

The Bradford Landmark Society

45 East Corydon Street, Bradford Pennsylvania 16701

814-362-3906 Hours are Mon., Wed., Fri., 11AM-2PM or by appointment.

Think Spring! Its almost here, and time to start thinking about the Crook Farm, the annual dinner, the new building down at the Crook Farm, the school program, breakfast with the birds, and on and on. The warm days of spring and summer are some of the busiest for the Landmark Society, and everyone all over Bradford is getting ready for our best season yet. Read on:

The Annual Dinner

The Bradford Landmark Society's annual dinner will be held April 23, 1998 at the Bradford Club. Our featured speaker will be Mr. Tim Vorhees, who has been busy at the Crook Farm since last August, renovating and repairing the farmhouse. You won't believe your eyes this summer when you tour the farm! Tim will speak on the renovation, and if you were at the annual dinner last year, you will be pleased to see the changes that have taken place 'down on the farm'.

Cocktails will be available at 6PM, with dinner at 7PM. If you can't make the dinner, but wish to see the program, plan on coming just for coffee and dessert at 7:45 PM. Just be sure to call ahead to the Landmark and make arrangements (it'll save confusion at the Bradford Club that evening). Please make reservations by calling the Landmark Society at 362-3906. The menu and prices are as follows:

Broiled Orange Roughy.....	\$16.00
Chicken & Biscuits.....	\$15.00
Prime Rib au jus.....	\$19.50
Dessert and Coffee.....	\$5.00

Dinner prices include soup, salad, vegetables, potatoes, and dessert. (Tax and tip are already included in the above prices) We'll look forward to seeing you there.

Goodbye to An Old Friend

Bradford and the Bradford Landmark Society lost a good friend and fellow historian recently. D. Harvey Phillips died February 1, 1998 at the Bradford Medical Center. He was 96.

Many things have been written about Harvey Phillips. He led a remarkable life - and he lived it in Bradford. His list of accomplishments were many, and his achievements well known. He told us stories of old time Bradford - only they weren't stories at all - but actual events as he lived them.

Harvey Phillips remembered the past and he remembered the people. His memory was legendary, and the Landmark Society relied on him often to answer the really tough questions about the history of Bradford. We'll miss him, but we are sure that wherever Harvey Phillips is right now, he is writing the history of the heavens.

School Program to Begin

The 1998 School Program at the Historic Crook Farm will begin May 1st and will run through June. Each year, over a thousand children from Pennsylvania and New York State attend this wonderful program and spend a day learning how people lived on a farm "way back when". They learn candle dipping, weaving, writing with a pen and ink and observe a blacksmith at his forge. Half the day is spent in the school house, learning 'readin', 'ritin' and 'rithmetic - just as boys and girls did over a hundred years ago. Every year the program grows in popularity as news of this unique educational experience is told by excited children to their parents and friends. Would you like to be a part of it? Can you spare a few hours each week for about six weeks? The Crook Farm Program is always looking for volunteers to teach school, an old time craft, explain the tools of yesteryear, or just help the children as they learn. Call Trudie Ostrander at 368-5981 or Rebecca Ryan at 465-3513. Its a lot of fun for everyone!

Interested in the Internet?

Interested in learning more about the Landmark Society, genealogy, or just history in the comfort of your own home? Switch onto the internet. The Bradford Landmark can be reached at **www.bradford-online.com** which also includes all sorts of information about the city, coming events, local businesses and interesting historical facts and photographs. Trying to reach us direct? Our e-mail address is **bradland@penn.com**.

Do You Remember?

Jan Graham, a former Bradfordian who recently came back home for a visit and to do some family history research, has written a wonderful description of her family's skating pond off Seaward Avenue. Do you remember.....?

"Behind the greenhouse (when it was located on Seaward Avenue), there was a large flat area of land. During the winter, this area was made into a skating pond. It started out as a small skating area, but it kept growing in size -- as did its popularity with area residents. On any given Saturday, there would be hundreds of people - of all ages - skating. George Graham would care for the pond (clean it off) about midnight. He did not have to get up to do this - he was usually up during the night as he had to keep the boilers at the greenhouse fired all night. Harriet (Mrs. Graham) and a neighbor felt that the children - and adults - needed to have their strength reinforced with nourishment while out skating, so they made hot cocoa for the skaters and sold it for 5 cents a cup. Then they decided that the skaters needed more than cocoa, so they added hot dogs for 10 cents each. These were cooked in a little building that George erected as a shelter -- it had the stoves and seats.

Eventually, the city put up street lights to light the pond. George had to hire help to keep the pond clean. At that point, he started charging 10 cents for adults to use the pond - children were free. There were railroad tracks near the skating area. People would walk in groups down the tracks to the pond. Of course, there was street car service, too.

Even many years later, people still talk about and reminisce about Graham's skating pond.

As a child growing up, I remember the driveway along the side of the greenhouse to get to the back of the greenhouse where the vans/trucks were loaded and unloaded. This was a fairly steep driveway. In the winter, kids used it for sledding. It made a great sledding hill. I am sure it was used for that when the skating pond was popular.

We invite all our readers who have interesting memories of Bradford to send them to the Landmark Society. We may publish your articles in our next issue of this newsletter!

We're having a Contest!

Be sure to stop by the Bradford Landmark Society's at 45 E. Corydon Street sometime this month. We are having a contest to see how many people can identify famous celebrates that have visited Bradford sometime in the past 100 or so years. We will have a window display with pictures and clues as to their identity. Stop by and take a peek, and then write your answers on a piece of paper and slip it into our mail slot (with your name and address) or mail us a postcard. We'll be giving prizes to those who correctly identify them all.

Around Bradford II Book

The second volume of our "Images of America" photographic book of Bradford will soon be finished. Publication date will hopefully be in late June. Stay tuned!

The Summer of 1898

Did you ever wonder what it was like one hundred years ago? This month we will examine life in Bradford in 1898:

- It was hot that year. So hot that the water supply in Bradford was in danger of drying up. The City Council decided that another reservoir at Marilla Brook was needed, and contracted William Hanley to build it. It was designed to hold 92 million gallons of water, and was finished just after the turn of the century.
- The first automobile was seen on the streets of Bradford. S.R. Dresser impressed everyone with his 'motor carriage'.
- Streets were being paved, many for the first time, with brick, although Main Street itself would not be paved until the summer of 1899. The retaining wall on East Main Street was completed - and it only cost \$911.
- An ordinance was instituted that all bicycle riders must have a bell on their bikes. Since coaster brakes would not be invented until after the turn of the century, numerous stories exist of pedestrians being run down by bicyclists on the streets.
- The Spanish American War was underway, and Bradford's soldiers left that August. The fire tower on top Quintuple Hill was rung at 6AM on the morning that they left, to wake everyone in the town so that they could make it to the train station to say goodbye.

Yes, I want to join the Bradford Landmark Society!

Annual Membership Dues
May 19____ to April 19____

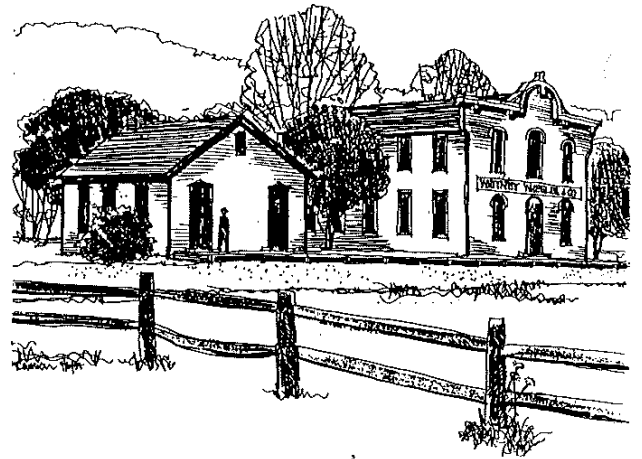
- ☐ Individual \$10.00
☐ Senior Citizen (60+) \$5.00
☐ Family \$15.00
☐ Life (paid once only) \$100.00

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

New Bank Notes

Have you driven by the Crook Farm lately? Well, you should! Take a peek at that big building that is being erected next to the school house. It's a replica of the first bank in Bradford, and it should be finished in time for this year's Crook Farm Festival, held in August. It is going to be an exciting addition to the Crook Farm homestead complex, and we invite everyone to drive by and see the progress that we have made. We also hope to have a cast iron bank -of the bank - for sale this year at the Crook Farm Craft Fair.



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

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Betty Robinson
5216 122nd Place, S.E.
Bellevue, WA 98006



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

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45 East Corydon Street, Bradford Pennsylvania 16701

April 1998 Edition 814-362-3906 Hours are Mon., Wed., Fri., 11AM-2PM or by appointment.

