



**Bristol Cultural &
Historical Foundation, Inc.**
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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 2016

Happy Birthday Bristol Borough (1681-2016 = 335 Years) Bristol Cultural & Historical Foundation (1967-2016 = 49 Years)

BCHF is proud of our accomplishments in the 49 years of our existence and we look forward to many more years. We are proud to be located in a historic borough that is 335 years old. The birthday date for the Borough of Bristol is March 4th, 1681. It was started by members of the Quaker faith, which was the same religion as William Penn, the Proprietor of the Colony of Pennsylvania, later the State of Pennsylvania.

There are no buildings left from our founding date but there is a tree in the yard next to the Quaker Meeting House located on Market Street at the corner of Wood Street. The adjacent "Buttonwood" tree was standing when William Penn came up the Delaware River from Philadelphia. He was on his way to his country estate now called Pennsbury Manor.

The large house at the Manor is a replica of the original and it was built about 1938. The BCHF stone building (our headquarters) was an old Quaker Parochial School and it was constructed in 1874.

BCHF Calendar of Events for 2016

MARCH - Sun., 3/13, 2 p.m. One-man show by Neill Hartley entitled "The Magic of Lionel: The Story of Joshua Lionel Cowen." Light refreshment. Suggested donation of \$5 pp. BCHF headquarters. Call 215 788-9408 for info.

APRIL - Sun., 4/10, 2 p.m. Program entitled "The Artist in Your Pocket," by Donald Everhart, lead sculptor-engraver for the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia. Light refreshment. Suggested donation of \$5 pp. BCHF headquarters. Call 215 788-9408 for info.

APRIL - SUN., 4/24, 3-5 p.m. "A Lovely Spring Tea" with traditional Tea fare. \$20 pp. BCHF headquarters. Limited number of reservations; call 215 788-9408 beginning 9 a.m., Sat., March 19.

MAY - Wed.-Fri., 5/18-20. Bus trip to Pittsburgh. \$395 pp double, \$380 pp triple, \$505 single. SOLD OUT! Waiting list being taken at 215 788-9408.

JUNE - Sun., 6/26, noon-5 p.m. BCHF sales & info table at Annual Celtic Day in Lions Park, Bristol Borough. Event sponsored by Celtic Heritage Foundation, 215 788-5232.

AUGUST - Sun., 8/7, 2-4 p.m. Annual Peach Social. Angel food cake topped with fresh peaches & ice cream, plus beverage. Takeouts available with own container. Baked goods table. \$5/adult, \$3 under age 12. BCHF air-conditioned headquarters. **BENEFITS BCHF AWARDS TO BRISTOL HIGH SCHOOL GRAD-**

UATES.

SEPTEMBER - Sat., 9/10 (rain date 9/11), noon - 5:00 p.m. BCHF sales & info table at Annual Italian Festival in Lions Park, Bristol Borough. Event sponsored by Bristol Lions Club, www.bristolions.org.

SEPTEMBER - Thurs., 9/29 - Bus trip to Longwood Gardens followed by High Tea at Hotel DuPont. \$98 BCHF members age 62 & over; \$100 for members under 62. \$101 for non-members age 62 & over; \$103 for non-members under age 62.

OCTOBER - Sat., 10/15, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 40th Historic Bristol Day. Fee for House Tour & Tea. For details, visit the BCHF's website, www.bristolhistory.org.

NOVEMBER - Wed., 11/2. Bus trip to Harlem. Details to be released in 1st quarter of 2016.

NOVEMBER - Wed., 11/16, 7:30 p.m. BCHF's annual business meeting, incl. election of Board members. Program & refreshments follow. Free. Public is invited. BCHF headquarters. Call 215 781-9895 for info.

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

President's Corner

At our last membership meeting in November, changes to our By Laws, as recommended by the BCHF Directors were approved. I would like to highlight the changes. First we included an addition to our mission statement, which explicitly states that we still participate in

charitable giving during the year. Of course, in the past we have done so in the form of scholarships to the Bristol Borough high school students and the Writer's Choice project. We have also made other charitable contributions as the need was perceived. The addition to the By Laws insures that we are never neglectful of this important part of our mission.

