



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.

APRIL 2024

President's Corner

Annual Spring Tea

According to "The History of Afternoon Tea: The Invention" in the on-line newsletter "The TeaMuse", in 18th century Britain, dinner was served between 7:00 and 8:30 p.m. while a very light meal was served at midday. The accepted lore is that Anna Maria, the 7th Duchess of Bedford at Woburn Abbey in Bedfordshire, became hungry in the afternoons so she instructed her maid to bring the tea making paraphernalia to her private quarters in the afternoon so that she could enjoy some tea with bread and butter. Anna Maria found that this ritual was so satisfying that she asked a few of her friends to join her, thus creating a new type of social event, the afternoon tea. Women gathered for afternoon tea so that they could meet with their friends, catch up on all the gossip and fashions, and nibble on delicate treats while sipping their tea.

The ritual of afternoon tea spread to all fashionable British society. There were afternoon teas for an intimate group of four up to large tea receptions for 200. The growing middle class imitated the wealthy and started having afternoon teas as a way of entertaining people on a budget. They served pots of tea with small crustless sandwiches, hot buttered toast, scones, and perhaps some small pastries and cakes.

The American colonists did their best to copy all customs of their parent country, including tea drinking. Tea drinking and tea parties were an important

part of colonial society so that the shipping companies that dealt in tea found that the colonies were ready markets for their trade. In Pennsylvania tea drinking was promoted by the sober Quakers who created a lively market for "the cups that cheer but not inebriate".

While tea drinking in all its forms continued in the years after, the popularity of afternoon tea and tea rooms declined in the 20th century. However, more recently there has been a resurgence of afternoon teas and commercial enterprises that feature English-type teas.

This year will be BCHF's 27th annual spring tea. Once again, it will feature bottomless tea pots, a variety of tea sandwiches, homemade scones, and a selection of sweet treats. For the second year, Francis X. Danis will delight us with musical pieces expertly performed on his keyboard. What I believe is a unique addition to the afternoon tea experience, the walls of BCHF will be adorned with artwork by the Artists of Bristol (AOB). Our guests will be able to enjoy the art as well as purchase it (checks only during this event, please).

BCHF is thrilled to continue this almost 300 year old social custom of afternoon tea and is delighted to couple this with an exhibition of AOB artwork. Please check the calendar in this issue for details of registration for the April 28th tea and the May 3d reception for the AOB. <https://www.teamuse.com>

Debbie Pinney, President

Reservation Reminders

The reservation deadline for our Annual Tea, to be held at BCHF headquarters on Sunday afternoon, April 28, is Sunday, April 14. See the Calendar of Events on the back page for more information.

The reservation deadline for the Friday, June 21 bus trip to the Morris Arboretum & Gardens and Historic "Cliveden" is Wednesday, April 17. A minimum of 45 passengers is required for the trip to be a GO. Please talk it up among your relatives, friends and co-workers. Trip details are included in the Calendar of Events on the back page.

Take Time For Tea

BCHF's Annual Tea is drawing near - - Sunday, April 28 to be exact - - and our ladies are busy buying the ingredients for tasty tea sandwiches, scones and desserts. As stated in the March Gazette, the event will feature an exhibition by several members of the Artists of Bristol and musical selections by local keyboard virtuoso Francis X. Danis. You might want to consider this as an early Mother's Day celebration!

Cost is \$35 per person. Seating capacity is limited, so be sure to make your reservation at 215 788-9408 by April 14.

Bruce Mowday Brings Lafayette to BCHF

On Sunday afternoon, March 3rd, Bruce Mowday entertained and enlightened us with his presentation “Lafayette: An American Hero Receives a Grand Reception”. Mr. Mowday recounted how the Marquis De Lafayette, at only 19, defied his monarch, Louis XVI of France, to travel to the American colonies to fight alongside Washington in America’s fight for independence. Lafayette spent much of his considerable fortune and risked his life to uphold his belief in liberty for all. America would not have won the Revolutionary War without Lafayette and the assistance of France. In his first encounter with the English forces at the battle of Brandywine, Lafayette displayed exceptional valor and leadership despite being seriously wounded. His performance in that battle resulted in Lafayette becoming America’s first national hero, celebrated by Americans of the late 18th century and the 19th century when he returned for his yearlong grand American tour. In addition to the events of Lafayette’s early years fighting and working for America’s independence, Mr. Mowday related the story of Lafayette’s later life in France where he continued to strive for his principles as both a soldier and a

statesman, even suffering years as a prisoner of his own country.



Mr. Mowday answered our many questions and brought several books on a variety of subjects. Attendees had the opportunity to purchase Mr. Mowday’s books and to enjoy the many treats donated by members of the Ways and Means committee including several sweets from the era such as “Lafayette Gingerbread” with “Fairy Butter” served to Lafayette by George Washington’s mother at Mount Vernon.

