

The Landmark Society

News

BRADFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

November, December '75, January '76

No. 9

GIFTS FOR LANDMARK

The Landmark Society acknowledges the gifts of the following friends who have brought items of historical interest to be added to the collection:

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Porter - drilling rig model and an Atlas.

Mrs. Bessie Wolcott - shoes.

Mrs. Marion Graham - dresses and aprons.

Mrs. Frank Hydé, Jr. - clothes and pictures.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Wilson - Matthews' doll.

Mr. Alex Swartz - books.

McKean County Historical Association - 32mm roles of film showing Bradford people, buildings, places of business, in the 1920's.

THANKS, MRS. NUZUM AND MRS. BEAM

In a letter to the President of the Society, Mrs. Charles Nuzum has said that she and Mrs. Helen Beam will no longer be able to do the job of decorating the front windows of the Herbig Bakery Headquarters Building.

Their work during the past few years has been outstanding. The windows have consistently attracted pedestrians on East Corydon to skillfully displayed artifacts from the collection of Mrs. Nuzum and Mrs. Beam, as well as items from Landmark collections. The two ladies were particularly good at the construction of figures from cardboard and unusual materials that effectively illustrated a scene. An example of such a scene is the one at Christmas time last year. A family was gathered around a reed organ singing carols as the mother, dressed in the style of the 1890's played the organ. The thanks of the Society are due Mrs. Nuzum and Mrs. Beam.

CROOK FARM ACTIVITIES

Late in November work on the shingle roof of the farm house was completed and new siding replaced the shingles on the outside walls. A preservative stain or coat will be added to those outside walls as soon as weather permits in the spring.

The building was winterized by putting the water pump in storage, draining the system, and cutting off the gas. David Pytcher, Frank Stack, and Homer Miller were in charge of this work.

Homer Miller arranged for the moving of the old schoolhouse from West Corydon Street to the site on the Crook farm. The Board of Directors of the Society at a December meeting decided that the schoolhouse should not remain unassembled during the winter months. In January the flooring, walls and roof were added to a stone foundation. The addition of the windows, doorways, and interiors will wait for favorable spring weather.

The schoolhouse is the gift of the R.J. Purtle estate, and has been moved from its original site at the expense of the Landmark Society as a part of the creation of an oil field village.

NEW STAFF MEMBER

Mr. Max Phillips, an employee of the city's CETA office, has been assigned to the Landmark Society as of January 19.

Using federal funds, the city pays the salary of Mr. Phillips and the Society pays the fringe benefits. Arrangements were made through the City Manager, and Mr. Peter Paul DePalma and Mr. Joseph Pfister.

Mr. Phillips is a veteran and has a wife and three children. He attended the Bradford Campus of the University of Pittsburgh for two years, and the Oakland Campus for one year.

Saving Those Historic Buildings Called 'Best Bicentennial Move'

By PHILIP LANGDON
Second of two articles.

One American custom may be attacked rather than celebrated during the country's bicentennial.

That's the national habit of discarding architectural heritage by ripping down landmarks which stand in the way of business expansion, highway projects or other development.

Saving historically valuable buildings is "probably the best thing we can do for bicentennial year," says Andrea Shaw, who is organizing Old Amherst Colony Museum Park along the state barge canal in Amherst.

To the left is a headline from a Buffalo paper in which the story of the efforts of a community group relates to the Bicentennial celebration.

A PROBLEM FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

In the on-going efforts to preserve the Old City Hall from destruction, the Landmark Society still supports the efforts of the Citizens Committee for Preservation. The formation of this Committee was proposed at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Society, and two weeks later the policy was adopted that is now still in effect. One of the principal statements of the policy was that the cost of Preservation was not to fall on the tax payers. The group working on the problem has spent much time trying to work out a solution acceptable to all concerned. Their efforts have been intensified by the fact that the Council seems prepared to spend funds for destruction of the old building, to let contracts for a new Butler-type building, to spend funds for creating a new jail and additional offices within the "engineered-type" building. To inform Landmark Society members of some of the efforts of the Committee, some of the correspondence and proposals are reproduced on the following pages.

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2233 RAYBURN OFFICE BUILDING
TELEPHONE: 225-5121
AREA CODE 202

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

DISTRICT OFFICE
205 HAMLIN BANK BUILDING
SMITHPORT, PENNSYLVANIA
TELEPHONE: 837-2225
AREA CODE 814

The Landmark Society
45 E. Corydon Street
Bradford, Pennsylvania 16701

October 27, 1975

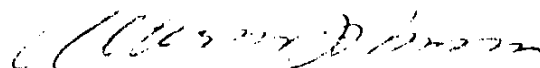
Dear Members:

Thank you very much for your recent letter advising me of your interest in S. 865, a bill to promote more efficient use of the Nations construction resources, and to encourage preservation of historical buildings. This bill is currently pending before the Public Works Committee and at this time no hearings have been scheduled. It is anticipated that hearings will be held after the first of the year.

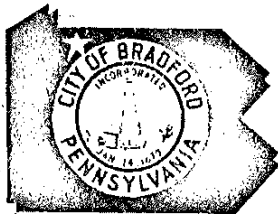
I have made the Committee aware of your support for this measure. Please be assured that should this bill come to the floor of the House, it will have my support.

Also, knowing of your interest in preserving the Old City Hall, if this building is placed on the National Register of Historic Places funding for renovation may be possible through the National Park Services's matching grant program for restoration. Nominations for historical places are made through the State. You may want to contact Mr. William Weaver, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, P.O. Box 1026, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120; telephone 717-787-2891.

Sincerely yours,



ALBERT W. JOHNSON
Member of Congress



November 17, 1975

Dr. Donald E. Swarts
257 Langmaid Lane
Bradford, Pa. 16701

Dear Dr. Swarts;

Please accept my sincere appreciation for your presentation before City Council on the behalf of the Citizen's Committee to Save Old City Hall. I feel that your proposal was well presented, reasonable, and most of all, brought order to a possible calamitous situation.

If the effort to save this grand old building is to be successful, the support and cooperation of all segments of our community is going to be required. Thus I would like to offer my services to the Committee in any way I may be of help.

May I extend my very best wishes to the Committee for every success, in preparation and implementation of a workable plan to save old City Hall.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Fred Proper', is written over the typed name.

Frederick E. Proper/gp
Councilman

124 Jackson Avenue
Bradford, Pennsylvania 16701
December 4, 1975

Mr. Ray McMahon
Community Development Agency
15 Kennedy Street
Bradford, Pennsylvania 16701

Dear Mr. McMahon:

The Citizens Committee for Preservation of Bradford Old City Hall respectfully requests that the Community Development Agency consider a preliminary funding project relative to restoration of this landmark in their Second Year Community Development Program. The Committee was not in a position nor did they have knowledge prior to this date, that funding may be available under the Community Development Block Grant programs.

We will be available to discuss our project proposal with you at your convenience or at the next public hearing meeting.

Thank you.

Very truly yours

John C. Hoffman, Jr.
Chairman Citizens Committee

JCH:rv

cc: \ Dr. Donald E. Swarts
Bradford Landmark Society

124 Jackson Avenue
Bradford, Pennsylvania 16701
December 18, 1975

Mr. Ray McMahon
Community Development Agency
15 Kennedy Street
Bradford, Pennsylvania 16701

Dear Mr. McMahon:

Since the Tuesday evening hearing, the Citizens Committee has been attempting to develop a revised proposal for reconsideration by the Redevelopment Authority. Needless to say, they were most disappointed by the tentative action to exclude funding for rehabilitation of the Oil City Hall.

(Con't, next page)

After a careful evaluation of the total project with due consideration for the apparent concerns of members of City Council, the following realistic and reasonable plan is presented:

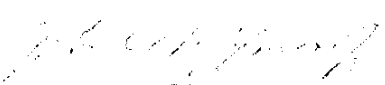
1. Absolve the City of responsibility for the Oil City Hall Building by formation of a non-profit Corporation that will be responsible for complete management of the building. This, of course, is contingent upon the Council's approval to deed the building over to the Corporation. A Board with members representing all segments of the community will have full control and responsibility for the building. A member of the Council will serve as one member to assure proper communications with the City Council. It will be attempted, if feasible, on a break-even expense basis to occupy the building with community art and craft, cultural, or service type organizations. In other words, the building will become a center for community organizations.
2. Conduct a fund raising drive to be completed by May, 1976, establishing \$30,000 as a goal. It is requested that Community Development funds be made available from the existing contingency fund on a matching basis up to \$30,000. The success of this drive will substantiate beyond a doubt that the community is in full agreement that the Old City Hall should be preserved.
3. We anticipate that the building will be included on the National Register by the end of the 1976 calendar year. At that time \$40,000 will be requested from the Office of Historic Preservation. From conversations with the Assistant Director we believe chances are very good that we will be able to obtain these funds.

Matching funds from the Third Year Community Development Program will be requested. At this point, upon completion of this phase of the program, the basement, first and second floors of the building will be occupied. \$140,000 will provide basic necessities to make the building livable and within Department of Labor and Industry compliance.

4. An attempt will be made to obtain a one year labor contract under the Federal Job Opportunities Program to further restore and return the building to its original splendor. This project will be coordinated with the local Community Development Office.
5. If obtaining a Jobs Program is unsuccessful, we expect to on an annual basis apply for funding through the Office of Historic Preservation until the building is fully restored.

We respectfully request that this proposal be reviewed. Any assistance from you personally or from your staff would be most appreciated. The Citizens Committee is available to review this proposal at your convenience. Thank you.