In addition to a few changes in wording, the other major change was to limit the term of office to three consecutive years for the president and vice-president. This insures that one person, when accepting the office, has the assurance that it is not a lifetime obligation. Also, changing of the guard, hopefully will promote new enthusiasms and ideas.

Initially a small committee worked on our By Law revisions. As ideas were developed they were presented to the entire Board for comment and revisions. At

each step of the way, the document was given to our membership chairperson, Nancy Maren, who prepared copies with the proposed changes to review at the next meeting. This happened several times. She also prepared the final copy which you can find on our website.

As I said in the last President's Corner, I would like to introduce you to members of the BCHF Board. Nancy Maren has been a loyal and hard working member for many years. She is currently our membership chairperson. She makes sure that the list of names and addresses is up to date. She sends out and receives the yearly membership forms. If we need mailing labels, it is to Nancy that we turn.

Nancy has worn many hats over the years. She was president for five years, chaired Bristol Day on several occasions, and was a member of the First Night Committee. She prepares the Gazette for printing which means layout and typing. We are indeed lucky to have people such as Nancy as an active member of our organization. In the future, I hope to highlight additional members of our Board of Directors so that you can get to know them better.

Till then, enjoy the spring season. Hope to see you at the tea in April.

Jan Ruano

Bristol Riverside Theater - 2016 Performances

"Rumors" - Mar 22 thru Apr. 10, "Man of La Mancha" - May 10 - May 29
Phone 215 785-0100 for further information.

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Articles for this issue of THE GAZETTE were contributed by: Helen Younglove, Carol Mitchener, Jan Ruano, Kathy Barniskis and Harold Mitchener; Photography by Carol Mitchener (a picture of one of our speakers courtesy of Helen Younglove and a print for the Ways & Means report by Kathy Barniskis

Trip Update

We're delighted to announce that our "Pittsburgh Express" trip has sold out! A waiting list is being taken by Helen Younglove at 215 788-9408.

Reservations for the Thursday, Sept. 29, bus trip to Longwood Gardens, followed by High Tea at the Hotel duPont, will be taken by Ways & Means member Sue Watkins (215-781-8591) beginning the week of March 14. The day's schedule is as follows:

Depart the Grundy Arena parking lot on Beaver Street at 8:30 a.m. sharp.

Self-guided tour of Longwood Gardens from approx. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This includes time for lunch-on-your-own, exploring the formal gardens and the recently opened "Meadow" (an 86 acre area of all PA native plants) and the recently restored farmhouse which contains period antiques.

Sunday Programs

Hopefully, by now, you've circled Sunday, March 13, and Sunday, April 10, on your social calendar! Those are the dates on which two different presentations will be given at BCHF headquarters, both starting at 2 p.m.

On March 13, Neill Hartley will present his one-man show entitled "The Magic of Lionel: Joshua Lionel Cowen." Mr. Hartley is an actor, director and an assistant professor of theatre at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. He is pleasantly remembered by the BCHF audience who attended his "Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band" presentation in January 2015.

On April 10, Donald Everhart's presentation entitled "The Artist in Your Pocket" will tell us how U.S. coinage is made. Mr. Everhart is the lead sculptor-engraver for the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia. Prior to his employment there, he worked at the private Franklin Mint as a designer for coins and medals and later as a staff sculptor. While



High Tea at the Hotel duPont in Wilmington, DE, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. The menu will consist of blends of tea from the neighboring estates in the Brandywine Valley, tea sandwiches, scones and dessert. The Hotel duPont welcomed its first guests in 1913 and has remained a Gilded Age icon, being one of the most prestigious hotels in the world.

Return to the Grundy Arena lot at approx. 7 p.m.

Cost per person is \$98 for BCHF members age 62 & over; \$100 for members under age 62. For non-members the cost is \$101 for age 62 & over; \$103 for under age 62.

A trip flyer/reservation form is available from Sue Watkins at the number given above.

