



**Bristol Cultural &
Historical Foundation, Inc.**
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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.

MAY 2017

SUMMER IN BRISTOL - 2017

Celebrating 50 Years (1967 - 2017)

BCHF Calendar of Events for 2017

MAY Thurs., 5/11. Bus Trip to Baltimore for "Crab Feast" or "Plated Menu" luncheon at Phillips Seafood Restaurant and 3-hr. guided bus tour of the city's historic sites. Cost varies depending on luncheon choice. Call 215 788-4138 for detailed flyer & reservation form.

AUGUST Sun., 8/6, 2-4 PM. Annual Peach Social. Angel food cake topped with fresh peaches & ice cream, plus beverage. Takeouts available. Baked goods table. \$5/adult, \$3 under age 12. Benefits BCHF awards to four Bristol High School graduates. BCHF's air-conditioned headquarters.

OCTOBER Wed.-Fri., 10/4-6. 3-day/2-night fully-escorted bus trip to Hudson River Valley, NY. Hudson River cruise, tour of Wilderstein Historic Site, FDR's Hyde Park home, Eleanor Roosevelt's "Val-Kill" cottage, and West Point Military Academy. \$498 pp double; \$630 single. Reservations accepted starting March 1, accompanied by \$200 pp deposit; balance due by Aug. 15. For info call 215 788-9408.

OCTOBER Sat., 10/21, 10 AM - 4 PM. Annual Historic Bristol Day. Private house tours & riverfront Tea. Free entertainment, car show, sailboat regatta, children's activities, food court, exhibits, and more. Ticket required for House Tour & Tea. For details, see www.bristolhistory.org

NOVEMBER Wed., 11/15, 7:30 PM. BCHF's annual business meeting, incl. election of Board members. Program & refreshments follow. Free. Public is invited. BCHF headquarters. Call 215 781-9895 for info.

NOVEMBER Wed., 11/29. Bus trip to Franklin Inst., Phila., to view "Terracotta Warriors of the First Emperor" exhibit. Visit to Irish Memorial and 3-course lunch included. All-inclusive cost: \$98 for BCHF members; \$100 for non-members.

- BCHF Headquarters are at 321 Cedar Street, Bristol
- For current information about activities and events, check out our web site at www.bristolhistory.org.

A Note of Thanks: BCHF extends "thanks" to Pauline Tosti Michalski for her many years taking THE GAZETTE to the Post Office for mailing. Kathy Barniskis has now volunteered to take THE GAZETTE for mailing.

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Post Office Box 215 • Bristol • Pennsylvania • 19007 • 215 781-9895 • www.bristolhistory.org
Articles for this issue of THE GAZETTE were contributed by: Meagan Ratini, Helen Younglove, Carol Mitchener, Jan Ruano and Harold Mitchener. Photography by Helen Younglove and "Pennsylvania Heritage" magazine.

The list included below are just some of the many things one can do in Summer in Bristol.

1.) Walk or cycle the Spur Line Trail; 2.) Ice skate at the Grundy Recreation Center; 3.) Visit the Grundy Library and sit outside along the Delaware River and read a book; 4.) Listen to the Sunday Evening Concerts in Lions' Park; 5.) Have fun on the Memorial Park Ball Fields on Jefferson Avenue; 6.) Visit the Bristol Riverside Theater; 7.) Fish in the Delaware River, Silver Lake or the Canal Lagoon on Jefferson Avenue; 8.) Enjoy the Ethnic Festivals in Riverfront Park (Celtic, Hispanic, Afro-American and Italian); 9.) Go on a self-guided walking tour. Stop at the Grundy Library for tour information; 10.) Go to one of the neighborhood parks, especially for smaller children. The one at Otter and Maple Streets also has fields for playing sports; 11.) Enjoy the Canal Evening in June at the Lagoon on Jefferson Avenue; 12.) Launch your boat from the Anchor Yacht Club; 13.) Kayak on the Delaware

