remind our members and friends that on Sunday, February 9, at 2:00 PM, Linda Salley, President of the African American Museum of Bucks County, will speak about "Secret Codes of Slaves & the Underground Railroad". We know that there are three houses on Radcliffe Street that were part of the Underground Railroad in Bristol. Remember there were no signs outside of the houses. There may have been more houses involved. Remember this was all in secret. I hope you will be able to attend. Please see more information on this program inside this issue of the "GAZETTE".

I wish everyone a "Happy and Healthy New Year 2020."

*Harold Mitchener, President*



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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

As announced in last month's GAZETTE, a program entitled "Secret Codes of Slaves and the Underground Railroad" will be presented at 2 p.m., Sunday, February 9, in BCHF headquarters, by Linda Salley, President of the African American Museum of Bucks County.

On Sunday, March 29, at 2 p.m., Ted Maust, Associate Director of the Elfreth's Alley Association

in Philadelphia, will present a program entitled "Little Street, Big City: How Elfreth's Alley tells the story of Philadelphia."

As usual, light refreshments will be served following the presentations. A donation of \$4 per adult attendee is requested. There is no fee for students. No reservations are required. We encourage you to invite family members and friends.

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## YULETIDE AT WINTERTHUR



The BCHF sponsored bus tour to Winterthur on December 5 was a resounding success. "Oohs" and "aahs" echoed throughout the halls of the Winterthur mansion as the group went from room to room. Also on display in the museum were the costumes used in the Netflix series, "The Crown".



### A Note from Ways & Means

We had a very successful trip to Winterthur in December. The mansion was decorated beautifully for the holiday season. Each room represented holiday trimmings in keeping with the decade that the family came together for their celebrations. The massive Christmas tree was decorated with dried flowers from the Dupont property did not disappoint. We were impressed by the costumes of the Netflix series, "The Crown".

Please see the BCHF Calendar of Events on the last page of the Gazette for a listing of coming events. One "coming event" I'd like you to take advantage of is our Ways and Means meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. We meet at BCHF Headquarters on Cedar Street. All are welcome. For inquiries please contact Committee Chair, Kathy Barniskis at kbarniskis@juno.com.

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*Note: Dues notices will be in the mail beginning of January. Please take a few moments to complete the information and return to BCHF with your remittance. As a member you get 9 issues of the Gazette each year plus discounts on our sponsored trips.*

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## *Robert's Rules of Order*

Over the years, Bristol has had many organizations. Many of the group leaders followed and are still following Robert's Rules of Order. But who is this Robert? What circumstances led him to become an "expert on parliamentary procedure"? The rules were originally published in 1876 and were a guide for conducting meetings and making decisions as a group. The guide is not a "law" book, nor is it based on any court decisions. Parliamentary procedure is based on the principles of allowing the majority of the group to make decisions effectively and efficiently while ensuring fairness towards the minority and giving each member the right to voice an opinion.

Henry Martyn Robert (1837-1923) was an American soldier, engineer and author. He was born in South Carolina and raised in Ohio. His father (Rev. Joseph Thomas Robert) moved because of his strong opposition to slavery. (His father later became the first president of Morehouse College.) Henry Robert was nominated to West Point and graduated fourth in his class. He became a military engineer. In the Civil War, he was assigned to the Army Corp of Engineers and worked on defenses for Washington, D.C. and several New England ports. He next served as an engineer for the Army's Pacific Division. He spent time improving rivers in Oregon and Washington state. He also developed harbors in northern Wisconsin and Minnesota as well as Philadelphia and Long Island Sound. He supervised the construction of locks and dams on the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers. He was president of the Board of Engineers and then was appointed Chief of Engineers, serving until 1901 when he retired from



the Army. Upon retirement, he designed the Galveston, TX seawall.