We are still awaiting 2016 price information on the planned trip to Harlem on Nov. 2.

there, he designed collectible coins for various nations, including the Philippines, Solomon Islands, Belize, Guyana, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Jamaica, Panama, Cook Islands and the Netherlands Antilles. In 1980, Mr. Everhart started working as a freelance designer and artist. Among his well-known clients were Walt Disney Company, Tiffany Company, the Bradford Exchange, and various colleges and universities, including Georgetown University. He joined the U.S. Mint in 2004 and was involved with the 50 State Quarters and the Presidential \$1 Coin projects. Most recently, he was commissioned to create the Papal Medal commemorating Pope Francis' visit to Philadelphia.

Our Ways & Means members will be serving light refreshments at the conclusion of each presentation. A donation of \$5 per attendee is suggested. We look forward to seeing many members and friends of BCHF on the above dates!

A Note From Ways & Means



Be sure to make your reservations for our spring tea on April 24th from 3-5. We are accepting reservations on March 19th. Call Helen Younglove at 215 788-9408. Tickets are \$20.00. Delicious scones, sandwiches, desserts and floral arranging demonstrations await you. Come spend a delightful Sunday afternoon with us.

On Sunday, March 13th at 2 pm, Neil Hartley will present his one-man show: The Magic of Lionel: The story of Joshua Lionel Cowen. The Ways & Means Committee will provide refreshments after the program.

A suggested donation is \$5.00 per person.

The Artists of Bristol and other local artisans are exhibiting in the Center for the Arts on Mill Street. The new exhibit is entitled: "American Pie - Pop Culture of the 50's and 60's" and opens for the public on February 19th.

As always, if you have a suggestion for an event, program, idea for a trip or want information about joining Ways & Means, please call Kathy Barniskis at 215 943-0258. Our next meeting is on March 21st at 7:30 at the BCHF headquarters on Cedar St. All are welcome to attend.

Kathy Barniskis - Ways & Means Chair

Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from **MARCH 1896** issues of THE BUCKS COUNTY GAZETTE. The microfilm of the March 1886 newspaper was not available

3/5 - - PROVIDENCE HOSIERY MILLS BURNED. The Providence Hosiery Mills, on Buckley Street, belonging to the estate of Samuel Appleton, were totally destroyed by fire at an early hour on Tuesday morning. Property valued at over \$100,000 was reduced to ashes and two hundred employees have been thrown out of work.

A SCHOOL ENTERTAINMENT. Last Friday afternoon, a pleasant entertainment was given by "B Grammar School," Wood Street, called "Scholars' Day" exercises. On the blackboard, drawn by two of the pupils, were chalk sketches of the heads of Washington, Lincoln, Lowell and Longfellow.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

The Delaware was frozen over this morning from shore to shore, making the third time it has been in this condition this season.

At the entertainment at the A.M.E. Church on last Thursday evening, \$32 was received, which will be applied to the reduction of the church debt.

The Grand Officers of the Order Sons of Temperance of Pennsylvania will pay their annual official visit to Bristol Division No. 107, S.O.T., on Friday evening.

The male members of the First Baptist Church will give a "Leap Year Supper" on March 19. The supper is to be solely under the direction of the male members of the church.

"FREDERICK KING, dealer in HEADLIGHT AND OTHER OILS. Lamps and Fixtures. Confectionary. Corner Pond and Dorrance Sts."

"EDWARD BARTON, House Painter in All Its Branches. Plain and decorative paper hanging. No. 153 Buckley St."

"1896 Columbia Bicycles. You see them everywhere! New and second-hand wheels in stock. All kinds of bicycles repaired at short notice. C.R. THOMPSON, Nos. 611 and 613 Bath Street."

3/12 - - The smoker given last Friday night at the No. 1 Fire Engine Company's rooms was a great success. The audience was entertained with music by the Bristol Orchestra and several boxing bouts by local talent.

