

May 2009

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## Looking Forward

At last, spring is upon us. The leaves are starting to sprout, the gardens are being planted, and the flowers are, well, flowering. It's been a long snowy winter and all of us here at the Herbig Bakery are looking forward to the rest of the year.

Lots of things are happening here at the Landmark Society, too. Each spring, the Crook Farm hosts the School Program for the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade students of local schools who spend a day at the farm, going to a one room school house, learning how to do chores, watching a blacksmith, making candles, weaving – it's all part of the Society's mission to teach today's children about life long ago on a typical farm in the Bradford area. The school program starts this year on May 11<sup>th</sup>, and finishes up June 5. Good luck kids, and enjoy yourselves!

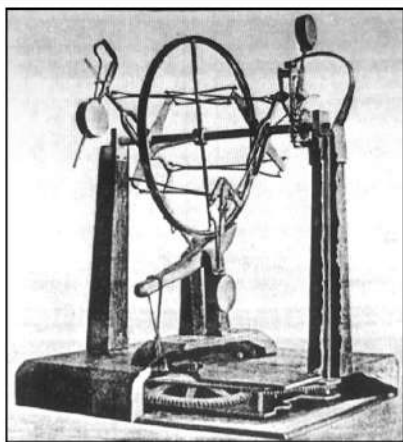
And we will have a wedding this spring at the Crook Farm as well. Alison Render, daughter of John and Judyann Render of Hereford, Arizona, and Michael Cummins, son of Donald and Debbie Cummins of Bradford, are getting married at the Crook Farm on June 20. Congratulations!

A tour bus is also coming by the Farm on Monday, June 8 with about 50 senior citizens who will tour the farm, eat their lunch there, and then travel on to the Zippo Museum. Bus tours are always fun, and we hope that the Crook Farm becomes a popular spot on the tour.

This year, 2009, marks the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Titusville oil strike at Drake's Well, and several activities are planned locally to celebrate this momentous event in Pennsylvania history. If you have gone by the Herbig Bakery recently, you may have noticed the working oil jack in the window, surrounded by lots of oil field memorabilia and equipment. We entered the display in the Oil 150 window contest and won! The window was designed and put together by Mike Fuoco, one of our volunteers, and is a fascinating collection of local oil items.

More interesting news inside –

take a seat and enjoy this edition of *The Inkwell*!



This perpetual motion machine took Bradford by storm in 1897. Found out what happened in this edition of *The Inkwell*!



## Upcoming Events in the Bradford Area



### **Oak Hill Cemetery Spring Clean-Up, Saturday, May 9, 2009.**

Start at 10:00 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m. Meet at the Lincoln Avenue gate (above Wright Monument Works). Wear sturdy shoes, work clothes and gloves. Hand tools are fine; however, no power tools, please. Bring lunch and beverage. Please plan on being there. We're counting on you!

### **HOTAfest – Heart of the Alleghenies Folk Music and Dance Festival at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, August 7-9, 2009.**

Spend a weekend dancing & playing old-time, New England, Irish, and Scottish folk music. Dance, learn, listen and jam, in an informal college setting with an impressive lineup of talented musicians. To register, call Howard Blumenthal, 814-368-4057.

### **Town Wide Garage Sale, 8 AM to 12 PM, May 23, throughout the city.**

Maybe that special item you've been looking for is right down the street!

### **Farmer's Market opens for the summer, June 20.**

Held in Veterans Square, the market will run from 8 AM to 12 noon, every Saturday until September 26. Enjoy locally grown vegetables and baked goods all summer long.

### **30<sup>th</sup> Annual Crook Farm Fair, August 29<sup>th</sup> and August 30<sup>th</sup>.**

Plan ahead for this year's Crook Farm Fair, with all your favorite foods, vendors, music, and more! It just wouldn't be summer without the fair.

### **Oil 150 Parade – August 22.**

Join us on the parade route as we celebrate the discovery of oil in Pennsylvania 150 years ago.

### **Big 30 Parade/Pep Rally – August 1.**

The traditional Pennsylvania vs. New York State high school football game at Bradford High School field is a great way to "kick off" the football season.

### **Italian Festival – August 13, 14, 15.**

You don't have to be Italian to enjoy all the food, music and fun at Bradford's own Italian Festival. Held on Festival Way beside Tops Market, the festival has been part of Bradford for nearly 100 years.

### **The Bradford Landmark Society's annual Patron Drive, starting July 2009.**

Your support of the Bradford Landmark Society helps to fund the Crook Farm School Program, our Bi-annual Historic Lecture Series, the Crook Farm Country Fair & Craft Festival, the Christmas House Tour, research at the Herbig Bakery, education programs, and continued preservation of Bradford's history. Watch for your membership packet in early July!

## Technical Assistance Grant Awarded to the Bradford Landmark Society

The Bradford Landmark Society recently learned that we have been awarded a grant from the Pennsylvania Museum and Historic Commission in Harrisburg, to provide for technical assistance in assessing our collections, evaluating our collection storage, and to give preservation recommendations.

Although no monies will be awarded, the grant provides the assistance of a skilled museum and archival technician who will visit the Landmark Society in the near future, meet with the staff at the Herbig Bakery, and suggest solutions to solve varied problems involving storage, accessions, and exhibition methods.

Our collection currently contains over 2000 photographs, maps, documents, newspapers, family histories, books, illustrations, and artifacts that contain genealogical and historical information of Bradford.

We look forward to meeting with Lynn Beman, the state appointed consultant, and will report on her recommendations in a future newsletter.

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### Isabelle Champlin Chosen for YWCA Award

A member of the Bradford Landmark Society and former Chairman of the Board, Isabelle Champlin, was recently recognized as a 2009 YWCA Woman Leader at a luncheon held at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford's Mukaiyama University Room in the Frame-Westerburg Commons building.

As "one of us", the Bradford Landmark Society extends its warmest congratulations to Isabelle, and feels that this award is long overdue.

Isabelle has been a professor of Anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford for 38 years. She is also currently the director of International Studies, annually leading students to Mexico and Japan. She is a member of the American Anthropological Association and the Register of Professional Archaeologists. She is also a board member of the AAUW, and the Penn-Brad Historic Oil Well Museum, and a past board member of the Friends of the Bradford Area Public Library and the Friends of the Hanley Library. She also is a member of the Tuna Valley Trails Association, and has received numerous awards and commendations for her work and contributions.

The YWCA Women leaders is an annual award presented to those women who have made a difference in the community by empowering and inspiring women and girls. The Bradford Landmark Society curator, Sally Costik, was a recipient of this award in 2001.

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## The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Crook Farm Fair

**is coming!**

**Saturday, August 29, 2009**

**And Sunday, August 30, 2009**



# Just When We Thought We Ran Out of Things to Do . . .

One of the goals of the Bradford Landmark Society is to collect, preserve and maintain all sorts of records that reflect the history of the city of Bradford. We accomplish this goal through the acquisition of particular books, journals, reports, or registers of local businesses, organizations, or government entities or, when not permanently available, we borrow them for scanning or photographing. These early records are rare eye-witnesses to events and family history.

This past year we have been fortunate enough to gain access to two very different sources of records – early fire department books of the Bradford Fire Department, and St. Bernard's Catholic Church records. The fire department and the church were kind enough to let us borrow their records on a temporary basis.

Father Leo Gallina of St. Bernard's Church gave us permission to copy/scan/photograph all the records of the church in early March. There are approximately 40 books, all handwritten, covering baptisms, weddings, deaths and cemetery records. Like us, Father Gallina realizes the enormous benefit that such records will provide – to the Landmark as genealogical tools and to the church as a means of permanently protecting church information. The church knows too well the frailty of such records having lost all baptism records before 1917 in the flood of 1947.

We began with the Baptism records of 1917-1924, and were amazed to find how much these particular years reflected the Italian population in Bradford. We estimate that almost 90% of the names in that first book are Italian! Deciphering some of that early handwriting was difficult, but so far we have managed to index the names, and copy, the first three baptism books, 1917-1924, 1924-1933, and 1933-1943. This is approximately 4500 baptisms. Of course, there is confidential information in all these books, and we will not release those records to the general public. But the genealogical value is immense and although it will take us the rest of 2009 to complete the church records, it will be well worth our efforts.

The other source of records that we are working on is the fire department records. These materials are contained in journal books, and are a day to day recording of the events of the fire department – not just which fires were fought, but all sorts of mundane information as well: time off, bills paid for laundry, horse feed, fire house supplies, etc. All hand-written, of course. So far we have scanned the books dating 1887 to 1891 and 1903, and will continue to copy the records as time permits.

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## Surfing the Internet?

The Internet has lots of information pertaining to Bradford. Look up Bradford on [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com) to find out all sorts of interesting facts. Looking for something on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)? Check out Angela Nuzzo's "Autumn in Oak Hill" or click on her new website, [www.backtobradford.com](http://www.backtobradford.com). Both are very entertaining. Have you seen our website? [www.bradfordlandmark.org](http://www.bradfordlandmark.org). We recently started an on-line store and while we have only started, we are pleased to report that it's a success! Other interesting, or informative sites are [www.wesb.com](http://www.wesb.com), [www.bradfordera.com](http://www.bradfordera.com), [www.brnc.com](http://www.brnc.com), [www.dipsontheatres.com](http://www.dipsontheatres.com), [www.bradfordlibrary.com](http://www.bradfordlibrary.com), [www.bradfordchamber.com](http://www.bradfordchamber.com), [www.bradford-online.com](http://www.bradford-online.com), [www.pennhillsclub.com](http://www.pennhillsclub.com), [www.glendorn.com](http://www.glendorn.com), [www.justridingalong.net](http://www.justridingalong.net), or [www.tunavalleytrail.com](http://www.tunavalleytrail.com). It seems that just about anyone has a website now, and they are filled with all sorts of information. The Internet is a tool that can open up a world of information – even here in Bradford!



