

# Bridgeville Historical Society

102 S. William Street, P. O. Box 306, Bridgeville, DE 19933

September 2019



## 41st Annual BHS Social and Auction

The 41st annual Social and Auction, our major fund raiser, will be held on **Saturday, September 21** at the Bridgeville Volunteer Fire Company's banquet hall on Market St. The social hour starts at **5:30 p.m.** with hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, and light beverages, followed by the auction at **6:30 p.m.** The proceeds from this event help to maintain our museum, park, and collection of historic items. Now that the deadline has passed, tickets will be **\$35/per person which includes a bid card.**

Some of the items to be sold are displayed in the Bridgeville Public Library on S. Cannon St in Bridgeville. Stop by for a preview and consider doing some Christmas shopping early this year.



Mrs. Shirley O'Neal has generously donated eight pieces of lovely jewelry: 2 rings, 2 bracelets, 3 necklaces, and a pair of earrings.



Other items include: a carving of St. Paul by Rev. Al Taylor; a watercolor of canvasback ducks by Sandra Fleetwood; a needlepoint footstool by Marlene Rogers; a framed photo of Cahall Park in the spring by Connie Collins; a portfolio of Jack Lewis prints; three hand carved figurines by Brud Davis; Bridgeville yearbooks from '63 and '64 and Woodbridge yearbooks from '71 and '73. Numerous gift certificates from local businesses are also offered to the highest bidders and more items are being brought in daily.



Items on display at the Bridgeville Public Library

Mrs. Gerri Coble and Mrs. Marie Curlett, co-chairpersons, have worked hard preparing for this festive event. It is open to the public, so tell your friends and neighbors that they are welcomed to participate.



If you need tickets, more information or have an auction item to be picked up, please call (302)337-3210 or (302) 542-7703

**Food - Folks - and Fun...Don't miss it !**

## Bridgeville Historical Society

### 2019-2020 Officers

President . . . . . Alice Min  
1st V. President . . . . . Robert Messick  
Secretary . . . . . Deb Prevost  
Treasurer . . . . . Sharon Hawk

### Directors

Gerri Coble                Larry Curlett  
Tom Connor             Charles Hawk  
George Torbert

Newsletter Editor.....Kay Sue Hardesty

### WILL YOU HELP ???

Members are always needed to help with various projects and committees. Docents are needed for the museum. We are planning a workshop for those folks interested in being docents at the museum. Please contact me for more information at 302-381-7737. *Alice Min—President*

## Welcome New Members

Janet Bacorn  
Steve & Tammie Bunting & family

### SOCIETY DUES

Individual	\$15.00
Family	25.00 (at one address)
Patron	75.00
Life	\$500.00

*The fiscal year began April 1, 2019*

*To date there are about twenty members who have not mailed in dues for 2019-2020. A remittance envelope was inserted in your last newsletter. If you have questions about your membership status, please email me at [heh200@aol.com](mailto:heh200@aol.com)*

*Kay Sue Hardesty—Membership Chairman*

## Apple Scrapple

This year the Apple Scrapple Committee has chosen to celebrate and honor the Bridgeville Historical Society for the 28th annual town festival.

The artwork shows the bandstand in Cahall Park and features the Old Bridgeville Fire House which serves as our museum and headquarters.

The museum will be open from 9 a.m. –3 p.m. Check out the history displays and artisans located in the bandstand. Our locally made Dearborn wagon will be in front of the museum.

Docents are needed in the museum, so call 302-381-7737 if you can help for an hour or two.



## Christmas in Bridgeville—2019

Saturday, December 7, is the date for our annual craft fair which will be held at the Woodbridge Middle School on South Laws Street from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

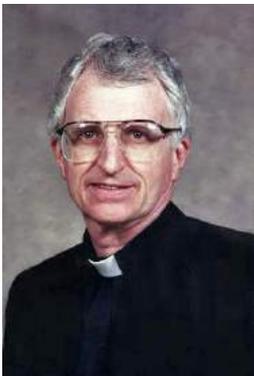
Co-chairpersons, Dawn and John Tomeski, report that approximately eighty (80) vendors have reserved spaces and that there are only a few more spaces open.

Chances will be mailed to Society members in November. Items to be chanced have not been selected yet, but show your support by either selling the chances or buying them for yourself.



*John Tomeski at an earlier Christmas in Bridgeville*

## In Memoriam



**Rev. Albert Peters (Life)**  
1927-April 26, 2019



**Richard M. Calhoun**  
1930-June 4, 2019



**W. Allen Jones (Patron)**  
1930-June 17, 2019



*Photo courtesy of Ashley Walls*  
**Lawrence "Tazz" Tassone**  
1937-August 20, 2019

## Spotlight on — The Baltimore Trust Company Building—302 Market St.

Prior to 1904, Bridgeville residents did all their banking in Seaford. According to an article in **The Evening Journal** in 1903, "The town has never had a bank, and although the largest shipping point in the eastern United States and where checks to the amount of several hundred thousand dollars are paid out yearly for fruit, the people have suffered the great inconvenience of no bank."

In 1903, The **Baltimore Trust Company** was established in Selbyville, DE and was so named because it was located in the Baltimore Hundred of Sussex County. Just one year later, the new bank opened a branch office in Bridgeville.

According to Richard B. Carter in his book, **Clearing New Ground, The Life of John. G. Townsend, Jr.**, "The Bridgeville Branch [of *Baltimore Trust Co.*] opened in January of 1904 in a temporary building while a new bank building was being erected.



