



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.

MARCH 2022

President's Corner

Bristol Borough is an ethnically diverse community that has attracted a variety of people throughout its long history. The lush, fertile lands along the Delaware River, that included the area that would become Bristol Borough, were occupied by the Lenni Lenape or "Original People" before the arrival of Europeans. These indigenous people lived in bands along the river and nearby creeks prior to their displacement by the English Quakers beginning around 1681. The Quakers were a practical, business-minded people who recognized that this area, with its major river highway and Indian trails, could be developed into a thriving center for industry and transportation. Their insight was proven correct over the hundreds of years that followed; Bristol Borough became a hub for travel, trade, and industry of many types. The growth of industry required an influx of employees and Bristol's population grew with the addition of a variety of immigrant workers. Recent surveys indicate that Bristol residents represent over 20 of the world's nations.

Our community is fortunate to have many organizations that preserve aspects of Bristol's history and rich, varied culture. Since its founding 55 years ago, Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation has tried to promote Bristol's history and culture through public programs and sponsorship of community activities. We are accompanied in this effort by the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania, the African American Historical and Cultural Society of Bucks County, the Puerto Rican Cultural Association of Bucks County (PRCABC), the Bristol Lions Club, and the Celtic Heritage Foundation.

The Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania (LNPA) is a non-profit organization that was founded to raise awareness of the Lenape history and culture and to preserve its traditions. LNPA has a very active education program and reenacts a treaty signing and river journey every 4 years, including 2022.

The African American Historical and Cultural Society of Bucks County (AAHCSBC) is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1995. AAHCSBC's stated mission is "to research, document and educate others on the rich history of African Americans in Bucks County". The society has an active research program into the history and experiences of African Americans in this area. One of their hallmark accomplishments has been the funding and erection of the Harriet Ross Tubman monument in 1998. Each year they organize African American Day and participate in Bristol Day.

The Puerto Rican Cultural Association of Bucks County (PRCABC) is preparing to celebrate its 50th anniversary. PRCABC is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing artistic, cultural, musical, and historical events that foster the preservation of the Puerto Rican culture. They award two scholarships a year to Bucks County high school seniors, organize the Annual Puerto Rican Day, and erected a Puerto Rican monument, a replica of a Spanish guard house, in Lion's Park.

The people who belong to these organizations feel the need to preserve their cultures and remember their histories. It is important to do that and to recognize the value of other cultures and other histories. We are very lucky to live in such a diverse community and to have the opportunity to remember its past and to celebrate its rich and varied cultures.

Lenape:<https://collaborativehistory.gse.upenn.edu/stories/original-people-and-their-land-lenape-pre-history-18th-century>

Demographics:<https://www.neighborhoodscout.com/pa/bristol/demographics>

<https://www.lenape-nation.org/>

<https://aaahcsbc.wordpress.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Puerto-Rican-Cultural-Association-of-Bucks-County-174032711510>

Deborah Pinney, President

Helen Younglove retires from the BCHF Board of Directors

After 35 years on the board, Helen has decided to retire. We are grateful for all the years she has served but we will miss her wisdom and guidance as well as her tireless efforts. We are very fortunate that she will continue working with the Ways and Means and Bristol Day committees. Helen has always been a big part of BCHF and one of the reasons it survives and thrives today.

Thank you, Helen.

Programs and Trips

As announced in earlier issues of The Gazette, BCHF's Ways & Means Committee has lined up two cruises: one cruise for this year and another in 2023. The committee has also been working on bus trips for this year. The first was recently finalized. Read about details below.

* **BERMUDA & CHARLESTON CRUISE**, June 2-12, sailing on the recently refurbished Celebrity "Summit" from Cape Liberty, NJ, and docking for two days in Charleston and three days at the Royal Naval Dockyard in Bermuda. Rates range from \$1,577 to \$2,387 and include a choice of Celebrity's classic beverage package, prepaid gratuities, or surf Wifi internet package. Call Helen Younglove at 215-788-9408 for a detailed flyer or Grand American Tours in Morton, PA, 1-800-423-0247 for reservations.

