



The Gazette



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

VOL 41
No. 6

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

JUNE 2023

President's Corner

What to do this summer at BCHF

There's no Gazette in July and August but that doesn't mean there's nothing to do. This summer, there's lots to do at BCHF.

If you enjoy history and attending our lecture series, we'll be having two presentations this summer. On Sunday, June 4th at 2 PM, Carol Simon Levin will be portraying Emily Warren Roebling who was a socialite, businesswoman, and chief engineer of the Brooklyn Bridge (1869-1883). Mrs. Roebling was the first female field engineer and later in life, an active supporter of women's causes. Ms. Levin's presentation is entitled "Bridge Builder in Petticoats". On Tuesday, August 22 at 7 PM, in collaboration with the Grundy Library, BCHF will host Michael C. Harris who will be discussing his latest book, *The Philadelphia Campaign 1777-78*. In 1777, the British general, William Howe, led his army in a campaign that resulted in the British capture of Philadelphia. Although Howe captured the American capital, the events of Howe's 1777 campaign ultimately led to America's victory in the Revolutionary War.

If car shows are up your alley, we'll be having 3 this summer! On Wednesday, June 7 and August 16 from 5 to 8, cars of every type will be displayed in the parking lot behind Mill Street followed by a police led "car cruise" down Radcliffe Street to the corner of Radcliffe Street and Green Lane. There will be lots to see, the company of other automobile enthusiasts, and food sold by the Bristol High Drama Club and local restaurants. Rain dates are June 14 and August 23. Again, this year, we'll be co-sponsoring the spectacular "Mahogany & Steel Car & Boat Show on the Delaware" on Saturday July 15 (Sunday July 16 in case of rain) from 10 to 4. This is an event that can be enjoyed by the whole family. There will be all types of beautifully engineered and maintained cars as well as antique and classic boats. In addition to the beautiful

cars and boats, there will be shops and restaurants to visit and the chance for a ride on an old-fashioned speedboat.

For something a little old-fashioned but always delicious, join us at our headquarters at 321 Cedar Street for our 29th annual Peach Social on Sunday August 13 from 2-4. As always, we'll be serving New Jersey peaches over Angel Food cake topped with hand scooped vanilla ice cream. We'll have a takeout format again this year so you can take your treat home or eat it at tables in our air-conditioned building or under the elm trees in our side yard. To make the event extra-special, the Bracken Cavaliers Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps will be playing a selection of tunes. Take a break from the hustle and bustle of our high-tech times, step back into the past, and enjoy a Sunday treat.

For those who want a day long getaway, consider taking a narrated cruise on a paddlewheel riverboat, the "River Lady", on Tom's River and Barnegat Bay on Tuesday, August 22. You'll enjoy a 3-course lunch and later be able to enjoy a stroll along the boardwalk in Asbury Park, NJ. Reservations need to be made by June 15.

Please join us for some, or all, of these events, and enjoy your summer!

Take a look at the calendar on the back of this issue or our website (bristolhistory.org) for more details.

On behalf of BCHF, I'd like to say goodbye to one of our very valuable board members, Kathy Barniskis. Kathy has stepped down from the board after many years of dedication to BCHF. We'll miss her but we are thankful for her time and effort and wish her the best. Jan Ruano has written a lovely tribute to Kathy that you can read in this issue.

Debbie Pinney, President

List of 2023 members in this issue. If you do not see your name listed, you can send in your membership dues now. See form on Page 3.

Cruise the River on Bristol Day

We are excited to announce that the *North Wind*, a 75-foot schooner, will be making a return visit to our beautiful wharf for the 47th Historic Bristol Day, Saturday, October 21, 2023. There will be four one-hour Delaware River cruises. It was such a huge success last year, that they sold out. If you'd like to enjoy a sail, go to this link and reserve your spot. Adults \$25 / Children (12 and under) \$10

<https://fareharbor.com/embeds/book/north-windsail/items/407978/calendar/2023/10/>

Mary Gesualdi and Nick Rizzo (HBD Co-chairs)



Kathy Barniskis

Our longtime Board Member, Kathy Barniskis has recently retired from The Board of Directors and from the chairmanship of the Ways and Means Committee. Kathy has filled many roles in her tenure with BCHF. She chaired the Ways and Means Committee for fifteen years, taking over after Helen Younglove retired from the chairmanship. Kathy was always on site making sure everything was organized for the many programs we held. She oversaw all saleable items, keeping them neatly organized at the center.

