



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 2026

President's Corner

Dear Members:

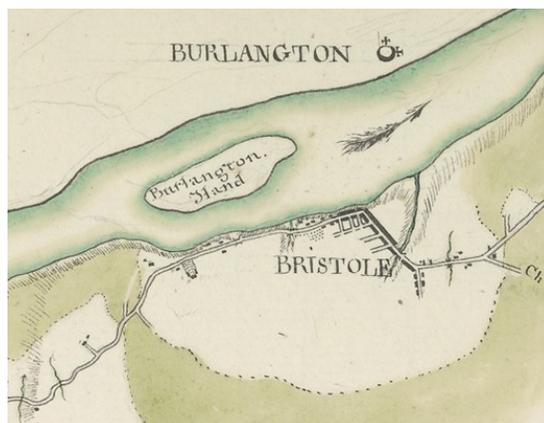
We are hopeful that warmer weather is on the way. The recent BCHF board meeting involved discussions of various events and topics. It was decided to adjust the Gazette publication schedule. This year the Gazette will be published in December and there will be no issue in January. In addition to the BCHF community band, another band (called, the Bristol Jazz Collective) is planning to use the Cedar Street building for rehearsals. Feel free to stop by the Cedar Street building on Thursday evenings to listen to band practice.

Planning for Historic Bristol Day is on-going. As part of celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States, noted author and historian Michael Harris gave a presentation in February about Revolutionary War fighting along the Delaware River. We look forward to future events throughout the year highlighting our nation's 250th anniversary. We are always looking for pictures and stories about Bristol's history to publish in this newsletter. Feel free to email the BCHF with your historic stories.

Jesse Walker

Revolutionary War Era Map of Bristol PA

During the Revolutionary War, events occurred near Bristol Pennsylvania. One of these events was documented in a journal and on a map. The journal of Comte Jean-François-Louis de Clermont-Crèvecoeur details the movement of the French Army through Bristol and the surrounding area on September second and third in 1781. The 1781 map illustrates the landscape between Trenton and Red Lion Inn. Radcliffe Street, Neshaminy Creek and State Road, and other streets in Bristol are depicted. Buildings are also plotted along streets in the borough.



This map provides an early snapshot of the borough during this critical period of history. The map is part of a series in the Louis-Alexandre Berthier Collection at Princeton University Library and available online. Additional details are available on the university's website. The book *The American Campaigns of Rochambeau's Army, 1780–1783* also contains this map and further information.

1781 Map Courtesy of Princeton University Library.

A Quiet Strength in Bristol's Story

Remembering David McGlynn and Arthur Younglove

By: Michael Crossan

In a town like Bristol, history is not just found in buildings or archives. It lives in its people. It thrives in the generations who grow up here, serve their country, raise their families, and carry forward the traditions that shape the community.

Recently, Bristol lost two remarkable men whose lives were intricately woven into this living history, David McGlynn and Arthur Younglove.

Though they had different personalities and paths, both shared an undeniable bond with Bristol and a love of sports. They grew up in an era when neighborhoods felt like extended families, and serving the community and country was simply a way of life. Each answered that call, building lives rooted in dedication, loyalty, and a deep pride for their home. Both men also gave their time generously, serving on committees and participating in organizations that worked to support and strengthen Bristol and its community life.

David McGlynn moved through life with energy and curiosity, but he also possessed the rare ability to slow down and truly see. Through his photography, he captured Bristol not just as scenery, but as a feeling, quiet light along the river, familiar streets, and fleeting moments that might otherwise go unnoticed. His images preserved not just landscapes, but memories, reminding us of the beauty in everyday life. That same energy defined his love for running. Whether training, competing, or simply embracing the

challenge, running was another way Dave experienced the world fully, always moving forward with determination and joy.

