



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.

November 2015

BCHF PROGRAM FOR NOVEMBER WILL FOCUS ON ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR (1860 - 1865) CALLED THE "BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG." THIS BATTLE OCCURRED JULY 1,2,3 OF 1863. STEVE HEDGEPEETH AUTHOR AND FORMER WRITER FOR THE "BUCKS COUNTY COURIER TIMES" NEWSPAPER WILL BE THE GUEST SPEAKER.

For everyone interested in the "Battle of Gettysburg" - July 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 1863, our November BCHF speaker will be Steve Hedgepeth. He was a former writer for the Bucks County Courier Times newspaper and author of the book, "What They Did There: Profiles From The Battle of Gettysburg." This book was published on April 1, 2014 and contains 387 pages.

Mr. Hedgepeth presents a unique view of the subject telling the story of the battle through conventional narrative via 170 mini-bios of not only combatants blue and gray but of civilians, doctors, nurses, artists, photographers, Samaritans, saints, sinners and the moral terrain in-between.

We look forward to having Mr. Hedgepeth as our speaker. This will be on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. Included at the meeting will be the election of Board members of BCHF. The program is Free to all and the Public is invited to attend. Light refreshment will follow the presentation by Mr. Hedgepeth. At this time attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions about the presentation. We hope that you will be there and bring a friend or two. High School students may enjoy hearing about this subject.

November 19, 1863

Just (272) words were spoken by Abraham Lincoln at the dedication of the Cemetery at Gettysburg; however those words have lived on in U.S. history and continue to inspire most people who read it.

"Four score and seven (87) years ago, our fathers (founders) brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

"Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that, nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this."

"But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate-we cannot consecrate-we cannot hallow-this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us - that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." - ABRAHAM LINCOLN

39th HISTORIC BRISTOL DAY WAS A CROWD PLEASER

Saturday, October 17, dawned with blue skies and sunshine and drew a big crowd to the streets of Bristol Borough. A variety of merchandise vendors and information tables lined the 200 and 300 blocks of Radcliffe Street, hungry visitors followed their noses to the food stands at the river end of Market Street, live entertainment and a sailboat regatta drew people to Lions Park; art, quilts and vintage clothing exhibits attracted a large crowd, and the open houses and Tea delighted HBD ticket holders. A shuttle bus provided free transportation to the Children's Corner and the Car Show at Snyder-Girotti School on Beaver Street and to the activities and exhibits at the upper end of Radcliffe Street. And now BCHF begins to prepare for its 40th Historic Bristol Day, which will fall on Saturday, October 15th, 2016! But before we bid adieu to this year's event, we extend a sincere THANK YOU to Liz Fisher, who chaired Historic Bristol Day for the second consecutive year, the dedicated, hard-working HBD Committee, the many volunteers, and all those whose involvement brought this year's event to a successful conclusion.

OUT OF THE PAST

The following items were excerpted from November 1955 issues of BUCKS DAILY COURIER.

11/1 - HOSPITAL NOTES 1ST BIRTHDAY. 6500 Treated in Year at Lower Bucks. A giant cake has been baked and its single candle will be blown out by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Long, Newport Rd., West Bristol, parents of the first child to be born in the new hospital.

BOXING GYM TO OPEN IN BRISTOL. The Bristol Gym will open its doors for the first time tomorrow at 6 p.m. The enterprise, where amateur and professional boxers may train, is being opened by Jack Bono and Jerry Joseph. The gym is located at 619 Wood Street.

11/2 - FIRST STEPS TAKEN FOR \$1,000,000 HIGH SCHOOL. First steps for a 5-year building program that should result in an almost brand-new, million dollar Bristol High School were taken by the borough school board last night, when they asked the State Department of Education to look over their needs. The school directors discussed a proposal to erect a new addition west of the school, fronting on Wilson Avenue, building on the present gymnasium addition.

"ROBERT HALL Brings You Two Smash-Hit Coats At One Smash Price! \$15.88. Navy Melton Boy Coat and Mandarin Coat. Route 13 North of Rt. 413 Intersection. Open Every Night Till 9 PM."

