



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



# The Gazette



Published by Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Box 215, Bristol, PA 19007

VOL 34  
No. 1

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

JANUARY 2015

## Join Us On January 25th for an Interesting Program

Neill Hartley, an actor, director and educator, will present a first-person One-Man Show on Sunday, January 25th at 2 PM. The presentation is entitled "Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band". Those attending are asked to donate \$4.00 per person. Light refreshments will follow the presentation. This

program will be held at BCHF headquarters, 321 Cedar St., Bristol. This is our first activity of the New Year 2015. In the November 2014 issue of our publication, Mr. Hartley was pictured on the front page dressed in "historic costume" and holding a pipe in his mouth. We hope to see you there.

### All Aboard!

On Sunday, February 8th, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. we will be sailing (vicariously) to some exotic islands. The annual BCHF event is entitled

#### "TEA AT SEA AT THREE"

Besides having fun, learning interesting facts, getting favors and prizes, there will be plenty of delicious sandwiches, scones, desserts and, of course, TEA.

No passports needed!

To reserve your ticket, please call on January 10th beginning at 9:00 a.m. Tickets will be issued when reservation money is received. The phone number for reservations is 215 788-9408. The "passage fare" is \$20 (the same as last year). Seating capacity is limited so there will be no refunds unless the ticket(s) can be resold and

tables are pre-assigned (each table seats 4). The committee will do its best to put groups as close together as possible and to accommodate any special needs brought to its attention **in advance**.

Some of our destinations for "docking" will be Tahiti, Santorini, Seychelles, Galapagos and many more islands. "Passengers" are encouraged to dress in nautical / tropical style. (It may be winter outside when we "sail" but for a few hours, we will be warm.

So mark these dates:

**Call for RESERVATIONS - Saturday, January 10th  
at 9:00 a.m. 215 788-9408**

**SAIL-AWAY - Sunday, February 8th at 3:00 p.m.  
(doors open at 2:30)**

## BCHF Calendar of Events for 2015

**JANUARY** - Sun., 1/25, 2 PM. One-Man Show by Neill Hartley, entitled "Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band." Light refreshment. \$4 pp. BCHF Headquarters. Call 215 788-9408 for info.

**FEBRUARY** - Sun., 2/8, 3-5 PM Annual Tea. Theme "Tea at Sea at Three". \$20 per person. BCHF headquarters. Reservations accepted at 215 788-9408 beginning 9 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 10.

**MARCH** - Sun., 3/22, 2 PM. 1st person presentation by Linda Kenyon, entitled "Julia Says, 'Bon Appetit!'" Light refreshment. \$4 pp. BCHF headquarters. Call 215 788-9408 for info.

**APRIL** - Wed., 4/22. "Philadelphia Culture & Culinary" bus trip. Tour and lunch at Culinary of Arts, followed by self-guided tour of the Barnes Museum with digital audio guide. \$87 for BCHF members; \$90 for non-members, Reservation deadline is Feb. 13, as space allows. Call 215 788-4138 for info/reservations

**AUGUST** - Sun. 8/2 Annual Peach Social. Angel food cake topped with fresh peaches and ice cream, plus beverage. Takeouts available with own container. Baked goods table. \$5/adult, \$3 under age 12. BCHF air-conditioned headquarters.

BENEFITS BCHF AWARDS TO BRISTOL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES.

**SEPTEMBER** - Fri., 9/18. Bus trip to National September 11 Memorial and Museum, followed by free time and lunch-on-your-own at the annual San Gennaro Festival in "Little Italy." \$71 for BCHF members; \$76 for non-members. Reservation info will be announced in April 2015.

**OCTOBER** - Sat., 10/17, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 39th Historic Bristol Day, Fee for House Tour & Tea. For details, visit the BCHF web-site given below.

**NOVEMBER** - Wed., 11/18, 7:30 p.m. BCHF's annual business meeting, incl. election of Board members. Program and refreshments follow. Free. BCHF headquarters. Call 215 781-9895 for info.

**DECEMBER** - Wed. - Fri., 12/2-4. "Newport Mansions at the Holidays" bus trip, featuring The Breakers, Marble House and The Elms. Price and reservation details not yet determined

- 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).

## Bristol Riverside Theater - 2014 Season

"Always Patsy Cline" - January 27 - February 22, 2015

Phone 215 785-0100 for tickets, dates and additional information.

