



**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.

FEBRUARY 2016

## Now Is The Time to Join Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation

Our organization is one of the best in the area for those interested in the History of our Historic Community plus many of the cultural things that take place in the region. Check our web site ([www.bristolhistory.org](http://www.bristolhistory.org)) and list of activities on our calendar. Individual membership is \$12.00. Family membership is \$25.00 and Business Membership is \$50.00. All membership names will be published in the JUNE issue of our publication.

### President's Corner

In November, I was elected as your new president. I consider this an honor and hope to serve an organization for which I have great respect. Bristol is fortunate to be ripe with a long and interesting history. It is our job to help promote this wonderful heritage.

I will use this first "Corner" to introduce myself, but first there must be a big thank you to the past president, Gerry McCarry, who served as president for seven years. His leadership was and will always be an asset to BCHF. Thankfully he remains on the board of directors where we can benefit from his knowledge and hard work. Thanks, Gerry, from all of us.

I have been a board member of BCHF for about fifteen years starting as recording secretary and recently serving as Vice President. I am a member of the Ways and Means Committee. I have chaired the Peach Social and, along with Kathy Barniskis,

chaired several Historic Bristol Days. I am currently the web master of the BCHF website. Please check it out at [www.bristolhistory.org](http://www.bristolhistory.org).

BCHF is fortunate to have many dedicated and talented people on our board. In future President's Corners I hope to introduce them to you. We also are blessed with wonderful members. Whenever we have an event, members step forward to volunteer their time and talents. Hopefully you were lucky enough to have some of the baked goods donated by volunteers at our tea, peach social and the HBD bake table. I think we have the best bakers in the county.

Of course, we are always looking for new volunteers. Our organization cannot function without them. If interested, let us know. We need them at all our functions and especially Historic Bristol Day in October.

I look forward to meeting many of you at our events.

*Jan Ruano*

### Trip Update

As of mid-January, only four seats remained on the May 18-20 bus trip to Pittsburgh. Trip details may be found in the Calendar of Events on the back page of this GAZETTE, and current reservation status is available from Helen Younglove at 215 788-9408.

The bus trip to Longwood Gardens, with High Tea at the Hotel duPont, has been booked. The date had to be changed from Wednesday, Sept. 28 to **Thursday, Sept. 29**. Cost

per person will be \$98 for BCHF members age 62 & over; \$100 for members under age 62. For non-BCHF members, the cost will be \$101 for age 62 & over; \$103 for under age 62. Details will be included in the March GAZETTE.

2016 Pricing has not yet been received for the planned November 2 trip to Harlem.

Complete information on these two excursions will be released in a future issue of the GAZETTE.

## BCHF Calendar of Events for 2016

**MARCH** - Sun., 3/13, 2 p.m. One-man show by Neill Hartley entitled "The Magic of Lionel: The Story of Joshua Lionel Cowen." Light refreshment. Suggested donation of \$5 pp. BCHF headquarters. Call 215 788-9408 for info.

**APRIL** - Sun., 4/10, 2 p.m. Program entitled "The Artist in Your Pocket," by Donald Everhart, lead sculptor-engraver for the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia. Light refreshment. Suggested donation of \$5 pp. BCHF headquarters. Call 215 788-9408 for info.

**APRIL** - SUN., 4/24, 3-5 p.m. "A Lovely Spring Tea" with traditional Tea fare. \$20 pp. BCHF headquarters. Limited number of reservations; call 215 788-9408 beginning 9 a.m., Sat., March 19.

**MAY** - Wed.-Fri., 5/18-20. Bus trip to Pittsburgh, incl. lodging, 2 breakfasts & 2 dinners, visit to Flt. 93 Memorial, Gateway Clipper cruise, guided tour of Pittsburgh incl. Univ. of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning and tour of some of its Nationality rooms, tour of Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens, visit to Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural creation, "Fallingwater." \$395 pp double, \$380 pp triple, \$505 single. Call 215 788-9408 for current reservation status

**JUNE** - Sun., 6/26, noon-5 p.m. BCHF sales & info table at Annual Celtic Day in Lions Park, Bristol Borough. Event sponsored by Celtic Heritage Foundation, 215 788-5232.

**AUGUST** - Sun., 8/7, 2-4 p.m. Annual Peach Social. Angel food cake topped with fresh peaches & ice cream, plus beverage.

