



The Gazette



VOL 44
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Published by the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Box 215, Bristol, PA 19007

Sponsoring Historic Bristol Day—Third Saturday of Each October

BCHF is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit, all volunteer Organization.

JUNE 2026

President's Corner Dear Members:

BCHF is hard at work planning for Historic Bristol Day and other programs. Information about various BCHF programs and trips are included in this issue of the Gazette. Many celebrations in the region related to America's 250th anniversary are coming up. Given the Bristol rich railroad history, I wanted to highlight an railroad summer event. Union Pacific's famed Big Boy No. 4014, the world's largest operating steam locomotive, is traveling across country. The

locomotive will be traveling from Scranton down to Philadelphia on July 4th. The locomotive is scheduled to be in Pottstown and Reading on July 2nd.

Additional details about the locomotive trip are available on

<https://www.up.com/about-us/history/steam/schedule>.

Sincerely Jesse Walker

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday June 7 @ 2 PM

We Hold These Truths to be Self-Evident

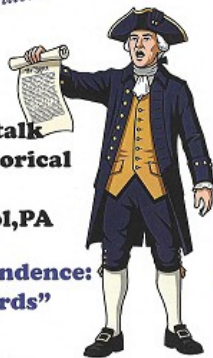
**Come hear Bill Pezza's talk
at Bristol Cultural & Historical
Foundation
321 Cedar Street, Bristol, PA**

**"The Declaration of Independence:
More than Inspiring Words"**

Sunday, June 7th at 2 PM

**Donations of \$5 pp requested.
Students are free.**

Light Refreshments will be served.



Sunday, June 28 at 2 PM

Join us for a Concert by the BCHF Community Band. A donation of \$5 per person is requested. Students are free. Light refreshments will be served. More details in this Gazette.



Bristol Cultural & Historical Foundation

May 31, 2026

Dear Friend of BCHF:

This year marks a very special milestone for our community. In 2026, Historic Bristol Day will celebrate its **50th anniversary (along with America250)**, continuing a tradition that began when residents first came together to showcase Bristol's rich history, beautiful homes, local organizations, and vibrant community spirit. The celebration will be **Saturday, October 17, 2026**.

For fifty years, Historic Bristol Day has been a celebration of the people, places, and stories that make Bristol such a unique town. As we prepare for this anniversary celebration, BCHF is working to make this year's event bigger and better, with additional entertainment, activities, and experiences for residents and visitors alike.

We are very fortunate to be able to host this favorite event once again. We also know it may be difficult for some to donate what they have in the past. However, a contribution of any size will be deeply appreciated, and will help our organization achieve another successful event.

As we plan this event, may we count on your financial contribution (no matter the size) that will assist us in achieving our goal of making Historic Bristol Day an outstanding community event? Your contribution will be acknowledged in BCHF's publications and again, will be greatly valued during these difficult times. We cannot pull off this major undertaking without your generous support and assistance.

A response **no later than August 31st** would be appreciated. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Nicholas A Rizzo

Nicholas A. Rizzo

Bristol Day Fundraising Chair

Please make a check payable to: BCHF
P.O. Box 215
Bristol, PA 19007

Name as it is to appear in acknowledgement: _____

Donation: \$25_____ \$50_____ \$75_____ \$100 _____ Other _____

UPCOMING TRIPS

Whale Watching off the Coast of Belmar NJ Register Now-- Registrations close on June 27

Don't miss out on our fabulous Whale Watching trip aboard the Miss Belmar, Belmar NJ, on July 29, 2026. The trip includes round-trip bus service from the Grundy Rec. Center departing at 11:30 AM and returning at approximately 6:00 PM, a three-hour whale watching tour onboard the Miss Belmar, commentary by naturalist Trish Devoe, and a voucher

for lunch from the onboard galley. At \$95 for members and \$105 for non-members, this trip is a bargain. For more information and to register or download a registration form, visit: <https://www.bristolhistory.org/Trips-.html> To request a registration form in the mail, call 215-788-7537.

