



The Gazette



Published by Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Box 215, Bristol, PA 19007

VOL 41
No. 2

Sponsoring Historic Bristol Day - Third Saturday of Each October
BCHF is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, all volunteer organization.

FEBRUARY 2023

President's Corner

Viva Lafayette

The Philadelphia Bicentennial Committee of the American Friends of Lafayette (AFL) are currently planning to commemorate the Marquis de Lafayette's triumphant visit to this area in 1824 and 1825. The commemorative events are being planned for 2024 and 2025, two hundred years after the 67 year old Lafayette accepted the invitation by President Monroe to revisit the land where he had battled alongside George Washington in the fight for American Independence.

Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de La Fayette was a member of an aristocratic French family. His military education began early, he was merely 13 when he was commissioned an officer in the Musketeers and only 19 when he sailed to the American colonies to join, what he considered, the noble fight for the colonist's freedom from British rule. In 1777, he joined George Washington's troops in a march to Brandywine in Delaware Country where Lafayette was shot in the leg while leading a bayonet charge. He was taken by boat to Bristol where he was treated by Mary Bessonette at the home of her uncle, Simon Betz, on Radcliffe Street, between Penn and Franklin Streets. The following day, Lafayette travelled to Bethlehem where he recuperated for two months before returning to the field. Lafayette suffered alongside Washington and his troops in Valley Forge, conducted reconnaissance missions, and successfully commanded troop divisions while strategizing and planning with Washington and many of his generals. In early 1779, Lafayette travelled back to France where he worked to further the colonist's cause from that side of the Atlantic, working with Ben Franklin to secure the promise of French troops sent to America. The next year, in the spring of 1780, Lafayette returned to the colonies and to the field where he commanded troops until the virtual end of the war when Cornwallis surrendered in the fall of 1781. Following Cornwallis's surrender, Lafayette returned to Europe and functioned as an advisor to the American envoys who were seeking additional naval support from France to bring an end to the British military presence in America.

More than forty years later, Lafayette returned with his son

George Washington Lafayette to a land that revered and celebrated him. They toured all the 24 states and in each one they were greeted with cheers and honors. After their tour of New England and New Jersey, they crossed the Delaware into Morrisville at the end of September 1824 where they were welcomed by the citizens, local dignitaries, and the governor of Pennsylvania. An escort of carriages and horse soldiers from Bucks county and Philadelphia escorted them down Old Route 13 to be greeted in Bristol by people from all over Bucks county under the "Welcome Friend" arch. At a reception at the Bessonette house, Lafayette was introduced to Mary Bessonnet who had treated his leg wound after the Brandywine battle so many years ago when he was a very young man. After Bristol, they toured through Croydon and Andalusia and into Philadelphia. Throughout his year long tour, people greeted Lafayette exuberantly, often shouting "Viva Lafayette". At the end of the tour, he and his son returned to France aboard the frigate, US Navy Brandywine.

This February, members of BCHF will meet with the Chairman of the Philadelphia Bicentennial Committee of the AFL to explore how we can participate in the celebration and commemoration of a man who was an important figure in Bristol's history and whose reception included a sentiment we'd like to preserve throughout time, "Welcome Friend".

Debbie Pinney, President

The sources: "LaVO: Revolutionary War hero Lafayette shared a special bond with Bucks County" by Carl LaVo, "A History of Bristol Borough in the County of Bucks, State of Pennsylvania" by Doron Green, Wikipedia, and Mr Graham Brent who is the chair of the American Friends of Lafayette (AFL) Philadelphia Bicentennial Committee.



Tea Time's Almost Here

We're happy to announce that plans are under way for BCHF's 26th Annual Tea, to be held on Sunday, April 30, from 2 to 4 p.m.

We'll be returning to our original do-it-yourself format whereby the Ways & Means Committee, under the direction of member Ceil Graff, will be preparing a variety of savory sandwiches and delectable desserts. Leeann Reider, niece of W&M member Helen Younglove, will again whip up her delicious scones and committee members will be brewing the tea. Local pianist Francis X. Danis will render selections on the keyboard during the two hour

event.

In the March Gazette, ticket price and phone reservation information will be provided.

Mark the date on your calendar now and start gathering your friends for a pleasant April afternoon in Historic Bristol Borough!



