

Kennedy Springs & Pecunia
THE BRADFORD LANDMARK SOCIETY



The Inkwell

45 E. Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701

814-362-3906

May 2000 edition

The Bradford Landmark Society Board of Directors

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Isabelle Champlin, President
George Bay, Vice President
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Rick Benton
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Inside this edition of The Inkwell:

Do You Remember.....Kennedy Springs?
Famous Visitors to Bradford.....Tom Mix
Do You Want to be a Bradford
Millionaire?
and our newest section, featuring the
history of a building, house, and church
each newsletter.

Annual Dinner a Huge Success!

The annual Bradford Landmark Society membership dinner was held Friday April 7 at the University of Pitt at Bradford, in Dining Rooms A & B, and if the reaction of the members was any indication, it was a memorable night.

Following a delicious dinner of vegetarian lasagna, stuffed chicken breasts, salads, and desserts, President Isabelle Champlin opened the annual business meeting. First on the agenda was the introduction of the two newest members of the Bradford Landmark Society's Board of Directors, Rick Benton and Shelley Harvey. She also noted with sadness, the passing this last year of three of the Landmark Society's most faithful members, "Doc" Dr. Donald Watkins, George Kish, and Dr. June Pfister Gray.

Next, she outlined the changes and improvements that have taken place both at the Herbig Bakery, and at the Crook Farm. The farmhouse roof has been finished, and a new mowing tractor purchased for the grass at the Crook farm. The Herbig Bakery also received a new roof over its back portion, which suffered damage last year due to ice.

Following the membership meeting, the room was thrown open to the public to hear the featured speaker of the evening, Dr. Jerry Zolten, an Assistant Professor of Speech, Communications, and American Studies at Penn State, Altoona campus. Nearly 60 people attended. His topic, "We Were What We Laughed At: Stand-up Comedy, Ethnic Image, and Changing Social Values" literally had the Landmark audience laughing out loud as he played rare audio clips, videos, and CD featuring America's best known and loved comedians. From Abbot and Costello's "Who's on First" to Bill Cosby's "Noah. Who, Me Lord?" routine, the evening was a most memorable and enjoyable night.

This may be your last edition of *The Inkwell*! Our records show that we have not received your membership dues since:

- ☐ 1995 – Five years! Have you moved? We'd love to hear from you!
- ☐ 1996 – Its been a long four years. Let's keep in touch.
- ☐ 1997 – Three years is a long time to go. Please send your membership dues today!
- ☐ 1998 – It seems like only yesterday since we heard from you.
- ☐ 1999 – If you've forgotten this year's dues, its time to renew them! Don't let this copy of *The Inkwell* be your last one!
- ☐ 2000 – Ignore this message. You're all paid up for the new year. Great way to start the new millenium! Thanks.
- ☐ Life Members – Ignore this message. You're doing a wonderful job supporting the history of Bradford and we really appreciate it! (Remember – you now have a life long subscription to *The Inkwell*.)

Did you know that the Bradford Landmark Society has over 350 members, all across the United States (and one lady in Canada)? Remember, a membership with the Bradford Landmark Society means more than just a newsletter every four months. Your membership dollars help to preserve the history of Bradford, help us to expand, and continue to operate both the Herbig Bakery in downtown Bradford at 45 E. Corydon Street, and the Crook Farm out on Seaward Avenue.

\$5.00 senior citizen, \$10.00 individual, \$15.00 family, or \$100 life membership.

Yes, I'm just forgetful. Here are my yearly dues:

Name _____ Amount _____

Address _____



And don't forget to come to the Fair! The Crook Farm Fair is coming in August. The Bradford Landmark Society is already busy making plans and scheduling crafters, getting the food and ice cream ordered, mowing the grass and praying for good weather!

Remember, its going to be held on August 26 & August 27 at the Crook Farm.

Sawmills Among the Derricks now available

SAWMILLS AMONG THE DERRICKS

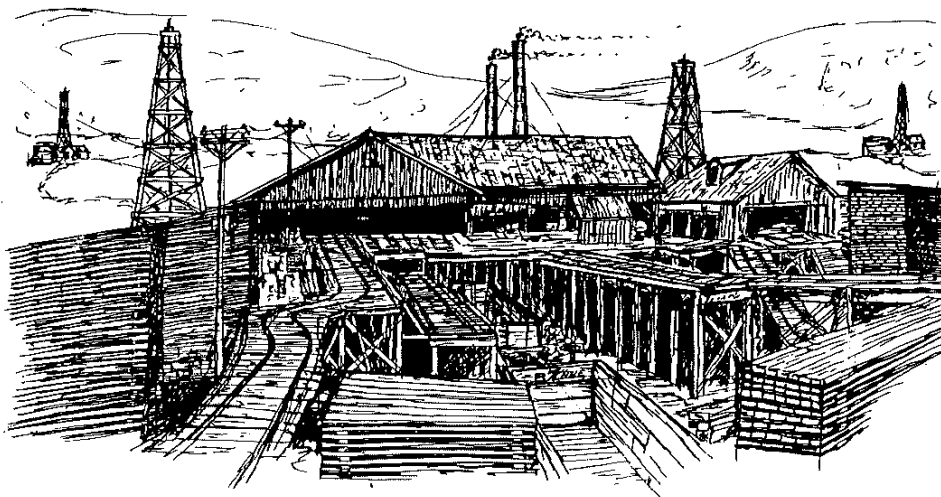
KANE

KINZUA VALLEY

BRADFORD

CROSBY

LEWIS RUN



Thomas T. Taber, III

Book No. 7 in the series
Logging Railroad Era
of Lumbering in Pennsylvania

The Bradford Landmark Society is proud to announce that we have obtained 25 copies of the well-known railroad/lumber book, *Sawmills Among the Derricks*, written in 1975 by Thomas T. Taber, III. You may remember this book was No. 7 in the Logging Railroad Era of Lumbering series of books that were published in the mid 1970s. Only recently has this book been reprinted, and we were lucky enough to reserve 25 copies for our members. We will be selling these books at the Herbig Bakery this summer and at the Crook Farm Fair in August (until they're all sold out!) for \$15.00 each. What a wonderful Father's Day present!

Polio

the Scourge, and the Cure

*There are many of us who remember the terrible disease known as Polio. And while Bradford is relatively isolated from the bigger cities, Infantile Paralysis knew no boundaries, and no social class. It affected anyone who was unlucky enough to be in its path, and it wasn't until the late 1950s that a cure was found. Ask anyone over the age of 50, and chances are they remember polio. This edition of **The Inkwell** features an article written by Landmark volunteer Pat Schessler – who indeed remembers “the scourge and the cure”.*

Summer meant no school – sunny days and warm nights. Summer meant freedom. Summer also meant polio. For half of the 20th century, Polio, or Infantile Paralysis was the story of the year in Bradford. Time after time it returned; sometimes skipping a year, or two, or five. At the first whisper of a rumor that a child was stricken with the disease, most children's activities stopped. Swimming was singled out for special attention, with the belief that swimming caused Polio.

In 1932, Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected President of the United States. Several years earlier, President Roosevelt had contracted Polio while swimming. Although he had been governor of New York State, few people know that Roosevelt was unable to walk or even to stand unaided. In the first year of his presidency, a friend suggested that supporters hold birthday parties for the President, and donate the fund raised to Polio research. The slogan was “Dance, so that Others Can Walk”. The idea was popular, and across the country the last weekend in January was given over to the President's Birthday Balls. The Balls remained popular for several years.

Miriam Kreinson, a talented young actress and dancer, returned to her native Bradford to organize Bradford's “President's Ball”. It was a big success. Miss Kreinson remained in Bradford and established a dancing school. It is said that she taught most of Bradford to dance. In the early forties, Miriam left Bradford to work for the USO entertaining service men during World War II.

Radio was very popular during the thirties, and Eddie Cantor's show was a “must”. One January night, (I think it was 1934), as he was wishing the President a happy birthday, he said something to the effect “send a dime to the president for his birthday to help find a cure for infantile paralysis”. To everyone's amazement, dimes poured into the White House mail room, and the March of Dimes was born.

Many Bradford grandmothers will remember those long, cold January nights with the thermometer flirting with zero, collecting for polio research. And there are not many who can remember the epidemics of the early fifties. Parents at the hospital, standing in the rain, trying to peek through the windows to get a glimpse of their child, some of them in iron lungs. Nor will they forget the dedicated doctors of Bradford, Leslie Silverstein,

and Stearns Fannin, who often worked twenty-four hours without sleep and the wonderful nurses who assisted them.

