



The Landmark Society

News

Bradford, Pa. 16701

March 31, 1982

COUNTRY FAIRS, OLD AND NEW

The new: Plans are being formulated right now, as you read this page, for the third annual Country Fair at the Crook Farm. This year's Fair is set for the weekend of August 28th and 29th. Note that this is earlier than in the past, the previous Fairs having been held in September. Last year the weather turned a bit cool at Fair time (some would say it was down right cold), so this year the exhibitors and visitors will enjoy a more balmy climate, we hope. Many of last year's exhibitors will return, along with a few new ones. You, dear reader, may be called upon for assistance in some way -- to bake cookies, man (person?) a booth, etc. -- if the call comes, say yes.

The old: The final monetary tally is in for the 1981 Country Fair. Under the stewardship of the Blairs, the Fair took in receipts of \$7430.70, had expenses of \$1585.20, and produced a net profit of \$5845.50.

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

The third annual Bradford Landmark Society Book and Record Sale is also being planned, sort of. While a date for the affair has not yet been set, we do plan to continue the very successful event. If you have books and/or records that have been cluttering up the attic, the basement, or the garage far too long, bring them to the bakery. If you have incredibly large numbers of weighty donations and are overwhelmed by the bulk, call for help. 362-3906, Society Headquarters, should produce a husky, hard-working individual eager to tote away your contribution (we do not rake lawns or mow yards, however). While doing your spring cleaning, remember us!

LOCAL HISTORY MEETING SET

The University of Pittsburgh at Bradford will be the site of a meeting to discuss some aspects of Bradford history next Tuesday, April 6. Beginning at 2 p.m., the meeting will convene in the Special Dining Rooms of the Common Facilities Building, the newest building on the Pitt campus. The focus of the meeting will be a discussion of the recent progress made in interviewing local residents for the start of a new oral history archive at the Landmark Society. Another area of interest is the preservation of old photographs. Under the Pennsylvania Humanities Council grant given to the Landmark Society last summer, reproductions, mainly slides, will be made of many of the photographs in the Society's collection. Important note: If you have old Bradford photographs in your possession and would like to keep them in the family (as opposed to donating them to the Landmark Society), why not let us borrow them for a few weeks and make copies? We are interested in obtaining as complete a photographic record as possible of Bradford and we need your help in doing this. If you do have old photographs, bring them to the meeting. If you cannot attend, call 362-3906.

BANQUET MEETING SET

The annual meeting and election of officers will be held at the Valley Hunt Club in Lewis Run on Monday April 26, 1982. Dinner choices include stuffed pork chops (\$9.50) and Cornish Game Hens (\$8.00). Reservations must be made by Wednesday April 21. For reservations call Society Headquarters at 362-3906.

Here is the exciting part: Who will be the speaker???? It's a mystery -- nobody knows! (Well, somebody knows, but she's not telling.) Show up and find out.

WHAT'S DOING AT--?

The Bakery -- Jane Stack reports: At the Headquarters Building on E. Corydon Street, we have been a very busy group of people. June Bergeron, our "Green Thumb" worker, has been of inestimable help. She keeps the place sparkling clean, puts in window and case displays, helps to catalog and do all the other jobs that we always have going, including conducting tours.

We have had many guests, sold many Yellow Dogs and pounds and pounds of "2¢" candy. We have furnished material for two displays in J.C. Penney's store windows, including several items in the Christmas window from our Crook Farm. Good advertising!

Many inquiries are received and handled in the following manner: we struggle with them and finally Betty Robinson, our enthusiastic and able genealogist, comes through with all the answers.

Laura Love Hotchkiss MacDonald sent us volumes of pictures and material on her family and her father's Printery which was located on Pine and Main. Her father also worked for the Bradford Era. We are still in contact with Charles Palmer of Connecticut, who was searching for background material on Pardon Worsley of Foster Brook Park. We were able to put Mr. Palmer in touch with a Mr. Hall of McLean, Virginia, who was interested in a Joseph Simonds who had offices at 6 St. James Place and worked for Whitney & Wheeler in the late 1800s. Both Worsley and Simonds were involved with John Wilkes Booth.