* **HOLY LANDS & AEGEAN MAJESTY (JERUSALEM TO ROME) CRUISE**, October 6-17, 2023, aboard the Oceania "Nautica" and escorted by Grand American Tours of Morton, PA. Ports include Jerusalem

(Haifa), Jerusalem (Ashdod), Limassol (Cyprus), Rhodes (Greece), Ephesus (Kusadasi), Turkey, Athens (Piraeus), and Santorini, Greece, Taormina (Sicily), Naples/Pompeii, and Rome (Civitavecchia), Italy. Rates range from \$4,298 to \$8,098, including roundtrip airfare, free internet, and a choice of a \$600 shipboard credit, six shore excursions, or an alcoholic beverage package (beer, wine, champagne with lunch and dinner). Call numbers in the previous paragraph for detailed flyers and reservations.

* **BUS TRIP TO SPRING LAKE, NJ**, Wednesday, May 25, featuring Doolan's Shore Club's Annual Memorial Day Armed Services Salute, 1-hr. open bar plus extra wine hour, and complete luncheon. There will also be free time for shopping and ocean viewing before heading home. The all-inclusive price is \$125 for BCHF members and \$128 for non-members, based on a minimum of 44 paid passengers. For a detailed flyer with a reservation form, call 215-788-9043. The reservation deadline is Monday, April 4.

Figs and Mulberry Trees

Over the years, there have been some unusual crops tried in Bristol. They required special efforts and attention by some Bristol residents.

There was a report in the October, 1910 Bristol Gazette about a "Big Fig" crop raised by Gustav Moffo of 122 Penn Street. The native Sicilian had been very successful with his pursuit to grow figs. He sold his figs for 50 cents a dozen. His first sapling was imported some years before from Sicily and the tree grew rapidly. By cutting and planting sprigs of the original tree, Moffo now had 25 fruit bearing trees. He explained that in the fall of the year he had to dig a deep trench around the roots of the tree, bend the tree down to the ground and cover the entire tree with straw and earth to protect it from the winter weather. In the spring, the tree was uncovered, raised to its upright position and the soil was replaced around the roots. In 1910, the yield of the fruit was very profitable.

Another unusual crop was an orchard of mulberry trees. According to the 1911 History of Bristol by Doron Green, there was an orchard in 1844 that was producing leaves for the silk industry, a business venture which existed at that time. People expected to get rich by raising silkworms. The Bristol orchard of mulberry trees was located along the river at Radcliffe and Washington Streets. It extended as far west to Pond Street and north to almost Jefferson Avenue. A building was built (3 stories in height) as part of this business venture. William Booz of Cedar Street was employed as a boy to gather the mulberry leaves from the trees in the grove and feed them to the silkworms. In a few years, the "craze" subsided and business was suspended; the old build-

ing was removed. (In Burlington, NJ a similar experience with the silkworm industry was taking place.)

Today, in this area, we cannot find a mulberry grove nor a fig orchard. However it is possible to grow an individual fig tree or purchase a "kit" for raising silkworms complete with a mulberry bush.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: According to the dictionary, "A fig is an Asian species of a flowering plant in the mulberry family." A fig grows in dry and sunny areas. Research shows it was a common practice introduced by Italian immigrants in the 19 century, where winters were normally cold, to import a fig tree. A trench was dug (appropriate to the size of the tree - - in some cases more than 10 feet tall). Part of the root ball would be severed and the tree set into the hole. It was wrapped in material to discourage mold and fungus and then covered with a heavy layer of soil and fallen leaves. It is interesting to note that today wrapping a fig tree for survival is no longer required because winters have become milder. Just placing a fig tree in a sheltered spot or near a sun-reflecting wall and wrapping it in plastic is sufficient. Today figs are produced in California which has become an ideal fig-producing state. Figs can be eaten fresh or dried or in jam. Most commercial fig products are dried or processed.

The silkworm is the larva or caterpillar of a special kind of moth which no longer lives in "the wild." Originally the moth was native to China. The life cycle of the moth is only 6 to 8 weeks. They eat only mulberry leaves and obtain the moisture they need from eating these leaves.



A Note From Ways & Means

Hi Everyone,

Ted Maust, Director of Elfreth's Alley Museum, presented a well-received power point program on Elfreth's Alley in February. It was well-attended and very informative. Try to plan a real-time visit. Visitors are welcome from April to October.