No. 50

Annual Dinner Held

The Bradford Landmark Society's annual dinner was held Thursday, April 23, at the Bradford Club. Dinner was a choice of Orange Roughy Fish, Chicken & Biscuits, or Prime Rib. Over 50 people attended. The speaker for the evening was Tim Vorhees, a restorationist who has been doing work on the Crook Farmhouse for the past several months. Tim was also the speaker at our annual dinner last year, when he outlined the work ahead to restore the Crook farmhouse, and to make some very badly needed repairs to the foundation of the house. This year, he reviewed his work. What a change! The work is almost near completion, and will be ready for the school children tours which start May 1. You will be pleasantly surprised to see the changes - new wallpaper, fresh paint on the walls and woodwork - a brand new summer kitchen, and a much sturdier floor. The "new" bank - actually a full size replica of the first bank in Bradford, Whitney & Wheeler's Tuna Valley Bank - is near completion, with all the windows in and the door arriving this week. Inside, there will be a small bank as well as a small post office. The rest of the building will be decorated as an old general store. Any items which you may wish to donate such as old coffee mills, tins, flour sacks, bottles, advertising, or things of this would be greatly appreciated. And remember, anything you would be kind enough to donate is also tax deductible. But why wait for the Country Fair? You can visit the Crook Farm this summer and enjoy a pleasant afternoon. It will be open from 1:00PM to 4:00 PM, Tuesday - Friday or by appointment, 362-6730.

The landmarks of previous generations are inestimably precious... touch these and you destroy much that make the city human. Keep them, and you keep the quality of life itself.

---August Hecksher

Breakfast with the Birds

Calling all bird watchers! Its that time again, when the Rev. Lynn Ostrander will take binoculars in hand, and go forth to hunt for the birds of Crook Farm. Its quite a lot of fun, actually. First, you show up at the Farm house at 7AM - early, yes, but after all, they do say "The Early Bird Gets the Worm". Bring a pair of binoculars, a bird identification guide if you have one, boots - its wet out there - and a warm jacket (this is Bradford in the spring, after all!). And then get set and hear lots of birds. I went last year and saw lots of birds that I didn't even know nested in this area. Afterwards, warm up in the farmhouse with cinnamon rolls and coffee. All are invited, cost is minimal, and everyone will have a good time.

School Children Program

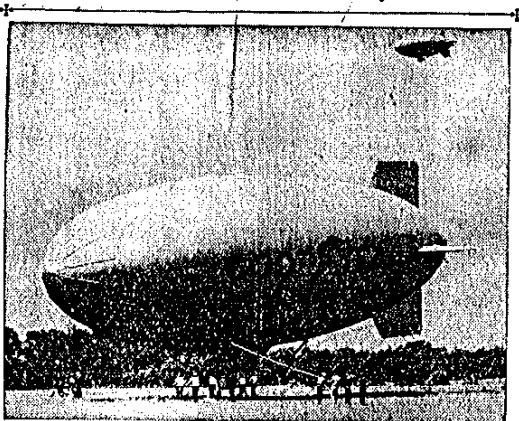
This Friday, May 1, is the opening day for this year's school program. The first school this year will be from Ellicottville, NY. The program runs for six weeks, and will end June 11. Our thanks in advance to all our volunteers who donate their time and talents into making this an unique experience for the kids who attend.

Do You Remember?

Blimp Visits Bradford

If you had been looking upward on October 15, 1929 you would have seen the first dirigible to ever pass over Bradford and to land at the Emery field. The "Vigilant", one of Goodyear's fleet of six airships in the 1920s, sailed into Bradford at 10:45 AM. Thousands of people gathered at the airport in anticipation and their first glimpse of this type of airship thrilled them through and through. The "Vigilant" was 128 feet long, and 35 feet in diameter. It had a capacity of 85,000 cubic feet of helium gas, and had two Warner-Scarab motors of 110 horse power each. Its cruising speed was from 15 to 50 miles per hour, and the ship's top speed was 60 miles per hour.

Bradford's Guest Today



The "Vigilant," next to youngest of the Goodyear fleet of dirigibles, is due in Bradford at 10 o'clock this morning, weather permitting, for a brief visit. The craft will anchor at Emery field.

During its two hour stay, many prominent businessmen and newspapermen were given rides in the ship. All agreed that "blimping" was an enjoyable method of travel. Among

those taken for rides were R.J. Brennan, Col. A.D. Burns, M.B. McDowell, C.G. Taylor, W.A. Abrams, W. Cummings, Ray Chamberlain, R.L. Mason, R. Williams, W.T. Piper, R.W. Bissett, L. Stoner, Forest Dorn, Clarence Hopp, J. Grady, J. Densmore, J.B. O'Day, E. Wallace, M. Ferkio, David B. Rupley (editor of the Bradford Era) and Fred Totten (editor of the Star-Record)

The Bradford Era wrote: "one experiences quite a thrill in going up in a ship of this type. When leaving the ground it goes straight up in the air and after getting adequate altitude, the ship glides along as though it were on the smoothest highway....the greatest thrill is experienced when the blimp heads its nose to the ground for the landing. It seems as though the ship would crash nose first, but a simple turn of a wheel, and it is level with the ground again."

The blimp was brought to Bradford through the courtesy of the General Garage company and the Chamberlain Sales company of Bradford. It was flown here by a crew of three, with Charles Brannigan, an experienced blimp pilot, in charge. From Bradford, the dirigible headed towards Akron, Ohio, however, it only made it as far as the Butler, PA airport. With winds of 32 miles per hour, the ship attempted to land two times, but was unable to get the mooring mast erected. A decision was made to rip open the gas bags and let the blimp sink to the ground in a heap. It was then taken to Akron by truck. Airship had refueled, but could not manage the take off. Deflation was ordered, and the "Vigilant" ended up in a pile of silk and cord. No one was injured.

(Note: to our knowledge at the Bradford Landmark, no other airship ever landed here)

Turn Back Time - and read all about it!

Each week, the Bradford Landmark Society writes a short, two page article on an interesting event or person in Bradford's history. These "time capsules" are then put on the Internet, via Bradford Online, and are available for viewing. If you have never read any of them before, or don't know how to reach us, the address is www.bradford-online.com/np/landmark. If you don't have any Internet access, and would like to read them, reprints are available from the Bradford Landmark, 45 E. Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701 for 50 cents each, OR if you prefer, all 45 time capsule articles are available bound together in a notebook for a cost of \$20.00, plus shipping (about \$3.20).

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Armory Building● The Moose Temple Building● The Bradford High School● The Herbig Bakery● The First United Methodist Church● The Bradford Brewery● The Hooker-Fulton Building● The History of the Emery Hotel● The Grand Theater● The Bradford Baseball Team of 1923● The First Presbyterian Church● Emery Hardware Company● Nitroglycerin Explosion at Marshburg● Civil War Monument in Oak Hill● The Bradford Theater (Shea's)● The Valley Hunt● Bradford Women's Christian Temperance Union● The Streets of Bradford● Bradford's 1st City Hall, 1883-1894● The Dresser Home● The Zippo Ski Slope● The South Bradford School fire - 1950 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Veteran's Square - The Public Square● Bradford's Old Post Office● The History of Zippo● The Carnegie Public Library● St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Church● The St. James Hotel● History of Boy Scout Camps in McKean County● Bradford's 2nd City Hall, 1898-1998● Brief History of the Kendall Refining Company● The Spanish American War● Memorial Day in Bradford - late 19th Century● Case Cutlery Company● The Day the Sun Went Out in Bradford● The Last Steam Train Out of Bradford● Bradford's Old Cemeteries● Saying it With Flowers - Graham Florist history● Civil War Survivors● Bradford National Bank● The Iceman Cometh● The Lobo Wolves● The Main Street Fire of 1895● Miss Jennings - the Incredible Pacing Mare |
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Do You Remember?

When the Derrick City School burned in 1920

A school is an important part of a community, and when one is destroyed, the whole town suffers. Derrick City was a community of farmers, oil field workers, and railroad men, and when the school caught fire on Saturday, March 6, 1920, the community lost one of its prominent - and most important - buildings.

It had been a cold year, and the first week in March proved no exception. The students who attended the two story red brick schoolhouse in Derrick City were glad that the week of studies was over, and they could go home to their chores. Not one of them realized that it would be the last time that they ever attended that schoolhouse.

Sometimes fate plays a lucky hand - so it was fortunate that the school was closed when the fire started. It was believed that the fire started by over pressure of gas, and although the school had been constructed right after the turn of the century of brick, it burned furiously, and was totally consumed in a short period of time.