# WEEKLY ROUND & SQUARE DANCE

Sponsored By The Bradford Landmark Society

<http://www.bradfordlandmark.org>

**When: EVERY Tuesday Night 7 – 10 pm.**

**Admission: \$3**

**Where:** Crook Farm Homestead  
Bank Building (2<sup>nd</sup> building from the road)  
Seaward Avenue Ext.  
Bradford, PA 16701



**The Dance:** This region of Western New York & Western Pa. has a rich tradition of Square & Round dances with homegrown music and calling. You can still find this type of dancing at a few local Grange Halls in the region on a Saturday night.

**The Music:** We welcome listeners, dancers, and musicians from the “Old Time Country” music genre. Electric instruments & drum sets are discouraged because of the acoustics in our dance hall. If you want to learn more about this type of music and dance, come on out & join the fun!

**The Caller:** Keith Blackmon has been calling squares in this area for more than 65 years. He has a vast and varied repertoire of traditional (Eastern) singing and patter calls to many old time dance tunes. Keith learned to call square dances when he was 14 so he could call for his High School Dances.

**Our Mission:** The Tuesday Nite dance is a “labor of love” by local musicians, callers & dancers. A small admission is charged at the door, but the event has become a major fund-raiser for the Bradford Landmark Society. We encourage folks to bring a dish to pass or an item to raffle off during the dance. We always have a wonderful “Cake Walk”, a couple of raffles, 50-50 drawing & we toss in some spare change for the goodies & snacks we share. This event has been an important source of income that has allowed the Landmark Society to continue the important work of keeping the local musical traditions alive and growing at the Crook Farm.



**DIRECTIONS:** From Rt. 219 in Bradford, PA, take the Foster Brook exit. At the bottom of the ramp, turn right and go ½ block to the stoplight. This is Seaward Avenue. Turn right on Seward; Crook Farm is approximately 1 mi. on the right. Dance is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> building in from the street (blue bank).

Coffee, tea and snacks will be available. We contribute the income from the snacks & coffee to help the Bradford Landmark Society defray expenses. You are welcome to bring a treat to share, but it is not required.

**For more info. call Howard Blumenthal at 814-368-4057, or email [howard@blumenthals.com](mailto:howard@blumenthals.com)**

# Sanborn Maps and Bradford

In 1867, a small map company, the Sanborn Map Company, began creating specialized maps for urbanized areas in the United States. The Sanborn Map Company created maps for fire insurance assessment, and within several decades became the largest and most successful American map company in the nation. Eventually, over 12,000 towns and cities from 1867 to 1970 were mapped by Sanborn. These maps were – and are – invaluable for historical research, planning, preservation, genealogical research, sociological studies and research or urban geography.

The Bradford Landmark Society is fortunate to have several original Sanborn maps of Bradford, in bound book format, including the years 1911, 1925, and 1931. All of the 1931 map books, of which we have three copies, contain updates to 1943, 1936 & 1943, and 1954. We also have two complete sets of paper copies of 1886 and 1890, which map the city as it existed in those early time periods. As you can imagine, we prize these maps for their incredible historic detail of the physical structures of Bradford in those years.

As much as we utilize these Sanborn maps, we have been aware for some time that there were other Bradford maps covering other years, mapped by Sanborn, but until very recently, we were unable to obtain copies of these special maps. Recently, however, we learned that several other years which we do not have, notably 1895, 1899, and 1905, are located in the Special Collections microfilm library at Pennsylvania State University. The library, which has an impressive collection of many Pennsylvania towns Sanborn maps, has undertaken the task of digitally scanning these maps. Eager to obtain copies of the Bradford maps that we do not have, we queried the Penn State library to learn the status of the Bradford maps, only to find that while McKean County maps are on the scan list, alphabetically they are not at the top of the list. However, the librarians told us, someone *could* access the maps in their microfilm library, copy them onto a jump drive, or CD, and bring them back to Bradford.

Where there is a will, there is a way. Tom Jones, one of our employees, has a friend named Joe Breston in the Penn State University area, and he prevailed upon Joe to go to Penn State, find the location of the maps, and obtain a digital copy if possible. In a scene reminiscent of Mission Impossible, Joe did just that – went to the library, found the correct maps, copied them onto a jump drive, and sent it up to us, with the 1905 map safely stored on the drive. Okay, maybe not so Mission Impossible, but Joe did come through in a really big way (it took several hours to copy all the maps) and the Bradford Landmark Society is very grateful.

## **Now, some historic background about Sanborn Maps**

The Sanborn Company was founded in 1867 by Daniel Alfred Sanborn, a surveyor from Somerville, Massachusetts.

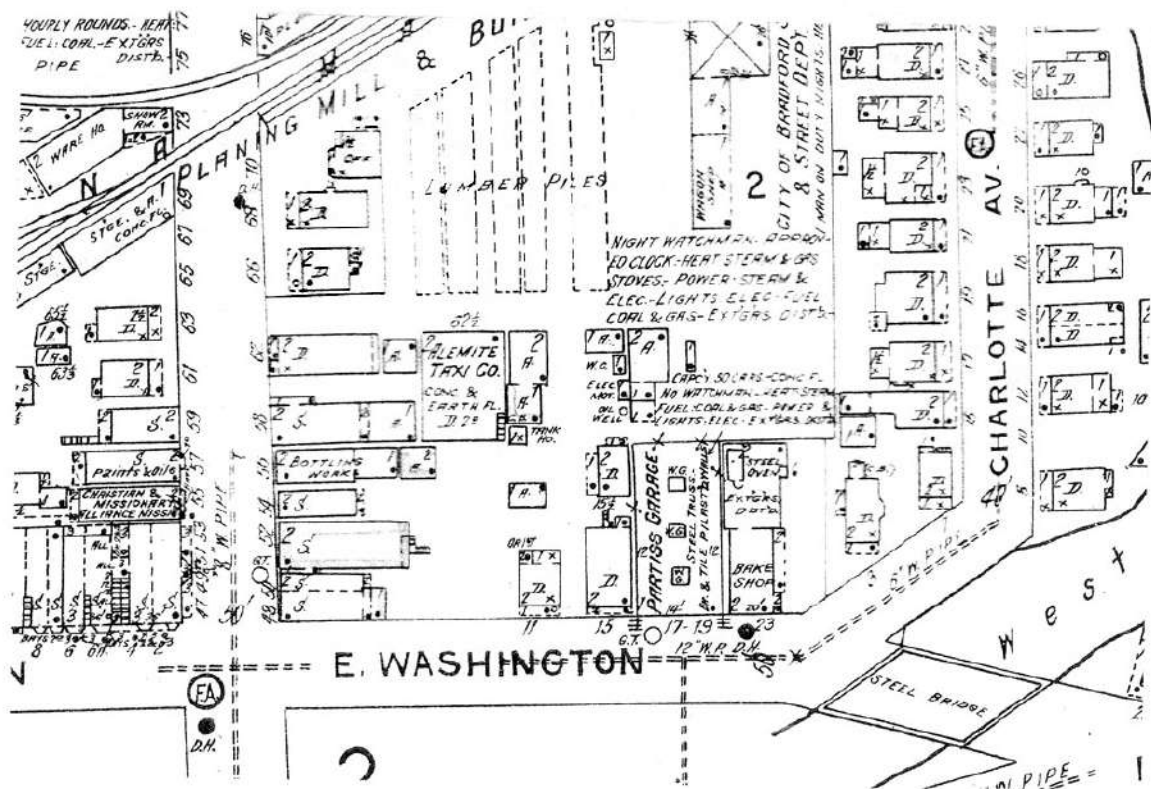
The Sanborn Company sent out legions of surveyors to record the building footprints and relevant details about buildings in all major urbanized areas regarding their fire liability. It was because of these details and the accuracy of the Sanborn maps, coupled with the Sanborn Company's standardized symbolization and aesthetic appeal that made the Sanborn Company so successful and their maps so widely utilized.

The Sanborn maps themselves are large-scale lithographed street plans at a scale of 50 feet to one inch (1:600) on 21-inch by 25-inch sheets of paper. The maps were created in volumes, bound and then updated until the subsequent volume was produced. Larger cities would have multiple volumes. In between volumes, updates (new drawings of new or altered buildings or lots) were created and sent out to be pasted on top of the old maps (referred to as 'slips') to reduce expense and preserve accuracy.

The volumes contain an enormous amount of information. They are organized as follows: a decorative title page, an index of streets and addresses, a 'specials' index with the names of churches, schools, businesses, etc., and a master index indicating the entirety of the mapped area and the sheet numbers for each large-scale map (usually depicting four to six blocks) and general information such as population, economy and prevailing wind direction. The maps include outlines of each building and outbuilding, the location of windows and doors, street names, street and sidewalk widths, property boundaries, fire walls, natural features (rivers, canals, etc.), railroad corridors, building use (sometimes even particular room uses), house and block number, as well as the composition of building materials including the framing, flooring, and roofing materials, the strength of the local fire department, indications of sprinkler systems, locations of fire hydrants, location of water and gas mains and even the names of most public buildings, churches and companies. Many of the industrial sites on a map will also indicate if a night watchman was present.

Today, Sanborn maps are found primarily in the archives and special collection of town halls and public and university libraries, and remain a vital resource for people in many different fields. Historical research is the most obvious use, with the maps facilitating the study of urban growth and decline patterns, and for research into the evolution of specific buildings, sites and districts. Genealogists use the maps to locate the residences and workplaces of ancestors. Planners use the maps to study historic urban planning designs. Historic preservationists utilize the maps to understand the significance and historical evolution of buildings, including their historic uses and building materials in conservation and rehabilitation efforts. Demographers and urban geographers utilize the maps to study patterns of growth and migration of populations. One particular instance comes to mind, when the Comfort inn was being constructed in Bradford. Surveyors came into the Landmark to check the maps of that part of Bradford, looking for abandoned oil wells, water lines, and other "forgotten" structures that might adversely impact the construction of that motel.