Luncheon Cruise Onboard the "River Lady"

Come along with us onboard a genuine paddle-wheel riverboat, "River Lady", on September 17. We'll be sailing down the scenic Toms River and beautiful Barnegat Bay past scenic waterfront homes, the historic Island Heights shoreline, and bustling Barnegat Bay, often accompanied by sailboats and local wildlife. We'll be served a delicious lunch while sitting in the enclosed and climate controlled main level where we will have access to a cash/credit card bar serving wine, beer, champagne, and hard seltzers.



Following the cruise, we will visit the "Delicious Orchards" located in Colts Neck, New Jersey, a historic 60,000-square-foot country food market and popular culinary landmark.

The cost of the trip, \$132 for members/\$142 non-members, includes bus service, narrated boat tour, lunch, and all gratuities.

For more information and to register or download a registration form, visit:

<https://www.bristolhistory.org/Trips-.html> To request a registration form in the mail, call Deborah Pinney, 215-788-7537 .

Reservations close on July 12, 2026



Pages from Bristol's Past

As Bristol prepares to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Historic Bristol Day, the Bristol Cultural & Historical Foundation Gazette will look back at some of the traditions, events, and moments that have helped shape the life of the borough. Bristol's history is not only found in its historic buildings or well known events, but also in the small neighborhood places where residents gathered and daily life quietly unfolded.

Ice Cream, Bakeries, and Sweet Memories of Bristol

By: Michael Crossan

While corner markets were a part of everyday life in Bristol, the borough also had plenty of places where people gathered for something sweet.

One of those places was Thompson's, better known as Potts Ice Cream and Soda Fountain, at 587 Bath Street. For many young people in town it was the place to go for an ice cream sundae or a soda fountain drink after school or on a summer evening.

Inside, kids and teenagers would gather at the counter, often sitting on chrome stools while enjoying ice cream sundaes served in glass dishes or a soda fountain drink mixed right behind the counter. It was the kind of place where friendships were formed and stories were shared.

At one time the shop was run by my Aunt, Sarah Rodgers, and it holds a special place in my own family's history. It was there that my parents first met, and as they say, the rest is history. Like many neighborhood soda fountains across America, it was a place where small moments turned into lifelong memories.

Bristol had other favorite ice cream spots as well. Many residents remember stopping at the Dairy Dock behind Mill Street along the waterfront or walking down the hill on Pond Street to the Dairy Barn tucked behind Mill Street. For others, the familiar sound of the O'Boyle's ice cream truck or the music from the Mister Softee rolling through the neighborhood meant it was time to run outside with a few coins in hand.

Even some of Bristol's pharmacies once had soda fountains or small ice cream counters where people could sit and enjoy a quick treat. These little stops added to the everyday rhythm of town life.

Bakeries were another important part of that neighborhood tradition. Many residents remember stopping at Kay's Bakery on Sunday mornings or heading to Mancuso's Bakery for long johns and tomato pie. The smell of fresh bread and pastries drifting out onto the street was often enough to draw people inside.

One of my favorite memories involves my dad coming home from work late at night with a one dollar bag of piping hot rolls from Micozzis on Farragut Avenue. Hot and airy, we would butter them up and enjoy them with a cup of hot tea before heading off to bed.

Places like these may be gone or changed today, but the memories remain strong for those who grew up in Bristol. They remind us that sometimes the sweetest parts of a town's history come from the small places where neighbors gathered, shared a treat, and enjoyed a moment together.

Where was your favorite place to get ice cream or sweets in Bristol? Whether it was Potts, the Dairy Dock, the Dairy Barn, or the sound of the Mister Softee truck coming down the street, we'd love to hear your memories.

www.bristolhistory.org/memories.html

Pages from Bristol's Past

As Bristol prepares to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Historic Bristol Day, the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation Gazette will look back at some of the traditions, places, and everyday moments that helped shape life in the borough. Bristol's history is not only found in its historic buildings or well-known events, but also in the industries and workplaces that supported generations of families who called the borough home.

Bristol's Mills, Factories, and a Working Waterfront

By: Michael Crossan

For much of Bristol's history, the Delaware River was more than a scenic backdrop. It was the reason the town grew and prospered.

