



The Gazette



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Sponsoring Historic Bristol Day - Third Saturday of Each October
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FEBRUARY 2024

President's Corner

Bruce Mowday on Lafayette at the Battle of Brandywine

On Sunday, March 3d, at 2 PM, BCHF will be privileged to host Bruce E. Mowday who

will talk about his book "Lafayette at Brandywine: The Making of an American Hero" and Lafayette's return at the invitation of President Monroe in 1824-1825.

Bruce Mowday hales from Chester County. He started his writing career as a newspaper sports-writer while still in high school and continued in journalism at the Daily Local News in West Chester and at the St. Louis Sun. Eventually, Bruce left journalism to start The Mowday Group, a media relations and consulting company. In addition to his reporting and consulting work, he has written over twenty books on a broad array of subjects including history, business, sports, and true crime.

The Battle of Brandywine was the first major battle of the British campaign to take Philadelphia, the American seat of government. There were more troops that fought in that battle than in any other battle in the Revolutionary War. However, Washington's troops were largely untrained and, although they fought valiantly, they were outmaneuvered and overrun by General Howe's men. Washington ordered Nathaniel Greene's division to provide a rear guard so that the army could escape

to the northeast. While Greene's men fought man to man with the British, the remaining troops made an orderly retreat led by the young General Lafayette. Despite being wounded, Lafayette remained on the field to direct the withdrawal and prevent the loss of the Continental Army.

The country's affection and admiration of Lafayette has faded with time. The average person may know that the Marquis de Lafayette lent assistance to the revolutionaries, but they are no longer aware of how essential he and the Franco-American alliance was to our achieving independence. Mr. Mowday's book reawakens the readers awareness of Lafayette's role in the revolutionary's success and his dedication to the principles of freedom and the rights of men. I look forward to Mr. Mowday's presentation and his unique insights into the emergence of a genuine hero and the importance of the Battle of Brandywine.

References: "Lafayette at Brandywine: The Making of and American hero" by Bruce E. Mowday, Barricade Book, Inc, 2021

"Brandwine: A Military History of the Battle that Lost Philadelphia but Saved America, September 11, 1977" by Michael C. Harris, Savas Beatie LLC, 2017

"A Hero of Two Worlds: The Marquis de Lafayette in the Age of Revolution" Mike Duncan, Hachette Book Group, Inc, 2021

Debbie Pinney, President

Looking for a Graphic Designer

The BCHF Board of Directors is looking for a VOLUNTEER who would like to take over the responsibilities of preparing this newsletter for print. The current individual has been doing the job for over 25 years and feels it may be time to look for a replacement. Here is some information about what the job entails.

* We publish 9 newsletters per year (omitting July, August and December)

* Articles are submitted by members and committee chairs, usually in Word format. Photos are submitted as

JPEG files.

* The newsletter designer would accept the files as submitted, run them through spell check, correct the format if necessary, layout the information and then, after proofreading, submit to the printer.

* Occasionally an article will be submitted that must be re-typed.

Those interested should call Debbie Pinney at 215 788-7537



It's time for TEA

This year the annual Tea will again feature an artwork exhibition by members of the Artists of Bristol. The Tea will be held on Sunday, April 28, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Tea sandwiches, scones and desserts will be prepared by members of the Ways and Means Committee.

Come out and join us for freshly brewed tea and yummy tea sandwiches.

Cost per person is \$35. Limited reservations are available and will be taken starting Monday, March 18, at 215-788-9408. Reservation deadline is April 14.

BCHF IS ON THE MOVE

In addition to the April 11 bus trip to Historic Roebling Village and Historic Bordentown, mentioned in a separate article on page 3, our Ways & Means Committee has arranged for the following day trips through Pat Thomas Tours of Langhorne. We hope you'll join us!

MORRIS ARBORETUM & GARDENS AND HISTORIC "CLIVEDEN," FRIDAY, JUNE 21. The itinerary includes a 1-hr. tour of the Morris property, followed by free time to explore any attractions not covered on the tour, a three-course luncheon at Brittingham's Pub Restaurant, est. in 1743, and a visit to "Cliveden," a former Northern plantation and the site of the 1777 Battle of Germantown. All-inclusive cost is \$145 for BCHF members; \$150 for non-members. Call Helen Younglove at 215-788-9408 for a detailed flyer/reservation form. Due to the restaurant's non-refundable deposit policy, reservations will close on April 17.

