

Guide to the Frisbie Pie Company and Frisbie Family Collection BHC-MSS 0099

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on November 06, 2020.

Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library

Bridgeport History Center
Bridgeport Public Library
925 Broad Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604
hclibrarian@bridgeportpubliclibrary.org
URL: <https://bportlibrary.org/hc/>

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|---|
| Summary Information | 3 |
| Biographical / Historical | 3 |
| Scope and Contents | 4 |
| Arrangement | 4 |
| Administrative Information | 5 |
| Controlled Access Headings | 5 |
| Bibliography | 6 |
| Collection Inventory | 6 |
| Series I – Frisbie Pie Company | 6 |
| Sub-Series 1: Documents | 6 |
| Sub-series 2: Photographs | 6 |
| Sub-series 3 – The Frisbee | 7 |
| Series II –The Frisbie Family | 7 |
| Sub-series 1: Genealogy and personal documents | 7 |
| Sub-series 2 - Photographs | 8 |
| Sub-series 3 – Newspaper clippings | 8 |
| Series 3 - Objects | 9 |

Summary Information

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Repository: | Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library |
| Creator: | Frisbie Pie Company |
| Creator: | Frisby family |
| Title: | Frisbie Pie Company and Frisbie Family Collection |
| ID: | BHC-MSS 0099 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1808-1997 |
| Date [bulk]: | 1900-1956 |
| Physical Description: | 1 linear feet; |
| Language of the Material: | English . |
| Abstract: | The namesake of the popular flying disc, the Frisbie Pie Company was located in Bridgeport, Connecticut, from 1871 to 1958. At its height it produced some 20,000 pies per day that were delivered all over the state and indeed, the region. The family itself has been in Connecticut since the 1600s. This artificial collection contains information about the company and the family that ran it. |

Preferred Citation

Frisbie Pie Company and Frisbie Family Collection (BHC-MSS 0099) Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

The Frisbie Pie Company began in 1871, founded by William Frisbie. Wildly popular, the Bridgeport based bakery went from being run out of the Frisbie home to a commercial bakery plant on 357 Kossuth Street by 1915. Delivered by wagon (and later car), the pies were incredibly popular. Eventually, the bakery had a fleet of vehicles and state-wide demand for its product. William's son, Joseph, took over the business when his father died, and his widow

Marian took over the business from there. In 1956 Wagner Foods bought Frisbie, but the Frisbie Pie Company stopped baking all together in 1958.

A new iteration of the Frisbie Pie Company exists today, run by Fairfield resident Dan O'Connor. He purchased the original recipes that belonged to plant manager Joseph J. Vaughn at an auction, and began recreating the original style Frisbie pies. Deliveries are made in a Chevy van made to resemble the old Frisbie Pie Trucks.

Of course, Frisbie is the namesake of the Frisbee, the flying disc whose origin comes from local children or bakery workers throwing empty Frisbie pie tins around and yelling the name "Frisbie!" to avoid hitting others. From there the game supposedly spread, until 1957 when Wham-O began to market the disc as the Frisbee. The spelling was changed to avoid a law suit.

As for the Frisbie family itself, the Frisbie-Frisbee Family Association of America traces the family back as far as the 1300s in Leicestershire, England. An Edward Frisbie seems to be the American ancestor of all Frisbies, having settled in Branford, Connecticut. William Frisbie lived in Bridgeport and was the founder of the Frisbie Pie Company.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

This collection came into the Bridgeport History Center as two separate accessions, but was treated as a whole. As such, this artificial collection has scattered scope and content, and is not comprehensive in any way. The material related to the Frisbie Pie Company contains order forms, some advertisements, and a 1872 route book of deliveries from a driver named Bobby Price. The photographs present are mostly of employees and the Bridgeport bakery.

The material related to the Frisbie Family consists mostly of genealogical information, wills, and land claims. There are a few family photographs present, but they are not extensive.

Two Frisbees are also a part of the collection.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Series I focuses on the Frisbie Pie Company, with several subseries. The first, "documents" consists of scant documents related to the bakery itself. Of particular interest are the order forms listing pie types that were available in the early 1900s. Also of note is legal

correspondence regarding the name trademark, as the flying disc had to spell it's name differently than the corporation.

The second sub-series consists of photographs, including employees and the various buildings owned by the company. The final sub-series consists of clippings about the Frisbee toy.

Series II focuses on the Frisbie family. The first sub-series relates to genealogy and early documents of the family including wills from, the colonial sera. The second sub-series consists of photographs and the third focuses on general newspaper clippings about the family.

