



# 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 2024

## President's Corner

### *Farewell to a Valued Member*

BCHF has been lucky to have members who give their time and their energy to further our mission. They do it even though the only thing they get in return is a sense of satisfaction of having contributed to their community. BCHF lost one such member, Alan Vogenberg, who passed away this January.

Harold Mitchener shared his recollections of Alan with me and I, in turn, would like to share it with you.

Alan, who was a pharmacist, and his wife Audrey moved to Bristol from Philadelphia and opened their own business on Bath Street in the 1950s. Sometime later, he opened a pharmacy in Levittown, Windsor Pharmacy. Alan and Audrey were members of the synagogue on Pond Street

where he became an officer. When Alan retired from his business, he became a substitute teacher in the Bristol and Bristol Township schools.

The Vogenbergs joined the Radcliffe Cultural and Historical Foundation (later BCHF) when it started in 1967 and were active members, attending programs and helping with events. Alan was one of our walking tour guides on Historic Bristol Day. At one time, BCHF worked with the Grundy Foundation running bus tours of Bristol which included a tour of the Grundy Museum on Radcliffe Street. Alan was a guide on those bus tours and also a docent in the Grundy Museum.

BCHF has been honored to have Alan and Audrey as members of our organization and we bid him farewell.

*Written by Debbie Pinney with Harold Mitchener*

## Artists Of Bristol Exhibition

We are very pleased that the Artists of Bristol (AOB) will be having an exhibit at BCHF again this year. This area has an abundance of fine artists and BCHF is proud to partner with AOB to provide a venue for the artist's work and to promote the tradition of art and culture in our community.

Artists will be dropping off their artwork on April 24 from 4 PM to 6 PM and the pieces will be hung on April 25 using our newly installed hanging hardware. The art-

work will be available for viewing and purchase during our annual tea on April 28 from 2 PM to 4 PM and any time the building is open until May 9th.

There will be an exhibition reception on Friday May 3 from 6 PM to 8 PM, It will be open to everyone and refreshments will be served, This was a very popular event last year and we hope you will join us.

## Seats Available

As of this writing we still have seats available for the Roebing Bus Trip. Although Roebing is our near neighbor to the East, most of us have not had the opportunity to visit the town and to have a guided tour of Roebing and of the newly opened Point Breeze, the former estate of Joseph Bonaparte in Bordentown, New Jersey. Here we will be given a special tour of the estate. The trip also includes a three-course lunch at the Old Fort Pub in Bordentown. This trip is a wonderful chance to experience the history of our own area. If you are like many of us, we travel to faraway places to learn about their history and often neglect what is in our own backyard.





## Tea for Two - - and More

As announced in last month's Gazette, BCHF's annual Tea will be held on Sunday, April 28 from 2 to 4 p.m. Again this year the event will feature an art exhibition by members of the Artists of Bristol and musical selections by local keyboard virtuoso Francix X. Danis.

Our Ways and Means Committee ladies will be serving their homemade tea sandwiches, scones, desserts and, of course, brewed tea for your dining enjoyment.

Cost per person is \$35. To ensure comfortable seating, reservations will be limited to 48 and will be accepted starting on Monday, March 18 at 215 788-9408. Reservation deadline is Sunday, April 14.

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## The Buses Roll

In addition to the [April 11](#) bus trip to Historic Roebing Village and Historic Bordentown, mentioned in a separate article on page 3, we're hopeful that BCHF members and friends will join us on one or more of the following trips planned for 2024

**MORRIS ARBORETUM & GARDENS AND HISTORIC "CLIVEDEN," FRIDAY, JUNE 21.** The itinerary includes a 1-hr. "Garden Highlights" tour, followed by 1 hr. of free time to explore anything of interest that the tour did not cover. A suggested "must see" is the Garden Railway which has been chugging along since 1998 and is one of the largest outdoor model train displays in the country. A three-course, sit-down luncheon at Brittingham's Pub Restaurant, est. in 1743, will follow, with an entree choice of grilled filet mignon or cavatelli pasta in a white wine sauce. Then we're off to visit "Cliveden," the site of the 1777 Battle of Germantown. The bus is expected to return to Bristol at approx. 6 p.m. All inclusive cost is \$145 for BCHF members; \$150 for non-members. Talk it up among your family members and friends! Call Helen Younglove at 215 788-9408 for a detailed flyer/reservation form. Due to the restaurant's non-refundable deposit policy, reservations will close on [April 17](#). NOTE: As of this writing, the bus is half full.

