



The Landmark Society

News

Bradford, Pa.

February 10, 1984

New Series #5

Dates to Mark on Your Calendars:

There are a number of upcoming events of interest for Landmark Society members--here are a few to note; in chronological order:

Quilting Seminar--A quilting seminar is being held on February 17 at the Carnegie Library from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. A second session will take place at the Y.W.C.A. on Monday the 20th. Both will be conducted by Mrs. Annette Whims from Lansing, Michigan, where she has conducted a number of quilting seminars.

Anyone interested in quilting and piecing should contact the Landmark Society between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. The number is 362-3906. In addition, you may contact Marian Bromeley (368-6608) or Margrieta Hewey (362-3230). The cost is \$5.00 for the seminar.

Movie--On March 24, at 2:00 p.m., "The Bradford Story" will premiere at the Bradford Theater. Admission is inexpensive, a \$1 donation, with children free when accompanied by an adult. Readers will remember the film, which turned up a few years ago on the extremely volatile old-time film stock and was reprocessed by the Society with the aid of a grant from the Pennsylvania Humanities Council.

Annual Meeting--The annual meeting and election of officers has been scheduled for May 4. Further information is unavailable at this time but will be forthcoming in a future newsletter. The speaker has been announced; she is Mrs. Harrington, Executive Secretary of Western New York Landmarks Society, who originally evaluated the Crook Farm.

Country Fair--Dates have been set for this annual festival at the Crook Farm. For 1984, they are August 25-26.

Book Sale--Unscheduled date at present, but definitely planned for this summer. Save your books and phonograph records. If you have a large number of items you wish to donate, it is not too early to call for someone to pick them up. Call the Landmark Society at 362-3906 to make arrangements. Also call if you are interested in working on the sale.

Garden Club

Some members of the Society have been discussing the formation of a garden club, as there is not an active organization of this type in Bradford. Tentative plans call for the growing of herbs and flowers and the study of mid-19th Century gardens, which were decorative, with their lovely flowers, and useful, with herbs. If you are interested in such an organization, contact the Landmark Society at 362-3906 or members of the Crook Farm Committee at 368-6608 or 368-4044.

Crook Farm News, from Rosann Klussmann

Sunday, December 11, 1983 was our first Christmas Open House at Crook Farm. The weather was with us -- not too cold and not too much snow -- pine wreaths trimmed the doors . . . candles in the windows made it all so inviting.

Coffee, tea and cookies were served in a house trimmed with greens, crepe-paper bows, an old-fashioned Christmas tree, and the soft glow of candle light all through the house.

One of the members displayed a gingerbread house for everyone to see (no tasting, please). About one-hundred people signed our guest book . . . and enjoyed the house.

At this time, I would like to thank the workers who gave their time getting ready, during, and afterwards cleaning up. Thank you again to Beulah Blair, Marian Bromeley, Margrieta Hewey, Vera Heron, Dorothy Shields, Martha Sage, Cecile McGinnis, Jane Weaner, and to all you wonderful "gals" who made cookies. And thanks to the men--Jack Weamer, Bob Blair, Walt Klussmann, and Harry Taylor.

A New Year's thought from the journal of Erastus Crook -- "Sun. Jan. 1, 1860 -- this is the beginning of a new year. I hope I may be prospered in all things both spiritually and temporally -- in order to obtain this I will try to do by the grace of God."

Wednesday is our working day at the farm, wish more of you would join us -- bring your lunch and we'll make the coffee. The little kitchen is cozy and warm. In working on craft items for the Country Fair, we need materials -- we would greatly appreciate the contribution of scraps of material and lace, remnants and bits of yarn. We can put to good use the remnants you have left over from home sewing projects, so think about contributing them to the Society. Better yet, bring them down to the farm any Wednesday and stay awhile.

Jan. 18, 1984 -- Had to walk into the house today, snow was deep -- we are working on a bed given by Mrs. Florence Perry.