Very truly yours


John C. Hoffman, Jr.
Chairman Citizens Committee

CITIZENS COMMITTEE PROPOSALBRADFORD OLD CITY HALL RESTORATION PROGRAMCalendar Year 1976

1. Restoration of roof including moulded and form cornices.
 - A. Obtain funding through Community Development Block Grant Program for Improvement of historic properties. Federal Grant \$50,000
2. Adaptive reuse through enlargement of Police Station using City Hall basement - coordinate project with City & Committee Architect. Cost associated with construction of a new building not necessary.
3. Adaptive reuse through immediate occupancy of Old City Hall basement in remaining rooms not needed by Police Department No Cost
 - Community Cultural Service type organization given priority
 - Low rental to cover cost of utilities

Calendar year 1977

1. Restoration of first two floors of Old City Hall.
 - A. Obtain funding through Community Development Block Grant Program. Federal Grant 40,000
 - B. Obtain Matching Funds through Office of Historic Preservation. Federal Grant 40,000
 - C. Obtain one year Labor Contract under Federal Job Opportunities Program under auspices of City of Bradford to employ 15 - 20 appropriate craftsmen to work on remaining restoration of first two floors of building. Federal Funding 150,000
 - D. Conduct Community Fund Raising Drive - Community participation of 1/5 of total estimated under the Jobs Program. Community Funding 30,000

Total Potential Funding \$310,000
2. Adaptive reuse through occupancy of first and second floors of building by Governmental or service type organizations.
 - Rental income sufficient to maintain and defray all expenses.

124 Jackson Avenue
Bradford, Pennsylvania 16701
December 23, 1975

Mayor Maxwell S. Moore
City of Bradford - City Hall
Bradford, Pennsylvania 16701

Dear Mayor Moore:

The Citizen's Committee for Preservation of Old City Hall consists of responsible, civic-minded people who are concerned with rehabilitating Bradford's most impressive landmark.

Persons identified with this ad hoc committee include:

Dr. Donald Swarts
Mr. Lee Adams
Mr. William Lowery
Mr. Charles Grow
Mr. Dick McGeary
Mrs. Austin Platt

Mr. Meigs Beam
Mr. John Place
Mr. Charles Day
Mrs. Leslie Silverstine
Mr. John Hoffman

Petitions for preservation of the building bearing the names of 1,200 additional voters who desire Old City Hall to be restored are in the possession of the committee. These petitions can be presented to Council at any appropriate time.

In light of the strong public support of this worthwhile project, the Committee is puzzled over the regrettable "Council vs. City Hall" attitude which seems to have developed.

Best wishes for a happy Christmas holiday.

Sincerely,

John C. Hoffman, Jr.
Chairman Citizen's Committee

JCH:rv

cc: Dr. Donald Swarts
President Landmark Society

DINING IN BRADFORD IN 1909

Mrs. Betty Blaisdell has placed in the Landmark Society files two items from the estate of her mother, the late Cora Byrd Ball who died in November a few days before her ninety third birthday. A leather-covered booklet gives the menu of the dinner at the St. James Hotel on June 25, 1909, celebrating the "Opening of Yard No.2". A cut-out section of the cover displays a brick, labeled "Bradford Pressed Brick," which was also the name of the company. With the menu is a printed white ribbon, "BRADFORD REDS." The text of the song printed on the last page gives some indication of the conviviality of the occasion.

Oh, we are all frank and twenty
 When the Spring is in the air
 And we've faith and hope aplenty
 And we've life and love to spare,
 And its birds of a feather,
 When good fellows get together,
 With a stein on the table,
 And a heart without a care.

The seven-course dinner menu reveals the difference in today's dining habits and those of other years. Two potato dishes in successive courses are not usual even in 1909, but the French custom of serving a sherbet between courses "to lighten the dinner" was followed, as it still is in some clubs and hotel dining rooms.

Caviar en Crustade
 *
 Cream of Celery
 Salted Almonds Radishes Queen Olives
 *
 Planked Blue Fish Maitre De Hotel
 Pommes de Terre Au Gratin
 *
 Braised Young Turkey, Cranberry Jelly
 New Bermuda Potatoes
 Asparagus a la Hollandaise
 *
 Fried Soft Shell Crabs, Tartar Sauce
 Mushroom Patties
 Strawberry Sherbet
 *
 Claret Punch
 *
 Fruit Salad
 *
 Ice Cream en Forms
 Assorted Cakes Coffee
 Cigars

The second dinner menu features a hunting scene on the cover engraved by a Philadelphia company. The pen-and-ink text on its pages was reproduced by a process not readily identified today:

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL DINNER OF THE
 SUGAR RUN ROD AND GUN CLUB,
 HELD AT THE RAY STATE HOTEL,
 NOVEMBER TWENTY FOURTH
 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINE.

The second page contains a four-line poem addressed to the person whose place card it was, as well as a sketch of three ladies clustered around a football player. The ladies

BRADFORD DINNERS(oon't)

in the hats and the gowns of the period are saying, "Ain't he lovely," and "Oh, the dear," and "I'd like to get acquainted." The verse, somewhat derogatory, begins

Here's to Bird
A football player of note
Entered Harvard years ago
With his ambitions all aglow...

The ending refers to a situation now forgotten, but it is well known that Mr. Byrd was a good student at Harvard. The dinner was attended by the 1909 members of the Sugar Run Club:

T.H.Kennedy	A.W.Thompson
F.R.Forster	R.T.Bradley
R.A.Griffith	R.M.Collins
J.H.Rose	C.E.Hurley
Delevan Emery	J.H.Bovaird
J.A.Riley	A.E.Hurley
S.P.Kennedy	C.Griffith

Jay Bird

At the top of the page listing the items on the menu is the toast:

Here's to those we love
best, "Our noble selves."

And with those felicitous sentiments, the company settled to a truly sumptuous dinner consisting of

Manhattan Cocktail

*

Saddle Rocks on Half Shell
Celery Hearts Cheese Straws

*

Consomme au Maderia en Tasse
Pimentos Salted Almonds Toasted Croutons

*

Broiled Filet of White Fish, sauce Tartar
Asparagus Vinigretti Pommes de Laces

*

Sparkling Burgundy

*

Saute of Rabbit a la Creole
Whipped White Potatoes Petit Pois

*

Frozen Roman Punch

*

Stuffed Pheasant, en Bordelaise
Candied Sweets Brussels Sprouts

*

Champagne

*

Grape Fruit en surprise Charlotte Russe Special

*

Camembert Cheese and Cream Cheese Bents Water Crackers
Cigars, Coffee, Cordials

ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE

Our regular members and new members are asked to tear off the top half of this sheet and mail it to the Society Headquarters along with their 1976 dues: \$2 each for regular membership; \$10 for contributing memberships; and \$100 for life memberships.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

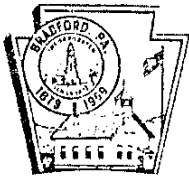
AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

Your use of this slip will save the Society the postage we usually use to bill our members.

BRADFORD LANDMARK SOCIETY
45 East Corydon Street
Bradford, Pennsylvania 16701

NON -- PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
BRADFORD, PA. 16701
PERMIT NO. 247

MR. & MRS CHARLES GROW
62 FISKE AVE.
BRADFORD, PA. 16701



The Landmark Society

News

SAVE

DO NOT
DISCARD

Bradford, Pennsylvania

February-March, 1976

No. 10

ANNUAL MEETING

Bradford Landmark's Annual Meeting will be held Thursday evening, March 25, at a dinner at the Valley Hunt Club. Annual reports will be heard, but the principal theme will be the Society's observation of the Bicentennial year.

Mrs. Thomas McDowell heads the committee on arrangements. Dining time will be about 6:45 after a social hour. The members will be informed about reservations in a special mailing.

DIRECTORS MEET TWICE

Since the last NEWS report the Board of Directors has met on December 29 and again on March 2.

Participants: December 29, Messrs. Swarts, Pytcher, Benton, Grow, Jones, Tiffany; Mesdames Bromeley, Kish, Pfister, Stack, Wolf. March 2, Messrs. Swarts, Pytcher, Benton, Grow, Slike, Tiffany; Mesdames Bromeley, Gray, Kish, Lowery, Stack, Wolf.

At each meeting the President declared a quorum present. At the December meeting the principal items of business concerned the agreement with CETA to furnish employment for three persons, two of whom were to work at the Crook Farm as carpenter's helpers, and the other at the Bakery as custodian and general assistant to the co-ordinator in filing records and doing routine office work. (During February, Mr. Max Phillips began to work, with duties at both places). At both meetings discussion of finances and expenditures at the Crook Farm were the major topics, along with plans for income to support the project.

CROOK FARM PROGRESS

Winter weather has slowed down activity at the Oil Field Village project. As reported in the last issue of the NEWS, the house has been winterized until spring weather will permit the use of utilities.

The co-ordinator of all Crook Farm work is Mrs. Robert Bromeley, whose committee recently took advantage of a break in the weather to have an on-the-spot meeting to make some decisions concerning immediate restorations to be made. The committee hopes to have at least one room ready for public viewing by the time of the Bicentennial celebration in June.

The School House now has four walls up and will have the roof on within a week. Windows and doors have been stored during the bad weather, but will be replaced soon. This work has continued in spite of adverse weather under the direction of David Pytcher and Homer Miller. The Society has provided funds for new siding and supporting beams when the original wood was no longer useable.

MRS. GENEVIEVE C. RAPP

Mrs. Rapp, the last member of the family to live on the Crooks Farm, died in the Stone Manor Nursing Home in Smethport on February 5. In recent years she had been confined to bed, and had had the careful and loving care of her niece, Mrs. Marjorie Zimmerman of Olean, her guardian.