Other donations include Marilyn Horne's doll buggy, Lillian DeGolier Loveless's doll cradle, clothes, parasols, and books. We want to thank Dr. Taylor, and his assistant Glenn Stover, for restoring a child's sleigh belonging at one time to Virginia Miles. It is adorable.

Our lovely Clothing and Parasol collection needs attention. We have very beautiful things and there is much work involved in their maintenance. Marian Vernon and Helen Beam are in charge -- give them a call and make up a sewing bee!

"But the Memory Lingers On" -- In the words of that old song, the memories of the Church of Eternal Hope, just razed at the corner of South Ave. and West Corydon St., will linger on, as the box from the cornerstone was just delivered to us. The names on the Membership list of first settlers--the Bradford Miner--Alfred DeGolier's signature--Mr. Webster--old papers to really invoke nostalgia. We delivered the box to Lillian DeGolier Loveless, whose grandfather Albert was involved in building the church. Mrs. Loveless is returning the material to us to add to our Bradford collection. More about it later.

The Crook Farm -- Bob Blair reports: Fifteen groups of fifth-grade pupils will spend a half day in our one-room school beginning May 19th and continuing through May 28th. During the session, they will visit the Crook farmhouse and participate in a home craft. Help is needed for these sessions.

For the second year we are cooperating with the George Blaisdell School and holding a mini-course for twelve students interested in learning about life on an 1870 farm. Last year we included laundry-soap making, weaving, herb gathering, and herb medicine. The children will come April 27, May 4, 11, and 18.

If you are interested in a weaving seminar at the farm, contact Margrieta Hewey at 362-3230. Probable dates are May 17th and 18th. Bring a sack lunch. There will be a fee. Anyone interested in a Stenciling workshop? If so, let Margrieta Hewey know.

What's Doing at Crook Farm? (Continued)

Craft Day -- Put Wednesday on your calendar as craft day at the farm. Join us June 16th and help make items to sell at the Christmas display at the Country Fair.

Items wanted at the Farm -- old muslin sheets (for curtains), bed pillows, 18" or over, milk pan, dough pans, wooden wash tub, household items (pre-1875), rag rugs, old lamps, lanterns, old farm tools.

We will be entertaining the Elder Hostel from the University of Pittsburgh this summer. The Naturalist Club is laying out a nature trail beginning this spring.

Philip Urban will plant a nineteenth-century garden, a project which will continue his progress toward becoming an Eagle Scout.

OLD NEWS

Among the many fascinating items in the collection at Landmark Society Headquarters is an 1888 pamphlet entitled "Kimball's Crime. The Complete Account of the Great Bank Tragedy, At Bradford, Pa., March 6, 1888." The wonderful details in the publication include not only an account of the events at the bank, but also medical details and an incredibly long description of the funeral of the heroic bank teller shot in the abortive robbery attempt. A summary of events is contained in a circular sent out by the Bradford National Bank and signed by the bank's president, O. F. Schonblom. The following is a reprint of the circular, dated March 9, 1888:

"It is my painful duty to announce the death of Mr. T. H. Tomlinson, cashier of this bank, which occurred at 3 p.m. March 8, 1888.

As we have received numerous inquiries as to the particulars of the shocking affair, we have thought best to issue this circular. The facts are as follows:

On March 6th, about 11 a.m., while several customers were transacting business, a man, wearing a mask and a long rubber coat, entered the front door of the bank. Approaching the cashier's window, he presented a revolver and ordered the official to open the door. Without pausing, he rapidly walked a short distance toward the rear of the bank and suddenly sprang over the seven foot railing, landing directly behind the paying teller. So quickly was this done that the attention of the teller, who was engaged in checking out a deposit, was not attracted. Mr. Tomlinson had apparently kept an eye on the man, and as he vaulted over the partition the official started from his post and met the robber, who instantly placed the revolver against the cashier's abdomen and fired, the bullet passing through his body. The desperado then turned on the paying teller, and covering him with his revolver drove him to the rear of the room. Then seizing what money lay on the counter (about \$600) he escaped through the cashier's room and the front door of the bank.

A crowd instantly gathered and started in pursuit. After running a short distance the robber turned and fired upon Louis Blich, who was in advance of the crowd, the bullet striking Blich in the bowels and passing through his body. The robber continued his flight about 1,500 feet further, when, apparently thinking escape impossible, he placed the revolver to his head and fired, dying almost instantly.