At a meeting at America Hose, Hook and Ladder Company, No. 2, held on March 3, it was unanimously resolved that a vote of thanks be extended to all citizens who were kind enough to open their houses, and who were untiring in their efforts to furnish coffee for the relief of the firemen on the morning of March 3 at the Appleton Mills fire.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS. At the regular monthly meeting of Council last Monday evening, the Police Committee reported that the number of tramps lodged in the station during the month was 680. The Health, Sanitation and Poor Committee reported that the total expenses for the relief, medical assistance and burial of the poor during the year amounted to \$126.40. The clerk read a letter from an old soldier, now located in Raleigh, N.D., saying that he had re-enlisted in the United States Army during the war of the Rebellion, with the understanding that he would receive \$100 bounty from the Borough of Bristol, and wanted to know to whom he would make application. The clerk was directed to notify him that there was no money in the treasury to pay such claims.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

The Delaware and Raritan Canal opened on Monday.

The employees of Steel's Mills were placed on half-time this morning.

The new swinging bridge across the canal at Washington Street was finished last week.

The Globe Furnishings Co., of Michigan has received the contract for furnishing the pews, pulpit and altar rail of the new Methodist Church.

"EASTER SHOW. I offer the following plants and prices for Easter. Pansies in bloom - 5 and 10¢. Violets - 10 and 15¢. Geraniums - 10 and 15¢. Hyacinths - 10 and 15¢. Calla Lillies - 35 and 50¢. Easter Lillies - 40¢ to \$1.00. Palms - \$1.00 and up. J.T. DeWITT, Florist, Pond Street

above Mill."

"Sea Salt for Bathing Purposes. DR. PURSELL'S DRUG STORE, Bristol."

"HARRY A. STOUT, 351 AND 353 Dorrance St. . . Large Potatoes - 17¢ per basket. **For One Week Commencing March 12.** Eggs (warranted) - 24¢ per score. Pure Lard - 3 pounds for 25¢. Chili Sauce - 7-1/2 per bottle. Sugar Corn - 6 cans for 25¢. Good Oranges - 15¢ per dozen. Stove Enamel - 2 for 5¢. Clothes Pins - 1¢ a dozen. Hood's Sarsaparilla - 80¢ per bottle. These prices for a week only. No tickets taken at these prices."

"The Interstate Steamboat Co. . . Steamer Florence leaves Bristol for Philadelphia at 8:30 a.m. Leaves Philadelphia for Bristol at 2:30 p.m."

3/19 - - RESCUE MISSION MEETING. Bristol Branch of Christian Men's Union to Hold Rescue Mission Meetings in Evan's Hall Once or Twice a Week. The meetings for total abstinence and rescue work, begun here last week by Col. Hadley's workers from New York, are reported as most successful. Mr. Lee says that few places have shown the interest and enthusiasm of Bristol, and he looks forward to a flourishing Rescue Mission here.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

The Bristol Presbyterian Church will celebrate its semi-centennial on Sunday, April 26.

It was no fault of the horses that Harry Phipps' animals took fright yesterday on Dorrance Street. The axle of the milk wagon broke, letting the tongue drop on the horses' heels, and away they went, full tilt, almost the whole length of Dorrance Street. No serious damage resulted.

It was singular that on last Monday and Tuesday, when the snow and slush laid upon Bristol sidewalks, awaiting an industrious hand to shovel it into the gutter, that not a single, solitary tramp registered a knock at the kitchen doors where they are accustomed to do so by tens and twenties during the day for something to eat.

"Rheumatic Cure FREE. Dr. Whitehall's Rheumatic Cure - the Latest and the Best. Free Sample. EMLÉN MARTIN'S DRUG STORE, Radcliffe St."

"DANCING, WILSON'S DANCING ACADEMY, Cor. Radcliffe and Walnut Sts. Social dance every Tuesday evening from 9 o'clock until 11:30. Season tickets for 12 dances at the Social at reduced rates. WM. H.J. WILSON, Instructor."

3/26 - - LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

The water was turned into the canal last Monday.

Bristol's leading Republican politicians went to the Doylestown convention last Monday.

A fine likeness of Bristol's good-looking Burgess, Raymond F. Bussman, adorned the Philadelphia Press last Monday.

The 4-year old son of Capt. Gantz, of the Salvation Army, is ill with diphtheria at his father's home on Buckley Street. This is the only case in Bristol.

