



# The Gazette



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No. 6

Sponsoring Historic Bristol Day - Third Saturday of Each October  
BCHF is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, all volunteer organization.

JUNE 2024

## President's Corner

### Art at BCHF: A Tradition

In 1976, Joseph Pavone and the Radcliffe Cultural and Historical Foundation, with the cooperation of the Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Library collected around 48 works of art created by artists in Bristol. Many of the pieces were lent by the artists or other collectors. An attempt was made to collect both older and contemporary art in order to show how art progressed in this region. The collection included early portraits from 1790 (Portrait of Letitia White by an unknown artist) to 1860 (Portrait of Captain Joseph Ridgway by S. Seymor Thomas), more contemporary portraits, landscapes, still lifes, abstracts, impressionist pieces, and seascapes.

They exhibited these works and created a catalogue entitled "Paintings and Painters in Bristol: Bicentennial Collection". The catalogue had a brief history of art, relating each school, period, and style to art created by local artists thus showing how art by Bristol artists changed and matured over time. More than one aspect of their efforts made a lasting difference: First, they rediscovered several important works and artists (portraits by Bass Otis, a landscape by F. R. Wadsworth, a couple abstracts by Franz Kline, and a few good primitives by local folk artists). Second, their catalogue provides an important record of the art and artists working in the area up to 1976, artists like Joe Pavone, Joe Sagolla, Louise

Davis, and many more.

We, at BCHF, particularly appreciate Joseph Pavone's efforts. As the first president of BCHF, he and the BCHF founding board established our mission "...to preserve and promote the history of the area and increase the cultural opportunities for the residents of the community." In exhibiting the Bicentennial Collection and creating the catalogue, Mr Pavone fulfilled the goals of the mission and created an example for us to follow.

With Mr. Pavone's example in mind, BCHF and the Artists of Bristol on the Delaware once again exhibited works by artists of the area. There were a variety of art styles and media including oils, pastels, alcohol ink, photography, 3-D wood, textile art, and watercolors. The exhibit was hung prior to the Annual Tea so that guests at the tea could enjoy and purchase the art. In the evening of May 3d, we had a reception open to the public. We served wine and non-alcoholic beverages along with delightful hors d'oeuvres, appetizers, and delectable finger foods. The guests enjoyed mingling with the artists and viewing the artworks. We're sure Mr Pavone would have enjoyed the exhibit and would have approved our continuing the tradition.

*Deborah Pinney, President*



List of 2024 members in this issue. If you do not see your name listed, you can send in your membership dues now. See form on Page 3.

## A Trip to Roebing

In April we sponsored a bus trip across the river to Roebing, and Bordentown, NJ.

Roebing is the site of Roebing Steel Mill, which was founded by Charles Roebing, son of John A. Roebing. John A. Roebing & Sons company built and provided the steel for the Brooklyn Bridge, the Golden Gate Bridge, as well as numerous other bridges including one over Niagara Falls. Today the town of Roebing boasts a museum dedicated to the history of the Roebing family and the evolution of the manufacturing of steel cable which was used in the building of many of our historic bridges. The town itself, which at the time when the steel mill was in full operation, was built to house the workers. The homes were owned by the workers not leased as was the case in situations such as coal and steel towns. Today, because Roebing is no longer in operation, the homes are owned by people not directly involved with the company.

However, the town itself acts as a part of the museum. Part of the tour included a walking trip of the town, where various aspects of the life at that time were explained.

If you have a chance to visit Roebing on your own, you probably will find it as fascinating as we all did who enjoyed the trip. Roebing is right across the river so it would make a great day trip.

After Roebing we visited Bordentown where we were treated to a wonderful meal at the Old Town Pub. We then visited the site of the former estate of Joseph Bonaparte called Point Breeze. The Bonaparte Mansion is no longer standing, but the gardener's house has been converted to a museum staffed with enthusiastic people willing to share the history of the property.

All in all, we had a highly educational and delightful trip. Thanks to all who made the trip possible and to those that attended.