More Bristol Firsts

The following items were excerpted from Bristol Borough's Tricentennial Celebration Booklet published in 1981:

In 1701 the first mills in the county were built by Samuel Carpenter.

The first Methodist worship in the county was in 1771 when Captain Thomas Webb preached on Wood Street.

In 1780 the Bristol Masonic Lodge was organized. It is the oldest fraternal organization in Bristol and the oldest Masonic Lodge in the county.

The first post office in the county was opened in 1790 by Col. Joseph Clunn in the living room of his

home on Mill St.

Dr. John Abram DeNormandie settled in Bristol in 1706. He was the first resident physician in the county.

In 1710 the Bristol Friends were authorized to build a meeting house. It is now the oldest extant meeting house in the county.

In 1722 the first county House of Corrections was built at Beaver and Garden Streets.

In 1685 the first road in Bucks County was ordered to be laid out from Wrightstown to the Ferry House in Bristol.

2023 Dues

The Bristol Cultural & Historical Foundation (BCHF) is a non-profit organization that works to promote the history and culture of Bristol, Pennsylvania. Each year we rely on the generosity of our members to keep our mission alive. We are so thankful for each and every member.

For the year 2023, we are asking for your continued support in the form of annual dues. Prompt payment of your dues will help us continue our work and ensure that future generations can learn from and be inspired by our vibrant history.

Your annual dues of \$15.00 for an individual, \$25.00 for a family, and \$60.00 for your business will help cover

the costs associated with our mission and activities, such as educational programs and events, research, and preservation efforts. By joining the BCHF you are supporting our work and helping to preserve Bristol's cultural and historical legacy.

Thank you for your support of the BCHF. Your contribution will help us keep Bristol's history alive for future generations.

Membership signup and payment of dues can be done by mail using the form below or via the website, bristol-history.org.

2023 Membership Form

2023 Membership Dues: _____ Individual \$15.00 _____ Family \$25.00 _____ Business \$60.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make check payable to B.C.H.F. Mail to: B.C.H.F., P.O. Box 215, Bristol, PA 19007

By Land and By Sea

The Ways & Means Committee has selected the following destinations for BCHF's 2023 bus trips, and is currently awaiting confirmation on dates and costs.

Disney 100 Exhibit at the Franklin Inst, Phila - This highly anticipated exhibition includes ten galleries and more than 250 items from the Walt Disney Archives, including rarely seen original artwork, artifacts, costumes, props and other memorabilia. Arrangements will be made for bus transportation and a group lunch or dinner.

Brunch Cruise around Lower Manhattan and Free Time in Little Italy - You may recall that we had this brunch cruise booked for May 30, 2020, and had to cancel it due to the pandemic. We hope to have better luck this time! The 2-hr. cruise offers a unique way to see New York City's iconic skyline, including an up-close photo opportunity at the Statue of Liberty. An extensive menu of freshly prepared dishes, plus unlimited coffee, hot tea, iced tea, soda, juice and mimosas, is offered. A DJ furnishes onboard music. Following the cruise, we'll head to the Little Italy section of Manhattan for some free time to shop in the Italian food specialty markets and bakeries or sip a cappuccino in one of the neighborhood cafes.

The Brooklyn Lights Tour, featured on TLC's "Crazy Christmas lights." BCHF ran this trip

through the neighborhoods of Dyker Heights and Bay Ridge twelve years ago. The participants were in awe at the extensive, incredible decorations house-to-house and block-by-block, and have been requesting that we do a repeat. As done in 2011, we'll start the tour with an early multi-course dinner at Tommaso's, where a step-on guide will meet us. N.B.: The tour requires getting on and off the bus at several locations and walking through the decorated neighborhoods.

And don't forget about the two cruises we've been publicizing – **Oceania Cruises' "Holy Lands & Aegean Majesty" Cruise**, Oct. 6-17. An escort from Grand American Tours of Morton, PA, will be accompanying participants from the U.S. airport throughout this 12-day/11- night trip which visits five countries, starting in Israel and ending in Italy.