The final series features two Frisbees, including one from the Frisbie Festival in Bridgeport which features both the bakery and the Frisbie pie truck on it.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library

Bridgeport History Center
Bridgeport Public Library
925 Broad Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604
hclibrarian@bridgeportpubliclibrary.org
URL: <https://bportlibrary.org/hc/>

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Material comes from accession 1986.02 and 2000.03, both from Nancy Damtoft, a niece of Marian Frisbie – Joseph's wife who managed the bakery after his death

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Bakeries
- Flying discs (Game)
- Pies

Bibliography

"A Pie Tin's Soaring Sales," Connecticut History Online. 20 August, 2016. <https://connecticuthistory.org/a-pie-tins-soaring-sales/>

Frisbie-Frisbee Family Association of America. "Frisbie-Frisbee History." Accessed 4 November, 2020. <https://fffaa.org/frisbie-frisbee-history/>

Herrmann, Michele. "The Return of the Pie Company That Gave the Frisbee Its Name," Atlas Obscura. 23 April, 2019. <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/frisbee-history>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Collection Inventory

Series I – Frisbie Pie Company

Sub-Series 1: Documents

| Title/Description | Instances | |
|---|-----------------------|----------|
| Route book of Bobby Price, 1872 | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 1 | folder 1 |
| Order form with list of pie types, 19__, c. 1900? | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 1 | folder 2 |
| Order forms, undated | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 1 | folder 3 |
| Art for company Christmas card, 1939 | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 4 | folder 1 |
| Company Christmas cards, 1938-1939 | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 1 | folder 4 |
| Frisbie advertisements, undated | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 1 | folder 5 |
| Wagner Baking Company, 1956 | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 1 | folder 6 |
| Legal correspondence regarding the name trademark of Frisbie, 1972-1980 | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 1 | folder 7 |

Sub-series 2: Photographs

| Title/Description | Instances |
|-------------------|-----------|
|-------------------|-----------|

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------------|
| Employees, mostly women, working in baker, 1936 | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 1 | folder 8 |
| Photograph, sales department, 1931 | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 4 | folder 2 |
| Employees in group photo, undated | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 1 | folder 9 |
| Employees in group photos, likely executives, undated | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 1 | folder 10 |
| Unidentified group of employees, undated | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 4 | folder 3 |
| Joseph Frisbie, 1930s | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 4 | folder 4 |
| Photograph, Joseph Vaughn, manager, outside of main entrance to Frisbie Pies, undated | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 4 | folder 5 |
| Early Bridgeport bakery buildings, 1880, 1906 | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 1 | folder 11 |
| William R. Frisbie at bakery, 1895-1938 | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 1 | folder 12 |
| Joseph F. Frisbie's photo album of Bridgeport plant, 1931-1938 | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 1 | folder 13 |
| Bridgeport bakery, 1935-1938, undated | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 1 | folder 14-15 |
| Hartford plant, undated | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 1 | folder 16 |
| Bridgeport bakery including building and trucks, 1930s | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 1 | folder 17 |

Sub-series 3 – The Frisbee

| Title/Description | Instances | |
|---|-----------------------|--------------|
| Newspaper clippings about the toy, 1969-1997, undated | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 1 | folder 18-19 |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series II –The Frisbie Family

Sub-series 1: Genealogy and personal documents

| Title/Description | Instances | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------|
| Frisbie family genealogy, photocopied pages, undated | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 1 | folder 20 |
| Family Bible, 1808 | | |

Guide to the Frisbie Pie Company and Frisbie Family Collection BHC-MSS 0099

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------|
| | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 3 | folder 1 |
| Photocopies of information from family bible, undated | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 1 | folder 21 |
| Edward Frisbie will (photocopy), 1690 | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 1 | folder 22 |
| Thomas Frisbie will, 1821 | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 1 | folder 23 |
| Thomas Frisbie will codicil, 1824 | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 1 | folder 24 |
| Russell Frisbie land record claim, June 1864 | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 2 | folder 25 |
| Photocopies of deeds for 1865 and 1867, 1865 and 1867, undated | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 1 | folder 26 |
| Advice to a Married Couple [gift to William R. Frisbie and Mary A. Black upon their marriage), 1873 | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 1 | folder 27 |
| Calling card for Joseph F. Frisbie, undated | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 1 | folder 28 |
| Frisbie/Frisbee Genealogy by Edward S. Frisbie, D.D., 1926 | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 3 | folder 2 |
| Frisbie realty Corporation stock certificate book, 1926-1951 | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 2 | folder 1 |
| Winston simplified dictionary [given to sister Eva Frisbee by Joseph Frisbee], c. 1935, 1935 | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 3 | object 3 |
| Form for National Cyclopedia of American Biography entry for Joseph Frisbie, 1940? | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 2 | folder 2 |

Sub-series 2 - Photographs

| Title/Description | Instances |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Mary Black Frisbie, undated | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 2 folder 3 |
| Postcards featuring Joseph Frisbie, 1913 and undated | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 2 folder 4 |
| Family photographs, 1870s-1930s | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 2 folder 5 |
| Family home, undated | BHC-MSS 0099 Box 2 folder 6 |

Sub-series 3 – Newspaper clippings

| Title/Description | Instances |
|---|-----------|
| Newspaper clippings, 1939-1997, undated | |

BHC-MSS folder 7-8
0099 Box 2

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3 - Objects

| Title/Description | Instances |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Mini-frisbee with Victor Malafronte's name, 1994, 1994 | BHC-MSS object 5 0099 Box 3 |
| Frisbee from the Frisbie Festival, Bridgeport, featuring bakery and truc, 1998 | BHC-MSS object 4 0099 Box 3 |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)