



# 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.

JANUARY 2022

## President's Corner

### January President's Corner

Many of you were unable to read the November Gazette due a mail issue. I am resending the November President's Corner because it contains important acknowledgements and thanks for people involved in Historic Bristol Day. However, this month I want to wish you all a healthy, happy and safe New Year. Also, I want to thank you for reading my President's Corner over the past years. I am stepping down as president. I was honored to serve in that roll but feel that new ideas are always healthy for any organization. We are most fortunate to welcome Deborah Pinney as our next president. Deborah has been a board member for many years. She has organized our wonderful Peach Social and been active in many other committees and events. I am looking forward to serving as a member of the board and support Deborah in her new role.

### November President's Corner

I want to express my sincere thanks to everyone that made this year's Historic Bristol Day a success. After a year's hiatus due to the pandemic, we were especially blessed with cooperation from the weather and the outpouring of support from the community. The day was sunny, warm and breezy. The weather forecast predicted the possibility of storms but thankfully they held off until twenty minutes after the event was over. Someone was looking out for us.

The day started off with a dedication ceremony to honor our three treasured members and volunteers who passed away last year. After remarks about Sherre Napoli, Carol Mitchener and Mary McIlvaine we were honored to hear from Captain David Christian who spoke about the rich history of Bristol and the significant role of volunteerism in the community.

The day was filled with many other events and entertainment as well as the annual Bristol Day Car Show.

There were many entrants at the show to the delight of all those that attended.

Of course, we had our house and garden tour as well as the tea on the banks of the Delaware.

There they could watch the sailboats from the Anchor Yacht Club sail by aided by the stiff breeze on the river. I also must commend the students from the 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade from Snyder-Girotti Elementary School who presented the Bristol Living Wax Museum. Everyone loved the presentations, including many of those who were being portrayed.

A very special thanks to our Chairpersons Mary Gesualdi and Dawn DeLuca and their committee members. Planning and coordinating of this event take a good part of the year to achieve. We were guided through the process by their steady leadership and Mary, who along with Dawn, gave many hours and I am sure many sleepless nights to make sure everything was in order and in place needed to make the event a success.

I must also thank the Borough of Bristol and its officers for all their support and cooperation.

Bristol is lucky to have such forward thinking members of its government who understand and support the value of events such as ours to the community.

We must recognize and thank Merle Winslow who is the Emergency Manager Coordinator. He helps the borough and the event planners coordinate all of the services needed such as police, medical services and traffic control. He is invaluable to all community events run in Bristol as his experience and knowledge is paramount to holding a safe and organized event. Merle volunteers a great deal of his time in this endeavor. Thank you Merle for all you do to make our Bristol events the best they can be.

Also thank you, our loyal members who donated and came out to support the event.

We hope to see you all again next year.

*Jan Ruano President*

## Where in the World Is Our November Newsletter ???

The November newsletter was prepared in plenty of time for an early publication by our volunteer editor, writers, photographers, folders, labelers, etc. and was taken to the post office. It seems, however, that the post office "lost it". Yes, that's right, they can't find our November newsletters. So, we are reprinting some of the information that was in the "lost" November issue, especially the information on Historic Bristol Day winners and donors.

We are sorry for the delay in getting this information to our members and readers and hope you enjoy this updated version.

# Bristol Day Car Show *by Mark Gesualdi*

The 10th Annual Bristol Day Car Show was a huge success. The show area was packed to capacity with some of the finest antique and classic cars. Record crowds poured through to admire the cars and vote for their favorites.

A new addition to the show this year was a military display. Many veterans and public officials turned out at noon to hear motivational speaker Captain David Christian. Present were Mayor Saxton, Council President Ralph Diguisseppe, Police Chief Steve Henry, and former Police Chief, Arnie Porter.

We greatly appreciate Diane Reitz for coordinating the honor guard and the military display. It was a perfect addition to our show. Also, a special thanks to the Bristol Borough School District for letting us use their facility for our annual show.



