



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.

MARCH 2013

## MARCH MUSIC PROGRAM

Should this edition of **The Gazette** reach you before March 10, this will serve as a reminder of the Celtic music performance by Tom and Marianne Tucker, which was listed in our "Calendar of Events" in the January and February issues. The musical program will begin at 2 p.m. in BCHF headquarters on Sunday, March 10. A donation of \$5 per person is requested. Light refreshment will be served.



## Happy Birthday To Bristol

March 4 is a special date for Bristol; it is the three-hundred thirty-second anniversary since the founding of the community. It was fifty-one years before the birth of George Washington and one hundred twenty-eight years prior to the birth of Abraham Lincoln. Happy Birthday Bristol, Pennsylvania - 1681 - 2013.

## BCHF Calendar of Events for 2013

**MARCH** - Sun., 3/10, 2 p.m. Celtic Music Performance by Tom & Marianne Tucker. Light refreshment. \$5 pp. Limited capacity; first come, first seated! BCHF headquarters.

**MAY** - 5/19 - 23 Bus trip to Charleston, SC. City tour, plantation & gardens tour, harbor cruise & visit to Fort Sumter. free time in Charleston City Market. Lodging, 4 breakfasts, 2 full-course dinners. \$470 pp double, \$450 pp triple, \$615 single. Call 215 788-9408 for flyer/reservations.

**JUNE** - Sunday, 6/2. Bus trip to "steamin' Days" at Auburn Hgts., DE. Admission to mansion, steam museum, steam train & antique auto rides, demos & lunch. \$80/BCHF adult member, \$85/non-member, \$75/child. Call 215 788-9408 for flyer/reservations.

**JUNE** - Sunday, 6/30, 1 - 6 PM. BCHF sales & info table at Annual Celtic Day sponsored by Celtic Heritage Fdn., Lions Park, Bristol. 215 788-5232 for info.

**AUGUST** - Sunday, 8/4, between 2 & 5 PM at BCHF. Annual Peach Social. Angel food cake topped with NJ peaches & ice cream, plus beverage. Takeouts available; bring container. Baked goods table. \$5/adult; \$3 under age 12. **BENEFITS BCHF AWARDS TO BRISTOL HIGH GRADUATES.**

**SEPTEMBER** - Thurs., 9/12. Bus trip to NYC incl. 9/11 Memorial, free time and lunch in "Little Italy" for annual San Gennaro Festival, visit High Line Park. \$90/BCHF member; \$95/non-member. Reservations starting 8 AM, Sat., March 16 at 215 788-4138.

**OCTOBER** - 10/5 - 13. Avalon Waterways' "Romantic Rhine" river cruise from Basel, Switzerland to Amsterdam, Holland. Call 215 788-9408 for info.

**OCTOBER** - Saturday, 10/19, 10 AM - 4 PM. 37th Annual Historic Bristol Day, spotlighting the Delaware Canal. Details to follow. Fee.

**NOVEMBER** - Wed., 11/20, 7 p.m. BCHF'S annual business meeting, incl. election of Board members, followed by program and refreshments. BCHF headquarters. Free. Call 215 781-9895 for info.

**DECEMBER** - Weekday, early Dec. bus trip to Fairmount Park Holiday House Tour. Details to follow.

- 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).

*THE GAZETTE* is a publication of the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Inc. - Harold Mitchener, Editor  
Post Office Box 215 • Bristol • Pennsylvania • 19007 • 215 781-9895 • [www.bristolhistory.org](http://www.bristolhistory.org)  
Articles for this issue of *THE GAZETTE* were contributed by: Helen Younglove and Harold Mitchener.  
Photography by Helen Younglove

## Travel Talk

Since releasing the flyer on the Sept. 12th bus trip to New York City, we've been asked why the reservation procedure for that excursion is different from our usual procedure. The following is an explanation: Because of the trip's anticipated popularity and demand, we devised a procedure that would give **everyone** an opportunity of signing up. We did inquire about a second busload, but the 9/11 Memorial Administration would not OK it. We had to wait almost six months for confirmation of our Sept. 12th visit; undoubtedly, it would take another six months for acceptance of a second date. Therefore, **reservations will be accepted by Ellanna Delaney, at 215 788-4138, beginning at 8 a.m. on Saturday, March 16, and will be limited to four reservations per person. Full payment (check payable to BCHF) must be received by Ellanna (329 Cedar St., Bristol, PA 19007) by April 16 or the reservation will be cancelled. When the 54-passenger capacity has been reached, a waiting list will be started and, if warranted, consideration will then be given to running a similar trip next year.** We appreciate your understanding of the situation.