Thomas C. Ivins, while running the dried beef cutter yesterday at his grocery store, corner of Wood and Mulberry Streets, had the misfortune of clipping off the end of one of his fingers.

The 13th annual ball of Division No. 1, A.O.H., of Bristol, will be held in the A.O.H. hall, corner of Plum and Corson Streets, on April 6. The music will be by Prof. Campiglia's full orchestra.

The oldest inmate of the Bucks County Almshouse is Amos Lippincott, formerly a tobacconist in Bristol, who has reached the advanced age of 94, and whose proud boast is that he has voted for every Democratic president since he was 21 years of age.

"C.J. PATTON, wholesale and retail dealer in the best brands of TOBACCO, CIGARS, SNUFF, etc. No. 6 Mill Street."

"F.E. MILBURN, Fine Merchant Tailor, 111 Cedar St. . . I will guarantee every garment I sell. If it does not fit you, you need not take it. I have fine all-wool suitings from \$15 up and trouserings from \$4.50 up. Trousers purchased of us will be pressed once a month for one year free of charge."

Quonset Huts

A Quonset Hut is defined as a “prefabricated portable structure having a semi-circular roof of corrugated metal that curves down to form a wall.” It was developed at the beginning of World War II to house people and protect materials. The building needed to be inexpensive, lightweight and portable so that it could be shipped anywhere and put up quickly using only hand tools.

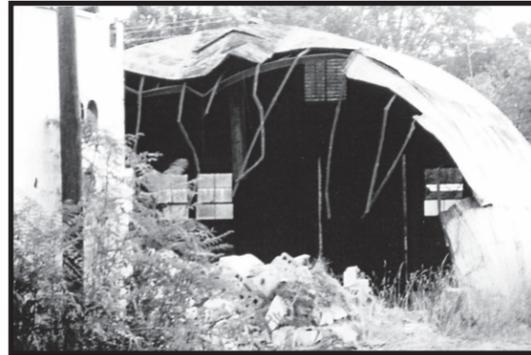
The British had developed a prefab structure, a Nissen Hut during World War I. In 1941 the U.S. military looked at the Nissen Hut but felt that the design could be improved. At Quonset Point, R.I., a new Navy facility was being completed in March of 1941; the George Fuller Corporation was asked to design and produce a structure to U.S. specifications. This was done in two months by adapting the British design using corrugated steel and semi-circular steel-arched ribs. Corrugated sheets were attached with nuts and bolts. The two ends were covered with plywood. The ends had doors and windows. Improvements were made on the interior using Masonite (pressed wood) with insulation and plywood floors. But what should they call it? The area in Rhode Island where this was being developed was Quonset Point. (Quonset means “boundary” in the Native American Narragansett language.)

The first hut was finished within 60 days of the awarding of the contract. It was 16 feet wide and 36 feet long and made of heavy one inch thick steel. It took a crew of eight men only one day to erect it. In June of 1941, the Navy made its first shipment of Quonset Huts overseas. It was heavy for shipping. So the Navy engineers began to make improvements. The next design was developed and shipping space and tonnage were reduced. The new hut was larger - 20 feet

by 48 feet - a n d weighed only 3 and a half tons instead of 4 tons; the new version could be put together with only 6 men working one day. Finally, Quonset Huts required less shipping space compared to tents when accommodations for equal numbers of men were considered. The Quonset Huts were used as barracks, medical and dental offices, isolation wards, bakeries, chapels, theatres, latrines, etc. In all 86 interior plans were prepared. Eventually larger warehouses were developed - - 40 feet by 100 feet structures with vertical sides.

When the war ended, the Quonset Huts were too good a resource to just throw away. The military sold them to civilians for about \$1000 each.

An example of a Quonset Hut in Bristol was on Green Lane near the intersection of Radcliffe Street. This was owned by the O’Boyle Company which manufactured ice cream. The Quonset hut was removed in August, 2010. Unfortunately, this is the only picture of a Quonset Hut we could find. Perhaps one of our readers has a picture or other information of this historic type of structure.



