



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.

MARCH 2021

President's Corner

As this edition of the Gazette reaches you, it brings with it the coming of Spring. It arrives exactly at 5:37 PM on March 20. Spring is the season for new beginnings and after the long winter of snow and ice we certainly are looking forward to more sunny hours and some warm breezes. We have already seen the snowdrops blooming and early signs of daffodils and crocuses poking through the snow.. Fields are yellow with buttercups and bumblebees are out there foraging for nectar.

We at BCHF are hoping to get busy again planning for events which you all enjoy.

We hope that we can hold Historic Bristol Day this coming October. The BCHF Board intends to make a definitive decision this month. The decision depends on the immunity afforded by Covid-19 vaccines. Most likely, events cannot be held inside the BCHF building until next fall.

The pandemic has been a trial for one and all. With the coming of Spring and the promise of Summer, comes the hope for a better time. In the meantime, stay safe.

Jan Ruano President



A Note From Ways & Means

"Spring is upon us soon! Many of you have probably been itching to get outside and work in your gardens. I know I have. How about decking yourself out in a Bristol T-shirt? Ways and Means is still selling the anniversary tees. We have sizes of large, extra-large, and a few 2XL. They are white with a black silhouette skyline of Bristol buildings. They would make great graduation and hostess gifts – you know- when we can finally have fun at backyard barbecues. The Tees only cost \$15.00 each.

Now, think about a chilly spring night as you sit out on your patio or in your garden. Wrap yourself or a loved one in our Bristol Throw as you enjoy the fruits of your labor. Throws are available in a limited number of Williamsburg colors of green, blue, and cranberry. These BCHF Throws showcase the Friends Schoolhouse, the Grundy Clock Tower, the Grundy Museum, the Bristol Post Office, Friends Meetinghouse, the Pennsylvania Railroad Station, the Grundy Gazebo, the Old Bristol High School, and the Lafayette Welcome Arch. They would make great graduation gifts to give to your grandchildren as you send them off to college. And, of course, just for yourself! They sell for \$50.00.

If you would like to purchase either of these items or any other W&M sale item, please call Kathy Barniskis at 215-943-0258 or Helen Younglove at 215-788-9408. Leave your message and phone number, and we will get back to you and make arrangements for



you to come to our center.

The Ways & Means Committee has not been meeting, so I want to give a shout-out to the committee members. I often think about you. I hope you are staying well and will be getting your vaccine soon.

President Warren Harding

President Warren Harding's (our 29th president) inauguration took place Friday, March 4th. This month, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of his Presidency.

Harding loved waffles, attested by a plaque offering a quote that schoolchildren love: "You eat the first fourteen waffles without syrup, but with lots of butter. Then you put syrup on the next nine, and the last half-dozen you eat simply swimming in syrup. Eaten that way, waffles never hurt anybody."

He loved them so much that he ate them covered in chipped beef and gravy!

Harding died at 57 from a heart attack brought on by ample evidence of cardiac problems. Without proof, we can't say that his appetite for waffles had anything to do with his health problems.

Harding loved to cook waffles, but it was his wife, Florence's, famous waffle recipe that he used.

Florence Harding's Waffles

c/o: The Harding Home Presidential Site, Marion, Ohio

2 eggs
2 Tbsp. sugar
2 heaping Tbsp. butter
1 pint of milk
1 pint of flour
2 heaping tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt

Directions
Separate the eggs

Beat yolks and add sugar and salt

Melt butter then add milk and flour and stir to combine.



President Harding and his wife, First Lady Florence



Beat egg whites until stiff (but not dry) peaks form

Stir one spoonful of whites into the mixture

to lighten and then fold remainder of egg whites and baking powder

Bake in a hot waffle iron.



Bristol Word Search

Find the words below in the square on the left. Words can appear horizontal, vertical or on the diagonal

Acme	Hospital
Keystone	Fire
Leedom	School
Otter	Synder
Wharf	Girotti
Railroad	Bristol
Pond	Forge Bridge
Dinner	Theater
Market	Pappajian
Canal	
Basin	

PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATIONS

THEN:

Veterans of the American Civil War organized the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) It was a fraternal organization composed of veterans of the Army, Navy, Marines, and U.S. Revenue Cutter Service who served during the American Civil War. Groups of men began joining together, first for camaraderie and later for political power. Bristol Post No. 73 G.A.R. bore the name of Henry Clay Beatty. Beatty died in the American Civil War. The organization dissolved in 1956 at the death of its last member,



Albert Woolson (1850–1956) of Duluth, Minnesota.