## HBD Regatta winners

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Don Hoefle, on “Hot Canary”
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Howard Hunter, on “Boomerang”
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – John Allen on “Shocking”

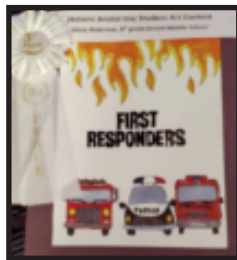
## STUDENT ART

This year the art work submitted by the students in Bristol schools were dynamic and respectful images of first responders. Judges were charged with the difficult task of picking three winners from these wonderful artists. This year’s Student Art Contest winners were:

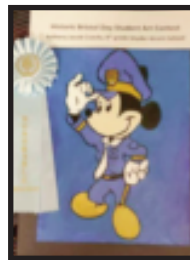
- 1st Place- Kayla Distler, Grade 7 Bristol Middle School.
- 2nd place- Teagan Kauffman, Grade 7 Bristol Middle School.
- 3rd Place- Olivia Wideman, Grade 8 Bristol Middle School.
- Honorable Mention- Anthony Jacob Cialella, Grade 6 Snyder-Girotti School.



*Left: Teagan Kauffman*



*Right: Olivia Wideman*



*Left: Anthony Jacob Cialella*



*Above: Kayla Distler*

## We Won



receive the check for the benefit of Historic Bristol Day.

Each month McHales chooses three non-profit organizations in Bucks County that promote community service in Bucks County. They then ask people to vote online during the month and the

In September BCHF won the contest sponsored by McHalesCares. Mary and Mark Gesualdi, Jan Ruano and Bethanne Olczak were there to

organization with the most votes is awarded one thousand dollars. In September Historic Bristol Day was one of those chosen to participate and thanks to all our loyal members we won the award.

McHales is a plumbing company which has been part of the community for over seventy years.

They established the program, McHalesCares, to give back to their community. Every month they donate to a deserving organization that meets the goal of community service.

We are grateful to McHales for their donation and applaud them for their effort to make our community a better place.

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*Our thanks to our generous sponsors  
without whom Historic Bristol Day would not be possible.*

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Helen Younglove

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*Wilmington & Western  
Railroad*



## **BCHF Hosts Trips**

BCHF has resumed hosting day trips for the enjoyment of our members and friends. These trips are always well received and provide a fun day out.

In October the group traveled south into Delaware to have lunch at the Chadds Ford Inn followed by a train ride on the Wilmington & Western Railroad. The scenery was spectacular.

In November we took a trip to the Historic Mount Hope Mansion and winery in Lancaster County. The mansion was decorated in splendid form for the holidays and a four-course luncheon was enjoyed by the group followed by an ensemble performance based on the classic Charles Dickens story "A Christmas Carol".

Both trips were sold out. We will be planning more trips in the future and hope that you will make a reservation to join us for an enjoyable day.



*Historic Mount Hope Mansion*





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## A Note From Ways & Means

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped make Historic Bristol Day such a success. We had good weather and dodged the rain forecasted for the day. Looks like we're back in the swing of things. So, please check our upcoming events on the last page of the Gazette.

The winners of the Bake Sale Pie Raffle were the family of Andrew, Danielle, and Dominick Letizo. Cate Murway donated the homemade pie, the pie carrier, and the ceramic pie plates

Margie Pliszka, of Philadelphia, won the beautiful floral picture that Rose Marie Strippoli donated for the Ways and Means Raffle this Historic Bristol Day.

Congratulations to Anchor Yacht Club's 1st place winner, Don Hoefle sailing "Hot Canary"!

Ways and Means will meet on January 17<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. Call Kathy Barniskis at 215-943-0258 for information. All are welcome.

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## Trips and Programs

Circle your 2022 calendar for the following programs:

**Sunday, February 6, 2022**, at 2 p.m. - A presentation entitled "Little Street, Big City: How Elfreth's Alley Tells the Story of Philadelphia" by Ted Maust, Associate Director of the Elfreth's Alley Association.

**Sunday, March 27, 2022**, at 2 p.m. - A presentation

on "Burlington Island: Past & Present." by Judy Gauntt, President of the Friends of Burlington Island.