She also organized our participation at the ethnic events held in town, making sure all our saleable table items were in place and then stored after the event. She and her husband Andy would make sure things were transported to and from the event.

Kathy always encouraged new people to join our committee. This writer is one of many she successfully recruited.

Kathy organized the Spring Tea to the delight of all that attended. She took over the chair of this event after Carol Mitchener was no longer able to do so. Each year there would be a different theme. The decorations she arranged always reflected that year's theme.

Kathy chaired Historic Bristol Day two times. She was responsible for the very popular trolley ride we had one of those years.

All her hard work and dedication was and is greatly appreciated. She has left a very positive impact on our organization. Her leadership will be greatly missed.

2023 Annual Tea

The "Art of Tea," theme of this year's annual tea showcased artwork from the Artist of Bristol. Also this year we returned to our ladies making the tea sandwiches and beautiful desserts as Carol Mitchener had done for many, many years. Gathering together to plan and prepare for the tea was as enjoyable as watching our guests enjoy our efforts,

Tables were set with matching springtime settings, spirit-filled centerpieces, and mint-filled favors. Our traditional scones were again provided by Leeann Reitter. Background music was provided by Francis Danis.

The event received many compliments, with promises to return next year.



2023 B.C.H.F. Membership

The following individuals, families and businesses have joined the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation as members for the year 2023. 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. Additional members will be noted in our September newsletter.

Jose L. Acevedo	Barbara M. Funk	Marguerite McCay	Gloria L. Seacrist
Jane B. Adams-Martin	Pamela Gadsby	Jacqueline Marish	Sean Smith
Michael Albertson	Regina Gentert	Jane Sutton	Dr. Thomas F. Shaffer
Russell & Pauline Angermann	Mary & Mark Gesualdi	Donald & Donna McCloskey	Marie Shively
Mary Antonelli	Joseph M. Gilardi	Jim & Diane McDevitt	Mason Shope
Suzanne Antonelli	Joe & Marianne Gowaskie	Dave McGlynn	Margaret Sleppy
Nonnie Austin	Ceil Graff	Regina McHugh	Joyce & Howard Smoyer
Lillian M. BausermanDebbie	Trish Granda	Diane McKairnes	Mary Ann Smoyer
Bidlingmaier	Gene & Barbara Gregory	Magot McKee	Patricia & Ronald Snyder
Sam & Dorothy Black	Elisabeth Halpert	Mary Lou Middlekauff	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Stallone
Rose Bonaventura	Stephen C Halpert	Marilyn L. Milbourne	David & Kaaren Steil
Patricia A. & Frank Bosco	David & Jeanne Harris	Dorothy Mitchener	Alan C. Stoneback
Graham Brent	Andrea Harvie	Harold Mitchener	Rose Marie Strippoli
Charles Brodie	Alan Hermely	Lillian Mitchener	Jane Sutton
Delores Brown	Jeanine Hillesland	Fr. Dennis Mooney	Paul & Veronica Swift
Patricia Buchanan	Nancy Hodgkiss	Paul Moore	Cynthia A. Szczepanski
Frank & Robin Butrey	Lorraine Hoffman	Mary Jane & Isadore Morici	Robert & Elizabeth Tosti
Joseph & Anna Capizzi	Beverly Howley	Jennifer Moyer	Elaine Tosti
Arlene E Carrello	Francis J. Hufnell	Patrick Mulhern & Family	Jeannine VanBuren
Grace Carter	Dr. Joanne Hullings	Rene Mullen	Regina Vasey
Bill & Rose Cattani	James & Helen Humphreys	Margaret Murphy	Raquel Vertucio
Jumah Caulker	Kevin Hunnicutt	Elaine Nelson	Alan & Audrey Vogenberg
Nelson & Ann Clements	Marie P. Hutchinson	Angela A. Nem	Dave & Joan Wagner
Edward & Claire Collier	Nancy Jenca	John & Gail Nocito	Ron & Ronnie Walker
Donna Conticchio Joan Cordek	Donna Jenkinson	Alyssa O'Brien	Bill Wallick
Vincent & Alice Cordisco	Lynda Johnson	Mike & Virginia Paleafico	Anne Walp
Eugene Costantini	Grace Jones	Mary Jane Paone	Marion M. Walter
Michael Crossan	Michele Jones	Phyllis Pavone	Sally Walters
Brianna Maura Curran	Beverly Kalinowski	Deborah F. Pinney	Jesse Walker Famiy
Larry Daniel	Mary Kehoe	Margie Pliszka	Bill & Sue Watkins
Diane Jones-Davidson	Clarence King	Arnold Porter	Dale L Weik
Beth Delaney	Claire King	Elaine Powers	Rick Welsh
Ellanna L. Delaney	Rose Marie Kirby	Philomena Quattrocchi	Pauline White
Joanne Delia	Albert & Sharon Lalli	Johanna Raines	Ellen Whiteley
Joseph & Jeanne D'Emidio	Josephine Lalli	Angelo & Melinda Ratini	Vernon Wiegand Jr.
Helen Dmytryk	Thybet Lalli	Helen B. Raymond	RuthAnne Woolsey
Bob & Nancy Doyle	Joe & Anna Larrisey	Janice Rhodes	Ken and Lisa Worthington
Joseph Dugan	Jane B. Larzelere	Denise Riccio	Helen Younglove
Bernadine Dunning	Richard Lau	Nancy Riccio	Arthur Younglove
Grace & Tony Duva	Maryann Lauth	Nicholas A. Rizzo	
Mary Ann Ennis	Eva Ligato	John & Mary Anne Roche	Business and Community
Anthony Esposito	Suzanne J. Ligato	Linda Rowan	Members
Fidel Esposito	Dominick & Maryanne Lucenti	Jan Ruano	St. Mark Catholic Church
Pat Esposito	Gary Luthran	Anthony & Margaret Russo	Bristol Fire Company
Pauline Flacco	Margaret Lynn	George & Lynn Salapka	Great Id's
Andrew Fogel	Joanne Maguire	Kitsie Saldan	
Sonia Foderaro	Cynthia A. Mancuso	Yvonne P. Sampsel	
Joyce & Bill Frake	Nancy Maren	Dottie Saxton	