TENEMENT MUSEUM & LITTLE ITALY (MANHATTAN), TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8. The Lower East Side Tenement Museum is a museum and National Historic Site consisting of two historical tenement buildings which were home to an estimated 15,000 people from over 20 nations, between 1863 and 2011. When first constructed, it contained 22 apartments and a basement level saloon. It stands today as a kind of time capsule, reflecting 19th and early 20th century living conditions and the changing notions of what constitutes acceptable housing. The trip will also include a three-course luncheon in the "Little Italy" section of Manhattan, plus some free time there for shopping in the Italian food specialty stores. Reservation information will be available in a future issue of The Gazette. Call 215 788-9043 for details

HOLIDAYS AT THE NEMOURS ESTATE IN DELAWARE, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5.

Watch future Gazettes for details.

COME CRUISE WITH US

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

Sail aboard the brand new "Norwegian Prima" with ports-of-call in Reykjavik, Isafjordur and Akureyri, Iceland; Alesund, Geiranger and Bergen, Norway; Amsterdam, the Netherlands; Brussels/Bruges (Zeebrugge), Belgium; and London (Southampton), England. Rates per person, double occupancy, including round-trip airfare from Phila., cruise and port charges, government fees, taxes and transfers to/from ship, are \$6,261 for inside cabin category IB and \$6,495 for balcony cabin category BB. A passport is required.



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

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

An Added Bonus to the Roebling Bus Trip

As reported in the previous Gazette, we are running a bus trip to Historic Roebling Village and Bordentown, NJ. On April 11. The trip includes a docent-led tour of the galleries and a leisurely walking tour of Historic Roebling followed by a three-course lunch at the Old Fort Pub in Bordentown. Originally, we scheduled a brief time on your own in Bordentown. However, we are now pleased to instead include a guided tour of the house and grounds of Point Breeze. Point Breeze is the sumptuous home of Joseph Bonaparte, Napoleon's older brother and the ex-king of Naples and Spain. He built the home after fleeing Europe after the disastrous battle of Waterloo. This home is the one he built after the first was destroyed by fire in 1820. According to the information given on the Point

Breeze web site, most of the valuable possessions from the first home were saved by locals and are now on display in the existing home. The estate was modeled on his Montefontaine chateau and adjacent park at Ermenonville in France.

The property was recently opened to the public after more than 175 years. Although it will be after normal visiting hours, a few guides will be available for our tour.

This special treat was made possible by the persistent effort to secure this by our travel agent, Pat Thomas.

To sign up for the bus trip, download our flyer on our web site www.bristolhistory.org/events Call Jan Ruano for more information at 215.788.2106.

IN DEED IT SHALL BE

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

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

Bristol Firsts

In 1686 the King's Highway (Radcliffe Street) was ordered to be laid out. It was the first public highway to run through the county.

The first Market House in the county was erected at Cedar and Mill Streets in 1768

The first telephone switchboard in the county was installed on Mill Street in 1883

What Does Douglas MacArthur Have To Do With Bristol?

by Harold Mitchener

During World War II MacArthur was a general in the Pacific Theater of War.

For the purpose of this article we look at West Point Military Academy located along the Hudson River in the state of New York.

Oscar L. Booz, a native of Bristol, was a plebe back in 1898 when MacArthur was also there. Booz was a member of the Bristol Presbyterian Church and was an individual that believed in having a bible with him. The bible was given to him as a gift.

In the summer the group of plebes camped in tents away from the main campus. Oscar was challenged to a fist fight. After one round he quit and that made him a coward in the eyes of most of the

plebes. Some of the plebes decided to force tabasco sauce in Oscar's mouth after each meal. Oscar Booz came home and died within a few days. He is buried in Bristol Cemetery.

President McKinley demanded that an inquiry be conducted about this. Douglas MacArthur was called to testify about the hazing that had taken place. MacArthur was not at fault but was forced to name people who were involved. As a result of his testimony, this horrible hazing was reduced.

Some people at the academy thought it made a "man" of plebes when they were hazed.

Source: The Life of Douglas MacArthur: Old Soldiers Never Die by Geffory Perret

A Hundred Years Ago

More than 95 percent of all births took place at home.

Ninety percent of all doctors had NO COLLEGE EDUCATION. Instead they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press AND the government as “*substandard*.”

Marijuana, heroin and morphine were available over the counter at local drug stores. Back then pharmacists said: “heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach, bowels and is a perfect guardian of health!” (Shocking?)

The five leading causes of death were: Pneumonia/influenza, Tuberculosis, Diarrhea, Heart Disease and Stroke

Canada passed a law prohibiting poor people from entering into their country for any reason.

