



The Inkwell

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BRADFORD LANDMARK SOCIETY

45 East Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701
www.bradfordlandmark.org

814-362-3906
December 2014

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The Bradford  
Landmark Society  
is a  
501c3 non-profit  
Organization.

Membership in our  
society is welcomed.

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## HAPPY HOLIDAYS 2014!

Isn't it amazing how fast the year 2014 went by? It seems just yesterday, I was shoveling tons of snow and shivering in minus zero temperatures. Time does seem to fly and talk about time flying - this December 12, 2014 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my working at the Landmark. I know, I could hardly believe it myself. Twenty years! And the funny part is, I am just beginning to learn all the amazing history that can be found in Bradford and the area. There is still so much more to know.

Twenty years ago I came into the Herbig Bakery for an interview for a job as curator. Jane Stack had retired that fall, and her assistant, Margaret Clark, did not want the responsibility of running a historical society. I saw the ad in the newspaper and applied. I met the Board of Directors that day - Doc Watkins, Bob Blair, Sue Shepley (Shonts), Marguerite Hewey, George Kish, Jane Larson, John Kijowski, June Gray, Warren Paynter and others - and stood at the head of the table and explained why I was perfect for the job. I told Doc Watkins that I remembered him taking out my appendix when I was just 10 years old, and still remembered the joke he told me in the operating room just before the anesthesia took hold (How do you make an elephant float? Two scoops of ice cream and an elephant). To this day I think that story helped me clinch the job. Of course, the fact that I had a master's degree in American Studies and had worked at the Pennsylvania State Archives didn't hurt, either.

I arrived for work and Margaret Clark helped me until Christmas; then I was on my own. Larry Richmond, one of the best researchers I ever met, showed up in January, and he and I dove in - reorganizing, cataloging, identifying and researching local history. We wrote newsletters; I appeared on the Liveline radio show once a month for about a year; wrote articles we called 'Time Capsules' for the very new Internet (Joe Warner in town published what would now be known as a blog), gave speeches (to date, I think I have given nearly 100 speeches); and helped people do genealogy, provided information to Round the Square and researched a wide variety of topics. We realized that people love to read about the history of their hometown and wrote books to fill that desire.

Marian Bromeley often stopped in to chat - usually on her way to lunch with her good friend June Pfister Gray - and would call me after hours to chat and talk about the future of the Landmark.

While there had been a newsletter since 1975 it was renamed "The Inkwell" in February 2000. We eventually got computerized; got a photo scanner, began a web page, and a Facebook page as well. Today we have over 750 Facebook friends who check in every day to see what new photograph we've posted, and what tidbit of history is discussed.

The Landmark was founded in 1969 - and both the Herbig Bakery and the Crook Farm Historic farmstead are thriving. I have been honored to have been a part of it for 20 years and look forward to another twenty!

\* \* \*  
Happy Holidays!  
\* \* \*

# Did you forget something?



Membership dues for the Bradford Landmark Society are now payable for 2015.

Reminder letters were sent out in October – If you sent in your dues already,

**Thank you! And Welcome!**

If you have forgotten, we are extending our membership drive until the end of the year.