Ironically, the school might have been saved, but for the actions of the Bradford Fire Chief Charles Henderson, who refused to send aid to Derrick City. Whether the arrival of the Bradford Fire Department with their chemical apparatus would have made a difference in the fire was never determined, but Henderson, when questioned the next day, stated that he had received phone calls for help from some unidentified women, but declined to take Bradford's heavy apparatus to their aid. He added by the time he received the calls, the fire was underway to such a degree that the chemical truck would have been useless, and furthermore, the high winds and lack of a water supply made the fire uncontrollable.

In a short time, the school burned to a shell. By 1922, the school was rebuilt, and this school still stands today, and was in continual use until last year when it was closed by the Bradford School System.

Henderson continued as the fire chief of the Bradford Fire Department for another 8 years, dying of a heart attack on January 2, 1928. Appointed as Fire Chief in 1908, his career had been a long and distinguished one. Under his tenure, the central fire station was built, the first motorized fire truck was brought in 1911, and all horse drawn fire apparatus was eliminated by 1919. Following his retirement, he was elected to serve as Treasurer of McKean County, but died shortly before he took office. His decision to let the school burn without rendering assistance was never questioned.

Happy Birthday to Us!

The Bradford Landmark Society was formed on May 13, 1969 - 29 years ago

In May 1969, a group of Bradford residents, interested in the historical development, preservation, and conservation of Bradford history, met at the Carnegie Library to form an organization that would meet these goals. Twenty nine years later, we are still here, and going strong.

Charles Rowe, D. Harvey Phillips, Daniel Daly, Harold Krantz, Virginia Loveland Miles, Dr. Mary Swartz, Mrs. Bennett Friedman, and Marion Bromeley served on that organizing committee, writing the by-laws and finding a slate of officers.

On May 27, 1969, Jack Coit was elected as the first president of the Society, with David Pytcher as vice-president, Virginia Miles as secretary, and George Tiffany, Treasurer. The Society was incorporated in July 1969.

Over the years, many projects have been undertaken, all successfully. The Herbig Bakery, a small building on E. Corydon Street, which had been in existence as a bakery since the early 1870s was purchased in the summer of 1972 from Virginia Loveland Miles, granddaughter of Gus Herbig. Gus Herbig had purchased the bakery in 1891 from the original baker, Celeste Gaul (thus the name "The French Bakery"). The building remained in the Herbig family for three generations. Restored to serve as the Society headquarters, it still remains today as the repository for all sorts of historical documents, newspapers, photographs, family histories, business and commercial history, and papers relating to the history of the city and the Bradford area.

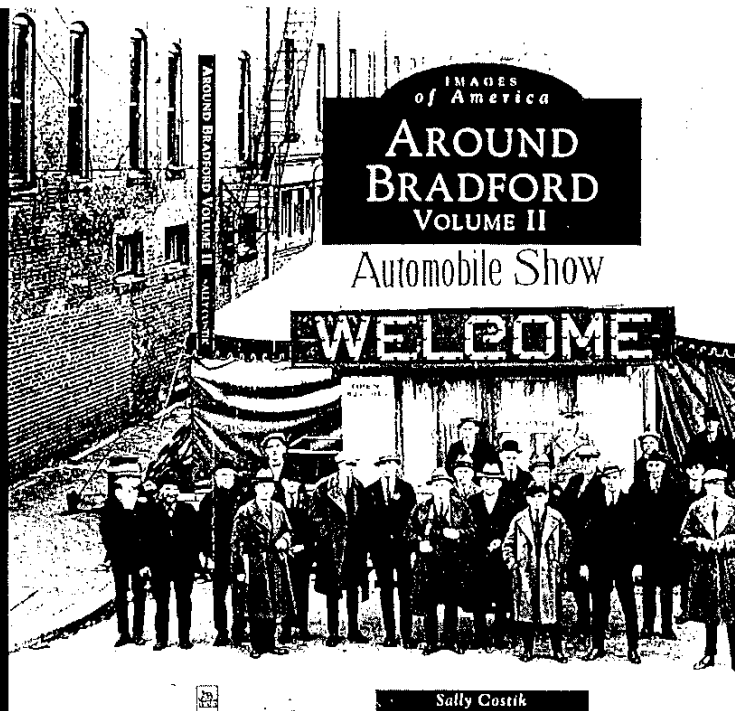
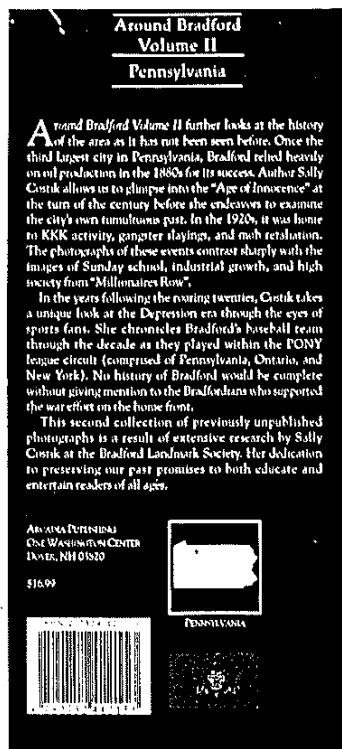
The Crook Farm was purchased in 1975. The 22 acre farm, located on Seaward Avenue, was built in 1846 and was occupied continuously by the same family until its purchase. It was restored back to its original condition, and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. Today, the Historical Crook Farmstead encompasses both the original farmhouse, barn, carpenter shop, a restored & renovated freight station from North Kendall Avenue, the former Crooker School house (moved from West Corydon street), and the most recent addition, a full size replica of the first bank in Bradford, Whitney & Wheeler's Tuna Valley Bank.

Over the years, the Bradford Landmark Society has held antique shows, helped to establish a firemen's museum above the Central Fire Station, was active in the initial restoration of City Hall on Kennedy Street, held Craftsmen's Foliage Fairs (forerunner of the Crook Farm Country Fair), and held Heritage Days, featuring tours of local historic houses and businesses.

Today, the Landmark is actively promoting history by the publication of its photographic history books, *Around Bradford* and *Around Bradford, II*. The Crook Farm has recently undergone extensive renovation of the farmhouse, guaranteeing its existence for generations to come. Our school children program delights over a thousand children each year on their annual visit to the school, to live "a hundred years ago". Our membership is strong, and growing, and learning more about the heritage of our city.

This is a sneak
preview of the
new book *Around
Bradford II*:

The new book is coming
along nicely, and we
expect publication to be
on time in June. In the
meantime, here is a copy
of the cover which will
be used. It is a
photograph of an
automobile show which
was held on Chambers
Street in the early 1920s.
Further information on
the photograph will be
included inside the book.



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June 1998 Edition

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No. 51

Bradford Landmark Society Board of Directors

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Crook Farm

Trudie Ostrander
Doris Knight

Herbig Bakery Hours:

11 AM - 2 PM
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Or Call 362-3906

Crook Farm Hours:

1 PM - 4 PM
Tuesday thru Friday
Or Call 362-6730



Bradford's Other Tornado

The recent tornado of 1998 brings back memories of the tornado of 1919. That tornado ripped through Clarion., Rochester, and High Streets, killing two persons and injuring several others. The Bradford Era wrote: "Death and destruction rode in a vortex of a tornado which struck Bradford about 3:30PM yesterday afternoon, and vented its elemental rage over a section of



the city beginning in the upper Erie yards, cutting a clearly defined course about five hundred feet wide and resulting in the death of an aged lady known only as Mrs. Riddell who resided in a house far up on Mt. Raub near the old grade of the B.B. & K. railroad, and of little Anthony Frederick Hart, 13-months old son of Mr. & Mrs. Sylvester Hart of 53 Clarion Street." Irene Slotta, and Alice Hart, daughters of the Harts, were recent visitors in the Landmark Society and shared some memories of their parents

and the tornado. Their mother was in the house on Clarion Street when the sky became black. She heard a roar - like a train - and the next thing she knew she was in the hospital. Newspaper reports stated that she was in her home when the twister struck. She was holding a baby - Ludwig, age 13 months - in her arms, and was blown over the trunk of an upturned tree about 14" in diameter, and across Tuna Creek, where she was found in a field, suffering from shock. Baby Ludwig suffered only minor scratches. Her other son, 2 1/2 year old Anthony, had been playing out in the field when the twister struck. He suffered a broken leg and a fractured skull, and died from his injuries a few days later. The footbridge across Thompson Avenue was twisted to pieces, and the wreckage dropped into the stream; scores of barns and power houses were warped out of shape or totally flattened; crops of corn, potatoes, and beans were either blown over or torn loose at the roots, and about 50 monuments at St. Bernard's cemetery were blown over. The damage was so bad that the Era wrote: "the sites were stripped of all evidence that human habitation had existed there". We might consider ourselves lucky that no one was injured or killed in 1998.

