



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.

NOVEMBER 2021

President's Corner

I want to express my sincere thanks to everyone that made this year's Historic Bristol Day a success. After a year's hiatus due to the pandemic, we were especially blessed with cooperation from the weather and the outpouring of support from the community. The day was sunny, warm, and breezy. The weather forecast predicted the possibility of storms, but thankfully they held off until twenty minutes after the event was over. Someone was looking out for us.

The day started off with a dedication ceremony to honor our three treasured members and volunteers who passed away last year. After remarks about Sheree Napoli, Carol Mitchener and Mary McIlvain, we were honored to hear from Captain David Christian who spoke about the rich history of Bristol and the significant role of volunteerism in the community.

The day was filled with many other events and entertainment as well as the annual Bristol Day Car Show. There were many entrants at the show to the delight of all those that attended.

Of course, we had our house and garden tour as well as the tea on the banks of the Delaware.

From the banks, ticket holders could watch the sailboats from the Anchor Yacht Club sail by added by the stiff breeze on the river. I also must commend the students from the 4th to 6th Grade from Snyder-Girotti Elementary School who presented the Bristol Living Wax Museum. Everyone loved the

presentations, including many of those who were being portrayed.

A very special thanks to our Chairpersons Mary Gesualdi and Dawn DeLuca and their committee members. Planning and coordinating of this event take a good part of the year to achieve. We were guided through the process by the steady leadership of Mary, who, along with Dawn, gave many hours and, I am sure many sleepless nights to make sure everything was in order and in place needed to make the event a success.

I must also thank the Borough of Bristol and its officers for all their support and cooperation.

Bristol is lucky to have such forward thinking members of its government who understand and support the value of events such as ours to the community.

We must recognize and thank Merle Winslow who is the Emergency Manager Coordinator. He helps the borough and the event planners coordinate all of the services needed, such as police, medical services and traffic control. He is invaluable to all community events run in Bristol as his experience and knowledge is paramount to holding a safe and organized event. Merle volunteers a great deal of his time in this endeavor. Thank you Merle for all you do to make our Bristol events the best they can be.

Also thank you, our loyal members who donated and came out to support the event.

We hope to see you all again next year.

Jan Ruano President



HBD Regatta winners

- 1st Place – Don Hoefle, on “Hot Canary”
- 2nd Place – Howard Hunter, on “Boomerang”
- 3rd Place – John Allen on “Shocking”

Bristol Day Car Show *by Mark Gesualdi*

The 10th Annual Bristol Day Car Show was a huge success. The show area was packed to capacity with some of the finest antique and classic cars. Record crowds poured through to admire the cars and vote for their favorites.

A new addition to the show this year was a military display. Many veterans and public officials turned out at noon to hear motivational speaker Captain David Christian. Present were Mayor Saxton, Council President Ralph Diguiseppe, Police Chief Steve Henry, and former Police Chief, Arnie Porter.

We greatly appreciate Diane Reitz for coordinating the honor guard and the military display. It was a perfect addition to our show. Also, a special thanks to the Bristol Borough School District for letting us use their facility for our annual show.



Trips and Programs *by Helen Younglove*

BCHF IS ON THE MOVE

Mt. Hope Estate

Reminders for those who signed up for our November 29th bus trip to the Mt. Hope Estate in Manheim, PA:

- 1 - Bus will depart from the Grundy Arena, 475 Beaver St., at **10:00 a.m. sharp** and return at **approx 6:30 p.m.**
- 2 - Park in the front rows, facing the school.
- 3 - Bring a mask.

To check for any cancellations, call Helen Younglove at 215-788-9408.

Charleston and Bermuda cruise

The reservation deadline for the June 2-12 Charleston and Bermuda cruise aboard Celebrity's "Summit" is February 4. Contact Grand American Tours at 1-800-423-0247.

The cruise sails from Cape Liberty, NJ, and arrangements for transportation to and from the pier will be made by BCHF. The second day is at sea, the ship will be in Charleston the following two days, days 5 and 6 will be at sea, days 7 thru 9 will be in Bermuda, day 10 at sea, arriving back in NJ the morning of day 11. Rates range from \$1,577 pp double occupancy to \$2,387. Included are Celebrity's classic beverage package, prepaid gratuities, and surf Wi-Fi internet package. For a detailed flyer, contact Helen Younglove at 215-788-9408.

Gift Givers: Think Christmas, anniversary, birthday, Mother's & Father's Day, etc.! This is the gift whose memories will last forever!!

HEAR ALL ABOUT IT

At the conclusion of BCHF's annual membership meeting on the evening of Wednesday, November 17, a representative of the Nature Conservancy will give a presentation on the history and geography of the 17-acre Bristol Marsh, that is adjacent to Bristol's Municipal Parking Lot. As stated in last month's Gazette by BCHF President Jan Ruano, this marsh is the best remaining example of a freshwater tidal marsh in PA.

