



# The Gazette



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

VOL. 43

Sponsoring Historic Bristol Day—Third Saturday of Each October

No. 7

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

SEPTEMBER 2025

## President's Corner

Dear Members,

The BCHF is hard at work planning future events and maintenance at the Cedar Street headquarters building and grounds. We hope everyone is having a great summer. Thank you to everyone that attended our Peach Social Event to help raise scholarship funds for high school students. We are having our next Historic Bristol Day Planning Meeting on August 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. If interested in volunteering for Historic Bristol Day, please email

[bchf2157819895@gmail.com](mailto:bchf2157819895@gmail.com).

Over the years, improvements and repairs are needed at the Cedar Street headquarters building and grounds. Two large trees cover the rear of the BCHF property. One of the trees overhangs the powerlines on Wilson Street. The foundation board approved cutting down of the two trees due to safety concerns. John Pond's Tree Service will be removing the two trees in early October. The large oak tree on our property is not being cut down.

We are looking forward to fall events and cooler weather. The BCHF looks forward to seeing everyone at future events.

*Jesse Walker*

### **Strike up the Band**

The BCHF Bristol Community Band

is playing on Sunday 2:00 PM, September 21.

Don't miss it!

# Bristol Cultural & Historical Foundation

## Last call for contributions for Bristol Day - please help!!

Dear Friend of BCHF:

The 49<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Sincerely,

*Nicholas A Rizzo*

Nicholas A. Rizzo

Bristol Day Fundraising Chair

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

Name as it is to appear in acknowledgement:

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

## The Peach Social – A Summer Tradition



On Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, people gathered at our headquarters to enjoy the 31<sup>st</sup> annual Peach Social. The sun was shining, and the humidity was low so that some chose to sit out under the elm tree while others gathered with their friends around tables in the comfort of the air-conditioned building. Still others got their orders to go. In all cases, everyone was treated to Angel Food cake topped with a mound of sliced peaches and French vanilla ice cream. To add to the pleasure, people could purchase peachy home baked goods and peach jam donated by our members.

Earlier in the day, volunteers sat around paper covered tables to peel and slice over one hundred pounds of gorgeous peaches that we got from a New Jersey farm and orchard (Russo's Farm in Tabernacle). We chatted and enjoyed each other's company while we prepared for the social. After peeling, we enjoyed coffee and treats. It was an old-fashioned community collaboration.

The social was a resounding success, and we raised a significant amount of money toward covering the costs of the monetary awards we give to graduating Bristol High School seniors every year. All of this was possible because of all the people who volunteered to publicize the event, retrieve the peaches, prepare the peaches, donate baked goods and jam, work at the event, and clean up afterwards. We are very grateful to all these volunteers and to all the people who attended the function and to those who generously donated money. Thank you.



## 2025 B.C.H.F. Membership

The following individuals, families and businesses have joined the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation as members for the year 2025. If your name does not appear below, and you would like to continue to support the work of the Foundation, you may join now using the coupon at the bottom of this page or go online at [www.bristolhistory.org](http://www.bristolhistory.org).