Despite all his engineering accomplishments, he is most famous for his pocket manual of Rules of Order for Deliberative Assemblies published in 1876. At the age of 25, Robert was called upon to conduct a meeting. He didn't know how to go about it, nor could he find a handy manual to help him. He began researching basic rules of order which had originated in the early parliaments of England. European settlers brought the rules to the U.S. by oral tradition. As people moved, rules were adapted and evolved. He researched both historical and the most widely adapted current rules to determine a set procedure. While assigned to lighthouse construction in 1873-4, he decided to use his time during the winter to organize all his research. Originally, Robert was turned down by publishers in New York and Chicago. He finally got his "rules" published by agreeing to stand financially responsible and by promising to give away the first one thousand copies to stimulate interest. Soon the "rules" became very popular and more books were published. The book was the most complete guide to be in print at this time. Robert continually updated his manual. Parliamentary procedure had become a family business. His daughter and grandson have both created revised editions of Robert's Rules of Order.

For years, Henry Martyn Robert specialized in work on rivers, harbors and ports, yet for all his distinguished military career, it's that little book on proper parliamentary procedure that he's remembered for writing. Today the book remains the most common parliamentary authority in the U.S.

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## *Bristol in 1853*

William Bache (a great grandson of Benjamin Franklin) started Bristol's first newspaper called "THE GAZETTE". Bache also wrote a book about Bristol in 1853.

Mill Street was the main shopping street. There were twelve retail stores for the sale of groceries, provisions, clothing, dry goods and housekeeping articles. There were two fancy dry goods and trimmings stores.

There were two leather and shoe stores. There were three tin and sheet iron stores. There was a millinery store. There were two tailoring shops, three harness makers, three boot and shoemakers, a grain and sawmill, two hat makers, one blacksmith shop, two drug and medicine stores and two tobacco shops, one soap

and candle shop, one cabinet maker, a printing office, a watchmaker and jeweler, two bakers, one public house.

On Radcliffe Street - - There were three general stores. There was a millinery and one ladies' shoe store, There was a confectionary store, two public houses and one boat yard.

Bath Street - - There were two extensive lumber and coal yards.

Cedar Street - - Had a grocery store, a blacksmith shop, one wheelwright shop and one livery stable.

Wood Street - - There were two small grocery shops and an iron foundry, one ladies' shoe store, a blacksmith shop, and a paint shop.

*Continued on page 4*

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## *Bristol's Mule*

The "Reflective Mule" was part of the Miles of Mules project which happened during the summer of 2003. The mules were on display throughout the 165 miles of the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. Bristol's mule was sponsored by BCHF and stood for a time at Waterfront Park. Afterward it was given to Bernard Mazzocchi, owner of the Canal Works. He obtained a large stone base for the mule and today the mule stands in front of the Canal Works, adjacent to the former Delaware Canal.

The Miles of Mules public art project was modeled after "Cows on Parade" in Zurich, Switzerland. The idea was replicated throughout the world with a variety of animals. The Theme Factory of Philadelphia produced two fiberglass mule molds. One was in a very stately, standing position, the other was in a stubborn, sitting position. The mules were showcased to encourage artists, sponsors, and the public to participate. The artist Gale S. Scotch was inspired to paint the peaceful scene on this mule.

The mule (a hybrid in which a horse is mated with a donkey) was chosen to be a symbol of eastern Pennsylvania's heritage. In the 19th century, the mule was important to the homes and industry. Mules

pulled the mine cars on the ground and towed the canal boats which took the anthracite coal to markets. Mules provided power.

The mule project combines the idea of the power of art and the richness of history. Five counties were involved in the mule project - Luzerne, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton and Bucks.

A copy of "Miles of Mules, History with a Colorful Kick" can be borrowed from the Grundy Library. It has over 170 colorful photos of the mules along the Delaware/Lehigh Corridor.



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### *1853 . . . continued*

Market Street - - There was one blacksmith shop, one paint shop, cooper, one ladies shoe store and two livery stables.

Mulberry and Pond Street - - Had Hibbs and Farm Co. machine shop which made items for farmers outside of the town.

Walnut Street - - There were several boot and shoe makers

Buckley Street - - There was a shop that made malleable iron and tilt hammers and one rope making shop.

Otter Street - - There was one wheelwright, a blacksmith and a paint and coach trimming shop.

Linden Street - - There was a coach maker, a wheelwright, a blacksmith, and a painting and coach trimming shop.

