



The Gazette



VOL 36
No. 1

Published by Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Box 215, Bristol, PA 19007
Sponsoring Historic Bristol Day - Third Saturday of Each October
BCHF is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, all volunteer organization.

JANUARY 2018

Neill Hartley Will Have a One-Man Show Called “FDR: A New Deal for America”

The program is on **Sun., Jan. 28 at 2 PM**. Light refreshments. We are asking a donation of \$4 per adult.

What are some of the things about Franklin D. Roosevelt? He was our 32nd President serving from 1933 - 1945 when he died in Warm Springs, Georgia. His political party was Democrat.

Mr. Franklin Roosevelt was born January 30, 1882 and died April 12, 1945 at age 63. He was 6'2" in height. Franklin married Eleanor Roosevelt 1905 and he died in April of 1945.

His Vice Presidents were 1. John Nance Garner 2. Henry A. Wallace and 3. Harry S. Truman.

The Roosevelt's children were James Roosevelt, Elliott Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr., John A. Roosevelt and Anna Roosevelt.

His father was James Roosevelt I and his mother was Sarah Roosevelt.

Franklin Roosevelt and Theodore Roosevelt were 5th cousins. Eleanor Roosevelt and Theodore Roosevelt were 5th cousins. Teddy Roosevelt, an uncle of Eleanor walked her down to the church altar in her wedding.

While vacationing on Campobello Island in Canada, Franklin contracted polio while swimming. He never walked by himself after that. During his presidency, he wore braces and a son always assisted him.

As a result of his infirmity the "March of Dimes" was started. His likeness is on a U.S. dime.

The "press" was very kind to him and never showed his braces.

He is buried along with his wife and black Scottie Dog, Fala, at the Roosevelt home at Hyde Park, NY,

President's Corner

First I would like to wish you all a healthy, happy New Year. We are looking forward to many more events and happy adventures at BCHF this year.

When beginning a new year one reflects on the year just passed. Last year, as we celebrated our fiftieth anniversary, we shared many successful and fun filled events. Our premier and biggest event was Historic Bristol Day so expertly chaired by Mary Gesualdi. Around 12,000 people visited Bristol that lovely day in October.

It must be noted that many people helped to make that day a success. Our organization is so fortunate to have the cooperation and support from our borough officials. Ralph DiGuseppe and the Borough Council not only gave the event their blessing and a generous contribution but also provided us with help from bor-

ough services. Chief Henry and the police department provided the security needed to handle such a large crowd of people. George Waldron and the public works departments helped set up barriers, signs and many other things needed to make the event move along smoothly. The volunteers Ginny and Mark Burton used their expertise in directing traffic. And what would we do without Bristol's Emergency Management Coordinator, Meryl Winslow. As he does with all the events that take place in Bristol, he was there for us to help coordinate all the sundry details needed in planning such a large event.

We are truly blessed to live in a community whose officials proudly support events that take place. They help to provide an atmosphere of cooperation and pride in our town. A heartfelt thank you is sent to each and every one of you.

Jan Ruano

On The Road in 2018

As you will see on the Calendar of Events on the back page of this GAZETTE, our Ways & Means Committee has three bus trips scheduled for this year. They are - -

“History & Culinary Trip” to Philadelphia, Thursday, April 19. Highlights of the itinerary are a 3-hour self-guided tour of the new, highly acclaimed MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION and a visit to the Schuylkill Banks Boardwalk, the 2,000 ft. long, 15-ft. wide, over-the-water path that includes four scenic overlooks. Also featured is a tour and 3-course luncheon at the JNA Institute of Culinary & Arts Restaurant on South Broad St. The all-inclusive price is \$82 for BCHF members and \$85 for non-members. For a detailed flyer and reservation form, contact Ellanna Delaney at 215 788-4138.

3-Day/2-Night Trip to Washington, DC., Friday, May 18 to Sunday, May 20. The package includes 2 overnight accommodations, 2 buffet breakfasts at the hotel, a family-style dinner at Carmine’s, a guided tour of National Historic Landmark “Tudor Place,” the home of Martha Custis, granddaughter of Martha Washington; admission to the NEWSEUM, a monuments evening cruise, your choice of visiting the National Museum of American History or spending

more time at the Newseum and - last but not least - dinner at the Hotel duPont in Wilmington, DE, enroute home. For those of you who may not have heard about the Newseum, it opened in 2008 and is located on historic Pennsylvania Ave between the U.S. Capitol and the White House. Its seven levels of interactive exhibits include 15 galleries and 15 theaters. Among the most memorable exhibits are the 9/11 Gallery sponsored by Comcast, featuring the broadcast antennae from the top of the World Trade Center; the Berlin Wall Gallery, whose eight concrete sections are one of the largest pieces of the original wall outside Germany; and the Pulitzer Prize Photographs Gallery, which features photos from every Pulitzer Prize-winning entry dating back to 1942.