At the time of this writing, space was available on the May 19-23 bus trip to Charleston, SC, voted "Top City in the U.S." for the second consecutive year in Conde Nast Traveler Reader's Choice Awards. Cost of the package is \$470 pp double, \$450 pp triple and \$615 single.

Likewise, seats remain on the Sunday, June 2, trip to "Steamin' Days at Auburn Heights, DE. Cost, covering admission and lunch, is \$80/BCHF adult member, \$85/adult non-member, and \$75/child through age 12.

For a detailed flyer on the latter two trips, contact Helen Younglove at 215 788-9408.

By next month, the Ways & Means Committee should have reached a decision on running a bus trip to the Fairmount Park Holiday House Tour in early December. Stay tuned!

**Bristol Riverside Theater - 2013**  
**"Pirates of Penzance" - March 19 thru April 28, 2013**  
**"Inherit the Wind" - May 21 thru June 9, 2013**  
**Phone 215 785-0100 for tickets, dates and additional information.**

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## Lincoln's Train Trip To His First Inauguration

The election for the 16th President of the U.S. took place on November 6, 1860 and Abraham Lincoln won. He waited in the telegraph office at Springfield, Illinois to receive the news which came about 2 a.m. Large amounts of mail soon started to arrive at the Springfield, Illinois post office. When he would go to retrieve his mail, he was required to have a large market basket to carry it all to his home. It was at this time that he hired John Nicolay as his private secretary to assist with correspondence. Among the letters was "hate mail" with threats of violence to the President-elect. Lincoln "seemed pained and surprised that a design to take his life existed."

March 4, 1861 was the day of the inauguration set by the Constitution. (The 20th amendment ratified in 1933 moved the date to January 20th) The largest task first was to plan his journey to the capital city. Lincoln did not want a military escort; he disliked "ostentatious display and empty pageantry". The president of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad believed that Mr. Lincoln was not grasping the seriousness of the situation. There were rumors of plots to keep Lincoln from being inaugurated. Samuel Morse Felton, who was the railroad president, was very much aware that secessionists may be planning to capture the capital city and destroy transportation into the city.

Mr. Felton, whose brother was the president of Harvard University, was also very serious minded. It was decided to get Detective Allan Pinkerton involved in the situation. Baltimore seemed to be the center of activity to kill Lincoln and the railroad company also wanted to protect their property.

A special train was planned to carry the president-elect and his party. It would go east from Illinois to New York City and then south to Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore before heading the 38 miles into the Federal District. Stops along the way in major urban areas would allow the president-elect to have contact with many people.

Pinkerton and his associates did not have much time to work. They had to quickly infiltrate the secret group in Baltimore of which they had knowledge. He set up an office in Baltimore as a businessman and let it be known that he was from the "south" and had "southern sympathies."

One of the leaders of the Baltimore group was a barber named Cypriano Ferrandini. It was said that Ferrandini had "a plan to keep Lincoln from becoming President". The train from Springfield departed at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, February 11, 1861. It traveled eastward to New York City.

On the morning of Thursday, February 21, 1861, the president-elect was departing New York City for Philadelphia. It was during this leg of the journey that Lincoln's train briefly stopped in Bristol and Lincoln spoke to the assembled crowd from the observation car's platform at the rear of the train. This audience also included the school children from Bristol.

Lincoln's train was due in Baltimore on the 23rd of February and on the night of February 21st he stayed at the Continental Hotel in Philadelphia. That hotel was Philadelphia's newest and most modern. It could accommodate 1000 guests and also had an elevator. It had opened on February 13, 1860. The location of the hotel was at 9th and Chestnut Sts. (The hotel was demolished between 1923 and 1924.)

Pinkerton thought that the president-elect would have to depart Philadelphia during the night and travel through Baltimore. Lincoln had promised to raise a flag at Independence Hall in honor of the newly admitted state of Kansas. He also was to travel to Harrisburg to appear before the legislature. He said he was free to do whatever was needed but he would first have to keep those commitments.

Governor Curtin of Pennsylvania helped to bring about the charade. Lincoln went to Harrisburg and at one point left a dinner early. The people believed that he was going to the governor's house; however, with a wool cap and not the usual tall hat, he had a travel cloak thrown around his body and he left by a side door in a carriage as the governor went on to his home.

