

The Gazette



VOL 36 No. 4

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.

APRIL 2018

Be Sure to Mark Your Calendar for Sunday, May 6 at 2 pm

Lori Helkowski, a teacher at the Snyder-Girotti School in Bristol, contacted the history office in the Grundy Library for suggestions of people who were important in the history of Bristol but were deceased. The library history office supplied 39 names. From those names, Mrs. Helkowski and the children from the Gifted/Enrichment classes grades 1-6 selected people to make a "Living Wax Museum". It was presented on Historic Bristol Day 2017. Many people missed it but hoped that it could be presented again. BCHF answered the request and has scheduled the program for Sunday, May 6, 2018 at our headquarters on Cedar

Street at 2 pm.

Students will be dressed in the character they are playing and it will be a first-person short biography of the Bristol people of the past. The program is free and light refreshment will be served.

If anyone wishes to make a donation to the Snyder-Girotti Schools' Gifted/Enrichment Program, the school will be happy to accept that donation and it can be given at BCHF to Mrs. Helkowski. We hope that you will support the children. This is the first time we have had children from our Snyder-Girotti school present a program at BCHF

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to have s BCHF is showered with many activities this April. First is a program presented by our own local historians, James and Deborah Fine, about Bristol during World War I. How fortunate we are to have such well informed members of our community willing to share their knowledge and resources with us. Those of you who went on the house tour this past Bristol Day may have seen the exhibit of WWI memorabilia at the Fine House. Thank you to the Fines for their presentation.

April also brings us a bus trip to Philadelphia featuring the Museum of American Revolution and a delicious lunch at the JNA Institute of Culinary Arts. Thank you to Helen Younglove for planning the trip and to Ellana Delaney for organizing the reservations.

Then, last but not least, April brings us our annual spring tea. This year the tea is featuring music by guitarist Robert Konyves. Robert has been featured at other events in town including Calm Waters and The Center For the Arts. A special thank you to our Ways and Means member, Kathy Barniskis, for heading this event. Also thanks to her committee for all the work they do to make the event so enjoyable. As I said, April brings showers and BCHF showers you with many enjoyable activities. The dedicated members of the Ways and Means committee plan all of these events well in advance. Keep checking for future events in our Gazette and on our website.

Jan Ruano

Thanks to One of Our Readers

Thanks to Sam Black, a member of BCHF who had lived in Bristol and was graduated from Bristol High School and now resides with his wife in Kentucky. Sam was reading the March Gazette in the article "Life in Bristol during World War I" concerning banking. The article talked about the TRUST Company Bank which started in 1911 and then went directly to the BB&T Bank at the corner of Radcliffe and Market Streets. What happened was the Trust Company building was demolished. While this was being done, the Trust Company temporarily relocated across Radcliffe Street in the building that now houses Annabella's Restaurant. When the new building was complete, it opened as the Delaware Valley Trust Company, It then became known as the PNB (Philadelphia National Bank). That banking institution closed and people had to find another place for banking. Some people went to the Wachovia Bank (now Wells Fargo bank). After a year, the former PNB bank opened under a new name and eventually became the BB&T Bank at the corner of Radcliffe and Market Streets. It is the red brick bank.

Trip Talk

We're pleased to announce that our April 29 trip to Philadelphia is **SOLD OUT**. A waiting list is being taken in case there are any last-minute cancellations. For info., call Ellanna Delaney at 215 788-4138

At the time of this writing, several more passengers were needed on the May 18-20 bus trip to Washington, DC. Per the trip flyer, the price was based on a minimum of 40 paying passengers. See itinerary on our Calendar of Events, printed on the last page of this Gazette and contact Jan Ruano (215 788-2106) for current status.

Since the confirmation of our December 6 "Christmas in Cape May" trip was announced last month, reservations have been coming in on a continuous basis. The itinerary may be seen on the Calendar of Events, and a detailed flyer is available from Helen Younglove (215 788-9408). Santa recommends this trip as a perfect holiday gift!