**TENEMENT MUSEUM & LITTLE ITALY (MANHATTAN), TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8.** See the itinerary in the Calendar of Events on the back page of this Gazette. More details and reservation information will be provided in a future issue of The Gazette.

**HOLIDAYS AT THE NEMOURS ESTATE IN DELAWARE, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3.** (note the date change from Dec. 5). Sure to get you in the holiday mood, this trip will feature a self-guided tour (guides are available throughout the property and mansion to assist and to share information) of Alfred I. duPont's "American Versailles," built for his wife on a 3,000-acre plot in Wilmington, DE, in the early 20th century. At the time of our visit, the 77 room mansion will be elaborately decorated for the holidays. Our first stop on this trip will be at Buckley's Tavern in Centerville, DE, for a three-course sit-down luncheon, with a choice of three entrees. The house where the Tavern stands today dates back to 1817, when it was built as a private residence. It was also the site of a tollgate to collect fees from those traveling to and from Wilmington. Cost will be \$130 pp for BCHF members; \$140 for non-members. Reservation information will be provided in a future issue of The Gazette. In the meantime, circle the date on your calendar and tell your family members and friends about it.

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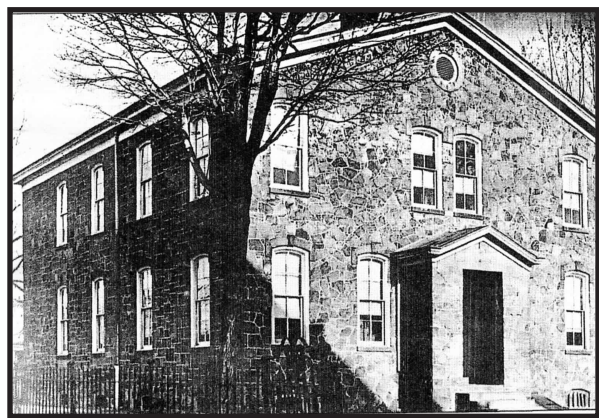
## BRISTOL FIRSTS

The following items were excerpted from Bristol Borough's Tricentennial Celebration Booklet published in 1981

- \* Bristol Fire Company No. 1, dating from 1857, was the town's *first* fire company.
  - \* In 1884 the *first* long-distance call from Bristol was made to Philadelphia
  - \* In 1910 the Bristol Daily Courier published its *first* issue.
  - \* In 1918 the "Watowan" was the *first* ship launched from the Harriman Shipyard
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## Fifth Graders Have Picnic on Burlington Island



June 27, 1913 - - *Bristol Courier*

The children of the fifth grade of Washington Street School, taught by Miss Mary Wilkinson, celebrated the closing of school by having a picnic on Burlington Island. They spent a delightful afternoon playing various outdoor games and romping about in the woods on the island. Just before night-fall, the group boarded the ferry and arrived back in Bristol. They were enthusiastic in the praise of the new feature that their teacher had provided for them.



## A Fine Presentation Indeed

A lot of us have seen ads warning that “thieves only need to forge your signature to steal your home title”. This horrifying prospect prompted a sizable crowd to attend BCHF’s February 4<sup>th</sup> presentation entitled “Recorder of Deeds & Bucks County History”. The program was presented by Nicole Douglas, Executive Assistant, Bucks County Recorder of Deeds, assisted by Robin Goodnoe, First Deputy. Ms. Douglas explained to us that it is the responsibility of the Recorder of Deeds office to record and maintain a permanent record of all documents related to real estate

(deeds, mortgages, subdivision plans, etc.) and various other documents such as veterans’ discharges and notary public commissions. MS. Douglas also told us about a reassuring, free service offered to all residents of Bucks County. When you sign up for this service, you will receive an email from the recording vendor, LANDEX, alerting you anytime a document has been recorded in the office against your name. Businesses are also welcome to sign up for this service. You can sign up for the service online <https://www.landex.com/recordalert/?county=bucks>

In addition to telling us what the Recorder of Deeds office does and patiently answering our many questions, Ms. Douglas told us about the deed preservation program that is restoring and protecting the deeds from the earliest recorded deeds of 1684 to the present. She and Ms. Goodnoe brought some examples of these early deeds bound into large volumes. We were privileged to see the actual deeds for the King George II Inn, the Grundy mills, and an early Bucks County estate. Recently the Bucks County Recorder of Deeds introduced the Adopt-A-Book Program which allows organizations to sponsor the preservation of individual deed books.