11/8 - HUGE CARAVAN TO AID RESCUE UNIT DEDICATE NEW HEADQUARTERS. More than 1000 persons will participate in a dedication parade at the opening of the new, \$55,000 Bucks County Rescue Squad headquarters this Saturday afternoon.

"FASHION FAIR, 130 Mill Street, Bristol's Leading Fashion Center...Cashmere-soft ORLON Sweater Sets. Cardigan - \$5.95. Pullover - \$3.98. A deposit will hold your purchase."

11/9 - DEMOS SWEEP COUNTY TO END FIFTY YEARS OF REPUBLICAN RULE. Five Win Bristol Borough Council Posts in Smashing Win. The major upset rocked the Republican Party in Bristol Borough as the Third Ward elected a Democrat for the first time in more than 25 years. John M. Rodgers pulled the upset, unseating Republican Richard T. Myers in a 199 to 161 vote.

MILL STREET BYPASS UNDERWAY. Work on the new Anthony R. Niccol Bypass, under construction from Old Rt. 13 to the Municipal parking Lot, is expected to take 16 working days.

11/12 - CROWDS TAKE PRIZES HOME FROM BIG COOKING SCHOOL. Free food, gifts, and prizes galore climaxed the two-day Bristol Courier and Levittown Times Cooking School at the Grand Theatre yesterday. The large crowd that turned out for the last session of the cooking school, held with the cooperation of the Mill Street merchants, local food stores, and other companies, so overwhelmed all expectations that a two days supply of free gifts was exhausted in one day.

"STOP! at the BRISTOL DINER for Good Food. Open Sundays. Highway and Market Street, Bristol Borough."

"MARINO'S Delicatessen and Snack Bar, 1717 Farragut Avenue... We have a large selection of Unity-Frankford groceries. Open Daily 8:30 A.M. and All Day Sunday."

11/16 - 'RAIN' GOES ON BOARDS IN BRISTOL. The curtain goes up at 8:30 p.m. today and tomorrow on what could be the permanent, professional "live theatre" for Bristol and Lower Bucks County. The Theatrical Guild of Bucks County and Melvin J. Fox,

president of Fox Enterprises, introduces the first of a series of live plays.

BRISTOL ENDS PLAN TO ANNEX 3M FIRM. The 5-year-old attempt to annex the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co. plant to Bristol Borough was ended by borough council Monday night at the request of the 3-M firm. Council adopted an ordinance rescinding the annexation ordinance of 1950, which was opposed in court by the Bristol Township governing boards.

BRISTOL WINS JH GRID CROWN, Warriors Top Neshaminy JH in Thriller. Warriors' squad consists of: Long, Johnson, Antonelli, Lynn, Giagnacova, Offredo, Manzo, Shire, Vanzant, McGlynn, Centofante, DiSalvo, Williamson, Straffe, Bonner, Ferraro, O'Neill and Tunis.

11/21 - BRISTOL BAKER ON TV SHOW. Peter Piraino, of the Model Baking Company, Bristol, presented his big idea on "The Big Idea" TV show Sunday, Channel 10. Mr. Piraino's big ideas was a "toasty" pizza pie which can be baked entirely in a toaster.

"A & P... For Your Thanksgiving Dinner. Turkeys, 10 to 14 Pounds - 55¢ lb. Cranberry Sauce, two 15 oz. cans - 29¢. Jane Parker Stuffing Mix, 8 oz. pkg. - 23¢. Jane Parker Pumpkin Pie - 49¢. Fresh String Beans - 2 lbs., 29¢."

11/22 - FAIRLESS HILLS EXPANSION SET. \$150 Million Will Be Spent in Huge Plan. Will Increase Coke Oven, Blast Furnace, Open Hearth Facilities. The Fairless Works, of Falls Township, will enjoy the lions share of a big half-billion dollar expansion program which U.S. Steel Corp. plants for 1956.

THANKSGIVING DAY GAMES LAST FOR MANY SENIORS. The Bristol Warriors will have the following missing from their next year's team: Tom Corrigan, Ted Kowal, Bob Transatti, Don Oriolo, Fenton Larrisey, Johnny Lewis, Gene Ferry, Jim VanWright, Joe Scenna, and injured Emilio Gardull.

