



The Gazette



VOL 43
No. 5

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.

MAY 2025

President's Corner

Dear Members,

We are excited to have more Bristol Borough High School students contribute to this issue of the Gazette. The students are in Mrs. Renard's creative writing class. We are always looking for stories about our community's past, old photos, and other content for future issues of the Gazette.

The meeting will be at 7pm. We are looking for additional help with this event. If interested in helping, feel free to come to the meeting.

We are looking forward to enjoying springtime events around the borough.

Larry Daniel and myself are hosting our next planning meeting for Historic Bristol Day on May 20 in our building at 321 Cedar Street in the borough.

Jesse Walker, President

Appalachian Program

by Jan Ruano

Mary Roth enthralled us on March 30th with her program entitled "Enchanted Appalachia".

She spoke of the history of the Appalachian Mountain Dulcimer and the Celtic Bouzak on which she played both old songs from Appalachia and some she wrote herself. The audience was encouraged to sing along with some of the songs as well.

Mary has performed at many venues both large and small. She also hosts a radio show entitled "Artists with a Purpose."

We must thank Helen Younglove for finding us these interesting programs for all our enjoyment. They are all both entertaining and educational. Keep checking the Gazette for future events. Let your friends know as well. One does not have to be a member to attend. Providing cultural programs to the community is part of our mission.



4TH ANNUAL BOAT & CAR SHOW

On Saturday, May 31 (rain date: Sunday, June 11), from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., head to the Bristol Wharf and Riverfront Park for the 4th Annual Mahogany and Steel Car and Boat show. Members of the Mid-Atlantic Antique & Classic Boat Society will be displaying their prized watercraft on the wharf and in the water at dockside. They will also plan to offer rides in an old-time speed boat on the Delaware. For more information, visit Mid-AtlanticACBS.com.

Meanwhile, in the Mill Street parking lot, Mark Gesualdi and his dedicated committee will be hosting a car show featuring all-American and foreign antiques and classics, newer Corvettes, Camaros, Firebirds, Mustangs, Challengers, T-Birds, street rods, exotics, low-riders, luxuries and more. Registration will begin at 9 a.m., with a \$15 registration fee per participant.

The show will run until 3 p.m., concluding with a car parade from the King George II Inn, up Radcliffe St., and ending at Green Lane. Prizes will be awarded. Voting will be by phone as well as by paper ballot.

Coffee and breakfast items, sausage & pepper sandwiches, and hot dogs will be available by Michelle Hager and members of the Bristol High School staff. King George gift certificates will be raffled off. For more information, visit <http://www.bristoldaycarshow.com>.

Hope to see you there!

ALL ABOARD

Bus Trip, Thursday, June 26 - We'll be headed to the City of Brotherly Love for lunch aboard the Moshulu at Penn's Landing. It's the largest square-rigged sailing vessel still afloat and the one-and-only restaurant venue on a tall ship in the world today. Prior to lunch, we'll tour the magnificent Masonic Temple on Broad St. It was constructed in 1873 and is a National Historic Landmark. Seating is available in most of the rooms that are part of the tour. The all-inclusive cost is \$135 for BCHF members; \$145 for non-members. Call Helen Younglove at 215-788-9408 for flyer/reservation form or print it from BCHF's website, <http://www.bristolhistory.org>. Reservation deadline is May 21.

Cruise, July 1-8 - "Independence Day Celebration" cruise aboard the ocean liner Queen Mary 2, sailing from NY. Ports-of-call are: Newport, RI; Boston, MA (over July 4); and

Halifax, Nova Scotia. Rates per person, double occupancy, range from \$1,920 to \$2,680. A passport is required.

For a detailed flyer, call Helen Younglove at 215-788-9408. For questions and reservations, contact Grand American Tours at 1-800-423-0247.

Cruise, October 29—November 9 - Oceania Cruises' "Antiquity to Anatolia" (Rome to Istanbul) cruise aboard the Oceania Vista, October 29 to November 9. Ten ports of call. Rates per person, incl. airfare, range from \$6,150 to \$6,850. A variety of perks are available. A passport is required.

For a detailed flyer, call 215-788-9408. For questions and reservations, contact Grand American Travel at 1-800-423-0247

More to come in October and December. Stay tuned!