This March, Judy Gauntt, President of the Friends of Burlington Island, will trace the island's history. Some Bristolians will remember when it was Island Beach Amusement Park. Come join us on Sunday, March 27th at 2pm for another of our informative programs. Light refreshments will be served. A donation of \$4.00 is requested.

Important! Because of restrictions to our building

A Tribute to Helen . . .

After 35 years serving as a member of the BCHF Board of Directors Helen Younglove has decided to resign from that position. Helen has been and will remain a very dedicated and active member of our organization as she promised to continue to be active with other committees and projects.

Helen became an active member of BCHF in 1981 after serving on Bristol's Three Hundred Year Anniversary Committee. She has filled many roles since that time. Helen is and continues to be an important member of the Ways and Means Committee. She has served as Chairperson for many years. Her roles include planning for our very successful trips and programs including day trips, cruises, and multiple trips to places such as Mackinac Island, Nova Scotia, San Antonio and The Biltmore. Often Helen took the job of tour director, making sure the trip ran smoothly.

She is always on the lookout for interesting topics and speakers for our well attended programs. Helen also takes care of publicity for all these events. She is appreciated for her special treats she makes to serve at the end of the program.

For all our special events such as the Peach Social and Annual Tea Helen can be found doing whatever chores are necessary. She is the one you contact to make a tea reservation.

Many years ago, BCHF members would go into the community on Christmas Eve to sing carols. That was Helen's idea. She planned and coordinated that activity. Another event from the past was First Night which was held on New Year's Eve. There were many venues around the town where people could go to be entertained while awaiting the arrival of the new year. . That took a lot of planning and coordination. Helen was very active on the First Night Committee.

capacity, there will be a limitation on our audience size. So, we are requesting that you and your friends reserve seating by calling: Helen Younglove at 215-788-9408. To keep us all safe, vaccination and masks are requested for this event.

Save the Date! After two years postponement, we are able to hold our 25th Anniversary Tea! Join us on Sunday, April 24th at 2pm at the BCHF headquarters. Your friends and family will enjoy "catching up" over delicious scones, tea sandwiches and desserts. Of course, we will have raffles to add to the good time. Tickets are \$22.00 each. The reservation deadline will be April-8th. Call 215-788-9408 to reserve.

The next Ways & Means meeting will be held at the BCHF headquarters on Cedar Street on March 21st at 2pm. New members are welcome. Call: Kathy Barniskis at 215-943-0258 for more information. Be sure to check the last page of the Gazette for upcoming trip information.

The Out of The Past article that appears in each issue of the Gazette is done by Helen. She goes to the library, using the reference material found on the microfiche machine, copies the information in shorthand and then transcribes it for us to read. She has also provided pictures and other articles for the Gazette.

While working at Rohm and Haas, Helen was given the responsibility of taking pictures. She continues that activity for BCHF making sure all events are documented. Those pictures can be found in the numerous albums she put together.

Helen is a very valuable member of the Historic Bristol Day Committee. Among other things she schedules all the entertainment and takes care of publicity. She has procured special groups such as the Antique Boat Club and the Gazella to come to the event.

As you can see, Helen is a very valuable and appreciated member of our organization.

We want to say thank you for all you have done in the past. We are so grateful that she will continue to stay active in many of the BCHF events in the future.



Above: Helen on Bristol Day

Below: Helen taking the helm of the tour boat in San Antonio



Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from **March 1942** issues of THE BRISTOL COURIER.

3/2 – AT STATION TO SEE BOYS LEAVE. There was a large group of relatives and friends at the P.R.R. station this morning to see those leaving to be inducted into the U. S. Army. A number of boys were taken to the station on the apparatus of the various fire companies of which they are members.

3/3 – FLEETWINGS GIVES \$5,000 TO RED CROSS. Another Bristol industry has made a substantial contribution to the Red Cross war fund which is being raised for the benefit of the United States Armed Forces and for civilian relief.

NEW BLACKOUT RULES FOR VEHICLES GIVEN. Must Be Equipped with the Proper Masks for Headlights.