Jan. 25, 1984 -- Got the bed finished and into the room with the help of Bob Blair and Walt Klussmann. Cold today, as when Erastus Crook wrote on January 28, 1860: "Cold and snowing today, quite blustery -- have been mending shoes a little -- felt quite unwell -- have the colick."

And so ends Jan. 1984, we're turning in the notes for print, but with another note from Erastus: "Feb. 8, 1860 -- a very pleasant day -- quite like spring -- about warm enough for the sap to run."

Come visit with us on Wednesdays -- crafts will start . . . getting ready for the Fair.

Recent Trip Reported

Bob Blair reports that he and wife, Beulah, Harry and Mebane Taylor, Bob and Marian Bromeley, and Frank and Vera Heron recently spent five days at Shakertown, near Pleasant Hill, Kentucky, home of Eastern Kentucky University. There they attended an Elderhostel on the preservation of historic sites, of which Shakertown is a prime example.

While there, the group made a slide presentation of the Crook Farm preservation effort -- some good publicity for our local project -- which was very well received by an audience of people with experience in this area.

Bob says that the trip was quite instructive and, furthermore, that all involved had an enjoyable time.

A Family Query

Query: Whom did Naomi Hotchkiss marry? She was born on September 9, 1839 in Bradford Township, the daughter of Samuel Sebra and Madora (Ackley) Hotchkiss, step-daughter of William Tanner, sister of Rhoda Cordelia who married Austin Wattrous, all of Bradford Township. A correspondent in Saudi Arabia would appreciate our help on this one. Contact Betty Robinson, Secretary of the Bradford Landmark Society.

New Ireland

Last semester, a student from the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford stopped in the Landmark Society Headquarters to inquire about a nearby place called "New Ireland" for a paper she was doing. Jane Stack and Betty Robinson turned up some information from a variety of sources, herewith reported:

From the Historical Gazeteer of Cattaraugus County, N.Y. (1893, edited by William Adams), p. 468: "New Ireland is a neighborhood in school district No. 1 in the west part of Carrolton. The settlement was made soon after 1850 by Irish families, who were all natives of County Clare, Ireland. Its inhabitants are distinguished for their industry and economy and are generally prosperous."

An article in the Olean Times-Herald for March 17, 1983 by Bob Maas informs us that the community was on record as early as 1850. This article details the career of one of the leading citizens of New Ireland, John Carmody, who was born in County Clare in 1823, came to New York City in 1853, then to the village of Limestone in 1858 to work in a local tannery. Upon retirement from that establishment in 1866, he purchased 50 acres of land in New Ireland, which he later successfully drilled for oil.

Further information on John Carmody comes from the Historical Gazeteer: "Mr. and Mrs. Carmody have had born to them 8 children, 3 of whom died young. Those now living are Michael, Kate M., John F., Mary and Ella A. Michael and John are contractors and jobbers in drilling oil and gas wells; Kate M. and Ella A. are teachers; Mary (Mrs. M. Scanlon) resides in Bradford, Pa."

There is no longer a settlement at New Ireland, as area residents know. According to Bob Maas, "Around the turn of the century or shortly thereafter, it is believed that new generations gave up the dwellings and farmlands to move closer to area employment centers, leaving the abandoned foundations amid hay and grain fields untouched by nourishing growth and fruit trees."

Interesting Newspaper

The Bradford Era for Saturday, October 22, 1927 published a "Special Rotarian Booster Edition," edited by Edward H. Coates. The paper announced: "Fall steps up to the Footlights," and promoted a local stage presentation called "Melodyland," which the paper billed as "Three Distinct Shows in One." The Rotary-sponsored extravaganza was put on in the Senior Hi Auditorium on the evenings of October 26, 27, 28.

