



The Gazette



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

VOL 41
No. 8

Sponsoring Historic Bristol Day - Third Saturday of Each October
BCHF is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, all volunteer organization.

OCTOBER 2023

Don't Miss Historic Bristol Day - October 21, 10 am to 4 pm

It is hard to believe that we are just a few weeks away from the 47th Annual Historic Bristol Day. This year the event will be held on Saturday, October 21st from 10:00 to 4:00.

Some exciting highlights include a new feature; a Bristol Mural Arts Tour which will depart via bus at 11:00 and 1:30 from the Bristol Riverside Theatre. We will be having our House Tour and Tea (ticket required) however this year the Tea will be held on the beautiful South Lawn of the Grundy Museum. The North Wind Schooner is again having four one-hour cruises on the Delaware River throughout the

day. As of the writing of this article, there are minimal tickets left at www.northwindsail.org. There will be no tickets available for purchase the day of. Other activities and features throughout the day will include: The Annual Car Show (held at Snyder-Girotti Elementary School), Classic Boats will again return to the wharf & dock area, a Historic Walking Tour, an Archaeological Dig at Friends Meeting House, and some of the Borough's Public Buildings & Worship Sites will be opened with different exhibits and activities during the day.

There will be plenty of entertainment throughout
continued on page 2

President's Corner

The King George II Inn

Bristol is a small town jam-packed with historical references. A lot of the buildings have their own stories, none more so than the King George II Inn. Charles Bessonett, a bricklayer from France, built the King George in 1765 on the site of the Ferry House that had been built in 1681 to serve as an inn for people using the ferry service between Bristol and Burlington. In its early days, the King George was considered one of the best hotels en route from New York to Philadelphia. During the Revolutionary War, the Inn was renamed the Fountain House and the sign showing an image of King George was replaced by one with an image of George Washington. Somewhat later, in the 1800s, Bristol became a popular spa resort due to the bath springs and the inn was very popular with people who came to use the spring waters. In the 1890s, it was renamed Ye Olde Delaware House but returned to its original name about 50 years later. The King George II Inn remains popular and well known but more as a restaurant these days. Its rich history persists; it's seen rev-

olutionary and civil war soldiers, presidents and great actors. It even has ghosts, one of them a man in a top hat dressed in the style of the 1800s. These days all of us can enjoy being at the King George and maybe, out of the corner of your eye, you'll catch a glimpse of one of its ghosts.

"A History of Bristol Borough in the County of Bucks, State of Pennsylvania" Doron Green; LevittownNow.com "Tales Of Ghosts Continue To Haunt Historic Bristol Restaurant" Erich Martin

Errata: I mistakenly wrote that the Bracken Cavaliers 100th anniversary was this year. In fact, it is in 2024. In any case, we are honored to be able to partner with them to keep a beautiful tradition alive.

On behalf of BCHF, I would like to welcome Amber Kennedy as a board member. Amber has worked as Youth Services Librarian at the Grundy Library for the past 5 years and has an impressive background in library and youth services. We are excited to have Amber on the board and look forward to working with her.

DebbiePinney, President

UPCOMING NOMINATIONS TO THE BOARD OF BCHF

ATTENTION: Anyone wishing to become a member of the Board of Directors for BCHF must have their letters of self nomination in by the 1st of November. These can be mailed at our address: BCHF, Box 215, Bristol, PA 19007. You can also hand deliver the self nomination letter to any Board Member.

Bristol Day *continued from page 1*

the day in the Riverfront Park, as well as some along the street. Of course, Radcliffe Street will be filled with a plethora of vendors and crafters to browse, and our Food Court (behind Truist Bank) will contain a variety of food vendors and trucks for visitors to choose from during the day.

Please pick up a program the day of the event at our information tables to obtain specific details for the many activities (as well as transportation information) that will be held throughout the day. You

can also check out our website - www.bristolhistory.org as we get closer to the event to download a copy of the program.

We thank all our volunteers, partners and sponsors who help make this day possible each year. It is a massive undertaking and we could not do it without them.

Sincerely,

Mary Gesualdi & Nick Rizzo, Event Co-chairs

Advance House Tour Tickets

Advance ticket sale for the House Tour and Tea can be bought at the following locations;

Great IDs on Radcliffe Street, Mignoni Jewelry on Mill Street and at the tax office located in the Municipal Building on Pond Street. Advance sale price is \$12.00. If you purchase tickets on Historic

Bristol Day the price is \$15.00. This year the tea will be located on the beautiful South Lawn at the Grundy Museum. You can look forward to displays in two of the houses.

We hope you can join us on this very popular attraction held every Historic Bristol Day.

