



The Gazette



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Sponsoring Historic Bristol Day - Third Saturday of Each October

BCHF is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, all volunteer organization.

MAY 2024

President's Corner

Introducing the BCHF Bristol Community Band

BCHF would like to welcome an impressive new musical group, the BCHF Bristol Community Band. The Community Band was conceived of and developed by its parent organization, the Bracken Cavaliers Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps.

One hundred years ago, in 1914, a boy scout troop of marching drummers that had added buglers, formed the first junior drum and bugle corps in Pennsylvania. They called themselves the Bracken Cavaliers Drum & Bugle Corps. They were named for Robert W. Bracken, the first WWI casualty from Bristol. In 2000, alumni of that junior drum and bugle corps formed a non-profit organization to continue the tradition, the Bracken Cavaliers Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps.

Bracken regularly entertains audiences of all ages in Bristol and they also travel to other areas. Drum and bugle corps are essentially marching units that consist of brass and percussion instruments only. Because of this, the type of music they play is limited to marching tunes and they are generally restricted to outside venues.

About 6 months ago, a small group of musicians from the Bracken Cavaliers decided to create a new and unique musical ensemble. The ensemble includes a much greater variety of instruments including flutes, electric guitars, saxophones, trombones, clarinet and brass instruments. Because of the wider array of instruments, they can play all sorts of music: pop songs, jazz and blues. In addition, they can play in outdoor and indoor venues at community concerts, festivals and retire-

ment homes. Since their inception, they have grown from the original 5 to 22 professional and semi-professional musicians.

BCHF has been proud to provide the rehearsal space for the Bracken Cavaliers and for the newly formed ensemble. Because we provide a place for the two groups to assemble and rehearse, they have named BCHF as a sponsor and have named the new band the BCHF Bristol Community Band. Now, and in the future, the Bracken Cavaliers Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps and the BCHF Bristol Community Band will represent both Bristol and BCHF in and around Bristol and in their travels to other communities outside our area.

On Sunday June 2 at 2 PM, please join us at our headquarters for a performance of the BCHF Bristol Community Band. Following the performance you will be able to meet the band members while enjoying homemade treats.

Written by Deborah Pinney with Philip Bigelow



Members of the BCHF Bristol Community Band rehearsing at BCHF headquarters

Car & Boat Show Coming in July

The third annual Mahogany and Steel boat and car show will take place on Saturday, July 13, 2024 with a rain date of Sunday, July 14, 2024. Make the day a family outing and enjoy the many fine eateries and shops along the historic streets of Bristol. The location of the show is at the Bristol wharf, docks and parking lot between Cedar and Monument Park. Food trucks will be on site and sausage and pepper sandwiches will be sold by the Bristol High teachers. The sandwiches have always been a big hit at this show as well as our Bristol Day Car Show at Snyder Girotti. Come and enjoy the antique and classic cars and boats and enjoy a picnic lunch in Monument Park along the Delaware River. Show time for the public is 10 am to 4 pm for boats and 10 am to 3 pm for cars. The show is free to the public. At 3 pm a car cruise will proceed from Mill and Radcliffe Streets to the Moose Lodge at Radcliffe Street and Green Lane. The Moose, by the way, is the old Weed Chevrolet dealership. Weed occupied that location from 1951 to 1967 when they moved the dealership to Veterans Highway.

The car display includes all American and Foreign antiques and classics, newer Corvettes, Camaros, Firebirds, Mustangs, Challengers, T-Birds, Street Rods, Exotics, Lowriders, Luxuries and more. Car registration begins at 9 am. You can pre-register by visiting our website at bristoldaycarshow.com. People's Choice trophies will be awarded for both antiques and classics. Attendees can participate in the show by voting for their favorite antique and classic with their cell phone. Paper ballots will also be available for anyone that does not have a phone.

Antique and Classic boats from great manufacturers such as Chris-Craft, Hacker, Century, Garwood and others covering 100 years of boat building will be on display. These great works of art will be displayed on land under the wharf and in the water on Bristol's beautiful docks. For more information about the boat portion of the show you can visit Mid-AtlanticACBS.com.

200th Anniversary on September 27th

The sign that says "Welcome Friend" has never been repainted and hangs in the Municipal Building at Pond and Mulberry Streets on the second floor wall near the Bristol Borough Council Chamber.

As a young man from France, Lafayette first came to America in his own ship and he landed in South Carolina. He then went by land to Philadelphia where he was introduced to George Washington.

