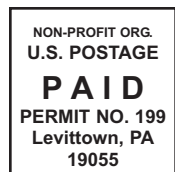




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The Gazette



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VOL 31

Sponsoring Historic Bristol Day - Third Saturday of Each October

No. 4

BCHF is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, all volunteer organization.

APRIL 2012

Three Trips

PLEASE CAREFULLY READ THE INCLUDED INFORMATION ABOUT A CHANGE IN POSTAL REGULATIONS FOR OUR MAILINGS CONCERNING OUR TRIP INFORMATION.

In the process of having the March **GAZETTE** processed at the Levittown Post Office for bulk mailing, we were informed that that edition was not eligible for the “Nonprofit Standard Mail” rate because the trip information contained therein was determined to be advertising. As a result, BCHF incurred a higher postal fee. We are hopeful that the following information will meet the Postal Service’s guidelines and still arouse our readers’ interest.

Mackinac Island & Frankenmuth, Michigan, June 17 - 22.

Trains & Canyons of the Southwest, including the Albuquerque balloon fiesta, Sept. 29 - Oct. 8.

Southern Caribbean Cruise from NYC, February 3 - 15, 2013.

Space is still available on all of these trips. For details, contact Helen Younglove at 215 788-9408.

BCHF Calendar of Events for 2012

APRIL - Tues, 4/17. “Best of the Bronx” bus trip, incl. a riding tour, lunch & free time on Arthur Ave., “The Real Little Italy.” \$86 for BCHF members; \$89 for non-members. **SOLD OUT**; call 215 788-4138 for wait list.

JUNE - 6/17 TO 22. Bus trip to Mackinac Island & Frankenmuth, MI. \$570 pp double; \$550 pp triple. Cancellation insurance available. \$200 pp deposit by 3/15; balance due 4/27. Call 215 788-9408 for flyer.

JUNE - 6/24, 1 to 8 PM. BCHF sales & info table at Annual Celtic Day in Lions Park. Sponsored by Celtic Heritage Foundation 215 788-5232

AUGUST - Sun., 8/5 between 3 & 6 PM. Annual Peach Festival. Angel food cake topped with fresh peaches & ice cream, plus beverage. takeouts available; bring container. Baked goods table. \$5 adult, \$3 under age 12. Benefits BCHF awards to Bristol High School Graduates.

SEPTEMBER - 9/9, Noon to 8 PM. BCHF sales & info table at Annual Italian Festival in Lions Park. Sponsored by

Bristol Lions Club, 215 785-2677.

SEPTEMBER - 9/29 TO 10/8. “Trains & Canyons of the Southwest” including the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta. Call 215 788-9408 for detailed flyer.

OCTOBER - Sat., 10/20, 10 AM - 4 PM. 36th Annual Historic Bristol Day. Theme: Harriman and the Shipyard. Details to be announced at a later date.

NOVEMBER - Wed., 11/28, 7:00 PM. BCHF’s annual business meeting incl. election of Board members, followed by program & refreshments. BCHF headquarters. Free.

FEBRUARY 2013 - 2/3 through 2/15. 13 day/12 night Southern Caribbean Cruise from NYC. For cruise flyer call 215 788-9408.

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

Bristol Riverside Theater - 2012

“Rent” - - May 8 - June 3, 2012

Phone 215 785-0100 for tickets, dates and additional information.

25th Anniversary - Congratulations, Bristol Riverside Theatre

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Additional research by Carol Mitchener. Photography by Helen Younglove and Jan Ruano

Canal Walk In Bristol

Susan Taylor of the Friends of the Delaware Canal conducted a tour of the Delaware Canal starting at the Lagoon on Jefferson Ave. and following the path of the canal to the Mill St. Parking Lot (which was the Canal Basin from 1827 until 1950 when it was filled in with soil.) The daffodils along the perimeter of the former basin and the same blooms in the park area along the river added to the beauty of the walk. The many flowering trees in Bristol enhanced the town’s beauty. Ms. Taylor reported that the group of thirty had lunch in the King George II Inn before taking a stroll up Radcliffe St. to Jefferson Ave. to learn about the various buildings and houses on the route. BCHF member, Harold Mitchener provided Ms. Taylor with the text to explain the history of the Radcliffe St. walk. From Radcliffe St. the group returned via Jefferson Ave. to the Lagoon where they completed the day’s activity. The group was very impressed with Bristol.