Bristol's Murals

An attempt to edit a small error in September's Gazette article "First Ever Bristol Mural Arts Tours on Historic Bristol Day" resulted in confusing the Bristol Stomp mural on the William Penn Bank and the mural on the back entrance of the Penn Community Bank. A list of the murals that will be included in the Mural Arts tour is provided below. I hope this will resolve any confusion:

Mural above the Cantina on the corner of Mill and Radcliffe Streets.

Coca-Cola mural on the corner of Market and Radcliffe Streets, Tommy Rudesyle (painter)

"Settled by the World's People" mural, Jean-Marc Dubus (painter), Public Arts program sponsored by Raising the Bar, on Old Route 13

Mural "Come for the History, Stay for the Fun" or "O Boyles Ice Cream Delivery" on Old Route 13. Jean-Marc Dubus (painter), Public Arts program sponsored by Raising the Bar

Mural depicting a classroom from the late 1800's, on Bristol's second public school on Otter Street, art by the Dubus Studio. Sponsored by Harris Comfort helped with a façade grant.

Mural with old views of Bristol overlaid with current scenes, Penn Community Bank on Mill Street back entrance. Jean-Marc Dubus (painter). Sponsored by the Penn Community Bank partnered with Raising the Bar.

Bristol Stomp Mural on the William Penn Bank at Market and Old Route 13. Tony Napoli (painter) assisted by Annie Rose Kruzinski and John Ennis, inspired by a sculpture created by Bridget Ennis Shaw. Sponsored by William Penn Bank and facilitated by Raising the Bar.

Seven favorite books mural inside Snyder-Girotti School, outside the school library. Designed by students, parents, and teachers with Jean-Marc Dubus

Mural of the original Market Street Dock at Raising the Bar Riverport Plaza @ Market, Jared Bader (artist). Sponsored in part by Visit Bucks County.

The HBD Mural Arts Tours will be at 11:00 and 1:30, buses to load in front of Riverside Theater.

Meet the Artist



Meet John Danks. John was born in Philadelphia. He's an artist who went to the Art Institute of Philadelphia but is mostly self-taught. Upon meeting him, you quickly realize what a humble guy he is. He always loved art and today specializes in portraits and landscapes. He moved to Bristol in 2008. For seven years, he operated an art therapy "Art Cart" in St. Christopher's Hospital but was forced to stop when Covid hit. He works full time now at St. Mary's Hospital helping people connect to recovery through art as a therapy.

Last year at this time, the Historic Bristol Day (HBD) committee received a call from John asking if we would object

to him doing an "en plein air" painting during the 2022 Bristol Day. In June we got another call and John generously donated his painting to BCHF. He had captured the spirit and essence of Bristol Day along the 200 block of Radcliffe Street. Our committee was so impressed, we used his picture on all our marketing flyers this year. The painting will be displayed at the BCHF saleable table (at the corner of Mulberry and Radcliffe Streets) on HBD and you might win it if you buy a raffle ticket for \$1 or 6 for \$5. The winning ticket will be drawn immediately after HBD ends. You don't have to be present to win

12th Annual Bristol Day Car Show Returns

Get ready to take a trip back in time. Stop by the 12th Annual Bristol Day Car Show on Historic Bristol Day at Snyder-Girotti School. The show starts at 10 AM with car registration beginning at 9 AM. The registration fee for participants is \$15 for one or multiple cars. There is no admission fee for attendees.

Enjoy the beauty of the antique and classic cars on display and vote for your favorite with your cell phone. New this year . . . you can simply scan the QR code on the dash plaque of your two favorites and vote. Paper ballots will still be available for anyone who does not have a cell phone.

Enjoy a sausage and pepper sandwich or hotdog

for lunch provided by the Bristol High Drama Club. There will be indoor seating.

At 3 PM King George gift certificate winners will be drawn; best of show and people's choice trophies will be awarded and a police led cruise through town will begin. We will bring the show to the people! This has become a very popular feature of our shows.

The Bristol Day shuttle bus stops at the car show. The last stop of the mural tour bus is at the school so you could stay and enjoy the show, have lunch and catch the next shuttle bus to the other activities on Bristol Day.

Brooklyn Lights Tour

Space is going fast on our December 7 bus trip to Brooklyn where we'll view the elaborate Christmas decorations on homes in the Dyker Heights, Bay Ridge and Bensonhurst sections, preceded by a full-course dinner at Tommaso's popular restaurant. This tour was featured on TLC's "Crazy Christmas Lights."