Both men appeared to get along very well. Andriane was Lafayette's wife and they had two children. Their son's name was George Washington Lafayette and their daughter's name was Virginia in honor of the land where Washington had Mount Vernon, his home along the Potomac River that separates Maryland and Virginia.

Lafayette became part of the Continental Army led by George Washington. In 1777 at the Battle of Brandywine Creek Lafayette was wounded in his knee. They brought him to Bristol for one night before he was transferred to Bethlehem for recovery. Washington was not hurt in that battle.

In 1824 Lafayette returned and landed in New York City. Accompanied by his son, he wanted to see all 24 states that then made up the United States.

They traveled from New York City across New Jersey to Trenton, crossing the Delaware River and arriving in Bristol on September 27, 1824. His carriage

crossed the Adam's Hallow Creek just above St. Mark Church in Bristol. The sign "Welcome Friend" hung over Radcliffe street. His carriage was met by many people including girls in white dresses who threw flower petals.

Lafayette's carriage proceeded to the corner of Mill and Radcliffe Streets where there was a house across the street from the King George Inn. The party was offered refreshments before traveling onto Philadelphia. In Washington D.C. he addressed the U.S. Congress and was given honorary citizenship of the U.S. by President James Monroe. They also visited Mount Vernon where he had spent time with George Washington. He was honored in all of the 24 states he visited. In Eastern Pennsylvania there is a Lafayette College. In Bristol there is a street named for him. When Lafayette and his son departed the U.S. for the last time, he had with him a small box which contained soil from the U.S. The U.S. soil was mixed with French soil when Lafayette was interred in Paris.

Lafayette is one of the generals that students in school learn about when they study the American Revolution. He was with General Washington when the British General Howe surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia.

Sources: Grundy Library Historical Collection and [Images of America - Bristol](#) by Harold and Carol Mitchener

Two Down; Two To Go

Unfortunately, we fell short of the required number of reservations for the June 21 trip to the Morris Arboretum and "Cliveden" and the trip had to be cancelled. All payments will be refunded at our earliest opportunity.

Hopefully, we'll have good success with the remaining two bus trips! Please talk them up among your relatives and friends.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8 - Tenement Museum on NY's Lower East Side and Lunch & Free Time in Manhattan's "Little Italy." The Tenement Museum is a National Historic Site. Its two historical tenement buildings were home to an estimated 15,000 people from over 20 nations, between 1863 and 2011. The building was constructed by Prussian-born immigrant Lukas Glockner in 1863 and was modified several times to conform with the city's developing housing laws. When first constructed, it contained 22 apartments and a basement-level saloon. Over time, four stoop-level and two basement apartments were converted into commercial retail space, leaving 16 apartments in the building. Modifications over the years included the installation of indoor plumbing (cold running water, two toilets per floor), an air shaft and gas followed by electricity. In 1935, rather than continuing to modify the building, the landlord evicted the residents, boarded the upper windows, and sealed the upper floors, leaving only the stoop-level and basement storefronts open for business. No further changes were made until the Lower East Side Tenement Museum became involved in 1988. As such, the building stands as a kind of time capsule, reflecting 19th and 20th century living conditions and the changing notions of what constitutes acceptable housing.

The museum's exhibits and programs include restored period room apartments and shops, depicting the lives of immigrants who lived at 97 Orchard Street between 1869 and 1935, and 103 Orchard Street from the 1950s to the 1980s.

It provides a documentary film and offers tours with interpreters who portray the buildings' former residents. The museum's tours place the immigrants' lives in the broader context of American history.

Little Italy is a neighborhood in Lower Manhattan whose area has drastically reduced to five blocks on Mulberry St., north of Canal St. According to an article in New York magazine, "Once, Little Italy was like an insular Neapolitan village recreated on these shores, with its own language, customs, and financial and cultural institutions." Foods and traditions that were invented in Little Italy include sausage & peppers and

the rainbow cookie. The Italian-American Christmas Eve tradition of the Feast of the Seven Fishes originated here in the late 1800s. Little Italy was the locale of the fictional Corleone Family depicted in the novel *The Godfather* and the film trilogy based on it. Film star Robert De Niro grew up in the neighborhood.

We'll be dining at Da Nico Ristorante, family owned and operated since its founding in 1993. The menu will consist of an individual salad, bread, a choice between chicken parm with a side of spaghetti or rigatoni alla vodka. Dessert will be zeppolli, served family style. Soda and coffee will be included. Approximately 1-1/2 hrs. free time, to shop in Little Italy's many Italian food specialty shops or to check out the site of the annual San Gennaro street fair, will follow.

