

BCHF Calendar of Events for 2010

FEBRUARY - Sun., Feb. 14 - 3 PM. 14th Annual Tea. "Hearts & Flowers" theme. \$18/ticket Reservations at 215 788-9408 beginning 9 am Sat., Jan. 9. BCHF Headquarters, 321 Cedar Street

MARCH - Sun., March 21, 2 PM. The D. Landreth Seed Company & The Story of America's Great Seedhouses." light refreshment. Donation of \$2/adult requested; no charge for students. BCHF Headquarters

MAY - Fri. & Sat., May 14 & 15. Bus trip to Washington DC. Library of Congress, Holocaust Museum or American History Museum, World War II Memorial, Evening parade & concert at The Marine Barracks. Fri dinner and Sat. breakfast. Call 215 788-9408 for rates & reservations. **RESERVATION DEADLINE: MARCH 24**

JUNE - Sun., June 27, 1 to 6 PM. BCHF sales and info table at Annual Celtic Day in Lions Park, Bristol Borough

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

SEPTEMBER - Sun., Sept. 12, Noon - 6 PM. BCHF sales & info table at Annual Italian Festival in Lions Park

SEPTEMBER - Wed., Sept. 29. Bus trip to Spring Lake, NJ. Free time + "Golden Oldies Revue" and full lunch (incl. 1-hr open bar) at Doolan's. \$72 BCHF members; \$75 non-members. Call 215 788-4138 for reservations. **RESERVATION DEADLINE AUGUST 11.**

OCTOBER - Sat., Oct. 16, 10 AM - 5 PM. 34th Annual Historic Bristol Day. House tour & tea, crafts, walking tours, exhibits, entertainment, food & more. Fee for house tour & tea. Discount on advance ticket purchase!

NOVEMBER - Nov. 8 - 12. San Antonio Getaway with Collette Vacations. Call 215 788-9408 for detailed flyer. **RESERVATION DEADLINE JUNE 8.**

NOVEMBER - Wed., Nov. 17, 7:30 PM. BCHF annual business meeting and election of Board members. Program & refreshments. Free. at BCHF headquarters, 321 Cedar Street.

- 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 2009 - 2010 Season

"The Foreigner" - - January 26 - February 14, 2010

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

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The Gazette



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Sponsoring Historic Bristol Day - Third Saturday of Each October

FEBRUARY 2010

B.C.H.F. Sponsored Tea For 15th Year

One of the fundraisers our organization has had in place for 15 years has been the Annual Tea in February. The Tea, as published on our calendar starting in November 2009, is scheduled for February 14th. Each year this event has attracted people who are interested in supporting the organization and also enjoying a time that reflects some of the social graces that once were all important to a community. This year's theme, selected by Chairperson Carol Mitchener, is "Hearts and Flowers". Red, White, and Pink were the colors selected to carry out the theme idea along with decorations of flowers and hearts. A very active committee was set to provide an afternoon of fun and pleasant conversation during which the tasting of various sandwiches, scones and sweets are enjoyed. Also provided is hot tea poured from silver pots. As this article is being printed, it is hoped that everyone attending will have a rewarding experience and we thank them for their support.

Landreth CEO Will Present March Program

Landreth Seed Company, once one of the most important industries in Bristol, is now located at New Freedom, Pennsylvania. Barbara Melera is the CEO of the company. She will be present at B.C.H.F. on Sunday, March 21 to provide a program about her business.

Landreth Seed Company was founded in 1784 at 12th and Market Sts., in Philadelphia and moved to Bristol in 1847. It remained here and the family was a very important part of the business and social life of the community. Many of the family were interred in St. James Episcopal Church Cemetery at Walnut and Cedar Sts. and their grave stones can be seen there.

Charlotte Landreth Melville of Bristol is the last surviving member of the family still living in Bristol. Most of our membership knows Charlotte for her "world travel" experiences and she has presented a variety of programs to us in the past about her travels.

