

The Inkwell

Bradford Landmark Society

45 East Corydon St., Bradford, PA 16701



www.bradfordlandmark.org

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October 2014

Its autumn and it's been such a busy spring and summer that we here at the Landmark welcome a bit of a rest before the holiday season. We started off with the annual Crook Farm School program at the Crook Farm. Over 750 fifth grade school children from local schools (including public, private, homeschooled, and Christian) came to the farm and learned in our one room school house, learned to weave, dip candles, and all about life on the farm in the 1870s. No texting back then! Not even telephones!

July saw the first ever Creative Women's Workshop, held in July. Our logo is a woman on a tightrope, juggling balls in the air. We felt that women do exactly that all the time, so wanted to offer some fun classes that could be sampled during our workshop event. We asked local "experts" – and by experts we mean people that in many cases were just avid hobbyists themselves – to teach things like knitting, weaving, candle making, wood burning, photography, drawing, calligraphy, yoga, making Zen medication gardens, raising chickens, knowing your own car, and quilting. Each participant got to choose five different classes to attend during the day – and we served lunch at noon. It was a great success. One woman wrote on her Facebook "It was more than fun", and we will definitely be planning another one next July.

And we painted the bank. We are in the middle of a five year improvement plan for the Crook farm, and while many projects can – and have been – done by volunteers, we needed a professional painter to tackle a building as tall as the bank. After careful consideration and reviewing all options, we chose Patience Painting of Olean as the contractor. We asked that it be done in time for the Crook Farm Country Fair – and if you remember what a wet summer we had, you'll realize that the painters barely got the painting done in time – but they did! It's a pale silver gray, with charcoal trim. We also replaced the front door of the bank with a stronger, more secure one and had that painted Colonial Blue. It all tied in together nicely, and the bank now stands proudly among our other historic buildings on the farm.

At the Herbig Bakery, our headquarters, we purchased a new computer for a scanning photograph projects. This new one has the capability to quickly scan – and store – thousands of photographs. A large part of our collection is scanned, and we scan not just photographs, but all sorts of things. One of our current projects is scanning and indexing city birth and death certificates, 1881-1906. During that period, the state of Pennsylvania allowed municipalities and counties to record the births and deaths of their citizens on a local level, not by the state (as is the case now). Bradford has several large ledgers, listing all sorts of information as well as the paper copies themselves. Several months ago, we contacted the city (these records are kept in City Hall) and asked if we could borrow the books and certificates, scan them, and return them safely. It's a wonderful genealogical treasure – and a great part of Bradford's history.

This August was our 35 Crook Farm Country Fair and Old Time Music Festival. Once again, we were lucky – the weather was perfect and the crowds amazing. We had lots of great vendors, music, demonstrations, and tours of the buildings. We brought back the Sunday morning breakfast at the fair – people really liked that – and this year, instead of just a baked food tent, we included ice cream and brownie sundaes as well. Next year promises to be even better!

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THE BRADFORD LANDMARK SOCIETY mission is to preserve the history of Bradford and the Tuna Valley Area.

Inside this edition of the
Inkwell

Annual Membership Drive
begins

A Historic Hailstorm of 1892
A List of Bradford Books

Happy
Halloween!

The Bradford Landmark Society annual membership drive is now underway.

Membership in the Bradford Landmark Society enables us to maintain the buildings at the Crook Farm and the Herbig Bakery, continue our research, expand our collection of photographs and historical documents, and help those who love the history of the Bradford area.

In addition, as a member, you will get advance notice of programs, events, workshops, and special events and receive a free subscription to this quarterly newsletter, *The Inkwell*, outlining the news of the society and offering entertaining and educational articles on local history.

The Bradford Landmark Society receives no Federal, State, County, or local government funding.

We rely totally on the support of our local community and members. Please help!

2014 Membership Drive

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 _____

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Please mail this application form to The Bradford Landmark Society using the enclosed envelope.

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

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

Hail, Yes!

Bradford is known for some pretty awful weather every now and then. Heavy rains that cause floods and snow – well, there is always snow – and once, back in 1892, two storms came together and created a hail storm so severe that it was talked about for years to come. In today's jargon, it was the perfect storm.

It happened in July of that year. It had been hot, so hot that the Bradford Era reported that it was almost unbearable. Not surprisingly, folks rejoiced on Friday, July 22nd when the distance rumble of thunder was heard for several hours. Everyone hoped that a summer storm would cool things off.

By 2 o'clock, a very dark mass of clouds could be seen over the hills north of the city, and at the same time, a few raindrops came down the valley from the southwest. There was not much rain, but the drops were unusually large, and warm. This shower was swept along by a brisk 60 mile an hour wind that rattled windows and tossed signs about. Shingles flew off roofs and a few bits of hail fell. Lightening could be seen flashing around the hills. People ducked for cover, but were glad that the change in the weather promised a refreshing rain.

And then the two storm fronts joined together and the real storm arrived.