The Sanborns are an incredible historic research tool, and we invite all those interested in the history of the city to stop into the Landmark and take a look at these wonderful maps. Maybe you will even find your house there!





# The Biggest Tree in Bradford

April 24 was Arbor Day in Pennsylvania (primarily held nationwide on the last Friday in April, but dates vary in some states). Bradford is surrounded by trees, and not just those on the hillsides – we have some beautiful flowering pear trees on Main Street (which ironically, are known as Bradford pears) which are in bloom right now, and look fantastic. But what about our other trees? We don't really have any historic trees, but several years ago Bob Harris, a local Master Gardener, took it upon himself to search out the largest, oldest tree in Bradford. With measuring tape in hand, Bob scoured the streets of Bradford, always on the lookout for the tallest tree in the city. He came in to the Herbig Bakery, headquarters of the Landmark Society, wondering if we knew, or had historic photographs of such a tree. Sadly, we did not, but Bob was undeterred. One day, from a viewpoint up on Oak Hill Cemetery, he spotted it. The tallest tree in Bradford! Its tall branches could easily be seen from the hills surrounding the city. And the search was over.

Several weeks ago, in honor of Arbor Day, I took a photograph of the 'tallest tree'. It is located on the corner of Forman and Florence Street, right across from the back of the entrance to the post office. Drive by sometime and take a look. It's truly a wonderful tree, and yes, it can be seen from all over Bradford (if you know where to look).



Arbor Day is a holiday in which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant trees. Arbor Day originated in Nebraska, United States and is celebrated in a number of countries.

Though it was founded officially by J. Sterling Morton in Nebraska in 1872, by the end of the 1920s each state in the United States passed public laws to proclaim a certain day to be Arbor Day or Arbor and Bird Day observance. The dates differ and were established depending on climate and suitable planting times.

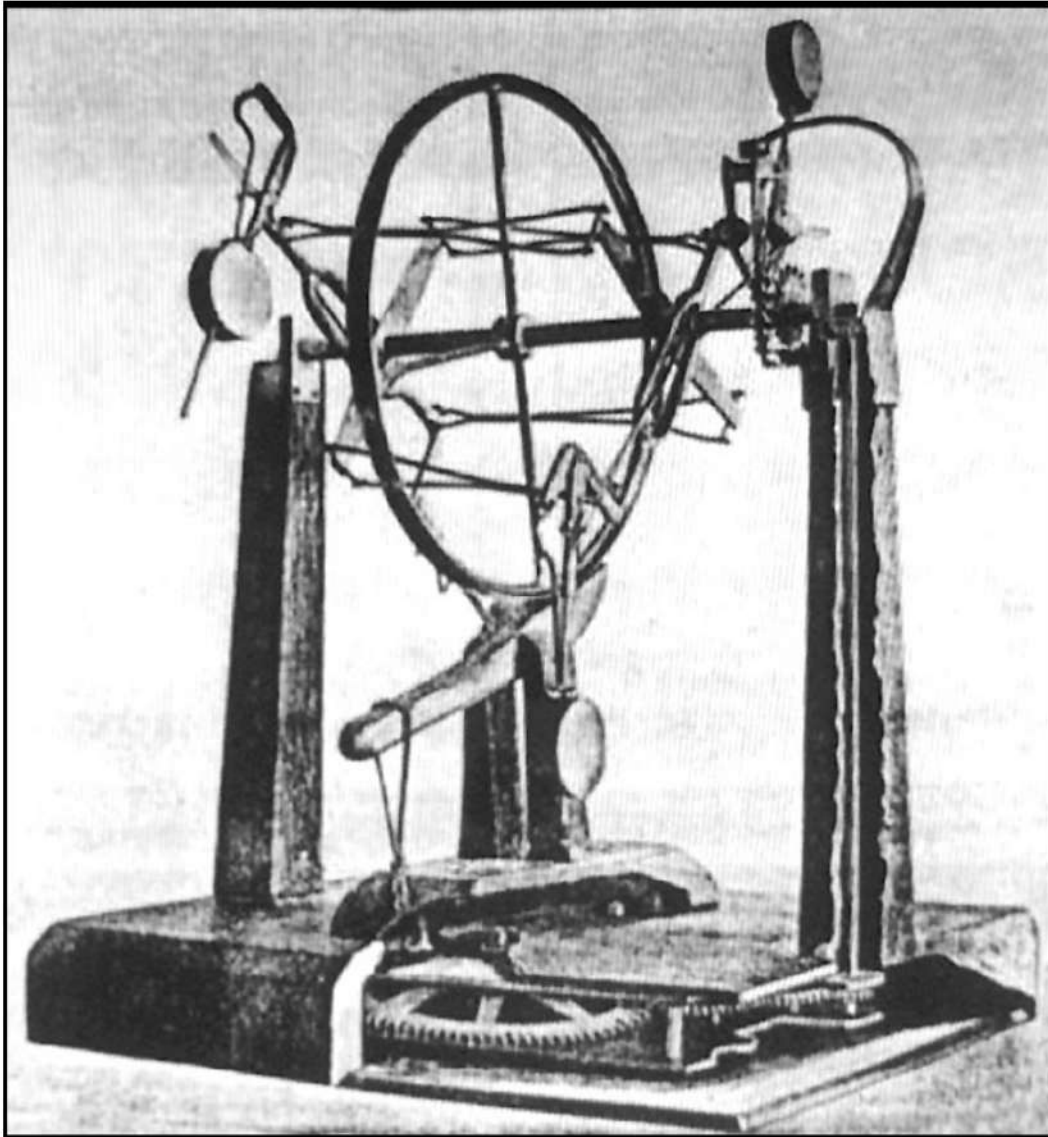
Birdsey Northrop of Connecticut was responsible for globalizing it when he visited Japan in 1883 and delivered his Arbor Day and Village Improvement message. In that same year, the American Forestry Association made Northrop the Chairman of the committee to campaign for Arbor Day nationwide. He also brought his enthusiasm for Arbor Day to Australia, Canada and Europe.

Arbor Day is now a holiday that has an international observance and recognition in many countries.



## Bradford and the Perpetual Motion Machine

Bradfordians are unique in many ways. History has shown us to be fascinated with new ideas, interesting people, and opportunities for making money. Some of these attributes helped to shape the oil industry and claim Bradford's place in history, but our fascination with new ideas has *occasionally* led us down the wrong path. Such was the case in 1897, when an enterprising man named J.M. Aldrich came to town and wowed the city with his latest invention – a gravity motor, or, as he boasted, a 'perpetual motion machine'. By the time this story ends, Aldrich is in jail in Smethport, several of our richer Bradfordians are bilked out of money, and Bradford goes down as one of the most gullible towns in America (even *Scientific American* magazine, in July 1899, which contained an article on Aldrich's machine, snickered over "the citizens of Bradford" who were taken in by this charming, clever, and oh so convincing con man).



A photograph of James Aldrich's gravity motor.  
For the complete text of the *Scientific American* article,  
and more photographs of this wonderful machine, go to  
<http://johnlockard.tripod.com/FreeEnergy/PerpetualMotion/Article/1899July01>.



The story really starts in 1889, when James Aldrich came to Bradford with "a peculiar device that ran ... on its own power" which he showed to *The Bradford Era*. The staff considered it "quite a curiosity" but went no further in endorsing it. Aldrich left town, only to return again in February 1897 with another small box under his arm. Aldrich claimed this machine "solved the perplexing problem of perpetual motion" and to the casual observer, it seemed to be all that its inventor said it was. *The Bradford Era* was more than impressed, and ran this article in the newspaper. —————→

The description of his gravity motor in *The Bradford Era* was more than enough to generate interest in Aldrich's machine. Within a few weeks, he had succeeded in getting several of Bradford's wealthier men to give him enough money to secure a patent with the understanding that they would hold a share of the patent when granted. As you might expect, once the money was in hand, Aldrich disappeared, taking the motor, and the money, with him.

Realizing that they had been duped, the Bradford "partners" immediately sent descriptions of the invention and Aldrich to all principal cities; finally capturing him in Ohio. Charged with obtaining money under false pretenses, he was brought back to Bradford on March 24, 1897 in the custody of Detective Parker of Cleveland. The motion machine was brought along as well, as evidence.

He was given a hearing in Bradford the next day. Bail was set at \$600; but since Aldrich could not raise the money (no word on what he did with the "partners" money) he was taken to the county jail to await trial.

Soon, other news of his escapades reached Bradford, as several other towns spoke up, relating stores of Aldrich and his perpetual motion machine in their towns. Aldrich had been busy. He had "investors" in Emlenton, PA; in Cleveland, Ohio; in Sistersville, West Virginia and in Canada. The town of DuBois claimed that not only had Aldrich swindled at least five of its townsmen with promises of a machine that would "generate power at a price that would rival in cheapness that furnished by Niagara's torrents" Aldrich, under the false name of Smith, had also robbed the hollowed out wooden leg of a retired railroad man while the man slept! Or passed out. It wasn't clear. "Smith" got \$500 from the leg, and vanished — along with his perpetual motion machine.

#### A GRAVITY MOTOR.

Neither Steam, Electricity Nor Compressed Air Needed to Run This Queer Machine.

Eight years ago a man came into THE ERA office, one day, and showed to the editor a peculiar device that he had constructed. It ran by its own power and was considered quite a curiosity. Yesterday the same man again visited THE ERA office. He carried under his arm a small box.

"I have something that will surprise you," he said. "It is the development of the idea that I tried to work out eight years ago and which at that time I showed you here in this office. The device I then showed you would move itself, but that was all. Now I have something that will not only propel itself, but it will also generate force which may be increased to any required horse power." By this time the visitor, who was remembered as J. M. Aldridge, had opened his box and presented for inspection a working model of his machine.

