



# 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.

FEBRUARY 2025

## President's Corner

### *Welcome 2025*

I look forward to an eventful year as the BCHF president. We had our first board meeting and officers were installed. The Board of Directors includes Suzanne Antonelli, Michael Crossan, Larry Daniel, Diane Davidson, Joe Dugan, Amber Kennedy, Harold Mitchener, Anna Larrisey (Treasurer), Paul Moore, Deborah Pinney (Corresponding Secretary), Anthony Russo, Nick Rizzo (Vice President), Jan Ruano, Jesse Walker (President) and Susan Watkins.

We are excited to have Paul, Larry, and Diane as new board members. This issue of the Gazette has details about upcoming programs and trips. The early planning for this year's Historic Bristol Day is starting.

Reflecting on 2024, we had a great Historic Bristol Day along with other trips, programs, and events. Improvement projects at our building on Cedar Street included a new air condition system, repairing the cement sidewalk, and replacing eight windows.

With the start of the New Year, I encourage everyone to renew your membership.

*Jesse Walker, President*

## Membership Renewal

Dear Member,

January is the time your annual renewal membership dues for BCHF are due. We appreciate your past support and trust that you will continue to do so. Dues are the same as last year, \$15 for individuals, \$25 for families and \$60 for businesses.

This year I have sent a reminder email to all those who have shared their email with us. Letters have been sent to those who do not have or have not shared their email. Due to the increasing price of stamps, I am hoping to use email as a more cost effective communication method. If you use email, I would appreciate your sharing it with us. You can email me directly at [jaruano@comcast.net](mailto:jaruano@comcast.net) to do so.

You can pay your dues directly on line by going to our website at [www.bristolhistory.org](http://www.bristolhistory.org) or by sending a check to BCHF, P.O. Box 215, Bristol, PA. 19007.

Also while on our website, be sure to check out the April trip to the Hindu Temple in New Jersey. This promises to be an interesting and enjoyable experience. You can read and download the reservation form from the website.

Thank you,

Jan Ruano

Membership Chairperson

# Story of an Uncle and Nephew: Michael Dougherty and James P. Lawler

By Harold Mitchener

If you go to the Canal Lagoon on Jefferson Avenue you can find a statue of Michael Dougherty.

He came from Ireland to Bristol in time for the American Civil War. He entered the military when President Lincoln called for volunteers. Since he was Irish, he found a group from Ireland and stayed with them. He was captured and put in Andersonville Prison. He suffered much as did the others in that prison. While in prison he kept a diary. When the war ended, he was set free and boarded a steamboat on the Mississippi River heading north. The steamboat was called the Sultana. A fire on the craft caused it to sink. He and his diary managed to reach dry land, and he finally made his way back to Bristol.

He married in St. Mark's Church and the couple had several children. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, and he was also elected to the Borough Council.

He is buried in St. Mark Cemetery on Radcliffe St.

In Bristol he had a son who was a printer, and he had him make a copy of the diary. The diary can be found in the Margaret R. Grundy Library in Bristol and in the Military Archives in Washington, D. C. to read this diary online .

The Ancient Order of Hibernians website <https://www.bristolaoah.org/our-namesake> also has a link to read this diary online.

One of Michael Dougherty's nephews became a medical doctor. His name was James P. Lawler. Lawler was born in Bristol on December 11, 1894. He attended public school in Bristol and graduated from Bristol High School. He lived at 591 Bath Street. He attended Pre-Medical Dept. at Hahnemann Medical College, (1923-1925). He graduated in 1930 and completed an internship at Hahnemann Medical college in Philadelphia and was licensed in Pennsylvania in 1930. Dr. Lawler became a member of the Bucks County Medical Society and with both Hahnemann Medical College Hospital and Nazareth Hospital in Philadelphia. While in general practice he studied a specialty in Psychiatry. He served in World War I for nine months in the infantry.

