



# 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.

SEPTEMBER 2020

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## President's Corner



Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President of the BCHF. Due to concerns of health, I no longer feel that I can carry out the duties of President. I look forward to our Vice President, Nick Rizzo, serving as President. I shall remain a member of the Board of Directors.

*Sincerely,*

*Harold Mitchener, President*

In the President's Corner this month, Harold announces his resignation as President of BCHF. Some of the Board members wanted to share with the membership their thoughts about Harold's (and his better half, Carol) impact on the BCHF community.

Nick Rizzo remarked, "He welcomed me to BCHF when I hardly knew anyone. He also peaked my interest in the walking tours and I learned a lot from listening to him. Harold & Carol have been assets to BCHF as well as to Bristol."

Jesse Walker contributed, "He co-authored the Images of Bristol book and has contributed to the Grundy Foundation in Bristol Borough. His volunteerisms and knowledge are an important legacy."

Mary Gesualdi writes, "Much appreciation Harold for your years of dedicated service to BCHF as President! You and your side kick, Carol, truly are the local historians of Bristol. You have left a great legacy for the value of keeping Bristol's story alive in the minds and hearts of all the students in Bristol Borough."

Helen Younglove speaks of Harold " In 1990, I succeeded Harold as chairperson of the Ways & Means Committee. What a hard act he was to follow! I've never met anyone who is as dedicated to BCHF and to Bristol Borough as Harold Mitchener."

Kathy Barniskis commented, "I met Harold and his wife, Carol, when I joined Ways & Means after I retired from teaching. Shortly after, I was asked to join the BCHF Board. That's when I really got to know and admire him for his love of history and Bristol. We will miss you fearless leader."

Robin Butrey added, "When I became a member, I knew Harold must have been a teacher. His love of history, the town, and area he grew up in and love of travel is a giveaway. I put Harold and Carol together in this note because I can't think of them as anything else but a team. After working with them on BCHF projects like the Tea, programs, and now at the Grundy Library & Museum, I know they live to share the knowledge that they learn. I know we will miss Harold in his role at BCHF."



## Ways & Means

I trust you are all managing with the restrictions the coronavirus has placed on us. I truly miss the committee meetings and especially our committee's occasional restaurant outings! I do not anticipate getting together until well into the New Year. It's such a sham that our October and December trips have been cancelled. Our trip chair, Helen

Younglove, is looking into rescheduling them for next year. We are not sure how we will handle the Annual November Membership Meeting.

There have been several ZOOM meetings to discuss how we could virtually bring some of Historic Bristol Day to our members, but not everything has been firmed up yet. Grundy Library has some cool ideas (see related articles in this newsletter) and several members of the Board are working on others. Keep checking our website, [www.bristolhistory.org](http://www.bristolhistory.org), to discover any scheduled virtual events.

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## ***VIRTUAL HISTORIC BRISTOL DAY***

### ***Virtual Scavenger Hunt to be hosted by the Grundy Library for Historic Bristol Day***

COVID-19 may have changed plans for Historic Bristol Day 2020 this year, however, we are still honoring our town's history through a Bristol "Then and Now" Virtual Scavenger Hunt, hosted by the Grundy Library's Archive! By using digitized photographs of Bristol Borough historic sites available on the Grundy Library's website, participants will be able to "hunt" for former Bristol establishments around town. Simply print out the selected images of Bristol "then" locations, visit Bristol to find the

current or "now" location, then snap a picture of the former building over top of its current location. Post it to social media and tag the Grundy Library, or email your entries to [archive@grundylibrary.org](mailto:archive@grundylibrary.org). The contest will be open from October 1st through 11:59 PM on October 17th (Historic Bristol Day). Participants who find every location and submit their "now" photographs to the Library will be entered into a drawing to win a prize! More details to come as we approach October!

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### ***Celebrate Historic Bristol Day by Creating a Time Capsule!***

The Grundy Library will be giving out "Create a Time Capsule" Take Home Kits for school age children. The kits will be available to pick up beginning October

17th while supplies last. To find out more visit us at [www.grundylibrary.org](http://www.grundylibrary.org) or call the Grundy Library at 215 788-7891.

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## ***Barbers & Barber Poles***



The barber pole has long been recognized as a sign where a certain business was conducted. The origin of the barber pole can be traced back to the Middle Ages. Hundreds of years ago barbers didn't just cut hair and trim beards; they also worked as dentists and surgeons. In the 19th century, barbers were called "Tonsorial Artists". The red and white stripes of the barber pole originated from a practice known as bloodletting. This method was used to treat everything from the common cold to deadly diseases. The bloody bandages associated with bloodletting were represented by the red and white stripes while the barber pole itself symbolized the stick that people gripped onto during the procedure to encourage the veins in the arm to stand out more prominently.