Come See And Hear Them

If you missed the "Living Wax Museum" on Historic Bristol Day 2017, you'll have another chance to experience it on **Sunday, May 6 at 2 p.m.,** in BCHF headquarters.

Snyder-Girotti Elementary School's Gifted / Enrichment students in Grades 4, 5 and 6 will portray well-known Bristolians, past and present. The students will dress in character and present a first-person short biography of their self-selected individual.

Light refreshment will be served. In lieu of an admission fee, donations for the Snyder-Girotti Elementary School's Gifted/Enrichment Program are requested. Everyone's invited!



BCHF thanks project facilitator Lori Helkowski, Gifted/Enrichment Teacher, Grades 1-6, for making this presentation possible.

Photos shown here were taken at the Historic Bristol Day '17 Wax Museum.



Children from the Snyder-Girotti School portraying famous Bristolians on Historic Bristol Day 2017







A Note From Ways & Means

Our annual **Spring Tea** is held on **Sunday, April 29th from 3-5.** Remember that **reservations** will be taken starting at 9 am on Saturday, April 7th. We are asking \$22.00 this year. Scones, tea sandwiches and

desserts are offered as well as basket raffles and entertainment. Local guitarist Robert Konyves will be playing many of your favorites and accommodate some of your requests. He will be delighted to accompany you and your friends if you feel like performing a favorite tune for us! So, round up your friends and relatives and spend a wonderful Sunday afternoon with us! You will not be disappointed!

<u>Parking for the event will include</u>: on the church parking lot just beyond our building, on the street - if you are

lucky - AND the Masonic parking lot around the Market Street corner and to the right. A short walk will bring you back to our headquarters. We thank them for providing this for us.

Sunday, April 8th at 2pm is another April date to make on your calendar. Come listen to the WWI presentation by the Fines. This is the 100th anniversary of that war, so we are especially happy to be bringing this informative Sunday afternoon program to you. Light refreshments will be provided by our Ways & Means Committee.

Our April 19th bus trip to the Museum of the American Revolution is sold out! Thanks to all who will be participating and to Lana Delaney from our Ways & Means Committee for handling the trip reservations.

The next W&M meeting will be on April 16th at BCHF on Cedar Street at 7 pm. Come join us!

Land Development in the Bristol Area

(continued from Gazette article - March, 2018)

February 1942 - Bristol Terrace I and Terrace II were developed by the Federal Government to relieve the housing shortage especially needed by military workers in the Bristol plants and at Fort Dix, NJ. The contractors, Stofflet and Tillotson of Phila., are building on the east side of Beaver Dam Road. There will be two entrances from Beaver Street. The 45 acre plot is the former Stackhouse farm on Beaver Dam Road. Terrace I has the larger homes - 131 housing units; one-third of the houses will be double dwellings. There will be no cellars, but a space is between the floor of the houses and the ground. They will have asphalt shingle roofs, a living room, kitchen, utility and storage room, bathroom, bedrooms (variations of 1, 2 or 3). There will be macadam streets and concrete sidewalks. The project is to be completed in 135 working days to house defense workers. Borough water and sewer have recently been extended. Terrace II has 360 one-story row-houses named alphabetically - Court A, Court B, Court C, etc. (Several organizations were formed to promote community activities, a child health center, baseball and football teams, women's clubs and scouts.) In April, 1942, a suggestion was made to the Bristol Courier by Paul J. Barrett, Esq. to call the area "Bristol Terrace." It was said that the people of Bristol for many years called that section "Bristol Terrace." Other names suggested were "Bristol Heights" and "Beaver Heights."

Note: In 1964 residents of Terrace I requested its name be changed to "Green Lawn Park." Terrace II was sold to a Michigan Company (Bristol-Bloomfield, Inc.). Over the years living conditions deteriorated and the Bucks Co. Housing Authority took over Terrace II, then called "Kingswood Park." Tenants were protesting for better conditions. In 1976, the Venice-Ashby townhouses were built. In 1984 a second phase called Venice-Ashby II was opened and the dilapidated Kingswood housing was razed.