Two wheels on an axle were geared with weights. A governor was affixed to the axle to regulate the motion. A brake held the wheels from turning. The inventor moved the brake and released the wheels. Immediately they commenced to revolve with a regular and vigorous movement. The weights attached to the wheels were so geared as to move in and out as the wheel went round. By being drawn in toward the axle on the upward turn the weights lost their power to counterbalance those that were thrown outward on the downward turn. By this means the law of gravity compelled the wheels to revolve and the nearest approach to perpetual motion seemed to have been discovered. The machine was tested in various ways and always worked like a charm. To show that no hidden mechanism or electricity had anything to do with the device the inventor detached one of the bars that caused the weights to maintain the correct position and the wheel failed to revolve. But when the attachment was made again the wheels started off without any hindrance.

In the near future the machine will be placed on exhibition in Bradford and Aldridge says it will be applied to machinery as a propelling agent. It was only a few days ago when the motor was perfected. Aldridge has been studying it for years. He calls it a gravity motor.



Meanwhile, back in Cleveland, a manufacturer named William Oelstrom was still convinced that the perpetual motion machine could work, and was very anxious to obtain the whereabouts of the machine claiming that “it still had merit, but was dangerous in the hands of a man of Aldrich’s caliber”.

Eventually, Aldrich was released from jail after a few months, due to lack of real evidence and perhaps an unwillingness of Bradford’s “investors” to be known as easy marks. He left town, no doubt to seek other investors who wanted to get rich quick. There is no knowledge of what happened to ‘our’ perpetual motion machine – a device that *The Bradford Era* finally ended up calling “Perpetual Bunco”.

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*And now, the rest of the story.*

Two years later, H.D. Jones wrote an article in *Scientific American* magazine describing the perpetual motion machine. In this article, published July 1, 1899, he details the inner workings of the machine, and refers to Aldrich serving time in Auburn Prison in New York State. Part of this article follows:

**By the courtesy of a correspondent in Bradford, Pennsylvania, we are enabled to present illustrations of one of the neatest perpetual motion frauds that ever drew money from a credulous public or gained for its author a well earned seclusion within the walls of a state prison. Some two years ago, one J.M. Aldrich exhibited to certain citizens of Bradford “a machine which he called a motor”, and on the strength of its unique performances secured several not inconsiderable sums of money from the favored few who were permitted as “parties of the second part” to secure an interest in the invention.**

**Last March, however, one of his many “half interest” holders secured the model and sent it to the Patent Office, where the perpetual motion was traced to its time honored source – a concealed spring.**

**We can conceive it is quite possible that the builder of this “perpetual motion machine” did not set out with any deliberate intention to deceive the public. Like many another, before and since, he was doubtless attracted by this will o’ the wisp of the inventor, and started with the honest intention and expectation of building a machine which would run without the assistance of any external agency.**

**If he (Aldrich) had been content, as many another unfortunate had been before him, to consign his machine to the scrap heap, it would have been better for him and for his victims, but being of an ingenious and resourceful mind, and doubtless “tempted of the devil”, he conceived the idea of overcoming the troublesome friction by means of concealed clockwork, and acting upon the thought he carefully carved and whittled out the wooden bed plate of the machine and placed therein the springs and the train of gears shown in the illustrations. The model, as it stands on our office table, is certainly a masterpiece of deceptions, and eminently calculated to deceive the unwary.**

**With the perpetual motion so palpably accomplished, however, Mr. Aldrich saw in his creation a means of immediate if unlawful gain. Hence, three things followed: many simple people were relieved of their money; Aldrich was given space for repentance within Auburn Prison; and, the *Scientific American* is enabled to “point a moral and adorn a tale”, for the benefit of the all too easily snared investor.**

*And so, as always, if it sounds too good to be true, it usually is!*



**Bradford Landmark Society**

45 East Corydon Street  
Bradford PA 16701

# OLD HOME WEEK 1909



Old Home Week, August 1909. It's been 100 years since the grand old home week celebration in Bradford. It was a week filled with parades (at least one every day!), visitors to Bradford, fireworks, a Ferris wheel on Kennedy Street, real Indians, an automobile parade, and fun for everyone. Each day had a theme, such as children's day (with a parade), organizations and clubs' day (with a parade), etc. This photograph shows the remaining Civil War veterans as they march down Main Street. It was a sight to see, all week long. Watch for a new book that chronicles this wonderful event, later this year.



THE BRADFORD LANDMARK SOCIETY

# The Inkwell

45 E. Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701

814-362-3906

August 2009

## Board of Directors

Harrijane Hannon Moore

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Elizabeth Sefton

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Gayle Bauer

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Susan Oliphant

Charles Pagano

Pete Gardner

Judy Yorks

## Summertime, and the Living is – Busy!

Its been a strange sort of summer. Lots of rain, and very cool. August is the busiest time of the summer in Bradford, with four different events or festivals held in one month. The Don Raabe Big 30 Football Classic is the first weekend, the Italian Festival is the second weekend, the OIL 150 celebration with a parade and shooting of an oil well was the third weekend, and finally, our own Crook Farm Country Fair is held the last weekend of the month. And then school starts.

The Don Raabe Big 30 Charities Classic is a high school football all-star game held in the Twin Tiers region of western New York and northern Pennsylvania. The game is held annually each August at Parkway Field in Bradford. Each team consists of players from a 15-school district area in each state (15+15 being the "30" indicated in the game's title). New York's team covers mostly Cattaraugus County and portions of Allegany County, while Pennsylvania's team covers a five-county area including Warren, McKean, Cameron, Potter and Elk Counties.

The Italian Festival is usually held near St. Rocco's Day, which is August 16. This festival lasts for three days, filled with authentic Italian food, dancing, games, and lots of former residents returning to town to visit friends and family one more time before school starts.

The OIL 150 celebration was held on August 22, with a 90-Unit parade down Main Street, and a real oil well shot in the afternoon. The festivities mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of oil discovered at Titusville, which was the beginning of the oil industry in the United States.

The last weekend in the month is the annual Crook Farm Country Fair. This marks the 30<sup>th</sup> year that the fair has been held at the historic Crook Farm. The Fair will be held August 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>, from 9AM to 5PM each day. Admission is \$5.00. Join us for handmade crafts, great food including corn on the cob, funnel cakes, chicken, ribs, salt potatoes, ice cream, burgers and dogs, cotton candy, and baked goods; listen to good music and learn about the history of the farm. To many, the Crook Farm Country Fair is a tradition that they share with their family and friends. We invite everyone to come on down to the fair!



John W. Nelson, Sr., one of Bradford's finest magicians.

See inside this Inkwell  
for more information!

# Come to the Fair!

## 30th Annual Crook Farm Country Fair



**Saturday & Sunday  
AUGUST  
29th & 30th  
10AM-5PM**

**Admission  
\$5.00**

Children under 12  
**FREE** with adult  
Proceeds go to the preservation  
and restoration of the Farm,  
Bakery and Spring School Program



Seaward Ave. Ext., Bradford, PA  
Foster Brook Exit - Rt. 219  
Turn right, follow signs, approx. 2 miles

### Demonstrations & Events

- Chair Caning • Blacksmith
- Quilting • Farm Tours
- Weaving • Pony Rides
- Candle Making • Story Tellers
- Stringed Instrument Repairs
- Basketweaving • Juggling

### Entertainment Saturday

#### MAIN STAGE:

- 12PM-12:50PM: CHURCH STREET BLUES
- 1PM - 1:50PM: VAN WAGNER - PENNSYLVANIA'S  
TIMBER HERITAGE IN STORY AND SONG
- 2PM - 3PM: CHURCH STREET BLUES
- 3PM - 5PM: OLD TIME ROUND & SQUARE DANCE

### Entertainment Sunday

- 10:30AM - 11:15AM: THE DOERFEL FAMILY BAND  
GOSPEL SING AROUND
- 11:15AM - 12:00PM: VAN WAGNER - JOURNEY  
THROUGH PENNSYLVANIA'S TIMBER HERITAGE IN STORY
- 12:15PM - 1PM: DOERFEL FAMILY BLUEGRASS
- 1PM - 1:50PM: SQUARE DANCE W/KEN BLACKMON &  
THE CROOK FARM ALL STARS
- 2PM - 3PM: DOERFEL FAMILY BLUEGRASS
- 3PM - 5PM: OPEN STAGE W/FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE  
STAFF & JAMMERS

### All Weekend - Various Times

- Ed Hanson - Civil War Fiddler
- Van Wagner - Musician/Storyteller

### All Day Saturday & Sunday

**BRING YOUR INSTRUMENT & VOICE  
TO JOIN THE PLAYING & THE  
SINGING AT OUR JAM TENT!**

### Food

**Chicken & Ribs 12-4PM**

**Corn Roast 12-4PM**

Salt Potatoes • Hot Dogs • BBQ Pork  
Sausage Sandwiches • Soft Drinks  
PLUS... Popcorn • Ice Cream • Funnel Cakes  
Sno-Cones • Cotton Candy

**SATURDAY - APPLE PIE BAKING CONTEST**

**SAT. & SUN. - KID'S CORN  
SHUCKING CONTEST**

### Crafts

Woodworking  
Sewing • Weaving  
Painting • Stonework

### Fuzzy Farm

Come see the  
Alpacas!

### COUNTRY BREAKFAST

**Sunday - 9AM-Noon**

\$5 Adults\* • \$3 Children\* Plus Fair Admission

Tour the historic  
farmhouse &  
buildings!



