

THE BRADFORD LANDMARK SOCIETY



The Inkwell

45 E. Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701

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October 2010

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This apple cider press was just one of the many things to see at this year's Crook Fair Fair.

Summer is over, and we are looking forward to the coming of the holiday season. It's been a great year – the weather was really excellent, and the Crook Farm Country Fair was a huge success. We changed the format of the fair this year a little, and from all reports, everyone loved it even more than they usually do. We had a lot more music, great food, dozens and dozens of vendors, great baked foods, interesting displays (did you see the quilts hanging in the barn?) and everyone had a great time. We can't wait for next year!

This December, the Landmark is sponsoring a very special event; Mike Randall will perform a one-man show on Charles Dickens' *Christmas Carol*. For those of you who saw him last year as Mark Twain, you know what a great performer he is. Yes, he is the same Mike Randall who is the Chief Meteorologist from Channel WKBW in Buffalo, but he is so much more than just the man who tells us it's going to rain, snow, or be sunny. Mike is a talented actor as well, and his presentation of Charles Dickens will be most entertaining. Please see the middle of this newsletter for more information on this coming event, which will be held December 11 at 2PM in the Bromeley Theater at the University of Pittsburgh. Tickets will be available at the usual local ticket locations, and we hope you will plan on joining us. Charles Dickens was the first literary superstar – his popular works reached a wider audience than any writer before him. With classics like *Oliver Twist*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Great Expectations*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, and *David Copperfield*, Dickens dominated the literary life of 19th-century England and the United States. His work has never been out of print.

What else is in this copy of *The Inkwell*?

Time Travel – a look back at 1900-1905

Halloween – does it scare the pants off you?

Bricks, Bricks, and more Bricks!

Crook Farm Country Fair 2010

Crook Farm Fair 2010

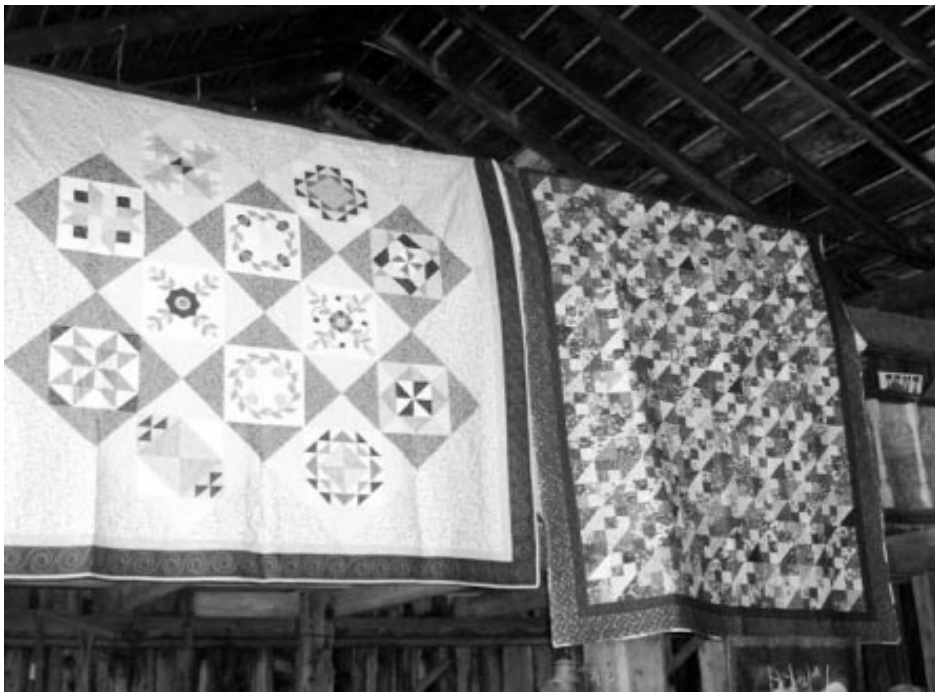


Old Time Country Music Festival & Crafts and Vendor Show

Over 60 vendors, craftsmen, and demonstrators made this year's Crook Farm Fair a huge success. With great food, crafts, and music, the crowds came out both days and had a great time. Mark your calendars for next year's Fair; we promise that it will be even better!