In the Middle Ages, the crude instruments were formed from sharpened flint and oyster shells. By the mid 1500s, English barbers were banned from providing bloodletting treatment, although they

could continue to extract teeth. In Colonial times, a barber cut hair, shaved beards, made wigs, and performed dental work. Today the barber pole reminds us of the interesting history of the profession of barbering.

Many barber poles in America also have blue stripes. Some sources cite this as a tribute to America; others say it represented the blood in the veins; whereas, the red symbolized arterial blood. The spinning barber pole creates a visual illusion in which the stripes appear to be traveling up and down the length of the pole.

In checking with some directories from the 19th century in Bristol, the following men were listed as having their barbershops on Mill Street in 1871: Frederich Mauer, Joseph Morgan, and Samuel Stockton. In the 1890s these men were listed as barbers: Asher Conn, Edward Hurst, Anthony Lee, Jacob MacInteer, Henry Molden, George Munce, William Munce, Jr, W.M. Beurke, P.F. Callahan, Isaac Morris, George Munck, Jacob McIntye, Charles Neff, Frank Peirce, John Price, and Charles Weber. These barbershops were located in various parts of Bristol.

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### **The Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation**

urges everyone to stay safe . . . wear a mask, wash your hands and practice social distancing.

Let's make 2021 the year when we can all get back to normal.

We look forward to trips and activities and seeing everyone in person once again.

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## *Vendors, Vendors, Vendors*

Each year on Historic Bristol Day vendors line Radcliffe Street with hand made products and artwork. Some of these vendors have been supporting Bristol Day for quite some time and are hoping you will find them on their website and see what they have to offer this year. We will continue to update the website as we get web addresses or Facebook or Instagram pages for our vendors.

Please take the time to see what our vendors have to offer from the comfort of your home. Support out local non-profits. If you should have any questions about a vendor you don't see listed here, please email me and I will get you their contact information. I can be reached at [bmolczak@gmail.com](mailto:bmolczak@gmail.com)

Damsel in Defense

[www.mydamselpro.net/DorotheaP](http://www.mydamselpro.net/DorotheaP)

Diane's Unique Boutique Wreaths

[www.facebook.com/DianesUniqueBoutiqueWreaths/](http://www.facebook.com/DianesUniqueBoutiqueWreaths/)

Joan's Gems and Jewels

[www.facebook.com/groups/492208820954736/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/492208820954736/)

Delaware Valley Brokerage (Health Insurance)

[www.dvbsinc.com](http://www.dvbsinc.com)

Pen Ryn Manor

[www.penryn.org](http://www.penryn.org)

Craig Hackett

[www.craighackett.com](http://www.craighackett.com)

SeniorLAW Center

[www.seniorlawcenter.org/](http://www.seniorlawcenter.org/)

Anthony Messina Real Estate

[www.anthonymessinarealestate.com](http://www.anthonymessinarealestate.com)

Bucks County Genealogical Society

[www.bucksgen.org](http://www.bucksgen.org)

The BCGS is a dedicated group of genealogy enthusiasts sharing our passion for researching family history, especially in (but not limited to) Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

[www.harryhelmet.com](http://www.harryhelmet.com)

[www.jewelryonthefive.com](http://www.jewelryonthefive.com) or

jewelryonthefive on Facebook which is a public page.

[www.scotlandandbeyondtravel.com](http://www.scotlandandbeyondtravel.com)

Anthony (The Dog Bone Guy)

[www.thedogboneguy.com](http://www.thedogboneguy.com)

facebook: DogBone Guy

instagram: @dogboneguy

[www.bestdarnkettlecorn.com/](http://www.bestdarnkettlecorn.com/)

National Alopecia Areata Foundation (NAAF),

[www.naaf.org](http://www.naaf.org) donations accepted online

Radcliffe Insurance

[www.radcliffeinsurance.com](http://www.radcliffeinsurance.com)

Karen and John's Crafts

Facebook marketplace

[www.facebook.com/BHSAAA/](http://www.facebook.com/BHSAAA/)

[www.newyorklife.com/agent/jyoung08](http://www.newyorklife.com/agent/jyoung08)

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## *Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Museum Participates in Historic Bristol Day 2020*

To keep the tradition of Historic Bristol Day alive, the Grundy Museum will participate and support the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation's Historic Bristol Day 2020.

