



The Inkwell

45 East Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701

814-362-3906

December 2013

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The Bradford
Landmark Society
is a
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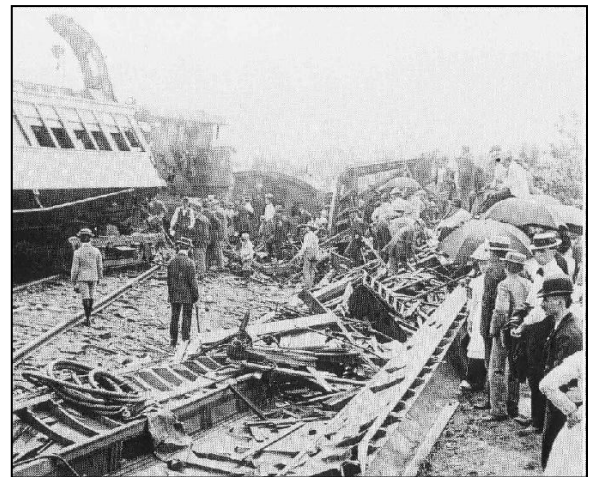
Membership in our
society is welcomed.

It's been a great year for the Landmark Society. The Crook Farm has been undergoing some needed restoration and repair, the Herbig Bakery continues to educate people on the history of the city; the Crook Farm School Program was a success, and who could forget the annual Crook Farm Country Fair! Always a great time at the end of August. And the weather was wonderful. Because the success of the fair depends heavily on sunny weather, we all did a little "anti-rain" dance for weeks ahead of time. And it worked!

We also took a survey this year at the entrances to the fair, to determine exactly where most of the fair visitors come from, and were surprised to find that many of them come from the Buffalo/New York State area; and a good amount come from very far away. We believe that these "far away" visitors (from Arizona, California, Oregon, etc.) were visiting with family in the area, and came to the Fair as part of a family outing. What a great idea! If you have any visitors next summer, bring them along,

The Landmark wrote another book! Its called "Death By Train" and if you know any train buffs, or anyone interested in local history, or anyone who just likes to read interesting articles; this is the book for you. Its compiled from the actual newspaper reports that were printed in the local newspapers, from 1879 to 1927. Bad grammar, "politically incorrect" wording, odd spelling, etc. Here are a few chapter headings (there are nearly 100 chapters) in the new book:

Six Men Blown to Eternity
A Shroud of Flame
Hurled Into Eternity
The West Branch Horror
Plunged from a Trestle
Italians Capture a Train
A Narrow Escape
Death's Sudden Summons
Killed by the Cars
He Was Unmindful of Danger
Failed to Hear the Warning Whistle
A Wild Ride to Death
Rushed to Destruction



We also included dozens of photographs of train wrecks that happened throughout the United States.

Inside this Newsletter—an invitation to our Christmas Open House, the Chronology of the Buildings 2013, the new inductees into the National Toy Hall of Fame, and an interesting article on Martha, the last surviving Passenger Pigeon, who died in 1914.

Announcing the publication of the Bradford Landmark Society's latest book, "Death by Train"

Now available at the Herbig Bakery at 45 East Corydon Street, the Main Street Mercantile, or on-line at www.bradfordlandmark.org.

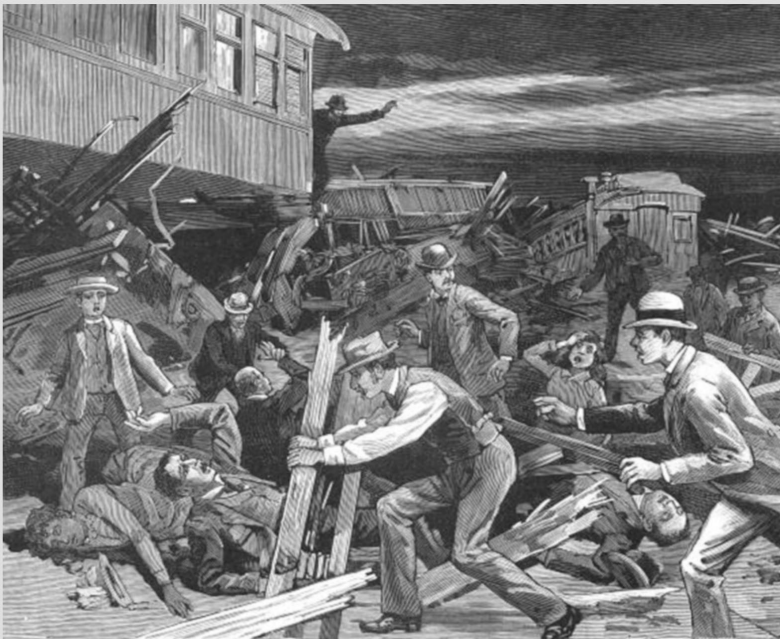
Cost is \$22 plus shipping if ordered online.

