



The Inkwell

The Newsletter of the Bradford Landmark Society

April 2014

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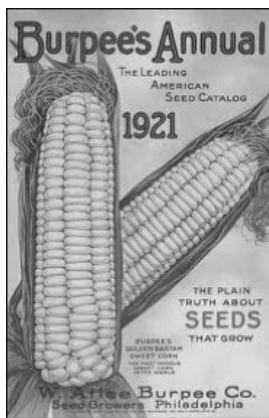
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Spring was a hard fought battle this year. Winter nearly won! And nothing says spring but gardening. Even if you don't actually get out there and dig in the dirt, there's something about the renewal of life from the dirt that gets all of us.

Probably the most famous seed producer in the United States is Burpee. Washington Atlee Burpee, the founder of the company, was born in 1858 to a prominent Philadelphia family. He was expected to become a physician like his father and grandfather, but even in his early youth he seemed determined to pursue a different career. His boyhood hobby was poultry breeding-- an interest that soon expanded to include the breeding of livestock, dogs, and plants. The infant science of genetics fascinated him.

By the time he was in his mid-teens, he was corresponding with English breeders, providing as well as receiving information, and gained quick recognition when his papers on his experiments were published in England.

In 1878, Burpee founded W. Atlee Burpee & Company. The company soon switched to primarily garden seed, but live poultry wasn't dropped from the Burpee catalog until the 1940s.

A key in Burpee's business was the 1863 free delivery system that required post offices to deliver mail to residents' homes and in 1896, free delivery was extended to rural areas. This allowed his catalogs to be delivered directly to people's homes.

As the years went by, he realized that farmers and home gardeners needed a higher quality of seed than was available at the local hardware/feed store, and included seed in his catalog, packaged inside beautifully illustrated packets, often using local Philadelphia artists as illustrators. Today, vintage seed packets – from any company, not just Burpee - are highly desirable and many are considered works of art.

Baseball and Bradford's Rube Waddell

2014 is the 100th anniversary of the death of baseball great, Rube Waddell, who died at the age of 37, on April 1, 1914. And if you don't know who he is, then you don't know baseball. Considered one of the greatest left-handed pitchers in baseball history, he was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1946.

In his thirteen-year career he played for the he played for the Louisville Colonels (1897, 1899), Pittsburgh Pirates (1900–01) and Chicago Orphans (1901) in the National League, and the Philadelphia Athletics (1902–07) and St. Louis Browns (1908–10) in the American League

Connie Mack once said "He had more stuff than any pitcher I ever saw" but Waddell's eccentric personality affected his life, his game, and his numerous marriages. Wikipedia states it best: "Waddell was unpredictable,



and had a habit of leaving the dugout in the middle of games to follow passing fire trucks to fires. He performed as an alligator wrestler in the offseason. He was easily distracted by opposing team fans who used to hold up puppies and shiny objects, which seemed to put him in a trance on the mound. An alcoholic for much of his short adult life, Waddell reportedly spent his entire first signing bonus on a drinking binge (Sporting News called him "the sousepaw"). Waddell's eccentric behavior led to constant battles with his managers and scuffles with bad-tempered teammates. Complaints from teammates forced his trade from the Philadelphia Athletics to the St. Louis Browns in early 1908 despite his importance to the team and his continued success."

Of course, for us, Rube Waddell's claim to fame is not baseball, but the fact that he was born in Bradford, Pennsylvania in 1876, the second son of John, an employee of the National Transit Company, and Mary Waddell. Other children included Jennie, born 1863; Harry, born 1866; Lenoa, born 1869; Mary, born 1871; and Rube (listed as Edgar Waddell at the time), born 1876. A little sister, Maggie, is listed as just eight months old in

the census.

The family moved down to the Butler area in the early 1890s, settled in Prospect, Pennsylvania and it was here that Waddell began his amazing talent. Newspapers in Titusville and Oil City in 1896 made passing mentions of an Oil City pitcher named "Rube" Waddell, the first known reference to his famous nickname.

Rube Waddell came back to Bradford in 1907, with Connie Mack and 18 other ball players from the Philadelphia Athletics. They registered at the Hotel Holley. The team had been scheduled to play the Bradford Interstate team, but the diamond was too soft and the game was cancelled.

While in Bradford, Rube went up to Jackson Avenue to try to locate his childhood home, but the landscape had changed so much (due, no doubt, to oil well activity) that he was unable to find where his childhood home had been. There is no record of him ever returning to Bradford.

He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1946.

Spring Time at the Crook Farm



Ah, spring! But if you own a historic farm like the Bradford Landmark Society, the coming of spring means dozens of projects as we get ready for a busy summer. Spring projects that an average homeowner might face; that is, if the average homeowner lived on 21.70 acres and had to take care of nearly a dozen historic buildings!

