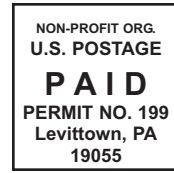




Bristol Cultural &
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The Gazette



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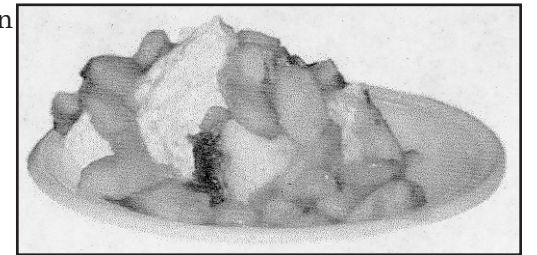
VOL 33
No. 6

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

JUNE 2014

The Main Summer Event at BCHF Headquarters

Our main event this summer will be to host a "Peach Social" on Sunday, August 3, 2014 in our headquarters at 321 Cedar Street, Bristol. The menu is fresh peaches, ice cream, angel food cake and a beverage. The time is between 2 & 5 PM. The purpose of this event is to help raise money to support the annual awards our organization provides at graduation time for four members of the Senior Class of Bristol High School. Awards of \$500 each are given for excellence in the areas of HISTORY, ART, MUSIC, and LITERATURE. These four are part of our Mission Statement. Tickets are \$5/adult; \$3 under age 12. Secure tickets at the door. Takeouts are available in your container. There will also be a baked goods table. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!



Annual Peach Social - Sunday, August 3rd A note from the Ways & Means Chairperson, Kathy Barniskis

Juicy sliced peaches mounded on fluffy angel food cake topped with yummy vanilla ice cream - does this sound like a good way to enjoy a Sunday afternoon? Join your friends and neighbors at the Bristol Cultural & Historic Foundation Building at 321 Cedar Ave. on Sun., August 3rd from 2 to 5 PM for this tasty summer dessert. If you can't stay, takeouts are available. (Bring a good-sized container!) A baked goods table featuring peachy delights will be on sale.

This is a good opportunity to view and buy a chance to win the beautiful watercolor by local artist, Joseph Sagolla that we raffle off each year at our Historic Bristol Day Event. Mr. Sagolla's watercolor will be a view from the river - showing sailboats, kayaks, and sculls. This year HBD is being held on Saturday, October 18th from 10 AM to 4 PM.

The BCHF Peach Social is a fundraiser that benefits the awards given to Bristol High School Graduates.

Adults \$5.00 Children under 12 - \$3.00

Travel Talk

Since there is no GAZETTE during the months of July and August, we're giving our readers the current status on BCHF sponsored trips for the balance of 2014 and into 2015.

Cape Cod, Sept. 14 - 18. As of this writing, seven seats remain. Cost of this trip is \$655 pp based on double occupancy, \$635 pp triple, and \$825 single. The itinerary includes tours of Nantucket Island, Martha's Vineyard, the Hyannis area and Historic Sandwich; 4 nights lodging at the Tidewater Inn in West Yarmouth, MA; 4 breakfasts and 4 dinners, including an evening of entertainment. For a flyer/reservation form, contact Helen Younglove at 215 788-9408. Reservation deadline is July 24.

"Harrisburg Christmas 2014," Wednesday, December 10. Reservations were being accepted by Ellanna Delaney, 215 788-4138, beginning last month. Cost is \$85 for BCHF members and \$88 for non-members and

includes a guided tour of the Capitol Building, a self-guided tour of the Governor's Mansion decorated for the holidays, lunch at Raspberries Hilton Hotel, and a self-guided tour of the PA State Museum

COMING IN 2015! Bus trip to the recently-opened NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL MUSEUM and "LITTLE ITALY" for the Annual San Gennaro Festival, Friday, September 18.

Other day trips being considered for next year are:

- Narrated cruise on the Toms River and Barnegat Bay on the "River Lady" paddlewheel replica, with lunch onboard, free time at the Tuckerton Seaport, and more.

- Cruise on the Schuylkill River from Walnut Street Dock to Bartram's Garden, visit to Bartram's Garden including a guided tour of the National Historic Landmark Bartram House.