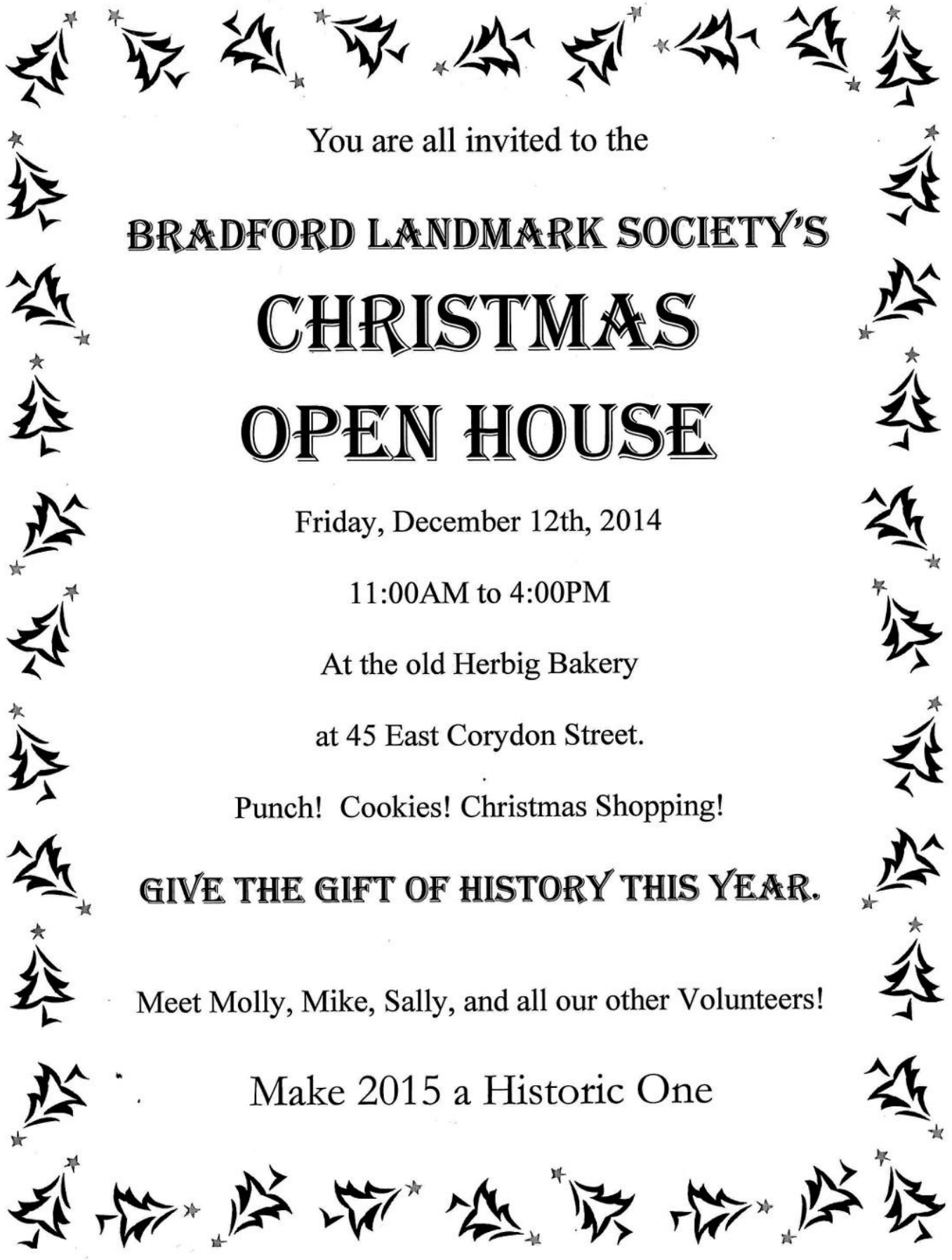
We hope that you will continue to support the Bradford Landmark Society.

| Level of Membership | Dues       |
|---------------------|------------|
| Single Membership   | \$15.00    |
| Family Membership   | \$25.00    |
| Business Membership | \$50.00 +  |
| Patron Membership   | \$100.00 + |

Name \_\_\_\_\_  Renewal  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  New Member  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

We accept cash, check, or money order, payable to

The Bradford Landmark Society, 45 East Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701



You are all invited to the

**BRADFORD LANDMARK SOCIETY'S**

**CHRISTMAS  
OPEN HOUSE**

Friday, December 12th, 2014

11:00AM to 4:00PM

At the old Herbig Bakery

at 45 East Corydon Street.

Punch! Cookies! Christmas Shopping!

**GIVE THE GIFT OF HISTORY THIS YEAR.**

Meet Molly, Mike, Sally, and all our other Volunteers!

Make 2015 a Historic One

## New Businesses in 2014

*As usual, we try to keep track of all the new businesses in the area that have opened, moved, or closed in 2014., and include this in our last newsletter of the year. No matter what the reason, all made history to us. Here are some that we collected during 2014.; there may be other stores or businesses that we missed, if so, we are sorry!*

### **These businesses opened or moved to a better location during the past year. Yay!**

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- Colella Mob Bakery and Grill opened in Marshburg. June 2014.
- Creative Coffee, 16 Congress Street, provides and services commercial coffee brewers, July 2014.
- Edmond Chevrolet Buick GMC at 824 East Main Street remodeled their showroom and held grand reopening in November, 2014.
- Gabriel's Bistro, small neighborhood restaurant at 88 Main Street, opened August 2014.
- Hot Dog Tommy's on 1401 South Avenue reopened, June 24
- Java Dave's Coffee is opening soon in the Parkview Plaza.
- Kabob's at the Option, Mediterranean cuisine, May 2014.
- Kel's Gifts Main Street opened in July, 2014.
- Little Fabric Shop opened in October at 25 Main Street.
- Main Street Antiques, 86 Main Street, High end antiques and home décor. July 2014.
- MeeraComm.com, a new computer repair store on Main Street, May 2014.
- Moments to Remember, moved to 62 Main Street, January 2014.
- Paper to Pages, a craft & art supply store, moved from 20 Congress Street to 80 East Corydon Street in October.
- Phoenix Rehabilitation and Health Services opened at the mall, 1001 East Main Street in September.
- Price Right moved into 20 Congress Street in December.
- Shear Designs in the Seneca building moved (Marilyn Horne museum coming here) in January 2013.
- Washington Outlet, 96 Main Street, opened in June 2014.
- Whimsical Studio, photography studio, May 2014.

