

# The Inkwell

45 East Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701  
[www.bradfordlandmark.org](http://www.bradfordlandmark.org)

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JUNE 2016

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Landmark Society  
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Membership in our  
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## Happy Summer!

It's finally here. Summer. And for the Landmark Society, spring and summer both mean that the Crook farm wakes up after a long, dormant winter and the fun begins!

We began with the Crook farm school program in May. Check out the article in this edition of the newsletter. The program really starts back in January, when the local Pennsylvania and New York State elementary schools get contacted and advised to make their reservations early. Schools must arrange bus transportation, permission slips for the kids, funding, chaperones, and make sure that there is nothing else, such as state testing, scheduled for the day they want to come. We send lots of emails to teachers, brochures, letters, information on the Crooks and the farm itself, and do the scheduling. This year, the program began on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

We have a new event this summer as well that we are excited about. The Twin Tiers Community Band will present a concert of patriotic and popular music at the Crook farm on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 2PM-4PM. The TTCB is a concert band made up of about 30 musicians from school age to seniors doing what they love best – playing music at community gatherings and charitable functions throughout the Southwestern NY and Northwestern PA region. We'll have tents in case of rain, or as shade from the sun, but you can bring your own chairs and blankets if you wish. Ice cream will be sold, too, because what's summer without ice cream? Best of all, ADMISSION IS FREE!

The end of July will bring the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Women's Creative Workshop. It will be held on Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup> this year, and while we don't have quite all the classes nailed down yet, we know for sure that there will be quilting, tie dying, making terrariums, juggling, counted cross stitch, learning how to make sushi, wood burning, blacksmithing, and making birdhouses. There are several others in the "not quite sure if we can offer them yet" stage, but watch next week for posters and other information to be released as well as a newspaper article. It will be another great year! We began the WCW in 2014; last year we had 67 women join us and we hope to reach 100 this year.

And of course, it wouldn't be summer without the annual Crook Farm Country Fair and Old Time Music Festival. The dates this year are the August 27 and August 28. The fair features craft and food vendors, as well numerous opportunities to take part in the culture of old time music such as bluegrass, folk and American traditional.

Admission is \$5 a person, and kids 12 and under are free. There is lots of food, music, crafts, demonstrations, a Chinese Auction, pony rides, a petting zoo, tours of the buildings, and of course, lots of people.

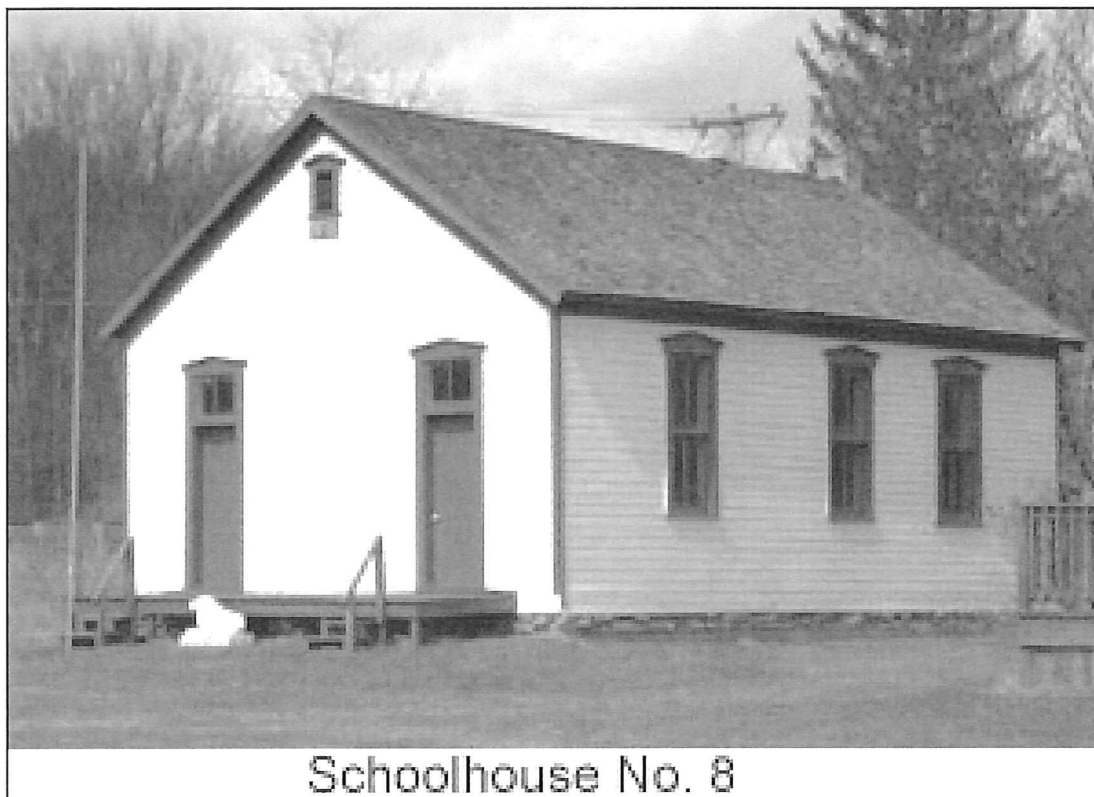
## Crook Farm School Program 2016 a Success!