"The permanent office in Bridgeville opened its doors on Wednesday, June 1, 1904, at the height of the strawberry



harvest. The grand opening turned out to be somewhat more eventful than the officers had planned, as an article in Thursday's *Morning News* described:

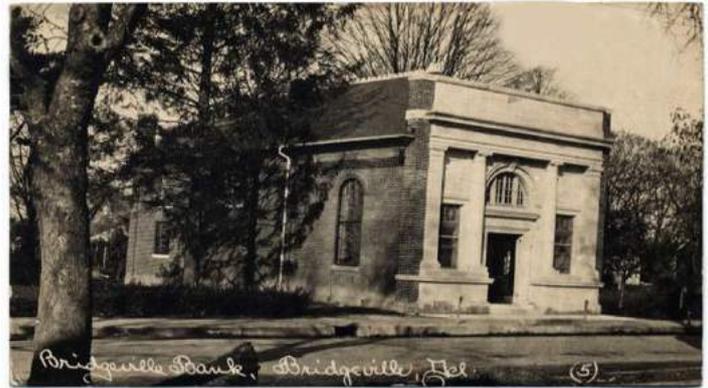
*"The new bank at Bridgeville was entered by robbers last night. They first visited a blacksmith shop where they stole tools with which to accomplish their purpose. The front doors of the bank, which were put in at great cost, were very badly damaged. After gaining an entrance the robbers blew open the vault doors by the use of dynamite. The bank had just begun business yesterday, and had not moved its safe from the old building where they had been doing business temporarily. It is not known how much is missing but considerable specie (coins) was stolen. There is no clue to the robbers."*

"On Saturday, it was reported that one Henry C. Carr, 'a tramp machinist of Bridgeport, Conn.,' had been arrested in Seaford Friday afternoon by that town's 'Officer Thompson,' and charged with the robbery. Carr had been caught because he

displayed an unusual amount of pennies, nickels, and dimes.'"

Charles H. Rawlins was named the first cashier of the bank. The founding directors were: Charles E. Brown, R. W. Cannon, Thomas Jefferson Gray, Sr., Edgar L. Kinder, James E. Kinder, Robert R. Layton, Sr., Oliver A. Newton, Charles M. Scott, William B. Truitt, and Harry W. Viven.

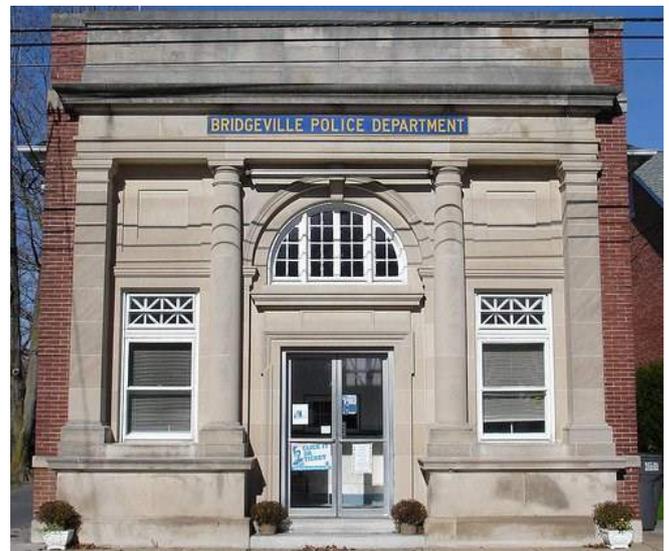
The slate-roofed building was extensively remodeled in 1926



with the addition of a symmetrical Neoclassical front in cast stone. Doric columns flanked the central entrance with a three-part semicircular-arched fanlight.

New counters were installed in 1952 and a machinery room for needed working space was built on the rear of the building in 1957.

When a new bank was built across the street at 100 S. Laws Street in 1973, this second bank remained empty until it was renovated inside in 1992 to house the Bridgeville Police Dept.



Search: **Bridgeville Historical Society**

Learn more about the 1904 bank robbers and see additional photos of the park clean-up

# Museum and Park News

## Park Clean-up

Thanks to students in the Woodbridge Middle School Conservation Club under the direction of club advisor, John Tomeski, about seven cubic yards of mulch was spread around the bandstand and trees in Cahall Park last July 5. New cement patio blocks were placed in front of the benches where the ground is bare and sometimes muddy. The Society purchased the mulch and blocks and made a donation to the club for its help in this worthwhile project.

Some of our youngest Society members, John Tomeski II, Katie Tomeski, and Brad Tomeski, assisted in this project, along with Board member Gerri Coble and member Byron Lewis. The club has promised to continue assisting with the park maintenance.



L-R Katie Tomeski, Gabrielle Young, and Danielle Young



L-R Olivia McCarron, Mrs. McCarron, Gabrielle Young, and Brody Diamond

**Other News**—The Davis Building in the Society's complex was emptied in August and the building was treated for powderpost beetles and other insects. Bryon Lewis of the Building & Grounds committee reports that the electrical problems with the bandstand have been resolved. Also, there have been several trees trimmed during the summer.

## Bridgeville Historical Society



P. O. Box 306  
Bridgeville, DE 19933

### Dates to Remember

- Sept 21** **BHS Social-Auction**  
Bridgeville VFC Banquet Hall  
5:30 p.m.—Social  
6:30 p.m.—Auction
- Sept 27** **BHS Museum open**  
4:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 6** **BHS Museum open**  
12:00 noon— 3:00 p.m.
- Oct. 12** **Apple-Scrapple Festival**  
**BHS Museum open**  
9:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.
- Nov. 3** **BHS Museum open**  
12:00 noon— 3:00 p.m.
- Dec. 7.** **Christmas in Bridgeville**  
9:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.