Page 12 of the paper gives a brief description of the "Amusement Feast" to be presented by a "Cast of Over 200 Bradford Young Men and Women Carefully Trained by Professionals." The program and cast are listed, and give some idea of the tremendous size of the production. Over 35 musical numbers are listed, not including the third part of the program, a series of vaudeville specialties. Preceding the vaudeville section were two one-act musical plays entitled "Forty-Five Minutes in Bohemia" (adapted from Balfe's "Bohemian Girl") and "Forty-Five Minutes in Japan" (adapted from the "Merry Geisha"). Each featured a chorus of scores of local performers, all of whom are listed in the paper. Stop in at the Landmark Society headquarters and check the paper -- you may very well find a relative with an unexpected background in the theater.

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Grow
62 Fliske Avenue
Bradford, PA 16701

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Memorials

The Landmark Society does maintain a memorial fund. Those interested in making contributions may do so by contacting Jane Stack at Society Headquarters, or call 362-3906.

Dues Are Due

It is indeed that time of year, when we start thinking about taxes and dues to the Bradford Landmark Society. There is a connection -- any contribution over \$3 is tax-deductible. Please drop off your check or cash at Headquarters or mail this form:

Type of Membership (please check one):

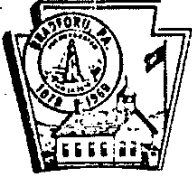
☐ Active (\$3.00)

☐ Contributing (\$10.00)

☐ Life Member (\$100.00)

Name

Address



The Landmark Society

News

Bradford, Pa.

May 4, 1984

New Series #6

Annual Meeting

The annual dinner meeting and election of officers will take place on May 11, 1984 at the Valley Hunt Club. Dinner begins at 7 p.m. Always-tasty dinner choices include:

Swiss steak . . . \$9.50
Baked haddock . . \$9.50

Reservations should be made right away! You should put this paper down right now and go call the Bakery Headquarters of the Landmark Society immediately (if it is between 2 and 4 p.m.) at 362-3906. We'll wait

The speaker for the event is Mrs. Harrington, who is Executive Secretary of the Western New York Landmarks Society. See you there.

News from the Bakery, from Jane Stack and Marian Vernon

The Bakery Museum has received a large number of items from Mrs. Lillian Loveless, whose families - the DeGoliars and the Davises - were early residents. Among other things are two sets of unusual playing cards from the Buffalo Columbian Exposition of 1892, a sample of the William Frank "panty waist" designed and manufactured by Mrs. Fred (Ione Dresser) Willer, a blackthorn walking stick, doll tea sets, and numerous pictures of early theatricals. Why not come in and see what "treasures" we have.

Speaking of Mrs. Loveless brings to mind our "First Families of the Tuna," of which they are members. So are the Pikes -- the family who originally owned the land between Tibbitts Ave. and just beyond Sherman Street, where their farm bordered another owned by the Cuttings. The original Pike built a log cabin near the corner of Sherman Street and South Ave. Two other original homes on the farm are still standing on South Ave.

Speaking of Pikes and Sherman Street brings to mind a book by Bryant Sherman of Bradford, a friend of Mr. Pike. The book is called The Bell Cow and is a story involving New York children in Bradford -- surely the first Fresh Air Children. Mr. Sherman was quite a famous photographer also and was written up in the Buffalo, New York papers in the 1900s.

We'll continue our First Families of the Tuna Valley (FFTV) again soon. We have a miniature replica of the Peg Leg engine and car built by Don Bushey as well as several pieces of railroad memorabilia in our window. It attracts a great deal of attention. And Don brought Mr. Bill Fries, President of the Salamanca Rail Museum, in one Saturday morning. I was so pleased to be able to show them our railroad material.

On March 15, members of the Genealogy group met here and were very enthusiastic -- to say nothing of being surprised -- at the tremendous amount of research material here. And even the men enjoyed the upstairs tour and took a lot of interest in our beautiful clothing. And of course the books by local authors were there as well. Just a reminder:

Rufus Barrett Stone, McKean: The Governor's County; and his book on Arthur George Olmstead; "Wish I Might, by Isabel Smith; Go Devil, by Marguerite Eyssen. Another old book we have is a children's book by Hallie Hallis illustrated by Grace Byrom of Bradford. More Bradford authors another time.