BIG ALUMNI COURT FRAY TO PRECEDE TITLE CONTEST. Old Grads of Bristol and Fallsington to Vie for Honors. An imposing array of former schoolboy basketball stars from Bristol and Fallsington will get an opportunity to relive some of the scenes of the past, Wednesday night in the local gymnasium. Some of the best basketball players in town were on Coach Clarence Bartholomew's list Monday evening. Among those to be invited to compete for the "Bunnies" were: Ralph Cahall, Vince and "Buck" Profy, Bob Monti and Gusty Carnvale. Other outstanding players on the list were: Cappecci, Petrick, Sak, Lupkin, Pieo, Bill Mignoni, Howell and Fiorito.

3/4 – BRISTOL SCHOOL TEACHERS GET \$100 INCREASE IN THEIR SALARIES. Adds \$6,500 to Budget. Request by Teachers' Ass'n Was for an Increase of \$200.

LECTURES FOR WARDENS AND EMERGENCY POLICE SCHEDULED. A series of two lectures for air raid wardens, emergency police and any others interested is scheduled to be held in Hibernian Hall, Corson Street, on March 9 and 16, from 7:30 until 9:30 p.m. The course is compulsory for all air raid wardens.

3/6 – MILL STREET STORES TO CLOSE TWO EVENINGS. In order to conserve electricity for national defense and also to give employees more time for recreation, as well as protect the health of these employees by giving them shorter working hours, members of the Mill Street Business Men's Ass'n have instituted a program whereby they hope all members will close on Tuesday and Wednesday evening during the entire year.

HELP WANTED: Exper. woman, for cooking and housework, no nights, sleep out, no laundry. Salary \$10. Phone Bristol 2127. Colored Girls. With sewing experience on electric machines. Apply to Peerless Dress Factory, foot of High St., Burlington, N.J.

3/7 – WILSON EMPLOYEES PURCHASE BONDS THROUGH PAYROLL PLAN. Employees of Wilson Distillery, Inc., are participating 100% in a voluntary payroll deduction plan for purchase of U. S. Defense Bonds.

"NOTICE....Due to Labor Conditions, the KEYSTONE RESTAURANT, Bath and Otter Streets, Will Close at 9 P.M. Each Evening, Except Friday and Saturday, when the Restaurant Will Be Open to 12 P.M. Beginning Sunday, March 8."

3/10 – ITALIAN SOCIETY MARKS ANNIVERSARY. Mutual Aid Society Organized Here 35 Years Ago. Celebration of the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Italian Mutual

Aid Society was held Sunday in the lodge's hall, Wood Street, and attended by over 200 members and guests. The only surviving one of the founders of the organization is Joseph Gilardi.

SEVEN WOMEN ARE EMPLOYED IN ROHM & HAAS PLANT. First Women to Work in Plant Proper Are in Plexiglas Dept. Seven young Bristol women are the first of a number of women employees to be engaged for actual production work at the Rohm & Haas Chemical Company plant. The seven who commenced their duties yesterday morning, and others yet to be employed, are replacing men lost to the company through service in the U. S. Armed Forces, and are also being placed where they can suitably be assigned as the expansion program of the company calls for additional employees.

BRISTOL TO SUPPLY WATER TO GOV'T HOUSING PROJECT. Bristol Borough is going to furnish water to the United States Government for the 200 housing units which are now being erected on Beaver Dam Road for defense workers.

3/11 – URGE PLANTING OF VEGETABLE GARDENS THAT AID WAR EFFORT. Victory Garden Committee Organized by Bucks County Defense Council. Because such a large percentage of the fruits and vegetables grown by commercial gardeners must go to the Army, the Navy and to the Allies abroad, it will be necessary for civilians to help in the production of their own foods. Advice will be given on planting if such is requested.

REQUEST BIDS FOR 300 BRICK HOUSES TO BE BUILT IN FOURTH WARD; EXPECT TO START WORK WITHIN ONE MONTH. Houses Are To Be Built in Rows on Land at Second and Third Avenues. 6 Rooms and Bath. The site selected is on land of the Bristol Development Co., between Beaver Street and Silver Lake.