The name of the desperado was George A. Kimball. He was formerly a resident of Bradford, but for some time had lived at Garden City, Kansas. Several parties who have known Kimball are of the opinion that he was insane, but we believe the robbery to have been the well planned act of a desperado.

Mr. Tomlinson was so well and favorably known to all customers and correspondents of this bank that any words of ours would but feebly convey our grief or express our feelings at the loss that we as his associates and friends have sustained. Respectfully,

O. F. Schonblom, President."

If you wish to read further about the crime, it's in the pamphlet at Landmark Society Headquarters. Further information would also be available in the files of the Bradford Era, which are kept on microfilm at the Carnegie Public Library.

16701
Bradford, Pennsylvania
62 Fiske Avenue
Mr. Mrs. Charles Glover

BRADFORD LANDMARK SOCIETY
45 East Corydon Street
Bradford, Pa. 16701

REMINDER ON MEMORIALS

Jane Stack reminds us that we have two memorial funds -- one at Headquarters for the preservation and restoration of Bradford memorabilia and one for use in our Crook Farm restoration.

LAST BUT CERTAINLY NOT LEAST

Another reminder -- dues are due. Please clip the coupon below and mail it in or drop it off in person at 45 E. Corydon St. Life members: we thank you for your generous support -- please disregard this notice.

BRADFORD LANDMARK SOCIETY

45 East Corydon Street

Bradford, Pa. 16701

Please find check enclosed for the 1982 membership dues.

Life (\$100) _____ Contributing (\$10) _____ Active (\$3) _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____



The Landmark Society

News

Bradford, Pa. 16701

September 30, 1982

New Series #1

THE COUNTRY FAIR

All those involved agree that this year's fair was a truly wonderful event, much of the wonder coming from the fact that the weather even cooperated for a change. Co-chairs Woody and Pat Woodruff sent along the following note: "Thanks for everyone's help! The Crook Farm Fair was a great success and we truly enjoyed being a part of it. We are looking forward to having a bigger and better Fair next year. We are going to need everyone's help and input for 1983. The Fair will be held Aug. 27 & 28. We will be starting work sessions in the near future, so be thinking of ways to improve our Fair."

Bob Blair notes that the fifteen or sixteen exhibitors at this year's Fair did well with their sales and went home satisfied. Bob also wants to give a special nod of recognition to Jim Dougherty for his super direction of parking, assisted by members of the Key Club with their advisor, Richard Benton -- all of whom spent the two days working in the hot sun.

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE FARM

Bob Blair reports: There was a lot of activity at the Crook Farm this summer.

District #8, one-room school with Beulah Blair as teacher, had a half-day enrollment of over five hundred students this spring, including groups of fifth grade students from the Bradford Area Schools (fifteen groups), five groups from Salamanca, and one from Rixford. Each student experienced candle dipping at the barn, a tour through the farm house, and received a souvenir candle. Students from the George Blaisdell School spent one after-school session over a period of four weeks participating in "Down Home Ways and Country Living." Dr. Harry Taylor showed them how to make soap, they boiled clothes in a copper boiler and scrubbed them in a wash tub, roped a post bed, worked in the gardens, and cleared the grounds. They also did weaving on the looms at the barn.

Through the efforts of George Bey of the Senior High School staff, twenty-five young men did considerable work under the direction of Bob Blair and Harry Taylor. The workers included: Dick Newhouse, Jim Ludwig, Dick Maben, Ricky Deitz, Ed Yohe, Jeff Morrison, Tom George, Bill Piganelli, John Vleminkx, Bill O'Brien, Brett Hoover, Dave DuBois, Jim Barnes, Kevin Cavallaro, David Loop, Tim Rinfrette, Mike Eddy, Dennis Anthony, Joe Marzucco, Leo Munday, Joe Spehar, Al Franklin, Dave Skaggs, Chip Giordano, and Dave Moore. They built a loft in the barn (with material donated by Larry Shields), installed a drain from the kitchen, rewired the house, and laid several hundred feet of underground cable extending electric service to the school-house and barn. David Walters donated his time and equipment to dig the ditch for this cable.

