



**USS Bainbridge  
REUNION**

**Lancaster PA June 4th-8th  
2017**

I enjoyed being the host (In absentia.) for the Lancaster Reunion. It was enjoyable to see shipmates and wives whom I had not seen since San Diego ten years ago. Several members helped with many of the tasks required for the Reunion and that was appreciated. There were some people that are not members of our group who also helped a great deal- Sandy Haynes of the Heritage Hotel company, who gave us breakfasts at half price and a good sized conference room free of charge. There was also the catering manager Tony who bent over backwards to accommodate the group. The merchants that gave free samples for the welcome gift bags were Turkey Hill, Wilbur Chocolates, Hammond Pretzels, and Citizens Bank. Evan's Chocolates offered chocolates at a steep discount. The notes below are from members that I requested comments from. Admiral Newell's memorable speech is also included with the URL at the bottom of the following notes. There are many more pictures of the reunion on Facebook under the private page 'Bainbridge Reunion'

### **Bob Hemingway**

June 4, 2017 Ed and I arrived in Lancaster PA for the Bainbridge reunion. We checked into the hotel and then settled in to talk with old friends. At 6 o'clock we had a meal of sandwiches, salad and wonderful chocolate chip cookies. Then we had a meeting with Hemingway and his family. Bob gave us all another summary of our trip itinerary and a reminder of how funny he is. It was nice to catch up and then we all retired to our rooms at the heritage Hotel to get rest for the next days trip.

### **Kim Gilbert**



June 5

On Monday morning we took the bus to the Amish Farm for a tour. Our guide was a 90 year old man who told us the history of the Amish people

who settled in this area and how the various sects divided over time according to their beliefs. They have no electricity in their homes and use horse and buggy instead of cars. He pointed out that men and women sat on opposite sides of the room or sometimes even in separate rooms. Young single men were clean shaven but after marriage they grow beards. He showed us various pieces of furniture and other items that were in a typical home. He showed us the style of clothing for the men and women depending on their age and marital status. One interesting note was that men could have buttons on their clothing but not the women as buttons on female clothing were considered "adornment". The women used straight pins for adjusting the size. Then we wandered around outside through buildings that were used during that time period including where tobacco was dried, blacksmiths and barns with farm equipment.

### **Leta Holloway**





Bob,

We very much enjoyed attending the reunion this year and wanted to thank you for all your efforts in coordinating a really successful event. While my parents (John and Charlotte Bradley) began attending long ago I only began in San Antonio about 10 years ago when my Dad's health was failing.

Although Dad passed away in 2010, Mom and I have enjoyed traveling to the reunions every year since then. Every reunion has been a special time for me in so many ways.

I especially enjoyed Admiral Newell's speech this year. As a child growing up Dad didn't talk much about his work in the Navy. I knew that being a military dependent was different and special, and I recognized that he and Mom (as a Navy wife and mother), faced challenges that most couples would not have borne so well. I never had a complete appreciation for the depth of the challenges they (and every military family) face until I was able to attend the Bainbridge reunions and spend time with the shipmates and families. In particular I have also greatly enjoyed learning about the historic role that the Bainbridge played.

As to your request re: Kitchen Kettle Village:

Kitchen Kettle Village was a great place to spend time--despite the somewhat drizzly weather. We enjoyed visiting with Joe and Diana (Bisig) over lunch before spending time popping into and out of the many shops.

There was such a variety that I'm sure there was something to catch most everyone's interest and all of the shopkeepers were so helpful and friendly!! I definitely didn't leave empty handed! My favorite--that Ice Cream shop with home-made ice cream! Yummy!!

Thanks again to you and to all who had a part in making this reunion such a success. I will forever be grateful for the opportunity to participate and spend time with this awesome group.

**Treasa Dodge**  
**(Daughter, John Bradley, Plankowner)**



## **USS BAINBRIDGE 2017 REUNION**

### **LANCASTER, PA**

#### **VISIT TO JAMES BUCHANAN HOUSE**

Our group arrived at Wheatland, the name of the James Buchanan house, on Monday afternoon. Due to our size we were divided into three groups each led by a docent dressed in period clothing. James Buchanan was our 15<sup>th</sup> president and was our only bachelor president. Each group toured both the first and second floor of the house visiting the parlor, library, two kitchens, and two dining rooms on the first floor and Buchanan's primary living spaces on the second floor. Of note were many original pieces of china and furniture on display. Of particular interest were a number of original newspapers on display from the Lancaster Journal dating back to as early as 1809. The docents were quite knowledgeable and were able to answer all our difficult questions. Without question this was a most interesting and enjoyable venue for all.