3/13 – STUDENTS HERE ARE MAKING MODEL PLANES FOR GOV'T. Will Be Used by Military Units to Instruct Anti-aircraft Gunners. Built to Scale. Government Will Supply the Templates and the Drawings. Bristol is one of the numerous high schools in the United States whose industrial arts students have been selected by government agencies to make models of United Nations and Axis planes.

FLEETWINGS REPLACES "DEFENSE" WITH "ATTACK". From today on, Fleetwings, Inc., aircraft and aircraft parts manufacturers, will be known as an "attack plant" instead of a "defense plant."

HELP WANTED – MALE. Laborer. Work part time, couple of days per week. 50c an hour. Phone Bristol 2834.

3/18 – FIRST DRAFT SERIAL NUMBER WHICH AFFECTS BRISTOL MAN IS THAT OF SAMUEL H. DIETRICK, SPRUCE ST. The first serial number of a Bristol man drawn in the first American wartime draft lottery of World War II, in Washington, last evening, was that of S. H. Dietrick, 626 Spruce Street.

"Opening Thursday, March 19. BOWEN'S RESTAURANT, Route No. 13, below Green Lane. Lunch and Dinner. Steaks, Chops, Oysters, Seafood."

3/20 – BRISTOL SAILOR TELLS GRAPHIC STORY OF HIS EXPERIENCES WHEN ABOARD DESTROYER AT PEARL HARBOR. Clothes Blown Off. Rendered Unconscious for a Time. Recuperating from wounds received during the initial Japanese raid on Pearl Harbor, 1st Class Machinist John J.

continued on next page

Butter or Margarine?

One has an option when shopping. There is "margarine" and there is "butter".

Margarine was invented in France in 1869. It was made from beef tallow and it was originally called "oleomargarine". It arrived in the U.S. in the 1870's and it was to be a cheaper and less perishable product than butter.

As one may expect, dairy farmers were not happy at all. They waged campaigns against the use of margarine. The campaign reached all the way to the legislature and courts where it was said to be unnatural, unhealthy and sold fraudulently as butter. Some even claimed that chemicals were used to produce it.

In 1885 the legislature of Pennsylvania passed a "law" making it illegal to manufacture, sell or possess with intent to sell oleomargarine. There was a court case in Pennsylvania where the store that sold the

product was fined \$50.00 and had to pay all court costs as well as the cost for analyzing the product.

Other states also had similar restrictions. Margarine finally became permitted, during the butter shortages of World War II.

Some readers may be old enough to remember squeezing a plastic bag with a yellow coloring in it to make the contents of the bag yellow. By 2014 butter had again overtaken margarine as America's preferred spread.

Today butter is sold in a box with four portions each individually wrapped. A number of companies produce margarine and it is usually sold in a plastic container. Americans are fortunate to have a choice between butter or margarine.

Information from the Pennsylvania Heritage periodical.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU . . .

Do you have an interesting story or fond memory to share about Bristol Borough? Maybe it was a time in your life that was very memorable . . . a favorite neighbor, teacher, childhood friend or parents of a childhood friend. Maybe it's about a current happening. Don't worry that it is not written perfectly, we can edit for you and correct spelling/grammar.

We would like to hear about your memories, Just send your thoughts to BCHF, c/o Gazette Editor, Box 215, Bristol, PA 19007. Please include your full name and email address and phone so we can get in touch with you if necessary.

Out of the Past . . . *continued*

Nelson, of the U.S. Navy, has arrived in Bristol to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Nelson, 712 Pine Street. The two pieces of shrapnel he received in his left leg have been removed, the 3rd degree burn on his left knee, and 1st and 2nd degree burns on his body are practically healed, but the Bristol sailor will never forget Sunday, December 7, the day he was "blown out of his clothes" and after a period of unconsciousness was forced to dive from the top of a dry-dock into the bay and swim for his life.

"BRISTOL, Bucks County's Finest Theatre. Saturday, continuous from 1 P.M. Adults 20c plus tax, to 5 P.M. In these times of stress, relax at the movies. Five Big Attractions. Attraction No. 1 - "Harvard, Here I Come." Attraction No. 2 - "Public Enemies." Attraction No. 3 - "Calling All Tars," a Bob Hope comedy. Attraction No. 4 - "Dick Tracy Vs. Crime Inc." Attraction No. 5 - Univ. of So. California Band & Glee Club."