Bristol Cultural & Historical Foundation

May 1, 2025

Dear Friend of BCHF:

The 49th Annual Historic Bristol Day will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2025. This event is one of Bucks County's finest and concentrates on the rich history and cultural contributions of this charming, riverfront borough.

This year's Historic Bristol Day's special attractions will include: *House & Garden Tours, A Classic Car Show, Musical Groups, A Children's Corner, Craft Exhibits, variety of Food Vendors, an Afternoon Tea, Walking Tours, & much more!*

We are once again very fortunate to be able to host this favorite Fall event once again. We also know it may be difficult for some to be able to donate what they have in the past as financial circumstances may have changed over the past few years. However, any 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 greatly 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 _____

The Magic of Sagolla's Deli

By Gianiela Arriaga

Mom told me stories on how her family would pick up ham and cheese at Sagolla's Deli everyday. I loved when my family told little stories about our ancestry in Bristol, but this one was different from the rest. It was our great grandparents' corner store located on the corner of Wood and Lafayette Street. Gus and Helen lived in an apartment above their shop and always put their all into the success of their business. She said that my Uncle Giuseppe used to get so excited because whenever he walked in there, our grandparents would let him have some of the penny candies for free for being a good student, but he knew it was because he was one of his grandchildren. My mom says Grandpa always treated his family so well. He even lets them "put in the eye" when anyone can't pay for things right away. Then, once a month the people pay the book when they get paid. My grandparents had to do that a few times when my Grandpa was out of work.

My family was always glad when we got ham and cheese from Sagolla's during the week because they have the best deli meat around. They've won the Bristol High School Best Italian Hoagie award a few years in a row! It makes sense; it seemed they were so good since the store has been open since around 1961. My mom said they got a lot of their information at the store too; information meaning mainly gossip. She wasn't supposed to know this, but she overheard that

when the older men had their gambling nights, they ordered like 25 hoagies at a time from the Sagolla's. Their store stayed open later than the others and closed at 9pm which apparently worked out well for the gamblers. In the evenings, my family would also work at the deli. My family has a tradition of attending Bristol High, working our family business, and helping each other out.

The deli workers would have to be sure to get to the store before 12 or after 1 because they'd close for midday rest. All the Italian stores did that here in Bristol. It was a wonderful tradition here. My great grandparents had some other holiday traditions too. Around Easter, they'd have lots of Easter bread for people to buy. I heard how at Christmas time, they brought in toys to sell for the kids. The store had everything Bristol families needed. She said when you'd walk in, you'd see the fresh bread ready to go, and the deli counter was filled with all kinds of Italian meats and cheeses. You'd just have to watch your head because the aged cheeses were hanging from the ceiling. In the back there were soups, canned foods, snacks, everything! The place felt surreal to hear about, it's a shame I wasn't here to experience the magic of Sagolla's Deli.

Have you renewed your membership to the Bristol Cultural & Historical Foundation this year?

We appreciate your past support and trust that you will continue to do so. Dues are the same as last year, \$15 for individuals, \$25 for families and \$60 for businesses.

You can pay your dues directly on line by going to our website

www.bristolhistory.org

or by printing the form and sending a check to BCHF, P.O. Box 215, Bristol, PA. 19007.

The Bristol Canal

By Cayleigh Januszka

The Bristol Canal is filled with memories for the citizens of Bristol. This area has had a lasting impact on everyone that passes through. I always used to go there when I was little for my sister's dance pictures, like prom and formal. My sisters are a lot older than me, so after my mom took a picture of us, I would run around and collect colorful flowers to make a tiny bouquet to give to my mom. The canal is a beautiful spot, perfect for photos and memorable events. In addition to being beautiful, the canal is embedded in history. I remember reading all the labels about the statues and the pictures that show the early life in Bristol. I was confused as a little girl, but now I learned all about the history and can connect to it. I pass by it everyday walking home from school, and it's always covered in life, whether animal or plant. I'm lucky enough to live in such a beautiful place like Bristol, but also lucky to be able to learn so much new information about the town I live in by only walking a mile or less!