**LIVE  
BROADCAST BY:  
WESB  
NewsRadio 1490**

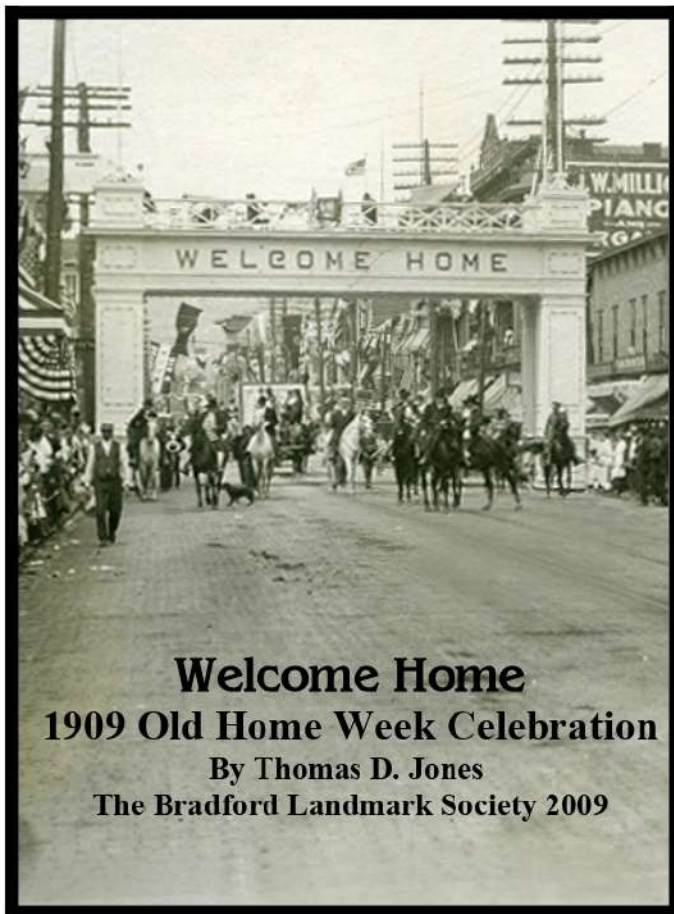
**Back to School Students in the centerfold. Did you guess our names?**

1. Greg Ulyan, 2. Molly Lindahl, 3. Larry Richmond, 4) Bob Esch, 5) Harrijane Hannon Moore,
- 6) Pat Schessler, 7) Tom Jones, 8) Sally Costik, 9) Mike Fuoco, 10) Bill Knight,
- 11) Mary Ryan, 12) Pete Gardner



## Advance Book Sale Notice to Bradford Landmark Society Members only

The Bradford Landmark Society is proud to announce our newest book,  
"Welcome Home, 1909 Old Home Week Celebration." To be published this October.



A massive arch, designed by Edward Unruh, a Bradford architect, was the focal point of the celebration. Located near Webster Street, the arch could be seen from any point on Main Street. Wide enough for bands to play on top, the Old Home Week committee tried – unsuccessfully – to find a couple willing to be married in public on top the Arch during Old Home Week.

It was the first, and the grandest, Old Home Week Celebration in the history of Bradford. Over 15,000 visitors doubled the size of the city for one gloriously wild and entertaining week in August 1909.

And did they have fun.

With themed parades every day such as Children's Day, Military and Civic Day, Historical Day, Labor and Industry Day, and Firemen's Day, and three more at night including a Mardi Gras and Oilmen's parade, the whole town of Bradford joined in one huge celebration of the founding of the city, welcoming back family, friends, and former residents.

Not only were carnival sideshows set up on Kennedy, Chestnut, Chambers, and Corydon streets; but concession stands filled the public square, and lectures, dances, band concerts, and fireworks were held throughout the week.

At times, the celebration got a little out of hand: a mule was arrested and put in jail; a monkey escaped from the carnival and terrorized a family on Congress Street, and one young man pleaded with the police to arrest his young bride since she was having too much fun on Main Street and wouldn't come home.

Author Thomas D. Jones, a local historian, has compiled over 200 photographs of this wonderful Old Home Week into a very enjoyable book, filled with descriptions of the parades, the people, and the events that made it one of Bradford's most memorable times.

The book is approximately 240 pages long, 8.5 x 11 inches in size, and would make a wonderful addition to your library of local Bradford history or as a gift for someone who loves history.

Yes, please reserve me a copy of the Bradford Landmark Society's newest book, "**Welcome Home; 1909 Old Home Week Celebration**" by Thomas D. Jones.

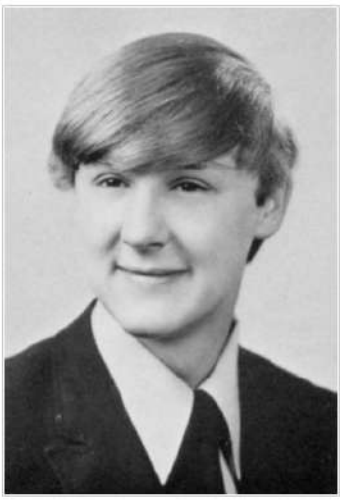
Reserve copies are only \$28.00 when paid in advance. We accept check, money orders, cash, or PayPal.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

# Welcome Back to School!

School is just around the corner. As a special treat, we present an honorary Bradford Landmark Class of 2009. How many do you know? True, they have changed a little since these high school pictures were taken; but we think you will recognize them all. Hint – they are all connected in some way with the Bradford Landmark, either as a board member, staff, or volunteer. We will give you the names later on in this newsletter.



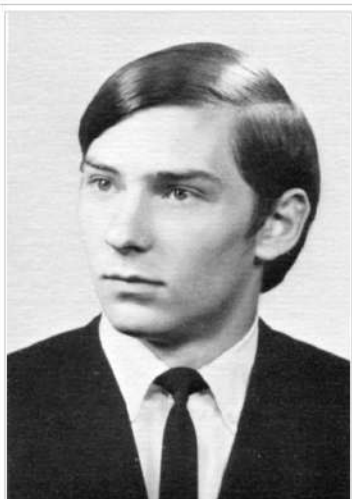
1. History Buff and Board Member



2. She'll help you climb your family tree.



3. He's been called "Mr. History"



4. You can always find him at the Crook Farm County Fair or ARG.



5. She can be found every day at the Courthouse in Smethport.

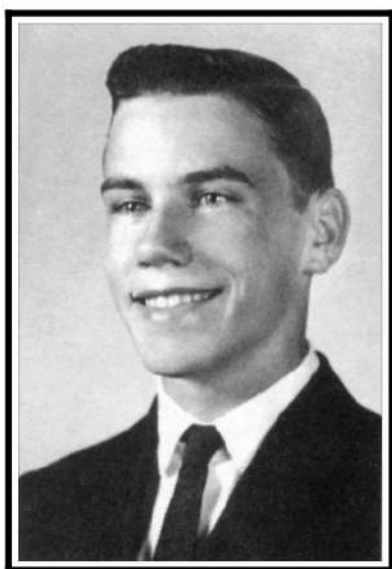


6. She's been a volunteer at the bakery for over ten years.

*"Mid the Hills of Pennsylvania, Stands a School we love.*

*Our Devotion is as steadfast, as the stars above."*

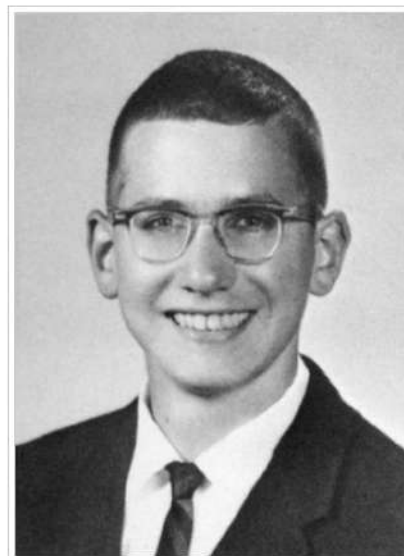
**Remember the Alma Mater? Here's another hint – everyone (but one!) in our "Class of 2009" graduated from Bradford High School. Different years, different classes, but alumni just the same.**



7. Currently writing a book on the 1909 Old Home Week celebration.



8. She's given over 100 speeches in the last 15 years.



9. He's an expert on aerial photographs of Bradford.



10. Loves historic preservation and writes grants for the Landmark.



11. Our expert typist, she is a regular volunteer at the Herbig Bakery.



12. A Derrick City boy, he is a right hand man at the Crook Farm Country Fair in August.



# Bradford's own Magicians

*A recent donation to the Bradford Landmark Society brought us new information about several Bradfordians, whose hobby, and passion, was magic. We think that you will enjoy reading about our own "prestidigitators".*

*The first part of this story is a news article from an out of state newspaper, dated August 1939.*

## **Bradford Magic Artists Coming for Convention**

### **Are expected to be among first arrivals at Piff Paff Poofer affair here in September.**

The prosperous little town of Bradford, Pennsylvania, where the art of magic finds some of its best exponents, will be well represented in Fort Erie (Ontario, Canada) on September 1, 2 and 3 when visiting magicians from Canada and the United States attend the second Piff Paff Poofers convention, according to a statement made this week by Bob Weill, of Cosy Dell.

"The Bradford crowd is all good fellows, liked by everyone, and they will be one of the first arrivals. Being 100 percent magic bugs they will cause a lot of fun and amusement at the Saturday night Chamber of Commerce banquet at the Mather Arms (formerly the Pickick Arms) where the people of Fort Erie will have an opportunity to meet them.

Perhaps two of the best know magical Bradfordites are Mr. & Mrs. John Nelson, who attended the April convention and will be back again in September. The former is a professional magician but splits time between magic and his radio store. He is the inventor of the "Floating Ball" a world famous stage illusion, which he will perform for his Fort Erie audience.

He has practiced magic for a great many years, and so has Dr. Jacob G. Heckel, "The Man of 1000 Gimmicks" who also hails from Bradford. Dr. Heckel, Mr. Weill stated, has traveled over most of the world in search of new, mystifying "gimmicks" and, as may be seen, has made magic his hobby. He makes everyone his friend, and is most popular with his fellow magicians. He enjoys traveling hundreds of miles to attend magic get-togethers, and was one of the first secured for the C of C banquet program.