The American flag had 45 stars

The population of Las Vegas, Nevada was only 30

There were about 230 reported murders in the entire United States.

There was neither a Mother’s Day nor “Father’s Day

Two out of every 10 adults couldn’t read or write

Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU . . .

Do you have an interesting story or fond memory to share about Bristol Borough? Maybe it was a time in your life that was very memorable . . . a favorite neighbor, teacher, childhood friend or parents of a childhood friend. Maybe it’s about a current happening.

We would like to hear about your memories, Just send your thoughts to BCHF, c/o Gazette Editor, Box 215, Bristol, PA 19007. Please include your full name and email address and phone so we can get in touch with you if necessary.

OUT OF THE PAST

The following items were excerpted from **February 1954** issues of the BRISTOL DAILY COURIER.

2/1 – BRISTOL SERGEANT REPORTED KILLED; MISSING SINCE ’50. M/Sgt. Paul E. Riess, of 342 Jefferson Avenue, Bristol, reported missing in Korea three years ago, is believed to have died in action, the Army reported yesterday. A veteran of nine years service, Riess was with a medical company of the Second Division, Ninth Infantry Regiment, when he was reported missing in action. He joined the Army in May 1942 and twice re-enlisted.

16TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IS DUE AT BRISTOL THEATRE. The Bristol Theatre, Radcliffe and Market Streets, is sweet sixteen and the management is making special preparations for celebrating the anniversary. Sixteen years ago, the Bristol Theatre was built and dedicated to the policy, “Relax at the movies and add years to your life,” and the Bristol Theatre must be Bucks’ finest, according to Harry Fleisher, theatre owner.

2/2 – BOROUGH COUNCIL PICKS TWO FOR AUDITOR POSTS. Appointment of two borough auditors, resignation of a member of council, and the adoption of two resolutions were among the items which occupied the attention of Bristol Borough Council, assembled in special session last evening. William Fallon and James Eagan were unanimously appointed as borough auditors. The resignation of Angelo Cianciosi, Jr., as representative from the Fifth Ward was accepted with regret. Borough solicitor, John Fullam, asked council to adopt a resolution authorizing the purchase of two Ahrens-Fox Model E-C fire apparatuses for \$33,396.

“Hey, Kids! Announcing the Re-Opening of GOODWILL FIRE HOUSE NO. 3 SKATING RINK, Swain & Mifflin Streets, Bristol, on Tuesday, February 2, 7:30 PM. Skating Tuesday & Thursday, 7:30 PM to 10:30 PM; Sundays, 2:00 to 5:00 PM. Prices: Nights, 60c; Sundays, 25c.”

2/3 – SCHOOL DIRECTORS PLAN TO SEIZE BEAVER ST. SITE. The Bristol school directors last night unanimously voted to start condemnation pro-

Continued on next page

Out of the Past . . . continued

ceedings for a proposed school site after they were told that the Pennsylvania Railroad "renege" in an agreement in the land transfer. The site is at Beaver Street next to the railroad freight yard.

SENATOR EDW. MARTIN ACTS TO SAVE JOBS OF 6,000 WORKERS; PREVENTS TRANSFER OF KAISER'S WING CONTRACT. A long battle on the part of the Glenn Martin Plane Company of Baltimore, Md., to "pickup" the Bristol subcontract and transfer the work to its own plant at Baltimore, failed when Kaiser last weekend successfully completed a "test period" of production, refuting charges that it was unable to keep up with schedules.

2/4 - POMEROY STORE TO BE BUILT IN LEVITTOWN SHOPPING CENTER. Construction will begin within a month and the opening is scheduled for the end of the year.

"Special Dress Sale! First Quality. Fruit of the Loom. Street and House Dresses. Sanforized - Fast Colors. Regular Price - \$2.98. Special Below-Cost Sale Price - \$1.99. **KANTER'S DEPT. STORE**, 400 Mill Street, Bristol."

2/9 - SWIMMING POOL PLANS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL. The plans were presented by Robert Pascale, 309 Washington Street, young son of councilman Nicholas Pascale who is sponsoring the pool. A copy of the plans has been sent to Harrisburg. The pool will be located in the lagoon area of Bristol Memorial Park. It is being backed by the Bristol Recreation Board, the Mill Street Businessmen's Association, and labor unions. Numerous persons have volunteered free labor. Estimated overall cost, including the necessary buildings and equipment, is \$68,000.

"For Better Breakfasts, Visit **O'BOYLE'S Two Famous Restaurants**. Rt. 13 & Beaver Dam Rd., and Green Lane & Farragut Ave."