Bluegrass, Folk and
American Traditional
Music & Dance.

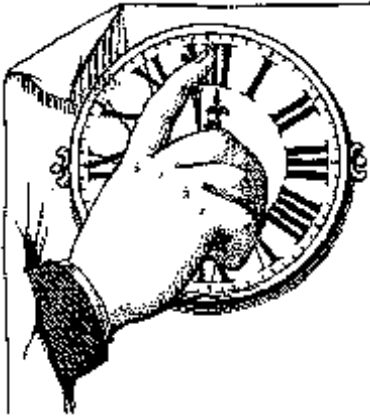


**The Crook Farm Fair
August 28 & 29.**



Time Travel?

The possibility of Time travel has always fascinated people. Recently on the Internet, we found a suggested list of books that deal with this very subject and that got us to thinking. Have you ever considered it? If you could travel back in time, when and where would you go?



May we suggest Bradford, at the turn of the 20th Century? At no other time in the history of the city has there been so much “going on” as there was in those early years, 1900 to 1905. We guarantee that a trip back in time to that time and place would astound you.

The population of the city in 1900 was 17,305. (Today, recent census figures put it at around 8,500 in the city) And that’s just counting those people that lived inside the city limits. These were hard working people; not just those in the oil industry, but hundreds of grocers, butchers, fish mongers, railroad men, bankers, cooks, blacksmiths, machinists, seamstresses, teachers, factory workers, farmers, bricklayers, bakers, trolley drivers, servants, construction workers, stone masons, office workers, housewives, and many others.

And if you were to visit the city back then, probably the thing that would impress you the most would be the number of buildings being constructed. It must have seemed like the entire city was being built, of brick, during those early years.

- In 1900, the Holley Hotel was built. Erected on the site of the recently burned Riddell House (December 1899), the new red brick Holley Hotel was the dream of Frank Holley, who quite naturally named the new hotel after himself.
- The brick Carnegie Library on Congress Street was built; with \$25,000 from Andrew Carnegie of Pittsburgh. It opened in July, 1901 with 1,000 people attending its open house.
- The Option House, a wooden landmark dating to the days of the original oil boom, was razed and a new, fancy brick and stone building; also names the Option House, was erected in its place in the summer of 1902.
- The Bradford Brewery on Fourth Street (the location is now under the Rte. 219 expressway) opened in February 1901 with a grand opening of the brewery for men on February 4th and 5th and grand opening for women on February 6th. It was built of Bradford Red Brick.
- Work on the S. G. Coffin building on Barbour Street, reported to be one of the largest brick structures in the city, was being rushed to completion in 1901. This building burned in 1924, and was replaced by the Star Garage.
- Joseph Tammero erected a 3-story brick building at 15 Chestnut Street in 1902. It still stands.
- The first Bell Telephone building, No. 11 Chestnut Street, also of brick, was built in 1903.
- The Arcade building, a brick structure that was unique in that it straddled the Tuna Creek from East Washington Street to Pine Street, was completed and opened in June of 1903.
- The James R. Evans building, designed in brick, was completed in the late summer of 1903.
- The Schonblom building, at 101 Main Street, on the corner of Kennedy and Main, was built of brick in 1902.
- The former Salvation Army building on Kennedy Street was built of brick in 1903.
- The Auerhaim Building, later Forest Oil, was completed in 1901 on the corner of Main and Chestnut Street. It was built of brick.
- The Odd Fellows building on the public square was destroyed by fire in 1902; it was rebuilt and reopened in January 1904. Made of brick.