Arthur Younglove, on the other hand, had a quieter yet equally impactful presence. His life embodied steadfast devotion to family, faith, and community, an enduring commitment that strengthens a town across generations. He shared his creativity through his artistic contributions to the Bracken Corps, shaping performances that blended pageantry and pride, reflecting Bristol's spirit through color, motion, and tradition.

Together, these two men represent something vital to Bristol's identity. They were witnesses to its changes, participants in its traditions, and carriers of its spirit. Their lives remind us that the true history of a town is written not only in records, but in the people who live it every day.

For those who work to preserve Bristol's heritage, their passing marks the loss of living connections to the community's story. Yet their influence endures, in photographs that capture the town's beauty, in traditions that continue, and in the shared understanding of what it means to belong here.

David McGlynn and Arthur Younglove are now forever part of Bristol's story, steady and enduring, just like the place they called home.



Dave McGlynn



Arthur Younglove

Looking Ahead to Upcoming Programs

March 22, 2026 @ 2PM -Carol Simon Levin will bring to life. Abigail Adams: Remembering the Ladies. Carol Simon Levin is a professional storyteller, historical impersonator and NJ Council for the Humanities Scholar specializing in "Fascinating Women History Forgot." Light refreshments will be served. Donation of \$5 per adult is suggested, students are free.

June 28, 2026 @ 2 PM – Concert by BCHF Bristol Community Band.

This exciting and exceptionally enjoyable musical powerhouse, featuring a dedicated ensemble of 23 professional and semi-professional musicians will have you tapping your toes. Light refreshments will be served. Donation of \$5 per adult is suggested, students are free.

Sailing Away



Consider sailing on Celebrity Cruise Line's "Best of Greece" cruise, August 29 to September 7.

The itinerary includes a pre-night stay in Athens and ports-of-call including Athens, Greece; Ephesus, Turkey; Santorini, Rhodes, Mykonos and Thessaloniki, Greece. Rates, which include round-trip airfare from Philadelphia, range from \$5,007 to \$5,821 pp double. A Passport is require

For a detailed flyer, call Janice Rhodes at 215-781-0483 or print it from <http://www.bristolhistory.org>. For reservations, contact Grand American Tours at 800-423-0247.

Janice Rhodes is now the cruise liaison with Grand American Tours. They have supplied us with information on 4 upcoming cruises. In 2026 there is the Mexican Riviera, and in 2027 there will be the following:

Greenland & Iceland
Australia & New Zealand
Alaska

For all of the cruises it is important to request a flyer with all the details. Reservations are made directly with Grand American. It is important to mention BCHF when you contact them, because we will receive a referral bonus.

2026 Day Trips Planned

BCHF has planned 4 day trips for 2026, the four trips were chosen through a largely democratic process. Out of a dozen initial trips suggested by members and non-members, a set of 6 trips were chosen based on a survey of 50 members and travelers on our final trip of 2025 to Lyndhurst Mansion in Tarrytown. After consultation with our tour agent, the BCHF Ways and Means committee chose 4 final trips based on cost and feasibility.

The first trip of the year is a self-guided tour of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island scheduled for Wednesday, June 24 with an early dinner at the Historic Cranbury Inn in Cranbury, NJ. The price, \$162 for members/\$172 for non-members, includes bus service with escort, ferry transport, dinner, and all gratuities.

We have a special trip planned for July, whale watching on the Miss Belmar off the coast of Belmar, NJ. The trip is scheduled for July 29, and includes bus service from Bristol, a 3-hour tour on the Miss Belmar with an on-board commentary by naturalist Trish Devoe, lunch in the fully equipped galley, and unlimited photo opportunities. The price, \$95 for members and \$105 for non-members, includes all gratuities.

Endorsed by all previous participants, we will once again sponsor a luncheon cruise onboard the paddle-wheel riverboat, "River Lady", on September 17. This year the

cruise will be followed by a visit to "Delicious Orchards" located in Colts Neck, New Jersey, a historic 60,000-square-foot country food market and popular culinary landmark. The cost of the trip, \$132 for members/\$142 non-members, includes bus service, narrated boat tour, lunch, and all gratuities.