Lincoln was to meet with a regularly scheduled train in Philadelphia and this became a difficult problem. Part of Pinkerton's group was Kate Warne. She was to give the conductor on the Baltimore train a gratuity to allow her to board the train and hold four double births of a sleeper car at the back of the train. She told the conductor that her "invalid brother" needed to go immediately to his bed. The conductor cooperated.

Lincoln's train from Harrisburg arrived in Philadelphia about an hour too early. They had to transfer to another depot but that would not require very much time. Lincoln was instructed to get in a carriage with others and one of the men sat with the driver and gave time-consuming directions to distract the driver. They were "supposedly looking for someone on the street". Finally Pinkerton had the man in the front tell the driver to go to the station that would be the location of the Baltimore train.

Pinkerton walked ahead with Lincoln stooping and leaning on his arm. This was very important due to the height of the president-elect. Kate Warne, one of Pinkerton's workers, greeted Lincoln as "her brother". No one on the train, not even the conductor, was aware that Lincoln was aboard the train.

From Philadelphia to Baltimore it was expected to take four and one-half hours. It is reported that the group remained rather silent as the train headed south to Baltimore; however, Lincoln relieved the tension by telling a joke or two in an undertone. Only curtains separated their berths from others in the car. At 3:30 a.m., the train steamed into Baltimore.

Kate Warne departed at the station; her services were no longer needed. The sleeper car was uncoupled and hitched to a team of horses. Slowly it moved through the streets of Baltimore from Calvert depot toward Camden

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## Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from **March 1953** issues of THE BRISTOL COURIER.

3/3 - - CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH TO DEDICATE NEW EXTENSION. Dedication services tonight will mark the completion of the new, large, three room extension to the Calvary Baptist Sunday School, Pastor Lehman Strauss announced today. The opening of these rooms culminates an effort begun recently to provide for a rapidly growing Sunday School when the building finished four years ago proved inadequate.

HELP WANTED. Local. Weavers. Narrow loom wilton and velvet carpet weavers needed. Thomas L. Leedom Co., Beaver St. Phone Bristol 7878.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE. Buckley St. Cor. property, contains 12 rms, 3 baths, oil heat. Good condition. Present income of \$48 can be doubled and still have living quarters for owner. Only \$10,500.

3/4 - - 51 MEN LEAVE HERE FOR INDUCTION INTO SERVICE. Group Leaves in Two Chartered Buses This Morning. Among them were: John Paolini, Lewis Crossan Richard Kornstedt, Guido Cagnetti, Robert Hartnett, John Mazzanti, William Brownlee, Gerard Lynch and Elwyn Smith, Bristol.

TEACHERS' MINIMUM SALARIES CONSIDERED. Minimum teachers' salaries of \$3,000 per year, prevalent in school districts adjacent to Bristol, were pointed out by Superintendent Warren P. Snyder at the board meeting at Bristol High School last night. Present starting salary for teachers in the borough schools is \$2,800.

3/6 - - 4500 LBS. OF CLOTHING SENT TO PIER FOR SHIPMENT. The clothing was collected by residents of Lower Bucks County in the Holland Flood Relief Clothing Drive sponsored by the Bristol and Lower Bucks Chamber of Commerce.

"BRISTOL FORD COMPANY, Beaver and Prospect Sts. (opposite Post Office) . . . Used Cars. '52 Plymouth Sedan, clean, low mileage - \$1675. '51 Ford Tudor, this week's special - \$1275. '51 Studebaker Sedan, one owner - \$1145. These cars carry a written warranty."

SOTTILE IS GIVEN HIGHEST AWARD AT WEST VIRGINIA. "Jimmy" Sottile, Bristol High's gift to basketball, was given the highest award of West Virginia University on Wednesday night when he was presented with the Roger-Hicks trophy for athletic achievement. "Jimmy" captained West Virginia this season and played outstanding ball. The award was given following Sottile's selection on the first team of the All-Southern Conference.

3/7 - - SHOPPERS CROWD MARKET TO BUY NEW ZEALAND BEEF. Bristol Farmers Market was jammed to the doors last night as local shoppers took advantage of the 39-cent steaks and 29-cent hamburgers on sale at the store. Nearly 15,000 pounds of beef, both domestic and New Zealand, passed over the counter into the waiting arms of shoppers who came in to buy the meat in five and ten pound quantities.

3/10 - - BOROUGH WATER EMPLOYEES MAY QUIT UNLESS THEY ARE PAID AS MUCH AS POLICE OFFICERS. Amid threats of a walk-out by ten Bristol Borough Water Department employees, which would close down the water works and thus force various local industrial plants into idleness, borough council last night unanimously refused to grant an additional \$5 a week to the employees and held firm to an earlier compromise of \$8.50 a week increase. Council's offer would give them \$61 a week. They are holding out for \$66 a week.