The riverfront had several coal operators. And along the canal were stables, a blacksmith and a cooper shop.

The largest hotel was what is now called the King George II. There was a Farmer's Bank (now called Wells Fargo).

Churches in 1853 were the Quaker Meeting House, St. James Episcopal Church, Bristol Methodist, St. Mark Church, Bristol Presbyterian, Bristol Baptist and Bethel AME Church.

The post office was on Radcliffe Street. There were two schools. The first school was opened on Wood Street in 1837, the second school was the Otter Street School that opened in 1852.

Steamboats stopped at the Mill Street and Market Street Wharfs. The railroad came to Bristol and ran to the Market Street Wharf and travelers finished the journey to Philadelphia by steamboat. The streets were paved with dirt and some stone.

The government was located in the Town Hall located on Market Street facing Radcliffe (it was erected in 1831).

A ferry connected Bristol and Burlington, NJ

Bristol was surrounded with farmland and items from the farms would be sold in Bristol.

The Burgess (today's Mayor) in 1853 was William Kinsey; High Constable was Giles S. Winder; Council members were Valentine Booz, Jesse W. Knight, James W. Martin, Henry M. Wright, William Bache, Edmund Lawrence, Daniel Street, John S. Kinsey and John S. Breisford.

There was no electricity in town and water came from wells and outhouses were in the back yards.

The people of Bristol seemed to thrive in this life. We should be pleased that they kept the town going from 1681 when the town was started.



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## Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from **JANUARY 1890** issues of the **BUCKS COUNTY GAZETTE**

1/2 - - "Handsome Artificial Teeth, Fillings, Cleaning. Extracting without Pain. DR. G.W. ADAMS, Dentist, Bristol."

"MISS M.G. PAXSON, Portrait Artist. Teacher of Drawing - Illustrations, Designs, Sketches. Radcliffe St., above Walnut."

### LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

The streets are dusty.

The fair of the G.A.R. was not a financial success.

Every common cold now takes on the fashionable cognomen "La Grippe."

The work at the passenger tunnel at the railroad station is progressing favorably.

A jolly company of masqueraders, representing No. 3 fire company, paraded the streets yesterday.

Some of Bristol's gilded youth went to Philadelphia Tuesday night to gaze upon the merry masqueraders of that town.

Four colored men from Virginia appeared on Bristol's streets last evening and sang in melodious voices the popular airs of the day.

"Dr. Bull's cough syrup is a purely vegetable compound, innocent in nature and wonderful in effect. For children, it is invaluable, curing croup, whooping cough, etc., in a few hours. Price, 25 cents."

"Emulsion of cod liver oil - - very palatable. 75 cents a pint. DR. PURSELL'S DRUG STORE."

1/9 - - GOOD RESOLUTIONS. It is quite likely that, by the end of this week, nine-tenths of all the good resolutions made on New Year's Day will be broken. Men usually resolve to quit smoking or drinking. Women are rather apt to take a vow that they will get up early or that they won't talk about their neighbors.

"JOHN NIMON, dealer in fine groceries, provisions, fruits and vegetables. Fresh daily. My teas and coffees are the best. Cor. Wood and Washington Streets."

"C.F. HERRMANN, dealer in furniture, carpets and window shades. Goods sold on easy payments. Upholstery and furniture repaired. Radcliffe St., opposite B.F. Gilkenson's office."

### LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

Some of the dogs have the grippe.

Rev. W.L. Kolb was unable to occupy the pulpit of St. James Church last Sunday evening. "La Grippe" had prostrated him.

Justice Louderbough yesterday committed ten tramps to the County Jail for three months. They were arrested at South Bristol for building fires and trespassing on private property.

A FEW POINTERS. The recent statistics of the number of deaths show that the large majority die of Consumption. This disease may commence with an apparent harmless cough, which can be cured instantly by Kemp's Balsam for the Throat and Lungs, which is guaranteed to cure and relieve all cases. Price 50 cents and \$1.00. Trial size free. For sale by all druggists.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS. At the stated meeting of

the burgess and council last Monday evening, the Police Committee reported that 40 arrests had been made during the month, 9 for being drunk and disorderly, 1 for larceny, 20 for malicious mischief. 7 for lighting fires and 3 for trespassing. 98 tramps were lodged in the station house during the month. 814 during the year.

