



The Gazette



VOL 39
No. 1

Published by Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Box 215, Bristol, PA 19007
Sponsoring Historic Bristol Day - Third Saturday of Each October
BCHF is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, all volunteer organization.

JANUARY 2021

President's Corner

I wish you all a much better New Year. I am again assuming the role of President. Harold and Nick are hard acts to follow but both have other obligations at the moment. They will continue to contribute their talents to the organization. We thank them for all they have done in the past.

We still begin the year with restrictions about meetings and programs. Hopefully by Spring we can start to plan for some of the events which you all enjoy. In the meantime, we fortunately are able to use digital media like Zoom, Facebook and Instagram to stay in touch. We listen to our TV's and computers to keep abreast of the news and for entertainment.

It was a lot different during the flu pandemic of 1918. Although there were telephones, which were invented in 1876, most households did not have one. Electricity was available but people living in the country did not have access to it. The first radio stations for broadcast to the public were opened in 1920, so that

avenue was not available to spread the news. In fact, as far as reading the news, most people were illiterate. Just 6.4% of the people graduated from high school.

The doctor you depended on most likely did not attend college as it was not a requirement then. They were mostly educated in medical schools where they learned the basics.

We are told now to wash our hands. In 1919 most people did not have access to running water.

Only 14 percent of homes had a bathtub. It was common to wash your hair only once a month.

People still used iceboxes as the electric refrigerator did not become available until 1917 and then could only be afforded by the rich. The automobile was quite new so not many people had one. The speed limit in 1918 was 12 miles per hour. So, you can see that as horrible as 2020 has been, we still have things in which to be grateful.

Again, I wish you all a healthy, happy New Year. I am looking forward to serving as your president.

Jan Ruano President



Our wish is a happy and healthy New Year to you from the Ways and Means Committee!

Usually, I write about what is happening in the present time, but I want to share with you a story sent to me from ex-Bristolian, Lillian Mitchener Bauserman. We "met" when Lillian decided to order one of our Bristol throws for her daughter, who was born in Bristol. Lillian and I spoke on the phone, sharing Bristol news, and she shared this story with me, so I asked her to write it out and send it to me. Please enjoy....

My Burlington-Bristol Bridge Mis-adventure!

I don't know how many of you remember when the toll booth was in the middle of the bridge. Well, this is a true story of what happened to me in the late '50s. One Christmas season, I decided to do some Christmas shopping. There used to be a big store, similar to present-day Walmarts on Route 130. I cannot recall the name now, as the old brain doesn't stay in gear as it used to.

Anyway, my daughter and I picked up my mother and the three of us headed to this store. After we completed

our shopping, we started for home. I stopped and paid our toll on the bridge and after doing this, I happened to look in my rearview mirror and noticed that the toll taker was out of his booth and frantically waving both his arms at my car! Well, I couldn't pull over, so I continued to the other side and pulled off on the side of the road. When I got out of my car, I was horrified!

Lo and behold, all of the Christmas lights that had decorated the booth for the holidays were wrapped around my bumper, and of course, most of the bulbs were broken. I'm embarrassed to say that I tore them off and tossed them in the grass and quickly left the scene of the crime.

Needless to say, I felt guilty and worried that I would be arrested. However, time went on and I never heard a thing. Yes, I felt relieved, but it bothered me for quite some time and never left my mind!

Lillian lives in Colorado Springs now and enjoys reading about her hometown via our Gazette.

VICKS VAPORUB AND A PANDEMIC

The Covid-19 Pandemic of 2020 started quietly in China but snaked out across nations and continents ravaging populations as it grew. By the end of 2020, there were over 300,000 dead in the U. S. alone. Vaccines became available on a limited basis by the end of the year. These vaccines were developed super quickly with a wartime dedication by pharmaceutical companies in the U.S. and Europe.