*Above: Tour group and guide*

*Below: Kitzie & Tony*



## Tea For You

This year's **Spring Tea** was another wonderful success. The tables were adorned with white tablecloths, topped by a green polka dot runner. Each table was decorated with a unique tea pot filled with an arrangement of fresh flowers. Also at each plate was a menu accompanied by a favor filled with a York Peppermint Pattie. The menu included sandwiches made with chicken salad, cream cheese and cucumbers, and roast beef.



All this was accompanied with all the tea you could drink. Of course, the tea ended with delicious home baked cookies. No one went away hungry. To make the afternoon even more special, music was provided by Francis Danis. As is becoming a new tradition, artwork from the Artists of Bristol adorned the newly painted walls of our building. We must give special thanks to Ceil Graff and her committee for another great event. The sounds of people leaving with words of appreciation and saying, "See You Next Year" said it all.



*Far left: Every table was decorated with a lovely tea pot flower arrangement  
Left: Tea participants*

## 2024 B.C.H.F. Membership

The following individuals, families and businesses have joined the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation as members for the year 2023. If your name does not appear below, and you would like to continue to support the work of the Foundation, you may join now using the coupon at the bottom of this page or go online at [www.bristolhistory.org](http://www.bristolhistory.org). Additional members will be noted in our September newsletter.