Circle your 2022 calendar for the following programs: Sunday, February 6, 2022, at 2 p.m. - A presentation entitled "Little Street, Big City: How Elfreth's Alley Tells the Story of Philadelphia" by Ted Maust, Associate Director of the Elfreth's Alley Association.

Sunday, March 27, 2022, at 2 p.m. - A presentation on "Burlington Island: Past & Present." by Judy Gauntt, President of the Friends of Burlington Island.

These three programs will be held at BCHF's headquarters at 321 Cedar St. in Bristol Borough. Light refreshment will be served. The public is cordially invited. The membership meeting is free to all; a \$4 per adult donation is requested for the latter two.

***Our thanks to our generous sponsors
without whom Historic Bristol Day would not be possible.***

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Trinseo

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Helen Younglove



We Won

This September BCHF won the contest sponsored by McHales Cares. Mary and Mark Gesualdi, Jan Ruano and Bethanne Olczak were there to

receive the check for the benefit of Historic Bristol Day.

Each month McHales chooses three non-profit organizations in Bucks County that promote community service in Bucks County. They then ask people to vote online during the month and the organi-

zation with the most votes is awarded one thousand dollars. In September Historic Bristol Day was one of those chosen to participate and thanks to all you loyal members we won the award.

McHales is a plumbing company which has been part of the community for over seventy years.

They established the program, McHalesCares, to give back to their community. Every month they donate this important sum to a deserving organization that meets that goal.

We are so grateful to McHales for their donation and applaud them for their effort to make our community a better place.

STUDENT ART

This year the art work submitted by the students in Bristol schools were dynamic and respectful images of first responders. Judges were charged with the difficult task of picking three winners from these wonderful artists.

This year's Student Art Contest winners were:

1st Place- Kayla Distler, Grade 7 Bristol Middle School.

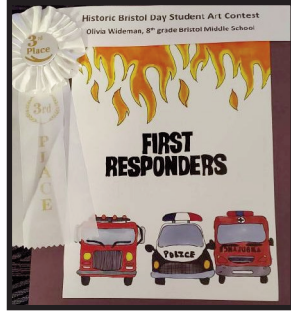
2nd place- Teagan Kauffman, Grade 7 Bristol Middle School.

3rd Place- Olivia Wideman, Grade 8 Bristol Middle School.

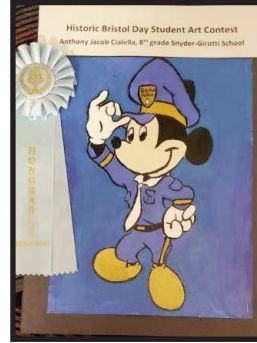
Honorable Mention- Anthony Jacob Cialella, Grade 6 Snyder-Girotti School.



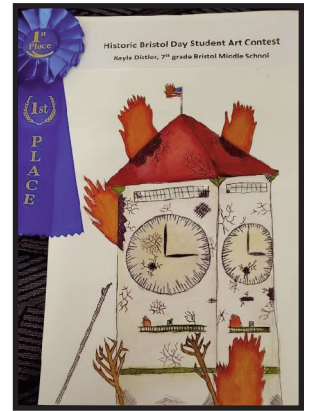
Left: Teagan Kauffman



Right: Olivia Wideman



Left: Anthony Jacob Cialella



Above: Kayla Distler

A 1920 Snapshot of Bristol *by Harold Mitchener*

During World War I, the Bristol Borough docks were large enough to create twelve building slips. In 1917, Averell Harriman organized the shipyards and created the Merchant Shipbuilding Corporation (later known as Merchant-Sterling) and would later land a huge cargo ships contract which would contribute to the war effort.

Many changes came about in the 1920s. On May 17, 1922, Bristol grew about 17 acres bigger. 1922, the Harriman section, was added with homes built specifically for an army of shipbuilders and located in the northern section of Bristol. The population grew to a total of approximately 10,273 in 1920 and acreage to the community.

The years 1920 to 1921 saw the railroad elevated and rerouted to parallel Route 13. Rerouting the rails opened the Borough to automobile traffic while allowing for speedier train traffic.

The Grundy Mill complex consisted of several buildings constructed over 55 years. Located in the mill district of Bristol, the buildings date from Bristol's critical period of industrial and population growth, from 1876 to 1930. The buildings operated as one unit for the milling, storage, and power for the worsted mills of the William H. Grundy Co and reflected Bristol's role as the premier industrial center of Bucks County.



William Averell Harriman, politician, businessman, and diplomat with Mrs. Harriman.

Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from **November 1911** issues of THE BUCKS COUNTY GAZETTE.

11/3 - "THE BELL STORES, Mill and Pond Streets, 303 Washington Street.....50 Crown Stamps with Each Purchase of Fresh Meats Amounting to \$1.00 at All the Bell Stores on Friday and Saturday! Sirloin Steak - 20c & 25c a lb. Round Steak - 18c a Lb. Legs Lamb - 16c & 18c a Lb. Loin Lamb Chops - 20c & 25c a Lb." WEDDINGS. Miss Grace Alfaretta Reed, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. William B. Reed of Dorrance Street, and Harry Simpson, son of Mr. & Mrs. Harry Simpson

of Edgely, were united in marriage at the home of the bride's parents at noon on Wednesday. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Charles E. Burns, D.D., pastor of the Presbyterian Church. Only the members of the families of the bride and groom were present. After a wedding breakfast, Mr. & Mrs. Simpson left for New York where they will spend ten days. **HEARD ON THE STREET:**

There should be something done to stop that confounded racket at an unholy hour in the morning caused by the bells on the ice wagon teams. The loaded wagons make enough noise

continued on next page

without adding the bells. (First Warder)

Of all the crowd that went over to Burlington and back on Hallowe'en, I did not see a drunken man nor did I hear any profanity. (William E. Doron)

WELFARE SOCIETY ORGANIZED. The Public Welfare Society of Bristol met at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Decker last Thursday evening and a plan of systematic work was outlined. The president, Mrs. Peirce, sounded the keynote upon which success must be based, when she declared the necessity for cooperation in the community.

"GRATZ'S NEW BAKE SHOP, cor. Dorrance and Wood Sts...
...Bread, Cakes, Ice Cream, Fine Confectionery."

11/10 – **REPUBLICANS WIN EASILY IN BRISTOL.** Win Everything in Four Wards and Elect Councilman in Democratic Fourth. The Republicans won an easy victory in Bristol on Tuesday, electing everybody on the ticket in the First, Second, Third and Fifth Wards. In the Democratic Fourth Ward, a special effort was made to elect Charles A. Singer, Republican candidate for council, and it was successful. It is reported that all sorts of promises were made to induce voters for the Republican candidates.

KEPT WEDDING A SECRET. Bristol is a great place for "quiet" weddings. The latest of these affairs which have been kept from the public is the announcement which has just been made of the marriage of Earl Stanley White, manager of the Colonial Theatre of Bristol, and Miss Blanche Woodhull, the pianist at the theatre, which took place in Philadelphia last summer. The ceremony was performed on Sunday evening, July 23, at the home of the bride in Philadelphia. Mr. White was granted an absolute divorce from his first wife, Mary R. White, on the first of last March.

NO MORE TWO-CENT MILK. At a meeting of the milkmen of Bristol held a few days ago, it was agreed that, owing to a shortage in the supply and to the advance in prices, on and after November 15 no more two-cent bottles of milk, nor less than three cents worth of cream, would be sold to any customer.

"Carpets Well Shaken and Put in Good Condition by JOHN MADDEN, corner Wood and Mulberry Streets and 447 Washington Street."

11/17 – **BURGESS APPOINTS TREE COMMISSION.** At the regular meeting of Bristol Borough Council, held on Monday evening, a communication was read from Burgess Henry E. Ancker announcing his appointment of members of the Shade Tree Commission as provided for in the Act of 1907.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS. On last Sunday afternoon was witnessed a unique sight in Bristol when about 800 Sunday school scholars and teachers connected with the Protestant churches marched in a body to the Methodist Church, where a celebration was held in honor of the 100th anniversary of the inauguration of the first Sunday school in Bristol. John C. Maule, as a representative of the Society of Friends, read an interesting paper on the origin of the first Sunday school in Bristol.

"You can have the BEST OYSTERS at your home, either raw or cooked, stewed, paned, fried. A pound of crackers with every 100 raw oysters. Phone your wants to 34L.

Ice cream at all times. Loose or bricked, delivered. **JOHN ANGUS,** 313 Washington Street."

"RUSSI, 242 Mill Street.....Men's Furnishings. Gloves, best leather - \$1.00, \$1.50 and \$2.00. Neckwear - 25c, 50c and \$1.00. Sweater Coats - 50c and up to \$5.00. Hats and Caps - 25c to \$3.00."

11/24 – **"Announcement! RIVERSIDE THEATRE.** Opens Saturday Evening, November 25, '11, with High-Class Bill of Vaudeville, Illustrated Songs, and Motion Pictures that Seem Actualities. Singing, Dancing and Musical Artists Who Are Experts in Their Line. Special Attraction! Lone Star Larry, Champion Lariat Thrower of the World. The Only Cowboy Spinning a 25-foot Rope with His Teeth. No Standing! Seats for All! Fire Protection Guaranteed. Come in and See Bristol's Most Handsome and Updated Theatre. Nothing said from the stage that will offend anyone. Good, Clean Entertainment Is Assured."