11/23 - "KEYSTONE HOTEL, Mill Street and Bath... Thanksgiving Dinner - \$1.95,"

"O'BOYLE'S RESTAURANT, Route 13 & Beaver Dam Rd... Old Fashioned Thanksgiving Dinners. Complete Full-Course Dinners from \$2.15 to \$3.25."

11/24 - BRISTOL GETS NEW LOOK WITH TREES. The curbsides of Bristol borough are getting a new look this week with the planting of 88 young trees by the Borough Shade Tree Commission. The planting is the first ever done by the borough, using a \$1,000 appropriation of Council.

"POMEROY'S, Levittown... Rain Dears, plastic storm boots by Lucky, fit all type shoes - \$2. Koroseal Raincoat, complete with hood, by Rainfashion - \$5.98."

11/28 - 25,000 SEE SANTA DURING BRISTOL PARADE. Santa Was Flown into 3M Airport; Parade Began at Bristol High School. Colorful Entries, Jets, Helicopter Delighted Many Onlookers. The first annual Mill Street Businessmen's Association Santa Claus Parade had in it every element of surprise and delight for the many thousands who witnessed it over its 2 1/2 mile route.

"WEED CHEVROLET, Green Lane at River... New '56 Chev. Bel Airs, 210's and 150's. \$250 Down, Prices Start at \$1,887."

Bristol Riverside Theater 2015/2016 Performance Schedule

"Mountain" - November 3 - November 22, 2015

Phone 215-785-0100 for further information

RAFFLE DRAWING

At the conclusion of Historic Bristol Day on October 17th, the drawing for the first and second prizes in the annual Historic Bristol Day Raffle was held at BCHF headquarters. This year, both prizes were won by Bristol Borough residents! Winner of the Joseph

Sagolla original watercolor of the Wharf was Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Cordisco of West Circle. Winner of the second prize - our historic Bristol Throw - was Fidel Esposito of Harrison Street. Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to all who participated in this year's raffle!

REGATTA WINNERS

The Anchor Yacht Club of Bristol organized another successful Regatta as part of 39th Historic Bristol Day. This year's winner was Ed Rodier, who captained "Boomerang." BCHF is

grateful to the Anchor Yacht Club for making the Regatta as part of our annual event. It is a lovely sight to see the sailboats ply the Delaware River on a beautiful Autumn afternoon!

CHILDREN'S ART CONTEST

There were over one hundred entries in this year's "Historic Bristol Day Student Art Contest," which was open to all Bristol Borough students in grades 6 through 8. The contest's theme was "Bristol Borough's Diversity," depicting the ethnic, religious or racial background of the town's residents or showing one of the town's landmarks. Judging was done by two members of the Artists of Bristol, who were extremely impressed with the quality of work done by such young children, and who expressed great difficulty in narrowing the field.

The winners were:

- 1st Place - Kennedy Tomlinson, 8th Grade, St. Mark School
- 2nd Place - Mary LaRosa, 7th grade, St. Mark School
- 3rd Place - Cassidy Natress, 8th grade, Snyder-Girotti School
- Honorable Mention - Elaine Kaess, 6th grade, St. Mark School

Cash prizes of \$100, \$75, \$50 and \$25, respectively, were presented to the above fledgling artists.

HISTORIC BRISTOL DAY CAR SHOW WINNERS

A total of thirty-eight antique (1900-1985) and classic (1986-2016) vehicles lined the perimeter of Snyder-Girotti Elementary-Middle School for the 4th Annual Historic Bristol Day Car Show, October 17th. 275 Ballots were entered for the People's Choice Awards, and the trophy winners were:

Best of Show

Bruce Harris - 2014 Corvette Stingray

Antique Category

- 1st Place - John Colucci - 1974 Volkswagen Super Beetle
- 2nd Place - Frank Suntheimer - 1949 Ford convertible
- 3rd Place - Jim Esmon - 1970 Chevelle SS

Classic Category

- 1st Place - Bruce Harris - 2002 Thunderbird roadster
- 2nd Place - Luis Torres - 2001 Jeep
- 3rd Place - Chris Merlino - 1987 Chevrolet Monte Carlo

Winners of a photo collage were:

- Chris Merlino - 1976 Chevrolet Corvette
- John Fasano - 1968 Oldsmobile 442 convertible
- Joseph Ciganik - 1969 Buick Electra 225 convertible

BCHF thanks Car Show Chairman Mark Gesualdi and his committee for making this activity an integral part of Historic Bristol Day over the past four years. Sincere gratitude is also extended to "Vinnie" Demarco, proprietor of the Radcliffe Cafe, for donating the Car Show trophies.