Takeouts available with own container. Baked goods table. \$5/adult, \$3 under age 12. BCHF air-conditioned headquarters. **BENEFITS BCHF AWARDS TO BRISTOL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES.**

**SEPTEMBER** - Sat., 9/10 (rain date 9/11), noon - 5:00 p.m. BCHF sales & info table at Annual Italian Festival in Lions Park, Bristol Borough. Event sponsored by Bristol Lions Club, [www.bristolions.org](http://www.bristolions.org).

**SEPTEMBER** - Thurs., 9/29 - Bus trip to Longwood Gardens followed by High Tea at Hotel DuPont. Details to be released in 1st quarter of 2016.

**OCTOBER** - Sat., 10/15, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 40th Historic Bristol Day. Fee for House Tour & Tea. For details, visit the BCHF's web-site, [www.bristolhistory.org](http://www.bristolhistory.org).

**NOVEMBER** - Wed., 11/2. Bus trip to Harlem. Details to be released in 1st quarter of 2016.

**NOVEMBER** - Wed., 11/16, 7:30 p.m. 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.

- BCHF Headquarters are at 321 Cedar Street, Bristol
- For current information about activities and events, check out our web site at [www.bristolhistory.org](http://www.bristolhistory.org).

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

### Bristol Riverside Theater - 2016 Performances

"Rumors", "Man of La Mancha".

Phone 215 785-0100 for further information.

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## Mark The Dates

As announced in the November GAZETTE and listed in this year's Calendar of Events, the Ways & Means Committee has scheduled the following two programs for 2016:

### Sunday, March 13, at 2 p.m. - "The Magic of Lionel: Joshua Lionel Cowen"

Neill Hartley, who portrayed Sherlock Holmes for us last January, will return to the BCHF stage as Joshua Lionel Cowen in this one-man show about the founding and history of one of the greatest toy companies ever. You'll learn about the creation of Lionel trains in 1900 and of the amazing products and marketing that led to sales of 50 million trains per year.

### Sunday, April 10, at 2 p.m. - "An Artist in Your Pocket"

Donald Everhart, lead sculptor-engraver for the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia, will give a presentation about how coins are made. Mr. Everhart has designed and modeled over 1,000 coins and medals. In addition to medals and official U.S. coinage, he also designed or modeled popular commemorative coins, including the obverse of the 2006 Benjamin Franklin Founding Father silver dollar, the obverse of the Jamestown 400th Anniversary silver dollar, the obverse of the 2008 Bald Eagle silver dollar, and the reverse of the 2008 Bald Eagle five dollar gold piece. One of his favorite designing and sculpting themes is nature, which he has depicted in many of his creations.

Mark these two dates on your calendar and invite your family members and friends to accompany you! A donation of \$5 per attendee is suggested. Light refreshment will be served.

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## Boy Scouts

In the January issue of the GAZETTE, a story about Girl Scouts appeared. So in this issue, we will mention the Boy Scouts as they also were an important organization in Bristol over the years. The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) was founded on February 8, 1910 and nationally it has more than 2.4 million youth members and nearly 1 million adult volunteers; the group is part of the World's Organization of the Scout Movement. The Scout method is part of a program to use scouting values such as trustworthiness and good citizenship through various forms of activities.

There are several versions of the actual founding of the Boy Scouts. One version involved "an unknown scout." In 1907 Robert Baden-Powell had founded a scouting movement in England. In 1909 a Chicago publisher (W.D. Boyce) became lost on a foggy street when an unknown boy came to his aid and guided him to his destination. The boy then refused Boyce's monetary tip and explained that he was a Boy Scout and was merely doing his "good turn." Boyce met with the scouting group in England and upon his return to the U.S. met with a group of interested men. The BSA was incorporated on Feb. 8, 1910. The purpose was to

teach boys "patriotism, courage, self-reliance and kindred values." The current mission statement of the BSA is "to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the scout oath and law."

Boy Scouting is divided into age-based levels:

Cub Scouts - ages 7-11 Levels - Tiger, Wolf, Bear and Webelos\* (\* *The acronym stands for WE'LL BE LOyal Scouts").*

Boy Scouts - ages 11 - 18. A subdivision is Sea Scouting - ages 14 - 18. Eagle Scout is the highest achievement attainable in the BSA Program.

The Scout Motto is "Be Prepared" and the Scout Slogan is "Do a good turn daily." Since the founding of the BSA in 1910, the President of the U.S. has served as the organization's honorary president during his term of office. Over 2/3 of all astronauts have had some type of involvement in scouting and eleven of the twelve men to walk on the moon were Scouts; two were Eagle Scouts - Neil Armstrong (Apollo 11) and Charlie Duke (Apollo 16).