Following the presentation, Ms. Douglas and Ms. Goodnoe stayed to talk and answer questions while we all enjoyed the home-made treats donated by our volunteers. I think everyone enjoyed the presentation and left somewhat reassured that the deed fraud situation is relatively rare in this area and there is a no-cost protection plan available from the county.

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## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU . . .

Do you have an interesting story or fond memory to share about Bristol Borough? Maybe it was a time in your life that was very memorable . . . a favorite neighbor, teacher, childhood friend or parents of a childhood friend. Maybe it’s about a current happening.

We would like to hear about your memories, Just send your thoughts to BCHF, c/o Gazette Editor, Box 215, Bristol, PA 19007. Please include your full name and email address and phone so we can get in touch with you if necessary.

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## SAVED AGAIN!

The carousel, originally on Burlington Island Park (now at Casino Pier in Seaside Heights, NJ) was in danger of being dismantled and sold piece by piece in the fall of 2015. However, the current owners agreed to relocate the carousel to a municipally-owned beach property which is a few blocks from its present site. The carousel is one of only two surviving American-made classic wooden carousels in New Jersey and one of a few classic wooden carousels left in North America. The carousel had survived Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and a fire.

The merry-go-round has entertained many vacationers since it was built in 1910 by a famous Philadelphia family-run business. It was built, carved and assembled by hand. Many hundreds of carousels were known for their unique style of craftsmanship of the hand-carved animals and excellent platform turning mechanisms. Horses were the usual animals for most carousels but other animals were also used. Most carousels had only three rows of animals (36 to 40 animals). This carousel has four rows of animals, a total of 58 animals - - 35 jumpers, 18 standers, 5 menagerie (lion, tiger, mule, 2 camels) and 2 chariots. There are 2016 light bulb, and 15 original antique paintings in the center casing. The music is provided by the only continuously operating Wurlitzer Military Band Organ in New Jersey. The organ is operated on a pneumatic system, using leather bellows and perforated music rolls.

Gustav Dentzel, founder of the factory, had immigrated to the United States in 1860 from Germany. He opened a cabinet-making shop and eventually got tired of making cabinets and decided to try building small portable carousels that he could take in traveling around the country. The business went full-time in 1867. Later this business became the Philadelphia Toboggan Coaster Company.

While on Burlington Island the merry-go-round provided entertainment to many visitors in the area who used ferryboats and steamer service to get to the amusement park. However in 1928, a fire destroyed most of the amusement park and partially damaged the carousel. It was fixed, disassembled and moved to Seaside Heights

during the Great Depression. An area resident, Linus Gilbert, rescued and rebuilt the machine. He bought and added carved figures that were not part of the original. This resulted in a carousel with a mixture of animals from a few different carvers; some worked for different carousel manufacturers. The works of William Dentzel, Marcus Illions, Charles Carnel and Charles Looff are all represented in this one carousel.

It was brought to Seaside Heights in 1932 and placed in an open frame building under the care of Linus Gilbert. The building later became the Casino Arcade and Pier. Eventually the Seaside Heights Casino was built to house the carousel. (This same building is still in place today). The owners of the carousel seriously considered dismantling the machine in the 1980s. (Similar animals could be sold at more than \$100,000 at auction during that decade.) The selling off of the animals met with strong opposition from Dr. Floyd Moreland who, at that time, was Professor of Classics and Dean of the City University of New York. He had ridden the carousel as a child and operated the ride as an employee of Casino Pier. He convinced the owners that they should let him restore the carousel. The project took a number of years and involved numerous people.

Some interesting merry-go-round facts are: British merry-go-rounds turn clockwise to imitate proper riding style. In America, carousels turn counter-clockwise which makes it easier for right-handed riders to try and grab a metal ring in the brass ring game. The side of the animal facing the crowd is more detailed in decoration than the inside. The outside horse is the largest and the inside horse is the smallest because of a small ring radius on the platform. The horses made today are mostly made of fiberglass.

The carousel which started at Burlington Island is not over 100 years old. It has survived fire, hurricane and threat of being dismantled. Hopefully this historic "treasure" will be entertaining people for many years to come. The cost to ride the carousel in the Fall of 2015 was \$2.25.

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## OUT OF THE PAST

The following items were excerpted from **February 1874** issues of THE BUCKS COUNTY GAZETTE (Published weekly. \$2.00 for one year).

