



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.8

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

OCTOBER 2025

President's Corner

Dear Members:

This issue of the Gazette contains lots of information about Historic Bristol Day. The BCHF and many volunteers are in the final stages of planning for this event. A second meeting with borough government officials occurred to ensure safety and logistics are carefully planned for Historic Bristol Day. The day's highlights include the archaeological dig, the house tours, and tea. The archaeology dig has been on-going for several years at the Friends Meeting House at the corner of Market Street and Wood Street. To find the dig, follow the big black and white signs to the Meeting House. Past issues of the Gazette, available on BCHF's website, have articles about the archaeology dig. It's a great hands-on opportunity to learn about the history of our community from professional archaeologists. We are grateful for the partnership with the Friends Meeting.

October is known as Archaeology Month in Pennsylvania and other archaeology events are planned around the commonwealth (see <https://pennsylvaniaarchaeology.com/ArchMonth.htm> for additional information).

Ongoing news with our organization includes additional building maintenance activities. We are having two large trees cut down in the back of our property due to safety concerns along Wilson Street. We are also starting to investigate the cause of rainwater leaking in the basement. We are always looking for stories about our community's past, old photos, and other content for future issues of the Gazette.

Our Apology

We deeply regret missing the names of the following members in the September membership listing:

Margaret, John & Patrick Murphy, and Community Member St. Ann Worship Site.



49th Annual

Historic BRISTOL DAY



**Saturday
October 18th**

10 AM-4PM



RADCLIFFE STREET & RIVERFRONT PARK

- crafters & vendors
- entertainment
- food court/food trucks
- grundy museum
- house tours
- antique boat display
- car show
- children's corner at grundy library
- archaeology dig
- public buildings
- student art show
- tea on the south lawn of grundy museum
- & much more to come.

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The Bristol Cultural &
Historical Foundation**

www.Bristolhistory.org



ADVANCE TICKET SALES FOR HOUSE TOUR

This year we have five houses on the Historic Bristol Day House Tour. The advance sale tickets (available for a savings of five dollars) can be purchased at the following locations: The Grundy Library, Mignoni Jewelry, Bird of Paradise, The Mill Street Pharmacy and the Bristol Tax Office. On day of the event they can be purchased at Radcliffe and Market Street and at the tea on the South Lawn of the Grundy Museum.

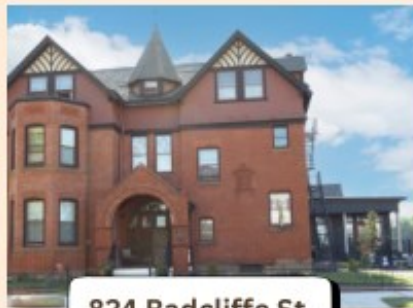
Ticket price on the day of the tour is \$20.

EXPLORE HISTORIC BRISTOL BOROUGH

HOUSE TOUR EXTRAVAGANZA

Discover the **charm of Historic Bristol** on Saturday, October 18th! Join us for a captivating house tour showcasing some of the area's most beautiful and historical homes. Experience guided tours, learn about the rich history, and enjoy the unique architectural styles that make Bristol a treasure. Don't miss this chance to explore our community's heritage!

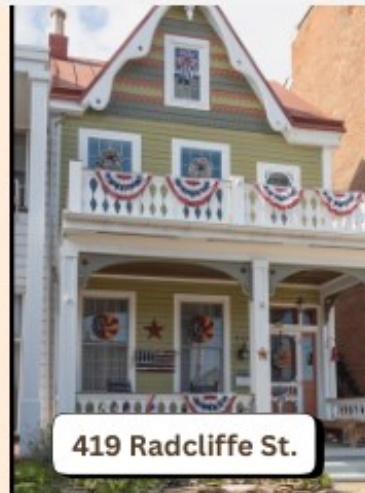
Join us for a **memorable day** of history and exploration!