The breakthrough came in 1954, when Dr. Jonas Salk announced that he had made alive Polio vaccine, and received permission to try it on children. This was followed shortly by Dr. Sabin's killed vaccine. In the year 2000, Polio, for most of the population, is just a paragraph in the history book. But for those of us who trudged through the cold and snow of a Bradford January, asking for donations for the March of Dimes, the victory was worth the effort. – Pat Schessler

By the late 1950 and early 1960s, the oral vaccine was distributed to Bradford's children and adults at Fretz Junior High School's gymnasium. The vaccine was contained in sugar cubes, which children eagerly swallowed. I remember the long lines of people lined up along each table- I was just a little girl - the nurses, and the doctors – and how I couldn't believe that medicine was inside that sugar cube! – Sally Costik

Letters, We Get Letters!

And some of them are not only interesting, but they make us realize that even here in Bradford, we are connected to the bigger picture in the real world.

Dear Ms. Costik,

Several years ago my distant relative Mrs. Rhoda Silverberg of Bradford told me that you have list of burials in the Bradford Jewish Cemetery. May I please trouble you to send me a copy? I am related to family Gruskin who is buried in that cemetery. I'd like to type the entire list into a database and submit it to the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) Cemetery Project, which is an ambitious project to record the burials in as many Jewish cemeteries as possible on a worldwide basis.

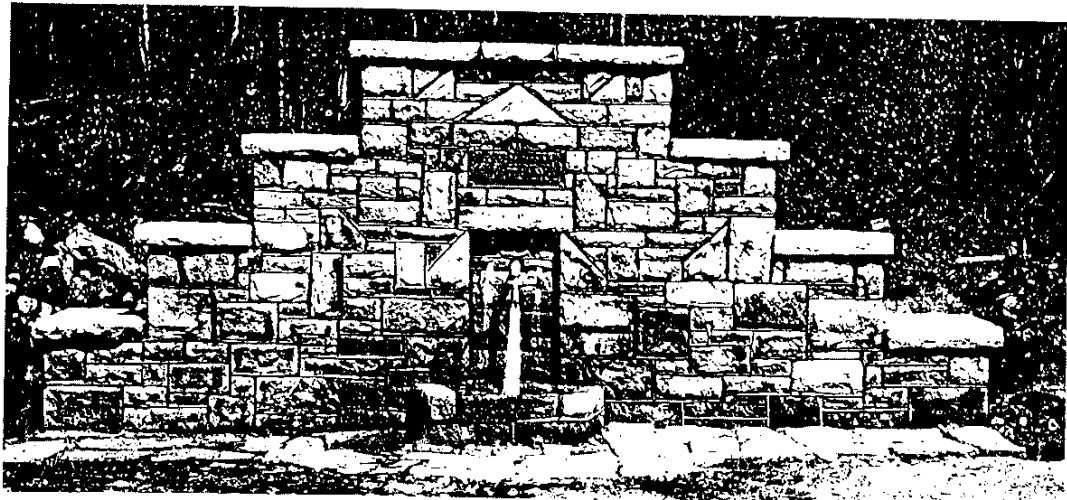
Sincerely, Ada Greenblat

Well, we answered Mrs. Greenblat, and sent not only our Jewish cemetery records, but also those of all the Jewish cemeteries in Titusville, PA. We had been given copies of their cemetery records a few years ago, and felt that Mrs. Greenblat's project was such a worthwhile effort that she deserved all the help that we could give her. When she received the packet with all the information, she was thrilled, and promised to visit Bradford some day, and translate the Jewish headstones in the Beth Israel cemetery on West Washington Street that are written strictly in Hebrew (none of us down here at the Landmark read Hebrew).

Do You Remember..... Kennedy Springs?

For many people, a picnic at Kennedy Springs was the perfect way to spend a hot summer afternoon for nearly 25 years. The smell of outdoor cooking combined with the ever present scent of crude oil which lingered in the air still evokes fond memories.

People had been going to the Kennedy Springs area since the 1920s, when a combination of increased automobile ownership and improved roads made the idea of a picnic in the country a favorite pastime. By 1941, the Allegheny National Forest officials decided to construct an "official" picnic ground, with tables, grills, shelters, and fireplaces. Constructed in the autumn of 1941, the grand opening was scheduled for the next Memorial Day, 1942.



Located just off Rte. 219, between Lewis Run and Lafayette, National Forest officials promised that the picnic area would be an integral part of the natural surroundings.

R.F. Hemmingway, director of the Allegheny National Forest, was quoted in the Bradford Era as saying "no attempt is being made to compete with the national beauty of the forest at that point, but merely to blend all the picnic area improvements for the convenience of the public into the sylvan picture." In other words, only the materials that could be found at the site, or nearby would be used in its construction. All the tables, shelters, buildings, bridges, and even the fireplaces would be constructed using natural stone and wood.

The focal point of the park was its large pavilion, or picnic shelter, which was placed on the highest point of the grounds. A large structure, it stood upon 10 and 12 inch upright timbers, more than 60 feet long, and 20 feet wide. At the time of its construction, it was the largest such shelter in the entire Allegheny National Forest. At the rear end was a recessed fireplace with a large stone chimney, and was covered with a heavy roof. Thirty-five picnic tables - capable of seating 10 to 12 people each - were placed throughout the park with ten of them inside the shelter alone.

Twenty fire places for cooking were scattered throughout the area. Each was located near one of the tables, and had a simple design with a grate top.

Water fountains built of stone were also placed at strategic locations throughout the park. A clear and sparkling stream, Lewis Run, ran right between the parking lot and the picnic area, providing a pleasant background as it gurgled and flowed. Small footbridges, "artistic and rustic" were constructed over the stream. Fathers carried the heavy picnic baskets up to the tables, with the mothers cautioned the children not to fall in and get wet. Of course, nearly every child played in the stream or climbed on the many large rocks as their picnic suppers cooked, and their parents talked.

The park itself contained about 25 acres, and had a large parking lot with room for 30 to 35 cars. Plans were made for expansion if so needed.

Construction of the park itself was under the direction of Frank Rudolf, who was an employee of the Allegheny National Forest preserve. About 25 men from Red Bridge Camp on the Kinzua Creek were hired to do the improvements. The men were members of a branch of the Quakers, called the Society of the Brethern, whose work was said to be superior.

Among the most interesting features of the park were the large rocks, remnants of the terminal moraine deposit of the glacial age. One of the main rocks resembled a sleeping lion. As seen from the shelter, the rock appeared to have been carved to represent a male lion at rest on the hillside.

The park itself was named for Thomas Kennedy, who died in September 1941. Kennedy, a Bradford oilman and philanthropist, gave the land for a picnic area in the mid 1930s.

The highway spring, "Kennedy Spring", which was located directly on Rte 219 near the entrance to the park, was constructed in the early 1930s. This spring, too, was piped directly from Kennedy's land and named in his honor. The McKean County Motor Club (the forerunner of today's Triple A motor club) asked permission to construct a stone fountain at the site. By 1933 a permanent stone fountain was built and a bronze plaque commemorating the work of the McKean County Motor Club was attached. Its water was said to be the sweetest in the state. A poll taken on a Friday in the 1960s revealed that 459 cars stopped that day to draw water, with 2396 gallons of water consumed. Visitors to the spring came from as far away as California, Florida, and Washington, DC among others stopped at the roadside fountain.

So, what ever happened to the park and the water fountain? Well, nearby oil drilling caused oil to contaminate the creek, and soon the water source as well. The highway fountain was closed in 1966, but was reopened in 1980 when the water was once again tested and found to be pure. The fountain then remained open for the next five years. It closed again in March of 1986, but was closed for a second time in 1987. Today the spring remained closed. The picnic area was closed in the early 1960s as well due to pollution from oil drilling, and was never reopened. Its remains can still be seen today if one knows where to look. The huge picnic shelter was sold to a private individual from Bradford, dismantled, and removed.

Kennedy Springs and Kennedy Springs Park exist only in our memories.

Famous Visitors to Bradford

Tom Mix, June 27, 1937

The following article is taken, in its entirety, from the June 28th 1937 edition of the Bradford Era.

Tom Mix, internationally famous son of the West, who arrived in Bradford yesterday with his circus, has a philosophy as genuine as the wide open spaces which, he personifies and a matching personality. "This is my second visit to Bradford" the tall, handsome blackhaired star recalled in an interview with an Era representative. "I first came here in 1896, playing professional football. I have never forgotten that visit as I was fired for being a Democrat. That was the year that Mckinley was elected president. The local Republicans staged a lively rally with all the fanfare of a torch parade, and I refused to take part" the former full-back smilingly reminisced.