Stay tuned for further information on these 2015 excursions!

BCHF Calendar of Events for 2014

JUNE - Fri., 6/20. Bus trip to Winterthur, featuring "Costumes of Downton Abbey" exhibit. **SOLD OUT!!**

JUNE - Fri., 6/20. 7-9PM, BCHF sales table of Bristol memorabilia & "treats" at the Delaware Canal Festival held at Bristol Lagoon Park, Jefferson Ave. & Prospect St.

JUNE - Sun., 6/29, 1-6 PM, BCHF sales & info table at Annual Celtic Day sponsored by Celtic Heritage Fdn. Lions Park, Bristol. For info on Celtic Day, call 215 788-5232.

AUGUST - Sun., 8/3, between 2 & 5 PM at BCHF. Annual Peach Social. Angel food cake topped with fresh peaches & ice cream, plus beverage. Takeouts available; bring container. Baked goods table. \$5/adult; \$3 under age 12. **BENEFITS BCHF AWARDS TO BRISTOL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES.**

SEPTEMBER - 9/14 through 18, 2014 - 5 day/ 4 night bus trip to Cape Cod, visiting Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, Historic Sandwich and Hyannis. 4 breakfasts & 4 dinners, lodging, all taxes, meal, guide & driver tips. \$655 pp, double occu-

pancy. \$200 pp deposit upon booking; balance due by July 24, 2014. Call 215 788-9408 for flyer/reservations.

OCTOBER - Sat., 10/18, 10 am to 4 pm. 38th Historic Bristol Day. Fee for House Tour & Tea. For details, visit the BCHF web-site given below.

NOVEMBER - Wed., 11/19, 7:30 p.m. BCHF's annual business meeting, incl. election of Board members. Program & refreshments follow. BCHF headquarters. Free. Call 215 781-9895 for info.

DECEMBER - Wed., 12/10. "Harrisburg Christmas 2014" bus trip. Visit the Governor's Mansion decorated for the holidays, PA Capitol building and PA State Museum. Lunch at Raspberries Hilton Hotel. \$85 for BCHF members; \$88 for non-members. Call 215 788-4138 for info/reservations.

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

Bristol Riverside Theater - 2014 Season

2014 Summer Musicales: Jukebox Saturday Night 6/19 to 6/29

The New Red Hot Mamas! 7/17 to 7/27 and Broadway's Best 8/14 to 8/24

Phone 215 785-0100 for tickets, dates and additional information.

THE GAZETTE is a publication of the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Inc. - Harold Mitchener, Editor
Post Office Box 215 • Bristol • Pennsylvania • 19007 • 215 781-9895 • www.bristolhistory.org

Articles for this issue of THE GAZETTE were contributed by:

Helen Younglove, Kathy Barniskis, Nancy Maren and Harold Mitchener. Additional research by Carol Mitchener.
Photography from Grundy Library Historical collection and The Rough Guide to THE ROYALS by Hunt, Alice et.al

King Charles II of England, Bristol and Sirloin Steak

As printed in the May issue of THE GAZETTE, there were references to the "Charter of King Charles II of England" which was given to William Penn dated March 4, 1681. Bristol traces its original founding to that date. Our readers may find some additional information about the king interesting.

Charles was born May 29, 1630. He became the "monarch" in 1660 following the end of the Oliver Cromwell era. Cromwell was "Lord Protector" and actually a dictator. It was Cromwell who ordered the beheading of King Charles I, father of Charles II. The execution was carried out on January 30, 1649. The king's son and heir to the throne fled the country to France for his own safety.

Cromwell died in 1658 and within a year a group of merchants, nobles, and Members of Parliament (MPs) decided that it would be better to have a monarch ruling with the advice of parliament.

Oliver Cromwell had been a member of Parliament who led a revolution against the king. A civil war erupted between the Royalists (Cavaliers) and Parliamentarians (Roundheads) in battles all over England. The time when Cromwell ruled is called the Interregnum (period between royal monarchs). Charles was canonized in 1660, and the day of his execution remained a feast day in the English Church until 1894.