THE GAZETTE is a publication of the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Inc. - Harold Mitchener, Editor  
Post Office Box 215 • Bristol • Pennsylvania • 19007 • 215 781-9895 • [www.bristolhistory.org](http://www.bristolhistory.org)  
Articles for this issue of THE GAZETTE were contributed by: Helen Younglove. Carol Mitchener,  
Kathy Barniskis and Harold Mitchener. Photography by Helen Younglove and Jan Ruano

## 2015 Board of Directors Members and BCHF Officers

The members of the Board of Directors of our organization for 2015 are Russell Angerman, Kathy Barniskis, Barbara Freer, Mary Kehoe, Anna Larrisey, Nancy Maren, Catherine McCarry, Gerry McCarry, Mary McIlvain, Harold Mitchener, Debra Pinney, Jeanette Ruano, Robin Simmers-Butrey, and Helen Younglove. Officers for the year 2015 are Gerry McCarry - President, Jeanette Ruano - Vice President, Mary McIlvain - Corresponding Secretary and Anna Larrisey - Treasurer. Cecilia Graff has been appointed as Secretary to the Board.

Board meetings are the second Wednesday of each month, other than July, August and December. Meetings are open to the members, guests and prospective members. The time of the meeting is at 7:30 PM in our headquarters at 321 Cedar St., Bristol.

### Reserve The Dates

**Sunday, January 25, 2 PM** - "Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band," presented by Neill Hartley, actor, director and educator.

**Sunday, March 22, PM** - "Julia Says 'Bon Appetit!'," with Linda Kenyon portraying renowned chef Julia Childs. These programs will be held at BCHF headquarters, 321 Cedar Street, Bristol Borough. Light refreshment will be served. Admission fee is \$4 per person, payable at the door. Advance reservations are not required.

---

## A Note From Ways & Means

Our “Harrisburg Christmas 2014” bus trip was well-received! However, you’ll have to wait until April for the next trip, “Philadelphia Culture and Culinary” bus trip to the Barnes Museum after a tour and delicious lunch at the Culinary Arts. A very important EARLY deadline reservation is requested by February 13. Please call 215 788-4138 for information and to assure a reservation.

On Historic Bristol Day, Celeste Donahue of Wilmington, Delaware won the raffle for Mr. Sagolla’s watercolor. Local resident, Laura Wallick won the throw. Plans for HBD next year are already underway. Liz Fisher will, again, chair our annual October event. Thanks, Liz!

Plan to attend the one-man show, entitled “Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band”. As usual, BCHF volunteers will provide light refreshments. Come join us on Sunday, January 25th at 2 PM. We will have our saleable shelves open for purchases.

New saleable items include a handcrafted WELCOME FRIEND plaque that could be hung alone or attached to a seasonal wreath. For collectors we are offering a Bristol Wharf pin suitable for a cap or lapel. The plaque sells for \$15.00 and the pin for \$5.00. Remember that our BCHF items are sold at Mignoni’s, Great ID’s, Spice ‘n Co., Bird of Paradise, and at the Bucks County Visitor’s Center in Bensalem (near the casino).

“Tea at Sea at Three” is the theme for our annual tea, chaired by Carol Mitchener, on Sunday, February 8th from 3 to 5 PM. We need volunteers to make tea sandwiches on Saturday, February 7th at our headquarters and volunteers to bake finger desserts for the tea on Sunday. Please call Kathy Barniskis at 215 943-0258 if you can help with either.

Our next Ways & Means meeting is on January 19th at 7:30 PM at our BCHF headquarters on Cedar Street.

Kathy Barniskis - Ways & Means Chairperson

---

## A Friendly Reminder

Time’s running out on making a reservation for our Wednesday, April 22, bus trip to Philadelphia! The itinerary features a brief tour of the Culinary of Arts followed by a four-course luncheon in their “Petite Passion” restaurant and a self-guided tour of the Barnes Museum using digital audio guides.

“Petite Passion” is part of the International Culinary School at The Art Institute of Philadelphia. When you dine there, you are a guest of students studying Culinary Arts, who spend eleven weeks in “Petite Passion,” and will either be preparing your meal or serving it. Over the course of their schooling they’ve studied International, Classical and American Regional cooking, and have spent time in baking, pastry and dessert presentation as well. The students will be bringing together the skills they’ve learned over their first year to create a delicious and varied menu.