Acevedo, Jose L.	Esposito, Anthony	Lorenzini, Nikki	Sampsel, Mr. & Mrs. Charles
Angermann, Russell & Pauline	Esposito, Fidel	Luthran, Gary	Saxton, Debbie Bidlingmaier /Dottie
Antonelli, Suzanne	Esposito, Pat	Maguire, JoAnne	Schneider, JoAnna
Antonelli, Mary	Fallen, Alexis	Mancuso, Cynthia A.	Schroeder, Gretchen
Arhipov, Irene	Feole, Marie	Marcella, Ron	Seacrist, Gloria L.
Austin, Kitsie Saldan & Nonnie	Flacco, Pauline	Maren, Nancy	Serfass, Carole
Barniskis, Andy & Kathy	Foxall, John	Marino, Roberta	Severi, Thomas & Catherine
Bartoldus, Sarah	Funk, Barbara M.	McDevitt, Jim & Diane	Shively, Marie
Bigelow, Philip	Gadsby, Pamela	McGlynn, Dave	Sims, Colleen
Black, Sam & Dorothy	Gentert, Regina	McHugh, Alison	Sleppy, Margaret
Bosco, Patricia A. & Frank	Gesualdi, Mary, Mark & Christina	McKairnes, Diane	Smith, Alyssa O'Brian & Sean
Brown, Nancy	Gilardi, Joseph M.	Mervine, Patricia	Smoyer, Joyce & Howard
Buchanan, Pat	Graff, Ceil	Mitchener, Dorothy	Stallone, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph
Burgess, Deborah	Gregory, Gene & Barbara	Mitchener, Harold	Stoneback, Alan C.
Burke, Kathleen	Halpert, Elisabeth	Mooney, Fr. Dennis	Strippoli, Rose Marie
Burton, John & Jean	Halpert, Stephen	Moore, Paul & Donna	Swift, Paul & Veronica
Butrey, Frank & Robin	Harris, David & Jeanne	Morici, Mary Jane & Isadore	Tomlinson, Kay
Carey, Frank & Darlene	Harvie, Andrea	Morong, John Jr.	Tosti, Robert & Elizabeth
Carrello, Arlene E.	Helicke, Darlene	Moyer, Jennifer	Tosti, Elaine
Cassmirri, Dawn	Hermely, Alan & Patricia	Mulhern, Patrick & Family	VanBuren, Jeannine
Cattani, Bill & Rose	Heron, Donna B.	Nelson, Barbara	VanCleve, Sherry
Cianciosi, Gioia Maria	Hodges, Nancy	O'Neill, Carol	Vasey, Regina
Clements, Nelson & Ann	Hodgkinson, John	Paleafico, Mike & Virginia	Vertucio, Raquel
Clifford, Virginia	Hodgkinson, John	Paone, Mary Jane	Walker, Jesse
Cook, Stephen	Hoffman, Lorraine	Pavone, Phyllis	Walker-Mancini, Gerri
Cordek, Joan	Howley, Beverly	Pinney Deborah F.	Walp, Anne
Cordisco, Vincent & Alice	Hufnell, Francis J.	Pliszka, Margie	Watkins, Bill & Sue
Costsantini, Eugene	Hullings, Dr. Joanne	Porter, Arnold	White, Pauline
Cox, Susan	Ifkovitz, Evelyn	Quattrocchi, Philomena	White, Carl & Bonnie
Croquez, Stephanie	Jones, Michele	Rachin, Susan	Wiegand, Vernon Jr.
Crossan, Michael	Kehoe, Mary	Raines, Johanna	Worthington, Ken & Lisa
Crossan, Ed & Marie	King, Clarence	Rarick, Bettie Ann	Wright, Chris
Curran, Brianna Maura	Kirby, Rose Marie	Ratini, Angelo & Melinda	Younglove, Helen
D'Agostino, Mary Jo	Kline, Jerry & Sharon	Raupp, Cathy	
D'Emidio, Joseph & Jeanne	Kline, Jerry & Sharon	Raymond, Helen B.	
Dailey, Amy	Krull, Angelene	Rhodes, Janice	<i>Business and Community Members</i>
Daniel, Larry	Lalli, Albert & Sharon	Riccio, Denise	Grundy Foundation
Davidson, Diane	Lalli, Thybet	Riccio, Nancy	Harris Comfort
Delaney, Ellanna L.	Landreth, Mary Swain	Rizzo, Nicholas A.	Mignoni Jewelry
Doyle, Bob & Nancy	Larisey, Joe & Anna	Rowan, Linda	St. Mark Catholic Church
Dugan, Joseph	Larzelere, Jane B.	Ruano, Jeanette	
Dunning, Bernardine	Lau, Richard	Russell, Keith T.	
Ennis, Mary Ann	Lebo, Luz	Russo, Anthony & Margaret	
	Ligato, Eva	Salapka, George & Lynn	
	Ligato, Suzanne J.		