Pictured here is the Ways & Means’ salables closet at BCHF headquarters. A big assortment of Bristol memorabilia, in a wide price range, fills all the items may be seen and/or purchased at our table, situated under the Wharf, Sunday, June 24, between 1 and 6 p.m. Stop by and take a look!

REMINDER

June is only two months away. In the June issue of *THE GAZETTE* will appear all of the names of those who have paid their membership dues. Be sure that your name is on the list. Dues are \$12.00 for an Individual, \$24.00 for a Family and \$50.00 for a Business. Mail your check made out to B.C.H.F., P.O. Box 215, Bristol, PA. Thank you for your support.

A Visit By Alice Was A Success on March 25th

Our organization’s program in March where Kim Hanley presented a portrayal of Alice Roosevelt Longworth was a great success and our attendance at the afternoon program was excellent. This is a great way to learn about important historical personalities. Below are photographs of Ms. Hanley (a.k.a. Alice Roosevelt Longworth).



Above: Helen Younglove (right) greets Alice Roosevelt Longworth (left) upon her affival at BCHF headquarters.

Left: Ms. Kim Hanley as Alice Roosevelt Longworth



Above: Refreshments were enjoyed after the presentation.
Right: Charlotte Wilkins (right) chats with Alice after the pro-gram.

From Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from **April 1952** issues of the BRISTOL COURIER.

4/1 - - BOROUGH EMPLOYEES TAKE LOYALTY OATH. To Approximately 60. Oaths of loyalty were admin-istered yesterday afternoon to employees of Bristol Borough. The oath was taken before Justice of Peace Edward Lynn in the assembly room of the municipal building.

ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE SONS OF ITALY DIES. Joseph Pica died this morning at his residence, 319 Grand Avenue. He was 66. Mr. Pica was a founding member of the local lodge, Order Sons of Italy.

4/2 - - LEVITT HOUSES ARE NOW GOING UP. To Build 250 a Week. Work got underway Monday and already sever-al houses have been framed. They are located along the “Levittown Parkway.” The section where the houses are now being built is known as the “Stonybrook” section.

SCHOOL TAXES INCREASED THREE MILLS; FIRST INCREASE SINCE 1950 DESPITE HIGHER COSTS. The budget calls for 27 mills tax rate; \$6 head tax and \$5 per capita tax, same as last year.

“BRISTOL MART, 1410 Farragut Ave . . . Grand Opening, April 3! Famous Name Refrigerator - \$169.95. Pepperell Fitted Sheets, Full Size - \$2.89. Ladies’ Beautiful Spring Coats - from \$11. Men’s Sports Jackets - \$7.98. Diaper Bags, with 2 Pockets - \$1.09. All 17-Jewel Watches - \$15.95.”

4/3 - - KAISER FIRM GIVES LOWER BUCKS HOSPI-TAL \$60,000 UPON CONDITIONS. Gift to Be \$30,000 Next Year and \$30,000 in 1954. Must Have Staff.

4/7 - - MANY PAY TRIBUTE TO LATE PHYSICIAN. Two Ritualistic Services Are Conducted by Lodges at Casket of Dr. Webb. Large numbers of residents of this community and other parts of Bucks County, Friday evening, paid trib-ute of respect to one of the area’s best-known and highly-respected physicians. The folks trekked to the Bristol Presbyterian Church to the viewing of the late Dr. H. Doyle Webb. During Dr. Webb’s medical practice here over a peri-od of 33 years, he went into hundreds of homes and contact-ed thousands of residents.

“HARRIMAN FOOD CENTRE . . . Easter Ham, Whole or Shank End, Large 55¢Lb. Fresh African Lobster Tails - \$1.29 Lb. Crisco or Spry, 3 Lb. Can - 83¢. Granulated sugar, 10 Lb. Bag - 89¢. Del-Monte Coffee, Regular or Drip, 1 Lb. Tin - 89¢. Fresh, Tender Corn, Full and Large Ears - 4 Ears 29¢. Fresh Green Peppers - 29¢Lb.”

