

GLASSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# THE STATION MASTER

Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2020



## Quarantine Edition

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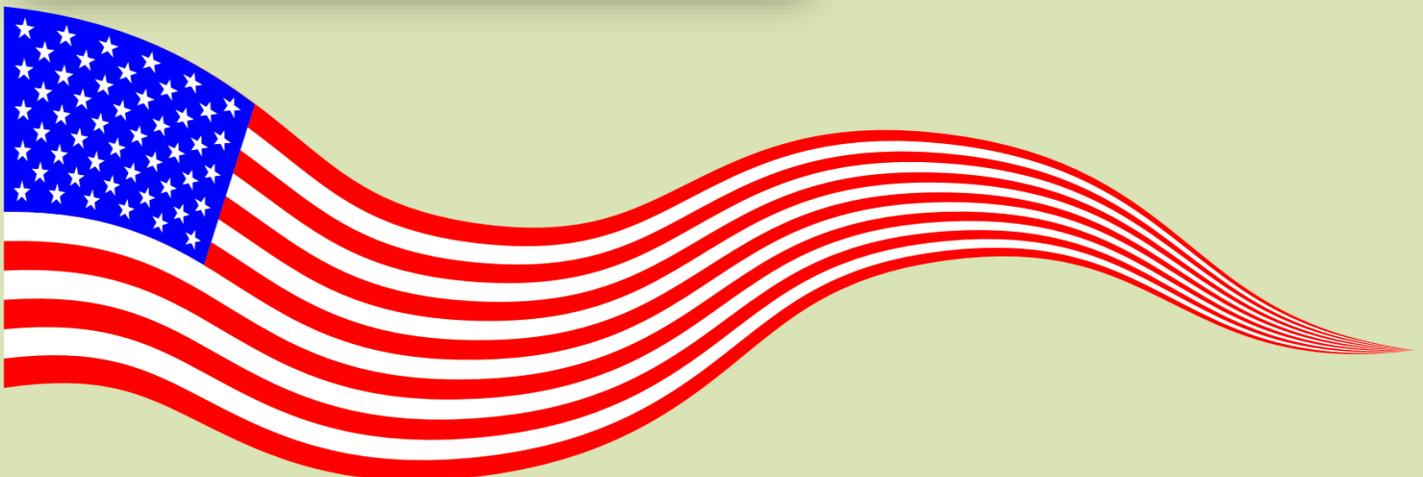


Despite COVID-19, the members of the Glassboro Historical Society have still been meeting both virtually and in-person - being sure to follow all health & safety protocols.

Glassboro's Fallen Heroes Book Project is currently moving full-steam ahead! Author John Campbell and Rowan's Mike Benson have been investigating many of the soldiers found in the exhaustive research of Mr. Howard Gant utilizing Ancestry.com and Newspapers.com.



Due to COVID-19, health & safety protocols will not allow Glassboro to hold its Annual Memorial Day Parade. In lieu of the parade, we ask that all Glassboro families take time to remember all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.



# Did You Know?

During the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918, people took many precautions similar to those we are taking today.



## FACE MASKS

Although without the nose being covered, these are useless.

**SOCIAL DISTANCING**  
Look at the cute baby,  
but DO NOT TOUCH!!



## Vitamin C

It cures EVERYTHING!

## UPCOMING DATES

**JULY—Stay Tuned for a  
Facebook LIVE event  
with John Campbell**

## Contact Us

354 Oakwood Ave.  
Glassboro, NJ 08028

(856)595-2114

[www.glassborohistoricalsociety.com](http://www.glassborohistoricalsociety.com)

# Historic Glassboro Throws For Sale



**\$55.00 each or two for \$99.00**

**Call or email to order:**

**609-380-5991**

**[123dbri@comcast.net](mailto:123dbri@comcast.net)**

Check out our website

**[www.glassborohistoricalsociety.com](http://www.glassborohistoricalsociety.com)**

“We Need Your Continued Support- Become a Member!!”

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please Print Clearly.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please list all the additional names if applying for a Family/Household membership.)

\_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY STATE ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE/CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS\*: \_\_\_\_\_

\* We respect our members' privacy, and do not give out their e-mail addresses.  
Members are blind CC'd event announcements and other correspondence, and can opt out at any time.

Please indicate level of membership:

- Individual .....\$25
- Family.....\$50
- Student .....\$20
- Senior (62+) .....\$20
- Organization/Group.....\$75
- Business (25 employees or less).....\$250
- Corporate.....\$500
- Corporate Partner .....\$1000
- Individual Lifetime Membership .....\$500

Your membership provides access to all exhibits and events at the Historic West Jersey Depot Museum and Welcome Center, a copy of our quarterly e-newsletter and discounted pricing for special events. All memberships provide the availability to rent the museum for your own private affair or meeting (restrictions apply).