Crook Farm (Continued)

In other projects at the Farm this summer: Thomas Bromeley donated time and equipment to cover the dump behind the farmhouse. The Naturalist Club, directed by Steve Hodges, with the help of several Kiwanians and members of the Key Club cut two nature trails -- "Tuna Trail," leading to Tunungwant Creek and "Olmstead Trail," leading to the Olmstead well.

Philip Urban, with the help of Doug Knight, Jim Grant, Jeff Johnson, and Pat Gobel, planted a 19th-century garden as an Eagle Scout project. Produce from the garden, fresh and preserved, was donated to and sold by the Farmers' Market at the Country Fair. Philip has received recognition from the Genesee County Historical Society and has been invited to display his produce at an exhibition at Mumford Village. Another Eagle Scout activity was undertaken at the Farm by Scott Angel, with the assistance of Steve Hughes, Scott Wilson, and Tom Pfaff. They cleared a space in the grove behind the farmhouse and made a campsite with benches and a fireplace; they also cut a trail leading to the Tuna and Olmstead trails.

Inside the farm house, the walls of the front room are being stencilled, with the help and direction of Mrs. Eleanor Bonnet. In the old days, stencilling was often done instead of wallpaper. The house and other buildings were open during the summer from Tuesday through Friday in the afternoons. Hostesses on Tuesdays were members recruited by Margrieta Hewey. Volunteers, under the supervision of Mary Brandow, included: Jennifer Brandow, Margaret Weitekamp, Beth Urban, Jill Kinney, Martha Johnston, Wendy Blackburn, Heather Branch, Jennifer Smith, Tina Martin, Julie Barnes, Pat Cobb, and Don Shurfran. These girls and boys also assisted at the Kiddies Midway at the Country Fair. On Thursdays, the house was attended by the Craft Club, who made items for the Christmas Store at the Country Fair.

The pole well has been constructed and is an attraction for visitors -- and there have been many. Several groups have held picnics or luncheons at the farm, including Methodist Women, Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club, Naturalist Club, McKean County Genealogy Society, and Delta Kappa Gamma Society. The University of Pitt Elder Hostel picnics have been annual events for the past three years. We entertain three groups each year. A weaving and spinning seminar was held under the sponsorship of the Y.W.C.A., with instructions given by Mr. and Mrs. Patterson.

We have had the services of a Green Thumb worker, Bill Mealy, who did the mowing, upkeep of the grounds, and various other chores around the Crook Farm.

AND AT THE BAKERY

A report from Jane Stack: With school out this summer our candy business wasn't so brisk, but we still had a lot of interesting visitors in the store. People from New England to California, from Canada, Mexico, and West Germany passed through Bradford and made the Landmark Society Headquarters one of their stops. We also renewed old acquaintances with visits from a number of those attending the Bradford High School 60-year reunion. One highlight was meeting descendants of the Crook Family. Although they didn't visit the Bakery, we had a nice visit with them on the phone and at the Country Fair.

Jackie Jones recently finished updating our membership list. She did a great job, with many hours on the phone. We have had a fine membership response this year, but in the interest of saving postage, we have not mailed out membership cards. If you would like yours, please stop by and pick it up. This gives everyone a bonus -- we can save about \$35 in postage and you have a very good reason to stop by the Bakery and see what's new here.

For example, you'll find a new display in the window. We have been getting a lot of attention with our window displays for special occasions (33 special occasions, to be exact). We have also been involved in the usual activities: loaning clothes, conducting

The Bakery (continued)

tours, and researching questions relating to local history. Betty Robinson has been handling our genealogical inquiries in her usual competent manner. We have had some unusual and interesting queries, such as the one relating to a certain Frank Baum, supposedly an editor at one time of the New Bradford Era. Baum turns out to be none other than L(yman) Frank Baum, best known as a newspaperman in South Dakota who wrote the Wizard of Oz tales. While Baum was out west when he became famous, he was born in Chittenango, N.Y. (May 15, 1856), was educated in an academy at Syracuse, and married a girl from Fayetteville, N.Y. He began newspaper work in 1880, but did not show up in South Dakota until 1888. He probably followed the prevailing pattern of itineracy among newspapermen in his early career and included a brief stint on the Era in Bradford. Has anyone ever heard of Mr. Baum associated with Bradford?

Marian Vernon, Helen Beam, and Jane Stack are manning (personning?) the Headquarters every day since losing June Bergeron (our Green Thumb helper) back in June. We have received some fine donations of books, clothing, postcards, and other memorabilia which add to our Bradford and area history.