The students have come and gone. The teachers have packed up their papers, the candle makers have turned off the heat under the wax, the weavers have shut down the looms, the carpenter had closed his shop, and the farmhouse has been closed (at least until the Country Fair this summer). The school store has been cleared away for another year, as the 37<sup>th</sup> annual Crook Farm School Program ends another very successful year at the Crook Farm.

We had 538 students this year which is an increase of 115 students over last year! They came from School Street Elementary, St. Bernard's School, the Christian Academy, the Learning Center, Johnsonburg Elementary, St. Mary's Catholic Elementary, Portville Central Elementary School, Ellicottville Central School District, Allegany-Limestone Central School, and New Life Christian School. All the kids had a great time.

Molly Lindahl, Tom Jones, and I (Sally Costik) ran the school store, and sold friendship bracelets, kazoos, yoyos, wooden flutes, kick balls, marbles, train whistles, paper dolls, brightly colored bird whistles, magnets, domino necklaces, and a new item this year, wooden articulated snakes, which were hugely popular with the students.

The volunteers who helped run the School Program under the direction of Judy Yorks (who also filled in where needed, whether it was teaching, candle making or weaving), were Susan Oliphant, Harrijane Moore, Sue Wells, Maryon Swanson, Lynda Rook, Mary Ann Rooney, Linda Brocius, Cal Abbott, Jeanette Matto, Mary Gibbs, Nancy Dryden, Connie Goldthwait, Sue Jeffards, and Margie Knox. Some were school teachers, some were weavers, some were candle makers, some were docents in the house or the carpenter shop, but all of them did a great job. Thank all of you for a wonderful school program this spring.



Schoolhouse No. 8

# A Patriotic Music Band Concert

Patriotic and Popular Music by

**Twin Tiers Community Band**

July 3rd at 2:00

At the historic Crook Farm  
476 Seaward Avenue, Bradford

Bring your own blankets and chairs!

Stop and buy some Ice Cream & Goodies at our Booth!

**ADMISSION IS FREE!**

# The Erie Canal

Remember singing the Erie Canal Song when you were a kid? Being named Sally, I used to cringe when it got to the part about “a mule named Sal.” As grade school students, I think we were only faintly aware that it was a song about an actual thing – and that the real canal was so close, geographically speaking, to our own area.

Recently, I was reading an article in the 1911 Bradford Era in which a reporter interviewed Philip Webster. Webster, as you may know, was a stepson of Colonel Little, one of the first settlers in the area. Webster was reminiscing about his family’s arrival in 1827 in what would become Littleton, and later Bradford.