BRISTOL HIGH TO MAKE FIRST BID IN CLASS B OF P.I.A.A. Bristol High will make its first bid for the Class B P.I.A.A. championship tonight when it meets Darby High on the Lower Merion High School floor in Ardmore. Likely starters for the Warriors will be Bob Strobele, Harold Loud, Fred Kornstedt, Russ Johnson and Frank Manzo, with Bob Braker and Dick Crosby waiting to fill in on a moment's notice.

3/11 - - BRISTOL HIGH GETS WORST DUBBING OF SEASON BY DARBY. With the exception of the first few minutes, Bristol was never in the running.

OPENS TICKET AGENCY. For the convenience of their fans in Bristol and vicinity, the Phillies have announced the opening of a ticket agency at The John Fields Luncheonette, 515 Wood Street.

3/12 - - SENIORS PACKING BAGS FOR TRIP TO WASHINGTON. The big day is Tuesday, March 17, when the girls and boys of the senior class at Bristol High School will entrain to the nation's capital, returning on Thursday evening. The train trip will be as far as Baltimore, Md., and from that city a bus will take the group to Washington. Enroute they will pass Fort McHenry. Their first stop will be Annapolis, Md. They will then proceed to the Hotel Ebbitt in Washington, DC

"ACME SUPERMARKETS, 452 Pond St. . . Lenten Values! Lobster Tails, rock - 89¢/11 oz. pkg. Scallops, breaded, ready to eat - 53¢/7 oz. pkg. Flounder, fresh frozen filets - 43¢ lb. Butterfish, fancy, large Jersey - 23¢ lb. Smelts, cleaned, pan ready - 39¢ lb. pkg. Star Kist White Chunk Tuna - 34¢/6-1/2 oz. can. Extra Sharp Cheese - 79¢ lb."

3/13 - - POST OFFICE ANNEX WILL SOON OPEN STAMP WINDOW. The new Post Office annex, 1410 Farragut Avenue, should be ready to give financial service, including stamp and money order sales, by April 1. The building, which formerly housed an Acme Market, is now used for mail handling only.

TWO TAKE OATH AS BRISTOL POLICE OFFICERS. Matthew Bragg and Lester Shire were sworn in by Burgess I. J. Hetherington, Sr. This brings the total number of patrolmen in the Bristol Police Department to 15 and a chief.

3/17 - - PINDAR IS AWARDED HIS SECOND LETTER FOR BASKETBALL. John Pindar, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pindar, 248 Jackson Street, a junior at Western Michigan College, has been awarded his second letter as a member of the Western Michigan College basketball team. He is one of eight men to receive letters on the varsity squad.

"Order Now! EASTER EGG HEADQUARTERS. A Complete Line of Easter Candies. Cor. Pond and Market Sts., just one block from Mill St."

3/19 - - BOROUGH COUNCIL TO BE REQUESTED TO HAVE RECREATION BOARD JOIN WITH SCHOOL BOARD IN OPERATION OF PLAYGROUNDS IN BRISTOL. Up to the present time, the borough has been supporting Memorial Field and the school board has cooperated with an organized group in a program including the school playgrounds. Now the school board and the recreation board want "to join forces."

"Bristol's Easter Fashion Center. Our Own Exclusive All New Wool Coats - \$29.95. New Spring Toppers - \$17.95 to \$39.95 FASHION FAIR, 130 Mill St."

3/21 - - BRISTOL BORO' RESIDENTS SAID TO BE "WELL OFF." By almost every standard that might be chosen, the people of Bristol Borough can be called "well off." Figures just compiled by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, and released in an advanced report based on the latest census findings, prove just how high a standard of living exists in Bristol Borough. If, as has generally been believed, the bathtub is the mark of a community's civilization, the average person of Bristol has it all over his average counterpart in nearly all the rest of Pennsylvania.

3/24 - - BOROUGH COUNCIL NAMES MRS. FINE FOR TAX COLLECTOR. Bristol Borough Council last night unanimously elected Mrs. Marie Minster Fine, widow of the late William H.H. Fine, to serve out the balance of the term of her husband as borough tax collector. The term expires at the end of this year.

"BOGAGE & SONS, 409-411 Mill St. . . . Men's Suits for the Easter Season. Futura Worsted, Distinctively Tailored by Hart Schaffner and Marx. From \$65."