4/9 - - RIVER-TOWNS IN TURMOIL AS POISONOUS PRODUCT OVERFLOWS. Poisonous Liquid from Rohm & Haas Co. Plant Contaminates Delaware, Source of Water Supply for All Towns between Trenton and Philadelphia. Police, Firemen, Residents in General Are Immediately Alerted and Informed Not to Drink Water until “All-Clear” Sounded, after 2 A.M. Sound Trucks Then Dispatched by Burgess.

“Hudson Hornet Tops Them All for Power, Stamina and Safety! New Performance Star, the Spectacular **Hudson Wasp**, Lower Price Running Mate of the **Hudson Hornet**. GEORGE T. FLEMING & SONS, U.S. Route 13 & 4th Ave.”

“BOGAGE & SONS, 409-11 Mill Street . . . Special for Easter! Men’s Suits - \$39.95. Ladies’ Suits - \$24.95. Boys’ Suits - \$16.95. Girls’ Suits - \$6.95. Open an account now. Pay as little as \$1.25 per week.”

4/11 - - EASTER DAWN TO BE MARKED BY SERVICE. Bristol is to have a community sun-rise service on Easter Sunday. It will be held at the Rohm & Haas Co. clubhouse grounds, sponsored by the Bristol Methodist Church, begin-ning at 6 o’clock.

“KAY’S BAKERY, 609 Bath Street . . . Cocoanut Custard Pies - 42¢. Beautifully Decorated Easter Cakes - \$1.35. Fancy Bunny and Chick Cup Cakes - 3 for 25¢. Open Sundays.”

4/17 - - “BUILDING SOLD. MUST VACATE! Every Article in Our Store and Warehouse Must Be Sold Regardless of Cost. Nothing Held Back. Nationally Known Make Washers - \$89. Three Piece Solid Rock Maple Bedroom Suite - \$89. Hollywood Beds - \$59. Breakfast Sets, Chrome and Formica Tops - \$69. Gossip Benches - \$12.95. FACTORY TO YOU FURNITURE CO., 220 Mill Street.”

4/19 - - “We have steady work (no defense work). \$74.10 (weekly) to start, plus bonus for night shift. Experienced mechanics for automatic machines. Increase to \$79.30 after three months. Paid holidays and vacations. ATLANTIC TEA PACKING CO., Canal Street and Jefferson Avenue.”

PAONE CAPTURES THE INDIVIDUAL SCORING HONORS. “Johnny” Paone, of the Lucisano Brothers team, captured the individual scoring honors of the recently com-pleted Bristol Basketball League. The former Pennsbury High star scored 89 field goals and 32 fouls for 210 points in 14 games. Second place honors went to Henry “Ham” Konefal, of Profy’s, who cut the cord for 86 double-deckers and 19 fouls for 191 points. Another member of the Profy team, Alan Burton, was in third place with 179 points.

4/24 - - SESSION HERE PROBABLY LAST CONCERT-ED EFFORT TO REVIVE LAGGING ENTHUSIASM ON JOINTURE, DELHAAS JOINT BOARD AND BRISTOL BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD. Roy Cleaver, of State Dept. of Instruction, Discusses Consolidation. 100 Attend Meeting. A proposal to Bristol Township districts to plan a joint high school with Bristol Borough was rejected by the Bristol Township district several weeks ago.

“Real Estate for Sale. 6th ward. Duplex apt. situated on Wilson Ave. All improvements. \$8,000. Apply Chas. LaPolla, 1418 Farragut Ave.”

4/25 - - “ROCKDALE MASONRY HOMES. Opening Fifth Unit. 5 Bedrooms and 2 Baths (potential). \$11,250. Large Lots. Full Basement, Oil Heat. Rogers Road, One-Third Mile West of Bristol Pike, Bristol.”

4/30 - - “1952 **Studebaker Commander** V-8. 4-Door Sedan. \$2,188.32 with standard equipment. TORANO’S GARAGE, 132 Otter Street.”

“IDA’S BEAUTY SALON, 119 Pond St., between Market and Mill Streets . . . The Poodle-Do! Poodle cut & cold wave, special - \$10 up. Poodle cut and machine permanent - \$8.50 up.”