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## A Winter Day at the Corner of Mill and Cedar Streets in Bristol Borough

Presently the business is called "Spice & Co".  
In the first half of the 20th century it was  
Clark's Jewelry Store.

## Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from **FEBRUARY 1876** issues of THE BUCKS COUNTY GAZETTE. Single copy, 5 cents.  
One year, \$2.00

2/3 - - SORTS:

Three hundred forty-six tramps found lodging in the Town Hall during the month of January.

We learned that a passenger train is to be run on the new railroad on the 22nd of February, thus allowing those who so desire, an opportunity of taking a ride over the line.

Some rascals gained an entrance into the engine room of Fire Company No. 1 sometime between midnight on Saturday and daylight on Sunday, and fired bullets through the engravings that adorn the walls. The company is endeavoring to find the perpetrators and have them punished.

Samuel Swain, real estate agent, sold a house of Ellwood Doron, on Washington Street, to David R. Carey for \$1,400.

A grand shooting match will take place at the shooting gallery, next door to the Post Office, on Friday and Saturday, for a box of good cigars.

"Meat! Meat! MILTON WEBSTER, at the corner of Mill and Cedar Streets. Keeps always on hand a large supply of FRESH beef, veal, mutton, etc. Special inducements given to cash customers."

"Trips Resumed. The steamboat John A. Wagner will leave Bristol at 7:15 A.M. for Philadelphia, touching at Burlington, Beverly, Riverton, Torresdale and Andalusia. Returning, leaves Philadelphia at 2 o'clock P.M."

"For Sale or To Let. Two dressed stone houses on Jefferson Avenue. Price, \$6,500. Rent, \$600. Joshua Peirce, Agent"

"For Rent. A 4 roomed house for \$5 a month. Apply to Charles S. Bailey, Radcliffe Street."

2/10 - - SORTS:

The snowfall of Friday last afforded an opportunity for sleighing, which was availed of by all who had it in their power to do so.

2/17 - - SORTS:

Senator Yerkes' Tramp Bill has passed the Senate and will likely become a law. The tramps won't like it a bit.

The new rolling mill is about ready to commence operations.

C.W. & J. Peirce will exhibit at the Centennial the different varieties of felt goods of their manufacture.

The people of the "lower end" think it's more necessary for the welfare of the county to have free bridges and free turnpikes than \$80,000 courthouses or luxurious jails.

The revival of the M.E. Church of Bristol, which has been in progress for the past ten years, still continues. About 140 have been converted. Services are held every evening except Saturday.

The luxury of scratching was indulged in to such an extent last Tuesday that the men who were brought up to the doctrine to vote the whole ticket and nothing but the ticket, had blank amazement clearly depicted on their countenances when they were informed of

it. Out of the 702 votes polled, there were only 108 straight Republican and 74 straight Democrat tickets polled.

"New Market House by DAVID G. MITCHENER, No. 103 Mill Street (east side of canal bridge). Excellent beef, sausage, etc., constantly on hand. Cheaper than the cheapest."

"Something New! The celebrated **Arion** piano. MUSIC STORE, 46 Mill Street." \*

(\**Note concerning house number . . . Between 1891 and 1894, all of Bristol houses were renumbered. Therefore, the current house may still be in place, but it has a different number.*)

2/24 - - SORTS:

The steamboat Richard Stockton will run on the Delaware this season.

The American Hose Company have received their new fire hats. They are very stylish in appearance.

John Catlow, proprietor of the Bristol Carpet factory, receives more orders than he can fill. He contemplates erecting a stone building on his grounds at the corner of Dorrance Street and the railroad in the Spring.

John Shade, while driving a load of hay down Mill Street on Washington's birthday, calmly smoking a pipe, felt something warm behind him. He looked around and found his hay on fire. A bucket of water quenched the flames and the hay was saved.

The 143rd anniversary of the birthday of George Washington was duly observed in Bristol by a good display of bunting from private houses, hotels, business offices, etc. The T.A.B. Society of St. Mark's Church paraded through the principal streets of the town and made a good display. Small boys also seemed inspired with patriotic ardor and paraded the streets with small flags. There was no illumination in the evening but the Washington Assembly gave their first annual ball at Cabeen's Hall.

"MISS EDITH B. TICE, Wood Street near Walnut, desires a few pupils in **Drawing, Crayons and India Ink.**"

"FOR SALE OR RENT. A new brick house with water, gas and modern finish, in the Borough of Bristol, on the river bank (adjoining own residence). Price, \$6,000 - half the money can remain. Rent, \$500. G.W. Adams, Dentist."