## 2025 Membership Form

2025 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.    Mail to: B.C.H.F., P.O. Box 215, Bristol, PA 19007*

## TWO BY LAND & TWO BY SEA

On Wednesday, October 1, we're off by bus for a guided tour of Eckley Miners' Village in Weatherly, PA, followed by a three-course lunch at the Inn at Jim Thorpe and some free time. Visiting Eckley is like stepping back into the gritty, yet fascinating, world of 19th-century anthracite coal mining. The site is now run as a museum, with an indoor and outdoor component, by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Buildings that are part of the museum include: the Immaculate Conception Church (1861), three "slate pickers' houses" (1854), larger laborers' dwellings (1854), St. James Episcopal Church (1859), mine bosses' houses (1860), and the doctor's office (1874). "The Molly Maguires," a 1970 film, was filmed in Eckley and resulted in the town's being saved from demolition. The all-inclusive cost is \$128 for BCHF members; \$138 for non-members. Reservation deadline is Wednesday, **Sept.10**; call Jan Ruano, 215-788-2106, or print the reservation form from BCHF's website, [www.bristolhistory.org](http://www.bristolhistory.org)



Next up is a bus trip on Thursday, December 4, to Tarrytown, NJ, for a tour and hot buffet luncheon at the magnificent Lyndhurst Mansion, which will be all decked out in holiday splendor. USA Today described it as one of the "Ten Best Historic Holiday Tours." The mansion sits on its own 67-acre park beside the Hudson River, and is one of America's finest Gothic Revival mansions. The all-inclusive cost is \$158 for BCHF members; \$168 for non-members. Reservation deadline is **Friday, Oct. 31**, unless sold out prior. Contact Deborah Pinney at 215-788-7537 or print the reservation form from BCHF's website, [www.bristolhistory.org](http://www.bristolhistory.org).



### And now out to sea!

Sail **from Philadelphia** on Norwegian Cruise Line's "Norwegian Jewel," to Bermuda and Charleston, April 30-May 7, 2026. Rates per person, double occupancy, range from \$1,710 to \$2,283 and include several perks. A Passport is required. An initial deposit of \$350 pp double or \$700 pp single is required to secure reservations and assign cabins. Final payment is due by **November 28**. For a detailed flyer, call Helen Younglove at 215-788-9408 or print it from BCHF's website, <http://www.bristolhistory.org>. For reservations, contact Grand American Tours in Morton, PA, at 800-423-0247

### "WAS THE DECK STACKED AGAINST HIM?"

When Titanic historian David Kaplan takes the stage at BCHF headquarters on the evening of November 25, that will be the title of his presentation. He will take us from Captain Edward J. Smith's boyhood home in Hanley, England, to his final day onboard the Titanic

Circle your calendar for Tuesday, November 25, at 7 p.m., to hear the full story.

## A Faithful Head Nurse: Florence Ritchie

By Harold Mitchener

She worked in the "Private Hospital" of Dr. J. Fred Wagner

Florence lived at 405 Jefferson Avenue as an adult.

The family home was at 560 Swain St. Her father and sister and brother-in-law Anna and Jim Hughes lived there.

The building originally belonged to the Slack family. It was located at the corner of Radcliffe and Franklin Streets. Dr. J. Fred Wagner and his wife Jennie used it for their home. They decided to make it a private hospital. It would be the first private hospital in Bristol Borough.

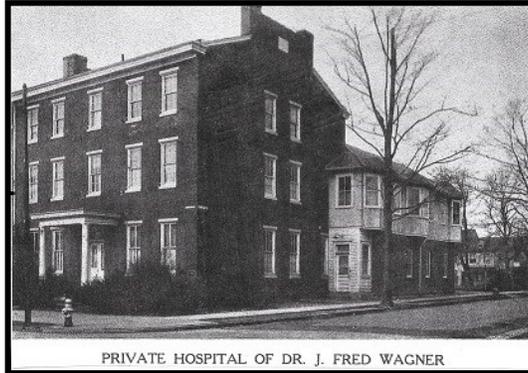
Wagner was a veteran of World War I. He was commissioned a Major in November 1918. Wagner had fought in the Argonne Forest.