Michael Dougherty (May 10, 1844, to February 19, 1930) was a young Irishman who came to Bristol and, at seventeen, joined the Union in the war between the states. He served with the second Irish Dragoon, 13th

Pennsylvania Cavalry. Captured, he spent time in Andersonville Prison and survived the Sultana Troopship's explosion and sinking on April 27, 1865. Michael kept a diary of his activities during his service and capture. Thanks to one of his sons, who was a printer, we have the official copy of his diary in the Margaret R. Grundy Library. On Decoration Day, now called Memorial Day, people would honor the fallen and decorate their graves. In the year 2021, their organization is only a memory.

Dougherty received this country's highest award for bravery during combat, the Medal of Honor, for his action at Jefferson, Virginia, on October 12, 1863. He was honored with the award on January 23, 1897. Michael joined the Henry Clay Beatty Post no. 73 G.A.R.*

AND NOW:

Veterans' organizations of the United States foster camaraderie among United States veterans of all wars to make sure they receive benefits from the Veterans' Administration and to educate their communities about the respect they have earned.

Two existing veterans' organizations are still active in Bristol and dedicated to those goals. They are the American Legion, Robert W. Bracken Post No. 382, named after Robert Bracken, killed in Europe during World War I. Congress chartered the American Legion in 1919 as a patriotic, mutual-help, wartime veterans' organization. The Robert W. Bracken Post, No. 382, formed September 28, 1919. Another veterans' organization is the Veterans of Foreign Wars (or the V.F.W. as it is better known). At one time, its meeting place was on Franklin St. in Bristol. The VFW 6495 John Billington Post meets today on Haines Rd. in Bristol Twp.



Robert W. Bracken

Sources: Sources: Green's History of Bristol Borough By Doron Green · 1911, and Celebrating History and Heritage of Bristol Pennsylvania ad a Visit to Dougherty's Grave by Harold Mitchener.

**To see Michael Dougherty's likeness, go to Grundy Park. To see an actual photo go to the History of Bristol borough-1911 by Doron Green. In the image, he is the first person on the right. His grave is in St. Mark's cemetery on Radcliffe St.

Ice on the Delaware River

It's so cold and so snowy. I began to wonder about historical weather records in Bristol. I researched the Internet and found an article from the February 20, 1977 edition of the New York Times. The purpose of the article was to feature one of the coldest years on record, 1917-1918. December 1917 started with heavy rain followed by a ten-day-long freeze. Snow started to fall on December 13th and, in most areas, compacted to a coating of ice which lasted until the end of the month because the temperatures remained below freezing. Temperatures at the end of the month ranged from 2 below to 29 below zero.

All bodies of water were icebound, including Barnegat Bay. The Delaware River froze to below Burlington, NJ. January saw much of the same conditions. At Trenton, NJ, ice formed at 20 inches thick. Automobiles crossed the River at Burlington on the ice instead of using a ferry. Finally, in February, the weather started to return to normal. The pictures I included are dated February 1918.

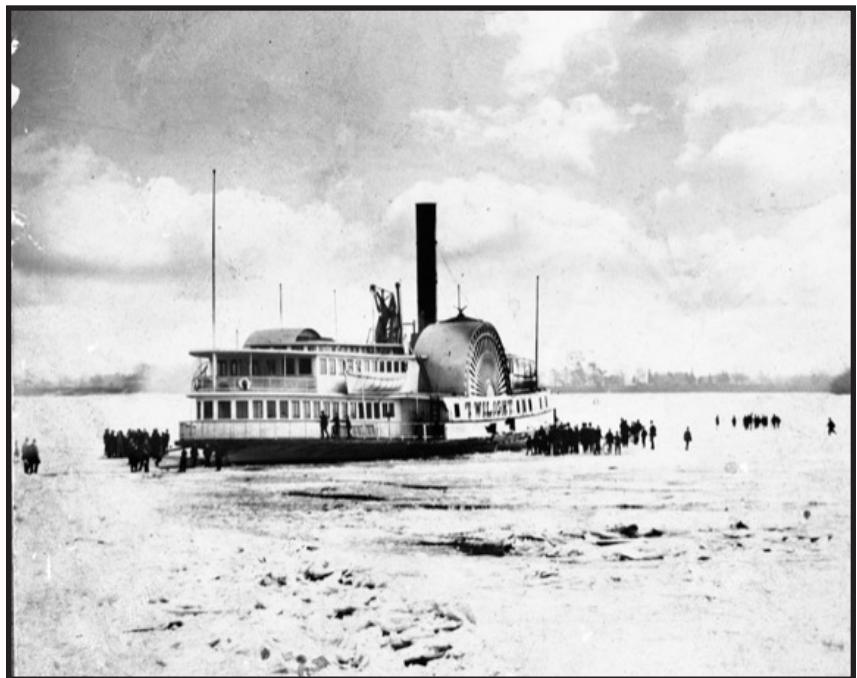
The last photo is one I took of the River at Bristol in 2014. I don't believe you could drive a car on it. Since 1918, river dredging projects have created a deeper channel for shipping. The depth of the channel results in a swifter current that reduces the chance of ice forming.