New Acquisitions to the Landmark

Many thanks to Mrs. Estelle Johnston who kindly donated several hats to the Landmark Society recently. We have a wonderful collection of hats dating back to the late 1880s, and appreciate the latest addition!

Recent Visitor to the Landmark

Mike Sheehan, youngest son of John "Tubber" Sheehan, famed inventor of the "Tubber" - a delightful concoction of spanish peanuts, ice cream, chocolate sauce, and marshmallow cream - recently visited the Herbig Bakery to do research on his family tree. Mike's father, Tubber Sheehan, worked at Abby Murphy's drug store where he invented the ice cream treat before World War I. Mike Sheehan now lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma. A traditional "tubber" is made in a tall, 14" soda glass - the big ones. You start with a scoop of vanilla ice cream (or a flavor of your choice), then chocolate sauce, then marshmallow cream, then spanish peanuts, topped off with a cherry. If it ever gets hot around here again, try one. You'll be tasting a part of Bradford's delicious history.

Visit Us At City Hall in July

The Bradford Landmark Society will be part of the celebration at the old City Hall this summer, during Zippo Week, July 17-18. We will be having a display inside the old building on the history of City Hall, with photographs and text and will be selling some of our books, cotton throws, yellow dogs, and videos that illustrate the history of our city. It promises to be a lot of fun. There will be an art display inside the old offices as well, and the whole place will be lit with oil lamps to give it that "old fashioned" feeling. Of course, the old City Hall was never lit with gas lights, since it was built in 1898 with the latest in electrical lighting available. This year it celebrates its 100th birthday.

Historical Dates to Remember

June 14, 1894.....2nd City Hall on Congress Street burns
June 2, 1992.....Tullah Hanley dies, age unknown
June 5, 1931....Gangsters Al Ritchie & Tony Macchio killed
June 25, 1950.....Cornerstone of St. Francis Church laid
June 28, 1937.....Tom Mix visits Bradford
July 2, 1901.....Carnegie Library on Congress St. dedicated
July 4, 1919.....First airplane lands in Bradford
July 4, 1900.....Buffalo Bill Wild West Show comes to town
July 11, 1919.....American Legion in Bradford organized
July 14, 1875.....Jackson Walker well, 1st oil well drilled

The Crook Farm Country Fair is Coming! August 29 & 30

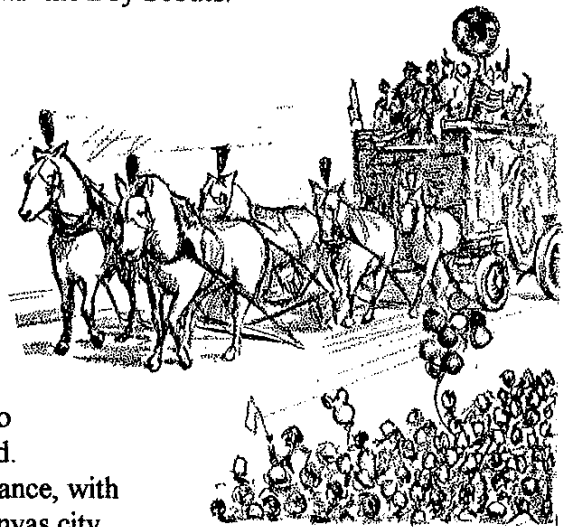
The 19th Annual Crook Farm Country Fair is just around the corner. Handmade crafts, food, music, games, antiques, and more will be at the Fair. Visit the Crook Farmhouse and see the new renovations. Check out the new bank - a replica of the "Whitney Wheeler Tuna Valley Bank" - the first bank in Bradford. Visit the Bradford Landmark Society booth and register to win door prizes. \$2.00 admission, and free parking. Fun for All!

Do You Remember?

When the Circus Came to Town in 1936?

It was a memorable day on July 4, 1936 when the Ringling Brothers-Barnum and Bailey circus came to town. The Old Home Week celebration that July was spectacular, and the climax was a huge parade down Main Street. An estimated 35,000 were on hand to see the event, which was touted as one of the biggest parades ever to be seen on Main Street. Police reported that crowds had remained on the streets Friday night until the early hours of Saturday, when the first section of the circus train arrived. A tired but enthusiastic crowd watched the erection of the big top at Seaward Avenue, and later lined the streets in anticipation of the parade. The parade wound from its formation on Davis Street up Main Street, and through Mechanic Street, Walker Avenue, and Williams Street, back to Davis Street. The parade itself also police units, the Bradford High School Band, local and visiting fire companies, and area marching bands. An additional 31 temporary policemen were added to the police force for the parade, assisted by the DeMolay lodge and the Boy Scouts.

At 12:15 PM the parade moved out. Almost immediately, an accident occurred when a circus wagon, pulled by eight work horses pulling a 36-foot equipment wagon, bolted when a bystander threw a fire cracker directly under their feet. Frightened, the horses and wagon swerved into the crowds lining the streets near the theater. Charlotte Whelan of Smethport was thrown to the ground and the right rear wheel of the wagon passed over her left leg. Leon Healey and Hugh Meldrum, members of a color guard passing in the parade, offered immediate assistance, and she was rushed to the hospital. Although her leg was amputated in a effort to save her life, she died within the week. She was 45 years old. Meanwhile, the circus show that night set records for attendance, with 26,000 people watching two performances. The massive canvas city erected on the show grounds on Seaward Avenue (where present day KOA is located) was the focal point of the vast crowds from 5AM Saturday morning until the last wagon left the lot on early Sunday morning bound for the circus train of more than 80 steel cars. The seven rings and stages included trained seals, clowns, the Flying Concellos, tight rope walkers, a wild west show, dogs, horses, and the grand finale of Hugo and Mario Zacchini being shot from a cannon into a net on the opposite side of the tent. In all, it was one of the most memorable events ever seen in the city, and no one who was there can ever forget when "The Greatest Show on Earth" came to Bradford.



(Note: The last circus train came to Bradford in 1949. Today's children must travel to a larger city such as Buffalo or Pittsburgh to witness what the lucky kids of 1936 saw in their own backyard)

History of Boy Scout Camps in McKean County

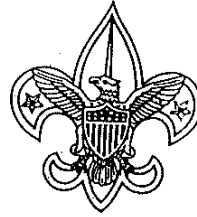
Camping and Boy Scouts just seem to go together. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Elk Lick Boy Scout Camp in Bordell near Farmers Valley, but the history of scout camping can be traced back 75 years.

On February 8, 1910, the Boy Scouts of America were chartered for the first time in the United States. On November 1, 1913, the first Boy Scout Troop in Bradford was organized under the direction of Philo Blaisdell, nephew of Zippo founder George Blaisdell. The first meeting was held at the Cyclone vacuum factory on Blaisdell Avenue. Before the night was out, Troop 1 was underway.

In 1923 the first camp was established by Robert Dresser of Bradford at Brockton, NY, near the present day Lake Erie State Park. Securing a campground at Rowlands Beach, the scouts left for camp on August 20, 1923 for a two week stay. Once there, they experienced some thrilling adventures. Henry Graff, camp scribe wrote: "the Boy Scouts arrived safely at about 5PM Monday. We erected the tents and were glad to get into our cots. A little wind storm started early in the evening and increased in volume until it developed into a terrific gale. It was very severe Tuesday when it blew down our tents. But the Boy Scouts never get downhearted, so we set to work and in a short time had put the tents up again and restored order. We boys never accept defeat, even from a wind storm." The boys also witnessed Lake Erie life guards searching for five missing barges, rescuing their passengers by shooting life lines to their assistance, and helped pull a limousine out of a ditch and pushed it to a nearby gas station (remember, this was 1923!).

In 1924 and 1925, camp was moved to Camp Dekanawida, located two miles east of Colegrove on the Heinemann estate. The camp name was chosen

by a list submitted by the Hon. Rufus Stone of Bradford and was taken from the Seneca Indian language meaning the junction of two mountain streams. A large mess hall and kitchen were erected, and a parade ground cleared off. Tents were pitched, and a real old-fashioned swimming hole was ready nearby. Fifty two boys attended the first term of camp that year.



In 1926 the Boy Scout camp was moved to Camp Shinnawanna near Port Allegany, and remained there for the next two years.