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Bristol became the largest industrial center in Bucks County. Mills, factories, and shipyards lined the riverfront and nearby streets, providing jobs for hundreds of workers and drawing families to settle in the borough.

Among the most important of these industries was the Grundy Worsted Mill complex. Beginning in the 1870s, the Grundy family developed a large textile operation along the Delaware River that produced woolen yarns and worsted fabrics. At its peak, the mill employed hundreds of workers and became one of the region's largest employers.

The towering clock tower that still stands today became a symbol of Bristol's industrial growth. Nearby, a massive powerhouse generated steam and power that ran the mill's spinning and weaving machinery. Coal-fired boilers produced the energy needed to operate the equipment that turned raw wool into finished textiles shipped across the country.

Grundy's success helped establish Bristol as a center for textile production. Other businesses soon followed, including the Star Woolen Mill, the Keystone Fringe Company, and Bristol Carpet Mills, all producing materials for clothing, furniture, and household goods.

Manufacturing in Bristol extended beyond textiles. The Wilson and Fenimore wallpaper factory produced decorative wall coverings that were shipped to homes throughout the region. Lumber and woodworking shops such as the Peirce and William Planing Mill supplied finished wood products used in building construction.

Smaller industries could be found scattered throughout town as well. One such business was a candle factory located at the corner of Green Lane and Wilson Avenue, near where DiGuiseppe Drive stands today. Factories like these were once a common sight in Bristol, employing

local residents and contributing to the town's industrial economy.

The Delaware River itself played a major role in supporting these industries. Materials arrived by boat, and finished products were shipped out along the river and canal system to larger cities such as Philadelphia and New York.

Shipbuilding also became an important part of the region's industrial life. During World War I, the massive Harriman Shipyard operated along the riverfront, building ships for the war effort and employing thousands of workers.

The demand for shipyard labor even shaped parts of Bristol's neighborhoods. Homes along East Circle were originally constructed to house workers employed in the shipyards. Rather than traditional family homes, the buildings were designed more like barracks.

I learned this firsthand years later while living in one of those houses on East Circle. During renovations we discovered the original blueprints tucked inside one of the walls. The plans revealed that the shared areas between the two homes were originally designed as shower stalls, while the individual sections of the houses served as bunk rooms for workers.

What had long since become family homes were once built to house the men who worked along Bristol's busy waterfront.

The industries of Bristol helped create the working-class character of the borough. Generations of families depended on the mills, factories, and shipyards for steady employment. Neighborhoods grew up around these workplaces, with small row homes built within walking distance of the river and industrial districts.

Corner stores, bakeries, and neighborhood taverns soon followed, serving the workers and their families who lived nearby. **(Continues on the next page.)**

While many of those industries have faded over time, their legacy remains an important part of Bristol's story. The riverfront that once supported mills and factories is now a place where residents gather for festivals, concerts, and community events.

Today visitors walking along the Bristol Wharf may see parks, boats, and historic buildings rather than smokestacks and warehouses. Yet the Delaware River still connects

Bristol to the industrial past that helped shape the town we know today.

Share Your Memory

Did you or someone in your family work in one of Bristol's mills, factories, or shipyards? Share your memories of Bristol's working waterfront and industrial past with us.

www.bristolhistory.org/memories.html

BCHF Bristol Community Band

By: Diane McDevitt

The BCHF Bristol Community Band will be performing at the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation Building on Sunday, June 28.

In 2023, the BCHF Bristol Community Band was formed out of the 6 remaining members of the Bracken Cavaliers Alumni Corps who decided to continue to play together only in a different type of venue, a community band. We are proudly sponsored by the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation.

The band was formed to have fun and be entertaining everywhere we perform while still continuing to represent not only the Cultural and Historical Foundation but the town of Bristol as well.

In less than two years, The BCHF Bristol Community Band has grown into an exciting and extremely enjoyable musical ensemble comprised of 28 professional and semi-professional musicians. We play a wide variety of music, hits from the 60s and

70s, some Jazz, a little Big Band even some movie and tv show themes. Everything you hear will always be recognizable and familiar no matter the age.