The Headquarters Building is gearing up for Spring. Let's have help!

Crook Farm News, from Rosann Klussmann

The house is in order and we would like you to stop by for a visit. (Come Tuesday, see us at work and have coffee.

You'll love our new curtains and we have several new pieces that have been added -- but we still need another "old" porch rocker . . . small table for lamps, and if anyone has an "old" dry sink in their cellar that they don't want -- call us. We need it for the kitchen.

Craft Day at the Farm is Tuesday of every week, sun, rain or snow -- bring your lunch and join us, we do need you.

Hope to have another great Christmas House this year at the fair -- which is Aug. 25 and 26, so there is a lot to be done. . . . We need help. If you can't come on Tuesday, work at home -- call us and tell what you'll make -- pillows, dolls, Christmas tree trim, Jelly, candy. Help!

Also clean out your thread (odd colors), bits of ribbon, material; we need it all for craft work. (Call 362-6730 on Tuesday at the farm house, we'll even pick it up.)

By the way, any of you gals who like to paint -- we have craft items ready but we need someone to paint or stencil.

Thanks. Next letter, I can say, "we have had help and we did it."

P.S. Our school teacher, Beulah Blair, just called to say, "Don't forget we need paint. Any left over you have we need, so call us. Please!"

School Notes, from Beulah Blair

The one-room school will open May 17. We have thirteen days scheduled. Children will be coming from our area schools, Eldred, Port Allegany, Salamanca and Rixford. Many of you have helped with this program. Four or five persons are needed each day. Please call Margrieta Hewey (362-3230) and offer your services. These are the days the school will be open: May 17 through May 25, May 31, June 1, 4, 5, 6.

Our Down Home Ways and Country Living program started April 24. Fifteen fifth and sixth grade pupils from the new Blaisdell school and their teacher Becky Ryan are coming to the farm after school and experiencing life as it was for farm children in the 1880s. They have helped rake leaves and cleaned out flower gardens. They will be at the farm May 1, 8, and 15. May 1st the boys will help Walt Klussmann build a rail fence and the girls will learn about herbs. Vera Heron is planning their activities. Other plans include doing a family wash using the boiler and scrubbing board, making soap, weaving and cleaning up the nature trails.

Mrs. Reichart's scout troop assisted with the fall cleanup last year and will be helping this spring.

Country Fair Note, from Woody Woodruff

Things are well under way for the Crook Farm Fair to be held the last weekend in August, the 25th and 26th. We feel sure we will have more exhibitors than ever and have lined up two full days of entertainment. More and more people in the community are pitching in to make the Fair bigger and better than ever.

A Letter and Request

David McKain, the Connecticut poet from Bradford, has written to express an interest in purchasing books on Bradford, McKean County, and northwestern Pennsylvania. If you have any such books for sale or know where they can be obtained, write: David McKain, Watson Road, Preston, Conn. 06360.

In case you missed it, Mr. McKain was recently included in the new edition of "Who's Who in America." This was a subject treated in the Bradford Era of March 26; there's a copy at the Bakery Headquarters if you want to read more about it. David McKain is the son of a former terrific teacher at the Lincoln School in Foster Brook, Ida McKain.

The Subject Was Books

If you don't sell all your books to David McKain, but find them cluttering up your attic, basement, garage, wherever you store old unwanted books, call us. We want books! Good books, bad books, mediocre books, great books, absolutely horrid books. Any books. BOOKS!

The message should be clear by now. We still plan to have our nearly-annual used book sale some time this summer. We will help you with your spring cleaning by picking up and disposing of your books, magazines, and old records. Call us. Then later in the summer you can come and buy the things someone else dumped, used book sales being the best example of the old adage: "One man's junk is another man's treasure."