The Barnes Museum was originally located in Merion,

PA. The Foundation was founded in 1922 by Albert C. Barnes, a chemist who collected art after making a fortune by co-developing an early anti-gonorrhea drug and selling his company at the right time, before antibiotics came into use. Today, the Foundation owns more than 2,500 objects, including 800 paintings, estimated to be worth about \$25 billion. These are primarily works by Impressionist and Modernist masters, but the collection includes many other paintings by leading European and American artists, as well as ancient works from other cultures. On May 19, 2012, the Barnes collection was moved to a new building on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in center-city Philadelphia.

All-inclusive cost of this trip is \$87 for BCHF members and \$90 for non-members. We’re pleased to announce that The Barnes recently extended their cancellation deadline from January 17 to **February 17**. Reserve with Ellanna Delaney, 215 788-4138, **no later than Friday, February 13!**

---

## Apologetic and Grateful

The Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Inc., apologizes for overlooking the following contributors to Historic Bristol Day in the previous issues of THE GAZETTE, and extends sincere thanks at this time to:

### **GOLD PARTNER**

Nine West Holdings, Inc./The Jones Group

### **FRIEND**

Andy & Joyce Thompson

### **IN-KIND**

Vinnie DeMarco, donor of the Car Show Trophies

Apologies, too, to Ed & Gloria Mittleman for the misspelling of their last name in the October GAZETTE. If we overlooked anyone else, please charge it to our minds and not to our hearts!

---

## Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from **JANUARY 1945** issues of THE BRISTOL COURIER.

1/4 - - TWO BRISTOLIANS LOSE THEIR LIVES IN EUROPEAN AREA. Victims Are Sgt. Pasquale Capecci and Pvt. Anthony Tronotti, Jr. TWO ARE MISSING. James F. Cook, Dominick Bomentre, Missing: Joseph E. Weber Is Safe.

1/5 - - TEEN-AGE CANTEEN WILL BE A REALITY FOR BRISTOL BORO. To Be Housed in Beaver Street School Building. Bristol’s teen-age canteen was perfected, a month’s rent was donated by the local Moose Lodge, and other financial donations were promised by organizations at a meeting held in the Municipal Building last evening. The canteen will be open to girls and boys of Bristol Township as well as Bristol Borough. A registration fee of 25 cents will be charged with 5 cents admission for each night the canteen is open.

1/8 - - WOMEN ROBBED AS SHE ATTENDS MORNING MASS. Rev. Peter Pinci Tries to Catch up with Nimble-fingered Stranger. Desecrating the sanctity of the church, a nimble-fingered thief extracted eight \$1 bills from a woman’s handbag while attending Mass in St. Ann’s Church yesterday morning. The thief, as yet unidentified, made a successful get-away despite the fact that a priest gave chase in a commandeered automobile.

“It Takes Ammunition to Win Victories! Help Make It by Working at Hunters. We have openings for men and women on both shifts. HUNTER MFG. CORP., Beaver Dam Road at Bristol Terrace.”

1/9 - - CONSCIENCE-STRICKEN THIEF RETURNS \$8 TO VICTIM; SENDS MONEY WITH NOTE TO PARISH PRIEST TO RETURN TO THE OWNER. The doorbell of St. Ann’s rectory rang at about 7:15 last evening and an assistant rector answered. A small boy handed him an envelope directed “To the Head Priest of This Parish.” The address was scrawled in pencil and the envelope sealed.

BOYS FROM SECTION ENTER THE SERVICE. Among the inductees was Gerald C. Walterick, Edgely, the fourth of the Walterick brothers to enter the service. As the train was about to pull out of the Bristol Station, “The Star Spangled Banner” was played on the Profy record player and the engineer obligedly waited a few minutes until the national anthem was nearly over. Gifts were distributed by “36 for Victory” and prayer was offered by the Rev. Lehman Straus, pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church.

1/15 - - START SURVEY OF BRISTOL’S SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTING. An expert and scientific survey of the methods of accounting employed in the handling of the funds of Bristol Borough got underway this morning. The survey is being conducted by the Pennsylvania Economy League. There has been little if any change in the accounting methods and bookkeeping detail of the borough since its incorporation in 1720.