As a teacher in the local schools, Mrs. Rapp had achieved a unique reputation for her interest in the welfare of her pupils. At the time of her death, she was remembered by many of them for her unusual and many kindnesses. For many years she had been active in civic and church affairs. For fifty years she was a member of the First United Methodist Church, although through an error when arrangements were being made, it was believed that she was a member of Asbury Methodist Church.

Mrs. Zimmerman has expressed her continued interest in the work of the Landmark Society at the family homestead last occupied by Mrs. Rapp.

GIFTS TO LANDMARK

Since last reported, the following gifts have been presented to the Society.

Mrs. Iva Walters: MSS and historical materials, papers.

Mr. Gordon Thompson: spinning wheel and wool winder.

Mrs. Betty Blaisdell: Printed programs of the 1900 era, linens, lace, and clothes.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Wilson: Matthew's photos.

McKean County Historical Society, through the courtesy of Verna Walker: school pictures.

WINDOW DISPLAY

Windows at the Bakery Headquarters have been receiving much attention during the past ten days because of a unusual display placed there by Mrs. George Tiffany.

Labelled SHARDS, the display consists of some twenty five pieces of china and glass, all broken, but illustrating interesting patterns and designs. All were found in the Bradford area.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETS

The nominating committee consisting of Mrs. Virginia Miles, Mrs. Thomas McDowell, Mrs. Jack Wolf, David Pytcher, Alan Jones, and Robert Slike, Jr. met on March 8 at the home of Mrs. Wolf.

The Society's constitution requires that retiring members of the Board of Directors, after serving three years, shall not be renominated for the ensuing year. Those who have completed a three-year term are Oscar Benton, Mrs. Jack Wolf, George Tiffany, (serving out the term of Mr. Aleci), Alan Jones, and Dr. June Gray.

To replace the retiring members, the committee has nominated Mr. Robert Blair, Mr. Richard Kessel, Mrs. George Kish, Mr. Charles Rowe, Mrs. Frank E. Stack.

Nominations for officers for the coming year are Dr. Donald E. Swarts, president; Mrs. Virginia Miles, vice-president; Mrs. Frank Stack, secretary; Mrs. George Kish, treasurer. The committee requested the appointment of Mrs. Virginia Hineman as assistant to the treasurer. The Board of Directors will appoint two co-ordinators, one to replace Mrs. Stack at Headquarters, and the other to continue the Crooks Farm work.

COLLECTORS' SEMINAR ANNOUNCED

Landmark Society members should be alerted to a forthcoming announcement of a Collectors' Seminar to be held on four Tuesday evenings beginning April 20 at the University of Pittsburgh Bradford Campus.

The seminar is concluded with a field trip, optional to members, to Cooperstown to see the development and restorations of an early New York State Frontier Village. The group will leave May 14, returning May 16, and will stay at the Cooper Inn and have dinner at Buck's Tavern on Saturday. A tour of the Sonnenberg Gardens is being arranged.

Mrs. Elizabeth Blaisdell, director of continuing education, Miss Barbara Hornick, librarian, and Mrs. Robert Bromeley, representing Landmark, are in charge of arrangements. Complete details will be available to the Society at an early date.

COULD JAMES BIDDLE BE TALKING ABOUT OLD CITY HALL?

The objective of preservation is to retain a full range of styles, scale, and references that authentically record a community's history, achievements and special way of life.

For a community without old buildings is like a man without a memory. On the other hand, preservationists are not against new buildings just because they are new. We want modern buildings that honestly express their times and add to instead of subtract from the quality of the setting. But usually we get the cheapest building that today's money can buy, deliberately built to be torn down within 20 years.

Once upon a time, we preservationists were content to save the individual buildings for an elegant museum piece.

Today, our role is much broader and, therefore, far more challenging. For we realize that we must preserve not a single house but a whole catalog of values without which the one house or block has no meaning or relevance.

The main thread of concern for myself and my fellow preservationists may be preserving buildings, but we know this is only a part of the total fabric that ultimately determines a quality of life — the fabric that includes the pleasant and familiar scenes

that history has evolved.

The protection of the total environment, be it through scenic easements and zoning to land use planning, road alignments, yes, even directional signs and sewer lines, has become the concern of the preservationist.

We have come a long way in preservation and we have the rare opportunity of going even further if we take full advantage of the widespread interest in our heritage during the Bicentennial era.

But change keeps rolling in and with each new wave some footprint is washed away — forever.

As the New York Times once editorialized:

"Any city (and read that as community) gets what it admires, will pay for, and ultimately deserves. We want and deserve tin can architecture in a tin horn culture. And we will probably be judged not by the monuments we have built, but by those we have destroyed."

The work cut out for preservationists in the years ahead is to see that such is not our country's final epitaph in the third century of our being. "Preservation is Progress" is more than a year's theme. It is a firm belief that if we do not preserve the man-made as well as the God-given heritage from our past, the roots of the country will indeed die and our civilization can be plucked from the land as easily as a dead tree. □

PRESERVATION COMMITTEE AND CITY COUNCIL AGREE ON PROCEDURES

On March 8, Bradford City Council agreed to transfer Old City Hall to the Citizens Committee for Preservation after certain conditions had been met. Mr. John Hoffman, chairman of the Committee, announced that work would begin immediately to meet Council's requirements.

Mayor Max Moore, said that he felt the plans for preserving the building would be satisfactory if the committee can fulfill its obligations within a reasonable time. "Many good people in this city are unwilling to see that building destroyed," said Mayor Moore.

Conditions for transfer of the building are dependent on the committee's willingness to proceed with renovation before September 1, with the proof that, by public donation, the sum of \$30,000 has been raised.

On that date the city is to contribute a like amount to the project, and provide for \$40,000 from the next year's Community Development Funds.

The action of Council came as a result of the report of its special committee consisting of Councilmen Fred Proper, William Tyler, and Jack Burns.

The report is reproduced in full on the following pages for Landmark members. Numerous changes were suggested by Council to provide possible reversion and the use of the police station. The committee had previously stated that it had no objection to the continued use of the police station in the building, until such time as Council would wish a change.

To Honorable Mayor Maxwell S. Moore

and

City Council

REPORT ON OLD CITY HALL

The Mayor's Committee consisting of Councilmen Burns, Tyler and Proper met with the Citizens Committee for the Preservation of Old City Hall on January 26, 1976. Representatives present from the Citizens Committee were Dr. Donald Swarts, John Hoffman, Charles Day, William Lowery, Meigs Beam and Charles Grow. Also present was Ray McMahon, Director, Bradford Community Development Agency.

The purpose of this meeting was to explore and further clarify a proposal for for rehabilitation and maintenance of Old City Hall as a center for community organization, as set forth in a letter dated December 18, 1975, written by John Hoffman, Chairman, Citizens Committee and directed to the attention of Ray McMahon. A copy of this letter is attached and labeled Exhibit "A".

Old City Hall was built in 1897 by a local builder, John Dick. The building's claim to historical importance, aside from wide and deep rooted local attachment to the building as a landmark representing a chapter in Bradford's past, seems to lie in the fact that the structure is an excellent example of Victorian architecture. This type of architecture is rare in rural communities. This fact is documented in a letter which is attached and labeled Exhibit "B" from William K. Watsen of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Each of the five points comprising the Citizens Committee proposal for rehabilitation of Old City Hall was discussed in detail. The text of each point appears below and is immediately followed by comments from the Mayor's Committee.

1. "Absolve the City of responsibility for the Old City Hall building by formation of a non-profit corporation that will be responsible for complete management of the building. This, of course, is contingent upon the Council's approval to deed the building over to the corporation. A Board with members representing all segments of the community will have full control and responsibility for the building. A member of the Council will serve as one member to assure proper communications with the City Council. It will be attempted, if feasible, on a break-even expense basis to occupy the building with community art and craft, cultural, or service type organizations. In other words, the building will become a center for community organizations."

Mayor's Committee Comments:

The transfer of the ownership of the building to a non-profit corporation as

(continued, next page)

as described in Point 1 appears to be legally possible.

The Citizens Committee does not feel that success of the proposal would depend upon retaining the police station at the present location. However, they do express the view that it would be in the best interest of the City from a financial standpoint, to remodel the present facilities and expand into the basement of Old City Hall in order to gain needed additional space, rather than construct a new station at another location. In any event, the Mayor's Committee does not feel that the decision concerning the future location of the police station has to be made at this time; and furthermore, this decision can be made independently of considering this proposal.

The Citizens Committee suggests that the Old City Hall building could be transferred to the non-profit corporation and the City could retain ownership of the police station. Any space needed in the basement of Old City Hall would be leased to the City on a long-term basis.

The Citizens Committee estimates yearly cost for maintenance of the renovated building to be approximately \$25,000 per year. They estimate a yearly income exceeding this amount from rental of space to various community service and cultural organizations. While several organizations have expressed interest in occupying space in Old City Hall, no firm commitments have been secured.

2. "Conduct a fund raising drive to be completed by May, 1976, establishing \$30,000 as a goal. It is requested that Community Development funds be made available from the existing contingency fund on a matching basis up to \$30,000. The success of this drive will substantiate beyond a doubt that the community is in full agreement that the Old City Hall should be preserved."

Mayor's Committee Comments:

Success of the appeal would be dependent upon the Citizens Committee to raise the full \$30,000. If the drive is successful, City Council would be committed to match this amount (\$30,000) from Second Year Community Development unspecified local option monies. According to the Community Development Block Grant Regulations, this type of expenditure of Community Development funds is eligible. At this point transfer ownership of Old City Hall to the non-profit corporation would take place as described in Point 1.