824 Radcliffe St.



910 Radcliffe St.



419 Radcliffe St.



829 Radcliffe St.



6200 Radcliffe St.

HISTORIC BRISTOL DAY TEA

The HBD Tea will be held again in 2025 . The tea is held in the south lawn of the Grundy Museum. House Tours/Ticket holders are welcome. The hours are 11-3. We serve pound cakes that are made by the students at the Bucks County Technical School High School. The Walker granddaughters and their friends help to serve. Their neighbors have been helping for 25 years. Their help is invaluable.

Harpist, Gloria Galante playing from 12:30 to 2:45
Ticket are \$20 for the tea and house tours. \$5 for the tea only.



2025 Historic Bristol Day Entertainment

Bristol Wharf Area

10:00-4:00 First Crossing Volunteers - Historical reenactors

Riverfront Park

11:00-11:45 Artragous

12:00-12:45 Jillian Ashcraft - Jazz Trio

1:00-1:45 Mindy Murray - Folk

2:00-2:45 Jackson Pines - Folk Rock Band

3:00-3:45 BCHF Community Band

200-300 Block of Radcliffe Street

11:00-2:00 Men of Harmony - Acapella Group

11:00-2:00 Face Painting - Loreen Murphy, corner of Radcliffe and Market Streets

Annual Tea at Grundy Museum

12:30-2:30 Gloria Galante - Harpist at the tea

CAR SHOW COMING

By: Mark Gesualdi

BCHF's 14th Annual Historic Bristol Day Car Show is fast approaching. It is scheduled for Saturday, October 18 (no rain date), at the Snyder-Girotti School, 450 Beaver St. in Bristol Borough. Registration on the 18th starts at 9 a.m. The registration fee remains at \$15 for one or multiple vehicles. Pre-registration may be done at bristoldaycarshow.com. No fee is collected until the day of the show. The show is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A car cruise through historic Bristol will take place at 3 p.m. The entire show will be on blacktop, with indoor restaurants, food on the site, and seating. Best of Show and People's Choice trophies will be awarded for both Classics and Antiques. Attendees may vote using their phone or a paper ballot.

This year, as in the past, the show will have a special feature. Bristol's latest project is the Lincoln Legacy Stop. The project is a unique art experience and interactive tribute celebrating Abraham Lincoln's historic visit to Bristol Borough enroute to his 1881 presidential inauguration. Seventy-five feet of railroad track where Lincoln's train stopped have been preserved for years. The project added a train platform, an authentic 33-star American flag, and several figurines which represent the thousand Bristol people who were there when Lincoln stopped. The project's founder, William Pezza of Raising the Bar, will make a special presentation at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. You will learn how the historic project came about and see the life-size figures come to life as they tell the story, by using a QR code. The project is contiguous to the Car Show.

BRISTOL'S LINCOLN LEGACY STOP

A Living Tribute to History

Explore a unique art experience and interactive tribute celebrating Abraham Lincoln's historic visit to Bristol en route to his 1861 inauguration



Special Presentation by Bill Pezza

- Learn how the Historic Project came to life
- See how the life size figures come to life using a QR code

Highlights of the Exhibit

- Authentic 33 star flag
- Figures from Bristol in 1861

Presentations on Bristol Day

Saturday October 18, 2025

- 11:00 am
- 2:00 pm

Location

300 Block of Pond Street
(one block north of the municipal building).

Don't miss this chance to step into history and experience Lincoln's legacy in Bristol!

DEADLINE QUICKLY APPROACHING!

Friday, October 31, is the reservation deadline for our December 4 bus trip to the luxurious Lyndhurst Mansion in Tarrytown, NY. The mansion will be decorated top to bottom for the holidays and we'll be having a hot buffet luncheon in one of the private rooms. Lyndhurst sits on its own 67-acre park beside the Hudson River, is one of America's finest Gothic Revival mansions, and has the honor of being named one of America's Ten Best Historic Holiday Tours.