So as impressive as it might be, I don't think any of us would look forward to the frigid weather we would need to accomplish a frozen Delaware. Hopefully, this Gazette will reach you as the weather is turning milder, and we can look forward to Spring.

Jan Ruano

A Reminder . . .

Dues envelopes were mailed to all BCHF members in January. Please return them with your dues for 2021. If you have already done so, thank you for being a member of BCHF.



*Photos above and below:
Ice on the Delaware in February 1918*



Frozen Delaware River -- 2014

Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from MARCH 1921 issues of THE BRISTOL COURIER.

3/1 - DIRECT CAR FROM PHILADELPHIA IS SECURED. Railroad Freight Shipped at 2 P.M. to Reach Bristol Direct. That the Courier's public forum, in which it has asked for opinions as to what Bristol lacks, will be productive of actual good was most fittingly demonstrated today when it was announced that, as a direct result of the letters of Burnet Landreth and William C. Peirce, dealing with the transportation problems of the community, an improvement in the freight service of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will be made.

ST. JAMES BOYS' CLUB PROGRESSING. Has Many Plans for Activities. Bowling Chief Diversion Now. To Have Ball Nine, Too.

BENEFIT SHOW FOR NEEDY OF HARRIMAN. The Strand Theatre of Harriman was filled to capacity last evening for the benefit show given under the auspices of the Harriman Burns Club, the proceeds of which were given to the Harriman Welfare Committee.

3/2 - SCHOOL BOARD GIVES \$25 TO DENTAL CLINIC. Bristol School Board, at its monthly meeting last evening, contributed \$25 toward the funding for the establishment of the dental clinic, under the direction of the local Health Center. Contributions of \$5 each from local residents are still required in order that the \$300 goal may be reached and the establishment of the clinic guaranteed.

"WANTED. Experienced Men and Women Glaziers on Side and Bower Jacks. Apply CORONA LEATHER WORKS, Bristol."

"Big Thursday! One-Day Special at BELSON'S, 802 Beaver St., cor. Garden St. Ladies' House Dresses - 89c. Limit 2 to a Customer."

3/3 - TO HUNT WORK FOR EX-SERVICEMEN OF BRISTOL. American Legion Commander Says Twenty Percent Are Jobless. Courier Will Publish "Situations Wanted" advertisement free of charge.

"AMERICAN STORES CO., 410 Mill, 305 Washington, 217 Buckley, Pond & Lincoln Ave.....Asco No-Waste, Sliced Bacon - 19c Pkg. Asco Coffee - 29c Lb. Victor Bread, Big Quality Loaf - 8c. Milk-Fed Country Veal Cutlet - 50c Lb."

3/4 - SCHOOLBOY IN FAVOR OF FINE NEW BUILDING. Thinks People Would Prefer \$100,000 Permanent Structure. Portable Buildings Would Not Add to Beauty or Dignity. The Courier today publishes its first communication in a series on the school situation and, appropriately enough, the comments are from a high school student.

"Sunday Special! Dinner - \$1.25, 1 to 8:30 P.M. Choice of Chicken Soup or Oysters on the Half Shell, Roast Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Peas, Cole Slaw, Celery, Rolls, Coffee, Ice Cream or Pudding. TOWNSEND'S RESTAURANT, 227-229 Mill Street."