One of the accompanying images shows Bruce Mowday under a facsimile of the “Welcome, Friend” arch created

for Lafayette’s return to Bristol during his Grand Tour in 1824 and next to a panel picturing a young Lafayette.



We Welcome Your Company

The Ways & Means Committee, as well as the Historic Bristol Day Committee are seeking additional members. W&M is BCHF’s fund-raising committee. It plans and executes the majority of BCHF’s activities, such as trips, programs, the Annual Tea and the Annual Peach Social. Depending on manpower availability, it has a presence at Bristol’s ethnic festivals, providing information on our organization and on our historic community and displaying/selling BCHF’s merchandise. The committee researches items appropriate for us to sell, such as the throws, garden flags and wooden replicas of the borough’s historic places. To learn more about the work of Ways & Means, you’re cordially invited to one of their meetings held at BCHF headquarters at 2 p.m. on the third Monday of each month (except for July and December) or call the committee chairperson, Diane Davidson at 215 788-9043.

The Historic Bristol Day Committee plans and executes on of the town’s major annual events. It is always held on the third Saturday of October (this year on October 19) rain or shine. Like all BIG undertakings, it requires a lot of manpower, both in the planning and implementing stages. The committee starts meeting early in the year to critique the previous year’s HBD and lay the groundwork for the upcoming “Day.” Among the subcommittees are: BCHF’s bakery, entertainment, food vendors, grounds/set up/break down, volunteer recruitment, walking tours, publicity, craft vendors, non-profit tables, public buildings, churches, tickets, children’s corner, hosting vendors, publicity & social media, printed program, fund-raising and more. To learn more and, hopefully, consider lending a hand, contact this year’s chairperson, Mary Gesualdi at 215 990-2537.

OUT OF THE PAST

The following items were excerpted from **April 1884** issues of THE BUCKS COUNTY GAZETTE.

4/3 - - The weather is dead set against the organ grinder.

There is a plethora of old tomato cans in many of the streets.

A petition is in circulation praying Council for the protection of a more efficient police force.

Several fine shad have been caught by Bristol fishermen. We hear of some selling at \$2.00 each.

Fine and imprisonment await the mischievous youths who transfer signs and carry gates from their previous places.

The steamboat Columbia commenced her trips to Bristol last Saturday, taking the place of the John A. Warner. The Silver Star has relieved the Gem, and the Maid of Kent has been drawn from the up-river trade.

Durkees Salad Dressing 25 cents a bottle. DR. PURSELLS DRUG STORE, S.W. corner Mill & Cedar Sts.

Lessons Given in ELOCUTION by Louisa Iredell, Radcliffe Street.

4/10 - - John C. Stockert has bought the house on Radcliffe Street, now occupied by Robert W. Rogers, for \$5,000.

Dr. J. Reed Osman, homoeopathic physician of Philadelphia, has located at Bristol and will be found at No. 144 Cedar Street.

Comforts new confectionary store and ice cream saloon on Radcliffe Street, next to the Presbyterian Church, is one of the attractions of that part of the town.

There are said to be in Bristol a number of places where liquor is sold without license. There are a much larger number of places where liquor is sold contrary to law.

A special meeting of the School Directors was held on Tuesday evening for the purpose of deciding whether to elect a Borough Superintendent of Public Schools. The population of Bristol is sufficient to justify this procedure under the law. A motion to elect was unanimously adopted and the election will take place on the first Tuesday of May, the time fixed by law.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS. The Burgess and Council met at 10 o'clock A.M. last Monday at the council chambers for the purpose of organization. Among the officers named were: President, William Tabram; Treasurer, James Wright; Pound Keeper, Charles Saxton. On motion, Council proceeded with the election of other officers, including Byron C. Foster, keeper of the town clock; Henry Roe, fire warden; and Joseph B. Peirce, port warden.

The attention of Council was directed to the increased number of drunken people appearing on the streets on Sunday. The Burgess reminded Council that selling liquor on Sunday was an offense against the Commonwealth and that it was the duty of the Constable to see that the law was not violated.

MARRIED. Fetrow-Gosline. March 30th, 1884, at the Bristol M.E. Church, by Rev. William M. Ridgway. Mr. Horace W. Fetrow and Miss Lottie W. Gosline, all of Bristol.

BRISTOL SEMINARY. The second term is underway. Thoroughly competent, earnest teachers in all departments. A. Merriam, Principal.

Blacksmithing. The undersigned would inform the public

that he has taken the shop on Canal Street, between Washington and Dorrance Streets. Special attention given to Shoeing. Satisfaction given. FRANK S. MOSS, Bristol.