Her father and mother once lived in a home on Radcliffe Street where St. Mark School is presently located and other members of the Landreth family occupied homes in several locations in Bristol.

The seed farm, which also contained several mansions in which family members lived, is presently occupied by the section of Bristol Township along Green Lane and Radcliffe St. known as Landreth Manor. The mansion homes have been removed but a number of the "old trees" on the farm remain in the neighborhood.

Some of Bristol's older citizens will recall the baseball field, called Landreth Field, located where the present Pennco Tech School stands on Otter Street. Charlotte's father was an avid baseball fan and promoter. Old photographs show David Landreth sitting with the baseball teams he sponsored.

Abigail Visited B.C.H.F.

On January 31, 2010, the nation's second, First Lady was portrayed by Kim Hanley at our program meeting on that date. Comments about her program should follow in the March issue. We hope that those in attendance appreciated the program.

Correction: Please note that the name of Abigail was correctly spelled throughout the past two articles (November and January issues) but that there was a spelling error in her name on the headline in the January issue.

HAVE YOU SENT YOUR 2010 MEMBERSHIP DUES?

The membership dues for our organization is due for the calendar year 2010. Please remit this payment and help B.C.H.F. continue to provide the programs, graduation awards and other functions for the community of Bristol. Dues also help pay for the printing and mailing of *THE GAZETTE*. Thank you in advance.

Away We Go!

1. The reservation deadline for our Washington, DC, trip is fast approaching! This overnight bus excursion, May 14 & 15, includes accommodations at the Hilton Hotel in McLean, VA, with a full breakfast there, and dinner at Tony & Joe's on the waterfront in Georgetown. Also included are visits to Union Station (lunch on your own), the Library of Congress, World War II Memorial, your choice of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum or the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, and a special feature (weather permitting) - the Evening Parade at the Marine Barracks on Friday evening. This is a 75-minute performance of music and precision marching by "The President's Own U.S. Marine Band, "The Commandant's Own" U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps, Color Guard, Silent Drill Platoon and ceremonial marchers. In the event of rain, an illuminated driving tour of DC will be substituted.

For a detailed flyer and reservation form, contact Helen Younglove at 215 788-9408. Reservation deadline is **March 24**.

2. June 8 is the reservation deadline for our November 8-12 San Antonio, TX, getaway. This trip features round-trip air from Philadelphia, transfers,

accommodations at the Drury Plaza Hotel on the renowned River Walk, 4 breakfasts and 3 dinners, lots of sightseeing including the Alamo and the LBJ Ranch, and special attractions. For a comprehensive flyer and reservation form, call Helen Younglove at 215 788-9408.

3. We expect the Wednesday, Sept. 29, bus trip to Spring Lake, NJ, to be a popular one and fill up well in advance of the reservation deadline of August 11. The day's itinerary includes some free time upon arrival in this picturesque seaside town, allowing you to stroll along the "longest non-commercial boardwalk in New Jersey" or browse in its fine shops and boutiques, before heading to Doolan's Shore Club. Doolan's will be offering a 1-hr. open bar, a full-course luncheon with your entree choice of sirloin of beef, turkey with stuffing, or seafood crepe, followed by Mike Byrne All Star Productions' "Golden Oldies Revue." From there, you'll get a glimpse of Spring Lake's turn-of-the-century architecture and the large lake from which the town got its name, as our driver provides a riding tour of this unique resort community. For a flyer and reservation form, contact Ellanna Delaney at 215 788-4138.

Abigail Adams . . . continued . . . final part

In 1789, John Adams became the first U.S. Vice-President. John rented a house on the outskirts of New York City (at that time in the area known as Greenwich Village). Abigail was not present for the inauguration which did not take place until April, but in May she and Charles arrived in New York City. The Adamses had to employ a staff to help with their domestic duties; they were expected to give and attend formal dinners often and usually were to have 24 in the group of guests. According to letters of Abigail, they had a housekeeper, footman, cook, steward, and housemaid. Abigail particularly treasured the friendship with Martha Washington who was twelve years her senior.