3/25 - WOMEN BEING TRAINED IN AIRCRAFT WORK. Females Now Attending the Classes for Ten 40-Hour Weeks. Sheet-Metal Lessons. Classes for training women for production jobs at the expanding Fleetwing plant have started. Additional classes are being formed as rapidly as new candidates apply. The school is part of the vocational training system of the Bristol public school system. Classes for men over 18 years of age are also being held at the Fleetwing school and prospective students are constantly being added.

3/26 - 972 CANS OF FOOD ARE "PAID" AS ADMISSIONS. At the "canned food" matinee held in the Bristol Theatre yesterday afternoon, the children of Bristol did their part for the Food Conservation Committee of the Bucks County Council of

Defense. Ned Egnal, of the Bristol Theatre, made this possible by furnishing the films and the theatre free of charge. This food has been stored in Bristol in various buildings to be used in case of an emergency.

"Look Your Loveliest on Palm Sunday with the Latest in Spring and Easter Fashions from SMITH'S MODEL SHOP, 412-414 Mill Street. 3-Piece Suits - \$19.95 to \$33.50. Easter Hats - \$1.25 to \$3.95. Dresses - \$2.98 to \$5.98 and \$6.98 to \$16.95."

"CAMPO'S QUALITY MEATS, Pond & Lafayette Streets... ..Specials for Your Palm Sunday Dinner! Fresh Hams - 26c Lb. Shoulders of Pork - 28c Lb. Meaty Spare Ribs - 19c Lb. Rump or Round Steak - 40c Lb."

3/29 - "MORRY'S SUPER DRUG STORE, 310 Mill Street... ..Choose from our grand display of Easter baskets, eggs, dolls and rabbits. Beautifully decorated. 25c to \$3.50. Names decorated free on any egg of 50c or over."

"Announcement....Beginning Today, the HOLLYWOOD RESTAURANT Will Be Open 24 Hours Every Day for Good Food at Reasonable Prices. 409 Mill Street."

3/31 - PLANNING BIG PARADE AND PATRIOTIC DEMONSTRATION TO BE HELD HERE MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 6. Air Raid Wardens and Emergency Police to Be Asked to Parade. Four Bands to Be Invited to Participate.

"Dress up for Easter at MARTY GREEN'S STORE. Sport Pants, Wool Gabardine - \$3.95. Dress Shirts - \$1.19. Trousers - \$7.95. Smoothie Ties - 49c. Men's Hose - 2 Pairs for 35c. Bristol store will remain open every evening until 10 o'clock."



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BCHF Calendar of Events For 2022 - 2023

MARCH Sunday, 3/27, 2:00 PM. "Burlington Island" presented by Judy Gauntt, President, Friends of Burlington Island. Seating is limited; advance reservations required by calling 215 788-9408. Masks and proof of COVID vaccinations requested. Donation \$4 per adult, students free. Light refreshments follow. The public is invited. BCHF headquarters.

APRIL Sunday, 4/24, 2:00 PM. 25th Anniversary Tea. Join us for a wonderful afternoon of tea sandwiches, desserts and scones with lemon curd and jams. Tickets are \$22.00 pp. Call 215 788-9408 to reserve. Reservation deadline is April 8.

MAY Wednesday, 5/25. Bus trip to Doolan's Shore Club for Annual Memorial Day Armed Services Salute. Includes one hour open bar and luncheon plus time for shopping. \$125 BCHF member; \$128 non-member. Call 215 788-9408 to reserve. Reservation deadline is April 4.

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. Make reservations with Grand American Tours by calling 800 423-0247

OCTOBER Sat. 10/15 Historic Bristol Day

2023

OCTOBER 2023 - Oct. 6 - 17, 2023, Holy Lands & Aegean Majesty Cruise. Call 215 788-9408 for a detailed flyer

- BCHF Headquarters are at 321 Cedar Street, Bristol.
- For current information about activities and events, check out our web site at www.bristolhistory.org.

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IG@bristol_historic_foundation

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