Our final trip of the year is on October 28. We will enjoy a 45-minute ride on the Strasburg Railroad through Lancaster County, followed by lunch at Casey Jones' Red Caboose Restaurant. We'll also visit the ChooChoo Barn which contains a 1,700-square-foot toy train layout filled with intricate details and animated displays. Costs: \$156 members, \$166 non-members. The cost includes bus service with escort, the railroad ride, museum entrance, lunch, and all gratuities.

Flyers with sign-up for these trips will be available in early to mid-March and can be obtained on-line at <https://www.bristolhistory.org/Trips-and-Tours.html> or by calling, txtng, or emailing Deborah Pinney (215-788-7537, debpin70@gmail.com). By the way, we welcome trip suggestions and we have not rejected the other 8 trips (out of the original 12), we are just saving them for another year.

Michael C. Harris Presentation

On Sunday, February 15, award-winning Revolutionary War historian, Michael C. Harris, returned to BCHF for another chapter of the 1777 Philadelphia Campaign. Two years ago, Michael regaled us with a description of the Battle of Brandywine. This year he continued the narrative of the fighting between the British and the American patriots, this time the fighting along the Delaware River at Fort Mercer and Fort Mifflin, and the Lafayette led attack at Gloucester.

Michael is a graduate of the University of Mary Washington and the American Military University. He has worked for the National Park Service in Fredericksburg,

Virginia, Fort Mott State Park, New Jersey, and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission at

Brandywine Battlefield Park. He has authored a trilogy of books focused on the Revolutionary War campaigns in this region, centered on Philadelphia: *Brandywine A Military History of the Battle that Lost Philadelphia but Saved America, September 11, 1777*, *Germantown: A Military History of the Battle for Philadelphia, October 4, 1777*, and *The Philadelphia Campaign, 1777*. In addition, Michael teaches high school in the Philadelphia region.



Following the talk, the audience asked Michael questions, had the opportunity to buy his books, and enjoyed refreshments.

A Gift of Bristol in Miniature

One of our long-time members, Jeanne D’Emidio, has graciously donated a dozen charming, scale model buildings created by her late husband, Joe D’Emidio (1924 – 2025). Joe created these models based on landmark structures around Bristol including the post office, the “white” bank, the Grundy mill and clock tower, the Bristol Borough municipal building, the Lion’s Park gazebo, the Wharf, the BCHF headquarters, the train station, the fire house on Mulberry and Pond Streets, the original 1831 town hall on Market and Radcliffe Streets, and a small building that has me stumped. You may have seen the miniature buildings in the D’Emidio’s backyard positioned around model trains when they participated in the house and garden tour on Historic Bristol Day.

Joe was born in 1924 and was a lifelong resident of Bristol. After graduating from Bristol High School, he joined the Navy and served with distinction in World War II. After the war was over, he went to school on



Figure 1. The BCHF headquarters at 321 Cedar Street. Originally, the Quaker one room schoolhouse built in 1874.

the GI bill and, in the early 1950s, established Cameo Kitchens and Baths. Joe was a gifted designer and craftsman who applied his many skills to his business and his many hobbies. He remained enthusiastic and creative throughout his long life, constantly learning and growing. For example, he took art classes at Bucks County Community College when he was 100 years old.

We are very grateful to Jeanne D’Emidio for the gift of these miniature buildings and to her children, Donna Stewart and Paul Galli, who contacted us on Jeanne’s behalf and delivered the models to us on an icy January day. The buildings will be on permanent display in our headquarters. Please stop by whenever the building is open to see these wonderful models, remarkable in their detail and accuracy.



Figure 2. The original Bristol town hall built in 1831 at the intersection of Market and Racliffe Streets. The building was demolished in 1938.



Figure 3. Who can tell us what this little building is? It has double “barn doors” and an awning that would shade the sidewalk. Let us know by sending an email to bchf2157819895@gmail.com.