3. "We anticipate that the building will be included on the National Register by the end of the 1976 calendar year. At that time \$40,000 will be requested from the Office of Historic Preservation. From conversations with the Assistant Director we believe chances are very good that we will be able to obtain these funds.

Matching funds from the Third Year Community Development Program will be requested. At this point, upon completion of this phase of the program, the basement, first and

(continued, next page)

second floors of the building will be occupied. \$140,000 will provide basic necessities to make the building livable and within Department of Labor and Industry compliance."

Mayor's Committee Comments:

Major source of funding for the heating, wiring, plumbing and general reconstruction of the basement, first and second floors would be from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. They would be asked for a grant of \$40,000.

If this application is acceptable, a matching local share of \$40,000 would be required from the Third Year Community Development Program. In 1975, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission received 100 applications for grants. Thirty were funded. The average grant was \$40,000. The chances of funding for Old City Hall seem to be better than average due to the fact that no projects have been funded in this area.

All construction would be done in compliance with existing plans and specifications drawn by Mr. Charles Grow, Architect, and within Department of Labor and Industry Standards.

4. "An attempt will be made to obtain a one year labor contract under the Federal Job Opportunities Program to further restore and return the building to its original splendor. This project will be coordinated with the local Community Development Office."
5. "If obtaining a Jobs Program is unsuccessful, we expect to apply on an annual basis for funding through the Office of Historic Preservation until the building is fully restored."

Mayor's Committee Comments:

Funding from the Federal Job Opportunities Program (Title 10) would at best be a worthwhile gamble. Community Development Authority experience with application for Title 10 funding could be helpful in submission of the application.

If it is necessary to request additional funding from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission on an annual basis, each grant, if forthcoming, would require local matching funds in the amount of the grant. The Citizens Committee stated they would not request further funds from the City. They would raise necessary funds from other prospective sources, such as additional public fund drives.

If the utilization of Community Development funds becomes a reality, it is expressly understood that an agreement between the Citizens Committee for Preservation and the City of Bradford must be made in order to clarify the terms and conditions of administration of Community Development funds.

(continued, next page)

The City Council feels that there are many potential pitfalls to the the submitted proposal. It spans a three-year period and conditions affecting the renovation of this structure may change. However, in view of the widespread community support and the responsible leadership of the Citizens Committee for Preservation it is recommended that City Council give favorable consideration to this proposal.

Landmark Society members who are interested in what is being done on a national scale during this Bicentennial year will be pleased to see the action on the Washington scene in relation to preservation. It should be noted, however, that many of these items are not moving.

PENDING FEDERAL PRESERVATION LEGISLATION

S865
Buckley

Public Buildings Cooperative Use Act of 1975

Authorizes GSA to acquire and use historic structures for Federal office space and to permit mixed use of Federal facilities.

S2021
Taft

To allow Federal Income Tax Credit for maintaining or restoring the exterior or structural soundness of historic structures listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

HR9187

To foster preservation of buildings of historic or architectural significance and to enhance the environment of Federal office buildings.

S667

Amend Internal Revenue Code of 1954 to encourage preservation and rehabilitation of historic buildings and structures. "Historic Structures Tax Act of 1975"

S1921

Reauthorize funding provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Would continue grants program for fiscal years 1976, 1977, and 1978 at present \$24,400,000 annual authorization.

HR432

Alternate valuation of historic properties for Federal estate tax purposes. Similar bills: S80, HR536, HR935, HR1349, HR3901, HR3831, HR4441, HR5131.

Miss Cordelia M. Bird, a member of the High School class of 1901, and later Cora Byrd Ball, mother of Betty Blaisdell, saved many souvenirs of Bradford as it was 75 years ago. Mrs. Blaisdell has made available to Landmark the 1903 program for the 23rd Annual Banquet of the Bradford High School Alumni Association in 1903. The date would in indicate that the first banquet was held in 1881.

THE BON AIR.

TWENTY-THIRD
ANNUAL BANQUET

OF THE

**BRADFORD
HIGH SCHOOL
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.**

Rock City, Tuesday, June 16, 1903.

Menu.

Little Neck Clams		

Consomme		

Olives	Cucumbers	Sliced Tomatoes

Broiled Spring Chicken		
New Potatoes	Green Peas	

Roman Punch		

Lobster, Mayonnaise Dressing		
Cheese Wafers		

Vanilla Ice Cream	Assorted Cake	

Coffee		

OFFICERS.

MRS. W. M. KINCAID, President.
WALTER R. SHAW, Secretary and Treas.

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

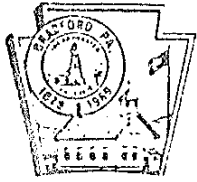
WALTER R. SHAW, CHESTER L. WANN,
GUSTINE CABLE.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE.

LENA B. CHAPPELL, ETHEL J. GARDNER,
HAROLD I. DEAN.

Trasts.

Magister Epularium	Clement C. Boyd
"To Try Thy Eloquence, Now 'tis Time."	
Welcome to Class 1903	Daniel W. Healey, Esq.
"Bear Welcome in Your Hand, Your Eye, Your Tongue."	
Response	Carl G. Milligan
"Words are but Empty Thanks"	
Piano Solo	Jocelia FitzGerald
High School Athletics	Dana Colegrove
"A Faultless Body and a Blameless Mind."	
Piano Solo (Selected)	Mrs. R. U. Criswell
Our High School (Past, Present and Future) ..	Gustine Cable
"The Best of Prophets of the Future is the Past."	



The Landmark Society

News

Bradford, Pa. 16701

April, May, June, 1976

No. 11

WORTH A VISIT

As part of the Bicentennial celebration in Bradford, the Landmark Headquarters at the former Herbig Bakery will be open daily from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., June 14 to June 19. Tours of the building and a view of the collected memorabilia of old Bradford have been arranged by Mrs. Jane Stack and her committee.

DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

Since the Annual Meeting in March, the Directors have met twice. Summaries of actions follow:

May 3, Crooks Farm, 4 P.M. Present: Messrs. Swarts, Pytcher, Grow, Blair; Mesdames Kish, Stack, Bromeley, Daggett, and Lowery.

Purpose of the meeting was to discuss the feasibility of having Bicentennial open house during the progress of renovations. Mrs. Bromeley moved that no events be scheduled. Passed. Mr. Pytcher requested that \$2000 additional be authorized for expenditures. Approved. The Green Thumb project was approved. The Treasurer reported that the annual audit was in progress. Mrs. Daggett reported that plans for the Antique Show were on schedule.

May 17, Carnegie Library, 12 noon. Present: Messrs. Swarts, Pytcher, Grow, Rowe; Mesdames Stack, Kish, Bromeley, Lowery, McDowell, and Daggett.

Discussion of a damage claim and two affidavits given by Pytcher and Swarts was tabled until insurance claims were investigated. Approved additional \$1500 for use at Crooks Farm. Passed motion to move Society records to Penn Bank safe deposit boxes. Discussed CETA program, and new storage for the glycerin wagon.

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL ANTIQUE SHOW

Two seminars and an historic film will be featured at the 15th Show scheduled for June 17 and 18 at St. Bernard's School Gym and Auditorium. Mrs. George Daggett, Jr. and Mrs. John Satterwhite are co-chairmen of the 1976 show.

As a part of the city's Bicentennial program, the show will have 20 dealers from Western New York and Pennsylvania displaying and selling collectable items.

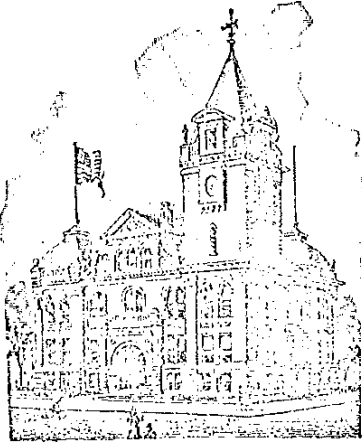
Peter Van Kleet will present a lecture on "Colonial Cookery" on Thursday, June 17, at 2 P.M. The film, "18th Century Life" will be shown at 7:30 P.M. Thursday.

Roberta Schniderman will lecture on Friday on the subject of decorating with antiques.

At each of the lectures, there will be a small fee charged in addition to the admission to the show.

Light refreshments will be available Thursday and Friday from 11:30 A.M. to 2 P.M. and from 5 to 6:30 P.M. Nursery facilities will be available from 11 A.M. to 6 P.M. each day.

Proceeds from the show go toward the work of the Society. Mrs. Sara Kreinson Wolf headed the patrons' committee, and has reported that there are approximately 360 patrons this year.



... BRADFORD CITY BUILDING ...
KENNEDY AND BOYLSTON STREETS.

THE CITY OF BRADFORD.

PENNSYLVANIA

GEO. C. FAGNAN,
MAYOR.

Bradford, Pa. Aug 14 1898

Friend Selden

Please consider me an
applicant for position of Hospital Stewart
in the new Air Country Regiment -
Anything you can do towards obtaining the
position for me will be duly appreciated -
Hoping to hear from you I remain
Yours very truly
Chas Green

Ans'd Aug 17

The above letter came to Landmark
from D. Harvey Phillips, who commented
as follows:

"...the enclosed illustration of the City Hall of 1898 might be used as a guide for
renovations. The letter is addressed to Col. E.V.D. Selden of Oil City, father of
John Selden. (Col. Selden) was then Commanding Officer of the 28th Division,
Pennsylvania National Guard....The regiment was then engaged in the Spanish-American
war, many companies already having departed for Puerto Rico, including our Bradford
one....Since Co.C. had already left, I don't know whether Green got the job or not."