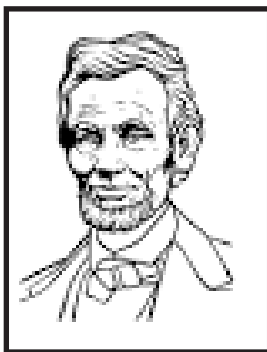
Royal Caribbean Cruise Line's "Bermuda & Perfect Day Cococay" Cruise, Oct. 26-Nov. 4. This 10-day/9 night cruise departs from Baltimore, docks for two days at King's Wharf, Bermuda, one day in Nassau and one perfect day at **Cococay**, Bahamas

For detailed flyers, contact Helen Younglove at 215-788-9408. For reservations or to check on current availability, call Grand American Tours at 1-800-423-0247 or 610-328-4181.

Future President Abraham Lincoln

February 21st, 1861 was a day that President-elect, Abraham Lincoln stopped at the station in Bristol. At that time the railroad was along Pond Street. Lincoln started his journey in Springfield, Illinois with stops in New York City, Trenton and Bristol on its way to Washington, DC for his inauguration.

Many citizens of Bristol gathered at the station including the children from Bristol's two schools. The schools were located on Otter Street (1852) and Wood Street (1837). The crowd gathered around the rear platform of the train and Frank Wooding, Sr. bounded up the steps of the car and, grasping Mr. Lincoln's hand, said "Mr. Lincoln, when you get to be President, enforce the Laws". Lincoln gave Wooding's hand a firm shake and said "that I will try to do, my friend". Wooding was followed by a man whose relatives were from Africa, and the last person was Gilbert



Tomlinson. As the train moved on to Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Baltimore on the way to D.C., Lincoln and his family slowly passed through Bristol.

In 1865, after the President was assassinated by John W. Booth in Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C., Lincoln's funeral train slowly passed through Bristol at 5:02 am on its way to Springfield, Illinois for burial.

Lincoln was our 16th President and the first to be assassinated while in office. He was the one that helped hold the country together during the U.S. Civil War and was the one who freed the slaves in America. We are grateful for Mr. Lincoln as our President.

Information for this story was taken from History of Bristol, PA 1911 by Doron Green

Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from February 1943 issues of THE BRISTOL COURIER.

2/1 – VICTORY CORPS PROGRAM WILL START OPERATING AT BRISTOL HIGH SCHOOL TOMORROW; CHANGES ARE ANNOUNCED. “In practically every instance,” stated Principal Hertzler, “the work has been modified to include or emphasize the wartime need of application of mathematics which now involves problems of navigation or projectiles or the direct application to wartime instances wherever possible.”

KILLED IN ACTION. Staff Sergeant flight engineer George Stanley Schell, who lost his life on January 5 while serving with U.S. forces in North West Africa, was the son of James A. Schell, 312 Wood Street.

2/2 – FEDERATED SPORTSMEN’S CLUBS OPPOSE ACQUISITION OF CANAL HERE BY PENNA. HIGHWAY DEPT. A resolution strongly protesting the acquisition of the old Delaware Division of the Penna. Canal between Bristol and Morrisville by the Pennsylvania Highway Department, for the purpose of making a road, was passed by the Bucks County Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs last evening when delegates from the Bucks County Sportsmen’s Association met in the Knights of the Golden Eagle building in Doylestown.

WAR FUND DRIVE OF RED CROSS WILL SOON OPEN HERE. Lester D. Thorne, Chairman.

2/3 – SCHOOL BOARD BANS ALL NIGHT ACTIVITIES AT THE HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING IF HEAT IS NECESSARY. With a cut of 25 per cent of fuel oil, it was decided by the Bristol School Board last night to stop all night activities in the high school building if heat is necessary. One of the heating boilers is to be converted to coal just as soon as the equipment can be procured.

BUSINESS PLACES FOR RENT. Mill St. Store & dwelling for rent. Possession at once. \$40 month. Charles La Polla, 1418 Farragut Ave.

“SKATING PARTY. Wednesday Night in the Bristol Methodist Church Basement at Eight o’clock. Children – 17c. Adults – 25c. You must have your own indoor skates.”