### **Closed – Sadly, these businesses closed. Boo!**

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- Tina's hallmark store closing; announced that they would be closing by end of May; started in Mall in November 1974.
- The old KFC building was torn down (in rubble, Feb. 25), by Worth Smith - new body shop for Edmund Chevrolet being built on its location.

### **Lastly, one more unique structure was built. Meow!**

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- Not a patio, but a 'catio' at the McKean County SPCA animal shelter, an enclosed area with a gazebo, a picnic table and trees for the cats to climb opened June 2014.

## CHRISTMAS IN BRADFORD TRIVIA

I recently gave a speech on Christmas in Bradford, and found out some very interesting trivia.

- In 1953, 6,435 Bradfordians opened a Christmas Club at the three local banks; by the time that Christmas Club checks were mailed out in November (in time for the shopping season) \$467,750.25 had been saved. That is almost half a million dollars!
- On December 28, 1886, Edwin Booth, considered by many to be the greatest Hamlet of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, played at the Wagner Opera House on Main Street. Booth, of course, was the brother of John Wilkes Booth, the man who assassinated Abraham Lincoln.
- In 1938, Santa Claus arrived at the Harri Emery airport, and was escorted by Bradford Police department, the High School Band, and the Ben Hur Drum Corps. Santa threw candy to the children along the way.
- In 1886, Emery Hardware announced “War has Commenced. The Battle for Christmas Presents has begun!” Rather dramatic, don’t you think?
- In 1920, Lewis Emery gave each of his 113 employees a 98 pound sack of flour for Christmas.
- Dipson’s New Bradford Theater opened on Christmas day in 1935. Miss America was also on hand. The first movie shown was “\$1,000 a Minute.”
- In 1890, the Episcopal Church on Chautauqua Place burned when Christmas wreath candles placed too near the altar caused a fire.
- In 1949, Bradford’s business district was converted into a Santa Claus Lane for the Christmas season.
- Santa Claus made his annual visit to Bradford riding on a fire engine with two elves from East Bradford through the Main St. area of town, November 26, 1971.
- Santa Claus was not the only one busy over the holiday weekend. Jack Frost had his hands full too, in 1993 as the wind chill dropped to 41 degrees below zero and snow accumulations reached 14 inches in the highest elevations in McKean County.
- A present that every woman wanted was a fur, and in 1938 the Johnston store offered a wide selection of furs, from capes to stoles to muffs and collars, including such furs as Black Fox, Squirrel, Wolf, Lynx, Sable, Mink, and Chinchilla. All very reasonably priced, too!

Speaking of Johnston, we would like to make a correction to our last Newsletter, in the section that listed various books that have been written over the years about Bradford history. We made a mistake: the book is correctly called “A Pocket of Peace” by Mary Ann Johnston and was published in 1979.

## National Toy Hall of Fame Inductees 2014!

This year's honorees to the Strong Museum of Play's annual Toy of the Year award goes to little green army men, Rubik's Cube, and Bubbles!

**Little green army men** took their place of honor among the other 53 classic toys that evidence the iconic status, longevity, and play value necessary for induction. These small figures, two to four inches tall, represented soldiers in the mid-20th-century U.S. Army, mostly infantrymen carrying midcentury equipment and weapons. Little green army men, first produced in the 1930s, evolved from toy soldiers of the early 1900s made of tin, metal alloys, and lead. Toy makers molded the soldiers in the ubiquitous olive drab of the U.S. Army. Green army men also introduced plastic as a malleable and durable material and a suitable replacement for dangerous toy soldiers of lead. Green army figures also came in many action poses that encouraged different battle narratives for children's play. Sold for just pennies a piece, these little plastic figures were easy to come by and easy to replace.

**Rubik's Cube** - Initially known as the Magic Cube, today's Rubik's Cube—a six-sided puzzler that has challenged several generations—holds the title of best-selling toy of all time. It is estimated that one in seven people on the planet have tried to solve it. Solvers call themselves cubers, and these pattern systems are algorithms. In 2014, 19-year-old Mats Valk of the Netherlands held the speedcubing record for a single solve at 5.55 seconds.

**Bubbles** - The earliest paintings of children playing with bubbles appeared in the 17th century. Soap bubbles seem simple, but they illustrate the mathematical problem of minimal surface, assuming the shape with the least possible surface area to contain a given volume. Best used outdoors, bubbles are marketed today for ages three and up. New soap mixtures are completely non-toxic. It is difficult to think of a plaything more ubiquitous than bubbles. They float with a magical iridescent gleam, and then they disappear in an instant. Inexpensive, safe, and clean—what more can we ask of any toy?

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