February, **1942** - Twenty houses will be erected in the Sixth Ward on Benson Place by Robert C. Crowell. The houses of five rooms will be constructed of Asbestos siding with Asbestos roofs. All will have complete basements, heated with gas or oil and will sell for less than \$4500. The plans are to begin work on three pairs of twin dwellings. After the first group of six have been completed and sold, the balance of the project will be underway.

July, **1943** - In the area of Second, Third and Fourth Avenues, three hundred housing units are underway. They are Philadelphia-type row houses of brick construction. Having begun in March of 1942, sixty houses are already built. Each house has 6 rooms with bath. Bristol Development Co. with James Stewart of Montgomery Co. is the builder.

March, 1944 - Fleetwing Estates provided attractive modern homes in a permanent residential community in Bristol Township just across Bloomsdale Road (Green Lane) from Plant #2 (Fleetwings). The development was built on Larzeler's farm and was designed to fulfill a wartime need for housing near the factory. It was laid out in a loop design with no dead ends and a recreation park for the children. The homes were purchased on the F.H.A. - 25 year plan with a down payment of \$590. A few of the homes were available for rent at \$47 a month. The 100 single family homes were of ten different designs all of which included such features as a "picture window" which extended almost the entire length of the living room and a compact U-shaped kitchen. The basement ran the

ful length and width of the house. For most workers, it was just a short walk to the plant.

January, 1950 - Paper Mill Village, owned by the Patterson-Parchment Co, is giving employee occupants the first opportunity to buy their homes. The seventeen houses range in value from \$4900 to \$8200. They are all frame construction with modern conveniences. Some houses are single homes; others are duplex. The houses were built about 1922 and rents have never been changed. Because the rents were very low, the firm has decided to sell the properties.

January, 1950 - A group of homes will be erected along Green Lane in Bristol Township on a 28 acre tract (west side of Green Lane, north of Route #13). The land formerly belonged to the Stackhouse estate. The houses are one story, asbestos shingles, siding and fire-proof insulation, hot water heater, concealed radiators, hardwood floors. A 500 gallon fuel oil tank will be located in the ground outside of each building. The price of the houses will be from \$9500 to \$11000. Frank Spezzano will build each house as the property is sold. It is expected that the tract will have 175 houses.

February, 1950 - the Penn Valley Construction Co., Inc. plans to build approximately 200 homes near Bristol. The company plans to develop a complete community and turn it over to local authority intact ready for administration.

June, 1950 - At Laurel Bend (along Bath Road), a tract of land is being developed into 131 lots by the J.F. Bucttner and Edward Praul Co. of Emilie. They will be Gunneson Homes, a subsidiary of U.S. Steel Corp. This type of home is a basic structure and the purchaser can have additions. The "basics" include a streamlined kitchen, ample cabinets, utility room, linen closet, two bedrooms, forced air heat (oil or gas), a choice of 6 pastel shades, a modern built-in bathtub and landscaping. The basic house does not have a basement and the price does not include a garage, but both are available at an additional cost.

February, 1951 - Twenty-two housing units on Green Lane, the former farm of Harry Larzelere, are being built by Sycamore Gardens, Inc. of Pottstown. On about 9 acres of farmland, the buidings are to be apartment-type with on-site parking, play areas and a central heating plant. There will be 4 one-bedroom units, 12 two bedroom units and 6 three bedroom units. The housing project on Green Lane between Fleetwing Estates and Beaver Dam Road will be known as Sycamore Gardens. The cinder block walls will separate the units for fire and sound control. They expect to be rented for \$55 to \$65 a month.

March, 1951 - Three hundred houses on two tracts of land fronting on Bath Road are to be built. The Hunter tract and the Louis Bellini tract will be used, the development will be called "Margo Gardens." The first development of 116 houses will be one story, brick construction nd ranch-type in design. There will be fully-paved streets with services of gas heat, electricity and Bristol Borough water. The kitchens include colored wood cabinets, dinette and a large living room, three bedrooms, tile bathroom and a large utility room. The casement windows will include screens. The builder is Margo Homes, Inc. of Philadelphia.