The Crook Farm is currently undergoing a renovation program that started about two years ago. Things are being washed, cleaned, raked, planted, glazed, nailed, roofed, fixed, weeded, and organized. The Bank Building will be re-painted this summer, the bridge which crosses the creek will be upgraded and lots of other projects completed. The list is long!

Right now we need to buy some more tools for our volunteers to use, including a cordless drill, rip saw, circular saw, etc. The ones at the farm are past their prime and need to be replaced so that our volunteers can do their work safely, efficiently, and quickly.

But we would like your help to make this happen and are asking you to donate whatever you can – money or tools - to help us accomplish these projects. With your help, the Crook Farm will continue as a vital part of Bradford and the Tuna Valley history.

Thank you. Just call 362-3906 for more information.

Name _____ Amount _____

Address _____

Yard sale season is almost upon us, and if you are lucky, you might find a very, very small china doll for sale among the other items. If so, you have found a real antique – you've found a

Frozen Charlotte Doll

Frozen Charlottes are a type of unjointed white china doll popular during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They are famous for their tiny size; usually from one to three inches tall and have a stiff appearance and are among the most popular miniature doll ever made, with over a million manufactured.



The Bradford Landmark Society owns a Frozen Charlotte, a tiny dark haired doll that measures just one and a quarter inches tall. These one-inch-sized dolls were commonly known as "penny dolls" because they generally sold for one cent. The popularity of Frozen Charlottes can be attributed, in part, to the fact that their relatively low price allowed children to accumulate a collection of dolls with which to play.

Their name came from a well-known American folk ballad "Fair Charlotte". It is believed to have been composed between 1833 and 1860. The ballad tells the tale of a beautiful young woman who set out in a sleigh with her lover, Charles, on a bitterly cold night to attend a ball fifteen miles away. Her mother warned her to wrap herself in a blanket to keep warm, but:

*"No, no, no," fair Charlotte said
and she laughed like a gypsy queen
"To ride in blankets muffled up,
I never can be seen."*

The couple rode off into the cold and, after traveling a mere five miles, Charles remarked:

*"Such a night as this I never knew,
the reins I scarce can hold."
Fair Charlotte said in a feeble voice
"I am exceeding cold."
Away they ride through frozen air
in the glittering starry night
until at length the village inn
and the ballroom were in sight.
They reached the door, Young Charles stepped out
and held his hand to her
"Why sit you there like a monument
that hath no power to stir?"
He called her once, he called her twice
She uttered not a word
He held his hand to her again
and still she never stirred*

*Then swiftly through the lighted room
her lifeless form he bore
Fair Charlotte was a stiffened corpse
and word spoke nevermore.*

Of course there was a lesson to be learned from this tragic tale, and many young girls who later played with Frozen Charlottes probably were warned:

*Now, ladies, when you hear of this
Think of that dreadful sight,
and never venture so thinly clad,
on such a winter's night.*

Frozen Charlottes are also called pillar dolls, teacup dolls (allegedly used to stir tea at parties), and *Badekinder*, (bathing children).

And while most are tiny, Charlottes can be as large as 6 inches, although these are not “true” Charlottes. Some are jointed at the shoulder, with a wire passing through the body to articulate the arms.

Frozen Charlotte dolls are almost entirely girls, nude, and can be marked ‘Germany’ or ‘Japan’. Nearly all are “frozen” in a standing position, but a few are sitting. Boy Frozen Charlottes exist, but are rare.

Because of their composition and small size, and perhaps because they were such favorite playmates, Frozen Charlottes were easily damaged - their very tiny little arms or feet were easily broken off. The Landmark’s doll, for example, is missing its arms.

Today, Frozen Charlotte dolls can easily be found in antique stores, or bought on the Internet. Ebay, for example, currently has 568 listings for Frozen Charlotte dolls. Keep your eyes open for these tiny little pieces of history.



Some of our members have asked if they could receive the Inkwell newsletter by email instead of in the mail. The Bradford Landmark Society is always trying to keep up with technology – even though our “thing” is really old stuff and history so, sure you can!

Just give us your email address and we will be glad to send the next and future editions of the Inkwell through the Internet to your email address. Just fill out the information below, and either call us at 362-3906, or email us as info@bradfordlandmark.org, or mail this back to 45 East Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701 and we will be glad to add you to our “email the newsletter please” list.

Name _____.

Email address _____.



Summer at Riverside Park, about 1900. The large man on the porch, wearing the white shirt is Ed Sutherland, the proprietor and owner.

Bradford Landmark Society
45 East Corydon Street
Bradford, PA 16701

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