



**Bristol Cultural &  
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# The Gazette



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Sponsoring Historic Bristol Day - Third Saturday of Each October

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

OCTOBER 2016

**The third Saturday of October each year is  
Historic Bristol Day.  
This year it is the 15th of October. Please mark your  
calendar. The day is guaranteed to be fun for everyone.**

## BCHF Annual Meeting and Program

Wednesday, November 16th at 7:30 pm BCHF will hold their ANNUAL MEETING. At this meeting there will be a business meeting, including the election of Board Members. The program for that evening will be Clarence H. King. Clarence was born on Bath Road in Bristol Township. His house is a large white house on the right as one travels from Bristol Borough. That house is now part of the Silver Lake Nature Center. Mr. King will

talk about THE EARLY HISTORY OF BRISTOL. One of the people he will mention is Francis Rossill. If you have not heard of him, you won't want to miss the program. Mr. King is also a member of BCHF.

Following the speaker there will be light refreshments. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Invite your friends to join us at our "historic" former one-room school house on Cedar Street.

## BCHF Calendar of Events for 2016

**OCTOBER** - Sat., 10/15, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 40th Historic Bristol Day. Theme: "Celebrating Bristol's Last Fifty Years." Free entertainment incl. ever-popular DJ Jerry Blavat and Bracken Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps, face painting, car show, sailboat regatta, open houses with special attractions, riverfront Tea, exhibits, Children's Corner, food court, shuttle bus and more. House Tour & Tea ticket price: \$12 in advance; \$15 day of event. For details, visit BCHF's website, [www.bristol-history.org](http://www.bristol-history.org)

**NOVEMBER** - 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.

- BCHF Headquarters are at 321 Cedar Street, Bristol
- For current information about activities and events, check out our web site at [www.bristolhistory.org](http://www.bristolhistory.org).

## Bristol Riverside Theater - Season 2016 / 2017

"Well" - Sept. 27 to Oct. 16, 2016

"The Man Who Came To Dinner" - Nov. 1 to Nov. 20, 2016

"Working" - Jan 24 to Feb. 12, 2017

"Jesus Christ Superstar" - March 21 to April 16, 2017

"Agatha Christie's Witness For The Prosecution" - May 9 - May 28, 2017

Phone 215 785-0100 for information

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Kathy Barniskis, Howard J. Collier and Harold Mitchener. Photography by Helen Younglove and Jan Ruano

## IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR NOVEMBER

Letters of Self-Nomination are required for anyone wishing to be considered as a member of the Board of Directors of BCHF. These letters should be addressed to BCHF, P.O. Box 215, Bristol, PA 19007 and marked to the attention of the "Nomination Committee". The letters of self-nomination for the Board of Directors are due not later than Tuesday, November 1, 2016.

## President's Corner

It was a sight to behold. Last month on a bright Monday morning the people on Cedar Street looked out their windows to see a new grey shed rolling down the street on a remote controlled dolly. It was headed to BCHF to be placed behind our building. It was decided that we needed the shed in order to store many of the heavy items currently stored in the basement such as large Bristol Day signs, tables and chairs, etc. The steps in the old building are narrow and hard to climb with big equipment.

The stone building we use as our headquarters was built in 1874 as a Quaker School House. Like many historic buildings, it requires a great deal of expensive maintenance. Currently, we have had the windows in the front of the building restored. The wooden sashes, muntins, jams and rails all had to be meticulously scraped and repainted. All the panes had to be replaced. We have six more windows on the sides of the building

that also need restoration. We have concerns about the condition of the roof. Just like any property, the work is never done. We must budget carefully in order to do so.

One of the important missions of our organization is maintaining the building.

To that end, a good portion of our fundraising goes to that purpose. I am sure you have visited the building during many of our events. We are proud to be guardians of this part of Bristol's history and to share it with the community.



Jan Ruano

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## Historic Bristol Day - Just Around The Corner!

Saturday, October 15th from 10-4 is the big day. What a schedule we have this year! As you will see, our headliner is Jerry Blavat, starting at 11:00. They'll be dancing under the wharf from 11:00 to 12:30. Then, see the schedule of events following this article for all that's offered along Radcliffe Street and the entertainment along the river. Take a bus ride to other areas of town that day for the Children's Corner and Car Show at the Snyder-Girotti School, the library and Grundy Museum home, the TEA, Silver Lake, and the homes on tour. We've got a full schedule of events.