Jose L. Acevedo	Sonia Foderaro	Gary Luthran	Jeanette Ruano
Jane B. Adams-Martin	Joyce & Bill Frake	Margaret Lynn	Renee Rumsey
Michael Albertson	Barbara M. Funk	Ronald & Mae Macauley, Jr.	Anthony & Margaret Russo
David & Donna Albright	Pamela Gadsby	JoAnne Maguire	George & Lunn Salapka
Russell & Pauline Angermann	Regina Gentert	Cynthia A. Mancuso	Kitsie Saldan
Mary Antonelli	Mary, Mark & Christina Gesualdi	Ron Marcella	Yvonne P. Sampsel
Suzanne Arhipov	Joseph M. Gilardi	Nancy Maren	Mr. & Mrs. Charles
Nonnie Austin	Joe & Marianne Gowaskie	Roberta Marish	& Dolores Sampsel
Lillian M. Bauserman	Ceil Graff	Carole McCann	Dottie Saxton
Debbie Bidlingmaier	Trish Granda	Marguerite McCay	Gloria L. Seacrist
Philip Bigelow	Gene & Barbara Gregory	Donald & Dona McCloskey	George & Lynn Servais
Sam & Dorothy Black	Elisabeth Halpert	Jim & Diane McDewitt	Thomas F. Shaffer
Rose Bonaventura	Steven C. Halpert	Dave McGlynn	Marie Shively
Patricia A. & Frank Bosco	Kathy & Daniel Harbison	Regina McHugh	Mason Shope
Graham Brent	Tom & Pat Harris	Diane McKairnes	Margaret Sleppy
Charles Brodie	David & Jeanne Harris	Margot McKee	Sean Smith
Delores Brown	Andrea Harvie	Patricia Mervine	Mary Ann Smoyer
Pat Buchanan	Darlene Helecki	Mary Lou Middlekauff	Joyce & Howard Smoyer
John & Jean Burton	Alan Hermely	Marilyn L. Milbourne	Patricia & Ron Snyder
Frank & Robin Butrey	Donna B. Heron	Harold Mitchener	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Stallone
Joseph Capizzi	Jeanine Hillesland	Lillian Mitchener	Alan C. Stoneback
Arlene E. Carrello	Nancy Hodges	Dorothy Mitchener	Rose Marie Strippoli
Grace Carter	John Hodgkinson	Gloria & Ed Mittleman	Jane Sutton
Bill & Rose Cattani	Nancy Hodgkiss	Fr. Dennis Mooney	Paul & Veronica Swift
Jumah Caulker	Lorraine Hoffman	Paul Moore	Cynthia A. Szczepanski
Gioia Maria Cianciosi	Beverly Howley	Mary Jane & Isadore Morici	Robert & Elizabeth Tosti
Nelson & Ann Clements	Francis & Ellen Hufnell	Jennifer Moyer	Elaine Tosti
Donna Conticchio	Joanne Hullings	Patrick Mulhern & Family	Jeannine VanBuren
Joan Cordek	Helen Humphreys	Rene Mullen	Sherry VanCleve
Vincent & Alice Cordisco	Kevin Hunnicutt	Patrick, Marge & Jack Murphy	Regina Vasey
Eugene Costantini	Marie P. Hutchinson	Barbara Nelson	Raquel Vertucio
Stephanie Croquez	Nancy Jenca	Christine Nelson	Audrey Vogenberg
Ed & Marie Crossan	Donna Jenkinson	Elaine Nelson	Joan Wagner
Michael Crossan	Lynda Johnson	Angela A. Nem	Ron & Ronnie Walker
Brianna Maura Curran	Grace Jones	John & Gail Nocito	Jesse Walker
Larry Daniel	Michele Jones	Alyssa O'Brien	Bill Wallick
Mary Louise Davis	Diane Jones-Davidson	Carole O'Neill	Anne Walp
Beth Delaney	Beverly Kalinowski	Mike & Virginia Paleafico	Marion M. Walter
Ellanna L. Delaney	Mary Kehoe	Mary Jane Paone	Sally Walters
Joanne Delia	Amber Kennedy	Phyllis Pavone	Vill & Sue Watkins
Joseph & Jeanne D'Emidio	Clarence King	Deborah F. Pinney	Dale L. Weik
Dan & Michelle DiNapoli	Claire King	Margie Pliszka	Rick Welsh
Helen Dmytryk	Rose Marie Kirby	Arnold Porter	Pauline White
Bob & Nancy Doyle	Jerry & Sharon Kline	Elaine Powers	Ellen Whiteley
Joseph Dugan	Albert & Sharon Lalli	Philomena Quattrocchi	Vernon Wiegand Jr.
Bernadine Dunning	Josephine Lalli	Susan Rachin	RuthAnne Woolsey
Grace & Tony Duba	Thybet Lalli	Johanna Raines	Ken and Lisa Worthington
Mary Ann Ennis	Joe & Anna Larrisey	Angelo & Melina Ratini	Chris Wright
Anthony Esposito	Jane Bl Larzelere	Helen B. Raymond	Arthur Younglove
Fidel Esposito	Richard Lau	Janice Rhodes	Helen Younglove
Pat Esposito	Maryann Lauth	Nancy Riccio	
Marie Feole	Karen Lewin-Dively	Denise Riccio	<i>Community Members</i>
Joni L. Firman	Eva Ligato	Nicholas A. Rizzo	Bristol Fire Company
Pauline Flacco	Suzanne J. Ligato	John & Mary Anne Roche & Sons	Great Id's by Anne
Andrew Flogal	Maryanne Lucenti	Linda Rowan	St. Mark Catholic Church

## 2024 Membership Form

2024 Membership Dues: \_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$15.00    \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$25.00    \_\_\_\_\_ Business \$60.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to B.C.H.F. Mail to B.C.H.F., PO Box 215, Bristol, PA 19007

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## Bristol Has a New Post Office



*The post office at Beaver and Prospect Streets.*

Previous to 1914 the post office was at the corner of Radcliffe and Market Streets.

The reason for having a new post office at Beaver and Prospect Street was that it was near the Pennsylvania Railroad. It was opened on June 15, 1914. The postmaster was Elwood Minster appointed postmaster in 1899. He was the 19th postmaster. At that time many of the merchants on Mill and Radcliffe felt that it was too far out of the main area for banking and shopping. When Levittown was first built the Bristol Post office served Levittown. Presently Levittown has it's own post office on Emily Road.

*Sources: Grundy Library Historical collection. Images of America - Bristol by Harold and Carol Mitchener.*

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## Do You Know Publisher . . . .