"Stupendous Clothing Sale! We have purchased the surplus stock of a BIG Philadelphia firm at 50 cents on the dollar and you will get the benefit. Men's, Youths' and Boys' Suits and Overcoats at 1/2 Price. Sale will commence December 1. **LOUIS DRIES,** Mill Street."

NEW ERA DAWNS IN OLD TOWN. Pennsylvania Railroad Completes Over Million Dollars Worth of Improvements. New Elevated Line. Pennsylvania Railroad Company improvements in Bristol, representing an expenditure of over a million dollars in the building of an elevated line through the borough and the elimination of ten grade crossings, have been completed and traffic over the new line will begin on Sunday.

FRIENDS MEETING 200 YEARS OLD. In the old historic meeting house at the corner of Market and Wood Streets, Bristol, on the afternoon of November 19, a little group of Friends met to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the building of the venerable and beloved structure.

NEW RECTOR FOR ST. PAUL'S PARISH. Rev. F. M. Holden, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Wissahickon, has accepted a call to become rector of St. Paul's parish of Bristol and will assume his pastoral duties on December 3, the first Sunday of Advent. The Vanuxen property at the corner of Radcliffe and Dorrance Streets, now owned by Joseph R. Grundy, will be the rectory and will be occupied by Rev. Holden and family.

STAGE SERVICE FOR NEW STATION. H. J. Molden announces that, beginning on Sunday when trains will be running over the new elevated line, he will hereafter have stages to meet all trains after 6 p.m. until the arrival of the "owl" line from Philadelphia. For this night service, a charge of 25 cents will be made. Charges on Sundays, day and night, will also be 25 cents. Prices for day service during the week will be the same as heretofore.

"A NIGHT IN BOHEMIA." The Bristol Lodge of Elks had "A Night in Bohemia" last night in their handsomely appointed home on Radcliffe Street. A vaudeville programme was given in the social session room by professional talent from Philadelphia.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

A marriage license has been granted to Antonio Manzo and Francesco DeStefano, both of Bristol. Last Sunday was "sacrifice day" at the Baptist Church, and \$600 was turned into the treasury.

For \$1.50 a year, the Bristol Library will give access to 3000 books and 16 magazines a month, with the privilege of taking out for home reading a book and magazine as often as desired.

The first train over the elevated line eastbound is due to stop at the new Bristol station on Sunday morning at 7:12 o'clock. A new schedule goes into effect on that day.

"When You Are Looking for Good, Clean, Wholesome Eatables, Stop in TOWNSEND'S RESTAURANT, 227 Mill Street.....Try One of Our 35 Cent Dinners. Special Tables for Ladies."



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BCHF Calendar of Events For 2021 - 2022

NOVEMBER Wed., 11/17, 7:30 PM. Annual meeting. A brief business meeting followed by a presentation on the history and geography of our own Bristol Marsh by a member of the Heritage Conservancy. Refreshments follow. Free. The public is invited. BCHF headquarters. Call 215 788-6912 for information. We ask that all in attendance wear a mask.

NOVEMBER Mon., 11/29, bus trip to Manheim, PA, for the Mount Hope holiday extravaganza. Includes 4-course, served luncheon in the festively decorated mansion. \$112 for BCHF members, \$115 non-members. To check on current availability, call Helen Younglove at 215788-9408.

FEBRUARY Sunday, 2/6, 2:00 PM. "Little Street, Big City: How Elfreth's Alley Tells the Story of Philadelphia". Presented by Ted Maust, Director, Elfreth's Alley Museum. Donation \$4 per adult, students free. Light refreshments follow. The public is invited. BCHF headquarters

MARCH Sunday, 3/27, 2:00 PM. "Burlington Island" presented by Judy Gauntt, President, Friends of Burlington Island. Donation \$4 per adult, students free. Light refreshments follow. The public is invited. BCHF headquarters.

APRIL Plans will soon be underway for our Annual Tea. We hope to have our usual wonderful afternoon of tea sandwiches, desserts and scones with lemon curd and jams. We'll have a bake sale and raffles. Watch here for the date.

JUNE Thurs 6/2 through Sun 6/12 Celebrity's cruise to Charleston, SC, and Bermuda aboard the recently modernized "Summit." The ship sails from Cape Liberty, NJ, More details to follow

- 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 - -

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Nick Rizzo, Mark Gesualdi, and Sue Watkins. Regatta photo by Elisa Baxt