



The Gazette



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Sponsoring Historic Bristol Day - Third Saturday of Each October

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President's Corner

Welcome 2024

On behalf of BCHF, I would like to wish everyone a happy new year. 2024 promises to be a special year because it is the 200th anniversary of General Lafayette's Grand Tour. In 1824, the United States approached its 50th anniversary and President Monroe invited his old friend to make a return visit. Monroe felt that the general's visit would instill the "spirit of 1776" in the new generation. In all of the then 24 states, the 66-year-old Lafayette was greeted with wild enthusiasm, escorted by processions, celebrated, and honored. This year, communities over the entire eastern section of the country will be commemorating Lafayette's visit.

BCHF will be taking part in the observances in several ways. The theme of Historic Bristol Day this year will be Lafayette as both the young warrior

fighting alongside George Washington in the Revolutionary War and the elderly statesman and social reform advocate. Please join us at our HBD planning meetings which will be starting soon. We will be hosting some exceptional presentations including award winning author Bruce Mowday who will be discussing his book "Lafayette at Brandywine: The Making of an American Hero" on March 3 at 2 PM. In addition, we are planning a commemoration of the day, September 27, 1824, that Lafayette was greeted in Bristol by dignitaries and citizenry under the Welcome Friend arch at the corner of Radcliffe and Mill Streets.

I hope BCHF and the community take the opportunity of the bicentennial of Lafayette's Grand Tour, to join together to learn about Lafayette and our history as well as rekindle a little of our own "spirit of 1776".

Debbie Pinney, President

IN DEED IT SHALL BE

On Sunday, February 4 (snow date, Feb. 25), at 2 p.m., Daniel McPhillips, Bucks County's Recorder of Deeds, will take the stage in BCHF headquarters. His presentation is entitled "Recorder of Deeds & Bucks County History." The Recorder of Deeds office houses records from 1684 to the present. It is that office's responsibility to record and maintain for permanent record all documents related to real estate (deeds, mortgages, subdivision plans, etc.) and various other documents such as veterans' discharges, notary public commissions, etc. Mr. McPhillips will bring some preserved deed books to display. He will highlight some of the history found in those books and also speak about the office's Free Fraud Alert Program.

Light refreshment will be served. A donation of \$5 per member is suggested; students are free. Invite your family members and friends!

TWO BY LAND; ONE BY SEA

The Ways & Means Committee, through Pat Thomas Tours of Langhorne, has planned two bus trips for the first half of 2024 and has two more under consideration for the latter part of the year.,

Thursday, April 11 – Roebing Historic Village, NJ., listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The itinerary includes the Roebing Museum, a docent-led leisurely walking tour of the

Village, and lunch in the Old Town Pub on Farnsworth Ave. in the heart of historic Bordentown City.

While Roebing is just across the Delaware from Bristol, some of you may never have stopped there nor know its history. The Village of Roebing was conceived and executed by Charles G. Roebing and it stands today as a very real and living monument to his engineering genius. In 1904, ground was bro-

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Trips - *continued from page 1*

ken for a mammoth steel plant down river from the John A. Roebling's Sons Company in Trenton. This new plant included a steel mill, a blooming mill, rod mills, wire mills, cleaning houses, annealing and tempering shops and a woven wire fabrics factory. It comprised more than 70 buildings.

Having a great compassion for the welfare of the worker, Charles created a model town along the lines of an English Tudor village. It was a complete self-sustaining unit with brick houses for the workers, health care facilities, a school, shops, bank and theater. Completed in 1910, it housed a population of 4,000. Charles imported the best managers to operate the company facilities. The call was sounded for immigrants to work the mills and they came from the Austro-Hungarian Empire and from Sweden, Germany and England.

The mark left on the world by the Roebling Company is profound. The lifts in the Eiffel Tower, ski lifts in Lake Tahoe, Otis elevators and some of the world's most iconic bridges, including the Brooklyn and Golden Gate Bridges, all used Roebling cables. Roebling crafted every control cable, spark plug and electrical wire on aviator Charles Lindbergh's "Spirit of St. Louis," as well as the cable stays on the first aeroplane belonging to the Wright Brothers.

Join us on April 11 as we visit this historic site! Call Jan Ruano at 215-788-2106 for a detailed flyer/reservation form. Reservations close on March 4. All-inclusive cost of the trip is \$120 pp for BCHF members; \$125 pp for non-members.

Friday, June 21 – Morris Arboretum & Gardens and Cliveden House

First on the itinerary is a stop at the Morris Arboretum & Gardens of the University of Pennsylvania in Chestnut Hill for a 1-hr. tour, followed by an hour of free time to explore its winding

paths and streams, swan pond, formal rose gardens, fernery, garden railway and other attractions.