In 1929, Camp HoDahWe was opened near Coudersport, and remained as the main boy scout camp for the next 12 years. Declared one of the best in the state, the camp included 1300 acres of land and was abundant with wild life. The dedication, held July 13, 1929 was one of the most unusual ever witnessed. Robert Lewis, secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and KT Barrie, assistant scout executive, were made tribal chiefs in the Seneca Indian nation. Chief Shongo and twenty Indian braves from the Seneca reservation held a ceremony renaming the camp, and officially named the camp Ho-Dah-We, meaning "that which gives". Scouts that attended the camp were given a small arrow badge with a "H" honoring their stay at the camp. An ice mine near the camp was used as a natural refrigerator for camp provisions. In 1936 the weekly fee for attending camp was only \$5.00.

In July of 1941 the Lewis Run Boy Scouts opened their own camp at PCL Town (Pennsylvania Coal and Lumber) near Big Shanty, about 3 1/2 miles south of Lewis Run.

This camp was destroyed by fire on December 31, 1964, but was rebuilt and rededicated the following

year, with Charles Crockett, president of the Northern District making the dedication speech to a crowd of 300 persons.

In 1941 the council camp was moved to Bobbie's Run (an old CCC Camp) at Rich Valley (near Emporium) in Cameron County, under the direction of the McKean-Potter-Cameron Council. Charles Crawford, district chairman, spoke at the opening of the camp, and gave a brief history of past boy scout camps. This camp was also short-lived, however. In June 1942 a flash flood resulting from a storm that caused major flooding throughout the county destroyed the camp. A troop of scouts from Rew managed to hike out during the height of the storm, walking seven miles to the main road through the rain and flood swept woods. (And then they called their parents!). With the destruction of the camp, and with World War II underway, boy scout camping seemed doomed.

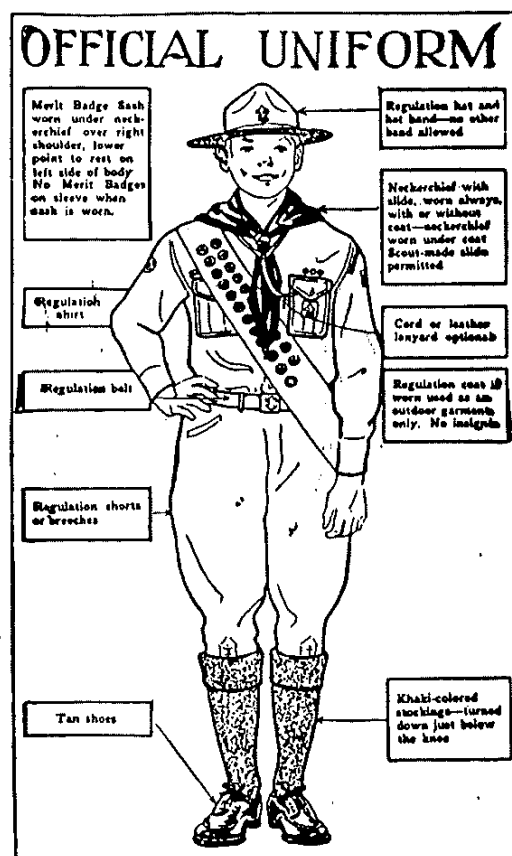
For the remainder of the war years, camp was held in Allegheny State Park, and in 1947 the scouts shared camp facilities with the YMCA in the Allegheny National Forest.

Efforts to purchase a permanent site were already underway by then. A tract of land was chosen in 1948 for the Elk Lick Memorial Reservation and purchased from the Harold H. Green estate at a cost of more than \$28,000. (Greene, a Kendall Refinery executive, had died in an air crash in September 1938). Eventually the title was acquired to Otto Koch's cottage, currently the ranger's house. Dedication ceremonies were held in October 1948 at the new scout camp with 500 in attendance. The Greene cottage became the present day trading post; in 1952 Nippert Lodge was built, and in 1955 Zimmer Lodge, currently the safety/first aid station cabin, was constructed. In 1952 the dining hall and camp staff showers were built, and in 1960-62 a massive fund drive was undertaken which brought in \$235,000. In the years following, Orlos, Hannah, Henry and Houghton Lodges were built. In 1957 a

dam and spillway were constructed, and improvements made in 1977.

This August, a ceremony will be held to honor the past 50 years of camping at Elk Lick Scout camp. The memories of thousands of boys, now men, who were a part of Boy Scouts and camping over the past 75 years will be with them.

(The Bradford Landmark Society would like to hear from past Boy Scouts and their experiences at camp - whether at Elk Lick, HoDahWe, Shinnawanna, Bobbie's Run, or Dekanawida. Please contact us at 45 E. Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701)



The Scout uniform of 1930 looks different than today's uniform.

Captain John T. Bishop

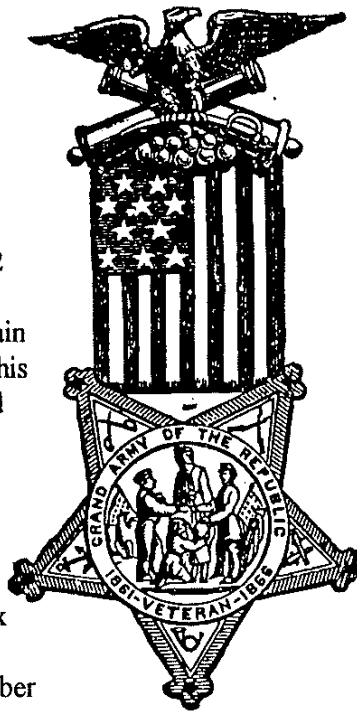
Bradford's Connection to the Formation of the Grand Army of the Republic

The Grand Army of the Republic was organized in Decatur, Ill. in April 1866, as organization composed of veteran Union Civil War soldiers for social and benevolent purposes. Colonel B. F. Stephenson became provisional Commander-in-Chief. Doctors Stephenson and J. W. Routh, former Union veterans, mustered the oath to each other, thus establishing the first membership.

Captain John T. Bishop of Bradford is credited with being the third original member of the organization. He had enlisted in Company I, 11th Illinois Volunteer Infantry August 1, 1862 as a 1st Lieutenant and was promoted to Captain in 1863. He served in this capacity until compelled to resign on account of ill-health.

Bishop was at one time a prominent citizen of Bradford and served six years as City Controller and two years as a member of the School Board. He joined the John S. Melvin Post, No. 141 of this city in 1889 and retained membership until his death.

While in Decatur, Captain Bishop met Dr. Roth as he was leaving for the train. Bishop accompanied him to his office and there Routh administered the ceremony of muster, thus making Captain Bishop the third original Grand Army Man and Bradford's



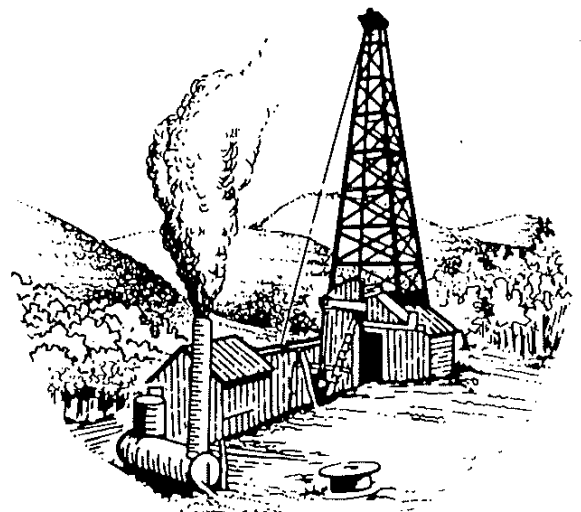
connection to the organization of G.A.R. Post No. 1, of Decatur, Ill.

Bishop died on February 22, 1904 in Pittsburgh. The **GAR organization** continued until the 1930s, when the eventual death of all its members hastened its end.

A New Book on the Local Oil Fields Now on Sale at the Landmark Society

The Bradford Landmark Society is pleased to announce that we are now selling "*Allegheny Oil - The Historic Petroleum Industry on the Allegheny National Forest*" by Philip W. Ross. The USDA Forest Service in cooperation with the Institute for the History of Technology and Industrial Archeology at West Virginia University produced this interest paperback on the history of oil production techniques dating back from 1859 to the present day. If you are interested in learning more about the basics of oil production, this is the book for you!

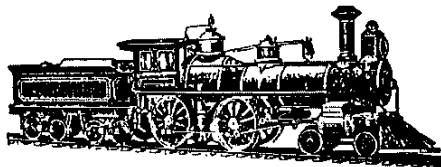
Both text and black and white photographs are fascinating. Mr. Ross was kind enough to autograph a copy of his book for the Landmark Society while visiting us at the Herbig Bakery. Books are on sale at the Bakery. Cost is \$10.