In 1918, the U.S. like the rest of the world was in the throes of the Spanish influenza. It is estimated that about 500 million people or one-third of the world's population became infected with this virus. The number of deaths was estimated to be at least 50 million worldwide with about 675,000 occurring in the United States. Bristol lost one hundred-fifteen people in October from influenza and pneumonia the principal cause of the losses. Additionally, Bristol Township had fifty-one deaths from the same causes

Unique of this pandemic was its high mortality rate in healthy people, especially those in the 20-40 year age group. With no vaccine to protect against influenza infection and no antibiotics to treat secondary bacterial infections that can be associated with influenza infections, control efforts worldwide were limited to non-pharmaceutical interventions such as isolation, quarantine, good personal hygiene, use of disinfectants, and limiting public gatherings, which were applied unevenly.

In addition to those interventions, "over-the-counter" medications and "nostrums" from door to door salesmen, quacks, and quasi doctors with magical potions and secret concoctions from mystics abounded. There were, however, a few remedies that were dispensed by druggists some of which were heavily laced with alcohol. Drug stores also sold plasters for the chest and the time-hon-

ored relief, Vicks VapoRub.

In November of 1918, it was reported that the demand for VapoRub was so high that the company sent out a news report warning of the shortage and how they recommended pharmacists handle the demand of sufferers. Druggists were admonished that in an emergency such as the present epidemic, "our duty- and your duty is to distribute VapoRub in the quickest possible manner to those sections stricken by influenza."

Stocks of VapoRub had been depleted by the demand of over three-quarters of a million jars in one week. The company shipped over 2 million jars in the previous month. VapoRub couldn't be manufactured nor shipped any faster as they told: "24 of their men who were wearing Uncle Sam's khaki and this rush has simply buried us. All our sales force has been called in to help in the office and factory." They asked tolerance from their customers who had not received answers to wires and letters because there was no one in the offices. Everyone was working on the factory floor.

Vicks VapoRub also offered druggists special booklets about the Spanish Influenza. The booklet had information on the history of the disease, symptoms, and treatment. They also suggested ways to use VapoRub as a preventative by inhaling it instead of the usual application on the throat and chest. A Public Health Bulletin recommended coating the throat and nose with the oily substance by sticking up the nose and sniffing vigorously. Did this help? There isn't any scientific proof that VapoRub or any other treatment worked but by November the numbers of infected were dropping and the pandemic was on the wane.

(Credit: Bristol Bucks County Gazette November 8, 1918)

New England Harvest Cake

History isn't always about places and events. Sometimes history happens in the home. I am sure many of you have recipes passed down from your mothers (or even dads) and perhaps those from several earlier generations. We thought it might be fun to see what was going on in those kitchens from long ago. Here is one from my Mom's recipe notebook. We'd love to see what might have been handed down by other cooks from bygone days. - - Jan Ruano



NEW ENGLAND HARVEST CAKE . . . a rich, delicate, spicy cake whose surprise-ingredient is pumpkin. See recipe at right.

NEW ENGLAND HARVEST CAKE

Sift, measure . . . 3 c. CERESOTA Not-Bleached FLOUR
 Resift with . . . 6 tsp. tartrate OR phosphate } Baking Powder
 OR . . . 3 tsp. combination type
 Also . . . ½ tsp. each soda, nutmeg and cinnamon.
 And . . . 1 tsp. each salt and ginger. Set one side.
 Cream . . . ¾ c. shortening
 With . . . ¾ c. sugar
 And . . . 1 ½ c. brown sugar rolled or sifted to remove lumps.
 Add to this . . . 3 egg yolks. Cream till very light and fluffy.
 Add . . . 1 ¼ c. strained cooked pumpkin. Do not stir.
 Until you add . . . ¾ c. sour milk and flour mixture. Mix lightly only until the batter looks creamy; then stop mixing. Divide in layer cake pan. Bake: Frost as desired.
 BAKE: 375°—20 to 24 minutes. MAKES: 3 8-inch layers.