The son of Charles I and heir to the throne had tried to regain the throne by force. In 1651, at the Battle of Worcester, he "went on the run" and actually hid up in an "oak tree" to avoid capture by the Roundhead Cavalry.

While living in France with relatives, he consoled himself by playing sports, doing heavy drinking and becoming involved with women. One of the ladies with whom he had an "affair" was Lucy Waters, the daughter of a fellow exile. Lucy and Charles had a son whom they named James. He would become the Duke of Monmouth. He tried to prove that his mother and Charles were actually married but this proved to be false.

With the death of Cromwell, a message was sent to France asking Charles to return to England and claim his throne. He agreed to this; however he had two requests. He wanted the nine men he blamed most for his

father's death executed and he wanted those who helped him escape from the Worcester battle rewarded. He arrived back in London on May 19, 1660.

The new king, known as Charles II, was very careful not to argue with parliament. He also worked very hard to remain popular with the middle classes. They were the ones that most favored his return to England. He even changed men's fashions. He liked the three-piece suit mixing old formal court dress with simple woolen outfits worn by country gentlemen.

Charles II founded the Chelsea Hospital for old soldiers and he became a patron of many charitable institutions. He also loved to give "epic banquets". At one of the dinners, he demanded to know the cut of meat being served. He was told it was a loin of beef. He stood, took his sword and declared "I knight this beef" followed by the statement "this is a simple loin no more, now it is Sir Loin". The term "sirloin of beef" was born.

Catharine Broganza (a princess from Portugal) was his wife and Queen. They had no children. With his passing, his younger brother James, Duke of York, became king.

Another lady Charles had as a mistress was Barbara Villiers. She had a very fiery temper. He had appointed her "Queen Catharine's Lady of the Bedchamber". At one point Queen Catharine threatened to return to Portugal.

Charles and Barbara Villiers had five children together and they all had the last name Fitzroy which means "king's son". Two things about Barbara Villiers started to irritate the king: she remained ill-tempered and she converted to Catholicism.

Beginning in 1667, two additional actresses caught the attention of Charles. They were Moll Davis and Nell Gwyn. Nell was the daughter of a "brothel madam" who sold oranges to the theater patrons as refreshments. It was "poor Nell" that became part of the last words that Charles spoke from his deathbed.

When Charles died in 1685, James II ruled England from 1685 until 1688. It was in this setting four years before the death of King Charles II that Bristol's Charter was issued.



Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from **June 1904** issues of THE BUCKS COUNTY GAZETTE Price three cents

6/2 - - "Bristol, Pa., Thursday, June 9. PAWNEE BILL'S HISTORIC WILD WEST AND GREAT FAR EAST ETHNOLOGICAL CONGRESS! Habit and Customs of the Red Men Illustrated by Themselves. Painted Warriors, Squaws, Papposes. Many Strange and Peculiar People. Weird Music from the Far Eastern Hemisphere. Seats for 10,000 People under Waterproof Canopies. A Gorgeous, Free Cavalcade Parades the Principal Streets of the City Daily at 10:30 a.m."

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

The annual strawberry festival at St. James parish building will be held tonight. Jersey berries and cream will be served.

An "Old Maids Convention" will be held in the Bethel A.M.E. church tomorrow evening under the auspices of the Senior Christian Endeavor.

The employees of William H. Grundy & Co. have completed arrangements for their annual excursion which will be run to Atlantic City on Saturday, July 30th. The excursion will be run by way of the bridge route. A special train will leave the Bristol depot at 7 a.m. and the train returning the excursionists will leave Atlantic City at 9 p.m. Price of the tickets will be \$1.50 adults and 75¢ children.

6/9 - - Doylestown, with less than half the population of Bristol, is in a fair way of securing a system of sewers at an early date. The funds for the project are furnished largely by local capitalists. When will Bristol awake from its slumber and be convinced of the vital necessity of a system of sewers?

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

Navigation has re-opened on the canal between New Hope and Bristol.

The Columbia Wall Paper Company is putting up a sign 200 feet long on their mill.

Two converts were baptized in Silver Lake at sunrise last Sunday. The ceremony was performed by Rev. James Winfield, pastor of the Second Baptist Church.