Mix also recalled playing here with a Hub and Hub team, which was a great sport at that time, and his role was fastening the nozzle on a hose in the demonstration (*note to readers - apparently 'Hub and Hub' teams were related to fire departments.*)

Although Tom Mix began going to school in the West when five years of age, his family moved back to this section a few years later and it was during this period that he learned the moulding trade at the Gould Cutlery Works, working with Howard Gould, son of J.J. Gould. His mother still resides in DuBois.

But the West soon beckoned him and he returned to the ranches where he was destined to make his fame and fortune, buying "Tony" for \$12.50 and making approximately \$5,000,000 with this famous horse. He worked on a ranger force and began following the wars at the outbreak of the Spanish American war as a Roosevelt Rough Rider. He recalls fighting in the first Mexican uprising in 1910. "Whenever things would get dull, there was always a war in Mexico" he recalled.

"I bought Tony in Arizona. He didn't require much training" he revealed. "Horses are like people" Mix believes. "Some of them are smart and learn quickly, others never will. However, no matter who the man is, he always has at least one redeeming feature. The dumb horse hasn't any".

"I only wish someone would take it in his mind to take as good care of me as they do my horse" the star opined. Tony's Negro nursemaid, "Stumpy" Willy Simms, former noted jockey, has been with the horse, now 34, since it was 1 year old. The trainer is most particular about Tony's diet. When the charming Mrs. Mix, formerly Maple Ward, noted trapeze artist and gymnast, wanted to give Tony some cake the other day, Stumpy stormed. "Don't give Tony that cake. I'll eat it!"

Although Tom Mix is regarded as the foremost rider, he says "I couldn't ride any other man's horse, because I ride natural". Mix prefers his own methods of training to the high schooled.

Mix is planning to make a series of pictures this winter, he announced, and is anxious to do a historical Western character. He would like portraying the life of Samuel Houston, Kit Carson, or Daniel Boone "because I believe that youngsters would learn a lot about life from one of these famous characters" he said.

This mighty man of the West is highly educated, mostly through his own efforts. He can quote Voltaire and Plato at length, but doesn't believe in knowing philosophy without applying it to life. His favorite modern author is Kathleen Norris and he enjoys reading Zane Grey, Rex Beach, and Peter B. Kyne because he knows the writers and the country of which they write.

Asked how he made "Who's Who" the star responded "by minding my own business". Queried as to the secret of his success, he admitted always following his motto "my hat's off to the past, my coat's off to the future."

"When I chased outlaws," he recalled, "I beat them by staying awake. We sleep too much, imagine we have to have too much pleasure today," the star believes. He referred to golf as "the old man's pastime". "If a young man really wants to accomplish anything, he will never get any place by playing golf", the idol of American youth believes. "You can't take out of life any more than you put into it, and the reward is great for any sacrifice you make".

"Be careful of the tracks you make in life, as there is always some one walking in them" is his philosophy of life. "There is one thing which is in the scope of every father to leave, whether he has wealth, property, or is poor, and that is a good name". The fact that his father was a good man has "always been an inspiration to me," he revealed.

Although the Western star is in perfect physical condition and youthful appearing, he follows no routine in his daily life. Work, he believes, is the best formula for keeping fit.

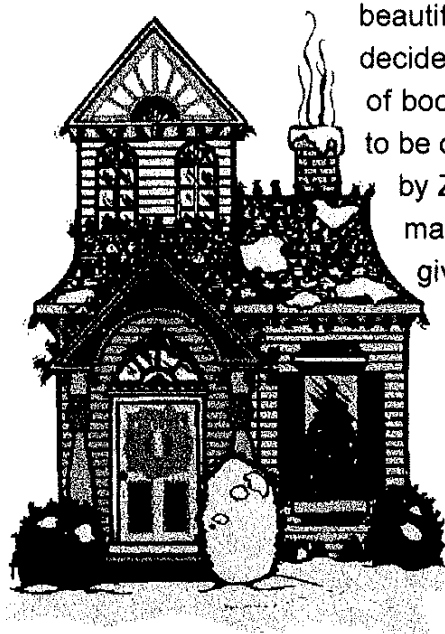
In the years that followed Tom Mix's death in 1940, the legend that surrounded him grew. It is only in recent years that research into the life of Tom Mix has unearthed some startling information. In short, Tom Mix did not live the exciting life he wanted people to think he did. Although he was a great performer, outstanding rider, expert marksman, fearless daredevil, and one of the best known and beloved personalities of the first half of the Twentieth Century, in reality Tom Mix literally told people what they wanted to hear. During the past few years relatives and film historians have determined the truth about him and encyclopedias have made the corrections. He was not born in a log cabin in El Paso, Texas, he did not break horses for the British, not did he participate in the Boer War; he did not fight with Teddy Roosevelt in Cuba or ride with the Rough Riders. He was not shot so many times that he lost track, nor did he track down desperate criminals. He did make over 300 movies but since most were released on highly combustible silver nitrate film stock, few have survived.

Mix was born on January 6, 1880, and died when he wrecked his car near Florence, AZ on Oct. 12, 1940. His death was one of those freak accidents that are difficult to believe. While driving in the desert, he lost control of his single-seated roadster and was hit in the head by a suitcase, flying off the rear shelf of the car. Mix was killed instantly. Today, there are at least three museums dedicated to his memory – one in Driftwood, PA; another in Dewey, Oklahoma (which includes a life-size replica of Tony, his trained horse), and a memorial with a black iron silhouette of a riderless bronco alongside the highway just 17 miles south of Florence, Arizona.



A New Book is Being Planned!

Following the success of our last two *Around Bradford* books, we constantly get asked when the next book will be coming out. Well, bowing to public demand, and our own fascination with the



beautiful architecture of the city, the Bradford Landmark Society has decided to publish our own book. Actually, we've planned a series of books covering a variety of topics, but the very first book just *has* to be on the architecture of the houses. We hope to have it available by Zippo Days this July, and of course it will also be available by mail order. The book will feature a selected group of houses, giving architectural descriptions, the age of the house, its original owner, its original architect (if known), interesting facts on the home, and of course, a photograph. We will be including some of the better known homes in Bradford, as well as some that are architecturally unique - such as the Lustron Homes, Sears Homes, and of course, some of the larger mansions. We think that this book will do very well, and we hope to the same theme over the next few years, featuring churches, schools, fire departments, businesses, and buildings.

The F.A. Moore House, 80 Boylston Street

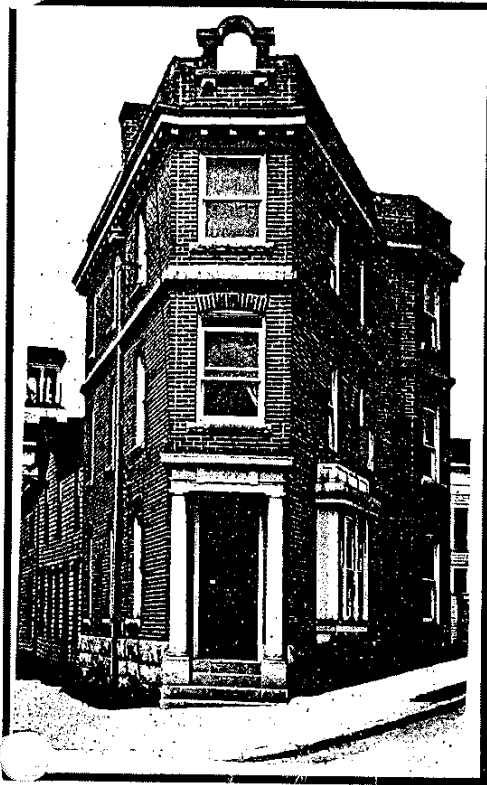
We thought that it would be interesting to feature a few of the easily recognizable buildings and homes in the city in this newsletter, to give you a much abbreviated version of what we are planning with our new books series. This home is the F. A. Moore house, and is located on the opposite side of the street, just down from the post office. The home was built of brick in 1888, and was the home of oil producer Franklin A. Moore, who not only made a fortune in the oil industry in Bradford, but also owned the St. James Hotel, and had substantial holdings in coal and lumber. He built this home when he was 66 years old, and lived there until his death of meningitis in 1898.



Upon his death, the house was left to his daughter, Anna, who was married to James Leasure. Leasure was a man of many talents, & held 43 inventions to his credit, including the Cyclone vacuum cleaner, made in Bradford

The Moore House, as seen in the 1898 "Artwork of McKean County" book.

The Rufus Barrett Stone House, 11 Boylston St.