Photo: <https://lyndhurst.org>

The all-inclusive cost of the trip is \$158 for BCHF members and \$168 for non-members. Bus seat assignments are made on a first-paid basis. Don't wait! Reservation deadline is October 31, unless sold out prior. Print the reservation form from BCHF's website, <http://www.bristolhistory.org>, or call Deborah Pinney at 215-788-7537

TITANIC PRESENTATION

Titanic historian David Kaplan will return to BCHF's stage on Tuesday, November 25. His presentation is entitled

"Capt. Edward Smith: Was the Deck Stacked Against Him?" and will begin at 7 p.m. In lieu of an admission fee, BCHF requests a donation of paper goods or a financial contribution to the Food Pantry of Bristol's United Methodist Church.

SAILING, SAILING

Due to space restraints, last month's Gazette omitted the announcement of a 10-day/9 night "Best of Greece" cruise aboard the "Celebrity Infinity, August 29-Sept. 7, 2026, with a pre-cruise night in Athens and six ports-of-call. Rates are \$5,007 to \$5,820 pp, double occupancy. **Round-trip airfare from Philadelphia is included.** An initial deposit of \$350 pp double or \$700 single is required to secure reservations and assign cabins. A Passport is required. For a detailed flyer, call Helen Younglove at 215-788-9408 or print it from BCHF's website, www.bristolhistory.org

See the Calendar of Events on the back page of this issue for information on an April 30 to May 7, 2026 cruise to Bermuda and Charleston.

How Many Can You Recall? By Harold Mitchener

Ink wells in schools, blotters and dip pens?

Scarlet Fever, home quarantines? Milk delivery in glass bottles to your house?

Bread delivered to your house?

Doctors coming to your house? Party lines for telephones? Funerals from your home?

Swimming in Silver Lake in Bristol with the Red Cross Life guards?

Cobblers and Tailors? Horse and wagons and blacksmiths? Nickel hamburgers and hot dogs? Steam locomotives on the railroad.

Ice skating on Silver Lake? Barbers shaving people with a straight edge razor? Getting dressed in hat and gloves to go to church or for traveling? Gas selling for 21¢ a gallon? When driving a car, put your hand out the window to signal a turn.

Men wearing tops for their bathing suits? Towns and cities having multiple newspapers? Burning leaves in the autumn? No color TV?

Hanging your wet clothes on a line in the back yard? Running boards, and rumble seats on cars?

Electric trolleys in Bristol? Bristol making merchant ships? Airplanes being manufactured in Bristol?

The Harriman Hospital? An iceman delivered ice to homes and businesses?

Two piece telephones?

The canal being used in Bristol for transporting anthracite coal from Easton?

The Town Hall at Market and Redcliffe Streets?

Being able to travel by train from Bristol to New York City without changing trains at Trenton? Darning socks? Coal delivery to one's house.

Ice cream truck coming through the streets selling cones? The Bristol Diner at Pond and Market Streets? Most people being able to walk to work? Leedom's field on Beaver Street?

Parades with veterans from the Spanish American War? Two years of Latin being offered in Bristol High School? A bowling alley on the second floor of a building at Monroe and Farragut Avenues?

Weed Chevrolet cars being sold at the corner of Radcliffe and Green Lane? Watching movies at the Grand Theater on Mill Street?

Young men shining shoes on Mill Street? A 5 & 10 cent store at Wood and Mill Streets?

Victrola record player? The Elks Lodge being located on Radcliffe St. opposite Walnut St.? The Bristol library being located in the parking lot of the Grundy Library?

Think, there are many more items that the reader may remember.

Sources: May- June 2025 Reader's Digest

Personal recollections of this writer.

OUT OF THE PAST

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

October 1 – Bristol Borough School Board will have a proposition at the general election to approve or reject a debt of \$72,000 to construct and equip an addition to the high school.

October 2 – A Bristolian, Jacob Schmidt a salesman for the Landreth Seed Co. was robbed by three-armed gunman on State Rd. near the Neshaminy Creek.

