



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 2025

President's Corner

Dear Members,

BCHF is looking forward to springtime. We are planning several events in the upcoming year such as Historic Bristol Day, Tea, Peach Social, and the car/boat show. Historic Bristol Day is planned for October 18, 2025. We have over 20 volunteers coordinating various aspects of it. It takes a village to help make this event a success and we are grateful for everyone's contributions. We are looking for a person (s) to chair this event. We will gladly help the chairperson with meetings, coordination, and other aspects needed for planning a successful Historic Bristol Day. If interested, please contact Jesse Walker at walkerfamily320@verizon.net.

The *Mahogany and Steel – Boat and Car Show* is planned down at the wharf on Saturday May 31st and further information is available at the following: <https://www.bristoldaycarshow.com/>.

In other news, BCHF is planning a small improvement project at our Cedar Street Headquarters. Repainting the two front windows is planned for this spring. All proposed maintenance activities are first presented to the Board for their approval/vote.

An additional note, Tony Russo recently stepped down from the BCHF board. He was a long-time board member and for many years over-saw maintenance of the Cedar Street building and grounds. We are grateful for all his expertise and time dedicated to BCHF.

We look forward to seeing members at events in warmer weather.

Jesse Walker, President

THE SONG & HISTORY OF APPALACHIA

On **Sunday, March 30** (snow date: April 6) at 2 p.m., in BCHF headquarters, folksinger Mary Roth will present a program entitled "Enchanting Appalachia."

Her performance will be an interactive program of song and history, with a focus on the rich culture of Appalachia and its people, and will include vocals and music on the Appalachian mountain dulcimer, guitar and/or bouzouki, and the Celtic bodhran drum.

Light refreshment will be served. A donation of \$5 per adult attendee is suggested. The public is cordially invited.

We look forward to seeing you!

Take a Tour of Bristol



As spring approaches, you may start to plan some outdoor activities. Did you know that you can take a self-guided audio tour of historic Bristol Borough?

Go to www.tourbristol.org to download the audio file. The audio can be played on a cell phone, or an MP3 player.

If you are not up to taking a walk, you can take a virtual tour at that same website www.tourbristol.org . Click on Tour Stops and you will see the 50 stops along the tour. Click on **Start Tour** and you will see the first stop and be able to listen to a description and see images of that area. A map pinpointing the location is at the bottom of each page.

This tour was made possible by a United Way Community Impact Grant and is a collaboration of the Bristol Borough Community Partnership, Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Bristol Riverside Theatre, Conwell-Egan Catholic EAST Program, Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Museum and Library, and The Artists of Bristol on the Delaware.

These photos all courtesy of the website www.tourbristol.org.



BCHF IS ON THE MOVE

The Ways & Means Committee is hopeful that the trips being offered this year will appeal to our members, and that they'll spread the word about them to their family members, friends and coworkers. Four one-day bus trips and two cruises are being offered.

Thursday, April 10 - Bus trip to the Swaminarayan Akshardham, the largest Hindu temple outside of India, and an edifice which sprawls over 180 acres on a campus big enough to hold six Yankee Stadiums. The day's itinerary also includes a 3-course luncheon at the historic Cranberry Inn, followed by a visit to David Bradley Chocolatier and a chance to purchase gourmet, hand-crafted chocolates for Easter. The all-inclusive trip cost is \$120 pp for BCHF members; \$130 for non-members. Call Jan Ruano at 215-788-2106 for flyer/reservation form or print it from BCHF's website, <http://www.bristolhistory.org>. Time's running out! The reservation deadline is March 15.

July 1-8 - "Independence Day Celebration" Cruise on the ocean liner, Queen Mary 2, sailing from New York and stopping at Newport, RI, Boston, MA (over July 4) and Halifax, Nova Scotia. Rates per person range from \$1,920 to \$2,680 and include port charges and government fees. A passport is required. For a detailed flyer call 215-788-9408 or print it from our website (given above). For questions or reservations, contact Grand American Travel at 1-800-423-0247.

Thursday, June 26 - Bus trip to Philadelphia for a 3-course luncheon aboard the Moshulu, the world's oldest and largest square-rigged sailing vessel still afloat and the one-and-only restaurant venue on a tall ship in the world today.