- The old Pennzoil Building (now the Medical Arts building on Boylston Street) was erected by Solomon Dresser in 1903. It's brick, of course.
- The new Bradford Theater, later to be renamed the Sheas Theater, opened on South Avenue in November 1903. Brick.
- Several new, red brick hospital buildings were constructed on eight acres off North Bennett Street, Pleasant Street, and Summer Street and completed by the fall of 1904.
- The Bradford National Bank on Main Street was built. Brick and stone. 1904.
- The Dresser Mansion, of creamy pale yellow brick, was built on Jackson Avenue by Solomon Dresser. The family moved in June 1, 1904.

And that's not counting all the other buildings, houses, bridges, roads, fire towers, and factories that were also being built in this time period; many of them in brick as well.

And other, exciting things are happening, too. City Hall nearly burned to the ground in November 1901; the Era Hook and Ladder company moved into its new headquarters on Pine Street (now part of the hospital resale shop) in 1902; Carrie Nation visited the city in 1901, Susan B. Anthony visited in 1900; Marilla Reservoir was constructed in 1901; the Tuna Valley Pressed Brick plant at Lewis Run was completed in 1903; Dr. Roswell Park of Buffalo, spoke at the commencement exercises of the Bradford Hospital School of Nursing in 1901; LaStella Lodge was organized in 1902; Fifth Ward School on Elm Street was completed in 1903; and the Wizard of Oz, written by L. Frank Baum, was performed at the new Bradford Theater in 1903.

It was an exciting time. So gear up your time machine and set the dials to Bradford, 1900. You'll be glad you did!



H.G. Well's Time Machine. He is generally credited with the popularization of the concept of time travel using a vehicle that allows an operator to travel purposefully and selectively. The term "time machine", coined by Wells in 1895, is now universally used to refer to such a vehicle.

Interested in reading books about time travel?

Time and Again, by Jack Finney

A Wrinkle in Time, by Madeline L'Engle

The Time Machine by H. G. Wells

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court by Mark Twain

The Time Traveler's Wife by Audrey Niffenegger

The Door into Summer by Robert Heinlein

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

Bring the Jubilee by Ward Moore

Four Past Midnight (The Langoliers)
by Stephen King (2001)

Bid Time Return by Richard Matheson

*"It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas,
when it's mighty founder was a child himself" A Christmas Carol*

In March of 1868, as part of his highly publicized, much anticipated and critically acclaimed America Reading Tour, famous English author Charles Dickens visited Buffalo, NY. Nearly 3000 people saw him LIVE each night as he performed two sold-out shows at St. James Hall. The first story he shared on that first night may be the best loved holiday tale ever written: "A Christmas Carol".

This December, The Bradford Landmark Society brings a talented actor and magnetic stage presence to the Bromely Theater at the University of Pittsburgh to recreate that moment. We invite you to join us, as Mike Randall presents a one-man show, recreating Mr. Dicken's presentation.

Charles Dickens Presents **A Christmas Carol** A Solo Performance Starring Mike Randall

December 11, 2010 at 2:00 PM

The Bromely Family Theater, University of Pittsburgh at Bradford

Tickets: Adults \$15.00, Students age 10 to 18, \$10.00

(Presentation not intended for children under 10 years of age)

Ticket outlets: Herbig Bakery, headquarters of The Bradford Landmark Society, John Williams Bakery, Graham's Florist, Tina's Hallmark, Ott & McHenry Drug Store, The Bradford Public Library

A lover of history, and a presenter of one person shows, when Mike Randall discovered that Charles Dickens performed in Buffalo in 1868 he decided to recreate Mr. Dickens's presentation of his most well known story. He spent over a year researching and studying to recreate Mr. Dickens' presentation of "A Christmas Carol". No detail was overlooked; Randall even took a woodshop class so that he could build a replica of Charles Dickens famous reading stand, the centerpiece for his performance.

Mike Randall has performed a variety of roles in theaters around the county and he continues to perform his critically acclaimed, one-man portrayal of Mark Twain Live! He has made more than 2000 appearances as the great American Author and appears annually at the "Huck Finn Jubilee" in California as their 'official' Mark Twain.