Call 814-362-3906 for more information.

Death By Train

Horrifying yet True Stories
of Train Wrecks and Accidents
1879-1927

from *The Bradford Era*
and Other Local Newspapers



The Bradford Landmark Society
Bradford, PA

Train travel could definitely be dangerous, not only to the passengers, but also to the men that worked on the railroad the engineers, brakemen, firemen, and conductors.

People were frequently killed by trains, often by merely not paying enough attention to oncoming trains as they walked on the tracks, tripping at an unfortunate moment, or simply by being aboard when the train derailed or crashed. Trainmen were often "crushed between the cars" as they went about their daily jobs, slipped under the wheels, or jumped from the locomotives when control was lost.

Newspaper reporters delighted in describing such accidents in the most descriptive wording possible (it sold more papers that way!) and the Bradford Landmark Society has complied nearly 100 of these articles, presented exactly as written in the various newspapers when they occurred.

Stories include the famous 1883 wreck of the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh Railroad, described as "a carnival of death"; the 1884 B. B. & K. "runaway train on a track of fire", and the 1917 "Death Harvest at a R. R. Crossing." Learn what happened to the famous monorail, the Peg Leg Railway; the circumstances behind a peculiar accident; the first recorded incident of a train hitting an automobile in 1915, and dozens of others, each a fascinating look at the dangers of traveling by rail.

You're Invited!
to the Bradford Landmark Society's Annual

Christmas Open House

Friday, December 13, 11 AM to 4PM

At the old Herbig Bakery at 45 East Corydon St.

Stop in and have some cookies, candy, cocoa, or coffee. Look at our new book, "Death by Train" and other gifts for Christmas giving. Working on your family history? Tell us how you're doing! Have an interesting story? We love stories about Bradford's history. Thinking about decorating your house with photographs from Bradford's past? We can help you pick some out. Or just stop by and sit awhile. It's Christmas! Time for friends, fun, and food.

Chronology of the Buildings and Businesses

Once again, at the end of each year, we try to list the businesses in Bradford that have opened, moved, closed, changed owners or names, or simply vanished out of business. We know that we don't catch all of them, but try our best to keep track of things during the year.

It's all history in the making!

- Great Lakes Home Health Care Service at 195 East Main Street changed its name to MedCare Equipment Company in early January.
- Liberty Tax Service opened at 30 Davis Street in February.
- Ameriprise Financial Services expanded at the Union Square Plaza in early February
- Morrisroe Services moved to 311 High Street in February.
- J. C. Penney Catalog Store (inside Cavallaro's Paint and Decorating store) on Kennedy Street was closed in February.
- Dallas-Morris moved its home office back to 103 South Kendall Avenue.
- Rehabilitation Today moved to 550 Chestnut Street in March.
- Wood Chiropractic opened at 15 Barbour Street, in the former Bradford Print Shop building in early spring.
- Moments to Remember opened on Kennedy Street (and soon will move to 60 Main Street).
- Roseart Company moved "back home" to its original location at 12 Lincoln Avenue in July.
- Clearfield Wholesale Paper opened at 44 Main Street in July.
- The Sweet Spot on Main Street opened, selling balloons, candy, and novelty items and closed almost as quickly a few months later.
- Angel Kiddies, a children's clothing store, moved in April into 24 Pine Street, the site of the Bradford hospital auxiliary SACKS Resale store, which closed in the spring.
- Steve Cavallaro opened the "How Ya Brewing" store featuring beer making supplies and equipment, at 12 Kennedy Street.
- Main Street Fitness moved from 80 Main Street to Eldred in August.
- Wrights Music Shed moved from 26 Davis Street to 80 Main Street in September.
- A new Mexican restaurant, La Mixteca, opened in November at 109 Main Street at the site of the former Tortuga Restaurant (and before that, La Herradura Mexican restaurant).
- Sehman Tire Service at 11 East Corydon Street closed in November.
- Colligan Real Estate at 7 Main Street was sold and renamed Chosen Acres in November.
- Bradford Chiropractic Center at 119 Main Street closed this summer.
- Jennifer McMillan, State Farm Insurance, is renovating the building at 1006 East Main Street and will move her business there shortly.