Early 1950's - With the building of the Fairless Steel Corporation, the need for housing overwhelmed the demand for farms. Housing developments at Fairless Hills and Levittown were built. Levittown was built as a mass-produced,

*Continued on page 4**

Housing . . . (continued from page 3)

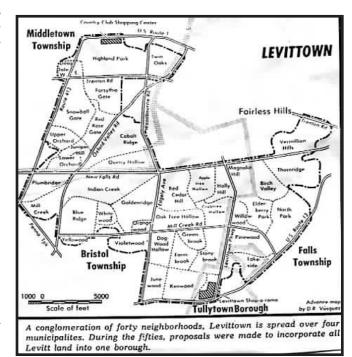
suburban development. Levitt & Sons eventually built some 17,000 houses in parts of Bristol Township as well as Tullytown, Middletown and Falls Townships. With the building

LEVITTOWN was divided into forty neighborhoods. It is spread over four municipalities. The different sections use 24 letters (all except "x" and "Z" with one or two sections for each of the letters.

- Apple Tree Hollow
- Birch Valley, Blue Ridge В
- C Cobalt Ridge, Crabtree Hollow
- Deep Dale West, Dogwood Hollow D
- Elderberry Park \mathbf{E}
- \mathbf{F} Farmbrook, Forsythia Gate
- Goldenridge, Greenbrook G
- Highland Park, Holly Hill Η
- T Indian Creek
- J Junewood, Juniper Hill
- K Kenwood
- L Lakeside, Lower Orchard
- Magnolia Hill, Mill Creek \mathbf{M}
- North Park Ν
- O Oak Tree Hollow, Orange Wood
- Ρ Pinewood, Plumbridge
- Q Quincy Hollow
- R Red Cedar Hill, Red Rose Gate
- Snowball Gate, Stonybrook
- Т
- Thornridge, Twin Oaks
- White Wood, Willow Wood Upper Orchard Yellow Wood
- U
- Vermillion Hills, Violetwood V

came churches and synagogues, stores and schools and huge shopping centers.

Thus, the farm land changed to residential use.



Our April Program . . . A Not To Miss Event!

On Sunday, April 8, at 2 p.m. in BCHF headquarters, Bristol residents and educators, James and Deborah Fine, will give a power-point presentation entitled "Bristol and World War I: "The quiet life of the community . . . greatly changed."

Light refreshment will be served at the conclusion of the program. A donation of \$4 per attendee is requested; students are admitted free.

The public is cordially invited. Invite your relatives and friends to come and hear how the war changed us!

Fascinating Facts About The U.S. Presidents

1. Zachary Taylor - 1849-1850

Was the second President to die from illness while in office and the second President to die in the White House. Had a eulogy given by Abraham Lincoln at his funeral.

2. Millard Fillmore - 1850-1853

Was the last member of the Whig party to be the President of the United States.

Established the first permanent library in the White House

Was the last President born in the 18th Century.

Had a wife (Abigail Powers) who was his former teacher and was the first First Lady to have a job after marriage.

3. Franklin Pierce - 1853-1857

Had fistfights break out on the chamber floor because of intense feelings in Congress.

Was the first President to have a Christmas tree in the White House.

4. James Buchanan - 1857-1861

Is the only President (to date) that was from Pennsylvania.

Was the only President to never have been married. His niece, Harriet Lane, acted as First Lady. Is said to have had the neatest handwriting of all the Presidents.

Was the first President to send a transatlantic telegram. It was sent to England's Queen Victoria. Believed he would be the last President of the United States because of the Civil War.

5. Abraham Lincoln - 1861-1865

Was seeing the play "Our American Cousin" when he was shot in Ford's Theater in Washington. Was the first President to be photographed at his inauguration. John Wilkes Booth (his assassin) can be seen standing close to Lincoln in the picture.