October 3 – the Travel Club opened the season with a banquet and entertainment at the St. James Parish Building.

October 5 – Nearly 100 Elk and their friends attended the annual outing at Burlington Island Park on Sunday.

October 6 – Applications for new automobile registration plates are being sent to the 1,300,000 car owners in Pennsylvania. The new tags will be orange with blue lettering.

A contract was awarded to build the bridge over the Neshaminy Creek in Croydon for \$95,000. It will be the largest bridge ever built in the County.

October 7 – Bristol League of Women Voters have endorsed the bond issue for the construction at the high school.

October 8 – H. W. Powell of Ohio purchased the old PA Rail Road passenger station. He plans to build a modern gas filling station. This is on the triangular piece of land at Market and Pond St.

Beaver School is to be dedicated on Sat. Oct. 10. It is located in the triangle formed by the intersection of Beaver St. Spring St. and Jefferson Ave. The ground was donated by Joseph Grundy and the building by Angelo DiRenzo.

There are 64 scheduled trolley stops in Bristol daily by the Trenton Bristol and Philadelphia Railway. Trolleys going east and west stop every 30 minutes.

October 9 – Police recovered 13 bales of cloth valued at \$1300 along Bristol Pike. The material was being shipped to New York from Norristown. It is believed this was a plot to steal the cloth.

October 10 – The State Education Association says only half of the youth between 14 and 17 years old are enrolled in high school.

October 12 – See Gloria Swanson in the movie *The Humming Bird* at the Forrest Theatre on Mill St. on Monday and Tuesday.

It isn't a home without a telephone, and you can have one for less than 10¢ a day.

October 13 – Corson St. and Spruce St. have been macadamed. Race St. will be completed soon.

October 14 – Germany announced adhesion to the Rhine Pact of mutual guarantees with the object of outlawing war.

October 15 – Pittsburgh Pirates won the World Series in 7 games.

October 16 – The theatre building on Wood St. has been leased to a company to manufacture imitation pearls. Some alterations will be made to the building. They expect to employ 50 girls.

October 17 – The "Human Fly" Henry D. D. Roland treated several hundred Bristolians to a thrill as he scaled the Coleman house on Radcliffe St.

October 20 – Members of the Washington Crossing Park Commission adopted a resolution protesting locating Easter State Penitentiary in Bucks County.

October 21 – The 5th Anniversary of the Bracken Post # 382 of the American Legion was held on Tuesday night. A 10-piece orchestra all members of the Bracken Post made its initial appearance.

October 23 – New Nash Special Six sedan - \$1265 and advanced Six Sedan \$1485. See William DeGroot on Jefferson Avenue.

October 24 – Over \$500 in gold will be given as prizes for the Halloween celebration. There will be three prizes in each of 11 categories. The event is conducted by the Mill Street Business Mens Association.

October 28 – a Fire Drill was held and proved that the fire companies are on the job responding quickly.

October 31 – The first snow of the season came as a great surprise covering roads and fields with 3" – 5" of snow. Yesterday was the coldest Oct. 30th on record at 32°F.



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BCHF Calendar of Events 2025

OCTOBER. Sat., Oct. 18 (no rain date), 10 AM to 4 PM. 49th Historic Bristol Day and 14th Annual Car Show. See details in this issue of the Gazette.

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

NOVEMBER. Tues., 11/25, 7 PM at BCHF headquarters. Return of Titanic historian David Kaplan, speaking on "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. See website Bristolhistory.org for trip flyer/ reservation form or call 215-788-7537. Reservation deadline:10/31.

APRIL-MAY, 2026. Bermuda & Charleston cruise sailing from Philadelphia aboard the "Norwegian Jewel", April 30 to May 7. \$1,710 to \$2,283 pp double. Initial deposit of \$350 required; balance due by Nov. 28. Passport requires. For a detailed flyer, call 215-788-9408 or print it from <http://www.bristolhistory.org>.

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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