BRISTOL NOW HAS FIVE WARDS. On Monday, Judge Stout signed the decree dividing the Second Ward of Bristol into two voting districts. The Second Ward will now embrace the district between Penn and Lafayette Streets and the river and the canal, and the district from Lafayette Street on the south and the Hollow Creek on the north, between the river and the canal, will be known as the Fifth Ward.

"HOGUET'S PIONEER DRUG STORE. (wholesale and retail). The oldest and largest in Bucks County. Established in 1844 by the present proprietor. A large stock of first-class drugs, medicines and chemicals. L.A. Hoguet, Nos. 123 to 127 Mill Street."

"DR. ELLA R. HEINEKEN, Lady Dentist. 224 Mill Street."

6/16 - - LOCAL INTELLIGENCE

The Sisters of the I.H.M. Convent are chancing off a \$300 piano, the proceeds to be used in installing a heating system in the convent.

The monthly shoot of the Bristol Gun Club for the "Grundy Cup" will be held on Saturday afternoon at the club grounds above Tullytown.

St. Mark's annual commencement and entertainment will be held on Friday evening. The graduates will be Katie Brogan, Anna McIlvaine, Mary Motz and Rose Dougherty of Bristol, and Anna Coughlin of Tullytown.

Thirteen rows of reserved seats have been sold for the minstrel entertainment which will be given for the benefit of the Bristol Library at the Colonial Theatre next Tuesday evening. Only four rows of reserved seats remain.

BRISTOL HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT. The Bristol High School commencement will be held in the high school assembly room on Thursday evening, June 23. The graduating class of '04 is comprised of Misses Mary F. King, Margaret Ahlee, Estella Winter, Anna Simpson, Anna Barton, Edgar Haney and LaGrande LaRue. (see photo on previous page).

LOCAL BAND REVIVED. The Liberty Cornet Band, which recently disbanded, has been revived and has resumed its weekly practice on Tuesday evenings.

HOUSE FOR SALE. No. 648 Washington St., containing 8 rooms and bath. Price \$1,400.

"HORN'S MEAT MARKET. No. 308 Mill Street . . . Extra trading stamps! Chester County Butter - 30¢ and \$1 worth of stamps. Stewing Lamp - 5¢ lb. Good, Tender Steak - 16¢ lb. Large Can of Heinz's Tomato Soup - 20¢ and a small sample can with each."

6/23 - - LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

Oh! For a street sprinkler!

Wilhelmina Anders has sold her property at 420 Lafayette Street to an Italian for \$1,750.

Samuel Turner made a curious find upon his front porch, corner of Wood and Lafayette Streets, on Saturday morning - a set of false teeth and a stogie cigar.

There were twelve deaths in the borough during the month of May from the following causes: consumption, 3; typhoid fever, 2; one each from heart disease, pneumonia, cancer of the stomach, broncho-pneumonia, purpura hemorrhage, cancer of the face and marasmus.

The fine weather that has prevailed for the past week or ten days has made trolley riding a favorite form of recreation. On Sundays especially, the cars of the Philadelphia, Bristol and Trenton Street Railway Co. have been crowded. A favorite route is to take the car at the Closson House corner and go to Newtown, then transfer to the Yardley and Trenton car, making a choice of crossing the Calhoun Street Bridge to the Jersey Capital or continuing on to Morrisville, thence to Bristol, to the starting point. The ride to Torresdale is another attractive one, that line doing the heaviest business of any of the roads entering Bristol.

MARRIAGE LICENSES GRANTED. John F. Blanch of New York and Miss Grace C. Brogan of Bristol. Raymond Tomlinson and Miss Mary Williams of Bristol.

MARRIED MEN DEFEATED. On Sunday last, the Single Men defeated the Married Men of No. 2 Fire Company of Bristol, by the score of 29 to 13. The game was replete with brilliant plays, poor plays and kicking. Every player seemed to think the umpire had a grudge against him.

"C.C. STRUMFELS has placed a horse and wagon on his route and is now supplying the wholesale tobacco trade in Lower Bucks County, being the only wholesale dealer in this vicinity."