River; 14.) Sit in the Riverfront Park and enjoy watching the boats on the Delaware River; 15.) Attend the Doo-Wop Concert at the Mill Street Parking Lot; 16.) Enjoy the restaurants on Mill and Radcliffe Streets; 17.) Shop in the businesses on Mill and Radcliffe Streets; 18.) Visit the Center for the Arts on Mill Street; 19.) Stroll First Fridays on Mill Street June through September; 20.) Eat ice cream, fresh peaches and angel food cake at the Peach Social on August 6th at BCHF air-conditioned headquarters at 321 Cedar Street; 21.) Ride your bicycle around the town and discover new neighborhoods or walk on the sidewalks around the town; 22.) Monday - Friday visit the Municipal Building at Pond and Mulberry Sts. and see historical pictures of the town; 23.) Enjoy walking in the Grundy Park and seeing the canal between Jefferson Avenue and Washington St.; 24.) Call for a tour of the Grundy Museum; 25.) Participate in programs at Silver Lake Nature Center on Bath Road.

President's Corner

We had another interesting and well-attended program at BCHF. Carl LaVO, a columnist and avid historian, enthralled us with the history of the Yellow Bird. This was the plane built in Bristol, which was to be the first to fly non-stop across the Atlantic. Unfortunately, at the last minute the builders changed the engines, which probably caused the plane to crash while attempting to take off. This unfortunate event opened the way for Charles Lindbergh to make the first solo trans-Atlantic flight in the *Spirit of St. Louis*.

Imagine if the Yellow Bird had accomplished that mission. Bristol would have gone down in history for yet another historical event.

Interestingly enough, there were men in the audience who worked at Fleetwing and told the group that

much later the damaged Yellow Bird was sent back and rebuilt. I am not sure where that plane is today. Perhaps one of our readers has the answer to that question.

All the programs at BCHF have been interesting. I want to thank Helen Younglove for arranging these programs for all to enjoy. If you haven't made it to one of the programs as yet, who not plan to come to one. We also top off the event with light refreshments and a chance to socialize. Check our schedule of events at the back of the *Gazette*.

I hope you are enjoying this beautiful Spring. By the time you receive the *Gazette* we will have had our Spring Tea. Another favorite thing to enjoy at BCHF. Thanks to Kathy Barniskis and her Ways and Means committee for organizing the tea.

Jan Ruano

Reminder: As in past years, the names of those who are members and have paid their dues for the year will be listed in the JUNE issue of THE GAZETTE. Be sure that you have paid your dues for the year 2017. Dues: Individual, \$12.00; Family, \$24.00; Business, \$50.00

Three Trips This Year

We're pleased to announce that the **May 11** outing to **Historic Baltimore** is a sellout. Sincere thanks to Ellanna Delaney for chairing this activity!

At the time of this writing, the bus for the **October 4-6** trip to the **Hudson River Valley of New York** was more than half-filled. Read all about it in the "BCHF Calendar of Events" on the back page of this issue of *The Gazette*, or call Helen Younglove at 215 788-9408 for a detailed flyer/reservation form.

Hitting The Books . . . Where Archaeology Meets History

By Meagan Ratini

With all this talk of artifacts and dirt, it can be easy to lose sight of the major point of archaeology -- finding out what was going on in the past. For the archaeology of the times before there were written records, we are mostly limited to the physical evidence. But for the archaeology that explores the times with written records, we have many more tools we can use to flesh out our understanding of the past. There are many kinds of documents we can use to find out historical details that might otherwise have been forgotten.

Basic historical research helps archaeologists formulate research questions before digging. A question can be as simple as "What happened here?," but generally is tailored to the individual site, its history, and what has been (or could be) found in the local area. These questions guide the excavations. What we find during excavation in turn helps drive us to ask new questions of the historical record. Good archaeological practice means having a feedback loop where new information helps refine the whole research process on a site. We can start asking more detailed questions of the artifacts, the historical actors, and the site as a whole. What connections can be made between the marbles, slate pencils, and metal printer's type found in the ground at the BCHF building and the historic activities there?

When doing historical research, we mostly look for what are known as primary resources. In other words, documents that were written during the time period we are researching by people who were witnesses to it. Legal documents such as deeds and wills, organizational documents such as minute books and ledgers, historic maps and atlases, and personal papers like letters and diaries all are examples of primary documents.