**Dick Holloway**







June 6

The second day of the USS Bainbridge Reunion was spent at the Gettysburg Battlefield National Park in Gettysburg, PA. The Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center has been redone in recent years and afforded our group time to browse in the bookstore before our excellent Park Guide gathered us together back on the bus to give details of the entire battle. We learned about the "Three Days in July" of 1863 where more men fell during the Battle of Gettysburg than in any other battle on American soil before or since. The sights of the meeting of the Union and Confederate armies across fields and through the town of Gettysburg itself, the Lutheran Seminary on the ridge and the final battle on July 3 which marked Union victory for the Union Army of the Potomac filled several hours. The tragedy of brother against brother (General Lee's Army of Northern Virginia lost over 5,000 men in one hour during "Pickett's Charge" across open fields) was clear to us all. We ended our day at The Eternal Light Peace Memorial

with an eternal flame where Admiral Bruce Newell led a service honoring our fallen shipmates of the last year. It was truly a day to remember!

**Theresa Newell**







## Banquet

As vegetarians we experience a lot of disappointments as the chefs at hotels seem to have no Imagination when asked to prepare meals for folks outside the norm. The meals we were served at Loxley were outstanding. Very creative, delicious and completely unexpected. The service, also, must be mentioned as the server contacted us before the meal, assured us that she knew we had something special and was sure to serve us when everyone else was eating too (most unusual). Really, it was a happy surprise and we appreciated whatever effort you and the staff went into to assure we had a wonderful meal. Good job, Bob

**Bob and Liz Davies**

## **USS Bainbridge Reunion June 7, 2017- Final Day- Ephrata Cloister, Banquet, Raffle**

On Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, the final day of the reunion, everyone boarded the bus and we were headed for Ephrata Cloister a community established by Conrad Beissel and a brotherhood of followers seeking spiritual freedom in the early 1700's. Our tour guide dressed in the traditional clothing of the period was very knowledgeable about the history of the area and could answer the many questions asked during the tour. It was interesting that the area and the structures we were seeing were built more than 250 years ago and the way of life so different from today. After the formal tour everyone was allowed to explore the area before boarding the bus. Everyone accounted for, the bus headed for Isaac's restaurant where we all enjoyed a relaxing lunch and conversation with fellow shipmates and friends.

After lunch the bus headed back to the hotel. The general business meeting was held with all hands invited to attend and then everyone was free to get ready for the evening banquet and raffle.

Early in the evening, around 1700 hours everyone started gathering in the hospitality room/ banquet area. Ed Haggerty had his camera set up and was taking individual and group photos for the Association archives and the Bainbridge Reunion Facebook page. A short time later the cash bar was set up and all enjoyed drinks and conversation during the social hour.

Following the social hour it was time for the formal banquet activities to begin. After a brief welcome everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the playing of our National Anthem. The invocation was given by RADM Bruce Newell. Chuck Gilbert did the reading in recognition of the Missing Sailor Table followed by the playing of Taps.

It was time for the meal to begin. The choices were a chicken or pork entrée with salad and all the side dishes and a cheesecake dessert.

Everyone seemed to enjoy and some went back for seconds.

Upon completion of the meal our guest speaker was introduced, Rear Admiral Bruce Newell, the fifth Commanding Officer of the USS Bainbridge DLGN/ CGN 25. Admiral Newell did a very interesting and informative talk on Admiral Rickover, the early nuclear power program and the early days of the USS Bainbridge bringing back many memories for some of our shipmates.

After some closing remarks and the tables cleaned up we moved on to our traditional raffle.

The raffle seemed to be a great success once again. There were many beautiful and generous donations from all of the attendees at the reunion and an outstanding participation from everyone in purchasing the raffle tickets. Many were lucky in winning the item they wished to receive and many won a lot more than some and they immediately received taunting from others but all in good fun. There were even some members that won a free night at the hotel during their stay.

The raffle complete, everyone said goodnight and retired to their rooms until morning. The next morning some had breakfast and said goodbye one more time. We checked out of our rooms and headed home thinking that it all went too fast and looking forward to next time.

**Joe Bisig**



**Admiral Newell's (The Fifth Captain of the Bainbridge) speech.**

<https://youtu.be/paUGBU4Ge78>