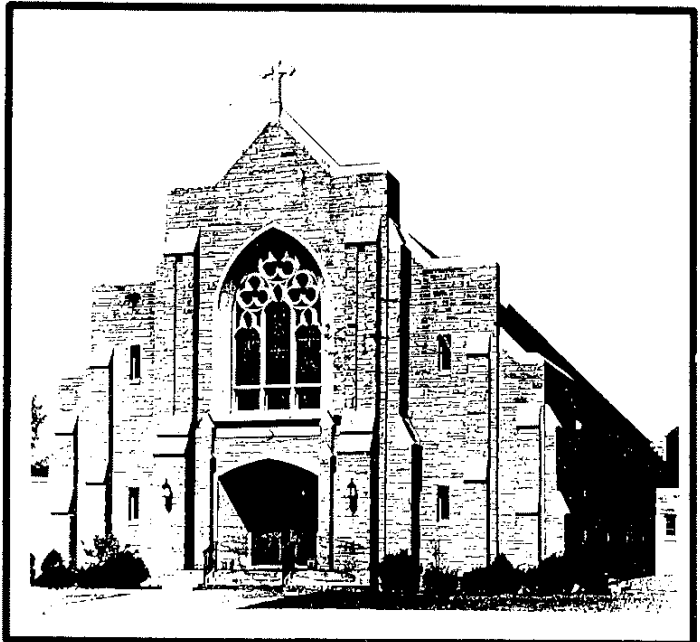


Our first featured building is known as the Rufus Barrett Stone home, although a more accurate description would call it his law offices and residence. Stone was a leading figure in the early commercial, oil, and industrial development of McKean County, and was extremely active in Bradford organizations, including the Bradford hospital, the library, the Bradford Evening Star, and many charitable and community affairs. He wrote *"McKean, the Governor's County"* in 1925.

This building was built by him in 1903. He called it "Tunaside" and lived there until his death in 1929. Nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982, it an excellent example of a 3 story, flat-roofed "flatiron" building, built of Bradford brick, with brick and stone arches over the windows. Today it is a private residence.

St. Francis of Assisi Church

One of the prettiest churches in the Bradford area has to be the Roman Catholic Church on St. Francis Drive. Following the establishment of a St. Francis parish in 1946, the first few years saw mass being celebrated on the glass enclosed porch of the rectory on East Main Street, but soon, 4 1/2 acres were purchased, and a new church was born. On June 25, 1950, the cornerstone of the new St. Francis of Assisi church was laid, and in just 18 months, in September of 1951, the church itself was dedicated. Parishioners themselves helped to build it. Father G. Carlton Ritchie, then instant pastor at St. Bernard's church in Bradford, was appointed as its founding pastor.



Uncle Sam Wants You...for the U.S. Census!

Its census time, but before you grumble about your right to privacy being invaded, and complain that the government has no right to ask so many personal questions, take a moment and learn the history of the U.S. census. Its not just a new fangled notion, you know. The census orginated over 200 years ago, back to the very writing of the Constitution. As a matter of fact, it can be found *in the Constitution itself* - under Article I.

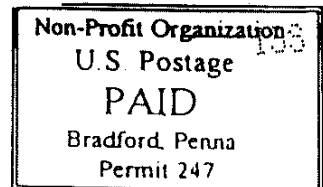
Written in 1787, during the Constitutional Convention, the delegates - all 55 of them - agreed to the following: "...the actual enumeration of (all persons) shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of ten years, in such a manner as they shall by law direct".

True to their word, the first census was taken in 1790, and has continued every ten years since that time. So the next time that you complain about having to fill out a simple form or two - don't blame the census taker.

Blame George Washington and all the other signers of the Constitution!



may 2000



Mrs. Geraldine Demarkey
97 Pemberwick Road
Greenwich, CT 06831

Warning!
***This may be your last
newsletter!***
See inside for details

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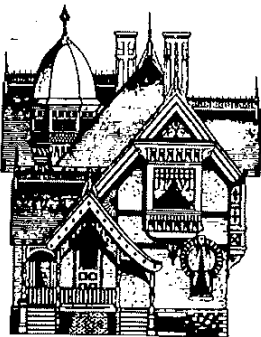
Members

Rick Benton

Shelley Harvey

Becky Gaeto

Stephanie Packard



Inside this edition of
The Inkwell:

Do You Remember.....When the Cops
Threw Beer in the Creek?

Pardon Worsely - Union Army Spy
- from Bradford!

Photographers in Bradford
and other interesting articles concerning
the history of the city, the Landmark
Society, and our community.

Down on the Farm during the Crook Farm Festival Days

Well, if you were looking for a good time, plenty of food and baked goods, music, old friends, a wide variety of crafts to look at and buy, pony rides, tours of historic buildings and good weather, you didn't have to look further than this year's Crook Farm Country Fair, held August 23-24.

The whole thing was 'kicked off' with our famous 'Patron Party', which is always held the night before the big shindig begins. Over 300 people showed up to sample the delicious food catered by Togi's Restaurant and to mingle with other supporters of the Bradford Landmark Society. This year, we held a silent auction, and our thanks to many of the community businesses that donated items for this fun event. The focus of the auction was the beautiful quilt that the Landmark obtained from the Amish women in Randolph, New York.

Everyone had a great time looking at all the crafts and eating all that great food, too. There's nothing like a fair!

The War of the Worlds

They were invading. Martians from another world. And you would have heard it all on the radio, October 31, 1938. That night marks the now famous radio broadcast by Orson Welles, who based his radio play on a book by H.G. Wells. Many people hearing the broadcast were convinced that an invasion really was happening, never mind the disclaimer that Welles offered. But how did Bradford react? Did desperate people flee to their basements? Gather their loved ones? Scream in terror? Well, according to the Bradford Era the next day, nothing much happened here at all! Maybe Bradfordians were too smart to fall for radio shenanigans. Down in Clearfield, however, a clever hardware store put a life size replica of "the man from Mars" in its window, and claimed that they had captured it.

This article appeared in the October 1981 Newsletter, and was written in response to an inquiry from an Ohio man concerning his ancestor, Pardon Worsley. We think that you'll agree that Mr. Worsley was quite a character. So, all you Civil War buffs, and those just plain interested in history read on. This obituary, by the way, appeared in August 4, 1887 in the Bradford Era.

PARDON WORSLEY DEAD

A Man Who Caused Guerilla Mosby Heaps of Troubles

The Union Spy of the Shenandoah Breathes His Last at Foster Brook Park

He Served Under Generals Grant, McClellan, Augur, Hancock, Butler, Pope

A man who succeeded in securing the deadly enmity of Col. Mosby, the notorious rebel guerilla chieftain, died at his home at Foster Brook Park, yesterday. Death was caused by a cancer on the tongue, brought about as in the case of General Grant, by excessive smoking. The dead man was Mr. Pardon Worsley, who achieved a reputation in the war of the rebellion as a Union spy. The appellation "The Union Spy of the Shenandoah", clung to him all through his eventful life. Mr. Worsley was at one time a sutler, and was personally acquainted with Col. Mosby and other noted Confederate leaders. He had a large acquaintance among Union Generals, having served under Generals Grant, McClellan, Butler, Augur, Hancock, Pope, and others. Among the soldier boys in his division he was known as "Pap".



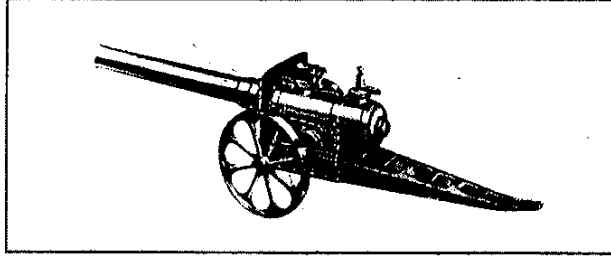
Pardon Worsley came of staunch Revolutionary stock. His father took part in the Bunker Hill episode. Born June 14, 1920, in the village of Thompson, Connecticut, he did not have a chance until he was forty-two, to show his military spirit. When the war broke out in 1862 he recruited a company of men, the 14th Massachusetts Heavy Artillery. At that time, Major General B.F. Butler employed him as a spy to enter the British provinces and report upon the system of blockade running. This mission accomplished, he was sent to Washington to work up information against rebel sympathizers. There he was under the directions of General C.C. Augur.

At that time, Guerilla Mosby was startling the country by his dashing raids. Worsley was selected as a good man to keep tabs on Mosby's movements. He cheerfully accepted the mission, but before starting out, he ran over to Boston and was there married to

Miss Helen Isabelle Frances, his present wife. The pair spent their honeymoon in the hills of Virginia. They were continually on the move. Worsley passed in and out of the rebel lines in the guise of a peddler, and imparted valuable information to the Union commanders.

Mosby began to suspect Worsley and put a spy, a young woman, under his charge, with orders to lead her out of the wilderness to Washington. Worsley saw the bait and did not bite. The female spy became convinced that his heart was with the gray coats, and once when Mosby threatened to blow Worsley's brains out, she interceded and saved his life. After that, Mosby became very friendly to the Union spy.