Following lunch, we will tour the magnificent Masonic Temple on Broad Street, a National Historic Landmark constructed in 1873. The all-inclusive cost is \$130 for BCHF members; \$140 for non-members. Call Helen Younglove at 215-788-9408 for flyer/reservation form or print it from our website (given above). Reservation deadline is May 21.

Wednesday, October 1 - Bus trip to Eckley Miners' Village Museum in Weatherly, PA, a 3-course luncheon at the Inn at Jim Thorpe and free time to explore Jim Thorpe. Eckley was established in 1854 as a company-owned coal mining town. It was featured in the film "The Molly Maguires." The PA Historical and Museum Commission has owned and operated the village as a museum since 1970. The all-inclusive cost is \$125 for BCHF members; \$135 for non-members. Reservation info will be provided in a future issue of The Gazette.

October 29-November 9 - "Antiquity to Anatolia" Cruise on the "Oceania Vista," sailing from Rome to Istanbul and visiting Cinque Terre, Naples/Pompeii and Taormina (Sicily), Italy; Cephalonia, Katakolon and Athens, Greece; and Ephesus and Istanbul, Turkey. Rates per person, double occupancy, range from \$6,150 to \$6,850 and include round-trip airfare from Philadelphia, port charges, government fees, taxes and transfers to & from the ship. A number of perks are offered by Oceania Cruises. A passport is required. Final payment is due April 29. For a detailed flyer, call 215-788-9408 or print it from our website (given above). For questions or reservations, contact Grand American Travel at 1-800-423-0247.

Thursday, December 4 - Bus trip to Tarrytown, NY, for a tour and hot, buffet luncheon at the Lyndhurst Mansion. The mansion is one of America's finest Gothic Revival mansions and sits on its own 67-acre park beside the Hudson River. USA Today described it as one of the "Ten Best Historic Holiday Tours." The all-inclusive cost is \$158 for BCHF members; \$168 for non-members. Reservation info will be provided in a future issue of The Gazette.

TEA TIME IS APPROACHING

BCHF's annual Spring Tea will be held on Sunday, April 27, from 2 to 4 o'clock in our Cedar Street headquarters. Again, this year, the event will feature an art exhibition by members of the Artists of Bristol.

Our Ways & Means Committee will be serving their homemade tea sandwiches, fruit salad, scones, desserts and, of course, brewed tea for your enjoyment.

Facts and Information about Joseph R. Grundy.

By Harold Mitchener

Joseph was born in Camden, NJ in 1863 during the Civil War when Abraham Lincoln was President. At first, the family lived in Bristol Township on Newport Road near the Neshaminy Creek in a house called Walnut Grove. A dairy farm operated there. The family first moved to Bristol about 1876 where they established a one-story factory at Jefferson Avenue and Canal St. His father and uncle started the Woolen Mill in Bristol in 1876. Their home was a three-story house at the corner of Jefferson Avenue and Pond Street. There were seven rooms on each of the three floors. One room on the third floor had a tank where waster was pumped for bathroom use. Lilacs and Azaleas could be admired from the large front porch.

The family later moved to 610 Radcliffe Street along the Delaware River.

Joseph had a sister Margaret R. Grundy who was born in 1876 and died in 1952.

When Joseph's father died, Margaret and her mother Mary toured Europe and some lovely items including furniture were shipped back from their journey.

Both Margaret and Joseph had the middle name Ridgway, which was their mother's maiden name.

The Mill and their home and their factory burned anthracite coal brought to Bristol by barge pulled by mules in the canal from Easton. There was a 165-foot difference between Easton and Bristol which required 24 locks along the canal.

In the Grundy Mill at the time children were hired to work there. The day started at 6AM and ended at 6 PM. Joseph insisted that the children have some school. He hired teachers from Bristol to come over to the factory and for two hours the children, free of charge to them, would have basic reading, writing, math and English.

The Grundy Clock Tower is 165 feet tall. It was added in 1910 along with the tall part of the factory. The power plant (now removed) was on Washington Street.