Dr. Lawler had an office a 500 Radcliffe St. He died in 1976 and is buried in St. Mark Cemetery along U. S. Route 13. He never married.

Sources: Margaret R. Grundy Library, Bucks County Medical Society, personal memories on Harold Mitchener.



Dr. James P. Lawler

## BY LAND AND BY SEA

As announced in last month's Gazette, the Ways & Means Committee planned two cruises and four day trips for this new year, as follows:

### CRUISES

We were notified in early January that the May 10-17 "Pacific Wine Country" cruise has sold out.

As of this writing, space was still available on Cunard Line's "Independence Day Celebration" cruise aboard the Queen Mary 2 ocean liner, stopping at Newport, RI; Boston, MA (on July 4!); and Halifax, Nova Scotia. Rates, per person, double occupancy, range from \$1,920 to \$2,680 and include port charges and government fees. For a detailed flyer, call 215-788-9408 or print it from BCHF's website <http://www.bristolhistory.org>. Final payment is due by February 17.

### 1-DAY BUS TRIPS

**Thursday, April 10** -- The Swaminarayan Akshardham in Robbinsville, NJ, followed by a three-course luncheon at the historic Cranberry Inn and a visit to David Bradley Chocolatier (**Note: Easter is April 20!**). The immense BPAS Swaminarayan is the largest Hindu temple outside of India, and sprawls over 180 acres on a campus big enough to hold six Yankee Stadiums. The Cranberry Inn has been functioning as a place to eat since the 1750s and was an alleged stop on the underground railroad. David Bradley Chocolatier has been producing gourmet hand-crafted chocolates for over 45 years. Their Easter display will set your mouth watering! The all-inclusive trip cost is \$120 pp for BCHF members; \$130 for non-members. Call Jan Ruano at 215-788-2106 for flyer/reservation form or print it from our website. Reservation deadline is March 15.

**Thursday, June 26** -- Three-course luncheon on the Moshulu, the world's oldest and largest square-rigged sailing vessel still afloat and the one-and-only restaurant venue on a tall ship in the world today, to be followed by a tour of the magnificent Masonic Temple on Broad Street, a National Historic Landmark constructed in 1873. The all-inclusive trip cost is \$130 pp for BCHF members; \$140 for non-members. Call Helen Younglove at 215-788-9408 for flyer/reservation form or print it from our website. Reservation deadline is May 21.

**Wednesday, October 1** -- Eckley Miners' Village Museum in Weatherly, PA, three-course luncheon at The Inn at Jim Thorpe and free time to explore the shops in Jim Thorpe. Eckley Miners' Village is a museum that tells the story of anthracite coal mining in the region. Eckley was established in 1854 as a company-owned coal mining town. It was featured in the 1960s film "The Molly Maguires," which drew attention to it and led to its preservation as an historical site. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has owned and operated the village as a museum since 1970. The Museum preserves and interprets the history of anthracite coal mining, the lives of the miners and their families, and the evolution of the region's culture. The all-inclusive trip cost is \$125 for BCHF members; \$135 for non-members. Reservation info will be provided in a future issue of The Gazette.

**Thursday, December 4** -- Lyndhurst Mansion, Tarrytown, NY, including a private, hot buffet lunch in the mansion. Also known as the Jay Gould Estate, the mansion sits on its own 67-acre park beside the Hudson River and is one of America's finest Gothic Revival mansions. Described as one of the "Ten Best Historic Holiday Tours" by USA Today, Lyndhurst goes all-out during the holiday season, filling the mansion with elaborate tableaux of decor. During the month of December only, the curators bring out rarely-seen items that belonged to Lyndhurst's former owners. The all-inclusive trip cost is \$158 for BCHF members; \$168 for non-members. Reservation info will be provided in a future issue of The Gazette.

## Three Programs Lined Up

Thus far, the Ways & Means Committee has lined up three programs for 2025. Two are mostly verbal; one is an interactive program of song and history.