Cost of the trip is \$165 for BCHF members and \$175 for non-members, based on a minimum of 45 paid passengers. Call 215-788-9043 for a detailed flyer/reservation form. Reservation deadline is August 30.

Our bus will depart from the Grundy Arena, 475 Beaver St., at 8 a.m. sharp and return at approx. 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 3 - Holidays at Nemours Estate in Delaware. Our bus will depart the Grundy Arena, 475 Beaver St., at 9:45 a.m. sharp, headed for Buckley's Tavern in Centreville, DE, for a 3-course lunch consisting of an entree choice of penna alla vodka with or without grilled chicken or salmon, pan-seared salmon with a champagne mustard sauce, or Chef HB's meatloaf. Following lunch, we'll head for the Nemours Estate. Alfred I. duPont built "America's Versailles" for his wife on a 3,000 acre plot in Wilmington in the early 20th century and they started opening their home at Christmas from the year they moved in. Conceived in the style of an 18th century French mansion, this former duPont family home consists of 77 rooms and is elaborately decorated every Christmas season.

Cost of the trip is \$135 for BCHF members and \$145 for non-members, based on a minimum of 45 paid passengers. A detailed flyer/reservation form will be available in the not-too-distant future by calling 215 788-9408. Reservation deadline is October 25.

We look forward to seeing you on one or both of these trips!

NOTE: BCHF has been running trips for a number of years and our Ways & Means Committee is starting to run out of day trip destination ideas. We'd love to hear from our members about places of a cultural and/or historical nature that they'd like to visit. Contact Helen Younglove at nonellie@verizon.net with your suggestions.

Borough's Name on Water Tower

June 26, 1913 - - *Bristol Courier*

The recently erected water tower now has letters newly painted on the side facing the Pennsylvania Railroad - - "Bristol Water Works - 171,--- gal." - - the work was done by three men who spent 8 hours marking out the letters and filling them in. Each letter is 46 inches long and 27 inches wide at the height of 180

feet.

This will provide great advertisement for the borough. The work was done by Lewis Daniels, Eugene Snyder, a journeyman painter. Daniels and Snyder are employed on the canal bridge at Mill Street and are accustomed to working at great heights.

from the Grundy Library Historical Collection

Ways & Means

You don't hear much about BCHF's Ways and Means committee, but they are responsible for a significant portion of BCHF's income and most of our activities apart from Historic Bristol Day. Currently, the committee consists of a very small group of very hard-working women and we need your help.

Every year, the Ways and means committee organizes two major fund raisers, the annual Spring Tea and the Summer Peach Social. These events require careful planning and a lot of preparation. We are grateful that we can persuade a handful of volunteers to help on the days of the events. In addition to these annual fund-raising events, the committee plans trips throughout the year to raise additional funds. Trips require that a committee member manage trip reservations as well as chaperone the travelers during the trip.

In addition to fund raising, the Ways and Means committee plans and manages all the presentations and participates in ethnic festivals and the annual car and boat show. Although these activities may not raise a lot of money, they do fulfill the mission of BCHF to

"preserve and promote the history of the area and increase the cultural opportunities for the residents of the community".

We, on the committee, have always been enthusiastic participants but over time our numbers have shrunk. Currently, the committee is so small that we are finding it difficult to handle all our many duties and we must appeal for help in the form of new committee members and volunteers on the days of events, presentations, and trips.

Volunteering and participation on the Ways and Means committee is not just work. We enjoy each other's company, and we find it very satisfying working together to achieve our goals. It's no secret that volunteering and being a part of your community is an important step in the path to happiness. Please consider joining us to help BCHF and your community as well as raising your happiness level.

Please call Diane Jones Davidson, Ways and Means chair, at 215 788-9043 and sign up to volunteer.

OUT OF THE PAST

The following items were excerpted from **May 1894** issues of THE BUCKS COUNTY GAZETTE.

5/3 - TOMATO PLANTS GIVEN AWAY. To every purchaser of our choice tomato plants, we will give a number of plants extra of the new Buckeye State Tomato, claimed to be the largest smooth tomato grown. Harry Chambers' Flower Store, 223 Market Street."

FOR RENT. A new, 7-roomed house on Washington Street, over the canal, with a large attic, with hot and cold water, bathroom, gas, etc. Rent \$10 per month. Apply to Otto Woll, Hallow."