Revolutionary War Related Object Found in Bristol, PA.



Yacht club members help hoist the water-logged cheval onto a trailer in 2012. – Courier Times

In 2012, a 29-foot long timber with pointed iron tip was found near the Bristol Yacht Club in the Delaware River. This object was identified as a Chevaux-de-frise, which was made during the Revolutionary War. The timber and iron tip were well preserved due to being submerged in the river for over 235 years.

Chevaux-de-frise were placed in wood timber boxes that were sunken along the bottom of the Delaware River in 1775 and 1776. Lines of the wooden timber boxes each containing several Chevaux-de-frise projecting toward the surface of the water were filled with rock quarried from along the Schuylkill River. These lines were near two forts located just south of Philadelphia and were designed to slow the advancement of British Navy ships to the city. The iron tips of the Chevaux-de-frise were notched in order to stick into the wooden hull of ships. These lines of obstructions were also placed in the Hudson River during the Revolutionary War.

After the Revolutionary War, many of these Chevaux-de-frise were removed from the Delaware River bottom. Several Chevaux-de-frise have been found over the years near Philadelphia and examples are at Fort Mifflin. In 2007, an 11-foot long timber with an iron tip was found in Philadelphia during a Sunoco Pier Improvement project.

The Chevaux-de-frise found in Bristol was made of oak wood. The Pennsylvania State Museum and Historic Commission took possession of it and had it conserved to prevent it from rotting.

The 29-foot long oak timber portion of the object is on display at the Brandywine Battlefield Museum. A reconstructed metal tip was placed on the end of the timber because the original iron tip was in poor condition. A 2022 presentation about the object is posted on Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Youtube channel in video entitled “Curator's Choice: Chevaux-de-frise”. The video can be accessed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f59kzeh9hm4>

The presentation includes photographs and drawings of the object and additional information. This is one of the longest timbers recently found; however, the Bristol timber is not as long as other known examples of Chevaux-de-frise. It was not known why the Chevaux-de-frise was found so far up river from where they placed during the war. It is suspected that mired on the river bottom for 240 years, Superstorm Sandy had wrenched it free. Propelled on the storm surge, the water-logged spear tumbled about on the riverbed until snagged by the yacht club buoy.

Out of the Past

The following items were excerpted from the Bristol Courier March 1926. Price 2¢

March 1 – Douglas Fairbanks in “Don Q---Son of Zorro”. 3 days only Mar. 1 – 3. Forrest Theatre on Mill St.

March 2 – There are more cases of Measles in the state at the present time than there have been in the past several years. More children die from Measles than Scarlet Fever.

March 3 – 500 people, including many from Bristol, attended a conference held in Trenton, NJ to support a deeper channel in the Delaware river. It is the “missing link” in the Atlantic Intercoastal waterway from New England to Florida.

March 4 – American stores in Bristol offer the following prices: Louella butter – 55¢/lb., P & G Naptha Soap- 6 cakes for 25¢.

March 5 – Bristol High School senior class is holding a bake sale on Sat. Mar. 6 at 11AM at the office of John Smoyer, 206 Mill St.

The Exchange Club of Bristol was given their official charter at a banquet at St. James Parish House attended by 100 guests. Dr. George Fox is president.

March 6 – Nash Special Six, 4 door sedan- \$1315. William DeGroot 341 Jefferson Ave. Bristol.

March 8 – Members of the bandit trio known as the Stick-Up Gang were arrested in Trenton. Two had lived in Bristol on Washington St.

March 10 – Many property owners are ready to solicit funds for the rebuilding of Radcliffe, Mill and Otter Streets. Homeowners on Radcliffe St. are asked to contribute 50¢ per linear foot for their property frontage. \$3000 is needed to aid this plan.

This is the 50th birthday of the telephone. March 10, 1876, the first spoken word was passed on wire between Alexander Graham Bell and his assistant Thomas Watson.