FLUFFY FROSTING

Put . . . 2 unbeaten egg whites into top of large double boiler or deep bowl which will fit into a larger one.
 Add to them . . . ½ tsp. each cream of tartar and salt
 Also . . . 1 ½ tsp. desired flavoring
 Add also . . . 2 c. light brown sugar. Have ready tea kettle full of boiling water. Fill bottom of double boiler or larger bowl.
 Add at once . . . ¾ c. boiling water to eggs, etc. Beat until stiff enough to spread. It will take about 4 minutes with electric beater and 6 minutes by hand with wheel beater. Remove at once from hot water and spread on cake.

An Environmental History of Bristol Borough, PA

by Jesse Walker

The environmental history of Bristol Borough PA extends back thousands and millions of years. This summary helps provide answers to several questions: How was the ground formed beneath our feet? Over time, what major changes have occurred in the environment and the Delaware River. Why is the landscape in Bristol so flat? Why are round cobbles found in the ground when digging in the borough?

Bristol is situated in the Coastal Plain Physiographic Province. The Coastal Plain is dominated by relatively level landscapes that do not contain mountains and the below-ground material consists of sands, silts, clays, gravels, cobbles, and boulders. Bedrock outcrops are not present in the Coastal Plain. The Coastal Plain was created over millions of years by sediments that were deposited through ancient marine conditions and river delta environments when ocean levels and water levels were higher thereby flooding the region. The Coastal Plain extends along the Delaware River in Pennsylvania and encompasses the southern portion of New Jersey and other states along the Atlantic Coast. The Piedmont Physiographic Province is next to Coastal Plain. The hills in Morrisville and Yardley mark the change from the Coastal Plain to Piedmont. The bedrock is around 50 to 75 feet below the ground surface below Bristol. In contrast, the hills and small mountains in Piedmont contain bedrock at or close to the ground surface.

The dirt, soils, and sediments underground in Bristol were mostly created by the flooding of the Delaware River during the last Ice Age dating from about 20,000 to 15,000 years ago. The southern edge of the glacier was near Easton, Pennsylvania. The meltwaters rushed down the Delaware Valley and sculpted the landscape along the river's path. Older Coastal Plain sediments were washed away by the high energy glacial floodwaters. Rounded cobbles and boulders were carried down the river and buried with sands, silts, and clays. During the Ice Age, the sea levels were lower than now. The Delaware River, 20,000 years ago, was shallow and wide, covering an approximately two-mile zone near Bristol and Burlington. The river may have had several channels and the channels would have meandered. The meltwaters from the glaciers created flat terrain across the two-mile-wide corridor. Between Radcliffe Street and the river, the

end of the terrace is visible between buildings and on the grounds of the Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Library and Museum. The Radcliffe Street houses are on the high terrace that slopes down about 10 to 15 feet to the lower terrace along the river's edge. The steep brick walkway near the Grundy Museum is the transition between the upper and lower terraces. The lower terrace is where the river, over the last 10,000 years, eroded and cut into the higher terrace. After the glaciers melted, sea levels rose over the last 10,000 years and the river became tidal.

When digging house foundations, trenches, and other holes in Bristol, rounded boulders and cobbles are found in the soil. During the archaeological excavations at the Friends Meeting House on Market Street and the BCHF building on Cedar Street, rounded cobbles were found. These cobbles were transported by glacial meltwaters. Over the last decade, visual observations of excavations for house foundations have been made in Bristol Borough. For example, a layer

of cobbles was visible in the house foundation dug at the corner of Radcliffe Street and Mulberry Street in 2017. The cobble layer was around six feet below the ground. Other layers of sediment were also visible in foundation excavations which were left behind by glacial meltwaters. Geologists in the late nineteenth century referred to these cobble layers and glacial meltwater material as "Trenton Gravel". Ancient environments such as the last Ice Age are the reason why Bristol does not have hills. But look in the cemeteries in Bristol and you will notice the natural rolling terrain. Most of the borough's natural terrain has been graded and altered over the last three hundred years while constructing the streets, sidewalks, and buildings.