Buy a ticket to view the 6 homes we have on tour this year. (Remember that the TEA is included in the ticket price.) In keeping with our theme, "The Past Fifty Years in Bristol", three of the homes on tour offer exhibits from that time period for you to see. The home at 518 Lafayette Street will display Lenox dishes. The home at 339 Radcliffe Street will have costume jewelry and Lady-head Vases. Wedding gowns from the past fifty years will be on display at the home at 1122 Radcliffe Street.

### ***SPECIAL EVENTS***

9:00 AM Registration for Car Show, Snyder-Girotti School, 450 Beaver St.

10:00 AM Dedication of a mosaic bench, a First Friday community mosaic project – Grundy Museum/Library campus

### ***ALL DAY - 10 AM TO 4***

Car Show – Snyder-Girotti Elementary School #1 450 Beaver St.; shuttle bus available  
Crafters, merchandise vendors & information tables - 200 & 300 blocks of Radcliffe St.  
Six homes open. HBD TICKET REQUIRED. Free shuttle buses running approximately every 15 minutes from the front of the Bristol Riverside Theatre. See next page for locations, descriptions and photos. Special attractions at some locations.

Activities for school age children, accompanied by an adult - Snyder-Girotti School, 450 Beaver St.

Student Art Show contestants' art work displayed - Snyder-Girotti School, 450 Beaver St.

Tour of Dad's Hat Rye Whiskey facility – Ground floor of Grundy Commons, 925 Canal St.

Art exhibit by Bristol artist Joseph Sagolla- Wells Fargo Bank, 244 Radcliffe St.

Margaret R. Grundy Museum, 610 Radcliffe St., open for touring (see cover)

Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Library, 680 Radcliffe St. - Open for exhibit (see program cover)

Community Baptist Church, 225 Radcliffe St. – choir performances at 1:00 & 3:00 PM

Artists of Bristol exhibit and art demonstrations – Basement of Community Baptist Church, 225 Radcliffe St.

Historic Bristol Day Student Art Contest winners' display –

Basement of Community Baptist Church, 225 Radcliffe St.

Silver Lake Nature Center and Earthship, 1306 Bath Rd. - free shuttle from the front of the Riverside Theatre at 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 PM (see cover)

**11:00 AM to Noon** - "Slimy Science" demo by Bristol High chemistry students – Snyder-Girotti School, 450 Beaver Street

**11:00 AM to 12:30 PM** - Dancing under the Wharf featuring DJ Jerry Blavat - Lions Park behind the King George II Inn

**11:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

Historic Bristol Day Riverfront Tea, 922 Radcliffe St.

HBD TICKET REQUIRED.

"Ask the Bristol Historians," law office of Wm. J. Salerno, 220 Radcliffe St.

**12:30 to 2:30 PM**

Face painting – Corner of Radcliffe & Market Sts., next to BB&T Bank

- 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 PM

**1:00 to 1:45 PM** - Puppets Pizzazz - Snyder-Girotti School, 450 Beaver St.

**1:00 to 2:00 PM** - Sailboat Regatta organized by Anchor Yacht Club - Wharf area to Burlington-Bristol Bridge (*depending upon tide and weather conditions*)

**1:30 to 2:30 PM** - Bracken Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps- Lions Park Gazebo (see bottom of page)

**2:00 to 3:30 PM** - Stepping Stone Dancers - Snyder-Girotti School, 450 Beaver St.

**3:00 to 4:00 PM** - Car Show trophies presentation- Snyder-Girotti School, 450 Beaver St.

**3:30 to 3:45 PM** - Sailboat Regatta awards ceremony – Lions Park Gazebo

Restroom facilities will be located behind the BB&T Bank (handicap accessible), 200 Radcliffe Street.; Mill Street parking lot; Friends Meeting House, 235 Market St.; and Snyder-Girotti School, 450 Beaver St.

### ***Bracken Cavaliers Drum & Bugle Corps***

The Bracken Cavaliers Drum & Bugle Corps organized in 1924, claims the honor of being the first junior drum & bugle corps in the U.S. The Corps was 12-time PA State American Legion Champion between 1924 and 1961 and 3-time runner-up for the National title.

## Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from **OCTOBER 1956** issues of THE BRISTOL DAILY COURIER.