2/4 – TWO DRIVERS HAVE SOME “A” GASOLINE STAMPS CONFISCATED. Hearings were conducted here last evening in seven cases of alleged violations of the pleasure driving ban. Also, dozens of motorists were checked here last night by the Bristol police at the request of the OPA. OPA representatives visited Bristol a few nights ago and made a tour of the streets

and gave it as their opinion that many motorists were using their cars unnecessarily.

2/5 – POLICE, SOLDIERS AND FIREMEN ARE RUSHED TO BRISTOL- BURLINGTON BRIDGE ON “TIP” THAT SPAN WAS TO BE WRECKED. A “tip” that the Bristol-Burlington Bridge was to be dynamited early this morning threw the police and protective forces of this area into action shortly after 2 o’clock. All traffic was halted and drivers of motor vehicles were closely questioned.

“Join Now! Our New Curtain and Merchandise Club Now Forming. 25c per week – 26 weeks. CHARLES RICHMAN, 315 Mill Street.”

2/8 – SHOE RATIONING EFFECTIVE AT ONCE. Each person is to be allowed three pairs of shoes per year.

11 SELECTEES LEAVE BRISTOL EARLY TODAY, WILL SERVE IN NAVY, MARINES; LARGE NUMBER ENTRAIN FOR THE ARMY. 4 TH IN FAMILY LEAVES. TWO OF THE NUMBER WERE STILL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHEN CALLED TO SERVICE AND NEITHER SOUGHT DEFERMENT. Louis Genco is the fourth brother to leave from that household for service in the armed forces. William Simon Bailey was a student at Bristol High School and James Sayko was a senior at Morrisville High.

MISS RITA DUFFY WILL BE TRAINED WITH WAVES. MISS JANICE MUFFETT TO TRAIN WITH SPARS. Miss Rita Duffy, of Pine Street, will leave on Wednesday for Stillwater, Okla., where she will become one of the recruits of the U.S. Naval Training School. Miss Janice Muffett, of Otter Street, who recently enlisted in the SPARS, the Women’s Reserve of the U.S. Coast Guard, will leave on the 19 th to commence her basic training course at Hunter College in New York.

2/10 – VICTORY GARDENS ARE CONSIDERED BY TENANTS OF BRISTOL TERRACE DEVELOPMENT. The establishment of a nursery in which children of women working in war plants could be cared for was also discussed at the meeting of the tenants association of the National Housing Agency when the February meeting took place in the Community Hall of Bristol Terrace last evening.

HELP WANTED. Female. Cashier for men’s store. No experience necessary. Salary

\$20 a week to start. Apply MARTY GREEN’S Store, 237 Mill Street.

continued on next page

Out of the Past . . . continued

2/12 – NEW AIR RAID SIGNALS TO BE TESTED ON FEBRUARY 17. A daylight air raid drill will be held on February 17 th , the day the new raid signal system goes into effect. The test will not involve blacking out of any lights.

BRISTOL H.S. GIRLS INSTITUTE SPORTS PROGRAM HERE. The Bristol High School girls, under the direction of Coach Phyllis Kallenbach, have instituted a "Victory through Sports" program which will begin with the playing of intramural basketball games. There will be 19 teams of six players each to be picked from various rooms.

2/16 – WOMEN ARE INVITED TO PATRIOTIC MEETING. Fleetwings, Inc., will sponsor a patriotic meeting for the women of Bristol and surrounding towns in the Grand Theatre tomorrow afternoon, beginning at 2 o'clock. The meeting will be unique and unusual due to the fact that the musical talent will be all from the Fleetwings plant. The Fleetwings' Jive-Bombers Orchestra of 13 pieces will be featured. All women who have the welfare of their country at heart are cordially invited to this affair, which will last just an hour and a half. Admission is free.

2/24 – RED CROSS ASKS \$73,125 FOR BRISTOL'S QUOTA. Residents of Bristol Borough are asked to contribute \$73,125 for the Red Cross war fund. The campaign to raise this money in Bristol will open on March 8. Workers have been mobilized for the drive and every individual is to be solicited. Each person in

Bristol is to be asked to "back up a man in the service." It is estimated that it requires an average of \$10 to provide each man in the service with the things which the Red Cross provides.

"A&P SUPER MARKETS.....Calif. Iceberg Lettuce – Large Head – 12c. Large Fla. Oranges – 33c Doz. Jersey Shad Roe, with Roe – 23c Lb. Oleo – 23c Lb. Swift Premium Corned Beef Brisket – 35c Lb."