This year, we are booked for the rest of the 2026 season and already have performances for the 2027 season.

This organization would not run if it were not for some special individuals within the band:
Phil Bigelow-Executive Director
Tony Arena- Assistant Director/ Board Treasurer and Music Librarian
Diane McDevitt-Board Secretary/Business Manager
Mark Filosi-Music Director
Jim Gupta- Digital Manager Director

Our website, bristolcommunityband.org, and our Facebook page, Bristol Community Band, are filled with information about us as well as songs from our live performances.

The 2026 Peach Social

Save the date, August 16, 2026, when BCHF will be holding its 32nd annual Peach Social from 2 – 4 PM at our headquarters on 321 Cedar Street, Bristol Borough. We'll be serving tree ripened New Jersey peaches and ice cream on top of angel food cake. You can eat it here or take it home. In addition, you can pick up some peachy baked goods made by BCHF volunteers. It's a great way to relax and socialize with your friends and family on a summer afternoon while helping us to raise money for academic awards given to Bristol



High School graduates. The price is \$10 and it is well worth it. And before the social, you can join the group of volunteers that gather at our headquarters to peel and slice all the peaches while we chat and generally have a good time. Coffee, tea and treats are provided to make the experience just a little sweeter. Please join us on Sunday, August 16 at 11 AM and experience this old-fashioned community effort.



TICKETS ARE
GOING FAST.

Get yours today.



MANY CHANCES
— TO WIN —
up to
\$10,000!

TICKETS ARE
\$100



ONLY
200
WILL BE
SOLD.

To purchase a Raffle ticket online Go to <https://www.bristolhistory.org/intro.html>

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR
HOME
TO BE CONSIDERED FOR
HISTORIC BRISTOL DAY
Home Tours



BCHF
BRISTOL CULTURAL &
HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

Please email
mcrossan@bbsd.org

2026 B.C.H.F Membership

The following individuals and families have renewed or joined the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation as members for the year 2026. If your name does not appear below, and you would like to continue to support the work of the Foundation, you may renew your membership by sending in your membership dues using the coupon below, or by using the membership page on our website: www.bristolhistory.org.

Acevedo, Jose L.	Duva, Grace & Tony	Le Freier, George	Rachin, Susan
Albertson, Michael	Esposito, Anthony	Lebo, Luz	Ratini, Angelo & Melinda
Albright, Donna	Esposito, Pat	Leinheiser, Francine	Raymond, Helen B.
Arhipov, Irene	Feole, Marie	Ligato, Suzanne J.	Reider, Robert & Leeann
Austin, Kitsie Saldan & Nonnie	Frake, Joyce & Bill	Lloyd, Kathleen	Riccio, Denise
Barniskis, Andy & Kathy	Gadsby, Pamela	Logan, Claire	Riccio, Nancy
Bosco, Patricia A. & Frank	Gowaskie, Joe & Marianne	Maguire, JoAnne	Rizzo, Nicholas A.
Brodie, Charles	Grant, Sherry	Maren, Nancy	Rowan, Linda
Buchanan, Pat	Gregory, Gene & Barbara	Martinez, Ronda	Russo, Anthony & Margaret
Burton, John & Jean	Hall, Karen	Marucci, Natalie	Salapka, George & Lynn
Butrey, Frank & Robin	Harvie, Andrea	McCulley-Breustedt, Nereida	Sampsel, Mr. & Mrs. Charles
Cattani, Bill & Rose	Hillesland, Jeanine	McDevitt, Jim & Diane	Seacrist, Gloria L.
Cattani Jr., Peter W.	Hodges, Nancy	McHugh, Regina	Seymour, James
Ceill Graff, Jan Ruano	Hodgkiss, Nancy	McKairnes, Diane	Sobel, Bernie
Cialetta, Shea & Anthony	Hoffman, Lorraine	Mitchener, Dorothy	Stallone, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph
Clements, Nelson & Ann	Hullings, Dr. Joanne	Mitchener Bauserman, Lillian	Stoneback, Alan C.
Clifford, Virginia	Ifkovitz, Evelyn	Mooney, Fr. Dennis	Szczepanski, Cynthia A.
Cordek, Joan	Jenca, Nancy	Morici, Mary Jane & Isadore	Tomlinson, Kay
Cox, Susan	Jones, Michele	Moyer, Jennifer	Tosti, Robert & Elizabeth
Cox, Susan	Kehoe, Mary	Mullen, Rene	VanBuren, Jeannine
Crossan, Ed & Marie	Kirby, Rose Marie	Murphy, Margaret, John, & Patrick	VanCleve, Sherry
D'Agostino, Mary Jo	Klein, Evey	Myles, Alisa	Vasey, Regina
Dailey, Amy	Kiepczynski, Theresa	Nancy, Brown	Watkins, Bill & Sue
Daniel, Larry	Kline, Jerry & Sharon	Nelson, Elaine	White, Carl & Pauline
Davidson, Diane	Kolber, Denise	Novelli, Nancy	Whiteley, Ellen
Doyle, Bob & Nancy	Krull, Angelene	Paone, Mary Jane	Wiegand Jr., Vernon
Duffany, Abigail	Lalli, Albert & Sharon	Pavone, Phyllis	Wright, Chris
Dugan, Joseph	Landreth, Mary Swain	Porter, Arnold	Younglove, Helen
Dunning, Bernadine	Larrisey, Joe & Anna	Porto, Rochelle	Zigon Jr., Edward
			ST. Mark's Catholic Church