10 -- HOSPITAL TO OPEN ALLERGY CLINIC. Lower Bucks County Hospital will open a new allergy clinic on Wednesday between 1 and 2 p.m. The clinic will be open at the same time every Wednesday.

FIVE BRISTOL GRADUATES ENTER SERVICE. Five members of Hopkins Lodge 87, I.O.O.F., graduates of Bristol High School, have entered the armed forces. They are: William Devoe, who is at the U.S. Naval Training Center in Bainbridge, Md., Robert Laptonick, Alfred Mancuso, Donald Leydon and Joseph Lavenburg, all training at the Amarillo, Texas, Air Force base.

10/2 - - SUPERMARKET, BOWLING ALLEY AREA SOUGHT. Bristol Borough Council took under advisement last night bids on portions of borough well property which are sought for a bowling alley, restaurant, supermarket, service station, and monument display show-room and yard.

HOUSES FOR SALE: Apartment house. 6 rooms & bath on first floor. 4 rooms & bath on second floor. Harriman section of Bristol. \$13,500.

Bath St. Single home. 7 rooms & bath. Completely remodeled. Hot water oil heat. Asking \$7,500.

10/3 - - HANDICAPPED TO GET BATH STREET SCHOOL. Handicapped Industries, a newly-formed organization of agencies for the handicapped, received tentative approval last night at the Bristol Borough School Board meeting to open headquarters in the vacant Bath Street School.

BRISTOL'S 275TH OPENER GETS SUPPORT OF RESIDENTS. Donations of merchandise for Bristol's giant auction sale, which will open the week-long celebration of the 275th anniversary of the borough on October 13, have begun to pour into temporary storage quarters at the Passanante Brothers warehouse in response to enthusiastic community-wide support of the sale.

10/5 - - BORO SCHOOL SALE OK'd. No opposition to the sale of the Washington Street School, Bristol, to St. Ann's Church was voiced at a hearing in Bucks County Court today. Michael Catalano, Bristol realtor, testified that \$15,000 is a "very fair price." The 80-year old abandoned building has three classrooms.

"ROBERT HALL, Rt. 13 just north of Rt. 413, Bristol . . . Saturday Only! Save 25%. Ladies Yarn-Dyed Mandarin Coats with wool-fringed matching stole - \$16.88. Two-Tone Zibeline Car Coats with warm quilted lining - \$13.88."

10/9 - - BRISTOL SHORT BECAUSE BIDS FOR LOTS LOW. Because nobody seems to want to pay a good price for the Bristol borough-owned land at Routes 13 and 413, Borough Council may have to cut short \$149,000 worth of services and improvements, it was disclosed last night. The officials had expected a price considerably higher than \$149,000 for the property, which was the part budgeted for expenses this year.

"LA FRANCE BEAUTY PARLOR, 301 Lafayette St . . . Month of October Special! "5-Minute Instant" Heart of Lanolin Machine Permanent. Reg. \$10, Now \$5.95 Complete."

10/13 - - 275th ANNIVERSARY IS UNDERWAY. Bristol's eight-day festival commemorating its 275th anniversary opened this morning with an auction in the Canberra plant of Kaiser Metal Products, Inc. Nice weather today was expected to bring a large crowd to take the Open House tour, which affords the unprecedented opportunity to visit ten historic mansions that have witnessed the glamor and glory of the history of Bristol and the United States.

FIRE SCORCHED CLUB. An estimated \$100 damage was caused in the vacant former Mutual Aid Club at 1014 Wood Street, Bristol, shortly after noon yesterday. Firemen believe the fire started in a pile of straw used for archery targets.

10/15 - - PUPILS PAGEANT, COUNCIL EVENT TO HIGHLIGHT 275TH. An historic pageant by Bristol school children and an old-time meeting of Bristol Borough Council tonight are scheduled to highlight the festivities of Bristol's 275th anniversary. Last night, the churches of Bristol joined together in a community service at the Warren Snyder School auditorium.

"Associated with Mill Street since 1900 - CLARK JEWELERS, 130 Mill Street."

10/17 - - \$500,000 MOTEL APPROVED FOR GREEN LANE. The two-story motel will be built on Green Lane at Route 13 near the Turnpike entrance.