The Good Old (Cheap) Days

Some old subscription receipts from the Bradford Era showed up recently at the Bakery Headquarters. Back in 1898, the Era cost all of 10¢. Not so cheap, you say? That was for the week. An interesting economic note was that a period of hard economic times was just ending about that time, with the beginning of the Spanish-American War. In the mid-1890s, times were tough and what the economy needed, many agreed, was a good solid dose of inflation. (Hard, if not impossible, to believe after living through the 1970s.) Part of this inflationary scheme was adopted by the Populist Party and their Presidential candidate in 1896, William Jennings Bryan (also the Democratic candidate -- he couldn't lose, much like Thomas E. Dewey in 1948). This was, of course, the famous "free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16-1," a phrase understood today only by historians and not by a huge percentage of the populace in 1896. Anyway, good times returned with the war and later steps were taken to insure that a depression like the one in the 1890s would never again occur. A story with a happy ending, it would seem, until 1929 . .

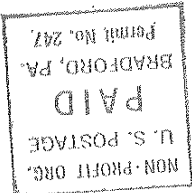
More Old Newspapers

Last time, we reported herein on a special edition of the Bradford Era in 1927; this time we have a report on another paper and a colorful writer who reported for it. The paper is the Bradford Herald; the writer, C. W. Logan

We have a Herald clipping from January 8, 1933. On page 1, there is an account of the burial of former President Calvin Coolidge in the family graveyard at Plymouth, Vermont. C. W. Logan's column appears on the next page; it is an interesting account of the New Year, the Great Depression (in which Logan makes a comparison between Bradford in 1933 and in 1903), Prohibition (he's against it), and the Presidential election of 1932 (in which Franklin D. Roosevelt decisively defeated Herbert Hoover). Here are as many excerpts as we can fit in:

"Well" Well folks, the New Year 1933 arrived strictly on schedule time, but its arrival was hardly noticeable in the city of Bradford. Aside from the tooting of a few auto horns and the exploding of about fifty cents worth of fire crackers, the new comer almost entered unnoticed. Every one seemed to be sore or peeved about something, even the weather took on a grouch, the temperature going down to ten degrees above nothing.

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Grow
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Bradford, Pa. 16701
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BRADFORD LANDMARK SOCIETY

"One year ago when 1932 roaled in, the public in general had a sort of a hunch that it was going to be a dead one and a dead one it was, indeed. On that New Year's eve one lone whistle announced the new comer's arrival in this city, but on this last occasion that one lone siren was also a dead one. . . .

"Well, anyhow, on New Year's eve 1903, Main street in this town contained a good sized crowd of people, everyone seemed to be happy. They were just finishing up a prosperous year and why shouldn't they be? With another one right there to start in on.

"As the clock neared 12 that night, pandemonium broke loose. Bradford was a division point at that time for two railroads and the Lord only knows how many locomotives opened up their whistles at the midnight hour. Cannon were shot off. The fire bell tolled. Oil well tool shap and factory whistles blew; but above all the noise and din could be plainly heard the beautiful 'Arcade Chimes' across the creek beyond Pine and Boylston streets which had just about been installed. As they hammered out their wonderful 'boiler shop' melody taken from the tuneful opera of Bovaird & Seyfang. Truly those were great days but,

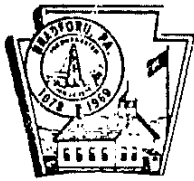
It's Different Now.

"Time has certainly made some wonderful and, in most cases, awful changes. In those days a job was a necessity. In fact you had to have one in order to live decently. Of course, all you had to do was go out almost any old place and get one and then go to work. An easy thing to do at that time but quite a trick to pull off now. . . .

(After discussing the Presidential election) "we can notice there is a better feeling in the air all around and we now have a lot to look forward to, although old 1932 was a tough baby in general, we can not call it a total loss.

"We are a good deal wiser than we were a year ago, so let's charge the past inactivity up to our education and at the same time wish every one, A Happy and Prosperous New Year!"