"New 1954 Mercury Sun Valley Lets You See through the Top! Unique Plexiglas Transparent-Top Car Lets You See All the Scenery. Come in today and experience a new driving sensation. **HAMM'S SALES & SERVICE, INC.**, Highway & McKinley St., Bristol."

2/12 - KAISER GETS PART OF LEEDOM PLANT FOR CHANGEOVER. Kaiser Metal Products, Inc., Bristol, has leased 3,800 feet of floor space at the Thomas L. Leedom Company plant, to facilitate a changeover to production of a redesigned Martin B-57 jet bomber wing for the Air Force. The old model wings are still being constructed in the

Canberra building on Radcliffe Street.

BRISTOL TODAY OBSERVED AT PHILA. HOME SHOW. Bristol had its day yesterday at the 1954 Philadelphia Home Show at the Commercial Museum. Other communities have already, or will before the show closes tomorrow, pointed with pride to their accomplishments.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE. 309 Radcliffe St. 3 apartments. Private baths and entrances. First floor apartment suitable for conversion to offices. \$12,000."

2/18 - "Grand Opening Tomorrow and Saturday, February 19 and 20! Bristol's New **RODGERS HOTEL**, 106-108 Monroe Street. A 35 Room, Ultra Modern, Fire-proof Building. Complete Dining Room. Separate Modern Bar. Businessmen's Luncheon - 11 AM to 2 PM. Dinners a la carte - 5 to 8 PM. Owner-management - Thomas and Lillian Rodgers."

"A&P.....Never Have We Featured So Many Fine Meats Priced So Low! Rib Half Pork Roast - 51c Lb. Fresh Ham, Butt Half - 79c Lb. Tender Porterhouse, Boneless Top Round or Sirloin Steaks - 83c Lb. Fresh Ground Beef - 35c Lb. Veal Cutlets or Tenders - \$1.35 Lb. Lamb Chops - 85c Lb."

2/19 - LBCAC CROWN CAPTURED BY FRANKLIN A.C. QUINTET WITH WIN OVER KAISER, 92-65. Franklin finished out its season with a mark of 15 wins in 18 games, compared to the runner-up's 14-4. Bob Strobele, the former Bristol school boy, and lumbering Grant Eckert, the Burlington import, were Franklin's bell cows. Strobele posted 25 points. Eckert wound up with 18.

"Spode China. DuBarry Pattern. 5-Pc. Place Setting - \$8.60. **BAYLIES JEWELERS**, 307 Mill Street."

2/24 - \$300 BURGESS PAY SET; COUNCIL RAISES BUDGET. In order to balance the tentative budget, Bristol Borough Council agreed to renew the head tax of \$5 a person and do the same with the amusement tax. The tentative budget calls for a tax rate of 13 mills.

WARRIORS CAPTURE LBCL BANNER. Bristol Wins 86-73 over Southampton; Unbeaten in League. Bubby Loud, captain and rock-solid forward, lifted Bristol out of trouble with 30 points in his LBCL bow-out. Dick Crosby boosted his individual scoring championship total to 257 with a 22 point take, and Phil Attardo came in for another 17.



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BCHF Calendar of Events For 2024

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

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

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

APRIL. Sun., 4/28., 2-4 PM. BCHF Headquarters. Annual Tea, featuring exhibition by the Artists of Bristol and keyboard selections by Francis Danis. \$35 pp. Limited capacity. Reservations

at 215-788-9408 beginning 3/18; ending 4/14.

MAY. Fri., 5/3, 6-8 PM. BCHF Headquarters. Reception by the Artists of Bristol. No fee. Light refreshment.

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

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

OCTOBER. Tues., 10/8. Bus trip to the Tenement Museum on NY's Lower East Side, followed by 3-course lunch and some free time in Little Italy. \$160 for BCHF members; \$165 for non-members. Reservation deadline: August 30. Call 609-410-3547.

OCTOBER. Sat., 10/19, 10 AM to 4 PM. Annual Historic Bristol Day. Details in future Gazettes.

DECEMBER. Thurs., 12/5. Bus trip to "Holidays at Nemours Estate", DE. Details in future Gazettes. •

BCHF Headquarters are at 321 Cedar Street, Bristol.

For current information about activities and events, check out our web site at www.bristolhistory.org.
email us at bchf2157819895@gmail.com Follow us on Instagram - - [IG@bristol_historic_foundation](https://www.instagram.com/IG@bristol_historic_foundation)

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