A Take-Home Victorian Craft for teens through adults and a family pack of coloring pages with a scavenger hunt will be available for curbside pickup on Bristol Day. Pickup time will be determined and posted. These are items that everyone can enjoy at home or on a walk around Bristol Borough.

Our new Grundy Museum "Walk and Talk Tour" will be offered two times during the day. This is an outdoor docent led tour of the Grundy Campus that is available by advanced registration only. Topics include the Grundy family, Library history, artist Joseph Pavone's sculpture of Joseph Grundy, architecture of the

Museum and future projects by the Grundy Foundation. Social distancing guidelines will apply and masks must be worn. Details about times and registration will be made available soon.

Content on the Grundy Museum YouTube channel and social media pages will focus on the Grundy family's impact on Bristol in honor of Bristol Day.

A "Grundy Selfie Station" will be open in Margaret's Garden on Historic Bristol Day. Stop by and have your selfie taken in one of Bristol Borough's beautiful riverfront gardens.

Executive Director, Mr. Gene Williams, and the Museum Staff are happy to make sure we don't skip a beat this year and are happy to participate and support the efforts of BCHF.

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## Bolton Mansion

Phineas Pemberton was born January 31, 1650 in Bolton, England. He was educated there and got a job in a grocery store. He was attracted to the Society of Friends (Quaker), as was William Penn. Penn obtained a charter for land in America from King Charles II. This land became the states of Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Penn came to America on the ship, *Welcome*, in 1682. Pemberton followed on the ship, *Submission*; with his wife Phoebe Harrison Pemberton. They disembarked at Philadelphia in 1682.

Penn had Phoebe's father, James Harrison, take charge of the construction of his country home (Pennsbury Manor. Penn sold land to Phineas and also to his father-in-law, James Harrison, outside of Penn's Manor. Phineas Pemberton established his home on 500 acres in what is now Holly Hill in Levittown and called it Bolton Mansion after the town where he was born.



With Penn's help, Phineas got involved in government. In Philadelphia, which at that time was the capital of Pennsylvania, he was in the Provincial Council for three years and then became President of the Pennsylvania Assembly for six years. Phineas was also surveyor-general in charge of laying out the roads. He also had the job of registering ear marks on cattle and pigs, since there were no fences. In addition, he kept records for Bucks County's marriages, births, and deaths.

Phineas died on March 1, 1702 at 52. He was buried on a plot of land opposite Biles Island where his first wife, Phoebe, had been interred. When United States Steel bought that property, the graves of Phineas and Phoebe Pemberton were moved to the grounds of the Pennsbury Manor property.

Bolton Mansion served as the seat of the County in the

early days of Bucks County. Official government work was done there, meetings were conducted, and funds were transferred before the county seat moved out of Bristol Township.

In 1937, the Pemberton family donated their farm and Mansion to the University of Pennsylvania as part of their Veterinary School of Medicine. In 1947, the University sold the property to U.S. Steel. Eventually, William Levitt purchased it for his Levittown housing development. The house also served as the offices for

William Levitt during the construction of the Levittown community. In time, Levitt gave the Mansion and the land surrounding it to Bristol Township for its municipal offices and police station.

In 1966, Bristol Township vacated the property and it soon was vandalized. The fire marshal suggested demolition.

After doing research on the history, Levittown resident, Jim Snow, realized the importance of Bolton Mansion to Bristol Township. Jim and a small group of local residents formed The Friends of Bolton Mansion in 1971 and fought to keep the Mansion from being demolished. Bolton Mansion was sold to The Friends of Bolton Mansion for \$1 and shortly thereafter joined forces with Bucks County Conservancy to begin restoration efforts.

The Friends of Bolton Mansion, to this day, work diligently to preserve Bolton Mansion as an historic museum and residence. This volunteer organization, by fostering programming and events, has been able to recreate this time in the history of Bucks County and bring the Mansion back to its original glory.

*Credits: BCCT Carl LeVo, Images of America - Bristol by Harold & Carol Mitchener.*

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## The Silkworm Industry In Bristol

In 1844, there was an industry in Bristol to grow silkworms and the production of silk worm cocoons.

Standing along the Delaware River, the building was in the back of the Wildman house at Washington and Radcliffe Streets. It was a three-story building.

Mulberry trees were grown for the leaves that fed the worms. The trees were planted from a point where the Colonial Theater stood, near Penn and Wood Streets. The ground went as far west as Pond Street and north near Jefferson Avenue. William Booz of Cedar Street was employed in this industry. His duties were to gather the mulberry leaves from the grove of trees and feed them to the worms. There was a movement in the U.S. to get rich raising silk worms. In a few years, the business stopped and the building was removed.