2023 Membership Form

2023 Membership Dues: _____ Individual \$15.00 _____ Family \$25.00 _____ Business \$60.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Calling All History Buffs!



At 7 p.m. on Tuesday, August 22, at BCHF headquarters, the Grundy Library, in collaboration with BCHF will host author Michael C. Harris as he discusses his latest non-fiction book entitled "The Philadelphia Campaign 1777-78" and released this past June. Mr. Harris is a graduate of the University of Mary Washington and the American Military University. He has worked for the National Park Service in Fredericksburg, VA, Fort Mott State Park, NJ, and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission at the Brandywine Battlefield in Chadds Ford, PA.

In addition to his latest non-fiction book, Mr. Harris has authored two other American Revolution books entitled "Brandywine: A Military History of the Battle that Lost Philadelphia but Saved America, September 11, 1777" and "Germantown: A Military History of the Battle for Philadelphia, October 4, 1777." Copies of these books will be available for purchase at the

August 29 event.

Pre-registration is requested at www.grundylibrary.org or by calling the Grundy Library at 215 788-7891. The presentation is free. Light refreshment will be provided.

Did You Ever Swim At The Arch?

The arch was built in 1910. It was under the main railroad through Bristol.

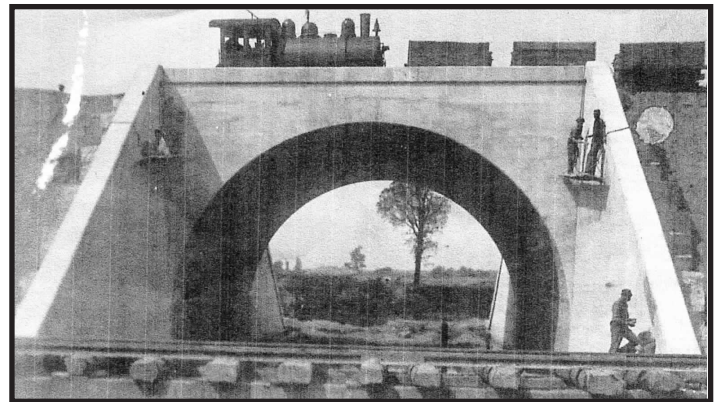
The water came from Silver Lake and then Otter Creek and would flow to the Delaware River.

The swimming was through the arch opposite the present Commerce Park shopping center.

Under the arch was a platform on which there was a heater. That was to warm the trough above the arch where steam engines could take on water as they passed. In warmer weather there was no problem but in winter they needed to keep ice from the troughs.

Nearby were barracks during World War II occupied by soldiers and later Mexicans brought to work on the railroad. Steam engines, while still in transit, could take on water as a scoop was dropped into a trough.

