



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 2022

President's Corner

Joseph Pavone and the founding members of the Radcliffe (later Bristol) Cultural and Historical Foundation intended to stimulate support and interest in the arts in Bristol. They invited anyone interested in promoting the arts to join them. These early foundation members held art exhibitions, planned classical musical events, and booked speakers. As a result of the resourcefulness and effort of its members and the support of business and the local government, the foundation grew and became a crucial part of the community. One prime and persistent example of the foundation's success is Historic Bristol Day, a day that brings the community together and spotlights Bristol's outstanding character. It's a day that would never have happened without the imagination, organization, and work of the foundation's members.

In the recent past, the number of foundation members has declined. In the 1990s, at its peak membership, there were about 300 memberships. At last count, in March 2022, we had 206 memberships. In part, this is due to the aging of the existing members but it is also due to the sluggish addition of new members. I have heard an explanation that younger people are too busy, but Joseph Pavone was 39 when BCHF was founded and their news photo

suggests the other founding members were his age or younger. To keep BCHF vital, I believe that we need to find ways to motivate people to join and to convince them that being a part of BCHF will enrich their community and their lives.

We are initiating some changes within the organization and I am proposing a simple approach to increase our membership numbers. To give all members a bigger voice in BCHF, we have a new email account that will be monitored regularly, bchf2157819895@gmail.com. Please use the email to give us your ideas including speakers and events we should consider or ways to attract new members. Our BCHF website, bristolhistory.org, is undergoing continual updates and improvements that highlight both our features and activities as well as community attractions. We are working on ways that will make joining BCHF more convenient and accessible. Finally, as a way to recruit more members, I challenge current members to try to recruit one new member each including younger members who will have fresh ideas and will be the future of BCHF.

<https://access.newspaperarchive.com/us/pennsylvania/levittown/bucks-county-courier-times/1967/07-15/page-22/>

Deborah Pinney, President

It's Tea Time!

Celebrate with us! After two years postponement, we are able to hold our **25th Anniversary Tea!** Join us on Sunday, April 24th at 2 pm 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.

Remember to keep up to date with BCHF's events and trips by using the back page of the Gazette and by using our website: www.bristolhistory.org. Follow us on Instagram: [IG@bristol_historic_foundation](https://www.instagram.com/IG@bristol_historic_foundation).

Kathy Barniskis, Ways & Means Chair (215 943-0258)



Mahogany and Steel on the Delaware

Mark your calendar for a new event on the Delaware River in Lions Park. On Saturday, July 9, 2022, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society and the Bristol Day Car Show will join forces to present Bristol's first ever boat and car show on the Delaware in Lions Park from 10AM to 4PM. Admission is free for attendees. Antique and classic boats will be featured in the water on the docks and on trailers in the Mill Street parking lot. Antique and classic cars will be on display in the parking lot as well. Rain date for this event is July 10, 2022. To the best of our knowledge, the only other combined boat and car show is in Houston, Texas.

It should be a fun day with free speed boat rides and attendee participation in the car show. Attendees will be able to vote for their favorite antique and classic

car. People's choice trophies will be awarded in both the antique and classic categories based on the public vote. Other judged trophies will also be awarded. Boats will be judged by the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society and trophies awarded based on that judging.

The car show portion is sponsored by the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation. This show is in addition to our annual show on Historic Bristol Day. The boat show portion is sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society. This group has participated in our last three Historic Bristol Days. They will be returning for this year's Historic Bristol Day on Saturday, October 15, 2022.

One By Land; Two By Sea

The Ways & Means Committee has been working on resuming trips for our members for the coming year. Space on these trips is selling out fast so we urge you to reserve your spot now.

1. **Bus trip to Spring Lake, NJ, Wednesday, May 25.** The day's itinerary features a complete luncheon at Doolan's Shore Club, followed by their "Annual Memorial Day Armed Services Salute" which recreates a USO show, plus an official flag salute to the various branches of the Armed Services. Also included is a 1-hr. open bar plus an extra wine hour, and music for dancing. There will be free time for shopping and enjoying the ocean promenade before heading home. Cost is \$125 for BCHF members; \$128 for non-members. Call 215 788-9043 for space availability and reservations.