After a three-course luncheon at Brittingham's in Lafayette Hill, we'll proceed to Cliveden House, a National Trust Historic Site, the site of the 1777 Battle of Germantown.

All-inclusive cost of the trip is \$145 for BCHF members; \$150 pp for non-members. Call Helen Younglove at 215-788-9408 for a detailed flyer/reservation form. Due to the restaurant's non-refundable deposit policy, our reservation deadline is April 17.

July 25-August 4 – Northern Europe 11 day/10 night Cruise

Sail aboard the brand new "Norwegian Prima" with ports-of-call in Reykjavik, Isafjordur and Akureyri, Iceland; Alesund, Geiranger and Bergen, Norway; Amsterdam, the Netherlands; Brussels/Bruges (Zeebrugge), Belgium; and London (Southampton), England. Rates per person, double occu-



pancy, including round-trip airfare from Phila., cruise and port charges, government fees, taxes and transfers to/from ship, are \$6,261 for inside cabin category IB and \$6,495 for balcony cabin category BB. A passport is required.

An initial deposit of \$350 pp, double occupancy, is required to secure reservations and assign cabins. Final payment is due by February 27.

Call Helen Younglove at 215-788-9408 for a detailed flyer. For reservations, contact Grand American Tours of Morton, PA, at 1-800-423-0247.

Watch future Gazettes for information about other bus trips being planned for the latter part of

Annual Membership Meeting

The Annual Membership Meeting of BCHF was held on November 15th at our building on Cedar Street. A short business meeting was held at which the following people were reelected to another three-year term on the Board of Directors. They were as follows; Amber Kennedy, Mike Crossan, Jan Ruano, Sue Watkins, and Jesse Walker.

The speaker of the evening was Mary Ellen Kunz who spoke on the topic, "African American Presence at Pennsbury Manor". Mary Ellen previously worked at Pennsbury Manor. She has devoted herself to research on this topic in great depth. She shared with the audience individual stories of some African Americans who lived and worked at the manor.

President Pinney provided wonderful refreshments which was enjoyed by all. We thank all those responsible for the enjoyable evening.



The Delaware River in Winter *by Harold Mitchener*

The people who lived along the Delaware River near Bristol were happy to canoe on the river and use it for a source of water for drinking. When the river froze they would not be too worried because they could break through the ice to get water to drink.

When Europeans settled in the area, when there was no electric powered refrigerators, they had what they called an ice box. People obtained money by cutting ice from the river and delivering it to homes and restaurants that needed to keep food cold. When Bristol finally had a way of making ice in a plant at the corner of New Buckley and Washington Streets some people felt that the river ice was superior.

Did you know that there was a farm on Burlington Island?

On Saturday evening, February 12, 1881, (Lincoln's birthday), the ice in the Delaware River blocked the river between Burlington and Bristol. It

extended above Hollow Creek (just above St. Mark Church) on Radcliffe Street. Water flooded the road near Landreth Seed Farm and a gully was cut through the orchard on Haycocks farm on Burlington Island. Wharves were covered in Bristol and the Canal Basin. Kitchens were flooded along the Radcliffe Street homes along the river. The next Saturday the ice broke and a channel was available in the river. It is thought that the last time the river froze was in 1917 when the shipyard was in Bristol during World War I. Some of the men who lived in Burlington, NJ used ice skates to reach the shipyard since the ferry could not go from Burlington to Bristol

Sources: History of Bristol 1911 by Doron Green; Grundy Library historical collection and Images of America Bristol by Harold and Carol Mitchener (2000).

Lafayette's visit to Bristol *by Michael Crossan*

Lafayette's visit to Bristol Borough, Pennsylvania, is a historic event that took place during his tour of the United States in 1824-25, commonly known as the "Lafayette Farewell Tour." The Marquis de Lafayette was a French aristocrat and military officer who played a significant role in the American Revolutionary War by providing support to the American colonies in their fight for independence from Great Britain.

During his tour of the United States, Lafayette made several stops in various cities and towns to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the American Revolution and to revisit the places where he had fought alongside the American patriots. Bristol Borough, located on the Delaware River in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, was one of the stops on his tour.

Lafayette arrived in Bristol Borough on September 27, 1824, and was given a warm welcome by the local residents. The town organized a grand celebration in his honor which included a parade, speeches and various festivities. He was greeted with enthusiasm and the visit was an opportunity for the people of Bristol and the surrounding area to express their gratitude for his support during the

revolutionary war.

Lafayette's visit to Bristol Borough is a testament to the enduring gratitude and admiration Americans felt for the French nobleman who had played such a crucial role in their struggle for independence. The event is remembered as an important moment in the history of the town and a symbol of the strong bond between the United States and France.