Loved the works of the writer Edgar Allan Poe.

Was the first President to be born outside of the original 13 colonies. He was born in Kentucky. Issued the Emancipation Proclamation, January 23, 1863.

Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from APRIL 1928 issues of THE BRISTOL COURIER

4/2 - KEYSTONE CLUB POSTS NUMEROUS SIGNS HERE. Motorists Warned at the Approach to Schools and Hospitals. Signs warning motorists of the approach to school zones were erected by the Keystone Automotive Club at the Wood Street, St. Mark's St. Ann's, Jefferson Avenue and Bath Street Schools.

"Flowers Are Most Important at Easter! Come and See Our Display. BRISTOL FLOWER GROWERS, 452 Pond Street."

4/3 - PROPOSED PLANS FOR DELAWARE SPAN SUBMITTED. Calls for Bridge from Reed Street in Burlington to Maple Beach. Eliminates Entirely the Old Plans Which Called for a Bridge from Burlington to Burlington Island and Touching Bristol at Market Street.

"First at the get-away. First on the straight-away. No car in the VICTORY price class can match the all-around brilliance of the Dodge VICTORY performance. It accelerates as no other car at the price has ever done: 5 to 25 miles in 7-1/4 seconds! 10 to 45 miles in 13-1/2 seconds! \$1095, 4-door sedan, f.o.b. Detroit, PERCY G. FORD MOTOR CO., 1776 Farragut Avenue,"

"RIVERSIDE THEATRE, Radcliffe Street at Market . . . 'Clancy's Kosher Wedding,' the comedy battle royal! Plus Paramount News and Comedy."

4/5 - - "CRUCIFIXION" CHORUS NUMBERS 50 VOICES. On Good Friday evening, the classical sacred cantata "Crucifixion" will be rendered in the Methodist Church by a chorus of 50 voices comprising the principal members of the various choirs of Bristol.

"TURNER'S, Cedar and Market Streets . . . Weekend Specials. Frankford Matches - 3 boxes $10 \, \phi$. Jell-O, all flavors - $9 \, \phi$ box. Octagon Yellow Soap - $6 \, \phi$ cake. Tiny Sifted Peas - $21 \, \phi$ can. Gorton's Ready-to-Eat Codfish Cakes - $12 \, \phi$ can. Frankford Shrimp - $19 \, \phi$ can."

4/7 - "Visit Bristol's New Spaghetti House, formerly the Bristol House, Radcliffe and Mill Streets. S. Mignoni, Prop. Real Spaghetti Dinners Served. Hotel Remodeled. Special attention to private parties."

"Spring Suits with Two Pairs of Trousers - \$22.50 and \$35.00. Also Spring Felt Hats. A.W. VANDEGRIFT MEN'S SHOP, Mill Street at Pond."

4/12 - BRISTOL HIGH WINS OPENING BALLGAME. Local Nine Defeats Yardley by the Score of 10 to 2. "Blushing" Earl Wright started on the peak for the local school and was found for two runs. "Mike" DeRisi and "Jake" Tranotti divided the next four innings. "Hokey" Leighton was on the job in the final inning. "Les" Satterthwaite turned out to be the hitting star of the game.

"1929 REO Flying Clouds at WRIGHT SERVICE GARAGE, Bath and Otter Streets."

"Weekend Specials! Shad, Catfish, Salmon, Mackerel, Flounder and Haddock. Fresh Eggs and Chickens. Vegetables and Groceries. COLE'S MARKET, Wood and Washington Streets."

4/13 - - "THAT'S THAT" GOES OVER BIG AT GRAND THEATRE. Bristol High School Students Present Very Attractive Production. The two leads, Florence Peirce and

Howard Smoyer, were well acted and the solo work of these two principals was encored each time.

"5-Pc. Breakfast Set - Decorated - \$15.75. 4-Pc. Dining Room Suite, with 5 chairs and 1 arm chair - \$69. Free Delivery! FACTORY-TO-YOU FURNITURE CO., 225 Mill Street."