Mike Randall is Chief Meteorologist for WKBW-TV in Buffalo, NY. Also an award winning feature reporter, Mike attended Onondaga Community College for radio and TV and SUNY Geneseo for theatre arts. He received his Certificate of Broadcast Meteorology from Mississippi State University and earned both the American Meteorological Society and National Weather Association Seals of Approval. He is the only local TV meteorologist to hold both seals.



What Randall finds most intriguing about Dickens and his Readings is the way the author threw himself into the performances, not just reading the words but becoming the characters on stage. At one time Charles Dickens had almost become a professional actor. Even when he pursued writing instead, he continued to produce and perform in "amateur theatricals". His close actor friends claimed repeatedly that Dickens could easily have made a successful career on the stage. The Dickens Readings were not only an outlet for this amateur actor, but they became an absorbing, entertaining Tour de Force, a blending of the author/actor creating wonderful magic on stage.

Charles Dickens finished writing his "Little Carol" in time for it to be published for Christmas 1843. He whipped it out in a couple months with a plan to make some quick cash to pay off some of his debt. Dickens was intent on producing a lavishly bound, gilt-edged book with hand colored illustrations at a reasonable price. As a result, even though he sold six thousand copies in the first few days of release, the profits were disappointingly low. Little did he know that "A Christmas Carol" was destined to become one of the most enduring Christmas

stories of all time.

When Charles Dickens was invited to give a reading of "A Christmas Carol" as a fundraiser for the Industrial and Literary Institute at Birmingham Town Hall in 1852, it was the beginning of a new and exciting career. Who was more qualified to reconstitute his characters for an audience than the creator himself? In many ways, despite criticism from some of his peers and other literary types, the public readings were nothing more than an extension of the close connection that Charles Dickens already had with his readers.

A few years after that debut he hit the road as a public reader of his works, for profit, and remained in the spotlight performing "A Christmas Carol" and other stories until his death.



Join us on December 11 for a performance you won't forget!

...." the characters came alive with color and flourish....we were transported to Dickens' England and didn't want to come back....Randall's command of the work was jaw-dropping...the characters seemed life-like, as if Dickens himself were speaking of people who had just left the room". Peter Anderson Host Of Time Warner's "Crossroads"!

"a talented actor and magnetic stage presence...when Randall loses himself in one of those Dickensian bouts of rich description, he's at the top of his game." - Buffalo News

"The evening concluded with a standing ovation for Randall leaving us all with a true sense of the holiday season-- a sense of giving, hope, renewal and love for mankind. " - Arcade Area Chamber of Commerce

"as Charles Dickens in "A Christmas Carol" Randall hit the bulls eye..." - Barbara Tucker Tonawanda News

Beginning with Celts' celebration of Samhain, and its transition to All Hallows' Eve, Halloween has been the source of superstitions about marriage, luck and death. The following article is a look at Halloween, compiled and printed, in part, from various Internet articles.



Halloween



At its core, Halloween marks deep and abiding concerns about life and death itself, as well as a time of particular vulnerability. From fear of black cats crossing one's path to dreaming of death, it's no wonder that it's a rich source of superstition and myth.

The Celts' Celebration of Samhain

Samhain (pr. sow-wen), literally translated as "summer's end," was celebrated by the Celts to mark the end of the harvest and of the "light". Winter was "dark" season, associated with hunger and death. In short, Halloween is a time that is associated with the harvest, fertility, and life and death itself.

Visitations of the Dead

Celts believed that on October 31, the Lord of Death (Saman) would call together all the souls that had died the previous year in order for them to travel to the afterlife. Bonfires were built to light the way for spirits to make their way into the world of the living. All Souls Day, as defined by Christians, is the day on which all those who have died appear. These observances have led to speculations about visitations and what they portend, for example:

- If you happen to see a spider on Halloween Day, it is the spirit of a loved one watching over you.
- If you hear footsteps behind you on Halloween night, don't turn around, because it's the dead following you. If you turn around, you may end up dead soon.