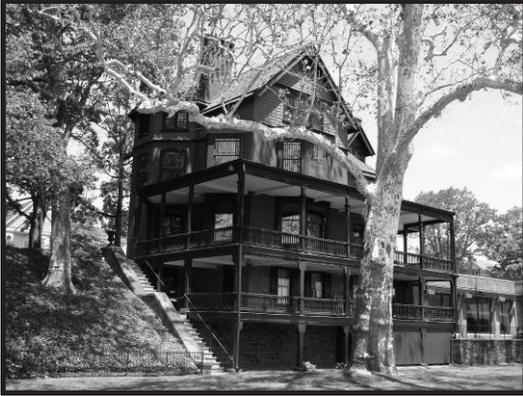


Excavation Pit Mulberry & Radcliffe Streets.



The Grundy Museum During the Holidays

A Photo "Tour" by Nick Rizzo



The Entrance Hall
With its grand staircase, oak-paneled walls and ceilings, and carved mantle, the entry hall is a space created by the Grundy family to impress guests as they enter the home.



The Drawing Room
The decor of the drawing room conveyed to guests that this family was prosperous, educated, cultured, and cosmopolitan.



The Dining Room

Meals were a very formal and elaborate affair in the Victorian era, consisting of many courses and rules of etiquette. The household staff, stationed in the pantry just off the dining room, used specialized dishes, glassware, serving pieces, and silverware to serve the meal.



Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from **JANUARY 1901** issues of THE BUCKS COUNTY GAZETTE (Bristol). Price three cents

1/3 – “DR. ELLA HEINEKEN, Lady Dentist, 224 Mill Street.”

“Come See Our Goods. We have an assortment for holiday gifts of Bric-a-Brac, China,

Glassware and Lamps. Nickled Copperware, Agateware. LIPPINCOTT'S, 245 Mill Street.”

The Corona Kid Company now employs nearly one hundred men and boys.

New Year's Day was celebrated in Bristol by a masquerade parade which was participated in by fifty fantastically costumed people. The degree team of Mohican Tribe of Red Men, in costume, was the special feature in line. The procession was headed by the Liberty Cornet Band.

DAWN OF THE CENTURY. The dawn of the twentieth century was celebrated in Bristol by the clamor of bells, the blowing of factory whistles, and the explosion of powder. At the Methodist, Presbyterian, and Episcopal Churches, watch services were held.

H. Clay Beatty Post, G.A.R., held a campfire and the squad paraded the streets between twelve and one o'clock.

No. 1 Fire Company held an open house from midnight till daylight at Mohican Hall, the No. 2 Company doing the same at the hose house.

BASKETBALL. There was great joy in Bristol last Thursday evening when the hometeam defeated the Trenton Champions in a fast game of basketball by the one-sided score of 41 to 71. About 1,000 people turned out to witness the contest. The lineup for Bristol was: Klein, forward; Hough, forward; Everingham, center; Plant, guard; Bennett, guard.

1/10 – An aged spinster, when asked why she never married, replied: “Why should I? I have a parrot that swears, a cat that stays out all night, a monkey that chews tobacco and spits, and I have no use for a husband.”

The steamboat Columbia will be brilliantly lighted during the coming season. A dynamo is being installed and the boat has been wired for 150 electric lights.

A number of alterations and improvements are being made at the Whelen Home on Radcliffe Street, which was recently acquired by the Roman Catholic Church. It is reported that the building will be occupied by the Sisters connected with St. Mark's parochial school, the home on Cedar Street having become too small with the increase in the number of Sisters occupying the premises.

FOR RENT. A furnished house, corner Radcliffe & Market Sts. \$35 per month. Apply to Joseph S. Pierce, next door.