On two occasions Worsley lead Union soldiers to the retreat of the guerilla chief, but on each occasion the wily rebel saw his way out. Once he was terribly wounded, but he managed to recover. Mosby, when he lectured here last winter, received a call from Worsley. *(Note to readers: after the*



Civil War Mosby went on a lecture circuit, and spoke in Bradford in 1886).

He (Mosby) did not treat his old time foe with much cordiality and denied that Worsley had ever caused him much annoyance while in the pursuit of his duties as a spy. But the fact remains that Worsley was a thorn in the side of the dashing rebel chief.

Mr. Worsley saved Washington from the enemy twice, by revealing plans of contemplated raids. Through his instrumentality, the system of blockade running between Washington and Baltimore was broken up. General Augur and others highly commended his work. When President Lincoln was shot, Worsley was employed to participate in the search for the assassin and was given charge of a squad of detectives, and when Booth was killed, Pardon Worsley "The Union Spy of the Shenandoah", or "Mosby's Sutler" as he has entitled a pamphlet, quite the service. Mr. Worsley came to the oil country some years ago, and for some time has lived at Foster Brook Park *(note to readers: Foster Brook Park was located where First and Second Streets now are, just up from the East Main Street/Bolivar Drive intersection.)*. He has been ill for about eighteen months, and his life within that period has many times been despaired of. He will be buried with G.A.R. honors.

Whether or not Worsley was entirely honest with his life story, or just spinning a good yarn will never be known. It is known that he was the proprietor of the Opera House Hotel at Gillmor (now the area near the Olean Road in Derrick City). Gillmor was a thriving community in the early 1880s, with the aforementioned opera house and four hotels.

In 1882 or 1883 Worsley moved into Foster Brook, where he either owned or operated Foster Brook park. On the evening of his death, the Hebrew Reform congregation sponsored a picnic and summer festival in the Park, but the "merry makers were as quiet as possible", the Era reported, "since all knew that the owner of the Park, Pardon Worsley, lay in a room in the house, dead".



The Photographers of Bradford

One picture is worth a thousand words

A photograph is defined as a “chemically fixed image holding a lens-produced pattern of light, an aggregate of space and a finite amount of time”. A historical photograph is further defined as “offering a believable image of times past, capable of supporting the study or interpretation of history”.

Such is the work of the photographer, and Bradford has had more than its share of these recorders of our past. In a historical sense, the photographs that they produced are a wonderful and accurate picture of Bradford’s growth. In addition, being able to closely identify a photograph through its photographer gives a good indication of the date of the subject in the photo itself. For those researching their family history, it’s a great tool.

The earliest known photographer in Bradford was R.H. Beckwith, whose studio at #1 Chestnut Street is listed in the 1881 Bradford City directory. Drawn to the city by the discovery of oil, and the increased opportunity for employment, photographers such as Beckwith came to Bradford to make their living. Many came from the Oil City and Titusville areas. Frank Robbins, an early photographer, and one whose business remained in the city for over fifty years, was first based in Oil City, and had a ‘branch’ in Bradford. In time, as the city grew, he abandoned his other location, and settled permanently in Bradford. Robbins, and later his sons, were in business here from 1883 to



1927, and the Bradford Landmark Society has many excellent examples of his work in our collection.

Women, too, were photographers. Jacob West, and his wife Mary, operated a photograph studio at 66 Main Street (probably on one of the upper floors of the Wagner Opera House – now known as the former “Poppy’s” building). Following a family dispute, Mary West eventually set up her own studio under the name of “Mrs. West”, and continued the photographic business. Her best work is in portraits of women and children. Bessie Harger ran a studio in 1913 at 14 Congress Street.

Detlor & Dow were also early photographers, although Detlor eventually took on a new partner, Waddell, in 1883. Later, Charles Schwab bought out Detlor and continued in

Our Book on the Historic Homes of Bradford is Almost Ready!

You may have heard that the Bradford Landmark Society is currently writing a book on the historic homes of Bradford. We are happy to report that it is nearly finished, and will be available for Christmas this year. Its been such fun doing research on all the old homes and we realized quite early on that there is actually enough material (and great old homes) to do two books, not just one. The first book will concentrate on the older mansions and homes built by the oil producers before the turn of the century, mainly located on Congress Street, Jackson Avenue, and Kennedy Street, with a few other streets as well. There will be plenty of photographs of the homes as well as loads of information on the owners and builders of each home. The second book, which we will be writing next year, will cover homes built in *this* century, including some of the fabulous homes on East Main Street and out in Derrick City, as well as the Sears Homes and the Lustron Homes. Its been such fun writing this book that we just didn't want to stop!

We would like to give you a taste of what our first book will be like. The following is an example of the information that will be covered on each house (plus photographs, of course). And keep an eye out for our announcement when the first book "*The Historical Homes of Bradford and the Men Who Built Them*" is released!

The Burdick/Kelley House (136 Jackson Avenue)

Original Owner: Samuel MacMurray (1864-1934), Oil Producer

Year Built: 1895

At present it is known as the Mountain Laurel Inn, but it began its life as did so many of the other immense homes on Jackson Avenue, as the residence of an oil producer. Not much is known of the original owner of this house, Samuel MacMurray, except that he built this home in the mid 1890s. In June of 1907 it was sold to William Burdick, a lawyer and oil producer, who extensively remodeled the home in 1908. Burdick was a member of the McKean County Bar Association, having been admitted to the bar on December 17, 1879, and was considered the dean of McKean County lawyers. Born in Alfred, NY in 1856, he graduated from Alfred University in 1876 and moved to Duke Center where he practiced law until 1890. Following his marriage to Blanche Custer in November 1889, Burdick moved to Bradford, and continued his sterling law career. He spent the remainder of his life here; belonging to the Pennhills Club, the Bradford Club, and as a trustee of the First Presbyterian Church. He died in 1940 after an illness of some months duration, and died just three hours after being brought home from the Crile Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio where he had been undergoing treatments. He had two children Paul Burdick, and a daughter, Virginia (Mrs. Rob Roy, Jr.).

In 1957 John Kelley bought the house, where he became one of Bradford's finest and best known photographer. Many in Bradford still remember Kelley and his wife, and it is perhaps through this connection that the house on the corner of Davis and Jackson is best remembered. The home was sold again in 1996 and is currently being operated as the Mountain Laurel Inn, a bed and breakfast hotel.

Researching Your Own Home

Have you ever wanted to do research on your own home? Here are a few tips to help you get started. And who knows? 100 years from now your house may be listed as historic!

1. Check the deed or title search on the property. These can be found in the Recorder of Deeds office in the McKean County Courthouse in Smethport, PA. Begin with the current owner's name, and work backward through the deed books. It's not that difficult and the courthouse employees are very helpful and friendly. Just be aware that deeds don't usually state when a house was built – they only show the sale of the land that the house is sitting on. (Or not sitting on, if it hasn't been built yet!)
2. Once you have established all the previous owners names, check the will books and indexes, marriage records, (in the Register of Will's office, also in the Courthouse), probate records, tax records, census records (all censuses for all surrounding counties are currently available at the Hanley Library at the University of Pittsburgh in Bradford), court records, building permits, subdivision and plat books, etc.
3. Maps can be extremely helpful. Check county maps, atlases, city maps, and railroad maps. Sanborn Maps, which are insurance maps, show old streets, buildings, and other information. The Landmark has 3 bound copies of 1911, 1925, and 1931 and paper copies of 1883 and 1890.
4. City directories. These can be found in both the Landmark Society and the public library. These will list not only who lived at a certain address, but also the owner's occupation. Just remember, Bradford renumbered the streets, beginning in March 1904, so some of the old house numbers will appear to be different!
5. Photographs. Check with the Bradford Landmark Society to see if we have any old photos of your home.
6. Miscellaneous sources: diaries, letters, and bills, scrap books, insurance policies, or journals, or old newspapers. The Bradford Landmark Society has many of the old Bradford Era newspapers available for research.
7. Word of mouth. Ask someone in the neighborhood if they remember anything about your home or who lived there. If the house has been in your family for years, ask your relatives; those who actually lived there and those aunts, uncles or cousins who might have visited as a child.
8. The building style – its architecture, building materials, construction techniques, etc. can often tell quite a bit about your house.
9. Books on local history will often have some surprisingly accurate photographs and information.
10. Taxes. The Tax Assessment Office in the Courthouse is great for beginning your search. And they're computerized, so getting started is quite easy.

And lastly, don't get discouraged. Researching your home may take weeks, months, years, or you may never find out when exactly when it was built. But we guarantee that you'll have fun doing it, meet some nice people, and appreciate your house even more!