- The old Bates building on Main Street underwent a facelift with a new coat of paint this summer.
- The Lighter Side bar at 18 Mechanic Street got “fixed up” with new doors and new green siding this summer.
- The former AAA building, and State Farm Insurance Agency building on Congress Street was newly sided this summer as well.

We are sure that there are others that we have missed (and we apologize), and wish you success in 2014!

And in another type of Chronology, what happened 100 years ago, in 1914?

- Jan 7th - 1st steamboat passes through Panama Canal
- Jan 14th - Henry Ford introduces an assembly line for Model T Fords
- Feb 12th - In Washington, DC, the first stone of the Lincoln Memorial is put into place.
- Mar 27th - 1st successful blood transfusion (in Brussels)
- Apr 9th - 1st full color film shown "World, Flesh & Devil" (shown in London).
- Apr 22nd - Babe Ruth's 1st professional game (as a pitcher) is a 6-hit 6-0 win.
- May 8th - Paramount Pictures is formed.
- May 9th - President Wilson proclaims Mother's Day
- May 21st - Greyhound Bus Co begins in Minnesota
- June 2nd - Glenn Curtiss flies his Langley Aerodrome
- Jun 28th - Franz Ferdinand, Archduke of Austria and his wife Sophie are assassinated in Sarajevo by young Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip at 10.45, the cause of World War I.
- Jun 30th - Mahatma Gandhi's 1st arrest, campaigning for Indian rights in South Africa
- Jul 17th - Giants outfielder Red Murray is knocked unconscious by lightning after catching a flyball, ending 21 inning game, Giants win 3-1
- Jul 29th - 1st transcontinental phone link made between New York City & San Francisco.
- Aug 5th - 1st traffic light installed (Euclid Ave & E 105th St, Cleveland)
- Aug 11th - John Wray patents animation
- Aug 15th - A male servant of American architect Frank Lloyd Wright sets fire to the living quarters of the architect's Wisconsin home, Taliesin, murders seven people and burns the living quarters to the ground.
- Oct 19th - US post office 1st used an automobile to collect & deliver mail
- Nov 20th - US State Department starts requiring photographs for passports
- Dec 12th - The largest one-day percentage drop in the history of Dow Jones Industrial Average, down 24.39%.

What will happen in 2014?

The Last One—or is it?

Next September—September 1, 2014, to be exact—marks the 100th anniversary of the death of the last Passenger Pigeon in the world. Martha, age 29, died in captivity in the Cincinnati Zoo in 1914.

Now, thanks to DNA and the possibility of cloning, the passenger pigeon may return in a what scientists are calling “de-extinction.” There are over 1500 specimens of the passenger pigeon in various museums around the United States—and DNA from these may provide the basis of recreating the famous bird.

Everyone knows the story of the passenger pigeon.

In 1914, the news of the death of the last passenger pigeon made the *Bradford Era*, which wrote “the death of Martha, according to all ornithological record is of great importance in the eyes of naturalists as the death of a Kaiser to Germans throughout the world. Martha had been in ill health for several years in her cage at the Zoological Garden in Cincinnati. Many efforts had been made to find a mate for her, or to discover some other specimen of the wild pigeon, but they were without avail. According to all ornithological data available, Martha was the last of her tribe in the world.”

What did a passenger pigeon look like? Well, it was larger than the common Mourning Dove, which can be seen frequently in the Bradford area, had a small head and neck, long and wedge-shaped tail, and long, broad, and pointed wings.

The Passenger Pigeon was an excellent flyer, and is estimated to have averaged 62 mph during migration. At roosting sites the Passenger Pigeons packed so densely on branches that even thick ones often broke under their collective weight.

And of course, there were so many of them. It has been said that, at the peak of their population of three to five billion birds, the Passenger Pigeon may have been the most numerous bird on Earth which makes its extinction even more remarkable. John James Audubon described one flock he encountered with the words:

“I dismounted, seated myself on an eminence, and began to mark with my pencil, making a dot for every flock that passed. In a short time, finding the task which I had undertaken impracticable as the birds poured in in countless multitudes, I rose, and counting the dots then put down, found that 163 had been made in twenty-one minutes. I traveled on, and still met more the farther I proceeded. The air was literally filled with Pigeons; the light of noon-day was obscured as by an eclipse; the dung fell in spots, not unlike melting flakes of snow; and the continued buzz of wings had a tendency to lull my senses to repose... Before sunset I reached Louisville, distance from Hardensburgh fifty-five miles. The Pigeons were still passing in undiminished numbers, and continued to do so for three days in succession.”