Omens of Death

Halloween is also associated with "signs" that someone has died or is about to, for example:

- Dreaming of death is an omen of death.
- If a bird flies into the window of a sick person, it means the person will die soon.
- If a bird flies into your house, it means someone has died.
- If a clock that wasn't working suddenly chimes, a family member has died.



Related, sneezing on Halloween is considered especially dangerous. According to the Welsh, when you sneeze, the soul leaves the body – essentially a fleeting pass at death. Saying "God Bless you," originated from this superstition.

Halloween and Predictions of the Future

Halloween is a “marginal” time when distinctions such as past, present and future are blurred, and the veil between the living and the dead is thought to be at its thinnest. This makes it a propitious time for divining the future. A number of superstitions are related to omens predicting good luck or bad.

Halloween and Bad Luck

If you experience any of the following on Halloween, you will have bad luck:



- You hear three hoots of an owl, or hear a rooster crow at night.
- You see a white cat or the new moon over your left shoulder.
- You put your shirt on inside-out.
- You get out of bed left foot first.
- You sing before breakfast (you'll cry before dinner).
- You open an umbrella inside a building or house.

Halloween and Good Luck

Experiencing any of these events on Halloween will bring you good luck:

- You sleep facing south.
- The top of your head has an itch.
- You pick up a piece of coal lying in your path.
- A robin flies into your house.
- You sneeze three times before breakfast.
- You put on a dress inside out.
- You dream of a white cat.
- You hear a cat sneeze.

Bradford Ghosts . . . In December of 1890, a weird, ghostly ghost appeared to a BB & K flagman on the railroad near Ormsby. In 1900, the ghost of the Wood Rim factory was seen near the factory. “It was taller than usual, with a deeper voice which was quite strong for a wraith with no lungs. It groaned in a blood-freezing fashion” and was seen by two watchers. In 1904, in the Bosworth farmhouse in Limestone, NY, Bosworth’s sister is awakened by the tipping over of a huge dresser, then later a bookcase, without human hands.

Glimpsing One’s Future Husband

An unmarried girl could see aspects of her future husband on Halloween Night by following certain steps. For example:

- If she caught a snail and locked it in a flat dish on Halloween night, the first letter of her sweetheart’s name would appear in the morning.
- Putting fresh rosemary and a silver coin under her pillow on Halloween would allow her to see her future husband in a dream that night.
- If she carried a broken egg in a glass and took it to a spring of water, she would be able to catch a glimpse of her future husband.

Halloween is a magical time, when boundaries of life and death are thin, and distinctions of time are blurred. It’s not surprising that we are both fascinated and frightened, perpetuating myths and omens from one generation to the next.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM HANLEY, OF BRADFORD, PENNSYLVANIA.

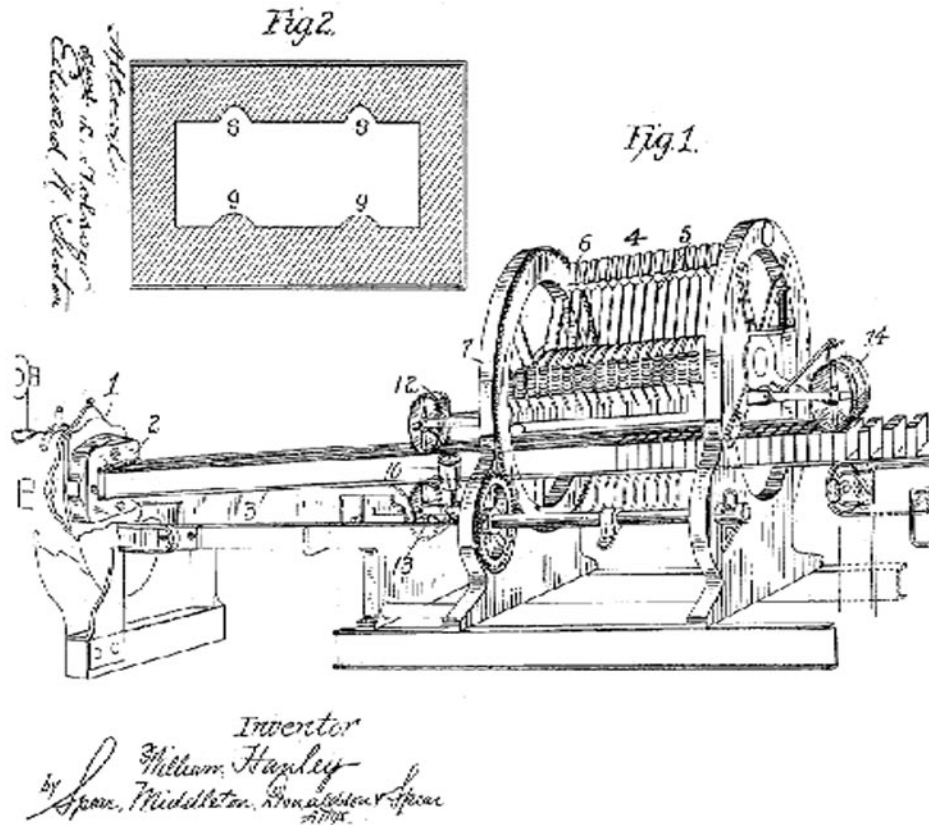
APPARATUS FOR MAKING BRICKS.