March 12 – The Catholic Art Association will present “The Path to Love” at the Colonial Theater on March 18 for the benefit of St. Ann Church. Showings at 3:30 PM & 7 PM.

Spring coats for ladies are \$7.75 at the Manufacturers Outlet at 310 Mill. St.

March 13 – Notice!! On March 16th the ferry boat William E. Doron will be withdrawn from the ferry route for repairs and inspection. Probably to return on March 26th. During the withdrawal, the motor-boat Louise C. Doron will carry passengers only on the ferry route.

March 15 – Huff-Daland Company has officially changed its name to the Huff Daland Airplanes, Inc. of Bristol, PA. They have the largest airplane manufacturing plant in the U. S. It is on the grounds previously used by the Harriman Merchants Shipbuilding Corp.

March 16 – The Mothers Association of Bristol Public Schools gave their second annual entertainment, “Komical Kountry Kousins” to a standing room crowd.

March 17 – St. Mark’s Dramatic Club presented a clever production entitled “The Rascal Pat” in St. Mark’s Auditorium.

March 18 – A large crowd is expected to attend a Fashion Show given by the Travel Club at St. James Parish House. Music will be provided by the high school orchestra.

March 19 – A Marine Corp base may be established in Bristol. Facilities are courtesy of Mr. Thomas Huff, of Huff Daland Airplanes. 150 recruits are needed.

March 20 – Work on the high school annex is making rapid progress and is expected to meet completion by August 15.

March 23 – Another sedan has been found stripped of tires, wheels, battery, and tools. It appears to be the work of an organized gang of automobile thieves. This is the third in the last 10 days. All were owned by Philadelphia parties, and assumed they were stolen in Phila..

March 24 – Union Paving Co. of Philadelphia was the successful bidder for the construction of Radcliffe, Mill and Otter Streets. Cost is \$93,105. To be completed by Dec. 1st.

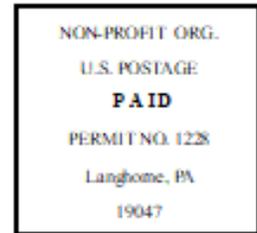
March 26 – Bristol Confectionary has Easter Eggs. Prices range from 5¢ to \$2.50 at 202 Mill St. “Bristol’s Big Candy Kitchen”.

March 27 – Eugene Squillace was the winner of the pocket billiard tournament at St. Ann’s Catholic Club.

March 29 – Plans to establish the Marine Base are progressing. Half of the members of the Robert W. Bracken Post #382 American Legion Drum Corp have signed up.



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar of Events For 2026

March 22, 2026 @ 2pm– Abigail Levin portrays Abigail Adams in **Remembering the Ladies**. Adults \$5 donation, students free. Light Refreshments will be served.

May 3, 2026 @ 2 – 4 PM. Annual Tea – Honoring Our Red White and Blue.

June 24, 2026 Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island Tour with dinner at the Historic Cranberry Inn.

June 28, 2026 @ 2 PM Concert by BCHF Community Band. Adults \$5 donation, students free. Light Refreshments will be served.

July 26, 2026 @ 2 PM – Bob Mercer presents The Galapagos Islands and Evolutionary Laboratory

July 29, 2026 Whale Watch Aboard the Miss Belmar off Belmar, NJ.

August 10, 2026 @ 2 – 4 PM- Peach Social

August to September, 2026. Celebrity Cruise Line's "Best of Greece" cruise, August 29 to September 7. The itinerary includes a pre-night stay in Athens and ports-of-call including Athens, Greece; Ephesus, Turkey; Santorini, Rhodes, Mykonos and Thessaloniki, Greece. Rates, which include round-trip airfare from Philadelphia, range from \$5,007 to \$5,821 pp double. A Passport is required. Details in this edition.

September 17, 2026 – River Lady Luncheon Cruise

October 17, 2026 – Historic Bristol Day

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](https://www.instagram.com/IG@bristol_historic_foundation)

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