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

The Farmers' National Bank, on last Tuesday, declared its usual semi-annual dividend of eight per cent.

Joseph Wright, while tying a new horse to his huckster wagon last Monday, had a rather serious run-away. The

wagon was considerably wrecked.

The Worlds Fair Panorama, given at Riverview Hall last Friday evening for the benefit of the German Lutheran Church netted \$55. The concert, cake walk and dance at Riverview Hall last night was much appreciated by those in attendance. Charles Young and partner won the first prize as the most stylish walkers on the floor.

"Re-Opening for the Season! BUSEMAN'S ICE CREAM PARLOR will be ready for the reception of patrons on Saturday, May 5th. Corner Otter and Mill Streets."

"The League Chainless Safety! The most unique and best wheel on the market. No more soiled clothing. No stretching or rattling of chains. Ladies' Safety, with more special advantages adapted especially for the comfort of lady cyclists than all other ladies' wheels combined. ARDREY BROS., Pond Street."

5/10 - LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

continued on next page

Out of the Past . . . continued

Iron gutter plates are being placed over a number of crossings in the borough.

The mild weather has reduced the number of hobos that seek lodging at the Station House.

The "Coxey Contingent" from Down East are expected to pass through Bristol today on their way to Washington. There are about 60 men in the party. It is said that they are able-bodied working men, clean and healthy, and not of the tramp order.

The west bound tally-ho did not go through Bristol on Tuesday afternoon. The coach met with two accidents on that day. The coach was taken back to Plainfield and the passengers went forward by train.

"SAMUEL W. BLACK, Dealer in Fine Groceries! Fruits and Provisions. Teas and Coffees a Specialty. Goods delivered promptly. Your trade solicited. Cor. of Radcliffe and Mill Streets."

"Are You Paying Less for Your Clothes than Last Year? You Should Be. We sell Single Suits at the prices they cost most stores by the hundreds. We can recommend the \$12 and \$15 suits as uncommonly good for style and wear. We pay railroad fare on quite reasonable purchases! WANAMAKER & BROWN, Sixth and Market, Philadelphia."

5/17 – COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS. The regular monthly meeting of Council was held on last Monday evening. The Committee on Streets and Highways asked for appropriations of \$3000 for paving Buckley Street. The Police Committee reported ten arrests during the month and 539 tramps lodged in the Station House. On motion, the tax rate for the ensuing year was fixed at 75 cents on the \$100. Yeas 11; nays 6.

LAYING THE CORNERSTONE. The ceremonies connected with laying the cornerstone for the new public school building, at the corner of Wood and Mulberry Streets, were held yesterday afternoon. Mr. John K. Wildman, president of the school board, delivered an excellent address.

A SHAD SUPPER. The finny denizens of the Delaware never looked more beautiful to the masculine eye than when seen in the form of "planked shad" and, to illustrate this truism, on Sunday evening in a cozy little house on Burlington island, a merry crowd collected. Of course, the supper was a success, as Mr. Frank Wesley Wright was caterer for the occasion.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

The "Stumps" and the Radcliffe baseball nines played a one-sided and uninteresting game on the big grounds last Saturday afternoon, the "Stumps" winning by the score of 22 to 10. The features of the game were the battery work of Silbert and Quinn, and the batting of Booz, P. Brady, Carter and J. Brady.

"HARRY J. MOLDEN, Undertaker and Funeral Director, 542 and 544 Bath Street, Bristol."

"BURTON'S EXPRESS. Joshua Burton is at all times prepared to do jobs of hauling of every description and at prices

to suit the times. Furniture handled with care. Orders left at the Telephone Office will be attended to promptly."

5/24 – BOARD OF HEALTH STATISTICS. There were nine deaths in Bristol during the month of April from the following causes: old age, 1; exhaustion due to ulceration, 1; premature birth, 2; stillborn, 1; cancer, 1; asthreaia, 1; phthisis, 1; diabetes, 1. There were three marriages during the month and 21 births.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

The Bristol Lodge of the Order of Tonti held a meeting on Wednesday evening to take some action on the wreck of the order.

The children throughout Bristol are requested by H. Clay Beatty Post to collect flowers for the purpose of decorating soldiers' graves.

The Key of Liberty Lodge, Jr. A.P.A., will give an entertainment consisting of a concert, cake walk and tableaux at Riverview Hall on Wednesday evening, June 6th. Price of admission is 15 cents.