One-Hundred Years Have Passed

It was in April of 1912, just one-hundred years ago, that the world was shocked to learn that on its maiden voyage from Southampton, England to New York City, the White Star Line’s ship, Titanic plunged 12,415 feet below the surface of the ocean after striking a massive iceberg. At that time, this ship was the largest ever built and it was a ship of luxury for passengers. The ship had been constructed in Belfast, Ireland and after departing England, it made stops at Cherbourg, France and Queensland, Ireland before heading out across the Atlantic. Three-hundred seventy-five miles south of Newfoundland, on April 15th the collision occurred.

As a result of this tragedy, over 1,595 men, women and children lost their lives. The company believed that they had constructed the ship with ample watertight compartments. They had not anticipated the ship scraping along an iceberg and having too much of its hull ripped open.

With all of the investigation of the tragedy, it was determined that all ships in the future would carry enough lifeboat space for every one aboard including the crew and officers.

From the total passenger list, only 745 people emerged alive to be rescued four hours later by the ship Carpathia. Some of the wealthiest people in the United States lost their lives. These included John Jacob Astor, Benjamin Guggenheim and an aid to President William Howard Taft, Major Archibald Butt. In the Philadelphia area G.D. Widener, Harry Widener and W.A. Roebling II were among those who perished. It should also be remembered that many of those aboard, especially in steerage, were emigrants coming to begin a “new life” in the “New World”.

The ship Titanic was discovered in 1985 resting on the ocean floor, split in two main sections with much debris surrounding the sunken vessel. There have been many dives to the ship’s site and the ship has been photographed in its present rusting condition. Many items have been retrieved from the ocean floor. Recently the last known passenger (who was then a very small child) died in England. National Geographic Magazine, April 2012 along with a host of additional publications to be released this year will attempt to relay the story. Two major Hollywood films have been made to tell the story of this tragedy.

Bristol and the Titanic Story

At the time of the sinking, two Bristol newspapers served the town, along with the Philadelphia papers. The “Bucks County Gazette”, a weekly publication and the newly-organized daily “Bristol Courier” (1910) carried the story from the day after the sinking into the month of May.

An appeal on both sides of the Atlantic went out to provide proper monuments and memorials for those who lost their lives. In Bristol, Mrs. Emlen Martin of Radcliffe St., who was President of the newly-formed Bristol Travel Club, was asked to represent the women of Bristol and vicinity to collect one-dollar each for the building of a memorial arch in Washington, D.C. that would serve as a tribute to the gallant men who gave up their lives on the Titanic so that women could be rescued. It was to be called the “Women’s Titanic Memorial”. Mrs. John Hay was the chairperson. The wife of President William Howard Taft donated the first dollar.

Mrs. Martin, the readers were told, would gladly receive the contributions and promptly forward them to the treasurer of the organization and the President of the Union Trust company of Washington, D.C. This appeal appeared in the “Bucks County Gazette”, May 3, 1912.



Above: The former Riverside Theatre coming attraction for April 29, 1912

... Continued “Questions about Harriman”

In the last issue of THE GAZETTE, there were questions (and answers provided) about the Harriman section of Bristol. If the readers will recall, the Harriman Section of Bristol is the theme of this year’s Historic Bristol Day, October 20, 2012.

11. Medical services were provided at what facility located on Wilson Avenue at Pond Street. What was its name?

12. Which Bristol physician purchased the former 34 bed hospital following the ending of its need by the shipyard?

13. How many ships could be constructed at the same time at the shipyard?

14. There is one large brick building that remains along the river on the former shipyard property. It once served as a soap factory. What corporation headquarters

presently occupies that location?

15. On what street was the public school located for Harriman students?

16. In what year did Bristol High School move to the former Harriman School?

17. In May of what year did Bristol Borough annex Harriman?

18. At the time Harriman was annexed by Bristol Borough, what ward number was assigned to that section?

19. Name the private yacht club located in the Harriman section along the Delaware River.

20. What seed farm, which moved from Philadelphia to Bristol in 1847, occupied part of the original land that became Harriman?

Answers on Bottom of Page 4

Mary Cassatt

One of the portions of our Mission Statement includes ART. In March, a trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art was offered by our organization to view the Van Gogh Art exhibit. Members and friends of our organization participated and were very pleased with the exhibit.