“Men and Women, Don’t Travel Long to Work. Jobs Are Available Now in Bristol. ROHM & HAAS COMPANY. Conveniently located. The company takes an interest in its employees. Insurance and pension plans cost the employee nothing. Pay rates and vacation schedules are liberal. Recreation facilities are available. Apply now for a job with this fast-growing chemicals and plastics company.”

CAGE LEAGUE IS FORMED OF PUPILS OF GRADES

7 AND 8. A basketball league, composed of students in the 7th and 8th grades, has been formed at the Bristol High School under the guidance of Coach Harold Stackhouse. The youths have chosen names of the armed forces and play their games on Saturday mornings.

1/18 - - ONE OF EVERY SEVEN MARRIED ENTERS SUIT FOR DIVORCE. There was one divorce started for every seven marriage licenses granted in Bucks County during 1944. This is an all time high for the divorce business in the county. Desertion ranks in first place as grounds for the suits filed.

“Have Dinner at BOWEN’S RESTAURANT, Green Lane and Bristol Pike. Seafoods with that salty tang. Home Made Pies. Special Dishes.”

1/22 - WEDS HERE FOLLOWING RETURN FROM OVERSEAS. A member of the armed forces, who recently returned from 32 months overseas, was wed here yesterday afternoon. The groom is Pfc. Frank F. LaRosa, son of Mr. & Mrs. James LaRosa of Green Street, who took as his bride Miss Frances Cuttone, daughter of Mrs. Diego Cuttone of Corson Street. A family reception was held at the home of the bride’s mother. The newlyweds then left for a week’s stay in New York City.

HIGH SCHOOL FIVE SCORES VICTORY OVER BENSALEM. Bunnies Go on a Scoring Spree in Second Half and Swamp Visitors. Final Score Was 37 to 18. Outstanding in Bristol’s victory were Mickey Mandio and Joe Embessi.

“A & P SUPERMARKETS. Oranges, 150 size - 47¢ doz. Stayman Apples - 3 lbs., 29¢. Bird’s Eye Cut Corn - 10 oz. pk., 20¢. Fresh Ground Beef - 27¢ lb. Marvel Bread, regular slice - 16 1/2 oz. loaf, 11¢.”

“COME AND GET IT! We still have a good selection in these reduced garments. Coats were \$29.95, now \$10.00. Sweaters were \$1.98, now \$1.00. Dresses were up to \$10.95, now \$5.00. Skirts were up to \$3.98, now \$1.98. BARTON’S, 411 Mill Street.”

1/26 - - TEMPERATURE REMAINS LOW; DOWN TO 5 DEGREES THIS MORNING. Although the temperature was 5 degrees higher at 8 o’clock this morning than it was at the same hour yesterday, the mercury did not get higher than 11 degrees throughout the 24 hour period at 8 o’clock today. In spite of the intense cold, schools in the area were all reported in session.

“Invited: Entire Family or Groups to Dine at THE ARCADIA BAR & RESTAURANT, 1800 Farragut Avenue. Better known as “Pete’s.” Dominick DiRisi, Chef.”

1/27 - - “MARCH OF DIMES” DRIVE UNDERWAY. Bristol Borough Contributed Largest Amount in Bucks County Last Year. One half of the amount collected in a community remains in that community for the benefit of infantile paralysis victims.

1/29 - - PFC. G.T. CLARKE IS KILLED IN BELGIUM. Son of Councilman Had Twice Been Wounded in European Area. Pfc. Clarke was 29 years of age. A solemn requiem Mass was celebrated this morning in St. Mark’s Church in the young man’s memory.

“Housewives, Rent Your Rooms to Vital War Workers! Call Bristol 3351; Ask for Mr. Stanley Jones or Mrs. Bracken. KAISER CARGO, INC., FLEETWINGS DIVISION.

## Vanilla Is The Most Popular Kind of Ice Cream In America

More than 90 percent of U.S. households consume about 1.5 billion gallons of ice cream every year. This makes ice cream our most popular dessert. It was not always that popular, mainly due to lack of adequate refrigeration, especially in the home. Ice cream started as a summer treat. Wagons with ice went through the streets selling ice cream. In Bristol, this was especially true when the Groff Dairy of Dorrance Street attempted to use their extra supply of milk from local farms (including the Grundy Farm on Newport Road) in summer. From that humble beginning came O'Boyles Ice Cream Company. When O'Boyles closed their business by the end of the 20th century, they had 32 "yellow" trucks delivering the delicious treats. At the same time supermarkets were being developed and they carried boxed ice cream. Better home refrigeration added to the success.