2026 Membership Form

2026 Membership Dues _____ Individual \$15.00 _____ Family \$25.00 _____ Business \$60.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

email _____ Phone _____

Make check payable to B.C.H.F. P.O. Box 215, Bristol, PA 19007

Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from The Bristol Courier June 1926 2¢ a Copy

June 1 – Asher J. Conn of Dorrance St. was honored for his 50 years as a barber. He has served 5 generations in one family.

June 2 – Forrest Theatre – Wed. and Thurs. showing “the Girl Who Couldn’t Work” starring Lionel Barrymore.

June 3 – Congress likely to set a record for spending money. This is the peak amount of appropriations in Peace Time. \$17,000,000,000.

PA State Highway Patron opened a testing station for driver’s licenses. Tests will be given on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at Monroe and Farragut Ave.

Lit Brothers – Beautiful Silk Dresses \$12 (value \$20 - \$30) One yellow trading stamp with every 10¢ purchase.

June 4 – 28 students will receive their diplomas from Bristol High School on June 15. Miss Florence McIlHaney will be the valedictorian.

Dancing every Sat. evening in the Casino Ballroom of Burlington Island Park.

June 5 – Bristol which is midway on the Atlantic Coast Airway route will be added to the list of lighted airports. The Huff-Daland Airplane Co. is building runways and docks for land and seaplanes. A huge spotlight will be located there.

June 7 – John F. Wear installed a modern refrigerated meat counter in his store at Bath & Buckley Sts.

June 8 – Several shoe stores in Bristol will close at noon on Wednesdays during June, July, and August.

June 9 – Barton Bros. Circus will be in Bristol June 11 & 12. Matinee daily. Adults 50¢ and children 25¢

President and Mrs. Coolidge will need to vacate the White House of 6 months due to the dangerous conditions of the roof.

June 10 – Suggestion was made to form a permanent chorus due to the interest & success of the Sesqui Chorus.

Auction – Monday June 14 at 10:30 AM. One hundred choice building lots and 5 small farms on Bath Rd. 2 mi. from Bristol. Lunch will be served. Chances on a Free Ford Car. S. E. Dameron- Real Estate Auction Bel-Air Md.

June 11 – Father’s Association of Bristol Public Schools presented awards. The senior boy & girl with the highest average were awarded gold watches.

Jasper Marucci is an exclusive tailor. Located at the Colonial Theatre Building on Wood St. at Penn.

June 14 – Flag day to be observed with pomp and ceremony at the Sesquicentennial Exposition.

Bristol Firemen in new blue uniforms made an excellent appearance Sat. in the Bucks County Firemen’s Assoc. parade in Morrisville.