By 1876, the Grundy Mill arrived and wool was used there and was very profitable. Around that time, Mrs. Appleton had her factory on Buckley Street to manufacture ladies woolen stockings and underwear.

At the present time, there are no known factories manufacturing natural material to make cloth.

*Information from the Grundy Library Historical Collection*

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## Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from **SEPTEMBER 1930** issues of THE BRISTOL COURIER.

9/2 - - "School Opening. We have the largest selection of school supplies in town. School Companions - 10¢ to \$1.00. School Bags - 25¢ to \$5.00. Regular Pencils - 3 for 5¢. NORMAN STATIONERY, 420 Mill Street."

"Install before Cold Weather! R-S Oil Burner. Burns cheaper grade fuel. Will not interfere with radio. \$375. Tank extra. No pump to buy. FRANK B. MURPHY, 342 Hayes Street."

"FOLLO THRU GOLF LINKS (18 holes). Now Open! If you don't know how to play, we'll teach you. Located at Alexander's Service Station, Highway below Mill Street."

9/4 - - BRISTOL SCHOOLS' beginners total 186 on first day. The beginners for the first day in the Bristol public schools total as follows: Harriman building, 47; Bath Street school, 30; Jefferson Avenue building, 33; Washington Street school, 38; Wood Street structure, 25; Beaver Street school, 13.

"W.T. GRANT CO., Pond and Mill Streets . . . Grant's prices are lower, values are bigger than they have been in years! New Fall Sweaters - \$1, Women's Silk Hose - 89¢, Women's Rayon Bloomers - 50¢, Infant's Rubber Pants - 25¢."

"ROCKEY'S Specials! Fresh Country Eggs - 45¢ doz., Scrapple - 2 lbs. for 25¢, Homemade Potato Salad - 25¢ lb., Virginia Baked Ham - 20¢ for 1/4 lb., Blood Pudding - 35¢ lb., Limburger Cheese - 47¢ lb. 238 Mill Street."

9/6 - - "The Improved WHIPPET, Advanced in Beauty, Comfort, Smoothness and Safety. World's Lowest Priced 4-Door Sedan - \$585. Willys-Overland Inc., Toledo Ohio. JENKS H. WATSON, 1520 Farragut Avenue."

"FOR RENT. Brick and stucco dwelling, 1717 Farragut Ave. 6 rooms and bath. Hot water heat and all conveniences. Garage. \$45." "Rooms by the Week. \$3 and up. Board optional. Apply BRISTOL HOUSE, Radcliffe and Mill Streets."

9/10 - - "New MARKET HOUSE. Will open Friday, September 12, at Farragut Ave. and Monroe Street. Fruit, Produce, Fish, Oysters, Clams. All goods at cut prices. If you can't stop in, phone Bristol 185. All orders delivered."

"Now Open! ESTHER'S MARINELLO BEAUTY SHOP, 331 Buckley Street. Special for September! Permanent Waving on the New Nestle Triplex Machine - \$7. Esther V. Boyle, Cosmetician."

9/12 - - NEW SHOE STORE WILL OPEN ON MILL STREET TODAY. A new shoe store will open at 413 Mill Street today. It is one of the chain conducted by the National Shoe Stores, Inc. Mr. Sisslyn will be the manager.

"HOFFMAN'S CUT-RATE, 310 Mill Street . . . 60¢ Sal Hepatica - 39¢. 65¢ Pond's Cold Cream - 45¢. 50¢ Conti Castile Shampoo - 39¢."

"BRISTOL RADIO SHOP, 226 Mill Street . . . Philco Baby Grand Radio. The first real, big-performing, 7-tube radio with genuine Dynamic speaker. all-in-one compact walnut cabinet. Only \$49.95, less tubes."

9/18 - - IMPROVING HOSPITAL. Dr. J. Fred Wagner is adding X-ray equipment to his hospital and when the building is completed and the equipment installed, the Wagner Hospital will be a very well-equipped institution.

"BRISTOL FRUIT & PRODUCT MARKET, 214 Mill Street . . . 30-lb. basket Penna. large potatoes cut to 70¢, 5-8 basket egg-

plants - cut to 50¢ or 5¢ each. Extra fancy bananas - 15¢, 19¢, 25¢. Doz. large clams - 3 for 10¢ or 35¢ doz. Extra fancy large fresh scallops - 39¢ lb. Flounders - 2 lbs. 25¢."