Today you can find historical markers and monuments in Bristol Borough commemorating Lafayette's visit and his contributions to the American Revolution, serving as a reminder of the town's role in this important chapter of American history.



Photos of Our "River Lady" Cruise and visit to Asbury Park



Our trip escort, Pat Thomas



Boarding the "River Lady" paddlewheeler in Toms River, NJ



Lunching while sailing on the Toms River & Barnegat Bay



Asbury Park's Convention Center



On the boardwalk in Asbury Park

Out of the Past

The following items were excerpted from **January 1944** issues of THE BRISTOL COURIER.

1/3 – GROUP LEFT HERE TODAY FOR THEIR EXAMINATION. 107 Men will be inducted into the Armed Services. Members of the "36 for Victory" were on hand to present the boys with gifts. Representatives of the Bracken Post were also present.

"There Is Plenty To Do Before The War Is Through! Ammunition and materials must flow in a never-ending stream to our boys on land and sea. We have immediate openings for men and women as assembly workers, maintenance workers, stock movers in our Bath Road plant, Bristol, Pa., and at our U. S. Navy plant, Emilie, Pa. HUNTER MANUFACTURING CORP."

1/4 – BRISTOL H.S. WILL PRY OFF THE LID OF ITS BASKETBALL SEASON TONIGHT AGAINST FLORENCE, N.J., HIGH Coach Bill Bartholomew has picked the following to represent the "Bunnies" on the varsity squad: Marvin Collins, forward; Joe McDevitt, guard, Joe Elmer, forward; Henry VanLenten, center; Mickey Mandio, guard; "Reds" DeAngelo, guard; "Toby" Oriolo, guard.

"A&P Supermarkets.....Ritz Crackers – 1 lb. pkg., 21c. Campbell's Tomato Soup – 10-1/2 oz. can, 9c; Mrs. Filbert's Oleo-Margarine – 1 lb., 24c. Top Quality Legs of Lamb – 38c lb. Fresh Ground Beef – 25c lb."

1/5 – THREE SENIORS TO RECEIVE DIPLOMAS BEFORE INDUCTION. Three seniors at the Bristol High School, scheduled to graduate in June,

Out of the Past . . . *continued*

will receive their diplomas previous to entering the armed forces of their country in February. The students, all in good standing in their class, are: Vito Bono, Lawrence Dougherty and Wendell Kehler.

1/8 – ROHM & HAAS ADOPTS RETIREMENT INCOME PLAN. A monthly retirement income for life approximately equal to 40% of the employee's pay plus increased life insurance during active years, will be made possible for both hourly workers and salaried employees through a Pension Plan announced by Otto Haas, president of Rohm & Haas Company, Philadelphia chemical manufacturers.

"Tune to WTTM, Trenton, 920 on Your Dial. 2 P.M. Sunday. Hear Barnard's Music School of the Air of 447 Mill Street, Bristol."

1/11 – BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTS OFFICERS; BUDGET PROPOSED. Dr. J. Fred Wagner was re-elected president; William J. Lefferts, secretary and treasurer; Howard I. James, solicitor; John S. Roberts, Jr., borough engineer, borough surveyor and building inspector. The budget will use the same tax rate as last year, \$1.10 per \$100 of assessed valuation, and will come up for final action at the February meeting of council.

"HOUSE FOR SALE. On Radcliffe St. 6 rooms & bath. All conveniences. Newly re-modeled. Immediate possession. Price of \$5,900 is reasonable. Apply Francis J. Byers, 409 Radcliffe St."

1/12 – OFFERS \$20 PRICE TO KILLER OF MOST FOXES. Bristol Fish & Game Ass'n Eager to Thin out Fox Population.

"Green Lane Homes – Brand New Bungalows with Garage for Sale or Rent. Down Payments as Low as \$200. Can obtain coal for renters and purchasers. Bristol Defense Homes, Inc., Bristol."

1/14 – WAR BOND DRIVE TO OPEN HERE TUESDAY. H.S. Band to Perform. Local Quota \$927,350. The opening of the nation's fourth war loan drive will get underway for Lower Bucks County at a mass war bond rally, Tuesday, at 11 a.m., at the community headquarters, McCrory's store, Mill Street

"Women's Novelty Shoes on Sale! Monday, January 17-29. All Shoes \$3.00 or Less. Ration Free, according to new O.P.A. release. POPKINS'S SHOES, 129 Mill St."

1/18 – SIXTH WARD FIREMEN PLAN TO BUILD STATION. Bristol Volunteer Fire Company No. 6, located in the sixth area, at its meeting on Thursday evening, perfected its organization for

1944 with the election of officers and also made plans to erect a fire house which, if plans do not go awry, will be one of the most pretentious and up-to-date fire houses in Bucks County.