Martha's body was frozen into a block of ice and sent to the Smithsonian Institution, where it was skinned, dissected, photographed and mounted. Currently, Martha is in the museum's archived collection and not on display. A memorial statue of Martha stands on the grounds of the Cincinnati Zoo.

While it was no surprise that the bird was being hunted to extinction, conservationists were ineffective in stopping the slaughter. By the mid-1890s, the Passenger Pigeon almost completely disappeared. A bill was passed in the Michigan legislature making it illegal to net pigeons within two miles of a nesting area, but the law was weakly enforced. . In 1897, a bill was introduced in the Michigan legislature asking for a 10-year closed season on Passenger Pigeons. This was a futile gesture. Similar legal measures were passed and disregarded in Pennsylvania as well.

By the end of the 19th century, the birds were rare; the last confirmed sighting of a wild passenger pigeon was in 1900. (Although the sighting of a pair of Passenger Pigeons in Olean in 1928 - unverified - was reported in the local newspapers) This article is from the Smithsonian:

“One of the last authenticated records of the capture of a wild bird was at Sargents, Pike County, Ohio, on 24 March 1900. Only a few birds still survived in captivity at this time. Concerted searches were made and rewards offered for the capture of wild passenger pigeons. From 1909 to 1912, the American Ornithologists' Union offered \$1,500 to anyone finding a nest or nesting colony of passenger pigeons, but these efforts were futile. Never again would man witness the magnificent spring and fall migratory flights of this swift and graceful bird.

Attempts to save the species by breeding the surviving captive birds were not successful. The passenger pigeon was a colonial and gregarious bird and needed large numbers for optimum breeding conditions. It was not possible to reestablish the species with a few captive birds. The small captive flocks weakened and died.

The death of Martha, the last surviving pigeon (named for Martha Washington) made world wide news.

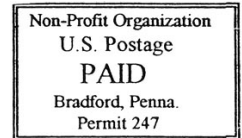
"Martha" was on display in the Bird Hall in the 1920s through the early 1950s, and in the Birds of the World exhibit that ran from 1956 until 1999. She has left the Smithsonian Institution twice since arriving here. In 1966 she was displayed in San Diego at the San Diego Zoological Society's Golden Jubilee Conservation Conference. In June 1974 she returned to the Cincinnati Zoological Gardens for the dedication of a new building named in her honor. Both times she was flown first class, with an airline flight attendant escorting her for the entire trip.



A depiction of a flock of passenger pigeons, being hunted, 1875. In our region, the largest flock of Passenger Pigeons seen was in Elk County in the late 1860s.

Bradford Landmark Society

45 East Corydon Street
Bradford, PA 16701



Return Service Requested



2013 Toys in the National Toy Hall of Fame

Each year, in the last newsletter, we also list those toys that have been newly inducted into the Toy Hall of Fame in Rochester, NY. Maybe it's the child in all of us, but it is heart warming to see that many of the toys we played with a children are considered "classic". This year is no different. The winners of 2013 are:

The Rubber Duck!

Chess!

Chess is one of the world's oldest games. Playing chess well involves both strategy—planning for long-term advantage over the opponent—and tactics—short-term moves. Smart players employ both methods to win. Experts agree that chess masters tend to rely on hundreds of patterns memorized through extensive practice. However chess also helps develop intelligence in average players. - Rochester Hall of Fame site

Rubber toys first appeared in the late 1800s, when manufacturers made use of Charles Goodyear's process for rendering rubber into malleable material. The first **rubber ducks** didn't even float: they were cast solid and intended as chew toys. Rubber ducks naturally inspire water play that develops muscle strength and coordination. With their bright color, smooth texture, and (for some) squeaky or quacky sounds, rubber ducks sharpen toddlers' senses. Their presence in the bathtub soothes youngsters' fears of water and water immersion and makes good clean fun of the routine hygiene they're learning. - Rochester Hall of Fame site

Regrets to the other nominees who were not chosen: Bubbles, the game of Clue, Fisher Price little people, Magic 8 Ball, little green army men, Nerf toys, My Little Pony, Scooter, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, and Pac-Man.

Better luck next year, toys!