. . . Or any similar type of software program. If you do, the BCHF Board would like to hear from you. We are looking for a volunteer to prepare this newsletter. It only takes a few hours of your time and we publish only 9 times per year. You would receive the articles and information in "Word" format and photos as "JPEGs". As the editor, you would drop the articles and photos into the appropriate pages and arrange them for publication. One of our other volunteers would proofread the copy before it goes to the printer for publication.

Interested? Need more information? Call 215 945-3725 or 215 870-8552

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## OUT OF THE PAST

The following items were excerpted from **June 1904** issues of THE BUCKS COUNTY GAZETTE. Price three cents.

6/2 - - "Bristol, Pa., Thursday, June 9. PAWNEE BILL'S HISTORIC WILD WEST AND GREAT FAR EAST ETHNOLOGICAL CONGRESS! Habits and Customs of the Red Men illustrated by themselves. Painted Warriors, Squaws, Papposes. Many Strange and Peculiar People. Weird Music from the Far Eastern Hemisphere. Seats for 10,000 People under Water-proof Canopies. A Gorgeous, Free Cavalcade Parades the Principal Streets of the City Daily at 10:30 a.m."

### LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

The annual strawberry festival at St. James parish building will be held tonight. Jersey berries and cream will be served.

An "Old Maids Convention" will be held in the Bethel A.M.E. church tomorrow evening under the auspices of the Senior Christian Endeavor.

The employees of William H. Grundy & Co. have completed arrangements for their annual excursion which will be run to Atlantic City on Saturday, July 30th. The excursion will be run by way of the bridge route. A special train will leave the Bristol depot at 7 a.m. and the train returning the excursionists will leave Atlantic City at 9 p.m. Price of the tickets will be \$1.50 adults and 75 cents children.

6/9 - - Doylestown, with less than half the population of Bristol, is in a fair way of securing a system of sewers at an early date. The funds for the project are furnished largely by local capitalists.

When will Bristol awake from its slumber and be convinced of the vital necessity of a system of sewers?

### LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

Navigation has re-opened on the canal between New Hope and Bristol.

The Columbia Wall Paper Company is putting up a sign 200 feet long on their mill.

Two converts were baptized in Silver Lake at sunrise last Sunday. The ceremony was performed by Rev. James Winfield, pastor of the Second Baptist Church.

**BRISTOL NOW HAS FIVE WARDS.** On Monday, Judge Stout signed the decree dividing the Second Ward of Bristol into two voting districts. The Second Ward will now embrace the district between Penn and Lafayette Streets and the river and the canal, and the district from Lafayette Street on the south and the Hollow Creek on the north, between the river and the canal, will be known as the Fifth Ward.

"HOGUET'S PIONEER DRUG STORE (wholesale and retail). The oldest and largest in Bucks County. Established in 1844 by the present proprietor. A large stock of first-class drugs, medicines and chemicals. L.A. Hoguet, Nos. 123 to 127 Mill Street."

"DR. ELLA R. HEINEKEN, Lady Dentist. 224 Mill Street"

### 6/16 - - LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

The Sisters of the I.H.M. Convent are chancing off a \$300 piano, the proceeds to be used in installing a heating system in the

*continued on next page*

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## Out of the Past . . . *continued*

convent.

The monthly shoot of the Bristol Gun Club for the "Grundy Cup" will be held on Saturday afternoon at the club grounds above Tullytown.

St. Mark's annual commencement and entertainment will be held on Friday evening. The graduates will be Katie Brogan, Anna McIlvaine, Mary Motz and Rose Dougherty of Bristol, and Anna Coughlin of Tullytown.

Thirteen rows of reserved seats have been sold for the minstrel entertainment which will be given for the benefit of the Bristol Library at the Colonial Theatre next Tuesday evening. Only four rows of reserved seats remain.