Please make checks payable to “Glassboro Historical Society, Inc.”

Mail payments to: Daniele Spence  
1211 Glen Ridge Drive  
Glassboro, NJ 08028

Glassboro Historical Society is a Private, Non-Profit 501 3C. All donations are tax deductible

Thank you for helping us preserve the History of Glassboro!

# Heritage Glass Museum

25 East High Street, Glassboro, New Jersey 08028

## Molding Glassboro History

Probably the most famous offspring of the Whitney Glass Works has been the iconic house shaped bottle created for Philadelphia liquor merchant Edmund G. Booz. With so much being written over the years about this bottle two myths seem to still remain. One myth states that this is the origin of the common word “booze” becoming a fixture in our popular vernacular. The other is that the bottle originated in 1840 as part marketing ploy to promote the “hard cider” presidential campaign of William Henry Harrison. Thankfully careful research has dispelled both of these myths. It’s known now that the word “booze” is much older, actually dating back several hundred years and that Mr. Booz’s Philadelphia business address didn’t exist in 1840 as well as the fact that he would have been only sixteen years old at that time.



But with all the writing and research it’s still not known whose idea it was for the bottle’s iconic design. The Whitney’s were making other uniquely shaped bottles about that time, cleverly capitalizing on visually catchy and familiar themes. It’s possible that they were inspired by the numerous small two story box shaped dwellings lining the Glassboro streets that many of their workers occupied. It’s also possible the inspiration came from the small business man and entrepreneur Mr. Booz. We know that it wasn’t only his own liquor products that he sold and in a very competitive trade could it be that he hit on the idea of tapping into a nostalgic theme to market his whiskey? Early in the Civil War and Mr. Lincoln’s presidency perhaps it would make sense to bring out a product that harkened back to another common sense “log Cabin” president. We will likely never know for sure but whoever’s invention it was but perhaps they realized as consumers we tend to gravitate toward the familiar.

Equally intriguing as the bottle is the fact that the iron mold used to make it still exists today. A treadle mold by design meaning that the glassblower or “gaffer” operated its opening and closing with his foot, eliminating the need of a “mold boy”. Now part of the collection of Philadelphia Museum of Art it was donated in 1948 along with other rare iron bottle molds used at Whitney. The owner/donor evidently recognizing these heavy molds as historic and that they needed to survive the patriotic scrap iron drives of WW1 and WW2. They can be viewed on the museums website along with their other Whitney artifacts. But who was the owner/donor? The Whitney works had long ceased to exist by 1948. Had the molds become the property of Owens Illinois? The museum website lists an acquisition number along with the donor’s name, J.W. Nixon. Not as familiar a name among Whitney Glass history, who was J.W. Nixon? A look at records of Saint Thomas Episcopal Glassboro cemetery, where many of the Whitney family are buried, reveals a Josephine Leaming *Whitney Nixon among the internments*. An obituary for the Philadelphia Inquirer dated 2/25/1945 lists “*Mrs. Josephine L.W. Nixon of Philadelphia and Cape May Court House died at her home in Chestnut Hill after a years illness at the age of 56. Wife of Boyd Nixon, she was a native of Glassboro N.J. A graduate of Smith College and an officer of the Philadelphia Smith Club she was a member of the Art Alliance and the National Old Glass Club. She is survived by her son Lieutenant John W. Nixon, on active duty with the Seabees, and a daughter, Mrs..... Nixon Lane. Services will be held 11am Tuesday at Old St. Peters Church, 3<sup>rd</sup> and Pine St. Burial will be private*”. Looking further at census records for 1905 lists Josephine’s birth date as Sept. 1888 being the 17 year old daughter of John Perkins Whitney and his wife Elizabeth T. Stevenson Whitney. John Perkins Whitney succeeded his father Thomas H. Whitney as president of the Whitney Works upon Thomas’s retirement in 1878.

Given the 1945 date of Mrs. Whitney Nixon’s passing and the 1948 art museum’s acquisition date seems to rule out that Mrs. Whitney Nixon was the donor, although they could have been given in her name. It’s more likely that the molds were donated by her son, and great grandson of Thomas H. Whitney, Lieutenant John W. Nixon after his return from the war. More information is needed about Lt. Nixon. As with many aspects of research and collecting there’s always a bit more to uncover. But at least we as collectors and students of history can be grateful that a few forward thinking individuals took steps to preserve some of these replaceable artifacts that help us piece together the borough’s rich glass history.

**By David Smith**

## **Come and See Us Free Admission**

Saturday 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Wednesday 12 pm - 3 pm

Fourth Sunday 1 pm - 4pm

856 881-7468

heritageglassmuseum@hotmail.com

# Corporate Partners



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**Certified Public Accountants • Registered Municipal Accountants**

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