The capital did not remain in New York City very long and by November 1790, it was transferred to Philadelphia. This new location was only to be temporary until a permanent capital city was built on the banks of the Potomac River. Abigail's comments about living in Philadelphia seemed to be positive. She felt that the women of the city were educated and cordial. She was also happy to have a theater in the city. She did feel that the social life accompanying the governmental position was too much - a continuous scene of parties. John complained that the job of Vice-President was "the most insignificant office ever created." In 1793, Washington and Adams again were inaugurated

as President and Vice-President. Abigail decided to remain in Quincy during John's second term. One of the main reasons for this was that she had previously been afflicted with malaria and suffered bouts of chills and fever. As the Congress recessed from spring until autumn, John was able to spend more time in Massachusetts. John Quincy Adams was 27 years old and was off again for Europe; this time he was appointed the ambassador to the Netherlands. His brother Thomas, who was 22 years old, accompanied John Quincy in 1794. This was the same appointment that his father had held for several years before his appointment to England. Nabby (their daughter) continued to reside in New York City with her husband and now three children.

The Adamses differed with Thomas Jefferson on the situation in France. He was in favor of the French Revolution and they did not like the idea. Soon John Adams was elected President of the United States. Washington refused to serve more than two terms. Under the present election laws, the President and Vice President are to be from the same political party. At that time when Adams became President, his Vice-President was Thomas Jefferson. (It was based on the amount of electoral votes received.) Jefferson and Adams were friends but with the creation of the politi-

Continued on next page

From Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from **February 1960** issues of the BRISTOL DAILY COURIER.

2/2 - - BIRTHS IN LOWER BUCKS HOSPITAL. 2/1 - Mr. & Mrs. Lawton VanBuren, 326 Lafayette St., Bristol. Girl.

WILSON OPENS GYM TONIGHT. Woodrow Wilson High's new gymnasium will be opened for the first time tonight with a wrestling meet between Neshaminy and Wilson. An added attraction will be a basketball game between the Wilson faculty and the Philadelphia Testers.

2/3 - - DEDICATION SET. The Bristol Borough School Board has set April 24 as a tentative date for the dedication of the new Bristol High School building. March 1 was set as the target date for the resumption of a normal day of school operation at the school.

"EDWARD'S, corner of Mill & Pond . . . Mid-winter Sale! \$50 - \$55 Suits - \$32.90. \$4 - \$5 Shirts - \$2.90. \$9.95 - \$10.95 Slacks - \$4.90."

"Winter Clearance. All Winter Sportswear and Dresses. Cruisewear. COUNTRY LASS SHOP, directly behind Edward's."

2/4 - - YOU'LL PAY MORE TO GET 'CLIPPED'. You'll lose more than your hair at the barber's soon - - you'll be parting with \$1.75. The decision to raise the price was taken at a meeting of the Lower Bucks Branch of the Pennsylvania Master Barbers Association. At least four Bristol Borough shops will keep the price at \$1.25.

"Johnny Mundy's YE OLD DELAWARE HOUSE. Hotel, Bar, Restaurant. Corner of Mill & Radcliffe Streets . . . Friday Night Specials! Lobster Tail Platter. Fried Shrimp Platter, French Fries and Cole Slaw."

"MC DONALD'S Rt. 413 (3701 Rodgers Rd.) . . . Juicy, All Beef Hamburgers - 15¢. Crispy, Tender French Fries - 10¢."

2/6 - - TRAILBLAZER DINER, Bath Rd. & Route 13 . . . Special Full Course Sunday Dinners! Choice of Juice or Fruit Cup, Soup, Salad. Baked Stuffed Pork Chop & Applesauce - \$1.50. ½ Southern Fried Chicken - \$1.75. Broiled ½ Lb. Sirloin Steak & Onion Rings - \$1.85. Choice of 2 Veggies, Roll, Butter, Dessert, Beverage."