9/19 - - HEADLEY DECLARED QUIT CHAMPION HERE. Jess Headley has been proclaimed the single championship quoit pitcher of Bristol, after defeating each of his opponents. Headley pitched the finals against Russell Burton.

"Come in today! Choose your new suite from our Kroehler display. Standard quality 2-pc. suite in mohair and moquette, as national advertised, \$150. SPENCER \$ SONS FURNITURE. Corner Mill and Radcliffe."

9/20 - - FIRE TOTALLY DESTROYS FUSES PLANT HERE TODAY. One Girl Employee Seriously Burned. Flames, following an explosion, according to employees, swept through the plant of Samuel Jackson & Sons, Inc., fuses manufacturers, just south of Bristol Borough, this morning. The girl burned is Estelle Meile, 24 of Emily Avenue, Croydon. She is in Harriman Hospital.

TULLYTOWN BOROUGH HAD 26 TRAINS DAILY. Years ago, many people were surprised when told of the frequency of mails in and out of Tullytown Borough. The town, with but 700 souls, had 14 mails daily. At that same time, there were 26 trains which stopped at the Tullytown station every 24 hours, and the place boasted of trolley service every half hour.

9/23 - - "Play Golf on Legion Course! Open Evenings, 7 to 11. 25¢ for First Game; 15¢ for Repeat Games. Prizes for Ladies Every Tuesday Evening. Prizes for Man Every Thursday Evening. Ladies with Escorts Free on Wednesday Evening after September 28. Operated by and for ROBERT W. BRACKEN POST 382, AMERICAN LEGION."

9/24 - - TAX OFFICE TO BE OPEN EVENINGS. The borough tax office, Municipal Building, will be open Thursday and Friday evenings and also on Saturday afternoon of this week, and will also be open on Monday and Tuesday evenings of next week. The additional hours are to afford an opportunity to taxpayers to pay their school tax before it becomes delinquent after September 30.

9/25 - - SEA SCOUTS TO HOLD REGATTA HERE ON SATURDAY. Bristol will be the scene of much activity on Saturday when the Sea Schouts of three Sea Scout Ships assemble here to take part in.the first regatta for the Sea Scouts held in this county. The grounds and floats behind the Elks home have been turned over to the Sea Scouts for this event.

"AMERICAN STORE CO . . . Big 19¢ and 25¢ Sale! Asco Vanilla Extract - 19¢ bottle. Asco Pure Fruit Preserves - 19¢ jar. Asco Fancy Golden Bantam Sugar Corn - 2 cans, 25¢. Victor Blend Coffee - 25¢ lb. Loin Lamb Chops - 45¢ lb. Finest Round Steaks or Roasts - 29¢ lb."

9/29 - - BRISTOL HIGH LOSES OPENING GRID GAME. Goes down to Defeat before Jenkintown by Score of 6 to 2. Playing for Bristol: Tulio, left end; Collins, left tackle; Wright, left guard; Aita, center; Britton, right guard; Gallagher, right tackle; Dougherty, right end; Pieo, quarterback; Gaffney, left halfback; Bornice, right halfback.

ST. ANN'S ELEVEN OPENS SEASON WITH A VICTORY. One-sided Game Ends on Sullivan's Field at 19 to 6. Local lineup: Roe, R.C. Greco, Moffo. Substitutes were: Marino, Kornstedt, Angelo, Missera, Quici, Sabatini, Stallone and Pope.



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### 2020 MEMBERSHIP

In the August GAZETTE we listed all members in good standing. Since that time, the following individuals have renewed their membership in BCHF. If you have not yet paid your dues, we urge you to renew your membership so that you will continue to get the GAZETTE in the mail with all of this interesting information and will also be able to take advantage of member discounts on trips and events.

<i>Robin &amp; Frank Butrey</i>	<i>Lorraine Hoffman</i>	<i>Mitchener</i>	<i>Joe &amp; Dottie Saxton</i>
<i>Helen Dmytryk</i>	<i>Mary Lou Middlekauff</i>	<i>Jennifer Moyer</i>	<i>Raquel C. Vertucio</i>
<i>Bernadine Dunning</i>	<i>Harold &amp; Carol</i>	<i>Phyllis Pavone</i>	

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### 2020 Membership Form

**2020 Membership Dues:**     Individual \$15.00     Family \$25.00     Business \$60.00

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Make check payable to B.C.H. F.    Mail to: B.C.H.F., P.O. Box 215, Bristol, PA 19007*

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

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