One of the world-recognized artists from Philadelphia was Mary Cassatt (1844-1926). Author David McCullough, in his most recent book, The Greater Journey - Americans in Paris, (2011) wrote about the life of Miss Cassatt and her artistic journey in life.

Mary was born in the western Pennsylvania town of Allegheny City across the river from Pittsburgh. Her father, Robert Simpson Cassatt was a banker; her mother, Katherine Kelso Johnston gave birth to five children, Lydia, Alexander, Robert, Mary and Joseph. Robert’s original last name was Cossart, a French name; her mother’s background was Scotch-Irish.

By the time her father was in his forties, he had made enough money for the family to retire and live comfortably and move from that area. They moved to Lancaster County where Mary was given the opportunity to have many books to read and have a quiet country life. Her parents decided that they wanted to be in an urban area and decided to move eastward to Philadelphia.

It was very much in vogue for those who could afford it to travel in Europe and the Cassatt family boarded a ship and were off to France. They spent two years in Paris and two in Germany. It was while Mary was in Paris, even though young, that she decided that she loved to paint. Naturally while in Paris, everyone visited the Louvre Museum and enjoyed the many masterpieces. The family would not be considered wealthy but were respectably comfortable. Although Mary was only seven at the time, she recalled the coup d’etat of Louis Napoleon and the problems in the city.

The family returned to the United States and first moved to West Chester, PA. From there they moved into the city of Philadelphia. In 1866, when Mary was 21 years old, she traveled to Paris with another Philadelphia family to study art. She studied with Charles Chaplin, one of the few French masters who held classes especially for women. Mary also went to the Louvre where she made copies of masterworks and painted in the nearby countryside. One of Mary’s works was “A Mandolin Player”; it was accepted for exhibit at the Salon

(which was the top art exhibit group in Paris). Mary used the name Mary Stevenson at that time to keep her identity secret. Mary did not want to become known as a woman who painted but as a “professional artist”.

With the outbreak of the Prussian War between Germany and France in 1870, Mary returned to Philadelphia. Once home, she thought that her works may be better accepted in Chicago and traveled by train to Chicago with two female cousins. She found a jewelry store that would exhibit two of her works; unfortunately in 1871 the Chicago fire destroyed much of the city and her paintings at the store were destroyed too.

Mary returned to Philadelphia and remained only a few months; then she was off again to Paris. With Paris still very much in turmoil from the war, she went on to Italy, Spain and then Belgium where she continued to work on painting and discovered the artists of those various locations. By 1874, she was back in Paris. It should also be mentioned that when she was just age 16, she had enrolled at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia.

In 1875 Mary discovered the Impressionists - Monet, Renoir, Manet, Pissarro, and Degas. She was very impressed and her first major work in the Impressionist manner was a portrait of her mother. She also used her sister, Lydia, for many of her famous works. Unfortunately, when her sister died, Mary went into a depression and did not paint as much for an extended period of time.

Eventually Mary was able to buy Beaufresne, a small chateau north of Paris. Unfortunately her eyesight started to fail from cataracts. She had stayed in France all during World War One and continued to paint.

At age 81, on June 14, 1926, Mary died at her chateau. She had the devoted companionship of her maid, Mathilde Valet, and in her older age, the two things that she enjoyed most was her daily drive in her 1906 Renault Landau and walks in her garden which had over 200 varieties of chrysanthemums. Mary Cassatt was buried in France but she is known as one of America’s great female artists.

Some of the major works that Mary left for the world “are: “TEA”, “THE BOAT PARTY”, “THE CHILD’S BATH”, “CHILDREN ON THE BEACH”, “THE PINK SASH”, “SUMMERTIME” and many others. She also made many excellent portraits.

Memorials Sent to BCHF

In February, a note was sent to BCHF that included a check in the memory of Carmela Westhoff. The check was from Mr. and Mrs. Stephen L. Kehs of Moorestown, NJ. Mr. and Mrs. Kehs wanted to have a memorial contribution donated to our organization in memory of their mother, Carmela Westhoff, who lived in Bristol and was very supportive of the purpose of our foundation. We thank Mr. and Mrs. Kehs and have recorded their generous memorial contribution to the memory of Carmela Westhoff.

The Board of Directors of BCHF encourages memorial contributions to help with furthering our mission to promote the history and culture of Bristol.