June 16 – Reverend Isidore Jenne of St. Ann Church was given several farewell dinners as he prepares to go to Italy for June and July.

June 17 – Two Boy Scout Troops will be presented Parade Flags during the Flag Day Ceremonies at the Elk’s Home.

Lehigh Coal & Navigation Co. has leased the wharf and dock to a new company. Repairs will be made and Bristol will again have a water shipping facility.

June 18 – An explosion blew out windows and caused a fire at Cohen’s Economy Hardware store, when a steam shovel broke a gas service line on Mill St.

June 21 – Police raided an alleged gambling den at 335 Lincoln Ave. on Sat. A craps game was in progress. The proprietor was arrested.

The dog catcher from the state headquarters will be in Bristol tomorrow. They will catch and impound any dog running at large.

June 22 – A pair abandoned a stolen car in Bristol after firing shots at Chief McGuckin.

June 23 – Funding is available to deepen the Upper Delaware River. The channel will be 20 ft. deep and 200 ft. wide.

June 24 – Highway work is progressing fast on Otter, Mill and Radcliffe Sts.

A.M. Winter is renovating the store to include 2 large plate glass windows on Mill St. and one on Wood St.

June 25 – President Coolidge will attend the Sesqui Exposition on July 5.

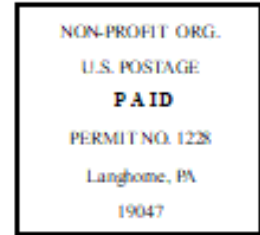
June 28 – Children of the Methodist, Presbyterian and Episcopal Sunday Schools attended the annual picnic at Cadwalader Park in Trenton, NJ. They enjoyed athletic events and a pie eating contest.

June 29 – Willim C. Watson age 63 a native of Bristol died following a stroke. He was vice-president of the Bristol Printing Co. and began publication of the Bristol Courier in 1910.

June 30 – L. C. Wettling to open a Jewelry store on July 1 at 312 Mill St. They offer fine watch, clock and jewelry repairs. This property was renovated by Louis Dries.



**Bristol Cultural &
Historical Foundation, Inc.**
Post Office Box 215
Bristol, PA 19007



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar of Events For 2026

June 7, 2026 @ 2 PM – Bill Pezza presents “The Declaration of Independence: More than Inspiring Words”. Adults \$5 donation, students free. Light Refreshments will be served.

June 24, 2026 - Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island Tour with dinner at the Historic Cranberry Inn. \$162 for members/\$172 for non-members Call 215-788-7537 to register.

June 28, 2026 @ 2 PM Concert by BCHF Community Band. Adults \$5 donation, students free. Light Refreshments will be served.

July 26, 2026 @ 2 PM – Bob Mercer presents The Galapagos Islands and Evolutionary Laboratory
Adults \$5 donation, students free. Light Refreshments will be served.

July 29, 2026 - Whale Watching off the coast of Belmar, NJ
off Belmar, NJ. \$95 for members/\$105 for non-members Call (215-480-2061) to register.

August 16, 2026 @ 2 – 4 PM- Peach Social

September 17, 2026 – Luncheon Cruise Onboard the Paddle-Wheel Riverboat "River Lady" \$132 for members/\$142 for non-members Call 215-788-9043 to register.

October 17, 2026 – Historic Bristol Day

October 28, 2026 - The Strasburg Railroad and the Choo Choo Barn With Lunch at Casey Jones' Restaurant
\$156 for members/\$166 for non-members. Call 215-781-8591 to register.

November 18, 2026 @ 7 PM BCHF General Membership Meeting

BCHF Headquarters are at 321 Cedar Street, Bristol.

For current information about activities and events, check our website at www.bristolhistory.org
Email us at bchf2157819895@gmail.com Follow us on Instagram - - [IG@bristol_historic_foundation](https://www.instagram.com/IG@bristol_historic_foundation)

THE GAZETTE is a publication of the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Inc. — Linda Rowan, Editor
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Nicholas Rizzo, & Diane McDevitt