“The sky darkened, thermometers dropped a dozen degrees and rain, intermingled with chunks of ice, came down with a force that demonstrated only too forcibly the might of the tempest's fury. For 25 minutes the storm of ice came pelting and pounding upon roof, pavement, earth and sidewalk. Chunks of ice crashed against window glass like myriads of leaden bullets from Jove's Gatling guns and the fragile substance in the windows could not withstand the terrific fusillade. Men who were out in the street hurriedly sought places of shelter, but the unprotected horses and other animals that were targets of the ice missiles could do no more than bear it. Those horses that could get away did so, but their running did not save them. Many were tied and had to squirm and suffer through it all.”

After the first onslaught of the storm, the wind seemed to lessen, and many who thought a tornado was in the offering were disappointed. But then the hail came down as never before.

The majority of the hailstones were at least an inch in diameter, and none measured less than ½ inch. Some were 2 ½” inches by actual measurement. At the conclusion of the storm, the streets were white with icy balls, in several places to a depth of three inches.

Down in Lafferty Hollow, Rumsey & Fennel's dairy farm was directly in front of the storm's path. A large barn filled with 40 tons of hay was struck by lightning. Six men were in the building when the electric bolt splintered and shattered the timbers and then fired it with a consuming flame. The men who were in the stable were all shocked and stunned, but not seriously. Three cows were not so lucky- they dropped dead in their stalls. Pete Connelly, who had been milking one of the cows, jumped out of the way to avoid being shocked to death. Joseph Booz was in the stable at the time, and he had also been milking one of the cows. When the other cattle were stricken, his cow also

fell. He imagined she was only stunned, and dashed the pail of milk against her face. The cow rallied, and he got her out of the burning stall. In a few minutes, the barn was a roaring mass of flames, and it was feared that the farmhouse and other buildings would also be consumed, but the rain which fell protected them from the blaze.

Up in Lafferty Hollow there was but little hail; but it was a storm of wind, rain, and lightning. At Tarport the inhabitants escaped with a share of broken windows, but no serious damage was done to that part of town. In Bradford, the elements seemed well equipped for their mad work of destruction. Nearly every window in houses facing the storm were riddled and shattered and car loads of glass and putty will be required to make good the losses occasioned by the storm. Shade trees and awnings on every street were torn and dismantled by the elements and when the battle was ended, desolation was on every hand.



In the Citizen's hose fire house, there were several fire fighters when the storm struck the town. The boys supposed that nothing serious would result but changed their minds when a sharp, cracking sound suddenly surprised them. The wind was too strong for the high tower over the building; there was a creaking and wavering throughout the building and then with a mighty crash the tower fell over upon Brown & Mechling's machine shop, knocking off a big portion of the gable end.

The storm seemed to have a particular grudge against the St. James Hotel, which stood at the head of Main Street. It was a flat roofed structure and the tin covering that has kept out the sunshine and rain for many years was not equal to the emergency. The wind ploughed up the tin roof from the rafters and rolled it over in a great bundle which tumbled down upon the skylights over the business offices. When the roof was broken up the moisture poured down through the various apartments, ruining the carpets, furniture, bedding and plaster. The rain came in a deluge through the two stories of the hotel and though a strong effort was made to check the downpour by the use of pots and buckets but the water just kept coming. The damage to the hotel was over \$2000.

The florists of the city were heavy losers as well. The damage to Rockwell's greenhouses up the West Branch of the Tuna will cost \$3000. Every light of glass in both the greenhouses were broken to pieces. The damage to the plants was also great. Every other greenhouse in the city suffered the same fate.

The conservatory of George A. Berry on Congress Street was ruined by the hail. The 1 ¾" heavy glass on the roof on the east side of the street was completely riddled.

A funeral procession of six carriages was going up Oak Hill when the storm hit. Through the quick action of Otto Koch and the drivers, all the horses were unhitched and placed under shelter. Rev. Dr. Congdon, who was riding with Mr. Koch, got out of the rig and took refuge under a tree, but the tree blew down and the doctor was compelled to seek shelter at quite a distance from where he had

been standing. He was unable to keep his hat on his head and his head and forehead were badly bruised by the heavy hail stones. The horses of William Fennell, who was driving a group of ladies to the funeral, received a serious pelting and panicked. The women managed to get out of the carriage, but Fennell realized that he could not hold the runaway horses back, and let them run all the way to Tarport. On they dashed, the hailstones battering his face and hands.

The Methodist, Presbyterian, and Catholic Churches were all badly damaged. The large cathedral windows in the north side of the Methodist Church were badly riddled with 120 holes in one of the large ones. Some of the hail stones entered with such force that they were hurled half way across the church auditorium. The Presbyterian Church's stained glass windows are seriously damaged, and there was about four inches of water in the basement.

The tin roof in the kindling wood factory was ruined. The Newell block, on Main Street, at the corner of Webster, was badly damaged. The hail clogged up the water spouts and disarranged things in general. In the Roberts block, the same condition of affairs is reported. The hail smashed the sky lights and poured down three stories. At the West photography studio, the skylights were smashed to atoms. Nearly every house in the town contains broken glass.