2/26 – HUNDREDS WITNESS PRESENTATION OF ARMY-NAVY "E" AWARD TO PLANT 1 OF FLEETWINGS; PROGRAM BROADCAST. The award recognizes excellent performance in the production of airplane parts for the United States Army and Navy air corps.

"February Furniture Sale, Friday & Saturday! 5-Pc. Oak Kitchen Set - \$19.95. 3-Pc. Solid Rockwood Bedroom Suite - \$69.50. Crib, complete with mattress - \$16.95. Sturdy High Chairs - \$8.95. DRIES' FURNITURE STORE, 329 Mill Street."

2/27 – 12,874 RATION BOOKS ISSUED HERE IN FOUR DAYS. LIKELY TO BUILD MORE HOMES HERE THIS SPRING. 50 ARE NOW IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION IN GREEN LANE PROJECT. MORE IN FOURTH WARD; SECOND & THIRD AVENUE. More houses are to be erected here during the spring and summer months, and it is expected that construction of houses here will show a decided increase just as soon as weather conditions become settled.

100 Years Ago

The average life expectancy for men was 47 years.

Fuel for cars was sold in drug stores only.

Only 14 percent of homes had a bathtub.

Only 8 percent of homes had a telephone.

18 percent of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.

The average US wage was 22 cents per hour

The average US worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.

A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2,000 per year.

A dentist earned \$2,500 per year.

A Veterinarian earned between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year.

And a mechanical engineer earned about \$5,000 per year.

Sugar costs four cents a pound.

Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen.

Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.

Most women washed their hair once a month.

And used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo

Crossword puzzles, canned beer and iced tea hadn't been invented yet.

There was neither a Mother's Day nor a Father's Day.

Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write

And only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BCHF Calendar of Events For 2023

MARCH. Sun., 3/26, 2 PM. Snow date is Sun., 4/2. Presentation by PA Humanities speaker on "The Lenape Indians in Bucks County." Light refreshment. BCHF headquarters. Donation of \$5/adult requested; students free. Payable at the door.

APRIL Fri. 4/21, Time TBA. Joint BCHF - ARTISTS OF BRISTOL Art Exhibition opening reception

APRIL Sun., 4/30, 2 to 4 PM. Annual Tea featuring Francis X. Danis at the keyboard. BCHF headquarters. Fee. Advance reservations required.

JUNE Sun., 6/4, 2 PM. Professional storyteller and independent historian Caron Simon Levin's first-person portrayal of Emily Warren Roebling, entitled "Bridge Builder in Petticoats." Light refreshment. BCHF headquarters. Donation of \$5/adult requested; students free. Payable at door.

AUGUST. Sun., 8/13, 2 to 4 PM. Annual Peach Social at BCHF headquarters. Fee. Take-outs available. Event benefits awards to Bristol High School graduates.

OCTOBER. 10/6-17. Holy Lands & Aegean Majesty (Jerusalem to Rome) cruise on Oceania Cruises'

"Oceania Nautica." **Space is going fast!** Call 215-788-9408 for a detailed flyer.

OCTOBER Saturday 10/21, 10AM to 4 PM. Annual Historic Bristol Day. Consult future Gazettes for details.

OCTOBER. 10/26 - Nov. 4. 10-day cruise aboard Royal Caribbean Cruise Line's "Vision of the Seas," sailing from Baltimore to King's Wharf, Bermuda, Nassau, and Cococay, Bahamas. Call 215-788-9408 for a detailed flyer.

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

Follow us on Instagram - -

IG@bristol_historic_foundation

BCHF Headquarters are at 321 Cedar Street, Bristol.
For current information about activities and events, check out our web site at www.bristolhistory.org.
email us at bchf2157819895@gmail.com Follow us on Instagram - - IG@bristol_historic_foundation

THE GAZETTE is a publication of the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Inc. - Nancy Maren, Editor
Post Office Box 215 • Bristol • Pennsylvania • 19007 • 215 781-9895
Articles for this issue of *THE GAZETTE* were contributed by: Debbie Pinney, Helen Younglove and Harold Mitchener
Photography by Jan Ruano