959,006.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 24, 1910.

Application filed August 5, 1909. Serial No. 511,343.



Bricks! Bricks! Bricks!

Elsewhere in this newsletter, we listed the many buildings in Bradford that were made of brick in the early 20th century. And while there were at least five brick factories in the Lewis Run area supplying this essential building material, one man stands out among the rest for his business sense, knowledge, and entrepreneurship. That man was William Hanley.

Some of the Buildings built by Hanley:

City Hall (1898)
St. Bernard's Church (1892)
4th Ward School (1894)
Mansion House (1896)
Bay State Hotel (1897)
Hanley Mansion (1898)
McKean Theater (1910)
Schonblom Building (1902)
YMCA (1906)
1st Bell Telephone Building (1903)
Central Fire Station (1910)
Carnegie Library (1901)
Tuna Valley Milk Company (1907)
Post Office (1910)
Bovaird & Seyfang Engine House (1909)
Marilla Reservoir (1898-1901)
Erie Depot, Wellsville, NY
Hornell Court House, NY
Joseph Steep House, Titusville, PA
Trinity ME Church, Oil City
St. Joseph's Church, Oil City
Arlington Hotel, Oil City
First National Bank, Oil City
Oil City Trust Company Bank
Exchange Building, Olean

The Hanley Company was founded in 1893. Known as the Bradford Pressed Brick Company, the company owned just one press for making dry press brick and two old-fashioned kilns for burning the product; at that time, about 15,000 daily. In 1900, William Hanley acquired full ownership, and set about modernizing the entire brick manufacturing system. He held several patents in this regard, and by 1930, Hanley Brick was the second largest producer of face brick in the United States.

Hanley "possessed the vision and foresight to correctly analyze the face brick industry...and to predict a future condition under which only those face brick plants able to compete on a low cost basis could make a profit and survive." He junked the old obsolete and inefficient equipment, razed the original No. 1 dry press brick factory, and built a new one.

He installed a railroad tunnel kiln in Lewis Run in 1920; the first one ever successfully operated in a face brick plant. The next year, a second kiln was put into operation, and the capacity of the two Lewis Run plants increased to 3,000,000 bricks per month. In 1924, Hanley built another plant at Summerville, PA; a mammoth plant that covered three and one-half acres of floor space, and had a capacity of turning out 60,000,000 per moth.

Hanley made a fortune, and his famous "Bradford Red" brick can be seen on nearly every brick building in Bradford.



The Hanley Brick Company was a part of the Lewis Run area for years, but by 1984, Hanley production was moved south, and the plant closed.

Bradford Landmark Society

45 East Corydon Street
Bradford PA 16701



A new book is coming for Christmas! Watch for our publication announcement of a new “Historic Homes” book later this fall. Homes from all over the city will be included – maybe even yours!