"J. H. SOOY, a dealer in GROCERIES, PROVISIONS AND CANNED GOODS. N.W. Corner Mill and Cedar Streets. Sugars, teas, coffees, spices, etc. All kinds of fruits and vegetables in summer, at the lowest cash prices."

"A.K. HOFF'S BREAD, PIE AND FANCY CAKE BAKERY, No. 28 Mill Street, second door above Cedar. All orders thankfully received and promptly attended to."

"M. GEAR, Dealer in Ladies, Misses and Children's Shoes, Gaiters, Slippers, etc. No. 59 Mill Street. A general assortment of shoes kept consistently on hand or made to order. Mending promptly and neatly done."

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## Local School Is Tripping

The Advisory Committee of St. Mark School, Bristol, is offering two fundraising trips in 2016, as follows:

"**Irish Adventure,**" **June 22-30** - This CIE fully-escorted tour of Ireland includes stops in Dublin, Glendalough, Waterford, Cobb, Blarney, Killarney, Ring of Kerry, Cliffs of Moher, Galway, Knock, Sligo, Donegal, Derry, the Giant's Causeway, Belfast, and Dundalk. Cost is \$3,514 pp double occupancy. Reservations close on February 22.

**Eastern Caribbean Cruise aboard the Transatlantic Liner Queen Mary 2, Nov. 26 - Dec. 8** - The ports-of-call are: St. Thomas, St. Kitts, Dominica, St. Maarten and Tortola. Rates start at \$2263 pp, double occupancy. Reservations close on July 28.

For details contact Helen Younglove at 215 788-9408.

## A Note From Ways & Means

January brings the Ways & Means Committee up and running after a holiday break in December. As always our **meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:30 at the BCHF headquarters on Cedar Street** - dare I say, barring heavy snow. New members are welcome. Come and bring a friend! Next meeting: February 15th.

Our newest sale items were well received at Historic Bristol Day. Members Robin Butrey and now president of BCHF, Jan Ruano, developed a postcard coloring packet that includes colored pens. Four Bristol scenes are depicted. They would be great to purchase for your grownup friends as a gift - considering the new adult coloring book craze. And they are kid-friendly, too, so think grandparent gift. The kiddies may even send a note back to you.

Ways & Means members are always thinking of ways to add to our sale items. Our "Postcard Lady", local photographer Mary Megill, has developed a new postcard to add to those she developed recently. This card features the Grundy Library. Member Sue Watkins is handling our Bristol throws and she is currently adding to our supplies. Williamsburg blue, green and cranberry are the colors we offer. Cranberry proved very popular, so we are ordering more of them. Robin, who developed our WELCOME FRIEND signs, has been busy packaging individual letter cards of Bristol sites. We re-ordered the Bristol Wharf hometown piece and local photographer, Jan, developed our current offering of the lagoon featuring the Dougherty Statue. Both Mary Megill and Jan Ruano exhibit their works at the Bristol Art Center on Mill Street.

## Only Yards Away From the Original Location, Borough Children Have Fun in the Snow in 2016

The bridge over the canal on Beaver St., known as the "Forge Bridge", replaced an earlier wooden bridge in that same location. It was in 1929 that construction of the new concrete bridge was started.

Children in the Borough, especially the boys, enjoyed taking a sled ride down one of the slopes. The difficulty at that time was that there was automobile traffic on the bridge. This was especially dangerous because the railroad and new 1914 U.S. Post Office were in one direction and Leedom's Mill and other industries, three fire companies (1, 2, and Consolidated), plus the Municipal Building and Mill Street Shopping area were in the other direction.

This writer observed many children having fun sledding down a slope that formerly occupied the Snyder-

Please check out our price list on the BCHF website: [www.bristolhistory.org](http://www.bristolhistory.org).

Limited sale items may be purchased at Great ID's, Mignoni's, and at the Visitor's Center in Bensalem (by the racetrack).

A "Lovely Spring Tea", the next big fundraiser sponsored by the **Ways & Means Committee**, is coming your way! We're "changing it up" this year - trying a new format and date. Having battled the snow for many years, we decided to hold our tea in the spring. So, it will be held on Sunday, **April 24th from 3 - 5 pm**. Scones are on us, however, caterer Darlene Carey will be providing a delicious variety of tea sandwiches and desserts. (You probably sampled her treats if you are a Riverside Theater goer). Owner, Jimmy Bason, of Bird of Paradise Flowers in Bristol will be demonstrating floral arrangements and share some tips with you when arranging bouquets from your home gardens. Celebrate spring with your friends and family. Catch up on Bristol goings-on, wear your spring bonnets and join us for tea.