On **Sunday, February 23** (snow date - March 2), at 2 p.m. in BCHF headquarters, Kim Hanley, of the American Historical Theatre of Philadelphia, will give a 1st-person portrayal of author Harriet Beecher Stowe. Ms. Hanley is no stranger to BCHF's stage, having portrayed Annie Oakley, Alice Roosevelt Longworth and Lucretia Mott in recent years.

In 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe published her famous novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin" or "Life Among the Lowly." This empathetic depiction of life for African Americans under slavery reached millions in the U.S. and the U.K., and helped move the conscience of the country to the great and imperative cause of abolitionism. Following her success with "Uncle Tom's Cabin," she went on to publish over 20 novels, as well as travel memoirs, home-life guides, letters and essays, becoming one of the most widely published authors in American history.

On **Sunday, March 30** (snow date - April 6), at 2 p.m., notable folksinger Mary Roth will perform "Enchanting Appalachia" at BCHF headquarters. Ms. Roth has been featured in Bucks County Magazine and has performed at many venues in Bucks and Lehigh Counties. Her performance here will be an interactive program of song and history, with a focus on the rich culture of Appalachia and its people, and include vocals, Appalachian mountain dulcimer, guitar and/or bouzouki, and the Celtic bodhran drum.

On **Tuesday, November 25**, at 7 p.m., David J. Kaplan, of Petoskey, MI, will return to BCHF's stage for another presentation on the Titanic -- this time with a different slant than done in 2023 and 2024. Mark the date on your calendar now and check future editions of The Gazette for further information.

Light refreshment is served at all of our programs. A donation of \$5 per adult is suggested; students are free. The public is cordially invited. Spread the word among your relatives, friends, neighbors and coworkers!

Corrections to January 2025 Gazette.

First Ladies Facts and Trivia – John Tyler was the 10<sup>th</sup> President not the 19<sup>th</sup> - incorrectly typed.

## OUT OF THE PAST

### The following items were excerpted from the Bristol Courier February 1925. Price 2¢

There are two events that were covered by papers nationwide, including the Bristol Courier on multiple occasions.

The first was the "Serum Run" across the U. S. Territory of Alaska to Nome. An epidemic of Diphtheria was developing in that community. It took 5 ½ days to transport the diphtheria antitoxin 674 miles using relay teams of sled dogs. The race began on Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> and ended on Feb. 1. Many may be familiar with this event today, known as the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race which has many traditions that commemorate the race to deliver the serum to Nome.

The second story that captivated the nation and was covered in the Bristol Courier concerned the attempts to rescue Kentucky cave explorer Floyd Collins who became trapped underground. On the 18<sup>th</sup> day the rescuers found his lifeless body.

**February 3-** A bill was introduced in Burlington County to construct a bridge linking Burlington and Bristol.

**February 4-** Strictly fresh eggs from nest to you. 75¢ a dozen C. F. King – Mill St.

**February 5-** Michael J. McCarthy Bristol Borough Police Chief resigned. He left to become head of detectives at Fran & Seder Department Store in Philadelphia.

Abe Popkins Shoe Store – 418 Mill St. Sale of Winter Stock of Shoes. Regularly \$4-\$6, reduced to \$1.85 - \$3.85.

Smith Model Shop has a "Stupendous Clearance" of Women's and Children's wear to make ready for alterations of the store. Example -Ladies and Children's coats \$8.90 - \$22.50.

**February 7-** School teachers were guests of the Travel Club. Mrs. Walter Leedom hosted the event at her residence. They were entertained by the Matinee Musical Club of Phila.

Riverside Theatre is showing the *Man from Texas* starring Tom Mix. Matinee 5¢ & 10¢ Evening 10¢ & 15¢.

**February 9-** Bristol High School Girl Reserves

have won the Silver Cup for the second time. Their play "A Cross Word Puzzle" won in a competition at the YWCA of Philadelphia. They also won for original songs.