Dr. Wagner decided to close the hospital in 1945 and moved to Connecticut. He asked Florence Ritchie to move to Connecticut to care for him in his declining years. While Florence was in Connecticut she met, a man and they were married.

When Dr. Wagner died, his body was brought to Bristol and interred in the Friends (Quaker) cemetery along Wood Street in 1946.

Florence his head nurse was in Bristol for the funeral and returned to Connecticut with her husband.

A hospital was built in Harriman on Wilson Avenue which was for the Shipyard along the Delaware River. In 1923 Harriman became a part of Bristol Borough.



The former Wagner hospital is presently an apartment building.

Bristol has no hospital in the borough at the present time. The closest hospital is Lower Bucks Hospital in Bristol Township on Bath Road opposite Silver Lake Park.

Florence Ritchie was a faithful head nurse.

Sources:

Old Homes on Radcliffe Street Bristol Pennsylvania by Doron Green – 1938

Images of America: Bristol by Harold and Carol Mitchener – 2000.

Margaret R. Grundy Library History Collection.

This writer's personal memory.

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## CAR & BOAT SHOW A HUGE SUCCESS

by Mark Gesualdi

The 4th Annual Mahogany and Steel Boat & Car Show was moved to the rain date of Sunday, June 1, and the weather was beautiful. 110 Cars and 12 pristine boats participated. There was a steady flow of attendees enjoying the show and voting for their favorite antique and classic car. A beautiful 1947 Bentley Mark VI, owned by April Berkin, won the Best of Show trophy.

**The People's Choice trophies for Classics were awarded to:**

1st place - 2003 Corvette 50th Anniversary Model owned by Dan Marino

2nd place - 2023 Ford Mustang Mach 1 owned by Walt Rhoades

3rd place - 2021 Jeep W Rangler owned by Fred Cullen

**The People's Choice trophies for Antiques went to**

1st place - 1972 Chevy Nova.  
owned by John Sansores

2nd place - 1955 Chevy Truck 3100 series  
owned by Joe Brendau

3rd place - 1965 Pontiac GTO  
owned by Ed Kuzma, Jr.

**NEXT UP! BCHF's 14th Annual Car Show at Snyder-Girotti School on Historic Bristol Day, Saturday, October 18.**

See website at [bristoldaycarshow.com](http://bristoldaycarshow.com)

## OUT OF THE PAST

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

**September 1** – School opened for the 1925-26 school year with a record number of students.

**September 2** – At the regular meeting of the school Board they discussed the overcrowding at the Wood St. school and the high school. The voters will decide the issue of high school expansion in November.

Also at that meeting Dr. George T. Fox offered Harri-man Hospital and physicians for surgery to remove tonsils and adenoids for a number of students.

A booze shipment via railroad was found in the yard of the Eddington Lumber and Supply Co. The rail car was supposed to be a shipment of asbestos roofing. Railroad detectives and prohibition men flocked to the scene.

**September 3** – The Shenandoah, a giant dirigible, broke in two and crashed while flying over Ohio in a big storm with 13 killed and 19 injured.

American Store on Farragut Ave. advertised Butter @ 55¢/ lb., Coffee @ 42¢/lb., Sirloin Steak 50¢/lb.

**September 4** – Bristol School District received \$10,377 as its share of the state school appropriation. Funds go toward teacher salaries.

Philadelphia Suburban Gas and Electric Co. advertised: Receive \$1 for any old iron. September 10<sup>th</sup> is the last day to trade in your old iron on a “Wrinkle Proof Universal Iron”, The iron with a switch to turn on or off. Price is \$6.75 less the dollar for your old iron.