Anything written about a given time but removed from it, such as books or even newspaper articles, is generally considered a secondary source. Reputable secondary sources can be great places to orient yourself to the time period and its people, but are one step removed (or more!) from the subject you're trying to understand. Resources of both kinds can be found online. However, proper historical research almost always requires trips to archives and libraries, since many secondary sources are still under copyright and relatively few primary source

Reservations for the **November 29** bus trip to **Philadelphia**, to see the "**Terracotta Warriors of the First Emperor**" exhibit at the Franklin Institute, were being taken by Sue Watkins beginning April 17. The day's itinerary also includes a visit to the Irish Memorial at Penn's Landing and a three-course luncheon at Spasso Italian Grill. Contact Sue at 215 781-8591 for a detailed flyer/reservation form.

documents have been digitized. As you well know, the internet is also not well-known for accuracy across the board, so even when sources are found there, they must be vetted even more thoroughly than those found through traditional research.

For the dig at BCHF, historical research was being conducted long before any shovel touched the ground and is still being conducted. We started by looking into historic maps, mostly ones which were drawn for fire insurance purposes. These were drawn at a high level of detail so the insurance companies would know the exact risk of a fire on a given property. These maps showed us the former existence of an addition on the back of the building -- information we used to position one of our test units.

We also looked for secondary sources that might give an overview of the BCHF building's history. These kinds of resources often include leads to primary documents that may give more insight. The schoolhouse itself was not extensively researched, although we also sought more contextual information about Quaker education. Part of the value of secondary sources is in helping us broaden our understanding of local histories to see how they fit into regional and even national ones.

Volunteers from the Bucks County Community College Historic Preservation program have helped immensely with the historical research, even traveling out to Swarthmore College to track down the records of the Quaker schoolhouse. The documents that were found discussed the establishment of the school house in 1874 on Cedar Street. Volunteers also researched the property history, finding old deeds for the building at the county's Recorder of Deeds office, and helped fill in historical gaps at local libraries, including the Grundy Library here in Bristol and the Spruance Library in Doylestown.

Look to future updates to find out what has been discovered!

If you are interested in helping with our ongoing research efforts or have any questions, please contact Jesse Walker (walkerfamily320@verizon.net) or Meagan Ratini (meagan.ratini@bucks.edu). We're working on planning another dig day, too, so stay tuned!

Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from **MAY 1927** issues of the BRISTOL COURIER

5/2 -- BLUE BELL BUS LINE IS DISCONTINUED; BANKRUPT. Notice was given today by owners of the Blue Bell Bus Line, which operates busses between Bristol and Doylestown. Doylestown and Lambertville, and Newtown and Yardley, that service will be discontinued after today. The firm has been running busses between the points mentioned since the discontinuance of the trolley service.

CHURCH SERVICE FOR THE BOYS IS LARGELY ATTENDED. About 150 boys of all ages formed part of the audience of 400 which gathered in the Presbyterian Church here last evening to participate in the union service which marked the opening of activities for Boys' Week. The edifice was filled with members from all churches of the town and with pastors of the various congregations seated in the pulpit.

5/4 -- DOWNIE BROS. CIRCUS IS LOCATED IN BRISTOL TODAY. Downie Bros. Circus arrived in Bristol early this morning at Sullivan's Field. Two performances are to be given and a big crowd is expected.

"New Colonial Theatre, Wood Street at Penn. Cecil B. DeMille's famous picture, "The Road to Easter." Episode 3 of "Waiting for Sam." Also 2-reel comedy and the Four Boyce's, acrobatic stars."

"Don't Miss the Big Ball Given by the Educational Society! Saturday, May 7, 5:00 PM, at Victory Hall, Farragut Avenue. Admission - 50 cents."

5/6 -- TO ERECT MOVIE HOUSE OPP. CROYDON STATION. Modern Theatre Building to Seat 600 People. Cost to Be \$60,000.

"BUY IN BRISTOL! A dollar spent in Bristol is worth two spent elsewhere because it's reinvested by local people in local enterprises and helps to pay for local improvements. (This advertisement contributed by Bristol Courier to encourage home buying.)"