MILL STREET 275TH FAIR OPENS; CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED. The 130 paintings that were entered in Bristol's first art contest went on display in Mill Street store windows today as the old-time street fair opened. First prize in the professional class was won by William Bagley. First prize winner in the student category was Bill Riley.

10/19 - - BRISTOLIANS URGED TO KEEP SPIRIT GLOWING. Gov. Leader Recalls Borough's Early Days in 175th Anniversary Address. A Colonial Banquet and Ball was held in the Warren Snyder School auditorium, with 450 persons attending. A message from President Eisenhower was read.

BUCKS SQUAD HAS 247 CALLS. The Bucks County Rescue Squad answered 247 calls in the last six months. The squad's ambulances were called out 199 times, 38 calls for oxygen were made to the squad, and the emergency truck was sent to 5 fires. Five persons received first aid treatment at the clinic at the squad headquarters.

10/22 - - PARADE ENDS BRISTOL'S 275TH, 18,000 See 2-Mile Spectacle. Floats Depict Boro History. Pupils Take Prize for Float Showing Washington Crossing the Delaware. Some 900 persons marched in the parade, which featured 9 bands, more than 20 floats, 21 or more horses, 5 horse-drawn vehicles, 7 military units, 210 troops, 9 fire companies, 16 antique cars and 26 new cars.

PETE CIMINO WINS MVP AWARD AT BRISTOL BABE RUTH BANQUET. Pete Cimino, of the borough Police Team and a first year member of the Bristol Babe Ruth League, was given the "Most Valuable Player" trophy at the 5th Annual Banquet of the circuit, held last night, with 200 in attendance. Cimino also won the pitching trophy, with seven wins and one defeat. He pitched in the Little League this year.

10/26 - - BRISTOLIANS OBSERVE 50 YEARS IN U.S. Two Bristolians celebrated their first 50 years in America with Bristol's 275th. Nicholas J. Fandozzi, 59 of 1812 Farragut Avenue, and Peter Juliano, 66 of 1030 Radcliffe Street, both from Cappaccotta, Italy, celebrated the event by taking their wives to New York City this weekend.

"A&P . . . Pork Roast, Loin Half - 55¢ lb. All Meat or All Beef Frankfurters - 45¢ 1 lb. pkg. Fresh Filet of Flounder - 69¢ lb. Jonathan Apples - 39¢ 5# bag. Jane Parker Donuts - 19¢ pkg. of 12. Candy Bars - 95¢ box of 24. Kleenex Facial Tissues - 27¢ 2 pkgs. of 200. Nov. Issue of "Woman's Day" - 7¢ copy."

10/30 - - DELAWARE VALLEY GENERAL HOSPITAL DOES RENOVATING. Painters and carpenters, as well as doctors and nurses, are busy these days at Delaware Valley Hospital, a bustling medical institution in Bristol that now has beds for 65 patients. Formerly Bristol General Hospital and, before that, the Harriman Hospital, it was purchased early this year by a group of osteopathic physicians of Lower Bucks County and Philadelphia.

"FACTORS TO YOU FURNITURE CO., Bristol Pike below Mill Street . . . Modern 2-Pc. Living Room Suite - Big, Full-Size Pieces - \$99 Complete. Luxurious, Modern Love Seats in Pairs - Both for only \$99. Terms \$20.00 down; \$2.00 per week."

10/31 - - BIRD FANCIERS PLAN SHOW. The bright plumage and gay chirps of birds will fill the hall of Goodwill Hose Company No. 3 in Bristol, November 10 and 11, at the second annual cage bird show of the Delaware Valley Bird Fanciers Association. Organized in Edgely, the Bird Fanciers Association has some 85 members.

JOHNSON TAKES OVER LBC SCORING LEAD. Johnny Johnson of Bristol vaulted into the lead of the Lower Bucks County League scoring race with a touchdown spree last week. The fleet halfback racked up 18 points while Bristol was blanking Bensalem, 19-0.

**NOTE TO READERS: The October 1956 issues of the BRISTOL DAILY COURIER were packed with articles and photos about the Borough's 275th anniversary celebration, as well as stories and pictures of Bristol's past. They can be seen on microfilm at the Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Library, and begin in mid-October, extending through the 22nd.**



## Thank You Howard J. Collier of Avon Lake, Ohio

Mr. Collier told us many interesting facts about a house that his family lived in on 226 Cedar Street in Bristol.

This was the site of the Court House of Bucks County from 1705 to 1725. It was located across the street from the Masonic Lodge 25.