The trip’s price is \$540 pp twin, \$696 single and \$508 pp triple, which also includes the transportation and gratuity for the driver, restaurant servers and trip escort. A detailed flyer, including reservation form and trip cancellation application, may be obtained from Jan Ruano, 215 788-2106.

“Christmas in Cape May,” Thursday, December 6. We expect a confirmed itinerary in February which we plan to include in the March or April GAZETTE.



A Note From Ways & Means

We wish you a happy and healthy New Year!

Our committee is gearing up for the year’s activities. Please come to our first program of the New Year on Sunday, January 28th at 2 pm. Neill Hartley is back again with us portraying FDR - - “A New Deal for America”. As always, light refreshments will be served by our committee after the program. Our BCHF items will be offered for sale.

Already the Historic Bristol Day Committee will hold its first meeting in January. Chairperson for the past two years, Mary Gesualdi, will be turning over the reins to board member, Nick Rizzo. If you are interested in helping, please attend this planning meeting on January 24th at 7 pm. (Snow date - Jan. 31st) Of

course, we are grateful for Mary’s past two amazingly successful HBD events!

If you were fortunate enough to attend the Snyder-Girotti school childrens’ well-received Wax Museum performance on HBD, then you know how wonderful it was. Teacher Lori Helkowski and her young acting troupe agreed to do an encore performance for us in May.

Please see further details in the GAZETTE for our W&M sponsored trip to the Museum of the American Revolution on April 8th. Reservations are being taken.

The next Ways & Means meeting will be on January 15th at 7 pm at our headquarters on Cedar Street. Contact: Kathy Barniskis (kbarniskis@juno.com) for more information.

Check Out Our Complete Calendar Of Events on the Outside Back Page

Historic Bristol Day Winners

CAR SHOW

Best of Show - 2010 Chevy Camero -
Rick Lewis of Philadelphia
1st Place People's Choice, Antique - 1962 Ford
Thunderbird - Mike DiAmbrosia of Levittown
2nd Place People's Choice, Antique - 1963 Chevy
Corvette - John Simpson of Levittown
3rd Place People's Choice, Antique - 1948 GMC
Pickup Truck - John Indelicato of Southampton
1st Place People's Choice, Classic - 2014 Chevy
Corvette Z51 - Bruce Harris of Bristol
2nd Place People's Choice, Classic - 2006 Chevy
Corvette - Anthony Clement of Germantown
3rd Place people's Choice, Classic - 2015 Chevy
Camaro SS - Jason Dicampello of Levittown

STUDENT ART CONTEST

First Prize - Olivia Beishl, 7th Grade, St. Mark School
Second Prize - Alyson McGinley, 6th Grade, St. Mark
School
Third Prize - Summer Roach, 8th Grade, Bristol HS
Honorable Mention - Araalyn Leightoin, 5th Grade,
St. Mark School

BCHF RAFFLE WINNERS

Painting - Sandra Speck of Holland
Historic Bristol Throw - Mary Miller of Bristol
Peanuts Halloween Train, donated by TrainPops -
Laura Bevan of Levittown

Congratulations to all of the above, and sincere thanks
to the donors of the prizes - Vinnie DeMarco of the
Radcliffe Cafe, the Artists of Bristol, and Brian and
Cynthia Adams of TrainPops!

Popular Card Game A Century Ago

Euchre - This was "the game" for entertainment that could be read about in the social articles of the local newspapers. Euchre is a trick-taking card game usually played with four people in two partnerships. A deck of 24 playing cards (A,K,Q,J, 10 and 9 in each of the four suits) is used. One version is each player is dealt five cards. The remaining four cards (called the "kitty") are placed face down in front of the dealer. The top card of the "kitty" is turned face up and becomes "trump". The bidding begins as to how many "tricks" each player thinks he is able to win. One card is played at a time. The player who lays the highest card of the suit played by the dealer gets the "trick." In Euchre a player scores points for taking the major-

ity of the tricks. The first to win a specified total of points (generally 10) wins the match. If a player cannot match the suit of the dealer, he may play a "trump" card. Then the highest trump card wins.