5/7 -- BOYS STORM DOORS OF THE COLONIAL THEATRE AND MAKE WALLS BULGED AS THEY SING. Boys crowding near the gate, lade swarming at the curb and dozens more of little men shooting marbles in the center of the street, was a sight to behold prior to the opening of the doors of the Colonial Theatre this morning at 9 o'clock. Prizes were awarded for various Boys' Week competitions.

"Remember Your Mother! Give Her a Box of Candy. We will give a special souvenir to each purchaser of a Mother's Day Package. BRISTOL CONFECTIONERY COMPANY, 207 Mill Street."

5/10 -- BRISTOL TWILIGHT LEAGUE GETS UNDERWAY. The K of C defeated the strong Third Ward nine by the score of 5 to 9, and Harriman lost to the A.O.H. by the score of 5 to 2. Jack McGinley, of the "Casesy," was in fine form and allowed only three scattered hits in the game played on Sullivan's Field.

"Apartments and Stores. Small apartments suitable for families of 2 or 3. Then there are a few larger apartments containing 5 and 6 rooms, with modern conveniences. Located in vicinity of P.R.R. passenger station, near schools and industries. Rents are low and will appeal to the economically inclined. Inquire of Serrill D. Detlefson, Agent. Bristol Courier Office, Beaver & Garden Sts."

5/12 -- "Baseball Bats. \$1.25 bats at 75¢. \$2.00 bats at \$1.50, while they last. HARRY STRAUS, 117 Mill Street,

opp. American Stores."

"TURNER'S QUALITY MARKET, cor. Market & Cedar Sts . . . O-Cedar Polish - 20¢. Shredded Wheat Biscuits - 11¢. Baker's Baking Powder - 11¢. 16 oz. Jar Peanut Butter - 27¢. Shinola Shoe Polish - 12¢. Shoe Peg Sugar Corn - 9¢. Beardsley's Shredded Cod Fish, Box - 11¢. Fairbank's Gold Dust Washing Powder - 4 1/2¢."

5/13 -- "Unloading Sale! Owing to the unsettled weather this Spring, we are forced to unload our \$5,000 stock of men's and ladies' apparel at 50¢ to the \$1.00. M. WEISSBLATT, 304 Mill Street."

"Free Candy! Saturday, May 14. One pound of candy free with each pound purchased at 69¢. It's absolutely pure and the best quality candy. JOHN S. LYNN, 520 Mill Street."

"Mother's Day Supper! Zion Lutheran Church, by the Ladies Aid. Baked beans, ham, eggs, etc. Saturday, May 14, 5 to 8 PM. Adults - 50 cents; children - 35 cents."

5/17 -- POLICE DECLARE WAR ON DOGS; OFFICERS TO SHOOT. Dogs running at large on the streets of Bristol after midnight are to be shot on sight by police officers, according to an order issued today by Chief John McGuckin.

5/19 -- HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SHOWS TYPING SPEED. By defeating opponents from Doylestown and Quakertown in a recent typing contest, Miss Cora Bazzle, of Bath Street, was permitted to represent Bucks County at the "free-for-all" typing contest held in Reading on April 30. The results of that contest are not yet known.

"ARNOLD'S MEAT MARKET, 904 Pond St . . . Veal Cutlet - 50¢ Lb. Round Steak - 42¢ Lb. Sirloin Steak - 52¢ Lb. Swift's Pure Lard - 15¢ Lb."

"Make an Appointment at THE MAU-BERT BEAUTY SHOPPE. Treatments given for dandruff, falling hair, dry or oily hair. M.L. HEADLEY, proprietress, 305 Mill Street."

"Special for Friday! Sea Bass, Delaware Bay Shad, Trout, Mackerel, Butter Fish. COLE'S QUALITY MARKET, cor. Wood & Washington Sts."

5/20 -- STUDENTS' WORK IS NOW ON DISPLAY. The display of art, sewing, mechanical training work and mechanical drawings in the windows of several merchants about Bristol bespeak much credit for the students of the Bristol High School and the Junior High School.

"Decoration Day Specials! Boys' Golf Pants - \$1.95. Men's Golf Pants - \$2.49. Men's and Boys' Straw and Panama Hats - \$1.50 to \$3.50. HARRIS BROS., 449 Mill Street."