Introducing our first computer disk!

The Bradford Landmark Society has spent the last five years or so compiling an index to the city of Bradford. It has taken many, many hours of research but we finally are to the point where we are proud to announce that the first volume is completed. Want to know when the Fourth Ward School burned? How about when Margie West was lost in the woods? Or when the clock on old City Hall was installed? How about when the Human Fly climbed the Option House. Its all there – and more! Fascinating reading, entertaining and educational, our “Richmond’s Index to the History of Bradford” is now for sale for the low price of only \$5.00! Versions in both Microsoft Works, and Microsoft Word are available on floppy disks, using your “A” drive. What a great Christmas present for your children, grandchildren – or yourself!

Richmond’s Index to the History of Bradford.

By Larry A. Richmond

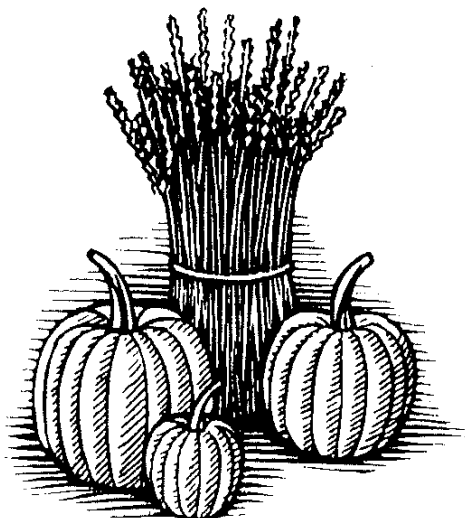
Containing over 9000 pieces of information that chronicle the history of the city of Bradford, from its earliest days in 1878 to the present. Index items are taken from the city’s newspapers, books, articles, family histories, city directories, genealogy books, scrapbooks, documents, organizations records, photographs, deeds, records, and other primary research sources that are found in the Bradford Landmark Society’s headquarters at the Herbig Bakery, 43 E. Corydon St. Bradford, Pennsylvania.

Stone Avenue to Be Restored!

The brick surface of Stone Avenue, you may recall, was washed out over a year ago in that tremendous rain storm that flooded much of Bradford. And while temporary repairs were made by replacing the lost brick with macadam, everyone feared that the cost of repairing the street back to its original condition might prove too expensive. And for a time, it looked like everyone was right. But good news does happen! The Bradford Landmark Society was just contacted by the City of Bradford who happily reported that the restoration of Stone Avenue has been okayed by the powers that be, and it will once again be paved with real brick. We couldn't be more thrilled. Located on the old Brown farm, Stone Avenue was donated to the city by Charles and Emma Brown in May 1931. Six years later it was paved in brick (with granite curbs) at a cost of \$17,210.50. The contractor was J. W. Applegate. Actual reconstruction will take place next spring (its too late in the year right now), and soon Stone Avenue will once again be the charming and old fashioned roadway that it has been for 67 years.

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

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THE BRADFORD LANDMARK SOCIETY



The Inkwell

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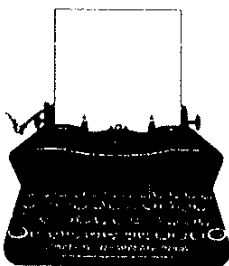
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The Inkwell Newsletter

Sally Costik, Editor

The End is Near!

No, not the end of the world, or even this newsletter, but the end of the year 2000. In looking back over the past year, we thought that we would concentrate this newsletter on traditional things. You may not even realize that Bradford has quite a few traditions that people look forward too, maybe without even knowing it. The first tradition concerns the Bradford Landmark Society. Our best tradition is the Crook Farm Country Fair, held the last weekend in August before the Labor Day weekend appears. Its been over 20 years now, and the fair just keeps getting better. Another tradition that Bradford holds is the Memorial Day parade. I have been going to that parade - rain or shine - for over 40 years now, and I still look forward to it. Oh, when I was a kid I moaned and groaned about "the dumb parade" and standing in the square while the veterans put flowers on the symbolic graves and people gave speeches - but you know something? I learned to like it and to appreciate what our armed forces has done for the United States. Another tradition that Bradford has is the music that is piped over the streets during the Christmas holidays. I can still remember going Christmas shopping with my Dad, looking for a present for my mother. Walking down the street - in the dark! - crunching along the snowy sidewalks, holding Dad's hand while music crooned from the lamppost speakers - its like it was yesterday. I always got Mom the exact same thing - cookie sheets from McCrory's - but that was part of the tradition, too. And who can forget some of Bradford's other traditions? The Italian Festival, the endless ham and leek dinners, football, fish fries on Friday night, fireworks, and so much more. We have included a few traditional things in this newsletter that you probably don't notice very much - but things that are also traditional in Bradford. We hope that you have a happy New Year 2001 - by some accounts the true millennium year - and take time to start a few family traditions of your own. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! - Sally Costik.



Civil War History Comes to Life at the Herbig Bakery

Recently, the resources of the Bradford Landmark Society and the talents of our genealogy research historian, Larry Richmond, were asked to assist an eighth grade history class at Fretz Middle School. It seems that the students in Mrs. Alexis's class had taken a field trip to Oak Hill Cemetery, where the statue of a Civil War soldier marks the "Civil War" section of the cemetery, and were busy researching and investigating all of the eighty-eight soldiers who are buried in that plot. The students are primarily interested in the military history, the genealogical history, and any interesting facts that they can uncover.

They have been working on the project for quite a while, and just last week traveled by school bus to the headquarters of the Bradford Landmark Society in the Herbig Bakery. There, Larry Richmond met twelve students and their teacher, and assisted them in their research. Using Larry's civil war database, old city directories, and our obituary files, the students were able to find out what regiment their veteran had belonged to, what occupation he held in Bradford after the war, where he lived, his age, and if he had any family. The Landmark Society even has photographs of some of the soldiers. Not all the searches yielded results however; some soldiers apparently simply traveled to Bradford after the Civil War, worked in the oil fields, and then died - often without marrying or having any other family to speak of.

The Civil War plot at Oak Hill Cemetery contains the remains of eighty-eight Civil War soldiers and a few veterans of the War of 1812. Some were originally buried in the old Bradford cemetery on Kennedy Street (currently Hanley Park) but their bodies were moved when that cemetery was closed in the late 1890s. All those buried there are Union soldiers or War of 1812 veterans with burials dating from 1879 to 1921.

The statue was donated by Frank W. Davis, a Civil War soldier himself, who felt that a memorial honoring the dead veterans should be placed in the cemetery. The monument was dedicated on Memorial Day in 1907, and was constructed of 14 tons of Barre granite. Built by Hodges & Hastings of Bradford, it represents an American Union soldier in uniform, musket near his heart, with a laurel wreath clasped in his hands. Adjoining the statue was a pair of Civil War howitzers, which were donated by the government to the local chapter of the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) organization in July 1897. The cannons were eight feet long and of 8-inch bore, weighing about 5000 pounds each. It is assumed that these cannons, like those in the Public Square, were donated for scrap metal during World War II.

The students at Floyd C. Fretz Middle School are to be commended for their interest in the history of Bradford's Civil War soldiers, and their efforts to restore the cemetery plot. The Bradford Landmark Society sees in these students the future historians of our city.

Happy New Year, Newsboys!

Before there was television, before there was radio, there was the newspaper. Once strolling minstrels, town criers, and returning sailors brought people the news of the outside world. Then came the printing press and newspapers, but it still took a long time for the news to get around. The Battle of New Orleans, for instance, was fought a week after the War of 1812 ended! The invention of the wireless and the over-seas cable improved news gathering, and newspapers sprang up like corn in July.

By the time the oil boom was underway, Bradford had several newspapers, and 252 news boys to deliver them. Some newspapers were delivered right to the door, like today's carriers, but most were sold by boys, big and small, some as young as seven years old - at the train stations, hotels, clubs, bars, and on street corners. When news of great importance, such as the Garfield assassination or the Spanish American War broke, their shouts of "EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!" were heard at all hours of the day and night in every street and alley in town.

It was a hard life. Newspapers sold for about two cents and if a boy were lucky, he might occasionally get a penny tip, a dime or if a customer happened to be in a good mood from bringing in an oil well or winning a hand. In the 1880s one of Bradford's prominent matrons wanted to show her appreciation for the service that the newsboys gave the community. Known only as "Lady Bountiful", she celebrated New Year's Day as "News Boys" Day, and rewarded the 'newsies' with a parade, dinner, and a show.