Webster explained that his father and mother had come by a wagon from Concord, New Hampshire to Olean, and then onto Smethport to await the arrival of their household goods, which were sent by the Erie Canal.

The Erie Canal! Just like the song! What was the Erie Canal? And does it still exist?

In a time when bulk goods were limited to pack animals and there were no railways, water was the most cost-effective way to ship bulk goods. The Erie Canal was the first transportation system between the eastern seaboard (New York City) and the western interior (Great Lakes) of the United States that did not require portage. It was faster than carts pulled by draft animals, and cut transport costs by about 95%.

On July 4, 1817, ground was broken for the construction of the canal. When finally completed on October 26, 1825, it was the engineering marvel of its day. It included 18 aqueducts to carry the canal over ravines and rivers, and 83 locks, with a rise of 568 feet from the Hudson River to Lake Erie, a distance of about 363 miles. It was 4 feet deep and 40 feet wide, and floated boats carrying 30 tons of freight. A ten foot wide towpath was built along the bank of the canal for the horses and/or mules (which may or may not have been named Sal) which pulled the boats and their driver, often a young boy.

The popular “Low Bridge” folksong was written in 1905 by Thomas S. Allen after Erie Canal barge traffic was converted from mule power to engine power, raising the speed of traffic. The song memorializes the years from 1825 to 1880 when the mule barges made boomtowns out of Utica, Rome, Syracuse, Rochester, and Buffalo, and transformed New York into the Empire State. The original lyrics were “fifteen miles on the Erie Canal”, the average distance a mule would tow a barge before resting or being relieved by another mule.

The canal fostered a population surge in western New York and opened regions farther west to settlement.

It was enlarged between 1834 and 1862. The canal's peak year was 1855, when 33,000 commercial shipments took place. In 1918, the western part of the canal was enlarged to become part of the New York State Barge Canal, which ran parallel to the eastern half and extended to the Hudson River.

I've got an old mule and her name is Sal  
Fifteen years on the Erie Canal.  
She's a good old worker and a good old pal  
Fifteen years on the Erie Canal.

We've hauled some barges in our day  
Filled with lumber, coal, and hay  
And every inch of the way we know  
From Albany to Buffalo.

*Chorus:*  
Low bridge, everybody down.  
Low bridge cause we're coming to a town  
And you'll always know your neighbor  
And you'll always know your pal  
If you've ever navigated on the Erie Canal.

Get up there Sal, we've passed that lock,  
Fifteen years on the Erie Canal.  
And we'll make Rome before six o'clock  
Fifteen years on the Erie Canal.

One more trip and back we'll go  
Through the rain and sleet and snow  
And every inch of the way I (we) know

From Albany to Buffalo

In 2000, the United States Congress designated the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor to recognize the national significance of the canal system as the most successful and influential human-built waterway and one of the most important works of civil engineering and construction in North America.

But there were other canals, too, that branched off the Erie Canal including one that came all the way to Olean.