2. This is LAST CALL for the **June 2-12 Bermuda & Charleston Cruise** aboard Celebrity's recently refurbished "Summit," sailing from Cape Liberty, NJ. Rates

range from \$1,577 to \$2,387 pp, which includes a choice of Celebrity's amenities (classic beverage package, prepaid gratuities, or surf Wifi internet package). Arrangements will be made for round-trip transportation between Bristol and Cape Liberty. Call Grand American Tours in Morton, PA, 1-800-423-0247, for space availability and reservations.

3. Plan for the future by checking out the **Holy Lands & Aegean Majesty Cruise, October 6-17, 2023, aboard the Oceania "Nautica."** The trip is fully escorted by Grand American Tours of Morton, PA, and visits five countries from Israel to Italy. The "Nautica" is a small, luxurious ship with a guest capacity of 684 passengers. Rates range from \$4,298 to \$8,098 pp, which includes round-trip 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 Helen Younglove at 216 788-9408 for a detailed flyer or Grand American Tours for questions and reservations.

"Bristol Dog" Becomes World Famous

Many Bristol, PA merchants sold RCA products.

In looking over advertisements from the past, you will find that the RCA (Radio Corporation of America) dog, "Nipper" was frequently shown with the description and prices of RCA products. Nipper was a dog from BRISTOL, ENGLAND. He served as a model for a painting by Francis Barraud. The title of the painting was "His Master's Voice." Nipper (1884 - 1895) was a mongrel (part fox terrier or Jack Russell terrier). According to the Gramophone Company publicity material, the dog originally belonged to Barraud's brother, Mark. When Mark died in 1887 Francis inherited Nipper and a cylin-

der phonograph with a record of Mark's voice. Francis took care of the dog until his death in 1895 of natural causes. Nipper was buried in Kingston-Upon-Thames (England) in a small park surrounded by magnolia trees. The Victor Talking Machine Company acquired rights to the image and adopted it as their trademark.



Landreth's Machine Shop

Landreth is the name of a family who arrived in Bristol in 1847. Their seed farm, tree and bush growing business was located along Green Lane, originally named Bloomsdale Road.

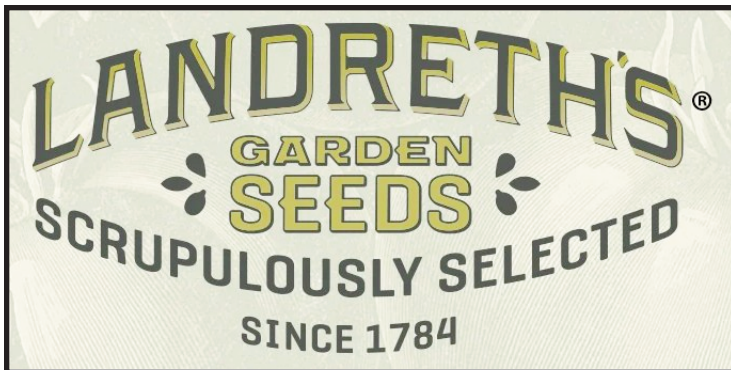
In 1852, the family decided to expand their business by starting a machine shop. The company would manufacture Alan's Swift-Sure mowing machine. Located on the corner of Pond and Mulberry Streets, it manufactured mowing machines, reapers, plows, corn shellers, and other agricultural implements. These products were shipped all across the United States.

David Landreth & Sons, located in Bloomsdale Estates, was run as an adjunct to the company's Philadelphia and Bristol businesses. Their products were primarily sold in Peoria, IL, St. Louis, MO, and Charleston, S. C., where they maintained extensive salesrooms. The manufacturing business was discontinued in 1862 in the middle of the American Civil War. The Bristol building was subsequently leased by John Bardsley who later became the city treasurer of Philadelphia. Baardsley tried to establish the business as a woolen mill.

Bardsley retained ownership for the next five years. On the evening of October 16th, the building burned to the ground. Later Fire Company #2 erected a building at that location to be used as a fire-house. The Fire Company is no longer at that location, having moved to Farragut Avenue next to the WaWa Store. The original building, however, remains as an office building.

In 1942, it was sold to the Buist Seed Co. of Philadelphia. Ultimately, the American Meadows Company bought Landreth Seed Company. At that point, Landreth Seed Company ceased to exist. However, a website (Landrethseeds.com) exists to this day and carries on the Landreth name selling a variety of heritage seeds. As the first professional seed establishment in America, Landreth's has helped grow the gardens that fed generations.

The property along Green Lane now features many homes with many of the old trees remaining. The development is called Landreth Manor.