SPAN RAZING BIDS STUDIED. Bristol Borough Council members are studying bids ranging from \$7,800 to \$22,750 for the demolition of the Beaver Street Bridge over the Delaware Canal in the borough. The officials have been mulling over a plan to demolish the bridge, fill in the canal and level off Beaver Street. The proposal is expected to reduce traffic hazards near the Warren Snyder School.

"MC CRORY'S, 245 Mill Street . . . Announces Its New Luncheonette. Opens Today! Hamburger Combination - 65¢. Roast "Tom" Turkey Dinner - 49¢."

2/9 - - BORO'S CHIEF HAGERMAN TO RETIRE AFTER 48 YEARS OF FIGHTING FIRES. Was Borough Chief for 26 Years. Chief Hagerman still has vivid memories of some of the historic fires in the borough, including the 1925 blaze that destroyed the old Grand Theatre.

"38th Anniversary Specials at O'Boyle's, February 8 to 14. ½ Gal. Carton, Economy Pack (Reg. 90¢) - 75¢. ½ Gal.

Can (Reg. \$1.10) - 90¢. 24 10¢ Choc. Ice Cream Pops - \$1.50. Sold on Our Trucks, Plant, Store. O'BOYLE'S, Bristol."

2/10 - - ROYAL COUPLE. Ronald Baiocchi and Joanne Bornice were selected King and Queen of the Junior Class, Bristol High School, at the annual Junior Class Ring Dance held recently at the high school.

"ACME MARKETS . . . 50 S&H Green Stamps with Coupon! Lancaster Brand Sirloin, T-Bone & Porterhouse Steaks - 75¢ Lb. Lamb Chops, Loin - \$1.09 Lb. Temple Oranges - 45¢ Doz. Del Monte Corn - Two 16 Oz. Cans - 33¢. Kellogg's "K" Cereal - 39¢. Miracle Whip Salad Dressing - 51¢ Qt. Jar."

2/12 - - HIGH MARK FLEETS BY. A record temperature reading was recorded during yesterday's Spring-like weather but it toned down fast. The record high of 67 in the Lower Bucks area erased the former peak of 60, recorded in 1898. At 7 a.m. today, however, the temperature had dropped to an unspectacular 32 degrees.

KAISER FIRM TO LAY OFF 350 AT RADCLIFFE ST. PLANT. Result of Reduced Sales in the Appliance Industry.

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED. The engagement of Miss Mary Ann Torano, daughter of Mrs. Ann Torano, 261 Monroe Street, Bristol, and the late Nicholas Torano, to John Smoyer IV, son of Mr. & Mrs. John Smoyer III, 23 Sugarplum Rd., Levittown, has been announced.

2/16 - - BRISTOL STUDENT GETS AWARD. Joan Crosby, of 322 McKinley St., recently received a Betty Crocker "Homemaker of Tomorrow" award. Miss Crosby is a senior at Bristol High School.

"FOR SALE. Radcliffe St. Convenient, excellent location. Six rooms & bath, oil heat, spacious living room with fireplace. First time offered at \$10,500. F.E. Mignoni, ST 8-9288."

2/20 - - CIMINO BREAKS SEASON RECORD. Bristol clinches tie for LBCL championship. Bristol's Pete Cimino poured in 31 points against Delhaas to boost his 18-game regular total to 519 points, with two games remaining.

2/24 - - BORO OK'S CONTRACTS FOR FILTRATION PLANT. Construction of Bristol Borough's new water filtration plant was given the go-ahead signal last night at a special meeting of Borough Council. Council members voted unanimously to approve construction contracts totalling \$380,421.44 to float a \$600,000 non-debt revenue bond issue at 3.75 percent interest. It was the first non-debt revenue bond issue ever floated in the history of Pennsylvania..

BRISTOL CAPTURES LBCL TITLE. Warriors Top Rams, 66-54. For Bristol's coach "Chick" D'Angelo, it was his 4th Lower Bucks varsity crown in the last six years, and his 7th basketball championship for Bristol in nine years, as he coached the Bristol Junior High basketball team to three straight championships.