MISS DUNN REMEMBERS THE CROOKER SCHOOL

In a recent taped conversation between Miss Mary Dunn, a resident of the Bradford Nursing Pavilion, and Dr. Swarts, president of the Landmark Society, the memories of the former school on West Corydon were recorded. Miss Dunn, at the age of 92, has a remarkable knowledge of Bradford history. The excerpt which follows concerns only the school. Miss Dunn also provided the brief sketch of the interior.

S: Our particular interest in the school comes from the fact that the Landmark Society has moved it from the original location to their Oil Field Village project on the former Crooks farm. The school house still has on it a board with the inscription, "No. 8".

D: That's odd. I never paid any attention to a sign, and I don't remember it. That was quite a school. Is there anything special you would like to know about the furnishings? ...I have things written down to make sure.

S: The desks?

D: The ones we had were graduated according to size. There were four rows of those seats, and in front of those seats was a long recitation bench in front of the teacher's desk. The classes went up there to recite. And there was a large stove in the middle of the room, and the pipe overhead went quite a distance to the outside wall. The teacher's desk was on a raised platform. She always had a stick there, and although corporal punishment was permitted then, the stick was usually used as a pointer.

On a bench in front of the desks was a water pail and dipper. The boys would bring in the big pail full of water, pass it around, or we could go up there and get it.

S: Using the same dipper?

D: Yes, and we didn't think anything of it. Very unsanitary, wasn't it? But the surprising part of it was that I can't remember any epidemic, only measles. My brother got scarlet fever, but no one else got it. Later there was another case, but no one else got it. That was really quite remarkable, but I think it's because country children were healthier then.

S: When we acquired the school house, there was an iron pump right near the front door. Was that there when you went to school?

D: Yes, it was there, but we didn't use it. There was a spring up in front of the school house on a hill. (Mr. Wakely, a pumper) piped the water quite close to the school house. It was very good water, and that's where we got our drinking water.

We also had a dictionary, encyclopedias, song books, and a globe. In the vestibule were long rows of hooks for our coats. Boots and rubbers were left on the floor.

We had a small organ purchased by the people. It was very useful for singing and entertainments. The lighting system, a gas light, was very poor, and everybody who came to evening meetings or entertainments, brought a lantern, not only to find his way, but to be placed on the wide window sills to provide light.

S: I'm looking at your drawing here.

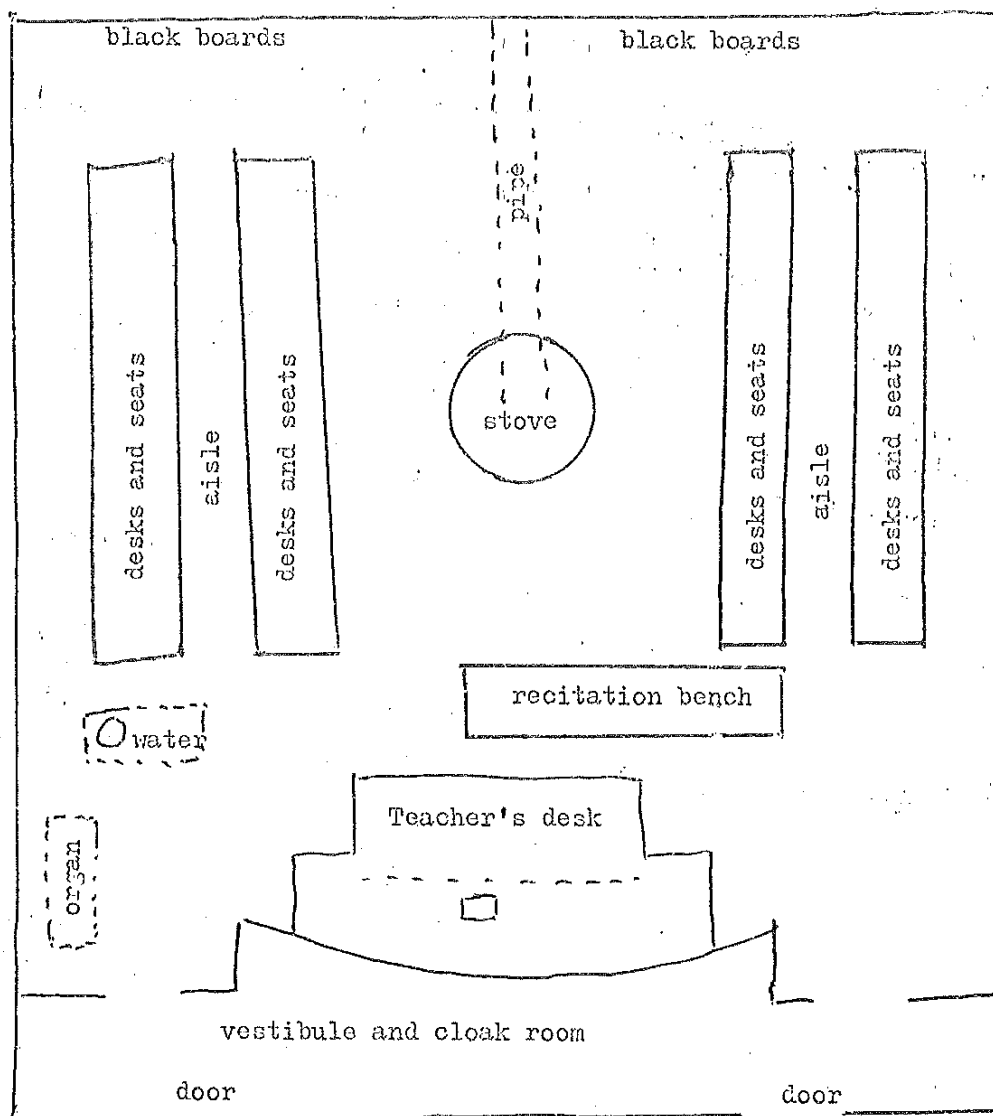
D: The teacher's desk was a little wider. The platform wasn't very large so the men built some platforms to fill in. When we had entertainments, we had quite large

MISS DUNN REMEMBERS (con't)

large platforms which we decorated. We had calico curtains pulled across the platform on a wire by the boys.

S: Like a stage curtain?

D: Yes. The organ was played by Mrs. Ramsbottom's sister, who was older and quite musical. Mrs. Ramsbottom was in my class at that school, and later she and I went through nurses' training together.



D: We lived on the Corydon Street side of West Branch. A few weeks ago, Mr. Scully, a feature writer for the Bradford Era, wrote about Hazelton's Mills as a ghost town. They had a school there, and he says a hotel, but I don't think there was a hotel, probably a boarding house. But we did have a hotel in Crooker. That was another settlement. Between Crooker and Hazelton's Mills was Smith's Chemical Works which employed a lot of people. The children of Crooker

MISS DUNN REMEMBERS (con't)

and from the Chemical Works made up the Crooker School. We always called it Crooker School. I didn't recognize it by #8. My sister and an older sister and brother went there. My sister and I went until we finished the eighth grade. When the teacher thought we had enough learning, we took an examination. If we passed that exam, we were allowed to take the county exam. Then we were eligible for high school. Of course, getting to high school in those days was very hard. You either had to board, drive, or work for your board. If you worked for your board, there was no tuition, but if you paid for your board or drove in, you had to pay for your tuition.

S: Do you remember the names of the teachers at the Crooker School?

D: I think I remember most of them that I had. There was Ed Knight, who went into the brick business later, I think. He came to see us at one time when we were living in town and he was living in New Jersey. Another teacher was Laura Britton. We were very fond of her. I don't know if there are any Brittains living or not. In her later years she lived in a big white house on South Avenue Extension. The house caught fire, and she went back in for her dog. Both she and the dog were burned. She was a lovely person. Then we had a Laura Johnson, who lived in Custer City. We also had a Lillian Felix, and a Catherine Murphy. That's all I can think of without spending a little time on it.

(Editor's Note: Miss Dunn later wrote a letter in which she said, "I gave you the names of some of the teachers at No. 8 school. Here are some more, some before my time and some later: Renda Hill, Abby Barnett, Elizabeth James, Jennie McLaughlin, May Neilly, Alice George, May Hogan, and Kitty Scroxton.")

S: Do you remember if there was a blackboard behind the teacher's desk?

D: I can't remember, but there were blackboards across the back of the room.

S: If asked, what would you say you remembered most about your time at the Crooker school?

I remember we had to come across the valley from our farm to the school. When the snow was deep, we rode horseback to the highway. Then we got off, the horses went back to the farm, and we went on to school. By evening the road would be broken enough that we could get home.

And I remember I was a very poor student in mathematics, but I was a good speller. They used to have "spelling downs" for the whole school, the lower and higher grades together. Someone would choose sides, and when all were divided they would start, back and forth. I was quite young, and I couldn't quite catch on how they were doing it. I remember one time the word GAILY came up, and three or four missed it, and I spelled it. But the teacher had to tell me it was my turn, so even though I spelled it right, I had to sit down.

The outstanding teacher that I liked was Laura Britton. She was a very young teacher, but I learned more from her than any of the others that one year. You know, it's surprising how they let teachers have schools in those days. If you passed your county exam, you could take a teacher's exam in another year and be eligible to teach in the country. It was surprising how well we got along with the lack of knowledge those teachers had. All they had was eighth grade learning.