3/5 - - SORTS: Samuel Swain sold, last Tuesday, two houses on Spruce Street to Hannah Houghton for \$1,700.

The steamer Edwin Forrest, now under the command of Capt. George Combs, has been handsomely repainted and is now plying from Philadelphia to Trenton.

The pavement in front of the M.E. Church has been repaired, but we hope Ego will stump his toe a few times in the locality of Market and Wood Streets and prevail upon the proper authorities to make a similar improvement.

JOHN LACY, Family Grocer, cor. Washington & Pond Street. Confectioneries of Every Description. Mince meat of our own make constantly on hand.

NEW MARKET HOUSE! By David G. Michener, No. 103 Mill Street, east side of bridge. We live and let live! Excellent beef & sausage constantly on hand. Cheaper than the cheapest.

BOATMAN'S GROCERY STORE, Lock No. 3 on Canal, Louis Woolman, Proprietor. Coffee, tea, sugar, molasses, spices, crackers, cheese, and everything in the grocery line, constantly on hand.

3/12 - - PROCEEDINGS OF BRISTOL BOROUGH COUNCIL. A communication from Bristol Exchange and Board of Trade was received, praying Council to pass an ordinance prohibiting the erection of frame dwellings within the borough limits, which, on motion, was laid on the table for future consideration. On motion, the Constable was authorized to carry non-taxpayers to the county jail in case of further refusal to pay their taxes.

SORTS: J. H. Foster proposes building two new houses on Wood Street, in the rear of his jewelry store this Spring.

The ladies of the Presbyterian Church of Bristol have, within the last week, completed the furnishing of the pews of the church.

Roberts & Company of Bristol have received a carload of mules from the West, as well as a drove of horses, for sale or trade.

After the first of April, A. Lippincott, dealer in cigars and tobacco, will keep his store closed on Sundays. Hereafter, his customers will have to stock up on Saturday afternoons.

Messrs. S. A. Gump and Son of Philadelphia will open, on the first of April a large clothing establishment on the corner of Mill and Cedar, in the rooms heretofore occupied by Joseph Pennington.

The handsome steamer, Twilight, commanded by Capt. Henry Crawford, made her first trip of the season last Monday. Her furniture has been revarnished and the cabin repainted and, now that it has undergone a thorough repair, her bright appearance will greet the eye of her many friends.

HENRY MORTON, MILK MAN, rear of Buckley Street, will notify the public in general that he is now prepared to remove household furniture and do all kinds of hauling at reasonable rates. Lots cultivated also on reasonable terms. Families supplied promptly with milk.

SAMUEL S. RUE, FURNISHING UNDERTAKER, 67 Mill Street

"I wish to inform the public that I have now ready for use PATENT CORPSE PRESERVERS. Strict attention given to ladies coming from a distance."

SORTS: Mr. L. D. Arnold of Massachusetts has opened a shoe manufactory on Cedar Street, over the carpenter shop of Edward C. Flock.

Charles Milligan, the fashionable hair cutter and barber on Wood Street, has moved into his new shop opposite the old one.

The Golden Rule Lodge of Good Templars will give a grand Centennial Tea Drink and Parlor Entertainment at Cabeens Hall on next Tuesday evening.

Readings from Dickens and other favorite authors will be given before the Y.M.C.A. next Monday afternoon by Mr. John Krickbaum of this borough.

3/19 - - A most horrible and sickening sight met the gaze of several of our citizens last Monday night on the arrival of an extra freight train from Newark, when they beheld the leg of an unknown man, with a boot attached, lying upon the cow catcher of the locomotive. J. Merrick Brown telegraphed to Newark in regard to the matter, placed the leg in a plain and neat box, and forwarded it to that place.

New Store! New Goods of all descriptions, at New Prices to suit the times. J. WESLEY WRIGHT'S, next to Canal bridge, Mill Street.

THOMAS ROBERTS & CO., LIVERY AND SALE STABLES, opposite the Delaware House. All Kinds of Horses and Carriages to Hire. Also, Horses and Carts to Hire. Horses, Mules and Carriages for Sale or Exchange.

3/26 - - PROCEEDINGS OF BRISTOL BOROUGH COUNCIL. On motion, the Constable's salary was fixed at \$300; Treasurer, \$25; Clerk, \$75; Attorney, \$25.

REMONSTRANCE. The following remonstrance is being circulated among the ladies of Bristol for signature. There is no reason why any woman in the borough should refuse to sign it.