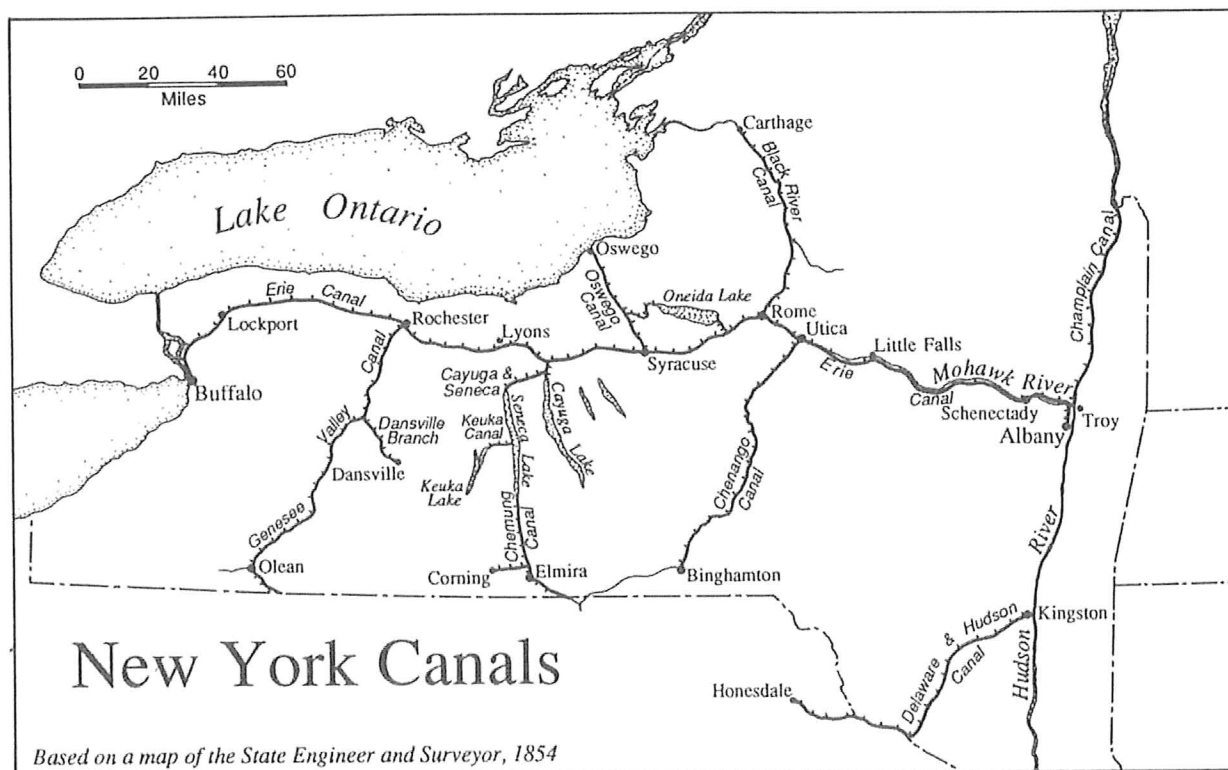
On 6 May 1836, an act was passed in the New York Legislature authorizing the construction of the Genesee Valley Canal. It was to run from the Erie Canal on the south side of Rochester south-southwest along the Genesee River valley to Mount Morris, Portageville, and Belfast, and then cross-country to the Allegheny River at Olean, with a branch from Mount Morris paralleling the Canaseraga Creek to Dansville.

On 1 September 1840, the canal was opened to navigation from Rochester to Mount Morris. The extension to Dansville opened in the fall of 1841.

The full line was opened at the beginning of navigation in 1862, running to Olean on the Allegheny River and beyond to Mill Grove, on the river just north of the Pennsylvania state line. However, by then, the Main Line of Public Works and Pennsylvania Railroad had been completed, opening up the interior of Pennsylvania without depending on New York, and there was no further interest in improving the Allegheny River.

On 4 June 1877, the legislature approved an abandonment of the canal on 30 September 1878. The canal was sold on 6 November 1880 to the Genesee Valley Canal Railroad, which had been chartered 15 July of that year.

The canal is long gone, but its remnants form the Genesee Valley Greenway. Sites like the remnants of the Ischua Dam can be seen by visiting the Town of Ischua Historical Society and Park, on the corner of Route 16 and Farwell Road in the Town of Ischua. Further down Route 16, the Hinsdale VFW post has highlighted the remnants of the lock system of the Genesee Valley Canal located there, both in Cattaraugus County near the Olean terminus.



Bradford Landmark Society  
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The next time that you are down near the Crook Farm, check out the new siding on the barn. The old boards were replaced with new ones, using hemlock wood that was purchased and put up on sticks to dry last summer.

A set of barn doors, which have been stored inside the barn for many years, will be installed on the front.

The summer kitchen project on the farmhouse is due to begin in just a few weeks, too. Lots of progress at the farm!