The great downfall of rain in Bristol since last Saturday has not done any material damage in this immediate vicinity. Leedom's Carpet Mill was forced to suspend operations for a day, and at Steel's the water had to be pumped out of the basement floor.

DECORATION DAY. "Decoration Day is near and I am reminded of a little fact which may be interesting to your many readers. The late Lizzie S. Bailey, so long a teacher in the public schools, was the first person in Bristol to decorate the graves of soldiers buried here. She asked her band of little pupils to bring some flowers to lay upon the graves. There was no ceremony, not even a song sung, but as the small group was standing in the Episcopal Churchyard, Mrs. Susan Hibbs, who used to lay out the dead, came through the yard and joined the group. They all united in repeating the Lord's Prayer, and the little band then quietly wended their way back to the school room, for there was no "Decoration Day" then – no holiday. It was a day in May and I think the year was 1871 or 1872." From Anna Bailey King, Bristol, May 22, 1894.

5/31 – STRIKE OF THE WEAVERS. The weavers in the mills of E. T. Steel & Co. on last Monday went out on strike and marched down to Evans' Hall where they held a meeting. The strike was in effect a demand for higher wages.

BOARD OF HEALTH REMINDERS. The local Board of Health has called attention to Sections 32 and 33 of its Rules and Regulations. Section 32 states that it shall be the duty of the occupant of every house within the limits of this Borough to cleanse the cellars thereof of all dirt, vegetable and other impure matter calculated to engender disease, and cause them to be thoroughly whitewashed with fresh lime at least once a year prior to June 15th. Section 33 states that it shall be the duty of the Health Officer to visit each house in the Borough at least once in every year to inquire into and investigate the sanitary conditions thereof.



**Bristol Cultural &
Historical Foundation, Inc.**
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Calendar of Events For 2024

MAY. Fri., 5/3, 6-8 PM. BCHF Headquarters. Reception by the Artists of Bristol. No fee. Light refreshment.

JUNE. Sun., 6/2, 2 PM. Public debut by the BCHF Bristol Community Band at BCHF Headquarters. Selections from their repertoire consisting of hits from the 60s and 70s, light jazz, some blues, and patriotic music. All are invited. Light refreshment will be served. A donation of \$5 per adult attendee is suggested.

JULY. Sat., 7/13 (rain date Sun., 7/14), 10 AM to 4 PM. 3rd Annual Mahogany & Steel Boat & Car Show, featuring antique and classic boats and cars on display at Bristol Wharf & Docks and Mill Street Parking Lot.

AUGUST. Sun., 8/11, 2 to 4 PM. Annual Peach Social at BCHF's air-conditioned headquarters. Fresh, sliced peaches and hand-dipped ice cream served over angel food cake. \$8/person. Take out or eat in. Event benefits awards to Bristol High School graduates.

SEPTEMBER. Sun., 9/29, 2 PM. Bristol Borough's Grand Procession commemorating the Marquis de Lafayette's return visit to Bristol in 1824. Starting on Radcliffe St. at Adams Hollow Creek and terminating at Radcliffe & Mill Sts.

OCTOBER. Tues., 10/8. Bus trip to the Tenement Museum on NY's Lower East Side, followed by 3-course lunch and some free

time in Little Italy. \$165 for BCHF members; \$175 for non-members. Reservation deadline: August 30. Call 215-788-9043 for detailed flyer/reservation form.

OCTOBER. Sat., 10/19, 10 AM to 4 PM. Annual Historic Bristol Day. Theme: Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of Lafayette's Farewell Tour." Details in future Gazettes.

NOVEMBER. Wed., 11/20, 7:30 PM. BCHF's annual meeting at BCHF headquarters. Election of Board members followed by a presentation (topic not yet determined). Light refreshment. The public is cordially invited. No fee.

NOVEMBER. Tues., 11/26, 7 PM. Return of Titanic historian David Kaplan whose topic will be "Unsuspecting Participants." Light refreshment. BCHF headquarters. Donations to the FUMC Food Pantry of Bristol of sanitary products, toilet paper, paper towels, dish or laundry detergent, etc., greatly appreciated.

DECEMBER. Thurs., 12/3. Bus trip to "Holidays at Nemours Estate", DE. 3-course luncheon at Buckley's Tavern and self-guided tour of the Nemours Mansion, elaborately decorated for the holidays. \$135 for BCHF members; \$145 for non-members. Reservation info in future Gazettes.

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)

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