Many young people enjoyed the water. It was not deep and this writer recalls a steam engine stopped above the arch and the engineer, on a hot summer day, came down the bank and jumped in the water after he removed his shoes. His clothing would dry once he was back in the steam engine.



There were many young people who enjoyed the cool water in summer.

I doubt that the arch is used for swimming today.

As you read this article if you were one of those who enjoyed cooling off in summer at the arch, please contact Harold Mitchener, BCHF, PO Box 215, Bristol, PA 19007

Source: *Images of America - Bristol* by Harold and Carol Mitchener - 2000

Final Reminders

Since the Gazette takes a vacation in July and August, this will be the final reminder for the following activities:

June 7 (rain date 6/14) and **August 16** (rain date 8/23), 5 to 8 p.m. - "Cruise-In" car show in Bristol Municipal Parking Lot behind Mill St., followed by police-led car cruising from Radcliffe and Mill Streets to Green Lane.

July 15 (rain date 7/16), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Annual "Mahogany & Steel" featuring antique and classic boats and cars on display at the Bristol Wharf area and river side of the Bristol Municipal Lot behind Mill St.

August 13, 2 to 4 p.m. - Annual Peach Social at BCHF's air-conditioned headquarters. Take-out (containers supplied) or eat-in. \$8 per serving, payable at the door.

Benefits awards to Bristol High School graduates.

August 22 trip to Toms River, NJ, for a narrated luncheon cruise on the "River Lady" paddlewheel, cruising the Toms River and Barnegat Bay, followed by free time on the Asbury Park boardwalk. \$115 for BCHF members; \$118 for non-members. Reservations close on Thursday, June 15, unless sold out before then. Call 215 788-9408 for a detailed flyer/reservation form.

August 22, 7 p.m. - Presentation at BCHF by author Michael C. Harris entitled "The Philadelphia Campaign 1777-78." See article in this Gazette. No fee. Pre-register online at www.grundylibrary.org or by calling 215 788-7891.

Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from **June 1903** issues of THE BUCKS COUNTY GAZETTE. Price Three Cents.

Please note: There were only two issues for June 1903 on microfilm at the Grundy Library.

6/4 – A PROSPEROUS CLUB. The Catholic Club of Bristol has given out contracts for the refurnishing of its rooms at St. Mark's Parochial building on Radcliffe Street. The Catholic Club is the oldest social organization in Bristol, having had a successful existence for fourteen years. It has a membership of over one hundred young men.

FIRST COAL BY CANAL. The first boatload of coal that has been shipped from Mauch Chunk via the Delaware Division Canal since December 1901 was consigned to W. F. Leedom, the Bath Street dealer, on Thursday, May 28. This has been followed by additional shipments.

"FRANK G. RISLEY wishes to announce to his numerous patrons and friends that he has opened for the season with **Ice Cream and Soda Water**. Strawberry ice cream made from fresh strawberries. Ice cream soda, flavored with genuine crushed fruit, 5 cents. Mill and Pond Streets."

"A branch of The New Fiction Library, New York City, has been established at the stationery and newspaper store of J. K. STREPPER & SON, 207 Mill Street. Yearly subscription, \$1.50; subscription tickets 6 for 25c."

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

During the dry weather, the trolley stirs up a cloud of dust on Radcliffe and Mill Streets and so provoked have become the annoyed housekeepers, the subject is being agitated of petitioning council to limit the rate of speed with which the cars go through Bristol, unless the streets are sprinkled in some manner.

The Board of Health has issued its annual notice to property owners and tenants calling attention to its sections of Rules and Regulations adopted by the Board and approved by the Burgess and council, which require the occupants of every house within the limits of the borough to cleanse the cellars of all dirt, vegetable and impure matter calculated to engender disease and to cause them to be thoroughly white-washed with fresh lime at least once a year, prior to June 15. The health officer is required to visit every house in the borough at least once a year and investigate the sanitary condition thereof.

Failure to comply with the regulations causes liability to a fine of ten dollars.

6/11 – COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES. The commencement exercises of the Bristol High School will take place in the assembly room of the high school building on Tuesday evening, June 23, at 7:45 o'clock. There are five members of the graduating class of '03: Misses Florence Marshall, May Raylman and Mattie Robinson; Earl Brown and William Pike.