"HELP WANTED. Men for warehouse and packing room work. Women for office work. Help an important industry in the war effort. D. LANTHRETH SEED CO., Canal Street."

1/21 – "BOWLING – for enjoyment and leisure-time fun! Open bowling every Saturday and Sunday afternoon and evening. BRISTOL BOWLING CENTER, Farragut Avenue, east of Monroe Street."

"FACTORY-TO-YOU FURNITURE COMPANY, 229 Mill Street.....War Worker's Outfit. 3 Piece Living Room Suite - \$139.00"

1/24 – BACK FROM "FRONT" URGES BOND PURCHASE. Tells of Experiences. Back from participating in the African invasion, the invasion of Sicily, and the Tunisian campaign, Joseph Crudo told a thrilling story of what the American boys are doing so that freedom might continue and the American way of life be perpetuated.

FLEETWINGS AND ROHM & HAAS TEAMS TO CLASH IN BENEFIT GAME FOR INFANTILE PARALYSIS FUND. Will Meet Sunday Afternoon on the R&H Court. In the preliminary game, the girls' teams of the two industrial plants will clash for the third time.

1/25 – BRISTOL MAN WOUNDED IN ITALIAN AREA. Pvt. Nicholas Cordisco, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Cordisco, 1021 Chestnut Street, was slightly wounded in action on December 3 in an engagement in Italy. Cordisco, 24 years old, entered the service on July 15, 1942.

"Paper Helps to Make Parachute Flares. Waste Paper Shortage Is Acute! A Bundle a Week Saves a Boy's Life. U. S. Victory Waste Paper Campaign."

1/29 – REV. LEHMAN STRAUSS WILL GO TO NIGERIA. The Rev. Lehman Strauss, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Wood and Walnut Streets, will leave in May to carry out the work of an evangelist among the English-speaking natives in the cities of Nigeria, Africa. The Rev. Mr. Strauss was the first pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church, having served as such for nearly five years.

"RE-OPENING TOMORROW. Services at BRISTOL NAZARENE TABERNACLE. Trades Hall on Wood Street. John Wesley Maybury, Pastor. Preaching Sunday at 3 and 7:45 P.M. Prayer Service Thursday at 7:45 P.M."



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BCHF Calendar of Events For 2024

FEBRUARY Sunday, 2/4 2 PM (snow date 2/25) BCHF headquarters. Presentation entitled "Recorder of Deeds & Bucks County History" by Daniel J. McPhillips, Bucks County Recorder of Deeds. Mr. McPhillips will speak about the department's Free Fraud Alert Program and highlight some of the history found in their deed books. Some preserved deed books will be displayed. Light refreshment will be served. A donation of \$5 per attendee is suggested; students are free.

MARCH Sun., 3/3, 2 PM (snow date 3/10). BCHF headquarters. Presentation entitled "Lafayette: An American Hero Receives a Grand Reception" by award-winning author Bruce Mowday. Mr. Mowday will speak about his book "Lafayette at Brandywine: The Making of an American Hero" and Lafayette's return as our nation's guest in 1824-1825. Light refreshment will be served. A donation of \$5 per attendee is suggested; students are free.

APRIL Thurs., 4/11. Bus trip to Roebing Village, NJ, Historic District. Itinerary includes the Roebing Museum, a docent-led, leisurely walking tour of the Village and lunch in Bordentown's Old Town Pub. \$120 pp for BCHF members; \$125 pp for non-members. Reservation deadline: March 4. Call 215 788-2106 for flyer/reservation form.

APRIL Sun., 4/28., 2-4 PM. BCHF Headquarters. Annual Tea featuring exhibition by the Artists of Bristol. Fee. Advance reservations required. Details in future Gazette.

JUNE Fri., 6/21 Bus trip to the Morris Arboretum & Gardens, featuring their Rose Garden and Garden Railway; lunch in Brittingham's of Lafayette Hill, est. in 1743; and a visit to Cliveden House, a National Trust Historic Site and the site of the 1777 Battle of Germantown. \$145 pp for BCHF members; \$150 pp for non-members. Reservation deadline: April 17 due to restaurant's non-refundable deposit policy. Call 215 788-9408 for flyer/reservation form.

JULY 25 - AUGUST 4, 2024 - 11-day/10-night cruise to Northern Europe including Iceland, Norway, the Netherlands, Brussels/Bruges and London aboard the "Norwegian Prima." Call 215 788-9408 for detailed flyer. Initial deposit of \$350 pp required; final payment by February 27.

- 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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Post Office Box 215 • Bristol • Pennsylvania • 19007 • 215 781-9895

Articles for this issue of *THE GAZETTE* were contributed by: Debbie Pinney, Michael Crossan
Helen Younglove, Jan Ruano and Harold Mitchener Photography by Jan Ruano and Helen Younglove