The euchre game is responsible for introducing the joker into the modern deck of cards. Jokers were "invented" in 1860 to act as a "trump". The joker has since been introduced into other card games such as canasta. Joker cards depict clowns and jesters, but the joker has not been standardized in appearance by the card industry.

Euchre has declined in popularity and is played differently within regions.

SNOW IN BRISTOL

Sometimes snow seems too deep? In March of 1888 on a Sunday morning, rain started to fall and continued that day and into the evening

During the night the wind changed direction and a large snow storm along with wind increased. By Monday morning there was an "avalanche of Snow". Snow drifts reached a height of 10-15 ft. Railroad traf-

fic stopped at Bristol. This was due to the drifting snows on the tracks. Telephone and telegraph wires were down. For the next 2 days Bristol was completely cut off from any communication to the areas out of town. Naturally there were no cell phones and things moved by horse and wagon. There was no TV or radio. People of our town can be happy we didn't experience the "Blizzard of 1888."

"A NEW DEAL FOR AMERICA"

BCHF members and friends are invited to our headquarters on Sunday afternoon, January 28, to hear actor/director/educator Neill Hartley as he brings Franklin D. Roosevelt's famous "fireside chats" to life on our stage. Hartley's one-man show will be set against the background of the 1930s and the Great

Depression. Following his presentation and a brief Q&A session, members of the Ways & Means Committee will serve refreshments.

The presentation will begin at 2 p.m. A donation of \$4 per adult is requested; students are admitted free.

Hope to see you there!

Scenes of 2017 Historic Bristol Day



Above: The Tall Ship Gazella tied up at the new Bristol Docks. A majestic sight on the Delaware River for all to enjoy.



Meanwhile, the community takes part in an archaeological dig at BCHF headquarters - 321 Cedar Street.



Everyone enjoyed Bristol Day whether it be an old-fashioned bake sale, music in the park, a refreshing tea after visiting the open houses, the antique and classic car show or just enjoying some snacks in the food court.





The children enjoyed the many activities of Bristol Day



The students at Snyder-Girotti School portrayed various historical characters.



Many of the open houses and open buildings hosted interesting displays such as a World War I display and an antique doll display.



And, of course, there were re-enactors on hand to demonstrate how life was back when Bristol was just getting it's start.



Trip to Philadelphia - November 29

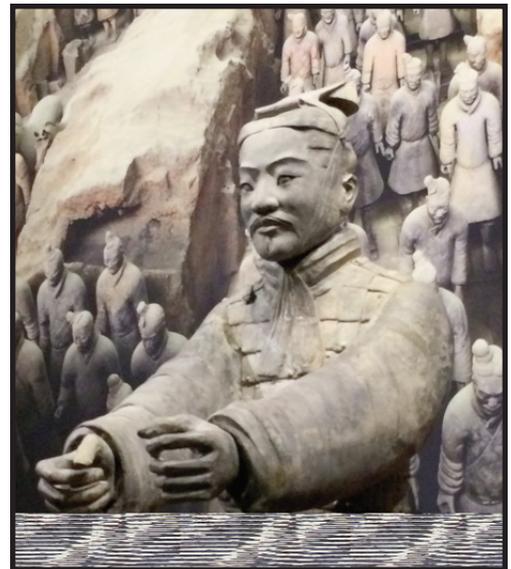


Above: The group poses for a photo at the Irish Memorial at Penn's Landing
Right: Jan Ruano holding hands with one of the Terra Cotta Warriors.



Above: The Irish Memorial at Penn's Landing

Below: The Scottish Memorial at Penn's Landing



The group congregates outside Spasso Italian Grill following lunch

Thanks to Ways & Means Committee member Sue Watkins for chairing this enjoyable, educational outing!

Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from **JANUARY 1898** issues of THE BUCKS COUNTY GAZETTE

1/6 - - LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

The skating on the canal and ponds is great. The ice on the mill pond is about eight inches thick.

Mike Profy's show shop on Mill Street was burned out on New Year's morning. The fire was extinguished without the aid of the steamer.

The Boys Friendly Society on last Thursday evening gave a reception to the Girls Friendly Society in St. James Mission.

E.W. Minster has purchased the Poquessing Ice Co.'s plant at Bristol for \$14,800. The price of the manufactured product to customers, we are informed, will not exceed that paid for mill pond ice last year.