5/23 -- ROHM & HAAS FOLKS HOLD ANNUAL OUTING. The foremen, chemists and office men of Rohm & Haas, with their families, about 250 in number, met at the Inn at Maple Beach on Saturday and held their annual picnic. The Bridesburg, Philadelphia and Bristol plants were represented.

RIVERSIDE FIRE IS INCENDIARY'S WORK IS OWNER'S BELIEF. An unsuccessful attempt to burn

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Barrymore Family . . . Continued from Page 3

said when she was displeased, she wore a bright red shawl to let her employees know she was not happy. That sight attracted their attention and set them straight. She also ran a "tight ship" at home. In between her theatrical duties, she single-handedly raised 5 children and cared for her aging mother. She was a well-respected member of the Philadelphia society; she had her own pew reserved at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and her own silver offering dish engraved with her name. Her children were allowed to attend the theater and occupy the family box on Saturday evenings; they were rarely allowed backstage.

Her oldest child, Louisa, married and moved to Boston. Another daughter, Georgiana debuted at "The Arch" when she was just 15. She soon established herself as a talented comic actress. Jack went to New York, joined a troupe and took a role in *Hamlet*. Also appearing, was the relatively unknown English actor and former boxer Maurice Barrymore. The two enjoyed their time off; when the final curtain fell, Jack took Barrymore to his family's home in Philadelphia. Louisa was not impressed by the charm nor acting of Barrymore. Nevertheless, Georgiana fell "madly in love" with him. The young couple married in 1876 and moved to New York. The couple experienced hard times in New York. In spite of their differences, Louisa took Maurice and Georgiana and their baby back into her home. The first Barrymore grandchild (Lionel Herbert) was born in 1878. A second grandchild (Ethel) was born the following year. The grandchildren found strength, stability and unconditional love in their grandmother Louisa; they called her "Mum-Mum."

The popularity of the Arch Street Theater started to decline. The public wanted to see different acts rather than the same old company actors play after play. In 1880 Louisa took on what would become her signature role as Mrs. Malaprop in *The Rivals*, a popular comedy. She hired a management team to run the theater and Louisa took the show "on the road." (Malapropism" is a term which means an unintentional, but humorous, use of a word or phrase.)

Out of the Past . . . continued from pg 7

down another of this borough's moving picture houses was made at midnight on Saturday. The Riverside Theatre was damaged to the extent of approximately \$500. A bottle with a strong odor of kerosene was found under a pile of rubbish just outside where the blaze started. William E. Doron, owner of the building, said today that he was sure the blaze was the work of an incendiary.

5/27 - - TWO STUDENTS ARE HONORED BY LEGION AND GIVEN MEDALS. Hilda Taylor, Bath Street, and Frank Sugalski, Beaver Street, of the junior high school, were honored this morning and presented with medals awarded for qualities of character by the Robert W. Bracken Post, No. 382, American Legion.

"See 'em go! LANGHORNE SPEEDWAY, on the Lincoln Highway. Declaration Day, May 30. New dust-proof oiled track. Fastest 1-mile dirt track. World's champion drivers. Grandstand \$2 - \$3 - \$4, plus tax.

In spite of her advancing age, she toured with the play for the next 11 years. Her third grandchild, John, was born in 1882 and Louisa saw the need for a larger house. In addition to her children, grandchildren, Louisa's aged mother and an assortment of servants, she needed extra space. The larger residence was at 140 North Twelfth Street. It was a large three story brick house.

In 1892 Louisa's long-running role as Mrs. Malaprop ended in San Francisco. She returned to Philadelphia where she found disappointment in that The Arch Street Theater was losing money because of dwindling ticket sales. After 32 years of managing the business, Louisa resigned. Georgiana was seriously ill; she was sent to California with Ethel to recover; however, Georgiana died soon after. It was up to Louisa to take charge of Ethel, Lionel and John since their father was on tour. Louisa gave up her residence in Philadelphia and moved to Staten Island.