TEACHERS' SALARIES RAISED. At a special meeting of the Bristol Public School Board last evening, the salaries of the teachers were set as follows: high school principal, \$55 per month; assistant in second grade, Wood Street, \$35 per month; and all the teachers in the other grades, \$50 per month. This is an advance of \$5 per month for all the teachers except the assistant in the secondary department and the drawing and Latin teacher, the salary of the latter being increased from \$47 to \$50.

INDIAN DIES AT BRISTOL. There was considerable excitement in the Indian camp connected with Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show in Bristol last Thursday night when Justice Goodvoice Eagle, an infant member of the tribe, died of pneumonia. For two or three hours a crowd of 25 bucks and squaws took possession of Harvey S. Rue's undertaking shop and, according to the peculiar Indian custom, kept up a weird performance moaning and crying. An attempt was made to have the baby buried here but the chief would not permit it, so the body was embalmed and prepared for shipment to the Rosebud Indian Agency at Valentine, Nebraska. The death certificate, which the Board of Health regulations require, was signed by Edward Springer, the "medicine man" for the tribe.

6/30 - - BURGESS ABBOTT'S PROCLAMATION. Burgess Abbott of Bristol has issued a proclamation giving notice that the laws of the State for the protection of life and limb, and forbidding the sale or use of any deadly weapons or explosives within the limits of the borough, will be rigidly enforced on the Fourth of July.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ORGANIZES. Last Sunday afternoon and evening, with over a thousand members of the Order in from various nearby towns and cities, the Bristol Council, No. 906, Knights of Columbus, was organized at the Colonial Theatre, Bristol. James Roche, Patrick Barrett, Eugene Barrett and Hugh Nelson of Bristol, who are members of the Order, were instrumental in organizing the local council.

Continued on page 6

Editorial Comments

At various times when looking back at items written in local newspapers, some of the comments and descriptions written by newspaper reporters in previous centuries would be very offensive in today's journalism. Very often "prejudice" against a race or ethnic group is very much in evidence. Examples are often found in our publication's "Out of the Past" articles. These comments are actual quotations and our writer of these does an excellent job telling us "how it was" in our past.

In this June edition THE BUCKS COUNTY GAZETTE tells on Thursday, June 9 that "PAWNEE BILL'S WILD WEST AND GREAT FAR EAST ETHNOLOGICAL CONGRESS" was in Bristol to hold shows of the "Habits and Customs of the Red Men Illustrated by Themselves - Painted Warriors, Squaws, Papooses. It says that there were "many Strange and Peculiar People" and there was "Weird Music from the Far Eastern Hemispheres". In this quotation RED MEN, STRANGE AND PECULIAR PEOPLE AND WEIRD MUSIC, in this writer's opinion, are examples.

Another example is on June 23, 1904 when "Wilhelmina Anders sold her property at 420 Lafayette

Street to an Italian for \$1,750." In today's writing, the name of the person who purchased the property and not the person's ETHNIC BACKGROUND would be mentioned.

In the same issue, there is mention of an Indian who died at Bristol of pneumonia. The person was an infant member of the tribe. It goes on to say that for two or three hours a crowd of 25 "bucks and squaws" (men and women would have been more appropriate) kept up a "weird performance moaning and crying."

Today's medical records are very confidential and not for publication. There was a Dr. Brown who opened his new office "promptly at 9 a.m. at the Hotel Closson (Bath and Otter Streets). This first patient was "an old lady, Mrs. A.M. Bowers, living near Tullytown". The article goes on to say that he removed "bunions that were painful". It says that "when the old lady went away happy, she said it did not hurt a bit." Can you as a reader imagine that kind of statement being printed in today's newspapers? **TIMES HAVE CHANGED AND HOPEFULLY FOR THE BETTER.**

Out Of The Past . . . Continued



wear "Queen Quality." Boots - \$3.00 Oxfords - \$2.50. Fast color eyelets used exclusively."

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

The Delaware River Navigation Company has put the steamer "Sue" on the route between Bristol and Philadelphia for the transportation of freight.

The dredger "America" which has been digging gravel at the point below Bristol for some time, dug a deeper channel at the Mill Street wharf this week to better enable the coal boats to unload at the dock.