Bradford's escape king, Arthur Follette, will be remembered for his self-release from a locked mail bag here last April. Follette, who is an expert at performing many not-often-attempted self-liberations, is slated for another outdoor act. This time, it will be an escape from a locked and securely belted 100-gallon oil drum. Incidentally, Follette is the only performer in the country doing this difficult feat.

Another is Tom Kennedy, whose hobby is magic and attending magic conventions near and far with Dr. Heckel. He was not present at the April convention here because of illness, Mr. Weill told the Times Review, but promised to be on hand in September and to make a speech at the banquet Saturday night. Kennedy, who has an intimate knowledge of magic and magicians, may be seen doing his favorite trick which he called "Drink Your Own Poison".

And last, but not least, as the saying goes, is "Red" Herbert Robbins, a former circus performer, now retired in Bradford, where he owns a large garage. Although he does not actively perform his love for magic takes him to most of the conventions in the country, accompanied by Mrs. Robbins, who is as interested in magic as her husband. His story of colorful circus days which will be told at the C. of C. banquet will be well worth hearing.

# 'The Mysterious Nelson'

## Bradford's Best Magician

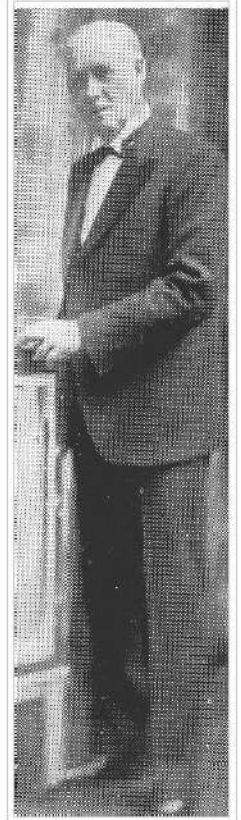
Credited with inventing the famous "floating ball" magic trick, a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, and a personal friend of The Great Blackstone, John W. Nelson, Sr. was born in Bradford in the late 1870s. During his youth, he played baseball with the local Bradford teams, catching for Rube Waddell back in the old "Iron and Oil" League days of the 1890s, later playing for Buffalo, NY in the International league, and still later started a small business on Mechanic Street, next to the bridge. His real passion, however, was magic, and by the turn of the century, Nelson was well on his way to becoming a talented magician.

Attending magic conventions to learn the craft of magic whenever he could, Nelson became a close friend of Harry Blackstone, considered to be one of the most popular magicians in the country in the 1930s. Born in 1885 in Chicago, Blackstone first appeared in Bradford as early as 1912. Blackstone, who later visited Bradford in 1947 and performed at Sheas' Theater, credited Nelson with teaching him one of his first card tricks and card manipulation.

Although it began as a hobby, Nelson became so good at magic that theater managers were soon begging him to perform. Some of his outstanding acts were "Cremation of She", which was a ghost effect with a burning box; the "Lady Without a Body", and dozens of tricks with Chinese doves, rabbits, card tricks, and hypnotism.

His wife, Eva, often assisted him with the magic tricks, using her stage name "Montrose". One of the illusions required a large empty cabinet, from which a large number of balloons were taken, and a smiling Montrose appeared from nowhere.

Another trick produced a beautiful bouquet of red roses from thin air – as proof of the genuine quality and freshness of the flowers; the roses were always presented to the ladies of the audience. During World War II, Nelson would often transform two pieces of paper, one with a Nazi swastika, and the other the Japanese Rising Sun symbol, into a poster that urged the purchase of United States Defense bonds.



Tragically, in 1943, his wife Eva died during one of Nelson's performances, shortly after playing the introduction music for her husband's magic show. Suffering a heart attack, she collapsed on the keyboard of the piano and was carried off to a room at the rear of the auditorium. In keeping with the tradition of stage performers, John Nelson completed his magic act, and it was not until the conclusion of the show that he learned that his wife had died.

John W. Nelson, Sr. continued his magic shows until the end of his life, often performing for clubs, company picnics, birthday parties, fire departments, and other events. He died in 1965, and is buried in Oak Hill mausoleum.

His son, John Nelson, Jr. was just as famous as his father, at least in Bradford. Known locally as "Johnny Nelson", he was the sports editor of the Bradford Era for years, and later wrote a column for the newspaper. An only child, it is unknown if he inherited any of his father's talent at magic.

## **Bradford Landmark Society**

45 East Corydon Street  
Bradford PA 16701



Welcome Home 1909. The huge arch was a focal point of the celebration. It remained standing until December 1910.



November 2009

## Board of Directors

Harrijane Hannon Moore  
Robert Esch  
Elizabeth Sefton  
Gregory Ulyan  
Barbara White  
Gayle Bauer  
Ken Jadowiec  
Susan Oliphant  
Charles Pagano  
Pete Gardner  
Judy Yorks

## Autumn – Season of Mists and Mellow Fruitfulness

November is the 11<sup>th</sup> month of the year in the Gregorian Calendar and one of four Gregorian months with the length of 30 days. And even though it's the 11<sup>th</sup> month of the year, November retained its name (from the Latin novem meaning "nine") when January and February were added to the Roman calendar. And that's your history lesson on November.

November is a time for reflections; Veterans Day is November 11th, the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. (Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month of 1918 with the German signing of the Armistice). In 1954, President Eisenhower signed a mandate that legally made Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> all Veterans Day, not just World War veterans. Honor our veterans in your own special way on this important holiday.

It sure seems like the months are just flying by this year. Soon it will be Christmas, then the 2010 New Year. The Bradford Landmark Society has been keeping itself busy as the year winds down. Getting the Crook Farm ready for winter is more than just closing the windows and taking down the flag. The water in the house must be shut off, and air blown through the lines so that the cold doesn't cause the pipes to split; the house is closed up; and the last remnants of the Crook Farm Fair are put away. The garden has been harvested, and the lawn mower put away for another year.

At the Herbig Bakery, we are busy getting ready for the Christmas shopping season, which is one of our best times. This year, we are having an Open House on December 5<sup>th</sup>, which is a Saturday. We aren't usually open on the weekends, but hope to have a festive crowd, shopping for history related gifts. We have a great selection of books and other items – the inside of this newsletter has a removable listing of our best and most popular items. We invite you to stop on down. There'll be Christmas cookies, punch and music.



Personification of Autumn  
(Currier & Ives lithograph, 1871)

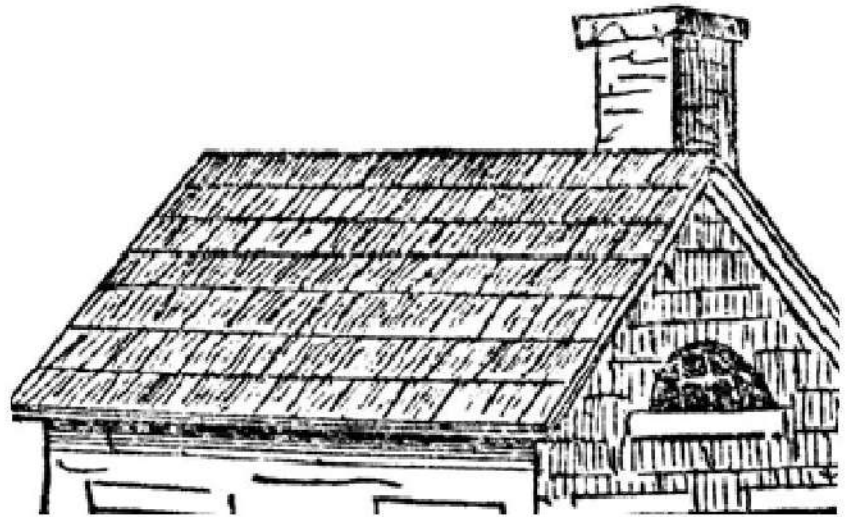
The Bradford Landmark Society is asking you to help us

# "RAISE THE ROOF"

## of the historic Crook farmhouse!

The property was purchased by the Bradford Landmark Society in 1974 and was restored to preserve a sample of life as it was on a small family farm at the time oil was discovered in the Bradford oil fields.

In recognition of our preservation efforts, the Crook Farm was designated as a National Historic Site by the U.S. Dept. of the Interior, and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. We are fortunate to have a property of this distinction in our area, and it is our duty to preserve this wonderful example of life in the Tuna Valley in the 1850s.



However, the roof of the farmhouse is now in need of repair and replacement. For years it has been patched and patched and patched, and the time has come to replace this 40-year-old shingled roof with a roof system designed to protect what we have preserved. We are currently asking for donations to help us maintain this historical building. Any amount that you can give will be greatly appreciated!

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*And to those who have already helped with donations:*

Miss Madeline Miles, Mr. & Mrs. Dean Bauer, Mrs. Evelyn Tyler, J. A. Luciano Builders, Crosby Marts, Pizza Napoli, E.&M. Engineers & Surveyors, Copy Connection, Bradford Auto Service, Worth Smith, Superuser Technology, Dresser Manufacturing, the Bradford Rotary Club, and American Refining Group.

***Thank you so much!***

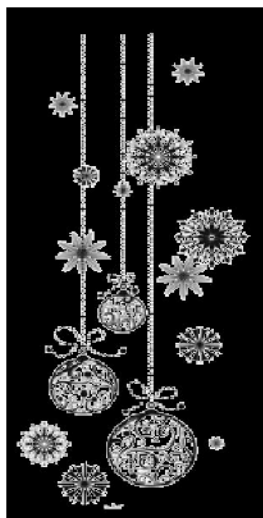


Looking for unique Christmas gifts?

You're invited!



# Christmas Open House



Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

10 AM to 2 PM

at the Bradford Landmark Society

Herbig Bakery, 45 East Corydon Street



## Give the Gift of History!

Fascinating books on Bradford history, DVDs of movies filmed in Bradford in the 1930s, 1895 lithograph of the city, paperweights, note cards, small wooden Cats Meow-like buildings (the Armory, and a complete set of the Crook Farm buildings), and Crook Farm coffee mugs.