Louisa eventually developed what was then called dropsy (edema). The painful condition caused her feet and ankles to bloat. She was living in Larchmont, NY in a boarding house overlooking Long Island Sound. Her 15 year-old grandson, John, took charge as the rest of the family had professional obligations. She refused to believe that her health problems were serious and insisted she would one day soon return to the stage. On the morning of Aug. 31, 1897 Louisa and John shared a long visit. The 77 year old actress grew tired and fell asleep. She fell into a coma. She was returned to Philadelphia to be buried next to her darling Georgiana and her husband John Drew.

With more than seven decades in the theater, Louisa is remembered as a skilled actress with perfect timing and a striking countenance. She profoundly influenced many of the young actors with whom she worked. Louisa made the Arch Street Theater into one of the finest playhouses in the country. Her most important role, was in real life as the family matriarch of an acting dynasty that continues to this day.

General Admission \$1, plus tax."

5/28 - - PROGRAM OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK-END. Today, 1:30 - Opening of Island Beach, the amusement park at Burlington Island. Tomorrow, 2:00 PM - Sons of Veterans, G.A.R., and Robert W. Bracken Post, No. 382, American Legion, will hold services with school children in the cemetery in Tullytown, then proceed to the Cornwells cemetery where services will be held. 7:30 PM - Patriotic organizations of Bristol will attend services in Zion Lutheran Church. Memorial Day, 8:30 AM - American Legion, Sons of Veterans, and G.A.R. will assemble and visit various burying grounds in Bristol, the Bristol cemetery and St. Mark's cemetery. Various pastors will speak.

HELP WANTED. Young men, 16 years old, to work in stockroom and learn business. Apply to F.W. Woolworth Company, 107 Mill St.

Philadelphia and the Barrymore Family

In the 1800s Philadelphia had three theaters for live performances - - the Walnut Street, the Chestnut Street and the Arch Street Theaters. (The Arch Street Theater had seats for approximately 2000 patrons.) Arch Street Theater also had Louisa Lane Drew; she was "The Duchess" who was in charge of the Theater. Louisa lacked a formal education and didn't have a "royal background," but she demanded respect from her family and from the actors at work. Her education came from acting and being at the theater daily.

Louisa Lane Drew was one of the great actresses of her time and was the grandmother to Lionel (1878 - 1954), Ethel (1879 - 1959) and John (1882 - 1942) Barrymore. Louisa's love of acting came honestly. Her paternal grandparents (Louisa Rouse and Thomas Haycraft Lane) were both English actors. Their son, Thomas Frederick Lane, also worked in the theater; he married Eliza Trenter, a fine singer. Thomas and Eliza only had one child - Louisa who was born in London on Jan. 10, 1820. (This was only 19 days before the death of King George III.) Once the mourning period was over, Thomas and Eliza traveled throughout England acting with baby Louisa. At one year old, Louisa had her first role playing the part of a crying baby. Louisa loved the audiences and the bright lights. As she toured with her parents, she had many children's parts.

Louisa was only five years old when her father died. She and her mother joined a Theater Company and sailed to New York City, arriving in June, 1827. Her mother, Eliza, made her American debut at the Walnut Street Theater and Louisa was recognized for her talent for her different parts in the theater. Her mother remarried; John Kinlock, an actor and stage manager at the Walnut Street Theater became Louisa's step-father. Louisa's talent was recognized and she was invited to a presidential reception in Washington, D.C. In 1830, Louisa's stepfather recruited several more actors and formed a traveling company. The family (Eliza, Louisa and three small daughters) went with the troupe and sailed for Jamaica. Disaster struck when their ship ran into a rock near the coast in an isolated area. The vessel remained afloat and everyone safely reached shore. The crew assembled shelters; the group was there for six weeks. The captain and a crew member walked 40 miles to get another vessel to rescue the stranded actors. They made their way to Kingston, Jamaica and put on a show.