I spoke of Mr. Wakely who piped the water quite close to the school house. He and Mrs. Wakely lived across the road and up the hill a little way. Mrs. Wakely was a very unusual person. I thought of her as being well-educated, but maybe my reason for thinking so was that when we had a public "spelling down", she always won.

MISS DUNN REMEMBERS (con't)

(Editor's Note: In a later communication, Miss Dunn added the following information the Wakeleys: I would like to tell more about Mr. and Mrs. Wakely. They both took such an interest in our Crooker school. Mr. Wakely was always on hand to do minor repair work, to help the teachers with wood fires, and to play Santa Claus in our Christmas plays. The teachers always boarded with the Wakeleys, who took great interest in all activities, and took a personal interest in each pupil.)

In a subsequent issue of the LANDMARK NEWS, additional remembrances of Miss Dunn will be published concerning the high school, the hospital and nurses' training, and interesting events from 1900 to the present.

COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

MAY 29, 1908

- 1 March - "The Old Salt".....Hildrath
High School Orchestra
- 2 Invocation.....Rev. John McGavern
- 3 Salutatory - "Influence of a life".....Esther M. Anderson
- 4 Essay - "Determination".....Lottie Nelson
(Commercial)
- 5 Piano Solo - "Rondo Brillante".....Weber
Gladys Howe
- 6 Essay - "Mental Rubbish".....Jane Sweeney
- 7 Address - "The Value of Time".....Earl Knapp
(Commercial)
- 8 Essay - "El Dorado".....Helen Irene Nordstrom
- 9 Piano Duet - "Ojos Criolos"
"Danse Cubaine".....Gotschank
Lena Fisher and Irene Oxley
- 10 Essay - "Knowledge".....Agnes Burns
(Commercial)
- 11 Essay - "Dreams of Womanhood".....Clara Kervin
- 12 Piano Solo - "Polka Noble".....Joseffy
Marion McAlpin
- 13 Address - "Conditions on the Congo".....Arthur F. Sonbergh
- 14 Essay - "Typical American".....Birdie Ertz
- 15 Valedictory - "Open Doors of Opportunity for the U. S.".....
Arthur J. Duggan
- 16 Overture - "Light Cavalry".....Suppe
High School Orchestra
- 17 Address to Graduates and Presentation of Diplomas J.T. Evans
President, Board of School Control

GRADUATION LISTS

LANDMARK NEWS recently published the lists of graduates from Bradford High School for the years 1880 through 1903. Because of the unusual interest in these lists as historical records, the NEWS will continue to publish the names of graduates as they become available.

The recent 68th Anniversary dinner of the class of 1908 brought to light interesting records of that class which celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 1958.

At the left is reprinted a copy of the Commencement Program for that class. On page 7 is the Class Roll as published at the time of the 50th Anniversary.

D. Edgar Cohn of Malibu made the arrangements for the recent reunion on May 31 at the Holiday Inn.

In addition to Mr. Cohn, four others from the class were present: Margaret Judd Boysen, Ruth Dennis, Hazel Drew, and Gladys Howe Miner. The latter, from Kalamazoo, was the house guest of Mrs Coletta Kaminsky, who was graduated from Bradford's St. Bernard's School in 1909.

Readers of the LANDMARK NEWS are reminded that file copies of names of graduates from the local high school are needed to aid in the identification of the many pictures of school groups now in possession of the Society.

DUES PAYABLE

New and former members of Landmark are reminded that 1976 dues became payable on January 1 for this year.

Charlotte Gabler, membership chairman, reported at the Annual Meeting that the membership had increased during the past years. Life memberships are \$100; contributing memberships, \$10; individual memberships, \$2.

THE RECORD AS OF 1958 CLASS OF 1908

Edgar Cohn - 23512 West Malibu Road, Malibu, California
 Frederic Geibel - 315 Hinmon Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y.
 Harold Kreiner - 32 Florence Street, Bradford, Pennsylvania
 Roy Purdy - 520 River Road, Appleton, Wisconsin
 Vera Bovaird - 330 South Burnside Avenue, Los Angeles 36, California (Mrs. Fred Murphey)
 Ruth Dennis - 158 Kennedy Street, Bradford, Pennsylvania
 Lena Fisher
 Genevieve Flaherty - 34 Murray Avenue, Salamanca, New York (Mrs. B. J. Lee)
 Margaret Judd - 74 Kennedy Street, Bradford, Pennsylvania (Mrs. Guy Davis)
 Marion McAlpin
 Marjorie Partess - 128 South Fulton Street, Aburn, New York
 Hazel Thayer - 242 East 32nd Street, Erie, Pennsylvania (Mrs. Frank Monahan)
 Hur Duggan
 Lin Hadley - (Doctor) South Boro, Massachusetts
 Fabian McIntosh - 236 North Third Street, Naples, Florida
 Arthur Sonbergh
 Laura Bryner
 Hazel Drew - 119 East Main Street, Bradford, Pennsylvania
 Pearl Forsythe - 3707 Peach Street, Erie, Pennsylvania (Mrs. Guy Bellows, Sr.)
 Gladys Howe - 135 Sylvan Bend Drive, South Bend 15, Indiana (Mrs. W. C. Miner)
 Clara Kervin - 595 West Wellington Avenue, Rochester 11, N.Y. (Mrs. John M. Foley)
 Irene Nordstrom - 15 Charlotte Avenue, Bradford, Pennsylvania
 Ellen Pike - 28 Munn Road, Bradford, Pennsylvania (Mrs. Jamison)
 Walter Fraser - 149 Jackson Avenue, Bradford, Pennsylvania
 Harold Jackson - 262 Congress Street Bradford, Pennsylvania
 Roy Perrott - 48 Riley Street, Buffalo 9, New York
 Esther Anderson - 3510 16th Street, Washington, D. C. (Mrs. Freeberg)
 Grace Cole
 Birdie Ertz - 13 Jackson Avenue, Bradford, Pennsylvania
 Ethel Fitzgibbons - 89 Boylston Street, Bradford, Pennsylvania (Mrs. Leonard)
 Leta Hayes - Unknown
 May Marley - 141 West Washington Street, Bradford, Pa. (Mrs. Charles McNay)
 Irene Oxley - Indian Head, Maryland (Mrs. Raymond Evans)
 Jane Sweeney - 1160 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York (Mrs. Wadell Wadellsborg)
 Mabel Thayer - 2315 Union Avenue, Wesleyville, Pennsylvania (Mrs. Morton Bloom)
 Charles Green
 Earl Knapp
 Agnes Burns - Unknown
 Lin Healey
 Cy Preston - Unknown
 Winnifred Hinchey - 109 Jefferson Street, Salamanca, New York (Mrs. W. P. Freaney)
 William Hogan
 William Schorman - 1700 Poinsettia Ave., Fort Lauderdale Florida
 Lottie Nelson - 91 Davis Street, Bradford, Pennsylvania (Mrs. Thayer)
 Deceased

GIFTS TO LANDMARK

Monetary gifts to Landmark were presented by Mrs. Frances Mackie and Mr. and Mrs. R.B. Bromeley in support of the Oil Field Village project.

Anne Kuminski presented school pictures and postcards.

An unusual collection of peanut dolls came from Miss Daisy Welsh.

Mrs. Charlotte Gabler donated a picture of the late Solomon Dresser.

Mrs. Florence Hudson of Lewis Run, and Mrs. Ralph Tibbits both contributed clothing.

Mrs. George Tiffany brought in artifacts from her collection.

L.H. Thomas presented an unusual bottle.

An Evangelical Church in the Turtle Point area has contributed school desks which were originally in the Annin Township School, now the property of the Church. A further acknowledgement of this gift will be made when the desks are placed in the former No. #8 school house being restored on the Oil Field Village property. Officers of the Society have noted that the desks are the same as those placed in the Bedford Village project now under construction in Somerset County.

Mrs. Elizabeth Blaisdel has contributed linens items of historical interest formerly in the home of her mother, Cora Bird Ball.

LANDMARK WINDOWS

Recent window decorations in the Headquarter's Bakery Building have attracted much attention. Mrs. George Tiffany has headed a committee which has worked out the displays that included a collection of games and books, a number of memorabilia relating to American wars.

A Memorial Day window was prepared by Mrs. Helen Beame and Mrs. Jane Stack.

Currently during the Bicentennial Week celebration in Bradford a fresh rose will be placed in the window to honor early residents.

Those Good Old Days
By RUTH SHOOK

When we were living those "good old days,"
They didn't seem so good.
We read by the light of a kerosene lamp
And heated our homes with wood.
We carried water up the hill
To wash with, cook, and scrub.
And we took our baths behind the stove
In a galvanized laundry tub.

I still can smell the old lye soap
And feel the sting and hurt
When some of it got in my eyes,
But it really got the dirt.
We slept on cornhusk mattresses—
Sometimes three in a bed.
If you were late you got the foot;
The early ones took the head.

We waded snow, and ice, and mud
To get to the "seat of learning"

With a potbellied stove that froze our backs
While our fronts were nearly burning.
We drank from a cup by a water pail
On a bench where the teacher put it;
And whatever ailment any kid had,
The rest were sure to get it.

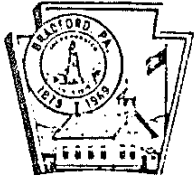
In winter you milked in a drafty barn
While the wind whistled through the cracks;
And the swirling snow, while you were inside,
Filled up your fresh-made tracks.
A little house at the end of a patch,
Half-hidden with brush and weeds,
In summers' heat and winters' cold
Served other family needs.