To the Honorable, the Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Bucks County: We, the undersigned, citizens of the borough of Bristol, most earnestly and solemnly remonstrate against the granting of any license to any person to sell intoxicating liquors to be used as a beverage in this borough. We are well assured by daily observation and experience that such traffic, while it is wholly useless, is detrimental to the morals and prosperity of our community.

SORTS: Over 500 shares have been subscribed for in the new building association.

A Union prayer meeting is held every Wednesday afternoon in the room over the Engine House, corner Wood and Market Streets.

ADOLPH DE ROCHE, FLORIST AND RUSTIC WORK MAKER. Nursery on Radcliffe Street (near the Catholic Church).

HOGUETS DRUG STORE, established in 1844, Nos. 13 & 15 Mill Street. Constantly on hand, a large stock of first class drugs, medicines, chemicals, perfumery, toilet articles, patent medicines, paints, oils, glass, putty, varnishes, dye-stuffs, and all kinds of spices.



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## BCHF Calendar of Events For 2024

**MARCH.** Sun., 3/3, 2 PM (snow date 3/10). BCHF headquarters. Presentation entitled "Lafayette: An American Hero Receives a Grand Reception," by award-winning author Bruce Mowday. Mr. Mowday will speak about his book "Lafayette at Brandywine: The Making of an American Hero" and Lafayette's return as our nation's guest in 1824-1825. Light refreshment will be served. A donation of \$5 per attendee is suggested; students are free.

**APRIL.** Thurs., 4/11. Bus trip to Roebling Village, NJ, Historic District. Itinerary includes the Roebling Museum, a docent-led, leisurely walking tour of the Village, lunch in Bordentown's Old Town Pub, and a tour of "Point Breeze," the former estate of Joseph Bonaparte, Napoleon's older brother and the ex-king of Naples and Spain. \$120 pp for BCHF members; \$125 for non-members. Reservation deadline: March 4. Call 215-788-2106 for flyer/reservation form.

**APRIL.** Sun., 4/28., 2-4 PM. BCHF Headquarters. Annual Tea, featuring exhibition by the Artists of Bristol and keyboard selections by Francis Danis. \$35 pp. Limited capacity. Reservations at 215-788-9408 beginning 3/18; ending 4/14.

**MAY.** Fri., 5/3, 6-8 PM. BCHF Headquarters. Reception by the Artists of Bristol. No fee. Light refreshment.

**JUNE.** Fri., 6/21. Bus trip to the Morris Arboretum & Gardens, featuring their Rose Garden and Garden Railway; lunch in Brittingham's of Lafayette Hill, est. in 1743; and a visit to Cliveden House, a National

Trust Historic Site and the site of the 1777 Battle of Germantown. \$145 pp for BCHF members; \$150 pp for non-members. Reservation deadline: April 17 due to restaurant's non-refundable deposit policy. Call 215-788-9408 for flyer/reservation form.

**JULY 25-AUGUST 4.** 11 day/10 night Cruise to Northern Europe including Iceland, Norway, the Netherlands, Brussels/Bruges and London aboard the "Norwegian Prima." Call 215-788-9408 for detailed flyer. Initial deposit of \$350 pp required.

**OCTOBER.** Tues., 10//8. Bus trip to the Tenement Museum on NY's Lower East Side, followed by 3-course lunch and some free time in Little Italy. \$160 for BCHF members; \$165 for non-members. Reservation deadline: August 30. Reservation info in future Gazettes.

**OCTOBER.** Sat., 10/19, 10 AM to 4 PM. Annual Historic Bristol Day. Theme: Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of Lafayette's Farewell Tour." Details in future Gazettes.

**DECEMBER** Tues., 12/3 (note date change from 12/5). Bus trip to "Holidays at Nemours Estate", DE. Itinerary includes 3-course luncheon at Buckley's Tavern and self-guided tour of the Nemours Mansion, elaborately decorated for the holidays. \$130 pp for BCHF members; \$140 for non-members. Reservation info in future Gazettes

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BCHF Headquarters are at 321 Cedar Street, Bristol.

For current information about activities and events, check out our web site at [www.bristolhistory.org](http://www.bristolhistory.org)  
email us at [bchf2157819895@gmail.com](mailto:bchf2157819895@gmail.com) Follow us on Instagram - - [IG@bristol\\_historic\\_foundation](https://www.instagram.com/IG@bristol_historic_foundation)

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