The programs will be held at BCHF's headquarters at 321 Cedar St. in Bristol Borough. Light refreshment will be served. The public is cordially invited. A \$4 per adult donation is requested, students are free.

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## SIGHT "SEA" ING

We hope you'll consider joining BCHF members and friends as we sail aboard Celebrity Cruise Line's recently refurbished "Summit," visiting Charleston and Bermuda, June 2-12, 2022. The ship sails from Cape Liberty, NJ, and arrangements for transportation to and from the pier will be made by BCHF. The second day is at sea, the ship will be in Charleston the following two days, days 5 and 6 will be at sea, days 7 thru 9 will be in Bermuda, day 10 at sea, arriving back in NJ the morning of day 11.

Rates range from \$1,577 pp double occupancy to \$2,387 and include Celebrity's classic beverage package, prepaid gratuities, and surf Wi-Fi internet package. For a detailed flyer, contact Helen Younglove at 215-788-9408 Reservation deadline is February 4.

Gift Givers: Think anniversary, birthday, Mother's

& Father's Day, etc.! This is the gift whose memories will last forever!!

### COMING IN 2023!

BCHF has booked space on a "Holy Lands & Aegean Majesty" cruise on Oceania Cruises' "Oceania Nautica," October 6-17, 2023. This cruise will be escorted by a representative of Grand American Tours of Morton, PA.

The ports-of-call are: Jerusalem (Haifa and Ashdod); Limassol, Cyprus; Rhodes, Greece; Ephesus (Kusadasi), Turkey; Athens (Piraeus), Greece; Taormina, Sicily; Naples/Pompeii, Italy; and Rome (Civitavecchia), Italy. Rates, including air, range from \$4,208 pp to \$8,098. For more information, contact Helen Younglove at 215-788-9408 or Grand American Tours at 1-800-423-0247.

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## A 1920 Snapshot of Bristol

During World War I, the Bristol Borough docks were large enough to create twelve building slips. In 1917, Averell Harriman organized the shipyards and created the Merchant Shipbuilding Corporation (later known as Merchant-Sterling) and would later land a huge cargo ship contract which would contribute to the war effort.

Many changes came about in the 1920s. On May 17, 1922, Bristol grew about 17 acres bigger when the Harriman section was added with homes built specifically for an army of shipbuilders. This was located in the northern portion of Bristol. The population of Bristol grew to a total of approximately 10,273 in 1920.

The years 1920 to 1921 saw the railroad elevated and rerouted to parallel Route 13. Rerouting the rails opened the Borough to automobile traffic while allowing for speedier train traffic.

The Grundy Mill complex consisted of several buildings constructed over 55 years. Located in the mill district of Bristol, the buildings date from Bristol's critical period of industrial and population growth, from 1876 to 1930. The buildings operated as one unit for milling and storage as well as power for the worsted mills of the William H. Grundy Co and reflected Bristol's role as the premier industrial center of Bucks County.

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# Historic Bristol Day in Review

The day was a gorgeous Saturday in October . . . one of the warmest Bristol Days in recent memory. The sun was shining, the sky was a brilliant blue and thousands showed up to enjoy being outside and greeting old friends. Thanks to all who were there to make this day a success.

Mark your calendar now next year's Bristol Day - - it's the third Saturday in October - - October 15, 2022



Above: The Food Court



Right: Regatta Winners  
See page 2 for names of winners

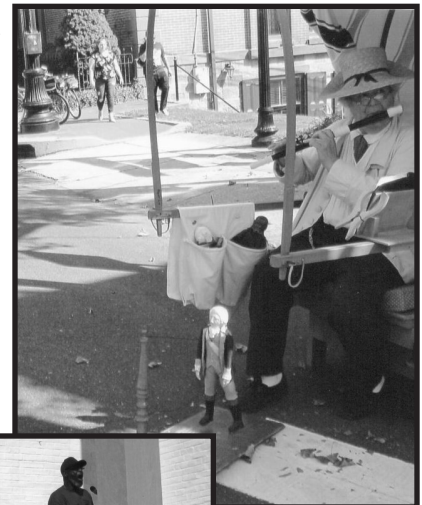


Free Covid-19 vaccinations by AMI Health



Left: Antique and Classic Boat Show at the wharf

Right: Robert Moulant, his marionettes a la planchette



Arm Painting



Choir members of the Community Baptist Church

Photography by Grace Reider

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## ***HOPKINS LODGE #87 I.O.O.F. SPONSORS BOYS CLUB***