2014 B.C.H.F. Membership

The following individuals, families and businesses have joined the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation as members for the year 2014. If your name does not appear below, and you would like to continue to support the work of the Foundation, you may join now using the coupon at the bottom of this page. Additional members will be noted in our September newsletter.

Andrew V. Accardi	Ana C. Tellado Gonzalez	Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Mancuso	Clara Smith
Jose L. Acevedo	C. Graff	Roberta Marino	Joyce & Howard Smoyer
Donna Albright	Linda M. Griggs	Dawn & Don Martin	Mary Ann Smoyer
Russell & Pauline Angermann	Elisabeth Halpert	Donald & Donna McCloskey	Gloria L. Snyder
Luke & Mary Antonelli	Tom & Pat Harris	Frank McCole	Leonard & Danielle Snyder
Irene Arhipov	Anna Harris	Dave McGlynn	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph J. Stallone
Mary Frances Asta	Andrea Harvie	Mary McIlvain	Alan C. Stoneback
Kathleen & Andrew Barniskis	Arlene Hausmann	Pat & Bill McNamara	Paul Sullivan
Lillian Mitchener Bauserman	Edward F. Hickey	Mary Megill	Jane Sutton
Samuel W. Black	Jeanine Hillesland	Pauline E. Michalski	Marie E. Swistak
Delores Brown	Lorraine & John Hoffman	Mary Lou Middlekauff	Elaine Tosti
Mrs. Lucy Butterworth	Lois Houser	Marilyn L. Milbourne	Elizabeth & Bob Tosti
Sarah E. Carter	Beverly Howley	Harold & Carol Mitchener	Regina Vasey
Grace Carter	Francis & Ellen Hufnell	Betty J. Moore	Nancy & Lisa Vasey
Bill & Rose Cattani	Dr. Joanne Hullings	Paul Moore	Ron & Jane Vattimo
Anthony & Lois Centafont	Mr. & Mrs. James B.	Mary Jane & Isadore Morici	Alan & Audrey Vogenberg
J. Cianciosi	Humpreys	Paul Murray	Joan Wagner
Ann & Nelson Clements	Jean Jacoby	Sheree Napoli	Jesse & Stephanie Walker
Geraldine & Dr. Frances Cole	Nancy Jenca	Elaine Nelson	Veronica Ronnie Walker
Howard J. Collier	Donna Jenkinson	John & Gail Nocito	Mr. & Mrs. Ted Walp
Alice & Vincent Cordisco	Lynda Johnson	Thomas & Eleanor O'Reilly	Marion M. Walter
Anthony Costantini	Diane Jones-Davidson	Michael Olszewski	Arleen Warren
Jennie & John Costantini	Florence Jung	Dorothy Paglione-Rapp	William & Susan Watkins
Dorothy Cusano	Mary & Jody Kehoe	Mike & Virginia Paleafico	Barbara Weir
Jean D'Angelo	Paula Kellogg	Jane Paone	Margaret R. Wentz
Joseph & Jeanne D'Emidio	Clarence King	William Pearson, Jr.	Pauline White
Phyllis Debnarik	Tom & Diane King Sr.	Mary Petrone	Vernon Wiegand Jr.
Ellanna L. Delaney	Rosemarie Kirby	Kay Phillips	Karen D. Wilson
Francis T. Delia	Sandra Klug	Eleanor Pirri	Anne M. Winter
Joanne Delia	Ralph & Jo Lalli	Philomena Quattrocchi	Elizabeth Worthington
Ginny DiMaggio	Albert & Sharon Lalli	Angelo & Melinda Ratini	Helen Younglove
Dr. & Mrs. Dominick DiNunzio	Barbara Anne LaRosa	Helen B. Raymone	
Helen Dmytryk	Joe & Anna Larrisey	Janice Rhodes	Business & Community
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Anthony & Irene Esposito	Ed Levy	Nicholas A. Rizzo	Bristol Fire Company
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Joyce & Bill Frake	Bob & Carol Long	Anthony & Margaret Russo	Harris Comfort
Barbara & Ernie Freer	Ms. Jean K. Lowden	Charles & Dolores Sampsel	Molden Funeral Chapel
Monica Gallagher	Maryanne Lucenti	Yvonne P. Sampsel	Mothers & Others
Mary, Mark & Christina	Rose Lustica	Gloria L. Seacrist	Maureen Scanlin Real Estate
Gesualdi	Dolores A. Lynam	Catherine M. Severi	
Miss Anna Louise Getz	Margaret Lynn	Mary Sheppard	
Joseph M. Gilardi	JoAnn Maguire	Robin Simmers-Butrey	