Our Bakery Bake Sale at the Country Fair was a huge success. We extend a very sincere thanks to all of our contributors as well as the workers at the booth, Marian Vernon and Sue Kish. While these two handled the bake sale table, Jane Stack and Barb Hagg handled entrance tickets to the Fair.

THE LAST WORD ON THE KINZUA BRIDGE???

In the excitement over the centennial of the Kinzua bridge this summer, much was written about its history and many old accounts of its planning and building were reprinted in a variety of periodicals in McKean County. In spite of all this verbiage, Jane Stack came up with a piece we think everyone else overlooked. It was originally published in the Bradford Evening Star in November, 1881, and is notable for the enthusiasm of the writer and for its descriptions of the areas around the bridge site. The following is "Up the Kinzua" by an anonymous reporter:

"A rumor having reached Bradford that somewhere in the Kinzua region, where the bear and the wildcat roam, a big bridge was being built, a STAR reporter was directed to repair to that wild and uncertain territory and investigate. Leaving Bradford on the 10:35 A.M. train he was whisked past Custer and Lewis Run to Big Shanty, where the train was delayed by the switching of cars, etc., long enough to allow a hasty glance at the town. It boasts four to five hundred inhabitants. Richard Beatty presides at the postoffice and a look at his genial, happy face is almost a recompense for one who fails to get a letter. The Lewis Run Lumber Co.'s mill, which was formerly one of the leading industries here, and which furnished employment to a good many men, has been torn down and removed. There are about a dozen stores and business places here, which includes a restaurant, a hotel, several grocery stores, two oil well supply stores, and a drug store.

"The next point reached was Crawfords, where the Warren extension leaves the Erie Branch. Some excavations and a few 'Paddy's buggies,' (wheelbarrows) showed that the work was going on.

"Alton was reached in due time and a warm welcome was received from Mr. Davie of the Butts House. His partner, Major Lewis, was absent visiting friends in the East. Alton is located on a high hill, thoroughly covered with hemlocks. It is composed almost wholly of business houses, the most conspicuous of which is the Butts House, in front of which is a triangular park, surrounded with a substantial iron fence, and adorned with evergreens. Most of the people on whom Alton relies for support, live at Buttsville, about half a mile further south. As above stated, Alton is composed wholly of business houses, and Buttsville is its opposite in that respect, consisting almost entirely of dwellings. These are principally the houses of the miners and are nearly uniform in size and shape and wholly alike in color, being of a dark red or tanbark color. The miners are mostly foreigners -- Swedes, Welch, etc. While at

Mr. & Mrs. Chas. C. Grow
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BRADFORD LANDMARK SOCIETY
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Kinzua (continued)

Alton our reporter was introduced to Mr. Chas. Pugsley, the engineer in charge of the new bridge and of the local interests of the Erie generally. He proved to be a most affable and well-informed gentleman, and extended many courtesies and gave much information in regard to the 'Big Bridge.' After dinner, accompanied by one of the engineers, the party started for the bridge, three and a half miles away, following the railroad track for a mile and a half, and then turning into the wood to the right of the railroad. After a tramp through the woods of a mile and a half, they struck the Kinzua valley. It is difficult to imagine, much more to describe, the immensity of the gorge which the energetic managers of the road propose, with the aid of their engineers, contractors, and laborers, to span. Figures are said to be eloquent, they are known to be truthful, but they can give no adequate idea of the magnitude of the undertaking.

"The bridge is to consist of an iron structure resting on stone piers, 106 in number. The central pier is 301 feet high and the bridge will be when completed 2,050 feet long, thus making the highest bridge in the world. The stone of which the abutments are composed are to a large extent quarried from the hills on the sides of the ravine. Standing on the north side of the gorge the men working on the other side look like ants, so far is the eye compelled to reach. There are about 200 men employed on the bridge and in quarrying, cutting and hauling stone. As before stated Mr. Pugsley is the engineer in charge. He is supported in his work by an old corps of assistants, among whom are Mr. William Seaman, who is the local engineer: John Woods and John Toomey assistant engineers. It is thought that the bridge will be ready for the iron work by January, 1882. Before this mammoth structure Portage pales into imagination."