In the 1950s, fraternal organization attendance and new memberships were noticeably dropping off due to other interests and entertainment available to the general public. Hopkins Lodge #87 I.O.O.F. (Independent Order of Odd Fellows) was located in a three-story building at the corner of Walnut and Radcliffe Streets. The members decided to try to boost interest by sponsoring a boy's club. Responsibility to organize and lead this club was given to William "Dusty" Bolton. He started the club by recruiting boys between sixteen and eighteen years of age whose fathers were lodge members. These boys were asked to invite friends (who would be eligible to join the Lodge when they were eighteen) to come to the lodge hall and see what membership in the club might offer them.

Membership allowed the boys to use the recreational facilities on the first floor of Washington Hall, including a regular full-sized slate pool table, ping pong table, dartboard, television, card tables, and comfortable chairs. There was a soda dispenser and candy counter. All the boys that joined were given keys to both the front door and the inside door. Some were also given the key to open the candy counter when they were in the building. Since members of the Lodge also used these facilities, the boys became acquainted with many of them. They formed friendships that grew when they joined the Lodge.

Boys that joined could invite their friends to visit the club. Visitors were limited to the number of visits they could make before deciding if they would join. A fair number of boys joined and learned many skills. Some even learned how to play Hearts and the meaning of "knuckles." Several lodge members took an interest in showing the fundamentals of tournament pool, chess, and cribbage to the boys. Dusty arranged pool and ping-pong tournaments with prizes for the winners. That made it fun to be a member.

The boys enjoyed meeting the Rainbow Girls that held their meetings monthly on the second floor. The girls and boys did enjoy a bit of friendly conversation on those occasions. It seemed that the inside

door to the first floor was left open the night that the girls were there. Since the boys were not supposed to have girls in the club room, they arranged group parties with their girlfriends at other locations.

The club gave the boys a place to go in their free time. When school was out for the summer, it was not unusual for several boys to be in and out of the building during the entire day. The building was cool in the summer, even though it was not air-conditioned. The thick walls provided excellent insulation. In the winter, the steam heat made it very comfortable. The boys were expected to leave the building as they found it, so there was an effort to keep it orderly. One of the boys, who was very artistic, painted several murals on the club room walls. They were so well received that he was asked to paint a ceiling mural in the main lodge meeting room. I've often wondered if any murals survived the transition when the building was sold and converted to apartments.

The club was successful in that several boys did join the Lodge when they turned eighteen. Some who joined the military right out of high school joined the Lodge when they returned to Bristol at the end of their enlistment. Unfortunately, the club did not survive after the initial surge between 1954 and 1956. Recruitment was more or less left to the boys, and a large number of them left both the club and Bristol in the summer of 1956.

However, the reasons the club was started continued over the years and Lodge membership declined. It was more economical to meet in another location. Hopkins Lodge is still an active Odd Fellows lodge and now meets in The Elks Lodge building on Wood Street on the second and fourth Thursdays at 7:00 pm.

Presently only two of the boys are members of Hopkins Lodge. Both have been in the Lodge for over sixty years. David Harris, president of Harris Comfort, has been in the Lodge for more than sixty-six years, and this writer has been a member for sixty-five years in October of this year.

*Submitted by Sam Black*

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### ***Coming Soon***

In January all current members will be invited to rejoin Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation. When you renew your membership you will receive nine newsletters per year with information on programs and trips plus articles on the history and little known facts of Bristol Borough.

When you receive your envelope, don't delay. Send us your renewal and take advantage of all that the organization has to offer.