Presently there are many varieties of ice cream. Howard Johnson's offered 28 flavors, this was followed by Baskin-Robbins' 31 flavors. This writer also visited a Haagan Dazs Ice Cream store in Beijing, China and found that the people of that city are also enjoying the kind of ice cream offered in the United States.

Historically in the world the Emperor Nero of the Roman Empire in the first century A.D. found that he liked a kind of snow and syrup. King Charles I of

England in the 17th century offered his chef a lifetime pension for keeping an "iced cream" recipe secret, for "royal palates only". Dolley Madison had it served at James Madison's Inaugural Ball in 1809. In the early 19th century, ice cream was prepared in small quantities and had to be served immediately.

Many people helped improve the making of ice cream. Augustus Jackson (an African-American) is credited for improving ice cream's overall taste and texture. Nancy Johnson from New England in 1843 invented and patented the hand-cranked ice cream freezer. Jacob Fussell of Baltimore opened the first commercial ice cream plant ten years prior to the beginning of the American Civil War. Many Americans look forward to having ice cream with their birthday cake.

During the year 2015, it will be our attempt to highlight some of the interesting facts about "Common Things" in our society. Our research information is found in the National Geographic Society publication entitled An Uncommon History of Common Things by Bethanne Patrick and John Thompson. In our February issue, Pizza is the topic - - the first Pizzeria in the U.S. was opened in 1905 on Spring Street in NYC by Gennaro Lombardi.

## Crossing The Delaware River in Winter

What did the government tug "Humphreys", Mrs. Williams, James Murphy, Kelly O'Neill, Carl Wingert, Charles Brisbane, a bateau, (long, light, flat-bottomed boat with a sharply pointed bow and stern) and William E. Doron have in common on January 12, 1911?

In 2015, for one to reach Burlington, NJ from Bristol, the Burlington-Bristol Bridge provides safe passage no matter what the condition of the river may present. (This, of course, is only true if there is not a tall ship needing to pass under the bridge requiring the center section of the bridge to be raised).

The ferry boat "William E. Doron" was within 30 yards of the ferry boat slip at Burlington when it was caught in an ice pack and was unable to continue.

On the ferry boat besides captain and crew, was Mrs. M. Williams of Otter St., Bristol who was on her way to Burlington to visit relatives, a horse, and several male passengers. It was reported that the men did everything they could to make Mrs. Williams comfortable in the small cabin.

It was not long before Mrs. Williams and the other

passengers begged to be put ashore. This caused Mr. Doron to contact the government tug "Humphreys" moored nearby. James Murphy and Kelly O'Neill from the tug launched a small bateau from a nearby shipyard and pushing the boat ahead of them like a sled, started for the ferry boat. They had not gone very far when the bateau broke through the snow-covered ice and both men went into the ice water. Their companions, Charles Brisbane and Carl Wingert on the tug, managed to crawl out onto firm ice and drag them to safety. The outside temperature was five above zero.

Murphy and O'Neill refused to give up the attempt to reach the ferry boat. After drinking stimulants and a rubdown, they put on warm clothes and set off across the ice in the bateau. When they originally went into the icy water, they thought they were "finished" they told a "Bristol Courier" reporter. They also made little of the fact that the two cities were lauding them as "heroes".

In May of 1931, the Burlington-Bristol Bridge was completed and there was no need to cross the river by ferry boat.

## Historic Bristol Day, October 18, 2014



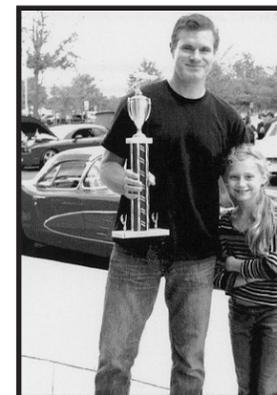
*Ye Old Bakery (left) and the Children's Corner (below) are always popular spots.*



*A tour of the open houses and a stop for tea afterwards with views of the Delaware River.*



## Historic Bristol Day Car Show Winner



*Frank Suntheimer, of Hatboro, captured the "Best of Show" trophy with his 1961 Corvette.*



*BCHF congratulates the winners of the various categories and extends thanks to Car Show organizer Mark Gesualdi, his many volunteers and all the participants from near and far.*