**February 10-** John J. McGuckin is named to be Bristol Borough Police Chief beginning on Feb. 15. He has 12 years of experience in Philadelphia.

The Card party held at the Elk Home was a decided success raising money for the Harriman Hospital. Over 100 attended and many prizes were distributed.

**February 11-** Bristol Fish & Game Protective Assoc. has taken steps to prevent low water in Silver Lake (Mill Pon). They want the current dam to be raised a foot or two, which will make it one of the best fishing grounds in this area.

Annual meeting of the Harriman Building Assoc. will be held on Tues. evening March 3 at 1604 Farragut Ave. – Horace Davis-Secretary.

**February 12-** the funeral of Frank Santo manager of the Riverside Theatre was held at St. Ann's Church on Wed. Feb. 11.

Howard J. Byers Studebaker Dealer has 19 new models for sale at Radcliffe and Market St.

**February 13-** The Delaware River rose swiftly overnight as large cakes of ice floated along with trees and debris. The ferry to Burlington was taken out of service in the morning. Ice at the Ferry dock measured 32" thick.

St. James Sunday School Class No. 9 is holding a sale of pies, cakes, and all good things at St. James Parish House on Sat. Feb. 14.

**February 15-** Bristol High Boys & Girls Basketball Teams will play against graduates. Games will be played at the Lutheran Parish House.

**February 17-** A surprise party was held for Edward McIlvaine to celebrate his birthday.

**February 20-** Bristol High School Orchestra is to present its second musical on Feb. 24. The orchestra is



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### BCHF Calendar Of Events For 2025

**FEBRUARY.** Sun., 2/23 (snow date 3/2), 2 PM, at BCHF headquarters. 1st-person portrayal of Harriet Beecher Stowe by Kim Hanley of the American Historical Theatre of Phila. Light refreshment will be served. Donation of \$5 per adult is suggested; students are free.

**MARCH.** Sun., 3/30 (snow date 4/6), 2 PM, at BCHF headquarters. "Enchanting Appalachia" musical program by notable folksinger Mary Roth, performing on several instruments. See separate article for details. Light refreshment will be served. Donation of \$5 per adult is suggested; students are free.

**APRIL.** Thurs., 4/10. Bus trip to the Swaminarayan Akshardham, the largest Hindu temple outside of India, in Robbinsville, NJ, with 3-course luncheon at the Cranberry Inn and a visit to David Bradley Chocolatier. \$120 pp for BCHF members; \$130 for non-members. Reservation deadline is March 15. Call 215-788-2106 for flyer/reservation form or print it from BCHF's website, <http://www.bristolhistory.com>.

**APRIL.** Sun., 4/27, 2-4 PM, at BCHF headquarters. Annual Tea featuring traditional Tea fare. More info in the March Gazette or on BCHF's website.

**JUNE.** Thurs., 6/26. Bus trip to Phila., featuring a 3-course luncheon on the Moshulu, the oldest and largest square-rigged sailing vessel still afloat, followed by a tour of the Masonic Temple, a National Historic Landmark, constructed in 1873. \$130 pp for BCHF members; \$140 for non-members. Reservation deadline is May 21. Call 215-788-9408 for flyer/reservation form or print it from BCHF's website.

**JULY.** July 1-8. "Independence Day Celebration" aboard Cunard Lines' Queen Mary 2 ocean liner, sailing from NY. Ports-of-call: Newport, RI; Boston, MA, on July 4 & 5; and Halifax, Nova Scotia.

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BCHF Headquarters are at 321 Cedar Street, Bristol.

For current information about activities and events, check our website at [www.bristolhistory.org](http://www.bristolhistory.org)  
Email us at [bchf2157819895@gmail.com](mailto:bchf2157819895@gmail.com) Follow us on Instagram - - IG@bristol\_historic\_foundation

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