**BRISTOL HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT.** The Bristol High School commencement will be held in the high school assembly room on Thursday evening, June 23. The graduating class of '04 is comprised of Misses Mary F. King, Margaret Ahlee, Estella Winter, Anna Simpson, Anna Barton, and Edgar Haney and LaGrande LaRue

**LOCAL BAND REVIVED.** The Liberty Cornet Band, which recently disbanded, has been revived and has resumed its weekly practice on Tuesday evenings.

**HOUSE FOR SALE.** No. 648 Washington St., containing 8 rooms and bath. Price \$1,400.

"**HORN'S MEAT MARKET,** No. 308 Mill Street . . . Extra trading stamps!

Chester County Butter - 30 cents and \$1 orth of stamps. Stewing Lamb - 5 cents lb. Good, Tender Steak - 16 cents lb. Large Can of Heinz's Tomato Soup - 20 cents and a small sample can with each."

6/23 - - **LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:**

Oh! for a street sprinkler!

Wilhelmina Anders has sold her property at 420 Lafayette Street to an Italian for \$1,750.

Samuel Turner made a curious find upon his front porch, corner of Wood and Lafayette Streets, on Saturday morning - a set of false teeth and a stogie cigar.

There were twelve deaths in the borough during the month of May from the following causes: consumption, 3; typhoid fever, 2; one each from heart disease, pneumonia, cancer of the stomach, broncho-pneumonia, purpura hemorrhage, cancer of the face and marasmus.

The fine weather that has prevailed for the past week or ten days has made trolley riding a favorite form of recreation. On Sundays especially, the cars of the Philadelphia, Bristol and Trenton Street Railway Co. have been crowded. A favorite route is to take the car at the Closson House corner and go to Newtown, then transfer to the Yardley and Trenton car, making a choice of crossing the Calhoun Street Bridge to the Jersey Capital or continuing on to Morrisville, thence to Bristol, to the starting point. The ride to Torresdale is another attractive one, that line doing the heaviest business of any of the roads entering Bristol.

**MARRIAGE LICENSES GRANTED.** John F. Blanch of New York and Miss Grace C. Brogan of Bristol. Raymond Tomlinson and Miss Mary Williams of Bristol.

**MARRIED MEN DEFEATED.** On Sunday last, the Single Men defeated the Married Men of No. 2 Fiore Company of Bristol, by the score of 29 to 13. The game was replete with brilliant plays, poor plays and kicking. Every player seemed to think the umpire had a grudge against him.

"**C.C. STRUMFELS** has placed a horse and wagon on his route and is now supplying the wholesale tobacco trade in Lower Bucks

County, being the only wholesale dealer in this vicinity."

**TEACHERS' SALARIES RAISED.** At a special meeting of the Bristol Public School Board last evening, the salaries of the teachers were set as follows: high school principal 455 per month; assistant in second grade, Wood Street, \$35 per month; and all the teachers in the other grades, \$50 per month. This is an advance of \$5 per month for all the teachers except the assistant in the secondary department and the drawing and Latin teacher, the salary of the latter being increased from 347 to \$50.

**INDIAN DIES AT BRISTOL.** There was considerable excitement in the Indian camp connected with Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show in Bristol last Thursday night when Justice Goodvoice Eagle, an infant member of the tribe, died of pneumonia. For two or three hours, a crowd of 25 bucks and squaws took possession of Harvey S. Rue's undertaking shop and, according to the peculiar Indian custom, kept up a weird performance moaning and crying. An attempt was made to have the baby buried here but the chief would not permit it, so the body was embalmed and prepared for shipment to the Rosebud Indian Agency at Valentine, Nebraska. The death certificate, which the Board of Health regulations require, was signed by Edward Springer, the "medicine man" for the tribe.

6/30 - - **BURGESS ABBOTT'S PROCLAMATION.** Burgess Abbott of Bristol has issued a proclamation giving notice that the laws of the State for the protection of life and limb, and forbidding the sale or use of any deadly weapons or explosives within the limits of the borough, will be rigidly enforced on the Fourth of July.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ORGANIZES.** Last Sunday afternoon and evening, with over a thousand members of the Order in from various nearby towns and cities, the Bristol Council, No. 906, Knights of Columbus, was organized at the Colonial Theatre, Bristol. James Roche, Patrick Barrett, Eugene Barrett and Hugh Nelson of Bristol, who are members of the Order, were instrumental in organizing the local council.