On January 1, 1892, hundreds of Bradfordians braved the cold to cheer on the local "newsies" in their ninth annual News Boys Parade. The parade assembled in front of the Sunday News office. Mr. Linderman, Sunday News Manager, was first in line, followed by the Mayor, the councilmen and representatives of the press. The dignitaries were followed by the JT Jones Juvenile Band, and two hundred and fifty two news boys dressed in their Sunday best and sporting silk badges. Many of the boys carried signs that read "THERE ARE OTHERS BUT THE WOODS ARE NOT FULL OF THEM" and "WE HAVE NO TIME FOR FIFTY CENT OIL. WE HAVE AN OPTION TODAY" and "HAPPY NEW YEAR MRS. _____". Waving their signs, the boys followed the band into the Armory hall where a sumptuous feast, catered by McBride and Smedley awaited them.



Following dinner, the boys marched to the Opera House, where, if they were able to stay away, they were guests at a matinee. The host, or rather, hostess, of this grand affair was a Congress Street lady who wished to remain anonymous. The News boys dinner, however, became a Bradford tradition for many years.

Happy New Year, Baby!

Each year, as Christmas ends, and the New Year draws close, the local merchants band together and give presents to the first baby born in the new year. It's a tradition that began many years ago, and still continues today. Whether it's to recognize the "out with the old, in with the new" feeling that overcomes us all at the end of the year, or simply just a nice gesture to welcome into our community's newest citizen, we thought that we would do some research, and report back on what gifts the Bradford's New Year Baby has received over the years. What we found was quite interesting....

In 1931, even with the Depression well underway, the new baby received some very nice gifts. The requirements were simple: the first baby born within a ten-mile radius of Bradford or in the Bradford hospital was the winner. Because so many babies were still being born at home in the 1930s, the official announcement of the lucky baby was delayed until January 8 – so that midwives and doctors had five working days to report the births.

1931

1. A Hush-A-Bye baby swing from Ellison & Ellison
2. An electric nursing bottle heater from Emery Hardware
3. Two dozen announcement cards from Barnsdall Printing
4. Add-A-Pearl baby necklace from Clayman's Jewelry
5. Three Vanta-vests, from the Kiddie Shop
6. A Nursery Chair, from Kreinsons
7. A bouquet of flowers to the mother, from Grahams' Florists
8. A sterling silver baby cup, from Rogalsky's Jewelry
9. A \$5.00 savings account, from McKean County Trust (ironically, this bank folded during the Depression).
10. A Tiny Tot Toilet Set, from Hart Pharmacy
11. \$5.00 in gold, from the Bradford Era



By 1936, with the Depression in full swing, the New Year baby's gifts weren't quite so impressive. The names of the New Year babies from 1934 & 1935 were also mentioned in the Bradford Era that year. Twin boys, Jack Ronald Mason and Jerry Donald Mason (Mr. & Mrs. John Linsey Mason) were first born in 1935; and Geraldine Frances Brown (Mrs. & Mrs. Howard Brown) of Duke Center was the first lucky baby in 1934.

1936

1. A 3-piece china kiddie set from Ellison & Watson Furniture store.
2. Milk tickets worth \$2.40 from Bradford Milk.
3. A pair of baby silk and wool stockings from J.C. Penney.

The Events of the Year 1879

January 12. Academy of Music completed.

January 13. James Stewart suffocated in an oil tank on Kansas Branch.

January 14. Explosion of 700 pounds of glycerin at Russell's magazine, two miles out of town; lively shaking up; Herman Hecock frightfully mangled in a bull wheel.

January 15. Arrival of the city's charter.

January 16. Buildings crushed in Ebensburg and Karns City by the snow; Eugene Schott severely burned by gas at Limestone.

January 17. Death of Hecock, injured by the bull wheel.

January 20. War of barbers and inauguration of the ten-cent age of shaving.

January 21. Celebration of the Chinese New Year in Bradford.

January 22. Frank Brown, of Niagara Falls, dies in the city of delirium tremens and exposure.

January 25. Carnival in skating rink; Charles Smith falls down at flight of stairs at the Erie house on Main Street and dies.

January 27. First trip of new engine on the Peg Leg Railroad; boiler explodes; George Grogan, John Addis, John Vaughn, Charles Shepard, Mike Halleran, and Thomas Luby killed; five men of eleven on the train survive; \$33,000 worth of property at Turkey City destroyed by fire; railroad wreck at Allegany.

January 28. Inquest on elevated railway accident (the Peg Leg) – "No one to blame."

January 29. Opening of the Atlantic Garden; M.B. Aldrich of Elmira, NY spends one night in Bradford at a cost of \$200 and goes home with a grotesque head.

January 31. Jacob S. Bartholomew, the hermit of Lewis Run, kills one Ives and badly wounds his son; thus wiping out an old score; N.H. Hastings garroted and robbed of a small sum of money at Tarport.

February 1879

February 1. John O'Connor mysteriously loses a \$500 in a Main Street saloon.

February 2. Death of L. I. Culbertson, city reporter of the Titusville Herald.

February 3. The president of the Seneca Nation impeached and removed from office; J.P. Place's bookstore at St. Petersburg broken into and robbed of considerable plunder.

The Events of the Year 1879

February 28. Andrew Tracy found guilt of murder in the first degree.

March 1879

March 2. James Dooley, gauger, fatally burned by a gas explosion near Oil Centre; \$10,000 fire at Limestone, NY.

March 4. Mary Burdette, servant girl, burned to death in the Thornby House, Haysville; Joseph Fleming drowned in five feet of oil near Sawyer City.

March 6. B. Forst's clothing store at Millerstown burglarized to the extent of \$75.00.

March 7. Small fire at Gillmore; damage 4500.

March 8. Tidewater Pipe Line Building a wire from Titusville to Bradford.

March 9. S.J. Frankenstein, a Polish jewelry peddler, robbed of \$450 in Titusville.

March 10. Young Men's Puritan Ball; injunction granted against northern Central Railroad in favor of Tidewater Pipe Line.

March 11. A \$10,000 fire at Gillmore; H. Lafferty burned to death; Tidewater Telegraph line finished to Bradford.

March 12. Opera House purchased by Jule Andrews; Mother Goose entertainment of the C.Y. G's.

March 13. Oil fire at Bell's Camp, loss \$115; disgraceful fight between Charley McDonald and "Big Steve"; Officer Emery arrested for attempted fornication; lease war on Indian Creek; Oak Shade Oil Company victorious.

March 14. Visit to Bradford of Fred Plaisted and Johnny Dwyer.

March 15. Near Red Rock Henry Seeley, while drunk, falls on two cans of glycerin and is granulated.

March 17. Two barns burned at Franklin, loss \$1000; panic in the Oil City Exchange; boiler explosion in Oil Valley, no one hurt.

March 18. Theodora Titus lectures on "Heart's Ease".

March 19. Thomas McMahon and his little sister killed by the cars at Carrollton; Allegany House at Allegany destroyed by fire, loss \$1,000.

March 20. Hon. George S. Bartwell lectures on Lincoln.



Santa Didn't Always Wear a Beard

By Patricia Schessler



Sometimes Santa wore skirts. In the 1930s, when Mrs. Ione Dresser Miller saw what the Depression with its lack of jobs was doing to the honest working people of Bradford, she wanted to do something about it and invited several Bradford ladies to her home at Beechwood, to consider how they could help. The ladies decided to put out a cookbook and spent many days gathering and sorting recipes, putting them into book form, and getting it published. And thus the PENNY COOKBOOK was born, and its profits given to those who needed help.

Grace Emery and her John Ley committee members played Santa to Bradford girls, all during the thirties, forties, and into the fifties. These ladies paid the expense for the Girl Scout program, including expenses for the Girl Scout house and Ferndust, the Girl Scout Day Camp. Many a little girl was able to belong to Girl Scouts and even to go to camp due to the generosity of these ladies. In return, girls were supposed to return the favor by rolling bandages for the Red Cross of stuffing Easter Seal envelopes.

It was very important to the John Ley Committee that Scouts learned to be ladies, and to that effect they often entertained the girls at their homes. I remember one Christmas season – I must have been about ten or eleven – when we had a Yulelog burning ceremony at a camp belonging to Mrs. Russell Case. The ceremony complete, Mrs. Case served a baked ham dinner at a beautifully set table. The ham was glazed with an orange sauce and at first bite I thought I was poisoned. I had never heard of a sweet sauce on meat. I ate it anyway; it would have been rude not to.

In the thirties the pay was low, and families were large. One Christmas, a group of businessmen, who met frequently for lunch at the Elks Club, decided to play Santa. They asked the school nurses for a list of boys who might need shoes or boots. A few weeks before Christmas the boys were taken, individually, to a store and provided with the necessary footwear and then treated to a Christmas lunch. It was a very popular program, and lasted for more than thirty years.