"The building had a large door entrance to the left of the building, as you face the building and you were looking east toward the Delaware River. A large step was a stone, deep slab, placed beneath the entrance step. The door was multi-paneled and about 6 feet tall or larger in height. Inside, originally, were four rooms, two on each floor. However, there was a "Cellar" or basement and an attic. The building had two large windows along side of the large front door, and had appropriate large wooden shutters flanking the two windows. Upstairs there were three windows and shutters. (There are colonial buildings in the greater Philadelphia area and eastern parts of Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina with similar architectural design.)

There were two courtrooms, each with a fireplace centered in the room. The front room, later the Parlor, looked out to the street. The other room, in the back was smaller but still larger and it had a fireplace as well as the front room. Upstairs, there were two rooms, each with a fireplace and windows. There were "out houses" on the back of the building about close to the present line of the church on property facing Radcliffe Street.

The original building had, (outside the small door located on the side, opposite the main door, and located in the middle of the sidewall) an outside place where a person could be hanged. You entered this door on the side and you could open another door to the right that led you to the "Cellar". To the right was a room with interlocking stone on the floor. (NO one could dig out of it.)

If you walked up these stairs there were landings. Finally you reached the upper floor or 3rd floor, known as the "Attic." Later, we found the attic had a secret room. This is a description of the colonial Courthouse of Bucks County.

Mr. Collier's father died when the family lived there. The building had been remodeled some years before to permit "modern" living. There was an extension built on, that became the pantry and a kitchen. There was a bathroom upstairs that took up part of the large back area. The front area was divided into two bedrooms. The back upstairs area had the bathroom and a separate bedroom. There was a coal furnace in the basement. The interlocking mill stone area was where the coal came into the basement thru a

window, punched in the wall, in modern times.

For years, the previous owners had been the Booze Family. (This Philadelphia family made a significant sum of money bottling and selling Whisky in a glass bottle shaped like a house. It became known as "a bottle of Booze". One of the family became very religious and did not drink nor did they have any association with the bottling company. They moved to Bristol, settled and raised a family in the house at 226 Cedar that was remodeled to meet more than the standard for the time. A son, known as "Bibles" attended West Point Military Academy. He was severely hazed. His stomach was severely injured when he was forced to drink a very hot pepper preparation. He came home to die. There was a national investigation into his death. It was held in the Silbert House on Radcliffe Street. (Now called Annabella's). Future General McArthur testified. Based on the evidence, dramatic changes were put into effect at West Point.

Our family rented the home from Miss Booze, who was a retired teacher and lived in a nice apartment along the Hudson in NYC.

As time went by, I was going to be married and we had rented a home in Levittown on a temporary basis. My mother lived with us and I knew it would be long term. I would be leaving the region. We sent Miss Booze notice. She offered the home to me for \$5,000. I had no interest. Miss Booze gave the home and property to the next-door church and they tore it down to provide a larger yard for the church.

When we lived in that home, my Brother Jack and I were teen-agers. We went up in the attic to do some cleaning up chores. He pressed a wall and it moved. We were able to open the wall - there was a small room. In that room were chests of clothes and furniture.

We opened a chest and found ladies' clothes that, when touched, crumbled. To me, it looked like wedding clothing. In another chest was the West Point Uniform of the young dead person. The trial report was in the chest. We closed the case. We never opened them again. They were left in the hidden room in the attic.

I was young and I made a big mistake when I was offered the home for \$5,000. I should have put money down and then paid monthly on the Mortgage. Finally, I could have made it work. Then I should have made a contact with Joseph Grundy (I knew him) and see if I could sell the property to a foundation at cost or donate the property that would restore it back to its original purpose. It could have been accomplished. It would have been a fine building for the people of the area who could learn more about their history and government.

## Historic House Tour and Tea on Bristol Day. . . Ticket Required

One of the outstanding events of each Historic Bristol Day is the House Tour and Tea. The theme of this year's HBD is "*Celebrating Bristol's Last 50 Years*". In keeping with the theme, this year's homes were either built within the last 50 years or renovated/remodeled during that time period. The locations are indicated on the map and included on the tour and, as an added bonus, ticket holders are invited to tea at 922 Radcliffe Street overlooking the Delaware River. Tickets are available at the Information Tables (I on map) and at the Tea.