Lenox China

The headquarters of Lenox China Corporation is located on Radcliffe Street in Bristol. Do you know anything about the history of the company?

Lenox was founded in 1889 by Walter Scott Lenox as Lenox’s Ceramic Art Company, Trenton, New Jersey. From the start, it was organized as an art studio and not as a factory. It did not produce a full range of ceramic articles but rather one-of-a-kind artware. The company at first had just eighteen employees. Lenox’s products were first displayed at The Smithsonian Institution in 1997 in Washington, D.C.

Lenox’s products became popular in the early 20th century when separate dining rooms and hostess parties became the trend. Lenox then started making custom-designed, elaborately decorated dining plates. Walter Lenox faced European competition but commissioned famous American artists such as William Morley to decorate his plates. When Lenox realized that the plates were well-received, he started producing complete sets of dinnerware. In 1906, he changed his firm’s name from the “Ceramic Art Company” to the less restrictive “Lenox Incorporated.”

Lenox was the first company to develop a bridal registry. Several Presidents of the U.S. have ordered Lenox China for

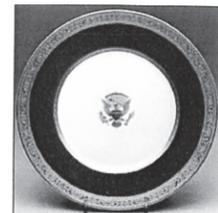
the White House. The first was Woodrow Wilson. He was U.S. President from 1913 to 1921; he also had been the former Governor of New Jersey. It was in Trenton, New Jersey where the Lenox factory was located.

The Wilson Service, designed by Frank Holmes, was delivered to the White House between August and November 1918. The pattern has a deep ivory border surrounding a brighter ivory body and two bands of matte gold encrusted with stars, stripes, and other motifs. The first set of American made tableware of 1,700 pieces from Lenox costs \$16,000. Other Presidents that have ordered Lenox for the White House have been, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Ronald Reagan, William Clinton, and G.W. Bush.

Lenox tablewares is at the vice president’s official residence, more than 300 U.S. embassies, and more than half of the governor’s mansions.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Smithsonian Institution have Lenox pottery as centerpieces in exhibition of American decorative arts.

Often Lenox decorative pieces are used as Christmas gifts or gifts for other occasions.



President Wilson
1918



President Reagan
1982



1929
Ming

One Room Schoolhouses

In 1834 the Legislature of Pennsylvania passed an act that required the establishment of public schools. In Bristol private schools existed by the Quakers started a one room school at 321 Cedar St. (The 1874 stone structure is presently the headquarters of the Bristol Cultural & Historical Foundation.) Other schools built in Bristol before 1900 were a school building on Wood Street (1837). Otter Street School (1854), Washington St. School (1879), and Bath St. School (1881). These schools had more than one room.

However, in the nearby area (Bristol Township) there were several schools with only one room. According to newspaper accounts of various time periods, the following information was listed about the schools and the teachers:

1871 - Bloomsdale Public School - served the children of workers on the Landreth Seed Farm. The school was located on Bloomsdale Road (now Green Lane) near the present Amish Market.

1919 - Newportville - Teacher: Katherine Beck
Laurel Bend - Mrs. Jennie Townsend
Badger School - Muriel B. Carey
Emilie - Mary A. Cuff

1921 - Emilie - Grades 1 thru 8 - Elsie Ettinger
Laurel Bend - Grades 1 thru 6 - William H. Brown
Newportville - Caroline Black
Badger School - Miss Olivia M. Highland - Grades 1 thru 3 (Later in the year older students - Grades 4 thru 8 were temporarily transferred to the new Croydon School using a special trolley car).

1923 - A contract was signed to build two new schools - one at Edgely and one at Laurel Bend. The Ambler Asbestos Building Co. of Phila. was awarded the job at a cost of \$10,000 to build the two room school houses. (The cost did not include the excavation work necessary for the basements.) The Edgely schoolhouse was built next to the existing school building in Edgely and the Laurel Bend building was built near the original schoolhouse at a curve of Bath Road on the old race track property. (The Bristol Township Government Administration Building presently stands on

this site of the two room schoolhouse which was later expanded to three rooms). At Laurel Bend the original one room schoolhouse is still standing and is used as a private dwelling.