The employees of most of the mills enjoyed a full holiday last Saturday, New Year's Day, which is unusual, it being the custom heretofore to run the mills on that day. New Year's coming on Saturday this year, a half holiday, is the reason there was a full suspension.

There has been a steady improvement in the health of the people residing in the borough of Bristol for the past few years and the death rate for the year 1897 is less than it has been for any year since the formation of the local Board of Health. There were 107 deaths during the year.

The women on Bath Street do not sweep the pavements with wrappers and sunbonnets on any more and they never think of shaking a rug or piece of carpet out the front door. They can now be seen early in the morning attired in daintily trimmed hats, in the fitting jackets, and always wearing a pleasant smile. This change for the better was innocently brought about by a mischievous small boy and a Christmas present which he used to advantage. His papa gave him a Bull's Eye and a full of film which he immediately started to use up, taking views, unawares, of his neighborhood in the mornings. In the evening when the young ladies were dressed in their finest attire, he would present them with the photographs so that they could see how they looked before and after dressing.

"R. BUSEMAN, Bath and Otter Streets . . . Bread and Fancy Cake Bakery and Ice Cream Saloon."

"WILLIAM TERNESON, cor. Mill and Pont Streets . . . Manufacturer and Dealer in Ladies' and Gentlemen's Fine Boots, Shoes and Gaiters."

1/13 - - GENERAL PROCEEDINGS. The general meeting of Council was held on Monday evening. The Street Committee reported that Cedar Street had been macademized according to contract, that Radcliffe Street has been placed in first-class condition from Dorrance Street to Adams Hollow bridge, and that the cost had been above the estimate by about \$1,200, owing to the extra amount and heavier stone required. On motion, Council accepted the invitation of the Wesleyan Brotherhood of the M.E. Church to attend services at that church on Sunday evening, the 16th inst.

THE WARD CONVENTIONS. The Republican ward conventions for the nomination of councilmen, school directors and election officers will be held at the usual places for holding these meetings on next Monday evening. The borough convention for the nomination of Tax Collector and Auditors will be held after the adjournment of the ward conventions. It is fully as important for the voter to attend these meetings as it is to go to the polls on election day. There is a disposition among some people who do not attend the ward conventions to growl at the nominations after they are made. This element of the community should reflect a moment. They should consider whether, having neglected a plain duty they owe to themselves, their neighbors and the town in which they reside, they have any right to find fault with the action of those who have undertaken to do the best they knew how without their valuable aid.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE: Jos. Johnson is erecting a store building in front of his home on Dorrance Street, in which he will start a cigar store and barber shop.

The members of Council whose terms expire this year are: A.K. Joyce and James Wright, of the First Ward; John T. Whitely and Fred F. Collier, of the Second Ward; R.T. Fetrow and Engle G. Smith, of the Third Ward; and Edward F. Roche, of the Fourth Ward.

"Board Wanted. A lady desires board with a refined private family. Address T, Gazette Office."

"A Natty Spring Top Coat in six different shades, lined with the best Italian cloth - \$10 and \$12. Lined throughout with the finest silk - \$15 and \$18. A.F. YEUTTER, Merchant Dealer."

"Groceries in Great Variety and Cheap. EDWARD H. FOSTER, the Dorrance Street Grocer."

1/20 - - DEMOCRATIC PRIMARIES. The Democratic primaries held at the several places last evening were entirely harmonious, all nominees for office in the different wards being elected by acclamation, with the exception of Assessor and the two-yr terms for Council in the Third Ward, where a forlorn hope is entertained that a Democrat might slip in on account of the factional fight waged there by the Republicans of the ward.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE

Tramps are said to be giving the people near Bristol a great deal of trouble. A gang of them on Saturday night got a peddler near Morrisville, took his pack, robbed him of his money, and tied him to a tree.

It is expected that the Western Union Telegraph station on Mill Street will be discontinued on account of the lack of sufficient business to keep it open. It is said that a separate office has never paid the company and is not likely to pay for some years.

Bristol Fire Company No. 1 had made arrangements with William E. Doron for the occupancy of the company's stables by three of Mr. Doron's horses which will be used by the fire company when needed in case of fire. A door is being cut through from the stable to the engine house to enable the horses to get into position to receive the drop harnesses at a second's notice.

"RAILROAD HOUSE, Nos. 409 to 415 Mill Street . . . William H.H. Fine, Proprietor."