In addition, we will be featuring digital paintings of historic Bradford buildings and locations, done by local artist Lisa Duke.

Join us for Christmas cookies, punch, and other seasonal refreshments.



# Trust Your Horse Sense!

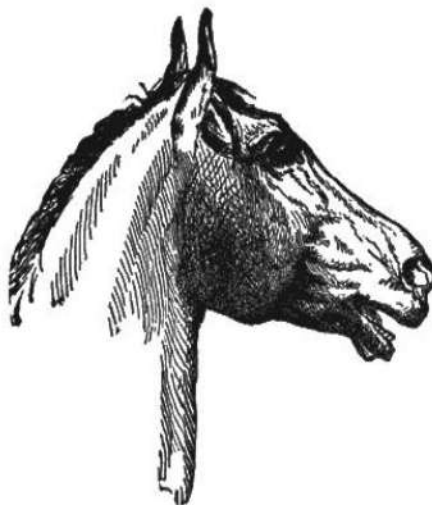
Time for a Quiz! It's been awhile since we put a quiz in the newsletter, so let's see if any of our readers are horse lovers. Let's see if you can identify the horses with their famous owners. (we'll list the names at the end, but you have to match up the right horse with the right person). It will take real horse sense to get them all right!

1. Topper \_\_\_\_\_
2. Loco \_\_\_\_\_
3. Buttermilk \_\_\_\_\_
4. Silver \_\_\_\_\_
5. Diablo \_\_\_\_\_
6. Scout \_\_\_\_\_
7. Tony \_\_\_\_\_
8. Trigger \_\_\_\_\_
9. Toronado \_\_\_\_\_
10. Traveller \_\_\_\_\_
11. Cincinnati \_\_\_\_\_
12. Gunpowder \_\_\_\_\_
13. Rocinante \_\_\_\_\_
14. Champion \_\_\_\_\_



And here are the owners. We'll give the correct match-ups later in this newsletter:

1. Dale Evans
2. Gene Autry
3. Tom Mix
4. Zorro
5. General Robert E. Lee
6. Don Quixote
7. Roy Rogers
8. Tonto
9. The Lone Ranger
10. Pancho (from The Cisco Kid)
11. The Cisco Kid
12. Ichabod Crane
13. Ulysses S. Grant
14. Hopalong Cassidy



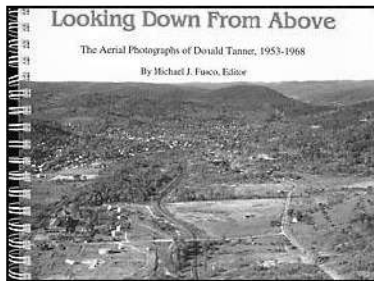


# Holiday Gifts

*from the Landmark Society*



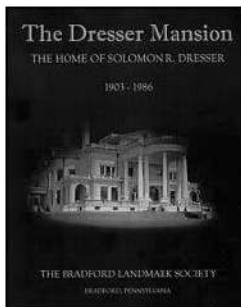
The Bradford Landmark Society is the perfect place to buy unique holiday gifts for all your friends and family. Whether it's books on local history, a Crook Farm coffee mug, an entertaining DVD of a short film produced in Bradford in the 1930s, a parchment lithograph of the city, a cast iron Yellow Dog oil lantern, or a small "Cat's Meow" type collectible of the Armory, or a Crook Farm or Herbig Bakery building, our merchandise is a wonderful way to support your local historical society and make someone's Christmas special. We will also ship your purchase for an additional shipping and small handling charge. Stop in at 45 East Corydon Street, or the Main Street Mercantile to do your holiday shopping!



**Looking Down From Above**, by Michael J. Fuoco, 2008.

A wonderful collection of aerial photographs, all taken in the 1950s and 1960s by local oil producer and amateur aerial photographer, Donald B. Tanner (1897-1971). Michael Fuoco has carefully identified each photograph in the book which covers Bradford and area buildings, factories, streets, and landmarks. Perfect for the hunter, the hiker, or anyone who wants to see our area from the air. 248 pages. Softcover.

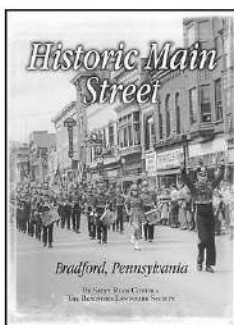
8.5" x 11". **\$30.00**



**The Dresser Mansion; the Home of Solomon Dresser, 1903-1986.** by the Bradford Landmark Society, 2007.

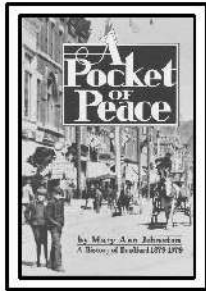
The Dresser Mansion at 149 Jackson Avenue was the dream of Solomon Dresser, founder of Dresser Industries. Destroyed by fire in 1986, the mansion is still remembered as one of the finest in the oil region. This book includes information on Dresser's life, his family, the history of the mansion, its tragic end, floor plans, and a complete reproduction of the souvenir book that Dresser published following the completion of his home. 68 pages. Softcover.

8.5" x 11". **\$20.00**



**"Historic Main Street"** by Sally Ryan Costik and The Bradford Landmark Society, 2003. Devoted exclusively to Bradford's Main Street, the history of all fifty buildings on this historic street are covered in-depth, from "birth" through 2003 by means of detailed text and photographs. Black & white photos, 40 pages. Dimensions: 8.5" x 11", Softcover, **\$20.00**

# Holiday Gifts from the Landmark Society



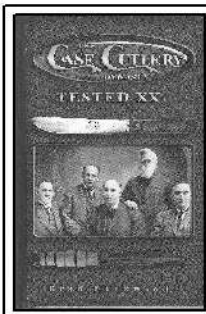
**A Pocket of Peace, a History of Bradford 1879-1979** by Mary Ann Johnston. Written to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the city, Mary Ann Johnston describes the growth and development of Bradford since its original charter in 1879. Illustrated with photographs and filled with selected topics that cover our history, the book is a charming tribute to our past. 1979. Softcover. 96 pages. 6 in x 9 in.

Cost \$5.00.



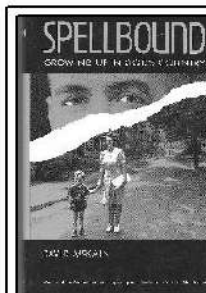
**Greater Bradford Bicentennial 1776-1976.** A combined effort of several well known Bradfordians, who donated their time and talents to 'tell the story of Bradford' in their own words, this small book was an important fund raiser for the Greater Bradford Bicentennial Committee. 1976. Softcover. 76 pages.

6 in x 9 in. Cost \$5.00.



**The Case Cutlery Dynasty, Tested XX** by Brad Lockwood. Informative and entertaining book by a Case family descendent, examining the history, trials, troubles, and successes of the famous Case knife brand. Well documented with photographs; autographed by the author. 2005. Hardcover. 320 pages.

8 3/4 in x 5 1/2 in. Cost \$20.00.



**Spellbound, Growing up in God's Country** by David McKain. Fascinating memoir of McKain's life growing up amid the oil derricks and factories of Bradford, Pennsylvania; centering on the hardships of a childhood marred with poverty, dissention, faith and affliction. 1988. Hardcover. 257 pages.

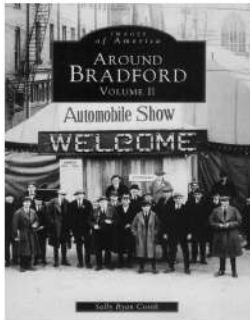
9 in x 5 1/2 in. Cost \$15.00.



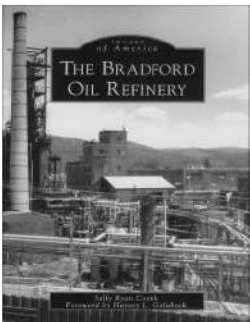
**Welcome Home, 1909 Old Home Week** by Thomas D. Jones. Bradford's first Old Home Week was a wild time filled with parades, carnivals and over 15,000 visitors during one fun packed week in August 1909. Filled with photographs and descriptions of the event, this book will make you wish you had been a part of the celebration 100 years ago! Estimated publication date December 2009. 260 pages. Softcover.

8 1/2 in x 11 in. Cost \$28.00.

# Holiday Gifts from the Landmark Society



**Around Bradford II** by Sally Ryan Costik and the Bradford Landmark Society. Take a unique look at the history of the City of Bradford, from the early 1900s to the years following World War II, through the images of over 200 photographs taken from the collection of the city's historical society. 1998. Softcover. 128 pages. 6-1/2" x 9-1/4". **Cost \$18.00**



**The Bradford Oil Refinery** by Sally Ryan Costik, with a foreword by Harvey L. Golubock, President and CEO of American Refining Group, Inc. Over 200 carefully chosen photographs, many from the archives of the refinery itself, tell the history of the world's oldest, continuously operating refinery, located in Bradford, PA. Follow the beginnings of Kendall Refinery in 1881, through its evolution from a small oil refinery on Kendall Creek to the American Refining Group's sophisticated operation of today. 2006. Softcover. 128 pages. 6-1/2" x 9-1/4". **Cost \$18.00.**



**Allegany Hellbender Tales** by Larry Beahan. Delightful tales of the days spent camping in nearby Allegany State Park and discussions of the future of the park, the largest state park in New York State. Well illustrated with photographs of the park, bears, camping, cabins, and trails. 1998. Softcover. 240 pages. 6" x 9". **Cost \$14.95.**



**The Gamble for Glory in the World's First Billion Dollar Oilfield.** by Linda K. Delaney. Learn the history of the Bradford oil field and how developments from the oil boom days still impact the area today. Written in an entertaining style to preserve the colorful oilfield history of the Bradford area. 2007. Softcover. 59 pages. 7-3/4" x 7-3/4". **Cost \$18.95**



**A Collector's Guide; the Wooden, Collectible, Miniature Buildings of Bradford, Pennsylvania** by Sally Ryan Costik and Larry Richmond.