Now you may look with envious eyes
To these times—if you are 20.
But I've been through those "good old days,"
And once, my friend, is plenty!

Bradford Landmark Society
45 East Cortydon Street
Bradford, PA 16701

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 247

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Snow
67 Fiske Avenue
Bradford, Pa.
16701



The Landmark Society

News

Bradford, Pa. 16701

November, 1976

No.12

DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

Since the publication of the June issue of THE LANDMARK SOCIETY NEWS, the directors have had two meetings, and the Executive Committee has met once. Summaries of the actions are recorded here:

June 28, Carnegie Library, 12 noon.
Present: Messrs. Swarts, Pytcher, Blair, Grow, Kessel; Mesdames Stack, Bromeley, Kish, Lowery.

Routine reports were made, and the first report on the results of the Antique Show and Sale showed that \$3060 had been given to the treasurer as of this date with more to be collected. Mr. Pytcher reported on progress at the Crook Farm. The plastering has been completed. To be completed immediately: a window sash in the school, a porch of some type in front of the house, and the need for sills, latches and doors, the removal of the cement block in the rear, and the type of windows to be placed in the house (six over six) or the type on the second floor of Headquarters building). Mrs. Bromeley reported a gift of \$1000 from the Corning Foundation. By motion of Mrs. Miles additional funds from the \$3500 available were voted to pay the bills.

July 23. Carnegie Library, 12 noon.
Present: Mesdames Bromeley, Stack, Kish, Lowery; Messrs. Swarts, Blair, and Kessel.

Mr. Pytcher had approved all bills for the Crook Farm to date, leaving a balance of \$638 in the fund allotted by the directors. The house had been painted. Mr. Blair felt that the Crook
(next column)

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

The Executive Committee, in response to the request of the Preservation Committee for Old City Hall, has planned a White Elephant Sale in the Headquarters Building on Friday, November 12.

Proceeds will be presented to the Committee headed by Mr. John Hoffman and Mrs. Frances Silverstine, who are leading the drive for funds to preserve Old City Hall. The sale will be Landmark's contribution to this activity.

Working on the Sale arrangements are Mrs. George Tiffany, Mrs. Frank Stack, Mrs. Marion Vernon, and Mrs. Kay Ordiway.

Members may bring their "white elephants" to Headquarters Building anytime before the Friday sale.

(Con't from 1st Column)

Farm project needed a more definite plan. He said he felt that the work was being carried forward in a way which left many problems being settled on a day to day basis. The discussion was general, in relation to the concept of an Oil Field Village and the possibility of the formation of a Crook Farm Foundation to carry on the work.

The CETA program was discussed at length. The consensus was that the Society had benefitted from the help received, and that another application for personnel should be made, since our first applicant had taken another position.

ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES THE
LANDMARK NEWS REPRINTS SOME
EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS OF
FORMER RESIDENTS OF BRADFORD
TO LANDMARK MEMBERS. ALL ARE
SELF-EXPLANATORY.

MRS. W. C. MINER
MARLBORO APTS., 2-N
471 WEST SOUTH STREET
KALAMAZOO, MICH. 49006

Dr. Donald E. Swarts
Bradford Historical Society
857 Langmaid Lane
Bradford, Pa. 16701

Dear Dr. Swarts:

You will recall meeting me last May at Edgar Cohn's dinner in the Bradford Holiday Inn and you told me about plans for a Bradford Historical Society or museum. This welcome news opened the way for me to offer a gift in memory of Isabel Strwart North, a prominent Bradford musician, composer, author and teacher of piano and voice.

I told you I have a lovely framed photograph of Mrs. North as well as some of her compositions, all of which had been autographed for me who had been her piano pupil for so many--- years -- from 1898 when I was a little girl, to 1908 when I graduated from BHS and was planning to go to New York to further my musical career.

My mother had proudly had Mrs. North's photograph framed and it has always been on the wall near my piano. Only now would I care to part with it and I am so pleased to note your enthusiasm in wanting it and the music in their rightful place for posterity.

I do not feel that I have given much data about Mrs. North in regard to years except in connection with my own experience. After I left Bradford for greener fields I realized there were far more opportunities for me in larger cities and my family moved to Detroit and I never went back until 1908 for the class reunion which I suspect our friend Edgar had a great deal to do with promoting it.

So I really did not keep up with the Bradford news and Mrs. North had passed on. Miss Colette Cummiskey has been a lifetime friend of mine as we lived a few doors away from each other during our girlhood and we enjoyed many little schemes together, one of which was our effort to find a suitable place for Mrs. North's music. It is possible she might be able to donate statistics of historical value about Mrs. North.

Nov. 1976

Gladys Howe Miner
Gladys Howe Miner

ISABEL STEWART - NORTH

MUSICIAN, COMPOSER, AUTHOR, AND TEACHER of
VOICE AND PIANO.

ISABEL STEWART - NORTH was well-known in the musical circles of Bradford, Pennsylvania because of her musical compositions and her work with her students of Piano and Voice. Her life spanned the latter third of the 18th Century and the first third of the 19th Century.

The undersigned studied with her from the age of eight years in 1898 to the time of her graduation from the Bradford High School in 1908 and it was through Mrs. North's devoted interest that her pupil was encouraged to continue her piano study in a New York Conservatory. Such was Mrs. North's devotion to her students. From time to time she gave recitals for them in her home on Tibbetts Avenue where she maintained her studio.

The photograph of Mrs. North in a gold frame is hereby presented to the Bradford Landmark Society -- also music of hers which has been located and preserved. This music includes 8 songs and 1 piano solo:

Irish Boat Song (Copyright 1901)
I Will Keep Watch O'er Thy Sleep (1889)
Seven Times One (1900)
If I Could Call the Years Back (1907)
In the Twilight (1893)
In His Pity He Redeemed Us (1906)
What Do They Say in Bylo-land (1906)
Sleep Is a Rover (1906)
The Fable - Piano Solo for Left Hand

Isabel Stewart - North was a woman of beauty and charm, spiritually endowed, deeply religious and passionately fond of her life's work, leaving her message to the world in her music.

She was married to Hon. Herman H. North who was prominent in public life serving as Postmaster and they were a handsome and dignified couple.

Gladys Howe Miner

Gladys Howe Miner

LETTERS (con't)

(The following excerpt was received by Robert and Martha Liverbrandt was written by Mrs. Harry Heppinger, 3320 South 6th Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan.)

July 30, 1976

Dear Martha and Bob:

Sure enjoyed your letter and was so pleased with the Landmark Society papers. Harry was thrilled with the one about Crooker School, as he went there when he was little, and Lizzie his sister taught there after she took teacher's exam. In fact I have pictures the school and lots of pupils we recognize yet, like Pearl Jennings and Gift Kinney, and Harry knows a lot more. He went to school to Mae Niella and Alice George, and Kitty Scroxtton is familiar to me. Harry's sister Elizabeth taught one year at Songbird, then at Crooker School, but that was years after some mentioned by Miss Dunn. It is remarkable how she remembers so much at her age. The Mrs. Ramsbottom she mentions was a friend of the family. She was a Carroll from Crooker. Harry has mentioned Ed Knight and Miss Britton, I suppose Lizzie and Anna went to her.

Harry has mentioned Earl Knapp, and I went to school to Caddy Knapp at Bennett Brook. I took the 8th grade exams there, too. Was surprised at the School Board president that signed my 8th grade diploma was my future father in law, Mike Heppinger. I didn't know it at the time I'd ever be his daughter in law. He was quite a speaker. Gave us a good pep talk. Miss Brogan was my teacher there. We sure enjoyed the Landmark News, for some of the people we know. At least Harry does, but thanks again for sending them.

....

Marion and Harry

(The following excerpt was received by Mr. and Mrs. William Lowery, and was written by Mrs. Russell J. Carson, 715 Riviera Drive, Naples, Florida 33940. Enclosed were McKean County auditors's reports and receipts for the year 1898.)

Dear Bunny and Bill,

....The enclosed papers I thought might be of some interest to the Landmark Society. As you will see, they are the final accounting of the reports of the County Treasurer of 1898, T.B. Clark, who was my grandfather.

LETTERS (Con't)

I have a membership in the Landmark Society and note with interest all your activities and that you are both very active. I'm sure I would very much enjoy it if I were living in Bradford.

I'm sorry it was not active when we were emptying Dad's house, as there were some things which went to Smethport that I would have much preferred you have--also some clothes I gave to the Y.W.C.A. I hope they are used and taken care of.

....

Mrs. Russell Carson

(Excerpts of letters and a memoir make up the following exchange of information about the clothing stores in Bradford at the time D. Edgar Cohn was growing up. The first item is a paragraph from Mr. Cohn's "Just Reminiscing" written for the 50th reunion of the Class of 1908.)

The stores that sold clothing were, first of all, my father's - Cohn's One-Price Clothing and Furnishing Store. It was in a wooden building, with dressed dummies standing out in front. ("Bring in the show!" was the signal for the closing of business for the day. The building was replaced about 1900 by a modern brick structure with - for the first time in Bradford - electric lights in the windows.

(The second item comes from a letter to Joseph M. Cleary from Mr. Cohn, 81 Malibu Colony, Malibu, California 90265)

In connection with my interest in Dad's store, I had some interesting correspondence with Dr. William E. Smith who once lived in Bradford following the 50th reunion in 1958, which I am enclosing. It relates a delightful story in connection with the opening of the store and along with it some charming recollections. Believe it or not, I remember that auspicious opening for I was impressed by the boutonnieres that my father and all the clerks wore - the first that I had ever seen and which I have never forgotten.