The following private homes will be open for touring from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Two free shuttle buses will transport visitors to the homes, the tea plus other locations marked with \*\*.

**518 Lafayette Street** - (Right) The residence of Ralph & Monica DiGuiseppe. Built in 1994 - Victorian design. It will feature a table-setting selected and loaned by Lenox.



**315 DiGuiseppe Drive** - (Right) The home of Robert & Jenn DiGuiseppe-Melling. Built in 2006 - Victorian Design.



**1122 Radcliffe Street** - (Right) The residence of Carl & Kim White - Federal style, riverfront home built in 1820 in what was then known as the "Village of Pine Grove". Recently renovated. It will feature an exhibit of 8 wedding gowns & accessories, worn in the last five decades.



**922 Radcliffe Street** - (Left) The home of Ronald & Veronica Walker. Built in 1999 Victorian design. This riverfront home will feature the Historic Bristol Day Tea (outdoors). Enjoy a display of vintage Barbies and G.I. Joes.

**339 Radcliffe Street** - (Right) The residence of Jen Renshaw & Stephanie Croquez. Built in 1817 in the Greek Revival style. Served as Washington Hall, home of Bristol's first newspaper, "The Gazette," started by Benjamin Franklin's great-grandson, William Bache. Later, became headquarters of the Bristol Odd Fellows. Later renovated for residential use. It will feature a display of costume jewelry popular during the '50s & '60s, along with Lady's Head vases which were popularized during the '50s. An Artist of Bristol will do *plein air painting* (a French term meaning "in the open air") in front of this house



**112 Walnut Street** - (Left) The home of Mary McIlvaine - Built in 1875 in the Greek Revival style. Recently renovated. It will feature a display of hand-crafted miniature reproductions of historic Bristol landmarks by Gasper ("Chief") Favoroso

## Can You Dig It?

Our organization is sponsoring an archeological dig right in our own backyard, under the direction of Jesse Walker, on Sunday, October 30th at noon. Come to BCHF headquarters on Cedar Street to join in a fun and educational experience for both young and old. (Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

Mr. Walker will present the whole process at a dig site from digging, sifting, and eventually recording data. So, grab some gloves, eye protection, and a hand trowel and join us. Hopefully, we'll recover some of Bristol's history. Our building was originally built as a schoolhouse, so maybe we'll find some schoolyard or classroom artifacts from the 19th century.



## The Date of the Election and Some Trivia About the First Ladies

The "National Election Day" is, by law, the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. This was a uniform date for choosing the presidential electors and was instituted by the Congress in 1845.

No federal law regulated the 1788 federal election. In 1792 federal law permitted each state to conduct elections in the states (to choose their electors) at any time in a 34 day period before the first Wednesday of December which was the day set for the meeting of the electors (the Electoral College) in their states.

An election date in November was seen as convenient because the harvest would have been completed and the winter-like storms would not yet have begun.

The bill initially set the day as "the first Tuesday in November in years divisible by four (1848, 1852, etc.), but it was pointed out that in some years this would amount to more than 34 days. So the bill was reworded to move the date for choosing presidential electors to the Tuesday after the first Monday in November. The period between Election day and the first Wednesday in December is always 28 days. The effect of the changes was to make November 2nd the earliest day on which Election Day may fall.

Tuesday was established as election day because it did not interfere with the Biblical Sabbath or with the market day, which was on Wednesday in many towns in 1845.

Here are some facts about First Ladies that you may not have heard about in the past.

When Martha Washington was First Lady, she first served on Cherry Street in New York City and then on Market Street in Philadelphia. The White House had not yet been erected.

Abigail Adams was the first to live in the White House. She only lived there a couple of months, before their term ended. She is well-known for hanging her laundry in the Ball Room on the east side. The outside had not yet been landscaped and it was muddy or dusty, depending on the weather.

Hannah VanBuren was the first President's wife to be born as a U.S. Citizen.

Anna Harrison never got to the White House. Her husband gave a very long inaugural speech, standing in the rain. He became ill and in 30 days he died and she could not move to Washington, D.C.

Jackie Kennedy spoke French. When she joined her husband for a trip to France, she was able to speak directly with the leader of France. Her husband could not and needed a translator.

Abigail Fillmore is given credit for starting a library in the White House. There were very few books in the house. She petitioned Congress for the money to buy the books for the White House.