2014 Membership Form

2014 Membership Dues: Individual \$12.00 Family \$24.00 Business \$50.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make check payable to B.C.H. F. Mail to: B.C.H.F., P.O. Box 215, Bristol, PA 19007

Bristol R.F.D. No.1 Sometimes Called R.D. No. 1

In the beginning of the post office system, it was the duty of those receiving mail to come to the post office and pick up their mail. Gradually, in larger cities and then in smaller towns, a system was established for the mail to be delivered to an address by mail carriers called postmen. For many years in the Bristol area, this only applied to those families living within the Borough.

Residents in Bristol Township, which was mostly all farmland, found it very inconvenient to have to come to the post office in Bristol Borough. Other than in the early history of the borough, mail was held at the King George II Inn or the private home of the postmaster on Mill Street until the post office was established at Radcliffe and Market Streets. (A bank is presently at that location.) In 1914, one-hundred years ago, a new post office was built at Beaver and Prospect Sts.

Due to the petitions led by S. Headley King and George R. Wislar, Rural Federal Delivery No. 1 out of Bristol was started on June 1, 1906. At the time, Elwood W. Minster was the postmaster in Bristol. This route used Bath Road as the main road.

After 31 years of service on the rural route and 4 years within the borough, J. Milnor King of Bristol Township retired in 1937 totaling 35 years as a mail-

man. He had served a R.F.D. route which covered 37 miles daily. He would carry an average of 1,265 pieces of mail daily out of the Bristol Post Office. It is to his credit that he never missed a day. From his beginning until 1915, "he wore out 5 horses". In 1915, he started using an automobile and until his retirement in June of 1937, he had "worn out 5 automobiles". There were 470 rural boxes on his route.

Sometimes winter was very difficult when there was deep drifting snow. There was no snow removal on the roads. He always carried a shovel with him and he recalled several evenings when he did not reach home until 9 p.m.

Once his home was quarantined for "scarlet fever", a very common practice in those days, and he had to board at the home of a neighbor until the family member recovered and the quarantine sign was removed from the door of the house.

J. Milnor King is an excellent example of the "unofficial" motto of the postal system.

"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

Note: This inscription is found on the general post office in New York City at 8th Ave and 33rd Street.

Anthracite Coal

Checking the American Heritage Dictionary, the word "anthracite" is described as a "dense shiny coal that has a high carbon content and little volatile matter and burns with a clean flame". It is also called "hard coal". This is the variety of coal that was transported from the coal mines of eastern Pennsylvania, using the Delaware Canal, to Bristol between 1832 and 1931.

The coal found in western Pennsylvania and south into Maryland and West Virginia is "bituminous" coal which is a softer variety. The same dictionary as mentioned above gives the following definition: "Bituminous coal is a mineral coal with a high percentage of volatile matter that burns with a smoky yellow flame. It is called "soft coal".

It was the anthracite coal that was burned in many homes and factories of our eastern Pennsylvania area. This was the coal that the mules pulled on the barges the sixty miles from Easton to Bristol passing through the 24 locks as the canal descended in elevation 168 feet to reach Bristol.

In an article found in the Chicago Times newspaper from 1894, they mention how it was not until about 1820 that the anthracite coal was discovered in Pennsylvania. Until about that time, the entire ship-

ment from the Wyoming Valley of Pennsylvania, which has the largest anthracite basin in the world, had only about 1,000 tons extracted and sold.

Looking at some statistics, by 1820, there were 2,500 tons mined and sold; in 1860, 2,914,817 tons. The tonnage grew until 1890, when the article was written, there were over 18 thousand tons. At that time, the mining of the anthracite coal in the region required the work of 50,000 men and boys and the number kept increasing each year. (This was also a time when many immigrant workers came from Europe and the British Isles and found work in the mines).