"SILBERT HOUSE, Nos. 121 to 125 Radcliffe Street . . . Accommodations and Reasonable Prices. Mrs. George Silbert, Proprietor."

"CHARLIE LEE, First-class Chinese Laundry . . . 111 Cedar Street, between Mill and Market Streets."

1/27 - - LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

There are several cases of scarlet fever in Bristol.

Sixteen converts were taken in on probation on Sunday evening as a result of the revival services now in progress at the Methodist Church.

Max Green's "Daily Recorder" made its first appearance last Friday evening. It is a neatly printed little sheet and bears upon its pages the impress of the editor's thoughts and diction.

Dispatches dated from Bristol appeared in several of the Philadelphia dailies last Monday morning, stating that Sunday's storm and high tide overflowed and washed many of the Bristol wharves away; that the banks below Bristol had broken and over fifty acres of land flooded. The high tide in the Delaware on Sunday did rise over the tops of wharves but not as high as it often has done before, and there was absolutely no damage done to any wharf in Bristol and no land was flooded. This is not the first instance recorded when Bristol has been misrepresented by irresponsible, space-writing newspaper correspondents who are certainly drawing on their fertile imaginations to fill space in Philadelphia dailies at so much per inch.

"JUST LOOK! To the Public. The undersigned will pay \$1.00 per head for dead stock and the highest market price for a live stock. Please send a postal card or telephone or telegraph to No. 50, Bristol, Pa. All business attended to. WILLIAM BLACK."

"Upholstery and repairing of furniture of all kinds. Carpets beaten, sewed and laid. Chairs re-caned. CHARLES H. ANCKER, No. 109 Cedar Street."



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BCHF Calendar of Events for 2018

JANUARY Sun., 1/28, 2 PM. Neill Hartley's one-man show entitled "FDR: A New Deal for America." Light refreshment. \$4 per adult. BCHF headquarters. Info at 215 788-9408

APRIL Sun., 4/8, 2 PM Program on "Federal Witness Protection Program" by Gerald Shur. Light refreshment. \$4 per adult. BCHF headquarters. Info at 215 788-9408

APRIL Thurs., 4/19. Bus trip to Phila. featuring the Museum of the American Revolution, the Schuylkill Banks Boardwalk and lunch at the Inst. of Culinary Arts Restaurant. All-inclusive price: \$82 for BCHF members; \$85 for non-members. Info at 215 788-4138

APRIL Sun., 4/29, 3 - 5 PM. Annual Tea. BCHF headquarters. \$22 per person. Advance reservations required, starting 9 a.m., Sat., April 7 at 215 788-9408.

MAY Sun., 5/6, 2 PM. Snyder-Girotti School students recreate the Historic Bristol Day "Wax Museum" of well-known Bristolians from past and present. Light refreshment. Donations requested for the school's Gifted & Enrichment Program. BCHF headquarters. Info at 215 788-9408.

MAY Fri.-Sun., 5/18-20. 3-day/2-night bus trip to Washington, DC. Itinerary includes a visit to the recently-opened NEWSEUM and the Nat'l Museum of American

History, a guided tour of "Tudor Place," 2-night hotel accommodations, 2 buffet breakfasts at hotel, family-style dinner at Carmine's and dinner on Sunday at the Hotel duPont enroute home. \$540 pp twin, \$696 single, \$508 pp triple. Info at 215 788-2106.

AUGUST Sun., 8/12, 2-4 PM. Annual Peach Social. BCHF's air-conditioned headquarters. Angel food cake topped with fresh peaches & ice cream, plus beverage. Takeouts available with own container. Baked goods table. Benefits BCHF awards to four Bristol High School graduates. Info at 215 788-7537.

OCTOBER Sat., 10/20, 10 AM - 4 PM. Annual Historic Bristol Day. Details to be announced at later date.

NOVEMBER Thurs., 11/15, 7:30 PM. BCHF's annual business meeting, incl. election of Board members. Program & refreshments follow. Free. Public is invited. BCHF headquarters.

DECEMBER Thurs., 12/6 Bus trip to "Christmas in Cape May." Details not yet available. Info at 215 788-9408

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

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
Articles for this issue of *THE GAZETTE* were contributed by: Helen Younglove, Carol Mitchener, Jan Ruano,
Kathy Barniskis and Harold Mitchener. Photography by Helen Younglove, Jan Ruano