(Which seems like an inappropriate note to end a May 4 newsletter on, so we add: Happy Spring season -- see you all at the annual meeting next week.)



The Landmark Society

News

Bradford, Pa.

December 3, 1984

New Series #8

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Both the Herbig Bakery Headquarters of the Bradford Landmark Society on Corydon Street and the Crook Farm on Seaward Avenue will serve as sites for Christmas displays this week from Thursday through Sunday.

The Bakery Headquarters will be open during the special hours of 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, December 6-8. Shoppers in the downtown area are invited to stop in during these hours, take a break from the rigors of Christmas gift selection, indulge in refreshing coffee and Christmas cookies, and receive guided tours of the displays to be found at the Bakery. Supplementing the usual collections of interesting local artifacts will be special Christmas items such as a tree trimmed with old-time ornaments and an assortment of stocking-stuffers from days gone by.

Coffee and cookies are also on the menu for the Crook Farm's second Christmas Open House to be held on Sunday, December 9, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. The Tuesday crafts group has been meeting regularly at the Farm, preparing a variety of old-time, interesting craft items which will be for sale. In addition, tours of the farmhouse will be offered; for anyone who has not visited the Farm, this provides a splendid opportunity to see how people lived 100 years ago.

Make a note of these dates and plan to visit us at the Farm and the Bakery. Bring friends--it's a great chance to see interesting displays, select hand-crafted Christmas presents, and meet some nice people.

WHAT WE DID LAST SUMMER

The two summer events held by the Society during the past summer were most successful, qualitatively and quantitatively. Rick Frederick claims to have sold bargains by the carload at the booksale on Main Street. Nearly all the books were, in fact, sold, a result of numerous offers to buyers that were simply too good to refuse. There are still a few good books, priced to sell, in the back room of the Bakery Headquarters. Bob Blair claims that all 56 exhibitors at this year's Crook Farm Country Fair were well-pleased with their arrangements. Evidently the word is beginning to spread among craftspeople that this is a good event at which to display, for the exhibitors' list grows each year. Attendance was high for the two-day event and the entertainers were all well-received. Especially well-received was the Sunday breakfast; the hens had to work overtime to feed the 561 people who attended.

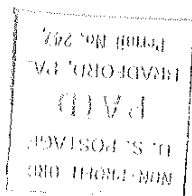
The fact that both of these events were successful this year as in the past is largely due to you, the readers of this newsletter and members of the Society. Thank you for your needed support of these and other activities throughout the year.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Blair
1136 E. Main Street
Bradford, PA 16701

35-7-33-28-19-10

Handwritten initials

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



SOME CONTRIBUTIONS OF LATE

Recent contributions to the Society include:

A building--the Erie Railroad freight station building which stood, in the 19th century, where Kendall, Jackson, and Seaward Avenues met. More recently, it stood at Seaward Avenue Extension and Tuna Crossroads until its owner, Harvey Milks, donated it to the Society. It has been moved to the Crook Farm property, where tentative plans call for its use as a craft workshop;
Farm tools and harnesses, from Harriet Rockefeller of Farmers Valley;
Nineteenth-century farm tools, now on display in the barn at the Crook Farm, from Wilson Baker of Dalton, N.Y.;
A fanning mill, used to separate chaff from wheat, donated by Lester Jordan.

THE QUESTION WAS . . .

Long ago, on the occasion of the issuance of our last newsletter, a question was posed for readers to ponder. The question was: who were the three men elected from Bradford to the United States House of Representatives? Give up?
The first was William W. Brown, who served from 1883-1887. Born in New York, he was raised in Pennsylvania, attended Smethport Academy and graduated from Alfred University. He held a number of local offices in Bradford and McKean County over the years, and practiced law locally until his death in 1926. He also worked in the federal government for a while, receiving an appointment in the Justice Department from Theodore Roosevelt in 1907.
Who are the other two? Watch for information in newsletters to come.