In Joseph's time, the original town Hall was in the middle of Market Street facing Radcliffe St. It was decided that it was too small for meetings. They then added a third story to Bristol Fire Company at the corner of Wood and Market St. Which was where the Council met.

Joseph in 1927 decided to make a donation to his beloved town when he had the Municipal building and Consolidated Fire Company built, including the fire engines and charge the town \$1.00.

Neither Joseph nor his sister ever married.

His sister was very interested in having a library in Bristol. She would sometimes go to Philadelphia and purchase books from Wanamaker's store and have them shipped to Bristol. The library was located where the parking lot is for the present library at the corner of Dorrance and Radcliffe Street.

When Joseph died in 1961, by his will, a Foundation was created and his money was place there.

The first thing in his will was to name the library in memory of his sister. That gave Bristol free of charge the Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Library at 680 Radcliffe Street. The library was dedicated June 14, 1966.

Joseph became a United States Senator in Washington, D. C. from 1929 – 1930.

Here are a few other items that came from the Grundy Foundation.

In Bucks County there are four senior living centers for adults. Bristol has one called the Grundy Towers across from the Municipal Building on Pond. St.

Money was used to start the present Grundy Ice Rink.

The land for the Jefferson Avenue school at Jefferson Avenue and Pond Street, once the site of the Grundy home was donated to the school board.

The resurfacing of Mill Street parking Lot.

Groups sometimes ask for a donation from the Grundy Foundation. If it is thought to be a good cause it will be given on a one-time basis.

There are many other things that come from the Grundy money. The money is only used from the interest earned by the estate.

Presently, the former Grundy home on Radcliffe Street is a free museum and the staff welcomes school children, small groups and even bus groups.

This information was obtained from several sources:

The Grundy files in the library archive and Doron Green's books:

[History of Bristol Borough in the County of Bucks, State of Pennsylvania.](#) 1911

and [History of the Old Homes on Radcliffe Street.](#) 1938.

Images of America: Bristol by Harold and Carol Mitchener. 2000



Photo credit: www.grundymuseum.org

OUT OF THE PAST

The following items were excerpted from the Bristol Courier March 1925. Price 2¢

March 2 – Chief McGuckin of Bristol Boro and his men arrested 3 men for systematically robbing the cigar store Wyno & Nocita at 509 Wood St.

March 4 – Calvin Coolidge is sworn in as the 30th President.

Bristol Boro school board authorized its Property Committee to have a portion of the athletic field at the high school put in first-class condition. It will include a football field and running track on the Trenton Ave. side of the Campus.

March 5 – Tentative plans have been drawn and figures to the approximate cost of erecting an addition to the High school at Wilson Ave. and Garfield St. The structure would include an assembly hall and a gymnasium. The 2-story building could have 6-7 classrooms on the second floor.

March 7 – The Bristol Travel Club held its annual meeting. Mrs. Ancker turned over the gavel to Mrs. L. C. Spring the new president.

March 10 – Bristol Police Chief McGuckin ordered to put a stop to motor speeding. Drivers breaking the speed limit will be arrested. The speed limit is 15 mph and will be enforced for residents and out of towners without exception.

March 11 – President Coolidge called national attention to the seriousness of the timber depletion. He declared April 17 – May 3 as American Forest Week. He encouraged conservation and regrowth of the forests.

Howard James, Superintendent of Bristol Boro schools attended the meeting of the Mothers Association of Bristol High School. He explained the benefits of the new Junior High School.

March 12 – Members of the Robert W. Bracken Post #382 of the American legion have gone over the top for new members and now the Post is at its highest peak.

Fathers Association of Bristol High School invited all men to attend their meeting to hear Ernest H. Gamble, concert artist and Chautauqua lecturer. He will talk about his experiences on the concert stage.

A modern traffic signal will be installed to regulate traffic at Mill St. and the new concrete highway.

March 13 – Beginning March 12th the ferryboat “William E. Doron” will be withdrawn from the route for repairs and inspection probably to be returned to the route on March 26. During the withdrawal the motorboat “Louise C. Doron” will be placed on the route for passengers only.