Bristol is the third oldest town in PA, and it offers many places to explore. One being the Canal. This is a great tourist spot, and a monumental site. The construction of the Bristol Canal took place between 1827 and 1832. The canal was first built to ship goods quickly and cheaply between the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts. It ran a distance of 60 miles and opened up the anthracite coal riches of the Lehigh Valley to markets in Pennsylvania and New York. It was made up of 23 lift locks. This construction helped metal working to expand. The Bristol Canal was very important for the world. They transported a lot of coal and developed some recreation in the town. Now, the Canal is mostly still used for recreational purposes. It used to be a mill, but just recently transformed into the building it is today, commonly known as the famous Clock Tower.

1913 Bristol High School Class to Go to Valley Forge

By: Harold Mitchener

This is when the high school was located at the corner of Wood and Mulberry St.

The date was May 21, 1913

Twenty members of the graduating class left Bristol by train leaving Bristol at 7:56 for Philadelphia.

In Philadelphia there were two chartered sight-seeing auto buses in which they toured historic Valley Forge.

The graduates were chaperoned by Miss Bartine, Miss Vanuxem, and Miss Clark. These ladies were all teachers at the High School. Girls in the class provided a boxed lunch for all. They returned sometime during the evening.

Source: Grundy Library Historical Collection.

The Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Library

By: Ysabel Evardone



Within the dainty town of Bristol Borough resides a century old yet timeless archive. The Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Library commemorates the story of a pioneering lady's dream in the 1900s to provide a free library accessible for the community of Bristol. This story begins with Margaret Grundy, after whom the library was named in recognition of hers and her family's continuous support for this cause.

Originally known as the Bristol Free Library, it had no permanent location and was funded only through private donations. For the rest of her and her brother Joseph's life, they ceaselessly maintained the library even until their passing. The public took notice of their efforts, and the newly situated library was dedicated on June 24, 1966, fourteen years after Margaret's death. Despite that, their legacy continued to live on allowing the library to undergo many changes. One of the biggest and exciting renovations it went through was the 3-year renovation during covid-19 pandemic between 2020 to 2023. In this, the library saw new additions such as a rooftop terrace with outdoor seating, gardens, and a rectangular elevated playing area of faux grass, new centers like a children's area, teen center, study rooms, and niche little additions like historic collection displays, new-release browsing, a cafe area, and much more. These not only improved the library's functionality but also enhanced its appeal with its beautiful view of the

Delaware River via the window walls, allowing for phenomenal natural light, perfect for reading and creating a bright and open atmosphere.

It wasn't until recently that I visited the library, and I've never regretted it since. As someone who rarely wanders and is quite introverted, I needed a good starting place to get some volunteer hours. Not only did I get to indulge in a bunch of service hours from their Teens Advisory Board program that were very fun, but I also found my hiding place. There are more than just books; there are boardgames, computers, activities, and even special events, such as escape rooms. From quiet readers to adrenaline junkies, there's always something for someone to do. With amazing amenities and a welcoming staff, you'll feel right at home even in an unfamiliar space. Where do you go for solace? Perhaps it's much closer than you think; all you need to do is look around you and maybe you'll find something that's just as charming.

OUT OF THE PAST

The following items were excerpted from the Bristol Courier May 1925. Price 2¢

May 2 – Tomorrow the cornerstone of the new St. Ann's school will be laid at the school on Logan St. near Pond St. This new building is joined to the present convent and school.

May 4 – Boys Day, sponsored by the Bristol Rotary Club was a big success. There was entertainment and athletic contests. Dr. Haas of Rohm & Haas presented a silver cup to the 4th Ward for scoring the most points in athletic contests.

May 6 – Louis Dries was named Director of the Bristol Trust Company.

Police named 5 youths on charges of robbing a store. Police are of the opinion that they have solved a number of petty larcenies committed in the past few weeks.

May 9 – Mother's Day to be observed in local churches with special programs arranged by the pastors.

Annual Mother Daughter Banquet by the Presbyterian Church will be held on May 12.

John Rodgers captured the pool championship by beathing Frank Lynn 100 pts to 97 pts.

Bristol's annual clean-up week begins Monday May 11. It is planned to clear all alleyways of ashes and rubbish.

May 11 - Bristol's tax problem has led to all properties being re-assessed. The borough wants to be self-supporting.