The trip requires getting on and off the bus several times and walking through the decorated streets. The bus will leave from the Grundy Recreation Center on Beaver Street at 1:30 p.m. and return at approximately 10 p.m. The all-inclusive cost is \$169 for BCHF members and \$172 for non-members. Details are on BCHF's website at www.bristolhistory.org. For a flyer/reservation form, contact Debbie Pinney at 215-788-7537.

please
join us
Artists
for Historic Bristol Day 2023
at **GRUNDY MUSEUM**
The Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Museum
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023
10 am until 4 pm
Rain or Shine
Free Shuttle Service
Radcliffe Street & Riverfront Park
Bristol Borough, PA

Artists of Bristol
ON THE DELAWARE

GRUNDY LIBRARY
The Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Library



Michael C. Harris and the Philadelphia Campaign

BCHF and the Grundy library partnered on August 22 to host author Michael C. Harris who discussed his latest addition to the literature of the Revolutionary War “The Philadelphia Campaign, 1777-78”. Mr. Harris’s study relied on primary source material and a comprehensive understanding of the region and events that led to the capture of Philadelphia by the British. Mr. Harris’s energetic and engaging presentation style had us sitting on the edge of our seats as he described how the British General Howe outmaneuvered Washington and marched into the revolutionary capital. Based on the description of the battles in this area, it was amazing to us that the colonists won the war at all. In fact, it was Howe’s decision to move his troops south to Philadelphia, leaving the British under-manned in the New York area, that eventually led to the French American alliance and the British losing the war.

The Year is 1853 *by Harold Mitchener*

Franklin Peirce was the President of the United States, William Bigler was the governor of Pennsylvania and William Kinsey (221 Radcliffe) was the Burgess (mayor) of Bristol.

William Bache, a relative of Benjamin Franklin, lived in Bristol and described the area.

“The area surrounding the Borough was farmland. The Landreth seed farm came to Bristol area from Philadelphia in 1847 and located out of town at Bloomsdale (now Green Lane) and Radcliffe Street. Horse and wagon was the main way to travel in the town or walking was also very good. The town was small then. The Canal went from Easton to Bristol bringing Anthracite Coal for burning in the homes etc. There were two schools in Bristol. The original school on Wood Street, erected in 1837, and Otter Street School, erected in 1852. The Town Hall was in the middle of Market street facing Radcliffe Street.”

This is what Bache had to say about the business and industry of the Borough.

“Mill Street was the main street for a variety of stores. There were twelve retail stores for groceries and provisions, clothing, housekeeping articles, dry goods, two fancy dry goods and trimming stores, two leather and shoe-making stores, three tin and sheet iron manufacturing stores, three millinery and two tailoring stores, three harness makers, three boot and show makers, a grain and saw mill, two hat makers, one smith shop, three drug and medicine stores, two tobacco shops, one soap and candle shop, one cabinet ware maker, one printing shop, a watch maker and jeweler, two bakers, and a public house.”

“On Radcliffe Street was the King George Inn established in 1681. Four general stores, one millinery shop, one ladies’ shoe store, a confectionary, two public houses and a boat yard. Plus there were some private homes.”

“Bath Street had mostly private houses. On the upper side was a property where there was room for landings for canal barges. There were also two lumber and coal

yards and they had access to Bath Street.”

“Cedar Street had a small grocery store, one blacksmith shop, one wheelwright shop, and a livery stable.”

“Wood Street had two small grocery shops, an iron foundry, a ladies shoe shop, a blacksmith shop and a paint shop.”

“Market Street had a blacksmith shop, a paint shop, a cooper (barrel maker), a ladies shoe store and two livery stables.”

“At Mulberry and Pond Street was the Hibbs, Fry and Co. machine shops for the making of clover hullers and cleaners. Jonathan Hibbs, one of the partners, invented and patented this machine. Also on Mulberry street was a cradle making shop.”

“Walnut Street had several boot and shoe makers.”

“Buckley Street was the home of Strang and Morgan malleable iron and tile hammer works. There also was a business of rope making.”

Otter Street had one wheelwright shop and a small grocery plus houses.”

“Linden Street had a coach maker, wheelwright, blacksmith, painting and coach trimming shop.”

Churches at that time were: Society of Friends (Quaker) 1711, Episcopal 1712, Methodist 1788, St. Mark Catholic Church 1845, Baptist 1850), African American Methodist Church 1845, and the Presbyterian Church 1846.

In the average home there were only outhouses and water for inside use was pumped from a well. Heat for houses was by burning coal and there was no air conditioning. People enjoyed life and our democracy survived. They didn’t have to go to a gym to keep in shape - - their daily activity did that.

Sources: *History of Bristol 1911* by Doron Green, *Images of America - Bristol* by Harold and Carol Mitchener, and William Bache who is thanked for his excellent work. Information was also sourced on the internet.

Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from **October 1923** issues of THE BRISTOL COURIER.

10/1 – HARRIMAN CHURCH TO HAVE A RADIO SERVICE. Yesterday, attendance at the Sunday School of the Harriman Community Church, undenominational, was 85. The total enrollment is now given as 111. On Sunday, October 14, a complete radio service will be given at 7:30 in the evening. This will inaugurate the holding of evening services.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE WILL HOLD FIRST MEETING. Tomorrow afternoon at 3:30, the first meeting of the season of the Bristol League of Women Voters will be held in the Wood Street School building.

"Messenger Service between Bristol and Philadelphia. H. E. BENNETT, 139 Otter Street. At home until 8:30 A.M. and after 1:30 P.M."

"FOR SALE. Four and six room houses. New, all conveniences. Small cash payment, balance B.&L. mortgage. Prices \$2,000 up. Carrying charge \$22 month up. Eastburn and Blanche, 118 Mill Street."

10/2 – OVER 4,688 VOTERS REGISTERED NOW IN BRISTOL BOROUGH. A Total of 45,612 Men and Women Qualified to Cast Ballots in November. Bristol Twp. Has 1,373.

LEGION TO FORM NEW "40 AND 8 SOCIETY" HERE. The Robert W. Bracken Post is taking the lead in Bucks County in organizing a Vulture of the "40 and 8 Society," the playground of the Legion. Only one Vulture is allowed to a county.

"FORD Reduces Prices. Announcing the lowest prices in the history of the Ford Motor Company. Effective October 2, 1923. Touring Car, Plain - \$295. Coupe - \$525. 4-Door Sedan - \$685. Tractor - \$420. Runabout, Plain - \$265. These cars can be obtained through the Ford weekly purchase plan. THOMAS A. COLLIER, Otter Street."

10/3 – SCHOOLS GREATLY CONGESTED HERE; ENROLLMENT BIG. Board Confronted the Necessity of Providing More Room. Need More Teachers. Will Change Time of Sessions at the High School Building. The Board remained in session last evening until 10:30 o'clock and finally decided, after making the changes suggested, to let the situation remain as it is for the balance of the school year and, at the same time, to carefully study the problems which will present themselves next year.

"Keep Looking Your Best! Clothes that are custom tailored – carefully made – require fewer trips to the tailor shop than garments that are ready made. Our price for suit or overcoat - \$26.50. TRAYMORE TAILOR CO., 205 Wood Street, near Market."

10/4 – METHODISTS HERE WILL OBSERVE THE 135 TH ANNIVERSARY. Methodism First Started Here by Organization of a Class of Converts. Celebration Planned for One Week, Beginning October 21st, in the Church.

10/6 – NEW POTTERY HERE TO START WORK IN ABOUT THREE MONTHS. In about three months, it is expected that the new pottery being established here will begin operations, according to J. Amisson, of the J. Amisson and Sons Pottery Company of Philadelphia, who is head of the new concern being established here. The pottery is to be located at 2421 Wilson Avenue. One of the large dormitory buildings, used in the shipyard days to house workers, has been purchased.

PLANS TO ERECT SEVERAL HOUSES ON LAND TRACT. Another Big Realty Development for Bristol. This latest development will take place at South Bristol and will be on the tract opposite the Bristol Cemetery, on Newportville Road, just off

the Bristol Pike. The houses currently standing on that tract will be knocked down and brought to Bristol and re-erected.

10/12 – MOTHERS CLUB IS FORMED AT MEETING IN HIGH SCHOOL. About 50 mothers of students attending the high school met yesterday afternoon and formed a Mothers Club. The only permanent officer selected was Mrs. Asa Fabian, who was made permanent chairman.

"Candy Today, Tomorrow, October 13th. Bristol Confectionery. The Candy of Excellence. You are invited to inspect our line of home-made chocolates and cream caramels. Peanut Brittle, Special for the Week-End, 25c Lb. PAPPAJIAN'S, 207 Mill Street."

"Bristol Merchants' Sales Week. October 8 to 13. Unqualified Bargains in Every Department, with the Compliments of the Advertisers to the 7,000 Readers of The Courier."

10/13 – MERCHANTS PLAN ELABORATE CARNIVAL FOR THREE NIGHTS; WILL AWARD MANY PRIZES. Residents of All Lower Bucks County Invited to Join Festivities. October 29, 30 and 31 are the dates on which the merchants of Mill Street are going to stage their first annual Hallowe'en Frolic.