A truck load of wood split in stove length sizes – C. O. D. \$5 a truck load. Angelo DiRenzo 1019 Wood St.

March 14 – Boys and girls basketball teams of Bristol both beat Pemberton High.

March 16 – St. Patrick’s Entertainment to Benefit St. Mark’s Church featuring the humorous sketch, “An Irish Stew”. To be held in St. Mark’s Auditorium March 16 & 17, 1925. Dancing after entertainment of March 17. Tickets 50¢.

White Lead paint - \$2.50 per gallon.
The Special Products Co. – 369 Taft St.

March 17 – Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover studied traffic conditions and found that rigid enforcement of traffic laws will do more than anything else to reduce the automobile accident and death rate.

March 19 – Many endorsed the proposed plan for the addition to Bristol High School. Business and professional men are in favor.

March 20 – 808 known dead as a result of tornadoes that hit Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Tennessee and Kentucky.

March 21 – Protestant churches had a dinner for the Bristol High School senior class. This was the second annual dinner held at the dining hall of the Methodist Church. It was an informal affair.

March 25 – Penn’s Charter will be placed in the Archives of the Commonwealth. The Charter given to Penn when he came to this continent had been held for many years by private citizens.

March 26 – Joseph R. Grundy reviewed the work of the public works department. He is chairman of the Public Works Committee. He said the borough is making progress compared to other towns of similar size.

March 28 – Doron Green, President of the School Board gave a talk about the schools 25 years ago. There were only 780 students enrolled then. The population of the town was 7100. 18 teachers were employed.



**Bristol Cultural &
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BCHF Calendar Of Events For 2025

MARCH. Sun., 3/30 (snow date 4/6), 2 PM, at BCHF headquarters. "Enchanting Appalachia" musical program by folksinger Mary Roth, performing on several instruments. See separate article for details. Light refreshment will be served. Donation of \$5 per adult is suggested; students are free.

APRIL. Thurs., 4/10. Bus trip to the Swaminarayan Akshardham, the largest Hindu temple outside of India, in Robbinsville, NJ, with lunch at the Cranberry Inn and a visit to David Bradley Chocolatier. \$120 pp for BCHF members; \$130 for non-members. Reservation deadline is March 15. Call 215-788-2106 for flyer/reservation form or print it from BCHF's website, <http://www.bristolhistory.org>.

APRIL. Sun., 4/27, 2-4 PM, at BCHF headquarters. Annual Spring Tea featuring traditional Tea fare. \$40 pp. Reservations by phone at 215-788-9408 from April 1 to 19. Limited capacity!

MAY. Fri., 5/2, 6-8 PM, at BCHF headquarters. Annual BCHF/AOB collaborative art exhibition and reception, featuring the works of the Artists of Bristol. Appetizers and beverages will be served. No fee.

MAY. Sun., 5/18, 2 PM, at BCHF headquarters. Concert by the BCHF Bristol Community Band. Light refreshment will be served. Donation of \$5 per adult attendee is suggested.

MAY. Sat., 5/31, 10 AM-4 PM. 4th Annual Mahogany & Steel Boat & Car Show, featuring antique and classic boats and cars on display at Bristol Wharf & Docks and Mill St. Parking Lot. Car cruise at 3:00. For more info, go to bristoldaycarshow.com.

JUNE. Thurs., 6/26. Bus trip to Phila., featuring luncheon on the Moshulu at Penn's Landing, followed by a tour of the Masonic Temple, a National Historic Landmark. \$130 pp for BCHF members; \$140 for non-members. Reservation deadline is May 21. Call 215-788-9408 for flyer/reservation form.

BCHF Headquarters are at 321 Cedar Street, Bristol.

For current information about activities and events, check our website at www.bristolhistory.org
Email us at bchf2157819895@gmail.com Follow us on Instagram - - IG@bristol_historic_foundation

THE GAZETTE is a publication of the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Inc.—Linda Rowan, Editor
Post Office Box 215 · Bristol · Pennsylvania · 19007 · 215-781-9895
Articles for this issue of THE GAZETTE contributed by:
Helen Younglove, Harold Mitchener, and Jesse Walker