May 12 – A card party held at the Elks Home to benefit Harriman Hospital was a big success.

May 14 – The County Commissioners are reviewing appeals of taxpayers in Bristol Borough. 360 appeals were filed after 3500 properties were assessed recently.

Sunnybrook eggs 39¢ a dozen in carton.

Perfect Blend Coffee 42¢ a pound at John F. Wear at Bath & Buckley Streets.

May 15 – The musicians of the Bristol High School Orchestra will give a concert at the Eddington Presbyterian Church on May 21

Over there: Fighting the World War with General Robert Lee Bullard will be published daily in installments in the Bristol Courier beginning on May 16.

May 16 – Police recovered 14 stolen autos in Bristol and Trenton. The investigation revealed the ring of auto thieves operated on a big scale in NJ and PA. All autos recovered were late model Fords.

May 19 – There is a moving picture to be made of Bristol and its varied activities. This will include the fire and police departments and other municipal activities.

May 21 – The 20th Anniversary of the local lodge of the Elks will be celebrated with a banquet and entertainment in the Elk Home.

May 21 EXTRA Edition – Airplane Company Buys the Shipyard. Part of the Merchants ship Company has been sold. The shipyard was idle since fall 1919. Huff Daland & Company airplane builders paid \$200,000 for the 30-acre property and buildings. The new plant will employ 300 – 400 men. It will be Pennsylvania's first airplane factory.

May 22 – Harriman Community Church will hold a bake sale on May 23 in the church room at Farragut and Monroe St.

May 25 – Two trolley cars from the Trenton, Bristol and Philadelphia Street Railway Company crashed head-on near Green Lane. One motorman was injured but scores escaped injury.

May 27 – Island Beach is to open on Saturday for the entire season. This is the 3rd year for the amusement park on Burlington Island under this management. Transportation is by small motor launch, ferry boats and steamships.

Save money use the Trolley – 30 miles - Bristol to 69th St. Fare 44¢

May 28 – The airplane factory will begin moving to Bristol in July and equipment should be installed by Sept. 15. 60 families will be moving with the company. The planes are designed to spray farm fields with insecticides.



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Historical Foundation, Inc.**
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BCHF Calendar Of Events For 2025

MAY. Fri., 5/2, 6-8 PM, at BCHF headquarters. Annual BCHF/AOB collaborative art exhibition and reception, featuring the works of the Artists of Bristol. Appetizers and beverages will be served. No fee.

MAY. Sun., 5/18, 2 PM, at BCHF headquarters. Concert by the BCHF Bristol Community Band. Light refreshment will be served. Donation of \$5 per adult attendee is suggested.

MAY. Sat., 5/31, 10 AM-4 PM. 4th Annual Mahogany & Steel Boat & Car Show, featuring antique and classic boats and cars on display at Bristol Wharf & Docks and Mill St. Parking Lot. Car cruise at 3:00. For more info, go to bristoldaycarshow.com.

JUNE. Thurs., 6/26. Bus trip to Phila., featuring luncheon on the Moshulu at Penn's Landing, followed by a tour of the Masonic Temple, a National Historic Landmark. \$130 pp for BCHF members; \$140 for non-members. Reservation deadline is May 21. Call 215-788-9408 for flyer/reservation form.

AUGUST. Sunday, 8/10, 2-4 PM. Annual Peach Social at BCHF's air-conditioned headquarters. Fresh, sliced peaches served over ice cream, atop angel food cake. \$10 per person. Take out or eat in. Event benefits awards to Bristol High School graduates.

OCTOBER. Wed., 10/1. Bus trip to Eckley Miners' Village in Weatherly, PA, owned and operated by the PA Historical and Museum Commission as a museum since 1970. Lunch at the Inn of Jim Thorpe, followed by free time. \$128 for BCHF-members; \$138 for non-members. See article elsewhere in this Gazette.

OCTOBER. Sat., Oct. 18, 10 AM to 4 PM. Annual Historic Bristol Day. Details in future Gazettes.

NOVEMBER. Wed., 11/19, 7:30 PM. BCHF's annual meeting at BCHF headquarters. Election of Board members, followed by a program. Light refreshment. No fee.

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

THE GAZETTE is a publication of the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Inc. — Linda Rowan, Editor
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