However, tragedy struck again. John, Eliza and a 10 month old daughter contracted yellow fever. Eliza eventually recovered, but John and the baby died. So Eliza, Louisa and her half-sisters Adine and Georgiana returned to the U.S.. Louisa (then age 12) took on adult roles. She and her mother were the family's sole support. The two actresses (mother and daughter) joined another traveling ensemble. Again, they had bad luck; they were once again shipwrecked. After being stranded Eliza and her girls returned to New York. In the Spring of 1836, Louisa fell in love and married Henry Blaine Hunt, a middle-aged Irish actor; he

was the first of her three husbands. He was a handsome man of forty years, dashing and worldly. The couple toured with many leading companies of the day including that of Junius Brutus Booth, father of Edwin Thomas and John Wilkes. During this time Louisa established herself as a great comedienne. She was paid one of the highest salaries ever given to a leading lady - \$20 weekly (\$450 today). She played opposite leading men such as Tyrone Power, Sr., Edwin Forrest and Edwin Booth. However, the lifestyle took a toll on the marriage. The Hunts divorced after 10 years. Less than a year later, Louisa married another Irish actor - George Maffit Mossop who had a terrible stutter when not performing. His problem was his drinking and the marriage was short-lived. The 34 year old Mossop died unexpectedly several months later. Soon Louisa met another Irish actor, John Drew. He was a younger man who was smitten with Louisa's half sister, Georgiana. Nonetheless, in 1850, Louisa married John Drew. He and Louisa continued working together in the theater.



Louisa Lane Drew around the time when she was running the Arch Street Theater.

The Drews settled in Philadelphia where their first child, Louisa, was born. Two other children, John and Georgiana, were born to them. Louisa raised her family, but her husband realized that a demanding business didn't agree with his previously carefree lifestyle. So he left the management of the theater to pursue an acting career leaving his wife behind to raise the children and to act at the competing Walnut Street Theatre. Louisa's husband, John Drew, went on an extended tour of England and Ireland. After a brief visit home, he went "on the road" once more, this time taking his original love Georgiana (Louisa's half sister) with him. During this time Louisa had other challenges that needed her attention. Arch Street Theater was failing and Louisa was asked to take over the management. Even during the Civil War, the Arch Street Theater prospered for the next 30 years. Her business sense and her many contacts with other actors helped with its success.

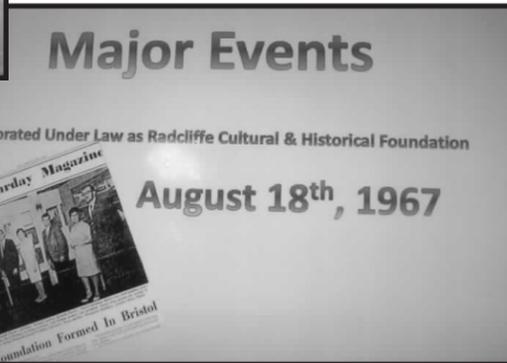
When John Drew and Georgiana returned to Philadelphia in 1862, they carried with them a baby girl named Adine. The child's paternity was never established and shortly after their return, John Drew died and Louisa found herself widowed again. The baby's mother (Georgiana) was not well and had no means to support a child; so Louisa took the child into her home. A year later, Louisa returned from New York with a child, Sidney White Drew. A notation in the family Bible by Eliza states that Sidney White Drew was born to Sidney and Maria White and then adopted by Louisa Drew. (The question of his parents is still debatable.) Through it all, Louisa continued operating and acting at the Arch Street Theater doing dozens of roles each season.

She demanded perfection from herself and her crew. It is

Highlights of BCHF's 50th Anniversary Party . . . held at the Center for the Arts on Mill street



To the left and below are two parts of a Power Point presentation produced by BCHF President, Jan Ruano.



Current BCHF President, Jan Ruano, stands next to the BCHF 50th year birthday cake.



Gene Williams (left), Executive Director of the Grundy Foundation, talks with Harold Mitchener, a former BCHF President.



Arthur Younglove is served warm food by Bob Carey who, with his wife, were the caterers for the event.



One of the former BCHF Presidents, Angelo Grisolia, and his wife (on the far right) stand with Robin Butrey, a former BCHF Board Member



Left: At the 50th Anniversary Party at the Center for the Arts on Mill Street are, Gretchen Stallone (left), one of the librarians at the Grundy Library, an unidentified person, and Robin Butrey, former BCHF Board Member and a librarian at the Grundy Library.



Above: Flowers enhance an appetizer table.

Left: One of the beverage tables.



Hand-made favors made by Cecilia Graff, thanking the people for 50 years.