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## Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from **January 1922** issues of THE BRISTOL COURIER.

1/3 – DR. JOSEPH deB. ABBOTT IS CHOSEN PRESIDENT OF NEW COUNCIL; BODY ORGANIZES. Henry H. Poole Re-elected as Secretary and Treasurer of the Borough. Clifford L. Anderson Sworn in as Chief Burgess.

BRISTOL GREETES NEW YEAR. The new year was accorded a noisy greeting on Saturday at midnight in Bristol. Whistles blew and fire bells rang as the new year dawned. Watch night services were held in some of the churches.

“1922 Christmas Club Now Open. Everybody welcome to join – no charge – just pick your size: 25c, 50c, \$1.00 and \$2.00 a week. THE BRISTOL TRUST CO.”

1/4 – FERRYBOAT DORAN RUNNING DESPITE MUCH ICE IN RIVER. The ferryboat William E. Doran is plowing its way through the ice-choked Delaware and maintaining its schedule. The staunch little ferry is fighting her way in and out of the slip in Burlington and making a gallant fight to run on schedule.

1/5 – BAKERS AND MILKMEN TO WAGE A CAMPAIGN ON NOT ENOUGH CONSUMED. Bakers and some of the milk dealers of Bristol are planning an intensive campaign to be conducted in the week beginning January 15<sup>th</sup>. It will be known as “Bread and Milk Week.” The purpose is to educate the people of Bristol and vicinity in the nutritive value of both bread and milk, when eaten separately or when eaten with the little folks.

KEYSTONE DAIRY WILL SOON MOVE INTO ITS NEW PLANT. The Keystone Dairy Company is preparing to move its present quarters in the plant of the Artesian Ice and Coal Company into the newly erected plant on the east side of Pond Street, between Washington and Lafayette Streets. The new building is built according to modern and sanitary plans.

1/7 – TOWNSITE FOLKS FORM B.&L. ASSOCIATION. Harriman Residents Organize Home-owning Body among Themselves. Subscribe 200 Shares.

SHOEMAKER WILL SHOE SOME OF THE SHOELESS CHILDREN. Small children in Bristol who are without shoes will be supplied free of charge, as long as 12 or 15 pairs last, upon application to Thomas Profy of Mill Street. Mr. Profy informs the Courier that he has a number of pairs of children's shoes which have been left at his place of business to be repaired and remain unclaimed. “I'll give them to the children who are without shoes,” he said today.

1/9 – EDGELY STATION IS TO BE RE-OPENED. The Edgely Station is to be re-opened and trains will stop there. This re-opening will occur as soon as the Pennsylvania Railroad can get the station in condition and arrange a train schedule to suit.

“DOWN GO RENTS! Beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>, all these fine brick houses will be reduced in rent (both the occupied and unoccupied ones). Jefferson Avenue – now renting for \$32 & \$35 per month will be \$25 per month. Mansion Street – now renting for \$28 per month will be \$25 per month. Beaver Street – now renting for \$32 per month will be \$25 per month. To rent by the month, payment in advance.

Apply Angelo DiRenzo.”

1/12 – LOCAL MOVIE SHOWN HERE FOR FIRST TIME LAST NIGHT. “The Long Lane That Has No Turn,” which is the name finally given to the moving picture filmed in Bristol and in which the cast is made up of local people, was put on the screen for the first time last night at the Forrest Theatre. Miss Mary Breslin and John Lynch play the leading parts, with Mrs. Robert Rue taking the character of Miss Breslin's mother. Several local scenes are shown and the picture shows both the industrial and residential sections of the town.

“AMERICAN STORES CO.....Asco Coffee – 25c lb. Kellogg's Corn Flakes – 8c pkg. Meat Specials: All Cuts Round Steak or Roast – 18c lb. Best Standing Rib Roast – 25c lb. City Dressed Pork Chops – 20c lb.”

1/14 – “When you first got your car, you took the family out pretty often on Saturday and Sunday. Driving downtown and back every day makes you less inclined to take them out when you are free to do so. Use the streetcar to go to your business and you'll enjoy taking the family out for weekend trips. Fare 8 cents. TRENTON, BRISTOL & PHILA. STREET RAILWAY COMPANY.”