Historical Happenings Around the Area

The McKean County Historical Society in Smethport is sponsoring an oral history lecture series each Wednesday at 2:00PM in the Courthouse:

June 24.....The History of Farmers Valley
June 26.....Ice Cream is Social
July 8....."Pioneer Life 1858"
July 15.....Memories of Betula
July 22.....The Early Automobile
July 28.....Passenger Pigeons
Aug. 5.....People in Battle
Aug. 12.....One-Room Schools



A Slide-Lecture by Dick Robertson will be held each Friday afternoon at 2:00 PM in the Railroad Room in the basement of the Courthouse:

June 26.....Kinzua & Other Area Bridges
July 3.....Pittsburgh Shawmut & Northern R.R.
July 10.....Locomotives
July 17.....Bradford, Bordell & Kinzua R.R.
July 24.....The Pegleg Railroad
July 31.....Kinzua & Other Area Bridges
Aug. 7.....History of McKean County
Aug. 21.....Pittsburgh Shawmut & Northern R.R.
August 28.....Trolley Cars & Locomotives

Congratulations of the Class of '98!

The Bradford Landmark Society would like to congratulate the Class of 1998. This year marks the 117th graduating class of Bradford High School. We recently received a copy of this year's "Barker" and was very impressed with the photographs and text. The Landmark Society has a collection of Bradford High School Yearbooks (not all were called "Barkers") dating from 1919 to the present, as well as yearbooks from St. Bernard's and Central Christian dating back from 1926 to 1980. Interestingly, the names of the yearbooks have changed over the years. The Bradford High School yearbooks start out in 1919 and 1920 as the "Senior Year Book", changing its name to just "The Yearbook" in 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, and 1925. In 1926 it was called "The Blue & White"; in 1927 it was called "The Tunungwant", and in 1928, the present name "Barker" was chosen. A "barker" of course is a device used on an oil well to alert the pumper when the well was done pumping. A distinctive "bark" could be heard during operation. St. Bernard's yearbook began as "The Bernardian" in 1916, and was later changed to "The Gist" in the 1920s (and called the "The Gistlet" in the mid-1930s - a pared down version during the Depression). Later, after World War II, the name "The Rambler" was chosen, and is still used today. These old reminders of our school days still fascinate all who read them, and we invite you to stop in and look up your old classmates. We are also looking for more recent yearbooks (the 60s & 70s) and if you would like to donate one, thank you very much!

Join the Bradford Landmark Society!

Yes, I want to participate in the preservation, conservation, and collection of Bradford's history!

☐ I'm already a member. I've enclosed this year's dues.

☐ I'd like to join. Please add my name to your mailing list. Dues are enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

Yearly Dues: \$10.00 per individual, \$15.00 per family, or \$5.00 for senior citizens.

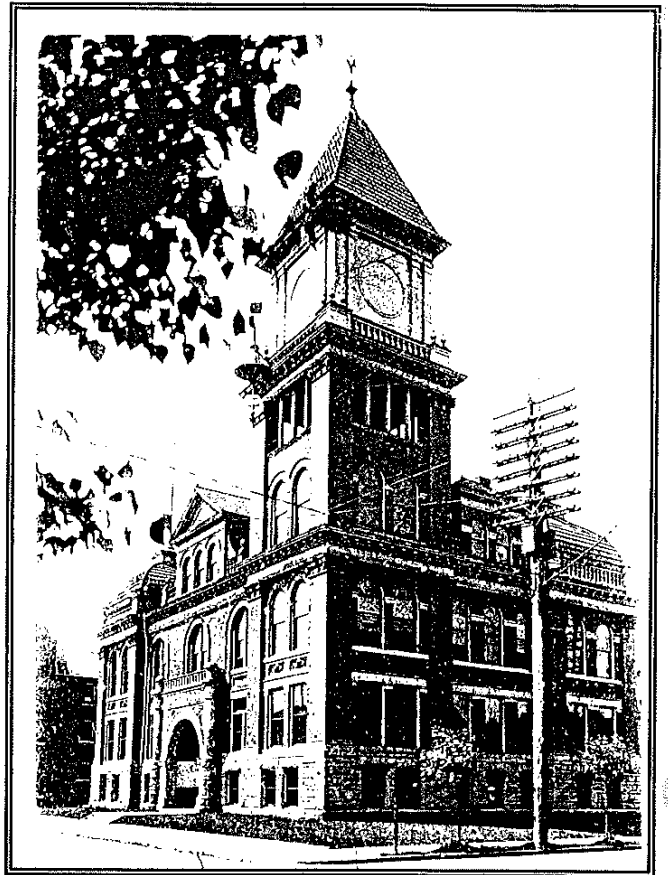
Volunteers Needed!

Have you been down to the Crook Farm lately? If so, you've noticed that we've been busy this past year, renovating the farmhouse, and constructing a replica of the first bank in Bradford, the Whitney-Wheeler Tuna Valley Bank. The original bank was built in 1879 and was located on Mechanic Street where the present day Bradford Travel Service is located (and where the old B & O Newstand stood). We are in need of volunteers who know how to swing a hammer, pound a few nails, paint, and have a few hours to spare. Contact Larry Shields at the construction site at the Crook Farm if you would like to help.

New Book is on its Way!

Arcadia Publishing, who is publishing our new *Around Bradford II* book, has notified us that the anticipated publication date will be in mid-August. The book is currently in Great Britain, being printed. The success of our first photographic history book of Bradford was so well received that we are looking forward the delivery of our new one. Watch in the local stores or at the Landmark Society for its arrival. This book covers more of this century, and ends with the 1940s. We are sure that you'll enjoy it, too.

Happy Birthday City Hall



This year marks the 100th anniversary of the building of City Hall on Kennedy Street. Built by Edward Hanley, it remained in operation as the city government building for over 60 years. It is currently undergoing renovation.

Bradford Landmark Society
45 E. Corydon Street
Bradford PA 16701

Non-Profit Organizatin
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The Bradford Landmark Society

45 East Corydon Street, Bradford Pennsylvania 16701

September Edition

814-362-3906 Hours are Mon., Wed., Fri., 11AM-2PM or by appointment.

No. 52

1998

Crook Farm Country Fair a Huge Success!

The 19th annual Crook Farm Country Fair was a great success, and a wonderful time was had by all who came. This year's attendance figures show that over 4000 people attended the festival over the weekend of August 29 & 30. Which just goes to show you that people are truly interested in local history. And the chance to buy unique, homemade, one of a kind crafts is just a bonus! To say nothing of the wonderful food and music that accompanied the festival. We can hardly wait till next year to do it all again.

The biggest draw this year was, of course, the chance to see all the changes that have taken place at the farm over the last year. We now have a replica of the Whitney Wheeler bank, which was the first bank in Bradford, established around 1876. Although not yet finished, visitors had the opportunity to see the inside of the bank and check out the progress being made on its construction. By next year the bank will be complete, and ready to welcome the public through its doors!

The Crook Farmhouse has undergone an extensive restoration over the past 12 months, and visitors were anxious to examine the improvements that had taken place.

A new foundation under the house was the first step in the restoration process. A new summer kitchen was redesigned and enlarged, just off the kitchen door, and completely rebuilt, including floors, wall

boards, and roofing. Now there's plenty of room for our spring school program students to visit. The whole downstairs was freshly wallpapered with paper reminiscent of the era, woodwork painted, and ceilings replastered.

The Bradford Landmark Society tent was located next to the creek, near the back entrance to the festival. Perhaps you visited and saw the wonderful displays that were designed by John Kijowski. He does a great job each year in setting up the booth, and scheduling volunteers. He also wrote all the copy for the handouts on the farmhouse, the school, and Herbig Bakery, and the new bank. Thank you, John!

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Bradford Landmark Society

Officers:

Warren Paynter, President
Isabelle Champlin, Vice Pres.
Anne Bouquin, Treasurer
Sue Evans, Secretary

Board Members:

Dorothy Shields
George Bey
William Kaschube
Rebecca Ryan
R. Chapin Smith

Curator

Sally Costik

Genealogist

Larry Richmond

Crook Farm

Trudie Ostrander
Doris Knight

Herbig Bakery Hours:

11 AM - 2 PM
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Or Call 362-3906

Crook Farm Hours:

1 PM - 4 PM
Tuesday thru Friday
Or Call 362-6730



Welcome New Members!

The Bradford Landmark Society is happy to announce that several new members have joined the organization in recent weeks. Thank you for becoming a member of the "family" and we hope that you enjoy this newsletter.