In 1891 the Pennsylvania Legislature was looking to honor the person who discovered the anthracite coal. The name of Philip Ginter of Carbon County was being given credit. It was also found that 23 years prior to Ginter's claim, Obadiah and Daniel Goro, blacksmiths from Connecticut living near Wilkesbarre, were using the coal. Jesse Fell was the first to burn it in a grate as a house fuel; in 1885 a boat owner in New York tried using it for making steam.

It is interesting to note that often children in schools in our area have never seen coal or know its past importance.

Ninety Minutes Trolley Ride to Fallsington Revealed

In June of 1937 Miss Effie Watson was interviewed by the "Bristol Courier" newspaper upon her retirement from public education. She had devoted 50 years in the classroom, the last 35 of which she worked for the schools of Bristol Borough. One of the interesting traveling times she told the reporter was that her family home was in Fallsington (Bucks County) and that she boarded in the borough but traveled to her family home on the weekends. In her early years teaching in Bristol Township, the trolley ride home to Fallsington on weekends, including changes of trolley cars, was an hour and one-half journey. By the time of her retirement in 1937, an automobile ride home from Bristol Borough was only a fifteen-minute journey. (The electric trolley stopped service in 1932 and was replaced by bus transportation.)

When Miss Watson began her teaching career, she worked at various schools; her first year was at the Newportville School (Bristol Township). For the next four years she taught at the Delaware School located between Tullytown and Bristol Borough (it had been discontinued) and the Laurel Bend School, located where the Bristol Township administration building stands on Bath Road. (The actual school building remains and has been converted into a house at that location). Following her work in Bristol Township, she then taught for ten years in Middletown Township Schools at Wildman's Corner School which was later known as Maple Point School. This school was located between Woodbourne and Newtown.

Her final move in teaching was to Bristol Borough where she taught for the next 35 years. While in the borough, she taught at Wood Street School, Jefferson Avenue School and Harriman School on Wilson Avenue.

This writer talked with an older Bristol resident who told that she remembered Miss Watson teaching and remembered her strict classroom management. She spoke softly but had a very commanding presence.

The newspaper reporter asked Miss Watson to compare some things that had changed in her tenure as a teacher. One of the first things she mentioned was that in the beginning, the teacher was responsible for

taking care of the coal stove in the school (one-room) which supplied the heat. She was proud to mention that she was able to "bank" the fire on Friday afternoon and it would remain hot until Monday morning.

The retiree said that in her early career there were fewer student absentees. "The students didn't seem eager to miss school at that time". School was probably the place where they had the most "social contact". She also said that "spelling bees" were used in the classroom and that the children seemed to enjoy them.

Teacher's Institutes were "more methodical and practical" when she first started to teach. She felt that by 1937, they were "more entertaining".

For her educational background, Miss Watson credited Miss Eastburn (who taught at Newtown and Fallsington) for taking a special interest in students who were interested in obtaining a higher education. Miss Eastburn gave those students special instruction in geometry, Latin and subjects that would be required for teaching careers.

Miss Watson was a student at the Newtown grammar school when the principal developed a case of the mumps. The assistant principal filled the position of the principal and Effie Watson said she was asked to teach in the grammar grades for the two weeks. This was followed by six month's of study at the Newtown Academy.

During her actual teaching career, she attended courses at various colleges in the area and participated in Teacher's Institutes.

When asked what she planned for her retirement, she was quick to mention four main items. First she looked forward to resting a little. She wanted to volunteer in the temperance movement. She always enjoyed growing flowers and looked forward to working in her garden. The fourth item she mentioned was that she wanted to travel by automobile on trips particularly in the New England States.

Miss Watson retired but her influence on many of those she taught lived on and many would remember her fondly. THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE MISS WATSON.

NOTE THE CORRECTION: The past several editions of BCHF's Calendar of Events have incorrectly shown the time of the August 3rd Peach Social as being between 3 and 6 p.m. Please note that the correct time is between **2 and 5 p.m.**