**Helen Younglove will be accepting reservations starting at 9 a.m. on March 19th. Please call 215 788-9408.**

If you have suggestions for a sale item, a trip, program or event idea, or want more information about our committee, please contact Ways & Means Chair, Kathy Barniskis (that's me!) at 215 943-0258

Ways & Means will provide refreshments after the March program, "The Magic of Lionel: The Story of Joshua Lionel Cowen" on Sunday, March 13 at 2 pm at BCHF headquarters.

Girotti School, in the Blizzard Snow Storm of 2016.

The good part about the present time is that the slopes are not part of a roadway and there is fencing at the bottom next to the new Snyder-Girotti School.

They all looked like they were having fun and to make it even nicer, the children had a "snow-day" when the school was not in session. One other difference was that the sleds were mostly plastic type. Now the old wooden sleds with steel runners have mostly been replaced.

Most likely, some of our readers were part of this former sledding. This writer talked with Sidney Taylor (deceased in 2015) and he had mentioned about the fun he and his buddies had on the slopes of that old bridge. Hopefully children will continue to sled there in the future.

Reminder: Membership Dues envelopes have recently been mailed to all current members. Please rejoin BCHF and continue to get all the news of your home town. If you know someone who would like to join, call membership chair, Nancy Maren, at 215 945-3725 and leave a message. An envelope will be mailed to them.

## Saved Again!

The carousel, originally on Burlington Island Park (now at Casino Pier in Seaside Heights, NJ), was in danger of being dismantled and sold piece by piece in the Fall of 2015. However, the current owners agreed to relocate the carousel to a municipally-owned beach property which is a few blocks from its present site. The carousel is one of only two surviving American-made classic wooden carousels in New Jersey and one of a few classic wooden carousels left in North America. The carousel had survived Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and a fire.

The merry-go-round has entertained many vacationers since it was built in 1910 by a famous Philadelphia family-run business. It was built, carved and assembled by hand. Many hundreds of carousels were known for their unique style of craftsmanship of the hand-carved animals and excellent platform turning mechanisms. Horses were the usual animals for most carousels but other animals were also used. Most carousels had only three rows of animals (36 to 40 animals). This carousel has four rows of animals, a total of 58 animals - 35 jumpers, 18 standers, 5 menagerie (lion, tiger, mule, 2 camels) and 2 chariots.

Gustav Dentzel, founder of the factory, had immigrated to the United States in 1860 from Germany. He opened a cabinet-making shop. Eventually, he got tired of making cabinets and decided to try building small portable carousels that he could take in traveling around the country. The business went full-time in 1867. Later this business became the Phila. Toboggan Coaster Co.

While on Burlington Island, the merry-go-round provided entertainment to many visitors in the area who used ferryboats and steamer service to get to the amusement park. However in 1928, a fire destroyed most of the amusement park and partially damaged the carousel. It was fixed, disassembled and moved to Seaside Heights during the Great Depression. An area resident, Linus Gilbert, rescued and rebuilt the machine. He bought and added carved figures that were not part of the original. This resulted in a carousel with a mixture of animals from a few different carvers; some

worked for different carousel manufacturers. The works of William Dentzel, Marcus Illions, Charles Carnel and Charles Loeff are all represented in this one carousel. It was brought to Seaside Heights in 1932 and placed in an open frame building under the care of Linus Gilbert. The building later became the Casino Arcade and Pier. Eventually the Seaside Heights Casino was built to house the carousel. (This same building is still in place today). The owners of the carousel seriously considered dismantling the machine in the 1980s'. (Similar animals could be sold at more than \$100,000 at auction during that decade.) The selling off of the animals met with strong opposition from Dr. Floyd Moreland who, at that time, was Professor of Classics and Dean of the City University of New York. He had ridden the carousel as a child and operated the ride as an employee of Casino Pier. He convinced the owners that they should let him restore the carousel. The project took a number of years and involved numerous people.

Some interesting merry-go-round facts are: British merry-go-rounds turn clockwise to imitate proper riding style. In America, carousels turn counter clockwise which makes it easier for right-handed riders to try and grab a metal ring in the brass ring game. The side of the animal facing the crowd is more detailed in decoration than the inside. The outside horse is the largest and the inside horse is the smallest because of a smaller ring radius on the platform. The horses made today are mostly made of fiberglass.

The carousel which started at Burlington Island is now over 100 years old. It has survived fire, hurricane and threat of being dismantled. Hopefully this historic "treasure" will be entertaining people for many years to come. The photos were taken in the fall of 2015. The cost to ride the carousel at that time was \$2.25