Kathy Vogt from Nazareth, Pennsylvania
Jo McCord from Bradford, Pennsylvania
Trisha Morris from Bradford, Pennsylvania
Larry Stratton, from Smethport, Pennsylvania
W. Leroy Beckes from Bradford, Pennsylvania
Don Hadley from Bountiful, Utah
Pat & Bonnie Buccolini from Bradford, Penna.
George Anderson from Rixford, Pennsylvania
RD Peter Graham, from Bradford, Pennsylvania
Shirley Burtcil from Bradford, Pennsylvania

The Bradford Landmark currently has 335 members on its roster. They hail from twenty-one different states all over the United States - and Canada. It is nice to know that the history of Bradford is spread all across America. Here the total number of members from each state:

Arizona.....	2
California.....	2
Canada.....	1
Connecticut.....	2
Florida.....	11
Georgia.....	1
Kansas.....	1
Louisiana.....	1
Maryland.....	3
Michigan.....	1
North Carolina.....	1
New Hampshire.....	1
New York.....	11
Ohio.....	4
Oklahoma.....	4
Pennsylvania.....	280
South Carolina.....	1
Texas.....	2
Utah.....	1
Virginia.....	1
Washington.....	2
Wisconsin.....	2

Letters from Readers

Letters, we get letters from our readers. Here's one that we thought you would like.

This letter is from Gale Abbott who was originally from Bradford, and currently lives in Fort Meyers, Florida. Its an interesting letter, and we think that you'll enjoy it:

"My grandfather, Calvin V. Abbott, was born in July 1850 and came to Bradford with his family in 1857. They settled in the area known as Bennett Brook, which encompassed much of the area from New York State line to the Bradford Hospital. It was all undeveloped territory at that time. Bradford was young, then, founded in 1825, named for Thomas Bradford (*Note: Bradford Landmark Society research shows that Bradford was founded in 1837 and originally named Littleton. The name was later changed to Bradford.*) He married Elizabeth "Lizzie" Mulligan from County Sligo, Ireland. They raised a family of 6 boys and 6 girls, many of which became prominent and well known citizens in their own right. Both Calvin Court and Abbott Road are named to honor him and his contribution to the welfare of the city of Bradford. They are buried in the Abbott compound at the top of Oak Hill Cemetery, with many of his children and grandchildren.

At one time the Abbott family ran a thriving Ice Delivery business and in addition, a thriving dairy business. The AA Tibbitts Dairy delivered their products door to door daily. The Farrell and Bolin Dairies were also nearby. They began operations prior to the turn of the century and lasted well into the 1930s. Electrical refrigeration then took over. My uncle, Calvin J. Abbott, was the principal owner of the "City Ice Co." (office was on St. James Place, between the B & O Newsroom and the Star Newspaper, and managed by Mildred Wilcox). Uncle Cal had 3 or 4 ponds that I know of, which froze every winter, and as I recall, perfect for ice skating. The ice was eventually cut and stored in ice houses in 200 pound cakes. During summer, deliveries were made around town to customers that displayed cards, hung in such a manner to indicated the amount required. (25#, 50#, 75#, 100#). I often made deliveries because as a

young man, I enjoyed driving the team of horses. I became quite proficient in cutting the ice, and could usually cut the amount to within a few ounces of the desired amount.

Another uncle, AA Tibbetts, had the dairy business. Before wagons were loaded, I often had to walk the hills and round up the cows before milking - and then making deliveries. His son, Ralph Tibbetts, also made the deliveries, while I would assemble the order of milk, whipped or coffee cream, eggs or butter, and take them to the customer's ice box, or refrigeration if they had it. Their milk was pure, grade A, unpasteurized.

I'm only pointing this out to inform you that the Abbott family made an impact on the early development of Bradford that should not be overlooked. Not everybody was in the oil business.

Yours truly, *Gale Abbott*

Thanks, Mr. Abbott, for that great information. Another letter that our readers might find of interest is from our old friend, Margrieta Hewey, who now lives down in Camp Hill, PA:

I loved the June 1998 edition of the newsletter. I remember the "other tornado". I was 9 years old - my mother had gone to a nearby store and when it got so black - I was so scared! (We had an enclosed stairway going up out of the kitchen). I went in and shut the door and sat on the stairs. Such tales were circulated: one - a man out Sawyer held on to an apple tree and it was uprooted - man & all - and transported across the little valley, and was unhurt.

Also, I remember when the circus came and the horses were scared. That was the summer I was married in August. Once my father took me at 4:00AM to see the circus arrive in town. Many of the people went to see them unload.

The opening of City Hall sounds exciting. So glad it can be of use again.

Sincerely, *Margrieta Hewey*

Visitors from Afar

Every year, tourists, travelers, family researchers, and fellow historians visit the Herbig Bakery to do research or to view our displays. This year, we took a survey to identify just where all those people are

coming from! It turns out that our visitors arrive from all across the nation.

March - we had visitors from Mayville, NY; Lake Forest Park, WA.

April - visitors came from Rockville, MD; Oak Hickory, TN; Limestone, NY; Cyclone, PA; Oakmont, PA.

May - our visitors included folks from Fort Wayne, IN; Edgewood, MD; and Houston, TX.

June - people came from Portland, OR; Tulsa, OK, Mentor, OH; and Lanham, MD.

July - Denver, CO; Goldsboro, NC; Atlanta, GA.

August - Rye, NY; Washington, DC; Carlsbad, CA; Fremont, CA; Rochester, NY; Irvine, CA; Oklahoma City, OK; Bowling Green, KY; and Erie, PA.

Of course, this doesn't count all the telephone queries, local visitors, or those who don't sign our guest book. Why don't you add your name to our list of visitors sometime soon?

The Bradford Landmark Society Presents

The Tell Tale Tombstone

A lecture on the history of Bradford's cemeteries and interesting tombstones

**Thursday night
Oct. 28th at 7:00 PM
at
the Community Room,
Bradford Area Library
Admission is free.**

A lecture on the history of our city's cemeteries, a look at some unusual and intriguing grave-stones, and the symbolism behind the stonework.

Join us for this Historic Halloween Happening!

New Accessions to Our Collection

People have been very generous lately, donating items to the collection of the Bradford Landmark Society. The following is just some of the interesting items that have recently been brought into the Herbig Bakery:

Paul Simons: Red felt school safety patrol envelope hat; class photograph of Bradford Senior High School during spring trip to Mount Vernon, Virginia; set of glass baby bottles (8 oz. and 4 oz.) and a doll's glass baby bottle; a steam iron, c. 1940s.

Margaret Bryner: Child's skirt, hat, and waistband, c. 1910; woman's skirt, blue wool, c. 1910; four pair of silk stockings.

Mike Fair: Photograph of the Bradford High School class of 1934 reunion at the Penn Hills Club on July 20, 1970. All members are identified.

Diane Arnett: Three Bradford Central Christian "Rambler" yearbooks, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997; "Tracks in the Snow, Stories of Childhood and Historical Recollections" by Merle Dickinson; 1988 Writers' Anthology (Bradford writers).

Warren Country Historical Society: Photograph album, padded cover, most photographs unidentified.

Finding Us on the Internet

Did you know that the Bradford Landmark Society writes an article each week and posts it on the Internet through the Bradford On-Line web site? We have covered over 25 different historical topics that range from the histories of local churches, events, buildings, companies, hotels, and theaters. Take a moment each week and join us, and learn more about your town in the process! Here's how to find us:

www.bradford-online.com/np/landmark/

The following article is an example of what you'll find each week in our "time capsules".

After graduation, he returned to Bradford, and specialized in hospital and school design. Some his local designs include the present day Seneca building, School Street Junior High School, M.J. Ryan School in Lafayette; Fourth Ward, Lincoln, Custer City, West Branch, Lee Driver, Hobson Place, and Rew grade schools.

He also designed the Bradford filling station on the corner of Congress and Main Streets; the Kendall filling station at Lantz Corners; the Hanley Company offices; the S. R. Dresser Mfg. Co. offices; the Star publishing plant on St. James Place; the addition to the First Presbyterian Church; renovations to the Terminal building; both the C. E. Streeter home on



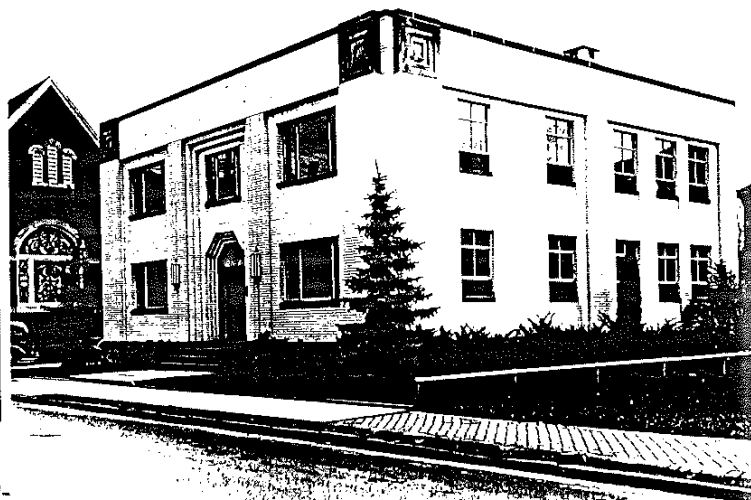
The Hanley Company building at 28 Kennedy Street, built in the early 1930s. Today this building is still standing and is called the Kubiak building. The Bradford Water Authority offices are located here.