**AN "INFANT" INDUSTRY.** Probably but few people know that squab raising is one of Bristol's "infant" industries that gives every indication of becoming an important business enterprise. At present one hundred fledgling pigeons are shipped weekly from here to the New York market, for which sixty cents a pair is received. In winter, the prices soar near the dollar mark. William DeGroot is the largest raiser and does the shipping. By Fall, it is expected that three hundred squabs will be sent to market weekly.

**THE FIRST PATIENT.** Promptly at 9 a.m. last Monday, Dr. Brown's office at the Hotel Closson was opened for business. The first patient was an old lady, Mrs. A.M. Bowers, living near Tullytown. During last winter, she could not wear shoes - bunions so painful. It did not take the doctor many minutes to get the big toe joints back to their natural or normal condition. The old lady went away happy, saying it did not hurt a bit. Said she felt better all over and laughed heartily when a lady friend said that the "bay window" had disappeared from her shoes.

"**WHITAKER'S FAMILY SHOE STORE,** 218 Mill Street . . . if you want to be ahead on the fashion, wear "Queen Quality." Boots - \$3.00. Oxfords - \$2.50. Fast color eyelets used exclusively."

**LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:**

The Delaware River Navigation Company has put the steamer "Sue" on the route between Bristol and Philadelphia for the transportation of freight.

The dredger "America," which has been digging gravel at the point below Bristol for some time, dug a deeper channel at the Mill Street wharf this week to better enable the coal boats to unload at the dock.



**Bristol Cultural &  
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## Calendar of Events For 2024

**JUNE.** Sun., 6/2, 2 PM. Public debut by the BCHF Bristol Community Band at BCHF Headquarters. Selections from their repertoire consisting of hits from the 60s and 70s, light jazz, some blues, and patriotic music. All are invited. Light refreshment will be served. A donation of \$5 per adult attendee is suggested.

**JULY.** Sat., 7/13 (rain date Sun., 7/14), 10 AM to 4 PM. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. \$165 for BCHF members; \$175 for non-members. Reservation deadline: August 30. Call 215-788-9043 for

detailed flyer/reservation form.

**OCTOBER.** Sat., 10/19, 10 AM to 4 PM. Annual Historic Bristol Day. Theme: Celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lafayette's Farewell Tour." Details in future Gazettes.

**NOVEMBER.** Wed., 11/20, 7:30 PM. BCHF's annual meeting at BCHF headquarters. Election of Board members followed by a presentation (topic not yet determined). Light refreshment. The public is cordially invited. No fee.

**NOVEMBER.** Tues., 11/26, 7 PM. Return of Titanic historian David Kaplan whose topic will be "Unsuspecting Participants." Light refreshment. BCHF headquarters. Donations to the FUMC Food Pantry of Bristol of sanitary products, toilet paper, paper towels, dish or laundry detergent, etc., greatly appreciated.

**DECEMBER.** Tues., 12/3. Bus trip to "Holidays at Nemours Estate", DE. 3-course luncheon at Buckley's Tavern and self-guided tour of the Nemours Mansion, elaborately decorated for the holidays. \$135 for BCHF members; \$145 for non-members. Reservation deadline: October 25. Call 215-788-9408 for detailed flyer/reservation form.

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BCHF Headquarters are at 321 Cedar Street, Bristol.

For current information about activities and events, check out our web site at [www.bristolhistory.org](http://www.bristolhistory.org).

email us at [bchf2157819895@gmail.com](mailto:bchf2157819895@gmail.com) Follow us on Instagram - - [IG@bristol\\_historic\\_foundation](https://www.instagram.com/IG@bristol_historic_foundation)

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