Abigail Adams . . . continued from Page 2

cal parties, Adams was a Federalist and Jefferson was a Republican (now compared to the Democrat Party). The conclusion to the election was decided by the House of Representatives.

John Adams and Thomas Jefferson eventually “drifted apart”. Their friendship ceased until Abigail finally “broke the ice” with a letter after both men were no longer in office. In November 1800, John Adams became the first President to live in the new capital of Washington, D.C. The unfinished President’s house became their new home. Abigail and John moved in and lived there until the inauguration of Thomas Jefferson as the third president in March, 1801. Abigail did her best to make a home in the house that was still damp from plaster and cold. As is recorded in White House history, she had the servants hang the laundry in the East Room (now the ballroom often shown on television).

Their son Charles had married Sally Smith in 1795 but died in 1800 from alcoholism. He had been a lawyer in New York. His death occurred while the President and First Lady were moving into the new Federal City of Washington.

While in Europe, John Quincy met and married Louisa Catherine Johnson in London in July of 1797. They had a son whom they named George Washington Adams. John Quincy was elected to the Senate from Massachusetts in 1803.

Thomas, their other son, married Nancy Harrod in 1805 and moved back to Quincy where he had a successful law practice.

Unfortunately, Nabby developed cancer of the breast and surgery was attempted (without an anesthetic). She endured the suffering but eventually lost her life in August, 1813 at age 48.

Another sad event in Abigail’s life was the death of her sister, Mary and Mary’s husband Richard Cranch

who died suddenly with a few days of each other. Mary had been a life-long advisor, confident and dear friend of Abigail.

Abigail was very good at “mending fences”. For political reasons, she and John had separated a friendship with the well-known writer, Mercy Otis Warren. In 1811, by the use of letters, Abigail revived their friendship. She did the same thing with Thomas Jefferson in 1812.

John Quincy Adams was appointed Ambassador to Great Britain and under the Presidency of James Monroe, he became the Secretary of State.

Abigail was bothered by arthritis and rheumatism and with a bout of typhoid fever, she died two weeks short of her 74th birthday on October 28, 1818. She did not live to see her son John Quincy become President. John lived long enough to see his son, John Quincy Adams become the sixth U.S. President. John died on July 4, 1826. It was exactly fifty years after he signed the Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson, the third President and author of the Declaration of Independence also died on that day.

Fortunately, the Adams family did not follow the wishes of Abigail at the time of her death. Her instructions had been to destroy her letters. Hundreds of letters survived and provide a unique record of the “birth of our nation”.

Abigail Adams and Barbara Bush are the only two women in American History so far to have the distinction of having both a husband and a son serve the nation as a President.

Abigail was first buried in the graveyard across the road from the First Congregational Church in Quincy. Eventually she and her husband and their son, John Quincy and his wife Louise were entombed in the crypt of that church building.

caused the family to be quarantined for a number of weeks by the health department. Mr. Reed’s delivery person faithfully delivered grocers to the porch of the household during the illness.

Around town, usually on a corner, there were many grocery stores; an example in another location were Mohre’s and McGinley’s stores on Otter Street. Bono’s store on Jefferson Avenue, Bell Grocery Store at Mill and Pond Streets, Lawler and Wallace Grocery Store on Mill Street, Wright’s Grocery store on Market St., Abraham’s Store on Buckley St., Asta’s and Mazzanti’s on Lincoln Avenue, Ciotti’s at Pond and Lafayette Sts. and this is “only the tip of the iceberg” of stores that once were in town. This list does not include the section of Harriman

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Food. . . continued from Page 3

which was not annexed by Bristol until 1922.

These were the days when plastic bags for groceries had not been invented and large paper bags were not usually available. The lady of the house, who did the food shopping, carried a basket to “market”. This was also the days when refrigeration was not as plentiful in some homes and purchases of perishable items were made daily. There were also various wagons and later trucks that delivered directly to the customer at their front door. Items included bread, milk, cakes, some fruits and vegetables, some fish and even horseradish (which was ground at the location of the delivery).