Jackson Avenue and the W.J. Sloan home on Kennedy Street. In addition, he designed numerous other residential and commercial buildings both located in Bradford and the surrounding territory.

Some of his out of town projects included educational buildings at Mansfield State Teachers College (presently Mansfield University), the Elk County Hospital at Ridgway, the Soldiers and Sailors Hospital in Wellsboro, the Port Allegany Hospital, the YMCA in Olean, NY, and the YMCA in Warren, PA.

Hendryx practiced his profession in Bradford for 43 years. He died in June, 1970 at the age of 74, and is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery.

The International Order of Odd Fellows building, dedicated in February 1932. Built by Hendryx, it is known today as the Seneca building.



Where to Go to Learn the Facts

Two years ago, the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford had a wonderful idea. Let's work together! To that end, the Bradford Landmark Society, in conjunction with other local historic organizations in Bradford and in McKean County, compiled a listing of genealogical and historic research sources that are available in the area. This listing covered each organizations' name, their addresses, and telephone numbers, and gave a complete description of their historic holdings. Each organization, no matter how large or small, strove to give an accurate account of their facilities. To our knowledge, it was the first time that such a project had taken place - and we commend those other historical societies, libraries, museums, the University of Pittsburgh, and the courthouse for cooperating so graciously. Brochures containing this information is now available throughout the county, and is a great aid in helping historic researchers.

We have included some of the information listed in that brochure, for your own education. Please visit our neighbors and support history in our county!

Bradford Area Public Library

67 W. Washington Street, Bradford, PA
814-362-6527

Library holdings include the Bradford Era on microfilm (1878-present); city directories, histories of the county, town, and families. Necrology for Bradford and cemetery listings for the county and the bordering areas.

Penn-Brad Oil Museum

3 miles south of Bradford, Rte. 219, Custer City, PA
368-5574 (winter) ----- 362-1955 (summer)

Displays and memorabilia relating to the oil industry in the area, focusing on the 90,000 Bradford Oil Field, and also covering Penn Grade Crude production from the New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio,

and West Virginia. Information about the history, production statistics, people and companies participating in the business for the last 127 years; issues of *Producers' Monthly*, local newspaper pages and issues; and an extensive collection of books on regional oil history, production, recovery techniques, and equipment.

Hanley Library

T. Edward & Tullah Hanley Memorial Library
University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, 300 Campus Drive, Bradford, PA. 362-7610. Hours may vary.

Holds the collection of the McKean County Genealogical Society, including family, local, county and regional histories; genealogies of local families, necrologies, cemetery listings, and census film for McKean Co. and all surrounding counties. Also holds histories of oil, railroad, and other industrial activities germane to the region. Elizabeth Emery Kennedy Fesenmeyer's scrapbooks provide one woman's perspective on life in the region from 1922-1981.

Bradford Landmark Society

45 E. Corydon Street, Bradford, PA. 362-3906

Extensive collection of local historic photographs, memorabilia, documents, and records, including newspapers: (1888-1946 *Bradford Era*), and select issues of the *Bradford Evening Star*, *Evening Star and Daily Record*, *Bradford Herald*, *Bradford Miner*; city directories (1881-1973 - incomplete); oil history books, books by local authors; Bradford's magazine *City Limits*, obituary index (1800-present); cemetery listings by headstone; high school year books; class photographs; Bradford High School's Current magazine; special collections of Saints & Sinners, area cookbooks, greeting cards; family collections; Civil War soldier GAR records; muster rolls of Spanish American Soldiers; and extensive files on the fire department and related topics; the military; theaters; churches; businesses and industry; individuals; schools; also a disaster file.

Currently over 6,000 items are listed on the Landmark Society's computer index to the history of Bradford.

McKean Co. Historical Society

In the courthouse, Main Street, Smethport, PA.

Exhibits of early life in McKean County, including old fashioned country store, schoolhouse room, period clothier, oil field materials, and a railroad room. Holds area histories, McKean County Miner on microfilm, records of all cemeteries. Library contains history of McKean County and its people.

McKean County Courthouse

Main Street, Smethport, PA. 887-5571

Register of Wills Office: *birth & death records (1892-1906); marriage records (1885-present); wills (1827-present)*. Prothonotary: *court and legal records (1827-present)*. Recorder: *deeds and land information*.

Family History Center

and Thomas L. Kane Memorial Chapel
30 Chestnut Street, Kane, PA 837-9729

The Family History Center provides facilities and materials for genealogical research; and is operated by the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints. The memorial chapel contains artifacts, documents, and information of local historic interest.

Eldred World War II Museum

201 Main Street, Eldred, PA 225-2220

Commemorates the efforts of the people of Eldred, Bradford, Olean, and the surround communities during World War II. Features a video chronicling the history of the war from the perspective of the National Munitions company which was located in

Eldred during the war. Includes computer-activated dioramas representing events in both major theaters of war, animated maps, posters, letters from Allied generals, and a library.

Kane High School Library

300 Hemlock Street, Kane, PA 837-9640

Holds the *Kane Republican* on microfilm.

Friends Memorial Library

230 Chase Street, Kane, PA 837-7010

Kane directories 1908-1948 (incomplete series); local and area histories, Kane Area yearbooks 1919-present.

S.W. Smith Memorial Library

Church Street, Port Allegany, PA 642-16743

Holds the *Reporter Argus* from June 3, 1874 to the present on microfilm; small collection of local histories.

Hamlin Memorial Library

123 S. Mechanic Street, Smethport, PA 887-9262

Collection contains books relating to local families, Smethport, and McKean County.

Mt. Jewett Memorial Library

9 Main Street, Mt. Jewett, PA 778-5588

Contains local history pertaining to the Mt. Jewett area.



Historical Happenings Around the Town

September 8, 1948	Bradford-McKean Regional Airport dedicated.
September 11, 1996	Witco Corp. sells Kendall name to Sun Oil.
September 11, 1945	Parking meters installed on Main Street.
September 13, 1920	Freight train collision on Kendall Avenue - no one injured.
September 19, 1941	Nitroglycerin explosion in Marshburg kills two men.
September 24, 1950	"The Blackout" - Bradford covered in total darkness for 2 hours.
September 25, 1888	2nd annual Bucktail Reunion of Civil War Vets held in Bradford.
September 28, 1943	Ethel Barrymore plays in "The Corn is Green" at Shea's Theater.
September 30, 1929	Harri Emery's plane crashed near Kane, killing all four aboard.
October 1, 1986	Carnegie Library changes its name to the Bradford Area Library.
October 3, 1901	Carrie Nation lectures in the city on the evils of sin and drink.
October 8, 1893	St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Church dedicated.
October 11, 1889	Driving Park and Fairgrounds on Congress Street organized.
October 13, 1876	Rube Waddell, famed left handed pitcher, born on Jackson Ave.
October 13, 1961	1st service held in new Temple Beth El on Jackson Avenue.
October 19, 1898	Spanish American War soldiers return to Bradford.
October 21, 1950	Melvin Douglas plays in "Two Blind Mice" at Shea's Theater.
November 2, 1931	The Hooker Fulton building officially opened.
November 4, 1921	Gangster shootout at 3:30PM on corner of Davis and Main Streets.
November 5, 1915	Father William Coonan, priest at St. Bernard's for 38 years, dies.
November 6, 1924	Star Garage on Barbour Street destroyed by fire.
November 6, 1979	Daisy Welch, locally famous creator of "Peanut Dolls", dies.
November 10, 1964	Butterkrust Bakery ceases operations.
November 11, 1922	Carl Sandburg speaks before the Women's Literary Club
November 11, 1959	Public Square name officially changed to Veteran's Square.
November 16, 1883	General U.S. Grant, former US president, visits Kinzua Bridge.
November 18, 1922	Jazz music banned in Bradford High School.
November 18, 1924	Louis Emery, oil entrepreneur, dies at age of 85.

Bradford Landmark Society

45 E. Corydon Street
Bradford PA 16701

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

Bradford, Penna.

Permit 247