1924 - Green Lane School. The school had been built previously by the Standard Cast Iron Pipe and Foundry Co. to accommodate the children residing in that part of Bristol Township. When Harriman was annexed to Bristol (1922), the Bristol Borough School Board took over the “two nice rooms.” By 1926, the Green Lane School was to be sold.

1925 - Emilie - Grades 1 thru 8 - Lydia Lodge
Badger School - Grades 1 thru 8 - Grace Haas
Newportville School - Grades 5 thru 8 - Caroline Black, Grades 1 thru 4 - Helen Reetz

1927 - Grades 1 thru 6 - Miss Leona Back - the Badger School (a framed, one room schoolhouse) was located near the present intersection of U.S. #13 and PA Route #413. An article from the local paper lists the following subjects as part of the curriculum: “reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, Latin, bookkeeping, algebra, geometry, grammar, etymology, geography, and definitions.” The Badger School was permanently closed in 1940 and pupils were transferred to the Croydon School. William J. Kines was the teacher at that time. The name “Badger” came from Bela Badger who in the early part of the 1800’s owned the lands in the area and some very fast race horses. A very productive fishery was operated by Mr. Badger along the Delaware River at what is now Maple Beach. The students who attended the Badger School were children of farmers who resided in that area of Bristol Township.

What difference between “then and now.” In a one-room schoolhouse, teachers were responsible for instruction in all subjects. With student help, they had to clean the room, get water from the well, keep the room heated in winter, etc. The restroom was an outhouse behind the school. A flag was in the schoolroom and a picture of George Washington usually was on the wall. Books were at a minimum and lessons were written on slate tablets.

FADS of the PAST

A fad is defined as “an enthusiasm for something”; it is usually short-lived and without any logical basis.

In 1930, Bristol joined the craze of “tree-sitting.” Three teams of boys made the local paper on August 1, 1930. William and Thomas Evans were “roosting” in a tree in Croydon. They had been “up the tree” (equipped with electric lights) for 12 days. William Doud and William Miles had been up a tree near the Highway and Green Lane for 9 days; they declared they would stay until August 31st. In a buttonwood tree south of Hollow Creek, James Mandeville and Armand Bunnchini had been perched for 8 days. A successful tree-sitting team needed a ground crew to attend to their wants and needs. Tree-sitters were only as good as their “refuelers.” Occasional gifts from the public were given to the teams who pulled the items (including money) up in a bucket. It is not known how long the “craze” in Bristol lasted.

Tree sitting lasted only a short time before casualties began to be reported. The national tree sitting record for 1930 went to a “boy” in Illinois - - 103 days. However, some say he had unfair advantages. He was 23 years old, had built a small tree house (with heat) and didn’t have parents or school authorities to bother him. Tree sitting was probably a version of flagpole sitting. Flagpole sitting began when a stunt actor sat on a flagpole

either as a dare or for a publicity stunt in 1924 for 13 hours. In 1929 he broke his old record by sitting for 49 days in Atlantic City. However, he was forced down by a thunderstorm.

Another fad that was popular in the late 1930’s was goldfish swallowing. College boys battled for supremacy in this craze. A University of Penn student downed 25 live goldfish; then he quickly quenched the taste with a steak dinner. The football captain at Albright College ate 33 fish; an MIT student gobbled 42 fish. A Middlesex University student stomachached 67 fish in 14 minutes. At Clark University, 89 goldfish were eaten by one male in one sitting. A law was passed in Massachusetts making goldfish swallowing illegal. (But by 1970, the record had gone beyond 300 fish.)

Phone booth stuffing was a craze of the 1950’s. In the spring of 1959, the YMCA of South Africa recorded getting 25 male students into one phone booth. Other people read about the bizarre stunt and cramming began all over the world. Official rules for the size of the phone booth were made. In England the rules were even expanded that an actual phone call had to be placed or received from inside the stuffed booth. The fad disappeared at the end of the 50’s.

We would be glad to learn if any of our readers or their relatives participated in some of these “fads” in the Bristol area.