**September 5** – St. Ann’s new Parochial School located on Logan St to be dedicated on Mon. Sept. 7. There are 8 classrooms measuring 22 Ft. X 34 Ft. with seating for 50 pupils per room. De-signed and built by Angelo Di Renzo.

**September 8** – New Colonial Theatre grand re-opening tonight featuring Tom Mix in *Riders of the Purple Sage* based on Zane Grey’s novel. Adults 15¢, children 10¢.

**September 9** – Pennsylvania Rail Road offers a One Day excursion to the Delaware Water Gap and Stroudsburg from Bristol on Sun. Sept. 13 Cost \$3.00 round trip.

**September 10** - Women’s Christian Temperance Union to hold a convention in their hall in Dolington on Sat. Sept. 12.

**September 11** – Dries Furniture Store: French Walnut 10-Piece Dining Room Suite on Sale - \$145.00, regularly \$275.00. Cash or Credit.

**September 14** – Thieves broke into St. Charles Church in Cornwells and stole from the poor boxes and took candlesticks. Much damage was done.

**September 15** – Primary Election for local offices held today. A large turnout is expected. 800 voted shortly before noon.

Lucky Strike Cigarettes advertised – Win more friends-- 50 Lucky Strikes Tax Free. Regular price 40¢.

**September 19** – Navy speed king, Lieutenant Williams, breaks all records – flying 5 miles a minute. This plane will be flown in the air races on Long Island Oct. 8 -10.

Many scenes are being filmed for a local movie. The film “*Who’s Who & What’s What*” in Bristol will feature: Amisson and Sons Potteries and the T. B. Harkin Foundry.

**September 21** – Historians gathered Sat and Sun. to take part in ceremonies and dedication of 2 more markers place along the famous Indian Walk of a day and a half from Wrightstown to near Mauch Chunk in Carbon County. PA Historical Commission and Northampton County Historic and Genealogical Society place these signs.

**September 22** – Grange exhibit to feature County Fair. Cash prizes will be offered for the best exhibits.

Dedication of the new school at Beaver and Spring St. in the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward will be held on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>. The building is a gift from Mr. Angelo DiRenzo and the ground by Mr. Joseph Grundy.

**September 29** – A petition is circulating to divide the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward into 2 precincts. East of Garfield St. will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Precinct and West of Garfield will be the 1<sup>st</sup>.



**Bristol Cultural &  
Historical Foundation, Inc.**  
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Bristol, PA 19007

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**SEPTEMBER.** Sunday, 9/21, 2 PM at BCHF headquarters. Concert by The BCHF Bristol Community Band. A donation of \$5 per adult attendee is suggested.

**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. 49th Historic Bristol Day.

**OCTOBER.** 10/29-11/9. "Antiquity to Anatolia" cruise aboard Oceania Cruises' "Oceania Vista," sailing from Rome and visiting Cinque Terre, Naples/Pompeii, and Taormina (Sicily), Italy; Cephalonia, Katakolon and Athens, Greece; Ephesus and Istanbul, Turkey. Rates pp, double occupancy, **incl. round-trip airfare from Phila.**, range from \$6,150 to \$6,850. Several perks

available. Call 215-788-9408 for flyer.

**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.

**NOVEMBER.** Tues., 11/25, 7 PM at BCHF headquarters. Return of Titanic historian David Kaplan with a talk entitled, "Captain Smith: Was the Deck Stacked against Him?". Donations to the FUMC Food Pantry of Bristol will be greatly appreciated.

**DECEMBER.** Thurs., 12/4. Bus trip to the Lyndhurst Mansion in Tarrytown, NY, with a hot buffet luncheon in one of the mansion's private rooms. \$158 for BCHF members; \$168 for non-members.

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BCHF Headquarters are at 321 Cedar Street, Bristol.

For current information about activities and events, check our website 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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THE GAZETTE is a publication of the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Inc. — Linda Rowan, Editor

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