4/17 - SENIOR CLASS HERE OFF TO WASHINGTON EARLY TOMORROW. 52 Students of Bristol High School to Take 4-Day Trip.

"FOR RENT. One of the most desirable stores on Mill Street, with dwelling attached., Rent \$110. Contact Francis Byers, 409 Radcliffe Street. Phone 226."

4/18 - BOROUGH BONDS SELL ABOVE PAR; CREDIT GOOD. The credit of the Borough of Bristol stands good as is indicated by bids which were received and opened on Monday for borough bonds to the amount of \$44,000. Bioren & Company, bankers of Philadelphia, made the highest bids.

WORKMEN REMOVING MILL STREET POLES. Workmen are busy today removing telegraph poles from the lower side of Mill Street. With the removal of the poles, the appearance of the street will be much improved.

4/19 - MUCH BUILDING NOW IN PROGRESS IN BRISTOL AND NEARBY VICINITY; MILL STREET SKY-LINE RAPIDLY CHANGING. Stores are being erected with most modern display windows. Numerous renovations are planned. Options are being obtained on several properties here.

"MUFFETT'S MEAT STORE, 425 Mill Street . . . Veal Cutlets - 55ϕ lb. Loin Lamb Chops - 55ϕ lb. Best Loin Roast Pork - 33ϕ lb. Best Cuts Rib Roast - 35ϕ lb.

4/21 - KEYSTONE PLANT HERE TO BUILD FIRST FULLY EQUIPPED FLYING ELECTRICAL LABORATORY MOUNTED IN HUGE PLANE. This new plane will be similar to the Keystone "Path finer" commercial 12-passenger tri-mounted biplane now being used by the West Indian Aerial Express.

"GRAND OPENING OF AMERICAN-CHINESE RESTAURANT AT CLOSSEN HOUSE, Bath and Mill Streets. Saturday, April 21st."

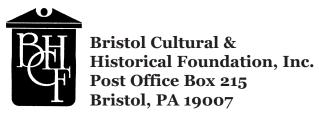
4/24 - FORM TWILIGHT LEAGUE WITH SIX BALL TEAMS. There will be a Bristol Twilight Baseball League this year, composed of six teams: St. Ann's, Keystone, A.O.H., K. or C., and Leedom's. David Landreth was elected league president.

"WANTED. Two men boarders in Christian home. Apply or write Mrs. Hearl, R.,F.D. No. 2, Bristol."

4/26 - SHAD GREATLY DIMINISHED AS WATERS OF DELAWARE RIVER BECOME POLLUTED, SAYS RESIDENT OF TULLYTOWN BOROUGH. Years ago, thousands of the Finny tribe were caught daily at the fishery on the Burton Farm.

THIRD WARD BOY WINS IN CONTEST FOR BEST POSTER. The winner of the poster design contest held in conjunction with Boys' Week is Joseph Blanche, Otter and Swain Streets. 55 designs were submitted.

"Enhance Your Charm! Marcel, Water-wave, Shampoo, Manicure. MAU-BERT BEAUTY SHOPPE, 305 Mill Street. M. Headley Clark, Prop."



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BCHF Calendar of Events for 2018

APRIL Sun., 4/8, 2 PM Program entitled "Bristol and World War I: 'The Quiet Life of the Community . . . Greatly Changed", by Bristolians James & Deborah Fine. 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 JNA Inst. of Culinary Arts Restaurant. All-inclusive price: \$82 for BCHF members; \$85 for non-members. Info at 215 788-4138 SOLD OUT; WAIT-ING LIST BEING TAKEN

APRIL Sun., 4/29, 3 - 5 PM. Annual Tea featuring musical entertainment. 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." All inclusive price includes lunch at the Washington Inn Restaurnt, Holiday Inns Tour & Holiday Lights Trolley Ride. \$112 for BCHF members; \$115 for non-members. 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.

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