I think you will find the letters have sufficient historical references ~~that~~ to warrant their being placed in the archives of the Landmark society and if you agree, I would appreciate your turning them over to Dr. Donald Swarts who also has a copy of the "Reminiscences" in our Golden Anniversary reunion. At any rate, I think he'd like to see them.

DR. WILLIAM E. SMITH
412 RENTCHLER BLDG.
HAMILTON, OHIO

August 6, 1958

Dear Mr. Cohn:

Sometime previous to World War I while visiting in Bradford I met your Dad one Sunday morning in Neely's Drug-store and spoke to him, calling him by name. He acknowledged the greeting and asked my name. When I told him my name was Bill Smith, the son of George W. who had worked for the Bradford Light and Power Co. and who was accidentally electrocuted on June 12, 1905 on the wires in front of what is now the Knights of Columbus Club on Chestnut St. he then said "Your father and I were very good friends and he once did a great favor for me." He then told of the following incident. Your father was remodeling his store and undoubtedly the store front. He had a barricade built in front of the store and announced through the Bradford papers that he would have a grand opening on a certain evening at eight o'clock. Your father stated that at about 7:45 a crew of workmen began tearing down the barricade. You no doubt remember how the people listened for the fire-box number when the fire bell tolled from the tower on Quintuple Hill and how they used to run to fires in Bradford.

Well, it seems that at a few minutes before eight my father turned in a false alarm. Just as the fire department arrived the store lights came on, revealing to the public the newly decorated and flower-decked interior, and at the same time an orchestra began to play. It was a most successful and unusual opening. In talking with your Dad I expressed wonderment that my Dad had not been arrested. Your Dad said that my father was well-known and well-liked and that between the friends of both of them nothing could happen.

August 19, 1958

Some years ago I received a letter from J. Harvey Rose, General Manager, of Bradford Electric Light and Power Company, who stated in October 1888 he went to Buffalo, New York and hired my father from the original Niagara Power Plant to come to Bradford and assist him in building and equipping the said Bradford Plant. He stated, on Christmas Day 1889 they turned on the power and the concrete bases supporting the engines or what have you, were not heavy enough so they had to shut off the power and rebuild the foundations, then sometime in February 1890 the plant was reopened and is still in operation. Before giving this talk to the Dental Society we called the local electric plant and whoever answered the telephone stated the date on the present cornerstone was 1907, they also added there was a small station previous to the present one and I woke up to the fact that I could make a very definite statement, that I never live in a house as my home until I left Bradford in 1910 that didn't have electricity.

Sincerely,
Bill Smith

The following memoir concerning the early days of the Crook family was dictated by Edgar Herbert Crook, son of Erastus, to Myrtle Crook Arnold about 1928. Edgar was born in 1847 and died in 1930.

The first remembrance I have of the old home which we have all learned to love so well is when I was about five years old. At that time it consisted of only two large rooms downstairs and a large upper room which was used for various purposes. There was a double stone fireplace in the center which furnished heat for the two rooms. The cooking was done by means of a crane extending across the fireplace, on which cooking utensils were suspended when in use.

At this time the house was also used for school purposes as there was no schoolhouse in the vicinity. Here I attended my first school, which was taught by a young woman by the name of Rosella Wixon. I have a faint recollection of her. Neighborhood prayer meetings were also held in the house in those early days.

The barn which now stands on the premises was built at about this time or a little later. I have a distinct recollection of returning from school one day and finding that the framework had been raised, and the barn was later completed and has never been rebuilt since, not even having been re-silled.

I was now a little older and was attending school in a school house located across the creek about opposite where the house now stands. We reached the school by way of the cross road over a wooden bridge located where the bridge now stands, but the road at that time ran about where the Erie tracks now are.

This school house was also used for meetings as they were called in those days. Pa Crook used to take us all across on a raft to attend evening meetings. At the time there were saw-mills located on both sides of the creek above the bridge, which left the water slack and it was easy to manage a raft at points above the dam. Later on, after the school house was abandoned it was used as a dwelling house and the story is told that an old woman conducted a sort of whiskey joint on the premises. Later I attended school in Limestone, and vicinity, but

EDGAR CROOK MEMOIR (con't)

there were no high schools.

Soon after this we moved into a larger and better house which stood on the Andrew Buchanan farm just across the road from us, where the Will Hooker house now stands. We lived in this house several years and until the farm was sold to C.H. Foster and as Mr. Foster wanted the house for his own family, Pa Crook took steps to rebuild the old house so that we might have a place of our own. An entire back part was built on, which added two large rooms and a bed-room, also a large pantry. There was also a small room which was used as a cheese room, with no windows in it where Ma Crook used to keep the cheese she made. This was a part of the room Genevieve now has for her bed-room. The fireplaces were removed at the time the building was reconstructed and the stairway as it now is was put in. The house was clap-boarded and painted, but the inside work was not all completed at this time. Later on William got lumber from a saw-mill at Bolivar Run and finished off the other rooms which he and Mary occupied, making a double house. He lived here until he died.

Ma Crook died during the Civil War, in 1863. At the outbreak of the war I was anxious to enlist, but being only sixteen years old was unable to do so. However, I joined the Construction Corps with which Uncle Philo was connected, going down the river on a raft. We stopped at various places in Ohio repairing tracks and bridges which had been destroyed by the Confederate soldiers. We went as far south as Georgia and reached there soon after Sherman left for his famous march to the sea, witnessing the destruction which had taken place there.

Mother and I were married on Dec. 28, 1869. You have all heard us tell about missing the train on account of the agent forgetting to give orders to stop, and having to wait over until the next day. We went to Belfast on our wedding trip, visiting Mother's cousins, the Seeleys. We moved into the south side of the house the year Bert was born. When Bert was about two years old we moved to Carolina County, Virginia, where Grandpa Gilbert owned a farm and was interested in the lumber business, afterwards buying a saw-mill, which he and Uncle Hugh and his brother Dick jointly owned and operated. I worked with them in the lumber business while I was there, which was about two years. We went down in December and in March of the following year Anna Belle was born.

EDGAR CROOK MEMOIRS (con't)

We rafted our lumber down to tidewater on the Mataponi River. This river gets its name from four small streams, the Mat, the Ta, the Po and the Ni which come together to form the river; then on down to Westpoint where it was loaded on sailing schooners for Wasington D.C.

A business depression occurring at this time the lumber business not proving to be very profitable, we determined to go back north, having received word that oil had been struck in the Tuna Valley and drilling operations were in progress all along the valley, including our own farm. I remember receiving a letter from Elvira which was headed OIL, OIL, OIL, which shows something of the excitement that prevailed over the discovery of oil, which meant so much to those who had just been able to make a living on the farms and not a very good one at that.

Not long after coming north Myrtle Virgian was born, being named after the State of Virginia by her Dad. The farm had been leased to John Olmstead, who sold a one-half interest to Dr. Acolms and afterwards the other half to Wm. Merkel and B.N. Brooke. A big well had been struck on the farm, and one up in the corner called the old Olmstead well, which flowed a haundred barrels a day and continued doing so for many months. A 1200 barrel tank had been placed on the farm as no pipe-lines were laid at that time. The oil was pumped across the creek by a small donkey-pump and leaded on tank cars. A switch had been put in to take care of the cars. Oil was bringing about one dollar a barrel but later went up to four or five dollars.

On the 10th day of December, 1877, Grandpa Crook died at the age of seventy-six years and eleven months. He had lived long enough to benefit by the oil and it was a great satisfaction to him in his old age to be able to help financially those he loved.

At this time in my story I want to say a few words about my old friends Mr. Brooke. He came originally from Philadelphia where he owned considerable property left to him by his father. When he first came to Bradford he fixed over a boiler-house on the farm into a sort of office in one room and living quarters in the other room. When Mrs. Brooke came on from Philadelphia to stay with him he added two more rooms and later on when his daughter came to live with them he added another room, which made five continuous rooms, which we always called the "Shanty". Here Mr. and Mrs. Brooke lived for many years. An interesting thing about the

EDGAR CROOK MEMOIRS (con't)

shanty was a tree which appeared to be growing up through the roof of the shanty, but around which the shanty had been built so that they might have the benefit of the shade. This tree always attracted a great deal of attention. Mr. Brooke was a very interesting man, well read and educated for a profession. He had a library of carefully selected books, both classical and historical. He loved his books and enjoyed discussing them with his friends. It was through my close associations with him that I secured knowledge and inspiration that have stayed with me throughout my life. He also looked to me for companionship and I am glad to say I was able to help him in many ways, especially after he was left alone.

He once said when his daughter was uneasy about his staying alone at nights, "Well I have got the old musket in there. I keep it loaded all the time. All I would have to do would be to shoot it off and Mr. Crook would come right up here."

Mrs. Brooke died in the shanty and Mr. Brooke lived on there alone until his health failed and he was compelled to go and live with his daughter until his death. The old shanty was afterwards demolished. It was my privilege to visit Philadelphia some years ago and go over the property once owned by the Brooke family. My visit to Philadelphia is another story.

Lottie was our next child. She was always full of life and had a happy disposition, which made her many friends. She stayed with us until she was nineteen years old when she was called to the other side.

Earl was the next one. He was always an affectionate and lovable boy and was very fond of music. He used to practice on his violin by the hour. He lived to be thirty-three years old and died in 1914. I was sixty-six when he died.

Then Lillie was born and we thought our family was complete, but some years later two more dear children were sent to us to cheer our old age, Genevieve and Edna. You all know the rest so I will leave it to you to carry on the story.