The vegetable gardens throughout the city are totally ruined. Flower beds and shrubs that were as an ornament and delight yesterday morning were utterly destroyed by the hail. Vines and trees were stripped of their foliage and stand bare in gaunt ruin. The crops of farmers in the vicinity are totally destroyed.

After the storm, there were piles of hailstorms in the streets. Some were as large as snowballs. It was the worst hailstorm every recorded in the history of Northern Pennsylvania.

A glazier estimated that the number of windows broken in the Bradford area numbered 50,000 and several railroad cars of glass would be necessary to replace them. He also estimated the monetary damage – counting all the damage, ruined crops, gardens, etc. to be \$50,000 or \$1.35 million in today's figures.



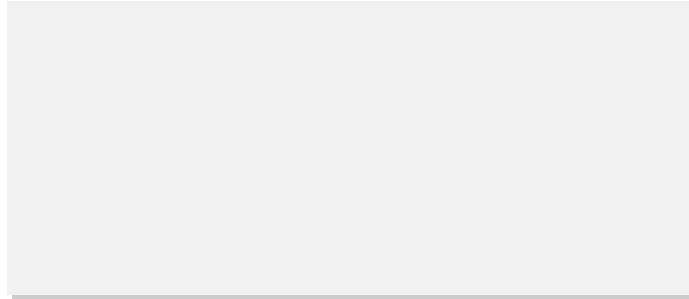
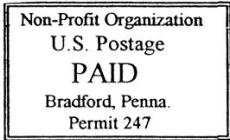
Books on Bradford History

Did you ever wonder how many books exist that were written about the history of the city? Recently, we compiled a list of all those that we could find, and the number surprised us. Many of these books are no longer in print but can be found through careful searching of garage sales, estate sales, antique shops, Ebay, Amazon, or other online rare book dealers. Some are fascinating reads; others, well, not so much. But if you want a complete collection of “Bradford” books, here is a good list to start you on your way.

1. Around Bradford 2, By Sally Ryan Costik and the Bradford Landmark Society, 1998
2. Around Bradford I, By Sally Ryan Costik and the Bradford Landmark Society, 1997
3. Bootlegger, Bullets and Blood. By Sally Ryan Costik, 2012.
4. Bradford Fire Department. By Jay Bradish
5. Bradford Oil Refinery, Sally Ryan Costik, 2006
6. Bradford Township Fire Department. By Jay Bradish
7. Death by Train, Horrifying True Stories of Train Wrecks and Accidents, 1879-1927. The Bradford Landmark Society, 2013.
8. From This Little House on Jackson Avenue, By Gladys Torgler
9. Go Devil. By Marguerite Eysson, 1947.
10. Greater Bradford Bicentennial Bradford, Greater Bradford Bicentennial Committee, 1974
11. Guide to the Collectible Wooden Buildings of Bradford, Sally Costik and Larry Richmond, 2006
12. Historic Bradford Illustrated. By Vernelle Hatch, 1901.
13. Historic Homes of Bradford, By Sally Ryan Costik and the Bradford Landmark Society
14. Historic Main Street, By Sally Ryan Costik and the Bradford Landmark Society, 2003
15. Illustrated Bradford. By Charles Latham, 1896.
16. Looking Down From Above, the Aerial Photographs of Donald Tanner, 1953-1968. By Mike Fuoco, 2008
17. Love of Art and the Art of Love, By Tullah Hanley
18. McKean, the Governor’s County. By Rufus Barrett Stone, 1927.
19. Pictorial History of Bradford. Bradford Era, publisher.
20. A Pocket of Peace. By Mary Ann Johnston, 1979.
21. Souvenir History of Old Home Week 1909
22. Spellbound, Growing Up in God’s Country. By David McKain. 1988.
23. The Bell Cow. By Bryant Sherman. 1910
24. The Case Cutlery Dynasty, Tested Triple XXX. By Brad Lockwood, 2005.
25. The Dresser Mansion. By the Bradford Landmark Society.
26. Tiger at the Bar; the Life Story of Charles J. Margiotti. By Chester Harris, 1999
27. Tract 3377. By George Higgins and Margaret Higgins Haffey.
28. Welcome Home, Old Home Week 1909. By Thomas D. Jones, 2010.



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Like us on Facebook!

Last March, as an experiment, we started updating our Facebook page every day with a historic old photograph, or interesting historic fact. At that time, we had about 55 “likes” or “friends” or whatever you want to call them. Which was okay, but not great. After all, one of the bonuses of Facebook, at least for businesses and non-profits, is that news of your event or happenings gets sent out into the Internet world. So we made a change.

The results were fantastic! In just about 9 months, we have increased our exposure to nearly 700 friends. And their friends get the benefit of Landmark Facebook, too. Some of the most popular posts – like the time we posted the photograph and history of the Rollerdrome Skating rink – reached nearly 2000 people. Wow!

So, if you are not a fan, or friend, or even like the Bradford Landmark Society’s Facebook page, we suggest that you give us a look. The posts are always educational and interesting, as well as the comments provided by our loyal fans. And you will learn so much about the history of the city and the area.

Take a look today!