FERRY BOAT STRANDED. While returning from Burlington last Thursday night on a special trip with a theatre party, the ferry William E. Doran got stranded on the sand bar between Bristol and Burlington. Help had to be summoned from the Jersey town to take the passengers home in row boats. The night was damp and foggy and, as the ladies were gowned in filmy costumes, considerable distress was caused. It was two o'clock in the morning before the party reached Bristol.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING. An adjourned meeting of the Bristol school board was held on Monday evening when an organization was perfected for the new year. The school tax was fixed the same as last year, at fifty cents on the hundred dollars valuation. It was decided to ask the Bristol dealers for proposals for 125 gross of egg coal.

"Special Sale of Watches. I have now on sale a selection of gold-filled watches for gentlemen. A 20-year gold filled case with 7 jeweled Elgin movement, stem wind and stem set, is now selling for **Ten Dollars**. B. F. FOSTER, Watchmaker and Jeweler, Mill and Pond Sts."

"GRAND MOONLIGHT EXCURSION. The Members of Martha Washington Chamber, No. 2, O.K.F., will give another of their popular moonlight excursions to Washington Park on Friday evening, June 12. The Liberty Cornet Band and the Tiptop Glee Club will entertain. Excellent Dance Music. Steamer Columbia will leave Bristol at 8 p.m., Burlington at 8:15 p.m. and Beverly at 8:30 p.m. Tickets 50 cents. Children under 12, accompanied by parents or guardians, free."

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

The Sons of Veterans, which was organized recently, is growing in membership and now has nearly fifty members on its rolls. All sons of old soldiers are invited to join.

C. C. Strumfels has a big ad in this week's paper calling attention to the famous "Bill Dugan" 5c cigar.

BCHF Calendar of Events For 2023

JUNE. Sun., 6/4, 2 PM. Professional storyteller and independent historian Carol Simon Levin's first-person portrayal of Emily Warren Roebling, entitled "Bridge Builder in Petticoats." Light refreshment. BCHF headquarters. Donation of \$5/adult requested; students free. Payable at the door.

JUNE. Wed., 6/7 (rain date 6/14), 5 to 8 PM. "Cruise-In" Car Show in Municipal Parking Lot behind Mill St., followed by

police-led cruise from Radcliffe & Mill Sts. to Green La. See bristoldaycarshow.com for details.

JULY. Sat., 7/15 (rain date 7/16), 10 AM to 4 PM. Annual "Mahogany & Steel Car & Boat Show on the Delaware" featuring antique & classic boats and cars on display at the wharf area and river side of municipal parking lot. See article in main section of this Gazette.

continued on back page



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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1228
Langhorne, PA
19047

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BCHF Calendar of Events For 2023 - *Continued*

AUGUST. Sun., 8/13, 2 to 4 PM. Annual Peach Social at BCHF's air-conditioned headquarters. Fresh, sliced peaches and hand-dipped vanilla ice cream served over angel food cake. \$8/person. **Take-out or eat in.** Event benefits awards to Bristol High School graduates.

AUGUST. Wed., 8/16 (rain date 8/23), 5 to 8 PM. "Cruise-In" Car Show" See June 7 event above for details.

AUGUST. Tues., 8/22. Luncheon cruise on "River Lady" followed by free time on the boardwalk in Asbury Park. \$115 for BCHF members; \$118 for non-members. For flyer/reservation form, call 215-788-9408. Deadline is June 15.

AUGUST. Tues., 8/22, 7 PM. Presentation by Author Michael C. Harris in collaboration with the Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Library. Mr. Harris will discuss his latest non-fiction novel, "The Philadelphia Campaign 1777-78." Light refreshment. BCHF headquarters. No fee. Pre-register at www.grundylibrary.org or call 215-788-7891.

OCTOBER. 10/6-17. Holy Lands & Aegean Majesty (Jerusalem to Rome) cruise on Oceania Cruises' "Oceania Nautica." Call 215-788-9408 for a detailed flyer.

OCTOBER. Sat., 10/21, 10 AM to 4 PM. 47th Historic Bristol Day, featuring house tour & Tea, crafters & vendors, car show,

entertainment, food court, children's activities, archaeological dig, Ticket required for house tour & Tea.

OCTOBER. 10/26-11/ 4. 10-day cruise aboard Royal Caribbean Cruise Line's "Vision of the Seas," sailing from Baltimore to King's Wharf, Bermuda, Nassau, and Cococay, Bahamas. Call 215-788-9408 for a detailed flyer.

NOVEMBER. Wed., 11/15, 7:30 PM. BCHF's annual meeting at BCHF headquarters. The public is cordially invited.

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

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-coarse 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, Sue Watkins.

Ceil Graff, Jan Ruano, Mary Gesualdi, Helen Younglove and Harold Mitchener