10/17 – BUSINESS MEN HERE TO START LAUNDRY. Local business men have organized a company to operate a laundry here. The company, which will be known as the Bristol Damp Wash Laundry, has taken over the loft building at the foot of Pond Street, below Mill. The men interested in the company are A. Popkin, shoe dealer, I. Sirott, wholesale candy merchant, and Benjamin Kiver, formerly with the Frankford Laundry. 24-hour service is contemplated.

10/18 – NEW EATING PLACE OPENS ON MILL STREET. Bristol's metropolis, Mill Street, is to have another eating place. The Strutte Inn opens for business tomorrow in the new Girton Building, 302 Mill Street. The venture is backed by Bristol people. Service will be on the a la carte plan, steaks, chops, and quick lunch orders prevailing.

"AMERICAN STORES CO., 217 Buckley, 110 Mill, 305 Washington, Pond and Lincoln Ave.....Rinso – 5c small pkg., 20c big pkg. Victor Bread – 5c big loaf. Asco Coffee – 29c lb. Meat Specials for Week End! Little Pig Roasting Hans – 22c lb. Milk Fed Country Veal – Shoulders 15c lb., Rack 32c lb. Whole Cuts Chuck Roast – 15c lb."

10/25 – HOPKINS LODGE OBSERVES ITS 80 TH ANNIVERSARY HERE. Last night, Hopkins Lodge, No. 87, I.O.O.F., celebrated the 80 th anniversary of the institution of that organization. There was a social and smoker.

"HELP WANTED – MALE. Ambitious boy. One over 16 years of age who does not need a manager and 3 assistants to keep him busy. Apply at McCrory's 5 and 10 Cent Store."

10/27 – MISS JANE FERRY JUDGED QUEEN OF THE FROLIC HERE. Miss Jane Ferry, of Bristol, representing American Hose, Hook & Ladder Company, No. 2, was chosen as Queen of The Frolic last night in a beauty contest conducted under the auspices of the Mill Street Business Men's Association.

10/31 – PARADE OF BOTH CHILDREN AND ADULTS IN COSTUME WILL BE HELD TONIGHT. Baby Parade Attracts Crowd to Mill Street Yesterday Afternoon.

TROLLEY SERVICE TO DOYLESTOWN STOPS AT MID-NIGHT HERE. Doylestown-Bristol Route Out of Existence Today. Buses Will Run. Motor Service to Start Tomorrow under Public Service Ruling.



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BCHF Calendar of Events For 2023

OCTOBER. Sat., 10/21, 10 AM to 4 PM. 47th Historic Bristol Day, featuring house tour & Tea, cruises on the Schooner North Wind, mural arts tour, crafters & vendors, car & antique boat show, entertainment, food court, children's activities, walking tour, archaeological dig, free shuttle service and more, Ticket required for house tour & Tea; schooner reservations at

<https://fareharbor.com/embeds/book/northwindsail/items/407978/calendar/2023/10/>

NOVEMBER. Wed., 11/15, 7:30 PM. BCHF's annual meeting at BCHF headquarters. Presentation by Mary Ellyn Kunz, Education Coordinator at the Grundy Museum, entitled "The African-American Presence at Pennsbury Manor: Reconstructing Individual Stories." Light refreshment. The public is cordially invited. No fee.

NOVEMBER. Tues., 11/21, 7 PM. Presentation by long-term member of the Titanic Historical Society and respected Titanic historian David Kaplan. Light refresh-

ment. BCHF headquarters. Donation to the FUMC Food Pantry of sanitary products, toilet paper, paper towels, dish or laundry detergent, etc., greatly appreciated. Reservations at 215-788-9408 beginning November 7.

DECEMBER. Thurs., 12/7. Bus trip to "The Original Christmas Lights Tour" featuring elaborately-decorated homes in the Dyker Heights, Bay Ridge and Bensonhurst sections of Brooklyn. Full-course dinner at Tommaso's in Brooklyn. \$169 for BCHF members; \$172 for non-members. Call 215-788-7537 for flyer/reservation form.

- BCHF Headquarters are at 321 Cedar Street, Bristol.

- For current information about activities and events, check out our web site at www.bristolhistory.org.

- Follow us on Instagram - - [IG@bristol_historic_foundation](https://www.instagram.com/IG@bristol_historic_foundation)

BCHF Headquarters are at 321 Cedar Street, Bristol.

For current information about activities and events, check out our web site 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. - Nancy Maren, Editor
Post Office Box 215 • Bristol • Pennsylvania • 19007 • 215 781-9895
Articles for this issue of *THE GAZETTE* were contributed by: Debbie Pinney, Mary Gesualdi, Nick Rizzo, Mark Gesualdi, Jan Ruano, Helen Younglove and Harold Mitchener