The Year is 1905 . . . Hard to Believe . . . But True

The year is 1905. Just a little more than one hundred and fifteen years ago. What a difference a century makes! Here are some of the U.S. statistics for the year 1905.

The average life expectancy in the U.S. was 47 years.

Only 14 percent of the homes in the U.S. had a bathtub.

Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.

A three-minute call from Denver to New York City cost eleven dollars.

There were only 8,000 cars in the U.S., and only 144 miles of paved roads.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California.

With a mere 1.4 million people, California was only the 21st most populous state in the Union.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.

The average wage in the U.S. was 22 cents per hour.

The average U.S. worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.

A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2,000 per year . . . a dentist \$2,500 per year . . . a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year and . . . a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.

More than 95 percent of all births in the U.S. took place at home.

Nine percent of all U.S. doctors had no college education. Instead, they attended so-called medical

schools, many of which were condemned in the press and by the government as “substandard”.

Sugar cost four cents a pound.

Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen.

Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.

Most women only washed their hair once a month and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering into their country for any reason.

Five leading causes of death in the U.S. were: Pneumonia and influenza, tuberculosis, diarrhea, heart disease and stroke.

The American flag had 45 stars.

Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii and Alaska had not yet been admitted into the Union.

The population of Las Vegas, Nevada was only 30.

Crossword puzzles, canned beer and ice tea had not yet been invented.

There was no Mother’s Day or Father’s Day.

Two out of every ten U.S. adults could not read or write.

Only 6% of all Americans had graduated from high school.

Marijuana, heroin and morphine were all available over the counter at the local drugstores.

Back then pharmacists said “heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and bowels and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health”.

18% of households in the U.S. had at least one full time servant or domestic help.

There were about 230 reported murders in the entire U.S.

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 or email a pdf file to nancy@peoplepc.com. Please include your full name and email address and phone so we can get in touch with you if necessary.

Check out all of our upcoming programs, trips and events listed on the last page of this newsletter.

Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from **April 1952** issues of THE BRISTOL COURIER.

4/1 - - BOROUGH EMPLOYEES TAKE LOYALTY OATH. To Approximately 60. Oaths of loyalty were administered yesterday afternoon to employees of Bristol Borough. The oath was taken before Justice of the Peace Edward Lynn in the assembly room of the municipal building.

ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE SONS OF ITALY DIES. Joseph Pica died this morning at his residence, 319 Grand Avenue. He was 66. Mr. Pica was a founding member of the local lodge, Order of the Sons of Italy.

4/2 - - LEVITT HOUSES ARE NOW GOING UP. To Build 200 a Week. Work got underway Monday and already several houses have been framed. They are located along the "Levittown Parkway." The section where the houses are now being built is known as the "Stoneybrook" section.

SCHOOL TAXES INCREASED THREE MILLS; FIRST INCREASE SINCE 1950 DESPITE HIGHER COSTS. The budget calls for 27 mills tax rate; \$6 head tax and \$5 per capita tax, same as last year.

"BRISTOL MART, 1410 Farragut Ave . . . Grand Opening, April 3! Famous Name Refrigerator - \$169.95. Pepperell Fitted Sheets, Full Size - \$2.89. Ladies' Beautiful Spring Coats - from \$11. Men's Sports Jackets - \$7.98. Diaper Bags, with 2 Pockets - \$1.09. All 17-Jewel Watches - \$15.95."

4/2 - - KAISER FIRM GIVES LOWER BUCKS HOSPITAL \$60,000 UPON CONDITIONS. Gift to Be \$30,000 Next Year and \$30,000 in 1954. Must Have Staff.

4/7 - - MANY PAY TRIBUTE TO LATE PHYSICIAN. Two Ritualistic Services Are Conducted by Lodges at Casket of Dr. Webb. Large numbers of residents of this community and other parts of Bucks County, Friday evening, paid tribute of respect to one of the area's best known and highly-respected physicians. The folks trekked to the Bristol Presbyterian Church to the viewing of the late Dr. H. Doyle Webb. During Dr. Webb's medical practice here over a period of 33 years, he went into hundreds of homes and contacted thousands of residents.

"HARRIMAN FOOD CENTRE . . . Easter Ham, Whole or Shank End, Large 55¢ Lb, Fresh African Lobster Tails - \$1.29 Lb. Crisco or Spry, 3 Lb. Can 83¢. Granulated Sugar, 10 Lb. Bag - 89¢. Del-Monte Coffee, Regular or Drip, 1 Lb. Tin - 89¢. Fresh, Tender Corn, Full and Large Ears - 4 Ears 29¢. Fresh Green Peppers - 29¢ Lb."