ANNOUNCING 2016 PROGRAMS

BCHF's programs will be held a little later in the year than normal, partly because of the bad winter weather we've had to contend with in past Januarys and Februarys and partly due to the unavailability of the speakers we had in mind.

The Ways & Means Committee has booked two programs which we hope will entertain and educate BCHF members and the general public as well.

On Sunday, March 13th, at 2 p.m., Neil Hartley will return to the BCHF stage to do a first-person presentation entitled "The Magic of Lionel: The Story of Joshua Lionel Cowen." This past January 25th, Mr. Hartley entertained us with his one-man show, "Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band."

"An Artist in Your Pocket" is the title of our Sunday, April 18th, program, which will be presented by Donald Everhart, lead sculptor-engraver for the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia. In addition to Mr. Everhart's long list of designs and sculptures for the Mint, he was commissioned in August of this year to create the Papal Medal to commemorate Pope Francis' visit to the United States.

A donation of \$5 per attendee is suggested. Light refreshment will be served.

Mark those two dates on your 2016 calendar, and invite your relatives and friends to join you at one or both of those programs!

EXTRA - EXTRA

BCHF had one new member join our organization on Historical Bristol Day.

"Kathy Hickey, 3595 Iris Avenue, Trevoise, PA 19053"

WELCOME KATHY.

An In-Kind donation was from "Vinnie" DeMarco, proprietor of the

Radcliffe Cafe, on Radcliffe Street in Bristol, who donated the Car Show trophies. Thanks for your donation Mr. DeMarco.

A second In-Kind donation was from the Bristol Borough School District. It was for the land on which we had the Historic Bristol Day Car Show. - Thank you!

A third In-Kind was from USW Local 88G. Thank you!

RESERVATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

Trip organizer Helen Younglove is now accepting reservations on the "Pittsburgh Express", May 18-20, 2016. Cost is \$395 pp double occupancy, \$380 pp triple, and \$505 single. The package includes round-trip motorcoach transportation, leaving the Grundy Arena parking lot at 7 a.m. and returning on the 20th at approximately 7 p.m.; 2 nights lodging; 2 breakfasts and 2 dinners, incl. a dinner at the Grand Concourse of the restored P&LE train station; a visit to the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville; a Gateway Clipper cruise on Pittsburgh's rivers; a guided tour of Pittsburgh, incl. a stop at the

University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning for a tour of some of its Nationality Rooms; a tour of the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens; a visit to Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural creation, "Fallingwater;" taxes, meal, bus driver and local guide gratuities.

For a detailed flyer with reservation form, contact Helen at 215-788-9408. A deposit of \$200 pp will secure your reservation. Balance of payment is due by March 16. A National Tour Assn. trip insurance form is available upon request.

HISTORIC BRISTOL DAY DONORS

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Helen Younglove

THIS IS INTERESTING INFORMATION ABOUT THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR, PLUS OTHER INTERESTING FACTS THAT ARE RELATED TO THE SUBJECT

There were 50,000 dead, wounded or missing in the American Civil War.

Lincoln traveled 120 miles between Washington, D.C. and Gettysburg, PA, to help dedicate the National Cemetery at Gettysburg.

Andrew Curtin was the Governor of Pennsylvania at the time of the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863.

Considering all wars in which Americans have fought, the American Civil War had the greatest number of soldiers killed. (Remember that the Civil War included both the Union and Confederacy).

Lincoln was 54 years old when he delivered the Gettysburg Address, in 1863.

Lincoln was 56 years old at the time of his death in April of 1865.

The population of Gettysburg at the time of the battle was approximately 2,500 people.

One of the difficulties following the Battle of Gettysburg was that there were many mules and horses dead and that it was in the hot summer and the smell and odor brought to the area a very horrible smell with the rotting flesh.