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## January 27 Program At BCHF Headquarters



Right: Historical Impersonator Kim Hanley entertained and educated attendees about the life of Quaker minister, abolitionist, suffragist and anti-war activist Lucretia Coffin Mott. Below: At the conclusion of the presentation, attendees enjoyed refreshments prepared by our Ways & Means Committee members.



## Lincoln . . . continued

Street Station which was about a mile away. Once at the station, they could hear a few people singing "Dixie". Lincoln's remark was that "no doubt there will be a great time in Dixie by and by."

After many anxious moments, Pinkerton heard workers arrive to couple the sleeper to the arriving Baltimore & Ohio train. This would be the final leg of the long journey. At 6 a.m., the train carrying the president-elect to Washington, DC steamed into the Baltimore & Ohio depot in Washington. Pinkerton's mission had been

accomplished. Back in Baltimore when word arrived that Lincoln was in the Federal City, the question became, "how did the details of the plot to kill the president-elect become known?"

It is interesting to note that Kate Warne died at the age of 35 and was buried in the Pinkerton family plot. During the Civil War, Allan Pinkerton served as chief of the Union Intelligence Service in 1861 and 1862. He presided over the Pinkerton National Detective Agency until his death at age 63 in 1884.

## OUT OF THE PAST . . . Continued

3/26 - - BRISTOL INTERCHANGE PROPOSED FOR PROJECTED TURNPIKES. A preview was granted this newspaper today of the proposed two Lower Bucks County interchanges of the Pennsylvania Turnpike extension now being built to connect the Pennsylvania Turnpike with the New Jersey Turnpike.

BRISTOL BOYS LEAGUE WILL CHANGE NAME TO BRISTOL LITTLE LEAGUE. The change in the name of the league is the result of the league having been granted a franchise to play under the banner of and in association with Little League Baseball, Inc. As pointed out by Warren M. Armstrong, 261 Taft St., president of the local league, "our being admitted to Little League Baseball gives the boys of this area their rightful place in an organization that is national in its scope."

"W.T. GRANT CO., 216 Mill St. . . . Jr. Boys Leisure Suit - \$5.98. French Cuff Dress Shirt - \$2.29. Little Girls Check Suite - \$6.98. Imported Straw Hat - \$1.69."

3/31 - - ECONOMIC LEAGUE RECOMMENDS NEW ELEMENTARY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR BRISTOL BOROUGH. The Lower Bucks County Branch of the Pennsylvania Economy League, in its report on the survey of Bristol Borough public schools presented to the school board last night in special ses-

sion, recommended that the school board enter upon a program of replacement of all the borough's elementary schools except the Jefferson Avenue school. The report pointed out that all elementary buildings except the Jefferson Avenue school were built in the last century and that, while these schools meet the architectural and educational standards of that time, they do not measure up to current standards and their cost of maintenance and operation becomes increasingly expensive each year.

PREMIER SHOWING OCCURS FOR CADET "MIDGETS". On Saturday evening at the Henry H. Houston Post, American Legion Hall in Phila., before a crowd of 600, Robert W. Bracken Post Junior Drum and Bugle Corps introduced a new idea to the drum corps world with a premier showing of its midget color guard and drill squad. This consists of little girls between the ages of six to ten. This group is said to be the only one of its type in the country.

"It's Your New Hat That Makes You Feel Like Spring! It's the Bonnet, the Cloche, the pillbox, the Sailor or the Beret. It's the Pretty '53 Versions of One of These That Will Put Spring in Your Heart. See Them Here Today! \$2.95 up. KAY ANN'S HAT STORE, 431 Radcliffe Street."

## An Oscar-Winning Tea - Sunday, Feb. 10 at BCHF



Sandwiches, with a variety of fillings, were prepared



Each of the 15 tables was named after an Oscar-winning movie. Red tablecovers simulated the Academy Awards Night's traditional "red carpet" and a glitzy favor at each place setting took the place of the Hollywood gift bag.

Below: Door prizes were awarded



Left: Tea Chairlady Carol Mitchener (left) presented Sue Watkins with a wrist corsage for being the only attendee attired as a starlet. Sue dressed as Audrey Hepburn in "Breakfast at Tiffany's," complete with cigarette holder



Above Master of Ceremonies Harold Mitchener amused the ladies with Hollywood trivia.

Sincere thanks are extended to Harold & Carol Mitchener for their continued dedication to this annual fund-raising event, now in its 18th year! Carol has been using her creative talents to carry out each Tea's theme through decorations, favors and pertinent facts and figures - to the extreme delight of the attendees.