4/17 - - **COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.** A stated meeting of Council was held last Monday evening. The Constable reported that the Wood Street Wharf had been sold to Rogers Brothers, the Cedar Street Wharf to Dr. H. Pursell and William S. Silbert, for one year for \$5 each, and that no bid was received for the Mulberry Street Wharf.

The water scoop on the Pennsylvania Railroad at South Bristol will be completed by the 1st of June.

George W. Allen is setting up the basement of his building at the corner of Wood and Mill Streets for an eating saloon, to be occupied by John S. Sailor.

MARRIED. King-Black. In Bristol, March 16th, 1884, by Rev. E. P. Shields. William A. King and Miss Frances S. Black.

Spring Bargains! Just received from bankrupt sales, a large lot of goods suitable for early Spring sales. 100 knit jackets for young men 40 cts. 65 pairs of men's fine suspenders 12 cts. Beautiful suits for best wear - \$7. Boys knee pants 50c to \$1. WOODS, One Price Cash Clothing Store, Mill Street, near Wood.

4/24 - - Visitors from Burlington to O'Brien's Circus will be carried by the ferry boat free.

At the Methodist Church last Sunday, \$641.50 was raised, to be expended in improvements upon the church and parsonage. The balance of \$1,000, it is expected, will be contributed in a short time.

A public temperance meeting, under the auspices of Bristol Division, No. 107, Sons of Temperance, will be held at their room over Cabeen's Hall, the evening of April 29. All are invited.

About thirty dwelling houses are in course of erection or under contract to be put up at Bristol this season. Mrs. Closson will build a large brick addition to her hotel. Bristol is evidently taking a good stride ahead this year.

The Presbytery of Philadelphia North has appointed Thursday, May 1st, for the installation of the Rev. Mr. Shields as pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Bristol.

The increasing value of real estate in Bristol in recent years is universally acknowledged. Among the properties that have shown the most marked increase, that on the riverfront on Radcliffe Street, purchased by A. J. Hibbs in 1870, is prominent.

F. P. Johnson has bought the stage line from Newtown to Bristol and now controls the entire line from Doylestown to Bristol.

THIS IS THE ONLY BIG RAILROAD SHOW COMING. O'BRIEN'S SIX SHOWS. Handenberger's German Menageries and Astley's London Aquariums have joined hands with Lawanda's Great Brazilian Circus for this season only. Will exhibit at Bristol on Wednesday, April 30th. Six first-class shows in one. Come in town early, and don't fail to see the GRAND STREET PARADE! All railroads run cheap excursions. Make this a grand gala day. Admission 50 cents; children 25 cents.

It is no longer a question of opinion, we guarantee every box of Acker's Dyspepsia Tablets. Price 25c and 50c. JOHN K. YOUNG, Druggist, 55 Bath Street, Bristol.



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Calendar of Events For 2024

APRIL Thurs., 4/11. Bus trip to Roebling Village, NJ, Historic District. Itinerary includes the Roebling Museum, a docent-led, leisurely walking tour of the Village, lunch in Bordentown's Old Town Pub, and a tour of "Point Breeze," the former estate of Joseph Bonaparte, Napoleon's older brother and the ex-king of Naples and Spain. \$120 pp for BCHF members; \$125 for non-members. Call 215-788-2106 re. current availability.

APRIL Sun., 4/28., 2-4 PM. BCHF Headquarters. Annual Tea, featuring exhibition by the Artists of Bristol and keyboard selections by Francis Danis. \$35 pp. Limited capacity. Reservations at 215-788-9408 beginning 3/18; ending 4/14.

MAY Fri., 5/3, 6-8 PM. BCHF Headquarters. Exhibition & Reception in collaboration with the Artists of Bristol and BCHF. Light refreshment. All are welcome! No fee.

JUNE Fri., 6/21. Bus trip to the Morris Arboretum & Gardens, featuring their Rose Garden and Garden Railway; lunch in Brittingham's of Lafayette Hill, est. in 1743; and a visit to Cliveden House, a National Trust Historic Site and the site of the 1777 Battle of Germantown. \$145 pp for BCHF members; \$150 pp for non-members. Reservation deadline: April 17 due to restaurant's non-refundable deposit policy. Call 215-788-9408 for flyer/reservation form.

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. \$160 for BCHF members; \$165 for non-members. Reservation deadline: August 30. Reservation info in future Gazettes.

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.

DECEMBER Tues., 12/3 (note date change from 12/5). Bus trip to "Holidays at Nemours Estate", DE. Itinerary includes 3-course luncheon at Buckley's Tavern and self-guided tour of the Nemours Mansion, elaborately decorated for the holidays. \$130 pp for BCHF members; \$140 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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