"**Hudson Hornet** Tops Them All for Power, Stamina and Safety! New Performance Star, the Spectacular **Hudson Wasp**, Lower Price Running Mate of the **Hudson Hornet**. GEORGE T. FLEMING & SONS, U.S. Route 13 & 4th Ave."

"BOGAGE & SONS, 409-11 Mill Street . . . Special for Easter! Men's Suits - \$39.95. Ladies' Suits - \$24.95. Boys' Suits - \$16.95. Girls' Suits - \$6.95. Open an account now. Pay as little as \$1.25 per week."

4/11 - - EASTER DAWN TO BE MARKED BY SERVICE. Bristol is to have a community sun-rise service on Easter Sunday. It will be held at the Rohm & Haas Co. clubhouse grounds, sponsored by the Bristol Methodist Church, beginning at 6 o'clock.

"KAY'S BAKERY, 609 Bath Street . . . Coconut Custard Pies - 42¢. Beautifully Decorated Easter Cakes - \$1.35. Fancy Bunny and Chick Cup Cakes - 3 for 25¢. Open Sundays."

4/17 - - "BUILDING SOLD. MUST VACATE! Every Article in Our Store and Warehouse Must Be Sold Regardless of Cost. Nothing Held Back. Nationally Known Make Washers - \$89. Three Piece Solid Rock Maple Bedroom Suite - \$89. Hollywood Beds - \$59. Breakfast Sets, Chrome and Formica Tops - \$69. Gossip Benches - \$12.95. FACTORY TO YOU FURNITURE CO., 220 Mill Street."

4/19 - - "We have steady work (no defense work). \$74.10 (weekly) to start, plus bonus for night shift. Experienced mechanics for automatic machines. Increase to \$79.30 after three months. Paid holidays and vacations. ATLANTIC TEA PACKING CO., Canal Street and Jefferson Avenue."

PAONE CAPTURE THE INDIVIDUAL SCORING HONORS. "Johnny" Paone, of the Lucisano Brothers team, captured the individual scoring honors of the recently completed Bristol Basketball League. The former Pennsbury High star scored 89 field goals and 32 fouls for 210 points in 14 games. Second place honors went to Henry "Ham" Konefal, of Profy's, who cut the cord for 86 double-deckers and 19 fouls for 191 points. Another member of the Profy team, Alan Burton, was in third place with 179 points.

4/24 - - "SESSION HERE PROBABLY LAST CONCERTED EFFORT TO REVIVE LAGGING ENTHUSIASM ON JOINTURE, DELHAAS JOINT BOARD AND BRISTOL BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD. Roy Cleaver, of State Dept. of Instruction, Discusses Consolidation. 100 Attend Meeting. A proposal to Bristol Township Districts to plan a joint high school with Bristol Borough was rejected by the Bristol Township District several weeks ago.

"Real Estate for Sale. 6th ward. Duplex apt. situated on Wilson Ave. All improvements. \$8,000. Apply Chas. LaPolla, 1418 Farragut Ave."

4/25 - - "ROCKDALE MASONRY HOMES. Opening Fifth Unit. 5 Bedrooms and 2 Baths (potential). \$11,250. Large Lots, Full Basement, Oil Heat, Rogers Road, One-Third Mile West of Bristol Pike, Bristol."

4/30 - - "1953 **Studebaker Commander** V-8. 4-Door Sedan. \$2,188.32 with standard equipment. TORANO'S GARAGE, 132 Otter Street."

"IDA'S BEAUTY SALON, 119 Pond St., between Market and Mill Streets . . . The Poodle-Do! Poodle cut & cold wave, special - \$10 up. Poodle cut and machine permanent - \$8.50 up."



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BCHF Calendar of Events For 2022 - 2023

MARCH Sunday, 3/27, 2 PM. "Burlington Island" presented by Judy Gauntt, President, Friends of Burlington Island. Seating is limited; advance reservations required by calling 215 788-9408. COVID vaccinations and masks are 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. BCHF headquarters.

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 215 788-9043 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.

JULY Sat. 7/9 10 AM to 4 PM. First ever combined boat and car show on the Delaware River in Lions Park. Free admission. Rain date Sun., 7/10.

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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