"BRISTOL'S OPERA HOUSE! 3 Nights, Commencing January 30. Mr. Gus Homer and Miss Rose Manning, supported by a company of dramatic artists. Change of bill nightly, special scenery, and new and elegant wardrobe. Popular Prices: 10, 20 and 30 cents."

1/23 - - "MRS. JOHN HEAD, No 15 Bath Street. Dressmaking, plain sewing, and children's clothes. Orders promptly attended to."

"JAS M. RANDALL, Otter Street. Practical Horse-Shoer and General Blacksmith. Horses shod in a first-class manner so as to prevent cutting. Give me a trial."

### LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

Revival meetings are being held at the Methodist Church.

The handsome residence of Dr. John Ward, on Radcliffe Street near Mulberry, was offered at public sale on Tuesday last, but was withdrawn for lack of a sufficient bid.

Before the fire bell stopped ringing last Monday night, the water was running over the top of the standpipe, thereby giving the full pressure, 60 pounds to the square inch.

Mr. James Wright has sold the Bristol Opera House to a firm in Philadelphia who will turn it into a stocking factory, which will employ in the neighborhood of 150 hands.

"E.W. MINSTER'S LIVERY STABLE AND ICE DEPOT. Pond Street near Market Street. New carriages, good driving horses. Careful drivers furnished when desired. Closed cabs for weddings and funerals."

1/30 - - "Cheapest Flour and Feed Store in Bucks County! NEWLIN HAINES, cor. Mill and Pond Streets. Rock Salt, Coarse Salt and Table Sale."

"Steamboat Columbia. Leaves Bristol for Philadelphia at 7:30 A.M. Returning leaves Philadelphia at 2 P.M. Fare, 25¢. Excursion 40¢. Freight carried at low rates."

"Aerated - Bread Made Entirely by Machinery without Yeast. No hand touches it until baked and ready for delivery. 5 cents a loaf. For sale by PHILA. CASH GROCERY, Radcliffe and Market and Bath and Buckley."

### LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

The strike at the carpet mill still continues.

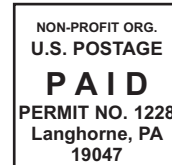
Four or five houses on Penn Street are vacant, owing to the strike at the carpet mill, the occupants having moved elsewhere.

In the case of Thos. W. Patton, charged with selling liquor to persons of known intemperate habits, the jury returned a verdict of "not guilty" but imposed the costs upon him.

The County Commissioners have reduced the tax rate for the year 1890 to 20 cents on the \$100. While reduction of taxes is the fashion, the borough rate for Bristol for this year might have shifted down from 50 to 40 cents, and no harm done.



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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## BCHF Calendar of Events For 2020

**FEB.** Sunday, 2/9, 2:00 p.m. Presentation on "Secret Codes of Slaves & the Underground Railroad" by Linda Salley, President of the African American Museum of Bucks County. Light refreshment. \$4 donation requested; no charge for students. BCHF headquarters. Info at 215 788-9408.

**MARCH** Sun., 3/29, 2:00 p.m. Presentation on "Little Street, Big City: How Elfreth's Alley Tells the Story of Philadelphia," by Ted Maust, Assoc. Director, Elfreth's Alley Assn. Light refreshment. \$4 donation requested; no charge for students. BCHF headquarters. Info at 215 788-9408

**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 215 788-4138. Reservations close on February 12.

**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. Cost and reservation info available soon.

**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. More info in future issues of the Gazette.

- BCHF Headquarters are at 321 Cedar Street, Bristol.

- For current information about activities and events, check out our web site at [www.bristolhistory.org](http://www.bristolhistory.org).

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*THE GAZETTE* is a publication of the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Inc. - Susan Watkins, Editor  
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Articles for this issue of *THE GAZETTE* were contributed by: Helen Younglove, Carol Mitchener, Harold Mitchener and Kathy Barniskis. Photography by Jan Ruano, Ellen Levy and the Margaret Grundy Historical Collection