Julie Grant had been invited to join the Lincolns in the Fords' Theater. She did not and when he was shot she was at home on Wood Street in Burlington, NJ.

Frances Cleveland was the youngest First Lady. She was 21 and her husband was 50 when they lived

in the White House.

Mrs. Taft was the first to ride with her husband in the carriage from the Capitol to the White House after his inauguration.

Mrs. Truman lived part of the time in the White House. They found that it was very much in need of repair. They moved across Pennsylvania Avenue to the Blair House. After quite a long time, they were able to move back across the street to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Eleanor Roosevelt was the first to hold a news conference in the White House as a first lady.

Mrs. Hoover had invited the wives of all Congressmen to a tea in the White House. One of the ladies was the wife of Oscar DePreist. He was an African-American Congressman. Southern Segregationists said that she was defiling the White House. She didn't care and even did it again.

When Betty Ford moved into the White House, the first question reporters asked her, "What are your programs going to be?" She had no program, she told them, but she did have several interests she intended to pursue. As a former dancer, she was interested in ballet, opera, music, writing and photography and she hoped to support the creative arts while she was First Lady.

Mrs. Warren G. Harding was the first President's wife or mother able to vote for her husband. Prior to that there were 19 Presidents when no female could vote.

## Travel Update

We now have more details about two of the three trips planned for 2017 - -

**"A Day in Baltimore,"** Thursday, May 11 - - The bus will depart from the Grundy Arena, 475 Beaver Street, at 8:45 a.m. sharp and proceed to Phillips Seafood Restaurant for your choice of their "Crab Feast" (all-you-can-eat steamed medium crabs, Maryland fried chicken, dry rub ribs, corn on the cob, cole slaw, potato salad, mixed green salad, watermelon, strawberry shortcake, coffee tea and soft drinks; served family style) OR their "Plated Lunch Menu" (fresh baked rolls, cup of Maryland vegetable crab soup, chef's dessert of the day, coffee, tea and soft drinks and your choice of one of the following entrees: jumbo crab with chef's potato and vegetable; fried seafood trio consisting of crab cake, fresh catch, golden fried shrimp with chef's potato and vegetable; or grilled salmon with chef's potato and vegetable). Following lunch, we will embark on a 3-hr. guided bus tour of Baltimore, including Babe Ruth's birthplace, Fells Point and

Federal Hill. A stop will be made at Ft. McHenry to see a short, informative film and use the restrooms. The estimated return time to Bristol is 7:30 p.m.

The all-inclusive trip cost for the "Crab Feast" is \$112 for BCHF members; \$117 for non-members. For the "Plated Lunch Menu," the cost is \$93 for members and \$98 for non-members. Please note that a minimum of 25 people is required for the "Crab Feast" and a minimum of 15 people for the "Plated Lunch Menu."

Reservations, accompanied by a check payable to BCHF, are due to Ellanna Delaney, 329 Cedar St., Bristol, PA 19007 by **March 31**. Please keep in mind that the trip could sell out before that date! Contact Ellanna at 215 788-4138 for a trip flyer/reservation form.

**3-Day/2-Night Bus Trip to the Hudson River Valley of NY** - - The date has been set for Wednesday through Friday, **October 4-6**. We are waiting for 2017 prices in order to set the tip cost. Stay tuned!

## BCHF Was There

The first two weeks of September were extremely busy ones for our Ways & Means Committee, starting with "First Friday on the Delaware," sponsored by the Bristol Borough Business Association, right through the Annual Italian Day Festival, presented by the Bristol Lions Club. In between, was a surprise event which brought the Budweiser Clydesdale horses to the town on Labor Day. Thanks to our W&M Committee, BCHF had a presence at all three events.

Unfortunately, we do not have a photo of the raffle and info table which was manned by Ways & Means Chairperson Kathy Barniskis on the very hot afternoon of Sept. 10.



*Above: Carol Mitchener (seated), Debbie Pinney and Jan Ruano promoted the 40th Historic Bristol Day as they awaited the arrival of the Clydesdale horses in Bristol's Waterfront Park on Monday, Sept. 5.*



*Left: Eva Ligato (left) and Sue Ligato (right) staffed our sales and info table on Mill Street, Friday, Sept. 2, and brought a smile to this little boy's face by presenting one of our "pinwheel" giveaways and a "gummy krabby patty."*