3/9 - SCHOOL BOARD WILL ABIDE BY PEOPLE'S WISH. If Sentiment Favors New High School, Board Will Take Such Step. Up to the present time, every communi-

cation received by the Courier since the announcement of the School Board, in which it laid before the public the complicated question of school accommodations, has favored the erection of a modern high school building as the best solution to the problem.

"Buy It by the Case. WAR DEPARTMENT CANNED MEATS. From Grand-pa down to "Buster," these delicious meats are thoroughly enjoyed by the whole family and, like Oliver Twist, they ask for more. Insist on your dealer getting you a supply of this wholesome food.

There is a legitimate profit in the sale for him and a considerable saving for you.

3/12 - ANOTHER BOOST IN TROLLEY FARE. Line Running between Bristol and Doylestown to Increase Zone Rate. New Fare Is 10 Cents.

"FORREST THEATRE, Mill Street, "Bristol's Center for Amusement".....Tonight. Joseph Bennett's "Youth's Desire." Vaudeville — Gibson Trio, Baby Dinah, Jack Myers, Healy Trio. Added Attractions — Pathe News, Topics of the Day, Organ Recitals Each Performance by Earl Tobias."

3/21 - PRESBYTERIANS FINANCE COM. IS SUCCESSFUL. \$5,200 Is Pledged. The annual financial canvass of the Presbyterian Church, conducted yesterday, was a distinct success in spite of the fact that Bristol and the surrounding community have been in the throes of an industrial depression for the past several months.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OPENED AT EDGELY. A new religious denomination held its initial service yesterday when the St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Edgely, was opened for the first time. The Rev. O. O. Myers officiated. The new edifice is a frame structure located on Edgely Avenue between the railroad and the canal. St. Paul's Episcopal Church was organized one year ago last January. It is an offspring from the Albert J. Blackford Memorial Church.

3/23 - METHODIST APPOINTMENT MADE. Rev. Jas. J. Bingham Will Preside over Bristol Church.

"The OYSTER BOAT Will Be at the Bristol Wharf, Friday & Saturday, March 25 & 26."

3/24 - ANOTHER CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN FOR THIS YEAR. Bristol is to have another "Clean-Up Campaign" this year and, following it, the borough authorities will put into operation a systematic collection of ashes throughout the entire year.

PRETTY CELEBRATIONS AT LOCAL CHURCHES. Today, Maundy Thursday was appropriately observed in the churches of St. Mark's and St. Ann's. The ceremony was beautiful and appropriate, and well attended in both of the edifices.

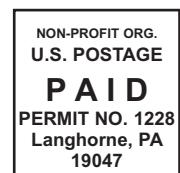
3/25 - FREE DENTAL CLINIC TO OPEN IN COMMUNITY HOUSE NEXT FRIDAY. Clinic Is for Children Whose Parents Cannot Afford Expenses. Three Local Surgeons Volunteer Their Service Three Days Per Week.

"Easter Styles for Men and Women. \$4 and \$5 — The Best Values Anywhere in This Broad Land! NEWARK SHOE STORE CO., the largest chain of shoe stores in the United



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



OUT OF THE PAST . . . CONTINUED

States. Bristol Store Open Nights. 231 Mill Street, near Wood Street."

3/29 – WAR MEMORIAL SHAFT SELECTED BY COMMITTEE. Cost Will Be \$1,950. Bannister Marble & Granite Works Will Erect Monument at Cost. A definite plan for the erection of a monument to the Bristol boys who lost their lives in the World War, as well as a fitting

tribute to those who fought in that memorable conflict but did not pay the ultimate sacrifice, was determined last night when the Welcome Home Committee voted unanimously in favor of a granite shaft surmounted by a spread eagle of bronze. It is to be erected on the grounds of the U.S. Government next to the Federal building at Beaver and Prospect Streets.

An Apology

Last month, we inadvertently credited the article, "A Tribute to Mary M. McIlvain" to Nick Rizzo. Joe Larrisey was the author of the remembrance. We want to thank Joe for his thoughts and kind words. Thank you again, Joe.

The Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation

urges everyone to stay safe . . . wear a mask, wash your hands and practice social distancing.

Let's make 2021 the year when we can all get back to normal.

We look forward to trips and activities and seeing everyone in person once again.

- BCHF Headquarters are at 321 Cedar Street, Bristol.
 - For current information about activities and events, check out our web site at www.bristolhistory.org.
- Follow us on Instagram - - IG@bristol_historic_foundation

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