Gettysburg was a small town and it was surrounded by fields of wheat, corn and other vegetables and fruits. Apple and Peach orchards were found in abundance at Gettysburg.

Battles were fought not only in the fields and in the town itself, but that there were also battles in the woodlands around the town.

Jenny Wade was the only lady within the town of Gettysburg that was killed during the actual battle. A bullet came through the

door of her house and that bullet killed her in her kitchen.

Robert E. Lee was the leading general of the Confederacy during the Civil War. His house was in Virginia opposite Washington, D.C. That house now sets in the middle of the National Cemetery across from Washington, D.C. President Kennedy and his wife Jackie and their infant son are buried in that cemetery. This is also the cemetery where the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is located.

It was General Robert E. Lee, Confederate general and Ulysses S. Grant, Union general, that met at Appomattox, VA, to sign the final papers that ended the war.

There are many books written about the American Civil War - why not try to find additional information about American's most devastating war which occurred on our own soil.



*Have a
Safe and Happy
Holiday Season!*



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BCHF Calendar of Events for November 2015 & Year 2016

NOVEMBER 2015

Wed., 11/18, 7:30 p.m. BCHF's annual business meeting, incl. election of Board members, followed by program entitled "What They Did There: Profiles from the Battle of Gettysburg" by Author Steve Hedgepeth. Refreshments, Free. Open to the public. BCHF headquarters. Call 215-932-9441 for info.

MARCH 2016

Sun., 3/13, 2 p.m. One-man show by Neill Hartley entitled "The Magic of Lionel: The Story of Joshua Lionel Cowen." Light refreshment. Suggested donation of \$5 pp. BCHF headquarters. Call 215-788-9408 for info.

APRIL

Sun., 4/10, 2 p.m. Program entitled "The Artist in Your Pocket," by Donald Everhart, lead sculptor-engraver for the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia. Light refreshment. Suggested donation of \$5 pp. BCHF headquarters. Call 215-788-9408 for info.

Sun., 4/24, 3-5 p.m. "A Lovely Spring Tea" with traditional Tea fare. \$20 pp. BCHF headquarters. Limited number of reservations; call 215-788-9408 beginning March 19.

MAY

Wed-Fri, 5/18 -20. Bus trip to Pittsburg, incl. lodging, 2 breakfasts & 2 dinners, visit to Ft. 93 Memorial, Gateway clipper cruise, guided tour of Pittsburg incl. Univ. of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning and tour of some of its Nationality rooms, tour of Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens, visit to Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural creation, "Fallingwater." \$395 pp double, \$380 pp triple, \$505 single. Call 215-788-9408 for flyer/reservation form.

JUNE

Sun., 6/26, noon - 5 p.m. BCHF sales & info table at Annual Celtic Day in Lions Park, Bristol Borough. Event sponsored by Celtic Heritage Foundation, 215-788-5232.

AUGUST

Sun., 8/7, 2-4 p.m. Annual Peach Social. Angel food cake topped with fresh peaches & ice cream, plus beverage. Takeouts available with own container. Baked goods table. \$5/adult, \$3 under age 12. BCHF air-conditioned headquarters. BENEFITS BCHF AWARDS TO BRISTOL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES.

SEPTEMBER

Sat., 9/10 (rain date 9/11), noon-5:00 p.m. BCHF sales & info table at Annual Italian Festival in Lions Park, Bristol Borough. Event sponsored by Bristol Lions Club, www.bristolions.org.

Wed., 9/28. Bus trip to Longwood Gardens, followed by High Tea at Hotel Dupont. Details to be released in 1st quarter of 2016.

OCTOBER

Sat., 10/15, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 40th Historic Bristol Day. Fee for House Tour & Tea. For details, visit the BCHF's website, www.bristolhistory.org.

NOVEMBER

Wed., 11/2. Bus trip to Harlem. Details to be released in 1st quarter of 2016.

Wed., 11/16, 7:30 p.m. BCHF's annual business meeting, incl. election of Board members. Program & refreshments follow. Free. Public is invited. BCHF headquarters. Call 215-781-9895 for info.

THE GAZETTE is a publication of the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Inc. - Harold Mitchener - Editor
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