UNIQUE DANCE AFFAIR PLANNED. A “Farmers and Milkmaid Dance” is being planned, to be given under the auspices of the Harriman Welfare Auxiliary. It will be held on Friday evening, January 27, in the Harriman school auditorium. Delia's jazz orchestra is to furnish the music for dancing. The admission has been set at 50 cents a person.

1/16 – “THE HOME IS THE KEYSTONE OF ALL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.” Rev. Mr. Hartmann Ends His Series of Sermons in the Presbyterian Church with Sentences Rich in Food for Parental Thought.

JOB SEEKERS AGAIN THROG MERCHANTS SHIPYARD GATES. The shipyard at Harriman continues to be a Mecca for men seeking employment. The men are attracted by the rumors circulated in Bristol and nearby towns that there is work to be had in dismantling the plant.

1/19 – THREE THOUSAND BODIES NOW IN BRISTOL CEMETERY. The three thousandth interment was made yesterday in the Bristol cemetery. The body interred was that of the late David Williams, a former resident of Bristol who died in Norristown. The plot, now known as the Bristol cemetery, was opened for the burial of the dead forty years ago. It is a local company which owns the plot and it was financed entirely by local capital.

“Harriman Homes for Sale. Bungalows and Houses. Prices Range from \$1,000 up. Inquire L. C. Spring.”

1/25 – MONEY SEEMS AS PLENTY IN BRISTOL AS IT WAS DURING PRE-WAR PERIOD. Courier's Investigation Shows People to Be Meeting Their Obligations. Industries at Normal. Taxes and Water Rates Furnish Barometer which Gives Proof. Wage Rate Is Higher. Banks Report Considerable Increase in Deposits over Pre-war Time.

1/30 – BRISTOL EMERGING FROM STORM ISOLATION; NORMAL TRAFFIC CONDITIONS AGAIN. Bristol and other sections of Bucks County are gradually recovering from the isolation caused by the severe storm which enveloped this section beginning Saturday at noon. Train

*continued on last page*





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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## BCHF Calendar of Events For 2022

**FEBRUARY** Sunday, 2/6, 2:00 PM. "Little Street, Big City: How Elfreth's Alley Tells the Story of Philadelphia". Presented by Ted Maust, Director, Elfreth's Alley Museum. Donation \$4 per adult, students free. Light refreshments follow. The public is invited. BCHF headquarters

**MARCH** Sunday, 3/27, 2:00 PM. "Burlington Island" presented by Judy Gauntt, President, Friends of Burlington Island. Donation \$4 per adult, students free. Light refreshments follow. The public is invited. BCHF headquarters.

**APRIL** Plans will soon be underway for our Annual Tea. We hope to have our usual wonderful afternoon of tea sandwiches, desserts and scones with lemon curd and jams. We'll have

a bake sale and raffles. Watch here for the date.

**JUNE** Thurs 6/2 through Sun 6/12 Celebrity's cruise to Charleston, SC, and Bermuda aboard the recently modernized "Summit." The ship sails from Cape Liberty, NJ, More details to follow

**OCTOBER** Sat. 10/15 Historic Bristol Day

- 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).

Follow us on Instagram - -

IG@bristol\_historic\_foundation

### Out of the Past . . . *continued*

service is now normal, trolley transit is almost normal, boat service between Bristol and Burlington is at a standstill. The snow storm of blizzard-like proportions struck Bristol about noon time on Saturday. Traffic locally was practically suspended. The blizzard is said to be the worst since March 1914.

"Playing Cards, Steamboat Quality. For one week only, 25c deck. HARRY STRAUS, 110 Pond Street, near Mill."

"Well, We Are Here Again! Fancy Fruit, Delicatessen, Etc. ALEXANDER BROTHERS, 134 Mill Street, opposite Wright's Drug Store, Bristol."

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).

Follow us on Instagram - - IG@bristol\_historic\_foundation

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