There have been many such programs in Bradford over the years, including the fraternal, civic, and social organizations. Beginning in the infant boom town, and continuing through the Outreach Program of the sixties, until today's Christmas in April, the Friendship Table, and the ELF fund drive, as well as other programs, Bradford has had a long tradition of playing Santa Claus.



The Events of the Year 1879

Early each January, the Bradford Era compiles a list of events that have shaped the history of Bradford over the past year. It's a tradition that goes back many years – not always consistently but more often than not – and the year 1879 was no exception. The Bradford Era had recently begun publication, so this chronology was only its second attempt to record the past events. Some explanations may be in order, though. The oil boom was, well, booming in 1879 and subsequently there are many references to Titusville, Oil Centre, Oil Creek, Ebensburg, Petrolia, etc. and while it might seem unusual for us now to comment on such locales, to the Bradfordians of 1879 these references to other Pennsylvania oil towns were commonplace. On the other hand towns with names like Gillmore, the Kansas Branch, Sawyer City, and Dallas City were simply local towns or oil tracts that were well known. The infamous “Pig Island” or “Island” that is referred to many times was located where the city now stores its trucks: behind West Washington Street, off Mechanic Street, and beside Charlotte Avenue. The Island was a dangerous place of wild women, gambling houses, liquor, guns, and knives, and anyone who visited the Island was either a fallen woman, a fool, a drunk, a robber, or an oil field worker looking for a good time. John J. McLaurin, whose 1900 book “Sketches in Oil” described the early days of oil, called it “bad Bradford” and said “the air smelled of oil and naughtiness”. To call Bradford's early days “bad” was an understatement – but it makes for great reading! We invite you to read through the first three months of 1879 & reminisce about “the good old days”.

January 1879

January 1. Thomas Connelly's liquor store on Mechanic Street burglarized and \$40 taken; boiler explodes on Willet's tract, damage \$300.

January 2. Election of officers of the new Oil Exchange.

January 3. All trains on the O.B. & W. R.R. abandoned on account of snow and mails on the Erie entirely shut off; John Dickinson, engineer on the Erie drops dead at Salamanca; John Ryan garroted and robbed of \$30 on the Island; F.W. Mitchell purchases in Jones & Chamber's property near Duke Centre, consideration \$50,000; all trains blockaded.

January 4. James Williams died from an overdose of morphine.

January 5. Desperate fight with bottles in saloon; Beckwith badly injured; strike of compositors on the Era, H.Cohen's store broken into and robbed of \$30.

January 6. Man robbed of \$120 by the fair and frail.

January 7. One lady takes 45 grains of choral and another a dose of laudanum to end their troubles, pumped out they recover; Thomas Gristock arrested for continued robberies at the Erie.

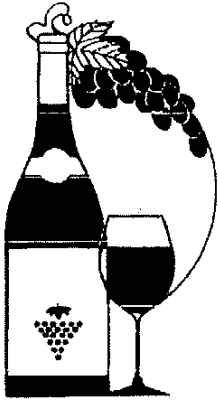
January 8. Charles Young, of Dallas City, badly injured while coasting.

January 9. H.J. Pemberton's house on Congress Street damaged \$500 worth by fire; L. E. Penure arrested for robbing from the Erie freight depot; several stores with their contents destroyed by fire in Emlenton.

January 10. Fire at Derrick City; three houses destroyed; loss \$2000.

Happy New Year!

by Patricia Schessler



On New Year's Day in 1901 Mrs. Lewis Emery Jr. invited several younger ladies in town to 'receive' with her in her Congress Street home. On School Street, Mrs. C. P. Collins did the same, as did Mrs. Thomas Kennedy and Mrs. Albert Booth on Jackson Avenue. All that late afternoon prominent matrons of Bradford were receiving socially obligatory visits from gentlemen all over town. A strict protocol governed these New Year's calls.

A gentlemen would give his card to the maid or butler, who would place it in a silver dish. If the lady wished to see him, the visitor would pay his respects to the hostess, perhaps have a glass of wine, and after about a fifteen minute visit, take his leave. A gentleman might make twenty or thirty such calls on New Year's Day. All was very proper, very social, very civilized.

The night before- New Year's Eve - was a different story. Young people danced the night away at the Lyceum to J. W. Jamison's Orchestra. The Johnson Hose Company played the popular card game 'Progressive Pedro' at their St. Jame's parlors, and in the streets, the New Year was greeted with fireworks and gunfire. The usual drunks were rounded up and lodged in the local jail. That year, two ladies from Hogan's Alley, a reputed den of iniquity, came to blows and were given lodging courtesy of the city. They comforted one another, and soon became friends again.



As the century progressed, there was less fire and more fire water. Balls bounced all over town. Dick O'Day, Little Civics, and We Cavalero and other maestro's provided rhythms for the dancers. The K of C held a formal ball followed by a breakfast. The parties at the Pennhills were private. The thirties and the forties were the era of the midnight show. At Shea's that meant a major movie with major stars, but the Grand usually showed a horror or super western. The New Bradford theater, located in the Hooker-Fulton Bldg., initiated vaudeville type stage shows along with the movie. In the early 1930s this same theater sponsored "Miriam Kreinson's All Dance Revue" featuring Bradford dancers.

Despite all the frolic and fun, many people attended the 6AM Mass at St. Bernard's Church and several churches held watch night services.

A Happy New Year For All

Its Almost Time Again

For the Bradford Landmark Society's Semi-Annual Seminars & Lectures on
Historic Topics At the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford
Every Thursday night this coming February 2001

As you may remember, every other year the Bradford Landmark Society holds a series of lectures on selected topics. Next year, 2001, will see our next seminar series! These seminars originated as a way to help pass the cold dark days of winter, and are held each Thursday night during the month of February. There are two speakers per night, and each presents an interesting and educational topic, many of them illustrated with slides or videos. Admission is either \$10 for the entire February series, or only \$3 admission for a particular night. This coming year, we have scheduled some very interesting speakers and hope that you will join us at Rice Auditorium at the University of Pitt at Bradford at 7PM in 2001!

February 1, 2001 at 7:00 PM in Rice Auditorium, UPB

"Let it Roar! Bradford in the 1920s" by Sally Costik, curator of the Bradford Landmark Society. It was a time of Prohibition, gangsters, bootleggers, speak-easys, the KKK, the end of the street cars, and the beginning of the Depression. Her lecture will present this exciting and often dangerous period in Bradford's history with slides and illustrations.

"One Room School Houses in McKean County" by Eileen McKean of the McKean County Historical Society. Mrs. McKean, a former schoolteacher, will exam that period in history when the one-room school house was found in every small town in the county.

February 8, 2001 at 7:00 PM in Rice Auditorium, UPB

"The Kendall Refinery from the Beginning to the Witco Years" by Paul Timbrook, former Refinery Manager for Kendall. Paul will be discussing the history of the Kendall Refinery as he presents a look at the events and accomplishments that made Kendall a household name both in Bradford and around the world.

"The Kinzua Bridge – 100 Years of History", by well-known railroad expert Dick Robertson looks back at the past 100 years of the Kinzua Bridge, which celebrates its centennial year in 2000. This slide-illustrated talk will be both informative and entertaining.

February 15, 2001 at 7:00 PM in Rice Auditorium, UPB

"Lewis Emery's Run for Governor" by Rick Frederick, History Professor at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford. In these days of close political contests, the unsuccessful attempt by Bradford millionaire and entrepreneur Lewis Emery in his 1906 run for the Governor, is just a historical footnote. He lost by only 56,000 votes and didn't even ask for a recount!

"The History of Allegheny State Park" by Grace Christie, Park Historian. With Allegheny State Park just a few miles away, its close proximity has made it the perfect recreational spot for camping, fishing, or hiking for over 80 years. Christie will talk on the history of the park and its impact on today's recreation seekers.

February 22, 2001 at 7:00 PM in Rice Auditorium, UPB

"So Far From Home: Pennsylvania Soldiers in the Civil War" by David Dixon, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History at Slippery Rock University. In this slide-illustrated presentation, David Dixon will detail the life of the common soldier in the Civil War. Using letters, diaries, and reminiscences from men who served in dozens of Pennsylvania Regiments, he emphasizes how the conflict forever changed the lives of these men and the families they left behind.

"The History of the Eldred Ammunition Plant" by Kurt Pfaff, Director of the Eldred World War II Museum. Kurt will present a 17 minute video of the history of the plant during World War II, and will explain that period in history which placed a military manufacturing facility in our own backyard.

Please note: this schedule may be subject to change, due to inclement weather in February, or unavailability of the speakers to attend. All efforts will be made to announce any changes well in advance of the scheduled date. Otherwise, please grace us with your presence.



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GREETINGS**



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