“BRISTOL AUDITORIUM. Wednesday, January 16. New York Star Vaudeville Co. First-class Variety Show. Unique Specialty Acts. Admission 15c. Reserved Seats, 25 and 35c.”

“50 Pounds Ice, 15c. BRISTOL ICE COMPANY.”

The average man thinks his rights are infringed upon whenever his wife gets sick.

1/17 – The Mill Street footbridge over the canal, which has

undergone extensive repairs, has been re-opened for traffic.

Revival services are being held nightly in the chapel of the Methodist Church. As a result of one week's earnest work, eight converts connected themselves on probation on Sunday morning last.

There were 127 deaths in the borough of Bristol during the year 1900, two of which were from typhoid fever.

The population according to the last census being over 7100, makes the death rate between 17 and 18 to the thousand. This is a good showing and compares very favorably with other towns of like size in the country.

“M. J. HARKINS, 813 Wood Street.....Dry Goods and Notions. Comfortables and Blankets. Fall and Winter Dress Goods. Ladies' Shirt Waists. Children's Caps and Cloaks. Boys' Knee Pants 25, 35, 60c. Full Line of Winter Underwear.”

“It is Good. Try a loaf of Bennett's bread. Our bread from genuine wheat flour cannot be beat. Full weight. JAMES BENNETT, Bristol.”

1/24 – There is not a vacant business place on Mill Street.

The regular shoot for a gold medal will be held by the Bristol Gun Club next Saturday.

The meeting of the W.C.T.U. next week will be devoted to reading articles from the “Union Signal.”

About 150 veterans of the Civil War living in Bristol receive pensions from the government in amounts ranging from six to forty-five dollars per month.

The Rudyard Kipling Lodge, Sons of St. George, will remove from their present quarters, Mohican Hall, to the Forrester's building, corner of Pond and Lafayette Streets.

“Special Prices for One Week Only! Finest Solid Packed Creamery Butter - 25c. Snowberry Soap - 4 cakes, 10c. Best Gloss Starch - 2 lbs., 7c. California Oranges - 15c doz. Good Rio Coffee - 12c lb. Grape Nuts - 12c pkg. S. C. CHILDS, Mill & Cedar Streets.”

“HOTEL CLOSSON, cor. Mill & Bath.....Modern Conveniences. Well Furnished. Excellent Table. Well Stocked Bar. At trolley terminus and near R.R. station.”

“BLACK HORSE HOTEL.....On turnpike between Philadelphia and New York. First-class Accommodations. Good fishing in the river opposite. Tullytown. Henry Lovett, Prop.”

1/31 – The Fourth Ward Hose Company luxuriates in the services of a steward.

All of the 100 employees of the Corona Kid Company have been guaranteed a one dollar per week increase in wages.

Owing to a dull season, about fifty hands have been laid off at Steel's Mill.

LOCAL HISTORY DAY. In conformance with the suggestions made at the last teachers' institute, “Local History Day” was observed by the Bristol schools last Friday morning. An excellent programme was rendered by the scholars of the Grammar and High schools. The historical sketches of Bristol were entertaining and well-composed. It is the purpose to take up the subject once a year.

FOR SALE. Houses for sale on easy terms, ranging in price from \$300 to \$7,000. Apply Joseph S. Pierce, Bristol.



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LOOK FOR IT IN YOUR MAIL

Membership letters will be sent to all members of record in early January. Look for them in your mailbox. Help us to keep our organization active and ready to resume programs and events like Bristol Day and the Peach Social as soon as we are able.

Although the pandemic has temporarily stopped these activities, it has not stopped basic financial obligations and maintenance on the building on Cedar Street. Your support will allow this vital community organization to remain vital.

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.

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- 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](https://www.instagram.com/IG@bristol_historic_foundation)

THE GAZETTE is a publication of the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Inc. - Susan Watkins, Editor
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