In the 1940’s the idea of having a “supermarket” developed where the customer could push a cart around the store and be “checked out” at a cash register. One of the first to be opened was an Acme Store at the corner of Bath and Otter Streets. Another was an A&P Store on Pond Street near Market. There was also an Acme Store that opened in the Harriman section. The Acme and the A&P Stores originally were in small corner stores around town; however, when the supermarket idea became a reality, their little stores were closed.

The larger stores employed more help and provided a greater assortment of items. The small “mom and pop” neighborhood stores continued but gradually as the supermarkets became larger and transportation to and from the store advanced, the small neighborhood grocery store disappeared. In Bristol, the Mazzanti store on Lincoln Avenue is probably the last of this kind of grocery store to remain.

In January 1951, the “Grand Opening” of the Acme Store took place on Pond Street where presently Rite Aid Pharmacy Store exists. This location had formerly been the Bristol Flower Growers which had their own greenhouses. Mrs. DeWitt operated the business at this location.

Will It Be Bath Street Or Beaver Street?

According to the “Bristol Courier” newspaper in April and May of 1910, there was quite a bit of discussion about the location of the new passenger station to accompany the elevation of the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad through Bristol.

Originally the passenger station was located at Market and Pond Streets. This would have to change and newspaper articles brought the latest views to the reading public.

It appeared that storekeepers, professional and other business people wanted the station erected at Bath Street. Part of their argument also focused on the intersecting electric trolley line passing under the elevated tracks. It was to also use part of the land that had been the Bath Springs Mineral Spa.

On the opposite side of the discussion were the manufacturers with their mills primarily between Jefferson Avenue and Beaver Streets. They wanted the railroad

The newspaper at the time had an article that had a heading “Market of Markets - - Stream-Lined for Faster Shopping”. The advertisement stated that there was parking for 150 cars. During the first four days, anyone purchasing five dollars or more would receive a Virginia Lee Louisiana Crunch rink cake free.

Business hours were 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. and on Thursday, the store would remain open until 9 p.m. There were to be seven “check-out” points and five aisles which would run the length of the store. There was to be a full line of goods for diabetics and special “health foods”. The frozen department was expanded. Items such as fried rabbit and sweet pickled cantaloupe were also available. The two Acme Markets (Bath and Otter Sts. and Farragut Avenue) were to close and their employees absorbed into the new market. Edward Priestley, formerly from the Farragut Ave. store, was to be the general manager. Herbert McCollick would manage the refrigerated produce department and Delbert Lynn was in charge of the meat department.

The new structure was 60 x 180 feet. New chrome “food carriages” have been provided for “Mrs. Shopper”. (Notice that it was assumed that “men” would not be shopping at this time in history). The advertisement continued to point out the quality of the foods and the healthfulness provided in the fresh, refrigerated and frozen foods.

By the late 1960’s, this store closed and a new and larger Acme store opened on Bath Road near the intersection of Bath and Route 413. That store eventually closed and the Acme was relocated to “Five Points” in Levittown where it continues to operate. There was also an Acme supermarket opened on Bristol Pike in Croydon. Bristol currently has one supermarket located where the former A&P Store operated at Pond and Walnut Streets. With multiple cars in a household, “out of town” supermarkets continue to attract the shoppers of both genders.

station in the vicinity of the factories.

As the discussion ensued, many people felt that the number of factories, which was not great enough to dominate the location of the station, should not prevail.

It was then learned that manufacturer, Joseph R. Grundy was quietly leading a campaign with other mill owners, to have the station at Beaver and Prospect Street. This would be closer to their factories.

As this information became known, 103 signatures of men engaged in business, along with 20 professional men, were attached to a petition for the location of the station to be at Bath Street.

General Superintendent, Frank L. Sheppard of the railroad notified Walter F. Leedom, representing the 103 business and 20 professional signatures, that he had settled the debate. The station was to be constructed at Prospect and Beaver Streets. In November 1911, the new passenger station opened.