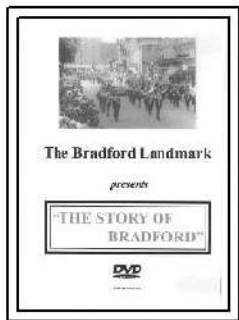
Bradford is a special place and nothing shows our pride in our small town more than the wonderful variety of the 33 different miniature, hand-crafted wooden replicas – Cat's Meow type – that have been created over the past 20 years. This small spiral-bound colorful book captures the image, the history, and the story behind each building. 2006. Softcover. 5-3/4" x 8-1/2". 39 pages. **Cost \$10.00**



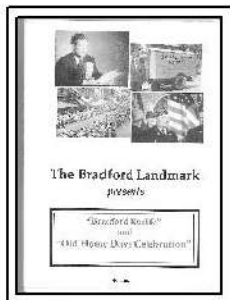
# Holiday Gifts from the Landmark Society



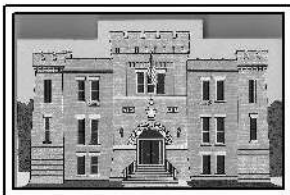
**Yellow Dog Oil Lantern.** The symbol of the oil fields, the yellow dog lantern furnished light for the drilling rigs. Stuffed with rags, and filled with crude oil or kerosene, the two burning spouts resembled the 'yellow' eyes of a dog in the night. Solid cast iron, this 1/3 size replica is a wonderful reminder of the days of yesterday. The real yellow dogs were last used in 1935 on the South Penn Oil Company leases. Approx. 4" high. **Cost \$30.00.**



**The Story of Bradford. DVD.** Filmed nearly 75 years ago, this charming movie tells the story of two Bradford childhood sweethearts, Stan and Bubbles, who reunite in Bradford after many long years. Filmed entirely on location in Bradford in May 1936, the film captures people, places, businesses, stores, and locations. Many scenes have changed dramatically over the years and viewers of this DVD will enjoy the visual reminder of Bradford's olden days. Black and white. Approx. 50 minutes. **Cost \$20.00.**



**Bradford in Reel Life, and Old Home Days Celebration. DVD.** Filmed on location in the mid-1930s, these movies were designed to promote the hometown quality of life in Bradford. Each is a visual collection of activities in the city, including scenes of Jackson Avenue, the PONY League baseball games, a beautiful baby contest, a carnival on Chambers Street, a parade down Main Street, people enjoying the festivities, and many more scenes of life in that era. Bradford in Reel Life is in color but no sound. Old Home Week has musical accompaniment. **Cost \$20.00.**



Small, wooden buildings representing **The Pennsylvania National Guard Armory (2005), The Hamsher House (2002), Crook farm house (1994), Crook farm School house (1996), Crook farm craft barn (1997), and the Herbig Bakery (1995)** make charming additions to your collection of Bradford memorabilia. Manufacturers vary from Cat's Meow, Hometowne Collectibles, and Open Window Co. Each is of wood composite. **Cost: \$10.00.**

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The Bradford Landmark Society accepts cash, check, money order, or PayPal. If requested, for a small handling and postage fee, we will mail your purchase to you, or any destination you request (USA destinations only, please). Please email us at [info@bradfordlandmark.org](mailto:info@bradfordlandmark.org), call us at 814-362-3906, or stop in at 45 East Corydon Street, Bradford during open hours.

# It Happened in November

*If all you think about in November is football, turkey, and cold weather, then you are missing one of the most important months in the year. Take a look at all these "historic" events that happened during November months. The dates refer to the day that the article appeared in The Bradford Era.*

- Tony Lorenzo Demaeo is taken to the penitentiary to begin his sentence of 10 to 20 years for the murder of Albert V. Ritchie. November 8, 1931.
- The Saddle & Bridle Club recently purchased 25 acres between the Lafayette Fish & Gun Club and Lewis Run and begins work on a new riding and training quarters that will eventually be named The Valley Hunt Club. November 29, 1930.
- John Philip Sousa, bandleader, gives a performance at the high school. November 19, 1930
- The School Board buys land for a new school building for First Ward children at the end of Hobson Place. November 16, 1929.
- The Grand Theater on Main Street gets 'oral movies" - talkies – for the first time. The movie is "Fast Life", a prison drama starring Douglas Fairbanks. Opened on Halloween night. November 1, 1929.
- Bradford Water Authorities drain the reservoir to dispel rumors that contaminated water is caused by decomposing body of Oscar Johnson, age 70, who has been missing since spring. People are complaining of illness, and many suspect that his body is in reservoir. (no, it wasn't). November 26, 1928.
- Fire destroys the maple sugar and confectionary factory of Boyle & Williams on Webster Street. December 21, 1906.
- Brick work for the 4th story of the new Riddell House (which will be renamed the Holley Hotel, and then renamed again, back to the Riddell House) is well underway. Work is also progressing at the new Carnegie Library. The cutting of the large stone pillars that are to adorn the main entrance is being done on Congress Street. November 13, 1900.
- Dresser Manufacturing Division stages a huge Victory Loan War Bond rally. November 1, 1945.
- UFO sighted, a triangular shaped object is seen hovering between East Main Street and Route 219 expressway at 8:50 PM. November 16, 1978.
- The Bradford Army Navy Supply Depot opens at 7 West Washington Street. November 11, 1921.
- Carl Sandburg visits Bradford, gives a lecture, reads his poetry, and plays his banjo. November 11, 1922.
- Two more deaths from the Spanish influenza occur in the city and seven more new cases identified. November 14, 1918.

- Councilman Solomon Dresser advocates the site at corner of Congress and Corydon Street as the site for Bradford's new City Hall, with the city purchasing the Herbig's bakery and erecting two new buildings, one for city chambers and the other as a fire dept. house and lockup. November 7, 1895.
- Dr. O.S. Hannum takes possession of Fairview Hospital, Degolia. After his death, it will be renamed the Hannum Home. November 1, 1946.
- Raymond F. Feura, Senior High School student, named boy of month by Lions Club. November 9, 1950.
- Drivers of Bradford's two taxi companies strike (strike settled Nov. 8). November 1, 1950.
- Deer hunters swarm into county as season opens. More than 100 deer killed on opening day. November 29, 1948.
- More than 350 persons attend dedication ceremonies at the new YWCA. November 13, 1949.
- Bradford Senior High School's Debate Club wins the first prize trophy at a tournament arranged by Meadville High School. November 20, 1954.
- Corning Glass Works officially opens its new High St. plant with a preview for area and visiting newsmen. November 20, 1958.
- Temple Beth El, new Bradford Hebrew Congregation edifice, is formally dedicated. November 24, 1961.
- Karen Figler, Bradford Central Christian High School senior, is the first girl to be honored as the "student of the month" by the Bradford Lions Club. November 29, 1962.
- United Fund reaches 90 percent of its \$143,350 goal. November 8, 1963.
- Zippo Manufacturing Co. announces plans for \$100,000 expansion of its Congress Street plant. November 7, 1965.
- The banks and savings companies of McKean County are distributing over a million dollars in Christmas saving funds to area residents. November 3, 1971.
- U.S. Postal officials are studying the possibility of acquiring a parcel of land in the West Washington Street area of the Bradford Redevelopment Authority for construction of a new post office here. November 20, 1978.
- The Pennsylvania Senate fails to pass a proposal to make U.S.Route 219 a toll road from New York to Maryland. November 29, 1984.
- The 9th annual ELF (Era's Less Fortunate) Fund, a joint program of The Bradford Era and Salvation Army, kicks off during a breakfast at the Downbeat Restaurant. November 21, 1991.

**It really did happen in November!**

# We hate to lose a friend. Don't let this be your last newsletter!

If the label with your name on it on the front of this newsletter has a red dot next to it, your membership in the Bradford Landmark Society is coming to an end. Don't let this be your last newsletter or lose a chance to be an important member of Bradford's only historic society. Membership benefits are many:

- The opportunity to help support the preservation of the history of the Bradford area.
- Advance notice of programs, events, workshops, and special events.
- A quarterly newsletter, **The Inkwell**, outlining the news of the society and offering entertaining and educational articles on local history.
- Members are entitled to vote at our annual meeting, and are eligible to serve on the board of directors.
- Volunteer opportunities at the Herbig Bakery, or at the Crook Farm.

You can join for one year for as little as \$10.00. Please contact the Landmark Society today. The continued growth and development of our Society depends on the active participation of many people who share an interest in the rich heritage of our city.

Or, if already a member, perhaps you would like to purchase a membership for a friend or family member who would enjoy receiving our newsletter. Again, please contact the Landmark Society. Thank you.

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Answers to our quiz.

Did you match the horses to their owners? It's not as easy as you might think. Here are the correct answers:

- |                              |                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Topper – Hopalong Cassidy | 8. Trigger – Roy Rogers           |
| 2. Loco – Pancho             | 9. Toronado – Zorro               |
| 3. Buttermilk – Dale Evans   | 10. Traveller – Robert E. Lee     |
| 4. Silver – The Lone Ranger  | 11. Cincinnati – Ulysses S. Grant |
| 5. Diablo – The Cisco Kid    | 12. Gunpowder – Ichabod Crane     |
| 6. Scout – Tonto             | 13. Rocinante – Don Quixote       |
| 7. Tony – Tom Mix            | 14. Champion – Gene Autry         |



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



A turkey is a funny bird,  
Its head goes wobble, wobble,  
All it knows is just one word,  
"Gobble, gobble, gobble."

